



# WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF  
SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

## NEWSLETTER

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### Dr. John Malarkey Retires

By: Lori Sitler

The famous ponytail has been shorn and the house in Pennsylvania has been sold. His bags are packed and Dr. John Malarkey is heading north to settle in his new home close to his son, daughter-in-law and grandson, Devon James, in Pennfield, New York near Rochester. Dr. Malarkey is retiring at the end of 2013 after a 27 year career at Wilmington University where he taught thousands of students and touched many lives.

He started his teaching career as an adjunct instructor in 1986 and was hired as full-time faculty in 1990. The first course he taught was SDL 300 – Life Planning. At the time, John was in private practice as a career counselor so the course was a perfect fit. But John was versatile and always liked a challenge so he also taught History courses, Cultural Anthropology and even a Physical Geography course which he considers one of the “most fun courses” of his career. “I brought in maps from my own collection and had the students lay out an enormous map of the world on the floor of the Pratt gym for a class exercise,” John remembers.

The variety of courses that John has taught over the years is evidence of his continual search for knowledge, “I don’t watch T.V. or follow sports and I don’t go to bars. I spend my free time reading, researching and travelling,” and, he added, “eating ethnic foods.”



**Dr. John Malarkey Retires continued on page...2**

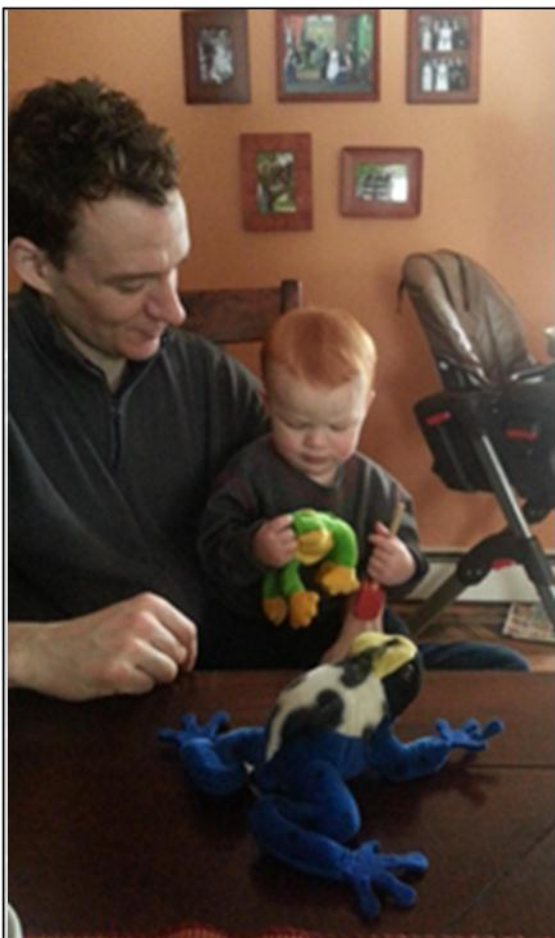
*"For the past 27 years, John has affected the lives of countless students, not only by what he has taught them in the classroom, but through the genuine care and concern he has shown for them as people. He is a perfect example of a teacher who sets his academic standards high and then inspires his students to meet and even exceed them."*

**-Dr. Jack Varsalona, President,  
Wilmington University**

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Devon with father David (above) and Grandfather John (below)



#### ***...Dr. John Malarkey Retires continued from cover***

He is always learning something new because he has, “too much time and too little supervision.” Dr. Malarkey did his doctorate work in the field of urban sociology and his dissertation focused on the Lester/Essington, PA Volunteer Fire Co. because, he explains, “the fire company is the single most important solidifying force in small towns.” His favorite class to teach was SOC 318 – Social Change, because he loves to introduce controversial topics for debate. He told his students in that class, “Don’t always agree with me or I will think you’ve lost your mind!” When a student in Social Change told him that, “I know I’m going to disagree with you but it will be interesting,” he considered it a high compliment.

John’s teaching extended beyond the walls of WU. For 15 years, he was invited by the Association of Government Accountants to speak at their annual meeting on how behavioral science applies to accounting and business. The topics for his talks ranged from discussing personality disorders to the social psychology of advertising.

Dr. Malarkey is known for his intellect but also his wicked sense of humor. As a “sign of affection” he once filled Dr. Jim Wilson’s office with balloons – many, many balloons. When Dr. Wilson unsuspectingly opened his office door, he received quite a surprise! “I like Jim,” Dr. Malarkey mused, “if I didn’t like him, it would have been dead fish in his office.” John is also known as a bit of a curmudgeon at Faculty Senate often abstaining during votes, “I abstain if I don’t believe the proposal will work.” When he was new to Faculty Senate, he made a motion to give “challenge by exam” credits to any student who could traverse the pot-hole ridden parking lot and not fall into one of the craters that dotted the lot. Message received; soon after his comment, the parking lot was re-surfaced.

His former students speak about him with respect and affection and Dr. Malarkey will miss them. John’s office hours were known as “tea time” and students were welcome to join him in a cup of tea while they chatted about class and life.

#### ***Dr. John Malarkey Retires continued on page...5***

“I was a student in several of John’s sociology and psychology courses. At the time, in the early 1990s at Wilmington, he was one of the few professors who demanded rigorous writing, critical thinking, and thought-provoking discussions through a seminar style classroom structure. Courses were fairly small and we, as students, formed strong bonds, which were largely due to Malarkey’s style. John was my intellectual mentor at the time and he helped me choose an academic path in social work. A main reason why I was successful in my academics in graduate school at The University of Denver was due to the writing I did in John’s courses. I was well prepared for the demanding research and writing at the graduate level, and my passion for a career in higher education developed over the years.”

-Dr. Chris Ferguson, Associate Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management at THE NEW SCHOOL and former Director of Admissions at WU



## On Dr. Malarkey's Retirement: Reflections of Former Students

Dr. John Malarkey touched many students' lives through his long teaching career. One such student was Hadassah "Dassi" Nicole DeJack. On the occasion of his retirement, she shares her reflections on her former professor, mentor and friend:

"I am not sure exactly where to begin. When I first sat in John Malarkey's class I thought- this is what college is supposed to be like. What I didn't realize that I had just met the person who would come to be the most influential person in my life.

He is the best professor and best friend I have ever had. He pushed me to excel academically beyond anything I could have imagined. As a result, I found graduate school to be in many ways easier to manage than my undergraduate experience. I attribute my academic excellence (graduated from both grad and undergrad with a 4.0) directly to John's involvement in my life.

John cares about his students beyond the classroom which was evident through his invitations to have tea and conversation long after his official classroom hours were finished. In this social environment learning would continue and for me a friendship grew. I played on the WU soccer team and John would come to our home games and cheer us on. He took our multicultural class to an authentic Middle Eastern restaurant for our last class meeting. These are just a few examples of his involvement beyond the classroom.

Over the years we became close friends. He met my family and I met his. He became an integral part of my life. He would always come to my home for the Jewish holidays and celebrate with us.

The following are some of the kind and wonderful experiences I have had with John:

- When I was diagnosed with breast cancer, I had to receive 7 weeks of treatment at a location over an hour away. He lent me his very fuel efficient car to drive during this time and even drove me several times at 6:00 am when I became too tired to drive.
- When I was married, he was the person who walked me down the aisle and gave me away. Did I mention the wedding was in Oregon?

- He came to my graduate school graduation even when my family didn't come.
- When my beloved service dog became unexpectedly very ill and had to be euthanized, John showed up at the University of Pennsylvania hospital to be there with me.

For the past 9 years, I have been teaching at a local community college. It is because of John that I ended up in this profession. I strive to emulate the man who changed my life so that I can do for my students what John did for me.

John's retirement is well deserved but what a loss for Wilmington University. Who could possibly take his place? He is a once in a lifetime kind of professor. I am certain his presence will be sorely missed."

*"I had Dr. Malarkey for numerous classes in my undergraduate studies at Wilmington University and my first graduate school class. Dr. Malarkey had a significant impact on my development. Not just as a student academically, but maybe more importantly as a person. He cared about me as a student and a person and very clearly wanted to see me succeed. Dr. Malarkey was always available to meet about school issues, as well as about our development. He truly took a sincere interest in students' development as an overall person.*

*Dr. Malarkey was extremely instrumental in my decision to want to teach at Wilmington University. The knowledge he possesses and the caring he showed provided the foundation for my beliefs as an instructor at the University. In fact, the very first course I taught in 1998, Dr. Malarkey co-taught with me and provided me mentoring and advice on how to be more successful in the classroom. The value to quality education and a true caring about the success of our students is something Dr. Malarkey helped instill and will always be a part of my values at Wilmington University. Dr. Malarkey was one of two instructors at Wilmington University that positively impacted my academic success and my growth as a person."*

**Sean Keblen, Regional Manager for the Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services and Adjunct Professor**



# Dr. Aviola Coaches Blue-Gold Football

Most people at Wilmington University know Dr. Joseph Aviola as an Associate Professor and Chair of the Homeland Security and Administration of Justice graduate degree programs. But Dr. Aviola also holds another esteemed title – Coach of the 2013 Blue Team for the DFRC Blue-Gold All Star Football Game. The Blue-Gold game has been played annually since 1956 for the benefit of children and young adults with intellectual disabilities. The football game joins former opponents from rival area high schools into teams – former opponents become teammates for a good cause. His coaching duties this year cap off a 30 year relationship with the DFRC for Aviola. When he was a senior, Joe represented St. Elizabeth High School on the 1982 Blue Squad. From those early days, Joe realized that “this was bigger than a game and [was] privileged to be a part of a special moment and a deep tradition that has meaning for so many families.”

The heart of the Blue-Gold tradition is the hand-in-hand program which pairs the football players, cheerleaders, band members and ambassadors with a young Buddy between the ages of 4 and 18 who has an intellectual disability. The Blue-Gold All Star Football Game Committee sponsors social activities for the high school students and their Buddies in the months leading up to Game Day in June. Participants are also encouraged to see their Buddies on their own to build the bond between the Buddy and the high school participants and gain valuable lessons of diversity, awareness and acceptance. Aviola had been paired with a Buddy, Michael, who lived in his neighborhood back in 1982, “I would often see Michael at the park, or in church, but had little interaction with him until we became partners through the DFRC Blue-Gold All Star Football Game. During our time together, Michael and I spent many hours engaging in activities such as dancing and attending parties. But my fondest memory of Michael was the day when I went to pick him up to go bowling and he was waiting at the door with his personal bowling ball and shoes. Needless to say, Michael humbled me by teaching me a thing or two about the game of bowling that day! My experience with Michael

and his family taught me how to look at life from a different perspective.” Coach Aviola was able to reunite with Michael at this year’s game. It was a special moment for both of them.

The 2013 Blue-Gold Game was special to Coach Aviola for another reason, too. He had the opportunity to coach his son, Joe, in the game, “Although I know that he doesn’t understand it yet, over time he will come to realize that participating in the annual DFRC Blue-Gold All Star Football Game leaves a lasting impression on all of those who participate in the program. As a member of the 2013 team, he will have the opportunity to become a part of the DFRC community and like me; he will carry that experience with him over the years. Participating in the events leading up to the game, and the game itself, is a reminder that we are all a part of a larger mission and we have a responsibility to continually raise awareness and acceptance of children and young adults with intellectual disabilities.

Throughout the years I have stayed connected to the game and the mission of the organization and it has always been my goal to participate in the game again as a coach. As the coach of the Blue team, I had the opportunity to recreate the experience for young players and help them to become a part of the DFRC family.”

Way to go, Dr. Coach!





# Dean's Column

It has been a very busy fall semester in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. As always, we are focused on the success of our students. One key to student success is offering high quality, relevant courses and programs. Our faculty are scholar-practitioners; experts in their field and highly skilled at translating real-world experience into information students will use in their careers. When it comes to maintaining academic excellence and a culture of learning, our faculty practice what they preach. This fall we had a record number of faculty participate in full day development activities designed to enhance teaching skills and keep well ahead of the fast moving technology curve in the classroom. Our faculty also actively participate in assessing student learning. Outcomes assessment, a process separate from course grading, allows program chairs and directors to continuously evaluate, adapt and improve our courses. Faculty do all this with care, compassion, respect and understanding for the needs of our students.

Another key to student success is the opportunity to learn in different ways depending on the needs and interests of our students. This can be as simple as the ability to take courses where it is convenient. The College will offer more courses and programs at the Brandywine campus as well as select courses at Gloucester Community College beginning in the spring. Students can also take courses and programs entirely online or in combination with classroom work.



...Dean's Column continued on page 6

*"There are so many wonderful encounters, stories, and "belly aching laughs" as it relates to Dr. Malarkey!*

*Over the years, he has sent me cartoon clippings, "anonymous" inter-office notes, etc .....just name it, Dr. Malarkey will do mostly anything to get you to a laugh! As a former student of his, initially, I did not find him so funny; however, I found that he was very intelligent and thought-provoking and later, funny! At my undergraduate graduation ceremony, I ran up to Dr. Malarkey and gave him the biggest hug and thanked him for all the guidance, talks, and words of encouragement he had bestowed on me as a student. He leaned in and said to me that my educational journey was not over it was just beginning. He told me to pursue not only a graduate degree but a doctoral degree. He said he saw great things in me. No one had ever said anything like that to me before. So, I would say as a result of Dr. Malarkey's words of encouragement to me and speaking life over me, I am where I am at today. If I can impart just a smidgen to others what he has done for me, I will have done a good thing."*

**-Dr. Regina Allen-Sharpe, Senior Director of Career Services and Student Life and Assistant Professor**

**...Dr. John Malarkey Retires continued from page 2**

His colleagues, particularly those long-time co-workers, hold a special place for him, too, "Milo Gibbons [Library Technician] and I have had a 20 year conversation on philosophy." When contacted for this article, Dr. Varsalona commented, "In and out of the classroom, John has taught by example - setting his academic standards high and inspiring his students to meet them. For the past 27 years, the genuine care and concern he has shown for his students has touched their hearts and changed their lives."

John now enters the next phase of his life as Grandfather. "I have a new grandson and a bag full of dinosaurs," he quipped when asked about his retirement plans. I asked John for any final thoughts as he rode off into the sunset in his hybrid car. "The people I've met at Wilmington University are simply amazing," he reflected, followed by, "The really good stories...I can't tell you!"





A step further is providing students with the opportunity to learn outside of the physical and virtual classrooms. In conjunction with the new College of Online and Experiential Learning, our College is increasing student access to internships and cooperative education experiences to enhance the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom. Finally, we encourage learning from experts outside the University. The College promotes conferences, workshops and seminars featuring nationally known figures like pollster and author John Zogby and victim advocate and author Debra Puglisi-Sharp, to name a few.

Thanks to students who have chosen our College and work hard to succeed and thanks to our faculty and staff who work equally as hard to make it happen. Happy Holidays and New Year.

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM HOSTS CRIME SURVIVOR AND AUTHOR DEBRA PUGLISI SHARP**

The Criminal Justice Programs at Wilmington University and Burlington County College co-hosted inspirational speaker and author Debra Puglisi Sharp at the Mt. Laurel campus in September. Puglisi Sharp shared the harrowing story of a life turned upside down by violence, loss, and devastation.

Debra tended roses in her garden in April 1998 while a crack-cocaine addict slipped through an open door in her home and brutally shot her husband to death. Upon entering her home, Debra was bludgeoned, raped, and abducted. For the next 101 hours, she was held captive, alone and helpless—until the thought of her kids having to bury their father without her empowered her to escape. Debbie has shared her story all over the country, talking about the pain, anger, grief, and despair that is the legacy of violent crime. She riveted the audience as she spoke about surviving this traumatic event, providing a victim's perspective of the experience and information about post-traumatic stress disorder.

She has served on the 9-1-1 Enhancement Board in Delaware, co-chair of the Sexual Assault Network of Delaware, and the Boards of Directors of the National Coalition of Victims in Action and Contact Lifeline in Delaware. Debbie is a member of the Wilmington University Criminal Justice Program Advisory Board. She has also appeared on several TV shows such as Oprah, Montel, and 20/20 to share her story with the world.

Following the presentation, Puglisi Sharp hosted a book signing of her story, *Shattered: Reclaiming a Life Torn Apart by Violence*.



Debbie and her former Newark, DE neighbors



# **The Continuum of Academic Excellence: Education of Counseling Students Starts in the Classroom, Grows at Internship Sites and Culminates in Successful Careers**

By Lori Sifler

Reputation, accreditation and scholar-practitioner faculty are the reasons why Malia Boone (MS, 2010), Tiffany Jester (MS, 2010) and Amanda Stryker (MS, 2011) chose Wilmington University's Counseling program. All three women selected Delaware Guidance Services (DGS) for their clinical field placements and were subsequently hired by the agency. The Counseling program has had a long-standing relationship with DGS, a provider of comprehensive psychiatric services for children and families, as an internship site where learning beyond the classroom takes place.

The learning continuum from classroom to internship site helped the students integrate theory into practice. Amanda Stryker found, "Although challenging at times, I thoroughly valued [the internship] experience and appreciated guidance from my site and [academic] supervisors. During my internship, I provided mental health counseling to at-risk youth through individual, family, and group counseling. This allowed me to experience how different theoretical approaches could apply and how I could integrate ideas and skills from these models into treatment based on my clients' needs. My internship also allowed me the opportunity to explore my personal counseling style, witness the stages of the counseling process, strengthen my skills, and ... network with multiple professionals in the field." Malia Boone, who currently is the clinical coordinator for the Kent County Child Priority Response Crisis Program, agreed, "The supervision was extremely influential in shaping me into the counselor I have become. During my field internship I utilized theories I learned in the classroom and applied them to situations with [clients]. This program encourages students to get in touch with their professional identity as a counselor with continuous opportunities to reflect and grow. So, while learning the most current, professional skills needed to become an exceptional counselor from some of the most experienced and impactful professionals in the area, [students] are continuing to re-evaluate themselves and their ability to help those they serve." Dr. Carl Chenkin, faculty supervisor for the Counseling students and

New Castle County Clinical Director for DGS, agrees: "I have been impressed with the focus that the Counseling program places on developing therapists who can reflect on their professional and personal growth."



*Continuum of Academic  
Excellence continued on  
page 8*

*Amanda Stryker (MS, 2011), Tiffany Jester (MS, 2010) and Malia Boone (MS, 2010) selected Delaware Guidance Services for the field placements as part of the Counseling program at Wilmington University. All three were subsequently hired full-time. Photo by James 'JJ' Jones*



This level of excellence both in the classroom and at internship sites is reflected in the fact that the new Clinical Mental Health Counseling program in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences has received Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP) accreditation. For nearly 15 years the Community Counseling degree had been a CACREP accredited program. Recently, in response to changing certifications and licensure requirements, CACREP began a planned phase-out of accreditation for Community Counseling programs and instituted a transition to accreditation for a 60 credit masters in clinical mental health counseling (CMHC). Of the recent programmatic changes, Dr. Chenkin commented, "The more strenuous program has had good results in graduating well prepared new therapists. The students are tremendously eager to learn."

Dr. Jim Wilson, Vice President for Academic Affairs, praised the program, "Our faculty successfully met the dual challenge of a full accreditation self-study and team site visit while simultaneously developing the expanded curriculum required for the new degree. The faculty are commended for their dedication to student learning. This is another example of our commitment to academic excellence." Dr. Doris Lauckner, who recently was named Chair of the Counseling program, commended her predecessor, "I have tremendous gratitude for the leadership of Dr. Craig Williams and the many dedicated faculty who have made this program what it is today. It is with pride that I take over the helm as Chair and intend to continue the success we have attained."

Most gratifying were the comments by the accreditation team from CACREP, "The curriculum is comprehensive and rigorous. Current students described the faculty as knowledgeable, cohesive, accessible, inspiring, and invested in their education. Interviews with all stakeholders indicate high levels of respect and support for the program. Internship sites are very pleased with the level of training that students receive in crisis and trauma counseling as well as evidence-based practice. Universally, internship site supervisors report that interns enter with strong skill sets, allowing them to make an immediate impact."

As for Malia, Tiffany and Amanda, who are all Licensed Professional Counselors of Mental Health, they are now part of the reputation of the program. Dr. Lauckner commented, "The students in our program work very hard to attain their degree and develop their skills and abilities as counselors. But mostly it is their compassion, dedication and wish to make a difference in this world that is so inspiring for me. It is wonderful to see the fruits of our student's work and our work with them come together in their internship and later work experiences. And what a joy to see the contributions that graduates are making in this world, in this state and in our field. Counseling is very tough work and I commend all of our students for their efforts in wanting to help people who are suffering."

Tiffany Jester summed it up, "[In my internship in the Intensive Outpatient Program] I was able to grow as a therapist and practice techniques I was learning about in the classroom. The supervision I received onsite at DGS and through my professors provided me with the confidence I needed to challenge myself and grow as a clinician." Malia Boone added, "I could not have asked for a better experience than what I gained at Wilmington University."



# Peace in Practice

## *Conflict Resolution Day delivers valuable information and introduces a new academic program*

By Jaime Bender

The successful convergence of theory and practice is a source of pride for Wilmington University's faculty.

A recent outcome of this union is Conflict Resolution Day, an event dedicated to raising awareness of the resources, programs, and tools that can help Delawareans resolve conflict without resorting to costly and time-consuming litigation.

This can range from workplace disputes to elder and child-care issues. There are several avenues to choose when resolving conflict, and many people don't know just how much information is out there. Conflict Resolution Day was a collaborative effort to change that.

The University recently developed a new Conflict Resolution Certificate program, offered by the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences under the leadership of Dr. Patrice Gilliam-Johnson. The certificate requires 15 credits, of which nine are core requirements and six are electives. Students in the program learn the strategies needed to act as a mediator in many fields where personal interactions play a key role in day-to-day operations, such as education, human resources, health care, and government.

The Conflict Resolution certificate teaches students how to provide collaborative problem-solving services that produce sustainable, expansive, and just outcomes. This can be applied to almost any career path and in many aspects of everyday life, said Dr. Gilliam-Johnson.

Conflict Resolution Day was a way to promote the certificate program, which began in hybrid format in Fall 2013. But it was also a way for Wilmington University to partner with the Delaware Conflict Resolution Network and other statewide resources to collectively enhance understanding of conflict resolution and its benefits.

"This has many advantages for students in the workplace," Dr. Gilliam-Johnson said. "It is relevant in any career field and it's imperative for people to know how to handle difficult situations."

Also present at the event were Delaware Elder Mediation Services Inc., a free service that supplies trained, experienced and insured neutral mediators to help families make important decisions and deal with fears and concerns about a loved one's care. Representatives from WilmU, DEMSI, the University of Delaware, the Children's Beach House were on hand to distribute literature, answer questions and provide support to attendees.

Dr. Jim Wilson, WilmU's Vice President of Academic Affairs, welcomed guests to the event, followed by opening remarks by Jennifer Clement, president of the Delaware Conflict Resolution Network. Kathy Murphy, of the Conflict Resolution Program at the Institute for Public Administration at the University of Delaware, spoke of the importance of resolving conflict in any environment to avoid further complications. Dr. Gilliam-Johnson and Dr. Debra Berke, Director of the Psychology program, explained the certificate program.



Dr. Jim Wilson (center), Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Dr. Debra Berke (right), Director of the Psychology program, speak to a guest at Conflict Resolution Day.

Photos by Carmen Jordan-Cox

Dr. Patrice Gilliam-Johnson (L) and Dr. Debra Berke (R) explain the ins and outs of the new Conflict Resolution Certificate program. Wilmington University began offering the program in Fall 2013.



## Faculty Notes

Roger Burke, adjunct instructor in the Behavioral Science program, was recently promoted to **Chief Master Sergeant** with the U.S. Air Force. CMSgt. Burke is the Material Management Superintendent for the 193rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, part of the 193rd Special Operations Wing at Harrisburg International Joint Airport, Pa. He oversees all supply services to the Commando Solo (EC-130J) and Super-J (C-130SJ) aircraft and associated equipment. Since 2008, he has been deployed three times to Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan, Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan and Sather Air Base, Iraq. Burke teaches courses in both the face to face and on-line formats. Congratulations, Roger!



At their late summer adjunct faculty meeting, Behavioral Science instructors met in Dover and participated in the skill-building exercise of jointly grading assignments – grading for content but also for structure. The teachers became students and brushed up on writing rules, sentence structure, grammar and punctuation so that they, in turn, can effectively comment on student writing assignments.

CAST Faculty - Jake Andrews, Jennifer Oppel, Rosie Morales and Christian Craig - join CAST Coordinator, Lori Sitler and Director of Criminal Justice Programs, Kirk Trate, at the fall Faculty Development Day. CAST – Child Advocacy Studies – is a 15 credit undergraduate certificate designed to better prepare students for their professional work with children and families. Students are drawn from several programs in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences as well as the fields of education and health professions. The core CAST courses are being offered for the first time in the on-line format during the 2013-14 academic year and, in spring, 2014, will be offered at the Mt. Laurel site on the Burlington County College campus. Courses in this popular certificate are also offered in New Castle, Dover, Georgetown and Cumberland, NJ.





# Andrews Part of Award-Winning Team

Corporal Jake Andrews, adjunct instructor for courses in the CAST certificate and Behavioral Science program and a Wilmington University graduate, recently served on the Accreditation Team for the New Castle County Police Department as part of the Policy and Accreditation Unit. He reviewed all of departmental policies and procedures to ensure the agency was in compliance with the 481 standards set forth by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Officers (CALEA). He was also tasked with providing documented proofs of the compliance in the form of crime reports, tickets, inspection/audit reports, analysis of biased base policing stats, recruiting stats, etc. He conducted various inspections of units within the department and assisted the CALEA assessors with the on-site assessment.

Andrews travelled recently to Winston-Salem, North Carolina with Chief of Police, Colonel E.M. Setting and Director of Public Safety, Joseph Bryant Jr. as part of the division's re-accreditation process. After appearing before the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies on November 16th, the Commission voted unanimously to award the New Castle County Police the prestigious "Gold Standard with Excellence Award". This is CALEA's highest award and signifies that the division obtained full compliance in 100% of all categories. Only 1% of all law enforcement agencies in North America are accredited with only 15% of those able to achieve CALEA's "Gold Standard with Excellence Award". Congratulations to Corporal Andrews for being part of the re-accreditation team for this award-winning police agency!

## Welcome Baby Ghabour

Dr. Rebecca Mattern Ghabour and her husband, Joe, welcomed their son, Gavin Joseph, during the fall semester. Gavin was a healthy 8 lbs. 10 ounces and 20 1/2 inches long. Gavin joins big sister Lilly in the Ghabour family.



## Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program Updates

Dr. Brenda Wright and Dr. Jim Walsh recently served as presenters at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Mental Health Conference 2013: Journey Toward Health and Wholeness: Mind, Body and Spirit in Wilmington in November. Dr. Wright was a guest on a panel entitled, "Cultural Diversity and Mental Health in Our Communities" which focused on mental health challenges in different communities. Dr. Walsh co-presented on the topic, "Healing from Within." His workshop introduced participants to techniques to enhance mind, body, and spirit through the practice of mindfulness.

On November 16<sup>th</sup>, the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program, in conjunction with the Delaware Grief Awareness Consortium, sponsored a workshop at Wilmington University for site supervisors, graduate students and mental health professionals from the community. The workshop, which drew 60 attendees, was entitled, "**The Many Shades of Grief ... Supporting Families.**" Participants learned the basics of loss, grief and bereavement, discussed and dispelled common myths about grieving and explored current knowledge on the normal grief process and prolonged grief disorder. Selected theories on understanding grief in adulthood and childhood were discussed as well as treatment and support of each family member. Examples of ways that grief may rebuild meaning in lives challenged by loss were provided at the workshop.



## **Dr. Craig Williams: Reflections on a Career at Wilmington University**

As he was transitioning to his new position at the University of Texas, Dr. Craig Williams took time to recount and reflect on his career at WU. He shares his thoughts about the proud history of the graduate Counseling program and his association with it.

“My connection to the 48 credit Master of Science in Community Counseling (MSCC) program and Wilmington University began in 1998 when I was a site supervisor for an MSCC student at the now defunct Tressler Center of Delaware where I had recently been appointed as the Clinical Director. I was very impressed with the quality of her clinical knowledge and began to explore the possibility of becoming an adjunct instructor. Just prior to that, the MSCC program had received its initial accreditation from CACREP. I was subsequently hired as an adjunct and taught group counseling, tools and techniques of counseling, and practicum/internship. In 2001, I was invited to apply for the part time position of Program Assistant by the Coordinator of the Program and I began in that role in September, 2001. Immediately upon beginning in that capacity, the terrorist attacks on the WTC and the Pentagon occurred to which I responded as a mental health provider. I went back and forth between NYC and Wilmington which allowed me the opportunity to share that experience with the internship class I was teaching. I was a Program Assistant until May, 2003 when I applied for and was appointed as the MSCC Program Coordinator by Dr. Jim Wilson who was the Dean of the Division of Behavioral Science at that time.

One of my first duties was to begin to plan the program’s efforts to apply for reaccreditation by CACREP. At that time, Dr. Lois Grande was hired as a Program Assistant whose duties were to coordinate the Practicum and Internship. Dr. Jim Walsh was hired as the Assistant Program Coordinator for Dover in 2004 and was assisted by Program Assistant, Dr. Penny Scott. With the exceptional efforts of Drs. Grande and Walsh, we began working on the CACREP self-study by addressing a variety of issues related to creating appropriate policies and procedures and including the creation of student handbooks for the program and for the clinical training experiences. This was an exciting time for all, as we began a focus on improving the quality of the program necessary to meet the CACREP accreditation standards while maintaining the WU mission of opportunity and student service. With Dr. Jim Wilson’s support as the newly appointed Assistant V.P. for Academic Affairs and under the leadership of Dr. Tom Cupples, the new Dean of the Division, the program began its ascent to the level at which it is today.

During the early fall of 2005, the CACREP self-study was completed and submitted...[and we prepared] for a site visit by CACREP in March, 2006. The results of that visit were amazing in that the site team found that the MSCC program met all the standards with flying colors and no improvements were required. Thus, the program was reaccredited through October, 2013.

In 2009 CACREP implemented a new set of standards that required the 48 credit MSCC program to evolve into a 60 credit Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) program. This required the modification of current courses and the creation of new courses, the revision of the syllabi for every course, the implementation of an extensive student learning outcome assessment and reporting system, the recruitment and admissions of students to the newly developed program and the hiring of an additional full time faculty member, Dr. Brenda Wright, in 2011. Dr. Lauckner became Chair of the MSCC Program when I was promoted to Director by Dean Chris Trowbridge in July 2010.



*Dr. Craig Williams continued on page 13*



Dr. Lauckner and I undertook the arduous task of managing these changes and writing the self-study which was submitted to CACREP in early fall, 2012. Because of the outstanding efforts of the full time faculty members and the Program Assistants, the program modifications occurred and quality continued to remain high, more students sought admission than ever before, and the program received CACREP accreditation as a Clinical Mental Health Counseling program for 2 years beginning in October, 2013. The first graduating class under that designation will occur in May, 2014.

There are so many wonderful accomplishments by the MSCC and now CMHC program that occurred in my 12 years association as a Program Assistant, Coordinator, and Director. One of the foremost was the ongoing enhancement of academic knowledge as documented through continuously increasing test scores by graduates on the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE), a nationally normed exam given to every graduating class at the beginning of their last semester in the program. Another accomplishment was the increased demand for enrollment which doubled over that period of time, due in part to the reputation in the community of the academic and clinical quality of the program's graduates. That the program's graduates were regularly offered positions at their internship sites upon graduation is a testimony to the skills and abilities they acquired through the program. I believe all the above to be a direct result of the quality and the effort of the faculty whom I had the privilege to lead during my tenure at WU. I could not have been blessed with a more competent, more dedicated, and more caring group of professionals and educators. In addition, the financial and administrative support we received from WU allowed us to build and maintain the necessary program elements to not only meet, but twice exceed, the minimum CACREP standards for quality in an exceptional manner and to receive accreditation.

Although the program's accomplishments are gratifying, upon reflection, I think the greatest reward to me personally was observing the pride the program's graduates took in their individual accomplishments. There were many occasions where individuals were afforded opportunities they may not have otherwise been given and they made the most of it. They completed a very rigorous and demanding graduate professional training program and rose to the occasion academically, clinically, and personally. Most remarked openly how they were changed, in a positive way by the program's expectations, teaching, supervision, and personal support. I am proud to have been part of so many students' lives and able to vicariously partake in their success.

In my new position, I am an Associate Professor of Clinical Mental Health Counseling at the University of Texas, El Paso (UTEP). My duties in many ways are similar to the position I retired from as regards the teaching and development of students. Many of the students here are first generation college students and need the same types of advising and mentoring that students at WU need. I am teaching clinical skills courses as I did at WU and I am also expected to perform research and acquire grants in addition to teaching. I am working on establishing a line of research related to studying ways to reduce aggression/violence. I have some administrative roles that involve the development of a counseling laboratory where practicum students can provide counseling services to university and community clients, while receiving training and supervision. I am also the resident expert on CACREP accreditation and am assisting the program to make the needed program efforts to apply for accreditation in the near future.

My words of wisdom, which will not surprise those at WU who knew me, are: 'Always act with integrity.' Do not be swayed to lower standards for the sake of expediency. Rather, set and maintain high standards and work hard to achieve and assist others to rise to those standards. In the long run others will benefit as they learn they are capable and will experience the personal rewards that true achievement brings. At the same time, have compassion for the struggles that self and others experience in the pursuit of a standard, assist and support them, while holding to the standards."



## Introducing the Adjunct Program Coordinators!

Several undergraduate and graduate programs in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences have welcomed new part-time Adjunct Program Coordinators over the past year. Introductions are in order now that all the Adjunct Program Coordinators are on board! The Coordinators were drawn from our talented pool of adjunct faculty so the names should be familiar to you.

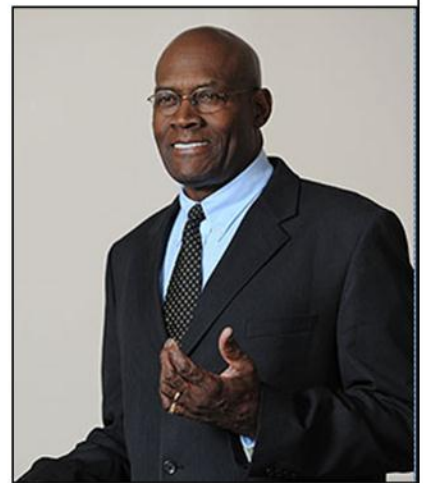
While specific duties may vary depending on the needs of the program, the new Coordinators will support the general administration of their programs by helping with course scheduling, adjunct faculty support, outcomes assessment activities, and curriculum review. They will also assist with addressing and resolving student issues. Coordinators will also help with advisement of honor societies and student clubs. Finally, they will perform outreach activities on behalf of their program and the College as needed. Welcome to all the Adjunct Program Coordinators!



*Rob Weaver (MAJ)*



*Glen Forte (Beh.Sc.)*



*Lem Burnham (PSY)*



*Doris Griffin (AHS)*



*Scott George (Beh. Sc.)*



*Kelly Cheeseman (PSY)*



## Rahmel, Simpson and Fowler Promoted to Adjunct Professor

Three College of Social and Behavioral Science adjunct instructors, Dana Rahmel, Josh Simpson and Angela Fowler, were recently promoted to the rank of Adjunct Professor. This promotion to Adjunct Professor recognizes excellence in teaching to which Wilmington University is committed. Candidates must meet several criteria in the areas of:

**Teaching Quality** as evidenced on IDEA Diagnostic Reports,

**Experience at Wilmington University** with a minimum of 4 successive years at WU (immediately prior to applying for promotion) and a minimum of 20 courses taught at WU,

**Adherence to Wilmington University policies and procedures** including timely submission of syllabi, grades and outcome assessment data,

**Use of technology** as evidenced by use of Blackboard features in teaching/managing courses as well as utilization of other technology in the classroom,

**Professional growth in post-secondary teaching** including regular attendance at WU Faculty Development Days and attendance at other WU programs for enhancement of teaching including College meetings,

**Professional growth in field of expertise**

**Service/attention to students**

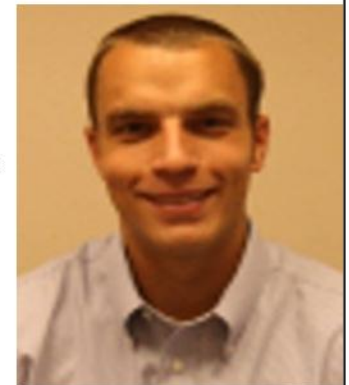
**Contributions to Wilmington University** such as assistance in initiating or revising courses, participation in the Outcomes Assessment process or workshop presentations at Faculty Development Days



*Angela Fowler*

The three new Adjunct Professors all have impressive professional experience which they share with their students as scholarly practitioners. Angela Fowler is an attorney who works for the State of Delaware, Department of Labor, as a Hearing Officer for the Industrial Accident Board. She previously worked for the State in the Office of Child Advocate and as a Deputy Attorney General. Angela attended Widener Law School. She has been part of the WU adjunct faculty since 2001 teaching Business Law I, Business Law II, Paralegal Ethics, Family Law, Criminal Law and Evidence in the Legal Studies program.

Josh Simpson should be a familiar name to WU adjuncts; he is the Manager of Faculty Development in the Faculty Development Department and previously worked as an Instructional Designer in Online Learning and Educational Technology. Josh holds a graduate degree in Psychology from Villanova University and was employed as an Assessment Counselor at the Rockford Center and as a Substance Abuse Counselor at Brandywine Counseling prior to joining Wilmington University. Beginning in 2007, he has taught multiple courses ranging from Introduction to Psychology to Applied Research Design and Addiction Studies.



*Josh Simpson*

Dana Rahmel teaches Group Dynamics and Interpersonal Communications in New Jersey for the Psychology program. She is a School Social Worker for the Maple Shade (NJ) School District and holds a graduate degree in education from the University of Pennsylvania. She has served as a behavioral therapist and master's level clinician working with children and families. The New Jersey Association of School Social Workers recently named Dana as the 2013 School Social Worker of the Year.



*Dana Rahmel*



# Faculty Retreat



*Dr. Gary Wray*

In August, the full-time faculty and staff of the College gathered for an annual retreat at a unique location: Fort Miles in Cape Henlopen State Park. Following the business meeting, faculty and staff were treated to a private tour of the Fort by a volunteer wearing his original Navy uniform and a talk by Dr. Gary Wray who is a seasoned WU adjunct faculty member teaching for the Government and Public Policy program in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and for the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Wray has been President of Fort Miles Historical Association since it began in 2003, responsible for leading the organization in its goal of preserving, protecting and defending all aspects of Fort Miles. For more information about Fort Miles, check out the Association's website: <http://www.fortmiles.org/>



Debra Berke, Director, Psychology Programs, WU, and Raeann Hamon from Messiah College presented "Creating a Departmental Plan for Engaged Learning: Preparing our Family Science Graduates for a Globalizing World" at the Teaching Family Science Conference in Annapolis, Maryland, June 14, 2013.



Bethany Willis Hepp and Karen Doneker Mancini, both Psychology Adjunct Faculty, presented "Massive Open Online Courses: Understanding the Implications for Family Life Education and Teaching Family Science" at the Teaching Family Science Conference in Annapolis, Maryland, June 14, 2013.



## International Association of Chiefs of Police



Members of the IACP Police Administration Committee met up with William Penn in "Old" New Castle, Delaware, during their recent Mid-Year meeting. Pictured are Dr. Jeff Magers, Kirk Trate, Chief Bill Morgan, Chief Mark Leahy, and Deputy Chief Eric Girt.



## LES Students Support Pro Bono 5K

5th Annual Pro Bono 5K was held at the Riverfront on Oct. 20. The 4 students pictured showed up at 8:00am on a brisk Sunday morning to volunteer as spotters on the 5k course. Proceeds support the work of the Delaware Volunteer Legal Services organization, which provides legal representation to low income Delaware residents in matters related to domestic violence, guardianships, landlord/tenant, wills, government benefits, homeownership, and consumer issues.



from L to R: Olga Kornienko '13, Susan Moore '08, David Massuli '14, and Sean McGrory '15

## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

*Pi Gamma Mu: Dover Chapter donated the most toys for the Joy of Sharing Campaign.*

*Dr. Regina Allen-Sharpe commended PGM,*

*"A child will wake up Christmas morning with a toy because of your efforts."*

*Student Life awarded PGM –Dover chapter a pizza party as  
thanks for all their help in making the Joy of Sharing a success.*



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