

# WCU MAGAZINE WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

FALL/WINTER 2022



Bernard J. Carrozza Dining Hall

**Game Changing,  
Living-Learning  
Laboratory**

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**50 Most  
Community Minded**

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**Biggest  
Class Ever!**

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**“We must be doing something right when it comes to student success,”**

said West Chester University President Chris Fiorentino to the WCU community during a welcome back address held in the fall at the Madeleine Wing Adler Theatre. “I say that because in a year when most colleges are facing declining enrollments, we are welcoming our largest incoming class ever in the history of our University....We are changing lives and we need to remember that each day when we come to work, each morning when we step into a classroom, each moment when we interact with students....We are in the business of changing lives and business is good.”

**“Many of you have heard me say that we proudly educate the 99%,”**

said Executive Vice President and Provost Laurie Bernotsky during the welcome back address. “There are lots of schools fighting it out for that top 1% of students who can pay top dollar for a college education. We’ll focus our attention on the remaining 99%. As that 99% of students continue to arrive on our campus, our campus will change. Students will be coming to our campus from more ethnically diverse backgrounds, more racially diverse backgrounds, and more socioeconomically diverse backgrounds, among other identities. We need to be ready for that change.”



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**The Sciences & Engineering Center and The Commons: a Game-Changing, Living-Learning Laboratory**

Cover Photo: Learning Stairs at the Sciences & Engineering Center and The Commons



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### **Deb Cornelius '91**

Interim Executive Director of the WCU Foundation comes full circle



Did you receive your magazine a little late? Thank you for your patience as we work through paper supply chain issues causing mailing delays.

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Transformation comes in many forms and has the potential to summon infinite opportunities. West Chester University knows best. Boasting 175,000 square feet, The Sciences and Engineering Center and The Commons (SECC) has prompted a campus-wide metamorphosis. Enhancing the University's landscape in the most literal and figurative ways, the new three-story facility is the impressive home to our rapidly growing health science curricula, physics, and the new biomedical engineering program, as well as expansive academic and support spaces. "Awesome" is the word that comes to mind.

The SECC inspires excellence, because it was conceived by asking the right questions. Instead of inquiring how students can become ready for West

Chester University, the University asked how it can become ready for students. The SECC emerged as the perfect response and now it is a gamechanger for preparing the next generation of scientists, physicists, engineers, nurses, nutritionists, and other critical-demand positions. Our new living-learning environment is destined to attract those who are ready to take on and solve the grand challenges of the world. There's more. As students' lives are multidimensional, so, too, is this building as it also provides a welcoming and stimulating environment for all Golden Rams to gather, dine and work.

We have many to thank for the innovation and renewal that the SECC inspires. Among those we owe a great deal of gratitude to are Managing Partner of Duce Management and Former Founder, President, and CEO of ProMetrics Marc Duey; Student Services, Incorporated Chair of the Board of Directors Bernie Carrozza '66; and the WCU Alumni Association. Through the pages of this issue of West Chester University Magazine, we invite you to explore the SECC as the next chapter in this University's dynamic and bold future. I cannot think of a better way for Golden Rams to celebrate this joyous season. Happy holidays to all!

Sincerely,

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

Christopher M. Fiorentino  
President

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

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In October, the University recognized dedicated alumni, parents and family members, friends, faculty, staff, and community partners who are part of the President's Circle: those who are committed to advancing student success at WCU through their philanthropic leadership. Pictured with President Chris Fiorentino (L) are those who were honored with this year's President's Award (L-R): Lorina Marshall-Blake, president of the Independence Blue Cross Foundation, a charitable, private foundation founded in 2011, and vice president of community affairs at Independence Blue Cross; Carol L. Kashow '77; John W. Ward, retired faculty and Celia C. Esplugas, emerita professor of languages and cultures; Scott W. Reid '96; and Sue Fiorentino.

West Chester University  
*President's Circle*





THE SCIENCES & ENGINEERING CENTER AND THE COMMONS:

# **A GAME-CHANGING, LIVING-LEARNING LABORATORY**





At the SECC ribbon-cutting (L-R): Tracey Robinson, vice president for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer; JT Singh, senior associate vice president, Information Services and Technology; Jeffery Osgood, interim provost and senior vice president; Andrew Lehman, vice president for University Affairs and Chief of Staff; Zeb Davenport, vice president for University Advancement and External Affairs; Laurie Bernotsky, provost and executive vice president; Marc Duey, managing partner, Duce Management, founder and former CEO, ProMetrics and adjunct professor of marketing and pharmaceutical product development; Sue Fiorentino, professor of management and coordinator for the Master of Science in Human Resource Management program; Chris Fiorentino, president; Todd Murphy, vice president of Finance and Administration; Deb Cornelius '91, interim executive director, WCU Foundation; Matt Holliday '09, president, WCU Alumni Association; Tabetha Adkins, interim vice president, Student Affairs; Radha Pyati, dean of the College of the Sciences and Mathematics; Scott Heinerichs, dean of the College of Health Sciences.

When several IV pumps that nursing students were using in WCU's new Sciences and Engineering Center and The Commons (SECC) building malfunctioned, the Nursing Department sent them to biomedical engineering students to be repaired.

Since the building's unofficial opening during the spring 2022 semester, that's the kind of synergistic, interdisciplinary collaboration between students and faculty in different departments that has occurred often in the 175,000-square-foot SECC — the largest and most complex building project in West Chester University's history.

Photo Credit for cover story and cover photograph: Courtesy of Stantec, ©Tom Holdsworth



The Learning Stairs in the SECC provide a welcoming space for students to gather, study, and socialize and for classes to meet or events to be held.







In addition to serving students' academic and co-curricular needs, the building also includes the Bernard J. Carrozza Dining Hall and an adjacent 162,000-square-foot parking garage with 462 parking spaces. Estimated to cost more than \$130 million, the SECC is the largest building construction project ever undertaken within the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

The SECC is a game-changer for WCU, the state system's largest university. It provides a living-learning environment for budding scientists, physicists, engineers, nurses, nutritionists, and other vital positions. In fact, the SECC has changed learning at WCU. The space devoted to hands-on learning laboratories — 17,650 square feet — is 57% larger than the space dedicated to high-tech, didactic classrooms.

"Above all else," said WCU President Chris Fiorentino, "this building centers on what students need to learn to be hands-on and successful in critical-demand fields."

Executive Vice President and Provost Laurie Bernotsky concurred: "In every meeting that the University had with architects, we stressed that we had enough buildings with podiums, desks, and chairs. We needed more collaborative spaces where the singular focus would be on engaging students actively in all aspects of learning throughout

the facility."

"It's so much more than just classrooms," said Scott Heinerichs, dean of the College of Health Sciences. "It really is a living and learning laboratory that allows West Chester students, including health sciences, physics and biomedical engineering majors, to gain critical hands-on skills."

"Our students are excited," agreed Radha Pyati, dean of the College of Sciences and Mathematics. "They feel like they have a real comfortable home. There's a forum where they can study together, play guitar, and socialize. Students cover the white boards with organic chemistry structures, homework problems, smiley faces, and encouraging messages."

Among those enthused about the SECC are the four professors and 80 students involved in the biomedical engineering program, which, as of this fall, now has four cohorts, from first-year students to seniors. With two junior-level labs and a senior design lab in the Duey Biomedical Engineering Center (DBEC), "We are now doing everything from biomechanics to cell and tissue engineering," said Assistant Professor Jesse K. Placone.

In his own SECC lab, Placone is using new 3-D tissue printing capabilities to try to explore why certain cancers metastasize into

**The new three-story facility is home to the University's rapidly growing health science curricula, physics, and biomedical engineering program, as well as expansive academic and support spaces. The state-of-the-art facility boasts:**

- **the Duey Biomedical Engineering Center (DBEC) and the Duey Immersive Learning Center**, where high-tech mannequins mimic patients in a simulated hospital setting;
- **an advanced Food Sensory Lab**, part of the Nutrition Lab, where students are taught how the taste, smell, and flavor of food and drink affect people's food choices;
- **roof-top garden beds**, where Nutrition Department students grow vegetables that are taken to the WCU Resource Pantry and other community places;
- **a Sustainability Environmental Health Lab**, where students measure the quality of the rain water on the roof and learn how solar panels power their lab;
- **a Physics Forum** where "Physics Teas" draw physics students and faculty to talk about classes, research, graduate school, and other topics;
- **glass-enclosed biomedical engineering labs**, which draw prospective students and other visitors into the learning experience; and
- **classroom technologies** available to anyone off-campus, including live, full-distance learning capabilities.



**...this building centers on what students need to learn to be hands-on and successful in critical-demand fields.**

bones. Illustrating the collaborative potential, he and Nicole Ramo, another assistant professor of biomedical engineering, are working on a joint research project with Professor Frank Fish and Assistant Professor Michael Rosario of the Biology Department to determine how dolphin tail tendons store and transfer energy to propel the mammals through water.

“We’ve been using new equipment in the DBEC to perform mechanical tests on some dissected tendons,” said Alexa Cesari, a student research intern and senior biomedical engineering major who will present a poster on their research at the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Conference in Austin, Texas, in January.

The SECC also features The Commons, a welcoming and stimulating environment for students to gather, eat, and work. The 800-seat residential dining facility encompasses more than 16,000 square feet — the building’s entire second floor. An intentional progressive design encourages 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 a focus on sustainability, food-service provider Aramark uses dehydrators to break down food waste from both residential dining and catering operations into compostable material. In consultation with the Nutrition Department, Aramark this fall also launched a Cool Food Meal Pilot Menu that allows diners to choose climate-friendly food items.

Summing up the SECC, Emily Clemson, a junior nursing major from Downingtown, said, “There are so many different work spaces around the building. I love the individual places where I can get my homework done.

“If I have questions, because the Nursing Department is now located there, I can hop over to one of my professors’ offices and ask them the question in person, which is awesome. And if I want to work collaboratively with other students, there are spaces where I can do that, too, including using the awesome TV screens mounted on the walls that allow us to review material together.

“The new building has literally become my second home.” **WCU**

(L-R) Deb Cornelius '91, interim executive director, WCU Foundation; Todd Murphy, WCU vice president of Finance and Administration; David M. James '91, SSI vice chair; Donna Snyder, SSI executive director; Chris Fiorentino, WCU president; Bernie Carrozza; June C. Carrozza '77, M'91; Zeb Davenport, WCU vice president for University Advancement and External Affairs; Tabetha Adkins, interim vice president, Student Affairs; and Alicia Kent, regional vice president, Aramark.

Along with the SECC ribbon-cutting in September, there was a separate grand opening for the new dining hall, named in honor of alumnus and long-time University supporter **Dr. Bernard J. Carrozza '66**.

As chair of the Student Services, Incorporated (SSI) Board of Directors, Carrozza was instrumental this spring in arranging the largest gift in the University’s history: \$3.5 million from SSI to the 150Forward Campaign.

Carrozza serves on the WCU Alumni Association Board and is a member of the College of Education and Social Work Advisory Board. In 1981, he was appointed a Trustee of West Chester State College, a position he held for 31 years through the college’s transition to a comprehensive university. He received the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1991.

Among the many University capital projects he has supported are renovations to 25 University Avenue and construction of the Business and Public Management Center, as well as general support for the College of Education and Social Work and the Lawrence Dowdy Multicultural Center.



Marc Duey with President Chris Fiorentino



## **Duey Immersive Learning Center:** **Impactful Learning in a Dynamic Environment**

Emily Clemson from Downingtown, PA, was one of the nursing majors who recently listened to the lungs and checked the vital signs of a wheezing pediatric asthma patient. Their patient was actually a high-tech mannequin, one of six ranging in age from a child to a geriatric patient, that students encounter at the Duey Immersive Learning Center.

“It’s incredible, like being in a real hospital,” Clemson said of the simulation exam rooms. There’s also a residential apartment suite. One mannequin can even simulate childbirth.

Standardized patient actors, including WCU theatre students, also present both physical and mental health issues. “The actors could portray a stroke victim, a patient experiencing auditory hallucinations or someone suffering from psychological abuse,” said Cheryl Schlamb, professor and chair of the Nursing Department. “Either way, we put our students in theoretical situations so they can learn how to provide appropriate care in a safe environment — without impacting actual human outcomes.”

After either type of encounter, students and their classmates who have been observing in a conference room via a video recording, and their professors, discuss what went well and opportunities for improvement. “That reflection through a debriefing process is when the most powerful learning occurs,” said Scott Heinerichs, dean of the College of Health Sciences.

A wide range of other majors and students are also benefitting: athletic training, exercise science, nutrition, physician assistant studies, respiratory therapy, speech and language pathology, and social work.

With his family, Marc Duey donated \$1 million to fund both the Duey Immersive Learning Center and the Duey Biomedical Engineering Center. He is a big believer in the power of integrative, interdisciplinary science — the kind of cross-pollination the SECC encourages — to improve the world.

He also notes that, according to Edgar Dale’s Cone of Experience, people generally remember just 10% of what they read, 20% of what they hear, as in a lecture, and 50% if they see a demonstration — but remember 90% of what they do when they perform a task.

Duey, who launched numerous healthcare companies, is a long-time WCU adjunct professor who now teaches in the Marketing Department and lectures in the Pharmaceutical Product Development Program. He is president of the Marketing Leadership Council and serves on the Business Analytics and the Cottrell Entrepreneurial Center’s advisory boards. Recently, as one of the three co-chairs of the highly successful 150Forward campaign, he helped the WCU Foundation raise funds to enhance the University’s technological capabilities.

“It’s important to make cutting-edge technology available to our students, so they enter the marketplace with current and relevant skill sets that enable them to pursue their passions and contribute meaningfully to rapidly evolving business and public service environments,” said Duey. “Being a catalyst for this student enrichment and empowerment in an increasingly digital and complex world is really exciting and truly rewarding.”

PERRY COZZONE '83, M'88  
GIVING WCU STUDENTS

# A SOLID FOUNDATION

If you ever swallowed a coated or colored tablet, or ate candy with edible ink printing on it, chances are you benefitted and/or enjoyed some of the products of Colorcon, one of the companies Perry Cozzone '83, M'88 has led during his nearly four-decades-long business career.

For 20 years, he helped lead Colorcon, first as its global chief information officer, then as president of its Americas operations, based in Bucks and Montgomery counties. Earlier, in 1996, he was one of five partners who launched a startup called TM1 Software, a highly successful business financial analysis and planning tool that IBM ultimately acquired, and still sells today as Planning Analytics.

For the past four years, however, the West Chester resident has been president and CEO of CRC Industries, a 64-year-old firm also based in Bucks and Montgomery counties. CRC is a worldwide leader in the production and distribution of specialty products and formulations used by maintenance and repair professionals.

It all began at WCU. Cozzone said his B.S. in computer science, combined with his MBA, gave him a solid technical and business foundation. "I learned technological thinking and creative problem solving, as well

as business results, financials, organizational management, and marketing. It gave me a tremendous foundation for whatever line of business I wanted to go into."

His professors, including John Weaver, now professor emeritus, were quite supportive of the first-generation college student, who worked his way through WCU as a computer operator. "I was always asking them, 'Am I ready? Am I properly prepared' and my professors were willing to help."

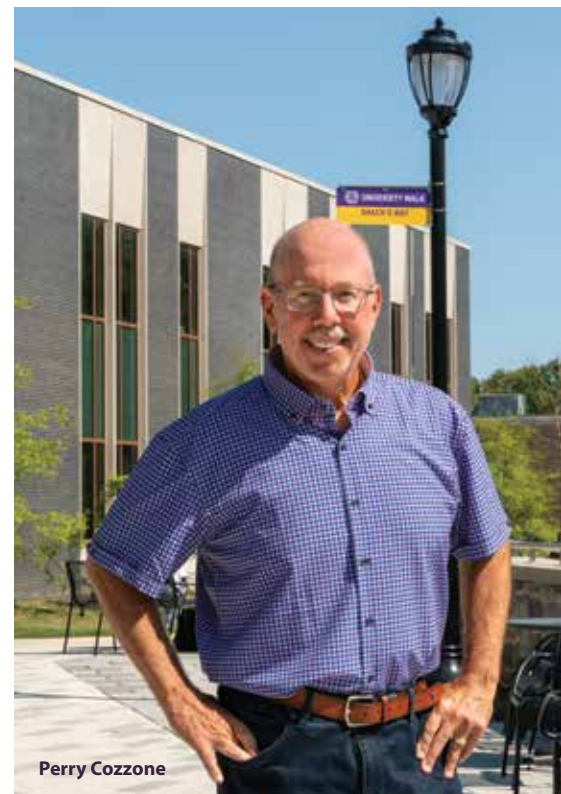
That's why he gives back, both in terms of his time and financial support. "My experience at West Chester was extremely impactful," explained Cozzone, whose son, Perry T. Cozzone '21, earned his finance degree last year. "Any little thing I can do to help the school compete and give students the kind of opportunities I had is great."

Once a TEC-MBA program adjunct professor, he now serves on the President's Corporate Advisory Board. He also is a

member of the University's Heritage Society, which honors the University's most generous donors. In memory of his parents, Andrew J. and Lucy Q. Cozzone, he funded the SECC lobby and Shack's Way walkway, as well as a Future Leadership Scholarship for student-athletes in need. He has also hired several WCU student interns.

This December, Cozzone plans to semi-retire. But at 61, he's not done yet. "I want to do something to help people," he said, "whether it involves assisting profit or nonprofit organizations, teaching or serving at the board level, or a combination of all those." **WCU**

**Any little thing I can do to help the school compete and give students the kind of opportunities I had is great.**



Perry Cozzone



Lorenzo Cena

## TO PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH, LORENZO CENA MOSTLY LOOKS INDOORS

**W**hen most people think of a healthy environment, they think about the outdoors. However, Lorenzo G. Cena, program director and associate professor of environmental health, focuses much more on the indoor environment.

“My favorite part of my research is protecting human health in the workplace,” he said. “While a lot of workplace safety focuses on protecting against acute injuries, like falls or losing fingers, I focus on much more complicated issues: anticipating, recognizing, evaluating, and controlling long-term health hazards that workers often can’t see, smell, or feel” such as toxic airborne particles that can cause cancer.

As part of his occupational health doctoral research at the University of Iowa (UI), he developed and patented a personal sampler for nanoparticles that is commercially available today as the Zefon Personal Nanoparticle Respiratory Deposition (NRD) sampler. The past chair of the American Industrial Hygiene Association’s Aerosol Technology Committee has also researched the silicosis risks to workers cutting artificial stone countertops such as quartz. Several years ago, he was a co-investigator of a \$185,000 study funded by CDC/National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) looking at the manufacturing risks of nonclay composite materials, such as plastic cling wraps.

Currently, he is monitoring the effects of ammonia, methane, and hydrogen sulfide gases near Pennsylvania mushroom farms and, for Children’s Hospital of Pennsylvania, analyzing whether the cauterization of tissue during tonsillectomies is producing potentially unhealthy nanoparticles.

The naturalized U.S. citizen was born and raised in Torino, Italy. His wife Ashley was working there as a nanny when they

met at a meeting of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. In 2001, he followed her to Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, where he earned a B.S. in statistics.

After earning his M.S. in industrial education and technology at Iowa State University and his Ph.D. at UOI in 2011, he worked for five years at the CDC/NIOSH laboratories in West Virginia. He was a research scientist/industrial hygienist in the Exposure Assessment Branch. While there, for several weeks in 2015 he was a team leader of the CDC’s response to the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone.

**...it’s the most rewarding part of my job when I get emails from my students afterwards that say how prepared they felt and how much they appreciate that I helped them discover this field of study and career.**

Cena came to WCU a year later when Maura Sheehan, now professor emerita whom he met when she spent a sabbatical at UOI, suggested he should apply to replace her.

“I greatly benefited from the mentoring of Professor Tom Peters, my doctoral advisor, and at the CDC I was missing the chance to mentor and help students,” explained Cena. “All of our environmental health students cap their education with a paid, semester-long internship. And it’s the most rewarding part of my job when I get emails from my students afterwards that say how prepared they felt and how much they appreciate that I helped them discover this field of study and career.” **WCU**

## WCU RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE 50 MOST COMMUNITY-MINDED EMPLOYERS IN THE REGION

### THE CIVIC 50

It is this type of commitment that resonates throughout a region & sets the standard for corporate stewardship.

—Pedro Ramos, president and chief executive officer of Philadelphia Foundation



West Chester University has been named a 2022 honoree of the Civic 50 Greater Philadelphia by Philadelphia Foundation, in partnership with Points of Light and local partners. Modeled after Points of Light's national program, the Civic 50 Greater Philadelphia provides a standard for corporate citizenship and showcases how employers use their time, skills, and resources to drive social impact in their communities and companies.

The Civic 50 honorees are both private and public companies and other employers operating in the Philadelphia region. They have been selected based on four dimensions of their community engagement programs:

- Investment of resources
- Integration across business functions
- Institutionalization through policies and system; and
- Impact measurement.

WCU's strategic plan, Pathways to Student Success, illustrates how the University aligns with the Civic 50 dimensions through its five goals: learning, diversity and inclusion, community engagement, sustainability, and personal and professional development.

"Philadelphia Foundation is proud to recognize West Chester University's outstanding civic engagement," said Pedro Ramos, president and chief executive officer of Philadelphia Foundation. "All of the 2022 honorees have demonstrated great passion and dedication to making a meaningful impact in the local communities they serve. It is this type of commitment that resonates throughout a region and sets the standard for corporate stewardship."

On October 15, a group of motorcycle riders traveled from Hershey, PA, to the University's Farrell Stadium in tribute to Michael Horrocks '85.

The ride was a fundraiser for a future memorial in Derry Township, PA, that will honor Horrocks and other members of military and first responders who lost their lives in service. Horrocks was the co-pilot of United Airlines Flight 175 on 9/11.

The riders shared reflections at WCU's statue that honors Horrocks, who was quarterback of the football team while at WCU. There are also scholarships in his name and WCU Athletics has established the Michael Horrocks Leadership Institute for Varsity Athletes and the Michael Horrocks Emerging Leaders Institute to provide leadership training and development for outstanding student athletes.



# EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

FOR A FULL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS  
VISIT [WCUPA.EDU/ARTS](http://WCUPA.EDU/ARTS)

## DECEMBER

10 Wells School of Music Presents the 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Holiday Program.  
Visit [www.wcupatix.com](http://www.wcupatix.com).

### WCU MATHER PLANETARIUM: JUPITER: KING OF THE PLANETS

JANUARY 27



## FEBRUARY

### WCU SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: IRVING H. COHEN MEMORIAL & CONCERTO COMPETITION WINNERS' CONCERT

FEBRUARY 19

26 Wells School of Music Wind Ensemble & Wind Symphony Concert

## MARCH

3 – 5 Dept. of Theatre & Dance Presents *Charlotte's Web*



### ERIN BROCKOVICH, A PRESIDENT'S SPEAKER SERIES EVENT

MARCH 11

14 WCU Live! Presents Rhythm of the Dance

22 – 25 Wells School of Music Presents  
the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Jazz Festival

## APRIL

### WCU LIVE PRESENTS TAMAGAWA UNIVERSITY TAIKO DRUMMING & DANCE

APRIL 11



20 – 23 Dept. of Theatre & Dance Presents  
William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*

20 – May 15 BFA Senior Show in Knauer and John H. Baker Galleries

## WCU & UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE OFFER COUNTRY'S FIRST 3-2 BS/ MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM IN

# QUANTUM SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

West Chester University and the nearby University of Delaware have teamed up to offer the country's first and only 3-2 dual degree program in quantum science and engineering (QSE).

"QSE focuses on understanding and exploiting the unusual behavior of particles and excitations governed by the laws of quantum mechanics," said Brandon Mitchell, associate professor of physics and the program's liaison. "The intentional and precise manipulation of particles as tiny as a single atom or a single photon of light will drive the next big technological revolution. It will require a workforce with interdisciplinary training in quantum mechanics, materials science, electrical engineering, and computer science."

According to Fortune Business Insights, the QSE market is projected to grow from \$486 million in 2021 to \$3.2 billion in 2028, a combined annual growth rate of about 31% over the next six years.

**As the cost of higher education continues to rise, reducing a year of schooling to earn dual degrees in five years instead of six years is huge.**

Last spring, the University of Delaware launched only the third graduate degree program in quantum science and engineering in the United States by offering both master's and doctoral degrees. Harvard University and the University of Chicago offer the only other programs, but neither offers a 3-2 program option.

Next fall, after completing just three years at WCU, several current physics majors are already eligible to be the first WCU students to enter UDel's new master's program. After two years there, they will have earned a B.S. in physics from WCU and a master's degree in QSE from UDel.

"As the cost of higher education continues to rise, reducing a year of schooling to earn dual degrees in five years instead of six years is huge," said Mitchell.

He notes that the dual degree program has been enabled by the new Sciences & Engineering Center and The Commons, where new advanced physics labs and research spaces will facilitate the training of the new QSE workforce and ensure that students are prepared for an accelerated track toward a master's degree in QSE. [WCU](http://WCU)



WCU Earns Third

## Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award

The University has now earned three consecutive Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Awards from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education.

WCU earned this honor for the first time in 2020, along with 89 other recipients. This year, 103 colleges and universities across the U.S. and Canada were selected.

The HEED award measures an institution's level of achievement and intensity of commitment in regard to broadening diversity and inclusion on campus through initiatives, programs, and outreach; student recruitment, retention, and completion; and hiring practices for faculty and staff. WCU was selected for its demonstrated resolve and innovative initiatives, including these:

- The University will be eliminating student equity gaps by 2030 by co-leading the Moon Shot for Equity mission for the southeastern PA region with Delaware County Community College and education firm EAB. This public-private partnership employs research-based best practices to remove systemic barriers and address equity gaps to ensure more students complete college degrees, especially those most often left behind: low income, first generation, and students of color.

- WCU exponentially grew undergraduate and graduate student membership in Tri-Alfa Honor Society for first-generation college students. Students qualified by earning at least 30 credit hours and a 3.2 or higher GPA. Graduate students completed at least 9 graduate credits and had a 3.5 or higher GPA. Tri-Alfa was established at WCU during the 2020-2021 academic year.

“Diversity is broadly defined and this award recognizes how the University goes the extra mile.”

“The HEED Award demonstrates engagement in an array of best practices, in addition to innovation and a collective commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion,” said WCU Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer Tracey Ray Robinson. “We are so proud to receive this national recognition for the third time. Diversity is broadly defined and this award recognizes how the University goes the extra mile.

Visit the campaign website to explore the campaign priorities: [www.wcufoundation.org/150forward/](http://www.wcufoundation.org/150forward/).

## CLASS OF 2026 IS WCU'S LARGEST EVER

This fall, West Chester University welcomed its largest-ever incoming class of students. The Class of 2026 totals 3,006 students who come to the University from nearly all 50 states and 12 countries.

The academic profile for the Class of 2026 is consistent with numbers for previous classes: 3.5 GPA, 1145 SAT, and 25 ACT.

Even this early in next year's college selection process, for the fall 2023 admissions cycle, the University has already averaged a 35% increase in first-year applications in comparison to last year.

“We need to serve the diverse students in our region and that means being accessible and affordable,” said Executive Vice President and Provost Laurie Bernotsky. “While there are lots of schools fighting for that top 1% of students who can pay top dollar for a college education, we'll proudly focus our attention on the remaining 99%.”

WCU's total enrollment stands strong at 17,275 students. **WCU**

# 3,006

STUDENTS IN CLASS OF 2026

# 35%

INCREASE IN  
FIRST YEAR APPLICATIONS  
(2021 VS. 2022)

# 17,275

TOTAL ENROLLMENT





## Sophomore's Mural Beautifies the Borough

### A WCU student just painted the town — literally.

Noah Burns, a sophomore Art + Design student in WCU's College of Arts & Humanities, painted a mural on the side of the Friends Association building at 113 Chestnut Street in the Borough of West Chester. His design was chosen to help commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the organization, which is a non-profit that provides services for Chester County individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

"We wanted to create a permanent artistic representation of our values and ideals to commemorate our milestone anniversary," says Emily McClure, former chief advancement officer for the Friends Association. "We are grateful to Noah and to West Chester University for their collaboration and assistance in helping us to make this a reality."

The Friends Association began working with the West Chester Public Arts Commission (WC PAC) in 2021 to develop a concept and put out a call for artists.

### We wanted to create a permanent artistic representation of our values and ideals to commemorate our milestone anniversary

Overwhelmingly, the WC PAC and Friends staff chose Burns' design concept from among dozens of other applicants. After several rounds of edits, the final concept was presented to the WC PAC and the Historical & Architectural Review Board (HARB) for approval. Throughout the process, Burns was mentored and assisted by John H. Baker '74, emeritus art professor and stalwart of the local fine arts community. Baker also serves on the WC PAC board.

"Public art enhances our community," noted Baker, "and WC PAC is thrilled to add Noah's mural to the growing list of art that is helping to beautify West Chester, particularly in this area of the Borough where not much public art exists.

"My role on WC PAC is to help with the oversight, design, and other aspects of creating a public mural," he continued. "Working with Noah was a pleasure. I helped him decide what would work best visually and logistically for the size of his mural. It is clear to see from his mural design that Noah is very talented. His mural not only reflects the mission of the Friends Association, but also captures his own sense of imagery and aesthetic as an artist." **WCU**





Mackenzie Souчек

**Nutrition is remarkable because it's where our physical health, mental health, medicine, culture, environment and future all intersect.**

---

## **FOR MACKENZIE SOUCHEK, IT'S ALL ABOUT HOW FOOD CONNECTS US**

**B**ack home in Brick, NJ, Mackenzie Souчек has always loved working with her dad in her family's vegetable and herb garden, then grilling the vegetables or roasting them for a hearty soup topped off with fresh basil.

Her appreciation for healthy food grew even more when she worked as a dietary aide at Hackensack Meridian Health Ocean University Medical Center while earning her associate of science degree at Ocean County (NJ) College. "That's where I learned to really embrace nutrition and its importance in healthcare," she said. "Nutrition is remarkable because it's where our physical health, mental health, medicine, culture, environment and future all intersect."

Since coming to WCU a year ago, the senior nutrition and dietetics major has embraced nutrition and the new SECC building in a multitude of ways. "The new nutrition lab, with its 12 'Top Chef'-like cooking stations, is a phenomenal facility. It really invites students to apply their classroom knowledge in a way that not only serves their education but the community as well."

Souчек is a coach with the Nutrition Department's Ram Chefs, a culinary program for young adults with developmental disabilities. "Ram Chefs really opened my eyes to the joys of cooking food," she said.

### **She also is:**

- **College of Health Sciences Ambassador** in the Food Lab, where she showed student-athletes how to cook healthy on a budget, and vegan students how to meet their nutrient needs;
- **a volunteer** with the University's Campus Community Garden, which produces fresh produce for both the University's Resource Pantry to address student food insecurity and for use in the Food Lab;
- **vice president** of the Student Dietetic Association; and
- **a garden assistant** with the Great Valley School District, where she helps implement a nutrition and garden education program for elementary school students.

This past summer, as an Iowa State University research intern, she explored how certain micronutrients may help negate antibiotic resistance within bacteria found in the gut. As the culmination of a semester-long class, she also spent a week in a remote area of Honduras doing malnutrition evaluations and distributing vitamins and medicine to children and families.

After earning her master's degree and completing 1,000 hours of supervised practice to become a registered dietitian, Souчек hopes to work in a Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) clinic or a school district, and then possibly become a professor. **WCU**



## WCU Foundation Wins Second 2022 Circle of Excellence Award

The West Chester University Foundation is the recipient of a 2022 Circle of Excellence Bronze Award in Special Events, Online Fundraisers for the 2021: G.A.L.A. (Give. Advance. Lead. Achieve.) from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

Hamilton cast members, a Disney artist, and an NBC "America's Got Talent" mentalist headlined the interactive series of live virtual events as part of the University's 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Presidential Scholarship Community Gala. Harnessing the camaraderie of our nationwide Golden Ram community, the 2021: G.A.L.A. brought hundreds of alumni, faculty, staff, families, and friends together online in support of WCU for a nine-week fundraising initiative, the first in University history.

CASE's Circle of Excellence Awards are the premier recognition program for educational advancement. These peer-selected and adjudicated awards honor colleges, universities, and schools worldwide whose staff have advanced their organizations with resourcefulness and ingenuity.

Last year, the WCU Foundation received a Silver Award for the President's Circle Socials and Ceremony.

CASE received more than 4,500 entries from 636 institutions in nearly 30 countries. Winners were selected based on several factors, including overall quality, innovation, use of resources and the impact on the institution or its external and internal communities.



## Andy Dinniman DELIVERS THE 2022 DEBAPTISTE LECTURE

Andy Dinniman, WCU professor emeritus and retired Pennsylvania senator who served the Commonwealth's communities, families, and taxpayers for more than 45 years, delivered the Dr. Clifford E. DeBaptiste Frederick Douglass Lecture on October 13. He spoke about "The Life and Legacy of Frederick Douglass in the America of 2022."

The DeBaptiste Lecture, hosted annually by the Frederick Douglass Institute, is an educational and cultural resource for advancing multicultural studies and for deepening the intellectual heritage of Frederick Douglass, the distinguished orator, journalist, author, statesman, and former enslaved person. Douglass gave his last public lecture on West Chester's campus on February 1, 1895, just 19 days before his death. It is and is made possible through the generous gift of Dr. Clifford DeBaptiste, the first African-American mayor of West Chester Borough and a champion of education.

Dinniman was a WCU professor from 1972 to 2020. He also served as director of WCU's Center for International Programs (1986-2005) and director of the Center for Ethnic Studies (1979-1983). Dinniman recently established the Together Endowment through the WCU Foundation to support programs that bring diverse communities together to address the increasing divisiveness in this country. The endowment reflects his passion and commitment to diversity, inclusion, and equity.

Above: (L-R) Lillian DeBaptiste, Borough of West Chester mayor and daughter of Clifford DeBaptiste; Andy Dinniman, Chris Fiorentino, president; Chris Awuyah, English professor and director of WCU's Frederick Douglass Institute (FDI); and James Trotman, emeritus English professor and FDI founding director.

## HEALTH SCIENCES FACULTY ARE FEATURED ON AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY'S HEALED WEBINARS

This fall, faculty from the College of Health Sciences (CHS) developed a series of four webinars specifically designed for the American Cancer Society (ACS) HEALED Community. An acronym for Health and Energy through Active Living Every Day, the HEALED Community Movement's goals are to reduce suffering and death due to cancer and to create a supportive community for cancer survivors, caregivers, and loved ones.

Jeanie Subach, associate professor of nutrition, has been a regular monthly guest on these online programs, which are hosted by WCU alumnus and cancer survivor Pat Croce, who interviews experts and cancer survivors on physical, mental, and spiritual health.

A Registered Dietitian and Board Certified Sports Specialist Dietitian, Subach discussed the "Application of Culinary Medicine for Cancer Prevention and Treatment."

Melissa Reed, associate professor of kinesiology, presented "Exercise is Medicine for Cancer." One of Reed's research interests is exercise as prevention and treatment for chronic disease.

Ramona Stone, associate professor of health, emphasized the "Importance of Screenings in Cancer Prevention." Stone is a social epidemiologist specializing in quantitative research methods and in advanced statistical techniques, with extensive experience in community-based research.

The series concluded with Pat Croce and Don McCown, associate professor of health, discussing the "Importance of Daily Contemplative Practice and Mindfulness." McCown is director of the minor in contemplative studies and director of WCU's Center for Contemplative Studies.

Scott Heinerichs, CHS Dean and professor of sports medicine, notes that sponsoring this webinar series allows CHS "to engage the community in sharing our faculty expertise to meet the mission of this movement started by our friend Pat Croce, in educating and encouraging individuals to live healthier lives through their attendance at conversations related to nutrition, physical activity, prevention, and mindfulness content."

## LIVE-IN EXPERIENCE HELPS AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM

# PREPARE **FOR** COLLEGE LIFE

Last July, rising high school juniors and seniors on the autism spectrum prepared for college life through four week-long, on-campus, overnight experiences at WCU. They participated in the College Autism Readiness Retreat (CARR) and the High School Youth Preparation for Higher Education (HYPE) Program. Both were offered by WCU's Dub-C Autism Program (D-CAP), which supports and advocates for the success of the University's degree-seeking students on the autism spectrum. Current D-CAP students served as camp counselors for the high school students.

From living in residence halls to accessing dining halls, the high school students practiced skills of self-determination, social, time management, independence, community integration, safety, problem solving, and communication. They attended classes and spoke with University students who are on the autism spectrum, acquiring and practicing classroom etiquette. Fun times included scavenger hunts, ice cream socials, and recreation fun. Some downtime was spent in the Relaxin' Rammy Corner in the FHG Library. The corner features a comfy hammock swing, lounge beanbag chairs, gel floor tiles, fidgets, noise cancellation headphones, and more.

"WCU's inclusive campus community is a welcoming environment for all students, including those who are on the autism spectrum," says D-CAP Director Cherie Fishbaugh. "The University takes pride in empowering students who learn differently and works to help them succeed."

D-CAP is supported by the University as well as Pennsylvania Labor & Industry's Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. [WCU](#)

## The University's notable accomplishments include:

- Curriculum – Academic Courses:** More than 400 graduate and undergraduate courses are identified as Sustainability Inclusive or Sustainability Focused;
- Campus Engagement – Student Educators Program:** Thousands of WCU students have engaged with sustainability-focused student educator programs.
- Campus Engagement – Student and Employee Orientation:** All incoming first-year and undergraduate transfer students have access to sustainability orientation activities. Last year, WCU's HR office partnered with the Office of Sustainability and Sustainability Council to develop online modules focused on sustainable commute alternatives for new employees, WCU's sustainability commitments, and ways to help achieve them.
- Operations – Energy:** The University has made substantial investments in low-carbon, high-efficiency geo-exchange heating and cooling systems that now cover more than half of campus academic, administrative, and student housing buildings.
- Planning & Administration – Inclusive and Participatory Governance:** Since 2020, the number of women serving on WCU's Council of Trustees doubled to four.

# WCU EARNS STARS SILVER RATING FOR SUSTAINABILITY ACHIEVEMENTS

The University has earned a STARS Silver rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) measures and encourages sustainability in all educational and operational aspects of higher education throughout 40 countries.

“Earning the STARS Silver rating is external validation of the University’s sustainability efforts by an important organization,” noted Bradley Flamm, director of WCU’s Office of Sustainability. WCU’s STARS score of 55.44 this year is four points above its 2020 level.

“Environmental, economic, and social sustainability are core principles the WCU community applies to our teaching, research, support services, and operations,” said WCU President Chris Fiorentino. “Sustainability is one of the University’s five priority areas in our strategic plan and we continually assess our efforts to identify ways to achieve our sustainability commitments.”

Since WCU’s first AASHE Stars submission in 2012, the 2018 and 2019 submissions received Bronze ratings, and the 2020 and 2022 submissions received Silver ratings.

For more information about West Chester University’s sustainability initiatives, visit [wcupa.edu/Sustainability](http://wcupa.edu/Sustainability). **WCU**

**55.44**  
2022 WCU STARS SCORE

**Earning the STARS Silver rating is external validation of the University’s sustainability efforts by an important organization**

**Be sure to check out our Summer 2023 issue for a deep dive into WCU’s commitment to sustainability.**

# SERIOUS SCIENCE WITH A COMIC TWIST

## WCU PROFESSOR WINS AN IG NOBEL AWARD

**W**ith the Nobel Prize ceremony taking place December 10, Alfred Nobel’s birthday, it’s fitting we celebrate WCU’s winner of a 2022 Ig Nobel Prize, the awards that recognize science that makes people laugh, then think.

WCU biomorphologist Frank Fish accepted a 2022 Ig Nobel Prize in a virtual ceremony in September. Only 10 projects from around the world were honored this year. Fish is serious about science but as his email signature says, “You’re not doing science, if you’re not having fun.”

It is for his hydrodynamics research on why ducklings swim in a line behind their mother that Fish earned a 2022 Ig Nobel. Ducklings, he found by studying them in a tank, conserve energy by formation swimming.

A professor of biology and founder and director of WCU’s Liquid Life Laboratory, he conducts aquatic research, examining the morphology of swimming things such as whales and dolphins to determine how their fins and flukes affect efficiency, speed, and maneuverability. On the WCU faculty since 1980, Fish has partnered with researchers from other institutions including Drexel and George Washington universities and Shoals Marine Laboratory. His work has been funded by, among others, the National Science Foundation and the Office of Naval Research. Some of that work has been in the design for the propulsion efficiency of underwater robots such as, most recently, a robotic sea lion (with Drexel), and other robots known as MantaBot and TunaBot.

Fish’s studies on why whales have tubercles (bumps) on the leading edge of their flippers has led to work in biomimetics, adapting those bumps to edges of wind turbine blades for increased efficiency. After all, he says, “We don’t know where the next technological breakthrough will come from.” **WCU**



Frank Fish

## 150Forward: The Campaign for WCU

The momentum continues as West Chester University has secured more than **\$51 million** as part of 150Forward: The Campaign for WCU – **78% of the overall goal of \$65 million!**

There are still 20 months left to make a campaign gift. Join the **15,000+ donors** who have already contributed to ensure our Golden Rams have the ability to reach their highest aspirations.

Find out more at [www.wcufoundation.org/150forward](http://www.wcufoundation.org/150forward).

**We’ve celebrated 150 years. Now, we’re moving 150Forward.**

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY  
PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMUNITY

**40TH  
GALA**

LONGWOOD GARDENS  
March 25, 2023  
[www.wcufoundation.org/gala](http://www.wcufoundation.org/gala)

**150** FORWARD  
THE CAMPAIGN FOR  
WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY





## A MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

**W**hat an amazing start to the 2022–2023 school year we have had! I'm still smiling thinking about all the awesome alumni I met at Homecoming back in October. It's a wonderful time to catch up with those from your past, and I find myself getting even more energy meeting new people from among our huge WCU family — and I had plenty of opportunities to do that this fall.

In addition to Homecoming, we've had class reunions, the Friars Society's 85<sup>th</sup> reunion, WCU football games, and other activities. Plus, we are always happy to play a part in the campus experience of our current students (whom we like to refer to as “future alumni”) and thrilled to be involved with new student orientation, move-in day, and the involvement fair.

As we head into the holidays, we are excited to welcome all the students who graduate this December into the ranks of the WCUAA!

Not to rush the calendar, but stay tuned for a full listing of spring events on the association website ([www.wcualumni.org](http://www.wcualumni.org)). Chief among them will be Alumni Weekend: Friday, April 28, through Sunday, April 30. I look forward to seeing all of you at one or more of the many great events planned for that weekend. Additionally, if you would like to give back to your alma mater and support student scholarships — plus you like a great party — block off Saturday, March 25, on your calendar for the 40th Annual WCU Presidential Scholarship Community Gala.

The WCUAA Board of Directors thanks you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you soon. Your loyalty and passion for West Chester University is what makes our amazingly vibrant association stand out from the rest. Make sure you keep your eyes open for chances to help another alum as your fellow Golden Rams are all around you. With well over 124,000 of us, there are plenty of opportunities to connect and give back to one another and the WCU campus community!

Rams Up!

Matt Holliday '09  
President, WCU Alumni Association

## CHAPTER NEWS

Campus is buzzing and we're looking ahead as our alumni base has surpassed 124,000 Golden Rams this year! We aim to continue providing an outlet for connecting and networking and continue supporting you through events, alumni benefits, and our chapters and clubs. We had a busy fall with events for all alumni and have enjoyed every opportunity to welcome you back to campus. We hope you'll join us for Alumni Weekend in April for another weekend of events and activities!

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

### Abbé Society

### Alumni Dance Chapter

### Athletic Training Alumni Chapter

### Baltimore Metro Alumni Chapter

### Bands Alumni Chapter

### Black Alumni Chapter

### Chester County Chapter

### Communication Alumni Network

### Criminal Justice Alumni

### Delaware County Chapter

### Friars Society

### GOLD X Alumni Chapter

### Graduate Student Alumni Chapter

### Greek Alumni Chapter

### Honors College Alumni Chapter

### International Military Alumni Chapter (IMAC)

### International Programs Alumni Chapter

### Law Alumni Chapter

### Lehigh Valley Alumni Chapter

### LGBTQA Alumni

### MBA Alumni

### New York Alumni

### Nutrition Alumni Chapter

### Omega Delta

### Political & Government Affairs Chapter

### Public Health Alumni Chapter

### Public Policy & Administration Alumni Chapter

### Washington, D.C., Chapter

### WCUR Alumni Chapter

### Women in Leadership and Service (WILS) Alumni Chapter

### Women's Lacrosse Alumni Chapter

### York County Chapter

### Zeta Psi Alumni Chapter



Deb Cornelius '91

## DEB CORNELIUS '91: HOMEGROWN INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WCU FOUNDATION

**A**fter working for the past six years in the West Chester University Foundation's Advancement Office, including overseeing the highly successful 150Forward Campaign, Deb Cornelius '91 was appointed the Foundation's interim executive director this summer.

Her appointment coincides with a significant reorganization. Besides fundraising for the University, the Foundation has also assumed what had been the University's responsibility: alumni relations with more than 120,000 WCU graduates.

"I'm really excited," Cornelius said. "We can already see how the alumni and fundraising offices can create a strong alliance so we can excel at representing all our alumni."

Cornelius earned a bachelor of science in early childhood education as a first-generation college student and a transfer who commuted from her Glen Mills home. She loved her education courses and her professors, including George Maxim. "He took me under his wing and encouraged me in so many significant ways."

However, "there are no words" to describe how the school she attended compares to the school where she works now.

"Frankly, it was a school where everyone went home on weekends," she said. "Now, not only is it an incredibly comprehensive University with top-notch programs, but it's also a University with an incredible culture and community."

After graduation, Cornelius taught first- and second-graders in the Owen J. Roberts School District for seven years. She then helped run the business side of her husband Craig's carpentry business while raising their three sons, who have all attended WCU: Daniel '19, business management; Nathan, '22, communication studies; and Ryan, a second-year marketing major.

**We can already see how the alumni and fundraising offices can create a strong alliance so we can excel at representing all our alumni.**

A three-year job as the director of outreach and education for the Melanoma International Foundation in Glenmoore, PA, where she also resides, made her fall in love with the nonprofit world and the impact she could make. That led to a six-year stint with the YMCA of Greater Brandywine in West Chester, including as its director of mission advancement.

Since coming to the WCU Foundation six years ago, she has worked in several roles including as chief development officer for the past three years.

"What I enjoy most is hearing the stories of our graduates," she said. "As an alumna, working to match the experiences of our graduates with funding opportunities to advance the mission of student success is incredibly impactful."

Cornelius said the 150Forward Campaign is a campaign not of bricks and mortar, but a campaign for students. Raising more than \$51 million toward the \$65 million goal signifies great momentum. Enhancing technology, increasing scholarships, and creating opportunities outside the classroom will position WCU to deliver a high-quality educational experience for the next generation.

"Leading the Foundation through fundraising, along with enhancing alumni engagement, will capitalize on our momentum of the last 150 years and build an even brighter future for our alumni and students alike." **WCU**



Breier '94



Long '94



(Hylander) Colgan '99



Garcia-Griffin '01



Young '11



Dorney M'12

## 1960s

**Dan Rambo '66, '70** will appear in a production of *Clue* for the Theatre Department of Cedar Crest College in Allentown. He played Tony in *West Side Story* on the same college campus 50 years ago.

## 1980s

**Deborah Heintzelman Fabrizioo '83** retired after 38 years in the Pinellas County, FL, School system. Fabrizioo was a teacher at Lakewood and Seminole High Schools; the athletic director at Dixie Hollins, Lakewood, and Boca Ciega High Schools; and an assistant principal at Cross Bayou Elementary as well as the same high schools previously mentioned. During her last eight years she has been the director of the Center for Wellness and Medical Professionals for Pinellas County Schools.

**Theresa Reynolds '84** retired in 2016 after 30 years in education. Reynolds began her career with the Delaware County Intermediate Unit. In 1987, she took a position as an elementary teacher in the Chichester School District, where she taught until she retired.

## 1990s

**Timothy Arnold '91** was hired as the Dean of Libraries at Texas A&M University Texarkana.

**David G. Breier '94** recently published her debut novel, *Sinkhole*, with the University of New Orleans Press. The book has been lauded by the *New York Times*, *Publishers Weekly*, *The Strand Magazine*, and more. Breier is currently Director, HFS, and Co-Director, Marketing and Sales (books division), at Johns Hopkins University Press. (PHOTO)

**Adam Long '94** is semi-retired from being managing partner with Long, Colgary & Co., LLC, a CPA firm located in New Jersey. (PHOTO)

**Devon (Hylander) Colgan '99** competed in the U.S. Masters Swimming National Championship in San

Antonio, Texas, in April and became a National Champion by taking first place in the 1650-yard freestyle (aka the mile) for women ages 45-49. She also ranked in the top 10 for her other five events, including third in the 500-yard freestyle, fourth in the 200-yard freestyle, fifth in the 100- and 50-yard freestyle, plus seventh in the 200-yard individual medley. Overall, her team, Arizona Masters, placed 22nd among more than 250 clubs that participated. Colgan serves as the director of public relations for CNA National Warranty Corporation. (2 PHOTOS)

## 2000s

**Bronwyn Martin M'00** was recognized as a 2022 5-star wealth manager (since 2013); 2022 Million Dollar Round Table Top of the Table member; and received the 2021 client service award from Ameriprise.

**Jennifer Garcia-Griffin '01** has been a teacher for 21 years in grades PreK-8 as well as an adjunct instructor at the university level. Garcia-Griffin has accepted a job as a school administrator to start her 22nd year. She is very excited to continue her work in the educational field. (PHOTO)

**Dan Seiders '02** is currently serving as the president of Atlantic Medical Imaging.

**Jonathan Long '03**, a lawyer at Bellwoar Kelly, LLP, has been named a Rising Star on the annual Pennsylvania Super Lawyers list. Only 2.5% of lawyers are named a Rising Star.

**Natalie Shaak '07** completed her B.S. in Culinary Arts and Science at Drexel University in March 2022. For her senior project, she developed, wrote, and designed her own cookbook focused on Pennsylvania Dutch cuisine, which she is continuing to

develop after graduation. During her program, she worked with one of her professors, Jonathan Deutsch on his cookbook, *The Anti-Inflammatory Family Cookbook*, which was published in January 2021.

## 2010s

**Adam R. Young '11** joined Fox Rothschild LLP in Exton, PA, as an associate in the Taxation & Wealth Planning Department. Young advises and represents clients in federal, state, and local tax controversies and tax appeals. His experience, which includes work for the IRS Office of Chief Counsel, encompasses tax controversies, including administrative audits and appeals and matters before the U.S. Tax Court. (PHOTO)

**Erin Dorney M'12** is an artist, writer, and former librarian based in the Adirondack Park (NY). Her recent literary artwork and installations have been exhibited at The Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Hennepin Theatre Trust, Minnesota Center for Book Arts, Susquehanna Art Museum, and the Adirondack Artists Guild. Dorney has been in residence at Soaring Gardens Artists' Retreat (Laceyville, PA), Hewnoaks (Lovell, ME), Tofte Lake Center (Ely, MN), Anne LaBastille Memorial Writers Residency (Twitchell Lake, NY), and Spruceton Inn (West Kill, NY). Her full-length collection *I Am Not Famous Anymore: Poems after Shia LaBeouf* was published by Mason Jar Press in 2018. Dorney is partnering with the Adirondack Center for Writing as a recipient of Creatives Rebuild New York's Artist Employment Program. (PHOTO)

**Bianca R. Basilone '13** joined Saxton & Stump in its Franchising, Licensing, and Distribution Group as an associate. Basilone graduated from the Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law in

2021 and worked as a law clerk in the U.S. District Court of the District of Delaware for the Hon. Sherry Fallon since then. (PHOTO)

**Aimee Fernback '15** was hired by The Hill School, Pottstown, PA, to work in their Wellness Center as a Registered Nurse. Fernback also holds a master of music performance degree from Temple University '95 and frequently uses therapeutic music in her clinical nursing practice.

## 2020s

**Christoforos Sassaris '20** was selected to receive the 2022 Core Christian Larew Memorial Scholarship sponsored by Baker & Taylor. The scholarship subcommittee took special note of Sassaris's 4.0 GPA at the undergraduate and graduate levels, his undergraduate minor in computer science, the experience he gained performing volunteer work on digital projects, and his significant record of professional publications, invited talks, and honors and awards.



**Class of 1959 Valkyrie Sister Luncheon** was held on June 20, 2022. From left to right: Barbara Papale Golob, Rachael Trimpey Tracey, Betsy Mueller Kelly, Carolyn Helbig Hatt, Sally Hollinger Dunkle, Peggy Sycamore Vanim, PJ Weaver Esbenshade, Emmy Kling Simao, Dee Santiso Reilly, Betty Papale Fitzgerald (PHOTO ABOVE)

**A small group from the Class of 1974** visited campus on July 8, 2022, to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their membership in sorority Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Ten alumni, all students at then-West Chester State College, joined the public service sorority, and seven returned to celebrate this significant milestone. The day also included meeting up with our member from the class of 1975, Lillian DeBaptiste, who is now the mayor of West Chester Borough. (PHOTOS BELOW)



**Left to right:**

Sandra Brown Wright '74  
Jacquelyn Johnson Leake '74  
Michelle Pierce Hampton '73  
Dianne Thompson Thompson '74  
Karen Hines Brown '74  
Valena Dixon '74  
Anita Flournoy Nicholson '74  
**Seated:** Lillian DeBaptiste '75



**Left to right:**

Anita Flournoy Nicholson '74  
Valena Dixon '74  
Sandra Brown Wright '74  
Karen Hines Brown '74  
Lillian DeBaptiste '75  
Jacquelyn Johnson Leake '74  
Michelle Pierce Hampton '73  
Dianne Thompson Thompson '74  
\*\*Vernettia Foster '74 (not pictured)  
\*\*Paula Miller '73 and  
Patricia Norman '74 (deceased)



**The Friars' Society** celebrated 85 years of the good works of its members with an in-person reunion during family weekend in September. Friars alumni heard from undergraduate members about their community service activities. This remarkable group continues to evolve while still remembering the ultimate mission of the organization: to serve others. (PHOTO ABOVE)

## In Memoriam

1947 Stephen M. Clarke  
 1950 Maude P. Stowers  
 1957 Joyce Trautt Hovey  
 1959 Paul Barren  
 1959 Joyce Williams Foxx  
 1959 Carl David Hartman  
 1960 Anthony J. Picard  
 1962 James M. Keller M'71  
 1964 George F. Golden  
 1966 Helen A. Bernstein  
 1966 Deborah Donahue Stedman  
 1967 James M. Levendis  
 1967 Peggy A. Rearick  
 1969 Donna Armstrong Griswold  
 1976 Douglas E. Serfass  
 1991 Michael J. Wasik  
 2007 Lora Beth Scotese  
 2009 Billy Kametz



## 35 YEARS+ JOHN VILLELLA RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE

- From his days as a faculty member directing the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, and the Incomparable Golden Rams Marching Band (1992–2007) to his service as associate dean for the College of Visual and Performing Arts to his most recent role as WCU Vice President for University Affairs and Chief of Staff, John Vilella '76, M'82 has been a visible representation of the success of WCU alumni. Vilella was key to securing the transformational \$3 million gift from brothers Dr. James R. Wells '54 and Mr. Richard G. Wells '58 that resulted in naming the School of Music in their honor in 2018 and most importantly, benefits the school's students and faculty in perpetuity through an endowment. Vilella and Dr. James R. Wells (marching band director 1968–1992) were on hand at the September 2019 football game where the Sudler Trophy, considered the Heisman Trophy for college marching bands, was presented, making WCU one of only 32 schools in the United States and the first NCAA Division II School to receive the award. In his role as Vice President for University Affairs and Chief of Staff, Vilella served as liaison to the WCU Foundation and worked tirelessly on the University's behalf with government and business leaders and the University Council of Trustees, who recognized him for his service at their May meeting. Vilella retired June 30, 2022, after serving the University for more than 35 years.

**Above:** President Chris Fiorentino (R) and Council of Trustees Chair Robert M. Tomlinson '70 (L) congratulate John Vilella.

## Engagements

1. **Melanie Solano D'22** to **Matt Parsons M'15**
2. **John Lavoie '18** to **Leah Reed '17**
3. **Kevin Sibre '13** to **Alexis Walley '15**

## Marriages

4. **James Dugan '09, M'21** to **Danielle Weems '12** on June 18, 2022.
5. **Evan Marabella '17** to **Lauren McDade '17, M'22** on April 30, 2022.
6. **Moira Maloney '19** to **Tara Gassenmeyer '18** on July 15, 2022.

## Future Alumni

7. **Ryan Fickinger '14** and **Rebecca (Williams) Fickinger '15** welcomed Brooks Fickinger in October 2021.
8. **Alissa Molinari '18** and Brandon McCauley welcomed their second daughter, Mackenzie, on August 4, 2022.
9. **Kristen Buckely Posso '06** recently welcomed her second child, Ava, on August 4, 2022.
10. **Justin Geller '06** and **Melissa (Chapman) Geller '07** welcomed Allison Grace Geller on March 11, 2022.



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.



10.

### PHOTO SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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

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

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

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

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

Please send your photos as email attachments to the attention of the Office of Alumni Engagement at [alumni@wcufoundation.org](mailto:alumni@wcufoundation.org).

**SUBMIT** your class notes to the Office of Alumni Engagement at [alumni@wcufoundation.org](mailto:alumni@wcufoundation.org).

### DEATH NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

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



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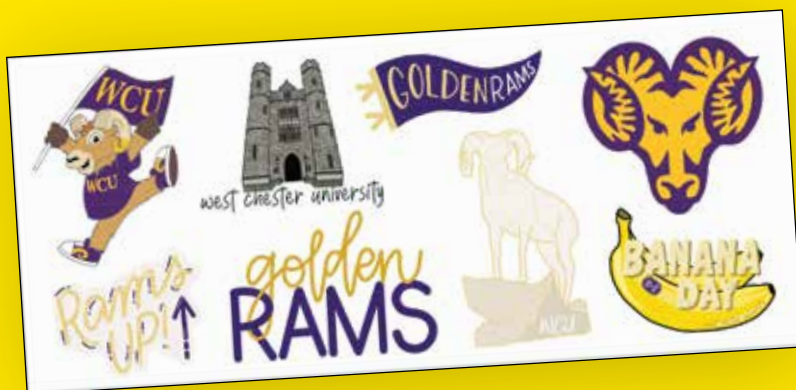
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