



# Woodrow Wilson ALUMNI BEACON

Volume XIII, No. 3

Summer/July-September 2008

## A Love of Learning

*[Transcribed from an oral history by Charles Stockell, '40]*

Wilson gave me a sound basis in several major areas: in math and trigonometry, and in a love of history and of English, the noblest of all languages. The most important skill, as I have often told my graduate students, is the ability to speak and write fluently, to effortlessly marshal your thoughts, and express yourself forcefully and convincingly. I have briefed prime ministers, ranking members of our government, and generals of many different nations, and thank the skills that I learned at Wilson.

History led me to university degrees in U.S., Russian, and African fields, which still intrigue me. It helps me to understand and analyze the daily headlines as I once analyzed them professionally. It has been truly said that we can only interpret the future by studying the past. History also led to a second career after my 25 years of military service, as a professor of international relations, specializing in Russian and southern African affairs.

I played on the golf team at Wilson: in four years we lost only once. Guys like Earl Skinker and George Voss were on the teams. Both would become D.C. golf champions. Several of my classmates, including Julie Columbus and a boy named Dean were killed in World War II, and my best friend John Vandergrift lost both feet when, as a Marine fighter pilot, he was blown up on his aircraft carrier.

In those days, Wilson had a very high percentage of children of government officials, senators, ranking military officers, and well-known professional men. Our principal had been a track star. Woe to the boys who might be caught at school smoking or getting into mischief. He would literally and figuratively run them down. We often won the high school cadet drill competitions, which provided us with free movie passes for a week. We were a featured part of presidential parades and celebrations, and believe me, we took it seriously. We played all sorts of sports, usually making up

our own neighborhood football and baseball teams, and played in city leagues. Often those neighborhood teams were better than the official ones.

One last gift that I received at Wilson was an appreciation and an interest in our world. It has led me and my family to visit and live in many different countries: to learn a bit of German, Spanish, and Swahili, and to become fluent in Russian. I was stationed as a military attache in Moscow in the 1950s, but was expelled on a trumped up charge of espionage. I correspond today with friends in countries around the world, and make two or three trips a year abroad, mostly to hunt and fish. I've lived in France, Germany, Russia, Laos, Thailand, and the UK for at least a year each, and have visited many other countries for months at a time. I seriously believe that my time at Wilson, the people that I knew there, and the incipient studies of our world at Wilson piqued my life long interest.

Wilson engendered in me a love of learning, to expand and build on my knowledge and education to match my ideas and views with other people in other lands. I'm near the end of my life. But I have spent 11 years in various universities as a student and 20 years as a university teacher, plus a quarter of a century teaching military methodology or lecturing on Russian military capabilities while in the service. Of the many universities and colleges I have attended, the only one that equaled Wilson was one called Attachment R, a three year school in Russian life, taught in the Russian language. All our professors were Russian born. It was a total absorption in Russian, life, language, and cultural methodology. Some were fine, honorable men, others the products of the evil of communism. One was assassinated while I was in school, and the KGB tried to kill another one, but their agent was ineffective in our school's entrance hall.

It's been a great life, a fascinating life, and I owe so much to the educational experiences that showed me the way to order my interests and goals. Thank you, Woodrow Wilson High School, for your part in this educational process. A full life is impossible without study and depth of learning.

## Highpointers Scale DC's Peak....

The Highpointers are a group of dedicated climbers who have vowed to reach the highest elevation in all 50 states. In April they hit a new low high by visiting and recording their presence at the highest point in Washington, DC, a 409 foot site in Fort Reno Park. Their view from that point included the Fort Reno Reservoir and Woodrow Wilson High School, quite a contrast from some of the high points they've scaled in other states, such as Mount McKinley and Mount Rainer.

Locating the highest natural elevation was not easy, because the land around the reservoir had been artificially built up. But surveyors studied the local topography and old maps, and once the spot was determined, got permission from the National Park Service to install an official marker. Fort Reno was established in 1861 by Brigadier General John G. Bernard, because it was the highest point from which the Union Army could defend Rockville Pike. The District can't claim the lowest high point, actually. That distinction belongs to Florida's 345 foot Britton Hill.

## ...Just in Time: Park Closed

Arsenic levels up to 25 times higher than federal regulations allow were found in samples taken from Fort Reno Park on May 14, resulting in the abrupt closing of the 33-acre site. However, subsequent tests showed no excessive levels in other areas of the park, so it was reopened on May 28. The park is used by neighborhood residents for concerts and other recreational activities, and also provides practice fields for Wilson athletic teams. The area with high arsenic levels measures about 10 by 15 feet, and has been cordoned off. An environmental scientist with the D.C. government said the arsenic may date back to the Civil War, when the bodies of soldiers were prepared for burial there, using embalming fluid containing arsenic.

## New Book by Alumni Author

D.C. native Roger Mudd ['45] has written a book about his life in television journalism, *The Place to Be*. The narrative begins after his graduation from college, and chronicles his years covering civil rights, the Vietnam War protests, assassinations, Watergate, and the scandals of the 1960s and 1970s.

## Wilson Students Awarded Trachtenberg Scholarships

Wilson seniors Bdho Gidey and Mariam Mohammed are among nine D. C. students who have been awarded full four year scholarships to George Washington University. The Stephen Joel Trachtenberg Scholarships have been awarded to outstanding local students since 1989. They cover all expenses—tuition, room, board, books, and fees, and are valued at over \$200,000. George Washington is currently the most expensive undergraduate school in the country. Bdho Gidey's sister Sesen received a Trachtenberg scholarship last year. Other winners this year include three from Banneker, one each from Georgetown Visitation and School Without Walls, and two from Roosevelt High School.

## Riggs Community Service Award

The friends and family of Tom Riggs ['55] have announced the establishment of an annual award to be presented to a graduating senior of Wilson who has "consistently demonstrated the ability to recognize and serve those requiring assistance in his or her community." The award, to be called The George Thomas Riggs Community Service Award, will honor the lifelong commitment of Tom Riggs to community service. Contributions may be made through the Wilson PTSA. Checks should be made out to Riggs Community Service Award and mailed to PTSA Treasurer, Wilson High School, 3950 Chesapeake St., NW, Washington, DC 20016. Mr. Riggs died last October from injuries suffered when he was struck by a police cruiser while crossing Wisconsin Avenue near Newark Street, NW.

## "It's Academic" Founder Dies

Sophie Altman, founder and producer of the longest-running television quiz show in the world, died on May 24 at the age of 95. The show, which appears on the local NBC affiliate, WRC-TV, is in its 48<sup>th</sup> season, and has been syndicated to over two dozen U.S. cities. During its tenure, many Wilson students have appeared on the teams. The format pits high school students from three Washington-area public and private schools against each other in three person teams. Mrs. Altman, who continued to work on the show until being hospitalized three weeks before her death, was the mother of four Wilson alumni: Susan Altman ['58], Janet Spragens ['60], Robert Altman ['64], Nancy Altman ['67].

## Students Want Healthier Food

Wilson students circulated a petition this spring and sent a formal request to DCPS administrators, urging that schools be provided with healthier food options at lunch. Two Wilson clubs, Caring For Animal Rights and the Environmental Club, spearheaded the movement. They also provided sample menus, which included vegetarian burgers, pizzas with vegetables instead of meat, and more fruits and vegetables. The appeal comes at a time when there is increasing concern about the high incidence of childhood obesity, and school systems are coming under fire for the inadequate nutritional value of their meals and snacks. Chancellor Rhee has hired a new food contractor, and DCPS intends to have a new menu plan and retrofitted kitchens with new cooking equipment ready by the opening of the school year in September. When a pilot program for the new plan was conducted in two elementary schools and two high schools last year, the number of meals purchased by students increased significantly. At Woodson High, for example, food sales increased from \$180 to \$900 per day during a two-week period. Rising food costs may have an impact on the plan, as area schools report having increasing difficulty providing nutritious meals within their budgets.

## Historic Status for Tenley Area

The Historic Preservation Board has approved a "multiple-property thematic report" for the village of Tenleytown, and forwarded nominations for Eldbrooke Church and the Methodist Cemetery to the National Register of Historic Places. The type of survey is a preservation tool that sets a context for evaluating future National Register nominations. The survey was prepared by the Tenleytown Historic Society, which has also authored a landmark application for Alice Deal Middle School. Other buildings being considered for landmark designations include St. Ann's Church and School, St. Columba's Church, and Wilson High School. The survey traces the history of Tennallytown from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, when a tavern was established along the route from Frederick to Georgetown, and River Road was built. Early farm houses still remain along Wisconsin Avenue, and Belt, Grant and River Roads. The DC street grid system, mandated by Congress in 1900, obliterated many of the narrow winding roads that gave the neighborhood its rural feeling, but segments of Belt, Grant, and Murdock Mill Roads have survived.

## Senior is Presidential Scholar

Alison Grubbs has been selected as one of 139 U.S. high school students for the U.S. Department of Education's Presidential Scholar Program. The graduating senior has completed nine Advanced Placement classes, and achieved the highest possible scores on each of them. She will attend Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut, in the fall. Her special passion is writing: she has resurrected the Wilson literary magazine, and is an editor of the *Beacon*. Alison sees her selection as a Presidential Scholar as a recognition of Wilson. She is proud of her school, and has been dismayed to see the recent focus on isolated incidences of violence. "Wilson is not like that at all," she said. It would be nice to counter all this bad press."

The Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964, by executive order of the President of the United States, to recognize and honor some of the most distinguished American graduating high school seniors. Up to 141 students are named each year. Students chosen receive an expense-paid trip to Washington, DC, in the summer, during which they meet with government officials, educators, authors, musicians, scientists and other accomplished people. They also visit museums and monuments, and attend recitals and receptions. The honorees are awarded the Presidential Scholars medallion at a ceremony sponsored by the White House.

## Wilson's Restructuring Plan

The restructuring plan recently approved by DCPS includes many ideas submitted by the school's restructuring team, which was composed of parents, teachers, and administrators. These include providing the new principal with a choice of administrators, having a literacy coach, an after school program for all students below grade level, a summer transition program for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grader students, and targeted academic intervention, with double periods of math and English, for students below grade level.

Another provision of the plan as approved requires the administrative staff, faculty, and most other staff members to reapply for their positions. As many as 20 percent of the current employees may not be rehired, according to the Chancellor's office. DCPS has also offered buyouts to teachers who are nearing retirement, or are working at one of the 23 schools (primarily elementary) which are slated for closure. To be eligible for the buyout, teachers must be 55 with 30 years of service, 60 with 20 year, or 62 with 5 years.

## SPORTS

### **WILSON MAKES IT SIXTEEN...**

The Tigers beat the School Without Walls Penguins on June 3<sup>rd</sup> by a score of 11-2, for their 16<sup>th</sup> straight DCIAA title. They have lost only one of their last 209 league games. Including non-league games, the Wilson team finished its season with a 22-6 record. Andrew Whitener, who will play baseball at Princeton next year, pitched the complete game, striking out 13 Penguins. He also had three runs, three RBIs, and a stolen base to his credit.

Earlier in the week, Wilson had won the public school semifinal game of the first annual Congressional Bank Classic, DC's citywide high school baseball tournament, by a score of 11-0 over McKinley High.

Coaches of other D.C. teams say that a major factor in Wilson outclassing its competitors is a weak infrastructure in the city for youth baseball. Wilson baseball coach Eddie Saah [ '65] gets freshman players who understand the fundamentals, and takes them to the next level, while most local coaches have to begin with the basics. Wilson's school boundaries include the Capitol City Little League and the Northwest Washington Little League, two of the city's best and largest groups. However, that is beginning to change. Programs such as the Woodridge Warriors Youth Organization, and the Babe Ruth League are developing in other parts of DC, and should produce players who can challenge Wilson in future years.

### **...BUT LOSES TO ST ALBANS IN FIRST D.C. BASEBALL CLASSIC**

On May 3, the St. Albans Bulldogs beat Wilson by a score of 6-1, to win the first D.C. Baseball Classic title. The inaugural event, for which the *Washington Post* is a sponsor, was played at the new National's Stadium, and the teams were thrilled with the professional level facilities at the ball park. These included a live broadcast over Comcast SportsNet, seeing their images on a 47 by 102 foot screen, and hearing their names announced throughout the large stadium over the loud speaker system. The coaches enjoyed the luxury of phones in the dugout and bullpen. Each of the participating players received free uniforms and shoes, which Eddie Saah estimated cost about \$200.

### **SOFTBALL TEAM WINS AGAIN**

Wilson's softball team made it two DCIAA titles in a row, with a 9-0 win over the Coolidge Colts on June 1. Junior Kathleen McLain pitched a perfect game, striking out 16 players, for her 10<sup>th</sup> win of the season. She and classmate Susan Bernstein also hit triples, giving Wilson a 6-0 lead by the third inning. The Tigers scored in all but one inning.

Kathleen McLain has been playing softball since fourth grade, and practices on her own nearly every day, in addition to practicing with the team. She was MVP at Deal for three years, DCIAA All-District Infielder in 2007, and MVP this year at Wilson. Coach Holstein Heylinger says that all his players are good hitters, so he concentrates on making sure they get enough general practice time.

### **FOURTH DCIAA TENNIS TITLE FOR WILSON SENIOR**

Arnaud Ba, who has lost only one match during his years at Wilson, easily beat Bell's Denton Belmar on May 31, to claim his fourth straight title. The score was 6-0, 6-0. Ba, who emigrated from Senegal in 2002, learned the game from his father, a former professional player and coach in Senegal and France. Tennis Coach Cosby Hunt said that Ba was the first player he had had in his 11 years at Wilson who was not a beginner, and he essentially became an assistant coach during his last three years at the school.

### **SPORTS SHORTS**

*The Washington Post* Spring All Met honorees included the following Wilson students: Kathleen O'Keefe, girls' first team, rowing; Kristof Grina, Andrew Whitener, and Luke Koczela, first team, baseball; Kathleen McLain and Cheri Grant, first team, softball; and Armand Ba, honorable mention, boys' tennis.

Coach Spyke Henry was inducted into the D.C. Coaches Association Hall of Fame on June 9. He has coached at Wilson for 13 years and has helped the tennis program win 10 of the past 12 titles.

The Northwest Washington Little League held Emmanuel Burris Day on June 7<sup>th</sup> to honor its former player, a 2003 graduate of Wilson who now plays for the San Francisco Giants.

## Accomplished Alumni

A former student recently referred us to a list of "famous" Wilson graduates posted on the internet site, Wikipedia. It has many errors and omissions, and seems to be geared toward celebrity rather than accomplishments, so we are compiling our own. Here's what we have for the 1930s classes. Although the term "famous" can be difficult to define, we are including individuals well enough known to have internet listings and biographies. Please let us know of any people you would like to add. We will feature the classes of later years in future issues.

### The 1930s Classes

Dr. Albert H. Bowker ['37] (1919-2008): Professor of Statistics. Chancellor of City College of New York, 1963-71, and of the University of California at Berkeley, 1971-80. U.S. Assistant Secretary for Post-Secondary Education, 1980-81. Dean of the School of Public Affairs, University of Maryland, 1981-84.

Dr. Felix Bronner ['38]: Biologist and artist. Professor emeritus, University of Connecticut, with speciality in bone structure and calcium. Author of books and articles on nutrition and health. Abstract artist in oils and collages.

Jean Craighead George ['37]: Author of over 100 children's books, including *Julie of the Wolves* (winner of Newberry Medal), and *My Side of the Mountain* (winner of Newberry Honor Award; made into a movie in 1969). *Washington Post* reporter and member of White House Press Corps in 1940s.

John W. Hechinger ['37] (1920-2004): Civic and business leader. Appointed by President Johnson as Chairman of the first D.C. City Council in 1967. President and Chairman of the executive committee of Hechinger Co., founded by his father in 1911, from 1957-96.

Helen Van Stondig Ver Standig "Madame Wellington" ['37] (1920-2006): Founder with husband of M. Belmont Ver Standig advertising agency, creator of the Hot Shoppes Pappy Parker and Wilkins Coffee's Wilkins and Wontkins (Jim Henson's first muppets). Business partner with husband of Wellington (simulated) Diamonds, for which Al Hirschfeld drew her buxom cartoon image.

## In Memoriam

We publish information on the deaths of Wilson graduates which have occurred within the past 2 years. Include written confirmation, the class year, and the maiden name for women. Information should also be forwarded to the person who maintains your class list.

Stephen L. Best ['51]  
Albert H. Bowker ['37]  
Francis R. Carson ['52]  
Barbara Cohen Sussman ['55]  
Lee Ray Creamer ['56]  
Deborah Dane ['54]  
Virginia Dudley Martin ['46]  
Bruce Daniel Garber ['48]  
Mary Frances Gill Bockover ['45]  
Elizabeth Godney Ewan ['40]  
Margaret "Peggy" Grover Scott ['40]  
George B. King ['43]  
Albert Edward Klopfer ['47]  
Norma Lawrence Morgan ['41]  
Albert F. Lilley ['50]  
Henry Irving Scott ['39]  
Margaret "Rocky" Smith Best ['52]  
Eleanor Janet Welch ['56]  
Virginia Loryma Wertz ['51]  
Larry M. Wolf ['53]

## Index Ranks Wilson Near Top

In its annual Challenge Index ratings of U.S. high schools, *Newsweek* Magazine has ranked Wilson #129 of the 1,300 schools evaluated. The Index ratio is based on the number of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or Cambridge tests taken by students at a school divided by the number of graduating seniors, and is intended to evaluate how well a school challenges its students. Other D.C. schools in the top 200 were Bell Multicultural at #77 and Banneker at #152. (All Bell students are required to take two AP classes.) In the Washington area, the top schools were Woodlawn, Arlington; Montgomery-Blair, Rockville; Langley, McLean; George Mason, Fall Church; and Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Bethesda. All have relatively prosperous school populations, with students eligible for the subsidized lunch program ranging from 17 percent for Woodlawn to 1 percent for Langley. Over 40 percent of Wilson students are eligible for this program

## Neighborhood Walking Tours

Twice a year, Cultural Tourism DC offers free tours of many D.C. neighborhoods, including those near Wilson: Chevy Chase, Cleveland Park, Tenleytown, and Woodley Park. The most recent tours were in April; the next scheduled dates are Saturday and Sunday, September 20 and 21. There is also a special geology tour—History before History: The Geologic Saga of Washington, DC. The guided tours are held rain or shine, and some require advance reservations. More information is available at [walkingtowndc.com](http://walkingtowndc.com). Wilson alumna Carole Abrams Kolker ['58], a historian who volunteers as one of the guides, will lead a special tour of Tenleytown for her classmates on September 6 at 1:30-2:30 p.m., during their 50<sup>th</sup> reunion weekend.

## Plans Unveiled for Wilson Modernization

A local firm, Grimm + Parker Architects, has created three preliminary concept plans for the renovation of Wilson. Their proposals preserve the character of the building while extensively renovating the interior, and creating new buildings. The company was hired by the Woodrow Wilson High School Management Corp., which oversees management of the school's facilities and provided funds for the study. (Wilson is the only public high school in Washington to have such an organization.) No date has yet been set for work to begin on the project, nor is there an estimate of the cost. The DCPS Office of Public Facilities Modernization is preparing a master list for modernization work, and expects to publish the information this summer.

The architects envision keeping the school's arching shape and dominant central building, but replacing or rebuilding the 1970s gymnasium. The mostly defunct greenhouse and rose garden would be demolished and rebuilt elsewhere. Underground parking would be provided under the football field, the main building, or a new building planned for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade academy on Chesapeake Street. The old boiler room, which now stores large and antiquated mechanical equipment, would be gutted, renovated, and transformed into theater or other student facility. Plans also call for creating a new main entrance, since the doors at the back of the building now used are not readily discernible to those unfamiliar with the structure.

## Deal Middle School Successes

Alice Deal Junior High School, which many Wilson alumni attended, will become Alice Deal Middle School at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year. The building is currently undergoing a \$53 million renovation, which will provide a new gym and cafeteria, and will contain many modernized classrooms.

Deal can boast of many academic accomplishments. It has the city's first place MathCounts team, and beat both public and private schools for the honor. There were individual winners from Deal in 9 of 12 project categories in this year's D.C. Science, Math, and Technology competition for middle school students, and Deal students won 15 of the 18 prizes awarded in the citywide National History Day competition. Foreign language classes are available for Spanish, French, and Chinese, and 71 percent of the students take one of those languages. There is also an award-winning jazz band, and Deal's sports teams have won many city titles.

According to Sally Greenberg and Ruth Ernst, co-presidents of the Deal PTA, their children also love going to school there. "They make great friends from across the city...and are taught in an environment that is focused on meeting the needs of middle school students, that encourages intellectual curiosity, and that rewards academic and extracurricular achievement."

## New Principal Announced

A new Wilson principal, Pete Cahall, has been selected by the school's principal selection panel, and appointed by Chancellor Michelle Rhee. He will assume his post on July 10. The announcement of his appointment follows several weeks of upheaval at Wilson. On May 16, Chancellor Rhee fired the principals of 24 D.C. public schools that were considered to be failing under the "No Child Left Behind" Act. Among those dismissed was Wilson's acting principal, Jacqueline Williams, who had planned to retire in June. DCPS officials have refused to discuss specific reasons for the dismissals. Principals in the D.C. school system work on year-to-year agreements, and about 15 to 25 are let go annually, according to their union, the Council of School Officers. On May 17, Wilson's principal selection panel interviewed four candidates for the position, which had been left vacant by the retirement of Stephen Tarason last June. The panel's unanimous recommendation for the job was forwarded to Chancellor Rhee that afternoon.

## Letters to the Editor

The *Alumni Beacon* is a continual delight, always getting better. Thank you for the graceful tribute to Albert Fuller in the winter '08 issue—and the news that my home room and Alice Deal teacher Mr. Stutz is yet with us!! I intend to send him a fan letter.  
*Barbara Brown Searles [Feb.44]*

My most welcome *Alumni Beacon* arrived the other day, and I read it from cover to cover. I would like to join Bill Voight ['48] in thanking all who contribute their efforts to produce the wonderful, newsy little letter.

Barbara Chapline Waldner ['42] mentioned the Avalon theater near Chevy Chase Circle, and your Avalon Legacy Campaign article brought back fond memories. When I was 8 or 9 years old, I always looked forward to the Saturday Matinee at the Avalon. I lived on Yuma Street near Tenley Circle, and attended Janney School. Friday afternoons after school, a man representing a publishing company used to come to our neighborhood and offer us magazines to sell door to door for a free pass to the Saturday Matinee. If we sold three *Saturday Evening Posts* (5 cents) and two *Ladies' Home Journals* (10 cents), we earned a pass. As Barbara mentioned, the bus from Tenley Circle was 5 cents, so our parents gave us a dime for the bus. Wow! That was a lot of money back then. Most of the time, when weather permitted, we walked to Chevy Chase via 41<sup>st</sup> Street to save the dime to buy three candy bars or a quarter pound of bulk candies from People's Drug Store just down the street from the Avalon. I think the movies cost 15 cents, which included a stage show (usually a magican), the "serial", cartoons, and the feature. Those really were the GOOD OLD DAYS.

*Richard B. Schneider, Sr. ['46]*

P.S. It was good to see a letter from my classmate Fred Pelzman and know he is still with us.

With fond memories but full book shelves, I send the Alumni Association a copy of the 1948 yearbook, a 25 year reunion remembrance, and several Alice Deal Square Deals. I make all available to those interested, thanking the Association for their fine efforts for Wilson and their publication of the *Alumni Beacon*.  
*Einar Lindholm [Feb. '48]*

As I read the *Beacon* that recently arrived, the information flowing from article-upon-well-written-article filled me with pride. The Wilson profile characterized an institutional organization I am happily part of, albeit an alum of 57 years standing. What crowned this issue was the article about

Eldbrooke Church, which my dad served from '44 until '53, and where his devoted family and friends memorialized his 87 years in 1988. My sister and I have been monitoring your stories about Eldbrooke, and are especially grateful to you. I'm also terribly pleased to read Diane Matthews' "60<sup>th</sup> Reunion Reflections", for they incorporate many of my own. We lived in the same world, and knew the same people (a special "hello" to old friend Al Zanner).

Thank you for making my world brighter. Woodrow Wilson was my neighborhood—the walk from my home at 4100 River Road, the parsonage of Eldbrooke Church but a "mad scramble" away. Many formative life values and impressions are derived from those days.  
*Nancy Harris Brose ['51]*

Thanks so much for the *Alumni Beacon*. As a member of the *Beacon* staff in the mid 1950s, I enjoy every issue, as much for news of the old neighborhood as for what's going on at Wilson itself. Since we have lived in Minnesota for four decades, and seldom visit DC, it's a good way to stay in touch with local developments in the Wilson area. Dr. Boyle, whose obituary appeared in an earlier issue, was a great influence on my life, and I am so glad I had the chance to tell her so in person at our 45<sup>th</sup> reunion. I grew up a block from the old Avalon movie theater, so have followed the restoration stories with interest, and was appalled but not surprised to read about area housing prices. Your stories about budget, maintenance, and funding issues seem as current now as then. I suppose some things never change. Many thanks, and keep up the good work.  
*John Lawyer ['56]*

What a wonderful *Alumni Beacon* I just received. The article about Miss Eiker was perfect. Those of us that had the privilege of being there when she taught, and who had her, were indeed most fortunate. No monkey business with her, but excellent teaching. And I loved the article "Wilson 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion Reflections." It brought back so many happy memories. I remember going through the fords in Rock Creek Park, and the good times we had at the Hot Shoppe and the Ice Palace. I remember too those Saturday afternoons at the Avalon Theater, and how we raised "hell" there. I'm sure the poor ushers didn't think it was fun, but we had a good time. The best part, however, was the last sentence. "But Washington was still the fascinating place that I will always call home." Although I haven't lived there for over 40 years, it also will always be home to me, a second generation native.

Thanks for your good work. I almost always sit down and read the *Beacon* right away.  
*Sue Poulton ['56]*

## Cathedral Greenhouse Closed

The greenhouse at Washington's National Cathedral, which has been operating since the 1930's, was closed in June. It was originally established to provide flowers for the altars, and has become a popular neighborhood institution. The closing was made necessary by general financial problems at the Cathedral, which have also resulted in a 15 percent staff reduction. No decision has yet been made on the future use of the greenhouse building or its grounds. The Herb Cottage elsewhere on the Cathedral property is run as a separate entity by the All Hallows Guild, and will remain open.

## New Arts Standards Set

The D.C. State Board of Education voted unanimously in May to approve new arts standards for dance, music, theater, and visual arts in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The Learning Standards for Art Education are intended to act as a curriculum guide for both the D.C. public schools and charter schools. They will take full effect in the fall. They do not require students to take a specific number of courses, but are intended to create a uniform set of learning goals throughout the school system.

## Janney Principal Moves On

Scott Cartland ['87] announced in May that he is leaving after 4 years as principal of Janney Elementary School in order to head Webb-Wheatley, a struggling elementary school in northeast Washington. After Wilson, Cartland graduated from Colgate University, and then started his career as a member of Teach for America in Baltimore. His first teaching position was in the Los Angeles Compton neighborhood. Before Janney, he was an assistant principal at Ben W. Murch Elementary School. Mr. Cartland says that he has nothing but praise and loving thoughts for Janney, and considers it one of his best work experiences. But he wants "to take on the challenge of leading a school where more children come from an economically disadvantaged background." The Janney community honored him at a June 6 celebration at the school, during which they expressed their sorrow at his departure, and their pride at the reason for it.

## New Budget Plan Under Fire

D.C. Chancellor Michelle Rhee has announced a new funding formula for the schools, which she claims will increase transparency and help provide every city school with art, music, and physical education teachers. Parents active at schools, however, are not convinced. Margot Berkley, a Wilson parent and chairman of Parents United for Public Schools said she is "...just astounded by the profound lack of transparency." In some schools, for example, staff positions were eliminated or added with no explanation. Another source of unhappiness for school officials is the delay in releasing the information. The school budget is usually available in February, but was not posted on the DCPS web site until May. This hampers the ability of the schools to plan for the coming school year.

The most significant change was the elimination of the "weighted student formula", which has been used since the late 1990s. Under that system, DCPS determined a per pupil rate (currently \$8,770), which was then distributed to individual schools with adjustments to account for the numbers of students from low income families, and those with limited English or other special needs. A Local School Restructuring Team (LSRT), made up of parents, teachers, and staff at each school, would then confer with the principal and determine how to use the funds allocated. They could, for example, choose to reduce class size by hiring more teachers and eliminating other employees, or make decisions to provide extra support staff in some areas. Rhee's plan has staffing requirements for each school, and also mandates the use of funds for art, music and PE teachers. Each school's actual budget will be based on enrollment projections.

Wilson's budget has increased from \$9 million this year to \$11 million for 2008-09, and includes literacy and numeracy coach positions. On the positive side, there will be 10 more general education teachers, 4 assistant principals, and a counselor for each grade level. The budget does not, however, provide for all the administrative positions the school currently has. Any deviation from the plan determined by DCPS requires a petition to the Chancellor's Office, and Wilson's LSRT submitted such an appeal in May.

## WOODROW WILSON HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

We encourage you to join over one thousand alumni who have become Association members. When you join, we will process your subscription to the quarterly newspaper, the Alumni Beacon. **Make check payable to WWHSAA.** The Association is a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt organization.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

### LET US KNOW OF ANY CHANGES:

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE DO NOT CUT THIS PAGE. MAIL THE FULL FORM.**

*I am interested in association membership, contributing to, or receiving the following items:*

#### New Member

One Year	\$10.00	_____
Three Years	\$30.00	_____
Life	\$100.00	_____

#### Renewal

One Year	\$10.00	_____
Three Years	\$30.00	_____
Life	\$100.00	_____

A contribution to the Association's  
Scholarship Fund \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ copies  
of the 90 minute DVD of Wilson's History  
\$20.00 ea. \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ copies  
of the WW Alumni Directory 1937-2002  
3-Ring Binder \_\_\_\_\_  
CD-ROM \_\_\_\_\_  
\$55.00 ea. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL**

**MAIL TO: WWHSAA, P.O. BOX 151511, CHEVY CHASE, MD 20825**

## REUNION NEWS

### Reunions Scheduled

Let us know about your reunions plans as soon as possible. Please provide dates and locations, and a contact person with phone number and e-mail address.

1958 – 50<sup>th</sup> reunion to be held Sept. 6 at Columbia Country Club, Chevy Chase, MD. Contact Bill Bowie, [wwilson58reunion@aol.com](mailto:wwilson58reunion@aol.com), or write to 4911 Cloister Dr., Rockville, MD 20852.

1959 – 50<sup>th</sup> reunion scheduled for June 27, 2009, at Woodmont Country Club, Rockville, MD. Contact Judi Wallington Mansfield at 207-443-6326 or [iceberg@suscom-maine.net](mailto:iceberg@suscom-maine.net).

1963 – 45<sup>th</sup> reunion will be at Woodmont Country Club, Rockville, MD, Oct. 24. List being updated. Please send information to Pauline Dixon, [dixonp@afip.osd.mil](mailto:dixonp@afip.osd.mil) or call her at 301-929-3056.

1983 – 25<sup>th</sup> reunion will be homecoming weekend, with a party Fri. evening, Oct. 24, at the Zan zibar Sky Club in SW D.C., and a tailgate cookout on Sat., Oct. 25, at the Wilson horseshoe, starting at 9:30 a.m. Contact Marcia Green Horton at [greenhortonchisley@verizon.net](mailto:greenhortonchisley@verizon.net) or 202-561-0779 202-561-0779. Details also at [classreport.org](http://classreport.org) and [classmates.com](http://classmates.com). All classes are invited to attend.

1988 – 20<sup>th</sup> reunion scheduled for Oct. 25 at Hilton Hotel, Silver Spring, MD. Contact Vincent Austin at [vda7103@gmail.com](mailto:vda7103@gmail.com) or call 770-707-0363 for information, or check [greatreunion.com](http://greatreunion.com) for details.

### Reunions Being Planned

1960 – Anyone interested in information on the 50<sup>th</sup> reunion, or who would like to help, please contact Jane Miles Meade at 310-545-6007 or 310-991-6339, or Joan Robins at [jrobinsjrobins@aol.com](mailto:jrobinsjrobins@aol.com).

1961 – Anyone interested in working on a 50<sup>th</sup> reunion should contact Caroline Honer Locher-Stein at [carolina@wildblue.net](mailto:carolina@wildblue.net).

1998 – 10<sup>th</sup> reunion being planned. Contact Brandy Ajose at [brandyajose@gmail.com](mailto:brandyajose@gmail.com) if you would like to help.

### Reunions, Other

A reunion event for all 1950s classes is being considered. We would appreciate hearing from members of classes interested in participating. Please contact Maryanne Kendall, 703-437-0763 or by e-mail at [kyn-ma@comcast](mailto:kyn-ma@comcast). We hope to have a meeting sometime in late summer or early fall to discuss plans, and would like to include at least two representatives from each of the '50s classes.

### Endowment Fund Donation

Following its recent 60<sup>th</sup> reunion celebration, the class of 1948 donated \$650 to the Alumni Association's Endowment Fund. Interest from this fund provides college scholarship money for graduating Wilson seniors. The Association is very grateful for their support.

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## Seniors Honored in June

The graduating seniors (the newest alumni!) were honored at a June 2 ceremony at Wilson. Master of ceremonies was Association Board Member Shellie Bowers ['81], a teacher in the HAM Academy at Wilson. Among the award recipients were: Alex Golden and Angelica Gregory, who each received \$1,000 Alumni Association Scholarships; Alison Grubbs, a Presidential Scholar; Rachel Lamb, first recipient of the George Thomas Riggs Community Service Award; Angelica Gregory, who received the Outstanding Leadership Service Award for Student Government; Madeleine Joseph and Grace Tiedemann, National Merit Scholarship Finalists; and Alison Grubbs, who was named a Presidential Scholar.

Students in this year's class have been accepted at nearly 300 colleges and universities throughout the United States, and many have received scholarships. In addition to the two Trachtenberg Scholarships to George Washington University mentioned elsewhere in this issue, they include ones for: \$60,000 to Allegheny College (PA); \$44,000 for Case Western Reserve (OH); \$60,000 for the College of Wooster (OH); \$50,000 for Guilford College (NC); \$50,000 for Mount St. Mary's (MD); \$80,000 for Ohio Wesleyan (OH); and a full honors scholarship to the University of Pittsburgh. Students have also received many sports, theater, and music scholarships, and various smaller awards, ranging in value from \$1,000 to \$36,000.

## Association Notes

The Alumni Association's [history video](#) is available in DVD format. It covers Wilson's history from its construction in the early 1930s until the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and is narrated by television journalist and Wilson graduate Derek McGinty ['77] and Susan Wingo. It can be purchased for \$20, including shipping.

Renewal notices have been sent for memberships that run through June. If the date on your mailing label is older than the date you receive this issue, please use the enclosed order form to renew your membership. We rely on your dues and contributions to support our activities, including the scholarship program. Please include your full name, including maiden name for women, class year, address, telephone number, and an e-mail address if you have one. Contact the Association directly if you have questions about your membership, or to report changes. You can also fax inquiries to 202-237-0087.

We currently have yearbooks for 1942, 1943, 1952, and 1956. If you're interested in buying a book, telephone 202-966-6793 to be sure we still have the one you want, then send a tax-deductible contribution of \$35 to WWHSAA Endowment Fund. We have a waiting list for many other years. If you are willing to donate a copy to the Association, we would be happy to make it available to a fellow alumnus.

**Woodrow Wilson High School  
Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 151511  
Chevy Chase, MD 20825**

## Submissions to *Alumni Beacon*

We welcome submissions of articles on Wilson or alumni topics, memories of the school or the neighborhood, or commentaries on subjects raised in previous issues. Please always indicate a contact person with address, phone number, and current e-mail when submitting material. The class years of alumni and maiden names of women are also needed. The *Alumni Beacon* is issued in January, April, July and October, and usually reaches subscribers at the end of those months. Space is limited, and articles are likely to be shortened or otherwise edited.

*The Alumni Beacon, a quarterly publication of the Woodrow Wilson Alumni Association, is written by Maryanne Ball Kendall, and edited by Damon Cordon.*

*Association Board Members are: Barbara Alk Berman, Shellie F. Bowers, Jr., Elisabeth Bruno, Damon N. Cordon, Preston B. Kavanagh, Jr., Maryanne Ball Kendall, John H. Libby, William C. Pennington, and Elizabeth Warner.*

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