

Focus on...

Friends of Woodstock School, Inc.

an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization supporting the educational mission and purposes of WOODSTOCK SCHOOL

An Occasional Newsletter

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**2014 Friends of
Woodstock School
Annual Meeting &
Reunion**
July 11 - 14, 2014
Baltimore, MD

**Registration Opens
on Valentine's Day**

Where in North America Are the 2013 Woodstock Graduates Studying?

by Li Chu '59 and Marianna Presler McJimsey '54

Woodstock alumni are interested to find out if recent graduates are enrolled in colleges and universities in their neighborhood. Where in North America are 21 members of last year's Woodstock graduates studying and in what subjects are they interested?

Here is a list of the North American colleges/universities and, when indicated, the proposed majors of this recent group of graduates.

Engineering at Cornell University (Ithaca NY), business at DePaul University (Chicago, IL), international relations at Drexel University (Philadelphia, PA), fixed wing aeronautics (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Prescott, AZ), economics at Franklin and Marshall College (Lancaster, PA), biology at Goshen College (Goshen, IN), culinary nutrition at Johnson & Wales University (at one of the 5 campuses throughout the United States), two students studying sociology, criminology and youth ministry at Judson College (Marion, AL), international relations at University of

California/Davis, biology and political science at University of Washington (Seattle, WA), environmental science at Fleming College (Peterborough, ON), computer engineering at the University of Toronto (Toronto, ON), dance at Ohio State University (Columbus, OH), and undeclared majors at Sarah Lawrence College (Yonkers, NY), St. John's College (Santa Fe, NM), Tufts University (Medford, MA), University of Nebraska (Lincoln, NE), University of Richmond (Richmond, VA), University of South Florida (Tampa, FL), and the University of British Columbia (Vancouver, BC).

This list was compiled September 2013 and does not reflect any recent changes.

(Contact: RMcJimsey@comcast.net)

Pittsburgh University Students Trek To and From Hanifl Center

by Joseph S. Alter '77
University of Pittsburgh

The Alter family has been closely connected with Woodstock School for several generations. Author of this article, Joseph Alter '77, is the brother of Andrew Alter '78, and Steven Alter '74. Their parents are Ellen Alter (Staff) and Bob Alter '43 who served as Woodstock School principal, 1968-1979. Joseph Alter's cousins, whose parents are James '40 and Barbara Alter, are Marty Alter Chen '60, John Alter '65, and Tom Alter '68. D. Emmet Alter, the father of Bob, James, and David '38, was principal of Woodstock, 1940-1943.

Based on the spectacular campus of Woodstock School's Hanifl Center for Outdoor Education in the Himalaya, "Pitt in the Himalayas" is a unique study abroad program for college and university students from the United States who want to spend a semester (August to December) in Mussoorie. Under the auspices of the University of Pittsburgh, fifteen students took courses in anthropology, biology, environmental studies, literature, religious studies, gender and women's studies, and Hindi language while going on educational field expeditions to Har Ki Dun, Gangotri, Rishikesh, Rajaji National Park [near Haridwar], and Corbett National Park. Each of the field expeditions is integrated into the curriculum as a whole, producing an enlightening and intellectually stimulating combination of text-based and experienced-based learning.

In many ways our classroom extended out from the beautiful, panoramic space of the Hanifl Center - complete with wi-fi computer facilities, lecture halls, a dormitory, cafeteria, and shaded gardens - to Landour, Mussoorie, Garhwal, and Uttarakhand.

Dynamics of shepherding - Over several months we visited Sainji Village to better understand the way in which an agricultural economy is changing and how education is critical to rural development. We spent time with college students at the Uttarakhand University of Horticulture and Forestry, learning about forest resource management and the development of agricultural productivity. We trekked to Har Ki Dun, an alpine valley, to study Himalayan natural history and the social and cultural dynamics of shepherding. While reading about gods and goddesses of the Himalaya, we watched the ritual procession of a village god being taken back home to his temple after a tour of his domain.

Coming back to the Hanifl Center from Har Ki Dun we participated, with vigorous dancing, in a performance



of folk music by Basanit Devi Bisht, a well-known singer of *juagar*, songs that awaken the Goddess Nanda. Two-hundred and fifty members of the Landour and Mussoorie community were invited to the performance as guests of our students. Returning to one of the program's overarching themes, ecology and the environment, we spent the day at Navdanya learning about organic farming, the cultivation and conservation of indigenous seed varieties and Gandhian principles of service labor in the interest of social justice and human equity. Before leaving for Gangotri we turned back to questions of literature, music and poetry through a delightful lecture on the poetry of Kabir by Arvind K. Mehrotra, an authority on the translation of medieval verse and one of India's most respected modern poets.

Joseph S. Alter serves as the Academic Director of "Pitt in the Himalayas," working closely with Co-Director Professor Nicole Constable and K. Krishnan Kutty, Director of the Hanifl Center for Outdoor Education and Environmental Study. Rich visual documentation of field expeditions, educational events, and program activities, is available on the "Pitt in the Himalayas 2013" blog: <http://pih2013.tumblr.com/>

(Contact: JSALTER+@pitt.edu)

Introducing Pritam Advani '76

by Marianna Presler McJimsey '54

Pritam Advani '76, a member of the Friends of Woodstock School Board of Directors, co-founded the PCN Network, which offers attorney based mortgage closing services to title companies and lenders. The company, located in Pittsburgh, PA, emphasizes team work. Pritam believes "that involvement in sports at a young age [at Woodstock] helped me build team work and collaboration skills." He was on the only two teams that have won the Mussoorie Schools Cricket Tournament.

Pritam was also a competitive table tennis player from 5th grade through high school. He sounds a disappointed note that, in the U.S., table tennis is mainly a "garage sport."

Pritam's childhood asthma was aggravated by Mumbai's pollution and humidity, so his parents sent him, beginning in 4th grade, to the healthier climate of Woodstock and Mussoorie. He characterizes Landour as "one of the most beautiful places in the world and an amazing location in which to have spent any part of one's life." His brother, Kamal, graduated from Woodstock in 1978.

Having appreciated the small classes of Woodstock where faculty and students were engaged with each other in and out of class, Pritam chose a small liberal arts college, Washington and Lee College, with a similar learning environment. He graduated in 1980 with a major in

economics and accounting. He worked for Ernst & Young until 1991. Since then he has been involved with several start up/venture funded growth companies and co-founded PCN Network in 2004.

The issues of hunger in the Pittsburgh region and of mental health are the focus of the Advani's volunteer activities. Pritam and his wife, Binu, enjoy large, extended families and love to travel, both to India and elsewhere.

Pritam notes that Woodstock became an international school when he was a student there. He believes that the school fosters "an appreciation for judging people for who they are, not what they have or where they come from." He noted that in the boarding school environment, differing backgrounds faded in significance.

Among the memories that Pritam remembers with laughter are freezing in the dorm rooms, the three-minute maximum showers that left one still lathered in soap with no rinse water, and cooking papads on top of the wood stove in the dining room during evening study hall. These experiences and those of learning together fostered the close Woodstock friendships that Pritam cherishes.

Woodstock Prepared 2013 Best All-Around Student for College

by Liang-Yun Cheng '13

I am a first-year student at the University of Richmond in Virginia, and have been here for four months. Where I am is nothing like what I had seen in chick flicks. People are very friendly, welcoming, and helpful. Overall, the transition has been much smoother than I had expected.

Although cafeteria food is definitely better, I had to adjust to the sweetness and saltiness. As a habit I had developed in Woodstock, I keep a tuck bucket and enjoy munching on junk food. Sadly, no one here appreciates and enjoys tuck as much as Woodstockers. I won't lie. College is challenging. Although the education system is similar to Woodstock, the reading load is overwhelming. The amount I have read in the first few months is probably the same as the amount I had read in my four years of high school. I am still struggling with efficiency and time management.

Don't get me wrong, college is definitely fun. Here are a few things that I've done so far:

- Awakened at 3AM to watch the sunrise at Virginia Beach
- Watched a live 87-year-old Wurlitzer organ performance
- Experienced American consumerism at Target
- Learned to play the gamelan from Bali, Ewe drumming from West Africa, and taiko from Japan

However, it doesn't matter how great college is, I still constantly think about Woodstock. I really miss the mountains, the people, the food, and the simplicity of life in that little hill station. (Contact: liangyun0213@hotmail.com)



From the Desk of Jane Cummings Executive Director, Friends of Woodstock School

It is exactly a year ago that Friends of Woodstock School (FWS), in consultation with Principal Jonathan Long and Woodstock School Board Chair Dr. Eleanor Nicholson, decided to become proactive in the development of alumni relations and fundraising in North America. It has been a year of increased awareness of the importance of FWS to the future of Woodstock; of re-vitalized alumni programs such as expanding “curry clubs” into Woodstock regional clubs with more opportunities for networking and sharing regional events of interest. It has also been a year in which an increased number of alumni in North America have become partners with us through their financial support in sustaining for future generations of students the kind of educational experience Woodstock gave them.

There are so many ways you can help FWS grow and develop as an organization and in its mission of support to Woodstock. Here are some examples: participate in the activities of your regional clubs; encourage family and friends with high school children to consider sending them to Woodstock for a year; network professionally and socially with other Woodstock alumni in your area; make an annual gift or become a sustaining donor to FWS; attend the FWS Annual Meeting and Reunion in Baltimore, MD on July 11-14; plan a visit to Woodstock, or just share your thoughts and ideas with us. Friends of Woodstock School can be just as strong in its support of alumni and of Woodstock as each one of us makes it.

I look forward to meeting with many of you this coming year and to hearing from many more of you.

(Contact: jane.cummings@me.com)

We Seek Nominations for The 2014 Glenn Conrad Volunteer Service Award

The Glenn Conrad Volunteer Service Award honors and recognizes alumni and friends of Woodstock School for outstanding volunteer service of time, expertise, and commitment, which result in the improvement, development, and enhancement of the mission, vision, and goals of Friends of Woodstock School and/or Woodstock School. For more information on the Award, [click here](#).

Nominations should include 1) a nominating letter describing the volunteer's service, the nature, duration, and purpose of the service, and how the service benefited Friends of Woodstock School and/or Woodstock School; 2) Two supporting letters endorsing the nomination. These letters should be sent, by April 1, 2014, to the President of Friends of Woodstock School, Woodrow (Woody) Turner, wturner@herringturner.com.

A task force, appointed by Woody Turner, will review the nominations. The Friends of Woodstock School Board of Directors will make the final decision on the recommendations of the task force. Successful nominees will be invited to attend the Friends of Woodstock Annual Meeting, July 11-14, 2014 in Baltimore, MD. The award will be in the form of a plaque and citation and will be announced in the publications of Friends of Woodstock School and Woodstock School.

The award honors the leading and decisive role of Glenn Conrad '68 in the alumni affairs of Friends of Woodstock School and Woodstock School.

Jessie Lacy '60 Donates Old Car to Woodstock

Friends of Woodstock School has joined the bandwagon of encouraging donations of cars, trucks, and boats for which you no longer have a use. Jessie Lacy '60 tells the story of the good life of her family's Honda CRV and its concluding contribution to the FWS fundraising.

The Honda CRV started as our main family car as we began a new chapter of life in a new state. The years passed, and the miles mounted. My daughters learned to drive behind the wheel. Demoted to our secondary car, it went off to college with one daughter, then the other. We moved again, and the car spent weeks sitting idle as my daughters moved into their adult lives. It was time to renew the registration or find another home for the car. And then I saw that I could donate the car to Friends of Woodstock School for the benefit of the school. The process it was so easy. All I had to do is find the title, place a call to Car Program 1-800-240-0106 and soon someone came to pick up the car. A win for me and for Woodstock. [Jessie lives in Reston, VA.]

[Click here](#) to find out how to donate your old car to benefit FWS and Woodstock

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