BROTHERS IN BUSINESS

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

Head’s Letter

 WHERE TO FIND MORE WILLISTON
Register for an alumni event or submit a class note at Williston.com/alumni
See new school videos at willistonnorthampton.com
Network with other alumni through WillistonConnects.com
Watch a livestream of your favorite team at williston.com/athletics
Read the latest campus news at Willistonian.org
Order new Willy Wear at willistoncampusstore.com
Follow game scores on @WiltonTeams on Twitter
Enjoy campus photos at Instagram.com/wiliston

5 Things We’re Talking About!

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

2. RING THE BELL
Latin teacher Beatrice Cody revived the tradition of ringing the Angelus, a “joyful bell”—and a bell of remembrance. Dedicated in 1952, the iconic bell now tolls daily at the former Dunn School in memory of its namesake, Bishop Charles Dunn, who founded the school in 1817.

3. 50 FOR THE NEXT 50
In honor of a half century of coeducation, Williston Northampton School will be recognizing and celebrating 50 alumnae—both women of demonstrated achievement, and those of promise. Nominate an alumna at williston.com/50-for-the-next-50.

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

5.环?id=455980&mode=6&part=1&len=3352&version=1.0&lang=zh-hans&device=2
A GREAT DAY!

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

By the Numbers

155 first-time donors
273 donors from the 15 youngest classes
More than $420K raised

TOP THREE DESIGNATIONS
• DEIB
• Athletics
• Financial Aid

TOP ALUMNI CLASSES
1982 50 gifts
1983 42 gifts
1998 31 gifts

TOP PARENT CLASSES
2027 58%
2024 57%
2025 51%

SENIOR CLASS
80 gifts

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

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

Playwriting and Screenwriting

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

Social Movements in the United States

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

3D Printing & Computer Aided Design

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

6 QUESTIONS FOR COLSON WHITEHEAD

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

What books influenced you when you were in high school?

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

Is there something special about speaking to high school students?

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

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

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

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

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

Have you been reading a lot of fiction lately?

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

What else have you been up to?

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

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHATTMAN PHOTOGRAPHY AND KELSEY HALEY MEDIA

THEM’VE GOT GAME

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

Class of 2022

133 Total students

17 Students going on to play at the Division I level

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

WILLISTON NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL
55M
Monthly visitors to Newsweek’s online platform, which, in a recent story on Celsius energy drinks, mentioned a Willisonian article by Rosie Crooker ’22 and quoted Williston Health and Wellness Services nurse Lindsay Hanford (spouse of Williston English teacher Kyle Hanford ’97)

15
Students who earned Working Artist Awards this year in performing, directing, stage managing, technical theater, pottery, visual art, instrumental music, and choral music

49
Students who engaged in Williston Scholars independent study classes in seven subjects this year. Topics of final presentations included Hippolyta and the “Hero”: A Modern Retelling of Hercules’s Ninth Labor, Pond Health: Pursuing Restoration and Sustenance of the Williston Pond Through Studies of Its Connected Aquatic Ecosystem, and Revealing America’s Influence on Nazi Germany’s Race Criminalizing Laws.

At the Night Market
A new tradition brings Asian culture and cuisine to the Quad

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

The idea began to take shape last fall, when Williston faculty member and Asian Alliance Club advisor Ken Choo periodically took groups of Asian students to nearby Asian grocery stores, collecting specialty goods that reminded students of their favorite dishes from home. They would return to Choo’s home to cook and share stories, and it was on one of those occasions that the idea for the Asian Night Market was born—a school-wide cookout on the Main Quad featuring foods from China, Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, and Vietnam. Everyone was excited about the idea, Choo says, “but the bridge between novel idea and fruition came about because Owen Fu ’22 took the reins and lent his effort, leadership, passion, and commitment.”

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

—Dennis Crommett

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DENNIS CROMMETT AND CHATTMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

ATHLETICS BY THE NUMBERS

1
Number of years that NEPSAC squash champion Praghyath Athavane Raja ’22 has been playing squash

7
Games in a row that boys varsity basketball has defeated rival Suffield (but who’s counting?)

2,590
Dollars raised for the Cancer Connection from Williston’s annual Pink in the Rink girls ice hockey game against Andover, which the ‘Cats won, 4-1

1,587
Viewers of the live stream of the girls varsity hockey 2-1 win over Nobles in the NEPSAC final (a record!)

6
New weightlifting racks, for a total of 12, in the strength training area of the Sabina Cain Family Athletic Center after a refresh this spring

175+
Students who use the weight room every day
As Rodríguez works with Williston students, he sees them Likewise wrestling with how much of themselves to share. With this vulnerable age group in mind, he is determined to create an experience that emphasizes collaboration over competition. Within that community, he hopes to impart the many elements of performance, all the while collaborating with their peers. “It’s a vision that was born through his early exposure to the dramatic arts.”

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

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As Rodríguez works with Williston students, he sees them Likewise wrestl...
SNAPSHOTS

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

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

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

Girls lax players got pumped for a game against Westminster (they won 10–5!).

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

Cookies, cocoa, and community at a sophomore assembly.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHATTMAN PHOTOGRAPHY, MATTHEW CAVANAUGH, KELSEY HALEY MEDIA, AND DENNIS CROM -
Dramatic skies and happy smiles at our Residential Life Dinner in April.

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

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

Around the quad
TWO EDUCATORS, FOUR DECADES

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

BY JONATHAN ADOLPH

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

The heartfelt words of their former students suggest just how consequential their impact has been. “What Williston, and specifically Ms. Pickrell, taught outside the classroom are the lessons I carry with me every day,” noted Olivia Moses Clough ’09, one of dozens who recently posted tributes to the pair on the Williston website. “I am forever grateful for the privilege of her counsel.” Added Abbie Coscia ’19, “I promise without Mr. T, I would not have made it through my years at Williston. The most amazing mentor, advisor, coach, and person all in one.”

For all of their achievements as educators and coaches, these interpersonal connections are what Pickrell and Tuleja say they most cherish about their time at Williston, relationships forged in the unique environment of boarding school. “Williston is a student’s home away from home,” Pickrell explains. “We don’t take the place of their parents, but we’re an additional parent. I’m still in touch with people that went here 40 years ago.” Tuleja agrees: “When those alums come back, and they’re running up to you because they haven’t seen you in years and want to say hello—there’s something really warm and valuable and authentic about the relationship that’s established here.” How did these two educators become so beloved by the Williston community? To understand that, we have to start at the beginning…
Ann Pickrell grew up surrounded by educators. When she was a child in southern Vermont, her grandmother, parents, and several aunts and uncles were all teachers. She too was interested in the profession; but as a three-sport high school athlete, she had a passion for coaching. At Springfield College, she majored in physical education and history. On a last-act graduation, she interviewed for a girls’ residence, traveled extensively around the world as a school representative, compiled impressive records as the head coach of varsity field hockey for 30 years, and launched the girls’ golf program in 2001. But it is her work as a student advisor that she found most rewarding—“helping students, getting to know their families,” she explains. “I’ve been here long enough that for some of the students that are now at Williston, I was their parent’s dorm parent, or advisor, or coach.” She also proved a helpful advisor to a young Greg Tuleja, who had arrived on campus a year after her. “She was crucially important to me in trying to figure out how to navigate the boarding-school angle,” he recalls. “Ann always professed finding the balance between being authoritative and being approachable. You can’t be friends with the teenagers, but you can be friendly with them. They should feel they can talk to you. They have that balance as coaches and as teachers, but in the dorms, it’s crucial to find that. I’ll always be grateful to her for that.”

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

“Williston has students from 30 different countries this year and from all over the U.S.,” she points out. “Developing those connections—that trust, that respect, that sense of purpose—is important. Access is another issue. Independent schools have been traditionally the places for the elite. That’s changing at the college level, and at the independent school level. Leaving Williston is bittersweet for Pickrell, but she notes she is 66 and her husband is 73, and “I just don’t want to regret that we didn’t have the time to spend together. The pandemic has shown that you can’t take anything for granted.” She plans to travel, play golf, and put some time into her Chesterfield home. “I’m someone who likes to be active,” she says, as if her 40 years of achievements at Williston had not demonstrated that already. “I’ll keep busy.”

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

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

That he would today hold in such high regard by generations of runners and students may not have been imaginable to the 12-year-old musician, fresh out of a master’s program in flute, who arrived at Williston in 1983. Born and raised in New Jersey, he had earned his undergraduate degree in biology at Rutgers, then taught himself enough music to play flute and became a master’s program in flutes, who arrived at Williston in 1983. Born and raised in New Jersey, he had earned his undergraduate degree in biology at Rutgers, then taught himself enough music to play flute and became a master’s program in flute. He began to miss the classroom mid-career, he returned to teach English 9 and AP Music Theory.

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

And, as the record books show, for Williston. His teams would have 25 consecutive winning seasons (including three undefeated) and two NEPSAC Championships, and compile an astounding record of 274–95. As great coaches do, Tuleja sees his job as being about more than sports. “My first rule every year is to make sure that the kids know I appreciate what they’re doing, and that I know how hard it is,” he explains. “To run 3.2 miles as fast as we ask them to run is emotionally, mentally, and physically challenging. And to see those girls come through the finish line, having given it everything, every single Saturday, they need to hear from the coaches that we’re proud of them. As an administrator in a constantly evolving profession, Tuleja has had to confront challenges of his own, notably responding to the changing role of technology in the classrooms, developing academic support services for students, and working to make Williston socioeconomically diverse as well as financially healthy. What keeps him encouraged is the passion of Williston students, a quality that today remains as strong as ever, he says.

“Two always felt that the kids here want to be here,” he explains. “That struck me my very first year. They were sager not only in cross-country, but in the music classroom, and in the dorms. They were excited about being at the school and they wanted a connection with the adults. Nearly 40 years later, that’s still the same.” Looking ahead to his retirement, Tuleja is planning trips to Europe and the United Kingdom with his wife, Frances, who has dual citizenship with Ireland. “That’s always been a big dream of ours, to spend part of our retirement in Ireland,” he says. (His son, Owen ’05, now lives in Poland.) He will also have more time devoted to his poetry writing. And in a drawer in his desk, he’s kept the many notes of appreciation that alums have sent him over the years. “I’m going to go through them very, very slowly,” he says. “One by one.”
since its launch, the Williston Builds campaign has inspired donors to come together in support of our students, faculty, campus, and community.

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

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

Over the next half century, Peter would demonstrate how resilient a long-distance relationship can be. After graduation, he returned west to attend Colorado State University and to build his own career, beginning with a venture in trout farming. Then working for various energy companies before joining his father and brother at Wilk Oil Properties, he too became a leader in his community and the oil industry, and yet he never lost his connection to Williston. A Trustee from 2009 to 2018, he has been a consistent volunteer for the Annual Fund and Reunion gift committees, with an unbroken four-decade record of giving. His devotion to the school was recognized in 2009 with Williston’s Distinguished Service Award, and in 2012 with the Daniel and Jane Carpenter Award, in honor of his impact as a volunteer. He passed away just a few months after his 2006 varsity team. For Peter, supporting our family’s longtime support of the Williston community and the Wolds’ generosity to Williston underscores the family’s deep commitment to education. “The importance of education has always been a part of our family,” says Peter, noting that his grandfather was the longtime head of the physics department at Union College. “Whether it’s our own education or providing an opportunity for someone else, we have always tried to be at the forefront.” Peter’s father, John, also instilled in his sons the value of civic participation. “Whether you’re giving of your time or your resources, it’s important that you be a contributor,” Peter says. “Because of the impact that Williston had on me, I have felt strongly that I wanted to do as much as I possibly can for Williston.”

In 2010, the family established the Wold Family Financial Aid Fund, given to qualifying scholar-athletes, preferably those who play hockey, as Joe Wold did as co-captain of the 2006 varsity team. For Peter supporting a student who is active in extracurricular activities is an important part of giving. “There are so many opportunities that Williston provides, in addition to academics,” he says to students today. “So work hard, do well, but take time to take advantage of those opportunities.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUPPORTING STUDENT INNOVATION

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

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

$56.3M

Total raised to date toward our campaign goal of $70 million
What is your favorite tradition or special weekend activity at Williston—and why?

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

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

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

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

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

One of my favorite traditions at Williston, pre-pandemic, was Willy Gras. All the students gather on the Main Quad and there are so many fun activities to enjoy! There’s a bounce house, an obstacle course, a bubble pit, a water slide, food, drinks, and warm weather. To mention the tasty ice cream and treats! I look forward to it every spring at Williston, and am so glad it’s back again this spring.—Kennedy Dawson ’22

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

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

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

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

Illustration by Laurene Boglio

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

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

The maker behind the Maker Space is Charles Raffetto. Williston’s longtime Theater Production and Facilities Manager, Raffetto started teaching visual arts in Scott Hall, but soon started sketching out plans for a dedicated and fully equipped room. His renderings, fortunately lined up perfectly with the alumni gift, and the Maker Space came to life.

“I wanted to incorporate technology into the design and assembly processes.”

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

“So many people feel that they aren’t artistic because they don’t have the skills to paint photo-realistically, or they haven’t had the chance to spend hours and hours in an art classroom, “he says. “These machines don’t replace artistic skill, but they open the doors and make room for more types of artists.”

“Is a student learning about the brain?” asks Raffetto. “Great, now they can 3D print a model of one instead of only looking at images online.”

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

In Reed’s sunny art studio, students are using technology to find new ways to create.

―BY KATE LAWLESS

WHICH MAKER MACHINE IS WHICH?

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

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

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

On his 55th birthday, Alex Park ’81 announced a life-changing decision: He would leave his successful career in finance to pursue his dream of transforming South Korea through improv comedy. Read his story on page 50.
**Alumni are achieving great things: Here’s a roundup of just a few of the latest and greatest.—BY KATE LAWLESS**

**WILDCAT ROUNDUP**

**FOOD IS LOVE**

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

Michelle Parrish’s grab-and-go brick-and-mortar food company has been marinading for a long time. Food has always been front and center for the class of 2001 Williston graduate.

In 2017, after she took a business class offered by the city of Richmond, Virginia, she started Soul N’ Vinegar as a catering company, the name a nod to her African-American and Korean heritage. The following June, with the help from two federal SEED grants, she converted a brick 500-square-foot former beauty salon in the Church Hill neighborhood of Richmond—a designated food desert—with the goal of selling affordable, healthy food to residents. “I grew up poor,” she said from her tiny eatery in Church Hill back to a catering outpost, bringing the COVID-safe party to events around the city, and sold grab-and-go meals out the back door. “I don’t know if my business would have survived if it wasn’t in Richmond,” she said. “Richmond is a very welcoming city. It’s a very collaborative place.”

Parrish adapted. She turned her tiny eatery in Church Hill back to a catering outpost, bringing the COVID-safe party to events around the city, and sold grab-and-go meals out the back door. “I don’t know if my business would have survived if it wasn’t in Richmond,” she said. “Richmond is a very welcoming city. It’s a very collaborative place.”

Building on her success, in October of 2019, she opened a satellite in the Institute for Contemporary Art at Virginia Commonwealth University. It was only five months later that the museum—and the world—later that the museum—and the world—

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

**Cannabis Questions**

In Can Legal Weed Win?, authors and economists Robin Goldstein ’84 and Daniel Sumner take readers on a tour of the economics of legal and illegal cannabis, showing where regulation has gone wrong and how it could be done better. Drawing upon reams of data and their own experience working with California cannabis regulators since 2016, they explain why many cannabis businesses and some legalization policies fail to materialize, while others occasionally get it right.

**Guide to Kayak Fishing**

Alan Battista ’87 published Light Tackle Fishing Patterns of the Chesapeake Bay, the third in his Chesapeake Trilogy. The Ultimate Light Tackle Angler. Kayak fishing has been the fastest-growing segment of overall angling in recent years. For those who want to join the floating-plastic party, Battista’s series walks you through everything you need to know to land striped bass in the Chesapeake Bay every season of the year.

**THE BULLETIN**

*SPRING 2022*
The Hidden Universe

As a physics doctoral candidate, Matt Carney ’14 is helping shed light on the dark energy of the cosmos—by Kevin Markey

For astronomers working to unravel the secrets of the universe, the launch of the James Webb Space Telescope on December 25 was last year’s ultimate Christmas present. Decades in the making, the Telescope on December 25 came as last year’s ultimate Christmas present. Decades in the making, the Telescope on December 25 came as last year’s ultimate Christmas present.

What is theoretical cosmology?
That’s the big question. Hopefully by the end of my Ph.D., I’ll know! Cosmology, roughly speaking, is the study of the origins of the universe. A big part of it is looking at what’s known as the expansion history, and you get fairly good agreement. What makes the James Webb Space Telescope so exciting?
In cosmology there’s this principle that the farther you look out into the universe, the farther back in time you’re seeing. You’re looking at a snapshot of the far distant past, simply because light can’t reach you instantaneously. It takes time to travel. We measure this in terms of something called redshift. The wavelength of a photon gets redder the more it is stretched, and it gets bluer the more it is squeezed. So, you can actually tell if something is moving toward you or away from you based on if it’s shifted red or shifted blue. It looks blue coming toward you and red going away. The James Webb Space Telescope can see out to about redshift 10, which is immensely far. We will get to see potentially the birth of some of the first galaxies in the universe.

Are there particular issues in cosmology this radical new sensitivity can help resolve?
For me, the dream would be dark matter. The origin and nature of dark matter is, in my opinion, the most pressing unanswered question in physics. The constituents of the universe are somewhat shocking if you haven’t heard them before. About 67 percent of the universe’s content is in something called dark energy. Then another 25 percent is dark matter. And the little bit that remains is all the things that we think of as the universe, the stuff that makes up your desk, flesh and blood, puppies. We know that dark energy exists primarily from a cosmological standpoint. For the expansion history of the universe to match up with what we observe, there needs to be a very large constant force that is causing the expansion. This is what we call dark energy. Similarly, there has to be matter that we’re not accounting for.

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

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

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FASHION DISRUPTION

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

DISRUPTION

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SPORTS SHORTS

The team earned a 4–1 win over the Panthers to post an undefeated season in professional play, forward Delaney Belinskas ’16 helped her team skate to the national title this March, as the Panthers became the first Division III women’s ice hockey team to post an undefeated season. In professional play, forward Delaney Belinskas ’16 helped her team skate to the national title this March, as the Panthers became the first Division III women’s ice hockey team to post an undefeated season.
When Glenn Jones ’95 decided to return to Boston television news after a 15-year career pivot into communications and marketing, his old friends from Williston gave him plenty of good-natured grief. Not because he was returning to the grind of the journalism profession, but because to do it he would be trading the warmth of his native Bermuda for the winters of New England. “They had visited me in Bermuda and know what I was leaving behind,” says Jones, who started as evening anchor for NBC-10 Boston in November 2021. “So they enjoy sharing clips and making comments that I can only tolerate from people who have known me that long.”

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

And Jones would indeed find success in post-Williston life. After earning his degree in broadcast journalism from Emerson College, he worked for seven years as a local television reporter in Florida and Boston, winning an Emmy for his feature news work. In 2006, however, when his stepfather fell ill, Jones returned to Bermuda to support the family. His stepfather recovered, but Jones stayed on and “fell into some opportunities I didn’t expect,” including serving as the press secretary for the Premier of Bermuda, the nation’s highest elected official. “It was incredibly rewarding,” he says. “It was incredibly stressful, but it expanded me professionally in a profound way.” A few years later he joined the Bermuda Tourism Authority, working his way up through various communications and marketing positions, and eventually serving as interim CEO—just as the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

After “a very difficult 15 months,” Jones took a needed break, only to get a call from a former television colleague in Boston who had seen Jones’ Instagram post about his new work status. He asked if Jones wanted to come back to the news business. “Initially I said, ‘I think that’s a terrible idea,’” Jones recalls, but after he had a number of conversations and visits, and heard how the station was trying to innovate with local coverage in a shifting news environment, the idea took on a new appeal. Jones, now married with a grown stepson, moved back to the Boston area, and today says, “I’m really glad to be here.”

And those who knew him at Williston are delighted he’s back. Assistant Head of School Ann Pickrell, who recruited Jones in Bermuda and has kept in touch with him over the years, is looking forward to Jones’ becoming more active in the Williston community. “He wouldn’t brag about it, but everyone knew him in Bermuda,” she notes. “We’re really thrilled to have him be closer to the school and reconnecting with Williston.”

One aspect of his new position that Jones finds particularly encouraging is his new employer’s focus on diversity, a topic that has long been a personal passion. “I’ve really been inspired by what NBC Universal has strategized around diversity, equity, and inclusion,” he explains, adding that he’d like to become more involved with Williston’s efforts as well. “It flows through how they hire, the programs that they support in local communities, and how we cover stories.”

Jones is even taking a philosophical approach to New England’s not-quite-Bermudalike climate. “The warmness of the relationships you form always outweighs the bitterness of the winter,” he says with a laugh. “In the end, that’s what it was for me.”

Jones served as press secretary for the Premier of Bermuda. “It was incredibly stressful,” he says, “but it expanded me professionally in a profound way.”
Did Howard Wang ’99 and Ben Wang ’01 always know they were going to end up in business together, even back in their Williston days? Um, no. The brothers, who were born in Taiwan, moved to Los Angeles for middle school before, ultimately, coming to Williston. “We played basketball and tennis together,” Ben concedes, but that was about the extent of their collaboration. Now they’re the collective genius behind DESFA Group Inc., an international architecture design firm based in Shanghai. Howard, who took an architectural drawing class at Williston before studying architecture at Syracuse University, co-founded the company with fellow architect Michael Dungca in 2010. Ben, who graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in general management and economics, joined as general manager in 2012. The firm is thriving and they love everything about Shanghai, which they describe as “the New York City of Asia.” Thanks to the city’s happening and diverse frontier vibe, they find inspiration everywhere for their work. They offered us a little tour through some of their favorite projects.

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

2. FLOATING WALLS OF SHOELACES
Over 30,000 of the client’s own shoelaces are used to create a floating room where the shoes themselves are displayed. The DESFA designers combine everyday traditional objects, like concrete blocks and bricks, with contemporary and recycled materials—a mix that characterizes their design aesthetic. Howard’s attraction to traditional forms was influenced by his study of calligraphy, which he began learning at the age of 4, from monks at a nearby temple.
3. LIGHTING THAT TELLS TIME
For a tech client in Taiwan, DESFA designed a clean, minimal interior that includes lots of metal and state-of-the-art lighting that changes color over the course of the day to cue workers to different moments. Howard’s sensibility was hugely influenced by the “Glass House” architect, Philip Johnson, with whom he worked in New York before starting his own company.

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

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

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

DESFA does everything from urban planning and corporate architecture to private residences, interior design, and custom furnishings.
Businessman and philanthropist Natan Peisach ’57 often tells the story of his first day at Williston. It was the fall of 1954, and the 14-year-old from Bogotá, Colombia, was trying to understand a place where fewer were Jewish. Adding to the cultural shock, his father’s import and textile business had been provided Peisach’s family with a comfortable home looked after by a maid. Now, Peisach was expected to make his own bed “like a marine,” keep his room clean, and work the campus jobs required of all the students, sweeping hallways and waiting on his classmates in the dining hall. And when he returned to Bogotá at the end of the school year, he had to make the 2,500-mile journey on his own, lugging his trunk on the train from Easthampton to New York and to the airport. It was all new to him, because I realized then the difference in my environment.”

Despite the great distance from home, Peisach’s family relied on the mail. “My communication with home was a letter I would get from my mother every day, and a letter I would get from my father once a week,” he recalls. “I would write home those three times a week. There was nothing like looking forward to going to the P.O. box in the school cafeteria and every day getting a letter from mom to see what’s going on. She wanted to try to keep me in the loop and keep me informed, and for me to feel the warmth of home.” If his situation over did weigh on him, Peisach found inspiration in his father’s own story of advent. “I give it the maximum importance,” says Peisach, whose family businesses today have grown to include rose farms in Colombia; Passion Growers, which supplies cut roses to U.S. grocery stores; and Grupo Phoenix, a multinational packaging company that manufactures Keurig cups and Yo-yo tubs, among other containers. “It taught me the discipline one needs for life and the responsibility that it requires.”

“I felt the warmth of home.”

“I always tried to help the immigrants that arrived in Colombia, where he set about educating himself, learning to speak and write Spanish, then English. By 1938, he had established the spinning mill that would eventually become the textile company, Hilandera Fombon. “He was totally self-made,” says Peisach. “He learned how to interact with people, and he was hardworking, successful, and generous. My father used to tell me, ‘You have to learn, be disciplined, and trust your word.’ Because he was coming from a place where they could take everything away from him, he always said, ‘The one thing they will never take away from you is what you have in your head.’ And because he had struggled so much getting to Colombia and establishing himself there, he always tried to help the immigrants that arrived from Europe escaping persecution like he did.”

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

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

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

Peisach, “taught me to be responsible and independent... The learning process in those years taught me the discipline one needs for life.”
Good GOAL!

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

BY JONATHAN ADOLPH

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

As with other Olympians, Hanley’s rise to the pinnacle of international sport was a multiyear journey that demanded perseverance, hard work, and personal sacrifice. Having reached the top of her profession with a cohort of other women who now officiate hockey at every level short of the National Hockey League, she continues to break barriers in her new position as manager of officiating for the North American Hockey League, a top junior league. Still, working the Olympics was a particular thrill.

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

And Hanley knows well the joys of being a player, having transferred her junior year from North Carolina to skate with the Wildcats (she also played volleyball, soccer, and softball at Williston). Determined to compete at the...
partner’s mother, and her golden games and tournaments lives in Hanley, who when not traveling to “a lot of time management,” explains hockey today. Officiating demands gest foundation for her success in that she says provided the stron-

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

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

A) Williston’s hockey powerhouse Elmira College, then to SUNY Oswego, where she transferred to pursue a career in law enforcement. After she transferred, she played on and off the ice, recalls Christa Talbot Syfu ’98, then just beginning her Williston hockey coaching ca-

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

C)老旧小区 required by USA Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF). “It was this whole new world I had no idea existed,” she recalls. “It sounded kind of fun.”

D) Officiating wasn’t something she even considered as a player, though she certainly was familiar with the refs. “I had a lot of penalty minutes,” she says with a laugh. “There’s a kind of fun. Officiating would become her new focus, along withiento crack-

E) volvement ladder, earning the vari-

F) Cousin Lieffers was cut on the face during the preliminary U.S.-Canada game in Beijing, referee Cianna Lieffers was stitched up, and Lieffers soon returned to the ice. The determination and closeness of the officiating community were on display throughout the Olympics in the jersey numbers worn by Han-

G) So, you think you can be a hockey referee? For the purposes of this quiz, assume the Wildcats are playing by the rules of the International Ice Hockey Federation rulebook (Version 11, September 2021).

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

A) Both teams can change players. The face-off is in the opposing team’s defensive end.

B) The opposing team cannot change players. The face-off is in the opposing team’s end, on the same side of the ice as where the shot originated.

C) The opposing team cannot change players. The Wildcats get to choose which of the two face-off circles to use for the puck drop in the opposing team’s end.

D) The officials assess a minor penalty to the goalie for delay of game.

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

A) Play on! This is a legal play.

B) The officials stop play and assess a minor penalty to the Wildcats for delay of game.

C) Officials stop play and assess a warning for a face-off violation to the Wildcats. The clock is reset, and the center can retrieve the face-off.

D) Officials stop play and require another player to take the face-off.
FINDING Connections

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

AS A SENIOR DATA SCIENTIST AT THE PIONEERING HEALTH TECHNOLOGY COMPANY FLATIRON HEALTH, Michael Waskom ’05 works at the leading edge of cancer research. He builds machine-learning tools that draw on real-world data to expand treatments and improve patient care. Waskom comes to oncology from a background in computational cognitive neuroscience. Before joining Flatiron, he was a research scientist and Simons Fellow at New York University’s Center for Neural Science, where his work focused on the neural basis of abstract concepts, which is so much of math and science. It’s fascinating how many disciplines converge in your work—neuroscience, molecular biology, computer science, oncology, clinical practice. How do you prepare for a career like that?

I think where we’ve been successful in using technology to improve things in the world is not just from having people who are incredibly focused on one esoteric topic. You need that, but there also have to be people who can take these esoteric insights and connect them in the world. I think a liberal arts mindset helps to produce that second group of people. One thing I remember about Williston is that my senior year I did a spring project on the mathematics of music with Greg Tuleja. It was an opportunity to pursue a line of inquiry that was more independent than a formal course, and I think it has school through other things I have done, an interest in seeing connections between disparate fields. At Amherst I started out as a philosophy major and became interested in philosophy of mind questions, which pushed me toward psychology and neuroscience. I ended up creating an interdisciplinary major, and then after graduating I went to work in a neuroscience lab at MIT. I’m glad I studied philosophy, because it trains you to think rigorously about abstract concepts, which is so much of math and machine learning and data science.

Where is cancer research headed?

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

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

There’s lots of information that is captured in the routine course of care of cancer patients. In the past, that information might have been scrawled on a piece of paper and put in a filing cabinet. Nothing instrumental in keeping his brain occupied so he gets a treat. He’s pretty good about triangle and the blocks has a name. I say a name, he goes to it, for kids, and he’s building up the idea that each of these are leading to significant improvements, step changes in median survival times. Advances like these are leading to significant improvements, step changes in median survival times. In some cases the targeted treatments are also much more tolerable than standard chemotherapy. It’s not just taking a huge hammer and whacking your system, and hoping it kills the cancer cells first. The slice of population that a particular cancer drug is going to treat is increasingly targeted. Three percent of patients have this mutation and it can be targeted with this drug, a different three percent of patients have this other mutation. So, step by step, the data tools we’re building can find each of those three percent and determine what is the right drug for each.

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

There’s lots of information that is captured in the routine course of care of cancer patients. In the past, that information might have been scrawled on a piece of paper and put in a filing cabinet. Nothing about an individual patient’s experience led to any changes in how cancer is treated. Flatiron takes the raw, unstructured information from oncology clinics and academic medical centers across the country that is now captured in the electronic health records system—doctors’ notes, lab results, test results—and we turn it into data sets that can be analyzed to improve treatment and develop therapeutics.

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

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

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What do you do in your free time?

Right now I’m training Darwin to recognize shapes. I picked up one of those little wooden shape sets for kids, and he’s building up the idea that each of the blocks has a name. I say a name, he goes to it, he gets a treat. He’s pretty good about triangle and oval. He’s still learning pentagon. It’s fun. Also, it’s instrumental in keeping his brain occupied so he doesn’t eat the furniture.
YOU PROBABLY DON’T KNOW ANYONE WHO LOVES THEIR JOB MORE than Charissa Williar ’93 does. She’s the Sanitation Facilities Program Manager for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), which means that she’s in charge of ensuring that the 130 Alaska Native villages she works with have access to running water and flushing toilets. She refers to her job as her favorite thing about living in Alaska. (The “unbelievable beauty” is a close second.) “I don’t love the long winters,” she says, “but the fact that I love my job really makes it easy to stay here.”

In the Native villages of rural Alaska, Charissa Williar ’93 helps engineer sanitation systems that keep the faucets flowing and the toilets flushing.
The villages are small and difficult to access, making it very tough to build a piped water system—especially given the Arctic environment, which all but guarantees frozen pipes. Plus, as Williar explains, there’s the impact of climate change, which means that things start shifting as the frozen ground thaws. “My job is to work with the community leadership to find adequate technical solutions,” Williar explains. One solution is the innovative PASS (Portable Alternative Sanitation System), a gravity-fed 20-gallon all-in-one handwashing station and toilet. Williar must also, as she puts it, “puzzle out all the funding,” which comes from the state of Alaska, as well as the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Indian Health Service (IHS). Asked how she ended up with this job, Williar says, “I’ve always kind of worked in water my whole career. I graduated from the University of Massachusetts with a degree in civil and environmental engineering, and then moved to the Bay Area, where I spent one year as a lifeguard at the YMCA (which I credit to getting my lifeguarding certification during intersession at Williston). She then worked with a water resources consulting firm in San Rafael. “Just by chance,” Williar explains, “the clients for that firm were American Indian tribes. We worked on water rights cases for the West, where the tribes are legally entitled to whatever water they need to sustain their lifestyle.” From there she went to a public works department, where she spent two years building water and sewer systems. And then she joined the Peace Corps and lived in Honduras for three years, continuing her work in water and sanitation there. “I grew up in a small town,” she explains, “but at Williston, I had friends from all over: Chicago, Houston, New York, Tokyo, Mexico City. It’s the place where my curiosity about other cultures was definitely fostered.” As her time in Honduras was winding up, Williar happened to spot an IHS job in the Peace Corps newsletter and went to work in rural Utah. “And I just loved it. The technical work, but also working closely with the community. Once I found the IHS, I just felt like this is exactly what I was meant to do. I just thrived.” From Utah, the IHS sent Williar to Johns Hopkins for her MPH degree, and then, in December of 2014, she applied for the job in Alaska. “I moved here, and I could not believe how lucky I was to have this job.” Williar lives in Anchorage with her two rescue dogs, Suugi and Buck. “They’re what’s called village dogs. They’re mutts, but they’ve got husky, sled-dog mix in them.” She pauses, laughs. “They make sure I’m never sedentary!”
Alex Park ’81 knew he needed a change. It was 2015, and he had worked in the financial industry for 30 years, building a successful career as a foreign exchange trader for banks around the world. But he sensed he had more to accomplish. “I remember telling my wife for many years, I think I’m done. I’ve paid my dues. I want to leave,” says Park, a former Williston Trustee—by Jonathan Adolph

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

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

Undeterred, Park set about launching his Fun-tastic Theater, leasing space and offering trainings. The first few years were so successful, he expanded the business’s offerings, leasing a larger theater in the center of Seoul that also hosted comedy shows, other entertainment. And his team had dreams of opening dozens of other similar venues. “We had a very ambitious goal,” he explains. “We believed that we can change society. We can change how we teach people. We can change the corporate culture so that instead of competing, we can make it more team driven. Our ambition was going big—and changing Korea.”

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

As consequential as the pandemic was, it would not be the last time Park had to reconsider his life’s work. In October 2020, he was working alone in his theater, repairing stage lights on a stepladder. He experienced an episode of vertigo, fell from the ladder, and woke up bloodied on the floor, barely able to call for help. “I had fractured bones in his face and wrist, injuries that required extensive stitches and surgery. ‘After that, my whole attitude toward my remaining life changed,’ Park acknowledges. ‘I’m not ambitious. I don’t need to change society. What’s really important is just me having something to do every day, and to enjoy.’

Park plans to continue his self-development trainings and entertainment offerings at the Fun-tastic Theater, but he is “taking it slow.” In the meantime, he and his wife have been spending time with their son, Justin ‘17, a recent graduate of New York University, and daughters, Kristine, Claire and Kristine, both Penn graduates, who live in New York and Hawaii. “If there’s a chance to help other people, I do that,” he says. “I don’t have to make a hundred theaters. I don’t have to become famous. I just enjoy doing what I do every day.”
Stanford physician Robert Jackler ‘72 works to expose the dangers of nicotine marketing — BY JONATHAN ADOLPH

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

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

Jackler, a specialist in complex diseases of the ear, broadened his medical career 15 years ago to launch Stanford Research Into the Impact of Tobacco Advertising (SRITA), an interdisciplinary research group that catalogs and analyzes the promotional tactics of the tobacco industry. The organization, which he founded with his artist wife, Laurie, curates an extensive online archive of tobacco advertisements for use by researchers, develops educational exhibits for museums,
His father’s sudden death from leukemia, when Jackler was just nine, sparked his life, forcing his mother to eventually move the family to her parents’ hometown of Holyoke. But it was there that his aunts decided to send young Robert to Williston, a decision that would prove transformative.

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

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

Now, after 15 years with SRITA, Jackler has a scholar’s understanding of how the industry accomplished that, and how it continues to manipulate behavior today. The death toll from tobacco in the United States, while declining, still amounts to the equivalent of four 747’s crashing every day, he notes. Globally, tobacco use kills 8 million people annually, and its associated illnesses diminish the lives of millions more. The rise of e-cigarettes and other alternative delivery systems for nicotine, while often marketed as a healthier alternative to cigarettes, has not stopped the carnage, and in many ways, says Jackler, they have abetted it.

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

The case of Juul was particularly troubling to Jackler, and not merely because the company’s two founders happen to be Stanford graduates. Launched in 2015, Juul set off what would be known as the “nicotine apocalypse”? It’s an interesting transition,” he acknowledges. “Mid-career, I continue to be a surgeon, continue to care for patients, teach residents and students, and to support research in hearing science, but I developed an entirely different interest that I saw as impactful,” he says. “If you can make a difference in the leading cause of preventable death and serious disease, you can make a real public health impact.”

“I spend a lot of time thinking about that,” he says, noting that taxing nicotine would be an additional step toward controlling nicotine use. “I am not a radical saying all of those things should be outlawed,” he says, noting that taxing nicotine heavily would be a better approach. “I spend a lot of time thinking about a practical, implementable, and sensible set of regulations that protect young people from getting hooked on nicotine, but help adult smokers transition to something less consequential to their health.”

And even half a century later, lessons from Williston are proving valuable. “What I took from Williston was a passion and a love for science, and I grew Doc Gow and other teachers credit for that,” he says. “But even more important was to learn how to write and speak in public. You can have brilliant ideas, but if you can’t articulate them and write, you will not influence and persuade people.”
Early in her acclaimed career, architectural conservator Andrea Madsen Gilmore ’70 was tasked with documenting the architectural history of Lindenwald, the Kinderhook, New York, home of Martin Van Buren, which recently had been acquired by her employer, the National Park Service. As luck would have it, the eighth president was a bit of a remodeler, which had the unintended result of preserving evidence of decorative finishes that could be positively dated to Van Buren’s residence. “All we had to do was pop off door casings, for example, and we could identify, and then reproduce, the wallpapers that were in the house when he lived there,” she recalls.

The thrill of making such discoveries—and uncovering the often-forgotten stories behind them—has inspired Gilmore over her 30 years as an architectural conservator. Retired since 2015 from Building Conservation Associates, the national consulting firm she joined in 1994 and helped direct, she continues to offer her expertise as a volunteer, most recently on the restoration of a landmark church in Roxbury, Massachusetts, and as a member of the Historic Districts Commission in her hometown of Dedham. Her list of restorations now runs into the hundreds, and includes dozens of projects that have won awards from preservation organizations. “Part of the joy of doing this is we had so much fun looking at these things and figuring them out,” Gilmore notes. “It’s kind of a puzzle, it’s kind of a game. The physical evidence is sometimes a little bit hidden, but it’s there nonetheless, if you know how to look at it.”

Gilmore’s fascination with historic buildings dates back to her college days. During her junior year abroad from Carleton College, she and her future husband explored the architectural treasures of England and Europe. Having been a standout student at Northampton School for Girls, the recipient of the prestigious White Blazer (which she preserved for 42 years and donated to Williston Northampton’s archives in 2012), Gilmore would later earn her master’s in historic preservation from Columbia University and serve as an adjunct professor in Boston University’s Historic Preservation Program. After her retirement, Gilmore was honored with several lifetime-achievement awards from state and local preservation organizations, including the Boston Preservation Alliance’s 2019 Codman Award. “As a leader in the preservation community and an inspiration for women in preservation trades,” the group said, “Andrea’s contributions throughout her career leave a legacy through the places she’s preserved, the students she’s mentored, and the colleagues she’s inspired.”

We asked Gilmore to tell us more about some of her favorite projects and discoveries over the years.
Old ships can hold intriguing clues to the past, as Andrea Madsen Gilmore ’70 has frequently discovered in her 30-year career as an architectural conservator. Here’s what a few venerable Massachusetts buildings revealed to her.

**OLD SHIP MEETING HOUSE, HINGHAM**

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

**THE DREAMLAND THEATER, NANTUCKET**

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

**FIRST CHURCH, ROXBURY**

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

**MASSACHUSETTS STATE HOUSE, GOVERNOR’S OFFICE, BOSTON**

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

A Crossing of Their Own

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

BY KATE LAWLESS

A s a child growing up in rural Blandford, Massachusetts, John Kronholm ’93 loved the outdoors. He built dams in the driveway when it rained, he loved camping with his scout troop, and he pored longingly over the pages of Ski Magazine. After two years at Williston, he attended Union College, double majoring in civil engineering and geology. “To me, that path between engineering and connection to the land was civil engineering,” he said from his office in Eagle, Colorado, where he’s a Design Team Manager at the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). For the past 10 years, among other projects, he’s been working to create overpasses and underpasses for wildlife crossing state highways.

Kronholm began his career in Virginia, but it wasn’t long before he took off to Colorado in 1999, bound for big mountains covered in powder. Around that time, Coloradans were seeing more animals hit by vehicles on highways. Two endangered Canada lynx were killed following the reintroduction of the species there. State agencies and conservation groups were realizing that major roads were making it difficult for wildlife to complete their migrations, and that the reduction of their habitat, so fragmented by human development and infrastructure, was impacting biodiversity. Road ecology became a movement to create highway crossings for wildlife.

Kronholm saw that he could be part of the solution in 2016 as the Project Manager of an environmental assessment of Vail Pass. He’s currently working on crossings under that stretch of Interstate 70, which passes through the Eagle Valley amid the Rocky Mountains. There, he set up trail cameras, trying to find the areas where iconic Western fauna cross the road—animals such as Canada lynx, mule deer, pronghorn, bighorn sheep, elk, and smaller mammals like marten, bobcat, coyote, red-tailed fox, short-tailed weasel, snowshoe hare, and yellow-bellied marmot.

“I’ve documented herds of elk coming down to the highway, hanging out by the road, and then going right back up and not even trying to cross it.” In fact, locally the elk herd has declined by about 50 to 60 percent in the past 10 years, among other projects, he’s been working to create overpasses and underpasses for wildlife crossing state highways.

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

CDOT’s $170 million I-70 West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes Project will construct six new wildlife underpasses, two large and four small, adding to the already 63 in place throughout the state. Kronholm, working with CDOT’s Applied Research and Innovation Branch, also has put together a literature analysis and study to determine wildlife crossing structure size. The hypothesis that Kronholm derived was that an optimum size of wildlife crossing structure could be determined through a statistical analysis of published and unpublished data. Kronholm’s fieldwork and literature study helped to influence the sizes and locations of the crossings on Vail Pass.

While crossings are expensive—between $2 million and $3 million per structure—they save lives and money. Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association noted that 3,300 animal-vehicle collisions happen each year in Colorado and, nationwide, insurers pay out $1.1 billion worth of claims for these accidents, some of which have caused deaths and injuries to drivers.

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

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

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

Above: How designers create corridors for various animals on the move.
While renovating her Dutch Colonial home in Amherst, Massachusetts, fine artist Katherine Verdickt '05 decided to give the new kitchen a delft backsplash. Along with color, the distinctive blue-and-white tiles, named for the Dutch city where they were first manufactured in the 17th century, would add a dash of historic congruence. Delftware has been used in New England homes since colonial times. This is the point where most people pick up the phone and talk to their contractor. Not Verdickt. She decided to make her own tiles.

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

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

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

Unlike any factory version, Verdickt’s tiles are handmade to complement specific settings. She collaborates with clients on a motif, then paints every piece by hand. For a house on Martha’s Vineyard, she did an extensive series of sea monster tiles. The owner of an estate in Georgia commissioned a large floral mural with a magnolia flower as its centerpiece. "My favorite project right now is for a professor of interior architecture at RISD," Verdickt says. "It’s a historic reproduction of intricate bible scenes. Jonah and the whale, Noah’s ark with animals and people at sea under a stormy sky. Each scene is painted inside a four-inch circle, really detailed."

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

A DELFT TOUCH

Katherine Verdickt ’05 hand paints custom tiles inspired by traditional delftware—BY KEVIN MARKEY
was practically ready to live in the art studios. Her very first week of school, she remembers finishing a painting and taking it for a walk around campus. "After that, it was like, 'She's the one who makes the paintings.' I felt like my identity was as an artist. I've been painting pretty much nonstop ever since," she says. Her work appears in individual and corporate collections, including those of JPMorgan Chase and Goldman Sachs.

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

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

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

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

DECEMBER 7: 2021 NYC HOLIDAY CELEBRATION
(All photos L to R) A: Aaron and Heather Marx ’25; B: Suzanne Snyder Johnson ’80 and Rogelio Ramos ’78; C: Simon Wool ’22, Maria Strycharz ’12, Mikayla Strycharz ’09; D: Faculty members: Sarah Klumpp, Matt Sawyer, Tommy Beaton, Sarah Sawyer; E: Zoya-Jade Lewin ’16, Kena Chavva, Destiny Nwafor ’17, Toula Sierros ’16, Suzy Abreu ’16; F: Norma Jean and Herb Graff GP ’23, ’26; G: Thomas Thibaud ’79 and Maria Pagano; H: Head’s Visiting Council Members Michael George ’98, PJ Kuyper ’85, Brandon Diaz ’72, Betsy Collins ’08, Connie Fogg ’90, Terry Martin ’85

DECEMBER 2: 2021 WESTERN MA HOLIDAY CELEBRATION
(All photos L to R) A: Karen McAmis P ’22, Wendy Foster P ’23, Brian Darrman P ’19, ’22, Liberk Denham P ’20, ’22; B: Tim Guss ’10, Adam Chapman ’10, Renee Liao ’10; C: Khadija Hussain P ’25, Ayesha Hussain P ’23, Cindy Isher ’73; D: Paige Gordon and Dorrick Gordon P ’00; E: Al and Sally Grigg P ’90, ’95

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHATTMAN PHOTOGRAPHY AND JAMI SAUNDERS
DECEMBER 7: 2021
HOLIDAY CELEBRATION
[Photograph description]
DECEMBER 2: 2021
WESTERN MA HOLIDAY CELEBRATION
[Photograph description]
In January, three Williston Northampton School Trustees hosted webinars as part of a series called Managing Your Money in 2022: Finance and Philanthropy. Topics ranged from navigating tax code changes to the future of charitable giving.

FEBRUARY 2: BAKE WITH ZOE WEBINAR

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

DECEMBER 14: 2021 BOSTON HOLIDAY CELEBRATION


APRIL 3: LA BRUNCH

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

FEBRUARY 23: PALM BEACH RECEPTION

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

APRIL 7: DC RECEPTION

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

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

1950 WA
Robert Couch
RobertCouch46@gmail.com
(413) 527-2964

1951 WA
R. Barwall "Tex" Houtens
hard.houtens@gmail.com

Wes Duran has moved to Balti-
more to be closer to his daugh-
ter and is currently in a nursing facil-
ity.

1951 NSFG
Sally Poole Farnham-Joafien
sfoafien@worldlink.net
Susan Cross Hunter
Shunter2@comcast.net

"Ha-ha, you think that is bad, watch this!"

1952 WA
Robert Thomas
Shunter2@comcast.net
(413) 727-8772

1952 WA
Steve Hatch
shunter2@comcast.net
(413) 527-2963

Robert Couch promises to put on his thinking cap
for the next Bulletin. We will look forward to an update from him.

Ed Borstein writes, "Thank-
fully, Judith and I, and our grand-
kids, are OK. I would like to report on an experience which, for a change, might be helpful to some of our classmates. Last year I bought a new heater that, like most things today, has a computer chip in it. In the late fall, we had a big storm in eastern Massachusetts and lost power for a couple of days. I hooked up and started my trusty General generator. It worked well, but no, the heater would not start and showed an error message power frequency deviation, meaning the generator wasn’t producing a steady 60Hz AC. It was a major problem because without power the heater would not operate.

Charlie Benoist didn’t have any-
things to submit for this issue but has promised to put on his thinking cap for the next Bulletin. We will look forward to an update from him.

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Matt Teixeira has been presenting classes on site every week after school and has extended his class to a 6th-grade class. He has also been writing songs to connect with his students. Matt recently worked with the Williston Middle School chorus during their winter concert, and every week he has been presenting classes to his students. This year, he has also been involved in the planning of the school’s annual concert, which includes songs written and performed by students. Matt is continuing to make a positive impact on the Williston Middle School community through his music classes and other school activities.
The last several years have shaken an on Facebook. Lans says he only tracks goings-on in Pennsylvania, reading and planning his next class notes, and keeping an eye on their farm, Larry says he is doing well and enjoys watching “jeopardy.” If you write to get the trip from Maryland to North Carolina, had to a recent change in perspective. I am completing a several-employee engagement with policy and politics, mostly research and analysis, and addressed specific federal problems. Age is a chapter in life. Adjusting to the pandemic, has a very bad left hip which obviously shook up the lives of many post-pandemic activities.
Nick Holmes ’61 and Susan Dave Torrey ’60 at Williston Northampton School can remember Mountain Tom State Reservation, where plus local residents, frequent the place. We also went up on the Mt. Easthampton has certainly changed since our days. There are three coffee shops within a few blocks of campus, plus the Mt. Grounds inside, overlooking a large cattle ranch, with antelope on his front lawn and mule deer on the large hill behind the house. He has written about 50 articles since his retirement from Orthodontics and have delighted in publishing 19 articles, and I have been asked to lecture all over the world. After 45 years of having the best job on the face of the earth, I have to build the aircraft hangar expansion. I also couldn’t stay away from owning a boat for very long, so I acquired an Eastbay 38 and spent the summer cruising the Pensacola Bay and Down East Maine. Maine has such a wealth of cruising ground, it would take a lifetime to see it all. I am also planning on building another garage in Maine to accommodate the vintage car collection. Look me up if you are in Lincolnville, Maine. ‘I will guarantee some fun!’

Don Hudson ’61

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1961</th>
<th>EJ Foster</th>
<th><a href="mailto:talisman@ad.com">talisman@ad.com</a></th>
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Nick Holmes and his wife, Susan, stepped by campus for a visit.

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<tr>
<th>1964</th>
<th>Paul “Duck” Duty</th>
<th>pduckdy@<a href="mailto:20@yahoo.com.au">20@yahoo.com.au</a></th>
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Zack Gould says hello from Santa Fe, N.M.

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Mike Northway reports, “I have bailed out twice. As it turned out, Williston Academy was great for me. But now I end up Ray Brown ’55, encouraged me to look at Kenyon, which was a perfect fit. I found my way into Michigan State school and interned at their Center for Human Growth and Development, where I met Al. Learn more at owlshead.org. I also couldn’t stay away from owning a boat for very long, so I acquired an Eastbay 38 and spent the summer cruising the Pensacola Bay and Down East Maine. Maine has such a wealth of cruising ground, it would take a lifetime to see it all. I can also plan on building another garage in Maine to accommodate the vintage car collection. Look me up if you are in Lincolnville, Maine. ‘I will guarantee some fun!’

Don Hudson checked in from California.

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Duck Doty ’64 and his wife, Juliet 78 responded with their recent news; “It’s nice to be back in the city!”

He also writes, “Thanks to all who let’s hope for a great turnout at our 60th in 2024. We can be those old dotted lines class notes from Hawaii Werner at a Florida golf outing Bastable ’65 tug the rug and pick one up for your summer read at wanthonywriter.com. Werner from the Williston Bastable ’65 sister and family. “We had a great visit and catch-up.”

Fancy by Bill Anthony Yel steam pork.

In November, Jeff Bastable enjoyed a surprise visit from Kevin Hohen, his sister and family. “We had a great visit and catch-ups.”

In November, Jeff Bastable enjoyed a surprise visit from Kevin Hohen, his sister and family. “We had a great visit and catch-ups.”

Kevin Hohen ’65 (left) and Jeff Bastable ’65

Jim Bastable ’65 and his wife, Juliet

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

Charles Sullivan writes, “For the second time in the last three and one-half years, I walked the entire 495-mile Camino Frances from St. Jean-Pied-de-Port, France, to Santiago de Compostela, Spain. I did it with 33 days of walking, with an additional two rest days. Exhausting—but very satisfying. If you ever want to see a lot of happy people, stand in front of the cathedral in Santiago and watch the reactions from those who have been walking hundreds of miles (for weeks) as they reach their destination.”

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

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

When attending a virtual baking event lead by Zoë Neil French ’85, Paul Waistwright reflected, “One of my fondest memories of the food at Williston in the 1960s was the baker, Herbie Bergman, who baked the most wonderful doughnuts, white bread, and apple pie, and on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, baked the most wonderful hot cross buns. Herbie provided a bright light in what was otherwise very ordinary cooking by Allison, the cook, whose professional qualification was to keep a crock in the Brazilian Navy.”

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Jim Fisher is working with a team (live from the U.S. and about five from Togo) that will conduct clinical trials in Togo for a COVID treatment regimen. “We’ve received the necessary approvals from various ministers and will be starting the trials in February. We hope to have the results by mid-March and publish our findings in April. If we can show statistically significant favorable results, we’ll expand the breadth of the research later this year. I’m also assisting a friend, Jose Hernandez (who was briefly a law professor at the Arizona State University Law School), to train a group of five from Togo working at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center researching MS and looking to see how to treat that disease. They are currently exploring how MS research might be related to COVID and how the science of MS might lead to a better understanding of each disease. As for me, I just retired from being a New York visiting nurse for M.A. and D. from Stanford, he obtained his L.M.M. at the University of Washington.”

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

Matt Peck welcomed a new grand-nephew, Matt Peck ’04, was also a Willy, but he admits, “I don’t know about Nevin yet.... Rose Lives in Pittsburgh, Pa., where her husband, Zangaro, a doctor, is working at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center researching MS and looking for solutions to end or treat that disease. They are currently exploring how MS research might be related to COVID and how the science of MS might lead to a better understanding of each disease. As for me, I just retired from driving tractor trailers, eight years after a 15-year career making multiple part continuous business forms. I’m looking forward to visiting friends, getting things back to normal, and our next Reunion!”

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

Jim Bastable checked in from Ha- waii. “After experiencing no tour- ists, they’re back in force! We wish they stay away. I’m still Hawaii’s certified fine art appraiser and have been quite busy since clients have been reminded about their treasures due to the pandemic. There has been time for some golf, but it’s a struggle to keep my handicap below 5 with so many years starting to aches. Mollie continues teaching AP Art History at HPA and is the director of the famous heritage art gallery here in Kamuela known as the Isaacs Art Center. My son James is the president of the huge Waimea Community Association and the chair of the island’s Democratic Party. My son Kip is a constitutional law professor at the Arizona State University Law School. After his Ed Mair sends this note: “I have a great deal of news to share. William Morrison admits, ‘I don’t have a great deal of news to share. We’ve basically kept a very low profile since the beginning of the pandemic. Instead of doing international travel, we take road trips to places like Savannah, Charleston, and Key West island. Jim Fisher and I chat, and we’ve visited each other a few times. It’s always fun to exchange Williston stories. I have nine grandchildren now and I’m sure more will come in the next few years. Y’all stay safe, and give us a call if you are in the Asheville, N.C., area. Asheville is the Northampton of the South.”
David Reichenbacher sends, “I hope you all are finding ways to survive this pandemic. Music has been my salvation. I have been performing solo and with my band, 2X4, these past two years at a few gigs, but for the most part, performance venues have curtailed and offered live entertainment. Things are beginning to loosen up, however, and St. Patrick’s Day will be busy as we also play Irish music. Stay healthy, and I hope to see you all at our 55th Reunion in 2024.”

1969 NSFG
Elizabeth Odgers
tomoko@lib.net
1970 WA
Rick Teller
RTeller@coworker.com
1970 NSFG
Sara Conwell
csara@outlook.com
1971 WA
egpyka@wks.net
Edward “Ned” Mulligan
(401) 855-6899
Brad Davis writes, “I’ve just had a new book published, Preparing for the Mount of Olives: Poems in Conversation With the Gospel. Like my other books, The Poems in Conversation With the Psalms, this sequence represents my interaction with the sacred texts of my boyhood, which I then reengaged with in the context of my choice of Williston.”

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

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

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

1973
Betty Chace Hyde
ebbyke@nsfg.org
Betty Chace Hyde sends, “Hilltop from Jefferstown, VI., the home of Snuggly’s Notch Resort. I am hope for the winter again this year. Unfortunately for this year, the deep snow never found us in northern Vermont. I still have managed to ski about 20 days to date—and have a blast! The class of 1971 is still having COVID Zooms. It is wonderful to be in touch with classmates! We are gearing up for our 50th Reunion next year. I hope everyone reaches out to their best friend from our Williston class and agrees to meet in Easthampton next June. We are in the process of planning a fun-filled week for our class. I was recently in touch with Alicia Dell. She is married and living in Venice, Fla. It was fun reconnecting with Alicia, and she is planning on coming to Reunion! Alicia and I were once sisters at UMass and moved to Atlanta, Ga., together after college. I was supposed to ski with Todd Stall at Mad River Glen again this year, but had to renge as the temps were predicted to be near 25 degrees that day. Todd and his daughter, Morgan Stall Abear ‘05, are tougher than me. Although I hear they spent the day in the lodge because it was too cold to ski. This is an annual event in memory of Todd’s son, Alec Stall ‘00.

Jeff DeCesare sent news that he’s recovering from his hernia surgery and looking forward to getting his left shoulder fixed this coming week. In another few weeks, I should be ready for the slopes (just in time for the spring snow!). All kidding aside, if I can swing a tennis racket in April, and get back out on the basketball court and the softball diamond in May or June, life will be good. Now for the cool news—Doug will be playing a show at the Kerouac Centennial Celebration at the Luna Theater in Lowell, Mass., on April 2nd. This past year, he and another musical artist by the name of Fences co-wrote, produced, and acted in a documentary of Kerouac’s life. It looks like it may be released this year if all the lawyers involved are able to come to agreement on the terms of the release. We’ll see. Although I always knew that Kerouac was celebrated as a ‘favorite son’ in the town of Lowell, I never realized that he had such a huge following, and that the Centennial Celebration of his life would span over two months.

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

Liz Wells McBain sent a picture of her three daughters with her three grandchildren.

Kent Womack reports, “I am still working way too much, but do have fun occasionally. Racing scholarships is again a thing, now that COVID is settling down. I am participating in the Elitch-Clark Winter series held in Miami each winter season. We race every few weekends from early December until late March or early April. I love being on the water and participating in competitive racing with some of the best international competition in the sport. Being a Corinthian sailor and not a professional, I have refused to enter any of the races. My businesses always seem to be difficult and time consuming. The two restaurants and bars that I have seem to have won over some fire fights. Currently, I am looking for a general manager for my waterfront place in Seabrook, Texas. It is a bar and restaurant by day, but a rocking party on the weekend nights. The big parties on the weekends are the 25- to 35-year-olds. It is tough to find a person to run a successful million-dollar business who also has the ability to know how to keep the younger customers happy and returning. Oil business is improving, and I am starting to accomplish an unending amount of deferred maintenance work on wells. My son and daughter, who sometimes seem a bit lost, are both happy campers these days and seem like they are making their way in the world. Both remain single, so I do not have any grandchildren to dote on. At least not yet. I am looking forward to returning to campus when our 50th Reunion rolls around.”

Michael Hirsch sends, “My wife and I continue to live in Southern California, though our three kids have left the area for Portland, Dc., and Ghent, Belgium. Although I
retried in 2013, six months after COVID struck. I offered a consulting opportunity that I found interesting. Not only was it associated with building optical systems, about half of my time last year was spent in Massachusetts. It was nice to get back on line so we could take the intellectual challenges to direct me from the relative isolation we have been practicing. Unfortunately, after signing up for third-quarter time work, I quickly found myself regularly working 50-60 hour weeks. I guess bad habits are hard to break. That role ended last October, so I had a few months of breathing time before I accepted a much less demanding role supporting another company building space-bound hardware to monitor carbon emissions. Other than traveling to Massachusetts, my other travels have been curtailed to day trips to wine country or to hiking spots in the Southern California environment. Margaret and I are looking forward to visiting our son in Belgium, hoping to be able to participate in Williston’s Head of the Visiting Council. This has provided a bird’s-eye view into the school’s plans and accomplishments. From where I sit, it appears the school is getting many things right from the perspective of academic, social, sports, and inclusion. The strides made in the last 10 to 15 years are nothing short of exhilarating. As we are approaching our 50th Reunion, I would like to offer my help in planning the event. In the meantime, I will be looking forward to seeing friends.”

1974
Pennie Dodes Molyneux
pmolyneux@smith.edu
Steven Simpkin Sr.
Steve.simpkins@gmail.com

Ann Dowd transported ABC viewers to the beloved 1960s when she reprised the role of the incomparable Mrs. Garrett on “The Facts of Life” in December. Jennifer Aniston, Kathryn Hahn, Gabrielle Aniston, and Jennifer McLeod Sleeper joined in live with a studio audience. Jennifer Aniston reprised the role of the 1980s TV sitcom “The Facts of Life,” which tells the story ofWillie O’Ree overcoming racial barriers and providing a pathway for future athletes of color to thrive in their respective sports. Bryant notes, “He will have a generational impact.”

1975
Kathleen Krohn
Krohn77C@Gmail.com
Kathy Krohn, Beth Hotoph DeLaurentis, and Penny (Beth’s fabulous mother) enjoyed a meal together last November just as they did while at school when Penny would surprise them with dinners at the Log Cabin.

1976
Dana Richdale
drichdale@boston.global.net
832-451-5298
Dana Richdale writes, “Hello, fellow classmates. Not too many updates. Back out to me when you can, curious minds want to know what you are up to these days. I did see that Dana Bledermans Casey was in Arizona visiting her grand- daughter. I’m marveling at the fact that Dana is a grandmother. However, there are many other classmates at stage of our lives who are also grandparents. I also saw that Steve Bichoff completed a mini-triathlon, though at our age, nothing is ‘mini’ when it comes to physical condition. I’m sure he felt a few aches and pains the next day!”

1981
Joseph Scott
jscott@intellicomment.net
Kathy Matthies Mouser
kmooz1@yahoo.com

1982
Kathleen Parker
kparker2@gmail.com

1983
Mark Berman
mberman@mediasalesconsulting.com
USA Today Sports GoVoyage made mention of Mark Berman. "When [he] organized the inaugural PGA Women’s Match Play Champs- ionship in November with the simple mission of shining a light on women’s developmental golf, he had no idea it would lead to buying an entire tour. But that’s exactly what happened as Berman closed on purchasing the Florida-based NWGA, a 36-year-old women’s tour. His plan is to rebrand it as ‘The East Coast Women’s Professional Golf Tour, raising the standard and opening up, providing more playing and earning opportunities for professional female golfers.”

1984
Catherine Barden Wingfield
catherinewingfield@gmail.com
Rick Solomon
r.solomon87@gmail.com
Former Boston Bruins player Willie O’Ree tipped his signature hat to Bryant McBride the night his number was retired at the TD Garden and paid tribute to the documentary Willie, which tells the story ofWillie O’Ree overcoming racial barriers and providing a pathway for future athletes of color to thrive in their respective sports. Bryant notes, “He will have a generational impact.”

1985
Angela Hebert Myers
angela.myers@smith.edu
Felicie Barreda sends, “For the holidays this year, I went to St. Marks, Fla., to spread Christmas with my cousin and was happy to find out that Will Glenn was living in Shell Point, Fla., which was just down the road from where I was staying. I had the pleasure of being invited to his home for grilled oysters and beer, and we had a great time remembering all of our classmates and friends from Williston.”

1986
Gordie Donnington
George_Donnnington@milton.edu
Ellen Rosenberg Livingstone
elienlivingston@gmail.com
As part of the alumni office’s January (virtual) Finance Series, Mijanou Malise Spurde, offered financial planning tips and effective money management tools through her webinar, “Plan for Your Future. Make It Happen.” Mijanou was also recently named a 2021 Top Wealth Advisor Mom by Working-Mother magazine and SHOOK Research.

1987
Jennifer Carpenter Beal
jcarpe1458@aol.com
His plan is to rebrand it as ‘The East Coast Women’s Professional Golf Tour, raising the standard and opening up, providing more playing and earning opportunities for professional female golfers.”
Deirdre Griffin had a great night seeing Abby Washburn Tattersall ’91 and Julia Jennings Washburn ’66 while on Sanibel Island in Florida.

Fiona Proctor Purcell fpurcell2873@yahoo.com

Kathy Hicks Gulick kategulick@gmail.com

Sarah Griggs sarahgriggs@gmail.com

Kathryn Hicks Gulick kategulick@gmail.com

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

Amber Hamilton amber.hamilton@microwavesmedia.com

and Greg Tuleja

class notes

while on Sanibel Island in Florida. Seeing Abby Washburn Tattersall ’91 and Julia Jennings Washburn ’66 was a “team” approach in patient care. Providing care in the ER, making for emergency services and the docs improving communication between settings. The program is successfully providing support for Mercy-affiliated emergency medical, fire, and police services in western Massachusetts. “The program is successfully improving communication between emergency services and the docs providing care in the ER, making for a “team” approach in patient care.

Gaetan Beaudreault ’97, and Sheree Shu ’98

From left: Daughters and mother Deirdre Griffin ’90, Abby Washburn Tattersall ’91, Julia Jennings Washburn ’66, and Jane Mazias.
Babies

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

Meet Kabir, born to Tina Kenia ‘04 and husband Amol Nolin.

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

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

Chase is a bundle of joy for Jess and wife Jen welcomed Caille this fall.

Notes are all smiles for Kate Kellar Billings ‘09 and dad Derek.

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

BULLETIN 87
SPRING 2022
WILLISTON NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL

Tom, lucey@gmail.com
Oluwatobiloba Onafowokan
trans@williston.com
Evelyn Sylvester Miller
evelynmiller@gmail.com

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

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

Kate Vasicek Challis, is thrilled to have a partner in Rose, is excited to continue this adventure.

Elizabeth Kulik Watson, married on a beautiful October day and Robert Watson, is thrilled to have a partner in Rose, is thrilled to have a partner in Rose.

Tina Kenia ’04
with her family

Meet Kabir, born to Tina Kenia ’04 and husband Amol Nolin.

Alex.teece@gmail.com
Alex Teece
2004

Bryan Bohler ‘04 and
Mark Conroy

Bryan Bohler stepped up by campus to say hello! Mark Conroy shares, “Seeing him was an early Christ- mas gift!” Bryan currently lives in Boulder, Colo., the first week of April. I’m very excited to be included, and I believe Williamson was a huge contributor to the person I’ve become. The show will start in Boulder and culminate in Honolulu. Depending on my chemistry with the person I’m matched with, I’ll be flown to Hawaii for further shows and marketing. At minimum, I’ll appear for two episodes with the potential for more!”

Cate Weight was pro- moted to Vice President of A&R, overseeing Histo’s full artist roster. As Diete D’Amelio’s A&R, Cate is featured in theHola series “The D’Amelio Show.”

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

Kate Vasicek Challis, is thrilled to have a partner in Rose, is thrilled to have a partner in Rose.

Tina Kenia ’04
with her family

97

98

99

01

04

07

09
Kevin Kelly '10 (left) and Tommy Reed '10 shared a photo of their children following the residential quad celebration last fall. See page 89.

2008
Evon Davis davoejo@gmail.com Amadi Slaughter msh.d.slaughter@gmail.com

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

2009
Matthew Thompson matt.thompson@isquaredcapital.com
Olivia Moses Clough livcarrollclough@gmail.com

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

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

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

2010
Kristyna Bronner Frants kristyna.frants@gmail.com
Reece Liang mosolahliang@gmail.com
Julia Midland juliamidland@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reece Liang has started a new job as a Product Manager at Jones Lang LaSalle in NYC but was working remotely between western Mass. and NYC at the time of this writing. Reece visited Annie Sullivan in Mexico City with some friends in January and had an absolute blast. We’re told that they ate lots of tacos!

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

From left: Ashely Glenn Tamke ’03, Reece Liang ’10, Annie Sullivan ’10, and Percy Chen ’14 in Shanghai

From left: Liv Moses Clough ’09 (at center) celebrating Danielle Glenn ’10 and Brittany Glenn ’07 joined in celebrating Danielle Glenn ’10 and Patrick (at center)
and Anthony Aquadro ’15

Sebastian Rivera ’13; above, Gabby At top, Gabby Thomas ’15 (left) and

Gabby Thomas ’15 (left) and

Clockwise from top-left: Jake Wisniewski ’16, Kyle Doucette ’16, Clea Espinal ’17, Jake Prossner ’17, Matt Channell ’17, Makenna Hartley ’17, Leah Pezanowski ’17, Carlos Kofy ’17 and Natalie Aquadro ’17 gathered around the sending of Mairead Poulin Doery ’17

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

2014 Nick Pattison npattison@gmail.com Maddy Stern maddystern95@gmail.com

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

2015 Class of 2015 needs a class rep. Please email Corinne Bruggi at cbruggi@willissons.com to volunteer.

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

Gabby Thomas is now on campus—check it out!

2016 Maddy Scott maddystern95@gmail.com

Henry Brooksmitt graduated from

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

2017

SWING REUNION

Natalie Aquadro aquadro3@gmail.com Will Fokas fokasw@comcast.net Leah Pezanowski lpez1339@gmail.com

Keeping the good times rolling, nine Wildcats from the classes of 2016 and 2017 met up at the end of January, 2018 at the United States National Dance Championships

Lizzie Cuevas ’18 at the United States National Dance Championships

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

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

at Texas A&M University in College Station, and six months at UCLA this semester.

2018

Ellie Scott ellieseott1013@gmail.com Natalie Romain nra2135@barnard.edu

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

2019

Kassandra Orcutt korcutt0102@gmail.com Maddy Elsea elsea@comcast.net

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

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

at Texas A&M University in College Station, and six months at UCLA this semester.
The January issue of The Willistonian featured three notable Williston alumni pursuing their athletic dreams at the collegiate level: Caroline O’Connor, Maddy Cardaci, and Shane Renegar ’21. Caroline is competing as a Cardinal for the Wexleyan University women’s basketball team, Maddy is a member of the Division I Boston University women’s ice hockey team, and Shane is a shooting guard for the Wexleyan men’s basketball team. Former lax teammates Noah Brooks ’20 and Kevin Talbot ’20 are battling it out in the NESCAC. Noah had a goal for Colby while Kevin won 11 of 16 face-offs for Wesleyan.

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

1940
Samuel T. Ansell of Waltham, Mass., died August 1, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Néoma; his daughter, Alina, his sons, Seth and Galen; and three grandchildren.

1941

1942

1943
Joan Van Raalte Hellingen of Beverly Hills, Calif., died May 26, 2020. She is survived by her daughters, Sues, Barby, and Robin; her brother, Ken Shwi ’51, her sister, Margery Shwi ’58; and three grandchildren, a fourth granddaughter predeceased her. She is also survived by three great-grandchildren.

1944
David C. Waitte of Grenville, Mich., died May 5, 2017. He is survived by his wife, Eileen; his sons, John and Steven; his daughter, Sally; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

1945
Alen W. Warshow of Sands Point, N.Y., May 31, 2018. He is survived by his daughters, Leslie and Susan. A son, John, predeceased him. He is also survived by three grandchildren.

1947
John E. MacDowell of Essex, Conn., died February 20, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Carol, and his son, John; a second son, Douglas, predeceased him. He is also survived by his sisters, Suzanne, Elizabeth, his brother, Thomas; and one granddaughter.

1948

1949
Rebecca Williams Abraham of Ithaca, N.Y., died March 29, 2021. She is survived by her daughters, Elisabeth, Sarah and Sally; her son, John; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

1950
Paul W. Brown Jr. of Westborough, Mass., January 27, 2022. He is survived by his wife, Betty; his sons, Paul ‘65 and Douglas; his daughters, Susan and Kristin; his brother, Raymond Brown ’55; his niece, Karen Brown Goldberg ’81 and Amy Brown Wein; and four grandchildren.

1951
Charles D. “Chuck” Andrews of Mt. Kisco, N.Y., died February 25, 2020. He is survived by his sons, Jeff and Mark; his daughter, Kim; and four grandchildren. His wife, Aurelle; his sons, Jeff; his sister, Sally; and seven great-grandchildren.

1952
James “Jim” D. Ross of Alturas, Calif., died September 7, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Jim; three sons; his brother, Douglas; and three grandchildren.

1953

1954
George Spence ’21, a first-year at Tufts University, was working the night shift at McDonald’s. He’s now a sophomore majoring in political science at the University of Chicago, while participating in club hockey, most court, and field hockey.

2020
Nate Markey
nate.markey@yale.edu
Hey, class of 2020! We’re sure to check the school’s Flickr gallery to see photos from the class of 2020 on campus celebration held in June! flickr.com/photos/williston-northampton/albums.

Guillermo Castaneda Chang shared his post-grad experiences with Williston junior and seniors as part of a January college counseling virtual panel. Students learned that Guillermo is a sophomore grade on the Hobart and William Smith Colleges soccer team while balancing work in the HWS alumni office and a teaching fellowship in the economics department.

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

Rene D. “Ren” Talbot of Ithaca, N.Y., died December 6, 2021. She is survived by her son, Erik; her daughters, Ann and Jennifer; her brother, John, and four grandchildren.

Eliza “Ellie” Frey Schaeffer of Ithaca, N.Y., died February 5, 2021. She is survived by her sons, Jeff and Greg; her daughter, Cindy; her sisters, Family and Judy; and six grandchildren.

1955
Gary T. Gilbert of Boca Raton, Fla., formerly of Revere and Natick, Mass., November 7, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Emilie; his sons, Miles, Adam, and Scott; and one great-grandson.

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

1953
Jack S. M. Erickson of Hillsborough, N.C., died December 1, 2019.

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

2019
Donald A. Benedict of Cottonwood, Ariz., died November 17, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Connie; his daughters, Debra and Diana; A
Robert S. Birch, Fla., died January, 26, 2022. He is survived by his wife, Susan; their daughter, Nancy; and his grandchildren.

Charles Pinnell of Menomonie, Wis., died February 24, 2022. He is survived by his wife, Ruth; and five grandchildren.

David D. Veale of Rochester, N.Y., died January 26, 2022. He is survived by his brother, Jim; and his sister, Martha.

Donna Longbeau Bordes-Barra of Jano Beach, Fla., died July 31, 2021. She is survived by her husband, Victor; her daughter, Danie; and her granddaughter, Dave Seurat '74; and five grandchildren.

Victor H. Faro of Arlington, Va., died March 16, 2022. He is survived by his wife, Kathy; and his daughter, Dana; a second daughter, Anne; his granddaughter; his stepson, Kevin; his stepdaughter, Kristi; and four grandchildren.

Emily Gilman Hayden of Wilbraham, Mass., died January 7, 2022. She is survived by her husband, John Hayden '52; her son, Peter Hayden '88; and her daughter, Daniel Hayden '93; and four grandchildren.

Richard Rossone of Palatine, Ill., died March 17, 2019. He is survived by his wife, Patricia.

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

Robert G. Toye of Amherst, Mass., died March 22, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Gail; his daughter, Gretchen; and his brothers, David, Stephen, and Richard.

Emily Gilman Hayden of Wilbraham, Mass., died January 7, 2022. She is survived by her husband, John Hayden '52; her son, Peter Hayden '88; and her daughter, Daniel Hayden '93; and four grandchildren.

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

Francis "Bud" A. Gnatok of Haddon, Mass., died March 2, 2022. He is survived by his wife, Gail; his son, Andrew; his daughter, Katrina; his brothers, Edward and James; and two grandchildren.


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

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

THE CAMPAIGN FOR OUR COMMUNITY BEGINS WITH YOU

As the top priority of the Williston Builds campaign, the Williston Northampton Fund is the financial foundation that ensures the school's continued growth. Make your gift before June 30 to help propel Williston Northampton School forward. Make your gift online at williston.com/give or by Venmo to the Williston Northampton Fund by June 30 and be a part of building a stronger Williston together. WILLISTON.COM/CAMPAIGN

A Magical Season

Some things are just meant to be—like the wonderful convergence of a NEPSAC win with a deep alumni connection—by Ellie Wolfe ’19

"You couldn’t have written a better script for Hollywood," Athletic Director Mark Conroy said while reflecting on the success of this year’s girls varsity hockey team. Not only did they take home the NEPSAC title, but they did so in a tournament with ties to Williston’s Victory Bell and its namesake, Chuck Vernon ’62. Heading into the postseason with the best record in program history (24–1), Williston clinched the number one seed, which allowed them to host the NEPSAC Chuck Vernon Elite Girls’ Hockey Tournament at Louise Rink. The tournament is named after Vernon, a longtime Louisa Chaffee coach, for his contributions to NEPSAC girls hockey. So, too, is Williston’s Victory Bell (at right), which was donated by an anonymous parent in 1962 in honor of Vernon’s sportsmanship and leadership as team captain in his senior year. Sixty years after the bell’s dedication, the girls were determined to ring it after the tournament, with wins over Kent (5–0), then Andover (3–2), and finally a 2–0 victory over Nobles, a team that had not lost a game in four years. After time elapsed and the crowd went wild, Vernon stepped onto the ice to present the award to the team.

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

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

To learn more, visit williston.com/campaign