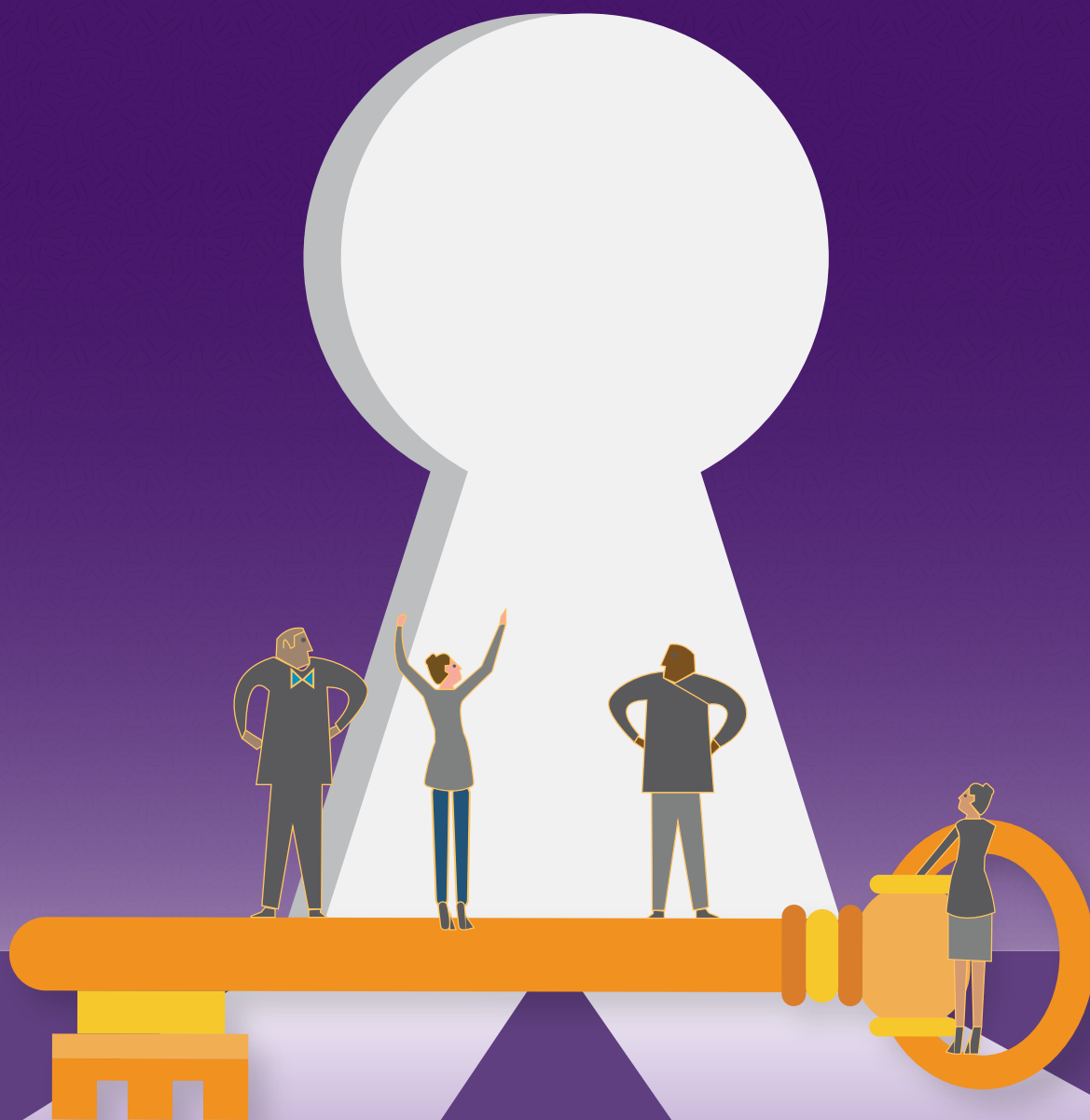


# West Chester University

MAGAZINE



**WCU'S ACCESS INITIATIVES**  
**Pave the Way for Student Success**



Celebrated WCU Diving Coach **Ronn Jenkins '65** (second from left) toured the renovated pool area, located in the University's Hollinger Fieldhouse, with family, friends, and WCU leaders on Saturday, October 26, prior to the official unveiling of the space now named the Dr. Ronn Jenkins Diving & Aquatics Center.

Pictured, L-R: Chair of the Board of Directors of Student Services Incorporated (SSI) Bernie Carrozza '66; Ronn Jenkins '65; Anne Saris Stevenson; Shannon and Steve Rutherford with their daughter, Hannah; Director of Athletics Terry Beattie; State Representative Dan K. Williams (74th Legislative District); Vice President for Student Affairs Zebulun Davenport; Sue Fiorentino; WCU President Chris Fiorentino; and WCU Foundation CEO Chris Mominey.



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[wcupa.edu/socialmedia](http://wcupa.edu/socialmedia)

Digital version of the WCU Magazine is available at [issuu.com/wcuofpa](http://issuu.com/wcuofpa).



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY has much to celebrate as it nears its 150th anniversary. At a time when colleges and universities across the nation face considerable challenges, demand for a West Chester University education remains high and consistent growth continues. From fall 2013 to fall 2019, WCU's undergraduate enrollment increased 6.7 percent and graduate enrollment increased 43 percent. With more than 17,600 undergraduate and graduate students today, WCU is thriving. In fact, this fall, *MONEY* magazine rated West Chester University a top public university in Pennsylvania by using a competitive ranking system that considers the quality of an education in addition to its affordability and demonstrated outcomes. The ranking places the University ahead of Penn State, Temple University, University of Pittsburgh, as well as others. Equally as important, our outstanding retention rate and six-year graduation rate far exceed the national average.

A constant forward motion propels WCU; it is relentless as it moves with a determination, purpose, and direction that is fueled by our resolve to help students be successful. In this context, our access mission is one of the many factors that drives our University. We make it a practice to identify ways to help students overcome impediments, so they can cross the finish line and graduate. The fall issue of *West Chester University Magazine* is dedicated to honoring an access mission that exists for the express purpose of supporting students, acting as advocates, and, ultimately, making anything quite possible. I thank all of you for helping to activate this access mission in ways that are truly benefiting generations of WCU students.

Sincerely,

*Christopher M. Fiorentino*

Christopher M. Fiorentino  
President

West Chester  
University  
MAGAZINE

FALL 2019

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

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During halftime of the home football game on September 21, West Chester's Incomparable Golden Rams Marching Band became the first band from a Division II school to be awarded the John Philip Sousa Foundation's prestigious Sudler Trophy. Known as the "Heisman Trophy of the collegiate band world," the award recognizes bands demonstrating the highest musical standards and innovative marching routines over a period of years. On hand to accept the trophy were four generations of band directors dating back to 1968 (L to R): Andrew Yozviak '91, current director of bands and marching band director from 2007-2018; Professor Adam Gumble '05, M'16, current marching band director; James Wells '54, marching band director from 1968-1992 and the Wells School of Music's co-namesake; and John Vilella '76, M'82, current vice president for University Affairs and chief of staff and marching band director from 1992-2007. The trophy measures exactly 22½ inches from base to tip — precisely the size of a standard 8 to 5 step in marching. It will be on display in the Wells School of Music for the next two years.

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Luther B. Sowers '49 (deceased)





Pictured (L-R): SSI Executive Director Donna Snyder, WCU Alumni Association Past President Matt Holliday, Chair, SSI Board of Directors Bernie Carrozza, President Christopher Fiorentino, Director of Autism Services/ Dub-C Autism Program Cherie Fishbaugh, and WCU students Sophia Hirokawa, Gabe Lloyd, Tyler Haney, and Katie Lickfield.

## UNIQUE IN THE U.S.

### WCU Opens a Campus Store That Employs Students on the Autism Spectrum

On September 6, a one-of-a-kind convenience store opened adjacent to campus. In a teaching model unique in the United States, West Chester University's Ram Shop is staffed and run by degree-seeking WCU students who have autism. The store functions as a training ground for them to learn critical job skills.

The Ram Shop is the direct result of a partnership between the University's Dub-C Autism Program (D-CAP) and Student Services, Inc. (SSI). It is located across High Street from Philips Memorial Building at 20 Linden Street on the first floor. On the second floor, the building houses D-CAP support, where students study, perform group activities, work on living-learning goals, practice social skills, and benefit from sensory-free areas.

The store employs paid D-CAP students as well as other WCU students who do not have autism. The latter participate in sensitiv-

ity training on how to work effectively with those who have autism. In addition, D-CAP student volunteers in the store are learning the work-readiness skills needed to eventually be employed there or across campus.

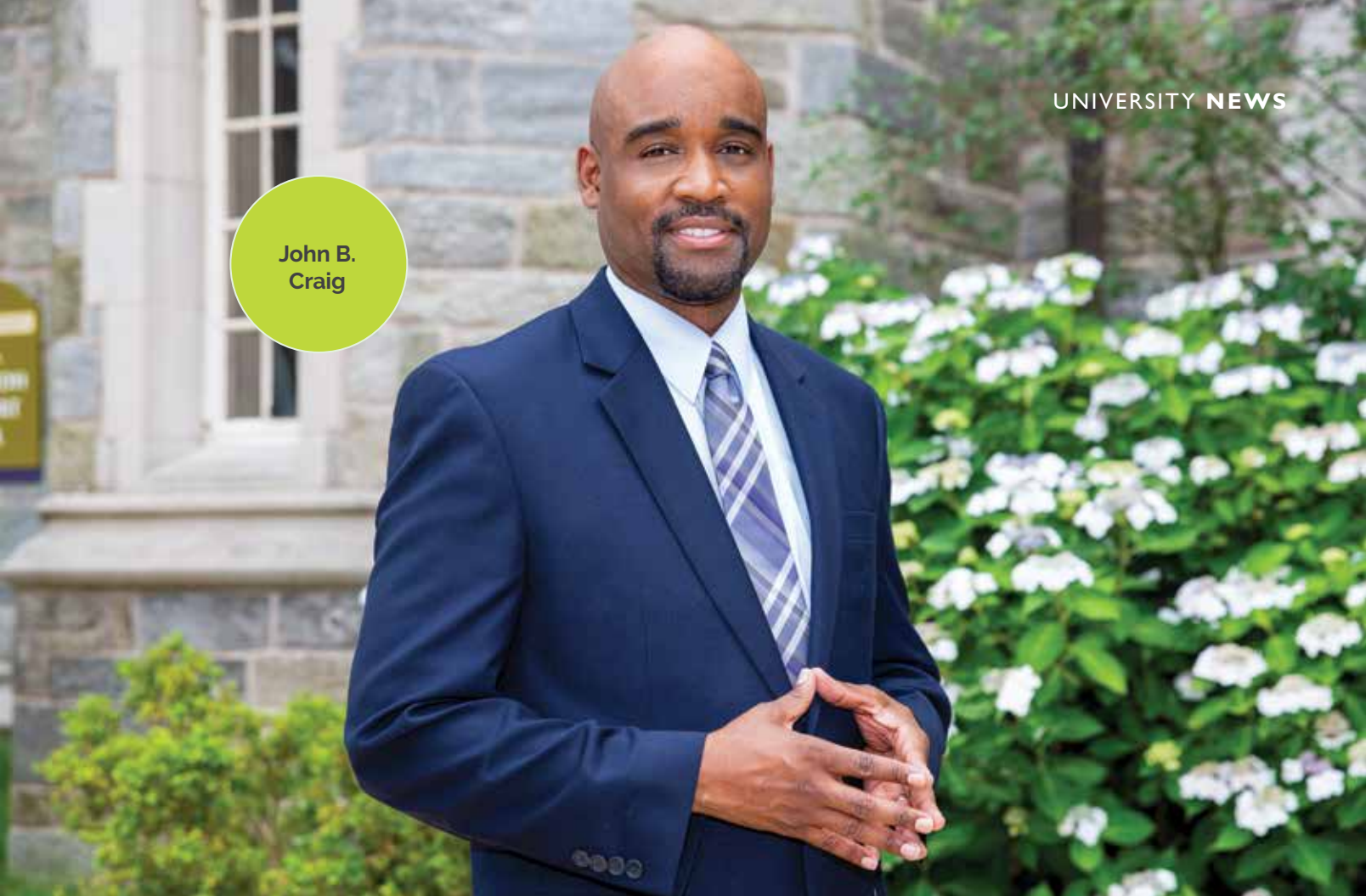
"We believe that if a student is accepted to West Chester University, it is our responsibility to do whatever we can to help that student succeed," said West Chester University President Chris Fiorentino. "The Ram Shop is just one example of how our access mission is being implemented. This University is truly committed to helping students achieve success and cross the finish line. Student Services, Inc. shares this goal, and we are deeply grateful that they have, once again, jumped in eagerly to provide the resources that our students need."

Student Services, Inc. is a natural partner for the project. "SSI recognizes that students have various types of need, and we want to

make a significant difference in their lives," said SSI Chair of the Board of Directors Bernie Carrozza. "SSI welcomes the opportunity to provide a positive working environment that can act as the students' very first training ground. All of us support the drive and determination of these students to secure a college education."

In addition to snacks, necessities, and WCU apparel, the store carries a special yellow T-shirt that bears the words "The Autistic Voice." D-CAP student Sean Bastian chaired a group of D-CAP students who designed it. All proceeds from sales of that shirt will fund D-CAP social activities.

The Design for Social Good art class brought their skills to one wall of the store in a bright mural by student designers Kayla Degenshein and Taylor Goad. Another mural created by the class is located in the WCU Resource Pantry.



### Special Admissions Program

## REFINING THE ACADEMIC SUCCESS PROGRAM

This fall, West Chester University's special admissions program for students who show strong promise but don't meet University admissions standards was renamed the Academic Success Program (ASP).

Since 1984, the program — which was launched in 1971 — had been called the Academic Development Program. Reflecting current research, the name change follows the lead of the National Organization for Student Success (NOSS), which recently dropped its original name, the National Association for Developmental Education. WCU's program has been a NOSS member for many years.

"We changed our name because the term 'development' is indicative of remedial, developmental education, which connotes classes that aren't on a college level," says John B. Craig, director of the Academic Success Program. "We feel the term 'academic success' more accurately reflects our focus on the product rather than the process involved in achieving that success."

Under the program, high school graduates who successfully complete a preparatory five-week summer program are admitted to the University and are offered extensive support, particularly during their first year. Besides being assigned a faculty advisor, they are mentored by faculty and both graduate and undergraduate students.

Currently, approximately 800 undergraduates, including 191 first-year students, are benefiting from the ASP.

Since Craig arrived at WCU in 2016, he has worked with the WCU Foundation to successfully secure more than \$100,000 worth of support that has funded ASP students' book and study-abroad scholarships. The most recent data from the University's Office of Institutional Research indicates that 85% of students who enter the program return to WCU the following year — virtually the same percentage as WCU's excellent overall first-year retention rate. "Students who come to our program do very well and go on to do wonderful things at the University and beyond," says Craig.



Pat Croce  
Engages Audience  
Discussing “Living a  
Contemplative Life in  
a World of Action”

At a special campus event October 16, former 76ers owner, entrepreneur, author, and media personality Pat Croce shared his approach to incorporating mindfulness into every aspect of life in an interactive conversation facilitated by Don McCown, director of WCU’s Center for Contemplative Studies (CCS). Croce responded to questions from the audience in addition to sharing his insights resulting from his own contemplative practices.

Noting how our lives today are full of distractions, Scott Heinrichs, dean of the College of Health Sciences and professor of sports medicine, said the exchange with Croce achieved the goal of “reminding attendees of the importance of staying in the present while continuing to develop themselves to improve their overall mental health and wellbeing.”

The next morning, Croce commented via social media, “Great Q&A and I loved the aware presence in the room!”

McCown also shared effective practices and discussed how the center, operated through the College of Health Sciences, is a resource for the local community as well as WCU students. CCS offers free programming to encourage WCU students and employees to explore contemplative practices, meditate, enjoy yoga, and reduce stress. Free and low-cost community programs include a Saturday series and programs such as the conversation with Croce.

Croce studied athletic training at the University and is a generous supporter of the center. Ticket sales benefitted CCS.



MONEY, Forbes, U.S. News  
Rate WCU Among the Best

On its 2019 list of Best Colleges for Your Money, *MONEY* magazine ranks West Chester University at #179 out of 744 universities eligible for inclusion. WCU is the ninth highest-ranked Pennsylvania institution in the top 200 best values nationwide.

The researchers ranked colleges and universities on 26 factors in three categories: quality of education, affordability, and outcomes. “Because these three factors are so interrelated and crucial to families, we gave them equal weights in our ranking,” note the editors of *MONEY*.

Climbing more than 30 spots from its position last year, West Chester is #418 on *Forbes*’ 2019 ranking of Top Colleges in the country. Note the *Forbes* editors, “We include just 15% of the 4,300 degree-granting postsecondary institutions in the U.S., so appearing here at all is an indication that a school meets a high standard.”

West Chester also rose in *Forbes*’ rankings for Public Colleges, to #141 versus

#155 last year, and in Top Colleges in the Northeast, coming in at #163, five spots better than last year.

In its 2020 rankings of best colleges, *U.S. News* positions West Chester at #12 on its list of Top Public Regional Universities North. On its list combining both public and private institutions, WCU is #55 in Best Regional Universities North. The University is ranked #31 in Best Schools for Veterans. WCU is #45 (up from #69 last year) on its list of Best Value Schools/Regional Universities North.

WCU was also ranked #21 on *U.S. News*’ list of Most Innovative Regional Universities North. In addition, WCU scored well on *U.S. News*’ Top Performers on Social Mobility list, coming in at #145.

*U.S. News* places the most weight on each school’s outcomes: its success at retaining and graduating students within six years. New this year: The proportion of students who are first-generation was added to the graduation rate performance calculations.



Pictured (L-R): WCU Vice President for Student Affairs Zebulun Davenport; SSI Executive Director Donna Snyder; Chair, SSI Board of Directors Bernie Carrozza; WCU President Chris Fiorentino; Community Manager, PSECU Financial Education Center – West Chester Amanda Altice; Chief Executive Officer, WCU Foundation Christopher Mominney; and Administrator, PSECU Earl Lloyd.

\$120,000 Gift Supports Students with Significant Financial Need

Thanks to a gift of \$120,000 from Student Services, Incorporated (SSI) and PSECU, WCU students who demonstrate significant financial need will be able to secure college necessities — meals, books, and monetary support. Bernie Carrozza, chair of the Board of Directors of SSI, and Amanda Altice, community manager at the on-campus PSECU Financial Education Center, were among those presenting the check to University President Christopher Fiorentino on October 22.

Of the generous gift, \$40,000 will provide meal swipes for students; \$40,000 will support book scholarships and gifts-in-kind from the WCU Campus Store; and \$40,000 will be awarded to students in the form of monetary micro awards. All awards will be managed by the WCU Office of Financial Aid.

“SSI understands that not all students enter a college or university with everything that is needed to be successful,” said SSI Chair Carrozza. “SSI stands ready to ensure that these students have what they need to fuel their academic goals. We admire these students for their perseverance and determination, and we are honored to be able to support their commitment to academic excellence.”

PSECU is equally supportive. “We are continually looking for ways to make a difference in the lives of others,” said PSECU University Development Director Mike Verotsky. “This funding is one such example — it will help promising students achieve their educational goals and, hopefully, will inspire others to do the same.”

“West Chester University is committed to doing whatever it can to remove barriers that may impede a student’s ability to be successful,” said Fiorentino. “We feel fortunate to be able to align with partners who feel very much the same. SSI and PSECU continue to meet our students’ needs in very real ways. Their efforts will help guarantee student success on a multitude of immediate levels, and we are truly grateful for the generosity of resources exhibited by both entities.”





Gary Coutu worked with students on an award-winning virtual-reality campus tour.

## Innovative Use of GIS Nets International Award for Geography and Planning

**T**he University's Department of Geography and Planning won a Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) Award during the annual Esri User Conference this summer. Out of 178 winners, WCU was one of only three institutions of higher education honored.

The award recognizes the department's innovative use of GIS and 3D modeling for facilities mapping and management of campus. A WCU team created a virtual reality model of campus to allow a user to "walk around" campus as a tour; envision new campus buildings and public space; and review tree growth, over time, across campus. Seven students who worked on specific aspects of the 3D projects were Kyle Erisman '17, M'19; Kevin Hazley M'19; Jason Karian M'19; Morgan Sapia '19 (a current geography graduate student); Rich Simpson '18, M'19; Tyler LaMantia M'19, and final-year graduate student Eric Quinn.

"It is exciting to be associated with a company that is so innovative and committed to action on local and global issues," notes Gary Coutu, professor of geography and planning. "We use the entire suite of the Esri software in our education, research, and management activities. Our in-depth knowledge of GIS software and geospatial software has given us the opportunity to work closely with Esri solutions engineers."

This summer, Coutu and graduate assistant Morgan Sapia created a 3D image and map of the interior of the Business and Public Management Center (where the department and GIS lab are located) to integrate into the current 3D model. More campus buildings are being modeled, which includes a QR code-enhanced building management application for WCU facilities personnel and eventually for emergency response and delivery management.



Professor of Kinesiology Monica Lepore, students Emily Scott and Nate Seagraves, Associate Professor of Special Education Claire Verden, and 2018-2019 Graduate Assistant Ethan Wasserman 'M19.

## WCU Supports RAM Initiative

**T**he RAM Initiative pilot program was designed two years ago to be a small, certificate-of-completion test program funded via a one-year-at-a-time grant to provide a full college immersion experience for one to two non-degree seeking students per year who have intellectual disabilities. WCU currently has three students participating in the program; two were admitted in 2018 and one was admitted in 2019. The three students continue to excel in the program and the University is proud of the students' efforts to pursue a certificate of completion; two students will receive their certificate in May 2020 and the third student is expected to receive a certificate in May 2021. Now, at the conclusion of the pilot, the University intends to move the successful test-pilot program to an official program with the assistance of the community.

With a swell of internal and external support for the RAM Initiative pilot, the University feels confident that it will be able to raise the money necessary to support the pilot program through a combination of philanthropy and grant acquisition. While the pilot was supported by multiple volunteers who donated numerous hours of time, the program's direct and indirect costs will increase to approximately \$100,000 each year to support the staffing and operating costs necessary to sustain the RAM Initiative as part of a growing list of programs promoting inclusive excellence at West Chester University.

"We are grateful for the funding from the Pennsylvania Inclusive Higher Education Forum and the United States Department of Education Transition and Post-Secondary Program for Students with Intellectual Disabilities grant, which have supported the pilot during its initial two years," said Deputy Provost Jeffery Osgood. "The University, however, must ensure it has appropriately planned for the program's continuation with or without such generous support."

To help with the planning for the program's long-term sustainability, the WCU Foundation has established a RAM Initiative fund for restricted use of this program only. Community members may contribute to the RAM Initiative by navigating directly to the Foundation's webpage: [www.wcufoundation.org/ram-initiative](http://www.wcufoundation.org/ram-initiative).

## Exercise is Medicine Day Earns International Recognition

**T**he University has been recognized as a 2019 Gold Campus for Exercise is Medicine Day, a global initiative to create a culture of wellness on college campuses by promoting and assessing physical activity.

Only 55 institutions worldwide were selected for gold status. Winners were recognized at the Exercise is Medicine (EIM) World Congress, held in conjunction with this summer's American College of Sports Medicine's (ACSM) national conference.

"We only became registered as an EIM campus in 2017 and we reached gold-level recognition for the 2018 academic year — pretty impressive!" says Melissa Reed, assistant chair of the Exercise Science Division of the College of Health Sciences (CHS) and associate professor of kinesiology.

Gold campuses must create referral systems where campus health care providers assess student physical activity and refer students as necessary to a certified fitness professional as part of medical treatment. Reed handles those referrals after she meets with students to "discuss goals, medical history, etc., and refer them for free on-campus personal training and nutrition counseling. The collaboration among Student Health Services, the Nutrition and Kinesiology departments, and Campus Recreation is integral for our EIM Day On Campus to be a success."

More than 300 individuals from campus academic and administrative departments and student organizations are involved in WCU's annual EIM Day On Campus in late April, plus community partners such as the Chester County Health Department and YMCA.





Ronn  
Jenkins '65

## WCU Unveils Renovated Diving and Aquatics Center

One of the highlights of this year's Homecoming weekend was the ribbon cutting and official naming ceremony for the new Dr. Ronn Jenkins Diving & Aquatics Center. Named for one of WCU's most celebrated head coaches, the renovated Hollinger facility boasts a state-of-the-art environment for diving teams, spectators, and recreational swimmers. A pool room provides a professional diving sport arena with refinished floors and walls, renovated pool walls and floor, welcoming visitor entrance doors, rejuvenated NCAA approved diving equipment, and more. In addition to an efficient workspace for coaching, the coach's office provides a professional environment for mentoring and performance review. Jenkins, who coached the University's men's and women's diving teams for more than 40 years, has earned numerous accolades and awards, including induction into the West Chester University Athletics Hall of Fame, the Pennsylvania Swimming Hall of Fame, and the Chester County Hall of Fame. The 1965 WCU graduate was the first African-American head coach of

the University's diving teams. His coaching career followed his own highly-decorated diving career. "Dr. Jenkins has set an example for all of us to follow, including the next generation of student athletes," said President Christopher Fiorentino. "His willingness to make a difference in students' lives is testament to his character and generosity. Thanks to this transformative gift from SSI and the support of other donors, including the Jenkins family, we will be able to offer new opportunities to our student athletes for years to come." The center was made possible in part due to a generous lead gift from Student Services, Incorporated in the amount of \$350,000, as well as by gifts from Anne Saris Stevenson, Ph.D., Mr. and Mrs. Steven Rutherford, and many other donors. At the ceremony, State House Representative Dan K. Williams (74<sup>th</sup> Legislative District) presented a citation in honor of Jenkins' dedication and service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and to West Chester University.

## WCU EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

**WCU LIVE! 25TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON:**  
Serving our community with high-quality, low-cost entertainment for all ages!

### DECEMBER

- 13-15 Brandywine Ballet:
- 19-22 The Nutcracker
- 20 A Cappella Pops: A Holiday Special

### JANUARY

- 18 Alumni Dance Chapter: Revolving Rhythms
- 30 Knauer Gallery: An Incomplete Image of the Universe Opening Reception

### FEBRUARY

- 5 John H. Baker Gallery: Slow Burn Opening Reception
- 7 WCU Live!: Flamenco Vivo
- 21 Planetarium Series: A Star is Born
- 21-22 13th Annual International Trumpet Festival
- 27-3/1 Theatre & Dance: The Visit

### MARCH

- 14 WCU Live!: Missoula Children's Theatre
- 18-21 30th Annual Jazz Festival
- 21 WCU Live!: Johnny Peers & the Muttville Comix
- 29 WCU Live!: Tamagawa University Taiko Drumming and Dance

### APRIL

- 17-26 Theatre & Dance: Spring Awakening
- 25 President's Speaker Series: Henry Winkler

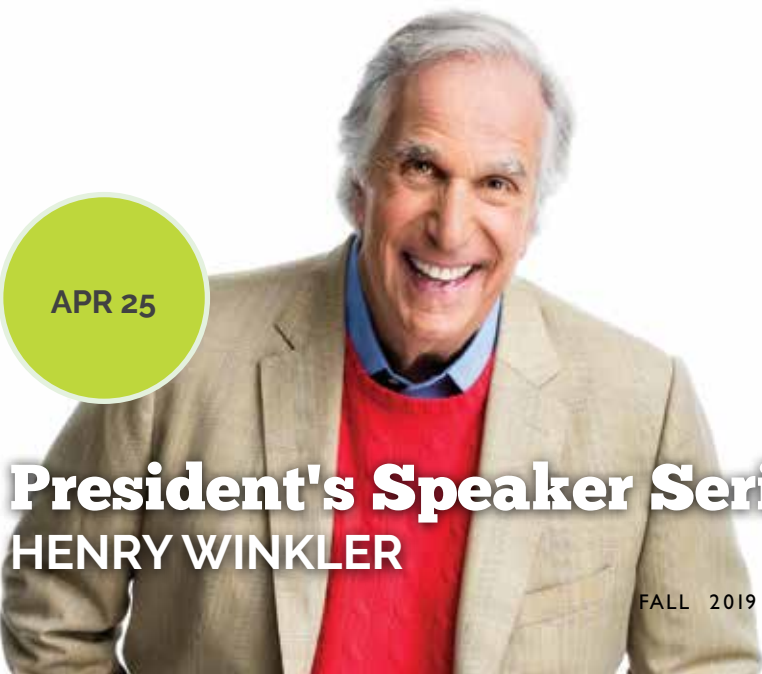
For a full schedule of events please visit [wcupa.edu/arts](http://wcupa.edu/arts)



## WCU Planetarium: A STAR IS BORN



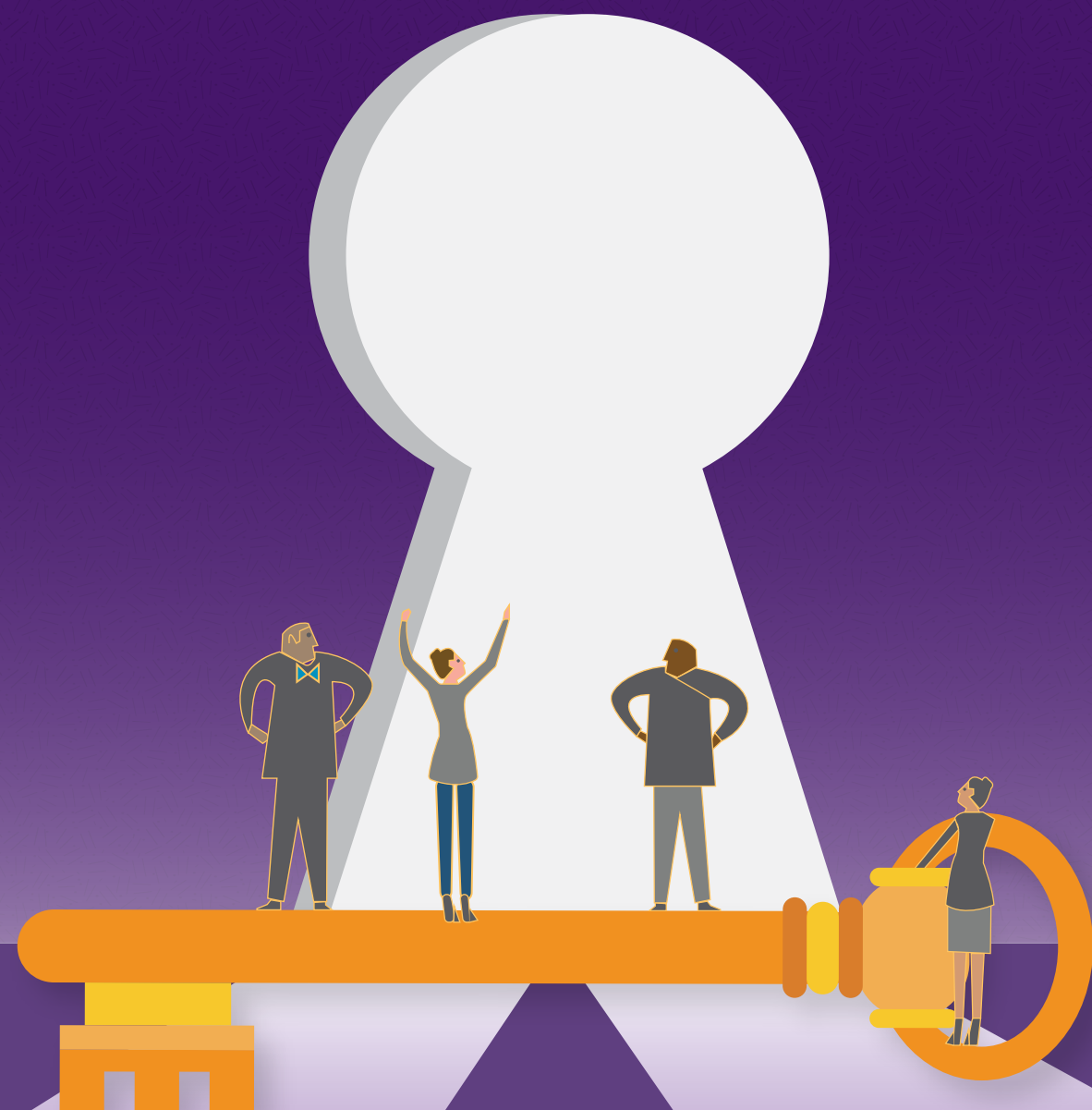
## WCU Live!: TAMAGAWA UNIVERSITY TAIKO DRUMMING AND DANCE



## President's Speaker Series: HENRY WINKLER



# WCU'S ACCESS INITIATIVES



## Pave the Way for Student Success



Terrence  
Moore

**“I ALWAYS WANTED TO GO TO COLLEGE** but I had doubts about how I would get through it,” Terrence Moore admits. At Universal Audenreid Charter High School in Philadelphia, he had a fine 3.4 GPA but, for West Chester University, below-average SAT scores. So, two summers ago, Moore entered what is now the University’s Academic Success Program (ASP), which required him to pass reading and math classes in order to gain full admission as a 2017-18 first-year student. “It was one of the best experiences of my life,” says Moore. “The ASP has made it a breeze. I was never good at math, but the tutoring I got helped me earn high Bs in both classes.”

“And my mentor, Amir Armstrong, a graduate student, really made me feel comfortable and showed me how to get into good study habits.”

Since then, Moore has maintained a 3.1 GPA. The ultimate goal of the junior business management major: forming a company that bridges healthcare gaps in his South Philadelphia neighborhood.

As the largest of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education’s 14 universities, West Chester University’s admissions standards and its students’ overall academic profile continue to rise.

Yet each year, WCU sets aside about 20 percent of its first-year seats for students such as Moore who may not meet all of its standard admission requirements — but show promise. “Beyond standardized

test scores, we look at the entire picture,” says John B. Craig, director of the Academic Success Program. “Good high school grades. Extra-curricular activities. Leadership or volunteer experiences.”

Adds President Christopher M. Fiorentino, “These students may have a variety of challenges, ranging from academic to perhaps being a first-generation college student or having grown up in foster care.

Regardless, as a public institution, we are proud of our mission to support them in order to give them the best opportunity to be successful, both here and in life. We don’t do that by lowering our standards, but by working with them to ensure that they meet our standards.”

And succeed they do.

Nationwide, just over 60% of students return for their second year to the same four-year institution. WCU’s overall retention rate, which includes all first-year students, including ASP participants, is 88%. Likewise, among public colleges and universities, the six-year graduation rate — which incorporates those who change

majors — is 57%; at WCU, it is 74%.

ASP is one of a growing suite of support services offered through WCU’s University College. Two of its components include an Exploratory Studies Program for students who have yet to declare their majors, and interdisciplinary programs for students who want to customize their degrees with expertise in multiple fields.

**“The ASP has made it a breeze. I was never good at math, but the tutoring I got helped me earn high Bs in both classes.”**





Students at work in the Learning Assistance and Resource Center

Besides the ASP, student support services offered by the College include the Writing Center, the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities, Success Coaching, and the Learning Assistance and Resource Center (LARC), which employs up to 120 student tutors and recently received the Frank L. Christ Outstanding Learning Center Award from the National College Learning Center Association.

Anticipating how difficult his introductory biology and chemistry courses could become, Adrian Alvarado, a first-year pre-med track biochemistry major, has visited with LARC tutors since his first week. “They really make sure I have the concepts down so that, when I go into an exam, I feel confident and prepared,” he says, “and I’m doing well.”

Looking ahead, Tabettha Adkins, the University College’s founding dean, says, “We’re working on creating an experience that models coordinated health care. By next year, first year students will all have a faculty advisor as well as a student success coach and a student success coordinator who support advising. We want to make sure that our students know the support they are getting is personalized, coordinated, and seamless; they have all these people in their corner looking out for them.”

**“We need to intervene  
as early as possible  
to help students succeed.”**

## Early Intervention

Tony Delgado is WCU’s assistant vice president for identity, health, and wellness. His team helps students and families identify appropriate campus resources to help students overcome obstacles that may hinder their academic performance, including personal distress, anxiety, depression, family emergencies, and health issues. “We need to intervene as early as possible to help students succeed,” says Delgado. Besides reaching out to students who are absent for three or more days, Delgado’s care team, led by a case manager, intervened in 150 more complex situations.

## First-generation Students

Nationally, first-generation college students don’t earn bachelor’s degrees at the same rate as students whose parents have previously earned undergraduate degrees. “They tend to lack what researchers call the ‘cultural capital’ to navigate a college campus,” explains Judy Kawamoto, the assistant vice president for student development. “They don’t have a family member, for example, who can explain what a bursar or registrar does.”

With first-generation students making up about a third of WCU’s student body — similar to national averages — last year WCU launched a pilot that led to this year’s West Chester’s First program. To build a sense of community and connect the students to the campus and its traditions, it offers social and educational programs with other first-generation students, as well as faculty and staff who themselves were first-generation college students. WCU is one of

only 80 institutions nationwide to be recognized as a First Forward Institution for its work with first-generation students by NASPA: Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education.

## Philadelphia Campus

Further enhancing access to a WCU education, the Philadelphia campus at 8th and Market Streets in Center City “meets students where they are,” according to Joseph H. Santivaschi, associate vice president and the campus director. “Most of our 312 students are working adults who have complex lives caring for children or their elders. It is not convenient or even possible for them to drive out to or live on the main campus. The Philadelphia campus provides convenience and flexibility to meet their needs.”

With a 10% tuition discount, it is even more affordable and for flexibility most classes are offered in the late afternoon or evening — one reason that enrollment in the master’s of social work program at the Philadelphia campus now exceeds the main campus enrollment, 144 students to 140.

Shantaya Hayes, a mother of four from Southwest Philadelphia, is a full-time youth community engagement coordinator for a public health corporation and is also pursuing a bachelor’s degree in social work full-time. “The location is very accessible and the professors and staff, including at the Student Success Center, are very supportive of our journey,” she says. “They don’t allow us to quit or fail. They want us to succeed.”



## Good Financial Value

Outside of the University, some assume WCU’s strong academic outcomes are a product of students coming from wealthier families. Not true, says R. Lorraine (Laurie) Bernotsky, the University’s executive vice president and provost. More than 1,100 (nearly 40%) of this year’s first-year students qualified for a financial assistance Golden Ram Award that averaged \$2,000.

“Our 88% retention rate is great, but we’re not satisfied and want to do even better,” says President Fiorentino.

Which is why the University College is continuing to expand its student support. For example, after piloting the concept last year, all 2,900 first-year students this fall are enrolled in a four-credit First Year Experience course. Team taught by numerous professors, students select from among nine courses that focus on different fields in which they might want to major, including the arts, education, STEM, and social science. The business experience, for example, explores all available business majors.

Each course also covers such crucial issues as time management and how to adjust to campus life. Says Bernotsky, “Combined with the financial and academic help we offer, this First Year Experience makes sure students are being set up for success and are on a good, timely path to graduation.”

Beth Kern, a senior cellular molecular biology major from Slatington, PA, is a three-year LARC peer tutor who is now a peer tutor coordinator. “I and our other student tutors are really committed to student success,” she says. “Being involved in this position has really shown me that the University is committed to student success as well.”





Georgia Wright, Tammy James, and Dashon Thomas.

## Tammy James

### Helping Student-athletes Excel Off the Field

In the pool, Georgia Wright clearly needs no help. The senior freestyle specialist from Doncaster, England, has twice set NCAA Division II national championship records and is a seven-time national and 12-time PSAC conference champion.

In the classroom, however, Wright — who is both dyslexic and has Asperger syndrome — initially felt overwhelmed. Thanks in part to the Athletic Mentoring Program for first- and second-year athletes coordinated by Department of Health Professor Tammy James, Wright has raised her overall GPA from 1.5 to 3.2.

“We are so busy that it’s great to know somebody — whether it’s Tammy or my athletic mentor, graduate student Bryan Pointer — cares about what I do out of the pool,” says Wright.

During high school in Cleveland, OH, James played basketball and ran track. She came to WCU in 1994 after earning her Ph.D. in health education from Kent State University. “Working with athletes,” she says, “combines my love of sports and love of education by assisting students toward their graduation goals.”

James also created an NCAA-modeled leadership/life skills course for student-athletes. “The joy these students experience successfully

overcoming obstacles such as time constraints and, in some cases, inadequate high school preparation, creates an amazing feeling — not just for me and my staff but also for these young people.”

Nominated by WCU student-athletes, James received the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference’s 2018 Faculty Mentor Award. A book published earlier this year by educators at Penn State, Kansas State, and Rutgers universities, *Implementing Student-Athlete Programming: A Guide for Supporting College Athletes*, also calls the campus-wide program that James oversees “exemplary.” James is also the 2017-2018 recipient of the University’s Civility Award, given each year to a nominated member of the WCU community whose actions best reflect the values and mission of WCU.

Dashon Thomas, a senior defensive lineman for the Golden Rams’ football team, struggled early in his classes, particularly with math. But after significantly improving his academic performance, the psychology major from Sicklerville, NJ, now expects to graduate next year. “Tammy James and the Academic Success Program changed the way I approach my classes,” he says. “They gave me the understanding that, if I believed in myself and worked hard, I could do it.”

### Pryor Receives First Colonel Sharpe Memorial Scholarship

Maya Pryor, a senior criminal justice major, is the inaugural recipient of WCU’s Col. Ronald M. Sharpe Memorial Scholarship, which she received this fall from current Pennsylvania State Police Commissioner Col. Robert Evanchick (pictured). As commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police, Sharpe was the nation’s first African American to lead a statewide police force.

Pryor’s interest in juvenile and restorative justice stems in part from her experiences growing up in Camden, NJ, where she witnessed violence, drug abuse, and a lack of educational opportunities. “It’s about helping these people before the crimes are committed, before they get stuck in a cycle of violence, crime, and incarcerations,” says Pryor, who has also benefitted from her membership in the NAACP and Sisters United.

Another impactful experience was a 15-week “inside-out” program affiliated with the State Correctional Institute in Chester, PA, during which she attended classes alongside inmates. “After a couple of weeks, we came to see them as more than just inmates.”

She previously worked at the Chester County Youth Center as youth officer and currently is assisting case workers as an intern at Valley Youth House’s West Chester site.

Pryor, who has flourished at WCU ever since she entered the Academic Success Program, will graduate in December. She then will become a juvenile probation officer. Ultimately, however, she hopes to earn a master’s degree in administration of justice and work in a detention center. She is also considering becoming a licensed clinical social worker to treat minority children with mental health conditions such as PTSD.



Katie Coyle

### Katie Coyle: White House Intern

This past summer, Katie Coyle worked as an intern in the White House Office of Presidential Correspondence. “Going to the White House, I thought about the fact that some of the most incredible people in the country have also gone through those security gates,” she says. “And it was pretty cool seeing a live stream from CNN or MSNBC and knowing it was happening right outside my office window.”

Coyle, a senior communications studies major who will graduate in December, handled all sorts of White House correspondence: requests for the president to send a birthday card to an 85-year-old grandmother, or congratulatory letters or cards for a birth or a marriage, or issue-oriented letters from constituents.

She particularly enjoyed responding to children and teenagers. “Their letters about immigration and climate policies rejuvenated my hope for the future.”

Currently, Coyle is a community affairs intern with QVC, an assignment that combines her interest in business with her passion for public service.

Those dual interests have evidenced themselves throughout her WCU tenure. She has served as the assistant producer of the University’s 2017 Theatre Department AIDS benefit concert that raised over \$14,000; as vice president of the Golden Rams Society, which works with the University’s Foundation and Alumni Association; as a marketing intern with the University’s Honors College, of which she is a member; and as a mentor of young mothers.

Says this winner of a 2018 Madeleine Wing Adler Emerging Leader Award, “I’ve been super blessed to have been given such amazing opportunities during my three-and-a-half years at West Chester.”



Maya Pryor





# WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

# HOMECOMING OCTOBER 25-27



Review  
2019



ALUMNI

CHAPTER NEWS

For more information about any chapter or its events, contact the chapter directly or the WCU Alumni Office at [alumni@wcupa.edu](mailto:alumni@wcupa.edu).

ALUMNI DANCE CHAPTER

The Alumni Dance Chapter is looking forward to its 12th Annual Winter Festival on January 18, 2020, which will benefit the Barbara J. Lappano Dance Scholarship. Purchase your tickets at [www.wcupatix.com](http://www.wcupatix.com). Our chapter remains active in promoting current dance programs at WCU and providing a network for alumni dancers. Are you a WCU Dance Team alumnus/a interested in getting involved with this chapter? Follow us on *Facebook: WCU Alumni Dance Chapter*.

BALTIMORE METRO AREA ALUMNI

Our Baltimore alumni are energized and are looking ahead to our upcoming events and service projects. Save the date for WCU Alumni Day at the Baltimore Aquarium and Chapter Meeting on Saturday, February 22, 2020. Stay connected with our upcoming events and meetings on our chapter page [www.wcualumni.org/BaltimoreMetro](http://www.wcualumni.org/BaltimoreMetro). Interested in getting involved or have an idea for an event? We are always looking for new alumni to join us! Follow us on *Facebook: BMAC WCU*.

BANDS ALUMNI

We are thrilled with the enthusiasm and alumni engagement at Homecoming last month following the excitement of celebrating the Sudler Trophy Award. Are you an alumnus/a of WCU Bands interested in getting involved with this chapter? Find us on *Facebook: WCU Bands Alumni Association*.

BLACK ALUMNI CHAPTER

We are continuing our efforts to re-engage alumni with WCU and growing our student mentee program. We had a great time celebrating Homecoming and are looking forward to our upcoming events. Follow us on social media for updates on future events, including the Kente Ceremony on December 12, 2019. Follow us on *Facebook: WCU BAC*.

CHESTER COUNTY CHAPTER

Congratulations to the following Golden Rams who were elected to serve on our 2019-2020 Executive Board:  
President: Ashley Fox '13  
Vice President: Nicole Shulde '10  
Secretary: Emily Eyster '16  
Treasurer: Mike McKnight '03  
Check out our chapter page to stay updated on all of our upcoming events and meetings: [www.wcualumni.org/cc](http://www.wcualumni.org/cc).

Make sure you LIKE our Chester County Facebook Page to stay tuned in with the latest and greatest. Follow us on *Facebook: WCU Chester County*.

COMMUNICATION ALUMNI CHAPTER

Join us at the Split Rail Tavern on Tuesday, December 10, 2019, as we welcome our newest alumni during a networking reception and social. For more information on the chapter and to register online, visit our chapter page [www.wcualumni.org/CAN](http://www.wcualumni.org/CAN).

DELAWARE COUNTY CHAPTER

We had a great night at the park to wrap up summer and we are looking forward to our next events. Let us know what events you would like to see near you!

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY ALUMNI CHAPTER

Are you a veteran interested in getting involved or taking on a leadership role with this chapter? Visit our chapter page to see how you can get involved and support our current student veterans: [www.wcualumni.org/IMAC](http://www.wcualumni.org/IMAC). Stay in touch with all that is going on within our alumni veteran community.

LAW ALUMNI CHAPTER

We are thrilled with the alumni engagement for our annual fall event, Careers in Law. Our largest event yet, this networking reception featured alumni in various fields of law who provided insight to prospective law students. We are looking forward to our panel event, “What to Expect in Law School,” next spring. Are you an alumnus/a employed in a legal-related field who is interested in getting involved with this chapter? Contact our chapter representative at [wcu.law.alumni@gmail.com](mailto:wcu.law.alumni@gmail.com).

LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER

We are a brand new chapter excited to connect with alumni in the Lehigh Valley and re-engage them regarding all the new advances on campus and the opportunities available to alumni. Looking forward to our upcoming events in the spring and hope to see you there! Check us out on our chapter page, [www.wcualumni.org/lehighvalley](http://www.wcualumni.org/lehighvalley), and social media to let us know what kind of events you would like to see. *Facebook: WCU Lehigh Valley Alumni Chapter*.

NEW YORK ALUMNI CHAPTER

Do you live or work in NYC greater metro area? We are excited at the announcement of our brand new chapter and hope you will join us in creating a robust network of WCU alumni in New York. We are looking forward to our upcoming events and bringing a little WCU to the Big Apple! Follow us on *Facebook: WCU New York Alumni*.

OMEGA DELTA CHAPTER

We want to extend a big thank you to all who helped make our recent events successful and for the support of our Dr. Walter N. Ridley Memorial Scholarship. We awarded our second scholarship this fall to Uloma Onyemachi. We are always hosting events and participating in local service projects that are highlighted on our chapter page: [www.wcualumni.org/omegadelta](http://www.wcualumni.org/omegadelta). We hope to see you at the next one! Follow us on *Facebook: Omega Delta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.*

WCUR ALUMNI CHAPTER

We are excited to announce our brand new charter! We had a great time celebrating our 20th anniversary in September and look forward to our upcoming events and opportunities for alumni to get involved. WCUR alumni are encouraged to reach out and join us as we get our chapter started. Check out our chapter page for all our news: [www.wcualumni.org/WCUR](http://www.wcualumni.org/WCUR).

YORK COUNTY CHAPTER

As WCU’s oldest alumni chapter, we are looking forward to our 100th anniversary in 2020 and welcome all alumni to celebrate this milestone with us. We will be hosting events throughout the year to support our York County Chapter Scholarship and offer community outreach in York County. Connect with us on social media for all upcoming events and a glimpse of our history over the years. Follow us on *Facebook: York County West Chester Alumni Association*.

ZETA PSI ALUMNI CHAPTER

The Zeta Psi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha is excited to announce our official charter as a new WCU alumni chapter as we look ahead to celebrating our 50th anniversary this year! We had a great time at Homecoming! Planning is underway for our upcoming events and projects in spring 2020 and we hope to see new alumni getting involved. Check out our chapter page for all our news: [www.wcualumni.org/ZetaPsi](http://www.wcualumni.org/ZetaPsi).

Photo Submission Guidelines

Photos should be no less than 300 DPI and in JPG format.

If you are scanning a printed photo, please set the scanning resolution to at least 300 dpi.

Digital camera and/or cell phone shots should be taken on the highest resolution setting available.

Photos should be emailed as an attachment, not pasted into the email or document.

*We reserve the right to not publish a photo of low quality, and not all photos can be published.*

Please send your photos as email attachments to the attention of the WCU Alumni Relations Office at [alumni@wcupa.edu](mailto:alumni@wcupa.edu).



Lisa Wright Bryant '87

A Message from the Alumni Association President

Greetings my fellow Golden Rams! I hope all of you are enjoying this wonderful autumn. To many, this time of year is all things pumpkin spice and apple cider. At our beloved WCU, this is the season of excitement!

This semester, the WCU Alumni Association (WCUAA) and the WCU Foundation awarded scholarships to deserving WCU students and held the first Legacy Family Reception during Family Weekend. But the highlight of the season? HOMECOMING, which featured a new parade route; reunions of the classes of 1959, 1963, 1964, and 1969; the dedication of the Dr. Ronn Jenkins Diving & Aquatics Center; sports; and social events. Plus the halftime performance of the 2019 Sudler Trophy recipients, the Incomparable Golden Rams Marching Band! It was a wonderful time for students past, present, and future to celebrate West Chester University.

Speaking of celebrating, the WCUAA and the Office of Alumni Relations welcomed four new chapters filled with eager volunteers and the addition of Chantal Whitehead-Scott '08, our new assistant director of alumni relations. Interested in becoming part of the excitement? Just go to [www.wcualumni.org](http://www.wcualumni.org) to view upcoming events, plan on attending a few, or sign up as a volunteer. We would be glad to have you!

Our next big event is Alumni Weekend April 24-26, 2020. Mark your calendars! If you missed seeing any of our hardworking board of directors during Homecoming, never fear, we will be here during Alumni Weekend and look forward to meeting you. On behalf of the WCUAA Board of Directors, I thank you for your continued Golden Ram support and purple & gold passion. It is because of the amazing WCU alumni that our association is second to none!

Lisa Wright Bryant '87  
President, WCU Alumni Association





Murphy '71



Graci '74



Boulden '84



Diamond '86



Frederick-Dodge '89



Cauley '96



Martin '00



Long '03



McAninch '05



Karl '14



Basti '19

## 1940s

**Gabriel Damico '48** received recognition after serving 30 years as a volunteer in a hospital cancer wing. A retired high school science teacher, he ended his career as the principal of La Puerta Middle School in Claremont, CA.

## 1960s

**Jonathan Rose '69, M'72** recently retired from 39 years of teaching physical education, supervising student teachers, and coaching gymnastics, tennis, and diving at East Carolina University.

**Lee Berman '69** and his wife Cheri recently retired and have moved back to South Florida to enjoy year-round warm weather.

## 1970s

**Jack Maher '70** recently retired and is caring for his 10 grandchildren.

**Patricia Hopkins '71** retired as the music director and fine arts resource educator in the Montgomery County (MD) Public Schools.

**Alexander Murphy Jr. '71** was named the number one 2019 Top Lawyer for Entertainment Law by *Main Line Today* magazine.

**Darlene (Downer) Rose '72** owns Rose's Gymnastics Training Center in Greenville, NC. She was a 2008 inductee into the USAG Region 8 Hall of Fame. Rose recently hosted the state and regional championships at the Greenville Convention Center.

Pennsylvania State Rep. **Carolyn Committa '74** was named a Legislative Fellow for the 2019-20 academic year by WCU's Department of Political Science.

**Robert Graci '74**, a former Pennsylvania Superior Court Judge and retired chief counsel to the Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania, has joined the law firm of Saxton & Stump as senior counsel. He will lead the Harrisburg firm's judicial ethics and discipline practice.

**John Gorman '75** retired after working more than 40 years as the director of the New York Giants' ticket office.

**Thomas McCabe '76**, a retired career analyst for the U.S. Department of Defense and retired U.S. Air Force Reserve Lt. colonel, had an article published in the *Middle East Quarterly* journal entitled "Are the Insurgencies Truly Over? The End of the Syrian Civil War."

**Audra (Spotts) Supplee '78** had her latest novella, *Broken Soul to Broken Soul*, published by Running Wild Press. Her short story, "Monkey in the Middle," was also published this year.

**Larrick Daniels '79** was featured in an article entitled "Middle Class in New Jersey: Trailblazers Share 6 Secrets to Get Ahead." Larrick teaches digital literacy in Asbury Park.

**Dorothy L. Jaworski '79** was installed as president of the Financial Managers Society Philadelphia Chapter. This year she will celebrate 45 years in the banking industry.

## 1980s

**Matt Roberto '80** retired in April 2018 after serving 31 years as a Special Agent in the FBI - Newark Division.

**John Lobb '81** retired from Hasbro after 30 years.

**Nadine Lydic M'82** participates as a member of the Coventry Singers in Pottstown, PA. She was a piano accompanist and conductor for the spring concert "The Heart of Music."

**Gloria Galante '83** is a 2019 honoree of the Fourth Annual Jazz Legacy Awards held in July.

**Thomas Boulden '84**, a partner at Timoney Knox, LLP in Fort Washington, PA, has been named to the Pennsylvania Super Lawyers list every year since 2014 for estate and trust litigation.

**Scott Watson '84** has taught music in the Parkland School District in Allentown, PA, for 33 years. He is a frequently commissioned and published composer, an in-demand music education professional development presenter, and guest conductor. As an exclusive composer for Alfred Music, Watson has more than 80 published compositions and arrangements for concert band and orchestra at all levels, and is co-author of Alfred Music's new *Sound Sight-Reading* method (Books 1 & 2) and *Using Technology to Unlock Musical Creativity* (Oxford University Press).

**Jennifer Walsh Means '86, M'89** is an associate professor in the Communication Sciences and Disorders department at West Chester University. She recently published a book, *School Programs in Speech-Language Pathology: Organization and Service Delivery*.

**Michael Diamond '86** was selected for inclusion in 2019 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers list for civil litigation: defense.

**Virginia Frederick-Dodge '89** guest conducted the Reading Symphony Orchestra's July 4th Star Spangled Spectacular.

**Kevin Guskiewicz '89** was appointed interim chancellor at the University of North Carolina.

## 1990s

**Deidre Gray '92** was inducted as an honorary member of the Abbe Society in April 2019.

**Sharnee Moore-Jervis '92** was appointed dean of nursing at St. Francis School of Nursing in Trenton, NJ.

**Steven Elwell '94** was named COO of URB Sciences, Inc., which will be going public on Nasdaq by the end of 2019.

**Nicole Snodgrass '95** was chosen as the choral conductor for the 2020 New Jersey All-State Treble Chorus. She was also selected as the recipient of the New Jersey Master Music Teacher Award for 2020.

This year, **Sharon Stohler M'95** launched her first historical and biographical children's book, *Affectionately Yours: The Devoted Life of Abigail Adams*.

**Clay Cauley '96**, attorney and chair of the Social Services Group for the City of Philadelphia Law Department, has become one of the PA Family Support Alliance's newest board members. Cauley also serves as the West Chester University Alumni Association's parliamentarian.

**Herman Douglas '96** was acknowledged by the *Philadelphia Inquirer* for his work and impact as an African American teacher making a difference in the classroom and the community.

**Michael DeVuono '97** was selected as the Environmental/Water Resources Engineer of the Year for 2019 by the Philadelphia Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). He received his master's degree in civil engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

**Dionne Dent-Lockett '98, M'02** has been selected to serve as director of the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Eligibility Center.

## 2000s

**Bronwyn Martin '00** has been named to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Estate Planners & Councils (NAEPC).

**Sara Painter '00** became the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association's first director of outreach and development. She is currently working on a film with fellow WCU alumna **Mary Beth Rim '00**.

**Jennifer Garcia-Griffin '01** works as a reading specialist in a New Jersey school as well as an adjunct instructor at Rowan University and Wilmington University in their colleges of education. Since her graduation, she has worked in education.

**Jonathan Long '03** was named one of the Top Lawyers for 2019 by *Main Line Today* magazine.

**Lavon Howard '04** received the Community Appreciation Award by Founders 215 in March 2019.

**Stephanie Allen '05, M'12** was inducted as an honorary member of the Abbe Society in April 2019.

**Anne McAninch '05** received her doctor of musical arts degree in composition from the University of Wisconsin.



**Brandon Simmons '05** was inducted into the West Chester University Football Hall of Fame.

2010s

**John Allegretto '12** joined the Philadelphia law office of Offit Kurman, PC. He focuses on employee mobility and employment litigation.

**Brian McDermott '12** participated in the Boston Marathon.

**Stephanie (Scoga) Buen Abad '13** graduated from New England Conservatory of Music (Boston) in 2015 with a master of music degree.

**Carly Farrell '14** worked for the Medical University of South Carolina in the biochemistry department performing breast cancer research and in the pediatric emergency department. She received her master's degree and certification in physician assistant studies in December 2018 and expects to complete a physician assistant fellowship in pediatric surgery in January 2020.

**Colleen Karl '14** became a writer for the Communications Office at York College of Pennsylvania in 2018. In May her chorus, the Greater Harrisburg Chorus of Sweet Adelines International, won first place overall at a regional competition in Hershey, PA, and then in September were the silver medalists in the Ninth International Chorus Harmony Classic Division AA competition in New Orleans.

**Emily Northey '14** was promoted to manager of student affairs at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville.

**Auynae Bailey '15** is the host of a new show on NBC 10 entitled "Philly Live." The show explores many of the happenings in and around Philadelphia.

**Keri Palasz '15, M'18** represented the state of Pennsylvania in the USA Yoga finalist competition for women age 50 plus/masters division and placed seventh in the United States. Palasz is a registered dietitian at Willow Valley Communities. She also teaches nutrition at WCU.

**Paigean Jones '16** graduated in spring 2019 with a master of social work degree from Georgia State University. She began a Ph.D. program in social work this fall at Howard University.

**Lauren (Herbert) Drumgoole M'17** was recently promoted to the lead project director of the Senior Companion Program, a highly recognized public volunteer program in Philadelphia.

**Mikayla Sandner '17** was recently promoted to senior project coordinator at the Charlotte, NC, office of the Mower Agency, a marketing, advertising and public relations firm.

**Michael Basti '19** joined the regional accounting firm Brown Schultz Sheridan & Fritz (BSSF) as a tax staff accountant.



WCU alumni at York High School in York, PA, celebrating Homecoming Week in October 2019. L to R: Nicole Eisebeil '98, Tara Goodrich '00, Kirk Ensminger '11, Rick Guinan '87, Kim Hoke '98, and (Front) Buffy O'Brien '92.

IN MEMORIAM

- 1941 Robert Forney, Jr.
- 1942 Elizabeth Binder Singley
- 1944 Caroline Smith Hoffman
- 1945 Louise Miles McIlvaine
- 1948 Edward Bitner
- 1948 Margaret Meredith Cochard
- 1949 Jeanne Keener Cross
- 1952 Warren Kimmel
- 1955 Jack Hontz
- 1956 James Argires
- 1957 Manuel Dias
- 1958 David Fry, Sr.
- 1960 Richard Dietrich
- 1961 Richard Cline
- 1963 Ronald Reinoehl
- 1966 Richard Maloney
- 1967 Arlene Kohn Henry
- 1969 John Blackburn
- 1969 Dawn Walker Dubbs
- 1969 Michael Radliff
- 1969 Esther Herman Martinolich
- 1970 Kathryn MacDonald Retallick
- 1975 William Raybuck
- 1975 Frank Steidler, III
- 1999 Korri Brown

DEATH NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

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



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

ENGAGEMENTS

- Anna Rubin '13 to Mark Rushin '12**
- Allison Alexy '17 to Remy Victoria**
- (1) Michelle Kudach '15 to Christian Lee '15**

MARRIAGES

- (2) Anthony Cherego '15 to Maria Rosato Cherego '15** in May 2019
- (3) Aubrey Pace Day '15 to Sean Day** in May 2019
- (4) Brian Abt '13 to Tara Cunningham '15** in September 2019
- (5) Daniel Keating '14 to Molly Morrell Keating '14** in July 2019
- Christine Mackin Meluskey '14 to Thomas Meluskey, Jr** in May 2019
- (6) Suzanne Gallagher '15 to Tim Llull**

FUTURE ALUMNI

- (7) Lefort Petit '06, M'11 and Jamie Petit** welcomed Jeremiah Prince J. Petit in September 2018.
- (8) Kristin (Wilton) Levin '04, M'07 and Kenneth Levin** welcomed Makayla Marie Kenney Levin in May 2019.
- (9) Justin Geller '06 and Melissa (Chapman) Geller '07** welcomed Riley Paige Geller in February 2019.



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)



(5)



(6)



(7)



(8)



(9)

{ Save the Dates }

Grandparents University  
June 22-24, 2020

Alumni Weekend  
April 24-26, 2020



# Investing for a Greater Purpose

Randy  
Warren M'92

**R**andy Warren M'92 is the CEO and chief investment officer of Exton-based Warren Financial, which manages wealth for corporations, high net-worth individuals, and endowments. It didn't start out that way.

Randy's father Bill established Warren Financial Services as a small investment firm in 1965 after he retired from Conrail, when he was asked to develop retirement plans for the pastors and missionaries of his church. Decades later, venture capitalists bought out FNX Ltd., where Randy was the chief technology officer in charge of providing sophisticated software to major international banks. That sale ultimately led him, in 2000, to join his dad's firm. It also paved the way for the philosophy that today governs both the firm and Randy Warren's life: "Investing for a greater purpose."

Warren Financial now manages hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of client assets. It also has offices in Atlanta and Hilton Head, SC, and Warren is frequently interviewed by the financial press, including *The Wall Street Journal*, *Forbes*, *Fortune*, and *CNBC*.

After earning a bachelor's in computer

science from the University of Delaware in 1985, Warren was working for Unisys when he decided that "I need to learn how business works, not just how computers work." So, he pursued his MBA at WCU.

"This financial field is constantly changing," Warren says from his office in a converted 1700s stone barn, "so it really helps to draw on the background that I got at West Chester University: excellent down-to-earth, need-to-know knowledge that I gleaned both from my books and exposure to industry professionals."

In his 2008 book, *Kingdom Builder*, the father of three wrote about how people should incorporate charity into their investment strategies. "Talking ad nauseum about beating a financial index is not very inspirational," he says. "What does inspire people is discussing that, when they retire, what's their next act? And part of that is giving strategically to help your family, your church, your community. When we help people find their greater purpose, they light up."

About five years ago Warren was invited back to the campus by one of his clients,

Richard Merion '59, M'69, for whom the Merion Science Center is named. Since then: Warren was the December 2015 Graduate School commencement speaker; in 2016 judged the student Business Idea Pitch competition and began serving as a member of the WCU Corporate Advisory Board; and, through the WCU Foundation, has financially supported the WCU Promise Program, which in a variety of ways supports WCU students who are unaccompanied foster and homeless youth.

"Those students blow my mind," says Warren, who soon will provide them with financial literacy training. "It shows a lot of character for kids to be unaccompanied but still smart and dedicated enough to put themselves through college."

Warren, a first-generation college graduate, lauds WCU's commitment to educational access.

"Helping kids that really are a lot like I was is definitely part of my greater purpose," he says. "I have a lot of admiration and respect for what West Chester is doing in terms of accomplishing its mission of giving students a great education at a very reasonable price."

# From WCU to Harvard Medical School

Denston  
Carey, Jr. '17

**T**wo and a half years ago, Denston "D.J." Carey, Jr. '17 clicked open the most stunning email of his life: The senior had become the first WCU pre-med student to be accepted by Harvard Medical School. "Four years earlier I wasn't even sure I could get through college, and now I was hearing back from one of the best medical schools in the country," the cell and molecular biology major recalls. "All my doubts melted away and it was really gratifying."

The Trevoze, PA, resident had admittedly been an indifferent student — until, during the end of his junior year at Bensalem High School, his experience volunteering as an EMT and reading literature about the human brain inspired him to give his all in pursuit of a medical career. By then, in terms of his overall high school performance, he had a lot of catching up to do.

As a result, he was limited to only 12 credits his first semester at WCU. After earning straight A's that semester and the next, Professor Jack Kinslow, his Exploratory Studies Program faculty advisor, and Associate Professor Stephen Zimniski, the now-retired pre-med program director, both

strongly encouraged him to pursue his dream of becoming a physician by transferring into the pre-medicine program.

"I started at a really low spot, but my family believed in me and, along the way, I got a lot of support early on from people at West Chester like Dr. Kinslow and Dr. Zimniski," says Carey, who graduated from WCU with a 3.998 GPA. "And when my family was going through a financial crisis during the second semester of my sophomore year and I wasn't sure I could afford to start my next semester, the Financial Aid Office looked at my grades and gave me enough money to finish the semester. Then the Board of Governors gave me full scholarships for my final two years."

While at WCU, Carey volunteered at Chester County Hospital and was the co-founder and president of Minorities in Medicine, which supports pre-health students of color. In 2015, he participated in Thomas Jefferson University's prestigious Summer Training and Enrichment Program for Underrepresented Persons, which included a Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) prep course and physician shadowing opportunities.

He also engaged in significant undergraduate research, including 17 months at the University of Pennsylvania investigating a rare genetic disease, a year studying the effects of asthma on cognition in the WCU Department of Psychology, and three summer months involved in neurobiology research at Boston University's School of Medicine.

At Harvard, he was initially intimidated by the fact that many of his peers had Ivy League degrees and parents who were, in fact, physicians. "Once classes started, I realized I was as prepared as my peers," he says.

Carey ultimately wants to incorporate research some way into his career. He has spent about five months as a student researcher in a Harvard Medical School neurobiology lab, two months at a cardiothoracic surgery laboratory at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, and is currently involved in pediatric surgery research at Boston Children's Hospital.

For now, however, his primary focus is on selecting his clinical focus — most likely, either a surgical specialty or interventional radiology.

"I like to be actively involved in the healing process with my hands," he says.



# WCU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

**Rams on  
the Road!**



Rams in the Sand, Strathmere, NJ



Rams in the Sand, Strathmere, NJ



Family Weekend



Family Weekend



Sudler Dinner and Alumni Band Reunion



Sudler Dinner and Alumni Band Reunion



**Nina Totenberg**, National Public Radio's award-winning legal affairs correspondent, spoke at the University as part of the President's Speaker Series on October 12. After sharing reflections on some headline-making judicial cases before the Supreme Court, Totenberg did a question and answer session with WCU President Christopher Fiorentino. She engaged the audience with her stories and anecdotes, including a tearful tribute to her longtime friend, the late Cokie Roberts, who died September 17, 2019.

This spring, the President's Speaker Series will welcome Henry Winkler on April 25.

The President's Speaker Series is made possible by WCU alumni, faculty, sponsors, and friends through the West Chester University Foundation.



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## Upcoming WCU Alumni events! wcualumni.org

### DECEMBER

An Evening with Santa (4)

A Sensory Friendly Evening with Santa (5)

### FEBRUARY

Murder Mystery Dinner

WCU Alumni at the Baltimore Aquarium

### MARCH

Princess & Superhero Brunch

Phillies Spring Training Alumni Events:  
Clearwater, FL

Sarasota Polo Club Tailgate:  
Lakewood Ranch, FL

Dinner & WCU Live! Show:  
Johnny Peers & the Muttville Comix

### APRIL

37th Annual Presidential Scholarship Community Gala

Rammy Egg Hunt

Alumni Weekend (24-26)



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