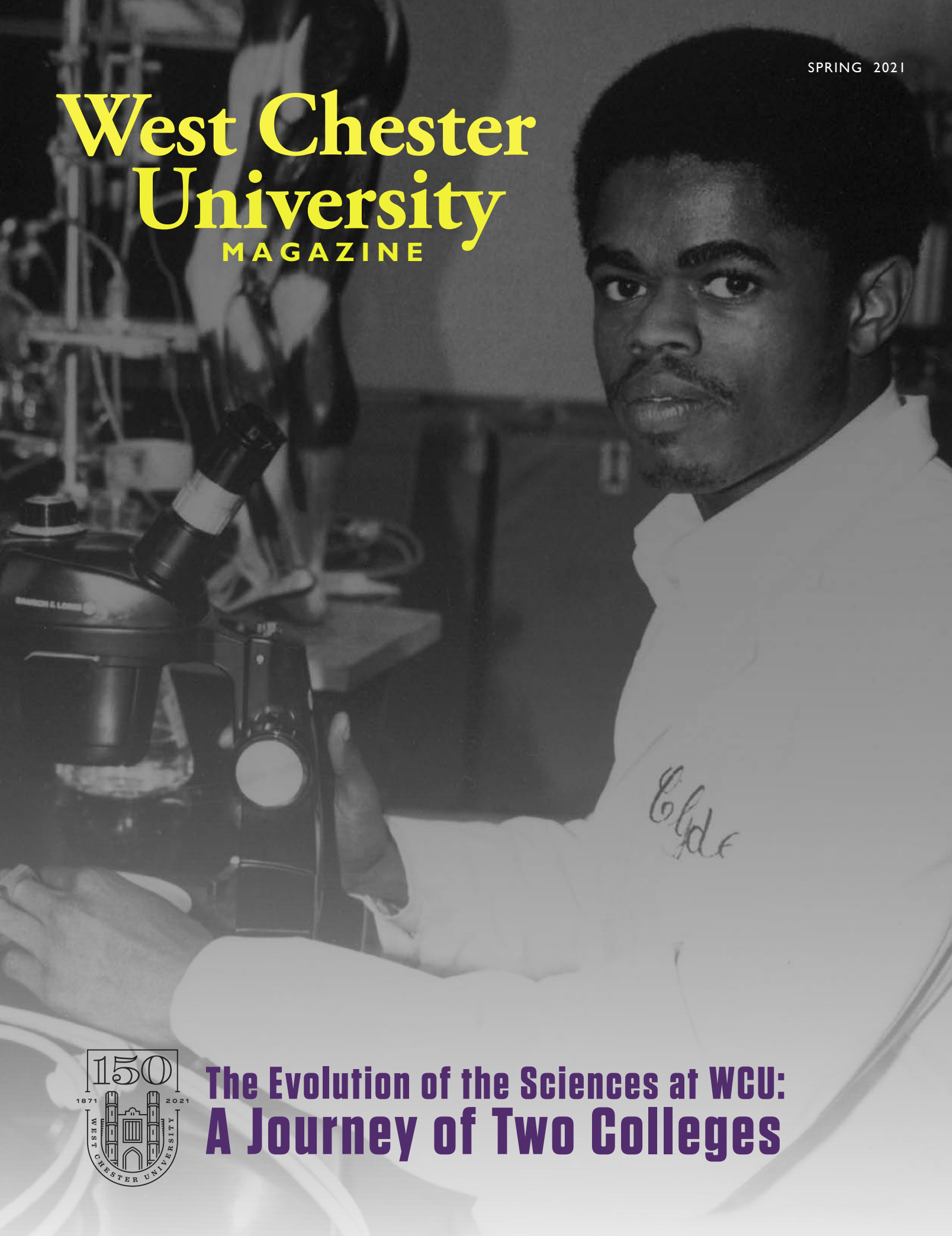


SPRING 2021

West Chester University

MAGAZINE



**The Evolution of the Sciences at WCU:
A Journey of Two Colleges**

IN THIS ISSUE



WCU's evolving sciences curricula: Many of the science disciplines were added in the late 20th century, including computer science, which branched off from mathematics and became a degree program in 1975. Students in the health sciences are some of those who heavily rely on their math and computer skills in such majors as athletic training.



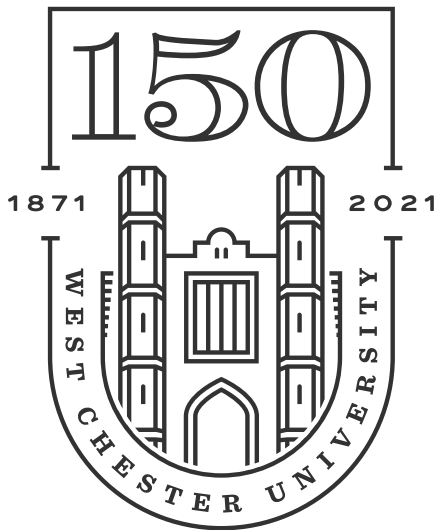
West Chester University

MAGAZINE

Visit WCU's anniversary website wcupa.edu/wcu150 for frequently updated historic features and photos, videos, and news on upcoming celebrations.

Share your memories using #WCU150 on social media.

Visit the campus store website for 150th anniversary merchandise! wcucampusstore.com/merch/webstore/150th.



150th logo designed by David P. Jones, associate professor of art

SPRING 2021

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Digital version of the *WCU Magazine* is available at issuu.com/wcuofpa.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Science has taken center stage this year in a way that many of us never imagined. I do believe that a desire to better understand the world and those around us has deepened as we slowly begin to see the inoculation of a nation writhing from a deadly virus. Our quest to learn more must remain constant. Uncovering solutions to the globe's greatest challenges and unlocking new discoveries that benefit humanity must continue to be among our greatest priorities.

West Chester University is poised to play a pivotal role in the advancement of what can help heal our minds, bodies, and spirits at a time when it enrolls more than 4,000 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) majors, in addition to nearly 2,000 health

science majors studying health and disease in the human body. The persistent study of the natural sciences, the social sciences, the mathematical and computational sciences, the applied sciences, and the health sciences will enable the next generation of WCU STEM graduates to help improve the quality of human life in public, private, and non-profit sectors. As we prepare to open our 176,000-square-foot Sciences & Engineering Center and The Commons in the fall, we have reached a defining moment in our 150 years as an educational community.

The spring issue of *West Chester University Magazine* is dedicated to the journey of the College of Health Sciences and the College of the Sciences and Mathematics. These two colleges have not only prompted the distinct evolution of the sciences at this University, but each has made and continues to make an indelible impact on our region by graduating students who are much more than ready to solve the many challenges and mysteries present in our world today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris M. Fiorentino".

Christopher M. Fiorentino
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Shea Craig, a WCU Respiratory Care Program student, volunteered at a Covid-19 vaccination clinic held by the Chester County Health Department and Chester County Hospital at the University's Sturzebecker Health Sciences Center on February 20, 2021. More than 70 health care professionals, including public health nurses and officials from the health department, a pharmacist, and pharmacy technicians from Chester County Hospital, and 40 volunteers from the Chester County Medical Reserve Corps, ensured that 1,500 individuals in Phase 1A received a vaccine. Craig's role was to run prepared doses to those administering the vaccines.

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WCU CELEBRATES
LEGACY OF
UTHER KING, J



Deidre
Gray '92



Courtland
Bragg '14

For the first time in its 28-year history, West Chester University's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration was held virtually on Friday, January 29. With hundreds of people viewing the event live, the University celebrated Dr. King's life and legacy through images, spoken word, performances, and music by the WCU Gospel Choir.

Alumnus, musician, and three-time Emmy Award-winning producer/arranger Bill Jolly '82 entertained and presented a keynote speech.

There were two Drum Major for Justice honorees: Courtland Bragg '14 and Deidre Gray '92. The award title comes from a sermon Dr. King delivered two months before his April 4, 1968, assassination, in which he said: "If any of you are around when I have to meet my day, ... if you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice ... for peace ... for righteousness."

Starting as an intern with NFL Films, Courtland Bragg is now a two-time Emmy Award-winning associate producer, independent filmmaker, and public speaker. He also inspires others as an internship coordinator with NFL Films; through his passion project "Stories to Bragg About," a digital anthology series of interviews; and by mentoring youth. As co-chair of NFL Films' Black Engagement Network, his advocacy has helped the NFL shift its focus to creating a more even playing field for people of color.

Bragg is also the youngest member of the NFL's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and the youngest African American male to be recognized with *The Athletic's* NFL 40 Under 40.

Deidre Gray currently serves on the WCU Alumni Foundation Scholarship Selection Committee and is the Alumni Association Board of Directors' chapter liaison. Also, as the Black Alumni

Chapter's president, she has increased alumni engagement and enhanced programming and involvement with legacy recognition, undergraduate scholarship, and mentoring programs. She has delivered the alumni keynote address at seven Kente Commencement Ceremonies.

In addition, Gray is the president and CEO of Always A Positive Image Wedding and Event Planning, LLC, which has been recognized by The Knot (Philadelphia Best of Weddings), Wedding Wire (Bride's Choice Award), and on Philly's Hotlist List for Best Wedding Planner.

During the MLK Day celebration, WCU President Chris Fiorentino also presented two prestigious awards:

The Civility Award to Head Football Coach Bill Zwaan, who, since 2016, has led a campus-wide effort to raise more than \$20,000 in holiday gifts as well as meals and clothing for more than 40 WCU students who are currently homeless or are foster youth.

The Service-Learning Teaching Award to Psychology Professor Ellie Brown for creating courses that offer quality service-learning experiences to WCU students.



Bill Zwaan



Ellie Brown

HISTORY AND HERITAGE

150 YEARS

THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES AND THE COLLEGE OF THE SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS STRENGTHEN COLLABORATIONS

As West Chester University marks its 150th year, we will continue to feature articles showcasing some of the pillars on which our institution's foundation is built. In this issue, we look at the synergies in the sciences between the College of Health Sciences (CHS) and the College of the Sciences and Mathematics (CSM), as their collaborations continue to strengthen.

For example:

Michael Gawrysiak, an assistant professor of psychology in CSM who is also associated with CHS Contemplative Studies Center, recently received a National Institutes of Health grant to see if meditation helps individuals recover from opioid addiction. Read more on page 15.

CSM's pre-med B.S. program, whose graduates enjoy a 95 percent acceptance rate into a wide array of health professional schools, including medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine, also preps CHS graduates interested in applying to such schools — including to help organize documents and letters of recommendations, and with simulated medical school interviews.

CSM has supported CHS in its rollout this fall of a physician assistant M.S. program. CHS kinesiologists are collaborating with faculty in CSM's two-year-old bioengineering program.

These collaborations will increase with the opening this fall of The Sciences & Engineering Center and The Commons. The \$130-million, 176,000-square-foot center — the largest-ever building within the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education — will house CSM's Physics and Engineering Department as well as the Health, Nursing, and Nutrition Departments from CHS.

Many thanks to the building's lead donors: Founder, President, and CEO of ProMetrics Marc Duey, who gifted \$1 million on behalf of the Duey family; Student Services, Incorporated (SSI), another \$1 million donor whose chair of the board of directors is Bernie Carrozza '66; and the West Chester University Alumni Association (WCUAA), which donated \$150,000.

Benefactors and West Chester University officials formally broke ground in celebration of the immersive learning that will take place in the new Sciences & Engineering Center and The Commons. Pictured (L – R) are Laurie Bernotsky, executive vice president and provost; David James '91, vice chairperson of the Student Services, Incorporated Board of Directors; Zebulun Davenport, vice president for Student Affairs; Joseph Kienle '72, M'74, member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors; Christopher Fiorentino, WCU president; Radha Pyati, dean of the College of the Sciences and Mathematics; Marc Duey, founder, president, and CEO of ProMetrics; Scott Heinerichs, dean of the College of Health Sciences; and Christopher Mominey, WCU Foundation CEO.





WOMEN'S PHYSICAL EDUCATION 1908

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES: PRODUCING MASTER'S-LEVEL HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

Ninety-eight years ago, Elizabeth Tyson, a faculty member in the English Department of what was then the West Chester Normal School, launched one of the country's first speech clinics. Then, 51 years ago, one of the nation's finest athletic training degree programs began at West Chester.

Those milestones are just two of the key developments that have pushed what is now the College of Health Sciences (CHS) far beyond just the normal school's early interests in health and physical education. Established in 1979, CHS now boasts six departments: Communication Sciences and Disorders, Health, Kinesiology, Nursing, Nutrition, and Sports Medicine.

"Over time, we have developed a college that is meeting the needs of society by preparing a wide range of allied health professionals," says Scott Heinerichs '99, the CHS dean who earned his B.S. in athletic training at WCU. This summer, the College will welcome its first Master in Physician Assistant Studies students.

"Over the last 50 years the College has grown to offer a significant number of degree programs in a variety of allied health fields," Heinerichs says.



NURSING DEPARTMENT 1979



ATHLETIC TRAINING 1984

“What excites me the most,” he adds, “is that, rather than being in silos, our students work together with students pursuing other healthcare degrees. That way, they understand what other professionals are also doing and understand the importance of collaboration to improve patient outcomes.”

In addition, more healthcare profession licensures require, or will soon require, a master’s degree to practice professionally. CHS is meeting that higher bar with robust graduate-level degree programs. To make attaining those graduate degrees more accessible, the College also offers accelerated master’s degree programs in athletic training, communication sciences & disorders, exercise science, public health, and nutrition.

Clearly, based on the first-time pass rates for board licensure exams, CHS students are prepared for their professions. Three CHS programs — athletic training, communication sciences & disorders, and nursing — are experiencing extremely high first-time pass rates of 88-100 percent on board exams.

“Our graduates’ outstanding first-time exam pass rates demonstrate the commitment to excellence that both our faculty and students share in developing talented frontline healthcare workers,” says Heinerichs.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS PHIL DONLEY: WCU'S ATHLETIC TRAINING PROGRAM TRAILBLAZER

Phil Donley, who arrived in 1965 as an associate professor of health and physical education, hired the first female college athletic trainer in the United States, made the athletic training (A.T.) program one of the first in the U.S. to go co-ed, and led the program to be just the fifth A.T. program in the country to be accredited by the National Association of Athletic Trainers.

“Working with the coaches, it was the perfect laboratory to work to improve health standards for athletes, particularly female athletes,” he recalls. “Gradually, more of the phys ed students saw what A.T. services provided and wanted to do that.”

Donley was instrumental in transforming what was then a program that focused on providing A.T. services to athletes into an academic major, a shift that ultimately led to the creation of the Department of Sports Medicine in 1991.

150 YEARS

One example: WCU's joint Respiratory Care Program with Bryn Mawr Hospital is one of only eight such educational programs nationwide awarded the American Association for Respiratory Care's 2020-2021 Apex Recognition Award.

Additionally, public health students deepen their expertise through the opportunity to intern with more than 100 organizations. Many students — both graduate and undergraduate — also assist their professors in research.

“Over the past 15 to 20 years, our faculty have found ways to engage students, including getting them involved in conference presentations and published peer-reviewed scientific papers, in both experimental design research and research that has a direct impact on our community,” says Heinerichs. “For example, our nutrition students have taught middle schoolers at the local YMCA how to cook healthy on a budget, and our public health students have worked with area hospitals on a colorectal screening study.”

Ken Clark M'09, associate professor of kinesiology, returned to WCU in 2015 after completing his Ph.D. in biomechanics at Southern Methodist University. His research focuses on improving athletic performance, including strength & conditioning and speed development. He has consulted with USA Track & Field and several NFL teams.

“At West Chester,” he says, “we're able to get involved with the students and athletes in so many different contexts: in the classroom, in labs, with the Exercise Science Club, on the field or court, and participating together in research. We're able to get to know them in so many different ways and greatly influence their careers.”

Nicole Cattano M'04, associate professor of sports medicine, has worked within WCU's Sports Medicine Department ever since earning her master's degree — even while completing her Ph.D. in kinesiology at Temple University.

“The athletic training program has such a rich history and legacy nationally within the profession,” says Cattano, who directs the post-professional master of science in athletic training. “Our students conduct high-quality research while completing interdisciplinary coursework.”

The athletic training program is one of the few nationwide not affiliated with a medical school to offer graduate students a cadaver lab with integrated technology. “It's like giving our students a super power,” she says. “When an athlete complains of knee pain, you have such an in-depth understanding of all of the knee's structures that it really helps your clinical reasoning and diagnosis.”

Three years ago, Chiwoneso Tinago, assistant professor of health, and colleagues at the universities of South Carolina and Zimbabwe were awarded a \$100,000 Grand Challenges Explorations Grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The purpose: to develop and test a community-based peer support intervention for adolescent mothers in Harare, Zimbabwe's capital.





STURZEBECKER HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

Tinago, the principal investigator, hails from Harare. After an 18-month pilot program proved successful in reducing depression among the 14- to 18-year-old mothers, she is seeking funding to scale up the program in Zimbabwe and similar developing countries.

The 2019 CHS Faculty Vision Award winner also founded and chairs the CHS Global Health Research Team, which now includes 10 faculty members; the team was supported by one of the first grants from CHS' International Initiative Grant Program. Tinago also co-directs WCU's Uganda Program, a 10-day service-learning program in which mostly underrepresented students of color worked with a grassroots organization providing health care and social services.

"What we learn globally can have local impacts," says Tinago. "Some of the nearly 20 students who went to Uganda in 2018 and 2019 returned and worked with the Chester County Food Bank and the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania departments of health."

Looking forward, for half a century the South Campus' Sturzebecker Health Science Center — named for the

late Russell L. Sturzebecker '37, the long-time chair of the Health and Physical Education Department — has been the "capital" of the College of Health Sciences. This fall, however, with the opening of The Sciences & Engineering Center and The Commons on North Campus, some of the College will shift northward.

Besides housing the dean's office and the Health, Nursing, and Nutrition Departments, as well as the Physics Department and the new Biomedical Engineering program, the \$130-million building will feature a large immersive learning center that will offer students simulated patient encounters, including a home healthcare suite. A nutrition lab will operate next to the student dining hall and a state-of-the-art environmental health lab.

"It will really allow us to leverage the latest technologies and best-practice simulations," explains Heinerichs. "Combined with renovations to Sturzebecker, CHS will soon have the state-of-the-art facilities to elevate our programs even further into the 21st century."

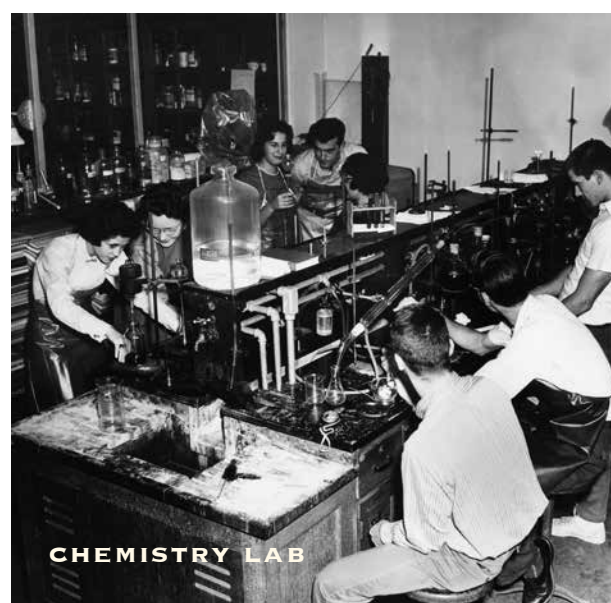


COLLEGE OF THE SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS; DEVELOPING STUDENTS WHO CHANGE THINGS

The West Chester Normal School once instructed students how to teach science. Today, professors and many College of the Sciences and Mathematics (CSM) students are also *doing* science.

“West Chester conducts science on a level that really puts our students among their peers at any institution,” says Radha Pyati, an analytical chemist and dean of the College of Sciences and Mathematics. “We are attracting top-notch faculty who want to do cutting-edge science with their students.

“Both undergraduate and graduate students have the opportunity to use state-of-the-art technology and equipment. They also have the chance to add to the body of science by publishing their work in high-impact journals that are read by scientists worldwide.”





MATHEMATICS CLASS

In collaboration with their professors, CSM students are also conducting research that can make a difference in our communities. For more than 10 years, hundreds of students of Psychology Professor Ellie Brown have assisted in her research, supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, with Head Start children. Measuring their cortisol levels, they have demonstrated that engaging in the arts lowers emotional stress levels of economically disadvantaged preschoolers.

Just five years ago, an academic reorganization created CSM. Its nine departments — Anthropology and Sociology, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth and Space Sciences, Mathematics, Physics and Engineering, Political Science, and Psychology — were separated from what is now the College of Arts and Humanities.

“It’s enabled us to further concentrate our focus on science and, since then, the amount of interdisciplinary research has skyrocketed,” says Vishal Shah, CSM associate dean.

He and Brandon Mitchell, assistant professor of physics, are the co-principal investigators who are working with other WCU co-investigators on a new \$1 million National Science Foundation (NSF) Scholarships in STEM Program grant. It will fund and help assess the impact of scholarships and extensive academic

support for 16 academically talented, low-income STEM majors. (Pyati also recently hosted a virtual STEM workplace conference for students and early career professionals that focused on women and people of color.)

The NSF funding is just the latest in a series of highly competitive federal grants secured by CSM faculty that are advancing science while raising WCU’s profile nationally among both prospective students and faculty.

Other recent major federal grant recipients besides Brown include:

Frank Fish, professor of biology, who explores the locomotion dynamics of aquatic animals — with funding from the NSF, Office of Naval Research and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

Kurt Kolasinski, professor of chemistry, whose research into nanostructuring of metals induced by lasers, and semiconductors by electrochemistry, is mostly funded by the NSF.

Jess Sullivan-Brown, assistant professor of biology, who acquired a high-powered confocal microscope via a 2018 NSF grant — in part to further her study of neural tube defects, such as spina bifida.

“The acquisition of Sullivan-Brown’s confocal microscope really boosted our ability to conduct science and familiarize our students with cutting-edge instrumentation,” says Pyati.

In both their teaching and research, CSM professors continue to demonstrate how science has real-world impacts. For example, Lisa Marano, professor of mathematics and special assistant to the dean, shows her students how mathematics can advance social justice.

“Instead of looking at sports statistics, I show them how they can use mathematics to prove that injustices really are occurring and effect change in their communities,” says Marano, who is also co-director of WCU’s First Year Experience. “Whether you are looking at predatory lending practices, incarceration rates or the conviction rates of Black defendants by all-white juries, the statistics are powerful.”

Over the past three years, two grants — \$30,000 from the National Geographic Society and \$6,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities — have funded interdisciplinary research by Heather Wholey, professor and Department of Anthropology and Sociology chair, and Daria Nikitina, professor of geology. Their goal: identify thousands of archeological sites along the edge of the Delaware Bay that are at risk for being inundated by rising sea levels triggered by climate change.

Their investigations have simultaneously engaged multiple earth and space science graduate students and more than a dozen undergrads from both disciplines. “Working in the field and conducting data analysis is important for their professional development,” says Wholey. “And with many students concerned about both the environment and cultural heritage, the research is extremely relevant.”

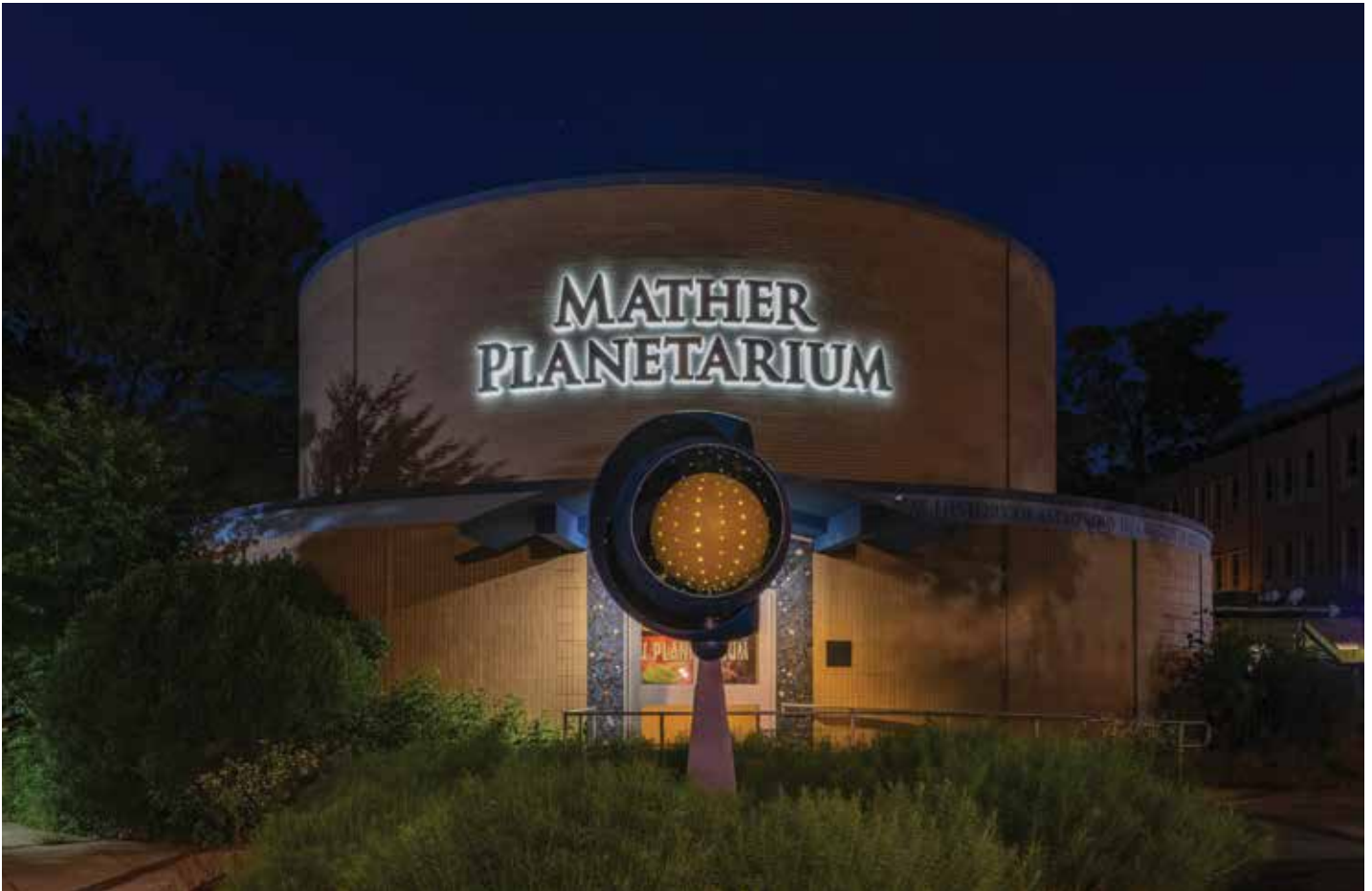
Three years ago, the testimony of John J. Kennedy, professor of political science, helped convince the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to redraw the state’s congressional districts because they unfairly violated the state constitution: “The first time in American history,” Kennedy notes, “that a legislative map had been struck down for political gerrymandering.”

Kennedy was called as a witness because, since his 1997 arrival at WCU, he has authored four books on Pennsylvania government and politics. “I’ve received a tremendous amount of support over the years, both from my colleagues and the administration,” he says. “It’s a vibrant institution that hits the sweet spot for me between teaching and research. I’m fortunate to be surrounded by such accomplished students and faculty.”

Meanwhile, CSM is meeting students’ and employers needs with a variety of majors. For example, interest in computer science has never been higher. During the past 10 years, the number of undergraduate majors (416) nearly quadrupled and M.S. candidates (38) more than doubled. Graduate programs range from an M.S. in applied statistics to the Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology (Psy.D.) degree program launched in 2016.

The accredited Psy.D. program also illustrates how CSM benefits the community. In conjunction with the doctoral program, WCU Community Mental Health Services opened a clinic in 2017 as a non-profit training and research facility. Supervised by licensed clinical psychologists, Psy.D. students provide affordable mental health services to both campus community members and the public. Patients include children and adolescents, or those suffering from trauma, the two areas on which Psy.D. candidates focus.





Other CSM community resources include the Dr. Sandra F. Pritchard Mather Planetarium, the WCU Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology, and the Geology Museum.

This fall's opening of The Sciences & Engineering Center and The Commons, which will become the new home of the Department of Physics and Engineering, represents a new chapter for CSM. Pyati believes the building, as well as the Biomedical Engineering B.S. program, which welcomed its first students in 2019, represent significant enhancements of WCU's science capabilities.

"Biomedical engineering is a real game changer," says Pyati. "We selected it to be our first engineering specialty for several reasons. It attracts a diverse student population, including women. Also, considering that the biomedical and pharmaceutical industries are so strong in the Philadelphia region, we believe we are developing a new kind of professionally educated student to contribute to a new, really exciting field.

"The fact that we have received such tremendous philanthropic support for the program and the new building underscores their value."

PROFESSOR EMERITA SANDIE MATHER: THE EPITOME OF A TEACHER-RESEARCHER

Sandra (Sandie) F. Pritchard Mather '64, M'68 spent 11 years as a second-grade teacher and assistant professor in WCU's K-6 laboratory school, and 18 years as an assistant, associate, and full professor in the Department of Earth and Space Sciences before retiring in 1999.

Since then, she has noticed that her department, as well as all of CSM, has become more student oriented and more focused on the teacher-researcher model. "Being a teacher-researcher brings excitement to your teaching because you're out there in the field," says Mather, who has authored and co-authored 24 books about the geology, geography, and history of mountainous Summit County, CO. "I always thought about how I could bring my research into my teaching."

"Community outreach has also increased," added Mather, who in 2013 funded the renovation costs of the planetarium that now bears her name — a planetarium that, pre-pandemic, annually hosted 3,000 school children and adults.

Next issue's 150th anniversary history feature will focus on the College of Education and Social Work.

Christine Karpinski '89



Christine Karpinski '89 Explores Innovative Sports Nutrition for WCU Student-Athletes

Ever since Christine Karpinski's mother insisted that she eat right as a high school athlete in Pottstown, PA, Karpinski has explored the intersection of exercise physiology and nutrition — a field that barely existed when she began her investigations.

Karpinski played field hockey and lacrosse at WCU while earning a B.S. in exercise science. A decade later, after earning an M.A. in nutrition education from then-Immaculata College, she returned to WCU in 1999 as a part-time adjunct professor — and subsequently earned her Ph.D. in health science nutrition from Rutgers University while continuing to teach.

Today, besides serving as the chair and professor of the Department of Nutrition, she is an exercise physiologist, registered dietitian, and a board-certified specialist in sports dietetics. She also chairs the Sports, Cardiovascular, and Wellness Nutrition dietetic practice group (SCAN) — a 5,000-member dietetic practice group of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics — and is the editor-in-chief of the latest edition of *Sports Nutrition: A Handbook for Professionals*.

Each day, WCU's student-athletes benefit from both Karpinski's nationally renowned expertise and the ongoing research that she and her students are conducting. Their focus: WCU athletes' own nutritional behaviors. Her WCU Sports Nutrition Education and Fueling Program, which is part of the WCU Student Athlete Success Program, guides athletes toward healthier food choices. It includes fueling stations with nutritious snack options around practices and games, and "Go Bags" during game trips or when the athletes are rushing between practices and evening classes.

Educational components include team talks, individualized counseling, and even cooking demos.

"Although common at Division I programs, what we do with our student-athletes just doesn't exist in most Division II sports programs," says Karpinski, who has launched an endowment to help fund the program. "About a dozen of my D-II colleagues have adopted my model, as have some D-III schools.

"I love what we're doing here because the athletes think it's so cool and feel so special."

The research that she and her students conduct doesn't, per se, measure athletic performance. Rather, she says, "We might evaluate whether our sports nutrition program leads athletes to eat more fruits and vegetables. That might not necessarily improve their performance during the next game, but a healthier diet is the foundation for a strong immune system and contributes to mental health — important factors for our student-athletes' overall health and wellness. That's as important as winning or losing a game."

Karpinski appreciates being at WCU because, she said, "It's the perfect size for me: not too small and not too big. When I was a student, it really made a difference for me because my professors really cared and were able to engage with me. Now that I'm on the other end, that's still true today.

"I like being a practitioner, working with athletes on sports nutrition," she added, "but I also consider it a calling to teach tomorrow's professionals. That's what I love doing."


 Michael Gawrysiak

Gawrysiak Using \$417,000 NIH Grant to See If Meditation Helps Individuals Recovering from Opioid Addiction

Earlier this year, Michael Gawrysiak, assistant professor of psychology, was awarded a three-year, \$417,000 grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to determine if meditation and other mindfulness strategies can benefit recovering opioid drug abuse patients. Specifically, he is exploring whether Mindfulness-based Relapse Prevention (MBRP) techniques can help former opioid users better adhere to their preventative medications and better avoid opioid relapses.

“The opioid epidemic is killing so many people,” says Gawrysiak, “and this is one of the first large-scale attempts to gauge the effectiveness of combining medication and behavioral treatments to address the crisis.”

Gawrysiak has been interested since high school in how both meditation and drug use can alter our brains’ behavior. Regarding meditation, he says, “It’s always intrigued me how we can change our behaviors and attitudes simply by sitting quietly and becoming more aware of what’s really going on in our minds.”

Gawrysiak earned a B.A. in psychology from the University of Southern Illinois, Carbondale in 2005, and both his M.A. in experimental psychology (2008) and his Ph.D. in clinical psychology (2011) from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

A pre-doctoral one-year internship at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center in Chicago and a three-year postdoctoral fellowship working at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center and University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine proved to be critical experiences for his advanced training in mental illness research

and treatment. He was struck by how often veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) had become addicted to alcohol or drugs. “Our brains become hard-wired to know that drugs can be a relief, an easier but problematic way to cope with our problems,” he says.

At the Philadelphia VA, he started mindfulness groups for PTSD and patients struggling with addiction, as well as for VA staff to help them deal with their stressful jobs. Simultaneously, he also sharpened his focus on addiction and mindfulness through his research within the Center for Studies of Addiction at the University of Pennsylvania and as a mindfulness instructor through the Penn Program for Mindfulness.

Gawrysiak joined WCU in 2017; his wife Stevie Grasseti, another assistant professor of psychology, followed him a year later. In 2019-20, he piloted the MBRP concept that NIDA is now funding with a nearly \$10,000 2019-20 WCU Provost Research Grant. He and three to five of his graduate students in the clinical psychology doctoral program will be conducting a clinical trial involving 200 patients at Gaudenzia, Inc.’s residential treatment facility in West Chester.

“I will be training them in MBRP and eventually they will be administering the treatment on their own,” says Gawrysiak, who relishes the opportunity to involve WCU undergraduates in his research. “Mentoring students towards tangible professional growth is so rewarding.”

David
Holveck '68



Retired Pharmaceutical Executive
Dave Holveck '68 Continues to Give Back

To see how far a WCU degree can take you, consider Dave Holveck '68. After graduating with a B.S. in physical education and serving two and one half years in the U.S. Navy, he embarked on a truly impressive health-related business career.

His more than 40 years in pharmaceuticals included serving as the president and CEO of Centocor, a Malvern-based biotech firm; the president of Johnson & Johnson's Development Corporation after J&J acquired Centocor; and president, CEO, and director of Malvern-based Endo Pharmaceuticals — from which he retired in 2013 after more than doubling its annual revenues to \$3 billion in just five years.

"I was very fortunate to be able to tie a lot of my business experiences to major innovations in healthcare, including nuclear medicine for both imaging and treatment, computer tomography and MRI with General Electric; immunoassays with Abbott Laboratories; and monoclonal antibodies with Centocor," says Holveck, whose passion for science was piqued by his college life science courses.

Building upon that expertise, in 2000 he helped what is now the College of the Sciences and Mathematics launch the cutting-edge B.S. in pharmaceutical product development (PPD) degree, one of the first such programs on the East Coast to prepare students for pharmaceutical and biotech careers. "The pharmaceutical industry is so strong in the Philadelphia area and it's always in need of college graduates who can quickly assimilate both the science and necessary management skills to develop, manufacture, and deliver beneficial products."

The PPD program is just one of the many ways that he and his wife Pat '69 have given back to WCU. Dave, a Distinguished Alumnus (2007) and Sturzebecker Hall of Fame inductee (2010), is also a former member of the CHS Advisory Board and the boards of the WCU Foundation and the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

Pat, who earned her B.S. in early and middle grades education and worked in the special education field, was the 2008

President's Circle Award winner. The Holvecks, often through her Lightening the Load Foundation, regularly support the University's Promise Program, the Resource Pantry, the Student Emergency Aid Fund, and the Annual Presidential Scholarship Community Gala.

Since his retirement, Holveck has also contributed his business acumen to non-profits, including serving as a trustee of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia; the immediate past chair of the Kimmel Center; and director emeritus of the University City Science Center. "I'm attracted to working with people who have insight, vision, and passion," he explains.

As for his continued support of WCU, he said, "I'm quite impressed with what West Chester is doing in terms of bringing healthcare and the sciences together along with health education. Overall, West Chester is really growing in stature. It offers students the opportunity to get a very good education and a promising career at a very reasonable cost."


 Montemuro
Family

Building and Memorial Scholarship Continue to Honor Math Professor Michael P. Montemuro



Few ever cared more about WCU's math students and the University's faculty members than Michael P. Montemuro. The late professor and chair of the Department of Mathematics was a member of the University faculty for 34 years.

For 18 of those years, he was also the president of the WCU chapter of the Association of Pennsylvania State College & University Faculties (APSCUF), which honored him with its Distinguished Service Award. He also was a major advocate for WCU attaining its university

status in 1983 and for the children of faculty members to attend WCU tuition-free.

In addition, he coached the WCU ski team.

Within a year of his death in 1998, to honor his legacy at WCU his family established both the Michael P. Montemuro Memorial Scholarship and a fund to support what is now the Montemuro House, the campus building at 311 Roslyn Avenue. It contains the offices of both the faculty union and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) union chapter that represents much of the University staff.

"My husband always felt that West Chester was his home away from home, and he really looked out for the wellbeing of both students and faculty," says Agnes Montemuro, his wife.

"Most professors have standard hours for meeting with students, but not my father," recalls his daughter, Vaune Rohlf's '87, one of six of the Montemuros' nine children who graduated from WCU (as did several grandchildren). "He would often come in early or stay late if his students — perhaps because of their jobs — asked to meet with him then. Often, he didn't come home for dinner because he was helping students or attending faculty or faculty union meetings on campus or in Harrisburg.

"He was passionate about the faculty union because he wanted to make sure they got their fair share of salary and benefits."

The scholarship his family established in his honor awards \$1,000 to one incoming first-year student who will be pursuing a B.S. degree in mathematics education. Agnes, who was an elementary school teacher in the Interboro School District in Delaware County for 37 years, has funded another \$1,000 scholarship. Each year, it supports an Interboro High School honors graduate who is majoring in education.

"I get the nicest thank you notes from the students," Agnes says of both scholarships. "It's quite rewarding."

"Even though my dad passed away nearly 25 years ago," adds Vaune, "we appreciate that he is still thought of at West Chester, and we're excited to continue funding the scholarships and the Montemuro House.

"I still drive by the building occasionally. It's something we're never going to forget."



Phaedra
Brown '00



Phaedra Brown's Preschool Gives Girls a STEM Advantage

Phaedra Brown '00 fervently believes in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education for girls — the earlier the better. That's why, for the past four-plus years, she has operated a preschool, the Hope Institute of Science (H.I.S.) School for Girls, in Philadelphia's East Mount Airy neighborhood.

Her students may be just six weeks to five years old, but with opportunities to use compound microscopes and robots, dissect a sheep's brain, examine a human skeleton model, and engage in their own chemistry experiments, H.I.S. is far from elementary.

"The brain absorbs a lot of information between the ages of three to five, so it's prime time to introduce them to all this," says Brown, a single mother of four children. "Girls today are totally underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The STEM discipline is geared toward men and can be intimidating to some girls."

Au contraire, counters the Cheltenham resident, who first became passionate about science while in grade school. Her mother, a receptionist at a public health clinic in North Philadelphia for 45 years, brought home books about the human body that Phaedra devoured. After skipping seventh grade and graduating from the city's exceptional Central High School, she came to WCU hoping to become an obstetrician/gynecologist.

Brown, a biology major, found support from Biology Professors Maureen Knabb and Gustave Mbuy. "I flourished under their mentorship and they helped me tremendously," says Brown. "Dr. Knabb is like a second mom to me."

When she did not do as well as she had hoped in her Medical College Admission Test, she shifted her considerable energy into science education. She taught science, math, and Spanish for eight years at the Hope Full Gospel Family Church School in West Oak Lane. Then, after completing her master's degree in secondary education from St. Joseph's University while teaching at another charter school, Brown spent several years helping a friend start a Germantown preschool. That inspired her to launch her own preschool in November 2016.

Enrollment had peaked at 36 children when the pandemic forced a closure between mid-March and early July. Recently — after overcoming a two-week closure in October due to a COVID-19 outbreak — her enrollment had rebounded to 25 children. To help keep her school funded, she is also teaching at H.I.S. and virtually teaching six middle school classes a day at the Sankofa Freedom Academy Charter School in Philadelphia's Kensington neighborhood.

Despite the pandemic's challenges, Brown remains undaunted. Last November, Brown earned her Ed.D. in educational leadership from Northcentral University in Scottsdale, AZ. Her dissertation topic: "Decreasing the achievement gap of African American women in STEM by implementing a preschool program."

"I've gotten really good feedback from the parents of our first students who are now in first grade," she says. "I can't wait to see how they do beyond 12th grade."

Double Threat Kevin Guskiewicz '89: World-renowned Concussion Researcher and UNC Chancellor



Kevin
Guskiewicz '89

For most people, it would be enough to be such a world-renowned sport-related concussion researcher that your findings have influenced concussion guidelines and how football is actually played in the NFL, NCAA, and high school. And that you were awarded a 2011 MacArthur Fellowship — the so-called “genius grant” — for such research. And that, in 2013, *Time* magazine named you a Game Changer, one of 18 “innovators and problem-solvers that are inspiring change in America.”

Kevin M. Guskiewicz '89 is clearly not most people. He also happens to be the chancellor of the nation's oldest, and one of its most prestigious, public universities, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill — where he is responsible for 30,000 students, 4,000 faculty, and 14,000 staff.

“Easy is boring, so I've always believed in taking on challenges,” he says. “It's a big job that I love.”

“His brain is restless,” adds Phil Donley, professor emeritus and Guskiewicz' chief mentor at WCU, where he earned a B.S. in athletic training.

“Phil Donley was a game changer for me,” says Guskiewicz. “Whether we were in the classroom, the training room, or at his private clinic, where I worked the year

after I graduated, he was the consummate teacher. He was all about creating opportunities for students, even after we graduated, that led us toward career paths we otherwise wouldn't have thought of.”

Guskiewicz's concussion interest was first triggered when he himself suffered one playing high school football in Latrobe, PA. He continued nurturing that interest at WCU; at the University of Pittsburgh, where his M.S. in athletic training (1992) included serving as a graduate assistant trainer for the Pittsburgh Steelers; and at the University of Virginia, where his Ph.D. in sports medicine dissertation focused on the effect of mild head injury on balance.

Ultimately, that balance research became part of the accepted protocol, in the NFL and elsewhere, for diagnosing concussions. Sensors that he placed in players' helmets determined that kickoffs — with players sprinting 30 to 40 yards before colliding with opponents — were the most dangerous play in football. Revised rules that reduced both those distances and the number of returned kickoffs cut kickoff concussions by nearly 50 percent.

Guskiewicz' laboratory, the Matthew Gfeller Sport-Related Traumatic Brain Injury Research Center, is funded in part by research grants from the NIH,

CDC, Department of Defense, NFL, and NCAA. Currently, his research areas include post-concussion rehabilitation and — in studies involving retired NFL players — determining if some people are predisposed to neurodegenerative diseases and should, therefore, avoid contact sports.

Guskiewicz joined the UNC faculty in 1995. Beginning a decade later, a series of administrative positions — Department of Exercise and Sports Science chair; senior associate dean, then dean, of the College of Arts and Sciences — led to his appointments in 2019 as first the interim chancellor and then UNC's chancellor.

At WCU, Guskiewicz also minored in journalism and was co-editor of *The Quad*. “West Chester really afforded me opportunities to explore, and that's what I encourage our UNC students — and my own children — to do,” says Guskiewicz, whose priorities include interdisciplinary teaching and global research.

The 2010 WCU winter commencement speaker also met his wife and the mother of their four children, elementary education major and teacher Amy Mergehenn Guskiewicz '89, at WCU. “We love our great alma mater,” he says, “and are grateful for all of the opportunities that West Chester created for us.”

Computer Science Major Helps Other Students Replicate His Success

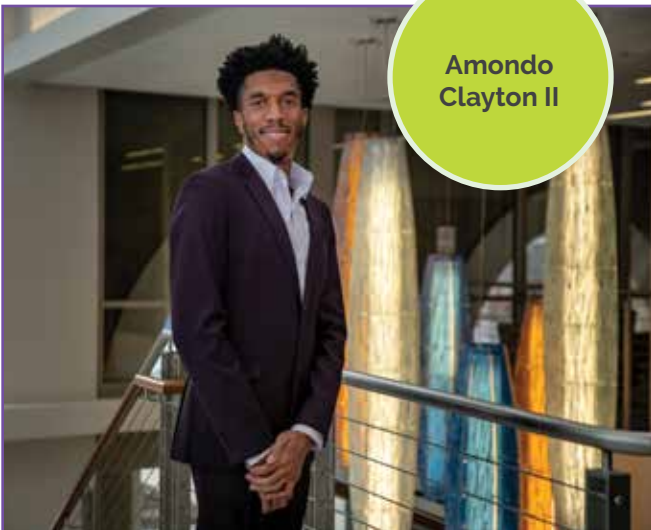
Under the Accelerated Bachelor of Science to Master of Science program, Amondo Clayton, II graduates with his bachelor's in Computer Science in May — with minors in White-Collar Crime and Finance — and his master's in summer 2022. “WCU helped to establish the core foundation that allowed me to have a strong start in the computer science field,” he says.

Maintaining a 3.7 GPA, Clayton secured summer internships with PJM Interconnection, Comcast Cable, and Shell Oil and Gas Company, increasing his knowledge of data analysis, information technology, and databases. Clayton, who received certification in Computer Security from WCU, explains, “My internships allowed me to get real-world experience and implement what I've learned in the classroom.”

The West Philadelphia native started to help others during his second year at WCU by encouraging them to attend hackathons and career fairs. It was at career fairs that Clayton increased his interest in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and machine learning. His personal experience inspired him to share this knowledge with other students and he became a mentor and Emergent Leader with the Dowdy Multicultural Center.

Since August 2020, he has been a student ambassador for the College of the Sciences and Mathematics and for the Center for International Programs. His role includes working with other students to connect them with full-time opportunities and internships before they graduate, and, working with the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, to increase funding for students to attend professional development conferences.

“I recognize that it took a village to get me where I am today,” he explains, “and as I find success, I understand that I am to help others be the best that they can be.”



Amondo Clayton II

For Nursing Student Nadia Lighty, Pediatric Critical Care is Personal

When Nadia Lighty earns her B.S. in nursing degree from the Philadelphia campus later this year, she hopes to become a critical care pediatric nurse at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia — a hospital she knows all too well.

“What pushed me to pursue nursing was one of my twin boys, Justin,” the Southwest Philadelphia resident says. Fourteen years ago, two days after Justin and his twin Jason, Jr. were born, Justin underwent the first of three surgeries at CHOP to correct a congenital heart defect. Complications following the second surgery led to a stroke. He came home requiring a feeding tube, oxygen, and private duty nursing while his mother worked and went to school.

Today, Justin — who recently underwent a spinal fusion — is still at risk for strokes, is autistic, and requires extensive care. After learning to care for him, in 2011 the mother of three became a licensed practical nurse (LPN) and since has worked as an LPN pediatric home care nurse and a substitute nurse at the Easter Seals of Southeastern PA School for Handicapped Children in Philadelphia. After earning her R.N. and associate nursing degree at Community College of Philadelphia last June, she has also provided in-home skilled nursing care.

Says Lighty, who has a perfect GPA in her online WCU courses, “It's certainly challenging, but my professors are really responsive and helpful.”

“Nadia is an extremely hard worker with a demanding academic, work, and home life,” says Megan A. Infanti Mraz, professor and chair of the Department of Nursing. “She's always positive, diligent, and hardworking, a class leader, and an outstanding nurse.”

Given her personal and professional experiences — she has ventilated, tube fed, and cared for children with tracheotomies — Lighty believes, “Critical pediatric care is my niche.”



Nadia Lighty

CHAPTER NEWS

For more information about any chapter or its events, contact the chapter directly or the WCU Alumni Office at alumni@wcupa.edu.

ALUMNI DANCE CHAPTER

The Alumni Dance Chapter put a new spin on its Annual Winter Festival this January to benefit the Barbara J. Lappano Dance Scholarship by celebrating virtually with a look back on the previous 12 years of performances. Our chapter remains active in promoting the current dance programs at WCU and providing a network for alumni dancers. We're looking forward to our 14th year being another in-person performance! Follow us on Facebook: *WCU Alumni Dance Chapter*. Stay connected on our chapter page www.wcualumni.org/DanceChapter.

BALTIMORE METRO ALUMNI CHAPTER

Calling all Baltimore Area alumni! We are looking ahead to our summer event planning and the celebration of WCU's sesquicentennial anniversary and want to hear from you. Interested in getting involved or have an idea for an event? We are always looking for new alumni to join us! Follow us on Facebook: *BMAC WCU*. Stay connected on our chapter page www.wcualumni.org/BaltimoreMetro.

BANDS ALUMNI

We are always planning and hopeful to reunite with the band this fall so SAVE THE DATE for Homecoming: October 2, 2021! Stay connected with all of our updates and happenings on our website www.wcubaa.com and find us on Facebook: *WCU Bands Alumni Association*. Looking to support current Bands students? Sign up as a mentor on RamNation and join our Bands Alumni group. Register today: ramnation.wcupa.edu/.

BLACK ALUMNI CHAPTER

The BAC has been active in collaborating with the Larry Dowdy Multicultural Center for the planning of virtual Kente ceremonies and we continue to engage new alumni and offer mentoring opportunities to current students. Check out our chapter page for mentoring opportunities and upcoming events with the chapter: www.wcualumni.org/BAC. Facebook: *WCU BAC*. Instagram: *BACWCUPA*.

CHESTER COUNTY CHAPTER

We missed our Princess & Superhero Tea Party this spring, but are grateful for the opportunity to celebrate our alumni faculty and staff at a luncheon on Charter Day. We are seeking a Chester County Ram to serve as our chapter president and gearing up for another full year of events as we begin the University's sesquicentennial anniversary year. Check our chapter page to stay updated: www.wcualumni.org/cc. Make sure you LIKE our

Chester County Facebook Page to stay tuned with the latest and greatest: Facebook: *WCU Chester County*.

FRIARS SOCIETY CHAPTER

We have new chapter leadership in place and are looking forward to the new ways that we can support the current Friars Society students in this upcoming year. We are proud to be able to continue a mission of service and leadership and we're excited about the prospect of highlighting our Friars Society throughout this sesquicentennial year. Stay connected with our events, meetings, and initiatives supporting the Friars by following us on Facebook: *Friars' Society Alumni Association*.

GOLD X CHAPTER (Graduates of the Last Decade 2010-2019)

Congratulations to one of our newest chartered alumni chapters! We're excited to announce our founding members: Montana Leaks '17, M'20, (chair), Joshua Dandridge '17 (vice chair), Jamie Thomas-McDowell '19 (treasurer), Kristen Stenson '17 (secretary), Devynn Gray '19, M'20, Maria Bolner '17, Tyler Lonergan '19, Rodney Kaplan, Jr. '19, James Segilia '17, and Ryan Long '18. We look forward to connecting our young alumni with networking opportunities and invite you to explore all the benefits available to all WCU alumni, as well as the different ways you can remain engaged with WCU after graduation. Find out more on our chapter page: wcualumni.org/GOLDX and join our group on Ram Nation: *GOLD X Alumni Chapter*.

HONORS COLLEGE ALUMNI CHAPTER

Calling all Honors College alumni! We are looking to build our alumni network and work with the Honors College to support our current students and programming. Find us on Ram Nation: Honors College Network. Interested in a leadership role? Join our group and help us get started with spring and summer programming.

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY ALUMNI CHAPTER

We're excited to announce that WCU has achieved Gold Status as a Military Friendly School for the 2021-22 school year and we are proud of the work of the Veteran's Center, which continues to support our student veterans. Are you an alumni veteran interested in getting involved or taking on a leadership role with this chapter? Visit our chapter page to see how you can participate and support our current student veterans: wcualumni.org/IMAC. Stay in touch with all that is going on within our alumni veteran community by filling out our survey and joining the mailing list.

LAW ALUMNI CHAPTER

Continuing our efforts to engage with current students virtually this spring, we collaborated with the Twardowski

ALUMNI

Career Development Center and Pre-Law Society to offer our annual What to Expect in Law School event for prospective law students. As we grow our network, we encourage all alumni in the legal-related field to join our group on Ram Nation! To stay connected, check out our chapter page: wcu alumni.org/lawalumnichapter or contact our chapter representative to get involved: law.alumni@gmail.com.

LGBTQA+ ALUMNI CHAPTER

We are up and running, eager to re-engage our LGBTQA+ alumni and support our current students and the efforts of the WCU Center for Trans and Queer Advocacy. Seeking all alumni members and allies of the WCU's LGBTQA+ community to join and help us create a support network for all of our Golden Rams. Find out more on our chapter page: wcu alumni.org/LGBTQA.

MBA ALUMNI CHAPTER

We are hard at work planning for our future events and always seeking ways to support our MBA students and graduates. Thank you to everyone who joined us for our recent speaker event! We look forward to building our MBA network and hope that you'll join. Find out more on our chapter page: www.wcu alumni.org/MBA and join our group on Ram Nation: *MBA Network*.

PUBLIC HEALTH ALUMNI CHAPTER

Calling all public health alumni! We are excited to be heading into an anniversary year with our new charter and hoping that you will join us for our networking events and to provide mentorship to our current public health students. Find out more on our chapter page: wcu alumni.org/PublicHealth and join our group on Ram Nation: *Public Health Network*.

YORK COUNTY CHAPTER

Our 100th year was a bit nontraditional, so we are continuing our anniversary celebration and hope to see you soon while we continue to celebrate and highlight all the accomplishments we have made as a chapter and the tremendous impact we have had on our alumni, the University, and current students. Throughout the year, our events will support the York County Chapter Scholarship and offer community outreach to our local York County alumni. We encourage alumni and friends to connect with us on social media for upcoming events and a glimpse of our history. Facebook: *York County West Chester Alumni Association*.

ZETA PSI ALUMNI CHAPTER

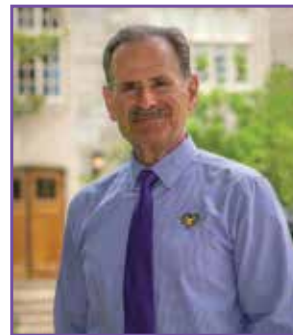
We are actively fundraising for our scholarship efforts to support current students and thank everyone who has participating in our efforts. Check out our chapter page for all of our upcoming events and chapter meetings: wcu alumni.org/ZetaPsi.

GET INVOLVED

Interested in getting involved in a local chapter or in starting a new one? Check our chapter page, www.wcu alumni.org/chapters, to complete our chapter interest form and be added to the mailing list for any chapters you would like to engage with!

Take on a leadership role and support student success today by registering on Ram Nation at ramnation.wcupa.edu.

A Message from the Alumni Association President



By the time you receive this issue of the West Chester University Magazine, it will be spring. There is no better time during the year to be on campus and appreciate the beauty! I am looking forward to the time when we will all have an opportunity to visit and enjoy our picturesque campus — and

each other's company.

Although we haven't been able to gather in person as Golden Rams, I am hopeful that, with the administration of vaccines and continued adherence to our mitigation procedures, we will again be able to gather together at Alumni Association events later in 2021. Our Outreach Committee and Alumni Relations are working hard to develop and offer both virtual and in-person opportunities to do so. Please keep an eye out for future events (wcu alumni.org) and plan to participate!

In addition, please register on our new and exciting Alumni Benefits website (wcu aa.perksconnection.com). As a registered member, you will have access to exclusive offers and discounts to more than 300,000 local deals, including dining, sporting events, movie tickets, concert tickets, travel, and home and auto insurance. WCU alumni-owned businesses will receive special placement on the site, enabling all of us to consider patronizing our fellow Golden Rams.

In closing, please examine the candidates for our Board of Directors and cast your vote. We wish you all a happy, healthy, and safe spring and summer as we look forward to reacquainting later this year. Rams Up!

Bill Scottoline '74
President, WCU Alumni Association



Beardon-Reed '77



Lyons '16



Starr '16



Aiola '17 M'19

1940s

Dr. Quentin Gessner '49 turned 97 in January. He is the author of *Notes From Grandpa*, a guide for grandparents helping family members in crisis.

1950s

William Justice (Bill) Bruehl '56, a former WCU English professor, published his fifth book. A novel of hope, *The Final Retreat from Yudam Ni* explores the life of a Korean War vet twisted by the experience of battle who finds recovery through the power of love on his 90th birthday.

Margaret (Marty) Gauger Bruehl '56 was honored with a one-woman show of her abstract photography by OLLI at Clemson University just before her 85th birthday in November 2020.

1960s

Jack Devine '62 published a new book, *Spymaster's Prism: The Fight Against Russian Aggression*, about the history of U.S.-Russian espionage. It details the Russians' remarkable strategic consistency even as the tools of spy craft (especially cyber) have evolved since the Cold War.

Tina Green '66 released her new book, *How to Really Get Married: Finding God's Productive Path to the Altar*.

James Hugh Comey '69 published a post-apocalyptic thriller, *The Wild World*, on Amazon. The story is set 374 years in the future in what's left of Pennsylvania. He is a retired educator and the writer-in-residence at Stages of Imagination, a nationally recognized nonprofit entertainment and learning organization he co-founded in Media, PA. More than 100,000 children have seen his plays. He received his doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania.

1970s

Anne Sourbeer Morris '70, M'79 celebrated 50 years in education in 2020. "Dr. Anne" is an affiliated assistant professor of school counseling at Salem College, Winston-Salem, NC.

Steve Krebs '71 recently retired after leading two consumer product companies, Walden Farms and Cali'flour Foods, as national sales manager.

Bruce Kistler '73 is ranked number one in the world in the trick event for water skiers 65 and older by the International Waterski and Wakeboard Federation. The four-time national champion set a Florida record for his age division in the trick event in 2020. He also recently published his first historical novel, *Across the Blue Mountain: A Pennsylvania Family Saga and Memoir* (Amazon). He and his wife Susan live in Winter Haven, FL.

Amelia August '76 accepted a position with Hilton Hotels.

Darwin Breaux '77, M'79 was inducted into Dickinson College Hall of Fame for football.

Robin Bearden-Reed '77 received her master of divinity in May of 2020 and is currently a supply pastor at Mt. Sinai AME Church in Harrisburg, PA. In addition, she started a new part time job with Voice and Vision Outreach and Education Initiative. She retired from her Parkhouse Nursing Home caseworker position in 2012.

Carol Diveny '79 retired after 30 years in corporate and foundation relations fundraising for healthcare and conservation nonprofits.

Scott Laird '79 retired as headmaster of St. Mary's Episcopal Day School after 24 years. Prior to serving at St. Mary's, he was assistant headmaster at Palm Beach Day School.

1980s

Kathleen J. Boyer '82 started a solo practice in West Chester after 34 years as an attorney in the Chester County Public Defender's Office.

Charlene Elizabeth Kirby '82 serves as the governance chair and as a board member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honors Nursing Society at WCU Xi Delta Chapter.

David Rohrer M'86 was inducted into the 2020 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association Hall of Fame in December. He retired after 36 years teaching in the East Pennsboro and Carlisle Area School districts, and is an adjunct instructor in the music department of Messiah University.

ALUMNI

Eric Zawistowski '18, M'20 is a financial management analyst for the Department of Defense at the Navy Yard in South Philadelphia.

Tom DiCamillo '89, M'04 was selected to serve, beginning in January, on the NCAA Division III Management Council. He is also an at-large representative on the Division III Commissioner's Association Executive Committee.

1990s

Jacalyn Auris '92 was hired as vice president of educational services for Devereaux Advanced Behavior Health. Devereaux, one of the country's largest behavioral health organizations, is based in Villanova, PA.

Dan Evans '92 was inducted into the New Jersey Scholastic Coaches Association Hall of Fame. He is the athletic trainer at Woodstown (NJ) High School.

Clay Nathaniel Cauley Sr. '96 was named the general counsel at Gaudenzia, which operates more than 100 drug and alcohol treatment programs for men and women throughout the Mid-Atlantic region.

Frank Zanin '99 has worked for four NBA teams, including the Philadelphia 76ers, since graduation. He became the assistant general manager of the New York Knicks in June.

2000s

Steven Pelna '02 was named fire chief at the West Chester Fire Department.

Jonathan Long '03 was named partner at the Buckley, Brion, McGuire and Morris LLP law firm in West Chester.

Colleen Quinn-Maxwell '03 just completed her 14th year of ownership and first year as sole owner of her "Best of the Shore" bakery in Avalon, NJ. This year, Kohler's Bakery is celebrating 72 years of baking and customer service excellence. She is a full-time health and physical education teacher at Lower Moreland High School in Huntingdon Valley, PA, and maintains the athletic training certification that she earned from WCU.

Julie Frymyer '05 has been an assistant athletic trainer for the Kansas City Chiefs since 2018; she was on the staff during the past two Super Bowls.

David Walker '06 was named partner at Appel, Yost & Zee, LLP, in Lancaster, PA. He represents public school districts and other educational institutions throughout south central PA. For the third consecutive year, in 2021 he was named to the Pennsylvania Super Lawyers list of Rising Stars in the area of schools and education law.

April Halligan-Rostek '06 graduated with her Ph.D. in leadership with a superintendent letter of eligibility from Alvernia University in May 2020. She is the principal of the Reading School District's Millmont Elementary School.

Crystal Lyn (Hackler) Nash '06 accepted a position as adjunct faculty at Centra College of Nursing, in Lynchburg, VA, where she is the lead clinical instructor in behavioral health. She continues bedside care as an inpatient behavioral health nurse for a resource float team in Lynchburg.

Sabrina Rightmer '06, director of communications and marketing for student affairs at WCU, was recognized by VISTA Millennial Superstars as a leading young Chester County professional under the age of 40.

Melissa Geller '07 was awarded "The Best" for her company INKcorporated Designs for printing and design. Best of Bucks is a yearly contest conducted by the *Bucks County Courier Times*.

Jason Babin '08, M'10 became director of military and veteran services at New Jersey's Stockton University.

William R. "Bill" Christman III '08, a Lamb McErlane attorney, was recognized by VISTA Millennial Superstars as a leading young Chester County professional under the age of 40.

Conor Hepp '08 was named president of the Chester County History Center (CCHC). He joins CCHC after serving in roles with the Barnes Foundation, University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, and The Franklin Institute.

Justin Rentzel '08 has been named creative director at Insomnia Cookies. He most recently served as senior art director at Red Tettemer O'Connell + Partners, where he worked with clients such as Dick's Sporting Goods, Chipotle, Southern Comfort, Halo Top, Dockers, and Dietz & Watson.

Christy Silva '09 was recognized by *The Best of the Main Line* as a Power Woman 2021. She is the founder of Aidan's Heart Foundation, a nonprofit that educates families on CPR and AEDs. The organization offers a series of free screenings, including family heart history, blood pressure, and EKG.

2010s

Brenden Lee '10 was one of the Public Relations Society of America-New York Chapter Big Apple Award winners for 15 Under 35 (years of age).

Lisa Hoffman '11, a respiratory therapist at NYU Langone Health, was recently featured in a *New York Post* article entitled "Selfless medical workers pulled New Yorkers through horrors of COVID-19."

Christina Scordia '12 operates Christina Scordia Real Estate, a part of the City Wide team at Keller Williams Philadelphia that is based in the Northern Liberties neighborhood. She also serves clients in Bucks County.

Lauren Bolden Wandling '12, M'14 was appointed co-chair of the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Sorority Advisory Committee for Alpha Sigma Tau National Sorority.

Mary McDermott M'14 co-wrote the documentary *What Will Become of Us*, which recently aired on more than a dozen PBS stations across the country and in Toronto, including Philadelphia's WHYY. The Armenian characters in the film travel through the American landscape while grappling with their identities and the 100th anniversary of the 1915 Armenian genocide.

Isaac Williams '15 joined Hope Walks, in Dillsburg, PA, as its donor relations coordinator. The international nonprofit treats infant clubfoot in developing countries around the world.

Barry C. Lyons '16 was promoted to supervisor at SEK, CPAs & Advisors in Hagerstown, MD.

John Gulden '16 is head coach of the first women's rugby team at Adrian College in Adrian, MI, which is scheduled to begin play this fall.

Tyler J. Starr '16 earned his QKA (Qualified 401(k) Administrator) credential, given by the American Society of Pension Professionals & Actuaries. He works with the Wilmington-based certified public accounting firm of Belfint Lyons Shuman, where he specializes in auditing the employee benefit plans of for-profit, nonprofit, and governmental entities.

Antonio Aloia '17, M'19 published his first book, *Aikido Comes to America*, through Tambuli Media (Amazon). The book is the first of its kind to chronicle the Japanese martial art of aikido and its history in the United States through the eyes of its American pioneers. He also is the chief editor of "Martial Arts of Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow," an online resource chronicling martial arts in America.

Ryan Chacania '17, M'20 was promoted from account manager to financial analyst at Chubb in Wilmington, DE.

Felicia Lahidajat '18, a piano teacher in Chester Springs, PA, presented to a local music teachers association on neurodivergent pedagogy in March 2020.

2020s

Michael Bauer '20 in August will attend the Mathematical Association of America's MathFest 2021 and present a project on the solution of a parabolic partial differential equation in three dimensions accomplished with parallel processing.

Rebecca Clifford '20 accepted a nurse position in a community hospital on a cardiothoracic and vascular step-down unit after graduation.

Sarah Groves '20 accepted a position as a nurse resident at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, DC, starting this spring. She is excited to start her nursing career on a general medicine unit.

Cherise LeBouef '20 was promoted to customer sales executive at the Hershey Company.

Nicholas Stoyer '20 accepted a position at IMX Medical Management Services, Inc. in Bala Cynwyd, PA.

Mary Beth Giandonato M'20 was hired as a mental health/academic counselor in the Owen J. Roberts School District.

Kevin Bearde '20 obtained a position at his high school alma mater in the Spring-Ford Area School District.

Juah Toe '20, a two-year captain who led the women's rugby team to the 2019 National Intercollegiate Rugby Association Tier II Championship title, was a semifinalist for the 2020 MA Sorensen Award, presented annually to the nation's top women's rugby player. She also was a finalist for the 2020 NCAA Woman of the Year Award.

.....
SUBMIT your class notes to the Office of Alumni Relations to alumni@wcupa.edu.

ALUMNI

ENGAGEMENTS

- (1) Taylor Ciatto '16 to James Colivas '15.
- (2) Ilana Berger '14, M'16 to Matthew Appelbaum '16 on December 26, 2020.
- (3) Ashley Diefenderfer '14, M'19 to Alexander Pauloski on February 14, 2021.
- (4) Brittany Baumeister '15 to Tim McGorrey.
- (5) Christopher Short '17 to Alexandria Rafanello '18 on December 25, 2019.



(1)



(2)



(3)

MARRIAGES

- (6) Ashley Hollis '12 to Kyle Miller '12 in October 2020.
- (7) Lauren Bolden '12, M'14 to Thomas Wandling in November 2020.



(4)



(5)



(6)

FUTURE ALUMNI

- (8) Bill Scanlan '13 and Brittany (Watts) Scanlan '15 welcomed Luke Scanlan in June 2020.
- (9) Chantal Whitehead-Scott '08 and Sam Scott '10 welcomed Cannon Kobe Scott in October 2020. He joins big brother Sammy.
- (10) Thiel Benn '11, M'13 and Andrea Benn welcomed Tamia Joy Benn in December 2020.



(7)



(8)



(9)

IN MEMORIAM

- 1953 Elinor Ross
- 1954 Howard Gurak
- 1954 Domenic C. Pascale
- 1955 Frank Joseph Ferraro, Sr.
- 1957 Janet (Cordes) Sharpe
- 1959 Mary Fisher Baugher
- 1962 Barbara L. Shahadi
- 1968 Janice Moore Kisthardt
- 1969 Thomas J. McKinnon, Jr.
- 1970 Eleanor J. Hillegas
- 1973 Tracy Ann Gipson
- 1977 James Gardner
- 1990 Rebecca Campbell
- 1992 Lisa Marie Sands
- 2008 Samuel Shafer



(10)



CONNECT WITH US

www.wcualumni.org
610-436-2813

DEATH NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

Contact the Alumni Relations Office with a copy of the decedent's obituary from a newspaper or the internet, or a copy of a letter or email from a family member of the deceased. Please note: Death notifications will not be accepted via telephone.

Photo Submission Guidelines

Photos should be no less than 300 DPI and in JPG format. If you are scanning a printed photo, please set the scanning resolution to at least 300 dpi. Digital camera and/or cell phone shots should be taken on the highest resolution setting available. Photos should be emailed as an attachment, not pasted into the email or document.

We reserve the right to not publish a photo of low quality, and not all photos can be published. Please send your photos as email attachments to the attention of the WCU Alumni Relations Office at alumni@wcupa.edu.

2021 WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

The Nominating Committee of the West Chester University Alumni Association is pleased to announce the 2021 WCUEA Board of Directors ballot. Six members will be elected to serve a three-year term of office beginning on July 1, 2021. The results of the election will be posted online at wcu alumni.org before July 1, 2021.

The background information on each nominee for the 2021-2024 term appears on the following pages. Please note that nominees are listed in the same order that they appear on the ballot. Questions regarding the election should be directed to the Office of Alumni Relations at 610-436-2813 or alumni@wcu.edu.

JOSEPH CASSEL

Education: WCU, B.A., Communication Studies, 1979, Army War College, M.A., Security Studies, 2001, Naval War College, M.A., National Security and Strategic Studies, 1993, Naval Postgraduate School, M.S., Material Logistics Support, 1987

Thank you for considering me to contribute to this vibrant University that fosters such growth and opportunity. For me, WCU provided a caring basis to mature, challenged my critical thinking and communication skills, and exposed powerful values to clarify. This immediately led to a military and government service career that exposed me to 40+ countries around the globe and a broader perspective as an American and citizen. I will bring broad and diverse experience as well as practical skills in strategy, idea generation, programming, and organizational communications. I simply want to give back. And I want to assist the impressive WCU faculty and administrators to expand a prosperous and richly diverse experience and academic setting for today's WCU students to accomplish their dreams and goals. Go Golden Rams!

ANJELICA FINORE

Education: WCU, B.A., Communication Studies, 2016

I look back at my four years at West Chester University with such pride and enthusiasm. The opportunities the campus and people granted me have shaped me into the person I am today! I have often wished for a way to share my gratitude and hope to sit on the Board as a chance to offer my love, passion, and time as a way to give back and say thank you to those enriching four years.

PATRICK J. O'CONNOR **

Education: WCU, M.A., History, 1993, Penn State University, B.A., Political Science, 1983, Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF), National Defense University, M.S., National Resource Planning, 2007

After completing my military service and while working a full-time job, I attended WCU at night. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and was very impressed with the faculty and staff. This experience provided me with a strong desire to give back to WCU. As a Board member, I have been impressed with how dedicated the WCUEA is to helping today's students. I seek another term on the Board to assist in these efforts.

MATTHEW HOLLIDAY

Education: WCU, B.A., Political Science, 2009

I had the pleasure of serving on the WCU Alumni Association's Board of Directors for eight years, five of which were spent on the Executive Committee. Having had the pleasure of being President of the Association I had a firsthand look at how best to serve our alumni, grow the reach of our association, and increase pride in our University. If you give me the chance to serve again I will work tirelessly to continue to improve this great institution and make it more accessible and welcoming to everyone.

ELAINE (LAINE) MANN **

Education: WCU, B.A., Speech Communication, 1991

I have been honored too and thoroughly enjoyed my past several years in serving as a Director on the WCUEA Board. I feel that with my expertise in event planning and my love for WCU, I have been able to assist in sharing creative ideas and share my passion for my experience at WCU as an alum to obtain an even greater amount of current and future members for the Alumni Association. I feel that continuing to serve would allow me to continue to help grow (even in a virtual environment) and spread the good work that is being done at WCU and the Alumni Association. Rams Up!

** *Running for a second term*

ALUMNI

JOYCE WOODSON

Education: WCU, B.S., Education, 1975, WCU, M.S, Counseling, 1979, Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Master of Theological Studies, 2005

West Chester University played a major role in my socio-emotional and professional development. As an undergrad, while serving on the Student Council, I learned that sometimes only a few voices can shape the direction of a major institution and that lending my voice was important to do. As a graduate assistant, assessing the grounds and buildings for handicap accessibility, I learned that a small act can make a huge difference. As an educator, I learned that WCU is a highly respected institution and that graduates are sought after. I owe my career in counseling to professors who recommended me and mentored me. My desire is to now give back. I am now in a position to do so. I am hopeful that I will be given the opportunity.

RICHARD ESTACIO, SR.

Education: WCU, B.A., Psychology, 1984, Dickinson Law School, J.D., 1988

I thoroughly enjoyed being a student at West Chester and am proud to be a graduate. I was very active while I worked my way through WCSC (now WCU), from being an orientation leader, dorm president, RA, and then President of IGA (now SGA). I feel I haven't given back enough to the school over the years and would love the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors of my alma mater.

RUTHANN WALDIE**

Education: WCU, B.S., Music Education, 1980, Villanova University, M.S., Human Resource Development, 1991

I love serving WCU and the alumni. The changes, improvements, and expansion of the University are incredible! I'm so happy to be a part of the process. As a Board member, I have had a front row seat to the challenges WCU has encountered this year. I have so much Ram Pride. I look forward to serving alumni for another term. Your vote is appreciated.

AMIT MANGAL

Education: WCU, M.B.A., 2009, Savitribai Phule Pune University, B.E., Computer Engineering, 1997

West Chester University of Pennsylvania has played very important role in my life. It is very close to me. I'm always humble to all assistants, professors, and office personnel who helped me in advancing my career. With the gain in academic career, I have a better life for me and my family. When I was introduced with this opportunity to serve WCUPA alumni, I was excited to serve. Now it is time to help my University and bring the program to the next level.

DEAN GENTEKOS

Education: WCU, B.S., Accounting, 2007, Certified Public Accountant (CPA), 2011

WCU holds a very special place in my heart and I want to continue to give back to the institution that gave so much to me. It's been an honor serving on the WCU Alumni Association Board in the past, including my two years as President of the association. I look to continue my involvement with the Board in fostering relationships with alumni and current students as well as working with the University in achieving new heights.

SEAN ROCHE

Education: WCU, B.S., Business Management, 2011

I am interested in serving on the board as part of my need to give back to the institution that was so key in my early professional development. My choice of attending WCU afforded me many great opportunities, and left me with long-lasting memories and relationships. Those experiences developed into an undying pride for being a Golden Ram, which I promote at any opportunity. Representing WCU, while serving my fellow alumni, would be an honor.

** *Running for a second term*

WCUAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021 BALLOT

Candidates for Board of Directors	Voter 1	Voter 2
Joseph Cassel '79	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Anjelica Finore '16	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Patrick J. O'Connor M'93**	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Matthew Holliday '09	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Elaine (Laine) Mann '91**	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Joyce Woodson '75, M'79	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Richard Estacio, Sr. '84	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ruthann Waldie '80**	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Amit Mangal M'09	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dean Gentekos '07	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sean Roche '11	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Signature of Voter 1 _____

Print Voter 1 Name/Year _____

Signature of Voter 2 _____

Print Voter 2 Name/Year _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone (with area code) _____

E-mail _____

Please seal the ballot in an envelope, one ballot per envelope. Clearly write your name(s), class year(s), and address on the outside, and mail to: **WCUAA Nominating Committee, Office of Alumni Relations, 202 Carter Drive, West Chester, PA 19382.**

The ballot must be postmarked no later than Friday, May 21, 2021.

VOTING GUIDELINES

Alumni listed on these pages have been nominated for election to serve on the Board of Directors upon the recommendation of the WCUAA Nominating Committee. Each has agreed to serve if elected.

All WCU graduates are eligible to vote for a maximum of six (6) candidates.

There are two ways to cast your ballot: online and this original written ballot.

Alumni who choose to vote online can go to www.wcualumni.org and select 2021 Board of Directors Election. Follow the voting instructions.

If you do not wish to vote online, please check the box next to the name of the candidate(s) of your choice as listed below. Couples who are both WCU graduates may use one ballot, indicating Voter 1 and Voter 2. The Office of Alumni Relations will verify the name(s), class year(s), and address on each mailing envelope as requested by the Nominating Committee. The order of names on the ballot are random.

For this ballot to be considered valid: Only this magazine ballot, with the alumnus' mailing address on the reverse, will be accepted. No copies or scans will be permitted. Each voter must sign and complete the name, class year, and address section of the ballot. Please print or type.

The ballot must be postmarked no later than Friday, May 21, 2021.

West Chester University
West Chester, PA 19383-7401

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