

SPRING
2012



ALESIA
VACCARI '02
NAMED GNAC
COACH
OF THE
YEAR



Page 10

Homecoming 2011 Photo Gallery



Jim Fortuna shares a light moment with his son Joseph E. Fortuna '82 and Dotty (Wetmore) Robbins '54.



Trust member and community liaison Craig Schroeder shares a laugh with Andrew Motaung, son-in-law of Dan Smith.

PHOTOS BY
TERRY
COWGILL

Arne Grandell '82, who won the W.L. Gilbert Award for Outstanding Community Service, with Gilbert Trust President Tom Botticelli.



Mary Ann (Cormier) Buchanan '81, Angela (Fortuna) Mierzejewski '85, Judy (Counihan) Palmer '81 and Gina (Mariano) Bunch '81.



Magdalena Kruk '95, who received the Young Alumni Achievement award, with Gilbert Trust President Tom Botticelli.

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THE YELLOW JACKET

A twice-yearly publication of:
The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation
 200 Williams Avenue
 Winsted, Connecticut 06098
 Volume 13, Issue 2, Spring 2012
 Editor: Terry Cowgill, Director of
 Development and Alumni Relations.

On the cover: The Gilbert School Marching Band entertained the crowd during last fall's Berkshire Bowl, which saw the Yellow Jackets beat Housatonic 43-14.

Homecoming 2011

A brisk fall morning welcomed about 250 alumni/ae and friends back to the Gilbert campus during Homecoming Saturday, Oct. 15, for the sixth annual Distinguished Alumni awards, followed by a luncheon and the football game against Avon High School on Van Why Field.

Before the alumni award ceremony, a group of graduates and current students gathered for the second Gilbert Alumni Cross Country Run. It was an invigorating trot on the Gilbert team course. Coffee and donuts were served afterwards. Medals were awarded to the top finishers.

After lunch, many alumni made a day of it by staying on campus to watch the Gilbert-Northwestern Yellow Jackets defeat Avon 20-10 to improve their record to 3-2.

Five alumni received awards from the W.L. Gilbert Trust recognizing their achievements in various fields.



Jim Fortuna proudly displays his honorary Gilbert diploma with Mary Ann (Cormier) Buchanan '81.



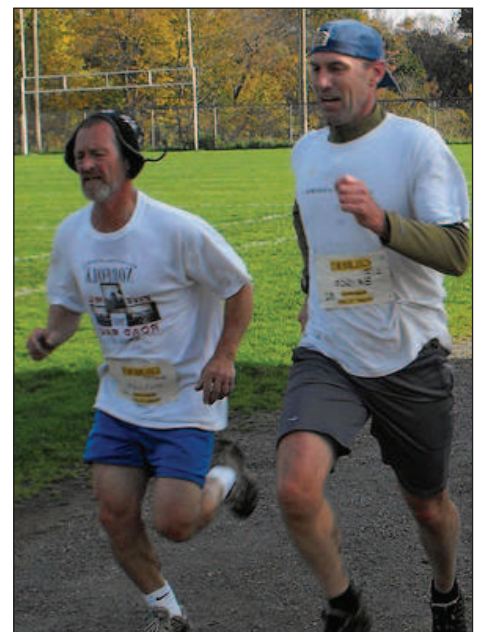
Trust member emeritus JoAnn Briggs, Trust President Tom Botticelli, Loretta Neumann and her husband, award winner Daniel R. Smith '52.



Members of the Gilbert Alumni Band and the Farmington Valley Band played to great acclaim during the distinguished alumni award ceremony.



Award winner Danny Jones '83 and his sister Robin (Jones) Taillie '79.



Gilbert cross country coach Scott Mueller and L.J. Briggs, M.D. '82 battle near the finish line of the alumni cross country run. Mueller prevailed by a neck.

**The Gilbert Heritage Award
Honorary Diploma**
James B. Fortuna

Young Alumni Achievement Award
Magdalena Kruk '95

Distinguished Professional Achievement Award
Daniel R. Smith '52

**The W.L. Gilbert Award For
Outstanding Community Service**
Arnold A. Grandel '82

Outstanding Achievement in Athletics Award
Daniel R. Jones '83

Classes of 1961-62 - 50th Reunion



The classes posed for a group picture



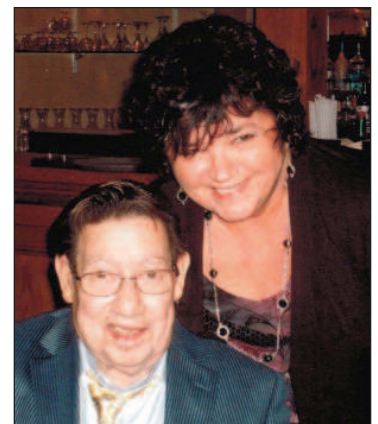
Marjorie Simmons, Barbara Sesko and Ellen (Barrett) Cuna.



Louis Roy, Joe Palva and Jim DiVita.



Beverly (Simons) Fratini, John Fratini



Allan Risedorf, Doreen Risedorf



Gordon Dayton, Karin (Apel) Dayton



Bob McKie, Ellen (Barrett) Cuna.

Saturday,
October 29,
2011

Fairview Farm

Harwinton,
Connecticut

Around the Years: Class Notes



Tim Nalette '75 with his Rotary National Award For Space Achievement.

1975

Timothy A. Nalette recently won an honor from the Rotary National Award For Space Achievement (RNASA). Tim, an inventor who works for Hamilton Sundstrand in Windsor Locks, won a 2011 Late Career Stellar Award for sustained advances in life support air revitalization technologies for the Human Spaceflight Program. Tim lives in West Stafford, Conn.

1978

Joyce (Latina) Ladak writes: I've been married to Amin for 27 years. He is a manager fo Hewlett-Packard. We have two children. Saira is a teacher and getting married in 2013. Alia is a recent graduate with a business degree. I am a former special education pre-school teach-

er. My husband and I love to travel. We live in Carrollton, Texas."

1980

Nadene Stein writes: "After five long years, I earned my Ph.D. from Lesley University this past January! My dissertation topic: 'The Role of Elementary School Principals Supporting Teachers in The Instruction of Reading for English Language Learners.'" Nadene is an elementary school principal in Waltham, Mass.

1986

Sandy (Fratini) Scherer '85 and **Mike Scherer** write: "Our son Ian is a freshman at Gilbert this year. How time flies! We've already enjoyed visiting some of our former teachers at the open house -- Mrs. Vaccari, Mrs. Welcome. Mr. Dombrowski and Mr. Schroeder. We've also had a great time catching up with alumni at home football games. Ian is a percussionist in the band. Go Yellow Jackets!"

1988

Jill Little has won the 2011 Excellence in Direct Service to Children and Families Award from Florida State University's Young Parents Project. Jill has been with the project since its inception in 2005. The project aims to interrupt the inter-generational cycle of teen parenting in the dependency and delinquency courts. Jill is a social worker who lives in Hollywood, Fla.

1990

Adam Atkins and his wife **Jennifer** proudly announce the birth of **Christopher Preston Atkins** on Aug. 30, 2011. Christopher weighed in at 9 pounds, 1.8 ounces and was

22 inches long. He joins **Nicholas**, 6, and **Elizabeth**, 4. Adam teaches music at Gilbert.

1999

Corey Veneziano, CPA, has been promoted to tax manager in the tax department of J.H. Cohn LLP, located in Glastonbury, Conn. Corey completed his masters in taxation from the University of Hartford a number of years ago and is currently living in Manchester, Conn.

2001

Jordan and Diana Moore are the proud parents of a baby boy, **Rocco Jordan**, born Nov. 22, 2011. Rocco has two big sisters, **Alexia** and **Ava**. **Robert '77** and **Susan (Jacobs) Moore '78** are the grandparents.

2005

Melissa Buxton writes: "To all my teachers, I'm doing really well. I have a five-year-old boy born on Jan. 1, 2007, and a baby girl born on July 19, 2010. They are the fourth generation. I can't believe my mom is a grandma and my grandma is a great-grandmother. My mom and grandma spoil the kids!"

2006

Jacob Hunter, left in January for seven months on a paid internship studying neuroscience at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama. He also graduated last May from UConn with a B.S., double majoring in auditory neuroscience and physiology and double minoring in psychology and molecular biology.

Send notes to
cowgillt@gilbertschool.org

THE GILBERT SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

The Gilbert School Distinguished Alumni Awards are given in recognition of demonstrated commitment to and application of the standards of excellence for which The Gilbert School is known. Through meritorious service, noteworthy civic and philanthropic endeavors and/or exceptional personal or professional achievement, these individuals have brought distinction to themselves, their colleagues, their communities—and thereby to The Gilbert School. We encourage the nomination of individuals who exemplify and embrace such excellence, reflecting the proud legacy and tradition of their alma mater. Based on that legacy and tradition, we are honored to recognize individuals in the following five categories:



THE GILBERT HERITAGE AWARD

This award may be presented annually to an alumnus of The Gilbert School who, through significant personal or professional contributions or accomplishments during his/her lifetime, has distinguished him/herself within the history of the school, bringing honor and pride to all alumni and representing the traditions and the heritage of The Gilbert School. The Gilbert Heritage Award may be given posthumously.

YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This award may be presented annually to an alumnus of The Gilbert School who graduated from Gilbert within the past twenty years. The recipient will have achieved outstanding personal or professional success in the community, in business or in entrepreneurship. Through such accomplishments, he or she serves as a role model for younger individuals.

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This award may be presented annually to an alumnus of The Gilbert School who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in his or her professional life. The recipient will have brought distinction to him/herself and The Gilbert School through participation, commitment and leadership in a chosen profession. The length and quality of career accomplishments, a commitment to professional excellence and respect among professional colleagues is noteworthy.

THE W.L. GILBERT AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

This award may be presented annually to an alumnus of The Gilbert School or to a member of our greater society (not limited to alumni nor to the Winsted area). The recipient will have displayed exceptional service to the betterment of life within his/her community or to humanity in general. This award is in honor of the significant humanitarian and philanthropic contributions made by William L. Gilbert, founder of The Gilbert School.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN ATHLETICS AWARD

This award may be presented annually to an alumnus of The Gilbert School who, through participation on a sports team while a student at Gilbert, exhibited outstanding character, sportsmanship and his or her own "personal best" skill level while contributing to the overall achievements of the team. The recipient's positive attitude and team approach was evident and respected not only within the competitive venue but also in the classroom and greater community. The recipient may also have distinguished himself or herself in the field of athletics after graduating from Gilbert. The recipient must be an alumnus of a class that graduated at least ten years prior to the year of the award.

The completed nomination form, along with all supporting documentation, must be submitted to the Office of Development and Alumni Relations no later than June 1, 2012. In order to be eligible for nomination, the nominee must be a graduate or former student of The Gilbert School unless otherwise stated in the description of the award. Current members of The W.L. Gilbert School Corporation and The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation are not eligible while in service to these boards.

The Gilbert School Alumni Advisory Council, representing all alumni of The Gilbert School, will review the nominations and present their recommendations to the Executive Committee of The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation for final confirmation. The Alumni Advisory Council reserves the right to include for consideration an ongoing list of potential nominees provided by The Gilbert School Alumni Office. Nominations will be accepted from alumni and friends of The Gilbert School at large.

2012 Nomination Form

Please select one award category:

- The Gilbert Heritage Award
- Young Alumni Achievement Award
- Distinguished Professional Achievement Award
- The W.L. Gilbert Award for Outstanding Community Service
- Outstanding Athlete Award



Name of nominee: _____ Class Year: _____

Current profession/job title or volunteer affiliation: _____ Organization Name: _____

Nomination proposed by:

Name: _____ Class Year: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

It is required that you include a brief summary of the candidate's qualifications to support each nomination. You may use the space below or attach a separate sheet(s) to this form.

The 2012 Distinguished Alumni Awards will be presented during
Alumni Homecoming Weekend on October 27, 2012.

Please send this form, along with any supporting materials, by June 1, 2012, to:
The Gilbert School

Office of Development and Alumni Relations
200 Williams Avenue
Winsted, CT 06098

Additional nomination forms are available to download from our website at
www.gilbertschool.org

In Memoriam

1929

Winfred Hurlbut

June 22, 2011

1940

Eleanor (Schneider) Wilcox

January 1, 2012

1942

Joseph Adamo

February 28, 2012

Walter A. Rowley

June 22, 2011

Eugene Scalise

November 16, 2011

1943

Edward E. Jones

September 15, 2010

1945

Anthony J. Cannavo Sr.

December 2, 2011

Rudolph Iacino

February 14, 2010

Edith (Berenkrantz) Krasnovsky

November 13, 2011

1947

Joyce (Dietlin) Ryan

February 13, 2012

1949

George H. Darling

December 22, 2011

Capt. Ronald Fenn, USMC

March 4, 2011

1951

Clarence "Bucky" Barrett

April 19, 2010

1952

Maria (Ursone) Stuart

December 6, 2011

1953

Jack Bourquin

September 6, 2011

1954

William L. Betts

October 8, 2011

1967

Joseph C. Reidy

March 3, 2012

Upcoming Reunions

10th Reunion

Class of 2001

June 2, 2012

7 - 11 p.m.

First & Last Tavern

Contact: Jessica Leifert

jleify@gmail.com

20th Reunion

Class of 1992

Sept. 1, 2012

7 - 11 p.m.

Old Newgate Coon Club

Contact:

Tammy (Gemetro) Van Allen

tgvanallen@yahoo.com

35th Reunion

Class of 1977

Oct. 6, 2012

7 p.m. - midnight

La Trattoria

Contact: Jim Dombrowski

dukedombro@sbcglobal.net

60th Reunion

Class of 1952

Oct. 13, 2012

12:30 to 4 p.m.

La Cupola

Contact: Lorraine (Holt) Cuatt

lorrainecuatt@charter.net

Update your profile at
www.gilbertschool.org/alumni

New Users: Your ID number (needed for initial registration) is above your name on the mailing label of this newsletter.



For regular updates, join 800 other members and follow "The Gilbert School" on Facebook!

Heather Case Dzielak '86 Joins Trust



Heather Case Dzielak '86

A newcomer has come on board the W.L. Gilbert Trust. Heather (Case) Dzielak '86 was appointed a member of The Trust last fall, replacing James Pettit '71, who relocated out of town.

While Dzielak is new to The Trust, she's hardly unfamiliar with Gilbert, having attended the school for four years with her future husband, Edward "Moose" Dzielak '86. Longtime Winsted residents, the Dzielaks are also parents of twin girls, Meghan and Lindsey, who graduated from Gilbert

last year. Heather's late father, George '53, was a trustee for decades and won the Gilbert Heritage Distinguished Alumni Award in 2010.

"He was a big part of why I accepted the opportunity to become a part of the Trust," Dzielak said. "I want to continue his legacy."

Dzielak was a finance and real estate major at UConn and has an extensive career in marketing and finance, most recently as chief marketing officer at the Lincoln Financial Group and also in senior-level capacities at ING, Aetna and Cigna.

With the addition of 7th- and 8th-graders in 2011 and with the possibility that international students will enter next year, Gilbert and The Trust are "at a pivotal point," Dzielak said.

"I spent six or seven years in marketing. We need to promote the value the school brings to our students and to our community. And I feel fortunate to be able to contribute to our rebrand-

ing efforts."

Dzielak is passionate about working with organizations that help children, and has been active with the United Way and the Special Olympics. This will be her first role on a school board of trustees. She will serve on The Trust's finance committee and will be a Trust representative to the Gilbert School Corporation.

"It's baptism by fire. I prefer it that way," she said with a smile.



Dzielak receives her Gilbert diploma in June 1986 from her father, the late George Case '53.

Gilbert Eyes Residential Student Program

The W.L. Gilbert Trust, the board that oversees the institutional well-being of the school, is weighing the possibility of establishing a resident student program starting in the fall of 2013.

If ultimately approved by The Trust, the plan would put Gilbert in line with other private schools in New England. Almost all of the region's "endowed academies" — private schools that accept public school students whose towns pay an annual tuition for each pupil — also have boarding programs that enroll students who live on-campus or with families in the area. Initially, Gilbert's boarding population would be comprised mainly of students from Asia.

The move would have multiple

benefits. It would increase the diversity of the student body by introducing an array of cultures and personalities to the campus. And it would also boost the school's enrollment, thus allowing Gilbert to hold down tuition increases to the town of Winchester through better economies of scale. In other words, the higher the enrollment, the lower the per-student charges to the town.

Administrative and start-up costs for the new program would be borne by The Trust and would cost the town of Winchester taxpayers nothing. For the first few years, the boarding students would probably stay with local families who would contract with The Trust to provide room and board. Eventually, however, it's likely the school would construct dormitories to

house the boarding students.

Gilbert Trust President Tom Boticelli said that "while the Trust has made no decision as of yet, it has become obvious to the Trustees that the establishment of a resident student program is a win/win situation for both The Gilbert School as well as the Town of Winchester."

If approved, a new boarding program would bring another substantial change to The Gilbert School which became a Junior/Senior High School with the admittance of the Town of Winchester's 7th and 8th graders in September of 2011.

A decision about whether to proceed with the proposed boarding program is expected to be made by the end of this school year.

Vaccari Named GNAC Coach Of The Year

By TERRY COWGILL

For Alesia Vaccari '02, the sport of volleyball sort of runs in the family. Like the Mad River that courses through downtown Winsted, it's hard to ignore even if you wanted to. When she was a youngster, Vaccari and her little sister, Audra '04, practiced the sport on a makeshift court on the Gilbert campus.

"Audra and I used to play in the woods behind the gym while Mom was coaching," Vaccari recalled in a recent interview. Vaccari was referring, of course, to her mother, Mary Ellen (Staszowski) Vaccari '72, who led the Lady Yellow Jackets to several Berkshire League titles and two state championships during a long and distinguished coaching career at Gilbert. And now for the younger Vaccari, history has pretty much repeated itself. She's followed mom's footsteps into volleyball coaching.

In only her first season as head volleyball coach at Simmons College in Boston, Vaccari was named coach of the year in the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC). And earlier this year, Vaccari received the under-30 award from the American Volleyball Association.

Vaccari led the Sharks to the GNAC semifinals for the first time in program history, piloting the team to a 20-10 overall record, while going 9-4 in conference play. Under Vaccari's direction, the Sharks more than doubled their winning percentage from 2010 without any additions to the roster.

Before arriving at Simmons,



Alesia Vaccari '02

Vaccari spent two years as a grad student and assistant coach at Clarkson University in upstate New York, helping in 2009 to lead the Division III school to its first Liberty League championship, first NCAA tournament appearance and a program-best 28-7 record.

This was on top of outstanding achievements at Springfield College, where she was a three-year captain and won multiple honors, and at Gilbert, where she was named 2001 Connecticut high school player of the year and was a junior Olympic volleyball athlete.

Vaccari recalls her years at the Williams Avenue campus fondly, particularly the extent to which the experience was a family affair.

When she arrived at Gilbert as a student in the fall of 1998, Vaccari was prepared to hit the books: "I had to work hard. Nothing came easily." But the Gilbert faculty was always there for her.

"The coaches and the staff bent over backwards to help the kids," she said. "They really cared about everyone. The students came first."

Among her favorite teachers were Craig Schroeder, Gerry Hicks, Karen Corrigan, Charles Trout, Andrea Galuska and, of course, her mother.

"I loved seeing my mom at school. She was a huge role model in my life."

After Gilbert, Vaccari attended Springfield, where she captained the volleyball team from her sophomore year forward and majored in athletic training. After working as a massage therapist for a year she felt "something was missing." She subsequently applied to graduate school at Clarkson, started her master's, began coaching collegiate volleyball there and has never looked back.

Turns out the Anatole France quote in her senior Gilbert yearbook might very well guide Vaccari going forward: "To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe."

THE YELLOW JACKET

The Alumni/ae Magazine
of
The Gilbert School

How do you like The Yellow Jacket Magazine? Your comments are welcome at:
cowgillt@gilbertschool.org

Gilbert Community Mourns Loss Of Cannavo



Winsted lost one of its most valuable citizens and Gilbert one of its most dedicated alumni when Anthony J. Cannavo Sr. '45 died Dec. 2, 2011, as a result of an automobile accident. He was 83.

Tony was mayor of Winsted from 1963 to 1965 and served in a variety of other public roles, including chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission, member of the Board of Selectmen and the Economic Development Commission and a member of the Northwestern Connecticut Community College Advisory Board.

At Gilbert, Tony also served as a member of the Gilbert Trust Corporation from 1994 to 1998. He was also a key member of school's building committee for the extensive renovations to the Williams Avenue campus from 1999 to 2000. He also enjoyed

returning to the school for reunions, especially the Blue & Gold each spring.

Tony graduated from St. Anthony School, Gilbert and the University of Connecticut School of Agriculture. He served his country in the U.S. Navy from 1946 to 1948. Along with his brother Joseph and sister Sarah he operated Cannavo Gardens for many years. Later he established Cannavo Construction Inc., which he ran along with his three children Robert, Mark and Donna. He also owned and operated A.J. Cannavo and Associates, a real estate brokerage. Both entities are still in operation and Tony, ever eager and enthusiastic, went to the office daily.

Tony was recognized for his dedication and commitment at a gala dinner in his honor at Crystal Peak, which was attended by then-Gov. Jodi Rell, who presented Tony with a proclamation declaring August 16, 2006, Anthony J. Cannavo Day. In addition he was also recognized by the town of Winchester for his life-long community service.

He is survived by his wife, Evelyn (Cruden) Cannavo and a great number of siblings, children and grand children.

The Late Willam L. Betts Class of 1954



Editor's Note: We received the following from the family of Mr. Betts as well as the above photo.

William L. Betts '54, passed away on October 8, 2011.

He left behind a wonderfully supportive network of friends who enriched his life and, in turn, were enriched by Bill's never-ending stories pertaining to music, history, steam locomotives and wildlife.

He captured his zest for life in numerous published and yet-to-be published writings on topics ranging from the Civil War and family history to an accounting of music history of the Northwest Hills of Connecticut and, most passionately, his admiration of wildlife crossing through his backyard in Colebrook.

Bill Betts' visitors never left the house without a story or a glimpse of the critters that shared his life.

He will be missed by his family and friends who will need to look elsewhere for an enlightening, and perhaps off-beat, tale from a master storyteller.

Gilbert's Annual Fund: Expanding Young Horizons

Dear Friend of The Gilbert School,

This year the arrival of fall not only brought with it a change in the weather and a change in the color of the foliage, but it also brought a major change to The Gilbert School.

After 115 years as a high school serving grades 9 through 12, The Gilbert School was pleased to welcome the 7th- and 8th-grades from the Pearson Middle School. The move allows the 200 middle schoolers to learn in an invigorating and well maintained facility. These are truly exciting times at The Gilbert School as we begin a new chapter in our history as a 7-through-12 community. We are looking forward to the next one hundred years.

There are so many ways in which your gift to the Annual Fund can help our students and improve the learning environment



in an already outstanding school.

For example, since middle schoolers have different educational needs, some of the proceeds from last year's annual fund were set aside to help our library-media specialist add to our state-

of-the-art library's collection, with age-appropriate research and non-fiction material. Other funds were earmarked to replenish accounts that pay for outside speakers who hold assemblies and provide our students with perspectives that can only be provided by those who work outside our walls.

Education in action. See what your gift to **The Gilbert School 2011-12 Annual Fund** can do? Please give as generously as you can.

With all best wishes for the spring and summer,

Tom Botticelli
President, The
W.L. Gilbert Trust
Corporation



Make checks payable to:
The W.L. Gilbert Trust
200 Williams Ave
Winsted CT 06098
Memo Line: Annual Fund

The Gilbert School Annual Fund

Support Age-Appropriate Learning

Provides funds for items not covered by the operating budget. Past examples include:

- A fund for assemblies featuring outside speakers
- A training mannequin for use in forensics and EMT classes
- A field trip to the Baseball Hall of Fame for the baseball team
- A vibraphone for the school's various music bands
- A field trip hosted by Joan Centrella '71 to NASA's Goddard Flight Center in Maryland.

Class of 1951 - 60th Reunion



*June (Kittredge) Pequignot, Bob Wilton,
Marion Wilton*



George Centrella, Marge (Hall) Dombrowski and Al Dombrowski.



*Margaret (LaLime) Smith, Janice
Foster Miller, Lewis Miller, Judy
Bunnell, Ed Bunnell*

Friday,
October 14,
2011

*Crystal
Peak*

Winchester,
Connecticut



The class posed for a group picture.

Life is Good For Karen Flaherty '70

What does a successful healthcare professional do after retiring from a long and distinguished career in the military? Well, if you're Karen Flaherty-Oxler '70, you go back to work -- that's what you do.

After a series of senior-level management positions in the military, most recently deputy surgeon-general of the Navy, Flaherty-Oxler retired this year from active duty that saw her stationed around the world and working with some extraordinary people.

"I was a nurse, a division head and held senior positions," Flaherty-Oxler said in a recent interview. "You learn leadership quickly in the Navy."

Those positions include director of the 22nd director of the Navy Nurse Corps, deputy chief of staff for operations for the Navy Medicine Enterprise and deputy chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery in Washington, where she was the senior leader responsible for the operations of three regional medical commands, three Navy medical centers, 16 hospitals, and 189 health clinics in the delivery of care for more than 10 million enrollees and beneficiaries.

And, on top of that, Flaherty-Oxler found time to raise a daughter, work on advanced degrees, travel and spend time with her husband Steve, an emergency department physician at Underwood Memorial Hospital in Woodbury, N.J. It's enough to make your head spin.

But before starting a family and rising to the upper echelons of military achievement, Rear Admiral Flaherty (she used her maiden name in the Navy) had to tend to the matter of her upbringing and education.

Flaherty-Oxler's father, William "Doc" Flaherty, was a teacher originally from Massachusetts. He was working at Suffield Academy in Con-



necticut when he noticed an opening in the science department at Gilbert. The rest, as they say, is history. The legendary Doc chaired the science department and was the senior class advisor for 29 years until his sudden death in 1983 at age 59.

Flaherty-Oxler recalls having her father as a chemistry and physics teacher. Other favorite teachers included Joan McGowan, Bill Lanigan and Charlie Youmans. Perhaps signalling a career in the military, Flaherty-Oxler's Gilbert yearbook quote from her senior year was from Gen. Douglas MacArthur: "Years wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul."

"I had a great education at Gilbert," she explained. "I was in college-prep classes in math and science, which was the precursor to advanced placement."

After Gilbert, Flaherty-Oxler went

on to Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., where she enrolled in the nursing program but spent her second and third years in Manhattan at New York University Medical Center through an affiliation Skidmore had with NYU.

"I worked hard at Gilbert and was well versed for liberal arts at Skidmore," Flaherty-Oxler recalled. "From a preparation standpoint, it was great."

Flaherty-Oxler's sister, Pamela, who has been a teacher for 39 years in the Winchester schools, graduated from Gilbert in 1969, as did her husband, Alan Colavecchio, who has been a member of the W.L. Gilbert Trust for several years.

After Doc's death, Flaherty-Oxler and other family and friends of her father worked through The Trust to establish the William D. Flaherty Scholarship, a fund for Gilbert graduates pursuing higher education. Her mother, Kay, died only last year.

Karen and Steve's daughter, Lizzie, started out following in her parents' footsteps as a pre-med major at Tufts University, yet transitioned to her teaching roots and is a history and government teacher at King Low Heywood School in Stamford.

After her retirement last year, Flaherty-Oxler landed a job at a large healthcare firm in Lancaster, Penn., mentoring and teaching aspiring healthcare professionals.

"I worked for a long time in Washington and only came home on the weekends, so this is great," she said.

But Flaherty-Oxler really sees the Lancaster gig as a chance to seize on the next chapter in her professional life rather than to use as a stepping stone into full retirement.

"The Navy afforded me opportunity. My retirement speech was about saying yes to opportunities."

Introducing ... The W.L. Gilbert Legacy Society

THINKING BIG ... LOOKING FORWARD >>>

The W.L. Gilbert Legacy Society recognizes the generous alumni and friends who have indicated that they will make a bequest or other planned gift to benefit The Gilbert School.



State your intention by the end of 2012 to make a planned gift and become a charter member of The W.L. Gilbert Legacy Society.

*Interested in learning more about making a planned gift?
Contact Terry Cowgill, Director of Development, at 860-738-9439 or via email at cowgillt@gilbertschool.org.*

Charter Members:

- Thomas J. Botticelli*
- JoAnn and Harry C. Briggs*
- Ellen Cormier Marino '83*
- James A. Pettit '71*
- Steven A. Sedlack '60*
- Anonymous*

- Help ensure the legacy of The Gilbert School in a simple and affordable way.
- Make a deferred gift that costs nothing during your lifetime.
- Enjoy tax advantages.
- Enable The Gilbert School to make a difference in the lives of generations of students to come.



It just takes a simple designation in your Will or Trust and will not affect your cash flow during your lifetime. If your situation changes, you can make modifications or revoke it at any time.

There are so many ways you can help, from a specific bequest to a deferred gift or life income agreement that benefits your family now and Gilbert later. Here are some of the most popular vehicles used for charitable giving:
Bequest

An outright gift through your will or trust of property or a specific sum of money.

Charitable Gift Annuities and Charitable Trusts

Typically guarantee the donor a fixed income for life and then the remaining principal passes to Gilbert upon the donor's death.

Gifts of Real Estate or Life Insurance

Possible benefits include:

- An income tax deduction in the year you make your gift.
- Tax-advantaged income.
- Fixed or variable income payments to you or designated beneficiaries.
- Capital gains tax savings if you donate appreciated assets.
- Eligibility for the estate tax charitable deduction.



Calling all alumni! Send us your news for the next issue of the Yellow Jacket!

Your name: _____ Class Year: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Send to: Office of Development & Alumni Relations, The Gilbert School, 200 Williams Avenue, Winsted, CT 06098

4th Annual Ean Clough Memorial Scholarship Fundraiser

Friday, July 13th, 7-9 pm at P'Sam's, Torrington, CT

Awesome Raffle Items provided by **Willis Whalen, Mike Karolyi, and Gilbert School Alumni**. Drink Specials, 50/50 Raffle, and Live Music Provided by **"Kevin and Pete"**

Come to re-connect with fellow Gilbert Alumnis and celebrate the life of a dear friend and classmate, Ean Clough. This event is open to the public!!

Any questions contact Alyson Gunzinger: (860)977-8506/Alyworld22@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendar:

Homecoming Weekend 2012
Saturday, October 27!
Check our website for details!

www.gilbertschool.org

For event details and more, visit us online: www.gilbertschool.org



Email:
gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org
The Gilbert School Yellow Jacket is published twice per year for the benefit of alumni and friends of The Gilbert School. Correspondence and changes of address should be directed to Terry Cowgill, editor, in the Alumni Office.
(860) 379-8521 (Main Office)
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Office of Alumni Relations
The Gilbert School
200 Williams Avenue
Winsted, CT 06098

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