

WCU MAGAZINE

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

SUMMER 2022



**Honors College:
Learning, Leading, Serving**

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CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2022!



Congratulations to West Chester University's 3,305 WCU spring graduates! Between Friday, May 13, and Sunday, May 15, Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall and Hollinger Field House were each home to seven ceremonies to accommodate 2,470 undergraduates and 713 graduate-level candidates.

In addition, 56 undergraduates and 66 graduate-level students at WCU's Philadelphia campus participated in two ceremonies the evening of June 6 at the Hilton Philadelphia at Penn's Landing.

Combined with the numbers of graduates from fall commencement last December, West Chester University has graduated a grand total of 4,643 undergraduate and graduate students for the 2021-2022 academic year (3,527 undergraduates and 1,116 graduates).

The closing of WCU's sesquicentennial years also marked the 30th anniversary of WCU's Kente celebration; the first ceremony for graduating students of the University's Dub-C Autism Program (D-CAP) and the largest number of D-CAP graduates; and the second Honors College commencement ceremony.

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**WCU's Honors College:
Learning, Leading,
Serving**

Cover Image: 150th Celebration banner created by WCU Illustration Club members Gabbi Bonifazi, Noah Burns, Paije Carbonell, Emily Dana, Olivia Dreon, Peter Idem, Christian Lindsay, Victoria Naftal, Inez Oliveras, and Hannah Stoltzfus as part of a series of sesquicentennial banners.



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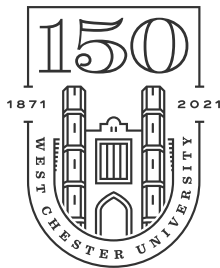
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150th logo designed by David P. Jones, associate professor of art

Visit WCU's anniversary website wcu.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.

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Andrew McLaughlin

Gaining fulfillment and purpose

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



As I reflect on our 150th anniversary year, the words extraordinary and resilient come to mind. We spent our days strategically working to defy COVID while we lived our lives and our dreams on this campus. We masked, unmasked, tested, retested, sanitized, and supported. The COVID experience took a toll on all of us, especially our students and their families. Looking back, I am proud of how we — students, faculty, alumni, staff, and friends — united to make sure the finish line was crossed despite the many weary miles traveled.

If you were here, you saw. The energy on campus was palpable the last few weeks of the semester. In fact, as Sue and I walked across campus, we watched numerous soon-to-be graduates snapping photos under the “Whispering Arches,”

by the ram statue, by the fountain in The Roger and Agnes Ware Plaza, by the Frederick Douglass statue. Golden Rams were everywhere and they were happy. During each of our 16 in-person graduation ceremonies, what we had done and how we had persevered was evident. Donned in caps and gowns, graduates’ smiles were the widest I have ever seen and their families’ cheers were the loudest I have ever heard. What we witnessed at the end of West Chester University’s sesquicentennial was nothing less than spectacular; student success had prevailed despite the many challenges.

Looking over a sea of decorated mortarboards with motivational messages, I realized something. West Chester University can do anything. Embracing the mission “to be honorable is to serve,” the Honors College is just one of the many examples right before our very eyes. Rooted in the liberal arts tradition, the Honors College personifies this University’s commitment to cultivate students who persist, who problem solve, who lead, and who contribute to the common good. As the *West Chester University Magazine* concludes its history and heritage series in celebration of our University’s milestone anniversary, it is fitting that we feature the Honors College as a lasting legacy that makes all of us very proud. As we look forward to the golden years to come, I hope you will enjoy this special issue.

Sincerely,

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

Christopher M. Fiorentino
President

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The West Chester University Magazine is published three times a year for the alumni, families, students, and friends of West Chester University. We welcome letters concerning magazine content or issues pertaining to the University. Letters must be signed and kept to one typed page. Please include address and daytime phone number.

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This spring, state and local officials are on campus to reinforce Governor Tom Wolf's administration's commitment to promoting competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities and to see in action WCU's Dub-C Autism Program (D-CAP), which assists students with autism with the transition from high school to college and, ultimately, the workforce. D-CAP is one of several programs throughout the Commonwealth supported by the Wolf administration's 2017 initiative to offer financial and administrative support to students with autism in their pursuit of higher education and competitive employment. The initiative is supported by PA Labor & Industry's Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR).

From left, WCU President Christopher Fiorentino; State Representative Christina Sappery; State Senator Carolyn Comitta; Nina Wall, director of the Bureau of Supports for Autism and Special Populations in the PA Department of Human Services' (DHS) Office of Developmental Programs; Kristin Ahrens, deputy secretary of DHS's Office of Developmental Programs; Shanae Stallworth, supervisor, PA OVR; Meg Snead, PA DHS acting secretary; WCU D-CAP students Katie Noll and Geoffrey Baser; Cherie Fishbaugh, D-CAP director of autism services; and Jennifer Berrier, secretary, PA Department of Labor & Industry.

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EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

FOR A FULL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS VISIT WCUPA.EDU/ARTS

SEPTEMBER

8/29 – 10/14

Art + Design Presents *Phil Jamison Retrospective* in Baker Gallery

9

WCU Mather Planetarium: *James Webb Space Telescope: The First Images*

23

Wells School of Music: Criterions Jazz Ensemble concert

30

Wells School of Music: WCU Symphony Orchestra concert



SEPTEMBER 9



OCTOBER 2

OCTOBER

2

Wells School of Music: Wind Ensemble & Wind Symphony concert

8

Homecoming

20 – 23

Theatre & Dance presents: *Spring Awakening*

10/24 – 12/9

Art + Design Presents *Not That Brandywine Tradition* in Baker Gallery

30

Wells School of Music: Wind Ensemble concert



NOVEMBER 18-19

NOVEMBER

4

Wells School of Music: Criterions Jazz Ensemble concert

10 – 12

Theatre & Dance presents: Fall Dance Concert

17 – 20

Theatre & Dance presents: Eurydice

18 – 19

WCU Opera Theatre Presents *Cinderella*

UPCOMING!

Wells School of Music
Presents the

**101ST ANNUAL
HOLIDAY PROGRAM**

Saturday, December 10



Tammy Truong's capstone was to host an adaptive tennis day for local youth on the autism spectrum.

HISTORY AND HERITAGE

150 YEARS

WCU'S HONORS COLLEGE:
LEARNING, LEADING, SERVING



Since 2001, Kevin Dean (seated, far right) has led students in the Honors College as well as faculty on research and service programs to South Africa.



Honors College commencement, May 2022



Geradina Martin, Michelle Wills (L-R, top) and Kevin Dean

“Our students realize it’s about being part of something bigger than themselves.”

**—Kevin Dean,
Honors College Director**

The history of WCU’s Honors College is the history of its high-achieving students creating and implementing service learning in the community, sustaining and improving on their predecessors’ works, and, in the process, becoming contributing citizens and servant-leaders.

For more than 40 years, qualified incoming WCU students have been able to apply to take honors courses or become honors students. When brilliant, motivated, service-oriented students enter as a cohort and live on the same floor of a residence hall, tracking through interdisciplinary courses together, something special builds among them.

“Honors College is like the Marching Band,” says Kevin W. Dean, Honors College director since 1995. “We draw students from all the disciplines. The fall 2022 entering class represents 42 distinct majors. Our students realize it’s about being part of something bigger than themselves.”

The Honors College motto “To be honorable is to serve” holds the expectation that students apply learning beyond the classroom. The Honors designation signifies academic excellence but also celebrates character building and problem-solving skill development while challenging students to apply their strengths to enhance their communities.

Founded in 1979 by philosophy professor Walter Hipple and later administered by English professor Elizabeth Larsen, the Honors curriculum involves both general education and upper-division courses. Appointed Honors program director in 1995, Dean drew upon his 1995-1997 experience as a Kellogg National Leadership Fellow to envision and, with help from colleagues, create an interdisciplinary community-based service-learning curriculum around the theme of personal leadership development for the purpose of civic engagement. Each entering cohort completes 10 HON prefix courses grounded in the liberal arts tradition that fulfill all general education requirements. “This model enables students from such diverse disciplinary areas as accounting, elementary education, and pre-medicine to share 10 collaborative class experiences during their first five semesters,” explains Dean, adding, “The synergy is amazing.”

As the core curriculum coalesced under the leadership of then-President Madeleine Wing Adler, the program was designated the Honors College in 2006. The 40-student incoming cohort doubled to 80 in 2017. Honors now functions as an academic department with dedicated faculty (as well as those who collaborate on select core and special topic courses) and reports directly to the deputy provost. The Honors College also merits its own graduation ceremony and is the sole occupant of Honors House at 703 South High Street.

Through challenging interdisciplinary courses, students learn about ethics, diversity, logic and reasoning, leadership, and sustainability, all through a variety of lenses, for example, the chemistry of art restoration, leadership in films, and this fall, a course on computer science for social justice.

Students implement their community enhancements through capstone projects, overseen by Gerardina Martin, assistant director of the Honors College. The concept was initiated by Laurie Bernotsky, a former political science professor who is now executive vice president and provost, as well as two English professors: Victoria Tischio and Hannah Ashley.

Students must identify a community need and the genesis of that need so that their project “moves the needle on a solution to that problem,” says Martin. “Capstones are about teamwork, leadership, and fulfillment. They need to be creative and innovative in finding that one impactful project to achieve some level of positive social change. And the project should be sustainable.”

Several capstones’ longevity is almost legendary. The Aid to South Africa educational fundraiser celebrated its 17th year in April. Traveling Across Generations (TAG) has been connecting Honors students with residents of local senior living facilities for nearly 15 years.

Zachary Wooten ’14 participated in TAG, saying, “I loved it: students turning our perspectives outward. You learn to cultivate empathy when you enter someone else’s world.”

Wooten, a scholar of leadership, is now on the Honors College faculty teaching Leadership and the Good Life and collaboratively teaching the first-year self-awareness course. “As a first-generation college student, I see my role at the University as supporting our first-gens.”

He also oversees the new minor in civic and professional leadership (CPL). “CPL courses help students find the courage to care. The best leadership education says it’s OK to hope, to know that we can be a part of the change. Taking the minor, students acknowledge that no matter what they do, they’re engaged in leadership and social change, so they might as well do that on purpose — with purpose.”

Wooten is one of Carlyn Crisi’s role models. The president of the Honors Student Association (HSA), she is taking the CPL minor as well as mathematics K-8 to accompany her major in early grades preparation (PreK-4). HSA members, she noted, take their civic responsibilities so seriously that the organization has earned the Outstanding Community Service Organization Award multiple times, most recently, in 2020-21, recognizing the most service hours any WCU organization logged during Covid. “It’s so rewarding finding like-minded students with a passion and who value service.”

Carly Lare ’22, coordinator for Aid to South Africa, adds, “One of the best things about being an Honors student is the support. I leaned on the Honors College faculty when I needed advice. There are so many people in your corner: Dr. Martin with non-profit research since I wanted a job with a non-profit. Dr. Wooten, who coached me at public speaking. And of course, Dr. Dean, whose leadership and energy are amazing.”

Dean is quick to credit the two staff members without whom, he says, the Honors experience would be quite different: administrative assistants Donna Carney (now retired; see sidebar) and Michelle Wills. Together, they have created a framework



PROFESSOR EMERITUS JOHN HELION ON THE ADVENTURE OF SELF-AWARENESS

John Helion, emeritus professor of kinesiology, misses co-teaching HON100, the self-awareness course required for all incoming Honors students, which he helped develop more than 20 years ago. He was responsible for the adventure education half of the holistic course – the climbing wall, ropes course, etc. – that challenges students mentally, physically, and emotionally.

Each group he taught helped the course evolve. “Depending on the group and its dynamics, I altered my teaching. I tailored activities to get out of the students what I saw they were ready for. We strengthen the group by empowering individuals.”

HON100 is now divided into four sections to accommodate the 80 incoming students, with Helion’s part taught by Meghan Ramick, assistant professor of kinesiology. Matt Saboe, associate professor of economics and finance, Maria Urrutia, associate professor of dance, and Zachary Wooten, assistant professor of honors, teach the classroom part.

As for the impact of the class, Helion says, “At least once a month, I hear from former students who tell me how much they enjoyed that course and how valuable its lessons continue to be today.”

SUSTAINING INTERNATIONAL EMPATHY: HONORS STUDENTS' CONNECTION WITH SOUTH AFRICA

WCU Honors students have raised more than \$100,000, including \$8,500 this year, in the Aid to South Africa (A2SA) educational and philanthropic initiative that grew from a student's 2008 capstone project. Funds support three South African beneficiaries who, for over two decades, continue teaching students and faculty lessons in how to address hunger, poverty, and the ravages of HIV/AIDS.

"It's a good way to be creative and to collaborate with others."

—Carly Lare '22
A2SA Coordinator

Carly Lare '22, A2SA coordinator for 2022, served on the committee all four years. "It's a good way to be creative and to collaborate with others." She holds unique insight, having participated on WCU's last project to South Africa (May 2019).

"COVID is teaching us to have no expectations" about education and fundraising, says Lare, who embraces her role as a servant-leader. The pandemic pushed the team to involve more students

in leadership roles to host more frequent online events and explore Instagram and other platforms to reach a broader audience.

"There is still so much suffering in South Africa from both the pandemic and HIV/AIDS and our beneficiaries need us more than ever."

The partnership in South Africa for State System Honors students began in summer 2001 when then-WCU President Madeleine Wing Adler and other educators guided 27 students on a two-week program to collect oral histories and learn leadership lessons from South African college students and adults who had been on the forefront of change from apartheid to democracy. WCU Honors students now return every two years to continue that ethnographic work and participate in community engagement, research, and service. Each trip, students collaborate with the same three organizations that receive A2SA funds: H.E.L.P. Ministries Soup Kitchen, which feeds up to 6,000 elementary school children daily; Nkosi's Haven, a hospice for mothers with HIV/AIDS and their children; and Mosaic,



which promotes vocational training and housing for those caring for orphans.

"We go South Africa to learn about leadership, to bring our introspection, and apply what we learn in class," says Lare. "I appreciate how, as Honors students, we are encouraged to reflect."

The A2SA concept arose in 2008 when Russell Moll '08 returned from his Honors experience in South Africa deeply affected by the poverty but also the kindness he had experienced. With his roommate Brendan Johnson '08, they organized a spring 5K in Farrell Stadium, raising almost \$3,000. The next year, the event moved to Hollinger Field House and expanded to offer

of support so Honors students can realize their potential.

Wills, who marked 25 years at the University this spring, had worked with Carney and Dean in her previous positions in admissions and in the pre-med program. She laughs about "shepherding students and responding to a barrage of emails" but she's integral to the success and growth of Honors, which now includes processing 300-500 applications a year.

Honors House is also a point of pride

for Wills. "We have the conference room and HSA officers can use rooms upstairs for executive meetings. The backyard is great for outdoor gatherings. I enjoy making this a welcoming space."

From its inception, designated housing has been an Honors hallmark. Early on, Honors students lived in Killinger Hall. Now they occupy the seventh floor of Allegheny Hall (and can opt to remain in successive years), enjoying suite-style living, computer, meeting, and commons rooms, a video/film technology

lab, a music practice room with a Steinway piano, and other amenities (including an ice machine!) that enhance the sense of community and create a living environment conducive to academic and personal success.

One of the Community Builders in Allegheny is Lope Rojas, a rising senior pre-med microbiology major and CPL minor. In this formal position, he creates events and socializes with first-year students to smooth the transition to college and engage them fully with their Honors cohort in co-



educational displays and carnival games, raising awareness and more than \$8,000. Lare noted how COVID motivated A2SA's move to the Quad, providing students with new leadership challenges and opportunities.

Lare is using the skills she honed as A2SA coordinator in a new role as director of grants and funding with Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association (CRC), which aligns with her major in biology/concentration in ecology and conservation and her minors in leadership and communication studies. Transitioning from a fall 2021 intern, she has already submitted \$120,000 in new grant applications.

curricular activities. First vice president of HSA, he emphasizes students' participation in HSA meetings and believes, "The Honors College has one of the strongest communities on campus."

While communities in general suffered during the pandemic, Ronan McDermott wanted to ensure the incoming Honors cohort were supported during the virtual academic years so he created a Peer Leaders program. A secondary English education major and CPL minor, he found precedent in the Honors Bridge Buddies program established by nursing major Bryce Yanni '18 in his capstone.

"Bridge" students are those who did not enroll in the Honors College in their first semester but may apply for their second semester upon taking the Honors 110 course. The buddy program pairs a current bridge student with a new bridge student and has resulted in the second-semester students more seamlessly integrating into the cohort.

With the design led by retired honors faculty member Mark Hickman, the bridge program increased access for more students to experience the challenge of Honors courses. Another access point is the seminar program, which affords rising sophomores an option to participate by earning a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 and completing four special topics honors seminars.

Student-faculty collaborative research is a passion for rising senior political science major Jocelyn Brown. Working with Honors professor David Levasseur, she has built a



program for sophomores to link with professors each spring, dedicating hours to research agendas across disciplines. Several students have turned these into Summer Undergraduate Research Institute projects.

Stay tuned for more online information about the history of the Honors College as rising senior history majors James Lingman, second VP of HSA, and Kieran Kelly finalize their capstone next semester. They are building on an oral history project by students in Charles Hardy's 2017 Honors seminar that explored Honors history through interviews with recent alumni. Their extension of the project is to interview more alumni plus current and retired Honors faculty.

"We've partnered with the library's Special Collections to house our materials once completed," Lingman reports. "We know that the program will continue under the direction of two Honors sophomores, Owen Cutler and Joe Blaney."

With this strong a history, WCU's Honors College will continue to challenge students in new ways. Dean is sure enough of that to include in his email signature, "The best is yet to be." [WCU](#)



Above: For this year's Concert on the Quad, Honors students Grace Montgomery and Brian Lynch (L-R) partnered with Angela Guerriero (R), chair of WCU's Music Therapy department, to add supports and accommodations for neurodiverse individuals.

Left: Honors seminar student Frederick Shegog '22, communication studies major with a minor in leadership, was the student speaker at the spring commencement ceremony for the College of Arts and Humanities.

DONNA CARNEY: ON BEING THE CHANGE

In August 1995, Donna Carney joined Kevin Dean in the Honors program as the first full-time staff support person. She retired in 2014 as administrative assistant but has remained connected to Honors in many ways.

During her tenure, Carney built relationships with the growing number of faculty teaching Honors courses. "The faculty really responded to Kevin's challenge for them to be creative in developing interdisciplinary courses and the courses ascended in uniqueness."

Students benefitted from her support as the program grew. They sought her advice and knowledge about courses, procedures, and resources but also sometimes relied on her just to listen. Carney established a foundation for success not only for her successor, Michelle Wills, but also for all the Honors students then and in the future.

"We heard from students that some of their capstone projects cost money, whether they are interviewing subjects off campus, purchasing supplies for a project, and such," Carney explains. "We wanted to establish a way to ease that financial burden but also create a contract that would have them give part of it back within a certain time period after they graduate. That way, the grant would be available for the next class of Honors students and would continue to be replenished."

Carney worked with Dean, faculty, and students to develop the requirements for what has become the Honors College Grant Endowment. Honors students apply for small grants (\$300-\$500) to support their work on their capstones and commit to repaying a portion of that grant.

"This grant recognizes the value of having an account that helps students put more details, energy, and creativity into their projects," she says. "Students realize they may achieve a bigger vision of their capstone with that financial support and it holds them accountable to themselves and future Honors students."

Donations to the Honors College Grant Endowment (Fund #2981-852) can be made in Donna Carney's honor at go.wcufoundation.org/donate.



Honors alumnus Michael Moriarty '17, M'19 was the first person to touch the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize medal.

PROMOTING PEACE WITH THE NORWEGIAN NOBEL COMMITTEE

When it comes to positive global social change, the Honors College certainly brings the "wow factor" to campus. Two examples come to mind:

West Chester University has the distinction of being the only school in the world where students submit a nomination for Nobel Peace Prize laureate to the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

The first person to touch the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize medal was WCU Honors alumnus Michael Moriarty '17, M'19 who landed an internship in Oslo, Norway, working directly with the members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee that fall. There have only been three such interns in the history of the Nobel Peace Prize, which was first awarded in 1901.

"I just asked!" explains Honors College Director Kevin Dean on how these incredible opportunities came to be.

Dean formally contacted the Norwegian Nobel Institute (NNI) and explained how leadership and community change serve as the foundations for the Honors curriculum. "As the global symbol of responsible leadership and positive change, the Nobel Peace Prize represents an important lens of study for our Honors students." Dean asked if there was any room for a partnership and, "to our amazement, the NNI welcomed us warmly."

In 2015 Dean, along with colleagues Charles Hardy, history, and Denise Polk, communication studies, organized an exploratory trip to Oslo for two honors students from each of the PASSHE institutions. Former WCU president Greg Weisenstein was at that time on the board of the American College of Norway (with which WCU has a partnership) and helped make connections, as did native Norwegian WCU alumnus Carl-Frederick Korsnes '14.

Henrik Syse, research professor at the Peace Research Institute Oslo and former vice chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, was so impressed with the students' research and preparation that he extended an invitation for five students to attend Norway's Nobel Week. In December 2018 and 2019, WCU Honors students visited the Nobel Peace Institute, met past laureates, and attended events arranged by Norwegian Nobel Committee members.

Syse is one of two committee members to have since lectured at WCU during spring semesters; the other is Asle Toje, current vice chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee. Syse will return as visiting scholar in spring 2023.

These experiences abroad are about the bigger picture, says Dean. Expanding minds need expanded learning opportunities so he worked with student leaders to organize a summer symposium and create the Nobel Leadership Series, a fall program linked with a course designed to promote peace, engage students in lessons of ethical leadership, and motivate them to confidently lead as active agents for positive social change. Students research past laureates and nominees and, with Charles Hardy participating in the Nobel nominations on behalf of the students, they evaluate and select one recommendation from among the Nobel Peace Prize nominees. There are 343 candidates for the 2022 prize: 251 individuals and 92 organizations.

As for his internship, Moriarty lived in Oslo for three months in fall 2019, working directly under the five members of the committee, one of whom assigned him to make that special pick up from the Norway mint. He also assisted the program manager in facilitating the Nobel Peace Research Seminars; with the 2019 Nobel Peace Forum; and in the execution of the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize events.

INTERN TO STAFF TO SHAREHOLDER & COMMUNITY SERVANT



To be honorable is to serve” is the motto of WCU’s Honors College and Doug Pacitti ’97 could be a walking billboard for that motto. For his accomplishments and service to WCU, in addition to the community at large, Pacitti received the accounting department’s Outstanding Alumni of the Year Award this past spring.

“It was a surprise and a great honor to be included with those in the business community who have received the award before me,” he says. “President [Christopher] Fiorentino attended, which was all the more meaningful because he was dean of the business school when I walked the halls at WCU.”

Pacitti followed in his father’s footsteps to become an accountant. He was lured to the University by retired WCU economics professor Cindy Benzing, who was also a neighbor in Springfield, PA, and took on a dual major in accounting and finance.

In the spring of his junior year, Pacitti completed an internship at Fisher Cunnane & Associates, a public accounting and consulting firm based in West Chester. They hired him post-graduation as a staff accountant, and this year he will celebrate his 25th anniversary with the firm. Now a shareholder, he serves on Fisher Cunnane’s accounting and auditing committee, fills the role of personnel director, and co-chairs the employee benefit plan audit practice.

Through the years, Pacitti has remained connected to the University. As the leader of his firm’s recruiting efforts, he regularly hires WCU students for full-time positions and for the co-op program. To top it off, he recently joined the University accounting

department’s advisory board and will help adapt curriculum to meet the demands of today’s technology-driven world.

“I feel very fortunate that Fischer Cunnane is so close in proximity to WCU. It has allowed me to stay connected and work with the University. I know first-hand that WCU students are well-prepared for careers in accounting and are ready to join the workforce right after graduation.”

Pacitti fondly remembers his advisor, Clyde Galbraith, emeritus professor and long-time chair of the accounting department, as “tough, but he definitely prepared us. If you worked hard and took accounting seriously, he was your biggest supporter.”

In addition to the accounting department’s advisory board, Pacitti serves on a multitude of other local boards, juggling it all in addition

I know first-hand that WCU students are well-prepared for careers in accounting and are ready to join the workforce right after graduation.

to raising his young family of three young children with his wife, Melissa. He served as treasurer for the Exton Region Chamber of Commerce; is on the finance committee for the Chester County Community Foundation; was a board member for the West Chester Area Education Foundation until 2021; and serves as treasurer on the board of Chester County’s Children Inc., an organization that mainly funds summer camp experiences for underprivileged children. He is also a member of the Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union Supervisory Committee and a coach with Exton Little League. **WCU**



Laurie Bernotsky's Research Expertise Benefits Honors College & South Africa Partnership

Kevin Dean found me in my first or second year teaching," recalls R. Lorraine (Laurie) Bernotsky, WCU's Executive Vice President and Provost, who had joined the political science department faculty in 1996. Dean thought her 100-level course on American government would be a good addition to the Honors courses then available, prior to the Honors program being established. He asked her to create a course "with a creative twist. The Honors section I developed examined American government through the lens of political satire and included readings from contemporary satirists whose books I added to the syllabus."

That creativity is a hallmark of WCU's Honors courses, which are grounded in the liberal arts tradition. "Honors courses must deliver a deeper understanding," Bernotsky says. "Blending disciplines under various themes, for example, studying economic theory in literature or Leslie Slusher [retired biology professor] and Ruth Porritt [retired philosophy professor] exploring biology through an ethics lens, represents a unique approach to general education and is a big part of the program's success."

As the number of faculty involved and courses offered both expanded, "We talked about what an honors program should look like and that's how it began to evolve," she says. "I understood then what Kevin's vision was. It helped that we had excellent faculty on board."

Bernotsky's expertise as a research methodologist was invaluable to the development of Honors as a program. She spent some time as an "experienced learner,"

taking Honors classes with the students to conduct an in-depth assessment of the curriculum. She interviewed the students and analyzed the courses for effective content and delivery, asking, "Are students absorbing the material? Is it delivering value? Is it in the right sequence?"

To prepare students to succeed personally and professionally and contribute to the common good. That connects the Honors College to our mission.

From her research, Bernotsky and several faculty members developed the Honors capstone course. Each student creates an interdisciplinary, community service-learning project to demonstrate what they have learned.

Bernotsky's career path shifted to a graduate course load, then a role as associate provost and dean of WCU's Graduate School.

In fall 2006, then-President Madeleine Wing Adler elevated the Honors program to the Honors College. "It was Jeff Osgood [current deputy provost and vice president for academic operations] who deserves much of the credit for truly institutionalizing the Honors College in 2017, through clarifying its reporting structure and enabling the

director to hire tenure-line faculty fully dedicated to Honors education," Bernotsky notes. "It was a heavy lift."

Bernotsky is also the founder of WCU's Center for Social and Economic Policy Research, through which she and Frauke Schnell, former political science professor, worked directly with a few students on their capstones, which included community needs assessments, political polling around elections, and survey data collection.

Those tools became central to one of Bernotsky's sustained legacies with the Honors College: a defined ethnographic research project central to the South Africa partnership programs. Working closely with professors Charlie Hardy, history (now retired), and subsequently Peter Loedel, political science, Bernotsky pioneered the concept of student/faculty collaborative research as a critical component of international study through Honors. She took the last of her five Honors trips to South Africa in 2010 but continues to serve as a consultant to the research projects.

For increasing access to Honors' challenging courses, she credits Mark Hickman, retired Honors faculty member, whose work led to the bridge program and the minor in civic and professional leadership that enables second-semester freshmen and sophomores in good standing to enroll in advanced courses — courses that emphasize the value of service to others.

"That brings us to our mission as a community of educators," Bernotsky says. "To prepare students to succeed personally and professionally and contribute to the common good. That connects the Honors College to our mission." **WCU**

WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN: A LINCOLN VS. DOUGLASS DEBATE

Frederick Douglass visited WCU last semester by way of a one-time presentation of *The Lincoln vs. Douglass Debate: A debate that never was ... but should have been.*

Only using words once spoken or written by President Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, director Charles Cook created a riveting stage production that brought community members, alumni, and students to campus.

The production, which predominately focused on an imagined debate between Lincoln and Douglass, was a chance to see an interaction between two of the most significant American thinkers on matters of race and society, said University English Professor William Lalicker, who helped facilitate the production.

“Lincoln and Douglass met briefly but never debated their intensely held, passionately progress-oriented, yet sometimes sharply different views,” Lalicker said. “This production arrived at a moment when America faces a serious reckoning on the same questions Lincoln and Douglass might have debated.”

Portrayed by Robert Gleason (Lincoln) and Fred Morsell (Douglass), Lincoln and Douglass spent 90 minutes waging a charged debate about the future of Black freedmen in a post-slavery America, the prospects for racial equality, and the unforeseen challenges of Black and White Americans in post-Civil War years. [WCU](#)



We've celebrated 150 years — now, we're moving 150Forward.

This year, we commemorated West Chester University's sesquicentennial — 150 years of excellence — and although celebrations have concluded, the comradery and excitement surrounding this historic moment can still be felt on campus.

Building on this energy, West Chester University has secured more than \$50 million and will continue its efforts to raise \$65 million by June 30, 2024 as part of 150Forward: The Campaign for WCU. Ambitious in its goals, 150Forward will broaden access through scholarships and bring in the nation's brightest; lead with technology to connect students and advance research; and create more academic, civic, and professional opportunities for all Golden Rams.

Helping every student realize their full potential? That's a goal we can all agree on.

Visit the campaign website to explore the campaign priorities:
www.wcufoundation.org/150forward/.



President Christopher Fiorentino (C) with former President Greg Weisenstein and former acting president Linda Lamwers.

WCU PRIDE BLOSSOMS

AT ALL-PRESIDENTS' GALA

Following an unprecedented two years, the 39th Annual Presidential Scholarship Community Gala made its in-person return on Saturday, April 2, at Longwood Gardens. A resounding success, the annual benefit raised more than \$150,000 in support of the Presidential Scholarship, a renewable, four-year award that is funded entirely by private donations.

More than 340 guests attended the All Presidents' Gala, inspired by WCU's sesquicentennial and the tireless work of past presidents to move the University forward. Among those leaders honored were former University president Greg Weisenstein and former acting president Linda Lamwers, who also delivered remarks on behalf of former president Madeleine Wing Adler.

The evening was all about West Chester University students. Wells School of Music Opera Theatre singers performed selections from their production of *Die Fledermaus* and members of the Incomparable Golden Rams Marching Band made a grand entrance playing the WCU fight song; WCU ROTC cadets presented the colors.

Since its inception in 1983, the Gala has raised more than \$2 million in support of the scholarship. Leading by example, Gala Committee Co-Chairs James P. Shinehouse '80 and Patricia Shinehouse took the opportunity to announce their own commitment to excellence, a \$100,000 endowment for international travels and study abroad.

"As a University practice, it remains important to intentionally uncover and then remove barriers that impede student success," said President Christopher Fiorentino. "We must continue this kind of ambition on their behalf."

The event was made possible thanks to presenting sponsor Aramark and numerous corporate sponsors. [WCU](#)





“As a University practice, it remains important to intentionally uncover and then remove barriers that impede student success...”

—President Christopher Fiorentino



Josie Washington-McQuay (L) in Hollinger Field House with Brenda VanLengen, producer of *If Not For Them*.

Celebrating Title IX's Anniversary and a WCU Milestone

This spring, the University held a panel discussion on Title IX, a landmark piece of gender equality legislation celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Featuring former WCU athletes, coaches, and staff, the discussion focused on pre-legislation inequities in women's collegiate sports and the progress and challenges to Title IX since it was signed into law June 23, 1972. To highlight the legislation's anniversary, each panelist shared experiences from each of the five decades since Title IX's adoption.

The panelists were:

- **Deirdre Kane** ('70s), former University of Dayton field hockey, women's basketball, and softball athlete, and former WCU women's basketball coach;
- **Christine Karpinski** '89 ('80s), former WCU field hockey and women's lacrosse student-athlete, and current faculty member and chair of WCU's Department of Nutrition;
- **Kellianne Milliner** ('90s), former Villanova softball athlete and current WCU senior woman administrator and WCU associate director of athletics;
- **Maddy Evans** ('00s), former member of the Boston Breakers and Orlando Pride of the National Women's Professional Soccer League and Penn State University women's soccer athlete and current WCU women's soccer assistant coach; and
- **Juah Toe** '20 ('10s), former WCU women's rugby student-athlete and 2020 NCAA Woman of the Year finalist, current graduate student at UNC Greensboro.

The theme of celebrating WCU's women athletes continued through May when a camera crew visited campus to film part of the documentary series *If Not For Them*, which follows the origin of college women's basketball between the 1950s and early 1980s.

Part of the series will focus on WCU, specifically in 1969 when West Chester State College hosted and won the first National Invitational Championship for college women's basketball teams. At the time, coach Carol Eckman pulled the tournament together as a way to further challenge her athletes, said Josie Washington-McQuay, whose mother, Marian E. Washington '70, played on Eckman's winning team.

In Hollinger Field House, West Chester won the tournament with a 56-39 victory over Western Carolina. Sponsored by the Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (CIAW), only four of West Chester's 10 opponents reached 40 points against the Golden Rams' defense.

The team was inducted into the West Chester University Hall of Fame in 2012. **WCU**



Learn more about the documentary series at www.ifnotforthem.com.

SPOTLIGHT ON FACULTY RESEARCH

In April, the University recognized the accomplishments of 33 exceptional teacher-scholar researchers whose leadership, curiosity, and expertise helped WCU usher in a new era of research while remaining committed to the priority of teaching. The Spotlight on Faculty Research, held in the University's new Sciences and Engineering Center & The Commons, was also a public celebration of the University's 2021 reclassification to Doctoral Universities – High Research Activity (R2). The University's new classification took place during Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education's most recent three-year cycle of evaluations.

Nine students who participated in the student segment of the day-long event showcasing research were also recognized.

“The hallmark of our faculty is their emphasis on the teacher-scholar model,” said Executive Vice President and Provost

■ Laurie Bernotsky. “We are quite fortunate to work with faculty who are committed to creating extraordinary experiences for their students by producing research, engaging students in that research, and creating relevant graduate programs.”

Deputy Provost and Vice President for Academic Operations Jeffery Osgood, Jr., emphasized how WCU faculty are solving today's complex problems with interdisciplinary collaboration, such as those from two colleges – Arts and Humanities and the Sciences and Mathematics – who were recognized for leading the successful development and execution of the First Year Experience courses: (L-R) Josh Auld, biology; Lisa Marano, mathematics; President Christopher Fiorentino; and Shannon Mrkich and Rodney Mader, both English.

STUDENTS WIN EUROPEAN UNION'S NATIONAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS CONTEST



This spring, a team of four WCU students placed first in a national debating competition hosted by the Delegation of the European Union to the United States in Washington, D.C. More than 20 colleges participated in the prestigious contest, the 2022 Annual European Union Schuman Challenge, including Yale, Georgetown, and American universities.

The annual competition asks students to respond to a topic impacting international affairs and present their ideas in a 10-minute presentation before a panel of judges. This year's prompt focused on EU and U.S. cooperation in Afghanistan following the withdrawal of the U.S. military.

Guided by WCU Political Science Professor Peter Loedel, the winning team included: Katherine Kerr '22, political science major and global studies minor; Evan Brooks '22, business management major with minors in economics and civic and professional leadership; and two current political science majors: Jocelyn Brown (international relations), and double major Joseph Steidle (applied public policy and music elective studies).

Loedel said competing gave students an opportunity to do what people who earn degrees in political science do: debate, negotiate, and present.

“Providing our students with these kinds of opportunities is something West Chester University is very good at,” Loedel said. “And it proves that West Chester students can compete with the best and brightest across the country – and win.” **WCU**



Football, Fireworks, Open House Close Out Our Sesquicentennial Celebration

The University's final sesquicentennial festivities coincided with Alumni Weekend, beginning on Friday, April 22, with a spring football scrimmage followed by fireworks. On Saturday, April 23, President Christopher Fiorentino welcomed alumni and guests to a University-wide family-friendly sesquicentennial open house with demonstrations, games, entertainment, refreshments, and giveaways. The last submissions to the WCU time capsule were collected as the WCU 150: History and Heritage exhibition by the Anthropology and Sociology Museum officially closed.





Celebrations throughout West Chester University's 150th Anniversary year were made possible by the generosity of community partners. *Presenting Sponsor:* Aramark. *Platinum Sponsors:* Student Services, Inc. and West Pharmaceutical Services, Inc. *Diamond Sponsors:* Essential Utilities and WCU Alumni Association. *Gold Sponsor:* Truist. *Bronze Sponsors:* IMS Technology Services and Meridian Bank. *Purple Sponsors:* Barnaby's West Chester; Clark Associates, Inc.; First Bank; MacElree Harvey; Northwestern Mutual; PSECU; Radius Systems; SEI Investments Company; TD Bank; Univest Financial; and Visual Sound.



WCU 150TH ANNIVERSARY SHOWCASE

SATURDAY, APRIL 23 • 1PM – 3PM



Artwork by WCU Illustration Club: Gabbi Bonifazi, Noah Burns, Pajje Carbonell, Emily Dana, Olivia Dreon, Peter Idem, Christian Lindsay, Victoria Naftal, Inez Oliveras, and Hannah Stoltzfus **Advisor Professor:** Scotty Reifsnyder, College of Arts & Humanities **Full list of anniversary sponsors at** wcupa.edu/wcu150



A MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

To all the new Golden Rams who graduated this spring, congratulations and welcome to our herd!

Although the new school year has not quite begun, preparations are already underway to ensure that Homecoming 2022 is the best one yet. I know that there were still some folks who didn't feel comfortable returning to our proud alma mater for our in-person Homecoming last year due to the pandemic. It is my fervent wish that all alumni are healthy, safe, and confidently able to attend the amazing festivities we have planned for October 7, 8, and 9. Please mark your calendars now so you don't miss a minute. Stay tuned for a full listing of events on the Alumni Association website: wcualumni.org. I look forward to seeing all of you at one or more of the many great events planned for that weekend.

For those who don't want to wait until fall to connect with your fellow Golden Rams, have no fear. There are now more than 120,000 WCU alumni and I suspect that no matter where you live there is a Golden Ram not too far from you. If you are in a position to offer internships or assistance to students or young alumni, please do so. One good way to mentor our current students no matter where you live is to join Ram Nation. To find out more about this great program that can connect you to students looking for your expertise, go to ramnation.wcupa.edu/ and sign up today.

The WCU Alumni Association Board of Directors thanks you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you soon. Your loyalty and passion for West Chester University is what makes our amazingly vibrant association stand out from the rest. If you have any interest in serving on the WCU Alumni Board, please complete the nomination form located at the back of this magazine. I would love to work with you in the future as we seek to put our talents together to continue to strengthen the alumni community.

Go Rams!

Matt Holliday '09
President, WCU Alumni Association

CHAPTER NEWS

The sesquicentennial year has ended and we are looking forward to the next 150 years of student success and University advancement. Campus is changing and our University is growing. As our alumni base has surpassed 123,000 Golden Rams, we aim to continue providing an outlet for connecting and networking and continue supporting you through events, alumni benefits, and our chapters and clubs. We are looking ahead to a new academic year of engagement and the opportunity to welcome alumni back to campus.

As ambassadors of our great alma mater, the WCU Alumni Association Alumni chapters have tirelessly worked to connect with our alumni through social events, professional networking, service initiatives, and fundraising. We hope that you will join them and continue in the legacy that they have started. Below is a list of our current alumni chapters, whose numbers continue to grow. For more information on specific chapters and how you can get involved, visit our website: www.wcualumni.org/chapters.

Abbé Society

Alumni Dance Chapter

Athletic Training Alumni Chapter

Baltimore Metro Alumni Chapter

Bands Alumni Chapter

Black Alumni Chapter

Chester County Chapter

Communication Alumni Network

Criminal Justice Alumni

Delaware County Chapter

Friars Society

GOLD X Alumni Chapter

Graduate Student Alumni Chapter

Greek Alumni Chapter

Honors College Alumni Chapter

International Military Alumni Chapter (IMAC)

International Programs Alumni Chapter

Law Alumni Chapter

Lehigh Valley Alumni Chapter

LGBTQA Alumni

MBA Alumni

New York Alumni

Omega Delta

Political & Government Affairs Chapter

Public Health Alumni Chapter

Public Policy & Administration Alumni Chapter

Washington, D.C. Chapter

WCU Alumni Chapter

Women in Leadership and Service (WILS) Alumni Chapter

Women's Lacrosse Alumni Chapter

York County Chapter

Zeta Psi Alumni Chapter

ROOTED IN RISK TAKING

Andrew McLaughlin '09 credits his WCU Honors College coursework for fostering the entrepreneurial spirit and leadership skills he needed to launch Aragon Artists, an entertainment production company that has grown into a \$10 million enterprise in less than two years.

McLaughlin's path to establishing Aragon Artists was a circuitous one. At WCU, he earned a bachelor of arts in music in voice performance with a leadership minor from the Honors College. He put those leadership skills to good use as chapter president of Omicron Delta Kappa, president of the Honors Student Association, and the logistical coordinator for the Aid to South Africa educational fundraiser.

Post-graduation, he performed with some of the nation's top opera companies for almost eight years while simultaneously working for an entertainment production company. For many artists, a performance at Carnegie Hall would be a career pinnacle. For McLaughlin, his solo performance of Brahms' A German Requiem in 2017 at Carnegie Hall – with full orchestra and choir behind him – left him feeling unexpectedly disillusioned.

"I realized that the high I had expected to feel from something I had wanted and worked for all of my life was just not there," he says.

It wasn't until the pandemic hit in March 2020 that McLaughlin leaned into the risk-taking skills he had cultivated in his Honors classes at WCU and took the leap to found Aragon Artists.

"It was risky. We were mid-pandemic and none of my artist friends were working," he

explains. "I thought about the self-awareness adventure-based course I took at West Chester. It all came full-circle for me, and I decided I had to do it."

Not quite two years later, McLaughlin has four full-time bands rostered, 15 full-time employees, and Aragon Artists produces 200 to 300 events each year. Their productions range in scale from an intimate birthday celebration for 50 in Miami, to a bar mitzvah held in Yankee Stadium, to a 500-guest celebratory wedding at New York's Lincoln Center.

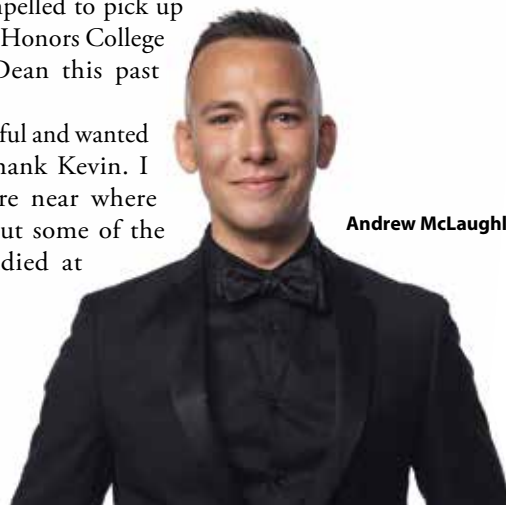
Though Aragon Artists is a very successful for-profit venture, McLaughlin says it's not the money that drives him. "Delivering beyond expectations for both our talent and our clients is how I gain my fulfillment and purpose."

Thirteen years after leaving WCU, McLaughlin has come to realize the impact of his Honors College "roots" – so much so that he felt compelled to pick up the phone and call Honors College Director Kevin Dean this past February.

"I am very grateful and wanted to reach out to thank Kevin. I would be nowhere near where I am today without some of the coursework I studied at WCU." **WCU**

I thought about the self-awareness adventure-based course I took at West Chester. It all came full-circle for me, and I decided I had to do it.

Andrew McLaughlin



Distinguished Alumni



Judge Shanese I. Johnson '92

Judge Shanese I. Johnson ran her own law firm for 13 years until she was elected Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for Philadelphia in 2017. She is in the Criminal Division, Major Trials, and hears bail matters, criminal motions, and jury and non-jury felony and misdemeanor

cases. She is secretary of the Clifford Scott Green Chapter of the National Bar Association Judicial Council.

Johnson was very active in the Philadelphia Bar Association when she was practicing law and was co-chair of the Fee Dispute Committee. She was also secretary, treasurer, vice-chair, and ultimately chair of the Philadelphia Bar Association Family Law Section.

In 2005, Johnson was named one of American Lawyer Media's "Lawyers on the Fast Track," which annually recognizes 35 Pennsylvania lawyers under 40. Earlier that same year she was named one of West Chester University's Drum Majors for Justice. In April 2011, she received the Award of Service from the Alumnae Association of the Philadelphia High School for Girls. In 2011, Johnson was selected as one of WCU's Philadelphia Stars and a Pennsylvania Rising Star as selected by Super Lawyers, which limits its selections to no more than 2.5% of attorneys under 40 in the state. She was also named to WCU's Legacy of Leadership in 2016.

While earning her undergraduate degree in business management and a minor in political science at WCU, Johnson was active in many organizations including the Black Student Union, the Society for Advancement of Management, Economics and Finance, the yearbook, and the Residence Hall Association.

She is a 1995 graduate of Temple University's Beasley School of Law, where she was involved with the Black Law Student Association and Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity. She was also the law student coach for the Martin Luther King, Jr. High School when they won the Philadelphia citywide mock trial championship for the first time.

Johnson is very active in her community. She is currently on the Boards of Bebash, Inc., Mothers in Charge, Inc., and Philadelphia Health Services, Inc.

Johnson grew up in the Mt. Airy section of Philadelphia, where she currently resides. She is the mother of a 15-year-old son, Shane, whom she hopes will become a Golden Ram.



Thom Park '69

Thom Park is a co-founder and managing partner of Prescient Capital Ventures, LLC, concurrently serving as partner at The Gamebreakers, LLC, and advisor at Providence Partners, LLC, in commercial real estate. With a career spanning the military, higher education (as coach, teacher, and scholar), business, charity, and entrepreneurialism,

he brings a deep perspective to athletics, society, and business with a lifetime study of leadership and sport.

Park earned his bachelor's degree in psychology at West Chester State College; his master of education in counselor education at The Citadel; his doctorate in counseling psychology, minoring in sport psychology, statistics, and college teaching at Florida State University (FSU); and pursued executive education at Wharton Business School at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a Distinguished Alumnus for Business, FSU College of Education.

He served with the U.S. Marines from 1967 through 1977, including a tour in Vietnam.

Park played for West Chester in the 1967 Tangerine Bowl. He was assistant football coach for the University of Maryland between 1972 and 1977 when they went to the Peach, Liberty, Gator, and Cotton Bowls. He is nearing 50 years as a member of the American Football Coaches Association.

As an academic, Park taught or lectured for 41 years at FSU and became courtesy associate professor of sport administration in 1993. He also coached football or taught at the universities of Central Florida and Connecticut and The Citadel; authored 127 articles and four books; and given hundreds of lectures and speeches.

From 1982 to 2003, he was vice president for investments, advisor, and manager for Morgan Stanley in Tallahassee, FL. In 1985, he launched his own company for executive coaching and legal consulting to the sports and football industries.

In 1986, Park founded what was Nehemiah's Wall at the Adirondack Center, a non-profit, outdoor adventure center for at-risk youth and adults and youth with developmental disabilities in St. Johnsville, N.Y., serving more than 50,000 clients through 2010.

A 20-year Wildwood (FL) Presbyterian Church of America (PCA) Elder Emeritus, Park has board service with the Presbyterian Church of America and PCA Elders National Foundation and served under three Florida Governors with a Florida Sports 501c (3), the FCA National Advisory Board, and the Bowden Foundation Board.



Kimberly S. Reed '94

Kimberly S. Reed, chief transformational officer of the Reed Development Group, is a strategic leader with more than 25 years of experience in HR, talent acquisition, and diversity and inclusion training. She advises, trains, and develops leaders who are empowered to create more inclusive organizational cultures.

Reed is the author of *Optimists Always Win! Moving from Defeat to Life's C-Suite* (Simon Schuster/HCI Communications), sharing personal stories and advice on overcoming difficult challenges. She is a motivational speaker and an "ambassador for cancer warriors," using 100% of the proceeds from her book to fund two cancer charities.

She has been widely recognized in the global media and has earned awards for her leadership and service from such organizations as the National Urban League and the City of Philadelphia. In 2020, Reed received both the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Salute to Greatness Award: Ambassador Global Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the Game Changer: Community Service Award for Entrepreneurship, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Impact. She has been named to the 2022 Power List of Top 50 Chief Diversity Officers by *Color* magazine and the magazine's Top Black Leaders for impact on diversity and inclusion as well as *CORE* magazine's Top 100 Most Influential Blacks. She is a *Minority Business Entrepreneur* Leaders Award honoree and was named a top ROI-NJ Influencer on Metro's 2021 Philly Power Women list. She was inducted into WCU's Legacy of Leadership.

Reed serves on several professional and not-for-profit boards as a member, executive council member, and chair including with the local American Cancer Society and Legacy of Hope. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha as well as The Links, Inc., one of the nation's oldest and largest volunteer service organizations for African American women.

Reed earned a bachelor's degree in political science with a concentration in international relations and public administration at West Chester University. She also earned a master's degree in education in adult organizational development and public policy from Temple University. Reed received certification in global

organizational leadership, human resource management from Temple's Fox School of Business as well as certifications in training and development and communication and conflict from Temple.



Patricia Wheeler Prentzel '47

Patricia Wheeler Prentzel spent her early life in York, PA, and earned her bachelor of science in education in 1947 from West Chester State Teachers College. She earned her master's degree in music education from Temple University in 1956.

At the prestigious Holton-Arms School in Bethesda, MD (her first teaching position, which she held for only one year), the head of the music department recognized her talent and, under her guidance, Prentzel began her career as a professional pianist. She performed the two-piano selection "Carnival of the Animals" with the Washington National Symphony and the world premier of "Piano Concerto" by Vladimir Padwa. She also soloed on the *Hornel Hour* radio program.

Following her marriage, Prentzel continued performing professionally and moved to Abington, PA, to raise her two sons. She became well known as a pianist, teaching piano and voice lessons to students at her home and accompanying them in concerts and competitions. She taught full time and directed the school chorus at Lower Moreland Middle School for 18 years while continuing to teach privately. After retiring from teaching, she worked for several years as an executive secretary at Abington Memorial Hospital.

She moved to Florida's west coast and resumed her musical endeavors, seeking private voice and piano students of all ages. During this period, Prentzel joined with another pianist for two-piano concerts at schools, community gatherings, and retirement communities. She was secretary, president, and choral director for the Cecilian Music Society of Venice, FL; directed several church choirs in nearby North Port; served as an advisor when the city of North Port planned and built the North Port Performing Arts Center; and served Hope Lutheran Church in Port Charlotte as music director, organist, and choir director for 10 years. She was also musical director for the Charlotte Players of Port Charlotte, directing *The Fantasticks*.

Prentzel was director of North Port Chorale from 1998 to 2012. Dedicated to improving the performance level of the 80-voice chorus, she offered its members free instruction in sight reading. From the chorale, she created a spin-off show choir — the Soundsations — and directed and accompanied them until 2015, when they gave their final performance at her 90th birthday celebration.

2023

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD NOMINEES SOUGHT

The Distinguished Alumni Awards have been presented by the West Chester University Alumni Association annually since 1963. The WCUAA Awards Committee seeks candidates to be selected and recognized for this prestigious honor at the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Awards Celebration.

The WCUAA Awards Committee is looking for candidates who have:

- Achieved outstanding recognition in their chosen professions;
- Rendered unusual service to a particular segment of society either vocationally or avocationally;
- Achieved outstanding recognition or rendered unusual service by volunteering in a non-profit organization; or
- Positively influenced large numbers of people throughout the candidate's career.

If you would like to nominate a deserving alumnus/a, please complete and mail this form to the WCU Alumni Relations Office. You may also submit a nomination online at www.wcualumni.org. Nominations must be received by 4 p.m. on Friday, September 23, 2022. Upon receipt of a nomination, a packet will be sent to the nominator for completion.

2023 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Name of Nominee

Class Year(s)

Street Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

Email

Nominated by

Class Year(s)

Street Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

Email

Please mail this form to:

WCUAA Awards Committee
c/o Alumni Relations Office
202 Carter Drive
West Chester, PA 19382

To submit this form electronically, visit www.wcualumni.org. Nominations must be received by 4 p.m. on Friday, September 23, 2022.



HONORING PHIL DONLEY AND 50 YEARS OF ATHLETIC TRAINING EDUCATION

On June 29, in conjunction with the annual National Athletic Trainers' Association conference held in Philadelphia this year, the WCU College of Health Sciences and the Department of Sports Medicine honored Phillip B. Donley and 50 years of athletic training education at the University with a reception at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. A highly accomplished physical therapist, athletic trainer, and author, Donley was head athletic trainer and professor of physical education at WCU for nearly 30 years. Plans call for renovations to Sturzebecker Health Science Center to begin in late 2023 and the University has begun fundraising to name the renovated athletic training facility after Donley. For more information, visit wcupa.edu/AT50.



Last fall, a group of WCU alumni who lived on Magnolia Street in the 1980s held a reunion on Block Island, RI (L to R): **Ed Reed '84, Jim Senior '83, Peter Darling '84, Neil Citrone '86, Lori Romig Citrone '83, Sue Remaly Costello '86, and Joe Costello '85.** Steve Strawley '85 wasn't able to attend the reunion.



Carter '15

1960s

Tina Sloan Green '66, returned from retirement to coach alongside Jazmine Smith, founder and head coach of Eyekonz Sports League. Sloan Green will help prepare middle and high school students for this year's 2022 World Lacrosse Women's World Championship Festival. Sloan Green was the first African-American named to the U.S. national women's lacrosse team. Later, she was the first African-American woman hired as a head coach for a collegiate lacrosse program.

Daniel Smith '69 retired from teaching in May 2022. Smith taught in public schools for 35 years where he worked with many student music teachers from WCU. Following retirement from Coatesville Schools, he joined Penn State Berks as an adjunct professor where he taught for 18 more years, receiving the Outstanding Adjunct Professor award in 2013.

1970s

Michael Pochyba '70 retired from Dover Area School District, Dover, PA, after teaching Health & PE for 39 years and elementary guidance for one year. Pochyba also coached cross-country and volleyball.

Edward Weichers '73 was inducted into the WCU Athletic Hall of Fame on April 23, 2022.

Michael Cramer '77 retired in July 2021 after working in the food industry for nearly 43 years. The third edition of his book *Food Plant Sanitation*, published by CRC Press, became available in April 2022.

Doug Lamplugh '78 published his first novel after retiring from a 30-year law enforcement career. *Murder at Mardi Gras* is a fictional account of a murder that takes place at Mardi Gras and takes more than a decade to solve. The book was published by Wild Blue Press and is available at most online booksellers as well as some brick and mortar bookstores.

Audra (Spotts) Supplee '78 has another published novel. Her young adult fantasy, *Frama-12*, is about two incompatible teens who find themselves in the wacky alternate world of Frama-12 where they must work together to prevent an alien army from invading Earth. It was published on July 13, 2022, and is available on Amazon Kindle.

1980s

Dr. Elizabeth Claghorn Evans '80 is an advanced clinical nurse educator at Torrance (CA) Memorial Medical Center. Evans married Mark W. Evans Lt.Col., Ret. in 2020. Evans presented on Compassionate Perioperative Care, AORN Expo 2022 in New Orleans, LA; and Implementing a Sterile Processing Program, HSPA, San Antonio, TX, in April 2022. She will present Management and Educators Working Together, OR Manager Conference, Denver, CO, in October 2022.

Norm "Corky" Cochran '81 retired after 36 years in education. Cochran's career took him to Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Delaware as a health and physical education teacher, athletic director and coach. He coached soccer for 37 years including time at Widener University and Neumann University. Cochran achieved an "A" coaching license from the United States Soccer

Federation. He coached in Europe, high school, travel, and recreational soccer. A proud father, one of his children is a WCU graduate in nutrition.

Sharon Hicklen Kargbo '84 was promoted to the position of assistant director of finance - business operations in July 2021 at Chester County Intermediate Unit in Downingtown, PA. Kargbo previously was supervisor of IU Billing Services prior to being promoted to this administrative management role.

Carolyn (Gilligan) Quinn '84 recently received certification as a municipal recycling coordinator. She has been working in municipal government for the last 15 years, the last 7 years with Chester Township in Morris County, NJ, as a technical assistant to the construction official.

Deb Dreisbach '86 was recently promoted to assistant teaching professor and accepted the position of program coordinator of the criminal justice program at Penn State Lehigh Valley. She retired as a special agent from the federal government. Previously, she was the program coordinator of the criminal justice program at Rowan College at Burlington County and most recently taught for six years in the criminal justice program at Penn State Berks.

2000s

Sara Painter '00 has been elected to the board of directors of the Media Theatre in Media, PA.

Kathleen Amabile '09 presented two sessions at the 2022 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association Annual Conference, held April 6-9, 2022, at Kalahari Resorts in the Poconos. "There is Life After College! Navigating Interviews, Landing Your First 'Big Kid' Job and Thriving in Your First Year of Teaching" was aimed at helping undergraduate music education students as well as recent graduates with tips for a successful start in the profession. The second session, "Only Director in Your District? No Problem! Program Building in Small Rural Schools" discussed how to identify strengths and overcome challenges in small schools.

Jackie Baker '09 was inducted into the WCU Athletic Hall of Fame on April 23, 2022.

2010s

Nicole Mustaccio '03, M'13 is a doctoral candidate at the school of education, curriculum, and instruction at the University of South Carolina.

Chantal Whitehead-Scott '08 was named associate director, student & young alumni engagement, at the University of Delaware.

Max Bernardes '10 was inducted into the WCU Athletic Hall of Fame on April 23, 2022.

Jacquelyn (Borkowski) Kiriposki '10 was inducted into the WCU Athletic Hall of Fame on April 23, 2022.

Bernard Cooper '12 obtained a master's of science degree in data analytics and visualization from Yeshiva University. He is currently employed with the Marriott in Glassboro, NJ, as a night auditor.

Orrin White M'12, D'20 was named an education associate on the career and technical education workgroup at the Delaware Department of Education. White will lead the implementation of policy and programming to support student transition and coaching, including work-based learning opportunities, traditional education and training programs, and projects that accelerate student transition and identity development.

Colleen (Karl) Hiltl '14 started a new position as the marketing project coordinator with Central Penn College on March 14, 2022.

Shawn Carter '15, a Chester County Correctional Officer and Army veteran who was awarded two Purple Hearts, climbed to the top of Africa's tallest peak to help raise money for people who need access to clean water. Carter was part of Conquering Kili, a team that recently climbed to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro to raise funds for the Chris Long Foundation's WaterBoys project, a nonprofit organization whose goal is to provide clean, accessible drinking water to communities that don't have access to clean water.

In Memoriam

- 1943 Beatrice (Betty) R. Hallman
- 1943 Mathilda Bilse Sukaly
- 1949 Thomas J. DiFilippo
- 1949 Margaret Mallady Reitnour
- 1952 Samuel D. Rhinesmith
- 1953 Edmund J. Forte
- 1956 Laura Lambert Davis
- 1962 Michael A. Corson
- 1963 John Harnish
- 1963 Donald Raff
- 1963 Patricia Tiehel
- 1964 John C. Lewis
- 1970 Lynn R. Braunewell
- 1970 Nancy Yecker Konitzer
- 1971 Janet Echternach
- 1975 Richard M. Coover
- 1975 Catherine Spitz
- 1999 Stephanie A. Donahue

Engagements

- 1. **Andrew Berger '12 to Liz Bishop '15**

Marriages

- 2. **Jaelyn Hiester '15 to Erik Hackman '12** on August 14, 2021.
- 3. **Bradley D. Moyer '11 to Danielle Rohaly** on December 17, 2021.

Future Alumni

- 4. **Brittany (Watts) Scanlan '15 and Bill Scanlan '13** welcomed their third son and future Golden Ram, Ryan, on January 13, 2022.



1.



2.



3.



4.

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@wcufoundation.org.

SUBMIT your class notes to the Office of Alumni Relations to alumni@wcufoundation.org.

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.



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NOMINATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE WCUAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Nominating Committee of the West Chester University Alumni Association (WCUAA) is accepting nominations for candidates who wish to serve on the Association's Board of Directors for the 2023-2026 term. Please review the following information prior to submitting your nomination.

Nomination forms must be completed and received by 4 p.m. on Friday, September 23, 2022. The form below will also be available online at www.wcualumni.org.

- There are six seats on the WCUAA Board of Directors up for election each year.
- Board members are expected to serve the full three-year term for which they are elected.
- The terms of the newly elected members will begin on July 1, 2023.
- There will be a minimum of six (6) and a maximum of twelve (12) candidates on the election ballot.
- Board elections ballots will be available in the spring issue of the WCU Magazine. You may nominate yourself to run for the Board of Directors.

After all nominations are received, nominees will receive a biographical form/application to complete and a detailed description of duties associated with being a board member. This must be completed in its entirety to finalize the nomination.

2023 WCUAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATION FORM

Name of Nominee

Class Year(s)

Street Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

Email

Nominated by

Class Year(s)

Street Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

Email

Please mail this form to:

WCUAA Nominating Committee
c/o Alumni Relations Office
202 Carter Drive
West Chester, PA 19382

To submit this form electronically, visit:
www.wcualumni.org. Nominations must be received by 4 p.m. on Friday, September 23, 2022.



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