Independent Studies

Wooster students look at the intersection of individuals and institutions

Also inside

The Wayne County Historical Society keeps history alive
Back in the fall of 2006 when I was researching Wooster magazine’s history for a feature on its 120th anniversary, I noticed that name and publication frequency changes were often instituted with no editorial comment. For example, in 1967 when the magazine changed from the Wooster Alumni Bulletin to Wooster Alumni Magazine, no mention was made of the change. (Perhaps if there had been, folks wouldn’t still be calling it the Bulletin.)

The magazine began as a quarterly in 1886, changed to 10 issues in 1923, dropped to seven in the early ‘70s, and then to five in the late ‘70s. By the mid-‘80s the magazine was back to where it began—a quarterly.

But because I think it’s important, I would like to comment on the change that this magazine represents—the beginning of three magazines per year rather than four, due to the College’s sustainable budget initiative (see page 3). I love working on this magazine, so I can’t pretend this decision made me very happy. And you readers have always loved your magazine. In fact, recent research by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) indicated that you rated the magazine higher on almost every attribute than readers at other institutions rated their alumni magazines.

In this same survey, CASE also found that increasingly, institutions are no longer publishing their alumni magazines four times a year. A representative sample found that more than 75 percent of colleges and universities publish a printed magazine three times a year or less. Only 21 percent publish four times a year.

Various social and online media can communicate news faster, cheaper, and more extensively than print ever can. But some people think the magazine is more than just a communications device—that its combination of writing, photography, and design make it a kind of art form. OK, I’m one of those people. But proclaiming that something is an art form certainly doesn’t save it from extinction. I’m thinking about the LP record jacket.

Of course once a form is extinct, its value increases. You never know. Better save those magazines.

KAROL CROSBIE
Editor
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On the cover
Chris Scimecca ’15, a double major in music and psychology, performed a recital of challenging music and also researched classmates’ physical responses to music perceived as unpleasant.

Photo by Alex Scimecca
Interim President S. Georgia Nugent begins her leadership

G

eorgia Nugent began her one-year appointment as interim president of the College on July 1. President Nugent will guide Wooster through the 2015-16 academic year as the College conducts a search for its next permanent leader. Grant Cornwell ended his eight-year leadership of Wooster to become president of Rollins College in Winter Park, Fl. and he and his wife Peg departed in late June.

Nugent comes to Wooster from the Council of Independent Colleges, where as a senior fellow she designed, developed and oversaw a public information campaign advocating for the value of a liberal arts education. She was president of Kenyon College from 2003 to 2013, during which time she launched new programs in Islamic culture, Latino studies, and the Center for the Study of American Democracy. Funding for faculty research was increased, new endowed professorships were created in anthropology, drama, economics, English, and international studies, and new hires increased the diversity of the faculty.


Nugent earned her bachelor’s degree from Princeton in 1973 and her doctorate from Cornell University in 1978. “The search committee was very impressed by Georgia’s knowledge of who we are and what we do at Wooster,” said Mary Neagoy ’83, vice chair of the board and chair of the both the interim and permanent presidential search committees. “She understands the transformative power of a model of education built on deep mentoring relationships and serious student research.” In addition to Neagoy, the members of the interim search committee were trustees Jayne Chambers ’76, senior vice president of the American Federation of Hospitals, and Solomon Oliver ’69, chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio; Carolyn Newton, the College’s provost; and Greg Shaya, associate professor of history.

“The College of Wooster embodies the very best of American liberal arts education. I have long admired its values, purposefulness and standards, and I am truly honored to have been invited to join the Wooster community and guide the College in the coming year.” —President S. Georgia Nugent

Photo: Matt Diyard
Sustainable budget initiative positions Wooster for the future

Wooster continues to achieve strong enrollment results—setting application records in four of the last five years while recruiting academically talented and diverse first-year classes—but the competitive environment is becoming ever more challenging.

Nationwide pushback on tuition increases that began with the economic downturn in 2009, combined with growing aversion to student debt, has made unsustainable old economic models, in which colleges raised tuition by two to four percentage points more than the rate of inflation each year.

Recognizing this new reality, last fall Wooster launched what came to be known as the sustainable budget initiative—a deliberative and inclusive effort to engage each division of the College in the task of identifying new sources of revenue and reductions in expenditures that would enable Wooster to continue to deliver on its core educational mission with rigorous quality and integrity, while maintaining or strengthening its market position, despite a challenging financial and competitive environment.

That process ultimately yielded expenditure reductions and new revenues totaling $2,265,000 that have been incorporated in next year's budget, as well as scores of additional, longer term ideas that will continue to be examined and, where viable, pursued in the years to come.

Some of the changes that will be implemented in the coming year as a result of the sustainable budget project include:

- Generating new revenue by constructing a cell tower on campus, adding a foot golf course to the L.C. Boles Golf Course, and increasing fees for transcripts and replacement diplomas.
- Replacing the Wooster Forum with a series of already endowed lectures.
- Changes in Athletics include a restructuring of the staffing in the fitness center and consolidation of all practice uniform purchases with a single vendor.
- In addition to setting an ambitious Wooster Fund goal, Development and Alumni Relations will eliminate production of a printed calendar for donors, and reduce and streamline stewardship activities.
- Student Life will consolidate its programming efforts, eliminate professional entertainment at Family Weekend, and scale back the Ambassadors program.
- Finance and Business has taken advantage of a retirement and a resignation in the business office to reorganize that area. They are also developing ways to streamline and make custodial and dining operations more efficient and to reduce recruiting expenses.
- Enrollment and College Relations will bring in-house an admissions search process previously handled by an outside vendor, reduce the number of issues of Wooster magazine from four to three, and eliminate printed athletics media guides.
- Information and Planning has instituted changes in staffing, organization and how it acquires its major systems, and will work with the campus to reduce printing and copying costs as well.
- The President's Office will reduce the number of events at the President's Home, trim the cost of Board of Trustees meetings, and switch to recyclable gowns for commencement.

— John Hopkins, associate vice president for college relations and marketing

Presidential search update

The presidential search is in full swing. Chaired by Mary Neagoy ’83, vice chair of the college’s board of trustees, the search committee is working toward a goal of announcing Wooster’s 12th president by the end of this calendar year.

The search committee has held more than a dozen meetings with faculty, students, staff, administrators, retired faculty and staff, alumni, and members of the greater Wooster community, and has solicited alumni input via an online survey. Participants were asked to reflect on three areas of particular importance to the work of the committee: the distinctive qualities of a Wooster education that should be preserved and celebrated, the opportunities and challenges for Wooster in the coming years, and the personal attributes that Wooster’s next president should possess.

Based on that input, and working with search consultant Dr. Thomas B. Courtice, of AGB Search, the committee has developed a detailed position prospectus that can be found, along with updates on the search process, at www.wooster.edu/about/search/.

Anyone wishing to make nominations for Wooster’s presidency can forward those names to Dr. Courtice at tbc@agbsearch.com.
Hayden Schilling, 1964–2015

If you've worked someplace for 51 years, and you've gained the reputation as a prankster, and you've instructed your colleagues and students not to make a fuss . . . Well, you can pretty much be assured that a magnificent fuss will be made.

Such was the case in the hallowed halls of Kauke throughout the spring of 2015. Acknowledging that their colleague was a kid at heart, history department members elected 11-year-old Sylvie Shaya, daughter of professor of history Greg Shaya, as chair of the Haydenpalooza Organizing Committee. "If you had just stopped at 50 years," Michael Ruttinger '05 wrote his mentor and friend, "they could have designated the year your Golden Jubilee and maybe we could have avoided the unfortunate ‘Haydenpalooza’ name."

The celebration lived up to its name. It might have been appropriate to use something like a tennis racket as a graphic theme to commemorate a tennis coach who had led Wooster teams to four NCAC championships and was named NCAC Coach of the Year five times. But on their many coast-to-coast matches, it became known to teams over the years (34 years, to be exact) that Coach Schilling had a deep-seated fear of sharks. And so 100 inflatable sharks began to appear in Schilling’s office, classes, and car— their terror ameliorated somewhat by the fact that their $5 dollar purchase price went to the Hayden Schilling Fund for Student-Faculty Engagement.

And in the National Anthem final match, the Brits lost. Revenge was required for the occasion on which Dr. Schilling, the Robert Critchfield Professor of English History, had taken his Modern Britain class students on an impromptu trip down the hall to the Modern France classroom of his colleague and department chair, Professor Jeff Roche. French history students had been subjected to a solemn reading of a document by English history students attesting to the inferiority of France and equally solemn singing of “God Save the Queen.” In the last week of the semester, Professor Schilling’s class was visited by The Wooster Chorus, resplendent in tuxedos and black formals. “La Marseillaise” was sung in four-part harmony; a shark dirigible floated ominously overhead.

“Hayden takes Wooster incredibly seriously, but he doesn’t take pomp seriously,” says Roche. “Some of his most treasured moments were meeting with prospective students. He was admissions liaison for our department and you always knew when a student was coming because he’d dress a little nicer.” (Schilling’s standard dress code—khakis and navy blazer—was so predictable that it was added to the list of Haydenpalooza pranks. At one staff meeting all his colleagues dressed like him, and at one of the final

For more memories, photos, and video, visit https://www.facebook.com/haydenpalooza
“Hayden was always pushing us to be more inclusive and diverse—from marching for civil rights in the 60s, to helping to establish a Black Studies Curriculum Committee, a Department of Black Studies, task forces on the Black experience, and the Miles College exchange. Hayden represents all the best things about our College. We’ve had a great colleague.”
— GREG SHAYA, associate professor of history, chair of international relations

“What I’ve been most impressed with is that the so-called ‘indifferent’ students who you may have had as first- or second-years may end up doing extraordinary work in Independent Study because perhaps for the first time in their life they’ve been asked to do what they’re interested in. It’s not something they do right away—it’s a crescendo, a maturing process. They learn: This is scholarship; this is what educated people do.”
— HAYDEN SCHILLING

good students? What I’ve been most impressed with is that the so-called ‘indifferent’ students who you may have had as first- or second-years may end up doing extraordinary work in Independent Study because perhaps for the first time in their life they’ve been asked to do what they’re interested in. It’s not something they do right away—it’s a crescendo, a maturing process. They learn: This is scholarship; this is what educated people do.

Schilling, who served as acting vice president for academic affairs in 1989-90 and 1994-96, was asked by a student at his retirement forum what the College should be looking for in its next president. “He or she must understand the traditions of Wooster,” he answered. “You can’t invent Wooster, you have to build on it. This College has a reputation and history and style that is something a new president should spend a lot of time to understand. Wooster existed before any of us. It is a precious institution.”

Following retirement, Schilling will travel, remain living in Wooster, and edit a 17th century parliamentary diary. (“My adviser gave it to me in frustration and it’s ruined my life ever since.”)
Stars that Laugh

In 2005, Hayden Schilling was designated the Outstanding Baccalaureate College Professor of the Year by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and the Carnegie Foundation, confirming what the Wooster family always knew. Included in the gifts from his colleagues is a compilation of 60-plus pages of letters. With permission from the letter-writers (but not from Professor Schilling) we have included a few excerpts:

Megan Prichard ’07 “Hayden guided me through topic changes, hard drive crashes, panic attacks about life after graduation, and several heated debates over my comma usage with equality and humor. His refrain of ‘Just get something on the page—after that you're only editing’ has gotten me through many writing blocks in college and beyond.”

John D. Faust ’86 “…When the adviser for my junior Independent Study left Wooster, I asked Dr. Schilling if he would serve in that role for my senior year. I had worked with him in the Admissions Office (he as the Dean, I as a tour guide) for a couple of years so we had gotten to know one another pretty well. Oh, my how I felt that same intensity. This time it was on a one-to-one basis. While I might have been furious about having to do a re-write on various portions, or I may have argued a time or two about how his expectations for me were too lofty, Dr. Schilling continued to push me to produce a quality product. Twenty-nine years after the fact, I can honestly say it’s something with which I continue to take great pride in having completed.

Today, I am in my 17th year of teaching fifth grade social studies and language arts. Each day, I try to deliver my lessons with the same enthusiasm as Dr. Schilling did for me. I also require my students to complete an in-depth Independent Study on the topic of their choice…”

Keith Beckett, director of physical education, athletics, and recreation, professor of physical education: “You will be missed. You have touched many and each of us is better because of it. While you might not be on campus each day, the fabric of your being is here and will be felt as folks walk through campus, move down the halls of Kauke, through the PEC, and by the tennis courts… I close with great words from the Antoine de Saint Exupery’s Little Prince: ‘You…you alone will have the stars as no one else has them…’ In one of the stars I shall be living, in one of them I shall be laughing. And so it will be as if all the stars were laughing, when you look at the sky at night… you—only you—will have stars that laugh.”

Megan Thomas ’08 “…It was most likely sometime in late October when during an advising meeting Dr. Schilling asked how my writing was coming along. I launched into an explanation of how it was not coming along due to my habit of procrastination, but that I wasn't worried because this was my usual route, I always got things done, and in fact thought that the pressure made me a better writer. Dr. Schilling leaned back in his chair, looked me in the face, and without missing a beat, replied, ‘Procrastination is the shortcut to hell.’

‘His words rang in my head as I walked from my advising meeting and to my I.S. carrel in Andrews… I whipped out a note card and wrote down his quote, making sure to emphasize his last word really well. I taped it up on my carrel where I could see it. … Last year I graduated from the George Washington University with a masters in education and human development, with a concentration in higher education administration. While slogging away at my masters, I posted my original note card over my desk as a reminder of past transgressions and traps to avoid. Worn and faded by the sun, that copy now sits in a box with other keepsakes from my time at Wooster…’
The Board of Trustees is accustomed to good news being heralded by pipers, but nothing in their past experience could top the flourish of a celebratory dinner during their May meeting on campus. The good news began arriving when salads were served and by the time dessert was delivered, the whole tale was told: Contributions totaling $40 million marked the largest single fund-raising day in the College’s history and signaled commitments for the entire $40 million construction cost of the new integrated life sciences center, a year before its scheduled ground breaking.

President Grant Cornwell announced that the center will be named the Ruth W. Williams Hall of Life Science to honor Ruth and Morris Williams, whose $15 million gift to support the sciences at Wooster, announced in October 2013, dramatically launched the project’s fund-raising. Morris Williams surprised the group with an announcement from his wife and himself: He and Ruth pledged $2 million to endow scholarships for music majors, $2 million to endow scholarships for education students, and $1 million to endow a scholarship in honor of outgoing president Grant Cornwell and his wife, Peg.

The evening’s other gift announcements included:

William A. Longbrake ’65, chair of the college’s board of trustees, committed $15 million—$5 million toward construction of the science center; $5 million for APEX, the college’s center for student academic and career advising, planning and experiential learning; and $5 million for other purposes, including the college’s annual fund and his 50th Class Reunion fund. The retired vice chairman of Washington Mutual, Longbrake has been a member of Wooster’s board of trustees for 27 years and chair since 2014.

The Austin E. Knowlton Foundation of Cincinnati, Ohio will provide an $8 million grant to support construction of the science center. Austin E. Knowlton was the owner and chairman of the Knowlton Construction Company of Bellefontaine, Ohio. Under his leadership, the company was responsible for more than 600 major construction projects throughout Ohio and the Midwest, including school buildings, hospitals, libraries, and post offices.

Stanley C. Gault ’48 announced a gift of $7 million, $5 million earmarked for the science center, and $2 million for a new endowed professorship—The Flo Kurtz Gault Endowed Chair in English—to honor his late wife, who received a degree in English from Wooster in 1948. Gault, the former CEO of Rubbermaid and Goodyear, joined Wooster’s board of trustees in 1972 and was named chair in 1987, a position he held until his retirement from the board in 2000, at which time he was elected chairman emeritus.

Richard J. Bell ’63, one of two trustee members of the planning committee for the new integrated life sciences center, and his wife, Toni F. Clark, will give $5 million toward the completion of that project. Bell is president of Potomac Development Corporation, which develops and manages real estate in the Washington, D.C. area. He has been a member of the college’s board of trustees since 2008.

In November 2014, Wooster announced the selection of EYP as project architects for the Ruth W. Williams Hall of Life Science and began the planning and design process. The project will involve razing Mateer Hall, the current biology building, and replacing it with an entirely new structure that will be connected to the Severance Chemistry building to create an integrated life sciences complex.

Demolition of Mateer will begin in June 2016, and the new facility will open in September 2018. The college continues to seek financial support for the innovative, interdisciplinary educational programming that will take place there, including new endowed professorships and research funds in the life sciences.
Class of 2015 joins alumni ranks

Officiating at his last commencement as president of The College of Wooster, Grant Cornwell congratulated 444 graduates. “Serving at Wooster has been a great honor,” he told them.

Charging the class to be “actively engaged and globally savvy” was commencement speaker Jennifer Haverkamp ’79, visiting senior fellow at the Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development, professorial lecturer in law at George Washington University, and an independent consultant. Recipient of an honorary degree was Patricia Hill Collins, Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Maryland and a leading researcher on issues of race, gender, social class, and sexuality.

Speaking for the class of 2015 were Gentry Kerwood and Laura Y. Merrell.

For more on the results, watch a two-minute video interview with Busteed:  https://youtu.be/fjSkda8TuoU

Wooster’s archaeology conference contingent

Wooster students, faculty, and alumni were well represented at the 80th annual conference of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA)—a total of 17 participants in the four-day event.

Seven seniors presented their Independent Study projects, eight alumni shared their current research, and two faculty members talked about their research endeavors during the four-day event.

“The SAA is one of the premier archaeological associations in the world, and the conference draws participants from five continents,” said P. Nick Kardulias, professor of sociology, anthropology, and archaeology at Wooster. “For undergraduates to present the results of their research at the major archaeological event in North America is an unparalleled opportunity.”

Representing Wooster’s senior class were Rachael Aleshire, Courtney Astrom, Bianca Hand, Blair Heidkamp, Kelsey Salmon Schreck, Megan Shirley, and James Torpy. Faculty mentors and presenters were Kardulias and Olivia Navarro-Farr, assistant professor of sociology, anthropology, and archaeology. Alumni included Stephanie Bosch ’14, Chelsea Fisher ’11, Whitney Goodwin ’08, Emily Kate ’14, Jennifer Lavris Makovics ’94, Emily Long ’08, David Walton ’09, and Andrew Womack ’07.

Gallup identifies college experiences linked to “great jobs and great lives”

In the largest-ever survey of college graduates—some 30,000—Gallup found that having a mentor in college and working on a long-term project were two of the most powerful factors linked to having “great jobs and great lives” after graduation. “The value that The College of Wooster has placed on mentoring, on applied learning, on project based learning,” said Brandon Busteed, executive director of Gallup Education, “all those things, according to our research at least, are exactly what should be happening.”

For more on the results, watch a two-minute video interview with Busteed:  https://youtu.be/fjSkda8TuoU
Black and Gold Weekend

Family Weekend & Homecoming combined into one great weekend!

Sept. 25-27, 2015

Home athletic contests
Wooster Chorus concert
Tailgate lunch
Meet and greet faculty members
W Association Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
Wooster Inn Party on the Patio
High school student visit program

http://woosteralumni.org    Be MacLeod Proud!
Weekend highlights

Reconnecting, remembering, honoring

More than 1,100 Wooster alumni and their guests returned to campus June 5-7 to reconnect with and honor classmates and their alma mater. The Class of 1965 announced a five-year giving total of $20 million, the largest 50th reunion gift in the college's history. That total includes $15 million in commitments by William A. Longbrake ’65, announced last month, and $1.26 million in new endowment for scholarships, faculty support, APEX, and initiatives in the life sciences.

Six alumni were honored for their achievements and service to the college. David R. Hopkins ’70 and Barbara Frajola Atkinson ’64 (featured in the spring Wooster magazine) received Distinguished Alumni awards. Richard J. Bell ’63 was this year’s recipient of the Sara L. Patton Stewardship Award, for his outstanding and sustained record of giving to Wooster while encouraging others to give. Barry S. Eisenberg ’85 and James D. Haskins ’85 received the John D. McKee Alumni Volunteer Award, in recognition of their outstanding service to their alma mater. Sara M. Pierce ’10 received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award for her stellar volunteer service.

CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT: Dick Bell, Barry Eisenberg, Jamie Haskins, and Sara Pierce
Photos by Dick Bromund and Matt Dilyard
As Nancy Roha Meislahn ’65 was preparing for her 50th reunion, she began thinking back to first-year experiences that connected classmates, including the readings that all First Years were assigned in their Introduction to Liberal Studies class (today’s First Year Seminar). So she reread them all, challenged others to do the same, and set up a table at Luce Hall (where reunion attendees were staying) to display the collection—Thoreau’s Walden, von Frisch’s Bees: Their Vision, Chemical Senses, and Language, The Book of Job from the Bible, Dostoevsky’s The Brothers Karamazov. Members of the class joined retired faculty at their time-honored Thursday rendezvous at Lowry Center and chatted about teaching and learning.

“Even now, after 50 years, those readings continued to bind our class together,” said Meislahn, who went on to become a high school English teacher. “Back then, it was staying up all night, writing our papers together. This weekend it was, ‘You know, I never did get that portion in Brothers …’

Don Beane, professor emeritus of mathematics and education and Nancy Roha Meislahn ’65.
looking within
For our annual coverage of Independent Studies, this year we feature a few studies that allowed students a closer look at the intersection of individuals and institutions—some of them very close to home. As is almost always the case with Independent Studies, the students chose subjects that had deep personal significance.
Blair Heidkamp remembers the many vacations she took as a kid with her history-buff parents, tromping around archaeology sites. “I remember watching archaeologists working in roped-off sites and thinking, ‘Why can’t I be on that side of the rope? That’s where I want to be!’”

She chose to attend The College of Wooster because of the reputation of its archaeology department and early in her time here was part of a class being given a tour of the art museum and an overview of its permanent collection. When artifacts more than 3,000 years old from the Tomb of the Goblets in Pella, Jordan, were revealed, she couldn’t believe what she was seeing, “I was like, ‘What is this? I felt like Indiana Jones.’”

What Heidkamp was seeing were finds from the College’s 1967 excavation of an area settled close to the Jordan River, now near the Israeli-Jordanian border just south of the Sea of Galilee—a site considered important because of the longevity of its settlement. Finally, she was on the right side of the rope.

When she decided to revisit the collection for her I.S., she found herself delving not only delving into ancient Egyptian history but also into the history of her College. Her goals became not only to reevaluate the dating of the artifacts but also to bring them to the attention of the Wooster teaching community. An I.S. had been written about them in 1999 (Mike DiPaolo ’99), but Heidkamp wants more study, more exposure, more literal and figurative dusting off. “There are numerous opportunities for their use as educational tools within the College,” she writes. “I seek to create greater awareness not only for the collection, but also for the College’s affiliation with the archaeological site.”

Heidkamp found details of the Wooster expedition in the Library’s Special Collection’s Department. She read that Religious Studies Professor Arthur Baird had urged the College to become involved in an excavation. President Howard Lowry came on board with the idea, religious studies professor Robert Houston Smith was named director of the project, and grants were secured.

The excavation was interrupted and ultimately postponed for 12 years by Arab-Israeli tensions and the outbreak of the
Six-Day War on June 5, 1967. The Wooster group, including seven students, was in Jerusalem at the time, taking a break from the field to analyze their finds. Along with other Americans, they evacuated the region and fled to Europe. President Lowry, one of the strongest advocates of the project, died in the summer of 1967, along with the funding sources he had channeled.

When Wooster returned to the area, they did so in partnership with the University of Sydney and continued excavations for five more seasons, ending in 1985.

Heidkamp understands why relics from yesterday’s digs gather dust. “The excitement of new excavations is such a draw. It’s why most people become archaeologists and it’s where much of the funding is.” But for her, the two-edged historic allure of the Pella project was enticing, and she dug in.

She tracked down one of the 1967 student participants, religion student Herbert Stetzenmeyer ’69, who shared his original field notes, and she secured a Copeland grant to visit the site with Stephen Bourke, a former University of Sydney partner who continues to direct the site.

Her reanalysis and interpretation of the 130 artifacts prompted her to argue for an earlier and broader dating of the tomb: 1575-1450 BC instead of 1550 BC. The tomb was used for multiple family members, was revisited, and “was not just used at a singular point in time,” she writes. Heidkamp classified all the objects—an important activity for eventual digitization, which she says is essential throughout the profession, in order for archaeologists to build on past knowledge and discoveries.

Overall, her extensive reevaluation of documents and artifacts supported the conclusions made by Wooster scholars 50 years ago. “Wooster’s expedition to Pella was a monumental feat for a small college in the Midwest United States to undertake in the 1960s,” she writes. “Robert Houston Smith’s tedious record keeping and work ethic trained a new generation of archaeologists working in Jordan. With all the advancements in archaeological theory and methodology in the past 40 years, I was suspicious that his analysis wouldn’t hold up. Instead of producing a reinterpretation of Tomb 1, this study has instead become a testament to Smith’s abilities as an archaeologist and site director.”

Heidkamp is returning to Jordan and Israel this coming year on an excavation project with the University of Chicago.
Deeply interested in poverty outreach, Teresa Butel joined a program house dedicated to supporting local efforts. She volunteered weekly at a community breakfast sponsored by a local church, which largely serves Wooster’s homeless and poor. As she learned more about the town’s controversial enclave of tents, Butel identified her area of study and increased her volunteerism to twice a week, with a goal of building trust and ultimately identifying residents of Tent City who would agree to speak in depth with her.

The stigma of homelessness was an underlying concept that drove her curiosity, questions, methods, and conclusions. “As I moved beyond the counter, which divides volunteers from break-
If you stood on the bridge along State Route 30 and Madison Avenue in Wooster, you could see a sprawling encampment—home to the homeless for the past 10 years.

fast members, I realized how removed my interactions with the community had been up to this point,” she writes. “I was forced to acknowledge how the stereotypes and stigma I have read so much about also affect me subconsciously.”

In order to answer the question, “Why live in Tent City?” Butel conducted 17 hours of interviews with past and current residents of Tent City and with representatives of local organizations that serve the homeless.

She notes that numbers of encampments for the homeless have increased in recent years, the result of rising housing costs and house foreclosures, growing collective action among the homeless, decreased funding for housing and shelters, and the cycles of failure that can prevent people with prison records from finding jobs or housing.

For example, one of her interviewees was a handicapped ex-convict. “He said that there was a time when he had passed Tent City without having any idea what it was. Once he got out of prison though, he had nowhere else to go. He said as an ex-convict, ‘I feel like I’m a leper. I’m marked for life. I can eat at Salvation Army, but I can’t stay there. I did six months of community service there, but I can’t stay there. . . . Tent City is a spot where homeless people go when they can’t go anywhere else.’”

Butel’s research identified a reason why homeless choose to live in camps—the need to reduce visibility. “On the streets, the homeless may be ignored, gawked at, or pestered by media reporters and researchers.” She uses the phrase “retreatism” to describe her interviewees’ need to address their stigmatization and finds it a reoccurring motivation among her interviewees for living in Tent City.

But irony and paradox accompany the inevitable outcome of their reasoning. “Homeless individuals may adapt retreatism in response to feeling invisible or feeling mistreated by society,” writes Butel. “However, retreating to a tent city rouses curiosity from the outgroup and, consequently, makes the homeless more visible and more vulnerable to stigmatization.”

Another oft-cited motivation that also serves to manage stigmatization Butel calls “innovation.” Living in a community of tents—even one as transient as Wooster’s Tent City—affords benefits such as resource sharing and social networking.

Butel will work with high school students at Conservation Corps Minnesota this summer and then hopes to pursue work or study in the area of nonprofit outreach.

Teresa Butel made her last trip to Tent City in mid-April and talked to one of the participants in her study. Four days later the residents were evicted and Tent City came down.
As Lauren MacDonald and I walk through the Wayne County Humane Society to choose a dog for our photo shoot, I immediately select the “best” dog—the one who looks happy, doesn't bark ferociously, doesn't look scared.

My selection prejudices are typical, says MacDonald, and important. Potential adopters' decisions can be affected by behaviors that—if they had been dog behaviorists—they would know are signs of stress: Barking, crying, whining, licking, panting, pacing, figure-eight-spinning, and excessive elimination.

“Dogs exhibiting stress may well be the ones who don't get adopted,” she says. A lover of dogs (she is a member of the College's 4 Paws for Ability program house which fosters future service dogs), MacDonald knew from her literature search that daily enrichment could reduce a dog's anxiety. For example, 15 minutes of petting and walking has been shown to substantially reduce stress, measured both by decreased cortisol in the blood (a chemical indicating stress) and the kinds of behaviors MacDonald pointed out in our walk through the shelter.

But animal shelters are often understaffed, and 15 minutes of attention per dog often not possible. Reducing an enrichment regimen by even five minutes could mean the difference between enrichment happening and not happening. But would the shorter regimen be effective? What's the smallest amount of “quality” time you can give a dog and know that it is making a difference?

First MacDonald trained her volunteers—eight female students and two male students. Because research has found that dogs react more positively to petting from females than from males, the male volunteers were only used as dog walkers. MacDonald had studied petting treatments as a researcher at Wright State University over the summer and knew that technique matters. She trained her volunteers in a specific kind of petting—deep, slow, calming massage between the dog's shoulder blades. The training sessions also included skills in reading a dog's body language, to keep the volunteers safe. “We talked about warning signals—a growl so low in the throat that you can feel it before you hear it. You can't just look at one thing—you must look at the whole dog.”

Thirty-two dogs who had just arrived at the shelter were given various combinations of petting and walking routines. Control groups were given no attention other than having blood drawn. “I always felt bad about those guys, so we always spent some extra time with them after the experiment ended,” said MacDonald.

Although she did not find differences in cortisol levels (a hormone relatively easy to measure but also easily affected by a number of variables), she did find that yawns, panting, and whines were significantly reduced in dogs receiving enrichment treatment. In addition to her written I.S., MacDonald developed a video to air at the Independent Study Symposium (http://tinyurl.com/o6t5t5s).

MacDonald is planning to apply to veterinary school and to spend her gap year volunteering at the University of Minnesota Raptor Center. She chose Wooster, she says, because of the reputation of its psychology and biology departments, its equestrian club (she is this year’s president), and the College’s emphasis on working independently. She has a novel in progress and has applied for a Minnesota Emerging Writer’s grant.
Lauren MacDonald conducted her research at the Wayne County Humane Society and presented her findings in a video at the Independent Study Symposium. It may be viewed at http://tinyurl.com/o6t5t5s.

Lauren and Drax, a shelter dog ready for adoption.
As a performer, music major Chris Scimecca has ways of knowing how well his music is connecting with his audience—attentive faces, that electric feeling as the last note lingers in the air, applause.

And as a researcher, psychology major Chris Scimecca knows that body chemistry can signal strong likes and dislikes. One of the most consistent indicators of emotional arousal is electrodermal activity—negative fluctuation in the electrical resistance of the skin, showing the response of endocrine sweat glands—called “chills.” “Think of it as kind of a skin orgasm,” Scimecca says.

More research had been done on the effects of pleasant music than on unpleasant, so Scimecca decided to measure the effects of jarring, intense music and to add an interesting dimension: Would he find differences between the physiological responses of music majors compared to non-music majors?

Nine music majors and 13 non-music majors listened to excerpts from music they had selected as personal favorites and music Scimecca selected as pleasant, unpleasant, and neutral. Participants indicated how they felt about the music, and Scimecca measured their skin responses. He found that music majors experienced more emotional pleasure and corresponding skin conductance responses than did non-music majors for all the excerpts, including the unpleasant music. Cognitive differences that allowed for more nuanced readings among the music majors probably accounted for the difference, he said.

For his music Independent Study, Scimecca gave a percussion recital of eclectic, multicultural selections on a variety of instruments, including the timpani; three four-mallet marimba solos; a duet for street drummers, using a plastic flower pot, painter’s bucket, a glass bottle, and metal anvil; a French piece for snare drum; and a trio for bass drum, bongos, and china gongs, performed with his major professor and a percussion student.

“One of the best things about being a musician is when I give my listeners chills. If I can do that, I know I’ve done my job. It’s why I love music.”

Top: Chris Scimecca performed “Caméléon” by contemporary French composer Eric Sammut for his recital and also for Independent Study Symposium. The piece, says Scimecca, is “both tender and intense. It has pushed me as a musician and a percussionist.”

Above: Scimecca measured skin conductance (sweating) as an indication of listeners’ feelings about pleasant, neutral, and unpleasant music. Special software purchased with Copeland Grant funds was used for analysis.
As a student athlete, Jalen Goodwin has been on both the giving and receiving ends of persuasion—first as an accomplished high school basketball player looking for a college, and then as part of a team of recruiters working to entice the best student athletes to attend Wooster. So he had some pretty good ideas about what works and what doesn’t. To test out his hunches, he interviewed men’s and women’s coaches from four Division III colleges, including Wooster.

At first blush it might seem that coaches in Division III schools—where NCAA rules prohibit athletic scholarships—face insurmountable odds when competing against Division I and II schools, where scholarships are used to great advantage. To illustrate the point, Goodwin compares Ohio State’s million-dollar-plus recruiting budget with Wooster’s: OSU: $1,738,633; C OW: $41,031.

It is rare to find a blossoming high school athlete who initially wants to play at a Division III school, said many of the coaches he interviewed. Persuasion is essential.

And Goodwin found that persuasive strategies that worked for him at Wooster are being used at other successful schools. Particularly successful is the practice of using both coaches and student team members to build strong personal connections when a recruit visits campus, often taking the role over from the Admissions Office.

A student’s success at a Division III school must always depend first on academic success, followed by athletic prowess. Promoting the school’s academic program can be the trump card in the recruitment process, says Goodwin. “It’s so important to sell what the school has, not try to sell what it doesn’t have.”

Goodwin remembers the call he received from Wooster’s basketball associate head coach Doug Cline inviting him to the campus when he was a high school senior and has clear memories of the visit. “I loved the campus atmosphere. When I went to a basketball game the stands were filled. I could see it was a great place with a rich tradition.”

He will soon begin his new job as assistant basketball coach at University of Northwestern Ohio in Lima and hopes to pursue a master’s in business administration.

“The coaches at Wooster are not only successful at building one of the nation’s winningest teams on the court, but they have showed the ability to recruit student athletes who come from diverse backgrounds who excel in the classroom and off the court.” —JALEN GOODWIN
The photo: A middle-aged man sits in front of us. His fingers clasp together in front of his mouth, just as someone who is praying would do. “Ed came to the opening of my exhibit and gave me a big hug and told me how meaningful it was for him. I’m thankful I had the opportunity. It was an incredible experience.” —GABRIELLE MORRISON

Gabrielle Morrison
MENTOR: BRIDGET MILLIGAN

“Do you ever get nightmares?”
A photo exhibit honoring members of the military

Gabrielle Morrison, who has been in a military family her entire life, understands and has experienced both physical and emotional uprooting. Continuities that most families take for granted were absent in her childhood, as her family moved from base to base and her father was deployed to Panama, Bosnia, Iraq, and Afghanistan, returning with both visible and invisible changes. But at the same time that she acknowledges the toll that a lifetime of sacrifice and adaptation takes, Morrison writes that she feels only passionate respect and admiration for members of the military and their families.
Andrew stepped on an IED while on foot patrol in Afghanistan. He lost both legs, one above the knee and one just below the knee. He is now in school studying occupational therapy, with a goal of becoming a physical therapist and helping people the way he was helped.

ED’S STORY:
“I was only 18, you know, my mother had passed away, and … I had just felt alone, and I remember seeing the smoke in the mountains and wondering what was it going to be like, you know, I’m only 18 years old, I don’t know anybody, you just felt all by yourself. We landed and I remember walking out into that air, it was so hot and that country, to me, it smelled horrible. I almost couldn’t breathe it was so hot. And I said, ‘And I gotta live here for a year? Are you kidding me?’ The first night I was in Vietnam I was in this holding company, and I remember hearing … I don’t know if it was artillery shells or something, you could just hear the echo … and I remember some of the guys sniffing at night in the barracks and they didn’t know what to expect either. The unknown I guess was the thing that was always the worst …”

ANDREW, U.S. ARMY SPECIALIST

“Each connection I made with the men and women I interviewed and photographed led back to my own yearning to connect with my father.” —GABRIELLE MORRISON
Gabrielle Morrison

(continued)

Asking her father hard questions had never been part of their relationship. When her Independent Study prompted her to ask him a difficult question, his response was significant and her question became its title. She writes, “Each connection I made with the men and women I interviewed and photographed led back to my own yearning to connect with my father.”

Tuesday, October 14, 2014, 10:16 p.m.
Gabi: “Dad, do you ever get nightmares about when you were overseas?”

Wednesday, October 15, 2014, 12:34 a.m.
Gabi’s father: “Gabi, I wouldn’t call them nightmares, but there were times that it was hard to get to sleep during bad times, a death of a soldier or friend … thinking I was responsible for their deaths by not providing enough intelligence. I do routinely see gruesome images of what I have seen with my eyes, from Panama, Bosnia, Iraq, and Afghanistan. I fully know and accept that I am responsible for the death of many enemy, adversaries, and yes, some collateral damage. Hopefully, God will forgive for that. Love, Daddy.”

Interviewing the nine subjects of her photographic exhibit was no easier than asking her father questions, and Morrison writes about her nervousness at each interview and about her reluctance to probe and poke. She prepared for her interviews by researching the wars her subjects had experienced, and she shaped her interviews to reflect distinctive experiences. Her photographs are both a reflection of discovery, when genuine relationships were born, and an honest acknowledgment of the times when her subjects remained distant.

Morrison is unsure what lies ahead for her. “I’ve discovered so many interests and opportunities during my time here and I want to explore them all!” — GABRIELLE MORRISON

HATTIE, U.S. ARMY NURSING CORPS, WORLD WAR II AND KOREAN WAR
Connecting with 96-year-old Hattie was difficult, writes Morrison, because of her lack of memory and possibly because of the presence of family members. “With my questions I was only able to scratch at the surface of many years of concealment.” Honestly reflecting their interaction, Morrison chose not to photograph Hattie’s face.

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CALVIN TODD '10, U.S. ARMY, MEDIC, GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

Calvin Todd’s responses to Gabi Morrison’s questions are highlighted by an analysis of his time at Wooster. With his permission, we have included excerpts. A conservative kid from New Hampshire who chose Wooster primarily so he could play lacrosse and study art, Todd struggled to find a social niche.

CALVIN’S STORY:

“As an art major and athlete (at Wooster) I bounced from friend bases. One group was into partying and drugs, the other was a liberal ‘politically spirited group,’ to say the least. I never felt comfortable in either circle. I grew up believing in America, patriotism, and doing the right thing even if it was wrong. My junior year I fell into some trouble and it transpired into my senior year. I was downward spiraling; I left lacrosse because of an injury and failed to find a purpose. I began to focus my artwork around veterans and the notions of sacrifice and service, first with my junior I.S. then senior I.S. These interactions with grunts of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam opened my eyes to something bigger than myself. I saw the pride and pain these men felt in their stories, but I also sensed the love they shared for their brothers in arms. I would not know this feeling for another two years until I was in my first firefight and I heard ‘medic’ being screamed.

“The simple answer to why I joined the military is I was going nowhere fast and needed a foot up my ass to get me back on track. The military in my eyes was a noble way to do so. When I signed the contract I had the idea of being enlisted for a few years, then dropping a packet to go officer and make a career out of the military. I was up for reenlistment and ready to sign papers to send me to Alaska for three years, but I stepped on an IED before I could.

“I loved the military and everything it stood for. I loved being the guy that people looked for when shit hit the fan. When people got hurt I was able to help. There was satisfaction in doing my job and I loved it, but I also hated it. You hate to see your friends who are missing parts or shot asking you to make them better or seeing kids injured by Taliban and doing what little we can. It was a trying job but it had great rewards.”

When Todd stepped on the IED that blew away his foot and leg, he was trying to assist three friends who had also been severely injured. Helped by the prospect of returning to his wife and two-week-old baby, he became one of the fastest recoveries at Walter Reed for his type of injury.

“I was walking by Thanksgiving, running in January, and playing lacrosse again in March. It was never easy, nor was it painless. There were many nightmare filled nights, loads of pain, withdrawals from medicine, and falls on the way but I did overcome it. I just looked at the next day and kept setting goals, never getting complacent or settling for mediocrity. . . . This year I began my three-year schooling to become a master furniture maker. I love every minute of it. Much like the military, it gives me satisfaction knowing that I am creating something and doing something of meaning rather than mundane work. My life is no worse now than it ever was. At 26 I have a wife (Alice Olivia Todd '10) and a great son, we’re building our dream home, and everyone is healthy. I couldn’t ask for anything more.”
Keeping history alive.
Serving the community for 110 years
stands before a group of museum visitors—60 third graders. “The Wayne County Historical Society is run entirely by volunteers,” she tells them. “Can you show me in sign language how much salary volunteers make?” Sixty ‘0’s’ shoot into the air. “Now show me how big our hearts feel when we volunteer,” says Peterson, an adjunct professor in the College’s Education Department. The third graders’ answers vary in expansiveness, but their concept is clear.

With more than 100 volunteers and more than 400 members, the Society holds a cherished place in the hearts of Wayne County dwellers. The Society traces its beginnings back to 1904, when a visionary Wooster businessman visiting the World’s Fair in St. Louis purchased an exhibit—a large collection of birds and mammals—rented a boxcar, and brought the whole works back to Wooster. The collection found a home when the new Wayne County Public Library (one of the Carnegie libraries, located where downtown Buchler’s market now stands) opened its second floor to the nascent museum.

Things really started taking off in the mid-1950s when the museum merged with the newly incorporated Wayne County Historical Society and the Society lost its home at the public library, which needed the second floor space. The beginning of the group’s permanent home and today’s eight-building museum began in 1955 when The College of Wooster approached them. Did they want to rent the old Beall-Stibbs Homestead for $1 a year for their headquarters? Yes, they did. In 1956, the College transferred the property’s deed to the Society, with the restriction that the building would revert to the College if the Society changed its function or moved from the location.

On the campus of the Wayne County Historical Society:
1. General Mercantile and School House
2. Beall-Stibbs Homestead
3. No. 4 Fire Station
4. Log Cabin
5. Post Office
Various dates have been ascribed to the house’s birth, but a definitive one emerged when Greg Wiles, Wooster professor of geology, analyzed the hand-hewn timbers in the basement and placed the building’s beginning at 1816. “We wondered why the family didn’t move in until 1824,” says Broehl. “And then one of our members—a historic consultant—said, ‘Think about the quality of help you would need to complete this kind of house and furnish it. At the time, there were only 105 people in the community; manpower was a problem.’”

The 200-year-old house has had remarkably few tenants: the Reasin Beall family, the family and descendants of Reasin’s son-in-law Joseph Stibbs II (one of the College’s founders and a member of its first Board of Trustees), Louis H. Severance, and finally John F. Miller, whose family gave it to the College in 1924.

From 1924 to 1956, the College gave the old house a variety of names and purposes, including
storage, a residence for returning missionaries, and a residence hall for women. But from the beginning, it felt very far from campus. In the 1927 Index, Miller Manor Snappy Scrappy Scamps conclude their report with, “You see, Miller Manor is a transplanted shoot from the main plant and is standing the test of foreign soil very well.”

**Nancy Babb Weygandt** ’58 lived in the old house (by then called “Bowman Hall”) during her first years on campus and recently returned to her old room to share memories. “We had three people living in this space, if you can believe it! My bed was right here … We had a closet out in the hall that we shared, so we always had a pile of clothes on the floor that we’d have to step over. Oh my, I remember that.” (No rooms had closets when the house was built, Dave Broehl tells her, because taxes were calculated based on the number of rooms a house had; if a space had a closet, it was defined as a room.)

But the rooms seem off, she tells Broehl, and the spaces “wockerjawed.” He explains that the upstairs has been restored to appear as it did in the 1820s—138 years before Weygandt and her roomies arrived. “The downstairs reflects the period 1840-1855 and decoration is more opulent. When you walk upstairs you see a completely different style of living.”

Weygandt points out the smoking room, and the window where girls could climb in after curfew. Down in the living room, she remembers the purpose of a large mirror. “Our house mother, Bev, would sit … about here … on the couch and wait for us to come in and she could see our reflection; it was very hard to avoid her… And here is where the piano was. I remember the song we sang for Homecoming … ‘Bless This House.’"
The Society’s prodigious volunteer force has always included members of the Wooster family, willing to work wherever they can serve best. Peg Cornwell, wife of past president Grant Cornwell, served as an honorary chair to the capital campaign; through his family’s foundation, Dave Noble ’63 came to the rescue to shore up an aging drainage system that had resulted in basement flooding; Stan Gault ’48 and the late Stan Welty ’24 have been anchor supporters; and Sally Patton ’67, executive director of the Wayne County Community Foundation, allocates endowment funds and foundation support. When Jeff Musselman ‘89 was president in 2001, the Foundation received a call from a Pennsylvania businessman who had refurbished a fire engine used in Wooster in the 1800s. If the Foundation could raise $50,000 in one week, the engine was theirs. Otherwise it would be sold to the New York City fire department. Musselman spearheaded the effort, and today the Wooster Pumper sits proudly in the Society’s Firehouse.

We have profiled a few alumni who are making a difference.

Owls from the Society’s original collection have captivated four generations of children. Education for all ages is central to the Society’s mission and to the volunteers who fulfill it.
By the time Rick Peterson '70 transferred to Wooster, he had lived in four states, had completed Air Force service in the Vietnam War, and was ready to call a place home. So he adopted Wayne County and never looked back. A geology major, he spent the next 29 years teaching physics and earth science in three Wayne County high schools.

He caught the stamp-collecting bug from his grandfather and at age 13 dubbed his stamp business Hilltop Stamp Service, reflecting the location of his family's Alabama home. Still called “Hilltop,” his collection now measures 1,000 square feet. “Stamps are little pieces of history,” he says.

Peterson’s wife, Elaine, is the Society’s current president, so his jobs are varied and involve doing “what he’s told,” he says. An expert on old postcards (his personal collection has grown to 40,000), he recently helped to curate a postcard exhibit at the Society.

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Richard Peterson ’70
Docent

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Rick Peterson guides a young museum attendee through the firehouse, a new building constructed in 2005 to house the Society’s engines—a 1830 Wooster handpumper, 1869 Allerton steam pumper, 1890 hand-drawn ladder wagon, and 1937 Seagrave pumper.
“Fifty years from now what we’re wearing today will be interesting. History keeps on going.”

— MARY EBERHART
Every Monday morning the women of the Textiles Committee gather in the Helen E. Oyler Vault to do their work. They are surrounded by towers of carefully labeled boxes (i.e., Civil War bonnets, paisley shawls, mid-19th-century lingerie, curtain lace dresses, 1930s wool coats, crepe dresses, velvet jackets) containing one of the most extensive collections of clothing and textiles in the state, say Society leaders.

The committee decides which donated clothing and textiles should be accepted for the collection, enters information into the database, and prepares clothing for exhibits. In the group is Mary Eberhart '55. “Don’t tell anyone,” she says severely, “but we also solve the problems of the world.”

Eberhart, a former cataloger at the College’s library, began her volunteer role at the Society as documents coordinator, a job she took on for more than 12 years before handing it over to Susan Zimmerman '95. “That was work,” she says. “The textile committee is fun.”

The group not only helps prepare clothing for exhibits (last year’s “Downton Abbey Era: Transition in Fashion” brought in hundreds of visitors) but also makes decisions about contemporary donated clothing. “Fifty years from now what we’re wearing today will be interesting,” says Eberhart. “History keeps on going.”

But in the year 2015, what she loves most are the beautiful gowns, the colorful quilts, and a pair of 150-year-old, intricately sewn deerskin breeches.

MARY EBERHART ’55

Textiles Committee

Lingerie of the 18th and 19th centuries is on display at the General Mercantile Store. The store was donated to the Society by the village of Fredericksburg and moved to the Society campus in 1995.

One of the tasks of Mary Eberhart and other members of the Textiles Committee is to prepare clothing for exhibits.
JOE RETZLER ’50
Curator, past president

As a kid growing up in Wooster, Joe Retzler ’50 loved visiting the Historical Society at the public library. He’d ask the librarians for a key to the second floor, where he would stand before the glass cases, gazing at many wonderful things. Seven decades later, his interest in the Society’s collection has not waned. These days—with kids at his elbow—he points out relics that prove as appealing to today’s youngsters as they did to him.

With both of his parents alumni of Wooster (Herman Retzler ’16 and Celia Pomeroy Retzler ’17) there wasn’t much debate about Joe and his sister (Celia Retzler Gates) attending their hometown college. Joe Retzler majored in English and lived in the 4th section of Kenarden. He was drafted into the Army, took advantage of the GI Bill to go to business school in international trade, and then came home to begin what would become a 47-year career managing the family’s store, Retzler Hardware.

He began volunteering at the Society when it was operating out of its only building—the Beall-Stibbs house. The consummate hardware man, one of his favorite buildings of today’s Society’s museum holdings is the General Mercantile Store. And when his daughter Courtney ’80 decided to marry John Beane ’81 they chose the Society’s 1873 one-room schoolhouse as the site of their wedding.

Joe Retzler guides a group of third graders through the same exhibit that intrigued him when he was a child growing up in Wooster.
Cameron Flint loves history. He remembers the tours his grade school class took to the Beall-Stibbs Homestead—then the only building on the Wayne County Historical Society campus. He went on to major in history (his I.S. was on the 1707 union of England and Scotland) and today teaches advanced placement U.S. and European history at Cloverleaf High School in Lodi, Ohio.

A trustee of the Society since March 2014, Flint says he is still learning about the intricacies of the organization and the challenges of juggling his multiple roles of volunteer, teacher, and parent (he and his wife have two young sons).

Joe Retzler’s interest in the Society’s collection has spanned more than seven decades. Today he shares his knowledge of museum holdings with visitors of all ages.

The Beall House is Cameron Flint’s favorite place to serve as docent. “I’ve always been interested in the War of 1812 and Ohio’s role in it. General Reasin Beall was a volunteer general in the War of 1812. His son, who fought in the Civil War, died of his wounds in the Beall House. It’s a fascinating piece of history that we have here in Wooster, Ohio.”

The room where General Beall’s son died.
The Wayne County Historical Society and Susan Zimmerman ’95 discovered each other in 2010 when they collaborated on an exhibit on Wayne County’s racehorse farms and stables. Zimmerman, who spent most of her professional life training racehorses, was a great local source. Less well known was her expertise in computer user services.

“Somebody mentioned that they were having trouble with their website and were paying a consultant $50 an hour to update it. I looked at it and said, ‘Oh, my Lord.’”

A computer science graduate, Zimmerman transformed the site so that it was functional and beautiful. “She led us kicking and screaming into the 21st century,” says president emeritus Dave Broehl. Highlighting the site is the Society’s 11,000-piece digital photo collection, more evidence of Zimmerman’s contributions. Her work began in earnest when the estate of Samuel Dawson, a Wooster photographer who served the county and the College from 1893 to 1942, deeded to the Society much of the studio’s holdings, including glass plates, nitrate prints, and negatives. Because nitrate is a fire hazard, Zimmerman took immediate action to digitize all the contributions and remove nitrate-based photos from the premises.

As coordinator of the Society’s documents collections, Zimmerman was also charged with finding a way to unroll brittle, centuries-old documents without cracking or tearing them. “I learned from the Internet that before they are unrolled they should be placed in a humidity chamber; I contacted Denise Monbarren (the College’s Special Collections librarian) to learn more.”

Zimmerman was well acquainted with the concept. When one of her horses needed medication, she used a nebulizer to turn the medicine into a nice fog. A bucket over the horse’s head contained and delivered the medicine mist. The old nebulizer was brought out of storage, the bucket became a Styrofoam box, and medication became distilled water. One by one, more than 100 rolled documents—diplomas, maps, newspapers, posters, and photos—were given five minutes in the chamber and a few hours of pressing between layers of cardboard.

“Bringing old documents back to life—it’s something I really enjoy.”

To view the Society’s online collection, visit: [http://digitalcollection.waynehistoricalohio.org/index.php](http://digitalcollection.waynehistoricalohio.org/index.php)
Trustee, campaign committee

Lynette Mattson had been a member of the Board of Trustees for only three weeks when Wooster magazine caught up with her. But she was already excited about the contributions she hopes to make.

A history major, Mattson pursued an internship at the Philadelphia History Museum and graduate work in the area of public history, which seeks to bring history alive and accessible to the general public. With that kind of expertise and a father-in-law (Greg Long, father of Matt Long ’05) who is co-chairing the Society’s capital campaign, Mattson could hardly escape recruitment. “Having the entire collection available to the public is going to be fantastic,” she says. “The problem with rotating exhibits is that you miss important, cohesive narrative and themes.”

Mattson is particularly interested in adding 20th-century artifacts to the Society’s collection. “In the post-war era and in more recent times, the area went through so many interesting and dramatic changes. I’d like to begin reaching out to long-term families so we can begin to think about how we’re going to look at Wayne County in the 20th century.”

Assistant director and tutor at the College’s Writing Center for the past three years, Mattson is also particularly interested in the evolution of youth culture in downtown Wooster—from a legendary “cruising culture” to today’s generation of walkers.

Lynette Mattson at the Society’s 1873 one-room schoolhouse (exterior shown above).

“I’d like to begin reaching out to long-term families so we can begin to think about how we’re going to look at Wayne County in the 20th century.” — LYNETTE MATTSON
Dave Broehl holds a long view of Wayne County history and its Society. As he deftly guides visitors through the Society’s eight buildings, he can call up historic people, places, and dates. But his vision is also firmly fixed on the organization’s future. Twice the group’s president—first in the 90s and again in 2010—he imagined major improvements to the organization and then helped lead the way to make them happen.

The goals have been ambitious: Could funds be raised to build a replica of the Relief No. 4 Firehouse to house the Society’s extensive fire equipment collection? Done. Could the one-room schoolhouse used by the county home building for orphans be moved, reconstructed, and opened to the public? Check. Could a tunnel connecting the buildings be constructed to provide additional exhibit space and provide handicap accessibility? Done. Could the Beall-Stibbs Homestead be restored on both floors to original decor and furnishings and be opened to the public as a museum? The first floor was opened in 2008, and the second floor was completed and opened this summer.

And there is more to come. Skillful grant writer and consummate fundraiser, Broehl is co-chairing a campaign to raise funds needed to display the Society’s entire permanent collection. In the past, space and resource restrictions have limited display items to only 20 percent of the Society’s holdings, leaving the “unseen 80 percent” in storage. As Broehl looks to the future, he is confident that 45 additional categories of historic items will be open to the public, including cameras, toys, furniture, pottery, medical equipment, maps, and international art brought back by missionaries as gifts to The College of Wooster.

Included in his vision and in the campaign’s goals is a room that will be reconstructed to resemble the original location of the Wooster Museum (which became the Historic Society) on the second floor of the old Wooster library.

A sociology major, Broehl went on for a career in social work and administration. He is also an antique collector and authority—the owner of Townsend Antiques in downtown Wooster, and the author of Coxon Belleek: Wooster’s Elegant China.
Louise Keating says she is in awe of the talents of the hundreds of people who keep the Historical Society and its campus running. “They have spent decades funneling work, energy, and enterprise into finding ways to enhance the Society and broaden its scope.” For example, concerts given in the old school house are sold out months in advance; a stepped-up outreach to local schools has resulted in many more tours; young professional socials enhance tours with appetizers and cocktails; photos from the Society’s collection may be easily purchased online and extend the reach of the organization.

As an elementary student attending St. Mary’s Catholic School on Beall Avenue, Louise Keating was well aware of one of the school’s neighbors—the old Beall House—and attended many tours with her classmates.

Today, she says she is in awe of the talents of hundreds of people who keep the entire Historical Society campus running. “They have spent decades funneling work, energy, and enterprise into finding ways to enhance the Society and broaden its scope.” For example, concerts given in the old school house are sold out months in advance; a stepped-up outreach to local schools has resulted in many more tours; young professional socials enhance tours with appetizers and cocktails; photos from the Society’s collection may be easily purchased online and extend the reach of the organization.

A history major, Louise Keating went on for her law degree and specializes in real estate and transactional law at Keating Law Offices, LLP, in Wooster. “When boards need to rewrite their bylaws, I’m often selected to help out.”

Skillful grant writer and consummate fundraiser, Dave Broehl is co-chairs a campaign to raise funds needed to display the Society’s entire permanent collection.

Louise Keating and a replica of a 1903 surrey, in the coach house on the Society’s campus.
An Independent Study that resisted timely completion and family economics prevented Lee Stekla ’80 from participating in graduation ceremonies 35 years ago. The economics major went on for a successful career as a purchasing agent but increasingly became aware of what she describes as a “sort of sad and empty place” where graduation memories ought to have been. “I just needed to walk through the arch.”

She contacted the bookstore for a tassel; borrowed a hat from her daughter, who had just graduated from college; and contacted classmate Michael Lauber ’80 and sorority sister Elizabeth Van Cleef Lauber ’81. Other Wooster family members rallied, and the event that unfolded just a few minutes before Alumni Weekend’s Parade of Classes was “beyond amazing,” says Stekla. “Members of our class have always had a wonderful connection; this weekend we inspired each other. The Wooster experience is a gift that keeps on giving.”

Bottom Left: Lee Stekla and her mentor Professor of Economics Emeritus Richard Reimer.

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In Closing

The 2015 Exhibition

PHOTOS BY KAROL CROSbie

The Wooster Equestrian Team's competitions are always far from campus, so in order to share their talents with members of the Wooster community every spring they present an exhibition at the Wooster fairgrounds. "It's one of my favorite events of the year," says club president Lauren MacDonald '15. "It's a lot of fun; there are no winners or losers." Activities include demonstrations of dressage, jumping, quadrille, western riding, and hunt seat and bracing games of egg-and-spoon-race and horse soccer. The 25 team members, who practice and learn from local off-campus coaches, include both novices and experienced horsewomen.

Cassidy Jester '17 and Slick prepare for a kick.