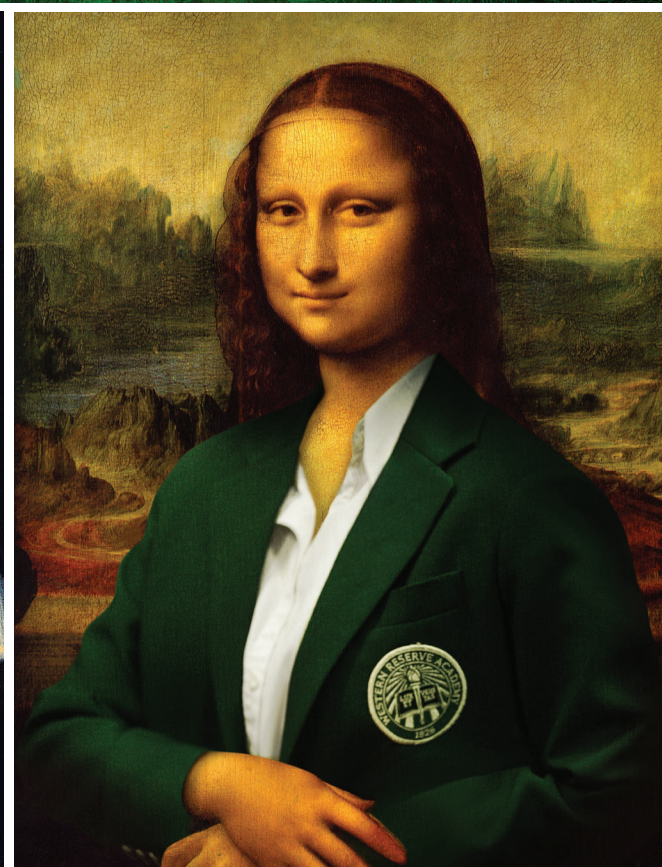
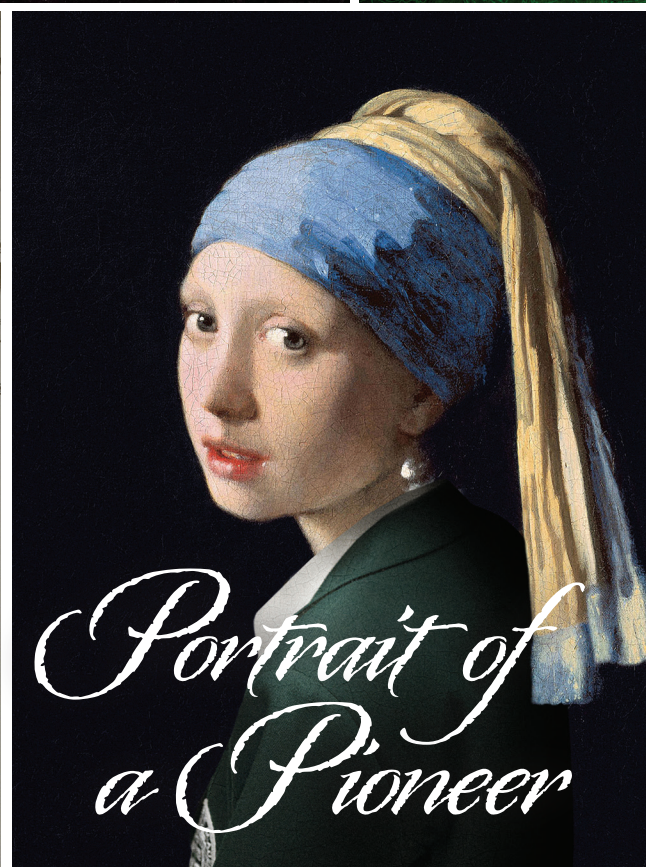




# WRA

MAGAZINE









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# WRA MAGAZINE



## ON THE COVER

Pulled from our "Portrait of a Pioneer" Seymour Hall gallery, the pictures on the cover are masterpieces remastered, dressed in Reserve Green or bearing imagery that is iconically Reserve. It's a fitting first look at an issue that limelights the incredible lives of our Pioneers, from young entrepreneurs, to phenomenal faculty, to our dearly departed friends. We hope you enjoy this issue.

## WINTER 2022

Volume 75, Number 2

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## Do you know a student who would thrive at Western Reserve Academy?

The goal of the Refer Reserve program is to mobilize WRA's expansive network of parents, alumni and friends to connect with prospective students in their own communities so that those students and families may learn more about the Reserve experience.

**For more information, please contact**  
**admission@wra.net.**

WRA Magazine is published twice a year for alumni, students, parents, faculty, staff and friends of Western Reserve Academy by the WRA Communications & Marketing Office.

Western Reserve Academy is committed to maintaining an educational and work climate for all members of the community that is free from all forms of discrimination. In particular, WRA strictly prohibits discrimination based on race, sex (including pregnancy), religion, color, age, national origin, veteran and/or military status, genetic information, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, marital status and/or parental status.





# FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Suzanne Walker Buck

---

Dear WRA Community,

By the time you receive this magazine, I hope spring is at your doorstep. As you remember well, winter is a long stretch in Hudson, and this year has been no different. Yet there were welcome glimmers, from trees dotted with icicles that mimicked sparkling lights, to eased COVID restrictions, to incredible performances on the stage and in athletic competition (Go Pioneers!), to a second annual Fire & Ice celebration.

The memorable moments we celebrate publicly and collectively are matched by hundreds of others experienced with less pomp and circumstance by our students and faculty. This issue shines the spotlight on the more everyday lives of our Pioneers, as we invite you into their homes to meet their families, see what inspires them, and learn about all the ways they create the warm fabric of our school in every season.

The coming months are busy times, especially as we celebrate the Class of 2022 and their next steps in learning and life. Concurrently, we prepare to welcome a new cohort of students, recently accepted into WRA and comprising our Bicentennial Class! Very few boarding schools and even colleges and universities have reached the 200-year mark, a point of great pride for Reserve. Celebrations of our history, present and future will spring forth soon!

While most issues of *WRA Magazine* carry a theme, I dare say this one is rather normal in what it presents — from arts, to athletics, to academic courses, to class notes and remembrances. I might usually encourage us to consider a more sweeping or strategic topic, but then the beauty of the ordinary hits me. Over the past three years, there has been nothing typical or regular. The fact that we have carried on, innovated, pushed through and challenged ourselves during times we never could have imagined seems sweeping in its own right. We remain a school rooted in tradition, innovation and excellence. Continually relevant, evergreen.

With our strategic plan in place and 2026 on the horizon, I feel energized. I am incredibly proud of our Pioneer community, wonderfully ordinary in some ways and extraordinary in many others. Because of you, we are both grounded and inspired as we forge our next two hundred years.

Suzanne Walker Buck



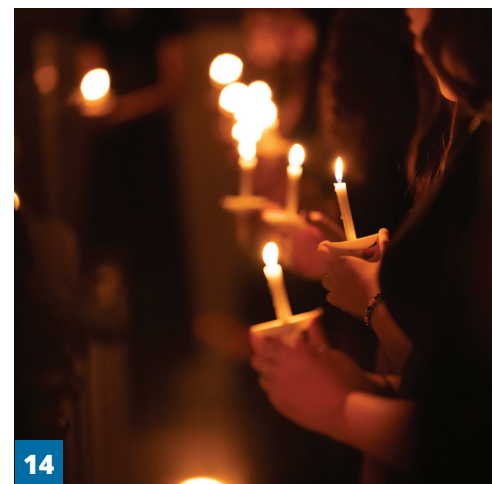


# ALONG BRICK ROW

- 1 **International Student Brunch | Aug. 14:** Our international students enjoyed a special brunch at Pierce House with the Buck family.
- 2 **Gauntlet | Aug. 17:** Our newest Pioneers were given a warm welcome as they ran through a Gauntlet of cheering students.
- 3 **Ice Cream Social | Aug. 20:** We all scream for ice cream! A delicious sundae bar and spontaneous dance party helped kick off the year.
- 4 **Back to School Bash | Aug. 25:** Friends came together at the Back to School Bash to celebrate a new school year.

- 5 **Cornhole Tournament | Aug. 25:** North Hall residents earned this year's bragging rights (and a golden corn trophy) for their cornhole skills!
- 6 **Apple Picking | Sept. 11:** We embraced fall's sweet moments with apple picking at Pierce House. These apples were turned into delicious cider with WRA's historic cider press!
- 7 **Fun & Filming Day | Sept. 27:** Surprise, surprise! Our students were given an unexpected free day that was complete with class competitions, a slip and slide, an epic cookout and all the chicken tenders that they could want — all which will be featured in a new series from The Film Guys.





- 8 Powder Puff | Oct. 3:** The Seniors got their game faces on for the Powder Puff tournament.
- 9 Fall on Campus | Oct. 8:** Reserve is in bloom when the leaves change color!
- 10 Homecoming | Oct. 23:** All bets are off — “Casino Night” made for the best Homecoming theme.
- 11 Halloween Parade | Oct. 29:** The Technology Department stole the show at our Halloween Parade! Applause broke out as Mr. and Mrs. Pac-Man ran through the Chapel aisles with Inky, Blinky, Pinky and Clyde in pursuit.

- 12 Trunk or Treat | Oct. 29:** “Trunk or Treat” was converted into a dorm decorating contest. Nothing was as scary as this ferocious dinosaur in Cartwright!
- 13 Fall Athletic Awards | Nov. 8:** Our fall athletes were lauded for their efforts in an uplifting Athletic Awards ceremony. The bond between coaches and students is always a wonderful sight to behold.
- 14 Vespers | Dec. 5:** The Chapel was filled with candlelight, glorious music and holiday decor as we held our traditional Vespers service.





Broden Windsor '22 and Alex Newman '24

# Something ROTTEN



Gisa Karamaga '22 and Phoebe Dix '23



Jin Lee '22 and Andi Wu '23



Sammie Kolencik '23



Michelle Liu '25, Corinne Meng '22 and Taylor Harper '22



Corinne Meng '22, Nora Namiotka '23, Emma Leechalk '24, Sophia Yellow Robe Yates '25 and Phoebe Dix '23



Daniel Li '22



Ethan Bauck '22





Griffin Arnold '22 and  
Carter Frato-Sweeney '22



Kaitlyn Golden '23



Sarah London '22 and Griffin Arnold '22



Zoe Lai '22



Griffin Arnold '22, Broden Windsor '22,  
Laila Hensley-Edelman '22 and Alex Newman '24



Carter Frato-Sweeney '22



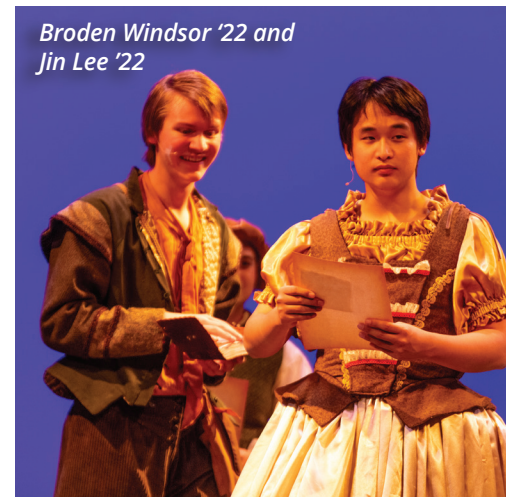
Aaron Chen '23, Gisa Karamaga '22, Emma Leechalk '24  
and Andi Wu '23



Griffin Arnold '22



Rachel Ott '23 and Isa Mester '22



Broden Windsor '22 and  
Jin Lee '22



Sarah London '22



Shin Lee '22



Lucy Li '23 and Nora Namiotka '23



Landon Allis '23

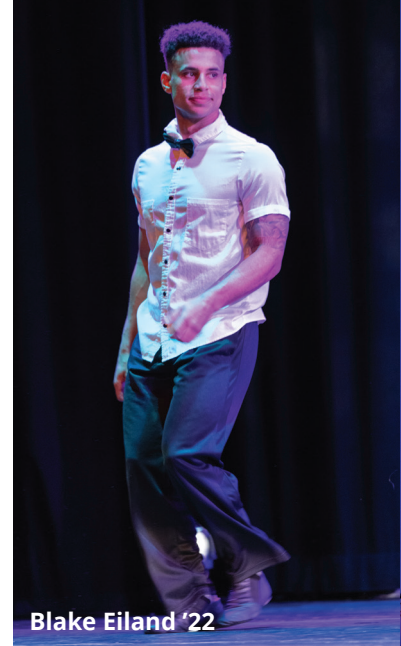




Tanvi  
Shah '23



# A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES



Blake Eiland '22



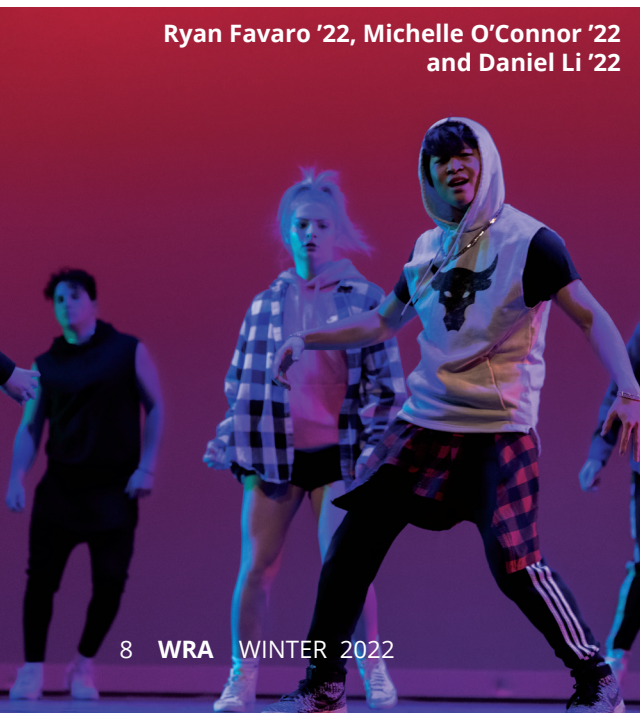
Josie Spano '22



Ryan Favaro '22 and Trinity Refosco '22



Blake Eiland '22  
and Lia Clark '22



Ryan Favaro '22, Michelle O'Connor '22  
and Daniel Li '22

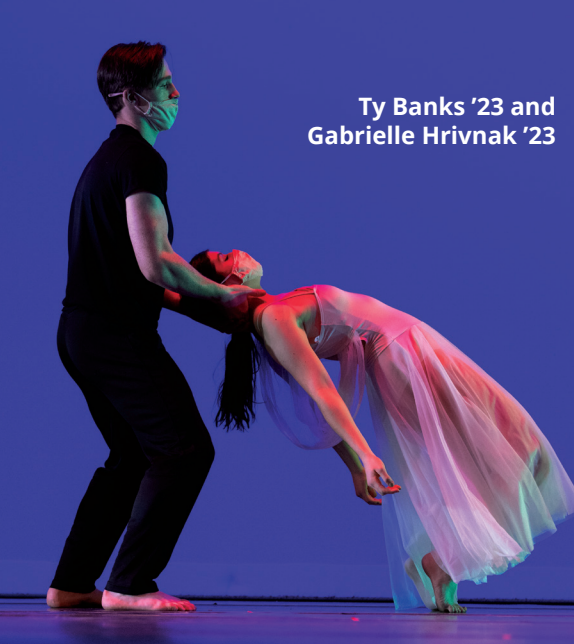


Maria Zhou '25



Nick Palmer '22, Omar White-Evans '22  
and TJ Neumann '24

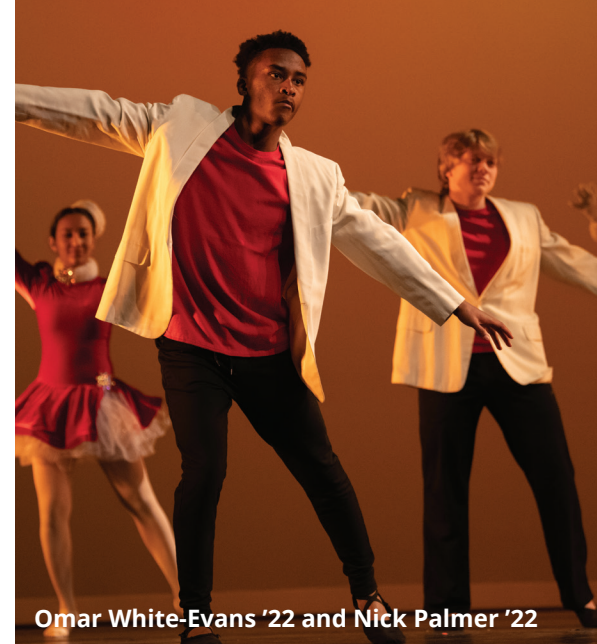




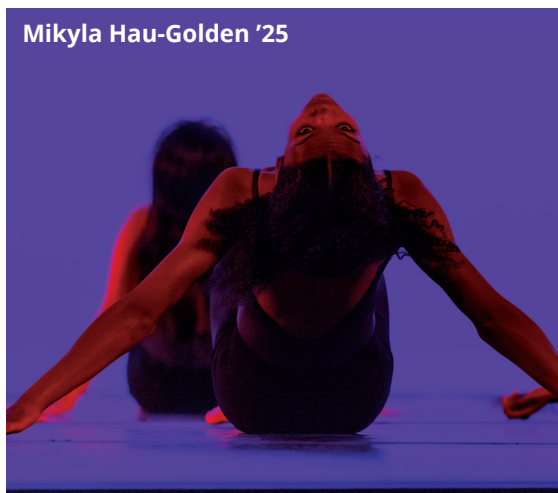
Ty Banks '23 and Gabrielle Hrivnak '23



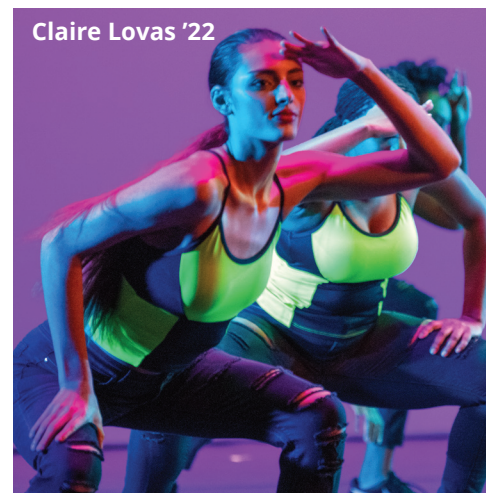
Allie Eva '22 and Trinity Refosco '22



Omar White-Evans '22 and Nick Palmer '22



Mikyla Hau-Golden '25



Claire Lovas '22



Cade Eldred '22 and Sydney Grossman '23



Maggie Baker '23



David King '22 and Taylor Strilesky '24



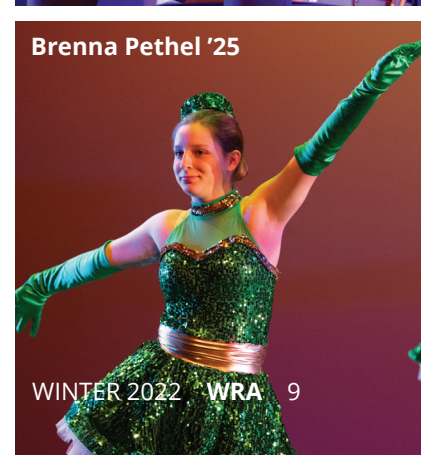
Frank Urbis '23



Maggie Dunne '23



Mikyla Hau-Golden '25 and Jada Kenner '24



Brenna Pethel '25



FALL 2021

# ATHLETICS



Boys Soccer | Zach Hart '22 | Most Valuable Player (All-Ohio)



Field Hockey | Jesse Kask '23 | Most Improved Player

**T**his fall season, there was excitement abounding on the courts and the fields.

Some of our coaches celebrated impressive milestones this year: Jeff Warner completed his 35th season as the Head Coach of Girls Cross Country, Sherry Chlysta recorded her 20th year at the helm of Girls Volleyball and Brand Closen led Golf to a 10-1 record in his 10th year as Head Coach.

Our athletes capped off their seasons not only with wins, but with greater confidence in their abilities, dedication to improvement and memories to last a lifetime.

## TEAM RECORDS:

**Golf:** 10-1

**Boys Soccer:** 10-4-3

**Girls Soccer:** 10-8

**Girls Volleyball:** 8-6

**Field Hockey:** 4-8-1

**Boys Cross Country:** 2-0 in Dual Meets

**Girls Cross Country:** 2-0 in Dual Meets

**Girls Tennis:** 7-8

## Go Reserve!





Boys Cross Country | Jack Colafella '23 | Most Valuable Player



Girls Soccer | Jazira Gonzalez '23 | Most Valuable Player



Girls Cross Country  
Esmé Cummins '22 | Coach's Award



Golf | Andrew Petras '23  
William F. Borges III Spirit Award



Tennis | Hannah Ma '22 | Coach's Award

**Breaking news!** Landon Allis '23 and Gunnar Gray '22 have launched Reserve Sports Network, a student organization that provides live coverage, commentary and news surrounding WRA Athletics. Watch their recent coverage and learn more by visiting [WRA.net](http://WRA.net)!



Volleyball | Kayla Jiang '22 | Most Improved Player









# FIRE & ICE

New tradition,  
same Reserve spirit

**W**ith the boom of fireworks overhead, our campus was illuminated by the fun festivities of Fire & Ice.

The second installment of this new tradition, started last year by Head of School Suzanne Walker Buck, was a blast! The January cold was no match for the light and warmth of the gathered WRA community.

So, what is Fire & Ice? Why light off fireworks on a freezing winter weekend?











For one thing, it is a celebration of Reserve. Fire & Ice embraces the snow and chilled temperatures that accompany Hudson at this time of year, and adds its own flair. Fire & Ice featured an ice sculpture shaped like the Chapel, Ellsworth Hall reimagined as an indoor ice skating rink, and College Street transformed into a street hockey haven.

There was hot chocolate from the Lux Truck, a spectacular fireworks show (hence, the “fire”), and a hot-wing challenge featuring hot sauces courtesy of Greg Foster '93, WRA's very own spice master.

Foster holds Guinness World Records for consuming the most Carolina Reapers in 60 seconds (ouch!), so it's no surprise that he started his own hot sauce company, Inferno Farms. After hearing about the hot-wing challenge for Fire & Ice, Foster cheerfully donated a selection of his “pride and joy.” Nine sauces arrived just in time for the event, with this friendly note: “It is my pleasure to lend a hand at helping melt the chill this time of year.” Sauces with names like “Green Monster,” “Where There's Smoke” and the dreaded “Lava Drops” brought the heat in WRA's take on the popular YouTube series Hot Ones, in which participants must answer spicy interview questions while battling increasingly hot chicken wings.

The Bucks, Suzanne and Johnny, were good sports, fighting back tears as they endured sauce after sauce, each with increasing intensity.

In times of cold and darkness, sometimes it takes just a little spark to ignite a lot of joy. The Student Life Office did a fantastic job planning the event and providing options for people of all ages to take part. Everything from the iced cookies to the fiery decorations added to the memorable experience.

Fire & Ice, while symbolic in many ways, is also a perfect opportunity to just have some fun. Students, faculty and families came together for a night of memory-making magic that will make Fire & Ice a lasting tradition for years to come.











Wanda Boesch







# THE SHARED LIFE

## Inside the Faculty Home

In an essay for *The New York Times*, author Tim Kreider coined the phrase “the mortifying ordeal of being known.” It has since been borrowed by many for sincerity and memes, but the full quote reads, “If we want the rewards of being loved we have to submit to the mortifying ordeal of being known.” In other words, in order to make real and meaningful connections with others, we must reveal ourselves in all of our complexities and contradictions.

We recognize that the environment of a boarding school inevitably subjects not just its students to this experience, but also its faculty members. Being known is a two-way street. How could it not be, when the wayfaring student might use your backyard as a shortcut to the dining hall, spot you cooking dinner in your pajamas, and give you a chummy wave. And in our experience, the faculty of WRA tend to smile and wave back.

Reserve seems to have a gravitational pull that brings the best people into our orbit — faculty who aren’t just excited to teach or coach, but who are wholly devoted to working in service to

students. They roll with the occasional collision of personal and professional lives with grace and generosity — even when it happens in their pajamas.

Our faculty might host a dumpling dinner, a philosophical pondering on a front porch, or impromptu study sessions when a student knocks on their door, despairing about an upcoming test. And if our alumni are to be believed, these are the memories of Dear Old Reserve that mean the most because they paved the way for the very best thing: confidence, rapport and trust.

When faculty members literally open the doors to their homes, it’s more than an act of hospitality. It’s permission to know more about them. The books they keep on their coffee table, the kind of cereal that’s been left on the counter and the art they hang on their walls all point to experiences, interests and habits that might be brand new to student visitors.

The premise of “An Inside Look” has always been to imitate this intimacy; we ask our faculty to identify items



## Jon Butensky



of significance in their homes, offices and/or classrooms, thereby revealing fascinating insights about and new depths to these individuals. For this feature, we tried to imagine what it would be like for students on their first voyage into the homes of Hunter and Schaeffer Barnhardt, Anna Barlow-Boesch, Wanda Boesch, Jon Butensky, and Mark and Wendy Skinner.

There's so much to see inside these busy and vibrant spaces. And our discussions were fruitful, honest and insightful as we swung from topic to topic — from 'What is it like to raise a family where you work?' to 'What is it like to live in a home as old as the David Hudson House, and is it haunted?' (Mark Skinner, a man of science, says no.)

Science Department faculty member Mark Skinner and Dean of Student Life Wendy Skinner have occupied the David Hudson House since moving to Reserve in 2016. Built in 1806, this Federal-style home was the first permanent house built in the township. Not only was it the home of town founder David Hudson, but it served as a town hall, post office, church meeting house and inn. This, Wendy and Mark will point out, explains the interesting layout of the structure in which there appears to be a separate entrance built to lead people into the "communal" side of the house.

The Skinners now are used to this old house, and they're pleased to point out the notable features. There's the mammoth-sized fireplace, once the heating source of the home, which extends down to the basement like a giant brick backbone. In this basement, you'll see various markers and inscriptions in the cement flooring (purpose unknown), the original beams running across the ceiling and more than 30 bikes. (The Skinners love to cycle!)

Across campus, Director of College Counseling Anna Barlow-Boesch and her family live in the Morley Cottage. Among the faculty homes, the Morley Cottage is another respected elder. Built between 1835 and 1836, the two-story house has been home to WRA legends like Elias Loomis, the astronomer; William



## Anna Barlow-Boesch



Pettingill, who served as Western Reserve College Treasurer from 1863 until 1869; and, of course, Edward W. Morley, a former WRA faculty member whose work paved the way for Einstein's theory of relativity and earned him a nomination for the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1902.

Inside the cottage, Anna and her husband, William Boesch (brother to Science Chair Wanda Boesch), are raising their precocious son, Will, under the watchful supervision of their sweet black Lab, Zoe. It was early December when we stepped inside Morley Cottage, and the Christmas decorations made a cheerful, homey scene. William and Will were reading Dr. Seuss in Spanish in the living room, and Anna was in the kitchen, preparing the various items we had requested she present.

When we ask our faculty to collect these items, it's like asking for an extended show-and-tell. At the start, there's a natural bashfulness in everyone, an uncertainty of whether or not this

precious item is actually worthy of display. (It always is.) But their hesitancy always gives way to excitement as they reveal why the piece is important to them.

For Anna, many items are tied directly to her family and heritage. Honduras and Sweden are very much present, visible in a small painting of a Honduran village that reminds William of home and the various Swedish Christmas decor. She explained that some of her best memories of Swedish culture are tied into the holiday, and it's thrilling to share them with Will.

"As a parent of a small child, it's so fun to see campus through his eyes," she shared. "It's like a playground for him. And to know that he's growing up on campus and getting the opportunity to have such wonderful role models and exposed to such diversity is amazing. We feel so incredibly fortunate to call it home."



## Wendy Skinner



It's a sentiment understood by the countless faculty in WRA's history who raised a family here, such as the Science Department's Jon Butensky and newer residents Schaeffer Barnhardt of the Admission Office and husband Hunter Barnhardt of the Communications & Marketing Office. Faculty children (affectionately known as fac-brats) grow up with a small army of honorary aunts and uncles, and big brothers and big sisters in spades.

We'll concede that this isn't entirely unique to Reserve. The Barnhardts remember bringing home their daughter, Joan Walden, to Chatham Hall, and in celebration of her arrival, Schay's advisees brought them a homemade cake. They were so excited to meet her. It's a moment the Barnhardts will always remember, when their advisees felt as close as family and were thrilled to share in their joy.

At Reserve, we experience life's biggest junctions together as a community, as well as the smaller moments that somehow feel just as powerful and leave a lasting impact. We learned that the Barnhardts regularly host their advisees for a Christmas tree decorating party; the Butenskys hold gatherings on their front lawn with Golden Retriever Baxter lolling in the grass; and Wanda hosts an extreme hot sauce initiation for all her advisees, one that they have been known to train for!

Most of the readers of this feature won't come away with any new information or takeaways. They're not meant to. We all know well the kinship between Pioneers and their faculty. It's Reserve's greatest and most sacred tradition, older than many of the bricks and pillars and just as foundational to this school. We hope these faculty visits bring the best memories to the surface.



# Anna Barlow-Boesch

- 1 We're pretty sure that every Director of College Counseling signs an oath to always rep their alma mater. Anna's cozy Grinnell College sweatshirt is almost 20 years old and clearly has been kept in loving condition.

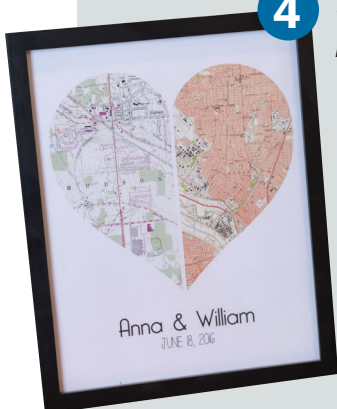


- 2 We are charmed by how often running shoes make an appearance on these lists (and half wonder if we should organize a department vs. department relay race). For Anna, the Peloton shoes came in clutch during the doldrum days of the pandemic, keeping her body active and her spirits lifted.

- 3 Made by a Hudson artist, the Ohio ornament was bought from a local fair-trade store that Anna frequents. The artist cuts slivers of wood from her grandfather's birch tree and makes ornaments for different decor. One such ornament bears the word "JOY." Anna promptly bought it as the perfect gift for Head of School Suzanne Buck.



- 4 If there's a recurring theme in Anna's items, we might say it's a celebration of location. This map art was an engagement gift and honors the fact that Anna and William sustained their loving relationship while living in two different cities (Hudson and Dallas).



- 5 The Dalecarlian horse or Dala horse is a traditional Swedish carved and painted wooden horse statue. Anna's mother is 100% Swedish, her father is half Swedish, and around Christmastime, many heritage items make a special appearance. There's the table runner, the candle and the tomte figurines (sweet "gnome-like" creatures that represent Sweden's version of Santa Claus). When Anna was growing up, Christmas was a magical time when her extended family would gather together to celebrate by dressing up and eating lots of delicious food. Inevitably, one of her uncles would disappear to "take a nap," and not 15 minutes later a tomte would trek through the backyard with a lantern in hand.



- 6 Painted in Honduras, this canvas shows a typical small village in the country. The rendering, with the beautiful overgrowth, the terracotta roofs and the paths leading up to the township's church, is a quintessential depiction of William's home country. Like the Dala horse, it is a precious piece for the family, reminding them of a unique heritage that Will will know as his own.



- 7 Anna purchased this basket while chaperoning a WRA service trip to the Dominican Republic. She remembers it was made by a Haitian migrant worker, woven out of the stalks of cut sugarcane. It reminds her of the rewarding experience that she was honored to share with WRA students.



- 8 When we walked into Anna's home, Will was the first person to greet us, with cheerful hospitality before scampering into the living room to get back to important matters. Needless to say, he won our hearts, and we can clearly see how special this final piece is. Will's "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish" was made at his day care, using his own handprints to make the very happy fish.





# Jon Butensky



**1** A Buffalo native, Jon (BB) Butensky is a true-blue Bills fan, and there's plenty of Bills merch to be found at his home on Baldwin Street — as well as in his classroom in Wilson Hall! He likes to joke with his students that, if provoked, he turns into Billy Buffalo — a friendly incentive to keep sassy students in line.



**2** Of course a soccer coach and former college athlete would be a fan of "Men in Blazers," the popular soccer (or football) podcast. He highly recommends it.

**3** At the shoot, BB wore his ever-present Garmin watch and "soccer-coaching" shoes. These are the same sneakers he has worn to coach soccer for his entire eight-year coaching tenure, and he even wore them when playing soccer at College of Wooster. His watch is the perfect accessory and tool for a runner (Did you know he's completed five full marathons?) and track & field coach.



**4** With all due respect to BB, it was difficult to take our eyes off his son, Max, born in June of 2021. Max recently mastered the ability to blow raspberries and is outstanding at it. We hardly need to explain why he captured our attention so utterly — just look at him!



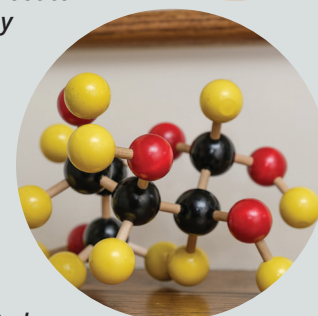
**5** This cutting board was actually a wedding gift from the Closens. And here is a fun fact: Brand's son Kyle and BB were roommates their freshman and sophomore years as well as half of their junior year at Wooster. The Closens are responsible for introducing BB to his wife. So, in a sense, almost all of BB's happiness is thanks to the Closens, WRA's covert matchmakers.



**6** We limited the number of coffee mugs permitted in this photo shoot to four. A self-described caffeine addict, BB isn't sure just how many mugs he owns, but he wagers a guess: "Oh, gosh. A lot."



**7** This molecule model depicts the structure of glucose — or at least it did until it fell on the floor. Now it's glucose-ish. BB likes to use molecule models in the classroom as visual aids for his lessons. You can build any model with the different parts, as long as you have enough pieces and time to spare!



**8** The tie-dye lab coat, colorful goggles and a chemistry-punny mask have been collected over the years and are now BB staples. And we have to think they are a great way to bring some color to chemistry. For BB, they're not just about the pizzazz, they connect to the curriculum. His psychedelic lab coat comes in handy when talking about the electromagnetic spectrum or conducting chemical reactions that turn solutions into different colors.



**9** Propped on the chemistry textbook are two educational tools that we think are pretty neat. The periodic table of elements contains tiny bits of the various elements (pretty cool to examine up close!), and if you pick up the row of metal blocks, you'll find that it's shockingly heavy. This display has blocks of iron, copper, aluminum, titanium and tungsten, and the weight shifts per the density of the metal. Our very last "BB Fun Fact" is about his wedding band, which is actually made from tungsten, although we can attest that it weighs a normal amount.





# Wanda Boesch

**1** This is one of two collages that Wanda lovingly crafted with the childhood artwork created by her daughter Jimena Oliva '22.



**2** This is one of Wanda's first oil paintings. It took five to six months to complete this scene from Florence, one of the many beautiful views Wanda took in during her stay in the city. Around her home, Wanda's work hangs beside other beautiful pieces, many that she has collected over her extensive travels abroad. Doorways are some of her favorite subjects to paint and are a point of fascination when visiting a new area: "I just love how each door presents so much life."



**3** Lexi, though not an official part of the Boesch family, is a frequent and welcome house guest! Wanda is happy to dog-sit for the family of her former advisee Tia Forsyth '16, and Lexi is happy to sit for the occasional portrait.



**4** This bracelet and rosary are precious beyond measure to Wanda because they belonged to her beloved grandmother, Lilia Mireya. The bracelet was worn every day, and it was something Mireya had inherited from her own mother. Wanda is honored to have it now, and because the band is too fragile for everyday wear, it is kept tucked away and safe until it will be passed to a new generation. A part of Mireya is with Wanda every day, as her engagement ring is set with diamonds from one of her grandmother's earrings. Her sister-in-law, Anna Barlow-Boesch, wears a ring made from the other matching earring.



**5** Wanda's devotion to her family is a constant source of light and warmth in her home. Her family photos are points of pride and joy, and she is thrilled to share them with her guests.



**6** These are some of Wanda's favorite books, at the top of her recommendation list. Left to Tell was signed by the author, Immaculée Ilibagiza, when she paid a visit to Dallas, where Wanda used to live. Neil deGrasse Tyson also signed Wanda's copy of The Pluto Files when she met him at a geotech conference.



**7** This is none other than Wanda's fiery (and delicious) hot sauce, made from home-grown habañero peppers. It was one of the more defeating sauces in the Fire & Ice hot wing challenge — nearly taking down the Bucks! Fun fact: One of Wanda's best-known advisee traditions is a special hot wing challenge. Each year, brave Pioneers take on the local Winking Lizard's "Fire in the Hole" in this treacherous yet beloved rite of passage.





# Hunter & Schaeffer Barnhardt



- 1 *Schay (née Goss) Barnhardt's father successfully ran for high school Class Vice President, and how could you not cast a ballot for the candidate with a snazzy slogan like Goss for Boss? The political poster is a perfect conversation starter.*



- 2 *Taken on Hunter and Schay's wedding day, this photo captured a very special moment for the couple. They were married on Chatham Hall's campus, and behind them is the house they would move into that same week.*

- 3 *The Huckberry disposable camera has been documenting merry and meaningful moments for years. There are still about 15 photos left on this camera. When the mood strikes, the Barnhardts bring it out to snap a picture. They can't quite recall what events they've captured, but no doubt after developing the photos, the happy memories will come flooding back.*



- 4 *The Barnhardts are voracious readers, and there are books in abundance. Joseph Campbell and Charlie Mackesy are particular favorites of the pair.*

- 5 *The Barnhardts are loving disciples of their daughter, who rules the roost with queenly authority and irresistible cheer. And when your parents are both English majors with a love of Henry David Thoreau, it's no wonder you're given the name Joan Walden. Around the house you'll find evidence of their love for their daughter, such as a framed photo of their baby girl, a print of her tiny baby footprints and a Joan Walden original abstract (gifted for Mother's Day).*



- 6 *This bowl was crafted and given to them by a former advisee. There have been many gifts from advisees over the years, such as a homemade cake to celebrate the arrival of Joan Walden. They were told the cake was meant to display her initials, but alas, the baking process destroyed the chocolate-chip outline in the batter! It didn't matter in the least to the Barnhardts, who to this day are deeply touched by the thoughtfulness of those with whom they have worked.*

- 7 *They call this the Fish Bowl, and it has a place of honor in the home. Each year, Schay invites her advisees for a game of Fish Bowl, which involves a complex combination of charades and verbal cues and always results in hilarity.*

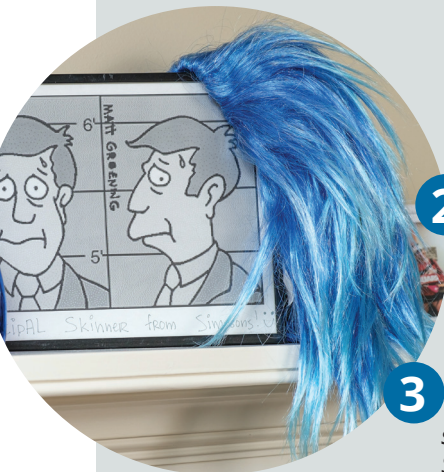


- 8 *This beautiful fishing pole was one of the first things Hunter's grandfather purchased after returning from his Army service in the Korean War. He was the one who taught Hunter to fish, and his many fishing rods were distributed among Hunter and his brothers, who keep them in good condition.*





# Wendy Skinner



1

The bench is a family heirloom, though Wendy best remembers it as the designated “time-out” chair! If you look closely, you can see scuff marks at the bottom edge where she kicked her heels, waiting impatiently for freedom.



2

Wendy brings great humor and playfulness to the Student Life Office (SLO), and sometimes that involves wigs! This blue number made an appearance at the Halloween Costume Parade where she and her fellow SLO members dressed up as Dr. Seuss characters, featuring “Dean One” and “Dean Two.”

3

It’s not easy for a Dean to handle their first high discipline case. When the time came early in Wendy’s career, someone slipped a mug shot of The Simpsons’ Principal Skinner under her office door. A show of support? An act of levity to help break tension? Whatever the motive, it made her smile.



4

How did Wendy meet her husband, Mark? They were co-leaders on a bike trip! They’ve been riding in tandem through life ever since.



5

The Pine Tree State was home for most of Wendy’s childhood, and there’s evidence in the kitchen, where maple syrup is kept in good supply.

6

Wendy keeps a collection of affirmations throughout her office. These encouraging and inspiring words are meant to lift the chins and spirits of any students passing through. They are there to give additional comfort and support, but she admits they are also helpful reminders that she personally needs every now and again.



7

This drawing was given to her son, Cos, as a special graduation gift. Painted by his school-bus driver, it’s a cheerful scene, showing the magical rocket ride to school and those happy days at Fox Chapel Area Schools.



8

This gorgeous painted tile was bought in Beirut, where Wendy spent the first eight years of her life. It was gifted to her grandmother by her parents, and it is a piece she is now honored to have to remind her of her earliest days.







# Applied Positive Psychology Challenges Students to Be **HAPPINESS ARCHITECTS**

It's interesting to imagine how a course like Dean of Faculty Brenda Petersen's Applied Positive Psychology might have been received in the year 1963 or 1999 or even 1826. How might students have benefited from exercises to rewire the brain? Could a gratitude journal have offered comfort following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy? Would resiliency training have reduced anxiety leading up to Y2K? What if there were a call for mindfulness in the midst of the Industrial Revolution? Fortunately, Western Reserve Academy has a rich history of valuing its students, and this year, Pioneers can enroll in a course entirely dedicated to their well-being.

"WRA has always encouraged the sharing of gratitude, the pursuit of virtue and the value of living in community," explained Petersen. "Today, we name these practices more explicitly and can measure their impact through the advances of neuroscience." Applied Positive Psychology isn't just a course; Petersen hopes it will become a lifestyle. "The class allows students to take the latest theories around well-being and apply them to their own lives and track the results. Our approach is to learn by doing, and to grow in our skills and knowledge with an attitude of curiosity grounded in kindness."







It doesn't take Ivy League-published studies to prove that gratitude is good for our health. And yet they do. Studies out of Harvard and Yale point to gratitude practices as a cerebral game changer.

According to Drs. Joshua Brown and Joel Wong in their article "How Gratitude Changes You and Your Brain," published through the Greater Good Science Center (GGSC) at the University of California, Berkeley, habitual gratitude practice should be a mental health treatment option in conjunction with traditional therapy. "Practicing gratitude may help train the brain to be more sensitive to the experience of gratitude down the line, and this could contribute to improved mental health over time," wrote Brown and Wong.

With course activities such as writing in a gratitude journal, practicing daily meditation, giving genuine compliments and sharing a testimony with someone a student has not properly thanked, Petersen is clearly on to something. "Students enjoyed the gratitude visit exercise in which they read 300 heartfelt words of appreciation to someone who has had a profound effect on their lives. It was both interesting and touching to hear how the exercise made them feel and the variety of reactions they encountered."

Life looks a little different in 2022, especially in the midst of a global pandemic. Whether or not we've faced a battle with COVID-19 from a physical perspective, we've all suffered social and emotional consequences. Buzzwords like "gratitude," "resilience" and "mindfulness" have become as much a part of our culture as terms like "quarantine," "social distancing" and "flatten the curve." While we are fortunate to live at a time when mental health is more prioritized, the goal of Petersen's course is to take support a step further. Petersen challenges students not only to experiment with the multitude of strategies she teaches, but to adopt three into their lives beyond the class. The objective is that by considering our habit loops, both negative and positive, we can acknowledge how they contribute to our overall well-being.

"I hope students take away a deeper awareness of who they are and how to experiment with their habits to flourish," said

**"The class allows students to take the latest theories around well-being and apply them to their own lives and track the results. Our approach is to learn by doing, and to grow in our skills and knowledge with an attitude of curiosity grounded in kindness."**

Petersen. Students might consider what they think they want versus what they truly want. What is their ideal day? What are the essential elements that will truly contribute to lasting fulfillment? We are the architects of our lives. So, what will that life look like?

Even more powerful, students in Petersen's course have the opportunity to connect with Arthur Emma '07, creator of ByDesign, a digital planning tool designed to support time management and goal setting. Students not only benefit from piloting his web-based tool, but they're able to see how the lessons learned in Petersen's

class can be applied specifically to a program meant to help people achieve their goals and live their best lives.

With a resume as impressive as her course's description, Petersen brings abundant professional and personal experience to her position. Peace Corps volunteer; high school teacher in the United States, Brazil and China; Assistant Principal; Assistant Head of School; mindfulness trainer; lover of exploring nature, cycling and silent retreats — it's no wonder Petersen leads the class.

"An avid meditator, I deepened my practice by becoming a certified Search Inside Yourself trainer who trains organizations in mindfulness and emotional intelligence," she shared. "The same techniques that I use to improve the performance of a CEO of a multimillion-dollar company I share with our WRA students. I firmly believe these tools can make us and our world better."

There's no doubt every student throughout WRA history could benefit from the practice embedded in Petersen's class. And Petersen, too, is rewarded for teaching it. "It is exciting to validate the wisdom that has been held by WRA for many years. I love discovering more about the methods as the students share their experiences. It is consistently one of the most rewarding and refreshing parts of my day."

With limited tools — paper, a pen and a little reflection (or by trying out ByDesign!) — we all can experience what the ancient Greeks referred to as "eudaimonia" or "the good life," and change our brains and even the world one "thank you" at a time.





# Arthur Emma '07

launches goal-oriented planning tool,

## ByDesign

If Dean of Faculty Brenda Petersen's Applied Positive Psychology course teaches you how to use gratitude to boost well-being and provide clarity about what matters most, then Arthur Emma '07 helps you take that state of mind and make the most of it with his program, ByDesign.

When you visit [bydesign.io](https://bydesign.io), you're prompted by an enticing entreaty: "Begin creating the life you always imagined" using "the only planning tool that helps you live life by design." Blink and you'll miss it, but you're not reading a company tagline. You're being told immediately what sets ByDesign apart from its competitors. Most organizational tools give you a calendar and a task list to keep you on top of your to-dos. ByDesign is a more farsighted product, providing you with these features plus additional functionality that pushes you to think bigger. It's a tool to help you articulate and plan what you want to do in this year, in this decade, in this lifetime, and how to get there.

"All the statistics out there show that only 5% of goals are accomplished and people are chronically stressed out," said Emma. "What we're doing is trying to help you as an individual, as a group and as a community, design your best life effectively. [ByDesign] has never been about giving someone a tool to help them survive the day. It's about how you, as an individual, can live the life you've always imagined. Checking off tasks day to day helps, but if you don't have that North Star, you can lose your way."

If you know Emma, you're probably not surprised by this big-picture focus. As a student at WRA, Emma



Try it out today at [bydesign.io](https://bydesign.io)!





*Top right photo: Three Pioneers! Arthur Emma '07 with father Ed Emma '73 and Mandy Emma '09.*

*Bottom right photo: Arthur Emma with his freshman world history class, taken in November 2011.*

*Bottom left photo: You know you're a beloved teacher when you're toilet-papered by your students!*



founded the Philosophy Club, and some of his best-preserved memories are the conversations he had with others, grappling with some of the biggest questions posed to mankind. He remembers a two-hour conversation with Social Sciences faculty Diccon Ong '81 about whether there's such a thing as a genuinely good action. (No word on whether or not they came to a conclusion.)

Post-WRA, Emma headed to Boston University (BU) to pursue his bachelor's degree in business administration and philosophy and his master's in education. After graduating from BU, Emma joined Teach for America and spent two years teaching high school history in Boston city school districts. Inside the classroom, he started developing a tool that could help his students envision their future and plot a road map toward their idea of success.

"A lot of my students didn't believe in themselves, and when I met my co-founder [Sam Wolfson], we started putting together different ideas about current productivity tools and what we could bring into our classroom to get our students really excited not just about learning but about their futures," he shared.

The earliest prototype of ByDesign, more of an idea than a program, was born. It applied visual trackers for progress monitoring and partnered students with accountability groups to push them forward. It was encouraging to watch the students using this system outperform their peers.

ByDesign is not intended as a tool just for students, but it has been thoroughly beta-tested in the classroom. After a Minimum

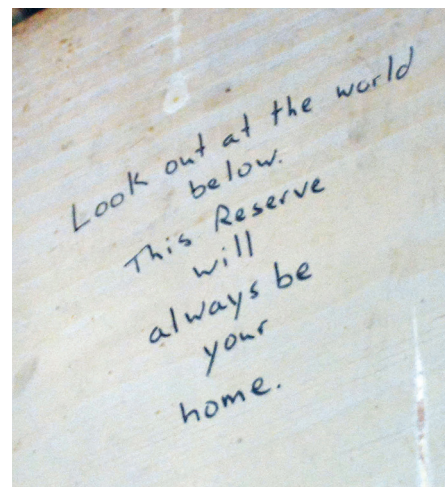
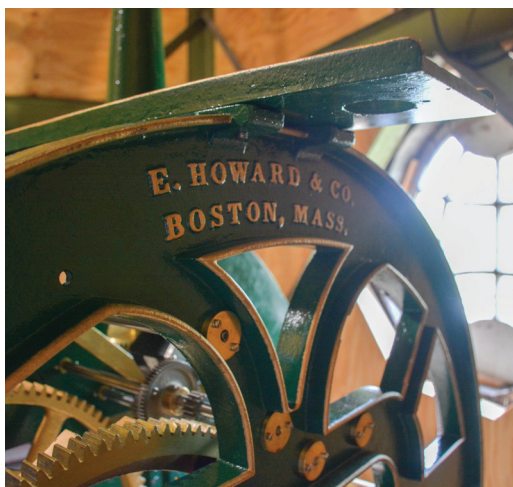


Viable Product (MVP) was developed inside the Dartmouth College Digital Applied Learning and Innovation (DALI) Lab, the prototype was piloted by Dartmouth MBA students. Currently, 300 students and eight faculty members from Gateway Technical College are signed up. And Western Reserve Academy's own students have been given the opportunity to be a part of the company's budding success.

This semester, Sophia Bluso '22 is interning with the design team, aiding with social media strategy, and students in Applied Positive Psychology will again have the opportunity to sign up for the service, just as students did in the previous semester. Last semester, Nea Mentor '23 left a glowing review that described the platform as a "lifesaver." Emma might have written a similar review had he had access to the platform when he was a high school student, and was happy to share that Reserve has undeniably played a role in the formation of ByDesign.

"I was kind of all over the place [as a student]," he shared. "I think the struggle that I had in high school is something that I continue to try to solve. This platform is really the solution for the difficulties I had with time management, planning and thinking ahead. And really, from a philosophical perspective, I left WRA with an understanding that we all have a responsibility to make a positive impact on the world. That's what I'm really trying to do."









# Chapel Doors Reopen

**O**n the heels of extensive and historic renovation, our Chapel is gleaming and looking better than new (with due respect to its age). After serving as a space for community gathering for nearly two centuries, the Chapel was looking as well-worn as a favorite blazer. With great care, it was taken apart, its pieces and parts repaired and restored, and this autumn, it reopened with the same quiet dignity it exudes.

As is the Reserve way, the Chapel now honors the old while blending in the new. With emerald carpeting, fresh paint and plaster, new flooring and restored pews, the Chapel looks just as beautiful as it likely did when it first opened in 1836. But attention also has been paid to accessibility and amenities, such as a new lift from the first and second floors to make sure all guests have a seat in the pews. We also have repaired the clock in the tower so it keeps proper time (very helpful for any students who could otherwise be late for class).

The most visible difference between the Chapel today and the Chapel of last year is the removal of our organ, which has been a Chapel staple since its installation in 1967. The organ has been welcomed back by its original owners, the Holtkamps, a WRA legacy family. In its stead, we now have a large Palladian window, which was part of the Chapel's structure before the organ. It has brought light into the Chapel like never before and given Pioneers and WRA community members a seasonal backdrop of Brick Row when they stand on the stage.

If you noticed the missing cross that once hung on the east wall, you'll be pleased to know it now has a home in the Chapel once more. It is part of a special display on the mezzanine level, along with other historic and significant articles, such as the old clock face. There's also a special display of a rediscovered pane from the original Palladian window.

The respect our alumni hold for their dear Chapel is obvious and, indeed, is what made such work possible. Our Chapel and recent front gate renovations were funded by the generosity of two anonymous alumni donors. As we worked in the Chapel, we were reminded of the power of our alumni members' love and loyalty for their alma mater. Inside the clock tower, we were amused to find some harmless graffiti — no doubt penned by enterprising upperclassmen. Amid the David Bowie lyrics and various signatures, there reads: "Look out at the world below. This Reserve will always be your home." It's a sentiment as timeless and true as our Chapel. May the words never fade.





## Dr. Debra Lew Harder '79 named radio host for the Metropolitan Opera

**T**he longest-running classical music program in American radio history has a new host, and she is a Pioneer in more ways than one. Dr. Debra Lew Harder '79 is the new voice of the Metropolitan Opera's radio broadcasts, and she is only the fifth person to serve in this capacity since the program began in 1931.

Before she was appointed to the role, Dr. Lew Harder hosted WRTI's Classical Midday and Saturday Classical Coffeehouse in Philadelphia. The announcement of her departure on WRTI's website was met with an outpouring of kind comments, messages of congratulations and more than a little heartbreak from her fans. It seems increasingly rare to find a public comment section so wholesome, and it speaks volumes of the love and loyalty that Dr. Lew Harder inspires in her listeners.

Dr. Lew Harder is one of the few alumni members to hold two doctorate degrees. She earned her Bachelor of Science from Kent State University and Doctor of Medicine from Northeast Ohio Medical University, and after practicing as an emergency room physician, she pursued and earned her second doctorate, in music from The Ohio State University.

Her aptitude for music and medicine sync perfectly in her role as co-director of (the appropriately



*Pulled from the 1979 Hardscrabble.*





•

Suddenly, they turn on  
the radio, and because of  
the Met broadcasts,  
they are transported by  
the power, beauty,  
and genius of opera.  
This is what can elevate a  
life, and a community.

•

named) Music + Medicine, a program at Sidney Kimmel Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University that provides medical students with rehearsal, workshop and performance opportunities to bolster their happiness and help improve their studies.

Dr. Lew Harder also somehow has carved out time to become a concert pianist. Her performances with orchestras and in recitals have taken her to world-renowned venues such as Wigmore Hall in London and the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series in Chicago. And what's more, she has recorded two solo piano albums.

There's truly no one else on the planet who can tout a resume like hers, but Dr. Lew Harder moved into this role with expressions of tremendous gratitude. In the Metropolitan Opera's official release, she shared: "...to be part of the incredible team that brings the greatest opera house in the world to the world, is a dream come true. I'm imagining someone else's dad or mom, sister, brother, or friend — perhaps halfway around the world, perhaps unable to leave their house, perhaps without a cent to spend on anything but the necessities. Suddenly, they turn on the radio, and because of the Met broadcasts, they are transported by the power, beauty, and genius of opera. This is what can elevate a life, and a community. Connecting with that person — this is what I'm so honored to have been asked to do."



# RIC GEYER '73 OPENS NEW ARTS CENTER IN MACON, GEORGIA

For longtime readers of *WRA Magazine*, this story might sound a little familiar. In the Fall 2004 issue, we published an article about Ric Geyer '73 and his winning the Waring Prize. Prize recipients are honored for their great work and service to their community, and at the time of the publication, Geyer was making a tremendous impact on the city of Detroit.

The article details a short list of his many contributions (e.g., volunteering to be CFO for the 2006 Super Bowl Host Committee, serving on the transition team for two city mayors, working with former Governor Jennifer Granholm on building a bridge between the arts and economic development). The list ends with a brief mention of an arts center that Geyer opened after purchasing a derelict warehouse and converting it into an “artist incubator” and cultural centerpiece for the city. It’s almost mentioned offhandedly (though with clear admiration), but looking back it foreshadows a legacy that Geyer is still building.

This year, Geyer is opening his fourth arts center, this one in Macon, Georgia. Triangle Arts Macon sits in downtown Macon’s Industrial District, and the buildings on this lot, once on the demo list, are now revitalized spaces, splashed with vibrant colors and repurposed as individual artist studios.

A quick trip to the website tells you more. Their mission, in their words, is to “help folks move forward — with their ideas, with their art and with their lives.” Artists are invited to add to ongoing street murals, rent studio space, contribute to Macon’s rich history of innovation in music and the arts, and come to a place where it is safe and encouraged to be creative and bold.







There is more to read in Geyer's Class Note, where, in his message to his classmates, he acknowledges how winning the Waring Prize has acted, in a way, as an accelerant: "Winning [the prize] back in the day has probably done more for my stamina and perseverance than anything. I truly believe Reserve is an outstanding institution, and I feel like I am trying to uphold the legacy of the award and the institution every day."

And upholding it he is. What an important and admirable calling it is to create a place designed to bring more beauty into a community, and into the world. There's no denying the importance of art. To borrow from Henry James, "It is art that makes life, makes interest, makes importance." Geyer's latest undertaking is another gift to another community, one we are proud to applaud.

**"I TRULY BELIEVE RESERVE  
IS AN OUTSTANDING  
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I AM TRYING TO UPHOLD THE  
LEGACY OF THE AWARD AND  
THE INSTITUTION EVERY DAY."**





# VALANDRIA SMITH-LASH '19

LANDS IN  
*EBONY* FOR  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

**A**t 14 years old, VaLanDria Smith-Lash '19 was in the early stages of building her own company — though she didn't know it yet. In the kitchen of her family home in South Side, Chicago, she experimented with a product that would help repair and restore health to her mother's hair, which had become dry and brittle after her lupus diagnosis. Through research, trial and error, and consulting with medical professionals, she concocted a whipped shea butter made from all-natural ingredients, which would help soothe her mother's head without interfering with her medication.





Smith-Lash saw her mother transform — “I saw the light come back” — and it set the course for Coarse Culture. Headquartered in Arlington Heights, Illinois, Coarse Culture is a Black-owned business that offers a plant-based whipped shea butter in six fragrances: Poundcake (Smith-Lash’s current favorite), Lavender, Spearmint, Orange Twist, Eucalyptus and Unscented. Coarse Culture’s products can be applied to skin and hair. (Smith-Lash gives herself the full hair-to-toe treatment!) Six months after the public launch of the brand, Coarse Culture is still a newcomer to the beauty and wellness space but has already earned the trust and loyalty of many.

It’s remarkable that at only 21 years old, Smith-Lash is not just running a company but has built one on the sturdy foundation of sustainability and self-care. These days, she and her team are looking into possible distribution in small health food stores in the Chicago area. Knowing this, it’s no surprise that she recently caught the eye of *Ebony* magazine, which published a story about her remarkable ability to balance entrepreneurship with her responsibilities as an Evans Scholar at Miami University.

So, how does she manage to do this?

“I have a wonderful Coarse Culture team,” she explained. “There are two team members who do the day-to-day mixing and orders, and my sister Valencia Brennan is my Operations Manager. She’s basically in charge while I’m at school!”

At Miami University, Smith-Lash is studying speech pathology and pursuing a dance minor. Coarse Culture is treated as an extracurricular while she focuses on school.

“I had to learn to delegate and to manage my time better, and that wasn’t easy!” she admitted. “I am a person who likes to be hands-on with absolutely everything. But that’s just not possible when you’re pursuing a degree and making sure to prioritize mental health and happiness. And if my business is about taking the time to take care of yourself, then I have to remember that this applies to me as well. I have to be able to tell myself, ‘Okay, VaLaNDria, that’s enough work for right now. You need to go to sleep. You need to study.’ Learning to practice what I preach has been an important lesson.”

And for Smith-Lash, these lessons have been not just challenges that need a solution, they have been opportunities to stretch herself and broaden her perspective.

“This is one of the things that I love about being a business owner — it forces me to grow in ways that I couldn’t have imagined, especially at my age,” she shared. “And it makes me value my team even more. Four or five heads are better than one, and I really do value their opinions when we’re in discussion and making decisions. Although I am at the front of the ship, I’m not running it alone. And that’s something I’m very thankful for.”

In her interview with *Ebony*, Smith-Lash touches on an additional mission point

for Coarse Culture, which underlines the importance of that word “culture” and the power of lifting up others and building community.

“I really think that being community focused is what makes a business a great one,” she shares in the piece. “For me, that is the value in being a business owner. It ensures that the positive actions of what you’re doing come back around. Even when it’s not about sales, we make sure that we go and participate in local drives. We make sure that we’re also uplifting other young, Black entrepreneurs by holding pop-up events and shouting them out on Instagram. We just try to make sure that we’re bringing everybody up with us, right?”

She puts this into practice religiously. It can be as simple and easy as volunteering to participate in another business’s Turkey Trot or as big and empowering as planning a pop-up for local young, Black entrepreneurs. This is something she and her team are currently preparing for. The pop-up “Self-Made Market,” planned for Black History Month, is where people can shop, support and discover Black-owned businesses in their community.

We have said before that our sincerest aspiration for our students is to set them on the path to success and joy. There can be no better example than Smith-Lash. Her success, mission, mindset and heart are indeed a joy to behold, as is her excitement about what’s ahead for Coarse Culture and for herself.

**Learn more about Coarse Culture by visiting [thecoarseculture.com](https://thecoarseculture.com).**



# 187

TOTAL  
RHS MEMBERS

CLASS WITH  
THE MOST  
MEMBERS

# 1965

# 99

AGE OF  
OLDEST MEMBER

LARGEST RHS GIFT TO DATE

# \$4,000,000

BY JAMES ELLSWORTH, CLASS OF 1868

# 32

AGE OF  
YOUNGEST  
MEMBER

## THE RESERVE HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Reserve Heritage Society  
recognizes alumni, parents and friends  
who shape WRA's future by  
including the school in their estate plans.

### CONTACT

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[lafontainem@wra.net](mailto:lafontainem@wra.net)

[WRA.net/giving](http://WRA.net/giving)

If you are considering a gift to WRA,  
we would be delighted to work with you  
and your advisors to explore options.  
Please contact us to discuss creating  
your own legacy at WRA by becoming a  
part of the Reserve Heritage Society.

# WRA

Western Reserve Academy





*Art pulled from the 2005 Hardscrabble, a superhero-themed edition. It's a well-matched design for a graduate with a heart of gold.*

# Hunter Norman Wright

**May 11, 1986 - Oct. 4, 2021**

**S**ometimes just a few words can illuminate a whole person. Hunter Norman Wright wanted to start a fencing club at Reserve. A flier he created as a new freshman said:

*I haven't had the pleasure of meeting all of you yet, and I hope soon to. A few of my friends were wondering if any of the fine teachers here at Reserve have any experience in the art of fencing. We lately have acquired an interest in it and would like to start a club. If anyone could help and get back to me that would be great.*

*P.S. I live in Wood House room 105. Also you can leave something in my open mailbox.*

*Thanks,  
Hunter Wright*

There's so much to unpack in such a short outreach, but it's all there, everything that was further described about Hunter in transcripts and teacher recommendations archived in his student files, consulted far too soon. Hunter was enterprising, athletic, kind, well raised, popular, respectful, never entitled, open. His polite





## His family talks of how Hunter was “the heart of the Wright family.” And Hunter’s family was his heart.

phrasing suggests he may have been a Reserve student further back than he was, before the casual language popularized by culture and social media seeped in and affronted formality and deference. In fact, Hunter was a Pioneer at the turn of the 21st century, entering Reserve in 2001 and graduating in 2005.

Hunter’s college counseling appraisal at WRA said, “It’s no wonder that Star Wars is his favorite film; he, in many ways, lives by the code of a Jedi Knight. An unassuming, modest and genuine young man, Hunter also has a puckish side that expresses itself in the most amusing ways. Practical jokes are his speciality, but never at anyone’s expense. A gifted public speaker, Hunter occasionally addresses the student body at Morning Meeting, announcing the latest Student Council activities or challenging the underclassmen to take on the upperclassmen in some contest of skill or chance. Hunter is a ‘glass-half-full kind of guy,’ and people like having him around.”

No teacher seemed to enjoy Hunter more than longstanding and beloved faculty member Russ Hansen. Hansen’s appraisals of Hunter are a tribute to them both, illustrating the very best of the student-teacher dynamic. One of Hansen’s many comments throughout Hunter’s time at Reserve reads, “I love this guy! He laughs at all my jokes — a kindness for an old man? And he has never shown a hint of making excuses for himself. Hunter is — if I haven’t mentioned it before — one of my favorite people. He is unfailingly cheerful.”

WRA faculty member Patty Campbell agreed with her

colleague in her appraisal: “Hunter continues to contribute positively to every facet of life at Reserve. He is known for his good manners, unfailing honesty and willing nature.”

Sprinkled into the accolades are delightful little doses of teenageism, like a pre-calculus class cut or a piece of advice from a teacher to resist senioritis. (It’s worth noting that it was difficult to find a yearbook photo where Hunter wasn’t shirtless!) But you get the sense that Hunter took it all in stride, as he went on to achieve great success beyond Reserve, graduating from Miami University and then working for Caterpillar in Indiana, for Black Horse in Texas and as President of his family’s company, Ariel Corporation, in Ohio. He served on numerous philanthropic and community boards, including the WRA Board of Visitors, Ohio Manufacturers’ Association, Mount Vernon Nazarene University College of Engineering and Knox County Airport.

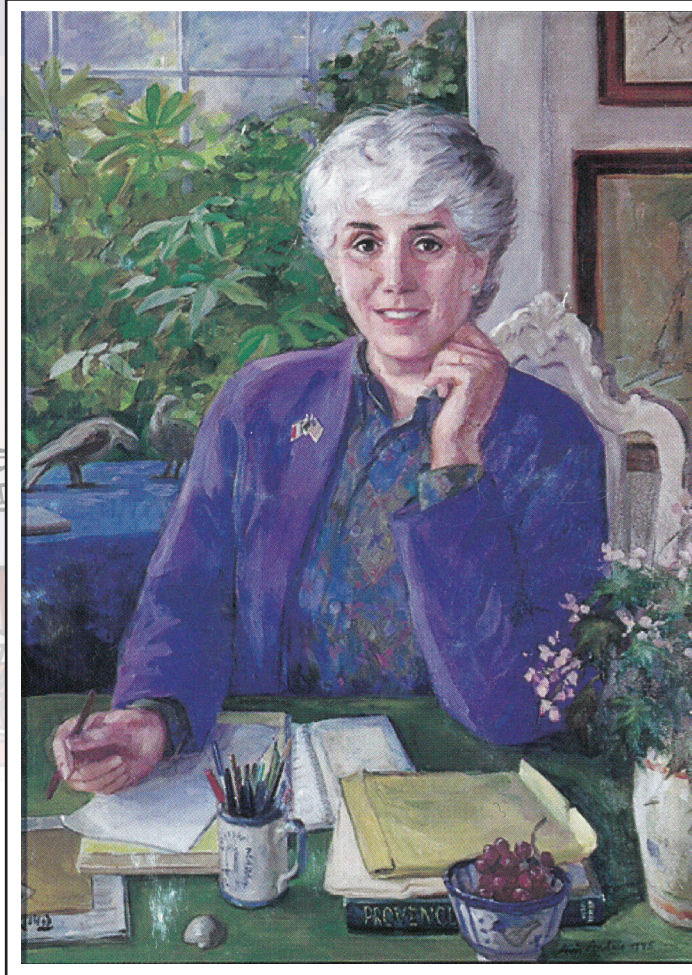
His family talks of how Hunter was “the heart of the Wright family.” And Hunter’s family was his heart. He met the love of his life, Katherine Forbes (Gruman) Wright ’06, at WRA and married her in 2012. Together they had a beautiful daughter, Annabelle Wright, who now sits at the center of the fun and formidable family that provided the foundation upon which Hunter took flight.

Hunter’s glass-half-full attitude, lauded and felt deeply at Reserve, propelled him through his valiant battle with cancer. What a legacy he leaves behind, having made a name for himself as a husband, father, son, student and citizen, who — in the words penned by Hansen years ago — did “so much that is Wright.”



# Velia Fiori Pryce

Sept. 19, 1930 - Aug. 20, 2021



French Romantic writer George Sand said, “Il n’y a qu’un bonheur dans la vie, c’est d’aimer et d’être aimé.” There is only one happiness in life, to love and be loved. By this definition, Velia Fiori Pryce would have been abundantly happy, building a life surrounded by family and friends, and enveloped by community at Western Reserve Academy, where she taught for 20 years.

Velia’s path to Reserve sounds as if it had been written in a novel, featuring brushes with Eleanor Roosevelt, Jacques Cousteau and a certain Englishman she met in France, Robert (Bob) Pryce, who became Velia’s husband of 56 years. But any glamorous-sounding elements were underpinned by grit and groundedness. Born in 1930 in Portland, Pennsylvania, Velia was the first of five daughters of hardworking Italian immigrants Francesco and Matilda Fiori.

Beginning her education in a one-room schoolhouse, Velia went on to become the first in her family to earn a college degree, a Pioneer from her youngest days. She graduated from

East Stroudsburg State Teachers College with concentrations in French and biology, and ultimately earned a master’s degree in French from Middlebury College. A Fulbright grant to study in France in the early 1950s launched a lifelong love of travel, the arts and languages.

Velia and Bob lived in England before returning to the states, where Bob began teaching French at WRA and Velia at Wooster College, Kent State University and then Hathaway Brown School. Velia joined the WRA faculty in 1974. Velia was also a major force in the founding of the Hudson Montessori School and was a lifelong supporter of Montessori education.

Velia’s daughter Cecily Maguire, a member of the WRA Board of Trustees, shared these reflections: “My mother was an exacting teacher, as anyone who took French I or II with her will remember, but she put in as much effort as she demanded, and no one was more willing to help a struggling student, in or out of the classroom. One of my WRA classmates was a vegetarian, and in those days the dining hall did not provide



*Velia's world travel and teaching approach reflect an energetic and unconventional spirit. She taught classes using creative methods, such as reading comic books in French.*

vegetarian alternatives. My mother would cook something for him every evening and take it to Ellsworth so she would be sure he had something to eat — seeing someone go hungry was completely unacceptable to her.”

Velia's world travel and teaching approach reflected an energetic and unconventional spirit. She taught classes using creative methods, such as reading comic books in French and watching films to immerse the students in French dialogue. Her teaching extended beyond the classroom to include organizing and chaperoning summer trips to France for WRA students which were often life-changing experiences. Katie Ong Landini '83 shared this remembrance: “I adored her! She was like another mother to me during my time at Reserve. We bonded during a school trip to France. She taught me to have confidence in myself and to pursue new opportunities for growth. I am forever grateful to her — and her loving, wonderful family who took me in as one of their own.”



*Photos submitted by daughter Cecily Maguire '78.*



Indeed, boarding school was the perfect melting pot for Velia to share her love of other languages and cultures. She and Bob started an informal Italian program at Reserve, allowing students to learn and practice over dinner. She also directed the speaker's program at the Chapel and raised the bar on the quality and novelty of the guest speakers.

She and Bob were deliberate in raising their four daughters in the idyllic environment and intellectual wonderland that is Reserve. Maria Pryce '76, Alison Pryce '77, Cecily Maguire '78 and Jessica Burns '81, all accomplished in their own lives, embody the values and the adventurous spirit of their mother.

Velia was strong and sensitive, independent and social, loyal and uncompromising, worldly and still

believing in a strong sense of place and home. All together, in any language, Velia Fiori Pryce was a wonderful woman, educator, wife, mother, sister, grandmother and Pioneer who will be dearly missed.



# Remembering Russ Hansen

*Written by his daughter, Kristen Patterson '80*



**R**ussell F. Hansen, beloved father, grandfather, teacher, adventurer, lover of life in all of its forms, and longtime resident of Hudson, Ohio, left us for the greatest adventure of all on Jan. 22, 2022. He was a passionate naturalist and explorer of all things wild and uninhabited. He was also, as I was recently reminded, a rascal, a man who had a life well and thoroughly lived.



Russ was a man who spent much of his life in solitary celebration of the divine places most of us do not think to notice. It is my belief that the times he spent in these places, in the company of a loyal dog, were where he was happiest. His grandson Alek said about his grandfather, "His love of life and nature were his deep spirituality." This insightful statement echoes my own view of Dad's essential self, his faith in the connection of all things. It is a great comfort to know that he can rely on this part of himself on his next journey.

Russ was beloved by many. We shared him with legions of adoring fans, the majority in student form, from the great bastion of learning, Western Reserve Academy. All of his children and one of his grandchildren attended the school. It was just one of the many great and meaningful experiences he made available to us.

Russ was a teacher at Western Reserve Academy for 34 years. He was an ardent lover of the natural world and inspired his students to love it as well through his humor, his curiosity about almost everything and his infectious joie de vivre. He also taught it through immersion, through practical, hands-on experience, leading his students on many adventures into the open spaces of, as Carl Sagan says, "the pale blue dot."

Among his many lifetime achievements, Russ was the driving force behind the creation of a Natural History Landmark out of an old-growth forest that had been slated for destruction. He campaigned tirelessly to keep developers from the wild spaces in Ohio. He created the Future Scientists program at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, which provided the opportunity for high school students to study and learn to appreciate natural history. He directed an outdoor summer research program in Maine for high school students for many years. He fought wildfires

in California as a much younger man. He lectured, wrote magazine articles and developed friendships with some heavy hitters in the environmental world, including Euell Gibbons, who dedicated a book to him.

All of these accomplishments are impressive, but the essence of our father was in his kindness, his capacity to inspire wonder and joy in others, and his irresistible spirit of adventure. He shared this with his children and grandchildren by giving us many of the most meaningful moments of our lives: trekking on the Appalachian Trail, summering on a Maine island, rafting down the Colorado River and in Idaho, excursions to Africa, forays into Italy and Switzerland, exploring local forests, streams, bogs, swamps, and teaching us to love and appreciate the world around us. The biggest gift he gave us, however, was the idea that if we leave the world a little better than we found it, we have succeeded.

In the days prior to his death, our father told the hospice nurse, "My children are wonderful." It was just like him to make sure we knew we were special before he left us. We are so grateful for that gift.

If you loved him,  
spend a quiet  
moment or two  
in a wild space.  
Appreciate it.  
Think of him with  
laughter and joy in  
your heart.

In closing, I will leave you with a last glimpse of who our father was in life through the words of a poet as irreverent as he himself:

"The Wanderlust has got me... by the belly-aching fire."  
– Robert Service

Our father requested no memorial service. If you loved him, spend a quiet moment or two in a wild space. Appreciate it. Think of him with laughter and joy in your heart. We know that is how he would have wanted to be remembered. If you wish to honor his memory through a contribution, please make donations to The Nature Conservancy.



# LOUIS C. TURNER

January 21, 1934 - December 29, 2021



*Lou Turner and a student work on the Frost Observatory telescope in the fall of 1981.*

It's a marvelous irony that a man so focused on the stars could also be so grounded. Louis Turner loved the earth, studied its properties, fished its rivers and traversed its wondrous grounds. But the lights in the sky inspired him as much as almost anything, save his family and his zeal for teaching and guiding students.





*Left: Lou Turner (back left) with the members of the Astronomy Club in 1977.*

*Below, pictured from left to right: Lou Turner, Jerry Frost '82, Hunter Temple and Norris G rthalts.*



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It is probably an unfair stereotype that scientists are more clinical than comical, because Lou had both sides. He taught at Reserve for 30 years and was known for his serious intellect and his softer side, which earned him the nickname "Sweet Lou." He also had a moment on a walk of fame, of sorts, acting in a PBS documentary as astronomer and meteorologist Elias Loomis. Lou asserted that the highlight of playing Loomis was not the acting he did on the set but rather when he met his family for lunch at a local restaurant in full makeup and costume.

Lou and his wife of 61 years, Lee, came to Western Reserve Academy via Mount Hermon School in Massachusetts and a two-year stint at Athens College in Greece. By the time they arrived at WRA, they had three shining stars in tow, Nancy '81, Stephen '84 and Brian '89. The Turners watched the earth's most surprising and unpredictable phenomena to parents — their children — grow up on campus amidst other faculty who became family, like the Bakers and the Donnellys.

Lou initially taught math and physics, and added an astronomy class in 1980. He supervised the design and construction of the Frost Observatory and opened it up for community stargazing. Over the years he also coached football and both boys and girls tennis,

drawing on his own experience as a celebrated athlete at Dartmouth, where he captained the football team.

A classroom focused on kinetic concepts like sound, electricity and magnetism is no place to get stuck in the mud of traditionalism, and Lou evolved and innovated. Russ Hansen, Lou's colleague in the Science Department, remarked, "Lou has completely revamped his thinking on what a good education should consist of, and has made a name for himself in the world of physics." Lou's name became synonymous with the modeling method, a more pioneering approach to discovery in which the instructor guides students but allows the students themselves to make the decisions and understand why.

Lou's commitment to experiential learning guided his own zeal to live life hands on, head down and guided by heart. After retirement in 2001, he and Lee returned to Massachusetts, where he led several environmental organizations, blending his earned wisdom with his innate wanderlust, begun as a child who loved the outdoors.

WRA has issued thousands of invitations over its long history, but one sits in the archives that is unique and stellar. The invitation is from Lou, and it invites everyone to a "Comet Watch." The date of the event? "Every Clear Night" in the month of December. Western Reserve Academy remembers Lou Turner for his many contributions, including a life of lessons on the thrill of looking up and the joy of experiencing adventures underfoot.



# In Memoriam

WRA Magazine wishes to express its sincere condolences to all family and friends of the deceased.



## Faculty & Staff

**Dr. John Louis Guidubaldi**, 82, died on Nov. 12, 2021, in Port Orange, Florida. For 23 years, John served WRA as the staff psychologist. He earned his doctorate in education and human development from Harvard and served as the Chair of Early Childhood Education at Kent State University before coming to Reserve. During his long career in psychology and academia, he was also the President of the National Association of School Psychologists. John embraced his Italian heritage with pride. He enjoyed homemade Italian food and designed and built an Italianate villa to be his Florida home. John was passionate about the well-being of others and cherished spending time with his seven children and grandchildren.

## Class of 1941

**Norman Hurst Daily**, 97, died on July 14, 2021. After graduating from WRA, Norman served in the Army Air Corps during World War II and was stationed in India, Burma and China. He went on to attend Case Western Reserve University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in science and a medical degree. Norman enjoyed a long career in pharmaceutical sales and established 17 medical laboratory locations throughout Northeast Ohio as he focused his research on cancer vaccine development. He eventually relocated to Sarasota, Florida, and found joy in reading and completing puzzles in retirement. Norman is survived by his wife, Anne Herron; his children Deborah and Elizabeth; four grandchildren and other loving family members.

## Class of 1942

**Louis Edward "Ed" Holden**, 88, died on Nov. 19, 2011. WRA was made aware of his passing only recently. Ed attended WRA from 1940 to 1942, before serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II. When stationed in California, he met his wife of 65 years, Harriet Harding. Ed went on to earn his doctorate in school administration after earning degrees

in psychology and education. He and Harriet shared many passions in life, including sailing. They once embarked on a three-year voyage in the South Pacific during retirement. Ed will be remembered by those close to him as an incredibly grateful and positive man.

## Class of 1948

**Ronald B. Bacon**, 91, died on Dec. 21, 2021, in Sedona, Arizona. Ron designed and lived in his Sedona home since 1989. In his youth, the Bacon family moved to Hudson, Ohio, before Ron attended WRA. He loved his classmates and served them for years to come as their Class Correspondent. Ron's path after graduation took many directions, shaping his fascinating life. He graduated from Arizona State University in 1952, served four years in the U.S. Naval Air Reserve, worked as a disc jockey in Cleveland, Ohio, then found his way to Hollywood, California, where he worked in television for 34 years. Stage Manager, Director, Producer — you name it, he probably did it. Over 12,500 broadcasts and 137 network shows had Ron Bacon's name on them. Just to name a few, he worked on *Family Feud*, *The Lawrence Welk Show*, *Good Morning America*, *Dick Clark's Rockin' New Year's Eve*, the first space shuttle landing, moon landings and countless other major events. He won an Emmy Award for his work covering the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. Aside from his television career, he was also a devoted husband and father, musician/composer, small engine pilot and an avid chess player. Ron inspired many artists, writers, actors and musicians, but he especially inspired the friends and family who knew him closest.

**Alan M. Kyman**, 88, died on March 29, 2019. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1930 and was highly involved in extracurricular activities when he attended WRA. Alan was applauded for his creativity as he pursued photography, art, typing, tennis and soccer. His family migrated to Phoenix, Arizona, after he graduated, and he also headed west to attend Stanford University. Following undergrad, Alan graduated from the University of Arizona College of





Law in 1955 and practiced law in Phoenix for over 55 years. Joyce Gardner Kyman was his beloved wife for 50 years, and together they found immense joy in spending time with their children and grandchildren.

**William Carlisle Scott VII**, 90, died on Nov. 30, 2021. Will grew up in Hudson, Ohio, and journeyed to the warmer weather of Arizona after graduating from Reserve. He graduated from the University of Arizona College of Law in 1956 and practiced law in Tucson for 60 years. Apart from being an attorney, he was also a swim instructor, blacksmith for the Southern Pacific Railroad, housing developer, lumber distributor, church member and devoted husband to Deborah, just to name a few. It was in Will's good nature to look for the humor in every situation. He wrote his own official obituary, because "if he had to go, he wanted the last word, which, by the way, is 'Peace be with you.'"

## Class of 1949

**John Wynne MacDonell**, 91, died on Aug. 24, 2021. John was born in 1930 in Lima, Ohio, where he lived most of his life. When he attended WRA, he was a standout performer in football, swimming and track, and was described as "a complete gentleman." Following his Reserve years, he graduated from Denison University in 1955. That same year, John married Sally Eaton, who survives him. He led a successful career with City Loan & Savings, which spanned 34 years and four locations. He had a tremendous impact on the Lima community and was recognized for his volunteer service alongside organizations including United Way, American Red Cross, Salvation Army and Shawnee Boy Scout Council. John will be remembered by many as a man of character and integrity.

**Daniel Walter Wingard**, 88, died on April 18, 2020. Dan grew up on a farm less than 10 miles from Hudson, and he was a respected athlete and scholar during his time at Reserve. He went on to become an anesthesiologist and conducted significant research on malignant hyperthermia.

Dan lived in various locations, with Lincoln, Nebraska, being his final town of residence. He is survived by his children Kathleen, Brenda and Dan.

## Class of 1950

**Philip Lee Kennedy**, 89, died on June 7, 2021. Phil was born in LaGrange, Illinois, and spent nearly his entire life in the Chicago area. He attended Northwestern University, earning his undergraduate degree in economics before attending the University of Michigan Law School. Phil spent his free time volunteering at the Art Institute of Chicago and giving architecture walking tours through the city. Reflecting on his time at WRA, Phil once wrote, "I owe a lot to Reserve, and to think that I had never been there until my first day of school and didn't want to come. I was lucky to get in, lucky to stay in, and lucky to graduate."

## Class of 1951

**William Arthur Fall**, 88, died on Oct. 19, 2021. He married his high school sweetheart, Louise Ullman, whom he met on a blind date at a Reserve dance. They enjoyed 67 years of marriage and raised five children. William served 22 years in the United States Air Force, rising to the rank of Colonel. He flew 186 combat reconnaissance missions and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, a high award also given to the likes of both Charles Lindbergh and Amelia Earhart. The family then settled in the Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C., where William taught and conducted seminars. A lifelong learner, he earned two master's degrees later in life. Camping was a favorite activity among William and Louise; together, they camped in all of the lower 48 states.

**Karl Albert Adolph Reuther**, 89, died on Oct. 17, 2021. Karl's WRA legacy lives on through his two sons and two of his grandchildren. After graduating with honors from Reserve, he studied mechanical engineering at MIT. It was there that Karl found his lifelong love of skiing and snowboarding, which became part of his very





## *In Memoriam, cont.*

active lifestyle. Karl was the five-time state racquetball champion of Ohio, an avid pickleball player and a nationally recognized CrossFit champion up to age 89. He lived in Akron and Marietta, Ohio, during his vibrant, full life. He loved to inspire young people, was extremely generous and made friends everywhere he went.

**John Phillips Maynier**, 86, died on Jan. 26, 2019. John came to WRA from Kingston, Jamaica, and was involved in jazz, soccer and tennis as a Pioneer. He lived the later part of his life near Austin, Texas. John's favorite part of campus was the Chapel. In a letter home to his mother, he once wrote of the Chapel: "The beauty of it does not lie in material things but in intrinsic value. To me it is a tabernacle, a rock of strength, and an all understanding friend. It is simple inside and yet beautiful."

**Roy Kuno Imhoff**, 88, died on April 4, 2021. Roy knew from the age of 12 that he wanted to become a veterinarian, and that's exactly what he did. After graduating from WRA and then veterinary school at Ohio State, Roy started working for Animal Medical Center in Manhattan. He and his wife, Jackie, lived in Nutley, New Jersey, for close to 60 years. They built the Nutley Animal Hospital, which Roy ran for over 30 years. He was a man of many talents, including sketching, painting and tennis.

### Class of 1955

**John Theodore Tangeman**, 84, died on Oct. 2, 2021, surrounded by his family in Greenwich, Connecticut. A Harvard graduate, John was known for his intellect, curiosity and love of reading. He dedicated more than 30 years of his career to the redevelopment of Kansas City, Missouri, leading the Department of Housing and Community Development. He was also a founding member of the Community Housing Network. John was an avid fan of music, especially jazz.

### Class of 1956

**Russell Irving Burleigh**, 83, died on Oct. 31, 2021. Russ was passionate about music, leading him to attend Northwestern University for both his undergraduate and master's degrees in music. He then moved to the Orlando area and taught music. After joining the American Symphony Orchestra League, Russ became General Manager of the Portland Symphony Orchestra. Maine became his home for the latter majority of his life. He had

three children with his first wife, Sandra Froyd, and after her passing married his second wife, Joan Steinberg.

**Geoffrey B. Seymour**, 82, died on April 6, 2021. Geoff was a graduate of Williams College and Columbia Business School. After serving three years in the U.S. Navy, he married his wife of 57 years, Emmy. The young family lived in Cleveland, where Geoff began his financial planning career. In 1975, they moved to Hawaii with their three children and spent the weekends sailing around the islands. Emmy and Geoff further explored their love of traveling in retirement, with trips to Nepal and southern Africa being some of their favorite excursions.

### Class of 1957

**John Lauer Mather**, 82, died on Aug. 29, 2021. He was born in Akron, Ohio, and was lauded as a WRA student for his enthusiasm in academics, swimming and his social life. John graduated from Miami University, where he met his first wife, Jeanie. After serving in the U.S. Coast Guard, he became an advertising executive in Chicago before relocating to Atlanta. He met and married his second wife, Sherry, with whom he shared a love of traveling. John made many lifelong friends and enjoyed running a travel agency after stepping away from advertising. He was captivated by nature and loyally supported the National Park Foundation.

### Class of 1958

**John Franklin Wilson III**, 81, died on Oct. 25, 2021, in Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania. John studied history at Colgate University prior to earning his law degree from George Washington University. He served proudly in the U.S. Navy from 1962 to 1966, during the Vietnam War. After returning to the United States, he began his legal career in Philadelphia. John was active in his faith, with a desire to help others. In his free time, he was an avid golfer and bridge player. He is survived by his loving wife of 54 years, Anne, along with his five children and grandchildren.

### Class of 1959

**William "Bill" Ivan Levy**, 79, died on June 2, 2021. Bill was born in Akron, Ohio, in 1941. He expressed fond memories of his time at Reserve, including "going to Ellsworth for breakfast in the morning and back again after sports for dinner" and renewing old friendships at reunions. Bill completed his undergraduate degree at





Brown University before earning his medical degree at the University of Miami. His career was an impactful one as an anesthesiologist, and his passions outside of work included Thoroughbred horses, hunting, fishing, golf and music. Bill had resided in Syracuse, New York, since 1987 with his wife, Linda.

## Class of 1962

**Warren Frederick Fifer**, 77, died in Cleveland on Sept. 8, 2021. A gifted athlete, he played football and baseball at Northwestern University after his graduation from Reserve. The Cleveland Indians drafted him into their farm system while he was still in college, but Warren's baseball career was halted when he was selected for U.S. Army service. He settled in Wooster after two years in the Army and raised four children with his wife, Cynthia. They were married for 54 years. Warren maintained a variety of interests, including astronomy, photography and adopting animals.

## Class of 1963

**Frederick Rev Martsolf**, 76, died on June 20, 2021, in Bay View, Michigan. Frederick was the 1963 Class President and the quarterback of the football team at Reserve. A graduate of Michigan State University and Penn State's Dickinson Law School, Frederick was a well-known and well-respected real estate attorney in the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, area. It was said that he and his wife, Nancy, had a "romance for the ages." They were married 52 years before Nancy passed in February 2021. Nancy and Frederick had two sons, Eric and Justin, and their family life was full of fun and laughter as they spent many summers at their beloved Bay View cottage.

**Robert Kenneth Schnittger**, 75, died on July 1, 2021. Robert grew up in Mentor and spent most of his life in Northeast Ohio. He attended Cornell University before briefly working as an engineer and DJ at radio stations in Florida. Robert then returned to the Cleveland area and started a property management business, Maple Rock Properties, which he managed for over 40 years.

## Class of 1970

**Thomas Hugh Paterson Jr.**, 69, died on March 19, 2021, after a long illness. He lived in Tiverton, Rhode Island, with his wife, Hyechong. Thomas and Hyechong raised one daughter, Anastasia, and they loved to travel whenever

possible. Their adventures together included destinations such as Switzerland, France, Italy and Russia. Thomas owned and operated an architectural design firm called Paterson + Company. Outside of work, Thomas explored drawing, classic cars, photography, operating drones and flying small-engine planes.

## Class of 1975

**Craig Joseph Bersche**, 64, died on June 19, 2021. Craig underwent a short fight with cancer but never let it dampen his spirit. He was described as a "modest Renaissance man," constantly surprising those around him with his hidden talents. At the conclusion of his time at WRA, then-Head of School Henry Briggs wrote, "No one has more friends, or is better liked, than Craig." He had an excellent mind for business, serious musical ability and a knack for creativity. Craig's main career efforts were real estate development around Chicago and also in Ohio. In addition, he created a business called Loftmonkey, which designs loft-style beds that come delivered with a stuffed chimp mascot of Craig's invention. Craig was deeply loved by those who knew him. He is survived by his fiancé, Sandy Chelednik; his parents, Barbara and Joseph; his siblings; and many nieces and nephews.

**Robert Eric Gaynor**, 63, died on Dec. 26, 2020, in Tempe, Arizona. Bob was born and raised in Akron, Ohio, before he attended WRA. A gifted athlete and outdoorsman, Bob was the top pitcher on the baseball team at Reserve and was highly involved in campus activities. Connecticut College and the University of Akron rounded out his education. Bob's love for teaching led him to work in the Akron Public Schools before he eventually became a licensed counselor and worked with individuals dealing with drug and alcohol addiction. He was also the President and Owner of GPV Performance, a company that specialized in fabricating Corvette chassis. He was known as a steady, good-hearted person whom his family will dearly miss.

## Class of 1991

**Thomas Joseph DiBiase Jr.**, 48, died on May 20, 2020. He was born in Omaha, Nebraska, and lived in Centennial, Colorado. Thomas was known as an "academic machine" by his WRA classmates and also excelled in football. He graduated from the University of Kansas and Chadron State College.





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