Alumni Connect is designed to provide communication and networking for Willamette Academy graduates. Even after graduation, you can continue your connection and access to valuable resources at Willamette Academy through our “Connect” program. Receive college advice and assistance, scholarship information, learn about employment opportunities, and attend networking events with WA Alumni Connect!

From the Director

Thank you for reading the first newsletter of our new program, designed just for you: Alumni Connect. We are excited to roll out this program at Willamette Academy, and we are eager to learn of your progress and how you are doing. It is an exciting time as we have just accepted 40 new first years. Can you believe they are the class of 2018? We hope you will join us at one of our upcoming alumni get togethers to network and catch up with everyone. We will also try to schedule a few of these functions at your college this year. I look forward to meeting with those of you that were at the academy in the beginning years.

All the best, Michele Gray

Community Council — Alumni Committee

Are you looking for more leadership opportunities? Be a representative on Willamette Academy’s Alumni Committee, which is part of a larger community council. It’s comprised of local individuals responsible in cultivating new partnerships for the academy through networking, resource collaboration and education. Community Council members support the mission of Willamette Academy and provide expert advice and assistance to the staff in a voluntary, consultative capacity.

Members of the Alumni Committee will help promote and develop an alumni network to meet the needs of Willamette Academy alumni, such as through planning and organizing networking events and providing content for our alumni connect newsletter. This committee will provide an opportunity for alumni to strengthen the academy through sharing their unique insights and perspectives. The Alumni Committee will meet three times a year.

Please let Michele Gray (mgray@willamette.edu) know if you are interested in joining.
Alumni Spotlight

After graduating from the academy I enrolled at Willamette University, where I majored in biology and minored in chemistry. I finished my undergraduate studies at Willamette in the spring of 2012, and after doing some traveling in South America, I moved to Boulder, Colo. to begin a Ph.D. program at the University of Colorado. This fall I will begin my second year as a Ph.D. student, studying physiology and neuroscience. Specifically, I work in a lab that studies the underlying mechanisms of stress, anxiety and depression.

-Alfredo Zuniga, Class of 2008

After receiving my environmental science degree from Willamette University, I started saving money for a trip to Europe. I ended up traveling alone all over Europe from February through April of 2012, which was the greatest experience of my life. Since then, I have been working for the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department as a park ranger assistant for the last two summers. I am currently saving money to continue my education and to get certified in GIS (Geographic Information Systems) at the University of Southern California. I have also been taking online courses for TEFL to become certified for teaching English as a foreign language across the world.

-Nick Solano, Class of 2007

What is Happening at the Academy

Willamette Academy’s seventh graduating class, the class of 2013, is on its way to college. Last spring, Willamette Academy graduated 17 seniors who collectively applied to more than 40 schools as far away as University of California Berkeley to the south and University of Rochester to the east. At this year’s graduation ceremony, the commencement speech was given by Daniel P. Santos, associate dean for Student Affairs and Administration at the Willamette University College of Law. Brenda Rivera represented the graduating class as the senior speaker. Collectively, students are enrolled at colleges such as Oregon State University, Linfield College, University of Rochester and Willamette University. Willamette Academy students were awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships. We are very proud our students. Congratulations seniors.

Willamette Academy Wins Silver in Statesman Journal Best Of

This year, Willamette Academy won 2nd place for nonprofits in the Statesman Journal’s Best of the Mid-Valley campaign. Thank you for all your support and for voting for Willamette Academy as the second best nonprofit in the Mid-Valley! We are so proud to be honored among so many fantastic nonprofits and organizations.

Project Promise

Because Willamette Academy can not accept all students who apply, Project Promise was created. Willamette Academy’s new program is dedicated to increasing access to higher education by providing a series of workshops, seminars and clinics to local students and their families. Its purpose is to give more people the confidence, resources and skills to succeed on the path to college. In addition to reinforcing the message and reality that every student is “college material,” Project Promise will complement our other college-readiness efforts. Please let us know if you are interested in helping with the program.
Where is Everyone?

Have you updated your information with us? Stay in touch with Willamette Academy! Simply go to willamette.edu/academy/alumni_connect/ and fill it out with your updated information online for a chance to win a $25 gift card to Starbucks.

Stay in touch with Willamette Academy news and updates through Facebook! Make sure your classmates have been added!

Classes of 2007 and 2008  
Class of 2009  
Class of 2010  
Class of 2011  
Class of 2012  
Class of 2013
Join us for “Benefit Nights” the first three Mondays in October at Buffalo Wild Wings! Bring your friends, watch a little football and have a great time! 15% of the evening proceeds will go to benefit Willamette Academy! We hope to see you in October at Buffalo Wild Wings (3892 Center St. Salem).

Mark your calendars!

Make sure your alumni friends are added to our Facebook group so they don’t miss any important information!

Alumni Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/groups/wacademy.alumni