

WILMU[®]

CAN WE CHANGE PERCEPTIONS ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH?

Carlos Mackall

ASK THIS ALUMNUS.

- CELEBRATING OUR LONGTIME ADJUNCTS
- THE STUDENT-ATHLETE DE&I ADVISORY COUNCIL
- A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING
- A PRINCIPAL AND HIS CANINE ROCK STAR

THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIVING



“ Receiving this scholarship from Wilmington University has **changed my future**. It gives me a chance to complete my degree with less student loan debt.”

Ky'el Brown-Thompson | BS Organizational Management

“ I feel less pressure to work countless hours and instead I can **focus more on my coursework**.”

Kierstyn Hendricks | BS Health Sciences, Class of 2020



“ As a single mother of three, this scholarship award will help me continue my education while striving to **set a positive example for my children**.”

Tatiana Burgos | BS Psychology

“ Growing up I experienced many challenges, but no matter what, I always knew I wanted to obtain a college degree. With this scholarship, **I can complete my degree sooner** and move forward with my career.”

Angelo Alberti | MBA



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“I realized how resilient we are and what we can accomplish by believing in ourselves and each other.” —Dr. LaVerne Harmon



Dear Friends,

What a year it has been.

The COVID-19 pandemic changed life as we knew it, and we learned to refocus our priorities to serve our students. If there is such a thing as a new normal, I imagine it will come with challenges, and we will work together to overcome them.

But as I read the stories in this issue, I realized how resilient we are and what we can accomplish by believing in ourselves and each other. We celebrate alumni who have achieved an incredible amount despite a pandemic, including a global leader in crisis services, and a CEO of a nonprofit dedicated to training future business and community leaders. In addition, alumni recipients of the Delaware Space Grant, a NASA-funded consortium that promotes STEM education, are advancing in biopharmaceutical and environmental fields.

Our students and faculty are celebrating successes. A graduate student published the fourth book in her series for children. An assistant professor leads a team of Delaware teachers and school officials as part of a national effort to examine entry requirements for education degrees and the teaching profession. We also introduce our Student-Athlete Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Council, which was formed early this year and comprises 14 student-athletes and three faculty advisors.

That's just a preview. We offer many stories about the alumni, staff and faculty of Wilmington University, an institution that for more than five decades has been a symbol of opportunity for all who seek quality education.

Please continue to stay safe as you enjoy the fall season. **WU**

Sincerely,

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

Dr. LaVerne Harmon
President

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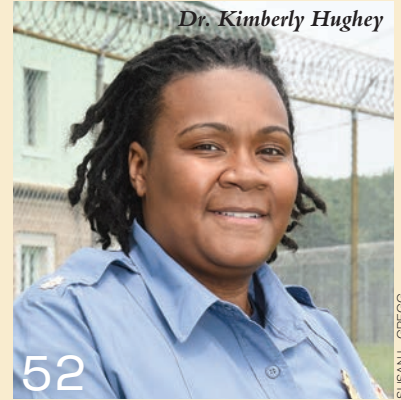
CORRECTION: In the Spring 2021 issue, "The Power of Research" was written by Janice Colvin. Our byline was incorrect and we apologize for the error.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF JUAN-PABLO BERNAL



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Compiled by David Bernard





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#TRENDING

by Rebecca Slinger



1. The Philadelphia Phillies honored the top educators of 2020 and 2021, including WilmU alumnus **MICHAEL BLEILE**, as part of the Phillies All-Star Educator Award. Bleile is the principal at Delmar High School in Sussex County, Delaware.



2. HIEU NGUYEN was one of WilmU's spring 2021 graduates who celebrated their accomplishments virtually.

JANICE LOUISE PHOTOGRAPHY



Yailynn Ramirez



Alexa Crowell



Josh Varghese

3. WilmU scored first-place wins at the CACC Championships. They were: the 4x100-meter relay team; **YAILYNN RAMIREZ** in the 5K; **ALEXA CROWELL**, the 10K champion; and Hammer Throw Champion **JOSH VARGHESE**. Those are some awesome 'Cats.



4. The first woman to serve as Delaware's State Director for the Selective Service System is a WilmU alum. Brigadier General **RUTH ANN IRWIN** (ret.) was sworn into the office by Delaware Gov. John Carney after more than three decades of service with the Delaware Army National Guard. Irwin earned her master's in Human Resources Management at WilmU.

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THE NEWS



GODFREY'S TRAILBLAZING ROLE

In March, when Wilmington University alumna **KATHERINE GODFREY** was named the athletic director at Salesianum, Wilmington's all-boys school, she almost immediately decided to reconnect with WilmU Director of Athletics Dr. Stefanie Whitby.

As Salesianum's first female AD, Godfrey knew she could gain valuable insight from Dr. Whitby, who had been an assistant coach for her high school track team.

"I absolutely plan to sit down with Dr. Stef and pick her brain," Godfrey says. "I'm sure I can gain a lot of knowledge from her."

"Katie is an excellent choice for this position at Salesianum," says Dr. Whitby, adding that she's humbled by Godfrey's sentiments. "She was an outstanding athlete herself, and that robust background will serve her well in this leadership role. Katie is tremendously hard-working,



Katherine Godfrey

caring and compassionate, and she will be able to make tough but fair decisions."

The announcement of Godfrey's new job did not come as a complete surprise to the Salesianum community. After all, she had already scored another first in 2008 when she became the junior varsity basketball coach. Prior to that, no woman had ever coached a sport at Sallies.

A member of the Mathematics Department for 16 years, Godfrey's ties to Salesianum go back to its very beginning. A couple of great-great uncles were members of the first graduating class in 1907 (thus becoming "Salesianum

Gentlemen.") Her maternal grandfather, William Boeck, was a 1934 grad, and became a member of the school's first Hall of Fame class. Thirty years later, her father, Anthony Orga, got his Salesianum sheepskin. Godfrey's three brothers and a few uncles and cousins also are alumni.

Young Katie even aspired to becoming the first female to attend the school. And she planned to play basketball there. After all, she grew up trading baskets and elbows with her brothers during family driveway games. Says the 5-foot-4-inch Godfrey: "I didn't win, but I kept battling."

She officially assumed her new office on July 1.



According to the school's research, she became the only woman currently serving as AD at an all-boys school in the United States. She joins seven other female athletic directors in Delaware high schools.

Godfrey, who received her master's in School Leadership from Wilmington University in 2009, brings plenty of athletic bona fides to her new job. She and her brothers and two sisters grew up playing all manner of games, and at Wilmington's all-girls Ursuline Academy she played volleyball, excelled as a guard in basketball, and was a sprinter and hurdler on the track team. Following high school, she scored a partial academic scholarship to Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland, where she was recruited for the basketball team and was a walk-on in volleyball.

After graduating from Washington College in 2004, Godfrey joined the Sales faculty and, for the next five years, also began accumulating coaching experience outside the school. During the fall, she was on the volleyball staff at Padua Academy — another Wilmington all-girls school — from 2004–06. In '07, she moved over to Wilmington's Tower Hill School, where she was at first assistant varsity coach for girls volleyball, then head coach in 2008 and '09.

In the winter, she served as assistant jayvee coach and assistant varsity coach for basketball at her alma mater, Ursuline, from 2004–08.

The transition to coaching boys at Sallies proved surprisingly easy. "The guys were great," she says of her jayvee basketball squad. "There was a handful of them that I actually taught, and they all knew who I was, so I wasn't someone new to them. And we just jumped right in; we just started playing basketball. It didn't matter what gender I was, we needed to get better, and that was our agenda."

She says Mike Gallagher, who was the head basketball coach at the time, "was a fantastic mentor. Working with him was a dream. I really enjoyed coaching the boys."

She stepped back from coaching the next year to have her first child and to complete her studies at WilmU. She and her husband, Rick (a Sallies grad, of course, where he was a member of the baseball team), have three girls and a boy, ranging in age from 4 to 11. The kids play virtually every sport known to man, and their parents coach them.

Godfrey says she chose WilmU for her graduate degree because it was affordable and convenient,

with classes at the Wilson Graduate Center on Reads Way. She says the instructors were very supportive. "They made it clear that you could reach out to them at any time, and I found their stories about being in the field very helpful."

Rick Godfrey enrolled at WilmU a few years later, and received his master's in Business Administration with a Finance concentration in 2013. He works for Barclays.

While Godfrey may be unique

“ (Godfrey) is the first woman given this opportunity at our school, and that's a source of pride for us. But make no mistake, it's also true that **Katie is absolutely the right person for this job.** ” —Father J. Christian Beretta



Katie Godfrey

in Sallies history, she was “an easy choice” for AD, according to the school’s principal, Father J. Christian Beretta.

“Katie was raised in a family with deep roots at Salesianum, and has been an outstanding teacher here for years, known for both her high expectations and student-centered approach,” Beretta says. “She brings not only a passion for athletics and competitive spirit, but also a tireless commitment to our school community and its mission. It’s true that she is the first woman given this opportunity at our school, and that’s a source of pride for us. But make no mistake, it’s also true that Katie is absolutely the right person for this job.”

Godfrey will step back from classroom duties to devote herself full-time to athletics. “I’m sad to stop teaching,” she says. “Other than being a mom, I consider that my most important role in life.”

She says the reaction to her appointment has been almost entirely positive. “Probably the best part about it is how excited my current and former students have been. Their support has been amazing.”

She says she is “very excited” about heading up perhaps Delaware’s most successful athletic program. Salesianum teams have won championships in every Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association sport in which they participate, and alumni have played in the NFL, the NBA, and Major League Baseball. But when Godfrey speaks about her philosophy as AD, she doesn’t mention winning or championships.

“It’s about the boys,” she says. “Everyone is uniquely talented in different ways, so it’s about providing a program for them to grow, and giving them a positive experience and allowing them to figure out how they are uniquely instrumental in the growth of Salesianum athletics overall.”

Adds Father Beretta: “Our rich athletic tradition will be in capable hands.” **WU**

—Bob Yearick



Sports Management and the Sports Pro

Adjunct **JAIVON WESLEY** is director of operations at The Chase Fieldhouse, a BPG|SPORTS complex that’s home to the 76ers G League Blue Coats. Recently named to the “DBT 40” — Delaware Business Times’ list of achievers and innovators under 40 — Wesley is passionate about sharing his experience and insight with his Sports Management students. Wesley is also the general manager of the Phantoms Lacrosse Club, a national travel program, and the former head boy’s lacrosse coach at St. Andrew’s School in Middletown, Delaware. Appreciative of the opportunities afforded to him, Wesley is paying it forward.

“Similar to youth sports,” he says, “people often get tunnel vision and focus on just one area of expertise.” However, he adds that stretching your thinking and abilities allows for growth and clarity — as uncomfortable as that can be. “Become multi-faceted by engaging in your surrounding community projects, build your network, and showcase your ability by offering your services to initiatives that genuinely interest you. By embracing the uncomfortable and investing time in yourself, the sky is the limit.”

Wesley started teaching at Wilmington University because of his positive experiences as a student and his regard for the faculty. He earned his master’s in Sports Management in 2018. “Being able to share my experiences to help others navigate their interests is an amazing opportunity for me personally, and to be able to do that for a University that did the same for me is something that is incredibly important to me.”

An experienced practitioner, Wesley shares with students his real-world knowledge of sports operations. “The Chase Fieldhouse is an incredibly versatile space that lends itself to a range of sporting and entertainment events and is the perfect sandbox for students trying to identify their interests,” he says. “My students are always welcome to shadow and gain experience while meeting other professionals within the realm of sports and entertainment.” **WU**

— Maria Hess

On the Road with Juan-Pablo Bernal



Club Director Henric Karlson and Juan-Pablo Bernal in Sweden

For **JUAN-PABLO BERNAL**, soccer — “the global game” — opened a door to the world. The urge to explore that followed led him most recently to spend nearly half a year in Central America, hiking, surfing, and trying to live like the people who live there. “I like the idea of getting away from our idea of what life should be like in North America,” he wrote in an email during his travels early this year.

That idea originated, in part, on a playing field on WilmU’s Route 40 playing field. “My entire life, ever since I was six years old, has been soccer,” says Bernal, who grew up in Toronto, Canada. “It’s a path that took me to Wilmington University. Coach Nick (Papanicolas) took a chance on me, and I’m grateful that he did.”

Bernal earned a bachelor’s degree in Sports Management in 2016. In pursuit of professional athletic opportunities, he played three seasons with a Swedish soccer club, which gave him the opportunity to travel in Europe. At first, he was apprehensive about setting out on his own. “Before, everything had always been organized for me — where I’d stay, what I’d eat,” he recalls. “But then I was bit by the traveling bug.”

His conversations with fellow travelers inspired him to book a month in the Philippines to learn how to surf. He ended up roaming around Pacific Asia from September 2019 through February 2020, also visiting Saipan in the Northern Marianas Islands, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore, and Vietnam.

“I was already thinking about

Central America even before I left Asia,” says Bernal, who arrived in Costa Rica in November 2020. He’d learned a lot about travel since his time in Sweden. “I improvised. Wherever I could go, I went. I’d make a plan, but I might not stick to it. It was better to be flexible.”

Carrying all of his belongings in a 70-liter backpack and riding local buses or hitchhiking from city to city, Bernal stayed with host families he’d met through an app on his phone and camped in backyards.

“The only way I largely ever afford to travel,” he wrote alongside one of the many photo collections he posted to social media, “is like this: I volunteer or work, cook and eat in a hostel and avoid tourist traps like \$100 zipline rides, taxis and American chain restaurants.”

By February of this year, he ventured into Panama. He spent two weeks with an indigenous community at their remote mountain-forest reservation. He tasted iguana, avoided scorpions, and washed his clothes in the river. “Some of the houses had an electrical outlet,” he says. “It would take an entire day to charge up one of my devices.”

He also stayed with a Colombian-Danish couple building a bakery and restaurant. “In exchange for some of the best meals I’ve ever had,” Bernal wrote on social media, “I help them out in the garden, or with some basic construction (I have no idea what I’m doing).”



*Above: The Fushimi Inari Shrine in Kyoto, Japan
Bernal stands at the highest peak of the Bukhansan
mountain range, north of Seoul, South Korea.*



Guatemala followed in mid-March with “Mayan ruins, an island with flower-colored buildings, an active volcano and a black sand beach where all the surf is happening.” His camera was out of commission by this point, so there are no pictures.

“I actually felt relieved that I was freed of the pressure to produce photos and obsessively check for

reactions,” says Bernal, who admits to developing mixed feelings about social media by the end of his journey. “Why are we constantly checking instead of living?”

He surfed Mexico’s Pacific coast for a few weeks in April and May before flying to Miami, then finally returned to Toronto in June. But the dry season in Colombia is coming up

in December, and he’s wanted for a long time to get to know the country of his birth, to meet the family members who live there, to see how other people are living.

“Anywhere I go, I come back with a different mentality,” he says. “I would encourage people to do their own versions of what I’ve done.” **WU**

—David Bernard



For three weeks, Bernal lived with Rogelio Montezuma and his family at an indigenous peoples’ community in the mountain forests of Panama.



Bernal and Samuel Litström in Lofoten, Norway.



Campsite at the Acatenango volcano near Antigua, Guatemala

Inspired Design



Tony Whitten

Many people lost their jobs during the pandemic, but chances are **TONY WHITTEN** was the only puppet specialist to be laid off.

“There are only about four of us in the world,” says Whitten, who was teaching puppetry at Disney World in Orlando when he was furloughed in March of 2020. But thanks to a Certificate in Graphic Design from Wilmington University, the 47-year-old has been able to pivot into a new career.

After he was furloughed, Whitten took advantage of the Disney Aspire program, which pays for books and tuition when employees enroll in classes at cooperating colleges and universities. Because he was still technically an employee, he was eligible.

Whitten had enjoyed designing a few brochures and posters during his college days in the '90s, so he looked into that field, and soon

discovered the certificate offered by WilmU. He enrolled in the program, began taking online classes in July, and became proficient in Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign, earning the certificate last December.

Jobs soon followed, particularly from former Disney colleague Sam Sinns, who owns Twirl, a dance studio in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania. Sinns has hired other former Disney employees, who work remotely from the Orlando area. Whitten has done several projects for Twirl, including logos and recital programs.

For now, at least, the puppeteer and actor has become a full-time, freelance graphic designer. “I haven’t formed a company, and don’t have a website,” he says, “and I’m still learning the tools, but there wasn’t a lot of puppetry work even before the pandemic outside of Disney, so I’m going in a new direction.” **WU**

—Bob Yearick

Thanks to a Certificate in Graphic Design from Wilmington University, the 47-year-old has been able to pivot into a new career.



A Former Assistant U.S. Attorney's Journey to an Ed.D.

Beginning with a paper route as a teenager in her hometown of Amityville, New York (yes, *that* Amityville), **SONYA LAWRENCE** has held various jobs during a successful and still burgeoning career. As she recounts them during an interview for this story, it suddenly strikes her: "It seems like every one I ever went to was the greatest job ever."

Perhaps it wasn't the job itself that made it "the greatest" so much as the enthusiasm, dedication, and competence Lawrence has brought to her duties as a nurse, lawyer, U.S. attorney, and now senior vice president and chief compliance officer for Thomas Jefferson University and Jefferson Health in Philadelphia. She has held the latter position since

2017, and her stellar reputation landed Lawrence on the cover of the February 2021 issue of *Compliance Today*, a monthly magazine published by the Health Care Compliance Association.

Soon after assuming her current title, Lawrence enrolled in Wilmington University's Organizational Leadership and Innovation doctoral degree program in the College of Education. "Our organization at Jefferson was changing," she says. "We were acquiring hospitals, and attempting to lead some of the acquisition alignment and cultural integration we were trying to do was interesting, complex, and from my perspective, difficult. So I felt like I could use an education on how organizations function, how they improve engagement, and how the leaders of those organizations



Sonya Lawrence

PHOTO COURTESY OF SONYA LAWRENCE

really drive change across the entity."

A mother of two, Lawrence was hoping to find a program that was relatively near her home in Bear,

Expanding Teachers' Abilities



Dr. Todd Hackett-Slimm

PHOTO COURTESY OF TODD HACKETT-SLIMM

Special education teachers are in demand nationwide. Over the past year, one local school district's collaboration with Wilmington University helped it fill this critical need with qualified staff.

"In order to accommodate more learners with disabilities, the Colonial School District needed more teachers with a special education endorsement," says WilmU Assistant Professor **DR. TODD HACKETT-SLIMM**, who chairs the College of Education's special education program.

Instead of conducting a wide-ranging search to hire experienced

educators, the New Castle, Delaware-based school district looked inward and up the road to WilmU. With Dr. Hackett-Slimm's assistance, it developed an academic program that enabled 10 of its teachers to earn the certifications they'd need to teach special education classes.

Colonial's current special education specialists, several of whom had previously taught as WilmU adjuncts, served as instructors for the March 2020 to March 2021 coursework. Besides providing an on-site certification option, the WilmU-Colonial partnership allowed the teachers to study toward certification together in a customized curriculum.

Delaware. On the recommendation of friends, she looked into the University's offerings. "I applied, had my interview, had another interview with some people who were leading real organizations, and decided that this is a program that meets my needs, both professional and personal," she says. "I had the option to do an online course, but I always want to be engaged with people in person if I can, so I opted for in-person."

She hopes to receive her Ed.D. by the end of the year, but her studies have already delivered almost everything she wanted. She's especially impressed with the cohort aspect of the program. "I commend Wilmington University for the cohort system they use. I think it really works. It is so well designed to align with your real-life experience, and because people come from all walks of life and all industries and all levels, you get a great perspective on what it means to be an employee or a president of an organization, and how

to apply the things you are learning in those circumstances."

Like many doctoral candidates, Lawrence has become close to those in her cohort. They are now in the dissertation phase of their work, but they previously met Fridays from 5 to 10 p.m. "I have made some of the best connections and friendships," she says. "We provide each other with frank feedback, we hold each other accountable, we eat together, laugh together —both inside and outside the classroom. I wouldn't trade knowing those 16 people for anything in the world. And as they finish their dissertations and get their doctorate degrees, I feel like every time someone finishes, I finish."

After earning a degree in Nursing from Temple University and serving as president of her senior class in 1991, Lawrence worked five years as a cardiomyopathy nurse coordinator at Temple University Hospital. She then entered Temple Law School and

became assistant U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania before joining Jefferson in 2008.

In her current position, Lawrence ensures that Jefferson complies with its outside regulatory and legal requirements as well as internal policies and bylaws. She says the key to a strong compliance program, like most other aspects of a successful organization, is leadership.

"I think leaders need to communicate, demonstrate, and support all the values of that organization, and make sure that everyone understands what doing the right thing looks like, and understands that's what's expected. And they need to make sure that everyone has all the tools they need to do that."

"That's my elevator speech," she adds, smiling. "I go around Jefferson saying that, over and over." **WU**

—Bob Yearick



"As a cohort of teachers from the same district, they were able to share the unique learning characteristics of their district," says Dr. Hackett-Slimm. "They were able

to share anecdotal stories and relate them to the course content, making it even more applicable to the needs of the district. Plus, the course instructors could teach specifically

to the context of the school district. Colonial-specific components were integrated into the courses."

WilmU's mission to expand working adults' skills has generated numerous educational partnerships with area school districts, businesses, and other organizations while benefiting their employees with career advancement.

"Colonial had approached me after they had heard about my work with the Appoquinimink School District, helping their teachers to obtain autism and severe intellectual disabilities certifications," says Dr. Hackett-Slimm. "I've also been meeting with the Milford School District on another autism/severe intellectual disabilities certificate program." **WU** —David Bernard

The Fight to End Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is one of the fastest-growing criminal enterprises in the world, ranking just behind drugs and ahead of arms trafficking. Statistics vary, but the Global Slavery Index estimates that there are more than 40 million people enslaved worldwide. Out of every 10 victims detected globally, five are adult women and two are girls. Migrants account for a significant share of the detected victims in most regions because traffickers prey upon the marginalized and impoverished.

And it's not just a third world problem. In 2019, the United States had 11,500 reported cases. Most common was sex trafficking (8,248 reports), usually connected to illicit massage/spa businesses and pornography.

Awareness of this problem is at an all-time high in the Wilmington University community and across the country, thanks to webinars spearheaded by **DR. JOHANNA BISHOP**, associate professor and director of WilmU's Behavioral Science Programs.

Dr. Bishop, who joined the full-time faculty in 2006, first gained an understanding of the magnitude of human trafficking when she attended a 2014 sociology conference in San Francisco. There, she came across a book, "Human Trafficking Interdisciplinary Perspectives," by Mary Burke.

She read it on the plane ride home, and it transformed her thinking about the subject. The book painted a vivid picture of worldwide suffering

created by human traffickers, and she decided it was something her students should know about. She set to work developing a course on the subject.

"But nobody seemed to be interested. I had trouble getting enrollment," Dr. Bishop says.

Then came a turning-point conversation with her son, Phillip, who died tragically when his bike was hit by a car in September of 2014. "I remember talking to Phillip and saying that I felt frustrated because this was an important issue and people needed to learn about it. And he said to me, 'Mom, you have a platform — you're an educator.' So I decided I wasn't going to give up."

She soon met with administrators and some students, and that resulted in a symposium in the Doberstein Admission Center Auditorium in 2016. "I thought we would have 30 people sitting around the table," she says, "but we had 90-some people show up. It was amazing. People had questions, and some people knew a little about [one aspect of human trafficking], and some people knew a little bit about another. And everyone realized that we needed to share information."

The next year 200 attended, and the symposium became an annual event. By 2019 it was gaining serious momentum, drawing a crowd of 325. At about that time, WilmU introduced an undergraduate certificate in Human Trafficking Awareness.

Then came 2020, COVID-19, and suspension of face-to-face get-togethers across America. But what initially seemed like a negative

soon turned into a positive, thanks to that pandemic facilitator of communication, the Zoom meeting.

Dr. Bishop and her team began producing webinars, and the annual symposium was replaced by a bi-weekly event.

The first was presented on June 30, 2020, and since then the University has offered webinars an average of twice a month. By early this year, the number of viewers totaled more than 4,000, and registration was much higher because registrants received access to a recording of each session, so they didn't actually have to attend to get the benefits of the presentations.

Participants have represented more than 25 states and five countries, and they come from myriad occupations, including social worker, probation officer, school nurse, court administrator, foster care worker, port authority manager, and law enforcement officer.

The topics have varied, and Dr. Bishop has drawn presenters from throughout the state and region, including many from the WilmU faculty. Some have even been trafficking survivors.

Dr. Ray Carr, retired FBI agent and director of the University's Criminal Justice Institute, talked about "The Link Between Pornography and Human Trafficking." Brian Moore, program manager for School Climate with the Delaware Department of Education, discussed "What Educators Need to Know About Human Trafficking." In a session titled "Why Do They Stay?," Dr. Bishop



Dr. Johanna Bishop

explained the Stockholm syndrome and trauma bonding.

Diana Suchodolski, project coordinator, Delaware's Human Trafficking Interagency Coordinating Council, was not only a presenter, she's also a fan of the webinars. "They have been able to provide accessible and credible sources of knowledge to our community about human trafficking, helping to create the shift we need to impact cultural and social structures," Suchodolski says.

She credits Dr. Bishop and her team for "providing these webinars that have been in line with the anti-trafficking work needed in Delaware to educate in the prevention of exploitation, intervention of traffick-

ing, and protection of survivors."

The problem is surprisingly significant in Delaware: the state ranks sixth, per capita, with 3.84 human trafficking incidents per 100,000 population.

Thanks to the webinars as well as the undergraduate certificate, WilmU is among the top 26 universities in the country that are fighting human trafficking, according to Successful Student, an education-focused website that provides objective student-centric college rankings to help students navigate education.

Dr. Bishop is quick to deflect credit for the webinars. "They have only been possible because there's a team of people working on this behind the scenes to make them happen,"

she says, "including the marketing department, public relations, webmaster, tech department, and more."

She's also grateful for the support of Dr. Edward Guthrie, dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. "Dr. Guthrie always reminds me that if just one life is saved by doing this, then all the work is worthwhile," she says.

"Dr. Bishop and the faculty have done an excellent job in conducting the webinars," says Dr. Guthrie. "I have had the opportunity to attend, and the questions and interaction are excellent. Dr. Bishop's passion and dedication to bringing this terrible global issue to the forefront are truly enhancing the education and awareness of the impact of human trafficking on victims and our communities. These efforts are also contributing to our outreach and establishing our college and University as a resource to provide education and strategies ranging from enforcement of the law to programs to support and assist victims of human trafficking."

Dr. Bishop hopes to make the problem front-of-mind with politicians and other leaders much in the way domestic violence became a major societal issue 30 years ago. "If we can legitimize the academic study of human trafficking, that's when we have the opportunity to make a real impact in this field," she says.

"It's a heinous crime. It robs people of their humanity, it robs them of their freedom. Once you know about it, how can you turn your back on it? You can't ignore that and be a human being. You have to do what you can do. So that's what we're working on." **WU**

—Bob Yearick

Carlos Mackall



CHANGING PERCEPTIONS ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH WILL TAKE INNOVATION, COLLABORATION AND PASSIONATE LEADERS LIKE WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY ALUMNUS CARLOS MACKALL.

WHAT'S THE 988?

| BY MARIA HESS |



t's full steam ahead for alumnus Carlos Mackall.

As vice president of the Northeast Region for RI International, a global organization specializing in crisis, health, recovery, and consulting services, Mackall oversees doctors, nurse practitioners, social workers, clinicians, registered nurses, state directors and peer specialists. Mackall also has led the implementation of two crisis facilities and a long-term substance abuse facility. “And this is just the beginning,” he says. “I’m a part of a team that has crisis facilities in 10 states.”

Already considered a global leader in crisis services, Mackall is just getting started.

PHOTOS OF CARLOS MACKALL BY SUSAN L. GREGG



Three Numbers: 988

Mackall is also a participant in a national team supporting “988,” a three-digit phone number that will replace the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. On July 16, 2020, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted rules to establish 988 as the new nationwide number for Americans in crisis to connect with suicide prevention and mental health crisis lines. Throughout December of 2020, RI International was involved in a series of working sessions that gathered input from leaders in health care, public health, and public safety to study obstacles that might impact the implementation of 988. The rollout should hit next year, and RI President and CEO David Covington and Deputy CEO Paul Galdys, a mentor to Mackall, led weekly calls with legislators and national mental health and substance use leaders in preparation for the launch. Mackall is part of a 200-person team working in various regions to support the new line.



Grave statistics point to the need for 988. The FCC reports that suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States and claimed the lives of more than 48,000 Americans in 2018. That translates to about one death every 11 minutes. Rates are higher across many at-risk populations, including veterans and LGBTQ communities, and the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the problem.

Mackall, a certified advanced alcohol and drug counselor, mental health screener, and human services practitioner, is committed to changing perceptions. “I hope to inspire society to view a mental health crisis the same way they view a medical crisis like a heart attack or stroke,” he says. “Ultimately, there would be a shift in the number of people incarcerated and people sent through the system without adequate support. There would be less stigma about mental

**THE FCC REPORTS THAT
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health and fewer individuals reluctant to get care. There need to be processes in place that allow society to understand that a mental health (crisis) is real — *very* real.”

“Currently, 35 million adults suffer from mental health issues,” says Dr. Allan Zaback, program chair of the Administration of Human Services Program for the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. “However, the most significant barrier to accessing services is mental health stigma. Although recently, the media has made an effort to support increased public awareness, these efforts are often overshadowed by reports of negative stories involving individuals with mental illness. Awareness of mental health stigma through public announcements and social media is an effective approach to eradicate stigma as a barrier that prevents access to mental health services.”

“Suicide is such a tragedy and so preventable when someone reaches out for help,” says Dr. Doris Lauckner, director of WilmU’s Clinical Mental Health Counseling

program and clinical coordinator for Practicum and Internship in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. “Carlos Mackall has done a wonderful job in being a part of this suicide prevention effort with 988.”

The Educational Journey

Basketball legend Michael Jordan famously said, “You have to expect things of yourself before you can do them.”

Mackall wasn’t a star basketball player in middle school, but he had great expectations. “I wasn’t the most athletic or gifted player,” he says, “but I was good. I had to work hard.”

He worked hard enough to earn athletic scholarships at Delaware Technical Community College and WilmU. At Del Tech, he received an associate degree in Criminal Justice, then transferred to WilmU, earning a B.S. in Criminal Justice and an M.S. in Human Services,

“ I HAD A LOVING AND SUPPORTIVE MOTHER WHO INSTILLED VALUES IN ME AND TAUGHT ME THE IMPORTANCE OF POSITIVE THINKING, SETTING GOALS AND VISUALIZATION. ” —Carlos Mackall



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARLOS MACKALL



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARLOS MACKALL

No one is prouder of Mackall than his mother, Phyllis Young. She has worked as a dietary aide for over 40 years.

concentrating in Administration of Human Services. In 2011, along with 18 other graduates, Mackall was inducted into Tau Upsilon Alpha, a national human services honor society that recognizes academic excellence, fosters lifelong learning, leadership and development, and promotes excellence in service to humanity.

Mackall believes his relevant coursework prepared him for a global career. “WilmU offered me a very positive, family-oriented environment,” he says. “The supportive staff and instructors were incredible, and I still talk to a lot of my classmates and teammates to this day. They are some of my best friends — three of them were in my wedding. WilmU taught me about responsibility, being a team player, expanding my critical thinking, community engagement, and being objective,” he says. “It taught me about things that led to my success, and that’s why I’m an executive today.”

That makes his mother proud. Phyllis Young had divorced Mackall’s father, also named Carlos Mackall, early on, though the father and son remained close. “My father was an intelligent man, but he struggled with depression and addiction,” Mackall says. “I had a loving and supportive mother who instilled values in me and taught me the importance of positive thinking, setting goals and visualization, which are paramount to my success. Through her, I also learned to be humble and compassionate toward others. She didn’t have a lot monetarily, but she worked incredibly hard as a single mother.”

She’s still working. For more than four decades, Young has been a dietary aide at Calvert County Nursing Center in Prince Frederick, Maryland. “She’s keeping smiles on people’s faces,” says Mackall. “In a sense, she’s doing the

same kind of work I’m doing, just on a different level. It’s always been about caring for others.”

Mackall landed his first job at Calvert when he was 15. “The experience exposed me to various mental health challenges, and I gained a comfort level and passion for helping others,” he says. “In the nursing home, a big part of what I did was serve meals. But as a young boy, seeing people with dementia and poor medical conditions on a daily basis gave me the insight to understand their basic needs.”

That life lesson didn’t just bolster his career; it seems to have fed his soul. “Everyone has challenges,” he says, “but making sure their basic needs are met is the right thing to do.”

To do everything right in this field — and to be heard — means working hard, having the credentials, and passionately believing that changing the mental health climate is possible. Mackall is positioned as an industry leader, given his Delaware certifications as a licensed master social worker and advanced alcohol and drug counselor, as well as a human services practitioner credential from The Center for Credentialing & Education. Those credentials, combined with his degrees and experience, have earned him a seat at the table.

He’s also a 2020 fellow of Leadership Delaware, a nonprofit that recruits and mentors young Delawareans who exhibit leadership potential. “Being among the state’s elite leaders, learning different skills, and being connected to leaders who took the time to teach me valuable lessons was an incredible experience,” Mackall says. “With that knowledge, I plan to continue having an impact on Delaware’s mental health and substance use services.”

Statistics bear out the relevance of Mackall’s mission. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention affirmed that 70,630 people died of an overdose in the U.S. in 2019. Making matters worse, an April 2021 story from Delaware Public Media reported that overdose deaths surged in the COVID-19 pandemic. It quoted National Institute of Drug Abuse Director Dr. Nora Volkow, who said that “COVID-19 has made us aware how negative the stigmatization of substance use disorders has been over time.”

Mackall’s is a voice for change. “Improvement in services could mean decreasing the pressure on emergency rooms and jails that have been overextended with individuals experiencing mental health and substance use crises,” he says. “I would like Delaware viewed as one of the best states in the country in terms of those services.” **WU**



A Leader of Leaders

This alumna made history as the first female director of the Division of Motor Vehicles. Now she's CEO of Leadership Delaware. We anticipate great things.

| BY BOB YEARICK |





Cohan (front row, fifth from the right, in red pantsuit) with Leadership Delaware's Class of 2021

Jennifer Cohan worked in Delaware state government for 31 years, and now, as CEO of Leadership Delaware, Inc., she is training the young people who well may be the future leaders of that government.

Cohan, who became the first female director of the Division of Motor Vehicles, was appointed DelDOT secretary under then-Gov. Jack Markell in 2015. She stepped down from that position last year to move into her new job.

During much of her time in state government, Cohan also served as an adjunct professor at Wilmington University, where she graduated summa cum laude with a B.S. in Business Management and an M.S. in Public Administration. She taught Leadership and Public Policy in the master's program for 12 years.

Despite her success in serving the people of Delaware, Cohan decided last August that being CEO of LDI was an opportunity she couldn't pass up. "It offered all of my favorite things rolled up into one little nonprofit," she says.



Jennifer Cohan



From left: LDI Fellow Jordan Bonner, Del. State Auditor Kathy McGuinness, Cohan, Del. Rep. Danny Short, and LDI Fellow Jaime McNatt

LDI was created by Terry Strine and his wife, Sandy, with former Gov. Pete du Pont's help, in the summer of 2008. Strine, who chaired the Delaware State Republican party from 2003 until 2008, came to du Pont with a seven-page outline of a year-long program. It featured issue-oriented forums to inform and train young Delawareans to be leaders in three areas: their professions, politics, and the nonprofit sector.

Strine got du Pont's blessing, recruited a board of directors, secured 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, then sought nominations for participants in the program from business, political, and industry leaders throughout the state. And Leadership Delaware, Inc. was born.

Each class holds 18 to 30 "Fellows." Chosen through a rigorous vetting process, they generally range in age from 28 to 38.

The year-long program consists of 20 sessions held throughout Delaware. Fellows participate in 230 hours of classroom time and additional hours working on group projects and LDI initiatives. They hear from about 150 speakers and participate in multiple public speaking exercises. Tuition is \$5,775, which is often fully or partially covered by employers.

In June of 2019, the Strines announced their decision to retire from LDI. The board formed a transition team, hired a recruiter, and a year-long, nationwide search began.

Cohan had been a speaker in the program for six years.

She admired its content and the fact that it produced informed, educated citizens ready to take on essential roles in business, the community, and government. She had even hired LDI graduates. Her name came up during the search, and she became a finalist. Dozens of people expressed interest in the position, and the field eventually was narrowed to 10, then three, according to Board Chair Penny Saridakis.

Cohan was the slam-dunk choice for CEO, according to Saridakis. The press release announcing her appointment created major buzz.

"We got calls and emails from up and down the state," says Saridakis, "and there were posts on Instagram and Facebook. I didn't really realize what a big deal it was that we had hired her."

Cohan officially became CEO in January after serving two months as CEO-elect.

The job, she says, is right in her wheelhouse. "Developing people has always been my passion," she says. "And I fell in love with this program the first time I spoke."

She plans to maintain the many positive attributes of Leadership Delaware while expanding it geographically and conceptually.

"While LDI is an impeccable brand, the farther you go down south, the less people are familiar with it," she adds. "There's so much opportunity to expand our reach, especially in Kent and Sussex counties. We'll be doing a marketing program in those areas."

Cohan was the slam-dunk choice for CEO. The press release announcing her appointment created major buzz. “I didn’t really realize what a big deal it was that we had hired her.” —Penny Saridakis



Cohan has completed what may be the last of her WilmU adjunct duties, at least for now. Last year, she was recruited by Dr. Clint Robertson, the recently-retired assistant dean of the College of Business, to teach in the Municipality Supervisory Leadership Institute, a nine-week program offered to all Delaware municipalities. The program was the vision of Jamesha Eaddy, who was Human Resources director for the city of Milford. She and Dr. Robertson designed the curriculum and chose the instructors. Students from 18 municipalities met for three hours on nine consecutive Wednesdays, starting at Kent County Levy Court, then switching to Zoom during the COVID-19 pandemic.

When it came time to pick instructors, Cohan was a natural choice. “Ms. Cohan has been teaching as an adjunct at our Dover site for several years now,” says Dr. Robertson. “She is one of our more popular instructors because of her personable and enthusiastic personality and her ability to relate her incredible work experience with the DMV and the Delaware Department of Transportation to the course

material. Her work in enhancing customer service when she was secretary of the DMV made her an ideal instructor for the modules on Exemplary Customer Service and Managing Multi-generational Employees in the Workplace.”

Dr. Robertson says the participant reviews on the seminars were excellent. “We’ve already implemented a Leadership Institute for several other businesses,” he adds. “Ms. Cohan was certainly my first choice for Exemplary Customer Service, but with her new role as CEO, she had to decline.”

But Cohan says she will “always be involved with WilmU in some form.”

“I’m currently focusing on my role here at Leadership Delaware,” she says, “but will continue to work with the University on growing the Business College curriculum. I’m a member of the newly formed College of Business Advisory Committee. I also see synergies between what we are doing at Leadership Delaware and the mission of WilmU. Look for great partnerships and educational experiences in the future.” **WU**



From left: Del. Department of Health and Social Services Secretary Molly Magarik, Cohan, and LDI Fellow Rebecca Nazario

Starstruck



WilmU's Space Grant recipients get valuable experience that enhances career opportunities.

S

HARON UNGERER WAS IN HER THIRD semester at Kutztown University in Pennsylvania when it occurred to her that perhaps Graphic Design was the wrong major.

She had taken a mandatory science class — Biology — and aced it, while many in the class of 100-plus failed. “I thought it was really easy,” Ungerer says, “and I thought, if I understand this stuff so easily, maybe that’s what I should be doing.”

The revelation should not have come as a total surprise. After all, an understanding of science was in her DNA — her mother is an analytical chemist.

Ungerer re-focused academically, and, after receiving an associate degree from Delaware Technical Community College, enrolled in the Environmental Science and Policy program at Wilmington University in 2017. Here, she came under the tutelage of Dr. Milton Muldrow, chair of Science, Biology & Environmental Science and Policy, who introduced her to the Delaware Space Grant Consortium.

Established in 1991, the Delaware Space Grant is a NASA-funded consortium that promotes STEM education in the state to train students, researchers and teachers and, in turn, helps supply the brainpower that space exploration demands. Tuition awards are up to \$5,000 per student. The consortium is headquartered at the University of Delaware, and students at UD, WilmU, Delaware State University, Delaware Technical Community College, and Wesley College, as well as Villanova University and Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, are eligible. A primary goal is to provide academic-year tuition awards and fellowship opportunities to undergraduates and graduates. The program, which operates in many states, also supports internships in industry and at NASA centers during the summer of the academic year.



*Dr. Milton Muldrow
and his son, William*

PHOTO BY PAUL PATTON

“When I think ‘Space Grant,’ I think of NASA and aerospace and things like that,” says Ungerer, “but I learned from Dr. Muldrow that it was open to a lot of earth sciences research projects.” As a result, she became the first Environmental Science and Policy major to receive a Space Grant.

Ungerer graduated in 2018 and is now a GIS (Geographic Information Systems) specialist in the Water Supply Section of the Kent Conservation District in cooperation with DNREC. She’s also a WilmU adjunct, teaching Environmental Informatics. She credits her Space Grant experience, in which she

assisted Dr. Muldrow on a study of the Florida Keys coral reef ecosystem, with helping her to land a job in the environmental field, and to do that job well.

“Space Grant gave me the opportunity to hone my research skills before taking on similar projects in a professional setting,” she says. “I do mapping analysis work, and a lot of the analysis has to do with source water protection and groundwater monitoring. We do permitting of wells and generally are making sure Delaware always has a consistent supply of water.”

The word “love” comes up

a lot when Ungerer discusses her work. “I love not only being in the environmental field, but I love the spatial analysis and helping the decision-makers to make informed decisions,” she says. “It’s all data-driven. Making sure people have quality water makes me happy. I love my work. I feel like I’m home now.”

Another Space Grant recipient and 2020 Environmental Science and Policy alumna, Laynunwah “Lyn” Mambia, is a biotechnician with Merck Pharmaceutical Company in West Point, Pennsylvania. “The Space Grant was absolutely helpful in securing my job,” says Mambia.



This WilmU undergrad student research group was funded by the Delaware Space Grant. From left: Emily Kockott, Jakeyia Scott, Laynunwah “Lyn” Mambia, James Kennedy, Michael Wilson

“The Space Grant was absolutely helpful in securing my job. For a person like myself, who did not have any professional experience, the Space Grant work listed on my résumé gave an idea about my ability.”

—Laynunwah “Lyn” Mambia



PHOTO BY PAUL PATTON



PHOTO COURTESY OF MILTON MULDROW

“For a person like myself, who did not have any professional experience, the Space Grant work listed on my résumé gave an idea about my ability in a laboratory setting, in a team environment, and a sense of working in a clean space with most of the equipment I am working with now.”

Mambia, a native of Liberia, also assisted Dr. Muldrow on a coral reef project. “I had a wonderful experience at WilmU,” she says. “Dr. Muldrow gave me — all of us — wonderful mentorship when it comes to securing a job or getting into grad school.”

Mambia is in the Cross-Reactive Material Department at Merck, producing a protein used in a pneumococcal vaccine. “I absolutely enjoy my job and my transition to the biopharmaceutical industry,” she says.

An off-shoot of the Space Grant program is RockOn!, an annual project designed for students to learn and apply skills in building experiments for suborbital space flight. Some 100 students from universities across the United States participated in this year’s program.

Two WilmU students — Sarah Latorre and Michael Wilson — worked with Dr. Muldrow in RockOn! this year. Working virtually, the three received separate

plans for building circuit boards for the suborbital-sounding rocket that was launched on June 24 from Wallops Island Flight Facility in Virginia. It collected information about radiation, temperature, humidity, and pressure, all of which contribute to what is known as space weather, which can cause problems with devices in space or on the Earth’s surface.

As a participant in the project, Latorre says, “I’m taking in so much information. I’m getting the feel for what it’s like to be a well-rounded scientist.”

A Biology major, Latorre is a self-employed artist who plans to minor in either Art or Entrepreneurship. “I plan on combining science and art in my career and going into teaching or fieldwork.”

Wilson, also a Biology major, has participated in the Space Grant program since 2019. “As a student who is not majoring in Engineering or Physics, I assumed I would have been a liability to the team,” he says. “But the video instruction thoroughly guides you through the build despite your background.

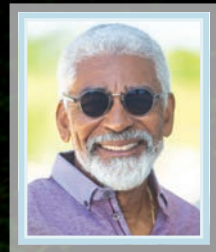
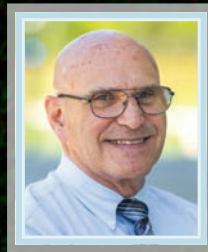
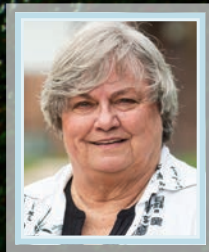
“The program provided an opportunity for me to conduct research, and I enjoy the yearly Delaware Space Grant Research Symposium, where we present the research conducted throughout the year.” Wilson plans to apply to medical school after graduation.

Dr. Muldrow has been involved in the Space Grant program since 2015 and says that “WilmU students have been recipients every year since then — at least one, and as many as five. It’s a big differentiator for an undergraduate with prospective employers and grad schools.”

Not to mention an exciting experience for the students while they are participating. Sarah Latorre’s reaction is typical: “It feels so incredible to tell people I’m part of Space Grant — and it’s being funded by NASA!” **WU**



A SALUTE TO WILMU'S LONGTIME ADJUNCT PROFESSORS



CLASS ACTS



W

ilmington University depends on a large community of adjunct faculty to achieve its mission of providing accessible, student-focused education. Dedicated adjunct professors, associate and assistant professors, and instructors teach and mentor students through the lens of their real-world professional experience.



While there are many longtime adjuncts, we feature five: Manubhai (Mike) Karia, William Post, Joseph Euculano, Karen MacMurray, and Dennis Clark. They have been lecturing and leading discussions in WilmU classrooms for more than three decades.

“Working anywhere for over 30 years shows your commitment to an organization’s mission,” says Dr. Adrienne Bey, director of WilmU’s Center for Teaching Excellence, which hires and trains faculty members. “We’re a mission-driven university that tends to attract a mission-driven faculty. These five serve as role models

and inspirations, not just to students but also to other teachers.”

The longest-serving adjunct professors began teaching before Wilmington College became Wilmington University in 2007, before the construction of the Peoples Library and the Dover site, before WilmU’s very first ventures into online education. Here, in their own words, is what has made teaching their calling.

Soul of a Teacher: **Manubhai (Mike) Karia**

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS SINCE 1980

Fifty-one years ago, Mike Karia’s flight from India landed at Kennedy Airport on the day after a snowstorm. “I was coming from a place where it was 95 or 100 degrees every day,” he recalls. “There was snow in the Himalayas, but now I was walking on snow.” He survived the winter and a long job search to

find accounting work in New York and Newark, New Jersey. In 1974, he was offered the opportunity to become finance director for the city of Dover, Delaware, a position he retired from in 2001. “That was the happiest journey of my life,” he says. He’s still teaching managerial accounting and financial management to WilmU’s MBA students in Dover and Georgetown. “Teaching is in my blood. It is embedded in me. It has been my temple since 1980,” says Karia. “I bow down my head and say,

‘Thank you, God.’ Teaching gives my soul joy and peace.”

In the bag. “I saw a newspaper ad seeking an instructor for an MBA accounting class at Wilmington College. I taught business college in India for seven years, in English and Gujarati, and had written three graduate textbooks for the Indian market, but I had never taught in the U.S. I interviewed with Dr. Audrey K. Doberstein. I told her, ‘I wrote the book on management accounting.’ I took the book out of a small plastic



Mike Karia

bag from a trip to the Acme and showed it to her, but it was written in Gujarati. She asked, 'How do I know this is you? How do I know I can trust you?' I said, 'Look into my eyes. If you think I'm lying, don't hire me. But if you think I'm not, give me the chance to teach.'"

Doing the math. "The pages of a textbook are full of figures and formulas. The challenge and the joy of teaching is helping students unlock the mystery of those figures and formulas, to make them useful in real life. I took

examples from my work with the mayor and the city manager, so they knew I was not talking abstractly. I said, 'When you go home today, when you go to work at nine o'clock, look around you, look at the budgets they give you. See how they add up.'"

Seven minutes to success. "Before we were all online, I'd start every class with seven minutes of meditation. I call it 'quieting the mind.' Because students were coming from work and complications and stop lights and things, and it is all so stressful. I'd turn

down the lights, show them how to sit, show them how to hold their hands. We'd continue this practice for each of the seven classes in the block. I hope this practice has helped students to learn how to achieve balance. Because if you're a better person, you will be a better MBA, and you will be more effective at your desk in the office."

What is success? "I'm not expecting everyone to be a 4.0 student. I couldn't be happier than to see a 3.2 student who has become a better person."

Human Resource:

William Post

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND
BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
SINCE 1982

“I’ve never worked at just one job in my entire life. That’s just who I am.” Bill Post was a counselor for the Delaware Department of Corrections for 28 years. He’s also

worked with private nonprofit drug and alcohol treatment centers, group homes for autistic children, homeless shelters, and a Sussex County food distribution program. He served two terms as mayor of Milton, Delaware, where he’s played a part in the town’s historic preservation efforts. At WilmU’s Dover and Georgetown locations, he’s been introducing students to psychology and sociology

for nearly four decades. “Human behavior, that’s what my focus is,” says Post. “Given the nature of what I teach, there’s not much that I teach that doesn’t apply to what I’ve done.”

The new college try. “I didn’t start out with the goal of being an educator. At a cocktail party, someone affiliated with the college asked me, ‘Can you teach a class?’ I said, ‘Well, I don’t know, but I can try.’ I’ve been here ever since.”

Never stop learning. “I taught online for the first time last year and it was a learning curve for me. I still have a lot to learn.”

The forest in the seed. “Do you know how many students I’ve taught? After this long, it’s in the thousands. One of my biggest rewards is when I see students go out and have impact. People I taught here are doing things with their lives, and there’s a part of me in that. That’s rewarding to me.”

Difference and discourse. “The multicultural classroom is so different from the one I started in. We can use that as a resource. Everyone has something to offer the class. If you don’t understand them, it’s probably because you don’t know who they are. But as people share their stories, it gives everyone a different perspective on each other.”

The purpose of education. “There’s more to this than getting a job. Your life is an organic experience, and education is a piece of that. My whole role is to help them use that education to have a better life.”

The right reason. “If you’re not teaching because of your students, you’re doing it for the wrong reasons. We’re not getting paid large amounts of money here.”

Service and the self. “My life has been about service to other people. When you help other people, you’re helping yourself. I’ve become a better person through my teaching. I’ve learned a lot about myself. It’s helped me become more and more of the person I want to be.”



William Post

Point of View:

Karen MacMurray

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
FROM 1986 TO 2020

As the child of a career officer in the U.S. Navy, Karen MacMurray grew up in a lot of places. After graduating from Indiana University, she taught art in Smithville, Indiana’s public schools, then art and English in Pusan, South Korea, for the Department of Defense. “I spent my first 26 years all over,” she says, “and the rest in one place: Dover, Delaware.” She began teaching drawing, painting, watercolors, and design at Wilmington College during her time at Dover High School, where she taught art from 1970 to 2008.

Freedom, finally. “I always said that teaching at Wilmington University was my reward for teaching public school all those years. I have found it to be a very faculty-friendly environment. Anything I wanted, I could have, and I didn’t ask for very much. I tried to keep the required supplies list affordable.”

An artist with an MBA? “I earned my MBA at Wilmington College in 1986, while I was teaching high school. They were looking for an arts specialist, and I started teaching right away. I went for a business degree because the art business was popular at the time. The business world seems to be wary of artist types. There was a lack of education on their part, not the artists’ part. Maybe it’s getting better?”

Learning by doing. “I really enjoy watching students learn, and seeing what they produce individually with a color scheme, the illusion of depth, or visual parameters, for instance. I give them as much input as possible, but nothing so specific that they can’t interpret it as their own.”

Teaching by learning. “Being a teacher has guided the direction of my art pursuits outside of class. I’d study and discover when I needed



Karen MacMurray

“I really enjoy watching students learn, and seeing what they produce individually with a color scheme, the illusion of depth, or visual parameters.” —Karen MacMurray

to know more, so I could pass that knowledge on to my students. As styles of art change, there is more to pass on to your students, and more for them to try out.”

Never too late. “In one class, a student who was having trouble with a project raised her hand. ‘How come all these older people are doing so well?’ she asked. I told her, just

because you’re out of school doesn’t mean you’re not learning.”

Just in time. “I retired from WilmU after teaching my first-ever online class, which ended in February 2020. It didn’t have the same energy, and I didn’t have the same connection with my students. I’ve enjoyed working with college students. But I really like my garden.”



Joseph Euculano

The Music Manager:
Joseph Euculano

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
SINCE 1985

How did a music teacher end up explaining economics to generations of first-year students? In a word: entrepreneurship. As the owner of Instrumental Music Programs, among other small businesses, Joe Euculano provided educational and instructional services to parochial elementary schools throughout Delaware, New Jersey, and eastern Pennsylvania from 1974 to 2008. Wilmington College recruited

him to teach music appreciation, then he began attending marketing and finance courses to boost his company. “Those courses let me step away from music, from the nitty-gritty of running a business, and expand my spectrum of abilities,” he says. “Before long, I was filling out the requirements for an MBA.”

Experience and the educator. “I thought I could make a difference. I know that’s pretty cliché. But the MBA gave me the impetus to share what I’d learned as an entrepreneur. There’s not a class where I don’t mention something related to the lesson at hand. It’s about making things relevant

to students. When you’re teaching and students ask, ‘Why is it this way?’, if you can’t relate how it affects them in the real world, you might as well just read them the textbook.”

The call of the classroom. “I actually enjoy teaching now more than I did 36 years ago, because then I didn’t know anything. How do you develop a five-hour lesson plan and keep students interested? I had to learn all that on my own. It wasn’t long, though, before it was something I really looked forward to doing. Technology has changed just about everything in the classroom, but what hasn’t changed on my end is that every time the block starts, I get a rush from connecting with students.”

Preparation for the world. “I try to teach not just economics, but real life. The business world, or whatever world you’re going into, is somewhat unforgiving. So if you have something due on Sunday night at 11:59, you’d better have it in. I think the instructors who push you to your abilities, those are the ones that you learn the most from — I learned accounting from Mike Karia — but I also think I’ve gained a lot of patience over the years.”

Leaps and boundaries. “When I started teaching here, it was a college you went to for business, and that was pretty much it. The classes were mainly men, who mainly worked for DuPont. Now, the diversity of majors and of students is amazing. Just incomprehensible. Of course, now you’ve also got to search high and low for a place to park at the main campus.”

WE HONOR the following adjuncts who have served WilmU for 20 or more years (with two additions).



- Lenore Mussoff**, College of Arts & Sciences (CAS), 34 years
- Gary Wray**, CAS, 33
- John Yeomans**, College of Business (COB), 32
- Mathias Fallis**, COB, 32
- Gabrielle McClure-Nelson**, COB, 31
- James Taylor**, COB, 31

- Richard Goodman**, CAS, 28
- Mary Nickerson**, COB, 28
- Janice Painter**, College of Education (COE), 28
- Michael McGay**, COB, 27
- Sylvia Henderson**, COE, 27
- Jeff Peck**, CAS, 26
- Ann Hilkert**, COE, 26

The Power of Accounting:

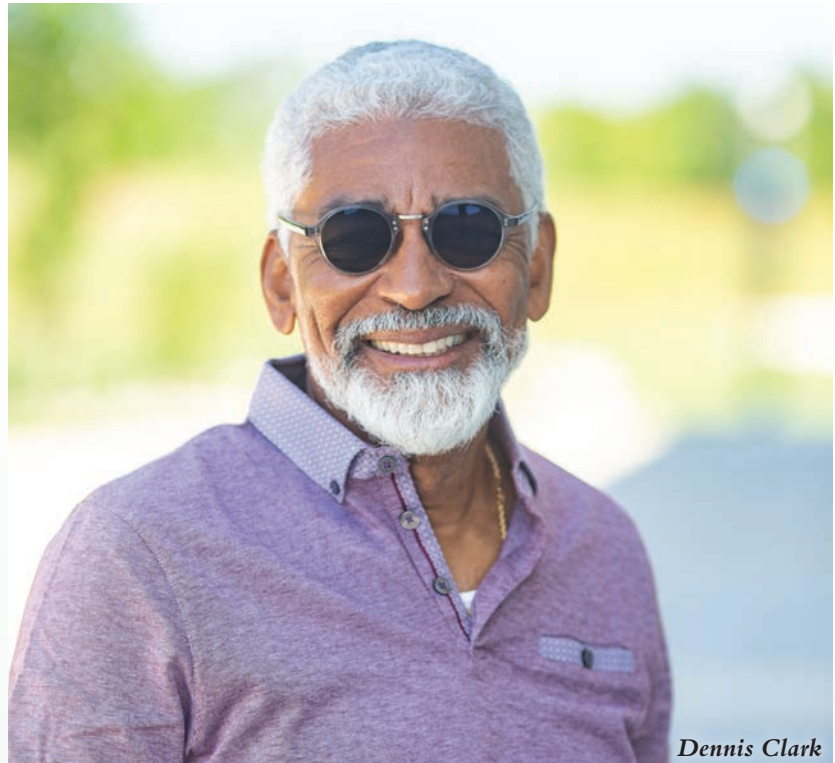
Dennis Clark

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
SINCE 1988

Crunching numbers for Delmarva Power, where he managed the supply chain that kept the regional utility up and running, led Dennis Clark to teach accounting, auditing, and principles of management courses at the New Castle campus. The way he teaches them, however, was inspired by a professor in the Wilmington College MBA program from which he graduated in 1985 (after earning his bachelor's here in 1981). "I never gave much thought to teaching until my master's," says Clark. "But I liked the way that Bob Henson, the late Bob Henson, taught his grad school classes. I thought, I'd like to teach with that kind of style."

What a teacher is. "What I wanted to do in the classroom was, I wanted to bring students to the material. I didn't want to just assign a book, I wanted to share my working experience. A book can give you the information, but through experience you can understand what that information is all about. Work experience is a true benefit to teaching."

My favorite course. "Accounting I, that's the beginning. Typically, the individuals who are taking that course don't know anything about accounting. I'm taking a blank sheet of paper and filling it in. That's a good



Dennis Clark

feeling to know that you can shape and supplement a student's knowledge."

What changes and what's constant. "Technology has improved significantly from blackboards and overhead projectors. You present and structure information to fit the times. While the principles of accounting have not changed, the principles of management are changing all the time. Businesses are run very differently now."

WilmU and the world. "When I started teaching at Wilmington College, it was very localized. Local working individuals who wanted to better themselves by going to school

at night. Today it's international. Very spread out, very diverse. This school educates many different people, from many different walks of life."

The goal. "Each semester I'm trying to turn out a classroom of individuals who have learned accounting and can move on in business. If I can reach any of those students, I'm proud, I've accomplished what I've set out to do. Sometimes they see me outside the classroom, years later, and say 'You might not remember me, but I was in your accounting class.' That's what it's all about, if I helped them get where they were trying to go." **WU**

Dennis Dixon, COE, 26

Kenneth Hudock, College of Social & Behavioral Sciences (CSBS), 26

Beverly Ross, COB, 25

David Wooley, COB, 25

Venkatachalam Narayanswamy, COB, 25

Eleanor Weinglass, COE, 25

Keith Jones, CSBS, 25

Lois Grande, CSBS, 25

Karen Quinn, COB, 24

Maribeth Dockety, COB, 24

Piyali Sengupta, COB, 24

Robert Chester, COE, 24

Wendy Bailey, COE, 23

Angus MacLennan, CSBS, 23

Roann Mulvihill-Cobb, CAS, 22

Hazel Showell-Walker, COE, 22

Andrea Bukay, CAS, 21

Anne Knapper, COB, 21

JulieMarie Gladden, COB, 21

Robert MacCloskey, COB, 21

Robert Schirmer, COB, 21

Heather Williams, CSBS, 21

Jessica Blackwelder, College of Technology (COT), 21

Michael Hojnicky, COT, 21

Tap Kang, College of Health Professions (CHP), 19

Maurice Egnor, CHP, 17

—Compiled by Dr. Nancy Doody

SPORTS



Angel Oliver



POWERFUL WORDS FROM STUDENT-ATHLETES

Support. Family. Educate. Care. Team. Leaders. Express. Speak. Listen.

Wilmington University staff, faculty, and students will be seeing those words in various formats and venues this fall. They are among the most prominent elements in a word cloud created by the Student-Athlete Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Council.

Formed early this year, the council is made up of 14 student-athletes and three advisors: Dr. Jason James, assistant professor in the College of Business and head of Athletics Diversity and Inclusion; Director of Athletics Dr. Stefanie Whitby; and Faculty Athletic Representative Dr. Matt Wilson.

The council grew out of interviews with University coaches and focus groups with student-athletes that were set up to introduce Dr. James to the school's athletic community. The discussions centered on race and justice as they relate to sports, but it soon became apparent that the coaches and the student-athletes, reflecting events occurring around the U.S., were concerned about those values as they related to society as a whole.

Says Dr. James: "They presented a real want and need to continue to drive forward around DE&I tenets throughout athletics at WilmU, so we were looking for a sustainable mechanism to keep the student-athletes engaged."

Dr. Wilson says the virtual meetings that led to formation of the council amounted to an

educational experience for everyone, including the advisors. "What was really powerful for me was learning about the different perspectives that people have," he says. "It was one of the most meaningful, raw conversations that I've had — in a good way. I walked away with a greater appreciation for everyone in WilmU's athletic community. These are the kind of conversations and environment that we need to build throughout society in general."

Three women were chosen as co-captains of the council: Viviana Caamaño, Kiersten Comer, and Angel Oliver. All seniors this year, they represent three sports and three ethnicities: Caamaño, a soccer player and hammer thrower, is Hispanic; Comer, who is white, plays softball; Oliver, an African American, is on the volleyball team.

Says Caamaño, whose father was born and raised in Spain: "I felt personally obligated to step forward and be a part of the council, not only as a Hispanic woman but also as someone who has empathy for the African American community and other communities that are affected by racial injustice."

The three captains are especially happy with the word cloud. "It's a start toward change," says Oliver. "It's what we're trying to be, to embody and convey to everyone else. It says, 'This is what our culture is like.'"

The idea for the word cloud came to Dr. Whitby as she was going over the copious notes



Viviana Caamaño

that she took at the council meetings. “I picked out the core words that were used when they discussed these difficult topics, and I gave those to our Sports Information coordinator, Dan Lauletta, and he put them into our WilmU logo.”

She then showed the artwork to the council — “because it truly was their words” — and they enthusiastically endorsed it.

“We thought this would be a good way to brand the work that we have done and to use it as a stepping off point for future work,” says Dr. Whitby.

The word cloud is now on stickers that were distributed to members of spring sports teams, and it appears on the large digital screen at the entrance to the Athletics Complex. Plans are to have T-shirts with the artwork ready for all student-athletes when they return this fall.

Esports Team Set to Debut

Esports — a form of competition using video games — has arrived. Want proof? Check the cover of the July 2021 edition of *Sports Illustrated*. Pictured there are six members of FaZe Clan, one of the largest esports and gaming organizations in the world.

Further proof: Wilmington University now has its own esports club team, which was formed last fall. The club falls under the Student Life Department. Says Alice Miller, director of Student Life: “Pre-COVID, Scott Shaw (University chair of Game Design and Development) and I hosted several focus groups and meetings, and 50 to 60 students expressed interest in an esports team.”

Head Coach Christian Broderick, an adjunct professor of Philosophy, says the team participated in a friendly

match against Arcadia University last year and is setting up a fall schedule, which probably will be conducted virtually. The team will compete in three free-to-play games: League of Legends and Rocket League (both team games), and Hearthstone (an individual game). Broderick and Assistant Coach Stephanie Mortimer have worked together on this venture.

Shaw, the team’s advisor, says esports have been around since the days of Donkey Kong and Pac Man. “People are now starting to understand that this is the next wave of sports entertainment and are taking it a bit more seriously,” he says.

Gaming, he adds, can lead to a full-time profession. “Several esports athletes will have a fairly robust Twitch stream and massive YouTube following, or the reverse of that,”

he says. “There are sponsorships and there are professional teams. And the teams aren’t regional, like the Philadelphia Eagles. These folks can participate from anywhere, so you have a much bigger global audience. That opens a lot of marketing and exposure.”

Broderick says there are currently 10 players on the team, “but we can have a fluid number of students participating.”

Students interested in joining can email esports@wilmu.edu. The schedule will be posted on the Student Life calendar, Broderick says, and will include practices and events.

He reports that the team will have jerseys similar to those worn by other Wildcat teams. “We’re pretty excited,” he says. “This is going to be a pretty good year for us.” **WU**

—Bob Yearick



Kiersten Comer

Other ideas are quickly forming. “Maybe each month the council will take one of the words and use that as a focus for education that month,” says Dr. Whitby. “Support, for instance.

How can we better support those around us when it comes to these issues? Maybe we’ll bring in some speakers to talk about racial injustice and how we can make a better

environment at WilmU and in the community.”

In general, she says, “We’re going to look for unique ways to continue this conversation.”

As one of the co-captains, Comer found that the council came together despite the challenges presented by the pandemic. “Collaborating on ideas via Zoom for the past year hasn’t been easy,” she says, “but I am proud of our dedication to something that is so much larger than all of us. My biggest hope for the council is that it becomes well-known at Wilmington University, and that our message of acceptance and equity is promoted university-wide, and that the students and faculty alike know that they are at a university that cares about them.” **WU**

—Bob Yearick



*Esports Club Assistant Coach
Stephanie Mortimer*

COURTESY OF STEPHANIE MORTIMER

ALUMNI

ROSHELL BROWN: Defying the Expectations, Achieving Her Dream by David Bernard

ROSHELL BROWN decided to pursue a master's degree at Wilmington University on the day she earned her bachelor's here.

"At the graduation ceremony in May 2018, I saw the master's candidates all lined up, and a lot of them looked like me," she says. "I thought, 'If they can do it, I can too.'" She'd decided to complete her bachelor's degree after the first of her three children enrolled at WilmU. She was in her mid-30s and working two jobs at the time. Higher education had been a longtime goal, although it was a goal that most people wouldn't expect a single parent from one of the poorest areas of Virginia to achieve.

"My educational journey has been tremendous," says Brown. "Life is not always simple, but you decide your own destiny. While it's easy to take the easier route, that doesn't always get you where you want to go."

Growing up in rural Accomack County, Virginia, on the tail end of the Delmarva peninsula, Brown earned good grades in school. She also gave birth to her first child before age 16. The second arrived before

her high school graduation. Virginia Tech offered her a full scholarship, but she declined the opportunity. "I would love to have gone to college, but I wanted to raise my children," she says. "I didn't want someone else doing it for me."

Despite her limited job prospects and a failed marriage, Brown planned a future. "I felt like a lot of people just wrote me off," she says. "I always knew in my heart that I had potential. It just wasn't looking like it. But if I was ever going to get any further, if I wanted a change, I knew I'd have to get an education."

At a local community college, she earned an associate degree in Business Management, then studied online with WilmU to build it into a bachelor's degree. Her Master of Science in Management with a concentration in Human Resource Management, also online, followed in December 2020.

"My goals the whole time were to make a better life and to set an example for my children," says Brown. "I pushed through when my children — who are my everything — said 'I need more of your time,'

even when I felt like quitting. I guess I'm stubborn that way."

She recalls the final months of her master's program, attending to coursework while teaching her middle-school daughter through the COVID year. "I managed the challenges as best as I could," she says. "When I stayed up late to write papers for classes, she'd try to stay up late with me. I'd find her curled up under the dining room table with her blanket."

Brown credits the University community for her academic and career success, including her job at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where she's been a loan analyst since 2019. According to WilmU's Dr. Regina Allen-Sharpe, though, these successes were largely the work of Roshell Brown.

"There were a lot of people behind the scenes, but she's the one who showed up and did all the work," says Dr. Allen-Sharpe, dean of students and assistant vice president of student affairs, who, like Brown, grew up on Virginia's eastern shore.

"She's overcome incredible hurdles," says Dr. Allen-Sharpe. "All



“ My goals the whole time were to make a better life and to set an example for my children.”

the research says this woman is not supposed to succeed. Plus, we had a pandemic! In the midst of this chaos, a master’s degree has changed this woman’s life.”

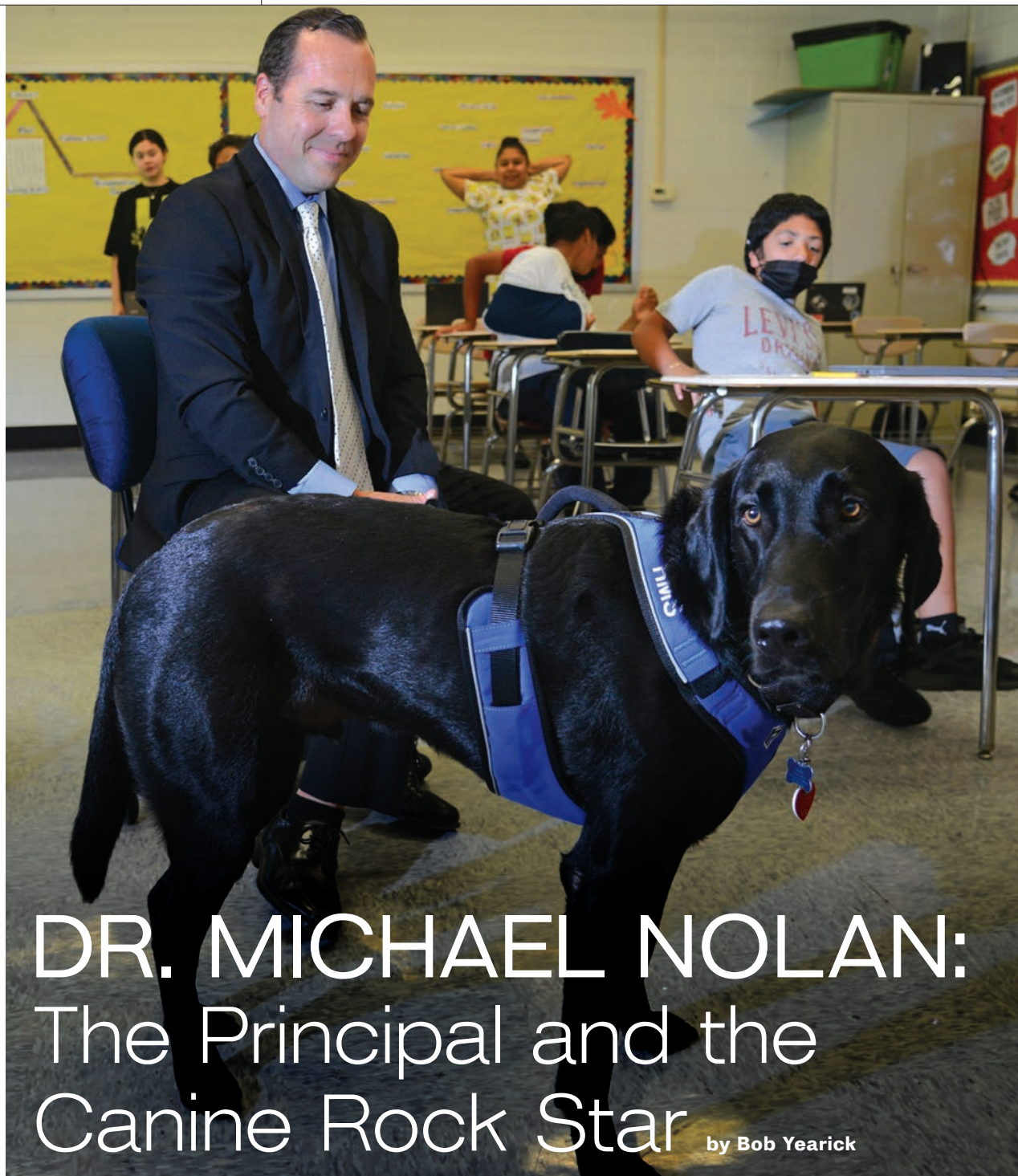
Roshell Brown still lives in Accomack County, though a lot of things have changed since she attended high school there.

“There have been times in my life I’ve felt ashamed,” she says, “but looking at what I’ve accomplished, I’m just amazed. It’s been a blessing. And my options are open. There’s a lot more on the horizon for me.”

She’s weighing the possibility of mentoring in the local schools — “I would like to see more people from

my community succeed,” she says — but her chief concern right now is keeping her daughter on track through high school and encouraging her interest in STEM careers.

“She knows that success is possible, because she’s seen me succeed,” says Brown. “I want to see her succeed. It’s never too late.” **WU**



DR. MICHAEL NOLAN: The Principal and the Canine Rock Star

by Bob Yearick

As officials lifted or eased lockdown COVID-19 restrictions across the nation over the last few months, a new malady entered the lexicon: re-entry anxiety.

As you might guess, it means fear, worry, or even dread over resuming

activities such as going back to work or school.

At Hammonton Middle School in Hammonton, New Jersey, they have an antidote for this pandemic-produced problem: **WALLY**, a 3-year-old therapy dog.

The students met Wally in early

February after they returned to school following a snow day and two days of remote learning. Making the introductions was **DR. MICHAEL NOLAN**, principal of the school and holder of both a master's and Ed.D. from Wilmington University.

Therapy dogs have proved effective

for years in hospitals and nursing homes, and recently have gained popularity in schools. Dr. Nolan saw a newspaper story about one such dog in a school in nearby Absecon. He did some research, got the go-ahead from his superintendent, then he and a guidance counselor and special education teacher wrote a proposal in March of 2020. "It was right before the shutdown started," says Dr. Nolan.

They secured approval from the district in May, started shopping in June, and immediately encountered a problem: In addition to a scarcity of toilet paper, cleaning supplies, and bicycles, the pandemic had created a dog shortage.

"Everybody was stuck at home and everybody was getting a dog," says Dr. Nolan. Naturally, the demand led to higher prices for the specially trained dogs, whose cost can range from \$15,000 to \$50,000. Fortunately, the team had secured a grant from the Hammonton Education Foundation, a local nonprofit that funds educational initiatives in the school district.

A stroke of luck brought Wally to Hammonton. He was being trained in Missouri when, for unknown reasons, the trainer dropped out of the picture. Wally was transferred to Will Meyers, owner of Full Service Canine in Ocean View, New Jersey, and a certified trainer by the Alliance of Therapy Dogs.

Dr. Nolan calls Wally's arrival at the school "perfect timing."

"Only a small percentage of the kids had been coming in to school," he says. "Some had been out for 13 or 14 months." By April, about 70 percent had returned to the building, and Wally was there to greet them.

"He's been great for the kids," says Dr. Nolan. "He's really helped a ton with re-entry anxiety. He just walks around and makes people happy just by being himself. He's like a rock star."

An American black Labrador, Wally lives with Dr. Nolan, his wife and three daughters. The Nolans also have a Jack Russell-Chihuahua mix. "We've always had dogs," he says, "but I've never had one as good as Wally or as well-behaved."

He at first was apprehensive about how Wally would react during, say, a fire drill or a commotion in the hallway. "But he was nothing but phenomenal. And now my confidence level with him is through the roof."

Dr. Nolan brings the Lab to school every day. "He usually greets kids in the morning as they get off the buses or as they get dropped off. After that, we make our way through the building, and he spends some time in the guidance office, helping out the counselors.

"Our next goal is to have him work on literacy, with struggling readers. Studies show that it helps with comprehension and oral reading to have kids read to dogs. The dog is a non-judgmental environment for the kids."

Wally has visited all four schools in the Hammonton District, and he proved especially valuable during the COVID-19 crisis. "We had students who have family members who are sick due to COVID or who have actually lost family members," Dr. Nolan says. "He's able to be in on those counseling sessions, and being around a dog and petting a dog makes you a little bit happier, makes you open up a little more."

Dr. Nolan says the middle school has become a model for other area schools, prompting them to look into getting therapy dogs. "I love that we're not only helping our community, but that we are having an impact in other communities."

A native of nearby Audubon, Dr. Nolan began teaching Language Arts and Social Studies at Hammonton

Middle School right after graduating from Old Dominion University in 2002. He was named assistant principal in 2008 and moved up to principal in the summer of 2013.

"I'm really fortunate to get a job here and work my way up through the administrative ranks," he says.

Partial credit for his professional success, he says, goes to his two degrees from WilmU: a masters in School Leadership in 2006, and an Ed.D. in Innovation and Leadership in 2015. He was named principal when he was halfway through his doctoral studies.

"I landed the job due certainly in part to what I had studied and learned in the Ed D. program," he says.

He found his frequent 50-minute trips from Voorhees to Wilmington well worth the time and effort. "I can't say enough good things about WilmU, from my professors to the structure they've created," he says. "They 'got it' before everybody else. They were flexible for people who work full-time before everybody else was willing to be flexible. The seven-week courses, five hours a week in class – very manageable. And I learned so much. I absolutely loved it.

"I tell everyone around here who is thinking about an advanced degree, check Wilmington University before you check anywhere else. They're flexible and you're gonna learn a ton while you're down there."

He says his doctoral studies were particularly valuable. "My cohort was about 20 people, and you're with them for 2-1/2 years. So now I have professional friends from Baltimore to Pennsylvania and New Jersey."

Perhaps those friends will soon be hearing about the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive benefits of therapy dogs, accompanied by a rhapsodic sentence or two about a certain American black Lab. **WU**

STAY INVOLVED

WITH YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Wilmington University graduates are invited to become active members of their local alumni chapters. Learn about our Alumni Association events and meetings by visiting WILMU.EDU/ALUMNI. Membership is free.

1984



MAJOR GENERAL FRANCIS VAVALA (RET.),

B.S. in Applied Professions, of Wilmington, was awarded

the Josiah Marvel Cup Award by the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce.

Laurel, Delaware. He also owns Alvini and Associates, which expanded into Sussex County when it acquired Todd's.

2002



CHRISTOPHER KLEIN, B.S.

in General Studies, of Dover, Delaware, was named superintendent of Detention

Facilities in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Klein is an established corrections professional with 24 years of experience in the administration, planning, and operations of correctional systems and safety and homeland security agencies.

2008



WILLIAM MCWATTERS,

Ed.D. in Education Leadership and Innovation, of Newark, Delaware,

received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Created in 1983, the award is the highest honor conferred by the U.S. government to math and science teachers.

1988



DR. LORENE KAREN ROBINSON,

M.S. in Business, of Dover, Delaware, received her doctorate

from Delaware State University in addition to publishing her dissertation, *The Relevant Engagement of Alumni Associations and Alumni Donations to Historically Black College and Universities*.

2003



ANAS BEN ADDI,

MBA, of Dover, Delaware, was named CFO of Delaware State University. For 12 years, he served as director of the

Delaware State Housing Authority, where he broadened the agency's community development work and oversaw the Strong Neighborhoods Housing Fund to assist blighted neighborhoods after a foreclosure crisis.



PATRICIA SAELENS, Ed.D.

in Education Leadership and Innovation, of Cordova, Maryland, was named

superintendent of Queen Anne County Schools.

1999



MICHAEL ALVINI, B.S.

in Accounting, of New Castle, Delaware, recently purchased Todd's Income Tax and Accounting Service of

2009



JERRY CARY,

MBA, of Exton, Pennsylvania, was named vice president and chief diversity officer of Bryn Mawr Trust.

Among other responsibilities, Cary leads the company's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion strategy.



KATHERINE GODFREY, M.Ed. in School Leadership, of Wilmington, is the first female athletic director at the all-boys

Salesianum High School. See page 6 for more.

2011

LEONARD LANDRY, MBA, of Danville, Kentucky, is vice president of operations and engineering at Wilderness Trail Distillery. Landry oversees daily operations, which includes construction planning, new technology and special projects.



DEREK SIMMONS, Ed.D. in Education Leadership and Innovation, of Preston, Maryland, was named interim

superintendent of Caroline County Public Schools in Denton, Maryland.

2012

MALIKA YATES, A.S. in General Studies, of Newark, Delaware, was named Elite Miss Delaware Earth in 2019 and 2020. She



represented Delaware while competing for the national title of Elite Miss Earth USA on Jan. 17, 2021. Yates founded

the Global Ripple Effect Project, a nonprofit that teaches students and communities how to live an eco-friendly, healthy and sustainable lifestyle.

2014



TAREN NANCE, M.Ed. in School Leadership, of Urbana, Illinois, was named principal at Urbana High School.

2015



BRADLEY CARD, MBA, of Magnolia, Delaware, is director of Program Management at Summit Aviation in Middletown,

Delaware. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Card has 30 years of aviation experience, including 15 years as a flight engineer.

2017



MAJ. KIMBERLY HUGHEY, Ed.D. in Organizational Leadership, of Wilmington, was named deputy warden of Baylor Women's

Correctional Institution in New Castle, Delaware. Read her story on page 52.

2018



TIERRA PRITCHETT, Ed.D. in Organizational Learning, Leadership and Innovation, of Philadelphia, was named deputy

commissioner of the Division of Administration, Finance, and Quality for the City of Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disability Services.



DR. CATHERINE RODRIGUEZ, Ed.D. in Higher Education Leadership and Innovation, of Bear, Delaware, was named

principal of Dreamers Academy in Sarasota, Florida. She has served as assistant head of school at Sarasota Military Academy and founded Biliteracy Focused Education, a dual-language consultancy.

2020



FRANCA DEL SIGNORE, DBA, of Hockessin, Delaware, is director of Strategy at the Delaware Association

of Nonprofit Agencies (DANA). She develops new services, program evaluations, and conducts research focused on building nonprofit capacity and advancing Delaware's nonprofit sector. She also consults with DANA member organizations.



MICHAEL GEORGE MENDICK JR., A.A. in Liberal Studies, of Newark, Delaware, is co-owner of

Greenway Comfort Solutions in Claymont, Delaware.





Dr. Michele Brewer was selected by the Delaware Department of Education to lead the state's contributions to the AACTE's research.

UPDATES

Rethinking What It Takes to Teach

An assistant professor from Wilmington University's College of Education is leading a team of Delaware teachers and school officials as part of a national effort to examine the entry requirements for education degrees and the teaching profession.

Early this year, the Delaware Department of Education selected **DR. MICHELE BREWER**, the COE's chair of Technology, Assessment, and Compliance, to direct the state's contributions to the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education's (AACTE) Consortium for Research-Based and Equitable Assessments.

The research that the Delaware team, and teams from 13 other states, deliver could help more aspiring educators pursue teaching careers.

"Reconsidering teacher certification and licensure requirements may change the profession by providing more opportunities for recruiting and training talented individuals who have a passion for teaching," says Dr. Brewer. "Delaware's education stakeholders understand that these assessments and examinations may be an obstacle for potential teachers, which is why exploring possible reforms and innovations is crucial."

Dr. Brewer, COE Dean Dr. John Gray, and WilmU's Director of Teacher Preparation Alfred DiEmedio join more than a dozen educators and administrators from Delaware's school districts, charter schools, college teaching programs, and Department of Education in surveying stakeholders and collecting data for the AACTE's research efforts.

The main focus of these efforts — which are funded in part by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation — is an evaluation and comparison of the criteria that states use in setting standardized test score requirements, or "cut scores," for entry into college-level teacher preparation programs.

Upon their conclusion early next year, the research efforts aim to present state education authorities and lawmakers nationwide with recommendations for rethinking test score requirements as a way to address teacher shortages and diversity concerns.

"Setting cut scores on commonly used tests in educational contexts should involve policymakers, educators, measurement professionals, and other stakeholders in a multi-stage process," says Dr. Brewer. "Unfortunately, this is not the norm across the country, with arbitrary cut scores creating barriers for aspiring educators, particularly for minority candidates. It is critical to obtain consensus among the stakeholders."

Delaware eliminated entrance exam requirements for teacher preparation programs (known as the Praxis Core) in 2017. It still requires passing scores on Praxis II Content tests, which measure general and subject-specific content knowledge, for state licensure and certification. **WU** —*David Bernard*



WilmU joins national research on education's entrance requirements.

Ed.D. Grad Takes Innovation to Corrections

You might not think that schools and prisons share management strategies. Both institutions, however, focus on the development of large groups of people, and both of their populations can benefit from innovation.

Just ask **MAJ. KIMBERLY HUGHEY**, who was appointed deputy warden of the Baylor Women's Correctional Institution in New Castle in March, shortly after she'd earned a Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership, Learning, and Innovation from Wilmington University.

"My doctoral degree is not something that's required in criminal justice at all," says Dr. Hughey, "but it has allowed me to widen my view. In corrections, of course, we have to focus on rehabilitation — there's not that much room for innovation — but advanced education has helped me expand my approaches and understand the importance of innovative leadership."

Dr. Hughey's doctorate followed two other WilmU degrees: a 2017 master's in Administration of Justice and a 2015 bachelor's in Criminal Justice. A security superintendent at Baylor Women's Correctional Institution since 2019, she's served the Delaware Department of Corrections for 15 years, in each of the state's four prison facilities, often as a staff trainer and mentor. She's also consulted with the Delaware Office of Management and Budget on coaching, counseling, and supervision issues.

"Deputy Warden Hughey has demonstrated her leadership abilities and commitment to the DOC mission through hard work, an eagerness to take on additional responsibilities, and a desire to lean into new challenges," says Delaware Bureau of Prisons Chief Shane Troxler at the time of her promotion.

The bureau's deputy chief, Paul Shavack, adds, "She has leveraged that significant experience to support safety, security, and programming for correctional staff and our inmate population. We will call upon her to build on that track record of success to meet our public safety and reentry mission."

As second in command at Delaware's only women's prison, Dr. Hughey will collaborate with other correctional administrators to measure and monitor the effectiveness of the facility's security, clinical and mental health treatment services, and educational and vocational programs.

"You have to go into this field fearless and driven," says Dr. Hughey. "And one of the things I learned in my WilmU courses that's prepared me was discipline, that's for sure. With the small class sizes and the hands-on presentations, you're both depending on your classmates and depended on by them. So the process is self-guided, start to finish. You can't stop and say, someone else didn't do their job. It can really change who you are." **WU**

—David Bernard





Dr. Kimberly Hughey

A Student Pens the Adventures of Lia-Ria

Jodi Fiore



Wilmington University graduate student **JODI FIORE** will complete her master's in School Counseling in December. In addition to managing her full-time teaching career and finishing up her coursework, Fiore is also celebrating the fourth book of her "Lia-Ria and the Old Timers" series. Her books, which she also illustrated, are designed to offer relatable explanations of sensitive issues to young children.

Her passion for teaching young children inspired what was once a hobby and is now a budding career. "My stories are geared for children in grades PK-3," Fiore says, adding that "they are not meant to be read independently by children, but for a child to be read to by an adult they love at home or in the comfort of their own classroom. Each one of my stories has come into fruition based on my personal experiences."

As a kindergarten teacher, Fiore knows that young children can become frightened, concerned, and confused when difficult situations arise. "I attempt to put their minds at ease and address any questions they may have through my stories," she says.

An experienced educator, Fiore, who lives in New Jersey, credits WilmU for offering pragmatic curricula that serve her well academically and editorially.

"The lessons I have learned through my coursework and communications with all of my professors have definitely helped with the creation of my latest book, 'Lia-Ria and the Old Timers,'" she says. "The story is very special to me because I collaborated with my cousin, Nancy. Nancy and her husband, Mike, who has Alzheimer's, have invited me to follow their journey as they navigate their way through Alzheimer's disease together." **WU**

—Maria Hess

Fiore's books are available on her website, liariaadventures.com.



A Second Chance

Having survived pancreatic cancer, **DR. MATTHEW WILSON** believes he was given a second chance at life. When he's not serving the University as associate professor and chair of First Year Experience, English as a Second Language, and Humanities, he advocates on behalf of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Research Network (PanCAN). According to the nonprofit, more than 60,000 Americans could be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2021.

Dr. Wilson was named the first

chair of the National Volunteer Advisory Council, which offers support, feedback, and advice to PanCAN and its Community Engagement Program, volunteer affiliate network, and other organizational initiatives. "This role has given me the opportunity to travel the country — pre-COVID, but virtually during the pandemic — to work with volunteers through various training and events to strengthen and empower the national volunteer network," says Dr. Wilson.

Besides being featured on local, regional, and national media, includ-

ing shows like Good Morning America and Inside Edition, Dr. Wilson also was awarded the 2020 Faculty Mentor Award for the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference; the Randy Pausch Award, and a national award for volunteerism. In September, Dr. Wilson was named "Newcomer of the Year" for the entire Faculty Athletics Representatives (FAR) NCAA organization.

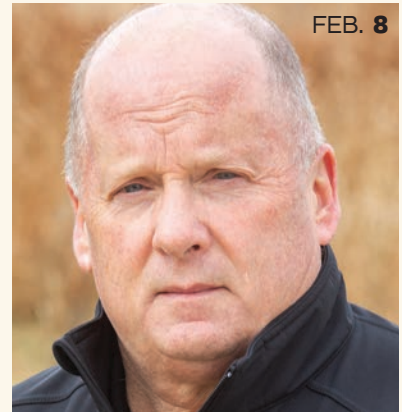
Most important, he says, "In November, I will celebrate 10 years of being pancreatic cancer-free!" **WU**

—*Maria Hess*

University Events



The University is planning more in-person events. Make sure to check the latest listings by contacting the University Information Center at (877) 967-5464 or visiting infocenter@wilmu.edu, and events.wilmu.edu.



FEB. 8

Feb. 8, 2022

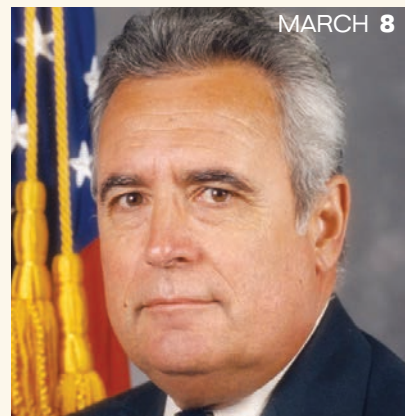
**TRUE CRIME LECTURE SERIES:
DR. RAYMOND CARR**

Criminal Justice Institute co-director and former FBI agent Dr. Raymond Carr discusses his new book, "30 Years on the Run: The Hunt for the Most Prolific Bank Robber in History." 5:30–8 p.m., at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 4727 Concord Pike, Wilmington. Free and open to the public, registration required. Contact cji@wilmu.edu.

March 8, 2022

**TRUE CRIME LECTURE SERIES:
DONALD MAX NOEL**

More than a quarter of a century later, the arrest of Unabomber Ted Kaczynski still captures the attention



MARCH 8

Alumni Events

of criminal justice observers. Donald Max Noel recounts how he led the investigation and made the arrest. 5:30-8 p.m., at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 4727 Concord Pike, Wilmington. Free and open to the public, registration required. Contact cji@wilmu.edu.

April 26-28, 2022

VIOLENT CRIME SYMPOSIUM

Open to all members of law enforcement agencies, the Criminal Justice Institute's first annual Violent Crime Symposium features speakers and resources on the issues and current events affecting the law enforcement field. Contact cji@wilmu.edu for costs and registration.



MAY 10

May 10, 2022

TRUE CRIME LECTURE SERIES: GERALD CLARK

WilmU's Criminal Justice Institute presents retired FBI agent Gerald Clark, co-author of "Pizza Bomber: The Untold Story of America's Most Shocking Bank Robbery." 5:30-8 p.m., at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 4727 Concord Pike, Wilmington. Free and open to the public, registration required. Contact cji@wilmu.edu.



DEC. 2

Dec. 2, 2021

COOKING WITH ALUMNI: HOLIDAY DESSERTS

Join Student Life manager, WilmU alumna, and former pastry chef Christyn Rudolf as she demonstrates how to make some of her favorite holiday desserts. 6 p.m., register at events.wilmu.edu or contact donna.j.hardy@wilmu.edu for a link to the videoconference.

May 5, 2022

SCHOLARSHIP GOLF CLASSIC

WilmU's annual golf outing helps to raise funds for student scholarships. Enjoy refreshments, raffles, and a scholarship dinner with silent auction and live music at the Deerfield Golf Club, 507 Thompson Station Rd., in Newark. For more information, please contact brandi.d.purcell@wilmu.edu.

Admissions Events

Ongoing

WILMU WEBINARS

Listen in on 20-to-30-minute information sessions covering financial aid, undergraduate programs, graduate studies and other topics, then submit your questions to WilmU staff. View a schedule of upcoming webinars and register at wilmu.edu/VisitUs



by Maria Hess

We offer these longtime colleagues best wishes in their retirements.

Dr. Joseph Crossen



Dr. Joseph Crossen served with distinction as the chair of Ed.D. programs in Educational Leadership since 2007. “His many accomplishments include the complete redesign of the EDL degree and the development of new doctoral degrees in Teacher Leadership and School Leadership that are growing in popularity,” says Dr. John Gray, professor and dean of the College of Education. Joe also led efforts to redistrict schools toward racial and socioeconomic balance and formed a district diversity committee to study related issues. He had a comprehensive understanding of the total school system, having filled in throughout his career at several school districts as a crossing guard, custodian, teacher, principal, associate principal, food service supervisor, and business manager. Joe held many certifications, including superintendent, state director, and secondary school principal.

Dr. Jack Cunningham



Dr. Jack Cunningham joined then-Wilmington College as an adjunct instructor in 1998, then served full-time as director of Security and completed his tenure as assistant vice president of Administrative and Legal Affairs. He created a safety and security program at the University, then transformed

it into a law enforcement unit that remains a model for training, skill and professionalism. He also supervised WilmU’s NCAA athletic program, Student Concerns, and disciplinary matters. Jack’s roles often required his round-the-clock availability. We valued his experience and sound advice. As an assistant professor in the College of Business, he maintained his connection to academics, and the safety, education, and well-being of students were always his priorities. Lest we forget Jack’s musical talents, he graced the WilmU community with guitar and vocal performances and occasionally performed the National Anthem at sports events. A proud alumnus, Jack was generous in his financial support of student scholarships.

(Co-written by Chris Trowbridge)

Dr. Lynda Fuller



Before Dr. Lynda Fuller joined the WilmU family in 1996, she taught Human Resource Management courses as an adjunct. She served in various positions, including internship coordinator,

chair and co-chair of the Business Management program, and director of undergraduate programs. She developed curriculum, courses, certificates and degree programs, and created and presented business-related workshops for organizations including the Delaware News Journal, General Motors, Zeneca Pharmaceuticals, United Way, and the VA Medical Center in Wilmington. Known for her dedication to students and collaboration among colleagues, Lynda also served on the DAWN executive committee for more than a decade, supporting aspiring leaders in higher education.

Debbie Galloway



Debbie Galloway joined then-Wilmington College in 1993 as a part-time registrar clerk and associate, then became full-time in 1995. Her academic career preceded the internet, so Debbie knew each of the college's then 1,900 students by name and was a model of kindness and hospitality, whether they were registering for classes or getting

their grades. She was promoted to commencement coordinator in 2007, a role she embraced enthusiastically and for which she made herself available 24/7. Debbie became the assistant registrar in 2014 and meticulously ensured that students met all requirements for conferral. She also worked proficiently with and trained others to use three software systems: Ringo, CAMS and Banner. "Debbie led with integrity," says Senior Vice President and COO Dr. Erin DiMarco. "She was dependable, loyal, and her standards of fairness and equity formed the cornerstone of every decision." If a colleague had a question about the history of WilmU, Debbie had the answer and was never hesitant in sharing her wisdom. She remembered everything. "If Debbie puts as much effort and commitment into enjoying her retirement as she did in her role at Wilmington University, it is sure to be a success," says Dr. DiMarco. "She may be out of sight but will never be out of mind."

Anna (Ann) Gibason



At some point or another, almost every doctoral candidate in the College of Education relied on Ann Gibason, whether it involved scheduling, guidance, or encouragement before a dissertation

defense. She joined then-Wilmington College in 1997 as a part-time adjunct secretary (the title was later changed to administrative assistant), then became full-time in 1998. A year later, and to the delight of all Ed.D. students, Ann supported the doctoral program solely and transitioned to the Wilson Graduate Center. In 2009, she was named the college's administrative coordinator and program specialist. "President Franklin Roosevelt is credited with saying, 'A smooth sea never made a skilled sailor,'" says Dr. John Gray, professor and dean of the College of Education. "Well, Ann, one of our most skillful sailors, retired. She was instrumental in steering a steady course for our doctoral programs for nearly 20 years."

Clarence "Mack" McManus

Clarence "Mack" McManus served WilmU for over 30 years. He began his career in facilities maintenance at the Old Customs House in Wilmington. Mack then transitioned to the New Castle Campus and was responsible for event setup and general maintenance. "He had a quick smile," says WilmU Vice President and CFO Heather O'Connell, "and was willing to lend a hand with any job." *(A photo of Mack was unavailable.)*

Dr. Clint Robertson III



Dr. Clint Robertson III joined then-Wilmington College in 1981 as an adjunct instructor and taught business classes for years. Before becoming full-time, he enjoyed a career as an engineering officer in the U.S. Merchant Marine, then held supply chain and marketing posts at DuPont. In 1994, he assumed the full-time role as director of the college's graduate Business programs in downtown Wilmington and remained there for 11 years until relocating to New Castle. Clint's door was always open, and he will be remembered as a dedicated advisor and teacher to thousands of students. He was a proud ambassador of Wilmington University and an ardent proponent of the U.S. military and Dover business community.



by Maria Hess

Gone Too Soon

We honor the lives of these longtime colleagues.

WILLIAM "BILL" QUINN

Walt Disney said, "The greatest moments in life are not concerned with selfish achievements but rather with the things we do for the people we love and esteem, and whose respect we need." **WILLIAM "BILL" QUINN's** formidable accomplishments underscored his 27-year career at Wilmington University, but his family's approval mattered most. His roles as husband, father, grandfather, and brother grounded his purposeful life. Yet, he was also a consummate professional, rising through the ranks at Wilmington University, and completing his service as senior director of Facilities and Maintenance Services. He could fix most anything but humbly admitted when he couldn't. When he said he "knew a guy," the job got done. Some called



him an indomitable force; others, a gentle giant. So, when Bill passed away on Friday, April 9, 2021, at just 62, the Wilmington University community was shaken and deeply saddened.

"I had the privilege of working with Bill for many years," says WilmU Vice President and CFO Heather O'Connell. "Bill bled green and white and took personally his charge of maintaining Wilmington University facilities and grounds in top shape. He had a wicked sense of humor and an unwavering dedication to the University's mission and values. He was a staunch family man and was crazy about his family, especially his young grandchildren. His absence is keenly felt all over the University and he will be greatly missed."

Bill's work ethic and expertise in maintenance, landscaping and utilities are evidenced in every University property. He started at then-Wilmington College as a custodian in 1994, and was quickly promoted to zone chief, manager, director, then senior director. He maintained the historic Old Customs House

in downtown Wilmington, which housed the college's original graduate center. He transitioned to the New Castle campus and worked with his brother, the late Mark Quinn. They split maintenance responsibilities for all campus and University locations, including Rehoboth, Dover, the Athletics Complex, Wilson Graduate Center, and other properties. When Mark died suddenly in March of 2015, Bill carried on without him, deeply missing the man he called "the best little brother." Mark would rather have torn things apart and thrown them away than put out a bad product, Bill had said after his brother passed, adding: "You have to stand back and look at your work. You have to make things perfect. Aesthetics is front-line in any business."

Bill was devoted to his 38-year marriage to Donna Quinn, their children and grandchildren, and their extended family. At work, he committed himself to maintaining exceptional environments for students and staff. He worked closely with builders who constructed the Audrey K. Doberstein Admissions Center building in New Castle. He led a project to treat the water-damaged basement at the Dover site that now houses IT offices and classrooms. And even though the Brandywine campus has a look of its own, it was important to Bill that the WilmU brand remained consistent. He worked with contractors to ensure the building's integrity.

Space could never allow for an exhaustive list of Bill's achievements. But perhaps more significant is the impact he had on others. He valued his team members and was more interested in empowering than he was in power. "I don't know where to start since so many great things could be said about him," says Maintenance



Bill and Donna Quinn

Manager Don Kukawski. "But one thing that stands out was that Bill was a tough but fair boss who always had our backs."

"Bill and I worked together on many projects over the years," says Wilmington University President Dr. LaVerne Harmon. "His loyalty and trustworthiness were paramount in all my dealings with him, and

every one of his recommendations and decisions was always made in the best interest of the University. Our beautifully maintained buildings and grounds are part of his legacy, and his incredible work will remind us of his talent and dedication. We lost Bill far too soon, but his spirit will live on in the hearts of the many lives he touched."

THE QUINN FAMILY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This legacy scholarship benefits deserving students who dream of earning a college degree but lack the financial means. Originally established by Bill Quinn as the Mark S. Quinn Memorial Scholarship in 2018 through the Estate of Mark S. Quinn, the scholarship fund now also honors Bill. The scholarship is funded by the Quinn family, but all who wish to contribute may do so by visiting www.wilmu.edu/giving-funds.



Dr. Stephanie Battis

DR. STEPHANIE BATTIS

Dr. Stephanie Battis embodied the Wilmington University mission and was profoundly loyal. She respected her students and taught with genuine passion, which is why she was such a popular instructor. She went the extra mile, answered her students' questions long after classes had ended, and loved to celebrate their successes. Stephanie served the University as a member of Academic Affairs and the College (then the Division) of Business for 32 years. She began her career at then-Wilmington College as an assistant professor, and in just a few years, became an associate professor and chair of the Human Resource Management program. She later chaired the Organizational Management program. Stephanie then served as a graduate student advisor in the College of Business,

and was a long-term member of SHRM (Society for Human Resource Management). Throughout her distinguished tenure at WilmU, she chaired the Faculty Senate and Faculty Senate Nominations Committee. Stephanie was known for her upbeat personality and positive attitude, and though she battled MS for over 35 years, it never slowed her down. "I have lost a best friend of 27 years," says Lynda Fuller, who recently retired from the University. "Her courage was an inspiration and her candidness always made me laugh. We shared a lot of fun times." Stephanie also chose to bear a son, Steven, despite her disease, and relished the joys of motherhood. "She absolutely adored her son," Lynda says. Her smile lit up a room, as did her incredible fashion sense. The loving family and countless friends she left behind miss her deeply. She passed away on June 21, 2021, at 61.

RICH GODWIN

Rich Godwin served the University for 32 years and rarely missed a day. His work ethic was something to behold: he worked part-time evenings Mondays through Fridays after working his full-time day job as an engineer at DuPont. Students and colleagues at the Wilson Graduate Center miss Rich's quietly joyful personality. He and his longtime work colleague Ashley Bond were grad center fixtures known to legions of colleagues and students as "the twins." A true brotherhood, they started working together in the 1980s at the Old Customs House in Wilmington, when then-Wilmington College operated a location there. With Ashley, Rich manned the desks, answered questions, shared a few jokes with faculty and staff, directed students to classrooms, and



Rich Godwin

made all who entered feel welcome. Rich had served in the U.S. Army, coached youth sports, and despite his somewhat quiet persona, was the life of the party. He left behind a loving family and many colleagues who still feel his loss, especially his "twin," Ashley. Rich passed away on March 16, 2021, at 78.



DR. GINA HARRISON

If one were to close their eyes and think of Dr. Gina Harrison, she would probably be smiling. Gina had a distinguished career in education before earning her Ed.D. from WilmU's College of Education. For her dissertation, *Perceptions of Teacher Education University Faculty Toward Students with Disabilities*, she explored how teachers in higher education felt about the prospect of college students with intellectual or physical disabilities who aspired to become teachers. It was important to Gina to elicit accurate and honest responses for her survey because she had dedicated much of her career to children with special needs. She worked as a therapist and diagnostician at Terry Children's Psychiatric Center in New Castle, Delaware, and at The Lane Day School in Wilmington,

where she established a nonprofit. Later, Gina served simultaneously as an adjunct professor at both Wilmington and Neumann universities and a facilitator for the Girls Leadership Program, which empowers middle school girls to become community leaders. She performed those functions masterfully while serving as a licensed behavior specialist who trained teachers, staff, and parents in behavior modification for children on the autism spectrum. Gina earned several honors, including the 2000 Governor's Award for Excellence in Early Education. Above all, Gina considered her children, grandchildren, parents, extended family, and her husband, James F. Harrison, to whom she was married for 40 years, to be her greatest gifts. She passed away on Jan. 15, 2021, at 60.

DR. DAVID DOUCETTE

Dr. David Doucette started teaching at WilmU in September of 2011 and maintained his fierce devotion to students until his sudden passing in April of 2021. His close friend, Wilson Graduate Center Site Director Tom Hurd, calls him "a nurse anesthetist and professor extraordinaire by trade and an amazing human being." When Dave passed, Hurd says it left his family and friends "simply, utterly, and totally heartbroken." Dave worked tirelessly throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and became a frontline hero. "He kept us all safe," adds Hurd, "despite working 12- to 16-hour shifts himself and wearing three layers of PPE every single day." Dave was passionate about clinical nursing education, sharing his experiences as a 25-year anesthesia veteran at a Level I Trauma environment and his service to Boston Medical Center, several Philadelphia-area health care systems, and Albert



Einstein Medical Center. His obituary touted his ability to be a genuine friend, caring attributes, intellect and humor. Dave left behind his beloved partner William Konieczka, an army of loved ones, and his cherished St. Bernards. He earned his B.S.N. at Fitchburg State

College, an M.S. in Nurse Anesthesia at St. Joseph's University, and an Ed.D. at WilmU. He also completed a two-year Nurse Anesthesia curriculum at Nazareth Hospital's School of Nurse Anesthesia. Dave passed away on April 27, 2021, at 56. [WU](#)

NEW AT WILMU



The MSN in Leadership Public Health

Today's health care environment demands competent, innovative leadership. Nurse leaders are needed for managed care initiatives, nursing education, entrepreneurial pursuits, consultation, and interdisciplinary coordination of health care and clinical research projects.

The College of Health Professions' Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Leadership program prepares professional nurses for roles in advanced practice. It utilizes curriculum that emphasizes relationships among advanced nursing practice, theory, and scholarly inquiry. The college now offers a Public Health track that educates nurses in epidemiology, population health, and public health essentials. With an academic foundation that prepares students for employment in the public health sector, the track focuses on the

social causes of health and examines strategies to help build healthy communities, improve well-being, and provide equitable health care.

Besides the **PUBLIC HEALTH** track, MSN students can choose from three other concentrations: nurse executive, nurse educator, or legal nurse consultant. MSN graduates can become advanced caregivers, leaders, teachers, and researchers. In addition, graduates of the program may have opportunities to influence health policies and practice with autonomy in various settings.

BSN students can opt for the RN to BSN plus MSN option, which affords MSN credits as part of the RN to BSN degree program. "The accelerated option offers the RN to BSN student a jump start toward achieving their MSN degree," says Angela Steele-Tilton, who chairs the

RN to BSN Program. "This option saves the student time and tuition dollars in reaching their ultimate goal as an MSN prepared nurse. The Wilmington University BSN to MSN student can embark on a very unique journey that is not available at other colleges and universities."

These interdisciplinary programs combine coursework through the Colleges of Business and Health Professions for dual-degree executive options. Technology is integrated into the program, and nursing courses are offered in both distance-learning and traditional formats. wilmu.edu

—*Maria Hess*

The College of Health Professions offers several accelerated options for RNs to advance their educations to the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels. Visit wilmu.edu/health.

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WILMINGTON
UNIVERSITY™



WALLY, a therapy dog, eased young students' anxieties as they re-entered their classrooms after the pandemic. Meet the New Jersey alumnus who came up with this doggone good idea on **PAGE 46**.