

WOODSTOCK ACADEMY



The Third Century Campaign

Secondary Education...Second to None...For Generations to Come...

A Message From the Co-Chairs

Dear Friends:

It is both an honor and a pleasure to play a role in the Woodstock Academy Third Century Campaign. As co-chairs of this endeavor, we warmly remember the wonderful experiences that we enjoyed at the Academy and that our children enjoyed as well. The Academy played an important life-shaping role in our personal and educational development, as it has for literally thousands of students for more than 200 years. We are grateful to the Academy for the opportunities it has provided to our families and to us. Helping to ensure these opportunities for future generations is truly a worthy venture.

As we ask you to consider making an investment in our future, it is important to explain the reasoning behind this campaign. Most community members aren't aware of the hand-to-mouth existence that the Academy has experienced for the majority of its 200 years. Many assume that the Academy must have substantial financial reserves in the form of an endowment or trust that enable it to deliver such a high quality product each year. The truth of the matter is that the Academy has no easy access to capital funds and our endowment today is smaller than that of any other Connecticut Academy. The quality of education the Academy offers is really due to the commitment of faculty, administrators, counselors, coaches, and of course, families and students.

Woodstock Academy's history has been characterized by providing superior education through periods of financial crisis and good fortune. We have been lucky: in moments of great need, a generous benefactor or a strong leader has always come through and supported the school. Now it is up to each of us to step forward and help ensure that the Academy will not have to rely on chance in the future. By building a strong endowment today, we can ensure continuity in the Academy's program, its curriculum, and the excellent educational experience it confers upon its students. This continuity is vital if the school is to continue to fulfill its mission and to guarantee all students the opportunity to participate in the Woodstock Academy experience: now, next year, year after, and for generations to come.

Today, as the Academy enters its third century of service to the community, the time is right to secure the future. The Third Century Campaign presents an opportunity to enhance the work of our founding fathers and mothers begun more than 200 years ago. Their dream was to build a fundamental pillar of the community: a school that would improve the lives and opportunities of students from Woodstock and its surrounding towns in perpetuity. This is our dream as well, and with your help we can secure the Academy's future for all of our children.

Sincerely,

Charles Bentley
Co-Chair

Jeri Lee Musumeci
Co-Chair

School Chronology;

A Unique and Distinguished History

- 1801 First Woodstock Academy building constructed on commons
- 1802 Granted charter by Connecticut legislature
- 1843 Henry C. Bowen spearheads renovation of original Academy Building
- 1867 Henry Bowen establishes Academy corporation and endowment
- 1870 President Ulysses S. Grant visits Woodstock Academy
- 1873 Dedication of New Academy Building
- 1873 First publication of *The Casket* predecessor to *The Gleaner*
- 1888 Ely Ransom Hall named principal — serves until 1914
- 1893 First publication of *The Gleaner*
- 1913 Woodstock Academy is designated as the high school for Woodstock
- 1923 Gift from Mrs. Frank Wright Pratt makes possible the construction of the Howard Webster Bracken Library designed to serve the Academy and Town

What is Woodstock Academy?



A place to learn



... A place to explore

- 1930 First Yale Honors Cups bestowed on graduating seniors
- 1932 Woodstock Academy designated as the high school of Eastford
- 1933 State legislature revises charter allowing alumni-based governance
- 1939 Construction of Agriculture Building
- 1957 Construction of Holt Science Building
- 1965 Construction of Henry C. Bowen Building
- 1971 Construction of Alumni Field House
- 1982 Elizabeth Hyde is the first woman elected as president of the Board of Trustees
- 1986 Governing board expands to include membership from all sending towns
- 1987 Pomfret and Brooklyn designate Woodstock Academy as their high school
- 1992 Completion of third 20th century expansion
- 2000 Construction of Bi-Centennial Building
- 2001 Celebration of 200 years of service

School Heritage

Since its founding, Woodstock Academy has prided itself on successfully preparing its students for a lifetime of learning. More than 8,000 young men and women have graduated from the Academy, and while the curriculum has changed dramatically, the guiding principles of the founders, to prepare students to play “a reputable and useful part of the theater of human life...” still echo throughout the school.

From the outset, the Academy’s strength resided in the entrepreneurial support and involvement of individuals who saw the need for a strong local secondary institution. In 1801, secondary education in the new American Republic was sporadic at best, and local communities were wholly responsible for the creation and maintenance of their schools. At Woodstock Academy, the founders demonstrated a foresight and initiative that put Woodstock well ahead of many other Connecticut communities, both rural and urban. Through the efforts of several community-minded citizens of the day, including the Rev. Eliphalet Lyman who rode on horseback throughout the countryside to convince citizens to support the initiative, Woodstock Academy was created as one of the first six Town Academies formed in the state. The project was community-based at the outset, with families supplying funds, materials and labor to manage the school and erect the first school building. The curricula of Woodstock Academy and its sister schools would prove to be



... A place to make friends

nothing short of revolutionary, elevating the educational opportunities for women and providing a model for later public high school education.

Throughout its first century and a half of service, the Academy remained small in size and went through periods in which its viability was severely challenged by various social and economic conditions. Fortunately, each period of crisis saw heroic responses from community leaders, rescuing the school from the threat of disruption or closure. In one instance, when physical renovations were badly needed in the 1840's, Henry C. Bowen, a Woodstock Academy graduate, financed the reconstruction and, along with his descendants and others, continued to support the school. These efforts ensured that the Academy would survive as a unique, independently governed entity through war, depression, recession and dramatic changes to the nation's secondary education system.

**In its most recent re-accreditation report,
the New England Association of Schools and Colleges
commended Woodstock Academy for the following:**

An exceptional level of faculty dedication and
commitment to students' needs.

Advancements of the governing board's inclusion
and responsiveness to staff, students, parents,
and sending communities.

Exceptional breadth and depth of
curriculum available to students.

Creating strong, mutual support between the school
and community, illustrated by the number of
parent volunteers and community outreach programs.

The outstanding program provided for
special needs students.

The Modern Academy

“The Academy is known for its outstanding academics and strong expectations of student achievement...It is a very strong academic institution.”

— New England Association of Schools
and Colleges Report, 1998

Today, Woodstock Academy is a nonselective, comprehensive, independent, coeducational secondary school serving residents of Woodstock, Eastford, Brooklyn, Pomfret and Canterbury. Students are also enrolled from other towns in Connecticut and neighboring states. There are now more than 950 students enrolled in grades 9-12, evenly divided between young men and women.

The breadth, depth and quality of the Academy's course offerings continue to place the school at the forefront of secondary education in the State of Connecticut. Each year, over 150 courses are offered in almost 500 sections. This broad curriculum is designed to meet the needs of a diverse student population and the demands of universities and employers. In addition to the core academic subjects, a wide selection of elective courses in the arts, technology, family and consumer science, business, and physical education enhance the Academy's educational mission and the quality of student life.



... A place to be challenged

Faculty and Staff

The faculty and staff are the lifeblood of the school and today the Academy is able to maintain a strong student-to-faculty ratio of 12-1. This favorable ratio enables a high level of personal interaction between students and teachers. Among the 78 certified full-time teaching staff, over 80% hold advanced degrees. Every student works with teachers and guidance counselors to create an Individual Education Plan to establish educational goals and objectives, and to set-up a schedule of courses and activities that will allow the student to accomplish them. Plans are updated and modified as students progress through the grades towards further education or careers. In addition to teaching, many faculty and staff members are actively involved in the Academy's diverse array of co-curricular offerings.

Governance

Independent governance continues to play a critical role in maintaining the unique character of the Academy. Unlike standard public high schools, an independent Board of Trustees governs the school, and academic excellence is their ongoing focus. Thanks to the efforts of literally hundreds of individuals over the past two centuries Woodstock Academy has been able to remain true to its charter as "an independent school with a public purpose." This is a source of pride, and also a source of our strength.

"To walk across the Academy campus on Woodstock Hill is to experience every era in the history of American education. The nineteenth-century Academy Building speaks of a time when farm boys recited Latin and Greek, and the reform era, when young women trained as teachers for the nation's one-room school houses. The Hall and Bracken buildings recall the progressive era with its introduction of new library facilities and vocational programs in business and agriculture. More recent structures--the expanded Bowen Building, Bates Auditorium, Alumni Field House and Bicentennial Hall--are the hallmarks of an age of information technology and computer-based learning. Through two centuries, dedicated teachers have taught, inspired and guided young men and women, and student life has been enriched by vibrant traditions in the arts and competitive athletics. The modern Woodstock Academy is a distinctive school both in its heritage and unique place at the center of a community committed to quality secondary education."

Robert J. Smith, Ph.D.
Faculty Emeritus,
Academy Historian

Some Recent Student Accomplishments

State Student Council President

American Visions Award for Visual Arts

National Silver Key Winner — Scholastic Art and Writing Award

National Merit Scholar Semi Finalist

September 11th Relief Fund

Funds raised for famine victims in Asia and orphans in Latin America

United States Institute of Peace's National Peace Essay Contest Winner

Model United Nations

State Governor's Scholar Award

The Campus

Yet another important factor in the success of today's Woodstock Academy is the open campus. Students are allowed to move freely about on their own between classes and buildings, which helps to promote a college-like community atmosphere. The Academy's five buildings and landscaped grounds promote a feeling of maturity and cooperation among students and illustrate that high school students can return trust with responsibility.

The Students

Woodstock Academy students and families fully reflect the communities from which they come. Unlike most independent schools, the Academy's student body truly mirrors the diversity of the sending towns, providing equality of opportunity in the best sense of the term. And because of this, Academy students excel in so many different areas. From Advanced Placement and college credit coursework, to visual arts competitions, intramural and interscholastic sports, to community based events and social activities, the students form the vital core of the Academy.



. . . A place to mature

Our Graduates

Between 75 - 85% of seniors continue their education at colleges, universities and other institutions of higher learning. Others enter the workforce or employment training programs, or choose to serve in the armed forces. Graduates can be found literally around the nation and around the world working as educators, attorneys, public servants, business people, software engineers, armed service personnel, physicians and many other fields. Many end up settling back in the area, and some rejoin the Academy family as teachers, counselors, coaches, administrators and trustees.



. . . A place to think



... A place to wonder

The Third Century Campaign

"If you can found a church, or hospital, or benefit your native town, do it with liberality. If you have money to give, while living, I may be permitted to say, remember the wants of the Woodstock Academy, the church with which you may be connected, your native town..."

Henry C. Bowen,

Address to the Woodstock Academy Class of 1894.

Throughout its storied history, Woodstock Academy has operated without the benefit of a substantial school endowment or a steady source of capital funds. Unlike most other Academies and independent schools, Woodstock Academy's endowment has remained modest. And unlike standard public schools, the Academy is unable to access substantial government funds and bonding for capital purposes. The exception to this, of course, was during the expansion project of the early 1990's when the Academy was able to work with local authorities and the State to access the resources to renovate and expand the campus. The Academy remains grateful both to the sending towns and to the State of Connecticut for providing access to those resources, but future funding in this area remains highly improbable.

What the uncertain status of no further access to public construction funds and a small endowment means in real terms is that the Academy must look to the community, alumni and others for private philanthropic support.

At this time, the Board of Trustees of Woodstock Academy invites you and other members of our community to join with us in supporting the Academy's Third Century Campaign as it moves

forward. Once completed, this campaign will provide the Academy with the financial and other resources necessary to continue to provide the highest quality educational experience to current and future generations of area students and families. These resources will enable the Academy to weather future periods of economic uncertainty and help it to continue to fulfill its mission of providing the best education and training possible.

The goals of the campaign are straightforward. We seek to raise \$2.5 million in endowment, capital and programmatic support as follows:

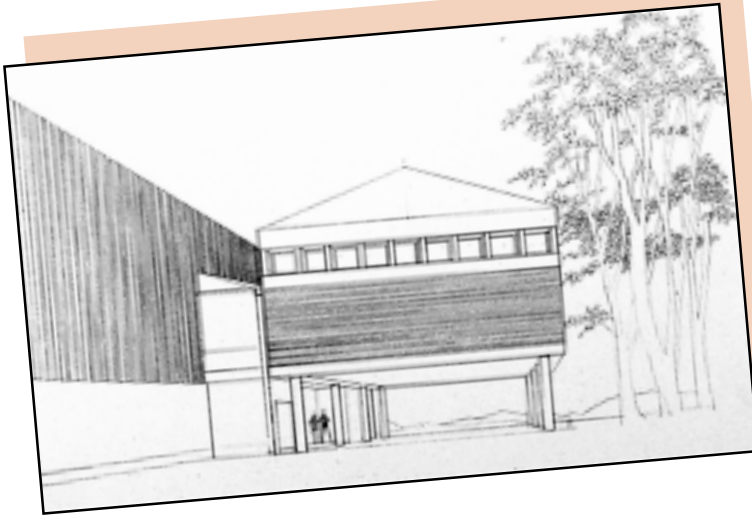
- Permanently Restricted Endowment of \$1.5 million
- Capital Funds of \$.5 million for Facilities (Library & Technology, Science, Athletics)
- Educational Enhancement and Enrichment Funds of \$.5 million for special programs and other enrichment opportunities

As a result of the Third Century Campaign, Woodstock Academy will be able to reconfigure the Bracken Library, increase resources in laboratory and natural sciences, and add an indoor mat-sports facility to the Alumni Field House.

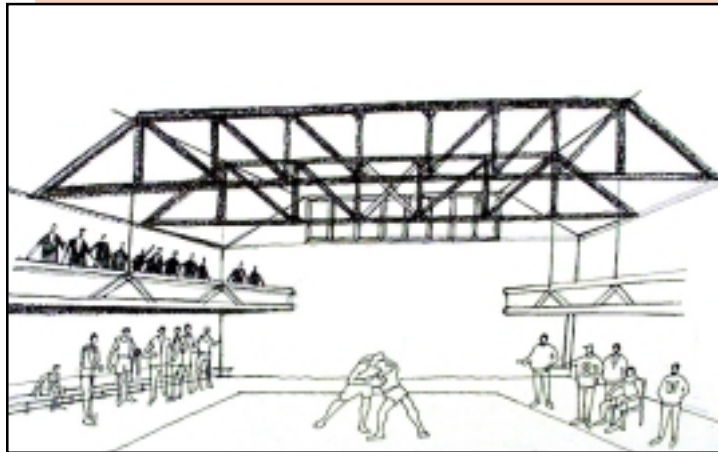
We know many of the demands to be met over the next twenty years and beyond. We know that we can meet these demands if you in the Academy family respond generously. We therefore ask that you join with us now, to help ensure the Academy's future as we move into our third century of serving the community.



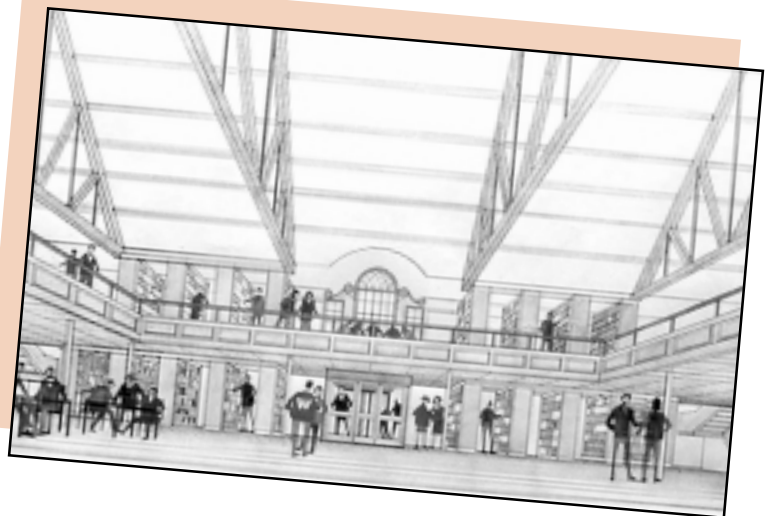
... A place to reflect



Enhancing library-technology and research resources will give students a competitive advantage in science and technology. Expanding the new Bracken Library and upgrading science classrooms will help Woodstock Academy continue to provide a first class education to future generations of students.



Increased indoor sports facilities are another priority. Our gymnasts and wrestlers need a home as do our growing winter track (approaching 100 members), cheerleading, volleyball, and indoor soccer teams. An addition to the Alumni Field House will relieve cramped athletic quarters.





Bicentennial Celebration Fireworks Display

Photo by Richard Telford

A place to not only dream,
but to begin the process of shaping
a lifetime to come.