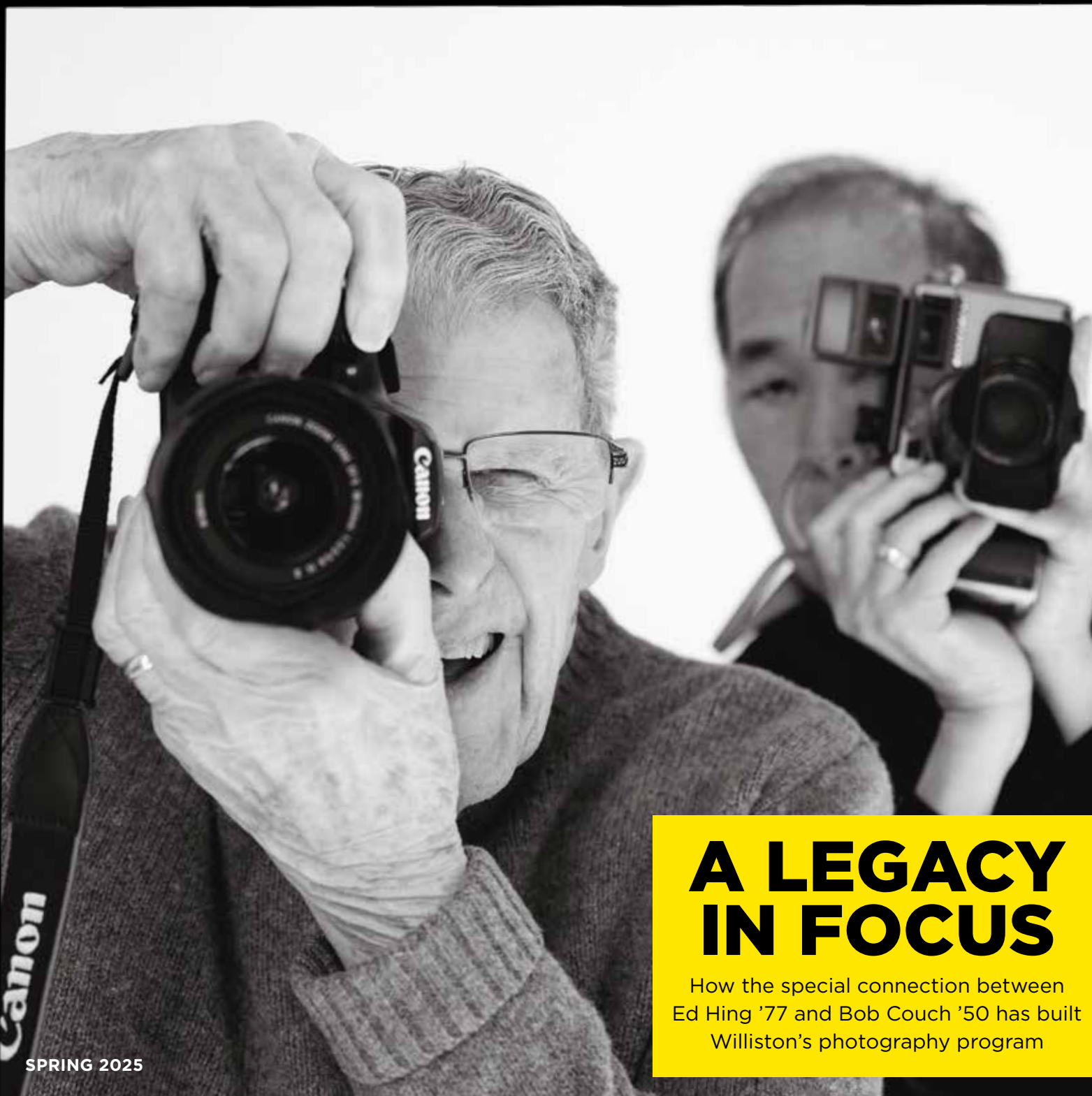


WILLISTON

NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL BULLETIN

▶
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EPP 6005

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Williston's photography program

SPRING 2025



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PHOTOGRAPHS (LEFT) BY IAN TUTTLE; (RIGHT, CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT) BY CODY GANTZ, LINDSEY TOPHAM, AND DENNIS CROMMETT

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HEAD'S LETTER



One of the highlights of every spring on campus is the Asian Night Market—a vibrant, schoolwide celebration on the Main Quad where students cook and share favorite dishes, from Japanese yakisoba to Korean bulgogi to Vietnamese spring rolls. The tradition began just four years ago, when members of the Asian Alliance Club proposed the idea to their advisor, Ken Choo. With Ken's encouragement, they launched the first event. Now it's hard to imagine a Williston spring without it.

This kind of student-driven initiative is exactly what you'd expect from a school whose unofficial motto is "Be yourself here." When students feel supported and encouraged to be themselves, it frees them to take risks—the good kind—and to pursue ideas and passions that are uniquely their own. I see it all the time: when a Williston Scholar presents original research with infectious enthusiasm, or when a student leads a personal workshop during Why Not Speak Day. Or, as you'll read on page 13, when a group of seniors set out to establish an endowed fund in honor of a late classmate—and made it happen.

When I reflect on why students feel empowered to be themselves at Williston, it always comes back to the people—particularly the teachers, coaches, advisors, and staff who invest time and individualized care into each student. Sometimes that means helping a student reach a long-held goal. Other times, it involves gently nudging a student to try something beyond their comfort zone, like

running for class president or auditioning for the play. And sometimes, it's simply saying, "Yes—go for it," as Ken Choo did with students in the Asian Alliance Club and the Night Market. As one alumnus recently shared with me, "I've never had people as invested in me personally as they were at Williston."

A perfect example of that kind of investment appears in the story on page 46, about longtime faculty member Ed Hing '77, who will retire this June. Ed arrived at Williston with an interest in photography, but his passion truly took flight under the mentorship of then-photography teacher Bob Couch '50. Couchie, as he's widely known, gave Ed the key to the darkroom and helped him secure a photography internship. More importantly, he encouraged Ed to pursue what he loved. "Couchie believed in me," Ed recalls. "That was huge." In a full-circle moment, when Couchie retired, Ed returned to Williston to take over the photography program, where he has since mentored hundreds of aspiring artists over the past 28 years.

When students are supported in the ways our faculty and staff make possible, they end up leaving Williston with belief in their ideas and the experience of having done something meaningful. These moments matter—and they begin with a simple but powerful invitation: *Be yourself here.*

Robert W. Hill III

PHOTOGRAPH (LEFT) BY LINDSEY TOPHAM



1.

GO, CAROLINE, GO!

Wildcats were on hand to cheer on Assistant Dean of Students Caroline Channell '18 as she ran the 2025 Boston Marathon. Wearing her trademark smile and Williston Lacrosse hat, Channell raised more than \$10,000 for the National Organization for Rare Disorders.



2.

ADULTING 101

Williston's student life and leadership program—known as Core—now extends into grade 12. In their final trimester, seniors spend time learning about financial literacy, mental health, and professional skills, including having mini-interviews with Williston alums.

5 Things We're Talking About!



3.

CHANGES ON ICE

Former Wildcat hockey player Brandon Borges '15 has a new role in Lossone. After serving as assistant coach for the last two years, Borges will take over the head coaching role from Derek Cunha, who is stepping down after 19 years with the program. Congrats to both!



5.

AND THE WINNER IS...

The atmosphere in the chapel was electric during the finals of the new all-school speech contest in February. Four finalists delivered impassioned speeches, and the winner was...well, you'll just have to turn to page 9 to find out!

4.

STUDENTS ON THE STU-BOP

To make sure an upcoming renovation to the student activities center meets student needs, members of the student council gave feedback to architects on how to enhance the space in fun, connection-building ways. Stay tuned!



WHERE'S WILLISTON?

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



↑
REALLY GOOD QUESTIONS
Our new series on YouTube features Wildcats answering questions about life at Williston today. Check it out at [youtube.com/WillistonNorthampton](https://www.youtube.com/WillistonNorthampton)



←
BULLETIN ONLINE
Find the *Bulletin* wherever you are! Look at all of our recent stories, see past issues, and view exclusive digital-only content at williston.com/bulletin



↗
LIVE STREAMING
We love to stream all of our big events online! Tune in to watch Wildcat athletic games, special assemblies, and much more! williston.com/livestream



↑
CHECK OUT OUR INSTAGRAM
One of the best ways to stay up-to-date with news about campus and alumni (like actor and comedian Brad Hall '75) is to stop by our Instagram page. [instagram.com/willistonns](https://www.instagram.com/willistonns)

AROUND THE QUAD



Two business-minded seniors are showing that the entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well on the Williston Northampton campus. Nora Curtis '25 and Jacob Waah '25 each started their own brand of athletic wear in 2024, modeled here and seen around campus. Turn the page to find out more.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DENNIS CROMMETT

CAMPUS NEWS



“Omnis dies est novum ovum.”

For the Classical Association of New England's 2025 Latin Motto Contest, winners had to show originality, a personal perspective, and a flair for Latin grammar. Junior Brandon Gou '26 clearly understood the assignment with his inspiring tribute to starting each day afresh—which translates to “every day is a new egg.”



CAMPUS THREADS

How two students are building fun clothing brands

This spring, Wildcats have been seen sporting some new athleisure wear around campus after the class day ends, thanks to two enterprising seniors. The Ineffable Feelings brand, started by Jacob Waah '25 and two friends, offers brightly colored sweatshirts, shirts, shorts, and other leisure wear featuring big, bold type. Nora Curtis '25, meanwhile, runs 24 Athletic Wear, which produces “ultra-cozy” sweatshirts, crew necks, and sweatpants.

Waah and friends started Ineffable Feelings in 2023, but ramped up sales efforts this year. “It is great seeing a bunch of people wear something I worked so hard on,” Waah said. “Whether they were seniors, freshman, or middle schoolers, they wanted the hoodies!”

Curtis started her shop last fall, naming it for her hockey number, 24. “I have always been interested in the design side of clothing businesses,” Curtis said, “and that inspired me to start my own brand.” Learn more about Waah's Ineffable Feelings at ineffablefeelings.com, and Curtis's brand at www.24athleticwear.com.

THE WIDE WORLD OF WILLISTON SCHOLARS PROJECTS

Now in its fourteenth year, the Williston Scholars program continues to inspire students to explore big questions in a trimester-long, college-model course. Below is a small sampling of the dozens of projects undertaken this year. Visit williston.com/scholars to see more.

- Creating Shelf-Stable Solutions to Food Insecurity
- Why Robotic Limbs Don't Have to Be So Robotic
- Government Surveillance and the Rights of U.S. Citizens
- Poverty Intervention Programs in Public Education Systems
- Mechanisms of Beta Receptors: Understanding Ligands and Their Effects
- NINOS: A Website Empowering Bilingual Children with Medical Translation Needs

“I researched and experimented with alternatives to conventional plastics, specifically focusing on biodegradable plastics. My essential question was: ‘Are biodegradable plastics effective?’”

The Scholar: Annika Stackmann '25
Her Project: The Antidote to Our Plastic Addiction



BRINGING HOME THE HARDWARE

The Wildcats have been on a roll, with four teams winning NEPSAC championships this fall and winter—BY GEOFF SMITH '07

BOYS SWIMMING

The boys swimming team can't stop winning. For the fourth time since 2020, the Wildcats took home the Division II swimming & diving championship. Williston won this year's title with 440 points—109 more than second place. Herrick Stevenson '25 (at right) was named the Babcock Award winner (MVP) of the championship meet, swimming a leg on an event-winning relay team and placing second in two individual events.

FIELD HOCKEY

There's winning a NEPSAC championship, then there's winning a NEPSAC championship with a walk-off, double overtime win. The field hockey team recorded the memorable finale against No. 1 Middlesex School in the Class B final. For her consistent efforts all season, Zola Piekarski '26 (at right) was named the NEPSAC Class B Player of the Year.



FOOTBALL

The Wildcats are NEPSAC Bowl champions for the first time since 1993. Williston posted an impressive 8-1 record on the year, including a 42-26 win over Cheshire Academy in the Danny Smith Bowl. Quarterback Davi McDonald '25 (at left) went 19-for-19 passing for 173 yards and a touchdown in the win.

BOYS BASKETBALL

A team for the ages took home a NEPSAC Class A title this winter, beating Phillips Exeter in the final, 75-57. Preston Edmead '25 (at left) led the way all year, earning NEPSAC Class A League and Tournament MVP honors. In the final, he put up a game-high 26 points to lead the way. Williston finished 25-1 on the year, and 18-0 in Class A.

PHOTOGRAPHS (LEFT) BY DENNIS CROMMETT AND PAULETTE GRISWOLD; (RIGHT) BY DENNIS CROMMETT AND GEOFF SMITH '07

THEN AND NOW

Sawyer Field has played host to football for generations of Wildcats
BY GEOFF SMITH '07

Just picture it: a crisp fall day; orange, red, and yellow leaves fluttering on the trees; and the unmistakable sounds of shoulder pads on shoulder pads. Since 1898, that's been the scene every fall on Sawyer Field, as Williston's football team has taken to the gridiron. Originally a grass field, built during then-Headmaster Joseph Sawyer's tenure, Sawyer Field was updated to synthetic turf in 2005, thanks to a gift from Denis Berube '61, P'92, '13, which also made lights (and night games) possible. In 2021, the field was replaced again, and it's now in almost constant use with soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, and football games, including last fall's commanding 42-26 victory over Cheshire Academy to win the coveted Danny Smith Bowl. And while a lot may have changed about football on Sawyer Field in 127 years—including, thankfully, helmet technology (see below)! —one thing remains constant: the sheer pleasure of playing the game on one of the prettiest fields in New England.



Speak Up!

In a new all-school speech contest, students celebrate stepping out of their comfort zone
—BY GEOFF SMITH '07

This year, as part of Williston Northampton's new all-school public-speaking curriculum, Upper School students wrote and refined personal stories on the topic of risk-taking, then went public with them in a way many people find risky in itself: delivering them onstage to a packed house of peers and faculty.

How It Worked

Guided by English teachers, students began workshopping stories last fall. They developed their ideas into five-minute speeches about personal experiences, then presented their polished material in English class. Top storytellers advanced to all-grade assemblies, which in turn selected one student speaker. In February the four finalists—Izzy Jimah '28, AJ Tanihaha '27, Onion Quan '26, and Chris Anderson '25—took the stage in Phillips Stevens Chapel, delivering personal stories that were by turns poignant, funny, provocative, and uplifting. When the cheering finally stopped, a panel of judges selected junior Onion Quan as the overall winner of Williston's 2025 public speaking contest.

What Did Students Learn?

The easy answer is, of course, public speaking skills. But English Chair Matt Liebowitz noted that many students also learned about the importance of self-reflection. "Their reaction was surprisingly positive," he said, "because the ball was in their court. It was them saying 'Oh, I've had this experience and I get to share it.' That was encouraging for teachers to see."



"I learned that freestyling is my style of speech. It is really risky to do it, but if I speak with my heart and a true story, everything will hopefully work out."

—Onion Quan '26, speech contest winner

Why It's Important

Talking about oneself doesn't always come easily for students—all the less so when it involves a live audience. But the ability to confidently express thoughts in a public setting, from an oral presentation in college to a business meeting later in life, remains an important skill. Throughout the competition, kids pushed their boundaries, gaining experience in organizing and communicating information for maximum impact, and maybe even picking up some insights about themselves along the way. "This unit has made me realize I can do scary things," says Addie Eakin '27, "like get up in front of a lot of people with only six bullet points and one note card."

PHOTOGRAPH (BOTTOM LEFT) BY OLIVER SCOTT; (RIGHT) BY PAULETTE GRISWOLD

Macklemore, Manilow, & Mic Drops

Nothing heats up a New England winter like Williston's annual Lip Sync competition

—GEOFF SMITH '07

The Phillips Stevens Chapel has seen its share of performances, but none bring the house down quite like the annual Lip Sync battle. Part of the yearlong Willympics competition—a spirited, campus-wide contest pitting dorms against each other and day students—Lip Sync has become a favorite winter tradition. For the 2024–25 edition, performers pulled out all the stops with elaborate costumes, bold choreography, and a soundtrack that included pop chart-toppers, Disney Channel throwbacks, Broadway hits, and a splash of Barry Manilow. Taking the top spot was Emily McFadon Vincent House, whose high-energy mashup of Macklemore songs earned raucous applause and top marks from the judges. Memorial Hall East claimed second with a spirited rendition of “The Greatest Showman”—or was it “The Greatest Show(Mem)” —while last year’s champs, Logan House, landed third for their colorful, prop-filled take on “Copacabana.” While the judges tallied scores, a spontaneous dance party broke out, proving once again that at Lip Sync, everyone’s a star. Want to relive the magic? Check out the highlights on the Williston Northampton Flickr page.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY OLIVER SCOTT



YOUR GENEROSITY WORKED 24/7 THIS FOUNDERS DAY!

Thank you to everyone who made a gift, shared their Williston pride, and came together to make Founders Day unforgettable and full of joy. More than 1,300 supporters unlocked an additional \$85,000 for Williston with a special shout-out to class of 1983 for topping the alumni leaderboard again this year!

1,300+
DONORS

\$658,498
TOTAL RAISED
(\$556,629 for the Williston
Northampton Fund)

752
ALUMNI GIFTS

150
PARENT GIFTS

112
SENIOR GIFTS

240
GIFTS FROM
CLASSES
2010-2024



WE LOVED HEARING WHY YOU GAVE

"In honor of past teachers who make a difference in our lives and inspire us to do and be more."

"Williston in our household is referred to as the BPOE—Best Place on Earth—and has a special place in our hearts. Forever Green and Blue!"

"I will always be grateful to Williston for helping me gain confidence that I just didn't have before I arrived."

"I am inspired to give back so that current and future students will have the same great experience I was fortunate enough to have at Williston!"



Students wore pink and turned out in droves for a basketball doubleheader this winter that raised money for the Elise Ollmann-Kahle Class of 2025 Memorial Fund



REMEMBERING A BRIGHT SOUL

After the loss of a beloved community member, students create a lasting legacy in her honor —BY GEOFF SMITH '07

Last fall, the Williston Northampton School community grieved the loss of Elise Ollmann-Kahle '25, a six-year senior who fought a yearslong battle with cancer. Elise was known for her love of learning, strong work ethic, caring personality, and fondness of the color pink. "She was," says fellow senior Vivian Walker '25, "the sweetest and most genuine person I've ever met."

Determined to honor their friend and to keep her spirit alive, the class

of 2025 set out to create the Elise Ollmann-Kahle Class of 2025 Memorial Fund. To generate sufficient income to meaningfully contribute to financial aid every year, an endowed fund requires a minimum initial investment of \$50,000—a high bar for a group of students.

Undeterred, the Senior Class Gift Committee began fundraising, generating 114 donations from the senior class alone, then pulling in students from younger grades. Throughout the

winter, basketball, hockey, squash, and swimming teams took turns hosting Pink-Out games and sponsoring bake sales and other fundraising initiatives while asking fans to sport Elise's favorite color. At each event, students packed the stands to cheer on the Wildcats while remembering their schoolmate. Ultimately, hundreds of donors—including parents, alumni, and friends—contributed more than \$60,880 to fully endow Elise's fund. In the future, it will help defray the

cost of a Williston education for an incoming student.

"It was inspiring to see the whole school—across different grades, different sports, different events—come together and make this happen," said Head of School Robert W. Hill III, who, along with his wife, Kathryn, knew Elise very well. "The notion that the kids embraced her memory as widely as they did is amazing. It's been the ray of sunshine on an otherwise dark cloud of losing such a bright young soul."

PHOTOGRAPHS (LEFT) BY MELANIE ZACEK; (RIGHT) BY OLIVER SCOTT AND MELANIE ZACEK



“WE HOLD THEE IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER”

As we celebrate the centennial of the founding of Northampton School for Girls this June, we reflect on the many ways the institution and its alumnae remain strongly present at today's school. From endowed scholarships to deeply entrenched student traditions, here are a few of our favorite NSFG-born contributions to Williston Northampton culture.

—BY KEVIN MARKEY

1

RINGING THE ANGELUS

“There is so much to be done at school that we often forget to think, to pray, or just enjoy the taste of life. This Student Council is presenting an Angelus bell to the school to remind us all of the need for quiet thought.”

Thus wrote NSFG student Maria (Burgee) LeVesconte '52 at the dedication of the Angelus, in 1952. Inscribed with “For Quiet Thought,” the Angelus hung on the NSFG campus, and its daily ringing reminded students to take time from their busy days for reflection. Though the bell fell into disuse in the late 1960s, it was, happily, reinstalled on the new Angelus Terrace on the Williston Northampton campus in 2012, thanks to a generous 50th Reunion gift from the Class of 1961 and an anonymous donor. The large brass bell now peals out at Convocation, Commencement, Reunion, and on select Fridays during the school year, when students and faculty gather in small groups to share a moment of silence and reflection.

2

THE POWER OF NSFG ALUMNAE

One hundred years after NSFG was founded, its guiding principles live on through the philanthropy of alumnae. Not only does their collective generosity help fund daily operations, it safeguards key programs, such as *The Willistonian*, the Grum Project for the Arts, and the NSFG Instructorship, deep into the future through permanent endowments. Underwritten by Pat (Ingram) Bone '65 and her husband, Steve Bone, the Grum Project every year brings painters, filmmakers, musicians, dancers, and more to campus for teaching residencies. *The Willistonian's* annual operating expenses are entirely covered by an endowed fund, ensuring that the country's oldest continuously published high school newspaper will train journalists for a long time to come. Similarly, the NSFG Instructorship, which awards three-year professional development stipends to outstanding faculty, simultaneously enhances the teacher-student experience today while building a bridge to tomorrow.

3

A DORM OF ONE'S OWN

When Emily McFadon Vincent House opened its doors in 2020, completing Williston's residential quad, it made history as the first dormitory named for a female benefactor. Long before she became a business owner, world traveler, and philanthropist, McFadon Vincent '49 remembers arriving in Northampton for her senior year after crossing the country alone by train from Tacoma, Washington. Warned by her father not to speak to anyone in the dining car, she refrained from eating for the entire three-day journey. Fortunately, she found square meals and nourishment of another kind at NSFG. “There was just this atmosphere at the school,” Emily recalled at the dedication of EMV. “Everything about it was positive.” The residence was not Emily's first major gift to Williston. Over the years, she and husband Bob Vincent have endowed funds for professional faculty development and student financial aid, including the Emily McFadon Vincent and Bob E. Vincent Scholarship. “I can see that today's students are still very enthusiastic, willing, and involved,” she said at the time. “The faculty are outstanding, with the right mix of high academic standards and caring offered to students”—values that shaped Emily's own boarding school experience upon stepping off that sleeper train and into the special world of NSFG.



4

WHITE BLAZER AWARD

Presented at Commencement to the graduating senior “who has made the greatest contributions to the academic, athletic, and community life of the school,” the prestigious White Blazer has roots stretching back to the 1920s at the Northampton School. The honor, more formally known as the Sarah B. Whitaker Award after NSFG's co-founder and co-principal, was conferred by faculty vote in recognition of exemplary leadership and integrity. Originally a sweater, the prize became a blazer in the 1930s, because, as Miss Whitaker noted in her memoir, “styles change.” One thing that doesn't? The honor of donning it. The White Blazer remains one of Williston's most prestigious student accolades.



5

WHITAKER-BEMENT MATH CONTEST

Every January, female-identifying students from private and public middle schools around the region descend on campus for the annual Whitaker-Bement Girls in Mathematics Competition. Throughout the daylong event, young scholars puzzle through multiple rounds of team quantitative challenges; participate in hands-on activities led by Williston math faculty; and listen to presentations from guest speakers on topics ranging from data science, algorithms, and cryptography to coding, fractals, and what would happen if you fell into a black hole (a perennial middle school favorite). Organized and managed by the Williston Math Team, the event honors NSFG founders Sarah Whitaker and Dorothy Bement, whose deep commitment to the education of girls blazed trails in 1920s America. A vibe of spirited camaraderie prevails throughout the competition, but underlying all the fun is one serious, NSFG-approved message: Girls are serious mathletes.



ARTISTS AT WORK

The arts calendar has been bursting at the seams this year with a fresh crop of innovative performances, shows, and visiting artists. While it was hard to pick just a few photos that capture the breadth of creative work, below are some of our favorites. See more on the Arts Instagram (@WillistonArts) or the Williston Northampton Flickr account.

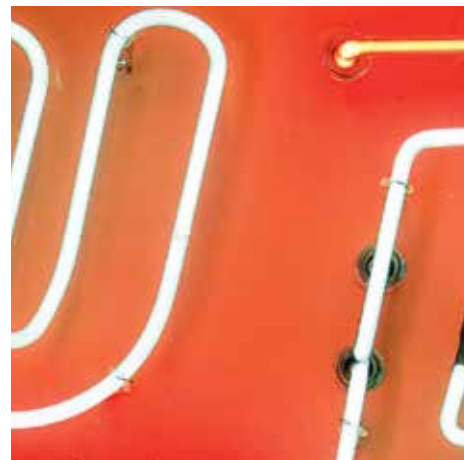


PHOTOGRAPHS (LEFT) BY OLIVER SCOTT (1), DENNIS CROMMETT (2), AND PAULETTE GIRSWOLD (3); (RIGHT) BY OLIVER SCOTT (4) AND MELANIE ZACEK (5 AND 6)

1) Annika Stackmann '25, and Zh'ky Johnson-Tuzo '26 in the fall dance concert, *Making History*. 2) Visiting artist and Stanford professor Charlotte McCurdy shared her fascinating work on climate change and fashion. 3) Bright songs rang out in the Winter Choral Concert. 4) Isabel Baxter-Paris '25 played the role of Persephone in the spring musical *Hadestown: Teen Edition*. 5 and 6) During a recent Arts Walk—in which Reed Campus Center was filled with student projects—Nina Kou '27 played the cello, and students took in works from AP Studio Art and other classes.

WHERE AT WILLISTON?

The photos below show details of familiar places and spaces on campus. Test your Williston IQ and see if you can correctly guess them all! (Then check out the answers on page 84.)



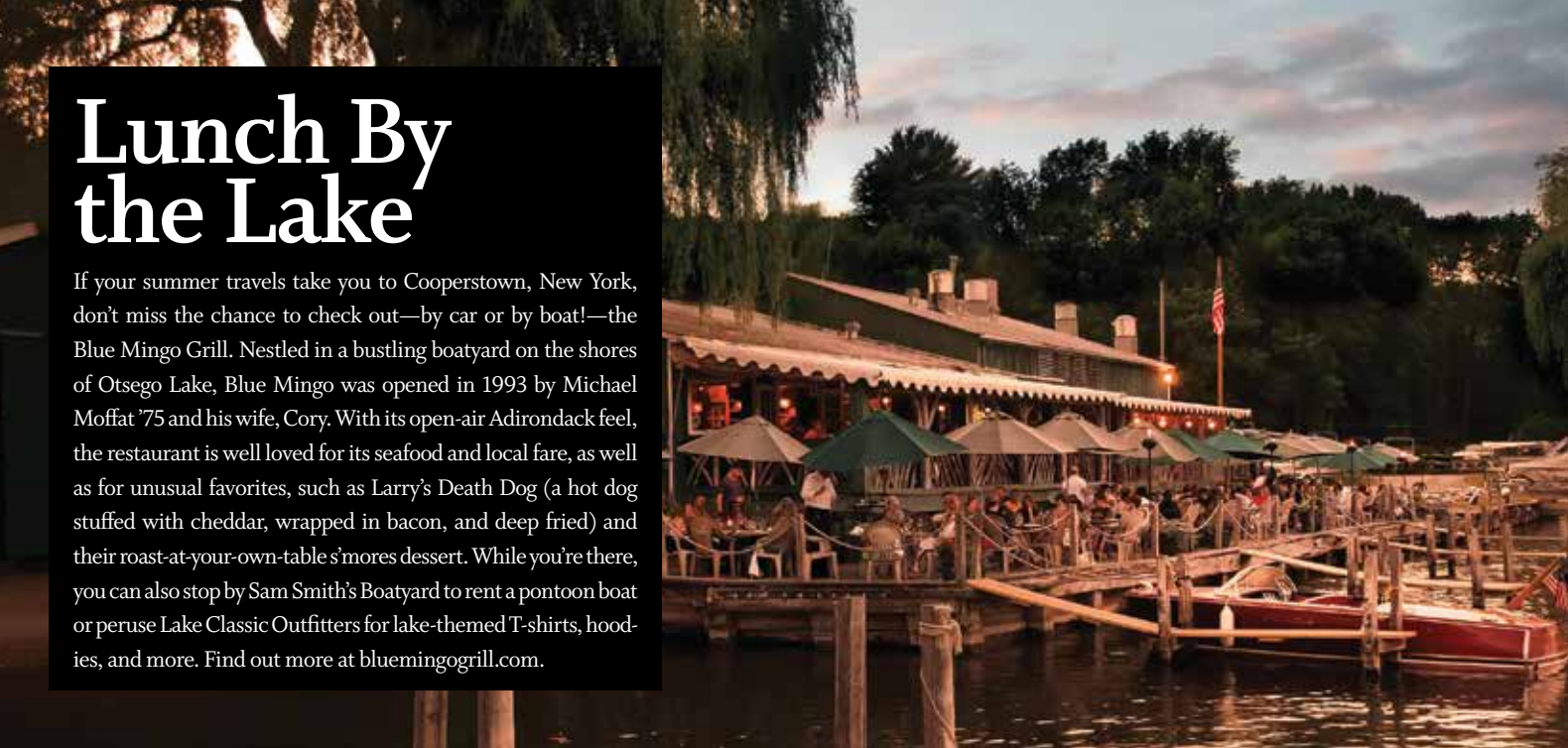
ALUMNI NEWS

PHOTOGRAPH BY PAULETTE GRISWOLD



For Paul McNeil '01 and Sally Ekus '03, being part of an improv comedy troupe is more than just a hobby. "It's changed my life," says McNeil—a sentiment Ekus shares. Read more about them (and 14 other alums with cool hobbies) on page 48.

WILDCAT ROUNDUP



Lunch By the Lake

If your summer travels take you to Cooperstown, New York, don't miss the chance to check out—by car or by boat!—the Blue Mingo Grill. Nestled in a bustling boatyard on the shores of Otsego Lake, Blue Mingo was opened in 1993 by Michael Moffat '75 and his wife, Cory. With its open-air Adirondack feel, the restaurant is well loved for its seafood and local fare, as well as for unusual favorites, such as Larry's Death Dog (a hot dog stuffed with cheddar, wrapped in bacon, and deep fried) and their roast-at-your-own-table s'mores dessert. While you're there, you can also stop by Sam Smith's Boatyard to rent a pontoon boat or peruse Lake Classic Outfitters for lake-themed T-shirts, hoodies, and more. Find out more at bluemingogrill.com.

PHOTOGRAPHS (LEFT) COURTESY OF BLUE MINGO GRILL; (RIGHT) BY LINDSEY TOPHAM

“My goal as a researcher is to use the tools of design and engineering to improve equity in sports. I grew up as an athlete, playing a different sport every season up until I finished college and became a coach. My experiences in sports have shaped who I am as a person; sports were always a safe environment for me to take risks, and they served as the classroom where I learned the importance of dedication, teamwork, and resiliency.”

—Sarah Fay '11, during her keynote speech at the 2025 winter Cum Laude Society induction ceremony. Hear her full remarks at youtube.com/willistonnorthampton.



The Power of Life

In his latest project, Jim Hollander '68 helps document the last living Holocaust survivors

As an award-winning photojournalist, Jim Hollander '68 (@jimhollanderpix on Instagram) has documented wars, global events, and more—but no project has been more rewarding than *The Lonka Project*, an expansive tribute to the last living Holocaust survivors. Initiated in 2019 by Hollander and his wife, Rina Castelnovo, also an award-winning photographer and filmmaker, *The Lonka Project* documents some 450 Holocaust survivors in portraits taken by more than 310 photographers in 30 countries. The

project takes its name from Rina's mother, Dr. Lonka (Eleanora) Nass, a concentration camp survivor, and has been exhibited at the United Nations in New York, and in Israel, Poland, Berlin, and Zurich. In 2024, the photos and stories were published into a mesmerizing book (Gefen Publishing) that reminds readers of the horrors of the Holocaust and the resilience of its survivors. At right is an abridged excerpt from Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, whom Hollander photographed in Tel Aviv in 2019. “I had the idea of combining the photos of him now and when liberated, as the smiles



PHOTO AT RIGHT BY JIM HOLLANDER '68



On April 11, 1945, 8-year-old Yisrael Meir Lau was photographed leaving Buchenwald concentration camp after its liberation. Seventy-five years later, Jim Hollander '68 photographed him (left) in Tel Aviv as part of The Lonka Project. See more @thelonkaproject or at thelonkaproject.com.

were very similar and spoke to me of the vitality and belief in life he had to survive and continues to have in his nineties.”

RABBI YISRAEL MEIR LAU

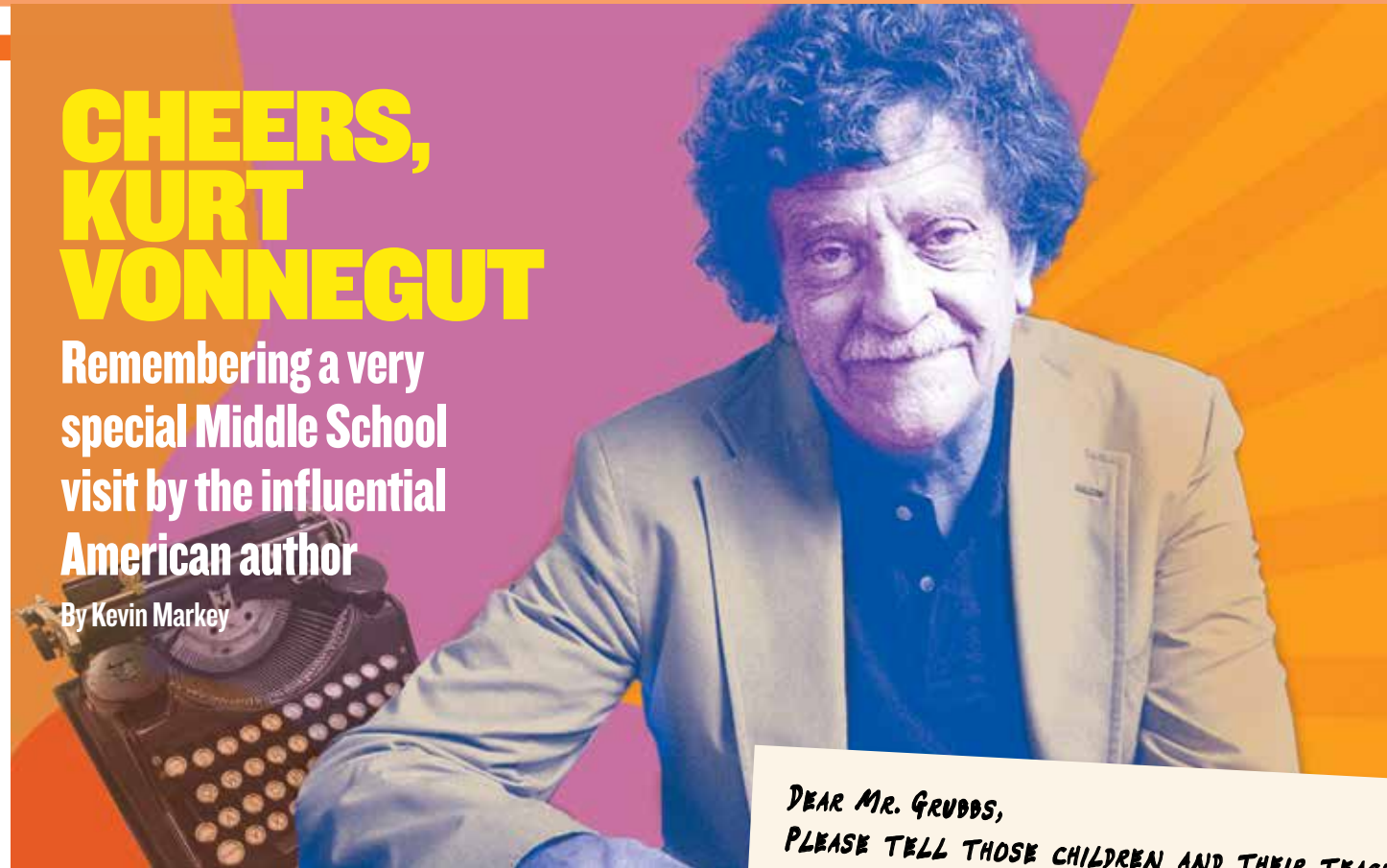
Born in June 1937 in the Polish town of Piotrków Tybunalski, Yisrael Meir Lau was separated from his mother at age 7 and imprisoned in a Nazi slave labor camp, and then in the Buchenwald concentration camp, where his older brother Naphtali concealed him. Meir Lau survived and was freed from the Buchenwald camp in 1945 after its liberation by the United States Army (see photo, at left). He became a poster child for miraculous survival after U.S. Army chaplain Rabbi Herschel Schacter found him hiding in a heap of corpses. His entire family had been murdered except his older brother, a half-brother, and an uncle

already living in Mandatory Palestine. Lau immigrated there with his brother and was raised by an aunt and uncle. In 1961, he was ordained as a rabbi, ultimately becoming Chief Rabbi of Israel in 1993 and also Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv. He served for many years as the Chairman of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem. Rabbi Lau is the 38th generation in an unbroken family of rabbis. His son Moshe Lau currently serves as Israel's Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi. Seventy-five years after he was discovered in the Buchenwald camp, Rabbi Lau was photographed just before he was about to observe the Passover Seder with social distancing from his many family members, like so many other Holocaust survivors. The rabbi says, “This year the night of Passover will be different. This time I will not talk to people, but about history.”

CHEERS, KURT VONNEGUT

Remembering a very
special Middle School
visit by the influential
American author

By Kevin Markey



Recently unearthed from the school archives is a 1997 letter from distinguished novelist Kurt Vonnegut to Head of School Denny Grubbs. At the time he wrote the letter, Vonnegut had just published his fourteenth and final novel (*Timequake*), which followed earlier darkly humorous works, such as *Slaughterhouse Five* and *Breakfast of Champions*. In May of that year, Vonnegut had entertained the Middle School, where his grandson, Maxwell Prior '02, was a student, with his characteristically good-humored and sneakily profound thoughts about the writing life.

Asked where he got his ideas, Vonnegut told the students: “People like to hear about magic moments. They like the story of Isaac Newton or Saint Paul or Charles Darwin, but of course those people had been thinking for a long time. Their ideas didn’t just come to them. The greatest ideas represent steady effort over time.” Even so, he allowed, there was something charmed about the creative process.

“Imagine. You have 26 letters, 10 numbers, and eight punctuation marks and you and I can arrange them and make stories. How is this possible? It’s possible because you are born with a marvelous, unprogrammed computer in your head. Then things happen. A teacher says, ‘Wasn’t that interesting?’ Somebody says, ‘Doesn’t that little girl look sad?’ or ‘Doesn’t that dog look hungry?’ and your imagination begins to grow. It’s a miracle.”

“Do art,” he advised the Middle Schoolers, “even badly. Not for money or to get it published. Write a story and draw a picture or write a song just to give to somebody. It will make your soul grow.”

The students followed up with letters, thanking Vonnegut for his visit, discussing his ideas, and sharing some of their own dreams. It was in response to these notes that Vonnegut wrote the letter at right.

DEAR MR. GRUBBS,
PLEASE TELL THOSE CHILDREN AND THEIR TEACHERS
WHO HEARD ME SPEAK TWO WEEKS AGO THAT THEY WERE
THE MOST GENEROUSLY RESPONSIVE AUDIENCE I HAVE
EVER HAD IN ALL MY YEARS AS A LECTURER. WHAT FUN
FOR ME! HOW REWARDING!

YOU ARE RUNNING ONE HECK OF A GOOD SCHOOL
THERE, AND ARE MAKING THE MOST OF WHAT IS A LIVELY,
INTELLIGENT, STUDENT BODY. THAT WAS POWERFULLY
DEMONSTRATED TO ME BY THE WRITTEN COMMENTS
ON MY TALK, WHICH WERE SENT TO ME BY [MIDDLE
SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHER] PAUL SONERSON. THEY
WERE ALL WRITTEN BY PERSONS ENCOURAGED TO THINK
FOR THEMSELVES, TO HAVE SERIOUS FUN WITH
THEIR OWN OPINIONS.

GIVE THEM MY LOVE, AND CONGRATULATE
THEM ON HAVING MADE PROMISING BEGINNINGS
ON THE ENTERTAINING AND SIGNIFICANT LIVES WHICH
LIE AHEAD.

CHEERS,

KURT VONNEGUT

PHOTOGRAPH OF KURT VONNEGUT FROM GETTY BY OLIVER MORRIS; PHOTOGRAPH (RIGHT) BY ERIC RESSLER

LEAVING HER MARK

For more than 30 years, Jennifer
(Kurtz) Rubin '82 has been inspiring
Californians with her unique brand of
paint-your-own pottery studios

BY ALEXANDRA KENNEDY

Jennifer (Kurtz) Rubin '82 had just turned 29 when she opened Petroglyph Ceramic Lounge in an old coffee shop in Santa Cruz, California, a city at the foot of the mountains on Monterey Bay. She gave it a studio vibe by flooding the space with light, then brought in modern furniture and filled the shelves with pottery in all shapes and sizes. Customers could drop in, pick out a bowl or maybe a fun animal figurine, and sit down to paint and chat. A few days later, their artwork would be kiln-fired, bright and beautiful, and ready for pick up. She named the business Petroglyph—after the cave drawing—because she liked the notion of customers getting to leave their mark. It was an instant hit.

The impetus for Petroglyph had been part inspiration, part desperation. “I moved to L.A. after college,” she says. “I was a production coordinator at Disney and Paramount and I was working crazy long hours. ‘It got me thinking, ‘Can’t we just slow it down a bit?’” She decided to find out. She rented a van, loaded up her German shepherd, Magnum, and started driving around the country looking for the right place to open a paint-your-own pottery studio. “I came up over the hill into Santa Cruz, where all the farmlands are and you can see the ocean, and I was like, this is it.”

Designing enchanting spaces for people to gather and make art turned out to be Jennifer’s own way of leaving her mark. Along the way, she was always able to count on her Williston friends. “They’re the people I still go to for solace and advice.” Today she owns five Petroglyph stores—from Santa Cruz to Sacramento—as well as a candle-making studio, all humming with activity. Her son and daughter, who are in their 20s and starting their own careers now, got to grow up as regulars at the stores. Jennifer still has two more Petroglyphs in the works. Then she says, eyeing retirement, she’ll be ready—for a second time—to slow it down a bit.



The WilliList

A by-the-numbers look at recent alumni highlights BY JONATHAN ADOLPH



2

The number of major magazines that recently featured **Gabby Thomas '15** on the cover. The Olympic gold medalist sprinter brought her trademark style to the cover of *Vogue's* winter 2025 issue, as well as *Dallas Magazine's* June 2024 edition. Thomas also appeared in the 2025 *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit issue and on *Forbes'* "30 Under 30" list last year. But perhaps her biggest news? In March, she announced her engagement to longtime boyfriend Spencer McManes.

3

The number of sections in a musical suite composed for Williston by **Phillip Lee '16**. Lee, a Berklee College of Music graduate with a master's in sound arts from Northwestern, recently unveiled "Three-Part Suite for Williston" as part of his gift on Founders Day. **Listen to the piece at williston.com/bulletin.**

12

Weight (in tons!) of clothing, dormitory accessories, and home goods donated for reuse by departing Smith College students through the school's SmithCycle program, co-managed by **Deirdre Quirk '10**. The program—which has inspired a similar effort at Williston—gathers unwanted goods at the end of the school year, then offers them in the fall to new students or to the local community, keeping them out of the waste stream.



4th

Down—the name of the Cleveland, Ohio, birth-support company launched by **Caitlyn (Riley) Conklin '12** to connect new parents with the area's doulas and birth, postpartum, and newborn care specialists. Conklin, a mother of three, is married to Cleveland Browns offensive lineman Jack Conklin (hence the business's name). **Find out more at 4thdown.org.**

25

Number of years **Peter Urquhart '70** served as University of New Hampshire's carillonneur, selecting and playing the chimelike carillon music broadcast from the school's bell tower every morning at 11 a.m. While he was an associate professor of music (he's now retired), Urquhart began a contest for campus carillon composers, with the winning songs getting prized local airtime.



622

The number of videos posted by structural engineer **Richard Racz '10** on his YouTube channel, Kestava, dedicated to "spreading structural engineering lessons to the world." Racz, who earned his bachelor's in civil engineering and master's in structural engineering at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, has more than 36,000 subscribers, who tune in weekly to learn "How to Calculate the Capacity of a Steel Beam" and "Tips and Tricks for the PE Exam," among many other lessons.



15

New paintings by former faculty member **Marcia Reed** in her solo show, "Nature's Cycle—A Visual Narrative," at 9S Studios in Easton, Maryland. The newly opened gallery is co-owned by photographer **Melissa Cooperman '88**, whose own work includes documenting international humanitarian efforts through video and photography (see more at melissacooperman.com). Reed's exhibit—the gallery's first—ran from February through April 2025 and features paintings and works on paper. "The work is about lessons in life, passages in time using nature as my vital source," says Reed in her artist's statement. **Find out more at 9sstudios.com.**

Public Service 2.0

Brendan Hellweg ’14 is using AI to improve the way cities and towns attract and hire workers

BY JONATHAN ADOLPH



While government efficiency has become a contentious political issue at the federal level these days, Brendan Hellweg ’14, co-founder of the municipal-hiring start-up Holly, sees improving the efficiency of local governments as a goal that everyone can celebrate. “There is an opportunity to do big things in the public sec-

tor,” insists Hellweg, who launched his Brooklyn-based venture in 2023 after earning a joint MBA and Master of Public Policy from Harvard’s Business and Kennedy schools. “What I’m now trying to do with Holly is to enable millions of Americans to find fulfilling careers in the public sector so that they can better serve their communities and we can all benefit from better public services.”

Holly’s licensed software helps cities and towns sidestep what Hellweg and his co-founder Cherie Chung identified as a major barrier to better municipal services: too many open positions, and managers with no time to fill them. Holly’s artificial intelligence platform—built on a database of some 45,000 government job listings—automates the process of creating job descriptions and postings,

provides salary guidance, and ensures that jobs are in compliance with any hiring rules. “The average time to hire for a local government is 135 days, four times longer than the private sector,” explains Hellweg. “By the time governments send their first interview invites, people have already accepted jobs in the private sector. Local governments are losing candidates just

because the process itself takes too long.” That delay comes at a steep cost. Each year taxpayers end up footing the bill for \$86 billion in overtime pay, he notes. Meanwhile, more than 1 million government jobs remain unfilled, a lost opportunity for people looking for careers in public service. Hellweg’s appreciation for well-managed local government dates back to his time at Williston, when he spent two summers working for former Holyoke mayor Alex Morse, who at age 22 was among the country’s youngest civic leaders. “I got to see the role that cities can play in economic development,” says Hellweg, also a Holyoke native. “I saw that the difference between a coffee shop succeeding and not succeeding was the ability of the city to administer grants, to help support the launch, to bring a community forward. The ability of an affordable housing development to succeed was driven by the mayor’s persistence.” He took that insight with him to Yale, where he earned his undergraduate degree in ethics, politics, and economics, interning his junior year for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, in Washington, D.C. After graduating, in 2018, his desire to return to local government led him to Baltimore, where he served as special project manager and data lead in the Mayor’s Office of Performance and Innovation. Initially his work focused on using data to help at-risk youth, but with the arrival of COVID-19, he was asked to launch the city’s contact-tracing program (see *Bulletin*, winter 2020). He ended up hiring 275 workers in under a year, an experience that continues to inform his work today. Holly is still in start-up mode, but Hellweg is encouraged by the response the company is receiving. Two

PHOTOGRAPH BY SHAWN HUBBARD

“I didn’t realize that our niche of government hiring would be the hot topic of 2025, but the opportunity to connect local governments with outgoing federal workers is huge.”

pilot programs are now underway, one launched last fall with the city of Long Beach, California, another this spring with San Bernardino County. Last December, the company raised more than \$2 million in a pre-seed funding round, and Hellweg hopes to have a

five-person team on board by year’s end as the company expands with additional pilot programs. Recent events—specifically the Trump administration’s controversial staffing cuts at the federal level—have added to Holly’s momentum. “I didn’t expect that our niche of government hiring would be the hot topic of 2025, but the opportunity to connect local governments with outgoing federal workers is huge,” says Hellweg, adding that he recently posted an analysis of federal workforce disruption that has gotten tens of thousands of views and hundreds of responses. “Across the country, local governments are facing increased scrutiny to operate leaner while filling the gaps created by federal uncertainty.” With his co-founder Chung, who previously worked for the government-benefits app Propel, Hellweg sees Holly as reframing the discussions around government efficiency, as well as around AI. As the partners wrote recently in their Substack newsletter “Public Service: Designed with Data,” “Together, we saw an opportunity to use AI to revolutionize how governments hire—not by replacing humans, but by eliminating the repetitive tasks that keep HR professionals from doing their most important work: connecting with people.” Ultimately, Hellweg sees Holly as a vehicle for boosting the appeal of public service, an underappreciated yet vital component of civic life. “People think that local government is a sleepy career where you serve your community, but not do too much beyond that,” he contends. “The truth is, the vast majority of public sector jobs are state and local. It’s the source of most public services that you interact with every day. So it really matters to get it right.”

The scribble of Life

Art and healing mix in Jon Tatelman’s new community space

Jon Tatelman ’05 is not on a mission. He’s on many interrelated missions at once. A longtime L.A.-based musician and songwriter, Tatelman records and performs under the name Jonny Kosmo (hear his new album *Undercover Butter* on Bandcamp). He also runs Slimehouse Studio, a studio that specializes in analog recordings. And on top of that, he’s a therapist and the founder of Scribble, a nonprofit community clinic that provides sliding-scale mental health services to individuals, families, and groups. Opened in 2023, Scribble is a multifaceted and vibrant space which hosts classes (from tai chi to sacred harp singing), group meetings (12-step, trans embodiment, and more), and events (from punk shows to narrative photo therapy workshops). “I’ve always viewed my life as more of a scribble than a linear path,” he said in a recent podcast. “This place feels like an extension of me and my soul...a place where arts and healing can reciprocate each other and form community.” Find out more at scribblecommunity.com. On Instagram, check out @scribble.community and @jonnykosmo.



THE HEART OF BRUNSWICK

Jane (Douty) Davis '74 and her
luncheonette legacy — STORY AND
PHOTOGRAPHS BY DENNIS CROMMETT

“ANYBODY CAN MAKE A HAMBURGER,” says Jane (Douty) Davis '74, owner of the iconic Brunswick Diner in Brunswick, Maine. “But what really makes it taste great is being kind to the people who walk in the front door.” Her customers clearly agree. On a recent visit, the booths were packed with a mix of regulars and college students from nearby Bowdoin College. Being a frequent visitor, in fact, has its perks—or perhaps “percs:” customers can join the Mug Club, a fun program where regulars bring their own coffee mug and use it when they visit the diner; around the holidays, they may find a surprise gift card inside. Mugs new and old hang from hooks lining the diner walls, and the World Famous One More Time Wurlitzer Jukebox glitters in the corner, showing off its chrome.

Jane and her daughter, Cassidy King, who now manages the diner, make it look easy, but it didn't start out that way. Originally from New Jersey, Jane came to Williston for her junior and senior years of high school, and studied at the Art Institutes of Boston and Portland after graduating. She



With an outdoor seating area this fun and welcoming, you'd never know that Brunswick's busy Route 1 was just on the other side of the fence. Below, what a perfect Sunday brunch might look like to you and three friends.



No wonder Jane and Cassidy are all smiles: the good vibes abound at the Brunswick Diner, as does great music: Guests can queue up their favorite oldies right from their tables while enjoying specialties like the Sinatra, a beef brisket hash.



eventually met her husband while on business in New York, and the family moved to California, where Jane worked in several national sales positions and had a daughter, Cassidy. After moving to Maine, Jane and her husband divorced in 1998, which led Jane to the realization that her travel-heavy job would no longer work for her as a newly single mom. Enter the Brunswick Diner, a bright-red club car diner that had been a fixture in the area since 1946, but that had been closed due to bankruptcy.

"It wasn't my dream to be a restaurant owner," Jane admitted. "I was one of the worst waitresses in the world when I was young." But in the diner, Jane saw an opportunity for travel-free work—even if she wasn't exactly a restaurateur. "I have more of a business background, and budgeting and all that stuff, and people experience," Jane said of the decision to purchase the diner. "So I thought, 'Well, I can figure this out.'"

She hired back former staff, which wasn't without its challenges, but Jane nonetheless persevered. "I learned how to build a rapport with different personalities. It was really a lesson in human nature, and how to get the best out of each individual and their abilities." At first, Jane revived the existing classic diner menu; in the years since, she and Cassidy have kept the classic diner fare of eggs, pancakes, and waffles, while introducing unique and regionally inspired dishes such as the Lobby Benny (that's lobster benedict), the Bowdoin Bowl (a heaping breakfast bowl named for its many patrons from the nearby college), and colorful cocktails that arrive at the table looking as glorious as they taste.

After bartending at a James Beard Award-nominated restaurant in Portland, Cassidy returned full time to the diner in 2020, and has since taken on the majority of responsibility for its operation. Growing up doing her homework at the counter after school, Cassidy watched her mother deal with the challenges

of running a year-round diner, including surviving through the COVID-19 pandemic. Inspired by her mother's resilience and the vibrant atmosphere she has built, King is excited to be the Brunswick Diner's sixth owner and champion. "This place is more than a restaurant; it's a community."

With the diner in her daughter's capable hands, Jane is not exactly sitting still. In addition to running an Airbnb in her home ("I meet tons of people from all over the world," she says), Jane travels for her work in the wholesale sales and distribution business of paddleboards and surfboards, as well sales representation of multiple apparel lines in the Northeast. For pleasure, she seeks out any body of water to fly-fish, from Maine to the Bahamas, and enjoys family life on the Kennebec River. But no matter where she roams, Davis loves coming home to Maine for community and a hot cup of coffee—in her own personal mug—at the Brunswick Diner.

ON THE MENU

Heading to the Brunswick Diner? Don't miss these fan favorites!



BOWDOIN BOWL

Breakfast bowl named for its many patrons from nearby Bowdoin College. Tater Tots, brussels sprouts, cheddar cheese, bacon, and tomatoes are topped with two poached eggs, scallions, and hollandaise sauce.



CLASSIC BENNY

Toasted king-size English muffin, roasted ham, and two poached eggs smothered in hollandaise.



MIMOSAS!

In addition to creative and delicious food, the Brunswick Diner serves up signature cocktails for your brunching pleasure.

Sea Turtle SOS

A dozen years ago, Marie (Schneller) Palmer '71 found a new calling on the shores of North Carolina. As a volunteer, she helps to save endangered sea turtles. BY ALEXANDRA KENNEDY

After 33 years as a critical care nurse in Massachusetts, Marie (Schneller) Palmer '71 moved to North Carolina with her husband, Jeffrey, in 2013 and started providing medical care of a different sort. She helps to rescue and rehabilitate endangered sea turtles.

North Carolina's sandy shores attract nesting loggerheads. Greens, leatherbacks, Kemp's ridleys, and—once in a blue moon—hawkbills swim its waters. These majestic species have endured centuries of overfishing, habitat destruction, and pollution. Some hopeful signs are finally emerging, such as increasing numbers of nests in North Carolina, thanks to critical legal protections and the ongoing efforts of an army of hands-on professionals and volunteers like Marie.

"I feel totally rejuvenated in my new career as a turtle person," she says. We caught up with her as she was prepping for the busy spring season, which kicks off with giving public tours of the hospital. The turtle hospital, that is.

You're part of a sea turtle conservation effort that runs from Cape Cod to Florida. Can you tell us about it?

I volunteer at the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue & Rehabilitation Center in Surf City, about a 15-minute drive from my home in Sneads Ferry. We protect turtles on the 26 miles of beaches on Topsail Island. The Beasley family had a beach house here back in the '70s and found a nesting turtle. They tried to report it to the authorities and were told, "Oh, there aren't turtles on Topsail." So, as a mother-daughter team, Jean and Karen Beasley started tracking nesting turtles and finding injured turtles, too, which they'd take care of in their garage. Karen then launched the Topsail Turtle Project in 1990 in a 900-square-foot facility. After her early death, Jean took over. The family and community raised funds for a new 13,000-square-foot research center and hospital, named for Karen, which opened to great excitement in 2013. People really love turtles.

How did you go from human caregiver to turtle caregiver?

When we vacationed in North Carolina with our kids in the '90s, we visited that same 900-square-foot hospital a couple of times and it fascinated me. So, when we moved here, I volunteered as a walker. From May through August, walkers cover an assigned mile early each morning looking for sea turtle tracks—what's left

behind after a female goes up on the beach. That's how we find the nests. I was then asked to be a coordinator. There are three of us, coordinating six miles at the very northern part of the island. We're on call 24/7. We have a lot of fun together.

The coordinators have a busy summer ahead protecting turtle nests and hatchlings, right?

Yes. When we get a call that there are tracks, we head out. If we find a nest, we remove one egg to send to the University of Georgia—they've been doing DNA studies on sea turtles since 2010—then we cover up the rest and mark the site with stakes. Sometimes we find a nest that's too close to the water and have to move it first, so it won't wash out. We put wire over all the nests to keep predators out and add signs from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission that say, basically, "Don't mess with this nest." You can get fined and even prison time for disturbing sea turtles because they're protected by the Endangered Species Act.

We hear a lot about artificial lights messing things up for turtles. Is that a problem on Topsail?

Lights are a huge issue here. Every inch of this beach is being built on, and the hatchlings go toward the

brightest light. Hopefully the brightest light is the horizon—not necessarily the moon, which is what everyone thinks, but the white caps. If the hatchlings see a light behind them that's even brighter, they will go the wrong way. We put landscape fabric around the back of the nest to shield it from house and street lights and make ramps to direct them toward the water. We also go up to the beach houses and explain the problem. Most people are more than happy to turn off their lights. Otherwise, we might get calls at 11 o'clock at night: "There's baby turtles in my driveway!"

Where do the hatchlings go?

Most of them go to the Sargasso Sea, way out in the Atlantic, where there is a huge sargassum seaweed patch that gives them food and protection. (Sea turtles' early lives used to be referred to as "the lost years" because scientists didn't know where they were.) We then won't see our Topsail turtles again until they're 30 years old and reproductively mature. They like to return to their "natal" beach.

You work at the hospital one day a week, too. Why do turtles end up there?

The three main reasons are cold stunning, boat strikes, and fishing—when

the turtles get hooked by mistake. Cold stunning is the biggest issue. It happens when turtles stay too long in their northern foraging grounds in the fall and don't migrate early enough to warmer temperatures to the south. They're cold-blooded, so they become the temperature of their surroundings. They go into shock and float to the top of the water and get a lot of complicated medical problems. We take in lots of cold-stunned turtles from Cape Cod every fall. Most of them are juvenile greens and Kemps. They're flown in by a volunteer organization called Turtles Fly Too. We usually get 30 or 40 a season, and maybe 40 more from our Carolina shores. Once a turtle has recovered, we release it.

What's a great day at work for a turtle rescuer?

Well, when we have a really good crowd of visitors on the beach and they're following directions, and then we have a picture-perfect hatching. The hatchlings just go right down the ramp all in one group and head for the water. They don't have any misorientation. We ask everyone watching to put their phones away. No electronics. Just enjoy the moment. Ten or 15 minutes and it's all done. Yeah. I come home from that feeling pretty good.

TURTLE ETIQUETTE FROM THE PROS

- Turn off outdoor beach house lights and close drapes and blinds on the ocean side. Switch to amber lights (turtles can't see the amber light wavelength).
- Fill in any holes in the sand before you leave the beach. Turtles fall in and get stuck.
- Bring in your beach furniture. Turtles get entangled.
- Knock down your sandcastles before you leave the beach.
- Keep the beaches free of litter and eliminate single-use plastic.
- If you are lucky enough to see a turtle laying eggs or baby turtles hatching, keep quiet and stay at a distance. Do not use lights or a flash. Call local authorities to report the sighting and follow their directions!

PHOTOGRAPH BY AVERY LANE PHOTOGRAPHY





For 25 years, a joyful energy has pervaded the Williston Northampton Children's Center. For founding Director Keira Durrett '88 and her talented teachers, it's all about fostering confidence through creative play.

PHOTOGRAPH BY LINDSEY TOPHAM

“WE’RE HERE FOR THE KIDS”

After 25 years, founding Director Keira Durrett '88 reflects back on her baby—the Williston Northampton Children's Center By Geoff Smith '07

With four classrooms, 50 infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, and 14 staff members, there’s a lot going on inside the Williston Children’s Center, and, by extension, the mind of its Director, Keira Durrett ’88. But amid the happy sounds of kids all around her, there’s a moment of Zen for Durrett when she’s asked about her baby—the Children’s Center.

“It all started with this picture,” Durrett says, motioning to a framed, faded photo of 11 smiling kids—the first cohort of students who led to the center’s founding 25 years ago. In 1999, there was a baby boom on campus. With a lack of local child care options, and a need for teachers to, well, teach, the school decided to start a child care center. At that time, Durrett happened to be on the lookout for a job in early childhood education and relished the idea of running her own learning center.

It turned out to be a match made in heaven. Just before the 25th anniversary celebration in March—which 300 people attended—we sat down with Durrett to talk more about the Children’s Center and its impact on the wider Williston Northampton community.

When did you know you wanted to work with kids?

I always knew I wanted to be a teacher, and when I was at Williston, during January term, I got to volunteer in a second grade classroom—and I absolutely loved it. I knew I wanted to major in education in college, and at Wheaton College, I was able to do a four-year work study program in the nursery school on campus. I absolutely fell in love with preschoolers, and thought, “This is where I belong.” I then went to University of Massachusetts for a master’s in early childhood education. I had a job at the time working in a family literacy program and was teaching infants and toddlers, and I knew infants, toddlers, preschoolers was where I needed to be.

What was your reaction to being offered the job by your alma mater? Were you hesitant at all? Excited?

Honestly, my first reaction was “I’m 29 years old, I’ve

“My office is in the middle of all the four classrooms... the biggest things that stand out are laughter, singing, and a happy buzz. It’s busy, it’s crazy, it’s nutty, and I get to hear it all from here.”

only been teaching for six years, why are they letting me do this?” But I couldn’t pass up the opportunity because they were saying, “Start something with your vision.” I don’t think I really realized how big it was at the time. I just thought, “Of course I’ll do this, it’s fine!” Plus, I had a lot of support from people like Chuck McCullagh, the CFO, and Jen Fulcher, who interviewed me for the job.

When did you start to feel like the Children’s Center was going to be successful?

I think it was probably when I started hearing feedback from the community. Prospective families would call and say, “I’ve heard your program is great, I would like my child to be involved.” I think that’s the point when I felt like this was a real thing. This isn’t just a couple of classrooms—this is actually a school with a philosophy and a niche.

What’s your philosophy of educating young children?

Our philosophy is that children learn through play, so we set up the environment so that they can figure out what they’re passionate about, try new things, and learn how to learn. Then the teachers observe the children, look for themes in their play, and build a curriculum around that. In educational terms, it’s called emerging curriculum, where children lead the play and then the teachers are there to support. Our hope is that children leave here with a passion

for learning, an understanding of their own sense of learning, and confidence. Eighty-five percent of what we do is social skills—so, teaching them to be in a group together.

You referenced the picture on the wall—I’m curious, what’s it like seeing those kids graduate? And what is it like now seeing current Williston students walk around that were in the Children’s Center?

Couper Gunn ’18 was one of the kids in that picture, and he comes back every couple years to visit us just to say hi and reminisce about things. For a 25-year-old to come back to their preschool to talk, it’s just amazing. And when we see the things that former students are now doing, we can see those were skills that they had as a 2-year-old. At the beginning of each school year I go through the student directory and count how many students in the Middle and Upper School were Children’s Center alums, and right now there are 28 students who went through the Children’s Center. It’s amazing to see them in the dining hall. Some of them are super friendly and excited to see us and some of them, you know, they’re teenagers. My son [Jackson Ayres ’25] is about to graduate from Williston this year. I feel super connected to his class, which has five former Children’s Center alums. That feels pretty big to me.

What does a “typical” day look like in the Children’s Center?

Every classroom is a little different, but basically the day is broken up with blocks of free play, then more structured times, like meals and snacks, bathroom breaks, and nap time. Every day is the same in terms of that routine, but every day is also different because we’re bringing all these personalities together. The biggest piece—and one of the things I talk about a lot—is my office is in the middle of all the four classrooms so I can hear things going on at different times of day. And the biggest things that stand out are laughter, singing, and a happy buzz. It’s busy, it’s crazy, it’s nutty, and I get to hear it all from here. I can hear the staff celebrating because some baby took its first step or a toddler peed on the potty and everyone sings the potty song. Things like that are so fun.

What do your days look like?

Part of what I love about my job is that every day is

completely different and I never know what to expect. I start by going into each classroom and saying good morning to all the kids and teachers who are here. The rest of the day depends on who’s out and if we have a sub and that kind of stuff. I cover teachers’ breaks, so I’m often in classrooms lunchtime and story time because I love to read to the kids. I’m constantly making decisions and problem solving, so by the time I get home, if someone says, “What’s for dinner?,” I’m like “No” because I’ve made 250 million decisions today. and I can’t make another one.

What can you say about your staff?

“They are amazing! And you can feel it in moments, like when child takes their first step, and everybody celebrates together. And we work really hard. We talk a lot about teaching philosophy about how

“The staff is amazing, and you can feel it in moments, like when a child takes their first step, and everybody celebrates together.”

young children learn and build connections with each other and about why we’re in this field. The root of it is we’re all here for the kids and doing it because that’s what we enjoy. And I think just like families come here because it’s an educational setting, teachers come here because they want to teach children.”

You are celebrating 25 years now—are there any long-term goals or things that you are working toward for the future of the Children’s Center?

Right now we have a waiting list of 150 families, and we’ve had that for probably five years. Easthampton has had an amazing growth of families with young children, and there’s just not enough care. Someday, I would love to be able to expand our program and build a new building.



Durrett holds a photo of the first “class” at the Children’s Center—a faculty baby boom that sparked the center’s founding in 1999

PHOTOGRAPH BY LINDSEY TOPHAM



Language for Everyone

With his peer-to-peer language platform, Ryan Jeon '16 is on a mission to make learning English accessible, easy, and affordable BY MEGAN TADY

In 2021, Ryan Jeon '16 and his sister, Chelsea, launched Immigo, a peer-to-peer English learning platform that quickly gained thousands of students and over a million dollars in startup funding. *Forbes* recently included the Northwestern graduates in its 2024 “30 Under 30” list. “I was honored to know that other people see the value in what we’re doing,” Jeon said.

The online classes, typically 50 minutes in length, allow students from around the world to practice English skills in small groups, simulating real-world experiences. Immigo then uses AI to assess each student’s abilities and provide tailored feedback on how to improve. “We’re maximizing students’ speaking practice, and we’re telling students how to do better next time,” Jeon said.

Immigo is partly inspired by Jeon’s personal experience of struggling to speak English when his family moved from Korea to Irvine, California. Jeon was 12 years old, and although he’d taken English classes in Korea since he was young, he’d never truly conversed with native English speakers.

“I was so shy and worried about speaking English that I couldn’t even pick up the phone to order a pizza,” he recalled. “I was afraid people would judge my accent or that I would say something wrong.”

Luckily, Jeon had a group of friends at his middle school who had also recently immigrated to the United States. “We kind of created a support group to practice our English, and that’s how I learned firsthand that to learn any language, you have to use and speak it. I had to get out of my comfort zone.”

In fact, Jeon did just that, making another big

move at the age of 14 by attending Williston. “I wanted to accelerate my learning and keep challenging myself in a diverse, global environment,” he said. “When I visited Williston, it immediately felt like home. The school sparked my curiosity to learn how to solve problems that I saw in the world.”

Before creating Immigo, Jeon realized that learning English could boost people’s earning potential, but English classes were prohibitively expensive. Immigo seeks to lower the barrier to entry, making English more accessible to students from an array of backgrounds.

“There is a lot of effective English education out there already,” Jeon said. “People can take one-on-one lessons or hire qualified tutors, but that can be expensive. The sad reality is that not everybody can afford that kind of education. We’re trying to make effective English education affordable for everybody.”

Immigo now serves students from 150 different countries and has nearly 170,000 followers on Instagram. The platform has particularly resonated with students in Latin America, and with people working in the tech industry who hope to be hired by American or Canadian companies, even remotely.

Many Immigo classes focus on career-based scenarios, like interviewing for a job or meeting new team members.

Jeon hears from Latin American students that proficiency in English can double or even triple their income. And he cites the educational publishing company Pearson’s 2024 study showing that English proficiency is directly linked to earning potential.

“Many of our students are, for example, coders, but they can’t communicate in English with their teams, so they’re not getting promoted or they’re getting passed up in interviews,” he said. “They have a limited amount of disposable income. By using AI and making Immigo scalable, we can lower the cost and maximize the outcome, delivering an experience that mimics living in the U.S. or Canada, allowing students to speak English almost daily.”

Co-founding Immigo with his sister has been particularly fulfilling. “Because we’re family and we know each other so well, we have a bond that is stronger than it would be if I was creating a business with anyone else,” he said. “I’m really proud of what we’re building. English is a powerful tool. It changed my life, and I think everybody deserves the same chance.”

HELPING STUDENTS DREAM **BIGGER**

Eris Johnson-Smith '98 is helping close the opportunity gap for students BY MEGAN TADY

AS THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM FOR ONEGOAL NEW YORK—A BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL NONPROFIT THAT HELPS OVERLOOKED STUDENTS REACH THEIR POTENTIAL—Eris Johnson-Smith '98 is working to close the opportunity gap for young people in New York City schools.

“OneGoal helps to prepare young people for college and career, transforming the way students experience advising while they’re still in high school, and also during that year after graduation when they’re making the transition into adulthood,” Johnson-Smith said.

Johnson-Smith holds a bachelor’s degree from Hampshire College and a master’s degree from New York University. He’s dedicated his career to youth empowerment, having spent nearly two decades working in public schools. “I’ve spent a lot of time with young people helping them meet their goals,” he said. “It’s been a journey that has kind of selected me as opposed to me selecting it.”

Both Johnson-Smith and OneGoal are pushing back against economic and racial disparities that prevent low-income students, particularly

students of color, from receiving the crucial advising support that demystifies the postsecondary process. In New York City and around the country, public schools face a shortage of guidance and college counselors, and only 22% of graduating seniors from low-income communities earn a bachelor’s or associate degree, compared to 67% of students from high-income areas.

OneGoal’s solution is a three-year advising program that begins as a high school elective for student “fellows,” helping them explore college and career pathways. The New York branch has 19 high school partners and 1,600 current fellows, and Johnson-Smith oversees the coaching and training programs for OneGoal-affiliated educators.

He emphasizes the importance of listening closely to students’ voices. “OneGoal is asking young people, ‘What is it that you actually want to do?’” he said. “‘What is it that you want to achieve in this world? What kind of impact do you want to make? And how do you want to have an impact for yourself, but also for your communities and your families?’ The ability for students to actualize and

have self-determination is the ultimate of youth empowerment.”

The model is having a tremendous impact. In New York, 88% of OneGoal high school graduates enroll in a postsecondary institution and 77% continue with their education one year after high school. “You can feel really lost in high school, so having a teacher who is invested in your mission and helps you create a plan and execute it once you graduate from high school is very powerful.

OneGoal fellows are typically students in the academic middle—a profile that, Johnson-Smith says, described him when he was a student at Williston. “To be honest, I struggled a little at Williston with self-advocacy and self-doubt, which a lot of young people do,” he said. “But I think it was even more so for me being a person of color in a predominantly white space. Learning how to navigate some of the different challenges that came with that was hard on me.”

Among the benefits of a Williston education were the time management skills that Johnson-Smith honed. “I hated the half-day Saturday classes, but then I went to college and was getting up early on Saturdays to

finish homework,” he says. “I grew to appreciate what those Saturday classes instilled in me, which was the sense to take advantage of the time to complete work and get ahead if I could. That, along with some of the coursework and the rigor, prepared me for college life.”

Johnson-Smith acknowledges that this a tumultuous moment to be a high school student today, amid global uncertainty as well as political and social unrest. Still, it’s young people who give him hope, and he encourages older generations to view them as “assets” in shaping society.

“Most of the young people that I am around and interact with are deeply empathetic,” he said. “They believe society should be able to do things, and that people shouldn’t be suffering, and that everyone has the right to live their dreams. We can forget how much positive change has happened in the world because young people dared to imagine what was possible and pushed forward. Even sometimes demanded change. I think it’s a reminder for us who’ve lived [longer] and had more experiences that what our young people have that we don’t is imagination.”

PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMI SAUNDERS



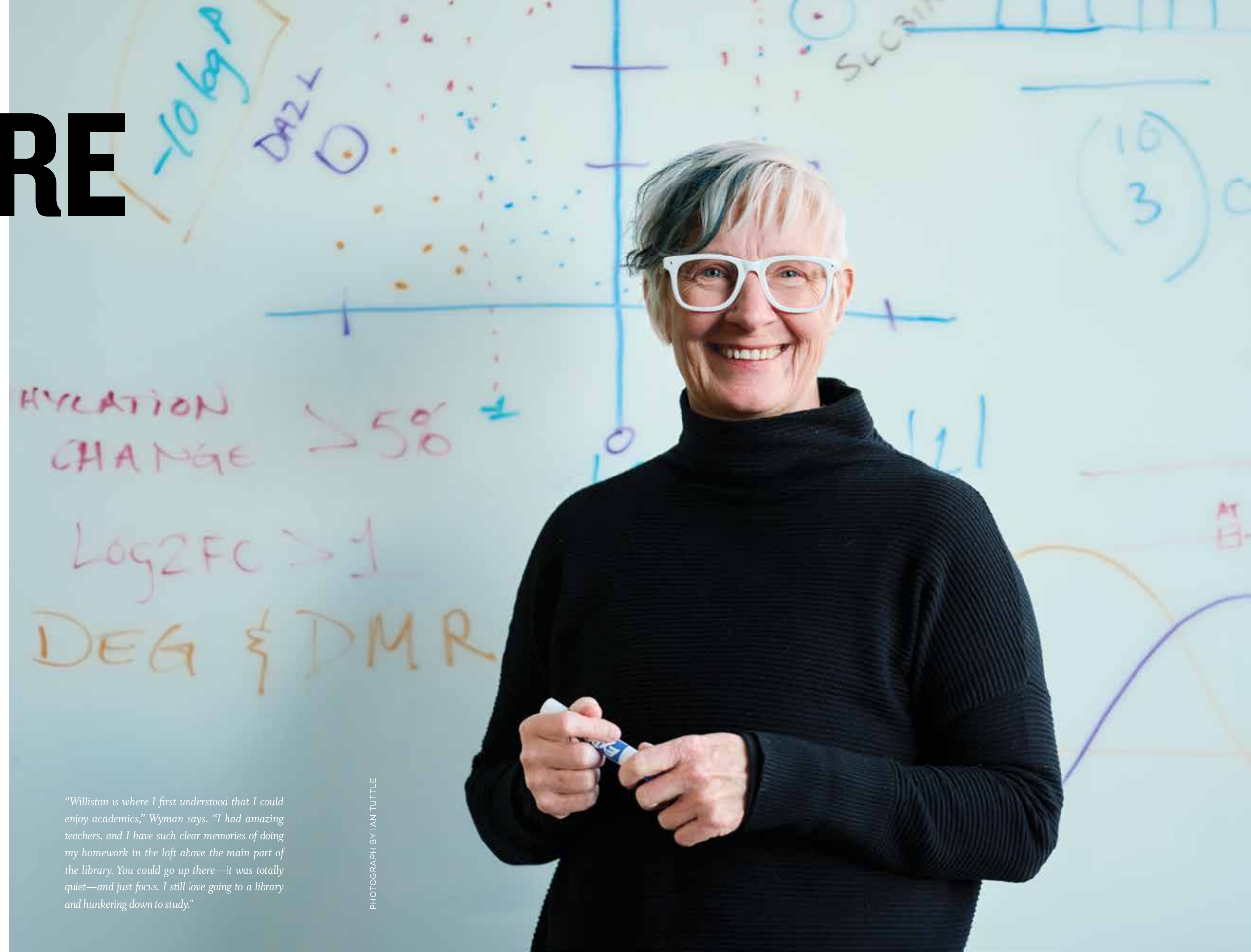
THE CURE CODE

Scientist and genomic researcher Stacia Wyman '85 is fine-tuning gene editing for real-world treatments

BY EMILY GOLD BOUTILIER

To understand the work of data scientist Stacia Wyman '85, it helps to first talk about a rare form of muscular dystrophy. FSHD is a genetic disease in which the muscles of the face, shoulder blades, and upper arms weaken and atrophy. It's caused by an overactive gene called DUX4. During fetal development, DUX4 has an important job: It helps muscles grow. But in most adults, it does nothing. Its purpose served, the gene turns off. FSHD develops when that doesn't happen—when a genetic mutation causes DUX4 to turn on in adult muscle tissue.

Wyman is Director of Biological Data Science at Epicrispr Biotechnologies, a San Francisco biotech startup she joined in November after spending most of her



"Williston is where I first understood that I could enjoy academics," Wyman says. "I had amazing teachers, and I have such clear memories of doing my homework in the loft above the main part of the library. You could go up there—it was totally quiet—and just focus. I still love going to a library and hunkering down to study."

PHOTOGRAPH BY IAN TUTTLE

career in academia. Epicrispr has a big idea: It wants to turn off DUX4 in patients with FSHD. This, the thinking goes, would stop muscle deterioration and perhaps restore muscle function. It could cure the disease. But how do you turn off a gene? For Wyman and Epicrispr, the answer lies in a technology known as CRISPR.

“I had been working on classic CRISPR, where you edit a mutation in a gene, and that was incredibly thrilling. Then I had the opportunity to work on the next big thing in CRISPR—and that was too exciting to pass up,” Wyman says.

You may have heard of CRISPR. It’s a gene-editing tool in which scientists use a guided enzyme to cut a DNA sequence at a precise location. Once it’s cut, scientists can modify the sequence. Think of pre-digital filmmaking, when movies were edited with scissors. This is not so different.

At Epicrispr, “instead of modifying a gene,” Wyman says, “we want to modify the thing that controls the gene.” And what controls a gene? The epigenome. That’s the collection of chemical marks on a cell’s DNA that regulates how much a gene is turned on or off.

Wyman came to Epicrispr from University of California Berkeley’s Innovative Genomics Institute, where she was part of a team that uses CRISPR to do genome engineering. They developed a treatment for sickle-cell disease and became one of the first groups to get a CRISPR clinical trial approved by the FDA.

“CRISPR was very new, so everybody was learning as we went along,” Wyman says. “We got to be the people figuring out how to use CRISPR to develop therapies that help people.”

For Wyman, what made the project especially rewarding is that sickle-cell

disease is historically underfunded and understudied, because it primarily affects Black people. “Someone with sickle-cell disease will go to the ER in incredible pain, and a doctor will think they’re just seeking drugs,” Wyman says. “Having the first approved CRISPR therapy be for sickle-cell disease is maybe some compensation for that.”

As for her time at Williston, Wyman says “Williston is where I first understood that I could enjoy academics. I had amazing teachers, and I have such clear memories of doing my homework in the loft above the main part of the library. You could go up there—it was totally quiet—and just focus. I still love going to a library and hunkering down to study.”

Wyman’s specific role, both at Berkeley and at Epicrispr, is to apply computational algorithms to biological data. Wyman majored in computer science at Smith College and earned a Ph.D. in computer science and computational biology from the University of Texas at Austin, where she studied algorithms for genome analysis. She developed algorithms for reconstructing the evolutionary history of plants until, at a conference, she met a scientist who’d applied computational algorithms to the study of breast cancer.

“It was thrilling to me that computational biology could make such a huge difference in human health,” Wyman says. “That was a turning point for the field, and I switched my focus.” During a postdoc at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, she analyzed whole genome sequences of tumors and developed algorithms to find cancer biomarkers.

Beyond the chance to help patients so tangibly, she valued the collaborative nature of the work. When cancer biologists did experiments, they ended

“What I enjoy most is standing in front of a whiteboard with a colleague and a problem and figuring out how to solve it—writing down ideas and drawing pictures.”

up with a lot of data, and Wyman’s algorithms helped everyone make sense of it.

With CRISPR, Wyman’s work is similar. Remember the guided enzyme that goes to a specific location? Well, sometimes the guide goes to other locations, too, and the stakes are high. “If the guide happens to be a close match somewhere else, it might create a break in that genome,” Wyman says. If that genome suppresses tumors, let’s say, “then suddenly you’re giving a person cancer as well as curing their sickle-cell disease.” One of Wyman’s areas of expertise is analyzing whole

genomes to prevent such “off-target events” from occurring.

Wyman is quick to point out that her mind is not purely analytical. She loves to travel and has visited all 50 states and every continent except Antarctica. One of the best days of her life was spent hiking on a glacier in New Zealand. She’s also a potter. And she sees science as a creative outlet. “What I enjoy most,” Wyman says, “is standing in front of a whiteboard with a colleague and a problem, figuring out how to solve it, writing down ideas, drawing pictures.”

That’s a big part of what drew her

PHOTOGRAPH BY IAN TUTTLE



3 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT CRISPR

1 IT’S A GENE-EDITING TOOL
Traditional CRISPR allows scientists to change DNA. Here’s how it works: A specialized enzyme is guided by RNA to a specific location in the genome, where it makes a precise cut. Once the DNA is cut, scientists can add, remove, or modify the genetic material.

2 IT HAS HUGE POTENTIAL
“CRISPR is changing the way we look at curing disease,” Wyman says, from genetic disorders to cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and Alzheimer’s. Beyond human health, CRISPR is helping to reduce pesticide use in crops and develop plants that can withstand climate change.

3 WYMAN IS WORKING ON THE NEXT ADVANCE
Epigenetics is a new frontier for CRISPR. Instead of modifying DNA, researchers use the technology to turn a gene on or off. This is safer than traditional CRISPR, and it’s reversible, which is part of what makes it so exciting.



A LEGACY IN FOCUS

BY MATT LIEBOWITZ

As Ed Hing '77 prepares to retire, he reflects on the influence of Bob Couch '50

Photography has, for Ed Hing '77, always been about more than simply taking pictures. As he admits with a smile and the characteristic shrug of someone whose humility prevents him from talking about the scores of students he's influenced, it's a passion,

one he shares with his first photography teacher and lifelong mentor, Bob Couch '50.

Hing, who is retiring this spring after 28 years in the Art Department, pursued a burgeoning interest in photography from the time he was a "bratty 11- or 12-year-old" taking what he calls "artsy, weird

photos" while growing up in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey.

What began as a hobby developed into much more when Hing met Bob Couch at Williston. A Williston grad himself, class of 1950, Couch returned to the school in 1957 to teach math and coach vari-

ous sports. Over the next 40 years, he taught countless students and launched the school's photography program. When Couch met Hing in his sophomore year, Hing was one of several students who regularly spent extra time and free blocks in the newly created darkroom, located at the time where the current theater offices are.

"That's when you know kids are really interested," Couch said. "Ed was one of them. He was one of those kids who were just always around."

Hing, who as a student took photos for *The Log* and *The Willistonian*, joked that an added perk was that he could get out of study hall if he went to the photo lab.

"By junior year, I was there every night," Hing said, adding that "Couchie," as he calls him, was the keeper of the darkroom. "That was my little universe," he said. Their mentor-mentee relationship grew, Couch serving as a "second dad" for Hing, whose parents, first-generation immigrants, wanted Hing to be a lawyer or doctor. Couch helped Hing find a spring internship during his senior year at the commercial photography studio of alum Alan Epstein '64 in Holyoke, Massachusetts. The school, Hing said, was accommodating of his nontraditional schedule.

"They let me go [to Holyoke] from 11 to 3," he said. "It was my escape, and that experience was formative. I was like, 'I need to do this.'"

And he did. After Williston and an undergraduate degree in studio art from Trinity College—"they didn't even have photography"—Hing interned with Shig Ikeda, a Japanese photographer who Hing calls his "second mentor, after Couchie." From there, Hing moved out West to study

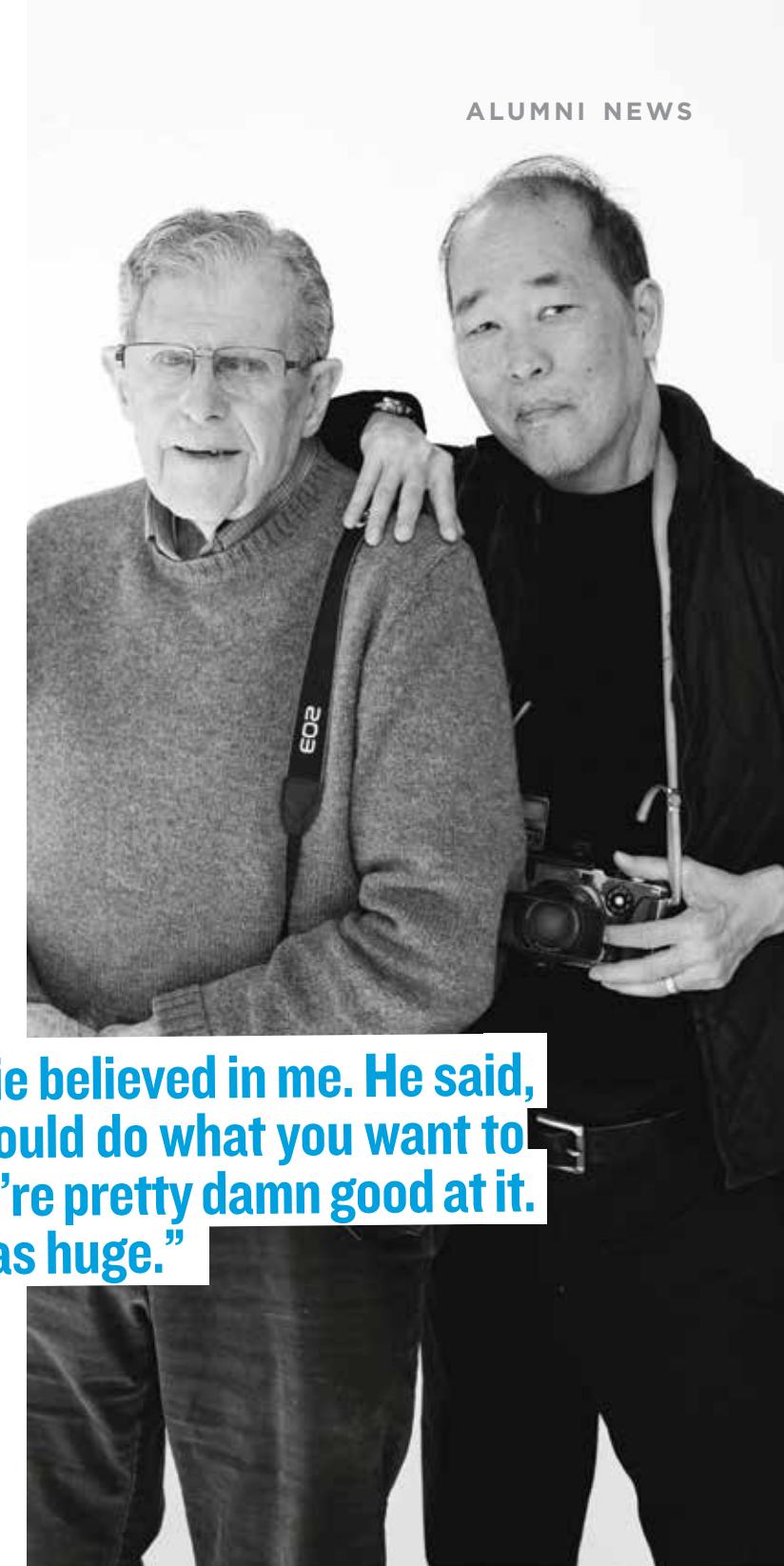
at the ArtCenter College of Design in Pasadena, California. It was there in the early 1980s that he met his wife, Janine, and set up his first commercial photography business. By 1997 the couple were living in New York, when Couch called Hing to ask if he'd consider doing a Career Day presentation at Williston. The simple request ended up having lasting effect.

"I thought, 'This is kind of cool, hanging out with these kids,'" Hing recalls. When Couch later invited Hing to join on a school-sponsored Winter Session trip to Nantucket, teaching began to seem like an attractive new direction. "I asked him, 'So Bob, when are you going to retire?'" Hing said. Couch asked Hing if he was serious, to which Hing replied, "Call me when you're done."

Couch ended up calling Hing a few years later, but didn't think Hing would apply. "He had a successful commercial business in New York, ads in the big magazines," Couch said. Meanwhile, Hing said yes to the interview. "I did it for Couchie," he said.

Nearly 30 years later, as Hing looks back on his teaching career, he can connect the dots between Couch's mentorship and his own of the many aspiring artists he has nurtured at Williston.

"I'll miss just hanging out in the lab, getting to know kids during nonclass time," Hing said. "The kids have a different perspective on how they see things. It's rejuvenating."



"Couchie believed in me. He said, 'You should do what you want to do. You're pretty damn good at it. That was huge.'"

Though he wouldn't come right out and say it, Hing acknowledged that it's possible he's had some effect in terms of "this life mentoring thing."

"That feels really cool," he said. "That's one of things [that comes from] Couchie's influence." While Hing was

"puttering, tinkering, dreaming," as he called it, "Couchie believed in me. He said, 'You should do what you want to do. You're pretty damn good at it.' That was huge. There were a couple other teachers that were meaningful, but Couchie was the man. Still is."

PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAULETTE GRISWOLD

PASSION

Alums are bringing their talents to a wide range of hobbies and pursuits—and discovering more about themselves in the process



PROJECTS

BY JONATHAN ADOLPH



Life after Williston Northampton has led generations of alumni to careers filled with purpose, challenge, and success. But for this story, we wanted to know what inspires Wildcats when they are not on the job. What are the hobbies and pursuits that bring you joy, that let you express your creativity, that restore your sense of adventure? Dozens of you responded to our recent survey, sharing a remarkable range of answers. We heard about familiar pastimes such as gardening, crafting, and hiking, but also stories about deeply personal pursuits, from making violins for underprivileged children to raising cattle to performing improv comedy. As the following profiles show, for our classmates, curiosity and learning continue long after graduation.



OFF THE CUFF COMEDY

You’re on stage in a packed theater, staring into a sea of expectant faces, and all you have for lines is whatever you can make up as you go. For some, that’s the stuff of recurring nightmares. But for **Sally Ekus ’03** and **Paul McNeil ’01**, it’s a dream hobby that has changed their lives. Ekus and McNeil are both members of Happier Valley Comedy (HVC), a nonprofit improv troupe that offers a variety of weekend shows at its theater in Hadley, Massachusetts.

They came to improv from opposite perspectives: Ekus was hoping to overcome her fear of public speaking; McNeil loved the spotlight from his time at Williston, where he acted under Ellis Baker ’51 and sang with the Caterwaulers and Teller Chorus. Today, Ekus does a monthly comedy show with her mainstage group, Not in Charge (she also serves on the board and recently led a successful capital campaign), while McNeil and his Understudies group create an entire improvised musical. Occasionally the two alums perform together at special events.

For both, improv has become both a hobby and an approach to life, drawing upon the comedy form’s cardinal rule: respond to any situation on stage by taking it further with “yes, and . . .”

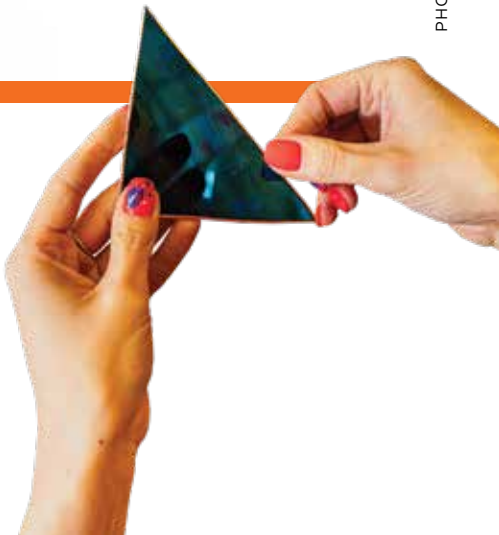
“That philosophy has really shaped my ability to be a way better communicator,” explains McNeil, whose day job is serving as a prevention specialist with the Office of National Drug Control Policy, where he helps kids develop healthy coping skills. “It’s really, really powerful. I’ve seen it change lives. It’s definitely changed my life.”

Ekus, who runs a cookbook-focused literary agency, found improv similarly transformative. She recalls years ago attending a conference and shaking uncontrollably when she stood to ask a question. Hoping to gain more confidence, she signed up for a class with HVC founder Pam Victor. “I walked in and thought, ‘This is what I’ve been looking for.’”

Improv continues to offer life lessons for both actors. “It’s like jumping on a bronco,” explains McNeil, who notes that as the seventh of eight children, he would often act out for attention at home and at school. “You get out on stage, and it’s a chaos that I’m familiar with, being from such a huge family. The more emotionally committed you are, it’s just unbelievable what ends up happening.” Ekus agrees. “What it does is redefine your relationship to fear and failure” she says. “Those feelings are still within me because they’re part of who I am, but my relationship to them and how they serve me is different. I welcome them. I say, ‘Hello, thank you for being here. How can I use this energy?’ That has served me in life, and that is what I’ve learned through HVC.”

STAINED GLASS

Erin McCullough ’10 has recently taken up the art of stained glass, inspired by the many hours she spent as a child in the studio of her grandmother, a stained-glass artist. “I’ve loved learning this craft while connecting with my grandmother’s legacy,” she explains. “I’ve been working on Tiffany-style pieces, including projects with lead panels, and it’s been so fulfilling to create something beautiful with my hands.”



PHOTOGRAPHS (LEFT) BY PAULETTE GRISWOLD; (RIGHT) BY SHAWN HUBBARD



A VAN OF ONE’S OWN

Ash Strange ’20 discovered a love for hands-on building in Williston’s tech-theater program, a life-changing experience that would inspire Strange to pursue a career as a freelance stage manager. Then, during the summer of 2021, Strange came across the social-media phenomenon #vanlife, promoted by influencers who converted vehicles into mobile homes to ride out the pandemic. Something clicked. “It was one of those things that just felt right,” says Strange. “I don’t like having a lot of space or a lot of things. I don’t know where I want to live and work, and I love to travel, so being mobile is the right fit for me.”

And so Strange got to work. The result, still under construction, is Vanessa, a 2016 Dodge Ram Promaster van that Strange has spent the last year converting into a home on wheels. As functional as the final product will be (Vanessa will have a full kitchen, bathroom with shower, and sleeping quarters, all powered by batteries charged by solar panels), Strange says the construction process itself is already bringing benefits. “This whole project is maybe one of the biggest projects of my life,” Strange says. “I’ve been learning a lot about myself, and how I deal with long-term projects. The thing I was most worried about was the electrical work, because electricity isn’t something I’ve ever understood. But I’ve had to work through it, and I’ve watched so many videos, and I’m at the place now where I feel like I can wire an outlet or install a light and it’s not a big deal. The satisfaction comes from being able to flip a switch, see the lights turn on, and know that I did that myself.”

Strange’s father, a retired cabinet builder, has also been lending a hand (as well as his workshop at the family’s Woodville, Virginia, home), and if all goes well, Vanessa will make her debut for the upcoming theater season. “I’m about halfway,” reports Strange, who notes that Instagram users can follow the action @TheStrangest01. “I’ve just gotten started on the kitchen cabinets. The goal is to be ready to have it livable by the time I leave for my summer job.”



RINKS AND RACING

Josh Mervis ’88 has pursued his love of motorcycles by managing a Mo-toAmerica race team, “the pinnacle of professional motorcycle road racing in the USA,” he explains. He also helps build ice rinks, driven by a lifelong devotion to hockey. A former college coach, he continues to work preparing players for the NHL draft and Division I college hockey. In both his career and hobbies, he says, he has been guided by a quote from the German philosopher Hegel, which appeared on a poster he received after his sophomore year at Williston: “We may affirm absolutely that nothing of consequence was ever accomplished without passion.”



RUNNING

Rider Bishop ’20 started running in college and recently completed his first half-marathon. Inspired by the challenge, he plans to run two more this year and a full marathon next year. “Running clears my mind and keeps me motivated,” he says, aiming one day to tackle the Boston Marathon.



PHOTOGRAPHY

Jason Bornstein '96 recalls discovering photography as a student of Bob Couch '50 in the winter of 1995, and studying with him for the next three semesters. After Williston, he dabbled with disposable and then point-and-shoot cameras, “and every once in a while, I would see something in the camera that struck my eye: the type of setting that I would look for to fulfill a photography assignment,” he recalls. “That little flame kept burning in me.” Preparing for a family cruise to Alaska last summer, he realized he now had a reason to invest in a new camera and get back in practice. “I’ve continued with it, and now I have close to a dozen new photos printed on metal in a mini home photo gallery, with room for many more.”

HOME ON THE RANGE

After 45 years in accounting—auditing credit unions and becoming a partner in major Texas CPA firms—**Dan Moulton '73** was ready for a new kind of fieldwork. And so, 12 years ago, he emptied out his 401(k) to buy a couple hundred acres in Van Alstyne, Texas, north of Dallas, where he now spends his days raising a hundred head of Hereford cattle.

“It keeps me going,” says Moulton, who grew up in Vermont and worked on a dairy farm before taking a postgraduate year at Williston. “If I’m watching TV and politics comes on, I’ll head to the field to find my cows. It’s just so relaxing, not any different than when I was a kid.”

Back then, Moulton enjoyed the outdoors so much that, while filling out college applications, he told his counselor he’d like to study agriculture or forestry at the University of Vermont. “He looked down at his paper, then up at me, and said, ‘OK, I’m going to put down accounting,’” Moulton recalls with a laugh. “I didn’t fight him. I figured he knew what paid the bills in those days.” After earning his degree, he moved to Texas and built an impressive career. As much as he enjoyed the work, he says, “my heart was always with the country.”

Now, he’s come full circle. It’s familiar work: riding tractors, cultivating hayfields, and tending to the herd. To help track the cows’ birth order, he names the females alphabetically; the males are named for Texas cities. When they are old enough, he sells them to others for breeding—or as a tax break. In Texas, it turns out, raising cattle on your property can have huge benefits. “If you’ve bought land out here for a house, and you put cattle there, as long as it’s at least 11 acres, you save a lot of money in property taxes,” Moulton explains. Spoken like a rancher who still thinks like an accountant.



PHOTOGRAPHS (TOP LEFT) BY JASON BORNSTEIN '96; (BOTTOM LEFT) BY RACHEL GOLDBERG; (RIGHT) BY KAYT RACZ '05

CUSTOM KNITTING

An avid knitter since her days at Williston, **Kayt Racz '05** produces all manner of woolly creations, which she shares on Instagram (@progressivecrafting). Check out her stuffed dinosaurs, knitted for friends’ children from yarn collected on her travels.



LIVE MUSIC

John Anz '82 has long been passionate about live music—not just as an attendee, but as a promoter and advocate, working to bring great musicians to his community. For more than 20 years, he has also been researching the unpublished music of his father—pop and jazz composer Johnny Anz—from the 1950s and '60s, a journey that culminated last year in a CD featuring some of New York City’s finest musicians, and a release concert in the Pioneer Valley. “Surrounding myself with the joy and peace of music is second only to that derived by surrounding myself with friends and family,” he says.

CLIMBING

Ellie Scott '18 thrives on adventure, spending her time rock and ice climbing. “They are fun ways to challenge myself and enjoy the outdoors,” she reports.

SOCIAL SPORTS

Missy Retsky '73 stays active with pickleball and curling, both of which offer exercise and camaraderie. “They are great ways to meet people and share laughs,” she says.



BUILDING THE GIFT OF MUSIC

It takes about three months to make a violin, says **Sam “Lee” Hawkes ’60**, “if you really put your heart into it.” Hawkes knows this firsthand, having built 10 instruments, each of which he has donated to Escuela de Música Santa Cecelia, a music school for underprivileged children in the pueblo of Zaachila, outside Oaxaca, Mexico. A retired mechanical engineer who worked in the oil and computer industries—as well as a prizewinning beer brewer, professor of Buddhism, and avid bicyclist—Hawkes became an instrument maker after meeting his former partner Dorothy Bittner, a nurse and violinist. “She had a friend who was a luthier,” Hawkes recalls. “And so I said, ‘Well, Dotty, I’ll just make you a violin then.’ I’d go once a week for a year, and little by little, we made a violin together.”

Sadly, Bittner was never able to play the instrument. Diagnosed with ALS, she died in 2016. But before she died, a musician who was visiting her at her nursing home did play the instrument. “He said, ‘Hey, this isn’t so bad,’” Hawkes recalls. So Hawkes kept making them. “For a while there I was making two or three a year,” he says. “Everything I do is from scratch,” he says of the careful and painstaking construction process, which ends with 25 coats of varnish, each of which takes days to dry. When each instrument was complete, Hawkes would send it to the music school, along with money for one child’s music lessons.

As gratifying as the hobby has been, Hawkes now says his luthier days are over. He plans to hang up his last violin in his new home in Rhode Island, where he now lives with his wife, Gale. One hobby he plans to continue is bicycling, which he does every Sunday with a local riding club. Over the years, he has biked across the Canadian Rockies, through Yellowstone National Park, and across the United States, with thoughts of violins sometimes helping him pass the time on long rides. “In Buddhism, when thoughts arise, you’re supposed to thank them and ask them to please go away,” he said. “But when I crossed the country, I would go through every single step of the making violins in my head.”



EASY RIDING

When **Susan (Hendrickson) Harrington ’62** is not tending the gardens around her Cape Ann home, she can often be found tooling about town on her 125cc Yamaha scooter, which is “similar to a Vespa,” she explains. “I have been riding motorcycles and/or mopeds since 1963. Handy for around Cape Ann and beach transportation.”

GARDENING

Kelly Marra ’04 has turned her home into a lush oasis with more than 100 houseplants and a thriving fruit and vegetable garden. “It never ceases to amaze me that you can stick a tiny seed in the ground and grow something magical and delicious,” she reports. “Gardening is good for my body and my soul.”



PHOTOGRAPH BY IAN TUTTLE

HEALING THROUGH DINOSAURS

During treatment for kidney cancer last February, **Charles Ferguson ’67** was advised to take a six-month break from teaching at Stanford University. A classical guitarist who also trained as a fine artist, and a professor of music for the last 50 years, Ferguson enjoys staying active—something his wife knew well. “She said, ‘How bored are you going to be?’” recalls Ferguson, and suggested that he think of a project to pass the time.

When Ferguson answered, simply, “Dinosaurs,” his wife could not suppress a laugh. “What are you,” she asked, “four and a half years old?”

Clearly not. No four-year-old could produce the carefully rendered dinosaur portraits that Ferguson began painting, nor the models he constructed from kits and painted by hand. Certainly, none could fashion the remarkable dinosaur dioramas he eventually created, shaping each creature from clay and armature wire, painting it, and then setting it in a prehistoric environment. Over the months, Ferguson produced about 60 dinosaur models, roughly 30 dioramas, and a dozen large-scale paintings. To cap it off, his artwork was recently published in *Prehistoric Times*, a magazine for other paleo art enthusiasts.

Now cancer-free, Ferguson credits his artistic pursuit with aiding his recovery. “I think the therapeutic qualities of it were immense, honestly,” he says. “It was not just a lark. It became dead serious right away. Anything that I try to do, whether it’s music or art, I’ve got to go in full bore. So, yes, it was a serious adventure, but it really did contribute to my health. I’m a professional musician, that’s what I do for a living,” he notes. “But to be recognized as a paleo artist has been very satisfying.”

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ALUMNI EVENTS



People make the party—or so the saying goes—and that's exactly why Williston Northampton parties are always so much fun! Here, Sabrina Shao '19, Rachel Burke '19, and their friend Julia raise a glass at our Boston holiday event. Turn the page to see more event photos—and be sure to visit williston.com/alumni/events for upcoming celebrations near you.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MELANIE ZACEK

September 2024



South Shore Reception

More than 20 Boston-area alumni, parents, and friends gathered at Tosca in Hingham, Massachusetts, for a special night of drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and catching up on the latest Wildcat news.

1) From left: Sheridan Skeiber P'28, Jeff Skeiber P'28, Sean Andersen '93, and Sara Andersen
2) From left: Max Livingston '18, Tommy Jenkins '12, Grace McMeekin '16, and Chris Hudson '16



October 2024

Boston Young Alumni Reception

It was great to be back in Boston for the young alumni event at Cheeky Monkey Brewing Company. This gathering continues to grow each year, and it was incredible to see so many familiar faces—and plenty of new ones!—coming together to strengthen our ever-expanding alumni network.



1) From left: Nick Kioussis '13, Connor Adams '12, Walter McLaughlin '12, Ryan Wilkie '13, and June Ward '12; 2) From left: Danielle Marquez '18, Riley Roche '20, Arvin Fieldman '17, Max Livingston '18, Bryan Soder '18, and Claudia Capone '19; 3) From left: Wyatt Wegrzyn '19, Katie MacLean, Nick Barber '19, Tim Fay '18, and Jessie Tarnoff; 4) From left: Sally Alrutz '19 and Ellie Scott '18



Dallas Reception

Our alumni in the Dallas area gathered for an evening of food, fun, and connection at Big Al's BBQ, owned by Luran and Steve Weiner '87—a new event location for our alumni community! Delicious barbecue and heaping sides helped make the event a Texas-sized success.



From left: Matt Wagman '14 and Anthony Bégon '04



From left: Richard Wischkowsky '68 and Bruce Marshall '68



Denver Reception

The appropriately named Happy Camper restaurant was filled with good vibes and Wildcats spanning an incredible 62 years—plus an appearance from longtime former faculty Jay and Betsy Grant.



1) From left: Sherry (Blackston) Woodland '82, Katie (Ciejek) Shea '01, and Anne (Walker) Heskin '98; 2) From left: Jared Brewer '02, Rich Ferriss '02, Kyle Spooner '03, and Alex Fabbri '15; 3) From left: Jay Frazee '58, Tom Korson '59, and Charlie Camp '59



December 2024

Holiday Parties

The holiday season is always a special time to reconnect, reminisce, and celebrate the bonds that make the Williston Northampton community so strong. This year’s holiday gatherings were nothing short of spectacular, with more than 450 alums, parents, and friends turning out at the combined events. Thanks to those who joined us in Western Massachusetts (Garden House at Look Park), Boston (Hampshire House), and New York City (New York Yacht Club). Go, Wildcats!



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Western Mass. Holiday Celebration

1) From left: Becky Fanton P'27 and Nicole Kellogg P'27; 2) From left: Keira Durrett '88, Ana Gillis P'16, '23, Cindy (Brooks) Peyman '79, and Paula (Brusco) Banach '79; 3) From left: Kate Nocera '01, Max Prior '02, Loren Feinstein '01, Caroline Dubinsky; 4) From left: Candee Gibbs P'28 and Gladys Jimah P'28, '30; 5) From left: Maggie Hodges '79, Kathy Unruh P'13, and Shawn Lawrence '78, P'15; 6) From left: Aaron Punska '98 and Tim Hampson P'25; 7) From left: JT Trzcienski and Meaghan Sullivan '01; 8) From left: Director of Advancement Ellie Ballard P'23, '25 and Joanna O'Kelley '97



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NYC Holiday Celebration

Above: Members of the classes of 2012, 2013, and 2014 get into the holiday spirit; 1) From left: Guillermo Castañeda Chang '20, Dominic Liu '21, and Howie Harrison '95; 2) From left: Dave Hebb '61 and Rashid Silvera '67; 3) From left: Angie Fonseca and Mike Walsh '96 (holding up the Bulletin cover story about him!); 4) From left: Kevin McGurn P'24 and Ronan McGurn '24; 5) From left: Aubrey Bryan, Toulia Sierros '16, and Ruby Spies; 6) From left: Na Kyung Lee '21 and Shirley Shen '21; 7) From left: Ledell Robinson '14, Head of School Robert W. Hill III, and Toni Robinson P'14; 8) From left: Patricia Denniston and Phil Denniston '66; 9) From left: Caroline Channell '18 and Sofia Flores '18



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PHOTOGRAPHS BY MELANIE ZACEK (LEFT); JAMIE SAUNDERS (RIGHT)



Boston Holiday Celebration

1) From left: Lance Vachon '90, P'23, Jen (Gaitenby) Vachon '88, P'23, Kara Rainey '90, and Darin Ray; 2) From left: Daniel Ciejek '23, Grey Vachon '23, and Elsa Frankel '23; 3) From left: Brittany Glenn '07 and Ellen (Rosenberg) Livingston '86, P'18; 4) From left: Laura Aptowitz '13, Emma Polaski, Alexandra Bloom, and Morgan Fisher '16; 5) From left: Max Livingston '18, Bryan Soder '18, Chris Denham '19, Tim Fay '18, Jessica Tarnoff, Nick Barber '19, and Katie MacLean; 6) From left: Jen Cavazuti '16, Jules Wise '16, and Maddi (Wise) Pereira '13



PHOTOGRAPHS (LEFT) BY MELANIE ZACEK

March 2025



Red Sox Spring Training in Fort Myers

We had an incredible day in Fort Myers, Florida, cheering on the Boston Red Sox as they kicked off their spring training season—and to top it off, they won! This year's event saw our highest attendance yet, with alumni, parents, and even grandparents coming together for a fantastic day of baseball and community. A special highlight was seeing Justin Frometa '16, who is now a Development Coach for the Red Sox.

1) Justin Frometa '16; 2) From left: Mary (Hofstetter) Nicotra '85, Deirdre Griffin '90, Jane Dumais P'90, Wylie Griffin, and Joanna O'Kelley '97; 3) The Molyneux family—From left: Ellie '04, Lindsey, James, Penny '74, and Matt '95; 4) Mike MacDonald '07, his wife, Kelli, and their kids Reilly and Michael; 5) From left: Chuck McCullagh P'10, '13, Mark Conroy P'10, '12, Martha McCullagh P'10, '13, and Monique Conroy P'10, '12; 6) From left: Skip Jarocki '65 and Nancy Zawacki



JOIN THE FUN!

For the latest updates, scan the QR code to visit the alumni events page

2025 IN-PERSON EVENTS

- **August 1:** Portland Seadogs Game
- **December 4:** Western Mass. Holiday Celebration
- **December 11:** Boston Holiday Celebration
- **December 16:** New York City Holiday Celebration

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April 2025



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NYC Young Alumni Event

Head's Visiting Council member Sebastian Rivera '13 gave inspiring remarks to a crowd of 65 alumni who gathered at Soho's Ludlow House. The space, known for its blend of historic charm and modern design, was the perfect setting for meaningful conversations and new connections.

1) From left: Marie Savage and Zoya-Jade Lewin '16; 2) From left: Trinity Clagg, Brooke Smith '19, Max Livingston '18, Mika Sovjani '18, Oliver Lawrence '18, and Madison Fulcher-Melendy '18; 3) From left: Hansen Yang '12, Esther Kim '14, and Sebastian Rivera '13; 4) From left: Gabriella Barrett, Simone Barrett '17, Aubrey Bryan, Natalie Richard '17, and Neha Nasciminto '17; 5) From left: Kiara Whitehead, Marquis Francois '14, and Natalie Hippolyte '13



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Boston Networking Event

Held on the 32nd floor of the University of Massachusetts Club, our Boston networking event was a huge success, featuring more than 60 Wildcat alumni. Heads Visiting Council member Joanna O'Kelley '97 kicked things off with a keynote speech, then alums mingled and networked at more than a dozen career-themed tables.

1) From left: Christa Talbot Syfu '98, Jules Constantinople '22, and Kate Holmes '19; 2) From left: Jennifer Johnson '90, Anaya Akpalu '21, Joanna O'Kelley '97, Brittany Glenn '07, and Caitlin Keefe '17; 3) From left: Hunter Kane '12, Matthew Pimental '20, Dan McKiernan '22, Kyle Hanford '97, and David Novotny '21; 4) From left: Noah DeVos '17, Jack Coscia '23, and Sam Fortier '23



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CLASS NOTES



Love was in the air for Laura Bowman '13 and her husband, Nicholas Fielding, during their wedding last September. Their Ashfield, Massachusetts, nuptials featured appearances from a host of Wildcat friends—a common theme at many of the weddings we heard about this winter and spring!



Eleanor (Young)
Gamarsh '52



From left: Bill Harmon '57, Syndey Williams '59, George Ryan '58, John Harper '59, and Dick "Red" White '59 gathered in Connecticut for their annual Wildcat Luncheon



Wally Schlech '64 with his wife, Mary; two of his five children; and eight out of 14 grandchildren celebrating New Year's Eve at Medieval Times in Dallas, Texas



At left: Teak Kelley '65 and Bill Burkhardt '65 competed in a member-guest tournament. Below: Teak Kelley '65 celebrating the opening of the Kelley Ski Center at St. Michael's College in Burlington, Vermont



From left: Alice (Hildreth) Goldman '57 and Laura (Gould) Grad '65



Spence Rogers '64 enjoying retirement with his furry companion, Cody

1950

75TH REUNION

1952

Eleanor (Young) Gamarsh writes: "By the time of the Northampton School for Girls 100th anniversary, I will have published my first book, a hybrid memoir titled *My Heartfelt Journey: A Life of Reflections in Stories, Poems, & Recipes*. My book is a collection of 21 short stories that I wrote during membership in the Wachusett Writers and Poets Club in Westminster, Massachusetts, and beyond. Themes throughout are my love of gardening, the natural environment around my home, managing life after major surgery, and never giving up by using creative thinking. On a sad note, my husband, who accompanied me to a couple of Reunions, passed away in February 2019. I dedicated my book to him, since he was my daily support to become published."

Peter Johnson writes: "We are back

in the U.S. (California) after living abroad for some 10–12 years in Mexico. I wrote one book on U.S. foreign policy and I'm worrying about another."

The Wadsworth Atheneum celebrated the generosity and philanthropy of **Henry Zachs** and the Zachs family at their gala on March 22. The Zachs family has a long history of philanthropic support for the broader Hartford community at large and the Wadsworth, in particular. Congratulations to Henry, who continues to inspire his classmates to stay connected and give back to Williston.

1954

Alan Lazarus shared: "I was released in December from an intense, nearly three weeks of hospitalization and physical rehab. I fell and broke my pelvis and hip from an uneven sidewalk terrace at a McDonald's. So few of our '54 class are still around, so I wanted to make sure that you knew I was still alive and waiting for your updates. I will absolutely miss **Ed Peters** and his political humor. Who would have thought?"

1955

70TH REUNION

1958

Williston Academy alumni reunited

in Groton, Connecticut, for their annual Wildcat Luncheon. The group shared a moment of remembrance for their classmates **Peter Hewes**, **Dick Dandulli**, and **Jamie Irvine**, and enjoyed reminiscing about their school days while making new memories.

1960

65TH REUNION

1964

Doc Dionisi writes: "So sorry to hear about **Zack Gould**. Retirement is not in the cards right now, as my two law partners are my daughters. I am spending a great deal of time in the summer in Osterville, Massachusetts, and if anyone is on the Cape, I would love to set up a tee time at Oyster Harbors Club. Just don't ask me about my game. I speak to **Paul Henrici** from time to time. He seems to be enjoying retirement in Arizona. I would love to hear from others besides Duck. Stay well, guys."

Spence Rogers shares: "I'm somewhat retired in Davidson, North Carolina, living in a small lake house on Lake Davidson with my black lab, Cody. The last 35 years of my professional life were spent as a consultant in education focused on improving curriculum, instruction, and assessment practices, resulting in significant gains in achievement. I

still provide support as requested, doing all I can to help those who reach out. Having traveled over 4.5 million miles in my work, I am now enjoying time at home with no interest in traveling for pleasure. Being home with my dog, friends, and family members is a wonderful retirement. I guess I played life somewhat backwards. I remember our school times with great fondness and hope 'y'all' are well. With many years working throughout the South, and now living here, I am slowly learning the language. You too 'might could' pick it up if you wish or had a 'hankerin.'"

Wally Schlech writes: "Happy and healthy at 78. Five kids off the family dole and 14 (going on 15) grandkids. I'm still doing a little hospitalist work two to three weeks a quarter to keep the intellect sharp. Still love patient care and can't golf or go fishing every day. All the best to my classmates. Hang in there!"

1965

60TH REUNION

Bill Hough shares: "My nomadic spirit will soon slow down. In the last five years, I have lived in Medellin, Colombia; Santa Clara, California; Lancaster, Pennsylvania; Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Miami, Florida; and, for the last two years, Mexico City, looking for the Holy Grail. We've had a terrific experi-

ence exploring Mexico. Elisa and I are moving back to Miami to find a place where we can moor our anchors. Anyway, I recently got hit with a splurge of creativity. I published *The Abstract Eye: A Photographer's Journal*, featuring the best abstracts from Bonita Photos (bonitaphotos.com), a collection I've put together over the past 20 or 30 years. I'm also updating a book on street photography, *Gotcha, Click: A Humanist's Guide to Street Photography*, and this morning, I finished a children's book, *Miguelito in the Park*. I have been trying to figure out what to do with my large collection of photographs from all over the world. Last week, I started building a print-on-demand business on Etsy, selling T-shirts, hoodies, mugs, and posters printed with 'wearable art.' Let's see how it goes. I'm very excited about the 60th Reunion in June—so many people I look forward to seeing."

Teak Kelley writes in with life updates and news from his classmates. Teak shares that he has been staying in touch with the "Guys of '65" this winter and enjoying golf with Denise at their club in Bonita Springs, Florida. Teak writes: "With some of my spare time, I have communicated with our 60th Reunion Committee [**Jeff Bastable**, **Harvey Kaltsas**, **Richard 'Savage' Reingold**, **Ned Lynch**, and **Stanley 'Skip' Jarocki**], and all have been in touch by Zoom calls with the alumni office planning

our Reunion, and have exchanged many phone calls and emails with each other and to our fellow classmates. How much easier it is with email; there were many years when most of my communications with classmates were by USPS letters! The communication between the committee and other classmates, to whom we all tried to reach out, has exhibited a groundswell of interest in our upcoming 60th Reunion.

Bill Burkhardt is also in southwest Florida in the winters, and we got together again for a one-day member-guest tourney in February. Note the Williston skiing hat, carrying bag, and 'W' sticker on my cart (see photo above)!

Charlie Hayes has moved further, forsaking Maryland's higher estate and inheritance taxes for warmer weather in Virginia. He is also happier there, with more days to drive his Mustang convertible with the top down.

Ned Lynch is also in Florida, but on the other (east) coast, and is working on the committee. He sees classmate **Kevin Hoben** in that part of Florida. Both are planning to attend Reunion. In the same area of Florida in the winter as Ned and Kevin is **Peter 'Limey' Thompson**. Peter spends summers in Dorset, Vermont, and reports that, since his Vermont home is closer to Williston Northampton than Vero Beach, he may well make Reunion. **'Skip' Jarocki** spends some time on the west coast of Florida near

me and will hopefully join me for golf this winter.

Bill Hough has made his way back from Colombia to Miami, and he and a few of the guys emailed back and forth about some of their favorite songs from our 1965 era.

Jeff Bastable and his wife, Susan, vacationed in Hawaii again this winter and traveled to Europe. They plan on attending Reunion, too.

Jerry Flynn reported in that he and his wife recently cruised the Danube, from Hungary through Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Romania, but were stopped on the Ukrainian border after Putin bombed a port on the river. They then privately traveled up to the Black Sea. Once back in Tampa, Jerry wasn't satisfied to stay in one place; they then went to Machu Picchu in Peru, then south through Bolivia, Chile, and around to Buenos Aires, Argentina. That's some travel!

Jesse 'Jack' Robinson reports that he and his wife traveled to Iceland and Svalbard, Norway, and then to Japan in the fall. This summer will be Jack's 50th year as a practicing attorney, and he tells his clients that it's 'called a law practice, not perfection.' But we know our brilliant classmate is as close to perfect as can be (grades at Williston, too!). He suggests he is still working so he can afford to keep traveling.

Rogelio Novey lives on the eastern shore of Maryland and travels back and forth to Panama in his posi-



Front row, from left: Ruth White, Richard "Red" White '59, Bill Harmon '57, Phil Fisher '59, Susan Fisher. Back row, from left: Charlie Fairbrother '63, George Ryan '58, Tom Robertson '70, Fred Allardyce '59

tion as an emissary of that country. Rogelio has been back to Williston since graduation and has had family members attend our alma mater. He plans to make it to our Reunion.

The Class of 1965 consists of terrific, WNS-loving grads, and the Guys of '65 continue to shine, stay in touch with some lifelong friends from our time there, and, also, help make my job as class agent a lot easier by contributing news for the *Bulletin* to share with the Williston Northampton community."

Bert Spencer writes: "For me, a recent 'happening,' to quote Teak, involved a trip back around Christmastime to Sun Valley, Idaho, where my wife has a place and I did some skiing. She moved there from New York City during COVID so our



Handmade quilt crafted by Liz (Miller) Grasty '66



Pam Knowles '66



Cathy (Strogatz) Karp '66 poses with her family



Artwork submitted by Carl Shubs '66.



Dragonhunter captured by Greg Dysart '67



Dale Neuburger '67 being recognized during his induction into the International Swimming Hall of Fame on October 8, 2024; Neuburger with his wife, Heidi, at the induction ceremony.



second son, Reed, could finish high school in a classroom rather than alone in the NYC apartment. I met some of her friends in the Valley, all of whom I could classify basically as high-maintenance ski bums—people who, instead of having jobs that make use of their sometimes impressive professional qualifications, work as ski instructors instead. They get a free season ticket, which beats the basic ticket cost starting at \$500 a day. But there aren't many teaching jobs except during the holiday season and long weekends, so they end up spending the day just skiing down the mountain and having fun. I'm still working as a court examiner/referee, a position the practice manuals define as 'quasi-judicial.' It's been 20 years now, and at last count I still had 70 active case assignments. I could see myself entertaining an offer to change over to ski instructor if it were to come, which it won't, because my skiing isn't what it used to be—and I'm a little too old. (A lot too old, I'm sure my wife, Allyson, would point out.) At a party to celebrate the changing of ownership of the helicopter operation, the oldest ski instructor in Allyson's group imparted memories of Stein Eriksen in Sugarbush back in the day—which touches base chronologically with some of us who skied Vermont. I'm not certain, but I maybe skied with **Ned Lynch**, **Dave Beebe**, and **Bill Anderson** during our year in Switzerland. I do remember very clearly

the day Ned took a terrible fall on some ice at the end of a long run and was stuck in a hospital bed that summer with whatever he had broken still mending. Four days before leaving Sun Valley, on the last run of the day, I fell and broke a rib. I couldn't really cough or sneeze for the next two weeks; doing so was so insanely painful. I'll definitely try to break an arm or something next time. I usually go to Florida for a week each winter and stay with friends at their place in Vero Beach. This year, I'm going to try to rent a car and drive over from Vero to see **Harvey Kaltsas** on the west coast and maybe join him for a day or two on one of his ongoing treasure hunts, which we've talked about."

1966

Bruce Callahan writes: "Williston inspired in me a love of history and culture, both at home and around the world. Before retiring 15 years ago, I had traveled to most of the states, but only to Mexico, Canada, and a few Caribbean islands. Since retiring, we have been fortunate to visit all nine continents and over 90 countries. I have truly enjoyed learning about the places we visited and immersing ourselves in the local cultures."

Louis "Dee" Pellissier writes in with a few group updates from his classmates. He shares: "The class of 1966 has awakened."

Pellissier heard at length from **Steve Schwartz**, who has been a career educator on the Delaware shores teaching, researching, and reforming education while guiding doctoral students in their studies.

John Nelson, in retirement now, resides in western North Carolina with wife Lisa, enjoying the outdoor life after 30-plus years running a yacht brokerage in Beaufort, North Carolina. John continues to generate musical memories for friends and neighbors on the weekends.

Peter Prudden, with wife Deb (Miquelle, who has two brothers, Dana and Dale, that are both Williston grads), stays in touch with **Gary Starr** and **Dan (Pup) Gould** and is looking forward to next year's 60th Reunion.

Don Lightfoot, now a St. Augustine, Florida, resident, writes of playing golf with **Tom Hardenbergh**. He also writes of **Dr. Ray Viscidi's** involvement in the treatment of the COVID virus through his work at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Joe Mullen has been a practicing clinical social worker for over 30 years, living in Maryland. I also heard from **Fred Shepardson**.

Bob Mosher splits time between Arizona and Cape Cod, following the warm weather and pursuing his love of, and involvement in, the game of golf as a player, starter, and volunteer in many professional golf events.

Bill Anthony stays in touch with

Jeff Hickock as well as our German exchange student, Konrad Roth '67. Bill's novel, *Farnsy*, continues to sell and he splits his time between Edgecomb, Maine, and Evanston, Illinois, where he is Senior Lecturer Emeritus at Northwestern University. **Mark Ripa** now resides in Westfield, Massachusetts.

All were saddened at the recent news of the passing of both **Ross Prossner** and **Gordon Henry**, causing me to reach out to **Pup Gould** and the class for input for these notes. If you're seeing these notes and don't see your name, please reach out to me at dee.pellissier@icloud.com. Let's get ready for our 60th Reunion next year.

Carl Shubs' artwork has been selected by the Los Angeles Art Association and Gallery 825 to be included in the online exhibition *Concerning Myself*, an all-media presentation of emerging artists' most personal artwork.

Liz (Miller) Grasty also collected some NSFG class updates and provided her own. She writes: "I have had a busy six months with a Viking River Cruise on the Rhône following a week in Paris and Dijon with my sister, Judith (Miller) Conlin '72. Then we warmed up during January with a vacation on St. John's and snorkeled every day. Retirement is good for me, being back in Southampton, Massachusetts, with sister Kate (Miller) Carl '64, Judith, and their families

nearby. Sister Louisa (Miller) Hoar '68 lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, still teaching elementary school, and brother Bruce D. Miller '75 is in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He and his longtime partner, Annette, married last year. The sisters, Judith's grandchildren, and I attended the winter production of *Hadestown: Teen Edition* at the Williston Theater. Singing, dancing, and interpretations of Greek mythology. WOW!"

Liz also reports that she had a long, two-hour phone call with **Louise (Pomeroy) Gara**: "We had no contact since our 25th NSFG Reunion. She and her husband decided to start a farm in upstate New York and raised pigs and chickens, with the occasional black angus cattle. They had two children and one grandchild. Aiden died in 1997 and she closed down the livestock operations soon after. Louise enjoys tennis and has kept up her game since NSFG days. Checking our senior yearbook, I see she was on the field hockey and tennis teams. She continues to live on the farm in Unadilla, New York."

Bean Driscoll Eastwood is a former associate professor, academic chair at the River Valley Community College in New Hampshire. She is again living in Holyoke, Massachusetts.

Suzanne (Permesly) Gernandt is an abstract artist working in acrylic, collage, fabric, and mixed media. Read and see more at her website at

suzannegernandt.com. She sells her art online and at local galleries and art shows in Wisconsin.



Cathy (Strogatz) Karp writes: "All is good with me. My husband and I live in Connecticut in the summer and then near our kids and in a golfing community in Florida from October to May. I have started painting and really love it! We have a daughter and son and five grandchildren, so life is really good. Would love to hear what all our NSFG friends are doing."

Pam Knowles is an accomplished jazz singer, recording artist, and voice teacher who resides in the Berkshires and performs nationally and internationally. "Her voice is like an expensive glass of wine—full bodied, complex, and delicious." Check out more at pamelaknowles.com.

Kirsty (Pollard) Lieberman sent in this news: "I am finally retired, not necessarily by choice, but was given a severance package and took it. Thus ended my 22 years of being a securities and insurance law attorney. I am still living in the foothills of Colorado. My husband, Allen, is in poor health. I had contemplated moving to Maine, and **Kay Tobler Liss** was

helping me scope out houses. I can't make any decisions at this point with his co-morbidities plus four dogs and two cats. I hope I can see **Bean Driscoll** if/when I come east."

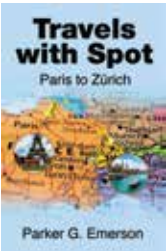
Leslie (Black) Moss caught us up on life updates, including that she and her husband live in Devon, England, near Exeter. She is a Red Coat Guide for the city, as well as a guide for the cathedral in Exeter. She enjoys hiking over steep hills and is quite a world traveler, visiting her son in Cambridge, Massachusetts (MIT grad), and family and friends all over the world. Her daughter lives in Surrey, England. Leslie was last seen at our 25th Reunion, when she was living in Canada. She has just returned from seven and a half weeks of travel and is deserving of a rest.

Louise (Wellborn) Spindler writes that she went to American University in Washington, D.C., and has been living in Houston, Texas, for the past 40 years. She shared, "I really love it here, even with the hurricanes."

1967

Greg Dysart shares: "After ending my career as an architect, I have pursued my interest in nature by seeking and photographing wildlife within Massachusetts. For the past 12 years or so my focus is on odonates—dragonflies and damselflies. I have a website that shares my photos:

dysart.zenfolio.com. I will be giving a presentation about odonata at one of my local conservation organizations, the Sudbury Valley Trustees, on March 20, the first day of spring. This hobby is a great way to experience and appreciate our natural world."



Parker G. Emerson wrote in to share that he has released *Travels with Spot: Paris to Zürich*, which is the first in a series of travel memoirs that take the reader along experiencing the sights and history of his voyages. See travelswithspot.com for more information, upcoming titles, and to sign up for his monthly newsletter about traveling. Coming next in the series are *Travels with Spot: Into the Midnight Sun* in 2025, *Travels with Spot: Life on a Missile Submarine* in 2026, and *Building the Ring* in 2027 (or 2028), about the people who built the standing stone ring at Brodgar, Scotland, about 500 years before the stepped pyramid was built in Egypt.



At left, from left:
Chip Keeney '68
and Marc Griggs
'68 at the Western
Massachusetts
holiday party

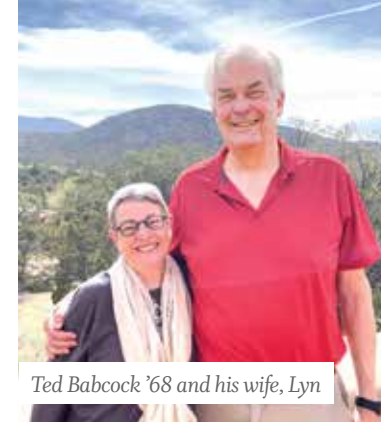
At right, from left:
Jim Davenport '68,
Marc Griggs '68,
and Chip Keeney '68



Paul Wainwright '68 shares a photo from the
good old days with resident furry friend Spence



Chris McWilliams '68 and wife Paula, enjoying Budapest during a
Danube River cruise last September



Ted Babcock '68 and his wife, Lyn



Chip Keeney '68 and his wife, Carol, enjoyed
lunch with staff from the alumni office

Dale Neuburger was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame in October 2024 for his life-long contributions to aquatics. As the World Aquatics Treasurer, Dale has significantly impacted the sport at local, national, and international levels. His journey began as a swimmer and team captain at Williston Academy, and he went on to earn varsity letters at Princeton University. Dale's career transitioned from coaching to administration, where he served as Aquatics Director for the Syracuse City School District and managed the Indiana University natatorium, transforming it into a premier swimming facility. He played a pivotal role in bringing major events like the Olympic Trials to Indianapolis and enhancing the city's reputation as a hub for aquatic sports. On the global stage, Dale was elected Vice President of World Aquatics at the Sydney 2000 Olympics, reelected four times, and promoted to Treasurer in 2021, with reelection in 2023. He has also served as the Technical Delegate for swimming at five consecutive Olympic Games, from Beijing 2008 to Paris 2024. Dale's dedication extends to his roles as President of USA Swimming and United States Aquatic Sports, and Chairman of the Board of Directors at the International Swimming Hall of Fame. His leadership and vision have left an indelible mark on the world of aquatics.

John Newton provided a few updates on classmates: "I speak reg-

ularly with **Bill Collins** and other than a hip replacement awhile back, nothing has changed with him. He's still the same. He's healthy. Still is a mad fisherman. Still is an avid sailor competitively and serves as a judge on a national level. Still playing golf. Still goes with his wife to Turks and Caicos for two weeks every month during the winter. And yes, he still works as a sales rep, albeit not fulltime. Finally, he still lives in Hingham, Massachusetts, where he sees Ed Gillis '66 in the neighborhood as well as old friend Peter Prudden '66. Bill and I also see and speak to **Harry Dine** regularly. And, well, Harry is also still Harry—an all-time classic. As for me, my wife, Patty, and I live in Newburyport, Massachusetts. I retired after 30 years in the advertising agency business and later from teaching marketing at Suffolk University and later still Emerson College. All is still well."

1968

Jim Cain writes: "Nothing big to report other than I finally retired at the end of 2022 and welcomed my fourth grandchild in July. I chat with **Rich Halpern** from time to time about sports and the evolving political and social environment."

John Faiella shares: "I'm retired but retain a few clients and still live in Bermuda. Married to Barbara for 47 years. Daughter Allison lives in Wawa, Ontario; son Geoffrey is a

lawyer with a Bermuda bank and is also an aspiring politician. He's married to Sarah and has a daughter, Eva, and a son, JJ; youngest daughter Jessica is a lawyer with a Bermuda trust company but lives in Hingham, Massachusetts, with her husband, Matt, and two brilliant daughters, Cameron and Hadley. I stay busy playing pickleball, tennis, and bridge. We summer on Cape Cod just to get away from the heat. I spoke recently to Peter Carpenter '72 about his brother Dan's death. **Dan Carpenter** was a wonderful guy and my roommate for a couple of years at Williston. He died too young after a long career influencing the lives of students and campers."

Marc Griggs writes: "Thanks to **Chip Keeney** for all those years as class agent. Chip, his wife, Carol, and I got together with **Jim Davenport** in Maine last summer. I retired 13 years ago and have lived in North Andover, Massachusetts, for 45 years. I have two daughters who live just outside Boston with my three grandchildren. I keep in touch with **Bill Buckley**, **Andrew Wernick**, **Ted Nellen**, and **Dave Duquette**. Dave lives just north of me and we have been getting together for backgammon, pingpong, and tennis for years."

Kent Haberle shares: "A number of my Wil-

liston classmates may recall that two of my primary hobbies/interests focus on model railroading and vintage automobiles—with the latter being primarily of the pre-WWII variety. Immediately following my college days at the University of Nevada, Reno, I acquired a 1929 Studebaker President in May 1974, which started me on a lifelong appreciation of that automaker and my involvement within the Antique Studebaker Club, an international organization. I served on their board for over 20 years, serving as President for two of those years; I also managed their sizeable company store, with apparel and merchandise, for 20 years. Then, in January 2020, I had the opportunity to acquire an automobile of even greater classic proportions for which I have been its "caretaker" ever since: a 1929 Model 133 Pierce-Arrow Sport Touring, which had been finely restored in 1965. The motorcar's owner, younger than I, was very knowledgeable and capable but 'had an extra one.' As I am interested in driving these automobiles as opposed to showing, the owner thought that this well-preserved Pierce and I



Kent Haberle '68's 1929 Pierce-Arrow Sport

were a very good match. From even before my Williston years, I had liked and appreciated Pierce-Arrows (the name itself defines adventure, in the marketing sense). I had never considered owning one until I was offered this automobile in October 2019. Some might ask if I was abandoning my Studebaker interest?! No, not exactly—you see, in 1928, Studebaker financially invested in Pierce to control the company (not a merger) until they sold interest in the company in 1933. The premise for Pierce-Arrow is that, after the investment, they then were able to develop a powerful straight-eight engine. Studebaker, in South Bend, Indiana, now had the premium automobile they wanted for their line. Pierce-Arrow manufacturing was continued in Buffalo, New York. Because of the advent of COVID, my taking possession of the motorcar and driving in tours did not begin until the summer of 2021. That July, my brother, Craig '71, and I drove the Pierce 100 miles north from near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, for a weeklong tour up around Lock Haven, Pennsylvania (where Piper Aircraft were manufactured). Then, two months later, we drove it 340 miles north to participate in the weeklong 75th Anniversary of the heralded Revival Glidden Tour, that year headquartered in Saratoga Springs, New York. With several friends, I drove 140 miles to the September 2022 Glidden Tour in Princeton, New Jersey. My latest was another Glidden Tour, with a relatively

close distance of 50 miles, down in nearby Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Revival Glidden Tours enjoy up to around 200 pre-WWII automobiles, driving as many as 100 to 150 miles on the longest days; this allows upwards of 400 'tourists' to join in, with the enjoyment and camaraderie of a common interest being paramount for these gatherings."

Jim Hollander writes: "I completed a book called *The Lonka Project*. It was a five-year project co-directed by myself and my wife, Rina Castelnuevo, a photojournalist. The project was initiated in response to the growing lack of knowledge about Holocaust survivors and the rise of antisemitism worldwide, especially in the U.S. The project involved professional photographers creating distinctive portraits of Holocaust survivors around the globe. The responses were extremely positive, leading to exhibitions from Jerusalem to Berlin to the United Nations. The book, published in January 2024, contains 450 portraits made by 310 photographers in 34 countries. More information can be found on the website thelonkaproject.com." *To learn more, see page 20.*

Cary Jubinville writes: "It may have been known without our recognition, however, **Gary Burnett**, a two-time Massachusetts Golf Amateur Champion, was inducted into the Western Massachusetts Golf Hall of Fame in 2011. FYI, I was also inducted in 2024. We were roommates

senior year in Ford Hall."



From left: Chris Palmieri '68, Don Klock '68, Emilie Palmieri, Jeff Roberts '68, Pam Fuller, and Diane Klock

In January, while wintering in Sarasota, Florida, **Don Klock** and his wife hosted a mini Willy get-together. **Chris Palmieri** and his wife, Emilie, came over from Pompano Beach, and **Jeff Roberts** flew in from San Francisco, California. Don and Jeff toured the Ringling Museum and John Ringling's house. The next day, everyone went to the Marietta Museum of Art and Whimsy, a cheerful gallery featuring offbeat, contemporary paintings and sculptures—always good to put a smile on your face. Later, we had a cocktail party at our rental followed by dinner at a local restaurant, where we were joined by Pam Fuller (Doug Fuller's wife). Great time had by all!"

Paul Wainwright writes: "I have been scanning all of my negatives from my four years at Williston, and many of them bring back memories—mostly good ones—of my time at the school." (See photo of Spence, above left!)

1970

55TH REUNION



Doug Schwartz shares: "I have been elected as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Aviation Hall of Fame located in Dayton, Ohio. NAHF is a nonprofit organization chartered by Congress in 1963 to honor aerospace and aviation legends and to inspire future leaders. If you are ever a visitor to the Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, stop by our Heritage Hall and Education Center that is located inside the museum."

1971



Peter Skinner reports that his newest novel, *Full Beaver Moon*, has won the 2024 Fall PenCraft Best Southern Fiction Award and was runner-up for the 2024 Great Southeast Book Festival General Fiction Award. Peter's other novels include *The White Buffalo*, *The Bells of Moses Henry*, and *The Edge of Farallon*.



Top, from left: Frank Gotwals '72 and Kim Gagné '72; above: Frank Gotwals '72 performing at Lobster Fest in Rockland, Maine



Susan Andrew '72



Vin LoBello, father of Vinny LoBello '73



Rob Galbraith '72



From left: Mike Wills '72 and Dan Becker '69



Bobby Brennan '74 with his wife, Patty, and daughter, Christine; at right: an oil painting of his niece Madison

1972

Susan Andrew writes: “I have been working with the Indian Health Service for the past 21-plus years. It is near the Grand Canyon in Arizona. I am the only allergist in northern Arizona.”

Kim Gagné writes: “For the past five years, I’ve journeyed from our home in London to Vermont to teach environmental advocacy courses at Middlebury College. I regularly invite leading players in the climate debate to discuss their views with the class. A favorite guest the past two years has been our classmate **Frank Gotwals**, who has shared his thoughts on the challenges threatening the Maine lobster industry. He entertained the students with folk songs capturing the character of his unique world.”

Rob Galbraith recently became a New York state certified emergency medical technician. He serves with Ripley Hose Company #1, which provides volunteer fire and emergency services to the Ripley and Westfield, New York, communities.

Frank Gotwals provides an update: “I retired from lobstering a couple of years ago. Been playing lots of music and working on my house and woodlot. I also revamped an old shop into a big practice space. I am currently playing classical guitar in a duo with a bass clarinetist.

Michael Wills shares news from classmates. He writes: “In his visits to the U.S. in recent years, **Richard Brown** has been the guest of three classmates in their homes: firstly, **Judith Miller Conlin** with five-yearly class reunions at her wonderful homestead in Southampton, Massachusetts; then **Chuck Tauck** in 2022 at his superb Sheldrake Point vineyard by Cayuga Lake near Ithaca, New York; and then **Jim Gaffey** in 2024 at his lovely home near East Hebron, New Hampshire, and at his extraordinary remote cabin, built by himself and friends, close to the serene Levi Pond near Groton, Vermont. Richard is immensely thankful to all of them for their kindness and friendship, adding to his lifelong Williston experience.”

1973

Curt Barratt '73 and his wife, Dee, celebrated their daughter Joanna Louise’s wedding to Michael Steinmetz on June 1, 2024.

Betty (Chase) Hyde shared, “Hello, classmates, I am once again spending my winter in Jeffersonville, Vermont, skiing at Smugglers’ Notch. Skiing is one of my passions. I turned 70 in February and decided to celebrate in France at a Club Med in the Trois Vallées in the French Alps. What a great way to enter my 70s. I hope all my classmates are celebrating in some special way.”

Vinny LoBello shared exciting news about his father: “My dad, Vin, was the assistant business manager at Williston Academy back in the ’60s and ’70s to Mr. Babcock and later to George Dunnington. He also coached soccer and basketball, and was a coach with Mr. Rick Francis and Carpy when Williston went undefeated in ’63. My dad was the chief lacrosse referee of New England and was a pioneer in growing the sport back in the early ’60s. Last month, he was given the highest honor, as he was inducted posthumously into the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame at a ceremony in Baltimore, Maryland. The black-tie event included seven other elite people in the lacrosse world, and the ceremony was attended by our family, friends, and some Willy classmates.”

Jack “Kip” Tatelman writes: “By the time you read these words, our friend **David Griswold**, affectionately known among us as Grizzly, will have been laid to rest in his mother’s plot in Canada. But I will still be having a hard time processing the loss of my friend. Those of us who knew Grizzly for the last 50-plus years know that at times he could be a real pain. Still, I miss him. We shared so many adventures throughout our adolescence and adulthood. He was like a brother to me. Strangers would ask if we were related. I remember the standard reply: ‘Twin brothers from different mothers.’ He was ‘Uncle



Curt Barratt '73, and his wife Dee, walk their daughter, Joanna, down the aisle.

Grizzly’ to my children while they were young and to my grandchildren most recently. David was there as a friend for most of my family celebrations, and as a mentor and a confidant during challenging times. While David’s life was cut short, no one can deny he lived every moment with great passion and a level of exuberance while the rest of us could only look on. I know the recent years took their toll on my friend. His crooked body (as he would like to say) would no longer allow him the pleasure of multiple golf days. The recent passing of his lovely wife, Tara, so soon after building their dream retirement home, must have weighed heavily upon him. Still, I never thought it would be this soon. Seeing him at the 50th Reunion last summer was seeing David at his best. The mischievous prankster with the Cheshire cat grin, he was there in all his adolescent self. Being young, being alive, sharing great stories, and not wanting to miss anything or anyone. I take comfort in the words found in the Jewish Talmud: ‘In a harbor, two ships sailed. One setting forth on a voyage, the other coming home to port. Everyone cheered the ship going out, but the ship returning home back to port was scarcely noticed. To this a wise man said: Do not rejoice over a ship setting out to sea, for you cannot know what ter-

rible storms it may encounter, and what fearful dangers it may have to endure. Rejoice rather over the ship that has safely reached its port and brings its passengers home in peace. And this is the way of the world: When a child is born, all rejoice and when someone dies, all weep. We should do the opposite. For no one can tell what trials and travails await a newborn child: But when a mortal dies in peace, we should rejoice, for they have completed a long journey, and there is no greater boon than to leave this world with the imperishable crown of a good name and a life worth measuring.’ Rest in peace, Pesto King.”

1974

Bobby Brennan writes in: “My hobbies keep me busy—I run, ski, and water ski, weather and season depending! Something I started at Williston was art, and now I do a lot of oil painting. The only reason I’m somewhat good is more of a math talent versus an art talent. Music is another favorite pastime; I still play my old VOX and Fender guitars with the next generation of Brennan musicians. I’ll be back east this summer and plan to visit the campus with my wife, Patty, and maybe see some folks, too!”



Karl Eichstaedt '74 and his wife, Ang, exploring Thailand.



Left to right: Jim Molyneux, Ellie Molyneux '04, Lindsey Molyneux P'30, Penny Molyneux '74, P'95, '04, GP'30, and Matt Molyneux '95

Karl Eichstaedt writes: “Everything is good here in Thailand. Hope all is well with you and our friends and classmates from WNS. We’ll be returning to Western Massachusetts after spending two months in Thailand and Laos. My wife, Ang, and I have met some wonderful people (and animals) from all over the world, many of whom were quite eager to engage in spirited debates concerning today’s political affairs! We look forward to stopping by for Reunion again this spring.”

Julie (Andrew) Emerson writes: “It was great to see so many classmates at our 50th Reunion in June. The year of big milestones continued for my family, as my son, Ian, turned 30 on August 4, and his long-awaited Hungarian wedding to Kata Mez took place on August 31 at a villa 30 minutes north of Budapest. It was an amazing day! It was also wonderful to share some of the sights and history of Kata’s home city with my

family—four of Ian’s uncles, three aunts, three cousins, and two of their partners joined in on all the festivities! After the wedding, my husband, Matt, and I relaxed on the beautiful island of Rab, off the north coast of Croatia. Swimming in the Adriatic Sea is a wonderfully rejuvenating experience—I highly recommend it!”

Penny (Dods) Molyneux writes: “It was so wonderful to see everyone at Reunion last year and I hope many of us will get together at this year’s, too! After retiring, I am enjoying tutoring at the Care Center in Holyoke, Massachusetts, a center for women whose education was interrupted by everything from immigration to motherhood. It feels good to be back in a school setting again! It is satisfying to see these young women attaining their high school diplomas and associate degrees, and many go on to higher education and careers. I had a tremendous time at the Williston Red Sox game in Florida a few



Julie Emerson '74 and her husband, Matt, celebrated their son Ian's wedding to wife Kata in Budapest



Herm
Eichstaedt
'75 and his
wife, Linda

weeks ago, made more special as my whole family was there. My name tag is getting fancy—alum, parent of two, and now grandparent of one! Put it on your calendars for next year; it was a fun time! Be well, all, and stay in touch.”

David Newton shared: “My wife, Donna, and I will be celebrating our fifth anniversary (yes, you read that correctly) in October. We live in Boston and Longboat Key, Florida. I’ve been retired for eight years and I’m very good at it. I absolutely loved my years at South Hadley High School, and I also had an incredibly awesome four years (OK, maybe four and a half!) at Cornell. BUT, my year at WNS was my favorite year in school! So many great memories. Hope all are well.”

1975 50TH REUNION

Jess Collen shares: “So, somewhere between ‘what have I been up to for the past 50 years’ and something pithy, I decided to go with trivia. My son, Bennett, who was born and raised in Westchester County, New York, is married to a girl who grew up in Easthampton and whose parents still live there. He lives in Boston and is in Easthampton all the time. Otherwise, I’m still a trademark and copyright lawyer in New York, living in Fairfield, Connecticut, since 2020, with three daughters, one son, four

granddaughters, one grandson—and one wife for the last 46 years. If I say any more, we won’t have anything to talk about at Reunion!”

Herm Eichstaedt writes: “After graduating from Williston in 1975, I attended the University of Massachusetts and earned an associate’s degree in landscape operations and a bachelor’s degree in landscape management. My brother, Karl ’74, and I established a local landscape contracting business in 1985, serving the Western Massachusetts area for 40 years and counting! While continuing in this business, I also worked at the University of Massachusetts in the Residential Life Department for over 20 years, retiring in 2023. There was never a dull day at UMass! Today, I am semiretired, as I currently continue to service area landscapes in a greatly reduced fashion. In the decades since leaving Williston, I have enjoyed playing in area sports leagues, coaching many of my kids’ teams, and participating in countless road races. I was a single dad to my son and daughter for several years before meeting Linda and eventually exchanging wedding vows in 2019 at the top of Loon Mountain in New Hampshire. Linda and I hiked to the summit of Loon along with our children, friends, and relatives on a beautiful October day to become husband and wife. It was a fitting location, as hiking and mountain climbing had become our passion. We are on a quest to climb every state high point in the United States and have completed 45 peaks to date, with Mauna Kea in Hawaii scheduled in July. Linda and I reside in Southamptn, Massachusetts, and enjoy biking, running, skiing, and gardening. And we have recently discovered pickleball! We especially cherish the

time spent with our combined family of five children and three grandchildren.”

Gary Enright shares: “**Jess Collen** and I celebrated our 50-year friendship a few years ago. We met at WNS during our freshman year and have maintained a close friendship since that time. Our wives and families are also close. We celebrated our friendship by taking a road trip to three landmarks. Each stop recognized something we are passionate about. The stops were Cleveland, Ohio, for the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame; Jamestown, New York, for the Comedy Museum; and Cooperstown, New York, for the Baseball Hall of Fame. We share a lot of history and had plenty to talk about while driving for three days to the different destinations. Lots of laughs. Looking forward to seeing everyone at Reunion.”

Kathy Krohn writes in with news from a group of classmates. She writes: “The class of 1975 was the first four-year co-ed class at Williston Northampton, and the Reunion Committee is aghast to realize that we graduated almost 50 years ago.”

Lisa Yamilkoski has returned to Easthampton from living in Dallas, San Francisco, Seattle, and Pittsburgh. While she misses living in big cities that don’t close up at 8:30 p.m., she is enjoying small-city life. She is currently keeping her family’s bowling alley alive and just became a certified financial planner, because she’s not creative enough to be retired without an excuse to not do housework. She’s very much looking forward to seeing lots of classmates that she hasn’t been able to see for years.

Scott Wakeman is enjoying semi-retirement and his five grandchildren, soon to be six, all of whom are

within striking distance here in New England. Teaching the older ones skiing, winding them up, then sending them home! Scott splits his time between New Hampshire and the Rhode Island coast and occasionally crosses paths with **Jess Collen**, **Scott Nicholson**, and **Jim Gordon**. Looking forward to the 50th and catching up with everyone.

Beth (Hotoph) DeLaurentis continues to thrive in Westchester County. She is a devoted wife, mother of two adult children, and bubbe to a one-and-a-half-year-old. She and her husband own and manage a successful development/management company. She visits Northampton occasionally while doing business and dines at Wiggins Tavern (Hugo’s and Zelda’s are no longer in business). Aside from her busy business world, Beth finds time to practice yoga, swim, and maintain other healthy habits. She prepares daily meals for her family and those in her workspace. She and **Kathy Krohn** talk consistently and have taken on the roles of each other’s psychotherapists and wine aficionados. Together, they are thinking of ways to enhance their golden years: the use of sunscreen; Uber drivers after an extra glass of wine; sippy cups that don’t leak or show what is inside; saying no to hosting Mary Kay cosmetics, Avon, or Tupperware parties; clipping coupons; and comparison grocery shopping (Balducci’s, Whole Foods, Trader Joe’s). They considered training for a triathlon but, after giving it much thought, opted to save their energy for the June Reunion. Together they have been hashing up many fond memories of their 52.5-year friendship (beginning at Williston summer school in 1973).

The John Wright days are treasured memories, along with the camarade-

rie with fellow dormmates of 1974-75, including **Buzz**, **Dana**, **Lisa H.**, **Ruth H.**, **Chrissy**, **Mary M.**, **Betsy J.**, **Val**, **Pam**, **Amy**, **Caren**, **Tina**, **Jayne**, **Wendy**, **Carol**, **Nancy**, and **Meredith**—sorry if I forgot anyone...not to mention the frequent visitors not to be named (guys, you know who I’m referring to!). Our beloved Cathleen Robinson was truly a saint and braved her first year at Williston as our dorm mother. The common room was a grand living space where many were entertained, watched TV (no cable, Netflix, or streaming), puffed on our cigs, and took care of one another.

Layton Outerbridge sends a shout-out to **John Officer**.

For those on Facebook, it’s easy to catch up with classmates and see their updated photos. I (Kathy) can still recognize you—with or without hair!

George Chambers is still looking at life through his lens (camera!) and will be at the Reunion. He is creating something special to add to the incredible Saturday evening cocktail party we have planned.

Kathy Krohn would also like to share a few quotes from the 1975 yearbook: “*Four years is a long time out of one’s life, yet spending those years here, they just didn’t seem long enough.*” — **Carl Cronin**

“*Some people achieve greatness, others have it thrust upon them. Then there are those who are born Italian.*” — **Harry Conforti**

“*Sometimes the lights all shine in on me, other times I can barely see. Lately it occurs to me what a long, strange trip it’s been.*” — **Beth Hotoph (Grateful Dead)**

“*Don’t believe what your eyes are telling you. All they know is limitation. Look with your understanding, find out what you already know, and you will see the*

way to fly.” — **David Partyka (Richard Bach)**

“*Yes, I know, Mrs. Lincoln, but otherwise, how did you like the play?*” — **Jim Gordon**

“*All the world’s a stage, and all the men and women merely players.*” — **Paula Sekora (Shakespeare)**

“*Every person who rises above the common level has received two educations: the first from his teachers, the second, more personal and important, from himself.*” — **Joe Dion**

“*Like the twilight in the road up ahead, they don’t see just where they’re goin’, and all the secrets of the universe whisper in our ears. And all the years will come and go and take us up, always up. We may never pass this way again.*” — **Cheryl Parker (Seals and Crofts)**

“*I get by with a little help from my friends, I get high with a little help from my friends, gonna try with a little help from my friends.*” — **The Beatles**

Bruce “Wind” Miller writes: “I’m traveling from Florida for the Reunion and to get the Caterwaulers back together for our world tour. We’re taking applications for roadies, groupies, and backup singers. Also looking for a road manager, sober driver, and a bail bondsman. I have worked in aviation for 29 years and am preparing to be put out to pasture for stud. I have spent the last six months writing a book to train rookies in the aviation business, titled *This Is Your Captain Speaking: The Book on the Aviation Aftermarket*. To the next generation, I say, ‘No slackin’, get crackin’! The writing is finally done and the manuscript is in production. Among the literary devices employed are sarcasm, condescension, and insulting nicknames—all while delivering spot-on, real-world lessons. It will be published before the Reunion. Many thanks to Williston’s English

department; this may be the last book ever written without the aid of AI. I got married in 2023, finalizing a key component of my lifetime plan—not dying alone.”

Dave Partyka writes: “Since leaving New England in 1980 to attend graduate school at Florida State, I have lived in Tallahassee, Florida; Houston, Texas; and Savannah, Georgia. In 2017, I returned to Massachusetts to help care for my elderly parents and continue working as a clinical and forensic psychologist.”

1976

Dana Richdale shared a group update on his classmates. He writes: “We all shared that brief collective moment in time as students at Williston Northampton School. Next year (2026) will mark 50 years since that shared collective experience. I say brief, because it is hard to wrap one’s arms around the fact that almost 50 years have elapsed since that spring graduation back in 1976. The school has begun to enlist the energies of several of our classmates to generate buzz, excitement, and coordination for our 50th. Still early in the process, but I expect to see a ramp-up of information as we move further into 2025. For some reason, one envisions things slowing down as we move further into our 60s. If you are like me, that thought is proving to be contrary to reality. Busy as ever, which puts WNS notes a bit on the back burner—or, at least, the due date to submit notes seems to accelerate. I keep thinking time will allow me to do a deep dive on our classmates, particularly with classmates that have stayed under the radar over the years. I did some research to see if I could identify the comings and



From left: Jennifer (McLeod) Sleeper
'78 and Dave Newton '74 at the Boston
holiday party

goings of the following individuals. **Martha (Bosworth) Thomas** has resided in Vermont for as long as I can remember. Her dad was a 1944 Williston graduate. **Carolyn Murphy Anderson** is possibly a Mainer (colloquial for a Maine resident). Carolyn, where are you? **Jo-Ann (Wright) Davis**—there is a very nice Q&A posted by WNS with Jo-Ann back on December 7, 2022. Jo-Ann retired as a Senior VP and Chief Administrative Officer for Baystate Health. I saw **Susana (Hall) Gettinger** pop up on Facebook with a celebratory message of marriage along with a note that she had seen Jo-Ann not so long ago. Susana has also been involved in health care for much, if not all, of her career. **Paul Litke** spent many years living in Sarasota, Florida, and I believe now lives back in Connecticut. An avid golfer, if I am correct.”

1980 45TH REUNION

1981

Sue (White) Clifford, **Martha Sears**, and **Kris (Mamulski) Potasky** reunited working at Park City Mountain Resort. Martha and Kris are PSIA level 3 alpine ski instructors and Sue is in her 37th year at the mountain, currently serving as the Executive Assistant to Senior Director of Skier Services.



Sunset photo captured by Richard Steinheimer '81

From left: Sue (White) Clifford '81, Martha Sears '81, and Kris (Mamulski) Potasky '81 at Park City Mountain Resort



From left: Jennifer Kolman '83, Mary Ellen Bull '83, Mark Berman '83, Keri-Sue Baker '83, and Karen (Whitaker) Kovacs '83



David Quinn '84 captures four generations of family members including his first grandchild, Adalyn



From left: Peter Marczyk '84 and Tim Farnham '84



Members of the class of 1983 escaped the snow and cold this winter to reunite in Puerto Rico in January for a fun getaway



From left: Peter Wold '67, Chelsey (Cutting) Wold '07, Joe Wold '06, Pete Marczyk '84



From left: Stephen Harris '84 reunites with his PG roommate John Fisher '84

60, he is taking a different path and launching a new company. Spending his working career in management consulting, David was given the opportunity to relaunch what was the biggest and most successful firm of its kind in the late 1980s and '90s, Andersen Consulting. The firm is now up and running globally and David says he cannot recall a busier time, but he also cannot recall having more fun.

Todd Francis recently moved to Southern California to resurrect the iconic Whittier College lacrosse program and hopes to connect with **Gary Goldman**, who is also in SoCal. Todd invites anyone visiting or living in the area to reach out.

The class of '83 planted its flag on the island of Puerto Rico in January when **Juan Salichs** played host to a motley crew including **Mark Berman**, **Hank Baer**, **Megan Blaney**, **Mary Ellen Bull**, **Tory (Falconer) Crane**, **Jennifer Levison**, **Susan (Midgley) Komosa**, **Dan Nicoli**, and **Alison Reder**. Together, the group sailed through the islands, toured Old San Juan, and climbed giant boulders in the rainforest (with no sustained injuries other than Sue's reputation for excursion planning being, um, tarnished). When told that this was a 60th birthday celebration of sorts, the tour guide said, "I aspire to be your age someday." He did not get a tip.

Richard Steinheimer wrote in to share he has shifted gears to become the CFO of Tucson Bicycle Service.

1983

Mark Berman provides a group update from classmates. **David Connolly** reports that while it would be natural to start slowing down at age

Mary Ellen Bull celebrated her 60th on Longboat with **Jennifer Kolman**, **Keri-Sue Baker**, and **Karen (Whitaker) Kovacs** (plus a surprise cameo by **Mark Berman**). This is an annual trip by the girls, this year marked by the big 6-0!

On April 5, **Jennifer Levison** fired up her acting chops while starring in *Love Letters* at the Synchronicity Theatre in Atlanta, Georgia, where she lives and runs the Souper Jenny group of restaurants. In the audience were **Keri-Sue Baker**, **Mark Berman**, **Mary Ellen Bull**, **Susan Midgley Komosa**, **Jodi (Eisenberg) Rubenstein**, and **Alison Reder**. J-Lev starred opposite fellow Atlanta restaurateur Mitchell Anderson, with whom she has acted on several other shows. Prior to the show, the crew had lunch at Souper Jenny's Buckhead location. Happy 60th birthday to all in 2025 (and those we might have missed in 2024). Looking forward to celebrating together at our 45th Reunion in 2028! We would love to hear from you prior with news for the *Bulletin*, of course!"

1984

Stephen Harris stated, "I was bummed out I was not able to make the big 40th. The pictures were awesome. I did get together with my PG roommate, **John Fisher**, in October 2024. Best of health and happiness to all."

Peter Marczyk gathered with the Wold family last Thanksgiving at Hole in the Wall Ranch in Kaycee, Wyoming.

Michael "Newmie" W. Newman wrote in that the simultaneous celebration of his latest book release and 58th birthday was attended by Emery

Bright '82 last fall. Michael's newest book, *Newmie's Hardcore Boot-Camp: Becoming a True & Authentic 'Sigma Man-of-God'*, among others he has written, is available for purchase on Amazon. Michael and Emery caught up last October at the Fava Pot in Washington, D.C.

David Quinn writes: "In November 2024, we welcomed our first grandchild, baby girl Adalyn Ruth Quinn. She is welcomed by her proud parents, Aidan and Dani, living in Tampa, Florida. My wife, Ana, and I had a chance to visit in early December and are very impressed at how well the new parents are handling the nonstop feeding schedule for little Addie. Attached is a fun pic of four generations, from 93 years old to three weeks! It was great to see so many of our classmates at our 40th Reunion. My apologies for leaving Saturday afternoon—I was off to get my wife for an anniversary trip the next morning."

Jim Tobin organized a Williston gathering on March 17 in Colorado, stating, "I have a reserved Arapahoe Basin 'beach' spot. Will have the grill a-grilling. I'll have my Irish flag and a Williston banner hanging on the canopy."

1985 40TH REUNION

1986

Mijanou (Malise) Spurdle, Senior Vice President at Morgan Stanley, was recognized earlier this year by a *Forbes* ranking of Top Women Wealth Advisors Best-in-State.

1988

Melissa Cooperman has opened her own studio and gallery, 9S Studios, in Easton, Maryland. She is a professional photographer who has been hired by Catholic Charities to travel all over the world as their photographer and recently returned from Egypt photographing workers sending aide to Gaza. Melissa reconnected with former faculty member Marcia Reed in recent years and has invited her to exhibit 15 of her works at her studio as the first solo exhibit in the space. *Read more about their story on page 25.*

1989

Cara "Taran" Petricca writes: "I'm living in Cheshire, Massachusetts, with my husband, Marc, and my uncountable farm, domestic, and wildlife rescues. Our sons, Nicholas and Tyler, have left the nest. I'm currently working as a sculptor and muralist."

1990 35TH REUNION

1992

Charles "Chas" Adams wrote in to share he retired as a commander, Naval Intelligence, following 30 years of service both on active duty and in the reserves. Chas enlisted as a fire controlman in 1996 and was commissioned as a surface warfare officer in 1998, converting to intelligence in 2005. As a surface warfare officer, he completed sea service deployments to Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Spain, Norway, Israel, Italy, and Greece, as well as an exchange tour with the German Navy. As an intelligence officer, he served in Afghanistan, Bahrain, Cuba, Germany, Georgia, Italy, Romania, and Germany, as well as with the 5th Fleet, 6th



From left: Melissa Cooperman '88 with former faculty member Marcia Reed



Taran Petricca '89 with her family

Fleet, Special Operations Command Europe, U.S. Central Command, U.S. European Command, U.S. Special Operations Command, and other government agencies. His last assignment prior to retirement was with Headquarters, United States Special Operations Command in Tampa, Florida. He currently works as an information technology enterprise architect supporting the United States Navy. He lives on his property outside Tampa, Florida, with his wife, oldest daughter, and extended family.

Sean Sheehan wrote in with a recollection of a teacher, Mrs. Snook, and a class discussion that stuck with him many years later. He noted:

"Do you really think it's a fight between religions?" It was St. Patrick's Week 1989, and my ninth grade class was discussing The Troubles in Northern Ireland. I had started to make a comment about fighting between 'Catholics and Protestants.' My teacher, Mrs. Snook, cut me off with that terse question. I paused, more than a bit perplexed.

CLASS NOTES



Lots of sibling love between Mina-Rifke and Arye-Meyer (children of Laura Sheppard-Brick '97)



Sasha Kopf '98



Heidi Hyekyung Kim '97



Allison "Kinsey" Robb '00



From left: Loren Feinstein '01, Alex Feinstein '03, and Kate Nocera '01 at the Western Mass. holiday party



From left: Kelli Punska '01 reunites with Cat (Dziok) Cleland '01 and her husband, Jesse



Colleen (Hessian) Thom '02 and her family with faculty member Sarah Sawyer at her book signing



CeAnna Ellner '04 with Emily McDowell at Dodger Stadium in L.A.



From left: Devon Ducharme '02 and Jen Fulcher



From the Boston Holiday Party: top, from left: Alexas Kelly '92, Sarah Griggs '93, and Melissa (Anderson) Duffy '91; middle, from left: Jennifer (Pelli) Packard '93 and Jon Packard '93; bottom, from left: Ana Beesen and Geoff Mosher '98

Everyone talked about ‘Catholics and Protestants’ when discussing The Troubles.

‘What’s the real conflict?’ she prodded.

We discussed how one group felt disenfranchised. They didn’t have access to good jobs and were underrepresented in government, in the police force, and in board rooms. They resented how the English pushed their forefathers off their land and gave it to Scottish settlers. They wanted the British Army to stop raiding their homes and let them reunite with the rest of the island.

We discussed how the other group liked the status quo. They didn’t want to give up everything their parents and grandparents worked for. They were afraid of what they stood to lose. They didn’t want to become a minority in a poor, underdeveloped nation.

‘And are most Catholics or most Protestants engaging in violence?’

No, the majority of people on both sides want peace and don’t directly engage in violence.

‘So why say ‘Catholics and Protestants’ then?’

It’s shorthand. Everyone uses it and understands it. It’s easier to say

two words than ten sentences.

‘Do you think we’re going to solve problems that have confounded people for generations if we repeat inaccuracies? Is that worthwhile just because it’s what everyone has always done and it’s the easy thing to do? Or might it be worth a few extra seconds to dig in and name the root problem?’

Point taken—and remembered 36 years later. Thank you, Mrs. Snook.”

1995
30TH REUNION

1997

Laura Sheppard-Brick announced happy news: “My partner, Jonah, and I welcomed our second child, Arye-Meyer, in March 2024, and he is now crawling like a champ. Older sibling Mina-Rifke is (mostly) a big fan.

Heidi Hyekyung Kim writes: “Currently, I am in South Korea, working in overseas sales, handling cellphone camera inspection testers. I travel mostly to Shenzhen and Shanghai, in China, and San Francisco, California. If any of you are in these areas, let me know so we can meet up. If you

have plans to visit Seoul, the capital city of Korea, contact me. I recently adopted a cat named Leroy, and my life has become happier and I’m more responsible.”

1998

Sasha Kopf shared: “A couple of years ago, I joyfully left my job at a law firm and moved back closer to home. My dad has a woodworking studio in the old Easthampton fire station, about a block away from Williston, and I asked him if I could learn some cabinetry from him. Initially, I just wanted to pick up some basic skills while I was between jobs, but I quickly got completely hooked. For the last two years, I’ve been learning the trade from my dad. We specialize in a technique called marquetry, which involves making intricate pictures out of tiny pieces of wood veneer. I recently finished a cabinet that will be featured in a gallery show, and I’m excited to be part of my first public exhibit! A lot of Williston classmates have gotten to see what I’m working on and have all been so supportive and wonderful.”



Jazz Teece, daughter of Alex Teece '04

2000
25TH REUNION

Allison “Kinsey” Robb started a new role last fall as the Executive Director for the Art Dealers Association of America based in New York City.

2001

Kelli Punska reunited with **Cat (Dziok) Cleland** at the Western Massachusetts holiday party

2002

Devon Ducharme and **Jen Fulcher** reunited at the National Association for Independent Schools (NAIS) Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

Colleen (Hessian) Thom and her family supported Williston faculty



Arthur “Freddie” Seabury, son of Sam (Teece) Seabury '07

member Sarah Sawyer at her book signing in Philadelphia, where Sawyer was promoting her newly published book, *The Undercurrent*.

2004

David Stifler’s first book, *Lucian and the Atticists: Linguistic Satire in the Second Sophistic*, was just published by Bloomsbury on March 6. A product of David’s scholarship in ancient Greek and Latin linguistics, the book explores the different ways that the Syrian satirist Lucian of Samosata and his contemporaries debated, joked, and competed over the status and nature of the Attic Greek dialect in the Roman Empire. The diversity, complexity, and humor of the ancient world come to the forefront in this discussion of intersections between language, race, and class in the sec-



Baby Nora, daughter of Matt Kahane '08

ond century C.E., and sheds light on how these issues persist in the modern world.

Alex Teece welcomed daughter Jazz Teece in July 2024.

CeAnna Ellner attended a baseball game at Dodger Stadium in L.A. with Emily McDowell, Director of College Advising.

2005
20TH REUNION

2007

Sam (Teece) Seabury and her husband, Paul, welcomed Arthur Frederick Seabury (“Freddie”) on March 4, 2025.

2008



Anthony Begon '04 with his family at the Dallas alumni meetup

Andrew Bailey has been selected as one of *Atlanta Business Chronicle*’s 40 Under 40 class of 2025. This event honors 40 rising stars from the Metro Atlanta area who are making a mark in their industries and making a difference in their communities.

Matt Kahane and his partner, Abella, welcomed their daughter Nora in January.

2009

Raffy Cortina married Victoria Vega on August 31 with many Williston Northampton alumni present, in-

CLASS NOTES



Raffy Cortina '09 married Victoria Vega on August 31 with Spencer May '09 officiating and Jay Axelrod '09 as best man



Back row, from left: Loren Po '15, Hannah King '15, Robin Glover '82, Bill Carellas '81, and Peter Carellas '79. Front row, from left: Katie Murray '15, Madison Dirats '14, Jen Carellas '15, Sophie Carellas '18, Ted Carellas '15, and Andrew Dirats '82. Elaine (Carellas) Gravante '85 was also there but not in the photo.



At right, Olivia (Foster) Winkler '14, center, with sisters Abbie Foster '16, left, and Nikki Foster '20 by her side on her wedding day. Above with husband, Rudy Winkler.



Laura Bowman '13 married Nicholas Fielding on September 7, 2024, in Ashfield, Massachusetts



From left: Lindsay (McDonough) Dargusch '10 and Erica (DiMaria) Pollard '10 caught up over lunch in Washington, D.C.



Baby Nora, daughter of Laura (Fontaine) Casey '10



Baby Beau Naughton, son of Jacqueline Beauregard Naughton '11

cluding **Spencer May**, who officiated the wedding, and groomsman **Jay Axelrod** as his best man.

2010 15TH REUNION

Laura (Fontaine) Casey and her husband welcomed their second child, Nora Joann, on February 4, 2025. She joins big brother Jonah (3.5 years).

Reece Liang and Lisa Guo were married at Ruggles Baptist Church



From left: Sarah Wilkie '12, Miranda Gohh '13, and Laura Aptowitz '13 at the Boston Young Alumni Event

and Lyman Estate in Boston, Massachusetts, in the fall of 2024. It was a wonderful evening of celebration with many Wildcats in attendance!

Chris Zombik lives in beautiful and walkable Somerville, Massachusetts, where he works as a writer and international education consultant. After two years of effort, he recently completed a nonfiction manuscript for a book on modern China that he hopes to see published within the next year. He also continues to work on personal fiction writing projects and leads a meetup group for local writers that gather every Saturday.

2011



Sarah Fay returned to campus in early January to deliver the keynote address for the Cum Laude Society induction ceremony. This year, Sarah joined the faculty in the Picker Engineering Program at Smith College. At Smith, Sarah is using her footwear design background to re-design soccer cleats to address the knee injury epidemic facing female athletes. In addition to the opportunity to continue her research, Sarah continues in her commitment to advancing women and gender diversity in engineering.



It was a Wildcat Reunion at the wedding of Reece Liang '10 and Lisa Guo



From left: Sylvia Skerry '14, Emmett O'Malley '15, Jill Slezek '14, Miranda Gohh '13, and Esther Kim '14 took a selfie with Jimmy Fallon after the NYC holiday party

Jacqueline Beauregard Naughton sent in a picture of her baby, Beau, rocking her Willy gear sent to her by Mrs. Whipple!

2014

Olivia (Foster) Winkler married Rudy Winkler in Brooklyn, New York, on October 5, 2024.

After attending Williston's NYC holiday party, a group of alums had an unforgettable encounter with late-night television legend Jimmy Fallon after leaving the event (see photo, above!)

2015 10TH REUNION

Jen Carellas married Samuel Desrochers on October 5 at Windy River Farm in Westfield, Vermont, with many alumni by her side.



Williston alumni from 2009-2013 celebrate at the NYC holiday party



Alumni from the class of 2012 and 2013 at the Boston holiday party



From left: Jake Wisniewski '16 and Chris Hudson '16 at the Boston holiday party

2017

Emily Yeager, fifth-year doctoral student at University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine, Atmospheric, and Earth Science, was selected as a 2025 recipient of the Guy



Alumni from the class of 2019 at the Boston holiday party



From left: Caroline Channell '18, Bina Sweet '17, and Hunter Adams '17

Harvey Fellowship, which supports graduate students whose work helps support sustainable management of marine fish.



Emily Yeager '17, recipient of the 2025 Guy Harvey Fellowship

2018

GB Osuntogun attended a conference in Los Angeles and reconnected with Emily McDowell, Director of College Advising, who was also in attendance.

2019

Ellie Wolfe is an education correspondent and higher ed reporter for the *Baltimore Banner*, a news resource for the people of Maryland. Ellie also researches entertainment hot topics and was recently reporting on the news about the Baltimore connections of numerous *Real Housewives*, including on *The Real Housewives of Atlanta*.

2020

5TH REUNION



From left: Meryl Sesselberg '22, Ella Mattocks '22, and Ava Larkin '22

across the country and overseas.

Ella Mattocks competed in the Western Massachusetts 70.3 Ironman (Half Ironman) last summer in Springfield, Massachusetts, participating in the relay alongside her mom. Ella completed the swim and run portions, while her mom tackled the biking. Impressively, Ella placed second among all women in the swimming segment. Classmates **Meryl Sesselberg** and **Ava Larkin** came to cheer her on, which motivated her to run faster.

2023

Elsa Frankel writes: “Following a wonderful summer of research in pure mathematics, I co-authored a paper with my mentor, Professor John C. Urschel, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which was recently accepted for publication in the journal *Linear Algebra and its Applications*.”

2024

While in Ohio visiting colleges in February, Emily McDowell, Director of College Advising, met up with **An-**

die Kinstle, who toured her around Oberlin College. McDowell also visited **Wyatt Dunn** at Case Western Reserve University.

Past Faculty

Retired Director of Athletics **Mark Conroy** P'10, '12 was recently honored with a NEPSAC Distinguished Service Award and many Williston colleagues were in attendance to celebrate with him, including his wife and longtime faculty member, Monique P'10, '12. (See picture on page 85).



Former faculty member **Cathleen Robinson** recently published a new novel, *My Beard Is White Now* (Off the Common Books). Set in Hadley, Massachusetts, in 1944, the novel follows a family struggling to recover from tragedy as they discover their capacity for resilience, growth, and love. The story is fiction but rests squarely on the history of the World War II era. More than 400,000 prisoners of war were held on American soil. Without their labor, both agriculture and forestry would have suffered severely from the loss of manpower as American men and women marched off to war. The book can be purchased at levellerspress.com or at the Williston campus store.



Director of College Advising Emily McDowell caught up with lots of alums this year, including, clockwise from top left: Adegboyega (GB) Osuntogun '18; Andie Kinstle '24; Wyatt Dunn '24; Avi Falk '22 and Dahlia Elvin '24



From left: Shearee Zangmo '20, Jayden Marshall '22, Dominic Liu '21, Ronan Robinson '21, and Jade Chan '20 at the NYC holiday party



From left: Ava Larkin '22 and Rylie Tirrell '22 at a Providence area college meetup



From left: Maggie Fay '25 and Kathryn Livingston '22 catch up at the Red Sox spring training alumni event



From left: Jerry Landman '22, Izzy Ireland '23, Connor Capshaw '23, and Luke Ballard '23 attended a college alumni meetup in Boston. They enjoyed a great meal together in Fenway in late February.



From left: Connor Jenkins '23, Meryl Sesselberg '22, Betsy Gaudreau '24, Ella Mattocks '22, and Abby Booth '22 at Betsy's graduation from Williston Northampton School



From left: Ella Mattocks '22, Abby Booth '22, Anna Jofre '22, and Meryl Sesselberg '22



From left: Bryan Malinowski, Blayne Lapan, Jen Fulcher, Monique Conroy, Mark Conroy, Melissa Brousseau, and Jade Morris

IN MEMORY

This listing contains the names of alumni whose deaths were reported to the school between August 20, 2024, and March 31, 2025, although their passing may have occurred outside those dates.

1932	1948	1951	1954
Margherita Abbey (Childs) Fidao of Longmont, Colorado, died May 6, 2024.	Elizabeth (Thomas) Ackerman of Shelburne, Vermont, died February 6, 2023.	Norman E. Brown of Hadley, Massachusetts, died January 2, 2025.	Hope (Nichols) Butterworth of Concord, New Hampshire, died May 12, 2024.
1939	Robert W. Hisey of Sarasota, Florida, died March 11, 2024.	Susan (Cross) Hunter of Exeter, New Hampshire, died January 27, 2024.	Edward M. Peters Jr. of Guilford, Connecticut, died November 6, 2024.
Rita (Zuckerwar) Ross of Delray Beach, Florida, died August 24, 2024.	Elizabeth (Howkins) Holmes of Hendersonville, North Carolina, died March 2, 2024.	Diane M. Kirkpatrick of Ann Arbor, Michigan, died July 3, 2023.	1955
1941	Barbara (Bruce) Wicks of Oxford, Massachusetts, died November 19, 2023.	Virginia (van den Toorn) Duys of Shelton, Connecticut, died November 23, 2024.	David B. Kreidler of Rumson, New Jersey, and Vero Beach, Florida, died November 26th, 2024.
Ann (Crocker) Stockwell of Wrentham, Massachusetts, died September 25, 2023.	1949	Robert E. Mattson of Wilmington, Delaware, died June 29, 2023.	Leslie (Nichols) Kremer of Fryeburg, Maine, died March 14, 2025.
1944	Richard S. Mainzer of Palm Desert, California, died January 3, 2024.	Stanley M. Seligson of Westport, Connecticut, died September 5, 2024.	William P. Lawler Jr. of Easthampton, Massachusetts, died September 23, 2023.
Elizabeth (Kridl) Valkenier of Dennis Port, Massachusetts, died November 13, 2024.	1950	Ann (Hower) Orr of Gainesville, Florida, died July 22, 2024.	1956
1946	Charles K. Doolittle of Monterey, California, died March 3, 2024.	1953	Carol (Glesmann) Baker of Friendswood, Texas, died October 19, 2024.
Sarah (Olmstead) Barnes of Concord, Massachusetts, died October 16, 2021.	Judy (Openshaw) Findeisen of Rutland, Vermont, died January 22, 2025.	William “Bill” F. Harms of Bloomfield, Connecticut, died February 20, 2024.	Edgar J. Fleury of Fairfield, Connecticut, died March 17, 2025.
Mildred (Goldstein) Eisenstock of Boynton Beach, Florida and Framingham, Massachusetts, died May 29, 2024.	Almer M. Huntley Jr. of Hagerman, Idaho, died February 19, 2024.	Peter D. Hunter of Wayzata, Minnesota, died October 11, 2024.	Arie L. Kopelman of New York City, New York, died October 7, 2024.
Katharine (Young) McCaw of Greenville, Texas, died May 29, 2024.	Suzanne (Wilson) MacArthur of Westwood, Massachusetts, died May 28, 2022.	L. Bradford Milne of Norwell, Massachusetts, died June 18, 2024.	Fredrick H. Lambert of Holyoke, Massachusetts, died November 22, 2023.
1947	Richard “Dick” G. Robbins Jr. of Mequon, Wisconsin, died January 15, 2021.	M. Edward Provost of Rochester, Indiana, died June 28, 2024.	
John H. Ring of Charlotte, North Carolina, died April 16, 2024.		George R. Sims of Vero Beach, Florida, died January 20, 2023.	

1958	Connecticut, and Northampton, Massachusetts, died February 22, 2025.	1969	1980
Peter R. Hewes of Groton, Connecticut, died September 28, 2024.	Donald D. Williston of Coos Bay, Oregon, died April 20, 2023.	Dana B. Miquelle of Wilsall, Montana, died October 20, 2024.	Thomas J. Dausch of Zephyrhills, Florida, died August 31, 2024.
Charles L. Irwin of Kiawah Island, South Carolina, died September 11, 2024.	1963	1970	1989
1959	David B. Boffey of White River Junction, Vermont, died August 19, 2024.	Piyabutra Vasudhara of Bangkok, Thailand, died July 29, 2023.	James “Jay” F. Wzorek III of Hastings Nebraska, died November 7, 2024.
Frederick W. Johnson of Dennis, Massachusetts, died December 7, 2024.	Richard “Dick” Curtis of Brewster, Massachusetts, died December 2, 2024.	1973	1993
Allen V. Shaw of Silver Spring, Maryland, died October 16, 2024.	1964	David H. Griswold of San Marcos, Texas, died December 18, 2024.	Kenneth R. Rankin of West Orange, New Jersey, died June 3, 2023.
1960	David S. “Zack” Gould of Santa Fe, New Mexico, died December 29, 2024.	1974	2002
Lee A. MacVaugh of Washington, D.C., died January 17, 2024.	Linda (Bauer) Ivey of Malvern, Pennsylvania, died December 31, 2024.	Alicia L. du Pont of Mendham, New Jersey, died June 25, 2024.	Adam G. White of Arlington, Virginia, died October 20, 2024.
1962	1966	1975	2011
Linda (Stanton) Maynard of West Lebanon, New Hampshire, died December 5, 2024.	Gordon M. Henry of Hamilton, Bermuda, died December 16, 2024.	Gwendolyn “Wendy” Keiver-Hewett of Salem, Massachusetts, died February 3, 2025.	Kariamou “Kay” M. Samples-Smart of Spring, Texas, died August 31, 2024.
Charles D. Vernon of Windsor, Connecticut, died October 18, 2024.	Ross J. Prossner of Cazenovia, New York, died December 7, 2024.	Christopher J. Simard of Candler, North Carolina, died February 14, 2025.	2025
Wendy (Butler) Walsh of Madison,		1978	
		Lucía Núñez of Madison, Wisconsin, died September 30, 2024.	Elise Ollmann-Kahle of South Hadley, Massachusetts, died October 13, 2024.

Full obituaries and photos, when available, can be found at: willistonblogs.com/obituaries, where you may leave a comment of support or remembrance.



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Who's in this issue?

Your former classmates are up to cool things!
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Bob Couch '50
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Keira Durrett '88
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Paul McNeil '01
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"Alumni are
doing what?!"

A look at the fun-and-
fascinating world of alumni
hobbies and passion projects
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