

# THE WILBERFORCE CONNECT

## A WILBERFORCE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

### Who are the Wilberforce alumni?

Who are the Wilberforce Alumni?

We heard this question asked multiple times this past week throughout the hallways and conference rooms of The Wilberforce School. **Who** was asking?

One group curious about **who** the Wilberforce alumni are was The Middle States Association. This team of professional educators were touring our buildings and interviewing our staff, parents, students, and alumni to evaluate our school for reaccreditation. The first time we went through the accreditation process our Upper School had just been established. We had two classes, grades 9 and 10, with a whopping total of 17 students enrolled! We have come a long way since then. Today, we have over a hundred graduated alumni – three classes of whom have also graduated from college.

For the purpose of accreditation, four local alumni ranging from classes 2017 (our first graduating class) to 2023 were invited to be interviewed. The feedback that we received during the oral report by Brother Patrick Starsfield, the chair of the accreditation team, was a proud and encouraging moment. ***“Your graduates said they felt confident in their faith when they moved onto secular colleges and were not intimidated by the often irreligious attitudes they found in those schools. They also appreciated the exposure they had to world religions in their senior theology class which taught them to respect people of other faiths and world views.”*** We are proud of our graduates’ accomplishments in its numerous forms, but even more we are encouraged in the growth and confidence of their faith and their desire to follow Christ.

The other group which reflected on “Who are the Wilberforce Alumni?” is our Board of Directors. During their annual fall retreat they focused on the ideal Portrait of a Wilberforce Graduate. The discussion centered around the Old Testament prophet Daniel and our namesake William Wilberforce. Why do we hold these men as models from whom our students should learn and emulate? They were faithful. They cultivated their gifts and talents. They embodied mature, wise, servant leadership. They lived out their faith and made an impact on the world around them, resolving not to conform to the pattern of this world, but to cultivate communities that live according to God’s calling.

**WHO** is a Wilberforce Graduate? One who understands God’s calling on their life and one who understands their place in the world around them.

Dear Wilberforce Graduate, we think of you and pray for your impact on the world. You are always welcome to share your continuing story with us. We would love to hear from you.



## Class 2017

This summer three alumni from our first graduating class tied the knot! Congratulations!



**Mr. and Mrs. Charlie and Emilia Doran**



**Mr. & Mrs. Alexander and Emeline Summer-Spires**



**Mr. & Mrs. Alex and Rebecca Zaynidinova-Parlitsis**

# Class 2019



**Aiden White**  
Grove City College  
Supply Chain Management

Aiden is currently working at Clark Associates, a food service distributor located in Lancaster, PA as a Consumables Category Analyst.

Early in June, he proposed to Hannah, his college sweetheart, with a wedding planned for June of 2024.



**Anya Fitzgerald**  
Connecticut College  
Computer Science major &  
Psychology minor

Wilberforce's first collegiate athlete graduated with significant swimming accomplishments: she competed in five events at the NESCAC Championship and recorded season-best times in the 50 breaststroke (31.68), 100 breaststroke (1:08.59) and 200 breaststroke (2:27.33). Anya's time in the 200 breaststroke was the fastest by a Conn swimmer all season. She also holds most records on the Wilberforce record board as well.

## You are Invited!

We planned these with you in mind...we hope you can join us.

**Lessons & Lights**

Wilberforce invites you to celebrate the birth of Christ through songs, Scripture, and lighting of the tree

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Tuesday, December 19th | 6:00-7:00PM  
Outdoor in front of Building 1  
Dress Warmly

 THE WILBERFORCE SCHOOL

**Our annual Lessons & Lights!**  
 Come celebrate with us, reconnect with faculty, and with each other.  
 Outdoor event 7-9pm.



**Alumni Parents in Prayer:**

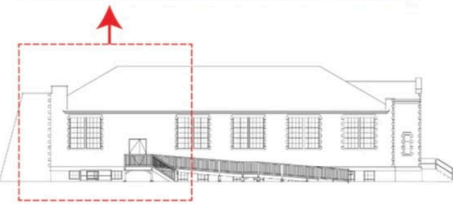
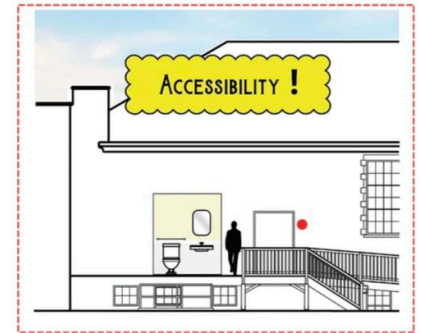
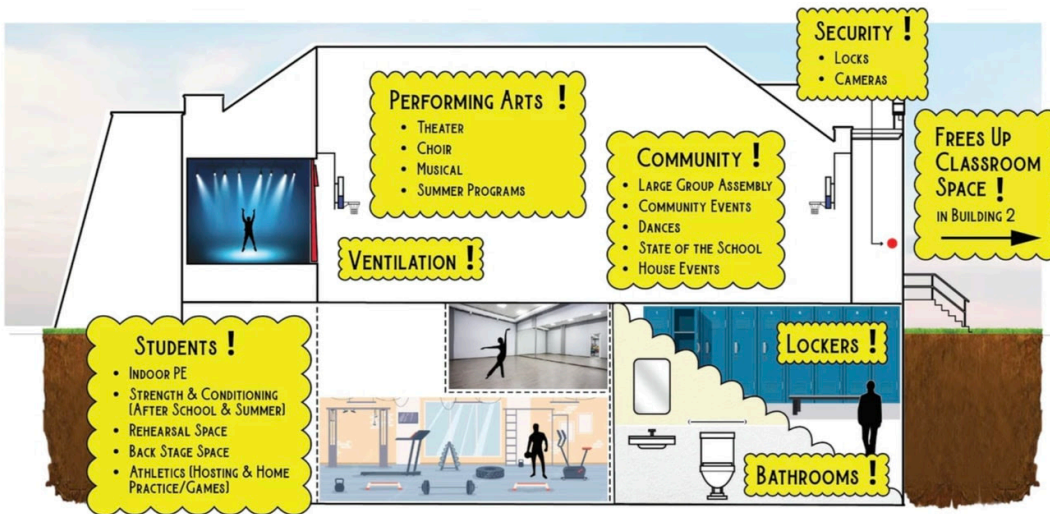
Class of 2023/College Freshman Parents in prayer held monthly at the Szeliga Home 10 Aqua Ter Pennington, NJ

Remaining dates for 2023 are Wednesday 11/8 and 12/6.

- 7:00pm-7:15pm – gather & fellowship
- 7:15pm-8:15pm – prayer: praising God, thanking Him for what He has been doing, praying for our children & their colleges
- 8:15pm-8:30pm – fellowship & departure

If you are interested in starting your own Wilberforce Alumni Prayer meeting and have questions, feel free to reach out to Lois Szeliga ([loisszeliga@verizon.net](mailto:loisszeliga@verizon.net)) or Carolyn Fischer ([sc.fischer@verizon.net](mailto:sc.fischer@verizon.net))

**What is happening next at Wilberforce?  
 We have our first "Class of..." naming competition!**



**Wilberforce Together Campaign:**

Join us as we build out new spaces on our campus to be able to bring larger groups of parents, students, and alumni together.

The alumni class with the largest percentage of participation will **have the new weight room named after your class!**

Be sure to select your class year when you give. Let the best class win!

**Participate HERE & See Results!**