December 2025

GOW AT A GLANCE

A monthly news update from The Gow School



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Alumni Spotlight: Tim Wells '08

From ninth grader to Senior Financial Advisor, Tim Wells' Gow journey is a powerful reminder of how individualized support and skill-building can shape a lifetime. His story reflects the lasting impact of Gow's approach to learning differences, and the confidence it builds.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

December 18 - January 5	Gow Holiday Break
January 7	Gow Speakers Series: Rebecca Bush
February 14 - 22	February Winter Break
March 21 to April 6	Spring Break
May 21-22	Senior Dinner, Commencement

Alumni Spotlight

TIM WELLS '08



Tim and Girlfriend





NYC Dodgeball Team

When Tim Wells arrived at Gow as a ninth grader, he didn't yet know how the school would shape his future. He first learned about Gow from his former Headmaster at Baltimore's Odyssey School, Brad Rogers, who had the Head of School role at Gow when Tim was 12. Tim and his family were searching for a school that offered individualized instruction and the right learning support. Rogers encouraged them to consider Gow, and it proved to be the perfect fit.

Tim quickly became involved in athletics, which are some of his fondest memories. He wrestled on a championship team under alumni coach Neil Howe '91 and rowed with Coach Doug Cotter '87, finding calm and relief on the water after long days of structured work. Gow's academic program and emphasis on executive functioning gave him skills he didn't fully appreciate until years later.

After graduating in 2008, Tim attended the Rochester Institute of Technology for civil engineering. Early on, he struggled with sobriety and took a leave of absence from college. He credits Gow for helping him develop the perseverance and organization he needed to get through a rehab program and return, refocus, and ultimately realize that he wanted to major in finance. The skills he learned at Gow - time management, executive functions, and self-advocacy - remain essential tools in his life today.

Tim interned for the Union Bank of Switzerland after graduating from RIT and later followed his dream of working in New York City. He received his CFA designation in 2024 and is now a Senior Financial Advisor with Bank of America Merrill Lynch. Outside of work, he runs a local dodgeball league in NYC and competes in national and international tournaments. Tim proudly serves on Gow's Board of Trustees. His appreciation for Gow has only grown with time. His message to current students is simple and powerful:

"You don't ever graduate from or stop having a learning difference. But if you use the skills Gow gives you every day, you will succeed."



Empowering Learners Through Technology at Gow

Across campus, Gow continues to expand how technology supports students with learning differences. From classrooms to the library and Reconstructive Language instruction, digital tools are thoughtfully integrated to strengthen skills—not replace them. Central to this work is Gow's 1:1 laptop program, which provides every student with their own device and allows for more personalized, one-on-one instruction.



Students use their laptops to navigate unfamiliar words in literature and classwork while working in Microsoft Teams, Microsoft Edge, and other educational applications—building the confidence to explore online content and tackle books they may not have attempted before. In the library, Ms. McQuestion teaches students how to use tools such as text-to-speech, digital definitions, spelling support, and read-aloud features. Programs like Kurzweil and Dragon further support reading by reading text aloud or listening as students read, offering feedback on pronunciation and word recognition. Kindles are also available for students who prefer digital reading, with text highlighted as it is read to reinforce fluency.



Technology is valuable in Reconstructive Language classes. Using Microsoft Teams reading tool, students record themselves reading assigned passages through audio and video, while the platform generates a report that highlights reading accuracy and miscues. Teachers review this data one on one with students to identify areas for growth and develop strategies for improvement. Students can revisit recordings independently, track progress over time, and apply feedback both with their teacher and on their own.

KURZWEIL®
It's the sound.
Microsoft
Dragon

Through these intentional uses of technology, Gow equips students with the tools and confidence they need to grow as learners and prepare for a technology-rich world.

Happy Holidays

From The Development Office

As we prepare to send our students home for a well-deserved Winter Break, I've been reflecting on the school year so far and my first seven months as Director of Development. There are countless reasons I'm grateful to be part of the Gow community, but a few stand out:

- Gow Students – Our students are brave, resilient, determined, and kind. I've been moved by the big and small ways they show care - holding doors, helping carry boxes, comforting a friend, or introducing themselves to new staff. Their spirit inspires me every day as I share the great things happening here and the remarkable young people shaped by a Gow education.

- Gow Faculty & Staff – Coming from outside the boarding school world, I was amazed to learn how many roles our faculty and staff juggle. They are teachers, advisors, coaches, and dorm parents. They do it so well, with enthusiasm, dedication, and deep care for our students. Their commitment is a huge part of what makes Gow extraordinary.

- Gow's Board of Trustees – Our trustees give generously of their time, talent, and resources to ensure that the school is on the right track in carrying out its mission and that the work being done today is setting Gow up for another 100+ years of success. I'm deeply grateful for their leadership and for the support they've shown me.

- YOU – Our Alumni, Parents, & Friends – Since May, I've had the pleasure of meeting hundreds of Govians who have welcomed me warmly, shared powerful stories of Gow's impact, and continued to support the school with incredible generosity. It's clear how much this place matters.

This community is united behind the life-changing power of a Gow education. Your belief in our mission - and your support of the people who carry it out - mean more than I can say. Thank you for staying connected to Gow and championing the school.

Warmly,

Kim Ruppel
Director of Development

In the words of our students

This holiday season, I am thankful for...

My teachers, for helping me! -Timmy '32

Gow and the chance to learn! -Adam '28

End of mid-terms and break. -Nathan '26

For Mr. Howe. -Bryan '26

For the return of Outdoor Education! -Eshaan '26

My family and gow friends. -Leo '30

THE GOW SPEAKERS SERIES

Informing and inspiring our community about learning differences



Rebecca Bush

- *Certified Academic Language Therapist*
- *Licensed Dyslexia Therapist*
- *Author of Dyslexia and Your Newly Diagnosed Child*

Beyond Reading:

Supporting the Whole Child After a Dyslexia Diagnosis

This session helps parents understand the "ripple effects" of dyslexia across learning and development, and how to nurture growth in every area, not just academics. Rebecca offers practical, evidence-aligned ways to strengthen communication with teachers, support emotional regulation through predictable routines, and build a child's sense of competence and independence over time.

Monday, January 7, 7:00 p.m. (ET)

- No charge to attend
- Please scan QR to receive the Zoom link
- Please share this invite with others!

For more information, please contact 716.687.2075 or development@gow.org

What sets us apart is how we

COME TOGETHER

Please consider a year-end gift to the 2025/26 Annual Fund!



GOW'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION: A HISTORIC WEEKEND AWAITS OCTOBER 1-3, 2026

THE ROAD TO 100

Introducing The Road to 100: Gow's Monthly Centennial Newsletter, your go-to source for updated information on Gow's 2026 Centennial Celebration. Each issue will share the latest plans as details take shape and will be emailed to all Govians and Friends. You can also find every edition on the Gow Centennial website.

Centennial Website



PLANNING TO ATTEND THE CENTENNIAL?

Are you planning to attend some or all of the Centennial events next October? As we work to design a meaningful and memorable weekend of celebrations, please take a minute to indicate your intentions by completing the very short survey through the link below:

Centennial Survey

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

HOTEL	BOOKING INFO
Roycroft Inn (East Aurora)	Call 716.652.5552 Reference "Gow Centennial"
Marriott LECOM Harbor Center (downtown Buffalo)	Click Here to reserve room under Gow's room block
Hampton Inn (East Aurora)	Click Here to reserve room under Gow's room block

Click here for full list of area accommodations