

WCU MAGAZINE

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2023



Moon Shot for Equity
PAGE 6

**Road
to the Roses '24**
PAGE 12

**Teachers Making
a Difference**
PAGE 19



IN MEMORY

Dr. Katherine Hyoejin Yoon

As dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, I had the honor of working with Dr. Katherine Hyoejin Yoon for all of her 20 plus years at West Chester, from her job interview with the English Department back in 2001 until her untimely death on December 16, 2022. She was 52.

A specialist in rhetoric and composition, she received her Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Albany. She received both a BA and an MA in English from Virginia Polytechnic Institute, where she also earned a BS in biology. She attended the HERS: Women in Higher Education Leadership Institute in 2014 and held numerous positions at the University on her path to becoming senior associate dean in 2016.

Her focus on both student and faculty research was evident from the beginning. A first-generation college student, she knew on a deep and personal level how imposter syndrome could creep in and, as an Asian woman, she knew what it felt like to have students with racial and gender biases question her expertise in the classroom. She never forgot those feelings, and it made her a fierce and passionate advocate for our most vulnerable faculty and students.

I really got to know Hyoejin when she moved to my neighborhood in Philadelphia and joined my carpool. We spent those long commutes talking about our teaching and our research, but also about our lives. We learned that Hyoejin was a cat lover (and then a dog lover); we learned that she was eager to find a partner to build a life, and a family, with. We learned about the ways her Korean heritage had shaped her, and we learned that she really wasn't a morning person.

Hyoejin helped launch our Equity, Access, Inclusion, and Diversity Grant: She encouraged a group of amazing faculty members as they formed the Women of Color Faculty Resource Caucus, and she advocated for the resources to appoint a faculty associate for equity action in the College. I was delighted to learn that the University has named the HERS scholarship for women in leadership in her honor, so that future women leaders who participate in the institute will be part of her legacy.

Hyoejin, we are still not ready to say goodbye to you. We are so grateful to have your insight, your wisdom, and your indignant humor in our lives. I miss you, friend. I know we all do.

*Dr. Jen Bacon
Dean, College of Arts & Humanities*

ON THE COVER

06
**Moon Shot
for Equity**

On the cover:
Rammy doing his share
to help out with the
Moon Shot for Equity mission.
Illustration by Mary Williams



FEATURE

18
Eyes on the PRIZE

Recruiting young people
to the teaching profession

PROFILES

13
**Donor:
Diamond Lipscomb Bertil '11**

Reducing barriers for
students of accounting

23
**Alumni:
Patricia Roberts '73, M'75**

Educator with an
entrepreneurial mindset

DEPARTMENTS

- 04 President's Letter
- 10 University News
- 14 Faculty Profile
- 22 Chapter News
- 24 Class Notes
- 31 Alumni
Board of Directors Ballot

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Many of you have heard me say this before and it is worth repeating prior to the purple-and-gold commencement season that we will all embrace. When students work hard and earn admittance to West Chester University, we do everything in our power to walk alongside them, guide them and help them cross the finish line. As a community of educators, WCU is committed to launching student success in much the same way as President John F. Kennedy committed to landing a person on the moon and bringing them back safely to Earth. We, too, are helping thousands of students embark on life-changing journeys that will benefit humankind. At the same time, we can do more. It's a Moon Shot that we believe is worth the investment.

You may have heard that West Chester University is engaged in a national student-success initiative led by Washington, D.C.-based education firm EAB. Entitled Moon Shot for Equity, the mission is designed to help underserved populations in the Southeastern Pennsylvania region graduate from college — students of color, veterans, first-generation students, adult students, and more. It's not a project; it is a University imperative that is working to erase institutional equity gaps in student success by 2030. From updating academic policies to establishing common academic pathways with partners like Delaware County Community College, Moon Shot for Equity is about activating opportunities that lead to fulfilling generations of dreams.

Led by enthusiastic and seasoned faculty and staff, the Moon Shot for Equity mission team is moving forward with enthusiasm and conviction. I hope that you will enjoy learning about our plans through this issue's cover story and joining us as we work to make securing a West Chester University degree possible for many more Golden Rams.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Fiorentino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christopher M. Fiorentino
President

**Editor and Senior Associate
Vice President for
Communications
and Marketing**
Nancy Santos Gainer

Managing Editor
Loretta MacAlpine

Design
WCU Graphics & Printing

Photography
Erica Thompson '10

Contributors
Jamie Klein
Christine Kozsuch

President
Christopher M. Fiorentino

**Vice President for University
Affairs and Chief of Staff**
Andrew Lehman

Director of Alumni Engagement
Jenna (Cardaciotto) Birch '06

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.

Send correspondence to: Editor,
The WCU Magazine, West Chester
University, West Chester, PA 19383

West Chester University Magazine is published by West Chester University Communications and Marketing.
www.wcupa.edu
WCU is an AA/EEO institution.



wcupa.edu/socialmedia

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

■ ■ ■ **WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY
COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES**

Robert M. Tomlinson '70 (chair)
Barry C. Dozor '71 (vice chair)
Marian D. Moskowitz (secretary)
Tara D. Chupka '05
Thomas A. Fillippo '69
Christopher Franklin '87
Jonathan Ireland '95, M'03
Stephen Kinsey '81
Susan Yoder Schick '88
Betty Silfa
Julia Ward (student)

**THE WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY
FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Officers

John H. Baker '74 (president)
Joan M. Kaminski '69 (vice president)
Keith E. Beale '77 (treasurer)
Sandra F. Mather '64, M'68 (secretary)
Debra G. Cornelius '91 (executive director)
Christina Gerenza (assistant treasurer)

Trustees

Tabetha J. Adkins, ex officio
Dawn Swope Apgar
R. Lorraine Bernotsky, ex officio
Eric K. Bossard '85
Edward N. Collison '93
Zebulun R. Davenport, ex officio
Christopher M. Fiorentino, ex officio
Matthew M. Holliday '09
Michael A. Mele '89
Todd E. Murphy, ex officio
Jeffery L. Osgood, Jr., ex officio
Robert H. Plucienik
William E. Scottoline '74
May Van M'89
Randall A. Warren M'92
Stanley J. Yarosewicz

**WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

President

Matthew Holliday '09

Vice President

Patrick O'Connor M'93

Treasurer

Tony Fragale '77

Secretary

Katie Jo Righi '05

Immediate Past President

Bill Scottoline '74

Directors

Douglas Ambler '71 M'72
Nancy Baulis '73
Lance Bogash '74
Joseph Cassel '79
Rick Daniels '75, M'81
Anjelica Finore '16
Tony Fragale '77
Marisa Gothie '05
Deidre Gray '92
Matthew Holliday '09
Carol Kashow '77
Laine Mann '91
Patrick O'Connor M'93
Katie Jo Righi '05
Gregory Saunders '87
Jeffrey Stein '91
Paris Webb '88
Joyce Woodson '75 M'79

President Emeriti

Carmen Evans Culp '52, M'64 (deceased)
Janice Weir Etshied '50 (deceased)
Karl Helicher '72, M'82, M'87
Joseph Kienle '72, M'74
Richard D. Merion '59, M'69
Edward J. Monroe '89
John F. Murphy '43 (deceased)
Dr. Luther B. Sowers '49 (deceased)

Director Emeritus

Nick Polcini '00, M'05

While WCU students have always been covered by emergency services, increased coverage has been brought to campus with the new addition of Station 355, a name designated in accordance with Chester County's Fire and EMS numbering system. In partnership with Good Fellowship Ambulance, the University opened a new, student-run division based on campus on December 1, 2022.

Student volunteers are overseen by Good Fellowship's leadership and a staff advisor from WCU. The division operates out of the ground floor of Commonwealth Hall, 715 South New Street, where Student Health Services is also located. In addition to covering the WCU campus, EMS units from Station 355 also handle other off-campus emergencies in the area and provide mutual aid to neighboring EMS agencies as needed.

The partnership allows Good Fellowship students and volunteers with previous training to complete a bachelor's degree in one of the health sciences majors. Courses taken at Good Fellowship Ambulance and the EMS Training Institute or GFC-UPMC-CEM Paramedic Training Consortium count toward up to 57 college credits.



MOON SHOT FOR EQUITY:

THE MISSION MOVES FROM

INSIGHT

————— TO —————>

ACTION

HIGHER EDUCATION IS EXPERIENCING A CULTURE SHIFT, BRINGING BROAD-BASED NEED FOR CHANGE AND WEST CHESTER IS ACTIVELY EMBRACING THE OPPORTUNITY TO REIMAGINE THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE.

Historically, higher education in general developed policies and practices that addressed the experiences of the majority of our country's population. Today, changes in America's demographics include a declining high school student population, more adult learners, and more racially and socioeconomically diverse college-bound students. Existing practices and policies at colleges and universities are not serving this evolving student population, resulting in institutional equity gaps throughout higher education.

When West Chester joined Delaware County Community College (DCCC) in the fall of 2021 as the first members of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Moon Shot for Equity partnership, leaders at both institutions committed to identifying and rectifying systemic barriers to success for all students, especially those from underrepresented groups.

"Every strategy of our Moon Shot mission will be a rising tide that lifts all boats," says Jeffery Osgood, Executive Vice President and interim Provost. "No longer are we asking, 'Are students ready for WCU?' Instead we are asking, 'Are we ready for our students?' It's our responsibility to reimagine student success in light of changing demographics and the continued impacts of the pandemic." In fact, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, "Public school leaders estimated that about half — 49% — of their students began the 2022-23 year behind grade level in at least one academic subject."

Osgood is part of the University's Moon Shot leadership team, as are Vanessa Kahen, WCU Moon Shot Director, Department Chair and Professor of Psychology; Megan Jerabek, Senior Associate Vice President for Academic & Enterprise Systems and University Registrar; and Tracey Robinson, Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion & Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer.

Kahen, who co-chaired the University's Equity Scorecard team from 2011-2014, notes, "Changes made during the Covid pandemic highlighted non-nimble practices in higher education in general. It unveiled problems such as safe spaces for academic courses and technology inequities. These all gave us a window into an opportunity to achieve equity."

Adds Robinson, "Today's students are different from pre-Covid students so our outreach has to be different. We need to reevaluate what student engagement looks

like and foster affirmation and belonging for this generation."

Moon Shot for Equity is a national public-private partnership sponsored by education firm EAB. EAB provides regional ecosystems of two- and four-year colleges and universities with support and research-backed best practices, policies, and technology.

Based on its extensive research, EAB identified 15 best practices in four areas for participating institutions to evaluate and implement. Those areas are leadership and campus climate; access and enrollment; academic policy and practices; and student support and belongingness. Some of their regional partnership schools, including the inaugural cluster in Wisconsin, have been successful at reducing equity gaps by applying EAB's data, research, and guidance to smooth the path to graduation and close achievement gaps.

U.S. Rep. Chrissy Houlahan & U.S. Sen. Bob Casey Advance Grant Funding

Representative Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA) and Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) successfully advanced and secured a fiscal year 2023 Community Project Funding (CPF) grant in the amount of \$716,000 to support an important project entitled West Chester University Moon Shot: I Want to STEM (sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics)! The I Want to STEM! initiative is linked directly to the University's high-profile Moon Shot for Equity mission, which is dedicated to closing equity gaps in student success and defying systemic barriers by 2030 so all WCU students can excel.

During the spring of 2022, a non-partisan panel of 14 community leaders in Pennsylvania's Sixth Congressional District reviewed 42 applications and recommended select projects to Representative Houlahan for funding through CPF. The West Chester University Moon Shot: I Want to STEM! project emerged as one of 15 offered to the House Committee on Appropriations for funding consideration. The House Committee on Appropriations approved all 15 projects submitted by Representative Houlahan's office and full funding was secured on December 23 following a vote in the House.

Too many low-income students and students of color lack opportunities to do research and find mentors. WCU is working to change that, and this federal funding will help them change students' lives.

"As an engineer and as a teacher, I know the importance of introducing young people to STEM education and occupations," said Representative Houlahan. "STEM education prepares our students for the jobs of the present and helps them explore the possibilities of the future. I'm enthusiastic about the curriculum that West Chester University has developed to encourage our students and cultivate their interests in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. I proudly supported the WCU I Want to STEM! Community Project Funding initiative."

Led by WCU Associate Professor of Physics and Engineering Brandon J. Mitchell and designed by the University's College of the Sciences and Mathematics Center for STEM Inclusion and the Center for Nanomaterials, the I Want to STEM! initiative is a comprehensive outreach, research, and mentorship program that will guide students successfully from elementary school to a bachelor's degree in STEM. The program will establish a chain of mentorship between grade 3-12 students, undergraduates, and faculty/industry partners. The project, which has the potential to serve as a dynamic model for addressing achievement gaps, has been intentionally designed to expand K-12 STEM engagement for students in grades 3-12 who are of color and low income, as well as to improve college STEM retention by increasing financial assistance and building a sense of community for college students at WCU who are of color and low income.

"I fought for this award so that West Chester University's 'I Want to STEM!' Initiative can help even more students from Chester County and across the Commonwealth fulfill their potential and pursue a STEM education — and career," said U.S. Senator Bob Casey. "Too many low-income students and students of color lack opportunities to do research and find mentors. WCU is working to change that, and this federal funding will help them change students' lives."

Members of the WCU team who collaborated on the project's development are Associate Professor of Physics and Engineering Brandon Mitchell (Principal Investigator), Dean of the College of the Sciences and Mathematics Radha Pyati, and Niki Bennett, former vice provost for research and creative activity. **WCU**

"EAB is working with WCU and others on self-assessment," explains Jerabek. "EAB provides equity-minded leadership development so this becomes part of who we are. It's not only about closing equity gaps but also sustaining the closure."

The work isn't new to WCU, but it differs from our past equity initiatives, she continues. A primary distinction is the necessity of including the voices within our community of students, staff, and faculty in eliminating institutional inequity.

Students will also participate in EAB's focus groups. Robinson says we are listening to our students not only because "who they are continues to evolve" but to "capture the evolving best practices necessary to engage our students."

Some of our improvements predate Moon Shot. The math department, for example, introduced changes to a developmental math course that transformed it into a co-curricular program with a lab. And in 2020, WCU and Delaware County strengthened a transfer agreement, enabling qualified DCCC graduates with an associate's degree to enroll in a parallel major at WCU, secure a renewable scholarship, and access success coaching.



Tracey Robinson



Vanessa Kahan



“No longer are we asking, ‘Are students ready for WCU?’
Instead we are asking, ‘Are we ready for our students?’

— Jeffery Osgood, Executive Vice President and interim Provost

In addition, equity is part of the University’s current strategic plan, Pathways to Student Success, and has been an important tenet of previous strategic plans.

As of spring 2023, five “goal teams,” each led by three individuals (totaling 15 co-chairs) and engaging approximately 75 faculty and staff, are focused on these areas: reforming policies and processes regarding holds on student accounts; transfer pathways; developmental course reform; the development of retention grants; and a shift toward proactive advising with technology. Jerabek reports that, with the exception of developmental education, DCCC is working on the same areas, opening opportunities for collaboration.

After examining our institutional data on student success across each of these areas, members of the goal teams discovered one of our most profound equity gaps affects WCU’s Black and Latinx students.

Adds Kahen, “Unintentionally, our policies and processes have not fully supported our Black and Latinx students so we will first focus on breaking down institutional barriers to success for those groups. The teams will make recommendations on tangible ways to close these equity gaps.”

Transfer students are also impacted by the University’s equity gaps, as are veterans and others.

“Pennsylvania is becoming increasingly more diverse,” says Osgood. “We’ll see more first-generation students, more students in financial need, for example, and we need to adapt our business model. The current model of higher education [in general] is not set up for these students to succeed.”

Changing an institution’s culture is a time-consuming process, but adopting certain proven best practices early can provide a springboard toward achieving the elimination of equity gaps. The University has already implemented two platforms to benefit all students: the transfer credit estimator, an automated tool; and Navigate, EAB’s student success and engagement platform.

Navigate went live for WCU in fall 2022. The technology brings retention and engagement processes under one interconnected umbrella, offering data, analytics, reports, and tools that enable offices across the institution — as well as students themselves — to track students’ progress from enrollment through graduation. During the fall semester, faculty, staff, and students most frequently used Navigate’s progress reports tool to support students on their academic journey.

This fall, Jerabek will lead the new Academic Success and Advocacy Center, a unit including 12 newly hired professionals who will support students with crucial planning in a coordinated care platform. Moon Shot recommendations, goal team members, and other key faculty and staff will also contribute to building the new unit. This team will help students develop a sense of belonging, improve their time management and study skills, assist with the transition from high school or other colleges, and connect students with the resources they need, from tutoring to the Resource Pantry.



L-R: Megan Jerabek with faculty Kimberly Johnson, nutrition, and Zeinab Baba, health, during Moon Shot Week this March.

“This new unit expands what we’ve been doing all along,” says Jerabek. “We want to grow the advising process and implement best practices, conduct self-evaluations, shift our advising process to accommodate the underserved student demographic.”

In signing on to the Moon Shot for Equity mission, WCU accepted the challenge to disrupt the status quo for the advancement of not only underserved students but all students. The work may be complicated at times but “In order to be successful, we have to accept the facts,” says Jerabek. “Simply checking the boxes isn’t the goal. We may need to accept a different experience to be successful. It’s critical for us to achieve these goals.”

“What convinces me that this can be done is our leadership’s dedication to this work,” Kahen says. “At the grassroots level, students, faculty, and staff are invested in the outcome. And we have the support of our Council of Trustees, the State System, and the Board of Governors. We are beginning to see systemic culture change at the University.”^{WCU}

TEACHING SCHOOLS HOW TO "GROW THEIR OWN"



Fueled by a passion to help others learn and discover, teaching is one of the most inspirational careers. Post-pandemic, however, the profession has evolved dramatically and those who have dedicated themselves to the life-transforming career understand that it will take a lot more than tempting teachers with apples to swell the ranks. A significant factor associated with the current national teacher shortage (as outlined by the American Association of School Personnel Administrators) is decreased interest in the profession prompted by the perception of what it means to be a teacher. West Chester University's Dean of the College of Education and Social Work Desha Williams knows exactly what it will take to fill the pipeline once again: Partnering in Raising Inclusive, Zealous Educators (PRIZE).

The program, launched in fall 2022, features opportunities for participating high school juniors or seniors with a 2.8 or higher GPA to take in-person and/or online college-level education classes at WCU. All costs are covered by the University and the partnering school district. The University plans to admit all participating students who earn a minimum 3.0 high school GPA or who earn a grade of C or better in their college education courses.

As the backbone of our educational system, teachers cultivate generations of students and comprise the village that we depend on.

Peer support is a critical component of the project. Undergraduate education majors serve as mentors to keep the high school students on track and inspired. In addition to being immersed in a host of leadership development and internship opportunities,

rising high school seniors and/or graduated seniors will participate in a summer on-campus experience. The University will welcome its first cohort this summer.

The PRIZE will be when these participants graduate from West Chester and return to their home schools to teach.

School districts are eagerly raising their hands. Participating in the innovative partnership so far are these Pennsylvania school districts: Kennett Square Consolidated, Kennett Square, PA;

Chester Upland, Chester, PA; and Colonial, Plymouth Meeting, PA. Conversations are also ongoing with other area school districts.

Prior to her role at WCU, Williams developed a series of successful pathway programs in Georgia to prepare teachers for

ethnically diverse student populations in rural, urban, and suburban environments. She is adamant that the teaching profession needs to change its strategy. "We don't do a good enough job telling our stories," Williams said in a December 2022 *Philadelphia Inquirer* article written by Sue Snyder, higher education reporter. "We do the work. We celebrate students' accomplishments, and then we just get up and do it again the next year."

PRIZE is destined to be a game-changer and the timing is right for such an initiative. According to Williams, the Commonwealth is experiencing a drastic increase in the need for teachers. In 2020-2021, Pennsylvania issued 5,039 new certifications, as opposed to 25,728 in 2012-2013. Research documents positive impacts on student learning when teachers represent diverse backgrounds; however, only 7% of teachers in Pennsylvania identify as persons of color while 37% of Pennsylvania students identify as students of color.

"As the backbone of our educational system, teachers cultivate generations of students and comprise the village that we depend on," says Senior Vice President and Interim Provost Jeffery L. Osgood. "It is up to the universities and colleges that train these committed professionals to actively reach out to school districts to help solve what has become a grand challenge — infusing the U.S. educational system with an increasing number of teachers from a variety of diverse backgrounds who welcome inspiring all children. We are especially proud of the compelling work that is going on at WCU's College of Education and Social Work to advance the education of all children. That is indeed the ultimate PRIZE." **WCU**

A well-respected researcher, scholar, chemist, and advocate for all things STEM, the University's Dean of the College of Sciences and Mathematics Radha Pyati had one item on her academic bucket list that she always wanted to pursue: a Fulbright. Yearning transformed into reality when Pyati received word from the U.S. Department of State and the Fulbright Scholarship Board that she had been awarded a coveted Fulbright Specialist grant to Vietnam from December 7, 2022, through January 5, 2023.

Pyati was one of more than 400 U.S. citizens selected for the prestigious award this year. Recipients of Fulbright Specialist awards are selected based on academic and professional achievement, demonstrated leadership in their field, and their potential to foster long-term cooperation between institutions in the U.S. and abroad.

Saying she was "beyond excited," Pyati was awarded the six-week, short-term grant to share chemistry education expertise with the students, faculty, and staff at the University of Danang – University of Science and Education.

Engaging, immersing, learning, and sharing were key objectives throughout her grant. Pyati met with chemistry department faculty; lectured to groups of up to 70 students; presented to an audience of 100 faculty and students; toured laboratories in chemistry, biology, and physics; and more. During one lecture, she spoke with students and faculty about their primary interests — applying for scholarships in the U.S., electrochemistry of platinum phenylacetylides, the path that led to her own career, as well as life at West Chester University. She also shared information about current frameworks in chemistry education and K-12 education, research connections, laboratory safety culture, academic administration, and program and university accreditations.

"I spoke a lot about West Chester University," she said. "Thanks to our Graduate Admissions office, I was even able to give the students lots of swag: pens, notebooks, and more."

Google Translate became her best friend when she answered students' questions. "I would pull out my cell, access Google Translate, speak into the phone, and my response was instantly translated into Vietnamese for all to hear. Heads would nod enthusiastically, and I could see that it worked. I used it while riding taxis, too."

As an inclusive cultural experience, many Fulbright grants provide unique opportunities for the entire family to become immersed in another country's culture. The Pyati family found this to be true. While Pyati was on campus, her husband and two daughters, ages 16 and 10, took Vietnamese language lessons and explored the country.

"My family had an absolutely great time," she said. "They would leave me at a local bakery to do some work and they would go off to their lesson. We became regulars and the staff got to know us quickly."

The family also visited three UNESCO World Heritage sites and a traditional craft village in the countryside.

Dedicated to providing a transformational experience, a Fulbright grant is designed to link a host institution with a U.S. institution, and vice versa, through a long-lasting partnership where students and faculty visit each other's campuses.

Pyati is thinking of the ways that she can help recruit students in sciences and math from the University of Danang – University of Science and Education to study at West Chester, as well as connect her new colleagues with research collaborators, academic programs, and professional opportunities in the U.S.

"My Fulbright experience was beyond my wildest expectations," Pyati shared. "My sixteen-year old daughter has even asked when 'our' next Fulbright will be."

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to build lasting connections between Americans and the people of other countries. [wcu](#)

DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS RADHA PYATI RETURNS FROM FULBRIGHT TO VIETNAM



Incomparable Golden Rams Marching Band to Shine on International Stage in 2024

The West Chester University Incomparable Golden Rams Marching Band will represent the University and the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) on the international stage when they become the first marching band within the PASSHE system to march in the iconic 135th Rose Parade presented by Honda on Monday, January 1, 2024. The annual Rose Parade has a television viewership of more than 30 million people and a live attendance of about 750,000.

Members of the Incomparable Golden Rams Marching Band and Wells School of Music faculty and administrators are already preparing, strategizing, and fundraising for the engagement. Four faculty and staff members attended the 2023 Rose Parade to learn as much as they could. The visit put the event's magnitude in perspective and motivated the Marching Band's creative team to develop program ideas that will allow WCU students to shine on the largest parade stage in the world.

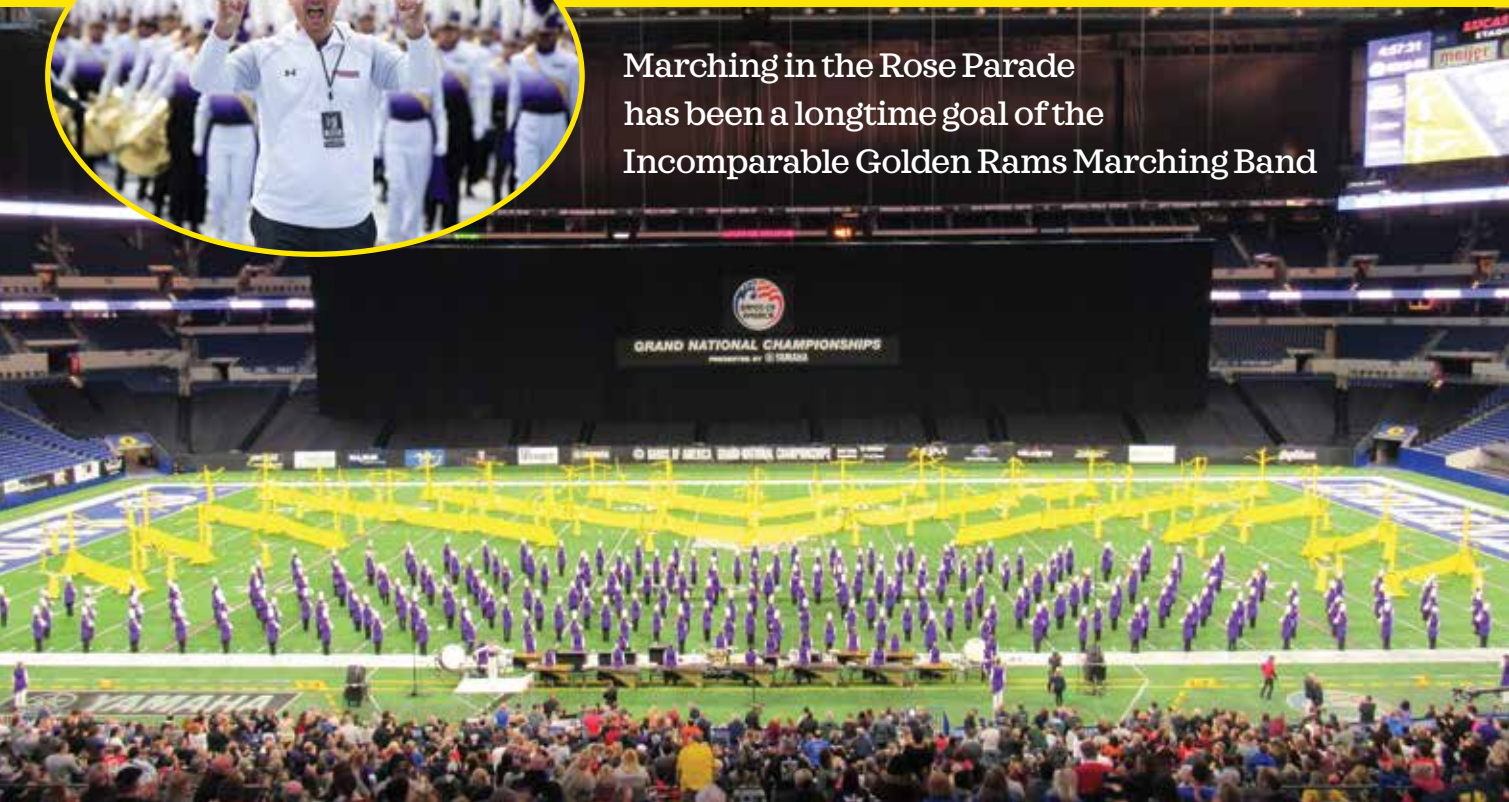
"Marching in the Rose Parade has been a longtime goal of the Incomparable Golden Rams Marching Band," said WCU Director of Athletic Bands Adam Gumble. "The highly competitive selection process means that only the world's best marching bands are invited to perform."

The band's 350 students, who represent more than 60 majors, are a constant source of WCU pride, said WCU President Chris Fiorentino, as they simultaneously juggle their courseloads with a demanding practice schedule.

"These outstanding students deserve this coveted opportunity," Fiorentino said. "We are thrilled that they will bring worldwide recognition to West Chester University, the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania." WCU



Marching in the Rose Parade has been a longtime goal of the Incomparable Golden Rams Marching Band



► Now the University's focus is turned to getting all of the students to California. The recently launched "RamBand Road to the Roses '24" initiative is already gaining traction to help fund travel expenses.



WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY
INCOMPARABLE
GOLDEN RAMS MARCHING BAND
ROAD TO THE ROSES '24

GIFTS CAN BE MADE AT WWW.WCUFOUNDATION.ORG/RAMBAND.



Diamond Lipscomb Bertil

DIAMOND LIPSCOMB BERTIL '11:

FROM INTERNSHIP TO SENIOR MANAGER

When Diamond Lipscomb Bertil '11 transferred to West Chester University as a sophomore, she had no idea how much the switch would impact the rest of her life. She arrived on campus intending to pursue marketing and perhaps double major in English or anthropology.

It was a meeting with her advisor that led her down a different path. Bertil had done well in an accounting class, a prerequisite for marketing. Her advisor nudged her to consider accounting as a potential career.

She took more classes and enjoyed them. Joining WCU's chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) led her to an internship with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), an assurance, tax, and advisory firm with offices around the world, where she still works to this day as a senior manager.

She focuses on auditing, which she credits to a class with WCU Professor Lori Fuller, now chair of the Department of Accounting. "She helped me figure out that I wanted to

pursue auditing," Bertil said. "To this day, it's one of my core skills with PwC."

Beyond the College of Business and Public Management, Bertil found a profound sense of community from the Dowdy Multicultural Center, then called the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA). Among many other things, it was a place to rest between classes and a great way to find out about campus

happenings. It's also where Bertil met her husband, Steve Bertil '11. They started dating their senior year and married nearly six years ago.

Bertil's experiences at WCU set her — and Steve — on a path to success, and that's something for which she's grateful.

"I am incredibly thankful," she said. "Thankful for the resources that we were

provided that helped us create and foster a foundation that got us where we are today."

It certainly inspires her giving. Bertil contributes to the PricewaterhouseCoopers Endowment for Diversity in Accounting, which was established by PwC in 2021 to benefit and increase access for underrepresented minorities, veteran students, or students with disabilities engaging in the pursuit of a bachelor's degree in accounting. She also contributes to the Lawrence Dowdy Multicultural Center Operating Fund, which supports programs and opportunities that promote and support civility, inclusion, and student leadership for emerging leaders.

The PwC Endowment is especially near and dear to Bertil's heart because a scholarship is what allowed her to pursue accounting. Without that financial aid, she might not have been able to finish her degree.

"Scholarships can really help bridge the gap. I came from a family who didn't have the means to financially pay for my tuition," she said. "As a way to give back, that's where I like to focus and target my giving. It's really important to me that cost is not a barrier for the individuals who have an interest in accounting." **WCU**

**It's really important
to me that cost is
not a barrier for the
individuals who have an
interest in accounting.**



Professor of Health Sciences Tammy James (center, in skirt) is pictured with COMPASS mentors who meet regularly with COMPASS students.

Fueled by a passion to help students succeed, Professor of Health Sciences Tammy James has established a highly respected career by helping students from all academic entry points. She is especially good at it, too. In fact, many would say that she is a rock star at making students realize their potential so they can actualize their success. She inspires hope in places where students had all but lost it and, as an advocate, is their strongest ally. Every student should have a Professor Tammy James in their corner. Now, all students do.

Understanding James' critical role in the overall picture of student success, the Division of Academic Affairs recently appointed her as the inaugural faculty associate for student engagement and retention. In this new capacity, she will manage a broad student success portfolio including serving as faculty chair of the reconstituted Student Success and Engagement Team (SSET), which will primarily be responsible for reviewing concerns about student engagement and retention. Among her many success-related duties, James will also represent the Division of Academic Affairs on the CARE team to ensure that concerns for students' well-being are properly routed and addressed.

She has truly been at the vanguard of equity-minded student success support at WCU throughout her tenure.

In an email from the Office of the Provost to the University community announcing her appointment, it was written, "Dr. James brings an important set of faculty experiences to this position, including a proven equity-minded perspective and long history of championing student success initiatives on campus. ... She has truly been at the vanguard of equity-minded student success support at WCU throughout her tenure."

Beginning at WCU in 1994, James has overseen the development of the highly successful Athletic Mentoring Program, which provides personal and academic support for WCU student athletes. She applied this model to develop a new program entitled COMPASS, which provides mentoring support to students of color and especially men of color who are on academic probation. In her new role, James will continue to provide leadership to the COMPASS program.

"I've learned so much about our students by leading two very telling programs," she said. "I feel honored that students have let me into their lives to see what their needs are, what the barriers are, and what will enable them to not only succeed at our University but to thrive. I'm excited to apply what I have learned to all of our students." **WCU**

CHEMISTRY'S KURT KOLASINSKI Named a FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE



Kurt Kolasinski

Kurt Kolasinski, WCU professor of chemistry, has been named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the world's largest general scientific society and publisher of the Science family of journals. This honor recognizes his lifetime work, specifically "his outstanding contributions to surface science and his efforts to educate others about this field."

If you do not communicate your ideas, you are not doing science. You are only engaging in a hobby.

Fellows are recognized for ways in which they've advanced scientific excellence, tackled complex societal challenges, and pushed boundaries. They are singled out further because of meritorious contributions made to the advancement of science, upholding standards of professional ethics, and scientific integrity.

A full professor, Kolasinski joined the chemistry department in 2006. He says one of the many rewards of teaching is "seeing my students open their horizons and engage in class and lab. I enjoy showing students they're better than they thought they were."

In that regard, he not only teaches but also chairs the users group of the University's Center for Microanalysis and Imaging, Research, and Training (CMIRT), where both undergraduate and graduate students conduct independent research under the tutelage of WCU faculty from

his department as well as the Biology, Earth Sciences, Physics, and Anthropology & Sociology departments. Kolasinski is a co-author on many student papers published in scientific journals.

"Research is fun and it's one way to share why I like science," he says. "I can relate chemistry to what students will do in graduate school or in a research lab."

Kolasinski has authored more than 100 scholarly publications, including two textbooks: *Surface Science: Foundations of Catalysis and Nanoscience* and *Physical Chemistry: How Chemistry Works*. "Chemical education and dissemination of chemical information are priorities in my work," he says, adding, "If you do not communicate your ideas, you are not doing science. You are only engaging in a hobby," a quote that introduces his *Physical Chemistry* textbook.

Kolasinski's research concentrates on the study of dynamical processes at the surfaces of semiconductors and metals, in particular the study of electrochemical and laser-assisted processes that form nanoscale and larger structures. He is also an industry consultant for formation and applications of silicon nanostructures.

AAAS began electing esteemed innovators as Fellows in 1874. Fellows will be honored in June at the annual Fellows Forum in Washington, D.C. [WCU](#)



WCU junior Josh Stehle is bringing autism awareness to the world through his new book, *I am a Superhero Expert: Growing Up with my Autistic Brother*. The book highlights his experiences with his older brother, Zach Stehle, who is on the autism spectrum. Josh and Zach were interviewed on FOX 29's morning program, *Good Day Philadelphia*, in March.

The University's Dub-C Autism Program (D-CAP) works successfully to build an inclusive and accepting campus community to better support the experiences and successes of degree-seeking students with autism through indirect and direct supports. Josh is a D-CAP

ally and recently presented a signed copy of the book to Cherie Fishbaugh, director of autism services.

The Stehle brothers have an active social media presence as "The Stehle Bros" and have received millions of views on TikTok and Instagram. This spring, they were also featured on Fox 29's "Good Day Philadelphia" as well as in a *Patch* article and in *Main Line Today*. [WCU](#)

**WCU Student
Publishes Book
about Relationship
with Brother
Who Has Autism**



In five separate winter commencement exercises held in Hollinger Field House last December, 1,342 WCU students launched into the next chapters of their lives following graduation.

Four of those ceremonies accommodated 1,011 undergraduate students, which includes 23 students who completed their coursework at the Philadelphia campus this summer or this fall.

In addition, 328 graduate-level students from all of the University's colleges and sites received their degrees together in a ceremony on December 17. This number includes three students who completed their coursework at the Philadelphia campus this summer or this fall.

The University also recognized three individuals for their significant impact on WCU students, the University, and the community. [wcu](http://wcu.edu)

GARY W. SMITH M'86, '74 HONORARY DOCTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE DEGREE

Gary Smith M'86, '74, president and CEO of the Chester County Economic Development Council (CCEDC), is a nationally respected leader and pioneer in economic development. In his 46 years serving both the county and the Commonwealth, Smith has made immeasurable contributions, structuring more than \$13 billion in project financing while nurturing thousands of businesses through their growth cycles and shaping countless communities through his passion and advocacy for smart economic growth. He earned both his bachelor of arts and master of science in urban and regional planning from the University.

Instrumental in Chester County's evolution as an economic powerhouse — while preserving its rich agricultural heritage — Smith pioneered award-winning programs of below market-rate financing, agricultural economic development, brownfields redevelopment, conduit funding for commercial construction, industry partnerships, urban revitalization, and multi-agency collaboration. During his tenure, the Council has created 165,000 new jobs, engaged more than 100,000 individuals in workforce development programs, and helped thousands of businesses establish roots and grow in Chester County. Today, the Council employs 35 economic development professionals.

In addition to his work with the CCEDC, Smith was executive director of the Business and Industry Chamber for Chester County and established the first county-wide Chamber of Commerce for Business and Industry. He also founded and directed the Southeastern Economic Development Company of Pennsylvania, the state's largest U.S. Small Business Administration Certified Development Company. He has served on numerous local, regional, and national boards, including the Council of Development Financing Agencies, the Pennsylvania Economic Development Association, and the National Council of State Agricultural Finance Programs.

The Gary W. Smith Entrepreneurial Leadership Endowment has been established to support the operation, mission, and efforts of the Cottrell Entrepreneurship Center in honor of Smith and his past and continued enduring efforts to foster an entrepreneurial spirit in his role as president and CEO of the CCEDC. In addition to operational support, funds are also to be used to award at least one minimum \$1,000 scholarship annually to a promising student who exemplifies Smith's entrepreneurial spirit.



HONOREES RICHARD MERION '59, M'69 AND JEANETTE MERION PRESIDENT'S MEDALLION RECIPIENTS

Richard '59, M'69 and Jeanette Merion have deep, abiding connections to the University, and their numerous contributions are indelibly woven into WCU's foundation. The Merions' generous support is visible throughout campus, chiefly in the Merion Science Center, which bears their name. The Merions also named "The Leadership Bridge," a collaborative space in the new Sciences and Engineering Center and The Commons, to recognize future leaders in the sciences and engineering.

They created the Richard and Jeanette Merion Endowed Scholarship to benefit students majoring in physics, chemistry, biology, and nursing, with preference to those enrolled in WCU's ROTC program. The scholarship is one of many ways the Merions have generously supported military students at WCU. Richard retired from the U.S. Army as a Brigadier General following 32 years in the active military and reserves. Jeanette is a former U.S. Army Staff Sergeant veteran and is actively engaged with the American Legion. She also volunteers with the West Chester Senior Center and the Chester County Pops Orchestra. Together, they actively engage with the Marine Corps league, local VFWs, American Legions, and community businesses and garner support for our WCU ROTC cadets and student veterans, as well as the USO.

Jeanette and Richard are members of the WCU Carillon Diamond Society, recognizing their more than 25 consecutive years giving, and the WCU Heritage 1871 Society, recognizing their lifetime giving. They were WCU Presidents Circle Dinner Award Honorees in 2001. They are also former Presidential Gala committee members.

Richard, who earned his bachelor's degree in science education from West Chester in 1959, is president emeritus of the WCU Alumni Association (WCUAA) and was recognized with the Distinguished Alumni Award (1995) and the WCUAA Service Award (2015). While in the service, he earned a master's degree in public health from the University of Michigan and returned to West Chester to complete a master's degree in biology in 1969. In 2009, WCU awarded an honorary Doctor of Public Service to Richard and the status of Honorary Alumna to Jeanette. [WCU](http://www.wcu.edu)





PATRICK HENRY AWARD RECOGNIZES WCU'S SERVICE TO VETERANS

West Chester University and the Greg and Sandra Weisenstein Veterans Center have been honored for exceptional service to veterans.

In a ceremony last December at the Veterans Center, Colonel Joseph Kirlin (at right in photo), PA Department Commander of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Military Order of World Wars (MOWW), presented the Bronze Patrick Henry award to Vince DeMarro '90, M'99 (at left in photo), the University's VA School Certifying Official and a retired U.S. Marine Corps veteran.

The award recognizes the University's status as a Gold Designated Military Friendly University 2021-2022 as well as for service to veterans.

The Veterans Center is committed to facilitating communication among campus offices in order to serve student veterans, military service members, reservists, and their families with a coordinated system of service to provide a meaningful transition from the military to the University.

MOWW is a patriotic, nonpartisan, Veterans Service Organization (VSO) dedicated to promoting patriotism, civic responsibility, public service, and leadership in our nation's communities. There are 77 chapters organized into 10 geographic regions throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. These chapters serve the veterans, youth, first responders, and others in their communities via education, recognition, public speakers, and community support outreach programs. [WCU](#)

Department of Theatre & Dance Hosts Prestigious College Theatre Festival

In January, the University's Department of Theatre and Dance hosted the Region II Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. More than 600 students from the mid-Atlantic region opportunities were on campus to attend full-length productions, workshops, and development institutes while competing for regional and national recognition in playwriting, criticism/journalism, performance, stage management, and production and design.

Nearly 40 WCU students attended the festival's 55th event — the first held in person after several festivals went virtual due to COVID-19. Professional theatre artists presented workshops as did faculty from WCU and from other Region II universities. There were also opportunities to watch five fully mounted productions, which included WCU's fall '22 *Spring Awakening*.

"Invitations are only sent to a select few schools," said Juliet Wunsch, WCU associate professor and festival host. "Even though we were hosting, there was no assumption we'd be invited to bring our own show. It was extremely well received. Asplundh Concert Hall was a packed house."

WCU previously hosted the festival in 2010 and 2015. Hosting is an honor and Wunsch said her department was thrilled. "We're proud to support a large group of enthusiastic theatre professionals and we're providing students the opportunity to experience more than what they would see in their own programs. We're sharing our expertise with students from all over the region and providing them workshops and experiences they might not have access to in their own institutions."

WCU President Christopher Fiorentino spoke at the festival's Gold Medallion Dinner, noting, "The arts have always been an important part of what we do at West Chester University, for both our students and our community. I want to thank our faculty and staff for their dedication to fostering a culture of artistic excellence at the University. Without the hard work and passion of our faculty and staff, this conference would not be possible." [WCU](#)



Ten WCU students won awards at this year's festival:

Nyred Jackson: Regional Honorable Mention, Scenic Design

Victoria Naftal and Randy Lutz: Allied Design and Technology, Regional First Place, Puppets, *Into the Woods*

Giulia Pagano and Randy Lutz: Allied Design and Technology, Regional 2nd Place, Props, *Into the Woods*

Paige Stone and Randy Lutz: Allied Design and Technology, Regional Honorable Mention, Props, *Spring Awakening*

Audrey Otto: Regional Honorable Mention, Stage Management

Jason Spiegelman: Regional Second Place, Tech Olympics

Paige Stone: Recognition for creating first Tech Olympics post pandemic, recognition via future awards created in her honor

Victoria Naftal, Giulia Pagano, and Madelyn Ebersole: Don Childs DTM Cross-Discipline Collaboration Award, *Into the Woods*

Clare McKernan: One-Act Playwright Award, *Boys in Belfast* (one of 4)

Clare McKernan and John Cauble: Regional Finalist, *Boys in Belfast*

David Gold: Ensemble Performer, National Playwriting Program

David Gold: Outstanding Performance at the Monologue Slam

< **Pictured L-R:** WCU Theatre and Dance Associate Professors Thomas Haughey and Leonard Kelly, KCACTF Region II Festival Manager Andy Truscott (WCU '09), President Christopher Fiorentino, WCU Theatre and Dance Associate Professor Juliet Wunsch and Professor Harvey Rovine, chair.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE AS TEACHERS: MICHAEL FLEMMING '14 & MARSALIS CHISM '17

Alumni Michael Flemming '14 and Marsalis Chism '17 were featured this spring on the Today Show's Sunday Spotlight and NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt for their involvement in a critical effort to have students taught by teachers who look like them.

Flemming, Chism, and two other men are core subject teachers at Philadelphia's Martin Luther King High School. All four teachers are African American and they are committed to teaching and mentoring at a time when few students are being taught by African American males.

...we're reminding them it's OK to dream again.

"A lot of our students don't have a male, physical, present figure in their life," Flemming says in the segment. "And I know that in our ninth-grade academy, they have close proximity to not just one, not two, not three, but four. We put on many hats for our students. We're psychiatrists, we're psychologists, we're big brothers, we're mentors, we're 'uncles.'"

Flemming teaches African American history and has known the other core teachers for many years. Chism, who was a criminal justice major, teaches English. All the teachers agreed their students are becoming more engaged and motivated in the classroom, but not without work.

"It didn't happen overnight, it's an every day process," Chism said.

That's something the four teachers are willing to do, day after day.

"Many of our students forgot to dream, and coming together, we're reminding them it's OK to dream again," Flemming said.

Department of Public Policy and Administration Chair Peter Loedel, who remembered Flemming quite fondly as a thoughtful political science major, saw the feature segment when it aired. "I watched the amazing story on national television and was so proud," he said. [wcu](http://wcu.edu)

A Curnow Tribute: A week-long celebration of Robert Harry "Bob" Curnow '63 culminated in a concert of the Criterions Jazz Ensemble conducted by Curnow on November 4, 2022. Curnow, the founder of Sierra Music Publications, gifted 38 boxes full of books on music and arranging from his personal collections; more than 1,000 pieces of music that includes scores and parts; reel-to-reel tapes of recordings from past Criterions concerts; 78 RPM records; and personal papers from Sierra Music. Curnow's collection was on display during the fall 2022 semester in the Wells School of Music's Presser Music Library. The collection was dedicated and named the Bob and Darlene Curnow Jazz Library. More information about the collection can be found at: www.wcupa.edu/music/criterions/jazz-library.aspx

Pictured (L-R): Jonathan Ragonese, director of Jazz Studies; Darlene Curnow '64; Bob Curnow '63; and Chris Hanning, dean, Wells School of Music.





Edwena Lanier

A PHILADELPHIA WOMAN SUPPORTS GIRLS TO GROW INTO CONFIDENT ADULTS

Following is an excerpt from free Philadelphia magazine's *Grid* issue #164, January 2, 2023, about WCU senior social work major and South Philadelphia resident Edwena Lanier. The author is Constance Garcia-Barrio, a Philadelphia writer and former WCU faculty member. Read the full article online at gridphilly.com. Lanier, who works in human resources at a West Philadelphia charter school, is founder and leader of Girls Talk, a free forum for girls aged 10 to 19, and a WCU social work major at the Philadelphia campus graduating in 2023.

Incidents that could derail a young person can become key life lessons with good advice, Lanier says. "Girls Talk encourages that outcome."

"I grew up seeing the consequences of my parents' poor decisions," she said. "I want to help girls avoid those pitfalls."

On the other hand, Lanier saw the difference one person could make for neighborhood youth.

"My grandmother didn't have much money, but if she knew a child's parents would be home late, she would call that child in to eat with us. ... Sometimes, she seemed to feed the whole block."

Lanier also gained inspiration from Pamela Price, her teacher in sixth through eighth grades.

"A small group of us would meet with Ms. Price in Clark Park," Lanier says. "She would bring snacks and talk about what I later realized were life skills. ..."

I grew up seeing the consequences of my parents' poor decisions. I want to help girls avoid those pitfalls.

Lanier keeps Girls Talk groups small, with 10-week sessions in the fall and spring, each with a dozen girls. She divides the gatherings into one group for girls aged 10 to 14 and another for participants aged 15 to 19. Besides other group members, each girl has a buddy, a special confidante.

Like many girls, Amirah Branch, 13, a member since age 9, learned about the program through word of mouth in her South Philly neighborhood.

"It's made a huge difference," Branch says. "I was shy at first, but we had icebreakers like trivia. I feel like I have a bond and a trust with the other girls."

Lanier emphasizes self-esteem, self-acceptance, hygiene, and assertiveness.

"I want girls to know how to express themselves with style and grace, especially when they're hurt or angry," she says. "It prepares you for professional life and leadership. I want to equip them to find their way forward when their plan A falls through."

Lanier encourages the girls to develop affirmations as guideposts. "Sometimes they surprise me with their wisdom," she says. "One girl came up with: 'You are stronger than your deepest fear.'"

"Many have childhoods filled with fear due to gun violence," says Lanier, the mother of two daughters, Aleemah, 12, and Aniyah, 17. ... "I refer girls for grief counseling or therapy, if necessary."

During winter break, Lanier rents a suite at an airport hotel for a giant slumber-and-pool party. "It helps reinforce principles and aids in bonding," Lanier says.

Lanier has also reached youth through a book she co-wrote with Aleemah during the pandemic.

"I was 7 or 8 when a girl began bullying me at school," says Aleemah. ... Lanier and Aleemah met with the bully and her mother. [Says Aleemah,] "I wasn't sure the girl would change, but when I saw her stressing over schoolwork, I started helping her, giving her tips about reading. It turned out, she was a nice person. Now we're on the same basketball team in middle school."

Let's Help the Bully... mirrors bullying experiences of both Aleemah and Lanier.

Lanier won a Charlotte Newcombe Scholarship for mature or second-career students.

In the future, Lanier hopes to open Girls Talk centers.

To learn more about Girls Talk, follow @letshelpthebully2021 on Instagram or email EL963000@wcupa.edu. [WCU](http://wcupa.edu)

WHITE COAT CEREMONY: SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENTS EARN & WEAR “CLOAKS OF COMPASSION”

A formal White Coat Ceremony — a rite of passage marking the end of coursework and the beginning of hands-on clinical work with patients — was held in January for WCU speech-language pathology graduate students in the University’s new Sciences & Engineering Center and The Commons.

During the ceremony, white coats were placed upon the shoulders of each graduate student by the faculty who have helped guide them to this next phase of professional development. Wearing their new white coats, which represent “cloaks of compassion,” the graduate students recited the Code of Ethics of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, signifying their official entrance into clinical practice. The White Coat Ceremony is the Centennial Celebration kick-off for the University’s Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

The commitment of our faculty to providing access to all students while making a significant difference in the Commonwealth is unparalleled.

West Chester Borough Mayor Lillian DeBaptiste presented the department with a special proclamation honoring its 100th anniversary and many years of dedicated service to the community through its Speech and Hearing Clinic.

Founded in 1923, the clinic was one of the first in the U.S. Today, it offers free, full diagnostic evaluations for children and adults suspected of having speech, language, or hearing disorders. Treatment is offered in both individual and group settings

and bilingual Spanish-English evaluations and treatment are available.

“The history and work of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders is inspiring and impressive,” said Dean of the College of Health Sciences Scott Heinerichs. “The commitment of our faculty to providing access to all students while making a significant difference in



Above: Professor Sojung Kim (center), chair of the University’s Communication Sciences and Disorders Department, speaks with WCU speech-language pathology students who have since graduated from the College of Health Sciences.

the Commonwealth is unparalleled. The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders is applauded and celebrated not only by the College of Health Sciences and the West Chester University community, but by the numerous citizens who live in the areas that we proudly serve.”

The department’s centennial celebration continues throughout 2023 with numerous events, including World Voice Day, Speech and Hearing Clinic tours, faculty and student presentations at the Pennsylvania Speech-Language-Hearing Association Conference, and more. [WCU](#)

Highly Driven: Nathan Wholey Completes a Four-Year Program in Two Years

Nathan Wholey is a 20-year-old actuarial science major who completed his bachelor’s degree in only two years and graduated this May. He discovered his interest in mathematics in high school and completed three AP courses, giving him 11 college credits and a head start on his major.

Wholey credits the First Year Experience (FYE) course with giving him the idea and motivation to complete his four-year degree in two years. FYE is a required four-credit course for first-year students; one of the assignments in the class is to create a four-year plan.

“Coming in, I already knew I could graduate in three years with my AP credits,” Nathan professed. “After

making my four-year plan in FYE, I discovered the summer and winter sessions and realized I could take almost a full year’s worth of classes during that time. I used those sessions to get my gen eds [general education requirements] out of the way and I would really recommend it for anyone trying to graduate early.”

He averaged 18 credits for the spring and fall semesters; 6 in his first winter session and 10 in his second; and an astounding 25 credits over the course of his three summer sessions. He said the staff in the Registrar’s office were helpful in scheduling classes and navigating myWCU.

Wholey chose WCU for its actuarial science program as well as its affordability and proximity to his home in Exton. As a commuter student, he found convenient campus study spots in the Killinger Hall lounge, the Business and Public Management



Nathan Wholey

Center, and various computer labs. He also worked at the University’s Writing Center Help Desk and tutored for calculus courses at the Learning Assistance & Resource Center (LARC).

After graduation, he plans to pursue a full time non-actuarial mathematics job until he completes his required actuarial exams. [WCU](#)

CHAPTER NEWS

Our Golden Rams are a herd of 124,000+ strong who span the globe! We're here to support *Rams for Life* and look forward to welcoming you to join our many alumni engagement opportunities wherever you are. As we continue to grow and enhance our alumni network, we plan to provide resources to all Golden Rams to keep you connected to WCU!

We had a great time hosting our alumni and friends on campus for Alumni Weekend in April and are looking forward to all the exciting upcoming events and activities of the alumni chapters, clubs, and affinity groups.

Are you a WCU graduate of the last decade and looking to get involved with your fellow young alumni? Check out our new opportunities available through our GOLD X Alumni Chapter as we get ready to welcome our newest Rams on campus next semester. For more information on specific chapters and how you can get involved, visit our website: www.wcualumni.org/chapters.

Abbé Society

Alumni Dance 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

Nutrition Alumni Chapter

Omega Delta

Political & Government Affairs Chapter

Public Health Alumni Chapter

Public Policy & Administration Alumni Chapter

Washington, D.C., Chapter

WCUR Alumni Chapter

Women in Leadership and Service (WILS) Alumni Chapter

Women's Lacrosse Alumni Chapter

York County Chapter

Zeta Psi Alumni Chapter



A MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

The 2022–2023 West Chester University academic year has come to an end and boy did it go out with a bang! Not only did we have an excellent Alumni Weekend in April, but we also sponsored the WCU Ramboree, a terrific event put on by our alma mater for all active students. The Alumni Association also held a number of social events scattered throughout the spring semester.

One of the best parts about being the Alumni Association president is you get to speak at our commencement ceremonies and, for those who didn't know, there are quite a few of them –15 to be exact! While I was thrilled to have the opportunity to welcome approximately 3,500 undergraduates and 600 graduate degree recipients into the Golden Rams fold, I think I'm still a little hoarse from greeting them all.

As always, the Alumni Association Board of Directors thanks you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you soon. It has been my pleasure to serve as your 2022–2023 alumni president, and I know that you will be in good hands next year with a devoted group of officers and directors who will be working with our amazing staff (Jenna Birch, Brigid Gallagher, and all the folks at the WCU Foundation who support us) to plan a terrific fall schedule that I am sure will be crowned with another phenomenal Homecoming Weekend.

Rams Up!

Matt Holliday '09

President, WCU Alumni Association

PATRICIA M. ROBERTS '73, M'75: "EDUPRENEUR" EXTRAORDINAIRE

You may not find the word "edupreneur" in any dictionary, but if ever an addition is made to Merriam-Webster's, a picture of Patricia M. Roberts '73, M'75 should appear next to it.

An edupreneur is an educator with an entrepreneurial mindset, and Roberts has spent the span of her almost 50-year career using a 21st-century education mindset to hugely impact the field.

"I am forever grateful to West Chester University for giving me a variety of broad experiences and opportunities to cultivate entrepreneurial thinking," she says. "My philosophy to this day is that entrepreneurial educators beget entrepreneurial thinkers and doers."

For her work-study assignment, Roberts was placed in the University's Demonstration School. "Ahead of its time," according to Roberts, the Demonstration School operated on the WCU campus for more than 80 years and served both elementary students and West Chester University's student teachers.

"That experience was formative for me," says Roberts. "The Demonstration School provided a

high-quality education with enrichment activities that went far beyond what most elementary schools could offer at the time. Both the student teachers and the students knew that they were somewhere special."

Edupreneurs are often found building new education organizations and businesses, developing the latest ed-tech tools, and

running new schools. Roberts has checked all three of these boxes.

Right after college, Roberts was hired as a teacher at the Demonstration School. As part of that experience, she not only taught young pre-school children but also participated in research and educational outreach, training teachers nationwide. When the Demonstration School closed, Roberts founded Primak Educational Foundation, where she continued her work in research-based curriculum development. A commitment to the power of technology as a unique learning tool led her to spearhead the development of cutting-edge educational software as part of her second business, Early

Learning Associates. Roberts then launched PTS Learning Systems, Inc., providing corporate computer training and learning support to businesses in the region. She grew the company into a multimillion-dollar business with 250 employees before selling it in 1999.

Roberts returned to the University briefly in the early 2000s as an adjunct faculty member and student teacher supervisor. With Judy Finkel '73, now WCU emerita professor of early childhood and special education, she co-founded the Institute for Educational Excellence and Entrepreneurship (3E) as a national hub for identifying, disseminating,



Patricia M. Roberts

and funding innovative best practices developed by educators and entrepreneurs. Hundreds of educators were recognized and served by 3E.

In 2006, Roberts founded the AIM Academy and the AIM Institute for Learning & Research with co-founder Nancy Blair. Searching for the best learning opportunities for their daughters who were both diagnosed with dyslexia, Roberts' and Blair's AIM Academy in Conshohocken, PA, has become a leader in the field for students who learn differently. AIM launched with 24 students. Today, it serves 403 students and more than 20,000 educators who are using the tools, training, and coaching provided by AIM Pathways, an online learning platform.

Roberts says, "As educators, our collective goal is to graduate future-ready students. We want students to be prepared for fields that haven't yet been invented by teaching them skills and supporting them with collaboration, teamwork, and problem-based learning."

Through the years, Roberts' service to the University has been manifold: adjunct professor, commencement speaker, College of Education Wall of Fame honoree, and member of the College of Education and Social Work Advisory Board.

"We are all the sum total of our experiences," she believes. "I bring everything I learned and all of my work experiences with me to my jobs. If I had one message to share with students today, I would say to take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way." **WCU**

We want students to be prepared for fields that haven't yet been invented by teaching them skills and supporting them with collaboration, teamwork, and problem-based learning.



Santa-Ramirez '09



Sacco '85



Flaherty '04



Nugent '11



Stein '91



Sullivan '08



Basilone '13



Melograno, Jr. '67



Wilkerson, Jr. '98



Brett '09



Rohrbaugh '17

1960s

Tommye Grant '67 received official recognition of the completion of 50 years of service with the United States government from the Department of State.

Vincent J. Melograno, Jr. '67 was inducted into the senior softball hall of fame. He played baseball for WCU's legendary coach Glenn Killinger. After acquiring advanced degrees, he completed a career at Cleveland State University in the areas of human performance and sport management. Recently, he was an adjunct professor at Rollins College in Florida. (PHOTO)

1970s

James H. Comey '69, M'73 had his true story, *War Dog*, included in the book *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Lessons Learned from My Dog*. It is based on his Korean War dog, Buster, and his remarkable escapades. Comey is an award-winning freelance writer and retired educator. His novels are available from Amazon. He taught from middle school through graduate school levels. When not writing, he is often found on his motorcycle on Pennsylvania's country roads.

1980s

Susan M. Russell '81 retired in January 2019 after 33.5 years as a juvenile probation officer for Lycoming County.

Karen Gallagher Cummings '84 retired from teaching after serving 36 years in the Marple Newtown School District as a fourth-grade teacher at Culbertson Elementary School.

Renard M. Sacco '85 retired from Kutztown University on June 30, 2022, after a 37-year career as the director of sports medicine services. (PHOTO)

Brian J. Kennedy '86 is the current head football coach at Methacton High School.

Lisa Wright Bryant '87 was selected as the 2022-2023 entrepreneur in residence for WCU's Dr. Edwin Cottrell Entrepreneurial Leadership Center.

Janene A. Yothers '88, M'97 retired after 35 years of teaching, the last 34 years in the Coatesville Area School District.

1990s

Jeffrey Stein '91, LPI, BAI, CCDI, VSM, was appointed the executive director of International Intelligence Network (Intellenet), a worldwide network of investigators and security consultants specializing in law enforcement, investigations, intelligence, and private security. (PHOTO)

John T. Olsen '93 recently received the Faegre Drinker Healthcare Hero award from Jefferson Health for his pioneering work in establishing a psychological first-aid peer support program for distressed healthcare workers. The Resilience in Stressful Events peer support program,

launched at Jefferson Abington Hospital where Olsen serves as chaplain and program manager, has now been implemented throughout the Jefferson Health enterprise.

Vance J. Row '99 was featured in *Outside Magazine* in September 2022 after winning the national Yoga Warrior competition.

Adrienne C. Stohler '98 received the Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts Women in STEM Advocate Award for her work to bring STEM-related experiences to as many elementary students in her school district as possible. She designed, implemented, and led extracurricular STEM clubs at three different schools where she focused on graphic design, 3D printing, robotics and coding, circuitry, and engineering challenges.

Garrick L. Weaver '93, M'98 joined Penn Power Group in 2021 as human resources manager and was promoted to director within three months.

George J. Wilkerson, Jr. '98 received his doctor of musical arts degree in voice performance from Shenandoah Conservatory in May 2022. (PHOTO)

2000s

Sara T. Painter '00 has been elected secretary of the Media Theatre's board of directors in Media, PA.

Anthony P. Biduck '03 continues to work as a clinical psychologist at the Department of Veterans Affairs and teach graduate courses at Marywood University. In December 2022,

he published *Killer Plant-Based Cooking: Healthy Recipes with a VEGeance*, a book, on plant-based cooking and eating, which is available through Amazon. He also launched a business: Look Within Education.

Jean Flaherty '04 recently earned her master's degree in music education from the American Band College of Central Washington University. (PHOTO)

David M. Walker '06 joined the law firm of Stock and Leader in York, PA. As part of the school law group, David will assist clients with general solicitor, labor and employment issues, school business, construction, contracts, and pupil services matters. David has a decade-long experience representing public school entities, intermediate units, and career and technology centers.

Andrea (Pavone) Murray '07, M'12, project director for the Pennsylvania State College of Medicine, was honored with the 2022 Outstanding Research Staff Member Award at the Research and Innovation Awards in October 2022.

Jennifer M. Varga '07 recently accepted a position as assistant principal at Cosby High School in Midlothian, VA.

Gregory Barbish '08, CPA has been admitted as a shareholder of Horty & Horty, P.A. a CPA and advisory firm. He joined Horty & Horty, P.A. and presently serves clients out of the firm's main office in Wilmington, DE. Barbish provides audit and accounting, consulting, and tax services to clients in various industries, including construction, manufacturing, and real estate development and management.

Ashley Sullivan '08 joined law firm Willig, Williams & Davidson's prepaid legal services department to assist union members with their general legal needs. (PHOTO)

Amelia Brett '09 was promoted to partner at Faegre Drinker, effective January 1, 2023. (PHOTO)

Stephen Santa-Ramirez '09 was recognized as a diamond honoree from ACPA-College Student Educators International. This is one of the highest honors one can receive within the field of higher education and student affairs. Santa-Ramirez was also recently selected as a prestigious postdoctoral fellow from the National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation. (PHOTO)

Kellie P. Abendschoen '09 served as the medical director for the World Lacrosse Women's World Championship in Towson, MD, in 2022. She also co-chairs the World Lacrosse Medical Committee.

Matthew Holliday '09 became the Pennsylvania Bar Association's executive director-elect beginning January 2, 2023. Holliday served as executive director of the Chester County Bar Association and the Chester County Bar Foundation.

2010s

Jacqueline Cherepinsky M'10 was honored by the Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center for her work in Holocaust education.

Jasmine Paredes Nugent '11 has been working for Wawa, Inc., for about five years as a store support administrator. She met her husband on campus in 2006 and they married in 2019. Their daughter Rylan will be two in August. (PHOTO)

Katelyn M. Bright '12 graduated with her Ph.D. in educational leadership and learning technologies from Drexel University in 2020.

Bianca R. Basilone '13 joined Saxton & Stump in its franchising, licensing, and distribution group as an associate. Basilone graduated from the Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law in 2021 and worked as a law clerk in the U.S. District Court of the District of Delaware for the Hon. Sherry Fallon since then. (PHOTO)

Brigid Gallagher '12, assistant director of alumni engagement at the WCU Foundation, was named to the Vista Millennial Superstars Class of 2023.

In Summer 2022, **Melissa Bonomo M'13** transitioned from Bridgewater State University's intramural coordinator to club sports coordinator after nine years in the position. She reports that her WCU experience as a graduate assistant of intramurals and the first to work in the new recreation center provided her with the knowledge she needed as a professional.

Keri Palasz '15, M'18 was invited to represent the United States as part of Team USA in the International Yoga Sports Federation World Championship of Yoga Sports at the S-VYASA University in Bangalore, India. She competed with athletes from 27 nations and earned the gold medal and title of 2022 World Champion Female Age 50+. Palasz has been an adjunct professor at WCU since 2019, teaching nutrition courses for the college of health sciences.

Brenten Megee M'17, M'22, who earned two WCU master of music degrees (voice in 2017 and choral conducting in 2022), is continuing his studies at Westminster Choir College at Rider University. This spring, he began the master of sacred music degree program in choral pedagogy online to enhance his church music ministry.

Natalie A. Murphy '17, M'22 earned her master's in community nutrition from WCU and is now applying for spring 2023 match with the dietetic internship.

Katelyn Rohrbaugh '17 was appointed to the board of directors of TrueNorth Wellness Services. (PHOTO)

Laura Fetch '17 was promoted to study director of SCHOTT Pharma Services in August 2022.

Aimee Fernback '15 was hired by The Hill School, Pottstown, PA, to work in their wellness center as a registered nurse. She also holds a master of music performance degree from Temple University ('95) and frequently uses therapeutic music in her clinical nursing practice.

Cortney Gensemer '18 received her Ph.D. at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) in May 2022. At graduation, she received MUSC's inaugural Student Impact Award for her outreach and support to millions of people with Ehlers Danlos syndrome (EDS), an inherited connective tissue disorder. Gensemer, who has EDS, researched the condition and discovered a gene that causes it. She has been interviewed by Fox News, CNN, UK Readers Digest and other news media. Gensemer is currently completing her post doctorate at MUSC and working toward the creation of the country's first EDS center.

Julia Hayes '18 took a part-time remote position with Holt International Children's Services in the fall of 2020 as a nutrition program administrator and now works full-time as the manager of nutrition and health services. This year she traveled to Ethiopia, Uganda, and Vietnam to strengthen Holt's child nutrition program and community projects.

2020s

Abigail H. Arnold '21 is among the first Peace Corps volunteers to return overseas; she is serving as an education volunteer in Costa Rica.

Chayse Widmayer '21 earned her criminal justice degree from Liberty University.

Kristina Garlick D'22 had a book signing at Garden State Comic Fest for her latest release, *How to be an Adult Junior Ranger*. She will have several more book events including the fan expo in Philadelphia June 2-4, 2023.

Andrew Alvarez '22 was hired as the new sports information director at Immaculata University.

Matthew S. Simmons '22 started up Simmons Media, a digital media marketing company based in West Chester.



1.

In Memoriam

- 1940 Glenn O. Miller
- 1950 Maude P. Stowers
- 1957 Janet Moyer
- 1957 Dora R. Reinhard
- 1957 Elizabeth "Libby" M. White
- 1959 Carl D. Hartman
- 1961 Penelope F. Auch
- 1965 L. James Kiscaden
- 1966 Harry F. Felton
- 1967 Thelma D. Hallman
- 1967 James M. Levendis
- 1971 Williams L. Smith
- 1983 Dian L. Williams
- 2007 Lora B. Scotese

Engagements

- 1. Kyle Volkmann '18 to Haley Eager '18.
- 2. Elizabeth Gibson '19 to Riley McGowan '20.

Marriages

- 1. Matt Parsons '15 to Melanie Solano '22.
- 2. Kimberly Conicelli '15 to Michael Montgomery '15 on August 6, 2022.
- 3. Abigail Leigh Wood '17 to Alec Michael Hinchcliff '18 on September 4, 2022.
- 4. Mason Delpino '17 to Lia Criscuolo '19, M'22 on May 29, 2022.

Group Photo Valkyrie sisters from the Class of 1959 got together in September 2022 in Sea Isle City, NJ. Top (L-R): Carolyn Helbig Hatt, Gail Y. Brown. Middle left to right: Barbara Papale Golob, Priscilla Weaver Esben-shade, Betty Papale Fitzgerald. Bottom (L-R): Audrey Berger Smoyer, Betty Haws Slaveski, Sally Hollinger Dunkle, Ellie Crowley Pileggi, and Mary Jane Kling Simao. The Valkyrie banner was made by Rachael Trimpey Tracey.



2.



3.



4.



5.



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 Office of Alumni Engagement at alumni@wcufoundation.org.

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

DEATH NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

Contact the Office of Alumni Engagement 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.



CONNECT WITH US
www.wcualumni.org
 610-436-2813

Future Alumni

6. **Alyssa Conaway '10** welcomed son, Caleb Leonard Harold, on October 7, 2022.



6.

Katrina and **Jeremy Flick M'18** welcomed Caden Flick on October 24, 2022.



7.

7. Danielle and **Bradley D. Moyer '11** welcomed Jeffrey Thomas Moyer in September 2022.



8.

8. **Cassandra '11** and **Mario LaForgia '11** had their third daughter, Luciana Sofia LaForgia on September 15, 2022.



9.

Ashly Jones Greeninger '16 welcomed daughter, Evie, on August 11, 2022.

9. **Josh Winter '05** and **Lauren (Sacher) Winter '16** welcomed Vienna Nicole Winter on May 5, 2022. Her 2 ½ year old sister Savannah, is also excited to welcome Vienna.



10.

10. Ashlie and **Ryan P. Rayfield '16** welcomed twins on January 11, 2022.



11.

11. **Jerilyn Blaxland '04** and **Justin M. Kucharski '04** welcomed Josie Joy in October 2021.



12.

12. **Ellen C. Albright-Hall '10** welcomed Rowan Hall in February 2021.

The Nominating Committee of the West Chester University Alumni Association is pleased to announce the 2023 WCUIAA Board of Directors ballot. Six members will be elected to serve a three-year term of office beginning on July 1, 2023. The results of the election will be posted online at www.wcualumni.org before July 1, 2023.

The background information on each nominee for the 2023-2026 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 Engagement at 610-436-2813 or alumni@wcufoundation.org.

ALLISON MAZZA

Education: WCU, B.A., Psychology, 2011; WCU, M.A., Communication Studies, 2012

I am a firm believer that WCU has been, and continues to be, the foundation of some of the best services, stories, and people we have here in our local community (and beyond). After moving back to the area, I am so excited at the prospect of being able to give back and serve the community that gave me so much in the form of education, relationships, and wings.

STEVEN COX

Education: WCU, B.A., Psychology, 2001; Montgomery County Police Academy, 2016

Service to my community and industry has been my passion throughout my life and career. Last year I visited WCU with my two children; it was then I felt the calling to serve here. I live and lead with the motto of "be the change you want" and I feel if we serve, we grow ourselves and others by example. It would be an honor to serve in any capacity the WCU community sees fit.

CAROL KASHOW**

Education: WCU, B.S., Physical Health and Recreation, 1977

I feel very fortunate to have attended West Chester and to have served on the WCUIAA Board of Directors since 2020. I would welcome the opportunity to continue to give back to such a wonderful school by once again serving on the board. My work on both the Homecoming and scholarship committees has shown me that while we do many great things, there is still work to be done. I would love to help do the work.

EVAN BROOKS

Education: WCU, B.S., Business Management, 2022

Attending West Chester University has granted me many opportunities to impact those within the West Chester community positively. Joining the WCUIAA Board of Directors would allow me to continue to give back to a community that has given me so much. Community service is essential to me, and I believe the WCUIAA Board of Directors is the place I can make the most impact.

GREG SAUNDERS**

Education: WCU, B.S., Criminal Justice, 1987; DOJ/DEA Academy, Special Agent (Criminal Investigator), 1996; Farleigh Dickinson, M.Sc.A., Administrative Science, 2012

As a graduate of West Chester University and current WCUIAA board member, I believe that my 30+ years of experience in both federal law enforcement and as an officer in the U.S. Army will continue to benefit me as a board member. Throughout my career(s), I have worked in staff groups and committees working on various topics and tasks that assisted in the well being of the agency and/or group that I represented. If selected again, I will enjoy being a part of the academic community at the University and working with other professionals who have graduated from the University. I enjoy every opportunity to serve as a board member to such a dedicated institution.

PAUL DAVIS

Education: WCU, B.S., Education, 1971; WCU, M.S., Education, 1976; National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, CAA, 2010

ALUMNI

Because of the fact that I am a retired professional, I have been interested in helping West Chester University. This is because this Institution gave me the ability to acquire a CAREER. I was able to be a teacher/athletic director for 45 years in the Southeast Delco School District because of the education, guidance, and recruitment office at West Chester. I am mainly interested in giving back to the University. I did not have the opportunity to give back until now and would love to help with the Alumni Association.

KATHERINE (DICICCO) CANAZZI

Education: WCU, B.A., History, 2016; WCU, M.S., Higher Education Policy & Student Affairs, 2022; The Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College, Dual A.S. Hotel and Restaurant Management, 2010

I am a double alumna who is passionate about improving the world around me. I enjoy family-friendly alumni events in hopes of raising a future Golden Ram. As a board member, I will promote alumni mentorship programs in hopes of expanding their success. I am an advocate for universal design, especially as it supports veterans and neurodiverse engagement. I will support sensory-friendly events so that all of the Golden Rams family can join in the fun!

ANTHONY THORN

Education: WCU, B.S., Business Management, 2021; WCU, M.S., Business Administration, 2022; New York University Tisch School of Arts x Yellowbrick Co., Film & TV Essentials Certificate, 2022

I would like to serve on the WCUAA Board of Directors since I feel that I have a close connection to the University. I have made lifelong friends and made many great connections that I am thankful for. WCU has provided me with a great education and the tools to succeed in life. I am forever proud to be a Golden Ram and it would truly be an honor to serve on the board!

DEVYNN GRAY

Education: WCU, B.S., Public Health, 2019; WCU, M.S., Public Health, 2020; Drexel University, Public Health Grant Writing for Non-Profits Certificate, 2019

As a two-time graduate of West Chester University, I feel drawn to give back to a community that has given so much to me. My goal is to not only provide a new perspective, but to ensure that student advocacy, alumni support, and philanthropic giving continue to be at the core of the association's mission. If granted the opportunity, I plan to serve with integrity, passion, and efficiency. Thank you for your consideration. Rams Up!

TONY FRAGALE**

Education: WCU, B.S., Health & Physical Education, 1977; Western Michigan University, M.A., Public Administration, 2001

My current service on the WCUAA board has been rewarding in so many ways. I wish to continue serving the University and engaging alumni in all of its activities. I've had a rewarding 41-year career in the non-profit sector and appreciate that West Chester University gave me my start. The WCU en-

vironment provided me the opportunity to excel and put me on the path to a career in community service through the YMCA.

CHRISTOPHER SCHULTZ

Education: WCU, D.P.A., Public Administration, 2022; St. Joseph's University, M.S., Public Safety Management, 2007; Rutgers University, M.S., Public Administration, 1996; Stockton University, B.A., Criminal Justice, 1991

Of all the higher education institutions I have attended, I felt the most connected to WCU. Although I was remote, the engagement with the faculty and staff along with my former classmates was a rich and rewarding experience. I would like to return that experience by serving the WCU community on the WCUAA Board of Directors.

LOUIS MASON

Education: WCU, B.S., Elementary Education, 1976; Cheyney University, M.S., Educational Administration, 1996; Cheyney University, PA Principal's Certification, 1996; Montgomery County Community College, Associates in General Studies, 1974

WCU is steeped in a tradition of academic excellence and student exploration. WCU strengthened my resolve for hard work, persistence, and determination. My experience at WCU is at the core of my personal development, professional endeavors, and cultural enlightenment. The WCU environment provided many opportunities to broaden my global perspectives in numerous areas and I want to serve as an advocate, to let others know that WCU is the place to be.

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023 BALLOT

Candidates for Board of Directors	Voter 1	Voter 2
Allison Mazza '11, M'12	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Steven Cox '01	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carol Kashow '77 **	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evan Brooks '22	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Greg Saunders '87 **	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paul Davis '71, M'76	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Katherine (DiCicco) Canazzi '16, M'22	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anthony Thorn '21, M'22	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Devynn Gray '19, M'20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tony Fragale '77 **	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Christopher Schultz D'22	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Louis Mason '76	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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 Engagement, 202 Carter Drive, West Chester, PA 19382.

The ballot must be received by mail no later than 12 p.m. on Friday, June 16, 2023.

VOTING GUIDELINES

The following alumni 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.

1. Alumni who choose to vote online can go to www.wcualumni.org and select 2023 Board of Directors Election. Follow the voting instructions.
2. 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 Engagement will verify the name(s), class year(s), and address on each mailing envelope as requested by Nominating Committee. The order of names on the ballot are random.
3. 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.
4. The ballot must be received by mail no later than **12 p.m. on Friday, June 16, 2023.**

West Chester University
West Chester, PA 19383-7401

The West Chester University Magazine is published three times a year for the alumni, friends, and family of West Chester University of Pennsylvania by the Office of Communications, West Chester University.

Postmaster: Send address changes to:
West Chester University Foundation,
202 Carter Drive, West Chester, PA 19382

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 1274
SOUTHEASTERN, PA

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**UPDATE YOUR INFO
OR UNSUBSCRIBE:**

Call: 610-436-2868

Email: info@wcufoundation.org

Online Form: www.wcualumni.org/sendusnews

Scan QR Code



RAMS IN THE SAND



YOU'RE INVITED TO A PARTY DOWN THE SHORE!



Saturday, July 8, 2023 • 6:00-9:00pm
The Deauville Inn in Sea Isle, NJ

To register, visit www.wcualumni.org/beach



SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

HOMECOMING
plus Family
Weekend