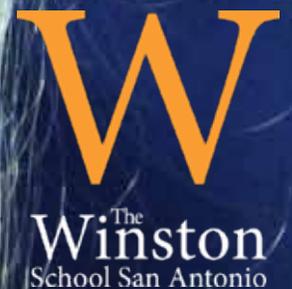


# WINSTON

*A publication for the Winston Community*

Summer/Fall 2021

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*Advocating For Minds That Learn Differently®*

# Leadership

*“When you make a school better for one student, you have made a school better for all students.”*



**Dr. Peri-Anne Chobot**  
*Interim Head of School*

My name is Dr. Peri-Anne Chobot, and I am so pleased to be joining The Winston School team this year as the Interim Head of School. I have spent most of my career leading schools with students who learn differently and school communities through transitions.

I commend the Board of Trustees of The Winston School – San Antonio for recognizing the critical importance of securing an Interim Head of School following the very successful tenure and retirement of Dr. Karulak.

Winston’s mission and rich history attracted me, as I have always guided my work with “student first” philosophies and actions. I found in Winston the intersection of my personal and professional beliefs.

As an interim, it is my responsibility to lead the school community through this year of transition to succession of the next Head of School. My primary focus will be to reassure the community that the current mission of The Winston School - SA:

“The Mission of The Winston School San Antonio is to provide a personalized, college preparatory education to students with high potential and identified learning differences. A Winston School graduate is confident, well-rounded, and a life-long self-advocate.”

**will not change.**

I have an “open door” policy, and I encourage each of you to stop by and share your stories, celebrations, successes, and concerns.

I come from a family of educators. Both my mom and dad were teachers, and my sister is currently the General Director for an American School in San Salvador, El Salvador, but her American home base is in Sherman, Texas.

My French Bulldog, Buddha is adjusting very nicely to San Antonio, but my Old English Bulldog, Chops who is generally more critical of change is still deciding how she feels about the move, in fact, she has already registered numerous complaints that our house here has an upstairs!

I look forward to working with all of you and finding joy here at The Winston School – San Antonio!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peri-Anne Chobot". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Peri-Anne Chobot  
*Interim Head of School*

# Perspectives



**Julie Hanson**  
*Head of Lower School*

*“My door is open. My heart is always 100% for our students and doing what is best for each child’s long term success and happiness.”*

**Tell us a little bit about your educational background.**

For my Bachelor’s degree, I started out at Texas Christian University where I was a Varsity co-ed cheerleader and was active in a rock climbing club. When my father developed Leukemia, I initially transferred to Texas A&M University, but as he declined, I transferred back home in order to help take care of him. I graduated from the University of Texas at San Antonio with a major in interdisciplinary studies and an emphasis in English. For my Master’s degree, I took classes to become a Dyslexia Therapist/Certified Academic Language Therapist through Scottish Rite and Midwestern State University, and graduated with a Masters in Special Education: Assessment Focus (Educational Diagnostician) from Texas A&M University San Antonio.

**What is your favorite Winston memory so far?**

I could more easily choose a favorite book, and that feels utterly impossible! Over the years, I have been abundantly blessed as some of the most incredible human beings on the planet have found their way through my class and into my heart. Each class, each student, has left a lasting and treasured memory that will forever have a special place in my heart.

**What led you to teach at Winston?**

Helping others is one of my greatest passions, and I have always had a heart for helping students with learning differences. When teaching in public schools, getting or providing help for students who were struggling required tremendous effort. After working with Food for the Hungry in Guatemala, a former board member introduced me to Winston, and it was a very easy decision.

**What was your first impression of Winston?**

My first impression was similar to that of so many of our students: Winston is more than a school; it is a family. Everyone is remarkably warm and friendly. The kids are kind and compassionate. Administration and parents are supportive and helpful. The Winston difference is something that is noticeable from the very beginning.

**How has teaching at Winston prepared you for your new role as Head of Lower School?**

My experience at Winston has encompassed teaching Lower School, Middle School, and Upper School, allowing me to develop a broader, more complete understanding of the journey and incredible transformations our students make as they progress through each level. This unique experience has both impressed upon me the truly life changing impact our school has on students’ lives and the importance of what we do as a school. It has made me more aware of the challenges that teachers and students face at each level, the strengths of our program, and areas that we can make even better.

**Do you have any plans for Winston as Head of Lower School?**

I have a plethora of ideas! However, since I haven’t had the opportunity to run them by anyone, I’ll hold off on broadcasting them at this point. My goals include building an even greater sense of community and unity. I know I’m going to miss the daily interaction with “my kids,” so I’m looking forward to developing new ways to connect with students and families.

## *Fun Facts About Ms. Hanson*

**Favorite school subject?** Reading

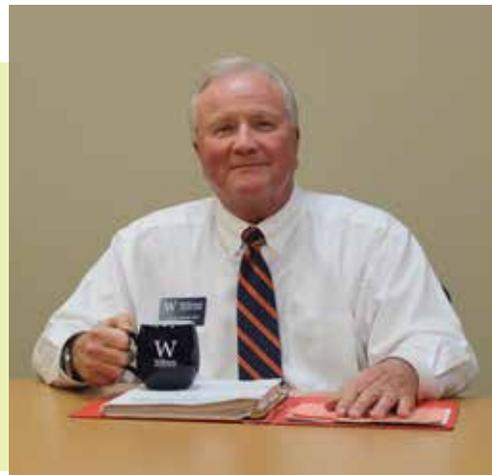
**Favorite food?** Torchy’s Brushfire Taco, hamburgers with guacamole and jalapenos and sweet potato fries, a good salad...

**Who is your favorite writer?** It seems I am not fond of having a favorite. Tolkien indubitably is on the list, and Dickens has a way with words that makes my heart soar, but he’s not someone I pick up much anymore. I thoroughly enjoy teen fiction, children’s books, devotionals, and Christian fiction.

**What are your hobbies?** Obviously, I love to read. I’ve recently started playing keyboard at church. I’m not very good at it, but I love to play. I love anything outside: hiking; camping; exploring, going to the beach, lake, or river; and anything with my daughter. She’s my world outside of Winston. I spend way too much time and money on flowers. I’d rather be doing yard work than house work any day of the week, even in the summer.

**Any pets?** I have a seven pound Maltipoo named Spunky.

# Perspectives



*“It has been an honor and privilege to have been the Headmaster of The Winston School San Antonio serving bright children with learning differences.”*

**Dr. Charles J. Karulak**  
*Headmaster at Winston for 32 years*

Needless to say, this has been an unprecedented year and the School is looking forward to easing some of the COVID restrictions at the start of the next school year.

Thankfully, Winston had very few cases of COVID. The majority of these cases occurred during the first semester. When a positive case was reported, the School proceeded with contact tracing. The investigation results suggested that all of the cases originated from outside of Winston.

The students, parents, faculty and staff were extremely vigilant in maintaining all of the safety protocols on campus and at school events. The School communicated with two medical doctors who assisted in developing our COVID protocols and were always available to consult as necessary. They are still offering advice to us as the guidelines are being revised by the health departments. Unfortunately, several activities were cancelled this year, but we are anticipating that in August all regular school activities will begin again.

The faculty did an outstanding job preparing their classes for in-person and virtual instruction. As the COVID-19 numbers began to improve, more students returned to Winston with 9 out of 10 students attending class on campus during the final weeks of school.

Winston was able to offer most of the team sports this year with limited schedules. The coaches did a very good job of keeping our athletes safe while providing them with valuable outlets that help develop emotional and physical growth.

Most of our traditional award and recognition ceremonies were held this year. The ceremonies other than Baccalaureate and Graduation were attended only by students and streamed to their families. Attendance at Baccalaureate and Graduation was restricted to

Graduates and their immediate families. Graduation was streamed to allow others to virtually attend the Commencement ceremony and we had attendees as far away as England and Bangladesh.

Two other employees who have served Winston for many years are retiring this year: Mrs. Rachel V. Treviño, my Executive Assistant and an original employee has served for 36 years; and Mrs. Louise Pastorino, Head of Lower School, has served for 23 years.

I am retiring after serving 32 years and the Board of Trustees has hired an Interim Head of School, Dr. Peri-Anne Chobot for one year beginning July 1st. I have spoken with her and I know that she will do a great job maintaining the traditions of The Winston School San Antonio while focusing on goals set by her and the Trustees.

It has been an honor and privilege to have been the Headmaster of The Winston School San Antonio serving bright children with learning differences. I have enjoyed my time at Winston and have fond memories that will remain with me forever. Enjoy your summer vacations as we all look forward to a more normal school year in 2021-22.

Sincerely,

Dr. Charles J. Karulak  
*Former Headmaster*

# Class of 2021

*The Winston graduating class of 2021 has been accepted into thirty-seven different colleges and has earned \$1,167,420 in scholarships.*



**Ethan Pahl**  
*Valedictorian*



**Maverick Gutierrez**  
*Salutatorian*



## 2021 College Acceptances

- Arizona State University
- Austin College
- Blinn College
- Butler University
- Drake University
- Eckerd College
- Emory and Henry College
- Jacksonville University
- Kansas State University
- Louisiana Tech University
- Lynn University
- Northeast Lakeview College
- Northwest Vista College
- Schreiner University
- Southern Illinois University
- Southwestern University
- St. Edward's University
- St. Philip's College
- Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi
- Texas A&M University - PATHS Program
- Texas State University
- Texas Tech University
- The University of Texas at Arlington
- The University of Texas at San Antonio
- Tyler Junior College
- University Mary Hardin Baylor
- University of Arizona
- University of Central Florida
- University of Colorado - Colorado Springs
- University of Connecticut
- University of Kansas
- University of Kentucky
- University of Northwestern Ohio
- University of Oregon
- University of the Incarnate Word
- Wright State University

# Class of 2021



**NICHOLAS RAYMOND BENAVIDES** will be attending St. Philip's College to obtain a certification in Welding.

**JACK EDWARD BORST** will be attending Austin College with a major in Business.

**NICHOLAS WESLEY CLARK** will be taking a gap year to focus on personal and professional growth.

**ANDERSON DONALD GITHENS** will be attending Texas A&M Corpus Christi with a major in Geospatial Information Sciences.

**LISA NICOLE GUSTAFSON** will be attending the Postsecondary Access and Training in Human Services (PATHS) Program at Texas A&M University.

**MAVERICK RYAN GUTIERREZ** (2021 Salutatorian) will be attending Northeast Lakeview College with a major in Psychology and Sociology.

**BRADEN TAYLOR MALONE** will be attending Eckerd College with a major in engineering. After his first three years at Eckerd, through a dual degree program, Braden will complete his degree at Comlombia University.

**LIAM PATRICK NOONAN** will be attending St. Philip's College to obtain a certification in Welding.

**ETHAN GEORGE PAUL** (2021 Valedictorian) will be attending Schreiner University. Through a dual-degree engineering program, Ethan will work towards a BGS in applied Science from Schreiner and a BS in Engineering from another accredited program.

**JERRY CHAL SU RODDICK** will be attending the University of Central Florida on a full tennis scholarship with a major in Business Real Estate.

**REAGAN NICOLE SMALL** will be attending Northwest Vista College with a major in English. Reagan plans to transfer to university to pursue a degree in Education.

**MCKENLEY RAE STEFFENS** will be attending Schreiner University with a major in Nursing. After Freshman year, McKenley will join the Schreiner Army ROTC.

**TYRUS GEHRIG WEST** will be attending Texas Tech University with a major in Sports Management and a minor in Analytics and Statistics.

**LAYNE ALEJANDRO WILKINS** will be attending Southern Illinois University with a major in Automotive Technology.

**ABIGAIL HOPE WONDER** will be attending Schreiner University with a major in Pre-Veterinary Studies.

## *In Loving Memory*



**AUDITI NAOMI SALEH** had plans to major in Education at the University of Incarnate Word, so that she could one day help young students with learning differences. It is with deep sadness that we announce her unexpected passing. Auditi was a cheerful, positive force in the Winston community, and a great role model to her peers. She will always be a beloved member of the Winston family.

# Auction & Gala

*“From the smile at the front desk, teachers spending countless hours going above and beyond what’s expected to encourage and enrich all of the kids, the endless activities and opportunities for socialization, sense of community and growth. This is the magic.”*  
- Alisa Young, Winston Parent

## The Magic of Winston

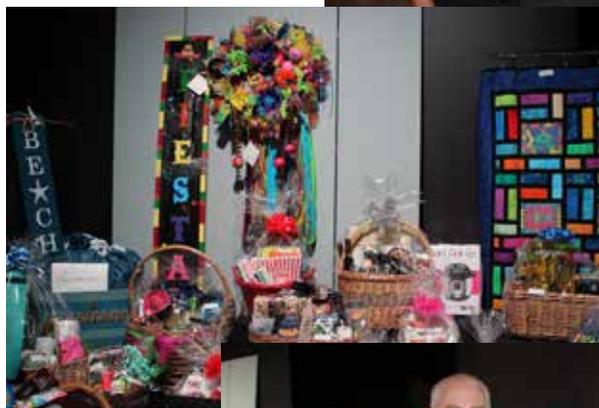
The *Magic of Winston* was Winston’s first hybrid Auction and Gala, allowing all Winston supporters to participate whether they attended in-person or watched from home. With a dedicated committee of parents, teachers, Interact students, and the Advancement team, the night was a smash hit!

The Winston School San Antonio was able to open its doors to donors and friends and show off the new Fine Arts building featuring: *The Harvey Najim Entrance, Greehey Family Foundation Dining & Assembly Hall, The Mabee Foundation Performance Stage, The Caroline & William Carrington Gallery, The Bonnie & John Korbell Theater Lobby, and The Nancy & Ed Kelley Black Box Theater.*

Despite low attendance due to COVID-19, Winston’s newly implemented week-long online silent auction was the most successful the school has seen in years, and we plan to keep it that way!

Overall, Winston supporters were able to raise \$112,000 for tuition assistance and \$15,000 for The Dr. Karulak scholarship fund.

We would like to thank our amazing Gala Chairs, Alisa Young and Denene Whitmore, for their leadership in such extraordinary circumstances, as well as all of the parent volunteers who worked tirelessly to make this night a success. We look forward to next year’s in-person Gala and hope to see you there!





# Industrial Arts

*“Whatever you touch, do, or see, odds are, welding has had a hand in it.”*



**Cornelio Ontiveros**  
*Industrial Arts Teacher*

Each student at Winston has their own unique path to success. This year, students were given the opportunity to expand their skills through Winston’s new Industrial Arts Program led by industry professional and teacher, Mr. Cornelio Ontiveros.

Mr. Ontiveros’ lesson plan directly mirrors industry protocols and standards to ensure students have the appropriate expectations outside of the classroom. In fact, each student must complete and pass a rigorous safety course in the classroom before stepping foot inside the workshop.

Throughout the course of the year, welding students completed a number of different projects, including the assembly of custom welding tables for the workshop and a custom Winston fire pit that was sold at our annual auction.

Among all of Winston’s first-time welding students were two graduating seniors, Liam Noonan and Nicholas

Benavides, who went on to receive acceptance at St. Philips’ welding program. These outstanding welding students took with them a tack welder certification in flat position: an American Welding Society (AWS) certification following the industry codebook.

Along with the seniors, nine other Winston students passed their AWS certification, with the youngest student being in the 8th grade.

This coming school year, Winston’s Industrial Arts program will offer dual credit, allowing students to receive college course credit for their welding efforts. This will allow students to have yet another advantage in their secondary education and propel them in a welding career after Winston.



# Alumni Update

*“Anthony and Analise have done very well at college and Winston certainly played a key role in their success. WE will be ever thankful to Winston, the administration, the faculty and of course all the staff.”*

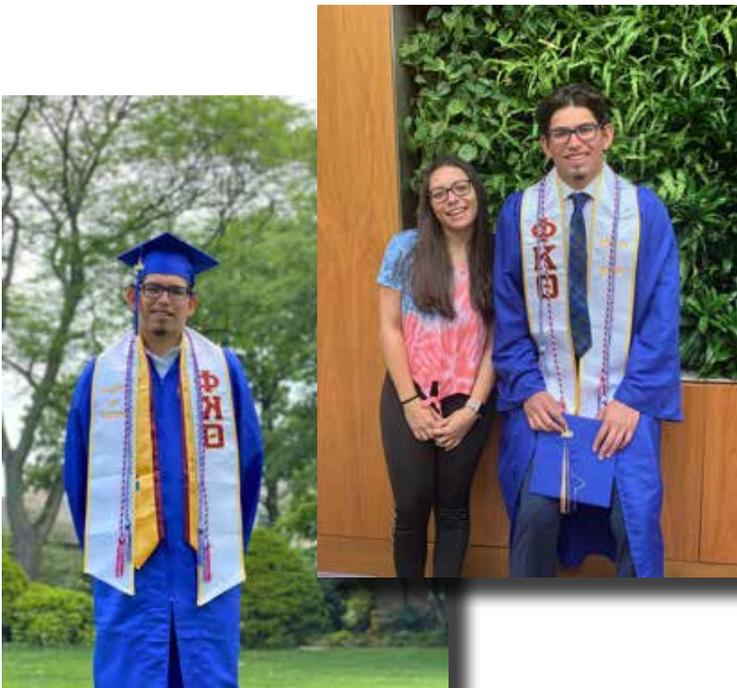
*- Mitchell Beres, Parent*



**Anthony Beres**  
*Class of 2017*

Anthony Beres recently graduated from Hofstra University with a major in Television Production. He was a spokesperson and mentor for Student Access Services, an organization that ensures all students with a disability receives the accommodations they are entitled to. He was also active in two fraternities that focus on professional development and community involvement.

Anthony just received acceptance to Virginia Commonwealth University's graduate program for advanced media production.



**Analise Beres**  
*Class of 2018*

Analise is now a Senior at Hofstra University. She has Played on the Hofstra Club Soccer Team each year. This summer she is interning at the Henrico Citizen, an online newspaper, as a photojournalist. She has been actively taking pictures of high school graduations as well as other community events in Henrico Virginia. She has had a very successful career at Hofstra, even after attending online for almost 18 months.



# Alumni Update



*“My favorite memory at Winston was my first day. It was the first time in a classroom I felt that I can do this, and I am normal.”*

## Joseph Klein Class of 2017

Recently, Joseph Klein came to visit Winston’s college and career counselor. With further interest in his success, we asked him a few follow up questions about his time in college.

### ***What college did you attend after Winston?***

After Winston I attended the University of Arizona.

### ***What is your favorite memory there?***

When I was reporting for UATV I got the opportunity to spend a day golfing with Aaron Rodgers. I asked him in his media session, “As a Cowboy fan I know what I think of when I hear the name Aaron Rodgers, but what do you want people to think of when they hear the name Aaron Rodgers when it’s all said and done?” He responded that my question was too deep and he wouldn’t be able to answer me. On the 8th hole he put his arm around me, told me that’s the best question he had been asked, and we proceeded to spend the entire day together.

### ***What jobs have you held while attending college?***

While attending college I held jobs as a sports reporter for UATV, a student manager for the University of Arizona Basketball Program, an intern for Coaches vs Cancer, an Intern for coachingU, and a video editor for an NBA Trainer.

### ***Where do you see yourself in 5 years?***

In five years I see myself as an assistant coach in the NBA or NCAA. I think my passion, love, and hunger for the game of basketball is just what makes me tick.



Part of my hunger comes from having so many academic troubles, the basketball court was the only place that I felt “normal” until I got to Winston.

### ***What is your favorite Winston memory?***

If you ask any teachers I probably was the biggest B’Ser that they knew. I tried to shortcut everything. Coach Rich would ALWAYS call me out on this, and I really think that was the key to my success now. I remember one day, in a parent-teacher conference, Coach Rich was telling my mom how my grades were good but I barely worked, and she told him how I wouldn’t take the backpack out of my car some nights. Then I got the “you get out what you put in” lecture. Ever since then I have lived by the motto FILO, first in and last out.

### ***What are you up to now, Joseph?***

At this current moment I am on staff with UTSA Basketball as a Graduate Assistant and pursuing my masters in Education and Leadership, with the goal of becoming a better coach.



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Are you interested in getting involved or making a gift to Winston?  
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**FOR MORE INFORMATION.**