

SUMMER 2019

West Chester University

MAGAZINE

An architectural rendering of a modern university campus. In the foreground, a paved walkway leads towards a large, modern building with a glass facade and dark panels. Several students are walking and riding a scooter on the path. To the right, there are green lawns and flowering trees. In the background, a tall white water tower with a spherical top is visible against a blue sky with scattered clouds. Other campus buildings are visible in the distance.

THE NEXT FRONTIER FOR WCU:
The New Sciences & Engineering Center
and The Commons



A

lumni volunteers are one reason Camp Abilities PA (CAPA) at WCU has succeeded for the past 13 years. Held during Memorial Day weekend, CAPA is an overnight, educational sports camp for youth ages 7-17 who are blind or have low vision. These athletes receive one-on-one instruction as they participate in such sports as swimming, track and field, goalball, tandem biking, and futsal (five-a-side soccer). The alumni join students in WCU's adapted physical education minor, coordinated by Kinesiology Professor Monica Lepore, who embodies the CAPA motto "Believe you can achieve."

This year, alumni volunteers were (top row, standing) Chris DiEnno, Erik Mazurkiewicz, Ricky O'Donnell, Mike Oliver, Drew Fitzpatrick, Kyle Williams, Justin Rhines, Eric Van Ess; (middle row, kneeling) Kim Begley, Laura Waite, Anna Lottes, Rachel Lovell, Mim Hughes, Beth Foster (CAPA assistant director); (bottom row sitting) Bri Donnelly, Laura Bigelow, Christina Portelli, Morgan Gottel, Megan Bresnahan, and Maria Lepore-Stevens (CAPA assistant director).

On the Cover: The Next Frontier for WCU

12 WCU will offer a new biomedical engineering degree starting in the fall, cultivating the next generation of professionals in the STEM field.

Alumni Profile: Christie Silva '09

25 Named the National Honoree in the L'Oréal Paris Woman of Worth program, Silva has dedicated her life to helping children.

WCUAA Board of Directors Nominations

28 The WCUAA is accepting nominations for the Association's Board of Directors for the 2020-2023 term.

Distinguished Alumni Award Nominations

29 The WCUAA is accepting nominations for the 2020 Distinguished Alumni Awards.

4 University News
10 Sports News
11 WCU Events
12 Cover Story

17 WCUAA President's Message
18 Alumni Awards
20 Alumni Notes
26 Donor Profile



wcupa.edu/socialmedia

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.” Ralph Waldo Emerson’s words ring especially true for WCU. To act as a catalyst is not to take the road traveled most frequently; rather, it is to venture out passionately while welcoming challenges, embracing new capabilities, and asking hard questions along the way. While the journey is far from easy, it is impactful, relevant, and quite certainly life-changing.

As a University committed to the success of all students, WCU has vowed to be the transformation that makes the significant difference. Amidst a world that is constantly changing, our job is to prepare students for a reality that will always benefit from having mastered critical thinking, effective

communication, thoughtful responses to diversity, ethical decision making, and community engagement.

At a time when the Class of 2019 is now embarking on adventures far and wide, this University takes pride in being the impetus for their lives to flourish by setting a strong example about what it means to take the lead. In this spirit, *West Chester University Magazine* highlights the historical groundbreaking ceremony for the 176,000-square-foot Sciences & Engineering Center and The Commons that will inspire the next generation of scientists, physicists, biomedical engineers, nurses, nutritionists, and other critical-demand professionals. You will also read about the ways those in our WCU family are taking on the grand challenges of the world by studying the impact of mindfulness programming on children’s physiological functioning; creating heart-safe communities for youth through prevention and response to sudden cardiac arrest; providing valuable access to a state-of-the-art laser designed to enhance students’ hands-on learning; and so much more.

Through steep hills and valleys, our Rams continue to pave trusted trails for many to follow.

Sincerely,

Christopher M. Fiorentino
President

West Chester
University
MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2019

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Wells Fargo officials visited campus recently to present a \$25,000 grant to West Chester University's Frederick Douglass Institute (FDI). Pictured at the ceremony, front row, L-R: Professor of Early and Middle Grades Education Katherine Norris and Coatesville Area Senior High School students Anthony Stukes, William Blagmon, Donovan Hart, Darius Hart, and Nick DiMidio. Back row, L-R: FDI Board Member Beatrice Adera, Wells Fargo Vice President, Community Affairs Stephen Briggs, Superintendent of the Coatesville Area School District Cathy Taschner M'00, Demetrius Woodard '19, Assistant Director of the Honors College Gerardina Martin, Tyshawn Hinton '19, Yami Reyes, Jasmine Howard, Coatesville Area Senior High School Assistant Principal Jeffery Colf, Katie Coyle, Dominic Jackson, Professor of English Christian Awuyah, Wells Fargo Delaware Valley Region Bank President Lauren Tobiasen, WCU Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer Tracey Ray. WCU student tutors Reyes, Howard, Coyle, and Jackson are members of the University's Coatesville Area School District initiative.

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36th Annual Presidential Scholarship Community Gala Raises Historic Total to Benefit Students

How much does a textbook or a meal plan cost? Many well-deserving and academically talented WCU students benefit from financial assistance.

West Chester University's 36th Annual Presidential Scholarship Community Gala, a benefit designed to fund Presidential Scholarships for WCU students who have demonstrated a commitment to academic excellence, recently raised \$153,000 — the highest dollar amount ever raised by the event.

More than 350 alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and students of the University, including community and corporate partners, were in attendance on March 30 to celebrate the 2018-19 WCU Presidential Scholars: first-year students Peter Matuszak, an international business major from Cincinnati, OH; Hannah Stevens, a music therapy major from Hatfield, PA; and Allison Weissman, an English secondary education major from Hackettstown, NJ.

A renewable, four-year award, the Presidential Scholarship is one of WCU's largest scholarships funded entirely by private donations. To honor the students and the donors, the University hosted this year's Gala, themed Barbados: Charting the Course for Student Success, at Longwood Gardens, a first-time venue for the popular event. The evening's festivities included a special performance by the WCU Steel Drum Ensemble.

"We are proud to continue partnering with the University to support generations of students," shares Christopher Mominey, WCU Foundation chief executive officer. "We are grateful that University leadership, cabinet, deans, faculty, and staff continue to entrust us with the responsibility of advancing the mission of WCU through philanthropy."

University Receives \$85,000 Federal Arts Research Grant

Eleanor
Brown



This spring, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) chose to fund research by Eleanor Brown, professor of psychology and director of WCU's Early Childhood Cognition and Emotions Lab (ECCEL). Brown's NEA Research: Art Works award of \$85,000 will support her experimental study of the impact of preschool arts and mindfulness programming for children facing economic hardship.

An expert in how poverty-related stress and trauma as well as arts-based interventions affect children, Brown says, "This research compares arts interventions that emphasize 'creativity' versus 'calm' with the aim of countering poverty-related stress and trauma. Results of this NEA-funded study will help us understand how to maximize art's impact, and perhaps move arts programming back to center stage for children."

The NEA announced 15 NEA Research: Art Works grants in this round, with awards totaling \$724,000. Brown's grant is the only Research: Art Works grant awarded in Pennsylvania in this round of NEA funding.

In "Questioning Creativity and Calm: An Experimental Study of the Arts and Mindfulness for Children Facing Poverty-Related Stress," WCU psychology undergraduate and graduate students can participate in gathering and analyzing data as part of Brown's research team. Children attending a Head Start preschool will be

assigned to one of four groups: creative dance/movement classes; yoga/mindfulness classes; both classes; or a control group of Head Start programming as usual. Brown and her students will assess the effects via the stress hormone cortisol as well as measures of emotion, executive functioning, and school readiness. By comparing "creativity" and "calm," the study will elucidate the value of including creative arts approaches in efforts to counter the effects of toxic poverty-related stress and will speak to the impact of a scalable model for early childhood arts integration.

Her 2017 study "Can the Arts Get Under the Skin?" was also funded by the NEA and demonstrated the potential for early childhood arts classes provided by Philadelphia's Settlement Music School to lower levels of the stress hormone cortisol for children facing economic hardship.

Brown is the primary investigator for this project. Her collaborative partners include Jan Michener, founder and director of Arts Holding Hearts and Hands and Tarrell Davis, director of Early Childhood Programs at Settlement Music School.

The NEA Research: Art Works grants support research that investigates the value and impact of the arts, either as individual components of the U.S. arts ecology or as they interact with each other and with other domains of American life.

Students and Families Favor Smaller Spring Commencement Ceremonies

For the first time, West Chester University divided spring commencement ceremonies into 14 separate indoor services to provide more intimate programs and avoid postponements due to inclement weather. Graduates and their families nearly unanimously approved. The ceremonies averaged about one hour in length, families sat closer to the stage, and loved ones quickly reunited after the ceremonies for photos and celebrations. The University hosted on-campus receptions for grads and guests

in the lobbies of the College of Business and Public Management (CBPM) building and the Madeleine Wing Adler Theatre following each ceremony.

Between the first on-campus ceremony at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, May 10, and the last at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 12, 2,619 undergraduates walked across the Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall stage or the platform in Hollinger Field House to accept their degrees.

The 475 master's candidates and 16 doctoral candidates received their degrees together at

an evening ceremony on May 11 in Hollinger and enjoyed a reception afterward in the business building.

On Monday, May 13, two ceremonies were held at the Double-Tree by Hilton Hotel in Center City for WCU students who completed their degree requirements at the Philadelphia campus. There, 45 students earned their bachelor's degrees and 34 earned their master's.

Several days prior to commencement, 52 graduating student veterans were invited as honored guests at a first-time

celebration hosted by the Greg and Sandra Weisenstein Veterans Center.

At the May 2019 ROTC Army Commissioning Ceremony held at Widener University, seven of the 22 students commissioned were from WCU. While all the students were impressive, two graduating WCU seniors achieved noteworthy accomplishments. Alexandra Service was the only female to be commissioned during the ceremony. She graduated *cum laude* with a 3.56 GPA and earned her B.S.N. in nursing. A distinguished mili-

tary graduate, she will now be a nurse in the U.S. Army. Joseph Cusick graduated *summa cum laude* with a 3.83 GPA and a bachelor of arts in political science in international relations with a minor in Arabic. Dauntless Battalion's top cadet, Cusick is also considered a distinguished military graduate and earned the Saber Award. He was presented with a symbolic saber and selected to perform the sheathing of the saber that marks the end of ROTC training.

Honorary Degrees Awarded

Two influential faculty emeriti whose impact on students and the fabric of West Chester University has transcended their retirements were awarded honorary degrees.



Mildred "Mit" Joyner, professor emerita of social work, receiving an honorary degree.



John Baker '74, professor emeritus of art (at far right), receiving an honorary degree.

At the College of Education and Social Work ceremony, Mildred "Mit" Joyner (social work) received an honorary doctor of public service. Joyner was director and chair of WCU's undergraduate social work department for nearly 30 years. A champion for social and economic justice, her principles have been exemplified in her leadership, teaching, scholarship, service, and mentorship, and have been recognized nationally in academia and in her field. Her involvement at the University is too vast to include here but included leadership roles in the development of the MSW program, plus fundraising for the Frederick Douglass statue and the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Brunch and Day of Service.

At the College of Arts and Humanities ceremony, John Baker '74 (art) received an honorary doctor of fine arts. Baker has dedicated more than 40 years to service in the arts and community, teaching, and fundraising for the University. He taught art at WCU from 1974 to 2015 and was department chair from 1996 until his retirement. He served on numerous University committees and is currently on the WCU Foundation Board of Trustees. The University recognized Baker's work with a Faculty Merit Award (2007), the President's Award for Outstanding Leadership and Service to the Community (2008), and the WCU Civility Award (2008).



Assistant Professors of Nutrition Jeanie Subach and Sandy Sarcona and WCU nutrition students Autumn Casey '19 and Sean O'Brien '19 taught seventh graders from the YMCA of Greater Brandywine's "Believe & Achieve Program" how to prepare a variety of healthy meals using an instapot. The students received instapots, dry measuring cups & spoons, and a \$25 Giant gift card on the last day of the four-week program held at the YMCA in West Chester.

Serving Up Healthy Meals in an Instant

This spring, the WCU nutrition department teamed up with a group of seventh-grade students from the YMCA of Greater Brandywine to teach them about healthy cooking and eating. WCU nutrition majors Autumn Casey '19 and Sean O'Brien '19, along with Sandy Sarcona and Jeanie Subach, both assistant professors of nutrition, received an internal \$2,000 grant from the College of Health Sciences to run the four-week program.

With a focus on the USDA food guideline system MyPlate and consumer education, the 10 seventh-graders learned culinary techniques and recipes. The goal was to teach the children about the five food

groups that are the foundation of a healthy diet. The young chefs used the popular Instant Pot to prepare the meals.

Student instructor O'Brien called the program "a real success. The kids are building their nutritional knowledge and having fun while doing it. It is a great opportunity for them at this age to learn cooking, nutrition, and food safety. Hopefully, they will bring what they learned back home with them."

The youth learned how to make macaroni and cheese with white beans and spinach, turkey sloppy joes, high-protein hummus and carrots, and a delicious banana whip dessert. At the end of each session, they enjoyed their culinary creations.

Casey was honored to be part of the outreach program. "It was eye-opening and a necessary growing experience in the

area of community nutrition. We have learned from the kids as much as they have learned from us."

This type of initiative helps WCU faculty and students serve the community. Scott Heinerichs, dean of the College of Health Sciences, said, "We realized there was expertise that our faculty could offer in meeting the needs of the YMCA. Our community-engaged research applies knowledge and expertise in a manner that positively impacts the YMCA of Greater Brandywine."

At the end of the four-week program, the seventh-grade students each received an Instant Pot, kitchen utensils, and a \$25 gift card to Giant supermarkets. They can use their newly acquired skills and tools to create meals for many years to come.

WCU among the First to Earn National "First Forward Designation"

The Center for First-generation Student Success, an initiative of NASPA – Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education and The Suder Foundation, has named West Chester University to its inaugural cohort of First Forward Institutions. The First Forward designation recognizes institutions of higher education that have demonstrated a commitment to improving experiences and advancing outcomes of first-generation college students.

With approximately one in four of WCU's new first-year students self-reporting as first-generation college students in 2018, the divisions of Student Affairs and Academic Affairs collaborated to launch a program designed to support these students and their families. Throughout 2018-2019, more than 100 first-generation college students at WCU participated in monthly programming that provided a strong support network, introduced a variety of campus resources, and connected students directly to their peers and members of the campus community who also share the first-generation college experience. Nearly 22 percent of WCU's entire current undergraduate population self-identifies as being a first-generation college student.



L-R are Ariel Horton, Zach Pellis, Janie McNeil, Kean Spencer, Alecc Costanzi, and Rhina Espallat.

24th Annual Poetry Conference

Two West Chester Students Recognized with Poetry Awards

On June 5, attendees of West Chester's 24th annual Poetry Conference gathered for one of the conference's brightest highlights, the Iris N. Spencer Poetry Awards ceremony. West Chester's poetry conference has become a yearly destination for poets from around the world. The conference was recently hailed by *The Philadelphia Inquirer* as "one of the biggest and best in the country."

In all, \$7,000 in total prize money was awarded to seven winning poets, five of whom attended the ceremony and read their work for the engaged audience. For the first time in seven years, West Chester University students were among those recognized with awards. Alecc Costanzi, a recent WCU graduate, won the first place Iris N. Spencer Poetry Award. WCU senior Janie McNeil won both the first and second place Rhina P. Espallat Awards.

Additional winners included Katherine Barrett Swett, winner of the coveted Donald Justice Poetry Award for her unpublished

manuscript, *Voice Message*. Eliza Browning, Wheaton College, won the second place Iris N. Spencer Award. Ariel Horton, Whittier College, won the Myong Cha Son Haiku Award. Runners up were MaKenzie Gossett of Lee University, and Zach Pellis of Washington and Jefferson College. Browning also won Honorable Mention.

President Chris Fiorentino presented a special certificate of recognition to Kean Spencer, who named the awards in honor of his mother, Iris N. Spencer, who passed away on April 15 of this year. "Thanks to the support and generosity of Iris N. Spencer and the entire Spencer family, the WCU Poetry Conference will continue to help students and scholars see poems as the powerful microscopes and telescopes that they are, each poem magnifying from a new perspective," said Fiorentino.



Golden Rams Earn Back-to-Back Dixon Trophies

For the second consecutive season, the fourth time in the last five years, and the fifth time in the last seven seasons, WCU earned the Pennsylvania State Athletic conference's (PSAC) Dixon Trophy, recognizing the best overall athletic program in the league. Named in honor of F. Eugene Dixon, Jr., former chair of the Board of Governors of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, the award is given annually to the institution that accumulates the top score based on results of conference playoffs and regular-season records.

Boasting a school-record seven conference titles in 2018-19, the Golden Rams amassed a 13.48 overall average score in the Dixon Trophy standings, second highest conference score in the 24-year history of the Dixon Trophy. Only last year's Rams average of 13.76 tops that figure. WCU's women led the league with a 14.25 average while the men paced the league at 12.55. The Rams claimed team titles in football, field hockey, men's and women's golf, men's and women's swimming, and women's lacrosse. The men's soccer team narrowly missed adding to that total, falling on penalty kicks in the PSAC title game.

This year's trophy is WCU's fifth, trailing only Shippensburg University's eight Dixon awards on the conference's all-time leader board.

WCU EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

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

SEPTEMBER

- 6 WCU Planetarium:
Jupiter, King of Planets
- 12 John H. Baker Gallery:
WCU Faculty Exhibition
Opening Reception
- 26 Wells School of Music:
Wind Ensemble and
Wind Symphony concert

OCTOBER

- 5 WCU Live!:
Broadway Rox
- 9 Knauer Gallery:
Copenhagen:
Sustainable by Design
Opening Reception
- 12 President's Speaker
Series: Distinguished
guest to be announced
- 11-19 Theatre & Dance:
Macbeth by William
Shakespeare
- 17 Wells School of Music:
Fall Choral Fest
- 18 WCU Live!:
Masters of Soul

NOVEMBER

- 2 WCU Live!: Jason Bishop
- 8-9 Theatre & Dance: Fall
Dance Concert
- 15-21 Theatre & Dance: Fefu
and Her Friends by
Maria Irene Fornés
- 16 WCU Live!: Nobuntu

For a full schedule of
events please visit
wcupa.edu/arts

SEPT 6

WCU Planetarium: JUPITER, KING OF PLANETS

OCT 12

President's Speaker Series

NOV 16

WCU Live! NOBUNTU

THE NEXT FRONTIER FOR WCU: The New Sciences & Engineering Center and The Commons

WCU to Offer New Biomedical Engineering Degree in the Fall



At a time when inspiring the future has never been more important, West Chester University is cultivating the next generation of professionals who will seize paths perhaps yet to be defined in science-, technology-, engineering-, and math- (STEM) related fields. By combining innovative programming with immersive learning and 21st-century resources, WCU is preparing its students to take on the world. As the earth was literally turned on campus one warm spring day, a new frontier appeared that will change the University's landscape forever.

In April, West Chester University formally broke ground on the largest building project in the University's 148-year history — a 176,000-square-foot Sciences & Engineering Center and The Commons — during a public groundbreaking ceremony held on campus. Upon completion, the new \$130-million facility will be home to the University's rapidly growing health science curricula, physics, and the new biomedical engineering program.

The three-story facility, slated to open in 2020, is being built with the support of two critical leadership gifts. Founder, President, and CEO of ProMetrics Marc Duey, also an adjunct professor at the University teaching in the Marketing Department and the Pharmaceutical Product Development program, in association with the Duey family, made a generous gift of \$1 million toward the important project. ProMetrics serves the decision-support needs of specialty biopharma executives, with a focus on patient-level data impacting prescription efficiency. Under Marc Duey's direction, ProMetrics has served over 150 clients, completed more than 10,000 projects, and played a role in the launch of dozens of specialty brands that have reached sales in excess of \$1 billion per year.

"During the last decade, it has been my pleasure to be associated with this fine University as an adjunct professor serving in the Pharmaceutical Product Development program, the MBA program, and the Marketing Department," he shared. "It is an honor to help mold the minds of future decision-makers. It is my hope and pledge to assist with building connections between industry and the Duey Center for Biomedical Engineering. We live in a connected world — the internet of

things is here. The developments occurring today are as vast as a microchip embedded in a pill that we help manage at ProMetrics, or a noninvasive ambulatory sensing device generating data feeds adding to the patient journey. The information garnered from these two breakthroughs will guide algorithms to provide paths to more cost-effective and better outcomes for patients."

Recognizing the critical need to establish a living-learning environment that fosters the exchange of such innovative ideas, Student Services, Incorporated (SSI) joined the effort and made a generous gift of \$1 million to the project thanks to SSI Chair of the Board of Directors Bernie Carrozza '66. A long-time friend of the University, Student Services, Incorporated is a not-for-profit organization designed to serve the students of West Chester University. The objective of the corporation is to initiate, regulate, and operate the financial matters of the University's co-curricular student activities. SSI is committed to WCU students and continues to stand ready to ensure that students have whatever they need to meet their academic goals.

"SSI supports WCU, and most important, the students. Our board, which includes student representation, voted unanimously to support this project," commented SSI Board Vice Chair David James '91. "We are proud to have made a lead donation to bring this wonderful addition to the campus. WCU students will use and enjoy the new Commons for years to come."

The West Chester University Alumni Association also contributed significantly to the building project with a generous donation of \$150,000.

"At a time when West Chester University enrolls more than 4,000 STEM majors, Marc and Maureen Duey; Student Services, Incorporated; and the West Chester University Alumni Association are investing in the next generation of WCU graduates who will enhance our region and our world as innovative engineers, nurses, nutritionists, physicists, public health professionals, and scientists," said West Chester University President Christopher Fiorentino. "Each of us is grateful to these generous benefactors who are creating new possibilities and great opportunities for an increasing number of WCU students who are dedicated to preparing themselves for high-performance careers that will make a considerable difference to many."



The Commons

Recognizing that meaningful connections happen in a variety of settings, The Commons will be a welcoming and stimulating environment for students to gather, eat, and work. The 800-seat residential dining facility will encompass more than 16,000 square feet of the building's entire second floor. A progressive design will encourage students to use the facility as a third space and an exciting location to meet, get a healthy meal between classes, and engage in other formative non-academic activities.

With the understanding that students learn and engage in a wide range of surroundings, eclectic options will appeal to diners' varied tastes. An exhibition cooking station, grill, comfort zone for home-style

dishes, healthy solutions area for allergy-free dishes, and a pizza station will be among the numerous offerings available. Sandwiches, salads, soups, and a breakfast bar will also offer a host of options from morning until night. A full bakery will offer patrons made-from-scratch desserts — along with the ability to watch the actual preparation.

Multiple seating options will be available from tables to booths to high-top seating; individuals and groups will be accommodated.

Providing a literal link from the classroom, a nutrition lab and collaborative learning space will be located adjacent to the dining facility on the second floor. Students taking courses taught by faculty in the Department of Nutrition in the College

of Health Sciences will be able to take advantage of the close proximity to an active food production operation and the expertise of the staff of our dining contractor, Aramark, to gain hands-on experience above and beyond the classroom environment.

The Commons will also provide a dynamic and stimulating environment for faculty, staff, and community members. A specialty 75-seat dining space will serve faculty, staff, and students for meals and special events. A café, serving a variety of hot and cold beverages, will also be featured in addition to a retail shop that will sell numerous grab-and-go items, as well as other pre-packaged foods, for those needing a quick snack.



\$10,000 in Scholarships Donated by West Pharmaceutical Services

The new biomedical engineering degree at WCU is strengthened by the support and partnership of industry experts, notably West Pharmaceutical Services, a global leader in biomedical engineering and manufacturing. Thanks to a generous donation from the H.O. West Foundation, \$10,000 in scholarships will be available this year to attract the best and brightest engineering students. West Pharmaceutical Services is a leader in biomedical engineering and manufacturing, producing technologically advanced, high-quality integrated containment and delivery systems for injectable medicines to the world's top pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. It was the first corporation to step up and lend its expertise to the newly formed Department of Biomedical Engineering's Advisory Board and provided capital support to name a science lab in the new Sciences & Engineering Center. The partnership between WCU and West Pharmaceutical Services serves as an example of strategic University-corporate relationships at their best.



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

WCU to Offer B.S. in Biomedical Engineering

Along with the state-of-the-art Sciences & Engineering building, WCU will offer a new bachelor of science degree in biomedical engineering in the fall of 2019, housed on the first floor of the building in the Duey Biomedical Engineering Center. The biomedical engineering department will build upon the University's expertise in the health and life sciences, including the existing pharmaceutical product development program. The program, approved at the July 2018 meeting of the State System's Board of Governors, is WCU's first biomedical engineering degree.

All of the required core classes of the Biomedical Engineering Program will be offered through the department of physics and engineering in the College of the Sciences and Mathematics. Students can take courses in

a number of other departments, including Biology, Chemistry, and Mathematics, to meet cognate requirements.

Founding Director of the Biomedical Engineering Program Zhongping Huang stressed that the program will focus on the practical skills that students need to meet the demands of local companies. "They will have plenty of hands-on experiences in the program, which will enable them to go directly into the biomedical engineering industry. With the help of our industrial and professional Advisory Board, we can identify the type of skills and training that the industry needs."

With its plethora of pharmaceutical, bioscience, and health-related companies and its status as one of the most important bioscience clusters in the nation, the greater Philadelphia region is a prime location for this program. In addition, the Commonwealth

ranks fifth nationally in total employment of biomedical engineers, which is one of the fastest growing fields in engineering.

"West Chester University occupies a unique niche in the region's higher education landscape. We are very pleased to bring forward the first standalone engineering program at WCU," said Dean of the College of Sciences and Mathematics Radha Pyati. "Regional and national pharma companies have been keenly interested in our program, and are involved through our Industrial and Professional Advisory Board."

The new biomedical engineering degree and Sciences & Engineering Center represent one more way that West Chester University is serving the needs of its students as well as the Commonwealth.



Students from China Compete at WCU's Business Idea Pitch Competition

Eight finalists emerged from among the 362 individuals who submitted 179 ideas in the Seventh Annual Business Idea Pitch Competition held by WCU's Edwin Cottrell Entrepreneurial Leadership Center. Finalists competed in April by pitching their ideas to a panel of business professionals and advisors, angel investors, and entrepreneurs.

For the first time, the competition hosted an invitational track in which two student teams from Beijing Union University (BUU), a WCU partnership university, traveled to campus to present their ideas. The first place BUU team was Free Yourself from Queuing. Second place went to Hand Dance.

Participation in the Business Idea Competition was part of a week-long visit from the BUU student delegation, whose presentation was facilitated via a three-day training program delivered to the Chinese students in China last summer by Pattie Diggin, director of the Cottrell Center (pictured top left column, opposite page), and Linda Zhu, professor and chair of WCU's management department. The WCU duo coached BUU students to develop their problem solving, idea generation, and presentation skills.

Among the traditional categories at the Cottrell competition this year, half featured ideas revolving around health monitoring.

First place in the category for WCU graduate students, alumni, faculty, and staff was also the overall grand prize winner: U-Check-It, an integrated non-invasive health monitoring system that tracks stress and opioid usage in real time. This wearable device will allow prescription opioids to be dispensed only as directed. Creator Alfred Bedell made the pitch on behalf of his team: Alice Bedell, Franklin Chukwu, and WCU's Susan Gans, assistant chair and professor of psychology.

Two WCU sophomores, nursing major/health sciences minor Hally Everett and computer science major/mathematics minor Jacob Neubaum won the WCU graduate students category with Slip Saver, a portable mat using embedded-sense technology to determine if a person has fallen, for example, in a long-term-care facility.

This year's pitch event was sponsored by Meridian Bank (host sponsor) and Univest (gold sponsor). The Seventh Annual Business Idea Competition was co-hosted by the Edwin Cottrell Entrepreneurial Leadership Center (which recently celebrated its 10th anniversary), the Keiretsu Forum Mid-Atlantic, and The Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce.



WCU Student Wins State System Business Plan Competition

Salih Salaam, a WCU junior accounting major from Easton, PA, landed the \$10,000 top prize in the eighth annual Student Business Plan Competition sponsored by Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

His plan, Tutors 4 University Students, connects college students with tutors "whenever" and "wherever" they need them. The service matches students with tutors in the subjects where they need help "at a price point affordable by the student and attractive to the qualified tutors."

Salaam bested finalists from State System institutions that included Millersville, whose management major Rendell Weaver came in second; Shipensburg, whose team of marketing majors David Brantley, Alec Stimson, and Patrick Luebben came in third; and two other WCU entries from finalists William Todd and Matthew Heilman.

Judges were Sheri R. Collins, deputy secretary for the Office of Technology & Innovation in the state Department of Community and Economic Development; Michael Gildea, founder and CEO of Brain Gain, LLC; Chris Rhine, university development manager for the Pennsylvania State Employees Credit Union; Laura Potthoff, director of business & workforce development for the Cumberland Area Economics Development Corporation; and Matthew Lancaster, president of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Keiretsu Forum.

A Message from the Alumni Association President



Happy Purple & Gold Summer!

Can you believe that the 2018-2019 academic year has ended and the fall semester is just over a month away? 2018-2019 was an eventful year for students, faculty, staff, and alumni alike, which culminated with 16 commencement ceremonies in West Chester and Philadelphia. What was equally exciting was the Alumni Association was present at each of the ceremonies to welcome the approximately 2,800 new alumni into the WCUPA fold — Rams Up to that! I can't wait to see what 2019-2020 holds for us all.

One of the things that you can do this summer is spend some time back at WCU. You know you are always welcome to come home. While you are here, stroll around campus and look at the University's changing landscape. If it's been a while since you've been back on campus, you are definitely in for a treat. In fact, after your visit, drop me a line at alumni@wcupa.edu and let me know what you think. I'm certain that you will enjoy your tour. If you are looking for more to do, go to www.wcualumni.org for information on upcoming programs and events or to sign up as a volunteer. If you are interested in taking more of a leadership role, you may start a chapter. You won't be disappointed.

I want to thank the hardworking, dedicated members of the West Chester University Alumni Association Board of Directors and the Alumni Relations staff who are committed to making the West Chester University Alumni Association purple & gold strong. However, it is because of YOU that we are second to none. Go RAMS!

Lisa Wright Bryant '87
President, WCU Alumni Association

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Tina Sloan Green '66



Green taught and coached at Unionville High School (Chadds Ford, PA), William Penn High School (Philadelphia), and Lincoln University (PA) before being hired as an instructor/coach at Temple University. Sloan Green is co-founder and president of the Black Women in Sport Foundation, founded in 1992. She is professor emerita in education at Temple University. During her 32 years at Temple, she was co-principal investigator of Sisters in Sports Science, funded by the National Science Foundation, and director of the Temple University National Youth Sports Program. Sloan Green held the distinction of being the first African-American head coach in the history of women's intercollegiate lacrosse as head

Professor Tina Sloan Green grew up in the Eastwick neighborhood of Philadelphia and graduated from Philadelphia High School for Girls, class of 1962. She is a proud WCU alumna, graduating *cum laude* in 1966 with a B.S. in Health and Physical Education. At WCU, she earned All American Honors in field hockey and played lacrosse and badminton. She also earned an M.Ed. degree at Temple University. Sloan

coach of the Temple University women's lacrosse team, from 1973-1992. During that time, she amassed a 207-62-4 career coaching record with a .758 career winning percentage, leading the Owls to three National Championships and 11 consecutive NCAA Final Four appearances. Among her accolades, Sloan Green was inducted into the halls of fame at West Chester and Temple universities as well as the National Lacrosse, Women's Sport Foundation, and Philadelphia Sports halls of fame. She competed on the U.S. women's lacrosse team (1969-1973) and the U.S. women's field hockey squad (1966). In 2008, she received lifetime achievement awards from the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators, and the National Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association. She was inducted into The Robert "Bob" Douglas Hall of Fame and received the Honor Award from the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport. She received the Sam Lacey Award from The National Association of Black Journalists Sports Task Force. Professor Sloan Green has co-authored two books, *Black Women in Sport* and *Modern Women's Lacrosse*, and has written chapters in the books *Racism in College Athletics*, *Basketball Jones*, and *Diversity and Social Justice in College Sports-Sports Management* and the *Student Athlete*. She has contributed enumerable hours practicing what she preaches—supporting the advancement of women of color in all areas of sport. Professor Sloan Green and husband, Frank Green, Jr., have been married for 41 years and have two children, Traci and Frank Green, III.



EMERGING LEADER AWARD
Rodney Kaplan '19

Born and raised in West Chester, PA, **Rodney Kaplan, Jr.** graduated in May 2019 as a political science major. During his time at West Chester University, he served as a member of the Board of Governors for the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education; president (2018-19) and as treasurer (2017-18) of the Student Government Association; member of the Student Services, Inc. Board of Directors; student director at Sykes Student Union; and leadership consultant for the Office of Student Leadership and Involvement. Kaplan is also a member of the Honors College and brother of the Friars Society. Upon graduation, he hopes to continue serving communities across the United States by doing a year of service with AmeriCorps before pursuing graduate studies.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Henry Pearlberg '82



Henry Pearlberg is currently in his 37th year as a music teacher in the Wallingford-Swarthmore School District (WSSD) in Delaware County, PA. He is an instrumental and classroom music teacher at Strath Haven Middle School, the assistant director of the Strath Haven High School Panther Marching Band, and is the chairperson for Performing Arts in the WSSD. He is a coordinator of the annual WSSD Jazz Night and SHMS Middle School Jazz Festival and is a co-teacher and coordinator of the WSSD Summer Band and String School, in which many members of the student and adult community have participated. Over the past 36 years as a music educator in the WSSD, Pearlberg has been an integral part of a music program that has enjoyed tremendous growth in student participation. In 1983, at the beginning

of his career, fewer than 10 percent of the total student population participated in the music program. For the past several years, more than 50 percent of the student population is actively participating in the instrumental music program and more than 70 percent participate in instrumental and choral programs. Wallingford-Swarthmore School District Instrumental and Choral programs have been highly regarded in Pennsylvania as among the top music programs in the state and the school district has been recognized by the National Association of Music Merchants as one of the "Best Communities in Music Education" for the past four years. As a member of Pennsylvania Music Educators Association and National Association for Music Education, Pearlberg has been a past PMEA District 12 president (2014-2016) and State PMEA President (2016-2018). As state president, Pearlberg's initiatives have included working on inclusivity, diversity, access, and equity of music programs for all students throughout Pennsylvania, providing professional development for fellow music educators and other arts organizations. He has been awarded with the WSSD Excellence In Service Award; Council Rock High School Alumni Award of Distinction; Philadelphia Phillies Teacher All-Star; PMEA Citation of Excellence; and Stanford University School of Engineering Frederick Emmons Terman Scholastic Award.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Chip Smith '70, M'81



Chip Smith is president and a co-founder of Fedora Security Group, a video analytics company with offices in Charlotte, New York, Tel Aviv, and London. Smith previously served as the CEO of Action Target in Provo, UT, a leading global supplier, manufacturer, and designer of superior shooting ranges, products and equipment for law enforcement, military, and commercial markets. From 2000-2011, Smith was the chief security officer for the Bank of New York (BNY) Mellon. He directed a worldwide security program that encompassed the investigation and prevention of fraud-related activities and the physical protection of corporate assets, employees, customers, and executives. BNY Mellon is a global leader in the financial markets. Smith retired from the United States Secret Service after 24 years of service. He held a variety of positions in field offices and headquarters, culminating with his appointment as the special

agent in charge of the New York Field Office, the Service's largest and busiest office. During his career, Smith was assigned to the Presidential Protective Division, the Vice Presidential Protective Division, and as special assistant to the treasury secretary. He served as the security coordinator for several high-profile protective venues, including: the U.S. delegation attending the Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain, 1992; the Presidential Inaugural activities in Washington, DC, 1993; the dedication of the Holocaust Museum, Washington, DC, 1994; and the visit of Pope John Paul II to New York, 1995. In 1996, he supervised the protective detail assigned to Presidential Candidate Robert Dole. Smith is an honorary board member for the Marty Lyons Foundation, NY and also serves on several advisory boards, including the private equity firm Dubin Clark & Company, Inc. He previously served as chairman of the Bankers and Brokers Security Roundtable in New York City. Smith was a founding director of Argyle Security and served as chairman of Argyle's Compensation Committee. He is a member of the board of directors for Fedora Security and for Action Target. Smith holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Criminal Justice from West Chester University. He and his wife, Barbara, have been married for 47 years.



Graci '74



Boulden '84



O'Mara '11



Hontz '15

1940s

Quentin Gessner '49 published his book *Notes From Grandpa*.

1950s

Ruth Hadfield Beatrice '53 was selected as "Top Lifetime Educator" for 2019 by the International Association of Top Professionals for her excellence in education, dedication, and achievement.

Richard Wolff '55 was inducted into the South Jersey Track and Field Hall of Fame. He was honored for his contributions to the development of the sport in South Jersey. In his West Chester days, Dick was conference champion in both the low hurdles and pole vault and played football for coach Glenn Killinger in the Pretzel Bowl in Reading, PA.

1960s

John "Jack" Kaufhold '65 published his sixth book *Power, Politics, and Leadership in the Schools*.

Tina Sloan Green '66, co-founder of Black Women in Sport Foundation, was inducted into the Lincoln University Athletic Hall of Fame. She was also named one of WCU's 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award winners.

Howie Bedell '67, standout baseball player at WCU and ex-major leaguer, displayed the world's largest autographed Louisville Slugger at the monthly gathering of Berks County baseball enthusiasts. The 12-foot-long baseball bat is inscribed with the autographs of baseball legends and is hoped to become part of a minor league museum that is in the planning stages. Howie was just 19 when he signed with the Milwaukee Braves in 1957.

1970s

Robert Graci '74, former Pennsylvania Superior Court judge and retired chief counsel to the Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania, has joined Saxton & Stump as senior counsel.

Garry Norton '74, Vietnam veteran of the 75th Airborne Rangers, was recently featured in the Daytona Beach Florida Veterans Museum for his collection of memorabilia and photography from the Vietnam War.

Cindy Timchal '76, head coach for the women's lacrosse team at the United States Naval Academy, became the NCAA's winningest all-time coach with her 352nd career victory.

Kim Denise 'Deni' Morton '79 is beginning a two-year term as chair of the Pennsylvania Bar Association

House of Delegates. Morton is a partner in the firm of Morton & Kubacke Family Law LLC, West Chester.

Stephen Wills '79 was nominated to Gamida Cell Ltd.'s board of directors.

1980s

Glenn Florence '80 retired after 35 years from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, where he held positions with the Department of Environmental Resources, Legislative Budget & Finance Committee, Governor's Office of Administration, and Department of Environmental Protection.

John Worley '80 celebrated 1,500 games and counting as an athletic trainer in the NFL.

John Bardi '81 was appointed senior vice president for Market Access, Policy and Government Affairs at Intra-Cellular.

Denise Barrows '81 was elected to the Financial Services Institute Board of Directors for 2019.

Darrell Gravatt '83 was named Teacher as Hero Award winner, as sponsored by State Farm Insurance and Philadelphia's National Liberty Museum.

Michael Moyer '83 was inducted into the Berks County chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame. He is the executive director of the National Wrestling Coaches Association.

Thomas Boulden '84, partner at Timoney Knox, LLP, was named to the Super Lawyers list for the fifth consecutive year.

Carolyn Quinn '84 attained her Certified Recycling Professional (CRP) Certification from Rutgers University and is now the CRP for Chester Township in Morris County, NJ.

Kevin Givens '85 achieved his 300th career win as basketball coach for the Academy of the New Church in Bryn Athyn, PA.

Michael J. Diamond '86 was selected for inclusion in the 2019 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers list in the category of Civil Litigation: Defense.

Lauren Lieberman '87, Camp Abilities founder, received a Fulbright Global Scholar Award to extend the reach of her educational sports camp in Brazil, Ghana, and Ireland.

Gregory LaMonaca '88 was named as a Best Lawyer for Family Law in the 2019 *Delaware County Daily Times*. He released his fourth book in April 2019, entitled *The Brutally Honest Guide to Sur-thriving Generation Now*. The book addresses all the major areas of life including relationships, finances, health, emotions, family values, raising children, and teaching financial literacy.

1990s

Annette Spagnolo '90 was approved as assistant superintendent of Palmyra Area School District for a term of three years.

Michele Raucci '92, M'92, a reading specialist at Pennell Elementary School, received the 2019 Excellence in Teaching award for the Penn-Delco School District.

John Scott '92 was elected to the Board of Trustees for West Bay Christian Academy, North Kingstown RI, serving as a member of the Executive Committee (treasurer),

chairman of the Finance Committee, and chairman of the Governance Committee.

Claude E. Taylor '92, M'94 was spotlighted for his career as a lecturer of communication and the advisor-in-residence for academic transition and inclusion at Monmouth.

Mandy Savitz Romer '94 published her third book, *Fulfilling the Promise: Reimagining School Counseling to Advance Student Success*.

Melanie Weiss M'95 debuted her young adult novel, *Spoken*, about a teen boy and his family and friends and the journey he goes on with the Spoken Word Club he joins at his new high school.

Joseph Braun '96 was promoted to senior vice president and general counsel at Dorman Products, Inc.

Michael DeVuono '97 was awarded the 2019 Section Award from the Philadelphia Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. The award is presented annually to cite those individuals who have made significant contributions to the civil engineering profession in the Philadelphia area.

Troy Price M'99 was named the new superintendent of Juniata County School District Board of Directors.

2000s

Jameel Thrash '01 was elected chairman of Lancaster-area non-profit for at-risk youth The Bench Mark Program.

Brendan Toner '01 was elected 2019 Arkansas Tech University Professor of the Year.

Carynne Burnett '02 received the Oxford Area School District 2019 Citadel Heart of Learning Award sponsored by Citadel Federal Credit Union and the Chester County Intermediate Unit.

Ethan F. Abramowitz '05 has been selected to the Pennsylvania Rising Stars list for 2019 for the third consecutive year. He is a nationally recognized attorney representing disabled professionals.

Thanasak Ruankaew '07 has published the paper, "Employee Theft Among College Students in the Workforce," in Volume 12, issue 4 of the journal *International Business Research*.

LaTanya White M'07, a 1999 graduate of Pottstown High School, was named a member of the high school's 2019 alumni honor roll.

Joe Felice '08 published an article in the *Cold War Times* newsletter for the Cold War Museum where he is the editor.

Kristen Fulmer '09 was featured in the *Atlantic City Weekly* "40 Under 40" for her work as director of database marketing at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Atlantic City.

Matt Holliday '09 has served as the Chester County prothonotary for the last four years and has announced his run for re-election this fall. He is the past president of both the West Chester Public Library and the WCU Alumni Association.

2010s

Lacie Sampson '10 was featured in an article highlighting her work in the community with Schuylkill County Mobile Crisis Intervention Unit.

Jennifer O’Mara ’11 was elected as State Representative in the PA House of Representatives representing the 165th legislative district in Delaware County. She is one of the youngest women ever elected in PA.

Adam Vance ’11 was hired as the new women’s diving coach at Sacred Heart University.

Britney (Martin) Walker ’11 was part of the neurosurgery team at Christiana Care that performed the first awake craniotomy for removal of brain mass in Delaware.

Lauren Bolden ’12, M’14 joined DaVita as an Educator II.

Michael Carroll ’12 will release his first book of poetry, *The Dichotomy Between Light and Dark*, this August. Michael is currently pursuing a second bachelor’s degree in nursing.

Greg Griffis ’12, the senior horticulturist at Longwood Gardens who looks after more than 5,500 orchids, recently wrapped up Longwood’s Orchid Extravaganza featuring more than 10,000 orchids this spring. He expects to complete his graduate degree in divinity from Missio Seminary in June.

Jonathan Russell ’12 was hired as the executive director of the Hourglass Foundation. Russell most recently was manager of government grants at the Carnegie Museums.

Carla (Heusser) Siravo ’13 published her children’s book *Hugh Manatee for President* after five years teaching in Camden, NJ, with Teach for America.

Virlen Reyes ’14, former captain of the WCU’s hockey team, became Snider Hockey’s first college graduate and now co-owns an art studio.

Joseph Baublitz ’15 joined Unruh, Turner, Burke & Frees in West Chester as associate attorney.

Jack Hontz ’15, Henderson High School’s director of bands, has been named the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) 2019 Outstanding Young Music Educator. The PMEA Award honors an outstanding young music educator within their first three to five years of teaching for their contributions to music education and PMEA.

Erika Glass ’16 was named marketing coordinator and realtor associate for East Lampeter Township-based High Associates Ltd.

Barry C. Lyons ’16 was named senior associate at McKonly & Asbury.

Susan Buettler ’17, a second grade teacher at North Coventry Elementary, Owen J. Roberts School District, was featured in *In Our Schools* for the impact she has had on her students.

James Hodson ’18 received the 2018 Elijah Watts Sells Award, a CPA exam performer award, given by the American Institute of CPAs to the top scorers on the uniform CPA exam.

IN MEMORIAM

- 1948 Lillian Schlieske Cunningham
- 1952 Elma Wilson Higbee
- 1952 Jean Findlay Althouse
- 1952 Alice Stiles
- 1953 Roberta Schlaybach Scott
- 1954 Nancy Swanson Coleman
- 1956 Raymond Friday
- 1958 Gloria Groth Pritsch
- 1962 William Loockerman
- 1963 Rev. John K. Manno
- 1987 Nancy Kwick Yoder
- 1999 Korri Brown

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SUBMIT your class notes to the Office of Alumni Relations to alumni@wcupa.edu.
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DEATH NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE
Contact the Alumni Relations Office with a copy of the decedent’s obituary from a newspaper or the internet, or a copy of a letter or email from a family member of the deceased. Please note: Death notifications will not be accepted via telephone.

Photo Submission Guidelines

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

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

Please send your photos as email attachments to the attention of the WCU Alumni Relations Office at alumni@wcupa.edu.



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www.wcualumni.org
610-436-2813

ENGAGEMENTS

- (1) **Sean Mayer ’13** to **Kemberly Giron ’12**
- (2) **Lauren Bolden ’12, M’14** to **Tom Wandling**
- (3) **Suzanne Gallagher ’15** to **Tim Lull**

MARRIAGES

- Heather McKinney Spartin ’11** to **William Spartin** in August 2018
- Keith Deuber ’14** to **Kimberly O’Driscoll Deuber ’14** in November 2018
- (4) **Ryan Nugent ’11** to **Jasmine Paredes ’11** in April 2019
- Albert Rivera ’08** to **Jessica Bungay ’09** in April 2019

FUTURE ALUMNI

- (5) **Erin (Kilduff) Halat ’07** and **Justin Halat ’07** welcomed **John William Halat** in April 2019.
- (6) **James Fiore ’05** and **Christine Fiore** welcomed **Anthony James Fiore** in March 2019.



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)



(5)



(6)



In April 2019, WCU alumni gathered in South Hutchinson Island, Ft. Pierce, FL, for a reunion.

From left to right, back row: Tony Zanin, Vic Rocco, Bob Johnson, Bob Fiocco, and Albert Schweizer. *Middle row:* Pam Coughlin, Nancy Sanders, Joanne Zanin, Diane Fiocco, Bob Wirag, Collette Schweizer, and Louise Moyer. *Seated:* Roger Sanders, Sandy Fineman, and Dick Shappell. *Not pictured:* Sandie Rocco, Lois Porter, and Sharon Wirag.

CHAPTER NEWS

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

BALTIMORE METRO AREA ALUMNI

Our Baltimore alumni are energized and looking ahead to our summer events and service projects. Stay connected with upcoming events and meetings on our chapter page 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

Mark your calendars! WCU Homecoming 2019 is October 25-27, and the Bands Alumni Chapter is looking forward to being a part of all the festivities. Be sure to join us this fall for the presentation of the Sudler Trophy at the football game on September 21. 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

The BAC is proud to announce the following scholarship recipients who were recognized at our BAC Third Annual Scholarship Luncheon on May 4. This year we awarded \$1,600 in scholarships and \$1,200 in book awards. BAC book award-ees: Devynn T. Gray, Samara Brothers, and Jessica Henry. The Tyrone A. Patton Memorial Scholarship recipient was Elliot Mason, and the BAC Scholarship recipient was Jeff Gaston. Congratulations to all awardees! Follow us on social media for updates on future events. *Facebook: WCU BAC*.

CHESTER COUNTY CHAPTER

Looking forward to our summer events and the election of our new executive board. Check out our chapter page to stay updated about our events and meetings: www.wcualumni.org/cc. We meet monthly and hope to see you at the next event! Make sure you LIKE our Chester County Facebook Page to stay tuned with the latest and greatest. *Facebook: WCU Chester County*.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE CHAPTER

As the newest alumni chapter, we are seeking all criminal justice alumni interested in reconnecting to get involved and join our chapter. We hosted our kick-off event during Alumni Weekend and are looking forward to continuing to grow. We hope to see everyone at Homecoming in October.

DELAWARE COUNTY CHAPTER

We're looking forward to hosting summer events as part of our brewery/winery tour, and we hope to see you there!

FRIARS ALUMNI

The Ninth Annual Friars' Society Alumni Association Golf Outing was held on May 3 and was a huge success! Looking forward to our annual Phillies game this summer. Stay connected and up to date on all of our events and initiatives supporting our Friars by following us on *Facebook: Friars' Society Alumni Association*.

IMAC MILITARY CHAPTER

WCU graduated 52 veterans this year, adding to our robust number of veteran alumni, and we would love you to join us. Are you an alumni veteran interested in getting involved or taking on a leadership role with this chapter? Stay in touch with all that is going on within our alumni veteran community.

LAW ALUMNI CHAPTER

Looking forward to our next Careers in Law alumni /student event on October 15! Are you an alumnus/a employed in a legal-related field interested in getting involved with this chapter? Contact our chapter representative: wcu.law.alumni@gmail.com.

OMEGA DELTA CHAPTER

We continue to grow our scholarship efforts, the most recent being our annual Scholarship Fundraiser in support of the Dr. Walter N. Ridley Memorial Scholarship on June 29. We are always hosting events and participating in local service projects that are highlighted on our chapter page: www.wcualumni.org/omegadelta. We hope to see you at the next one! Find us on *Facebook: Omega Delta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.*

UPCOMING CHAPTER ADDITIONS

Interested in getting involved in a local chapter or in starting a new one? Check our chapter page, www.wcualumni.org/chapters, to see how you can reconnect with your fellow Golden Rams! Contact the Alumni Office to find out how you can be a part of leadership in the WCU Alumni network: alumni@wcupa.edu.

NEW CHAPTERS COMING SOON!

Lehigh Valley Chapter
New York Alumni Chapter
Philadelphia Chapter
School of Music Alumni Chapter

A Heart for HELPING KIDS



Christie
Silva '09

As the National Honoree in the L'Oréal Paris Woman of Worth program, Christy Silva '09 received a \$35,000 grant from the beauty company in December 2018 for her work with Aidan's Heart Foundation (AHF), which she launched and named for the son she lost to sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) in 2010. Silva was the overall winner from among 10 U.S. finalists and thousands of nominees who were honored for their impact on charitable causes. The title of the award reflects L'Oréal's tagline: "Because you're worth it."

Silva has dedicated her life to helping children. A reading specialist at the Marsh Creek Sixth Grade Center in Downingtown, she had already founded her own education consulting company before receiving her WCU master of education in literacy.

Co-founder and president of AHF, Silva has focused the foundation's efforts on creating and supporting heart-safe communities for youth in Southeastern PA. AHF outreach includes programs and presentations to provide awareness of SCA as well as education, prevention, and response to SCA. Specifically, AHF trains youth and adults in CPR+AED (automated external defibrillator) skills, provides free heart screenings for youth, and installs AEDs throughout local communities where youth are physically active. "Studies have shown that children are more likely to respond to someone in need of CPR than are adults. We tell the kids in our training that they are fearless and brave, and can help save a life," says Silva. According to the American Heart Association, the leading

cause of death among student athletes is SCA. "We teach kids to be the first responders when someone is in need of CPR — either in the classroom or on the sports field. We train them to start CPR immediately, and not wait for emergency services to arrive." For every minute that CPR+AED therapy is not applied to a victim of cardiac arrest, chances of survival decrease 10 percent. The average response time of emergency responders is 10 minutes; by then, it may be too late.

Silva credits the WCU literacy faculty for helping her develop the skills she uses everyday with children. "The Literacy Department faculty taught me multiple strategies to help support and guide children who face challenges. Their commitment and focus is all about helping kids, which is exactly what I am doing today."

To date, AHF has placed more than 85 AEDs in schools, youth athletic organizations, and other youth centers. They have screened 1,800 young hearts, and trained more than 6,500 students and 500 adults in CPR+AED skills. The \$35,000 grant from L'Oréal will be used to provide CPR/AED training to thousands of students, free community heart screenings, and AEDs for more local schools and youth athletic organizations.

Despite investigations by medical examiners and geneticists, a cause for the arrhythmia that "short-circuited" Aidan's heart is still unknown. Despite her own devastating loss, this true "Woman of Worth" has worked tirelessly to protect the hearts of children and teens from the dangers of this silent killer.



photo by Llewellyn Evans

Members of the Sports Medicine Department hosted a dedication ceremony to thank the Coren family for the donation. Bruce Coren, along with members of the Coren family and WCU representatives — including Katie Morrison, associate professor of Sports Medicine; President Christopher Fiorentino; and Scott Heinerichs, dean of the College of Health Sciences — toured the WCU Athletic Training Facility to see students working clinically prior to the ribbon cutting.

A Lasting Legacy to Honor His Father

After Ben Coren '48, M'61 passed away last year, his son, Dr. Bruce Coren, knew he wanted to make a gift to WCU in his memory. The former veterinarian and pioneer in the field of laser therapy presented the University with a state-of-the-art Diowave Class IV Therapy Laser System in his late father's honor.

Although Dr. Coren regrets the fact that his father did not know about the donation while he was alive, he is still proud to see the Coren legacy live on at the University.

And the Ben Coren legacy is an impressive one. "Coach," as he was affectionately known, was an accomplished and highly decorated athlete, football coach, and community leader. He was an All-American college football player, received the WCU Distinguished Alumni Award in 1998, and was the founder and chair of the Sturzebecker Hall of Fame. He made history when he became the first person to receive a master's

degree from West Chester in 1961.

Bruce Coren is co-founder, CEO, and chair of Technological Medical Advancements, LLC, manufacturer of the Diowave brand of Therapeutic Laser Systems. "This new laser is the most powerful and advanced laser therapy device of its kind in the United States," he explains. "The Diowave laser accelerates recovery from both sports and non-sports injuries. Many top professional and college sports teams use the laser, including the Boston Red Sox during the 2018 World Series, and both teams in the 2019 Stanley Cup finals."

Scott Heinerichs, dean of the College of Health Sciences, notes that the Sports Medicine Department maintains oversight of the machine. Its faculty and students are using the device to treat injuries sustained by student athletes and as a teaching tool for athletic training majors. According to Associate Professor of Sports Medicine Katie

Morrison, the laser is used "to treat the soft tissue injuries of student athletes, and is incorporated into laboratory educational courses in therapeutic modalities. It has been a great resource not only for the treatment of injuries, but also for students' educational exposure."

There are also plans to conduct graduate research utilizing the device. Morrison is grateful to Coren for the resource especially because the laser "is a modality that not many institutions have due to cost."

Bruce's son, Alex, appears to be following in his grandfather's footsteps. A WCU master's candidate, Alex played his fifth and final eligible year as an offensive lineman on the Golden Rams football team. He recently told his father that he is planning to pursue a career as a football coach, thus carrying on the legacy of his grandfather Ben.

WCU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

ALUMNI



Alumni Painting Party at Alumni Weekend hosted by alumna Lindsay Beegle '15



Senior Send-off Celebrations for the WCU Class of 2019! Congratulations to our newest alumni!



Rammy Egg Hunt – April 14, 2019



WCU Chester County Alumni Chapter celebrating great success at the First Annual Golf Outing supporting the Chester County Scholarships – April 29, 2019



New York Alumni Reception with President Fiorentino – April 9, 2019



WCU roommates, Beverly Gallagher '67 and Toril Johannessen '67 at the Alumni Weekend Kick-Off Party – April 26, 2019

2020 WCUAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NOMINATION FORM

Name of Nominee _____

Class Year(s) _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Nominated by _____

Class Year(s) _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please mail this form to:

WCUAA NOMINATING COMMITTEE
c/o Alumni Relations Office
202 Carter Drive
West Chester, PA 19382

To submit this form electronically, visit: www.wcualumni.org. Nominations must be received by 4 p.m. on September 27, 2019.

Nominations are now
being accepted for the
WCUAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The Nominating Committee of the West Chester University Alumni Association (WCUAA) is accepting nominations for candidates who wish to serve on the Association’s Board of Directors for the 2020-2023 term. Please review the following information prior to submitting your nomination.

Nomination forms must be completed and received by 4 p.m. on September 27, 2019. The form below will also be available online at www.wcualumni.org.

There are six seats on the WCUAA Board of Directors up for election each year.

Board members are expected to serve the full three-year term for which they are elected.

The terms of the newly elected members will begin on July 1, 2020.

There will be a minimum of six (6) and a maximum of twelve (12) candidates on the election ballot.

Board elections ballots will be available in the Spring issue of the WCU magazine. You may nominate yourself to run for the Board of Directors.

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

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2020 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
NOMINATION FORM

Name of Nominee _____

Class Year(s) _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Nominated by _____

Class Year(s) _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please mail this form to:

WCUAA AWARDS COMMITTEE
c/o Alumni Relations Office
202 Carter Drive
West Chester, PA 19382

To submit this form electronically, visit www.wcualumni.org. Nominations must be received by 4 p.m. on September 27, 2019.

2020 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI
AWARD NOMINEES SOUGHT

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The Distinguished Alumni Awards have been presented by the West Chester University Alumni Association annually since 1963. The WCUAA Awards Committee seeks candidates to be selected and recognized for this prestigious honor at the 2020 Distinguished Alumni Awards Celebration.

The WCUAA Awards Committee is looking for candidates who have:

Achieved outstanding recognition in their chosen professions;

Rendered unusual service to a particular segment of society either vocationally or avocationally;

Achieved outstanding recognition or rendered unusual service by volunteering in a non-profit organization; or

Positively influenced large numbers of people throughout the candidate’s career.

If you would like to nominate a deserving alumnus/a, please complete and mail this form to the WCU Alumni Relations Office. You may also submit a nomination online at www.wcualumni.org. Nominations must be received by 4 p.m. on September 27, 2019. Upon receipt of a nomination, a packet will be sent to the nominator for completion.

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West Chester, PA 19383-7401

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