Fall 2015

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Karol Crosbie

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100 YEARS OF “BRAVO!”
Wooster Symphony Orchestra

Also inside

THE KEYS TO SUCCESS
Alumni entrepreneurs share advice on their winning strategies
The middle voice

One of the great joys of being on a college campus is that every fall brings a sense of renewal and excitement. Having just arrived on the Wooster campus this year naturally heightens that sense of excitement for me. Like many college presidents, I have long admired the clarity of Wooster’s mission and the excellence and integrity with which that mission is delivered, so it is a particular joy for me to join this community, even for a year.

Colleges like Wooster occupy a distinctive and essential position in the pantheon of American higher education. A key part of their distinction, as is often said, is that an education at a liberal arts college is not passive, but active. It’s not something we can give to our students; it’s a project they must undertake for themselves.

That’s accurate as far as it goes, but I think the true genius of a Wooster education goes a step further. I’m a classicist by training and in this, as in so many other things, “The Greeks had a word for it.” It’s called “the middle voice.”

Ancient Greek is a very complicated language in many ways. For example, Greek didn’t have only active and passive verbs. In addition, there was a third form, called the middle voice. Perhaps the best way to describe it is to think of an echo or a boomerang. In each case, you carry out an action — shouting, tossing the boomerang — but then that action comes back to you, generally to your benefit. Some grammarians describe the middle voice as expressing “a vested interest” in the action.

The Greek word for education, paideuomai, is a verb in the middle voice. And the Greeks had it right. True education isn’t passive, something that’s done to you, but it’s also more than something you send out into the world. The liberal arts education we offer at Wooster is a process in which students certainly have a vested interest, and it’s a project that will come back to their benefit, not just during their four years here, but over a lifetime.

S. GEORGIA NUGENT
President, The College of Wooster

Photo by Matt Diyard
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Cover: The Wooster Symphony Orchestra performs a concert in spring 2015.
Photo by Matt Dilyard

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Reflections on Nov. 22, 1963
By Ted Celeste ’67

A psychology major, Ted Celeste served as a member of the Ohio legislature from 2007-2012 and went on to direct state programs for the National Institute for Civil Discourse in Tucson, Ariz.

After reading the piece “Remembering Richard T. Gore” in the spring Wooster magazine, I was reminded of my story about Dr. Gore that I tell in a workshop I lead for The National Institute for Civil Discourse. Several years ago, I developed a program called Next Generation directed at state legislators across the country to find ways of dealing with the dysfunction and incivility in our state legislatures.

An especially powerful component of the workshop is an exercise called the “Political Journey.” In it, participants are asked to think about events in their lives that had the most profound impact on determining who they are politically today.

To get the ball rolling, I tell my own story which goes like this: I grew up in a political family, and my dad, who was elected mayor of Lakewood when I was in the fourth grade, had an opportunity to ride with newly elected President John F. Kennedy in a parade in Lakewood. Being the mayor’s son had some perks and one of them was meeting famous people like President Kennedy. That meeting had a tremendous impact on me, and indeed, my wife (Bobbie Baker ’68) and I joined the Peace Corps upon our graduation from Wooster.

What stands out as a moment in time for me during my freshman year at Wooster was what I was doing on the day that Kennedy was assassinated. I was taking Lib Studies from Dr. Gore that day, and I had just heard the news of the shooting before I had to head to class. I took a small transistor radio with an earpiece to class with me and as tears began to well up in my eyes, I entered the classroom. Dr. Gore noticed me entering, and instructed me that radios were not allowed in the class.

“But the President has been shot,” I said, now trembling with the thought of losing the man who idolized. Dr. Gore did not hesitate, and said, “Kennedys come and go but Bach lives on forever!” I was not in a mood to hear that, and kept the radio on and listened...
as I took my seat. It was not more than a minute or so, when
the news came on that the President had died. Now tears
were streaming down my face, and I could not look around.

Dr. Gore, seeing my condition, said nothing, closed his les-
son notes, walked out of the classroom and headed to the
Chapel where he began to play the organ.

Many years later, at one of our class reunions at Wooster,
I bumped into a former classmate, Ron Wallace '67, who
was then teaching writing and poetry at the University of
Wisconsin. Ron mentioned to me that I was the subject of
one of his poems, and offered me a copy of his collection,
The Uses of Adversity. He suggested that I read it.

Conspiracy Theory
The day that JFK was shot in Dallas
I was in Ohio, a Republican, almost
eighteen, my father's voice still on my tongue.
He hated JFK, and thought I didn't know
why, I thought that I must hate him, too.
And so when Ted Celeste burst in the classroom,
his voice a sorrow brimming with the news,
I leaned back in my seat and said one word:
Good, I said. And all eyes turned on me.
And then class was dismissed. And that one word, armed and dangerous, went out into the world
as if I'd blessed the future with my scorn
which echoed back across the century
like a lone assassin. Good, Good, Good.

The legislators are totally quiet as the poem is comple-
ed. The memories are so fresh that I have to hold back
tears. But the same event seen by young eyes from two
very different points of view, makes a great introduction for
my colleagues to recall their own set of memories and the
stories begin.

I would be interested in hearing from other classmates
who attended that class, to learn of their recollections
of that incredible day in our history.

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housing that was “assuredly not
Quonset huts,” wrote Lawrence, who
lived in one of the campus units. “A
better description would have been
wooden two-by-four (stick built or pre-
frabricated) chicken coops.”

Author Jerry Footlick contacted us:
“I apologize. When Karol called to
my attention the feedback from observ-
ant readers, we marshaled the assis-
tance of Denise Monbarren, Special
Collections Librarian, and her crew of intrepid interns, who
studied the material I had used for research and could not
find any references to Quonset huts. As I tried to figure out
how this error occurred, my only thought was that as a boy
visiting the campus frequently I might have heard the term
Quonset hut used generically for buildings such as these,
like Kleenex or Scotch Tape. That is no excuse.

“I am pleased that readers of Wooster, some of them
about as old as I, are alert enough to catch such things.
I hope they read the book, too. I am even more pleased
to observe that this is the most egregious error called to
my attention so far. In the three years that I labored on
An Adventure in Education, I worked hard to ensure its
accuracy. In this case (and I hope few others), I did not
succeed.

“A final thought: I am most grateful to the scores of
alumni who have taken the trouble to send me messages
of praise for the book. I want An Adventure in Education
to be worthy of the College and its alumni.”
Everything is new again

Fall brought 2,067 students to campus, and even seasoned seniors could see that no two school years are ever quite the same.

The Wooster community welcomed 567 first-year students and 14 transfer students from 36 states and 27 countries, representing more than 20 faith traditions. One in three is either a domestic student of color or an international student. Sixty new legacy students have a relative who attended Wooster.

Photos by Matt Dilyard
“One Wooster”

Interim President Georgia Nugent had been on campus only one week before she launched her first Wooster research project—an e-mail to every student, staff, and faculty member asking them to answer two questions: “What is The College of Wooster’s greatest strength?” and “What needs work?” In her state-of-the-College and convocation remarks, she reported what she had learned and announced a new communications initiative.

On the second question she found divergent answers. “But the responses to the question about what was great about Wooster were very clear and unequivocal,” she said during convocation ceremonies. “It’s the people! And, more specifically, it’s the shared sense that faculty, staff, and students are all working together in mutual respect … In a community in which the contribution of each individual to the good of the whole is recognized and valued … A community in which we all have the opportunity to be learners and teachers of one another. You told me that you’d like to see those values held up and celebrated. You’d like to see a very conscious and intentional effort to protect, preserve, and promote those values. “The result has been a concept that we’re launching today. It’s called ‘One Wooster!’”

President Nugent went on to say that the concept at Wooster was not new. In fact, the values of unity and equality formed the bedrock of the College from its beginning. Today’s initiative serves as a reminder of the many opportunities available to every member of the Wooster family.

“Like the tartan plaid, we are many threads, woven into one fabric. We are all Scots here. And that is what One Wooster celebrates.”

Recent faculty research and publications

- **Susan Clayton**, Whitmore-Williams Professor of Psychology and professor of environmental studies, was lead author in two recent journal articles about the role of psychology in understanding how people respond to the subject of climate change. Interdisciplinary research is essential to studying this complex subject, Clayton writes in articles in *Nature Climate Change* and *American Psychologist*.

- **Elena Sokol**, Professor Emerita of Russian Studies and co-translator Veronique Firkusny have authored an English translation of the novel *A Kingdom of Souls*, by award-winning contemporary Czech writer Daniela Hedrova. Written in the late 1970s, the novel is Hedrova’s first, but wasn’t published until 1991, after the fall of communism. The book is available as an e-book on amazon.com and is on sale at the College’s Wilson Bookstore.

- Two poems by **Professor of English Daniel Bourne** were selected in an anthology published by the prestigious *Salmagundi* magazine, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary. *The Best of Salmagundi* reprints Bourne’s “Agitprop” and “To the Feral Carts of Vilnius,” originally published in 2000.

- **Paul Joseph ’14** and **Laura Sirot**, assistant professor of biology, collaborated with researchers at the Cleveland Clinic’s Center for Reproductive Medicine to study the “Coolidge Effect,” a phenomenon whereby the quality and quantity of a male’s sperm decreases with repeated exposure to images of the same woman, but subsequently increases with exposures to images of a new woman. Their results, published in the June issue of *Evolutionary Psychological Science* suggest “that the men were able to differentiate between the two women they saw and produce larger ejaculates with more sperm for the depictions of a novel woman,” said Joseph.

  Joseph and Sirot hope that the results will help improve the diagnosis and treatment of fertility problems.

  The research has been widely reported by the popular press.
Holden Annex comes down, after 90 years of “temporary” service

In February, Trustee Doug Brush ’77 committed $1.5 million to renovate Holden Annex, a project he felt important to the residential student experience. Work began just after commencement in May. But it soon became clear that instead of renovating the existing 90-year-old “temporary” building, it made more sense to replace it with all-new construction. The Board of Trustees voted to do just that, while retaining the character and footprint of Holden Annex. Doug Brush led the way with his gift, and the full project was made possible with gifts from trustee Joan P. Carter ’65, Doon Allen Foster ’81 and John S. Foster.

The resolution was driven by two decisions and one discovery. Decisions were made to add a two-stop elevator and to add air conditioning. And it was discovered that dry-rot had seriously deteriorated the building’s wood sheathing and framing. A renovation could address all three factors, but when the College looked at the numbers, it became clear that the cost to renovate ($1.85 million) would be the same as the cost for new construction.

The new construction will deliver significant benefits. The building will be much tighter and more energy-efficient, with all new plumbing, HVAC and electrical systems, and increased floor-to-floor heights. Light bricks and turrets will echo much of the College’s architecture. Finally, new construction will provide a building with 25-plus years of additional useful life.

Construction will be completed by the beginning of the 2016-17 academic year.

“I read with great amusement the plan to remodel Holden (Annex). My father (Arthur Murray ’20 and Wooster baseball coach) helped to build it. He was shocked when I lived there during the 1950-51 school year, as he thought it was a temporary structure.” . . . From letter to the editor, by Jane Murray Shafter ’53
Books!

Recently published books by alumni

Darren Demaree ’03, The Pony Governor (poems), Lulu.com
Abigail Wurf ’90, Forget Perfect; How to succeed in your professional and personal life even if you have ADHD, Abigail Wurf Coaching, 2015.

Roots and Wings in the 20th Century; A Partnership of Family, Speaking, Writing, and Peace

Sisters Frances Hopkins Irwin ’63 and Angene Hopkins Wilson ’61 (pictured) have written a book about their parents, Dean Hopkins ’30 and Harriet Painter Hopkins ’32, who grew up within walking distance of the College, and whose entire lives were lived in three communities in Northcentral Ohio—Savannah, Wooster, and Lakewood. “We knew that our parents had roots, even taproots, and had gained wings,” their daughters write. “We wanted to explore how that happened . . .”

The authors’ sources include their parents’ letters, diaries, memoirs, shoeboxes filled with mementos, and even the Wooster Alumni Bulletin. An accomplished writer, Harriet wrote for the Voice as a student, and for the Bulletin in a column dubbed “undergraduate views.”

A picture of the Depression on campus emerges in Harriet’s piece in the November 1931 issue of the Bulletin: “Please don’t mention that word ‘depression’ again; a sophomore was heard to exclaim agitatedly, “I’ve heard nothing else spoken of all day.” Yes, hard times have invaded even the domain of the elms and the Latin grammars. Although nothing short of imminent disaster can depress Wooster students, we are conscious of economic difficulties this year even as the other workers of the world. How can it be otherwise? We are snatched from quiet reflection upon Renaissance Art or Pragmatism to be told that the bank back home has closed its doors and thereby invalidated the last check we paid on account to the treasurer. Indeed, the startling failure of those banks to show a proper interest in our college careers and to justify the hope and trust we have in them is a common topic of conversation in Kauke, Holden, and Kenarden. Thus is the scholar ever harassed by material considerations.”

Harriet went on to become assistant secretary in the alumni office. A letter of appreciation from her boss, John McKee ’17, is included in her cherished documents.

The book gives insight into times past—the Depression, the war years, and a place—N.E. Ohio. But it also tells how lives and legacies transcend geographic boundaries. In their 1969 letter to family and friends, the couple wrote, “Perhaps it is because our roots are so deep that we branch so far.”

In 2015, their daughters write, “We try to continue that legacy.”

The book is available at the Wilson Bookstore, www.wilsonbookstore.com

A few First-Year Seminar texts

Wonder what the first-years are reading tonight? Here’s a sample:

The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander for Professor John Rudisill’s “Materialize, Vulgarize and Brutalize.”

Freedom For The Thought That We Hate by Anthony Lewis for Professor Jeff Lindberg’s “Freedom of Speech and Censorship.”

The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to our Brains, by Nicholas Carr for Professor Joan Friedman’s “Food For Thought—Not the All-U-Can-Eat Info Bar.”

Wealth and Power: China’s Long March to the Twenty-First Century, by Orville Schell for Professor Setsuko Matsuzawa’s “U.S-China Encounters.”

Stanley Lombardo’s translation of Homer’s Iliad for Professor Ron Hustwit’s “Homer’s Iliad: Gods and War.”

Musicophilia by Oliver Sachs for Professor Nancy Ditmer’s “Your Brain on Music.”

All the President’s Men by Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward for Professor Nancy Grace’s “Watchdog Journalism and Social Justice.”

A Culture of Conspiracy: Apocalyptic Visions in Contemporary America by Michael Barkun, for Professor Mark Wilson’s “Nonsense! (And why it’s so popular).”

Neuromancer by William Gibson for Professor Tom Tierney’s “Utopian and Dystopian Visions.”
a year to REMEMBER
It was a year of contrasts, with moments of great joy and aching sadness; a year of unexpected change, but deep, quiet confidence in the future. Three times, the campus community had to come together to mourn the loss and celebrate the lives of friends taken all too soon. In September, Molly Bennett ’14, whose courageous battle against cancer and determination to earn her Wooster degree in spite of it were an inspiration and a blessing to all who knew her, passed away, just four months after crossing the stage at commencement. In February, Melissa M. Schultz, associate professor of chemistry, avid runner and environmentalist, and a cancer survivor, was killed in a car accident less than a mile from campus. And in March, Rhishav Choudhury, a senior philosophy major well known for his love of debate—from Indian politics to philosophy—died after falling into a deep canyon while hiking in Arizona’s Coconino National Forest during a spring break trip with fellow students.
But there were many lights to counterbalance the shadows:

GAULT SCHOOLHOUSE OPENS
The year began with the opening of the College’s newest residence hall, Gault Schoolhouse, a former elementary school whose breathtaking renovation has made it one of the most coveted living spots on campus.

MOOT COURT QUALIFIES FOR NATIONALS
Wooster qualified seven two-person teams—the second most in the nation—to the American Collegiate Moot Court Association’s national tournament.

WOOSTER RANKS AT THE TOP
Wooster and Princeton were once again the only two schools in America singled out by college presidents, deans and provosts in U.S. News & World Report for having “stellar” undergraduate research opportunities and senior capstone programs. This was the thirteenth straight year that Princeton and Wooster have shared that spotlight.

COMPOSITION GETS RAVE REVIEWS
The London Symphony Orchestra’s recording of Symphony No. 2 “Ascendant,” composed by Jack Gallagher, the Olive Williams Kettering Professor of Music, was released to rave reviews. Fanfare magazine called it “a knockout,” while Audiophile Audition judged it “one of the best new symphonies of our new century.”

STUDENTS WIN GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIPS
Sarah McGrath, a sophomore geology major, and Matthew Loberg, a junior biochemistry and molecular biology major, won Goldwater Scholarships in recognition of their academic achievements and research pursuits.

CHORUS EARN TOP HONORS
The Wooster Chorus was selected as one of 11 finalists for The American Prize in Choral Performance. Two music composition majors, Steven Hecking and Joseph Caffrey, had works selected for performance and recording by the Grammy Award-winning Cleveland Chamber Symphony.

WRIGHT HONORED
Josephine Wright, the Josephine Lincoln Morris Professor of Black Studies, received the Society for American Music’s Lifetime Achievement Award, in recognition of her distinguished career of teaching and scholarship and “her tireless efforts to help the Society reflect—in both its membership and scholarship—the full range of the American musical experience.”
STUDENTS EARN FULBRIGHT GRANTS AND ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN HONORS
A record four Wooster seniors—Elisabeth Abell, Alana Deuty, Morgan Hughes, and Annie Partika—won Fulbright Scholarships to teach English overseas following graduation. The Fighting Scots added four new names to the roster of Academic All-Americans: Joe David in cross country and track and field, Morgan Hughes in swimming, and Tyler Gerwig and Nick Flannery in football.

PRESIDENT CORNWELL ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION
In February, President Grant Cornwall announced that he would be leaving Wooster at the end of the academic year to become president of Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla. William A. Longbrake ’65, chair of the College’s board of trustees, praised Cornwall’s accomplishments, and said, “The college’s trajectory and momentum—and the team that has done so much to create that momentum—give us great confidence in the future.”

POETRY SELECTED FOR ANTHOLOGY
Two of Professor Dan Bourne’s poems were selected by the editors of Salmagundi magazine, widely regarded as one of the most influential intellectual quarters in the United States, for inclusion in their 50th anniversary anthology, The Best of Salmagundi.

NUGENT NAMED INTERIM PRESIDENT
In May, S. Georgia Nugent, who served for 10 years as president of Kenyon College, was chosen to serve as interim president during the 2015-16 academic year, as the College conducts a search for its next permanent leader.

GIFTS FUND NEW LIFE SCIENCES BUILDING
Just as the academic year was drawing to a close, news arrived that spoke eloquently of the College’s strength, momentum, and bright future. In the largest single fund-raising day in Wooster’s history, four trustees and one Ohio-based foundation announced gifts totaling $40 million, including $23 million for the new integrated life sciences center. Demolition of Mateer Hall, the current biology building, will begin in June 2016, and the new Ruth W. Williams Hall of Life Science—named to honor Ruth and Morris Williams, whose $15 million gift to support the life sciences at Wooster dramatically launched the project’s fund-raising in October 2013—will open in September 2018.

2007-2015
THE CORNWELL YEARS

By the Numbers

80% increase in applications for admission

1 in 3
FIRST-YEARS
who are domestic students of color or international students today, compared with one in seven in 2007

A1 RATING
Wooster’s rating from Moody’s, awarded in 2012

2 new residence halls opened
Gault Manor and Gault Schoolhouse

36% reduction in the College’s carbon footprint

123,000 SQUARE FOOTAGE
of the Scot Center, opened in 2012

13,869 DONORS
to the Wooster Fund in eight years

$131,672,116 GIFTS RECEIVED IN CASH SINCE 2007
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ending June 30, 2015, The College of Wooster had $80.6 million in operating revenue. Approximately half—$39.78 million—was net tuition revenue (tuition less financial aid provided by the College). Revenue from room and board and from other auxiliary enterprises like the bookstore, added $22.93 million; investment income, gifts, grants, and the annual payout from the endowment contributed $17.88 million.

On the expense side, salaries and benefits accounted for almost two thirds of the College’s $78 million in operating expenses, at $51.55 million. Off-campus programs, travel, and general support services such as printing and postage totaled $14.12 million; supplies and equipment, which includes food purchased for the dining halls and merchandise for the bookstore, totaled $9.14 million. Capital projects accounted for $3.18 million.

The chief factors contributing to the year’s operating surplus include an increase in net tuition revenue—the result of improved retention and higher than expected spring semester enrollment—and spending restraint across divisions and departments. At their October meeting, the Board of Trustees will evaluate several options for use of that operating surplus, including replenishing the health insurance reserve, which has been drawn down by higher claims this year, and adding to the operating reserve.

Between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015, the College received $19.9 million in gifts and grants from alumni, parents, trustees, foundations, corporations, and others. More than $9.3 million of that total, which includes the money raised by The Wooster Fund, helped to directly support the operating budget and is reflected in the operating revenues chart. A bit more than $5.3 million was given to new or existing endowed funds and $4.47 million went for capital projects.
“...whether we like it or not, we are all apprentices. This is our permanent assignment in a world that will always outrun even our keenest minds and the highest levels of our competence.”

— HOWARD LOWRY ’23
THE KEYS to SUCCESS

ALUMNI ENTREPRENEURS

SHARE ADVICE ON THEIR WINNING STRATEGIES
Townsend wrote his Independent Study on motion in art, complete with a Pollockesque three-dimensional installation, graduated, and set off to find a job. His offer to work for free at a small advertising agency resulted in swift promotion to vice president and creative director. Since then, his problem solving has been continuous, eclectic, and profitable. He helped build the Internet search engine Lycos, online retailer Newegg.com, and social networking site Sixdegrees.com, now called LinkedIn. He is partner in PaAirVentures, a global developer of entertainment complexes. He invented the Carbonix guitar pick, Blaxx drum sets, Storyline Stax drumsticks, and il Cremonese violin treatments.

An avid rock music fan and guitarist (mid-80s vintage alumni may remember his campus band, dubbed Exit), Townsend had never been interested in classical music. But in 1998 during a business trip to Beijing, he happened upon an informal recital by elementary-age violinists that blew him away. He studied violin making, fascinated by the Italian 18th-century master crafters and stubbornly resisting the notion that the quality of a Stradivarius or Amati violin has never been matched. He identified a powerful strain of public romanticism regarding old, classic violins and their creators and decided to nurture it for a pragmatic purpose: Make violins available to kids who can’t afford them through a nonprofit foundation called the Amati Foundation (http://www.amatifoundation.org), which has now loaned instruments to hundreds of children and teens around the world.

But if it seems as though (as one national media writer put it) Bill Townsend’s life is like “holding a golden egg,” one
needs to dig a little deeper. When he was five years old, his mother, a former Miss America of 1963, suffered a stroke which left her paralyzed and without speech. Townsend remembers coming home from kindergarten, reading aloud to his mother, and teaching her the ABCs. His mother, Jacquelyn Mayer Townsend, recovered and became a motivational speaker.

In 2009, Townsend was diagnosed with a brain tumor, which he says took away two years of his life. Surgery and stem cell therapy have cleared up the tumor, but, as a result of a miscalculation during surgery, he still struggles with pain. “Every day for me now is a chance to do something new, learn something new, and really appreciate the fact that I’m still standing on this earth.”

Two years ago, Townsend received a phone call from a professional wrestler who wanted to meet to discuss creating a video game about wrestlers. Townsend nixed the idea but seized the opportunity to learn from his visitor, 11-time champion “The Franchise” Shane Douglas. “I asked him, ‘What the heck is going on with professional wrestling? What I see today isn’t what I grew up with.’ We spent three hours talking, and I learned that the average wrestler makes $95 a match and has no health or retirement benefits. My chief financial officer and I did some research on the financials of World Wrestling Entertainment and realized that for the amount they spend traveling the country putting on shows, they could pay benefits.”

And so was born Townsend’s next (and he says his last) business, Classic Wrestling Revolution. Seven shows, highlighting both eliminations and professional wrestling similar to shows of the 50s, 60s, and 70s, will be held in a casino-turned-TV-studio in Las Vegas; six TV shows will be broadcast around the world. So far, 170 athletes have signed up. “Every week I get a call from another athlete who says, ‘Hey Mr. Townsend, is it really true we’d get health benefits?’ Not only was there a real business opportunity here, but also an opportunity to help people who have been treated badly.”

“Every day for me now is a chance to do something new, learn something new, and really appreciate the fact that I’m still standing on this earth.”

BILL TOWNSEND

Bill Townsend, giving a student-organized TEDx talk on the Wooster campus in February, 2014.

ALUMNI ADVICE:
KEYS TO SUCCESS

Bill Townsend passionately believes the title and claim of his 2012 book, Yes You Can! How to Be a Success No Matter Who You Are or Where You’re From. Here are two tips he thinks are particularly critical to success:

Don’t be afraid to ask people who they know. I am convinced that roughly 90 percent of the reason people don’t succeed is because they don’t ask for help.

Identify a mentor. I don’t see young people asking for help very much these days, perhaps because they think that everything they need to know they can find on the Internet or figure out for themselves. But they’re missing out. We entrepreneurs love to be asked for help. It might be as simple as finding somebody who owns the local hardware store and has been in business for 20 years and calling him and saying, “Would you give me a half hour every three months?”
BRAND STRATEGY & Communications

DOUG STRICKLER ’84
HOT Inc., Atlanta, Georgia
www.hotinc.com

A studio art major, Doug founded his communications strategy agency in 1998, sold it to a client in 2009, and in 2012 launched HOT®, a brand strategy and communications collaborative. Clients have included Whole Foods, Maserati, Georgia Tech, and Fifth Group Restaurants.

ALUMNI ADVICE:
KEYS TO SUCCESS

What's one of the most important things you tell your clients?

We have a number of sayings at HOT® Inc. and there’s one we always communicate to our clients. Namely, if you stand for everything you stand for nothing. We believe it’s imperative for each client to understand its reason for being—why it’s truly in business. HOT® relishes leading organizations of all size and scope through this key exercise, which ultimately allows each client to break through, stand out and avoid falling into the black hole of “industry sameness.”

Ben Schrock ’08 and Colleen Griffith LeMasters ’10 working together at the B.A. Schrock Financial Group in Wadsworth, Ohio.
Photo by Kaitlin Kister Schrock '10
Financial INVESTMENT & retirement PLANNING

HEN BEN SCHROCK ’08 decided to open his own financial consulting business three years ago, he figured he had everything he needed: Knowledge, a cell phone, and a car. “There’s not too many businesses where you can start out with just those three things,” he says.

What he didn’t have were clients. He rented office space in the basement of a bank building in Wadsworth, Ohio, his hometown, and began building trust and a client base—in that order. The psychology major had worked for the financial services industry ever since he graduated and was confident in his ability to specialize in retirement planning. His family’s name was well known in his community (all five Schrock kids had played sports), so the name of his firm was clear. Every week he put ads in the local paper, began giving public seminars on Social Security, and made cold calls. “Every single night for a year I made cold calls,” he remembers.

Today he has 150 household clients, an office in a well-known downtown historic building, an office administrator, and an additional financial adviser, Wooster alum Colleen Griffith LeMasters ’10.

And that trust-building part of his job continues—most likely for as long as he’s in the business, he says. “The Bernie Madoffs of the world didn’t do us any favors. Everybody who comes through our door for the first time feels like they’re going to be sold something. But we’re not selling products, we’re positioning them in a concept. Trying to get their guard down and not come off as salesy is one of the hardest things, but it’s very important. Clients leave with a completely different perspective.”

Some clients initially struggle with the comparative youth of their advisers at B.A. Schrock Financial Group. “I’m 29 and Colleen is 27. But I always tell them that I’m not going to retire before they do. I’ll be here for them their whole lives. And that’s important. I can see their faces change.”

The care that Schrock and LeMasters are taking with their clients is paying off in the form of referrals; they hope to triple last year’s client base. “My focus is on building a strong relationship with my clients and their families so that they’re with us for life—that they’re so happy with us they’re not looking anywhere else. That they don’t even think about it.”

ALUMNI ADVICE: KEYS TO SUCCESS

Starting your own business is a risk—but it’s a calculated one. Be sure it’s in an area that you’re confident in and is something you can accomplish—and go for it! I never imagined in a million years that this is where my life would be after Wooster, but I wouldn’t change it.
BUSINESS ECONOMICS MAJOR JILL RAMSIER remembers the evening about four years ago that her ideas about wine production took a quantum leap.

She and a friend were sharing a bottle of wine at a favorite hangout. “By the end of the evening, the wine bottle was empty but David keeps trying to fill my glass. I say to him, ‘David! It’s empty! Why do you keep doing that?’ He says, ‘Because it’s so heavy that it feels like there’s still wine left in there.’

David is an entrepreneur from the environmental world and his green mind kicks into gear. He immediately weighs the empty bottle and finds that it weighs three pounds. He says, ‘Well, that’s ridiculous,’ and the next day does a carbon footprint study on traditional wine production.

Quantum Leap Winery co-owner David Forrester found that the largest piece of the wine industry’s carbon footprint comes from shipping a bottle of wine from where the grapes are grown and it is bottled (almost always the same area) to its final destination—consumers who live across the country or overseas.

It is significant that this idea germinated and took root in Florida, a state distinctly unsuited for growing grapes. Ramsier, who grew up with wine around the dinner table and who had applied her passion and knowl-
ALUMNI ADVICE:
KEYS TO SUCCESS

Be prepared to be scared.
"It’s scary to leap from a secure paycheck into the unknown. Here’s what helped: I said to myself, ‘What is the worst thing that could happen?’ The answer was: Lose a bunch of money. But if I fell on my butt, then I’d pick myself up and get another job. It’s been an amazing learning experience."

Whatever you think it’s going to cost to open your own business, double that. Things will go wrong.
For example, Ramsier remembers the forklift debacle, wherein the business bought a forklift, then bought a cooler, only to find that the forklift didn’t fit into the cooler. Or the incident of the wine labels, wherein the rapid condensation that occurred when wine was moved from the refrigerator to the hot workroom prevented the labels from sticking.

Be willing to evolve.
The Quantum Leap team quickly discovered that their winery was a popular place for private events—from 30-guest birthday parties in the barrel room to 400-person corporate or charity events in the winery. “It was a delightful surprise—one we hadn’t anticipated,” says Ramsier. “Pretty quickly we had to hire an events person, and it has become about one third of our business. Special events help to drive trials of our wine and to increase patronage.”

Be a supportive presence in the community.
The five dogs of Quantum Leap (two permanent residents and three brought to work by their owners) add to the winery experience. “People love them. Kaley has her own wine—a rusty red. Buster loves to ride on the forklift. And when Stewart gets riled up we put him on a barrel—that's his timeout.” The dogs also provide creative fundraising opportunities and a way to give back to the community. “We’re in the midst of the My Best Friend contest right now,” says Ramsier. “You submit your dog or cat, buy votes at one dollar a crack, and the winning pet gets his name and face on his own bottle of wine.” Only a week into the contest, Quantum Leap already had 400 entries and has raised $9,000 for a local humane society. Major liquor stores in 23 locations, as well as Sea World, will sell My Best Friend wine.

Have fun.
“It’s a joy to work here. People come in and they’re happy. Or if they’re not happy when they come in, they will be when they leave.”

edge about wine to her job as chief marketing officer for an international restaurant company, had dreamed about starting a winery. But in Florida?

But what if she were to ask vineyard partners from around the world to take the first step in wine production—initial fermentation to stabilize the grapes—and then to ship the product to her in large containers? What if Ramsier (an economics major at Wooster) and her team applied the seasoning, blending, finishing, barreling, bottling, and aging at her own winery in landlocked and vineyard-free Orlando, Florida? What if she shipped no farther away than 500 miles?

Four years later, Ramsier and her business partner have answers to their questions. They also have a thriving business. They discovered that bottling and distributing locally reduces the winemaking carbon footprint by 40-50 percent. Ramsier explains why. Not only is the weight of the bottle eliminated, so are finicky temperature requirements, which allows the use of larger containers. “If you ship—say, from Washington to Florida—in the traditional way and fill a container as much as you possibly can, you can pack 2,300 gallons of wine. If you pack unfinished wine in containers like we do, you can get almost 6,000 gallons in one container.”

Quantum Leap Winery partners with approximately 15 growers as far away as Italy, South Africa, California, and Washington. Persuasion depends on finding partners who share environmental values, she says. The search also involves “breaking a lot of bread together.”
TINY HOMES

on the Big Island

JOHANNA TILBURY '77
Habitats Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii
www.habitatshawaii.com

For quite some time, Johanna Tilbury '77 has been paying close attention to what it means to have a fulfilled life—both in herself and in others.

A basketball, field hockey, and lacrosse player, the math-major-turned-sociology-major wrote her Independent Study on the debilitating phenomenon of women downplaying their own intelligence for fear of compromising their femininity.

She knew immediately that her first job as a social worker at a women's center in Boulder was a massive misfit. "It wasn't satisfying—just terrible, actually," she remembers. But the organization was constructing a new building—a safe house for battered women—and Tilbury began volunteering on the project. "The structure just kept getting more and more beautiful and I said to myself, 'This is way more fun!'"

She became the first woman to take Boulder County's contractor's licensing exam, passed with flying colors, and began launching build-
ing contracting businesses, first in Boulder and then in Honolulu, where she moved in 1987. Her 35 years in the business have allowed her to be a part of ongoing change and growth, she says, both in herself and in the people and places she serves.

For example, when the recycling movement (particularly important on islands) grew popular, Tilbury remembers saying to herself, ‘Whoa, I can do that!’ Now I remodel entire houses and throw away almost nothing.”

Unchanging is her love of her work. “It’s not just building a structure. It’s taking a house that’s hurting or has been neglected and making it healthy again. It’s listening to what a house wants. It’s listening to what the owners want and making the two come together.”

Ten years ago, she launched one more (possibly her last) business, Habitats Hawaii—tiny, ecologically friendly, moveable houses. “Here I am, busting along, making all these big houses and I’m getting older and older and I’m thinking, ‘Whew! This is getting to be a lot of work.’ So I moved to the Big Island when I was 48, ostensibly to retire. Big mistake. Now I’m busier than I’ve ever been in my life.”

The solutions offered by the country’s tiny house movement (homes less than 250 square feet) were particularly relevant to housing problems on the Hawaiian Islands. Tilbury ticks them off: “There’s no housing here. The foreclosure crisis left a lot of broken houses. We have our volcano threatening to erupt and cross over the road in Kea’au and cut off 10,000 people; they’re all moving, and there’s nowhere to move to.”

The state’s rules and regulations also appear to conspire against home seekers and builders. Applying for and receiving a building permit (Tilbury calls it an “unbelievable life milestone”) takes more than six months. Another stumbling block: A lot is allowed only one kitchen. “We have enormous tracts of land on the islands,” she says. “Thousands and thousands of acres of property. But only one kitchen is legal.”

Enter Tilbury’s tiny houses, costing between $36,000 and $75,000. Because they are on wheels, no permits are required and they are built in two months. They can be parked on larger properties because their tiny kitchens somehow don’t count. Tilbury (cur-
Installation view of *Frontiers Reimagined*, a collateral event of the 56th Venice Biennale curated by Sundaram Tagore.

Photo courtesy of Sundaram Tagore Gallery

Sundaram Tagore in Dhaka with actress Debra Winger filming his feature length documentary on architect Louis Kahn.

Photo courtesy of Sundaram Tagore Gallery
WORLDWIDE connections through ART

SUNDARAM TAGORE '84
Sundaram Tagore Gallery, New York
www.sundaramtagore.com

WHEN WOOSTER MAGAZINE caught up with Sundaram Tagore at his gallery in New York, he had just returned the day before from Singapore, where another of his galleries is located. Last week he was in Bangladesh, finishing up a feature-length documentary. In just a few days, he will depart for Venice, where he is producing an exhibition.

His itinerary doesn't just reflect the schedule of a busy entrepreneur; it reflects the state of the art. “Once the art gallery business was based on the idea of bricks and mortar,” he says. “The world’s art centers were largely based in New York, London, and Paris. Now the art world has expanded beyond traditional centers; you must crisscross the globe to get clients and secure artists. The art field that we knew has been dismantled and has morphed into a different beast.”

The reasons for the metamorphosis are two-pronged, says Tagore, who began developing his specialty in artistic cross-cultural dialogue as an art history major at Wooster. The first reason is globalization. “More than two-hundred million people have left their homelands in the last century and moved to another place—because of war, because of disaster, because they wanted a better life—and when they moved, they created a culture of entanglement.”

The second reason is technology. “Technology has liberated us, but it has also constrained us. Now we cannot move left or right without technology.”

Every major city is now expected to have an art museum, he says, and a burgeoning public interest in art as entertainment has resulted in the explosion of art fairs. With art sales reaching $66 billion a year, art has becoming the world’s newest booming industry.

Before opening his New York gallery in 2000 (followed by additional spaces in Hong Kong, Singapore, and Manhattan’s East Side) Tagore was the director of PaceWildenstein Gallery in New York. In 2006, he also created Tagore Foundation International (http://www.tagorefoundationinternational.com) to honor his great-great uncle, Rabindranath Tagore, a philosopher, poet, and musician and the first Asian to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature. The Foundation is dedicated to promoting social, spiritual, and aesthetic dialogues between Asia and the West. Initiatives include an ongoing scholarship for young women to come to Wooster to study art history.

ALUMNI ADVICE: KEYS TO SUCCESS

There are unlimited opportunities in the art field—in museums, art galleries, or the auction field, but if you’re not comfortable with rapid change, this might not be the right industry for you. The driving forces of change in our globalized world—fluctuating economies, new technology, emerging markets, even natural disasters—present constant daily challenges. If you can train your brain to accept change, then you can navigate around it.

▲ Sundaram Tagore’s gallery in Chelsea, New York
Photo by Tracy Slatan courtesy of Sundaram Tagore Gallery
ALUMNI ENTREPRENEURS

using GIS to SOLVE PROBLEMS

JAMIE CHRISTENSEN ’96
WorldView Solutions, Richmond, Virginia
www.worldviewsolutions.com

In 2000, political science major Jamie Christensen founded WorldView Solutions, specializing in geographic information systems (GIS) to solve problems.

He has grown from an office over his garage to his current 50-person staff, who provide services to local governments, nonprofits, corporations, and state and federal agencies, including the Smithsonian Institution and the Environmental Protection Agency.

ALUMNI ADVICE: KEYS TO SUCCESS

What advice do you have for someone in a business like yours?
Find a niche and then diversify within that niche. Finding a niche allows you to specialize, giving your company an immediate advantage over the competition. However, growing as much as possible within the niche is critical, as you want your company to have a diverse portfolio of capabilities and customers so that it can quickly adapt to changes in technology, demand, and the overall economy.

What do you think makes your company successful?
If you never lose an employee and never lose a customer, you’ve been successful. The company values employees first, customers second, and profits last. This results in loyal staff, loyal customers, and long term success for the firm.

getting things done in the NATION’S CAPITAL

KEITH NAHIGIAN ’90
Nahigian Strategies, Washington, D.C.
www.nahigianstrategies.com

Senator John McCain’s bid for the 2000 Republican presidential nomination had run its course, and a member of his campaign team—Keith Nahigian ’90—remembers comparing career plans with fellow staff members. “When I told them I was going to start my own consulting company, they looked at me like I had 10 heads. They said, ‘Good luck with that!'”

Fifteen years later, Nahigian Strategies is filling a niche that Nahigian says was badly needed. From their offices in Washington, D.C., Arlington, and Philadelphia, the firm’s 10 staff members offer one-stop shopping to foundations, corporations, political campaigns, associations, and government agencies. By hiring diverse experts who offer clients an integrated plan, Nahigian is able to buck the trend of hiring multiple agencies for assistance with advertising, lobbying, and public relations.

Nahigian offers not only a full-service, turnkey approach, he also offers a different way of thinking. “People here in D.C. are used to doing the same-old-same-old, and that usually means playing defense or doing nothing. They’ll hire a lobbyist, for example, to slow things down or make sure things don’t happen. Or hire a PR firm to manage crisis communications after something has gone wrong.

“Our strategy is to play offense to help people win or to help people grow.”

The strategy has been successful. Nahigian counts among his clients organizations as diverse as the White House, the National Cyber Security Alliance, and Gilead Sciences, a leader in developing pharmaceuticals for the treatment of HIV/AIDS and hepatitis. In 2004, the federal government hired Nahigian Strategies to implement its new drug benefit for seniors, Medicare Part D. “It was the largest campaign in the history of the United States government,” says Nahigian. “You’ve heard so much about Obamacare, which has signed up six million people in four years? We got 41 million seniors signed up in nine months.”

The firm’s success has also allowed him to be “picky” when he accepts clients, says Nahigian. “We normally work with the insur-
gent, the one who will shake things up the most. We only want to
do things that have the impact to change the world. That’s what I
learned at Wooster—do big things. And that’s kind of the theme of
our company.”

For example, the firm has provided a full spectrum of services on
the bipartisan issue of legalizing hemp oil for kids, from grassroots
communications consulting in 15 states to their current work on
federal legislation. “The team is helping to create Senate and House
bills and finding key sponsors,” says Nahigian. “We’ve done op-eds,
press conferences, and we’re driving PR on outlets like Dateline,
NBC, and CNN. Knowing the policy, knowing the process, know-
ing how to find channels that tell or amplify the story—not that
many firms know how to fill all those buckets.”

Let’s return for a moment to Nahigian’s naysaying colleagues of
15 years ago. “Here’s a list of the companies they went to work for:
MCI—gone; Lehman Brothers—gone; Enron—gone; AOL—bas-
cally gone. I mean these are big brands, right? And they’re . . . gone.
I mean, look, life is short. Don’t be afraid to take a risk. Do what
you want to do and make a difference.”

Keith Nahigian discusses campaign strategy for Medicare Rx with former
U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael Levitt, 2005. A history
major at Wooster, Nahigian’s scholarship came from the music department
to entice him to play Scottish drums. Half Armenjian, he wrote his
Independent Study on the Cold War and first went to Washington, D.C.,
with an internship with the Armenia Assembly.

ALUMNI ADVICE:
KEYS TO SUCCESS

Listen to a lot of people. I
sometimes think that this
new generation comes out
with an opinion and that’s it.
I think we can learn a lot
from listening.

Photo by Andrew Snow
In one of his rehabilitations—a five-story townhouse in Boston—Erebia made use of mahogany flooring and his own photography. Arena seating plays a prominent role in many of his designs.

Even though the transition had been gradual, giving up that last doctoring paycheck was memorable, he says. “It’s comforting to receive a paycheck every two weeks, even when you’re on vacation. When that just stops, it’s kind of scary.” Featured in *Boston Spirit*, *Boston Globe*, and *Boston Home* magazines, Erebia has needed to do little advertising, with local clients coming to him mostly through word of mouth.

He misses his patients, he says. But if his sculpture, carving, cabinetry, and art require TLC, so do his clients. His goal is to simultaneously meet the needs of clients and make the best use of his own creativity. “A lot of thought goes into every project. I have ideas in my head that I work through and sketch before I touch the material.”

**FEDERICO EREBIA ’84**
FEWorks, Boston, Massachusetts
www.feworks.biz

Federico Erebia gives artwork like this turned bowl and walnut and zebrawood box to friends and family.
ENTREPRENEURSHIP ON CAMPUS

Hands-on learning

Northeast Ohio Student Venture Fund and the Hans Jenny Investment Club
Both opportunities offer hands-on experience. The Jenny Club, founded in 1955 and advised by professor of economics John Sell, has a student-managed investment portfolio of nearly $4 million.

Courses
Crossdisciplinary courses encompassing both classroom and field experience include Introduction to Entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurship and Society, Leadership in the Public and Private Sectors, Global Social Entrepreneurship, Local Social Entrepreneurship, and professional development training programs.

3D Printer
Purchased last year from a grant from the Burton D. Morgan Foundation, the printer allows students to design and develop new products. App and Website Development are supported in collaboration with the College’s IT department.

Business Idea Competition
Winners of the competition work with Center for Entrepreneurship director Peter Abramo to develop their ideas. For example, one of last year’s three winners was art major Will Owen ’16, who manipulates digital maps to achieve a unique art form represented in 13”x19” prints. “I think people have a lot of pride in their city’s skylines,” says the Pittsburgh native. “I started playing with techniques, and when somebody said to me, ‘Can you make one of Washington, D.C.? I’ll pay you for it,’ I thought, ‘Yeah!’”

TEDxWooster
For the past three years, a student team has brought top speakers to campus, including many alumni. TEDx and the Idea competition are managed by the student Launch Club.

ALUMNI ADVICE: KEYS TO SUCCESS

If you’re going to change careers, be sure your new work is what you really want to do. Take classes, or do an apprenticeship, when possible. Talk with people in the field. I knew I would love what I’m doing now, and I really do.
Wooster Symphony

ORCHESTRA

100 YEARS OF “BRAVO!”
F A L L 1915

Twenty-two musicians of the Wooster Orchestra Society—21 members of the community and one College senior—convene on the second floor of the bank building in downtown Wooster for their weekly Wednesday night rehearsal. Their director, Dan Parmelee, who teaches strings at the College’s music conservatory, leads them in a reading of Elgar’s *Pomp and Circumstance* and then they tackle Mendelssohn’s violin concerto. There is no time to lose; they will give their very first concert in May.

F A L L 2015

Sixty musicians take their places on the stage at Scheide Music Center. “The 100th season of the Wooster Symphony Orchestra has officially begun,” says Professor of Music and Director Jeff Lindberg. His announcement is greeted with scattered “yahoos” and foot-stamping applause. “There’s no time to mess around. We have only three rehearsals to prepare for our first concert.”

But before he lifts his baton, Maestro Lindberg asks orchestra members to introduce themselves. It takes time, as 50 students and 10 townspeople announce their majors or professions and how long they’ve played with the orchestra. But this isn’t messing around. This is important.
Understanding that his orchestra members reflect diverse experiences and skills, Lindberg begins by explaining tuning protocols before launching into *Stars and Stripes Forever*. The march will serve as an encore for the upcoming concert, “From Vienna to Broadway,” a gala at the Wooster Country Club featuring Ohio Light Opera soloists.

“Listen to the tempo from the very beginning,” he says. “Just go with it. You shouldn’t even need a conductor. We have to move on. Let’s take a look at *Can’t Help Lovin’ That Man*.”
CELEBRATE!

Members of the Wooster Symphony Orchestra—one of the country’s most venerable town-and-gown ensembles—have never missed an opportunity to honor their history and to celebrate milestones. At the 35th commemorative concert in 1950, for example, 115 former and current members of the orchestra were invited to participate. The concert at the Memorial Chapel (which included two pieces that launched the orchestra—Elgar’s Pomp and Circumstance and the Mendelssohn violin concerto) captured the attention of the media. Ohio Bell Telephone Company featured the orchestra on a coast-to-coast broadcast on WWST FM. And local reporters noted that it was the first time that choir seats had been removed from the chapel in order to accommodate the large orchestra. Maestro Parmelee was quoted: “I think they have been nailed there since the time of William the Conqueror.”

The 40th season in 1956 commemorated the last concert under the baton of retiring Professor Parmelee. Again, the program included Pomp and Circumstance, as musicians and audience members gave tribute to beginnings and endings.

THE 100TH SEASON

SEPT. 18: From Vienna to Broadway

NOV. 15: 4:00 p.m., McGaw Chapel
Ravel Concerto in G Major for Piano and Orchestra, Werewen Ma piano soloist; Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 5.

DEC. 11: 7:30 p.m., McGaw Chapel
Home for the Holidays featuring Josh Krajcik and Band and Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue, with piano soloist Jake Briggs ’10.

FEB. 20: 7:30 p.m. McGaw Chapel
Honoring returning past directors Marshall Haddock, Manuel Prestamo, Nancy Garlick, and Jack Gallagher.

FEB. 25: 12:30 p.m., McGaw Chapel
Children’s concert. The concert honors an ongoing tradition begun by Parmelee in 1930.

APRIL 2: 7:30 p.m., Symphony Space, 2527 Broadway, (at 95th St.), New York City
Soloists include soprano Susan Wallin, pianist and composer Jungyoon Wie, and clarinetist Paquito D’Rivera. The program includes Mozart’s Exsultate, jubilate, K. 165, Wie’s Jindo Arrangement Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, Nelson Riddle’s Cross Country Suite for Clarinet and Studio Orchestra, and the world premiere of Wooster Professor of Music Peter Morrey’s Second Century Overture, composed to honor the 100th anniversary of the orchestra.

MAY 6: 7:30 p.m. McGaw Chapel
The concert is dedicated to Daniel Parmelee, who died in 1990. The program repeats pieces, that by now have become anthems—Pomp and Circumstance and the Mendelssohn violin concerto, with soloist Tom Wood, Wooster Professor of Music. In fact, with the exception of Second Century Overture, the entire May 6 lineup is a repeat of the inaugural 1916 concert.

For tickets to Wooster concerts, please call 330-263-2419.
For New York venues and tickets, visit: www.symphonyspace.org/home or call 212-864-5400

Conductor Nancy Garlick
rehearses in McGaw Chapel.

A performance in the Memorial Chapel.
CONDUCTORS
OF THE
WOOSTER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

1916-17
Daniel Parmelee
After his first season, Parmelee leaves Wooster for a reason that “would delight today’s women,” writes Lois McCall in an retrospective article in the Spring 1983 Wooster magazine. “When he suggested his pianist fiancée (Clarice Paul) for a position in the music faculty, he was told such an appointment would be nepotism. So he went to Cleveland, where he taught at Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory, and played with the Cleveland Orchestra.

1917-24
Professor Homer E. Crain
A violinist hired to replace Parmelee, Crain conducts the orchestra except for an interval in 1919-1920, when he leaves to serve in World War I and is replaced by the College’s vocal teacher Benjamin Burtt.

1924-56
Daniel Parmelee
Parmelee returns, along with his wife Clarice, who goes on to serve on the faculty for the next 30 years.

1956-62
Alan C. Collins
Cellist and Professor Alan C. Collins, a member of the music faculty, takes up the baton, following Parmelee’s retirement.

1962-63
Stuart Ling

1967-75
Marshall Haddock
New music faculty member Marshall Haddock takes the baton and introduces opera to the orchestra’s repertoire, beginning with Mozart’s The Magic Flute, performed in the old Severance gymnasium.

1975-77
Manuel Prestamo
A young 20-something Prestamo interrupts his doctorate to come to Wooster to direct the orchestra.

1977-83
Professor Nancy Garlick
A clarinetist at the College, Garlick agrees to take over the orchestra for a year while a search for a new director is conducted; one year turns into five.

1983-85
Dale Moore
Music Professor Dale Moore takes the directorship.

1985-86
Jack Gallagher
Composer and Professor Jack Gallagher fills in for a year.

1986-PRESENT
Jeffrey Lindberg
Professor Jeffrey Lindberg arrives at the College to take over direction of the jazz ensembles, teach trombone, and direct the orchestra. He engages renowned musicians to solo with the orchestra, including soprano Eric Mills ’75, who performs with the orchestra at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., in 1997.

“Daniel Parmelee and Jeff Lindberg are the orchestra’s bookends. One created it, the other made it strong.”

Wendy Burnard Barlow ’74
member of the Women’s Committee
DAILY DYNAMICS
It takes a village

“The first thing I did (when I arrived on campus) was go to the College treasurer and ask for money to start a symphony orchestra. He was a Scotsman, so you can imagine what he said!” Daniel Parmelee, from the Daily Record, Sept. 28, 1985

In the beginning, orchestra members chipped in each week to pay for the rental on their downtown rehearsal room. When the College proposed a room in the basement of Kauke Hall as an alternative venue, the offer was quickly accepted. The Musical Arts Association was founded and benefactors emerged, including its first president, John McKee ’17 (alumni director and Wooster magazine editor from 1921 to 1960), and the Rotary Club of Wooster.

Much has changed over the 100 ensuing years, but one challenge is constant: Making music with a 60-person orchestra costs money. Music rental, instrument purchases, soloists, and extra musicians hired for large works are ongoing expenses, says Lindberg. Vital to the orchestra’s operation is the Women’s Committee, founded in 1972. The 60-member group raises operational and scholarship funds, coordinates receptions, and helps with publicity and education.

Multiple goals, working together

Operational goals are complex; harmonious accord requires attentive tuning. Community membership is valued in a town- and-gown orchestra that is one of the oldest in the country and whose mature players bring depth to performances. But attendance is as essential for community volunteers as it is for students receiving credit. Professionals aren’t let off the hook, no matter how good their excuses.

“In an ensemble, if a player doesn’t show up, all the players are hurt,” says Lindberg.

On the one hand, every orchestra wants large audiences. Ticket sales help pay bills, and a full house warms all hearts. A pops concert, for example, is almost guaranteed to bring in 1,000 or more audience members. But the educational function of the orchestra is not served, says Lindberg, if its members don’t learn standard repertoire—classic works sometimes dubbed “war horses” by folks in the field. “The war horses might not bring in the audiences, but our music majors need to learn them,” he says.

Because the Music Department’s faculty includes a number of highly acclaimed composers, there is frequently the opportunity for the orchestra to premiere new works composed by both faculty members and their students. Lindberg is dedicated to performing them as well as works by other contemporary composers. Contemporary music might not attract older concertgoers. But it does appeal to young people (who nonetheless almost always make up a small percentage of the audience).

The orchestra is made up of diverse talents—from music majors who are top performers, to first-year math majors, struggling but determined. “I try to keep everybody enthusiastic by programming a variety of material with different levels of difficulty,” says Lindberg.

“The repertoire has to be challenging, rewarding, accessible, educational, and bring in audiences.

“Sometimes we walk a fine line.”
DON SWEGAN ’47
One of Wooster’s all-time greats still going strong at age 88

By John Finn, director of public information, The College of Wooster

Any conversation about the greatest athletes in the history of intercollegiate athletics at The College of Wooster has to include the name Don Swegan ’47. After all, who else earned letters in three sports at three different colleges? And who else was drafted by three Major League baseball teams—one of which offered him a chance to play in the big leagues right away?

Born Jan. 18, 1926, in Warren, Ohio, Swegan's athletic future was almost snuffed out before it began. As a seventh grader, he was stricken with peritonitis after his appendix ruptured. Drugs like sulfa and penicillin had not yet been developed. But while most peritonitis patients at the time died, Swegan survived and flourished.

Swegan’s illness, along with the Great Depression, took a toll on the family’s finances. His father, a hard-working accountant, took time to pitch and bat a baseball and throw a football to his son for hours.

At his parents’ urging, Swegan decided to go to college instead of enlisting in the service upon graduation in 1943. He chose The College of Wooster, primarily because of charismatic admissions director Racky Young. Gasoline rationing prevented a prior visit to campus, and when Swegan arrived by bus in late August, he was hooked at first sight. “The beautiful campus, the friendly students, and the helpful professors made a wonderful impression on me.”

He launched into English, biology, German, trigonometry, membership in Fifth Section, the Navy V-12 program, and a spot on the varsity basketball team. He played for the legendary E.M. “Mose” Hole, and adapted well to the coach's pressuring zone defense and freewheeling offense, quickly emerging as the leading scorer with an average of 17.5 points per game for a team that would finish 9-4.

Swegan’s initial taste of Wooster was cut short, when, in March of 1944 when he was assigned to Baldwin-Wallace College as part of the Navy V-12 program. He was able to compete in intercollegiate athletics and was immediately named a starter and a team captain in basketball, and was selected second-team All-Ohio after averaging 12 points per game for a team that finished 12-5. Included in those victories were two wins over his former Wooster team and beloved coach, “Mose” Hole. In the spring, he played shortstop for B-W’s first varsity baseball team.

(Left) Don Swegan as a senior basketball player at Wooster. (Right) Swegan was head basketball coach at Baldwin-Wallace from 1961-62.
From athletics to education to administration, Swegan is a high-achieving 1947 graduate who has enjoyed a diverse and successful career.

Don Swegan today at age 88.

After a year at Baldwin-Wallace, Swegan was on the move again. This time he was sent to the Naval ROTC program at Harvard. In football, he played alongside another end and future presidential candidate Robert Kennedy. Also on that team was Ken O’Donnell, who would become President John Kennedy’s Chief of Staff. In basketball, he went from sixth man to starter for a team that advanced to the NCAA Tournament.

In the spring of 1946, he rejoined his baseball career, playing shortstop, batting .368, and serving as team captain. He was selected to play in the first and only East-West all-star game at Fenway Park, home of the Boston Red Sox. In that game, he played with Army legend Glenn Davis and against Yale first baseman George H.W. Bush.

On June 3, 1946, Swegan was honorably discharged from the Navy as an ensign. He could have stayed at Harvard to complete the two-year residency requirement and graduate with a degree from the Ivy League, but he chose instead to return to Wooster and complete his degree as a Fighting Scot. “I had deep feelings for Wooster and all that it represented,” he said.

When Swegan returned to campus, he found a place to live on the top floor of old Severance Gymnasium. He took on a variety of jobs, including cleaning the pool, waiting on tables, and helping to maintain the golf course. That fall, he joined the Scot football team, playing tight end on offense and safety on defense under head coach Johnny Swigart. In basketball, he was named team captain by Coach Hole and wound up scoring more than 300 points while leading the Scots to a 17-6 overall record. His fondest memory was playing out front on Mose’s pressing zone defense.

That spring, Swegan played baseball, and posted an impressive .348 batting average as a second baseman. After the season, several professional teams came calling, including the Cleveland Indians, who offered him $600 for the summer to play for the club’s Class C team in Burlington, Iowa, but he turned them down because he would make more ($1.09 an hour) as a laborer back home at Youngstown Sheet and Tube. He also received a minor league offer from the Cincinnati Reds, but declined that as well.

On June 9, 1947, Swegan graduated cum laude with a degree in physical education and teaching certification in English, math, science, and physical education. He concluded his collegiate athletic career having won 10 letters in three different sports at three different colleges—possibly the only collegiate athlete ever to do so. Now, he was ready to take on the world: to teach, coach, mentor, and influence a new generation of young men and women.

Swegan accepted a position as head basketball coach and math teacher at Mentor High School with an annual salary of $2,500.

In the ensuing years, Swegan taught and coached at several Ohio schools and played semi-pro baseball, continuing to draw attention from major league baseball organizations. The Indians offered him an enticing $6,000 contract with their AAA affiliate in Indianapolis, but Swegan turned down the offer in favor of pursuing a master’s degree. Also, he and his wife Betsy (Welsh) ’47 were expecting their first child in August. Two weeks later he turned down an offer for a major league contract with the St. Louis Browns (later to become the Baltimore Orioles).

In 1952 Swegan began an appointment as head basketball coach and assistant football coach at Muskingum College. There he completed his master’s degree in health and physical education at Ohio State. He pursued his doctorate at Penn State, where he conducted research, taught classes, and helped coach basketball.

In 1957, he earned his doctorate and accepted a faculty position as a full professor, head basketball coach, and head of the graduate program in health and physical education at West Chester State College, west of Philadelphia. One year later, he was offered the position of head basketball coach, assistant football coach, and chairman of the physical education program back in Ohio at Baldwin-Wallace, where he taught, coached, became director of teacher education, Dean of Students, and vice president for development.

In 1974, Swegan was elected to Wooster’s “W” Association Athletic Hall of Fame. In 1979, Swegan left Ohio for the University of South Florida for a position as director of development, and eventually associate vice president for health sciences development. Following retirement, he did fundraising consultation at age 75 coached girl’s basketball at Sebring High School.

Today, at the age of 88, Swegan works fulltime as the campaign director of a $3.5 million campaign at the retirement community where he lives. He looks back fondly on his diverse and exceptionally successful career, which included 18 years of coaching, and 11 different administrative positions. “It’s been a wonderful life, and I’m glad the good Lord gave me the opportunity and longevity to meet its many challenges,” he said. “I know in my heart that whatever I did, I gave everything I had.”
The Ghana CONNECTION

Ashesi University College and The College of Wooster: Exchanging Talent

Last year, Wooster and Ashesi University College began a partnership, supported by a grant from the Noble Foundation. Ghana’s first liberal arts college, Ashesi is located in Berekuso, overlooking Ghana’s capital city of Accra. It opened its doors in 2002 to a pioneering class of 30 students; today the enrollment is approximately 600, with most graduates choosing to stay in Africa to work for their home countries’ progress.

Two new Wooster alumni—history graduate Ngozi Cole ’15 and communications studies and Latin American studies graduate Caroline Bybee ’15 are currently working at Ashesi. Cole supports leadership courses, and Bybee is a faculty intern for written and oral communications. “I appreciate the opportunity to put into practice skills I learned at Wooster,” says Bybee, “and I find myself learning a little bit more every day … like how much time it takes to grade even a short paper! I have even more respect for my professors now, if that’s possible.”

Last summer, four Ashesi students joined Wooster’s AMRE (Applied Methods and Research Experience) program. Chloe Acheampong worked on the Artifex Manufacturing team, Obed Kobina Nsiah worked on the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company X-ray team, Kenneth Mintah Mensah worked with the Progressive Insurance team, and Lydia Kemuma Kinyari worked at the Ohio Agriculture Research Development Center.

Last June, a group of Wooster faculty and staff visited Ashesi to develop semester and summer exchange programs. The group included Hank Kreuzman, dean for curriculum and academic engagement; Kate Patch, director of off-campus studies; Ibra Sene, associate professor of international relations; Mary Jo Kreuzman, visiting professor of mathematics and computer science; Sofia Visa, associate professor of mathematics and computer science, and Ryan Ozar, associate director of internships.

In late October, Ashesi faculty visited the Wooster campus, where they attended classes, department meetings, undergraduate research meetings; met informally with faculty and staff; and presented a public lecture, “Modern Ghana and Africa: Challenges and Achievements.” Included in the Ashesi contingent were Ayorkor Korsah, department head and professor of computer science and robotics; Anthony Elbow Spiro, business administration department head and senior lecturer; and Stephen Emmanuel Armah, assistant professor of business administration.
The Akaa Project

As a high school student, Lauren Grimantis '12 worked with a local Ghanaian woman to establish the Akaa (nonprofit educational) Project in the Eastern Region of Ghana. When she arrived at Wooster, Lauren hit the campus running—recruiting other students to accompany her on trips to Akaa, obtaining microfinance grant through the Center for Entrepreneurship, and inspiring students to raise money. The Akaa project continues to be well known on campus, with many fundraisers devoted to its cause. Lauren lives, leads, and works in Akaa, where she hosted APEX intern Annelise Bay '16 and the Wooster contingent last summer.

(Above) Eryn Greaney '14, a Peace Corps health volunteer stationed an hour from the Akaa Project, recently visited to help distribute feminine hygiene kits. The kits came from Dr. Amelia Laing, a Wooster resident who helped to establish the Obazian Pa Women’s Hospital in Accra, with funding support from the Noble Foundation. Wooster's director of international student and scholar services Jill Munro visited the hospital in early October to volunteer and explore future connections with the College. (Eryn is on the far left; Lauren Grimantis is on the right.)

(Left) Akka students and their teachers greet Wooster visitors: Lauren Grimantis '12, Hank Kreuzman, Ibra Sene, Ryan Ozar, Sofia Visa, Kate Patch

Hank Kreuzman checks out the snail pen at the Akaa Project's school.

Wooster in Ghana—when you least expect it

The Wooster contingent visited the Kakum National Park Rainforest and in preparation for their hike, Ibra Sene opened his Wooster umbrella. Reports Hank Kreuzman: “Two people in our group asked, ‘Is that the College of Wooster in Ohio? We are graduates!’ Senyo Agidi ’07 is in medical school in Florida and Alaina Martinez ’07 is working on her PhD at Ohio State. They were on their honeymoon visiting Senyo’s family in Ghana.”
Wooster
INDEPENDENT MINDS, WORKING TOGETHER

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In Closing

Finding a calling
Chris Perrin '18, a sophomore focused on anthropology, history, and environmental studies, and a student leader in the College's new Peace Corps Prep program, is certain that he wants an agricultural Peace Corps experience following graduation. What the Chicago native was less certain about was whether he would actually like farming. With support from an APEX fellowship, he interned last summer at two organic farms in New York and Rhode Island.

He learned many things. He learned that herding goats (even when singing "The Lonely Goatherd") was a deeply trying experience; that Schwanev, an ancient white chicken would peck you unless you established dominance; that Button, the Highland calf, would prance with her hooves high, like a princess.

A piper with the Scot band, he learned that Highland cattle would follow him anywhere if he played pipes for them. He learned that the sound of a stream outside his bedroom window was beautiful music. He learned that he loved farming.

Reflecting their heritage, Highland cattle on Full Circle Farm, Armenia, N.Y. follow bagpiper Chris Perrin. Photo by Jesse Mandel