

THE WILBERFORCE CONNECT

A WILBERFORCE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

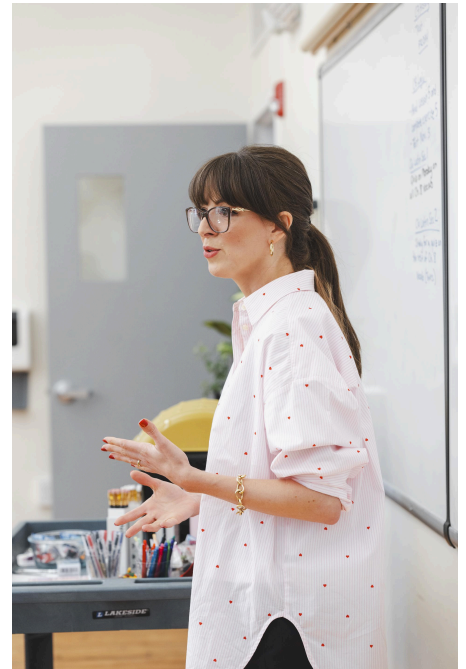
Considering coming home...

Recently my daughter found the Mother & Daughter Journal she and I kept when she was in Middle School, passing it back and forth as we answered different prompts. We laughed out loud as we read the different entries we made. We traveled back to her awkward and uncertain Middle School moments. It was a journey filled with some perspective as we acknowledged the silly, the dramatic, the poignant, and the confusing moments endured and celebrated from sixth through eighth grade. With the passage of time, it was clear that God was present in her life. Looking back gave us appreciation we didn't have at the time, and a gratitude for the teachers, classes (even Latin), and struggles of Wilberforce Middle School.

This summer I had a similar experience as a Wilberforce alum from Class Eight came back to work with us on a joint project. Kayla Monaghan (C8 2016) secured a grant from Washington & Lee University to complete an independent work study in which she collaborated with a partner school to develop an incubator for starting a Classical Christian School. Kayla returned to Wilberforce, now as a rising senior in college, to work with faculty, staff, and administrators to develop a website for Wilberforce to partner with new schools as they are being founded. While we worked together Kayla shared memories from her Middle School years at 99 Clarksville (many of you can relate). We remembered classmates and talked about what they are doing now. Kayla's knowledge of our school culture, curriculum, faculty and staff proved to be extremely valuable and she was WONDERFUL to work with. In addition to this Kayla's work was immediately useful; as Wilberforce partnered with a new school this fall we were able to use the website as a platform for sharing content necessary to start a school.

I was reminded how valuable our alumni are. We are proud of you. You are our legacy. As our school continues to grow older we will partially stand on the shoulders of our alumni-you will make us stronger.

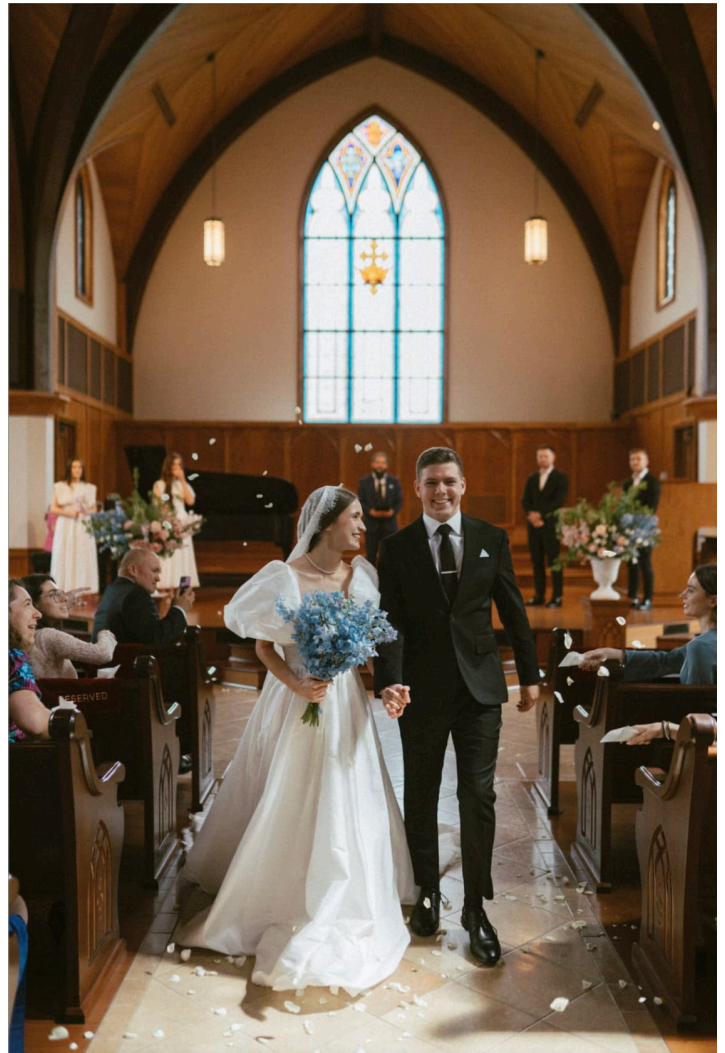
As you consider your own future goals and careers, we are considering ours too, and we would love to have some of you consider coming home. We hope you will.



Wilberforce Weddings & Engagements...

Congratulations to alum who are tying the knot or preparing to!

Class 2019



Mr. & Mrs. Mark Zaynidinov & Sophia Burlaka

Married on April 20, 2024 in Chattanooga TN.

Mark and Sophia will be living in Philadelphia, where Mark will be attending Jefferson Medical School and Sophia University of Pennsylvania Dental School this summer.

Class 2018



Alex Murg & Nathan Dorini

Engaged on December 22, 2023 in Orange County, California. Alex and Nathan live in Boston and will remain there post-wedding.



Alma Wolf & Howe Whitman III

Engaged on February 17, 2024 in Washington DC near the Capitol. Howe III lives and works in DC as an editor with National Affairs, the public policy journal and podcast of the think tank American Enterprise Institute.

Alma is a 2nd Lieutenant in U.S. Air-force and is stationed in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Howe and Alma plan to live in Wyoming after their wedding on October 26, 2024.

Next Steps...



Mary Grace Vandervort (2019)

MG just returned from New Zealand, where she worked as a harvest cellar hand for Haven Wine Company. She will begin a three year rotational program with Gallo Wines as a start up engineer in the new bottling line at their distribution center in South Carolina.



Dr. Katie Dang (2018)

Katie graduates from medical school in Erie PA on May 24, 2024. She matched into a pediatrics residency program at Hackensack Meridian at JSU in New Jersey. After residency, Katie plans to pursue a fellowship in Neonatology and Perinatal Care with the goal of working in a neonatal intensive care unit.



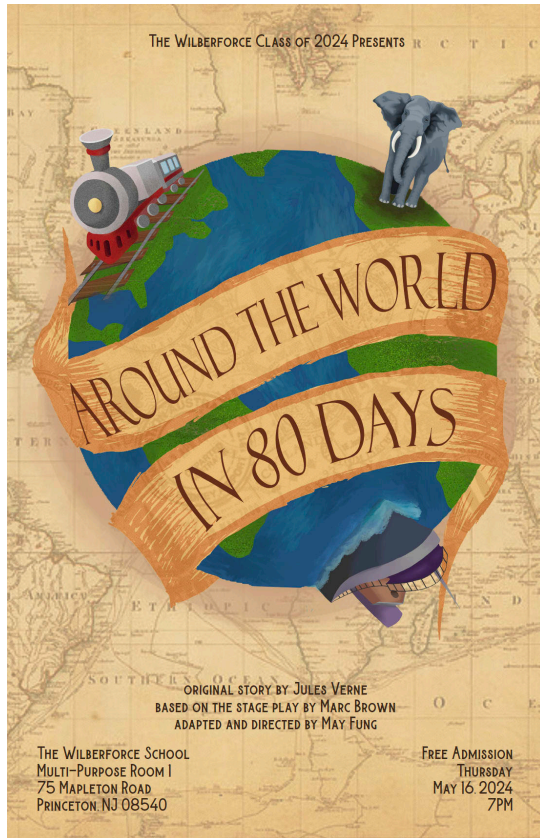
Baylor University
Class of 2025

Julia Edwards (2019)

After graduating from Baylor University last Spring with a degree in Psychology, Julia stayed in Waco, TX and has been working as an ABA therapist for kids with Autism. She applied for and was accepted to Baylor for the Master of Science degree program in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (Speech Pathology). She will begin school again in August.

You are Invited!

We hope you can join us, we would LOVE to see you at these events.



Come and see this year's Senior class put on their senior play,
Around The World in 80 Days.
Thursday, May 16th 7:00pm

THE WILBERFORCE SCHOOL

You are cordially invited to

COMMENCEMENT CLASS OF 2024

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024

SPEAKER

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
(Retired U.S. Congress)



The Wilberforce School
75 Mapleton Road, Princeton, New Jersey

10:00-11:00am | Commencement Ceremony

*Outdoor ceremony
No RSVP*

We would love to have you join us for commencement and catch up
with faculty and friends.



Alumni Parents in Prayer:

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

- **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**

All planned meetings for this year are over, but impromptu meetings may occur over the summer. The group will reconvene in September.

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) or Carolyn Fischer (sc.fischer@verizon.net)

We want to know what is happening with you! Please send us any updates, new addresses, emails, jobs, graduate programs, or engagements. We are so proud of you and we want to know what you are up to!