



At Home. In the World.

Prize Day & Commencement 2021

Senior Prizes

Note: The Frank Chapin Cushman Memorial Award and the Cora Pease Chandler Award are considered to be the two highest prizes awarded at Commencement.

Cora Pease Chandler Award

Through the kindness of Major J. Weissheimer, USA, who died in France in October 1918, a bronze shield was presented to the Academy in 1915 in honor of his mother, Mrs. Cora Pease Chandler, a graduate of the Wesleyan Class of 1884. Presented each year to that student who has shown the best Wilbraham & Monson spirit during the school year, excelling in character, courtesy, scholarship and athletics.

Frank Chapin Cushman Memorial Award

In 1928, Mrs. Rufus P. Cushman presented a bronze tablet "to honor right living achieved and to keep high purpose glowing in the soul of youth." It bears the name of Frank Chapin Cushman, the motto "LIVE CLEAN, SPEAK TRUE, WORK HARD, PLAY FAIR" and the inscription, "THESE WERE HIS IDEALS." Presented each year to that student of Wilbraham & Monson Academy who best lives up to them. (Character, hard work)

Gift of the Class of 1965

In 1965 the graduating class of Wilbraham Academy established an award, which should in perpetuity be presented to that member of the senior class who - through their period of attendance at the Academy - has shown through word and deed consistent evidence of a high degree of individuality with a concomitant unwillingness to follow the crowd. The Class of 1965 called this award the Constructive Non-Conformist Award.

Billy Lak Prize

Established in 1976, the prize is awarded to that student of the graduating class intending to go on to further education who best typifies the personal characteristics of Billy Lak – selflessness in devotion to the Academy and perfection in devotion to duty.

Stephen D. Luckraft Memorial Award

This award was established in 1954 by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Luckraft in memory of their son, Stephen D. Luckraft of the Monson Class of 1951. The prize is awarded annually to the member of the senior class who has displayed their daily actions and personal contacts a genuinely fine character, such as that of the boy in whose memory this prize is given.

Markell and Monson Class of 1898 Award

This prize is awarded each year to a senior at Wilbraham & Monson Academy who, in the opinion of the faculty, has made the greatest contribution through leadership, character and courtesy.

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Owen David Dow Memorial Award

Owen David Dow, a member of the Monson Class of 1960, lost his life in the summer of 1962 in an airplane accident while he was engaged in a humanitarian mission. At Monson Academy, he was an all-around athlete, a fine scholar and an excellent school citizen. Mr. and Mrs. Allan L. Dow, Owen's parents, established a fund under the terms of which the winner of the Markell and Monson Class of 1898 Award for leadership, character and courtesy will also receive this prize.

Harriet Jones Nelson Trust

In 1938 Mr. Frank G. Nelson of the Monson Class of 1869 established in memory of his mother a trust fund under the terms of which "there shall be paid each year to the member of the graduating class who has the highest scholastic average for the last two years of his/her academic course at the Academy a sum of money." Under the terms of the Nelson Trust Fund, a second sum of money may be awarded if the average of the second ranking student for a two-year period is close to that of the winner.

Pieria Prize

The Pieria Prize is awarded annually to the senior whose record of participation in non-athletic extra-curricular activities has been extensive and exemplary.

Dr. George E. Rogers Scholar Athlete Award

In 1966 the Monson Academy faculty established the George E. Rogers Award to honor a member of the graduating class for scholarship and participation and sportsmanship in athletics.

Senior or Junior Prize

Phil Shaw Award

Phil Shaw joined the Wilbraham faculty in 1934 and served well as a teacher, Chairman of the Science Department, varsity soccer and track coach, and Athletic Director until his retirement in 1969. His portrait hangs in an honored place in the Athletic Center Conference room. Mr. Shaw dedicated his life to developing character in young people. He believed in healthy competition and a high degree of sportsmanship. This award is presented to the male and female students in the junior or senior class who have shown hard work, perseverance, unselfishness, and a spirit of cooperation in athletics. (Nominate one male and one female.)

Junior Prizes

John L. Nepomuceno Prize

This prize is given in memory of John L. Nepomuceno, who was a member of the Class of 1988. John was tragically killed in April 1987. John had been an exceptional young man. He was an excellent student, competitive athlete and class officer. He was a delightful boy with a wonderful sense of humor. To many, he was a special friend. To honor his memory, his fellow students established the John L. Nepomuceno Prize, which is to be awarded at our Prize Assembly each year to that member of the junior class who shares many of John's extraordinary qualities.

Note: Vote on the Nepomuceno Prize first. The winner is ineligible for either of the following prizes.

Alumni Award

The Alumni Award is given to a member of the junior class who has demonstrated high scholastic achievement and service to the school.

Trustee Award

The Trustee Award is given annually to a student in the junior class who exemplifies excellence in scholarship and high character combined with achievement in other fields.

Sophomore Prize

Class of 1977 Humanitarian Award

This prize is given to the sophomore who best exemplifies the outstanding characteristics and devotion to duty of Masters Hugh M. Harrell, Roger N. Lincoln, Michael Olmstead and Frederick D. Watts. Their understanding, concern for others, and love for Wilbraham & Monson Academy are to be found in the recipient of this award given by the Class of 1977.

Prizes Open to All Grades

Berube Prize

This prize was established in 1968 and is given each year by the parents of Kenneth A. Berube '61M to that student of the Wilbraham & Monson Academy community who best exemplifies as a worker, the determination and dedication to duty of Kenneth A. Berube. Kenneth was an outstanding student and worker at Monson Academy. After attending Brown University, he served as a Marine Corps Captain until he was shot down by enemy gunfire in South Vietnam in August 1967. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for Heroism and Achievement, the Air Medal with Ten Gold Stars, the Purple Heart, the Vietnam Service Medal, the National Defense Medal and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Dr. Joseph P. Cebula Memorial Award

Established in 1984, the Dr. Joseph P. Cebula Memorial Award was created to pay tribute to Dr. Cebula's admiration of individual achievements made by an international student at Wilbraham & Monson Academy. The late educator was particularly aware of the many contributions made to the academic community by international students who quietly share an interest in our language and exchange customs and ideals while achieving excellent scholarship.

Davison Prize

This award was created by George W. Davison of the Wesleyan Class of 1888 in memory of his parents, Robert A. and Emiline Davison. It is awarded each year to that student who is to return (**NOT A SENIOR**) to the Academy for the following year and who has shown in his or her school relationships a marked capacity for leadership, cooperation, and helpful influence in school life.

Head of School Award

This is an award that is not always presented each year. The prize is given to that student who has made unique and extraordinary contributions to the life of the Academy and whose contributions do not fit the descriptions of other major commencement prizes. The Head of School selects the recipient of this prize. Written nominations should be given to the Head of School following the faculty meeting when all other prizes are selected.

Kyle E. Webb Award

This prize is presented to the student whom the faculty considers to have done the most to promote understanding, respect and sensitivity for people of different cultural backgrounds within the Wilbraham & Monson Academy community. It is given in recognition of Kyle Webb '77, whose leadership as a student was an outstanding model for others to follow.

Prize for a Middle School Student

Paul Beach Godard Prize

Created in 1998, this award is given by Barbara Godard of Brewster, Massachusetts, in honor of her father, Paul Beach Godard, a member of the Wilbraham Class of 1919. Friendship, loyalty, and good citizenship were the qualities that people most admired in Paul Beach Godard, and the recipient of this prize shall also possess these traits. The award is determined by vote of the Middle School faculty.

Prizes Determined by Department

Evelyn Barber Departmental Prizes

These prizes are determined by individual departments for outstanding achievement in the classroom. (Middle and Upper School departmental prizes)

English Department Awards

Howe S. Newell Senior English Award

This award was created by the Wilbraham Class of 1955 to honor Mr. Howe S. Newell. It is presented to the student who improved most in the study of Senior English, as judged by the English Department.

George H. Hefflon Memorial Award

Established by the members of the Wesleyan Class of 1886 in memory of their loyal and efficient class secretary, The Reverend George Hefflon, the prize is awarded annually to the student in the junior class who makes the best record in the study of English for the year.

Mathematics Department Award

Ernest J. Lawton Memorial Award

The Monson Class of 1965 established a senior mathematics award, which is known as the Ernest J. Lawton Award. This award is given for the most outstanding record in senior mathematics.

Mathematics and Science Departments Award

Rensselaer Mathematics and Science Award

This prize is awarded in the spring to the junior with the most outstanding record in science and mathematics.

Science Department Awards

Edward F. Morris Prize

Mrs. Louise Morris left a sum of money in 1914 to establish this award. A prize is presented annually to the student who has the highest grade for the year in physics.

Bausch & Lomb Science Award

This is awarded to the student who excels in science.

World Languages Department Award

Catherine Ingraham Award for Excellence in French

Prior to her death in 1979, Catherine Ingraham, a devoted member of the Class of 1975, requested that her parents establish out of her will a prize to honor excellence in the study of French. This award is to be made to a member of the senior class at graduation. Cathi was herself a French major at the College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio. (Established in 1980)

Visual/Performing Arts Department Award

Marilyn Erickson Memorial Prize

This prize was established by the family and friends of Marilyn Erickson in her memory. It is awarded annually to that student who, in the opinion of the Fine & Performing Arts Department, shows great promise in the visual or performing arts and is likely to go on to a professional career in either of these areas.

Cum Laude

(elected by the WMA Cum Laude Society)