

# WILMU

# 50

YEARS OF  
OPPORTUNITY

1968-2018

Wilmington University celebrates five decades  
of offering opportunities to diverse students.





The autumn leaves — in New Castle

PHOTO BY PAUL PATTON

*“This 50-year milestone is not about us, it’s about our students — the people we have been privileged to serve for five decades.”*

—Dr. LaVerne T. Harmon



## Happy Anniversary, Wilmington University!

This issue is dedicated to the 50th anniversary of Wilmington University, a milestone that allows us to celebrate our legacy and learn how history informs our future.

In 1968, when Wilmington College’s first students attended classes at the newly purchased Tour Inn Motor Court in New Castle, few would have imagined that this small college would become a distinguished university; or that enrollment would grow from 147 then to more than 20,000 now; or that it would become a distance learning pioneer that serves students worldwide.

As I paged through the issue and read our comprehensive timeline and special stories, it occurred to me that we couldn’t measure the hopes and dreams of our founders. It took courage to open the doors to students who would not otherwise have had a quality education. You can’t calculate the level of compassion it took for staff and faculty to support what was then a revolutionary mission of providing open access to all. Most of those early students were the first in their families to attend college. How can we possibly measure the pride our early administrators felt when they gave first-generation college students opportunities that were unheard of at the time?

Then I realized that this 50-year milestone is not about us, it’s about our students — the people we have been privileged to serve for five decades. This is our core; it is who we are and what we do. Our administration, staff and faculty have been given the gift of providing opportunities to diverse students for 50 years.

As President, I benefit from a rich legacy of visionary leaders who preceded me, and I’m committed to encouraging those who will follow. It is an honor to work with dedicated colleagues and an extraordinary Board of Trustees. We are here to serve.

We will work to ensure that the next 50 years bring more opportunities to open doors to all who seek to transform their lives through education.

Enjoy the issue. **WU**



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'LaVerne T. Harmon'.

Dr. LaVerne T. Harmon  
President



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PHOTO BY SUSAN L. GREGG

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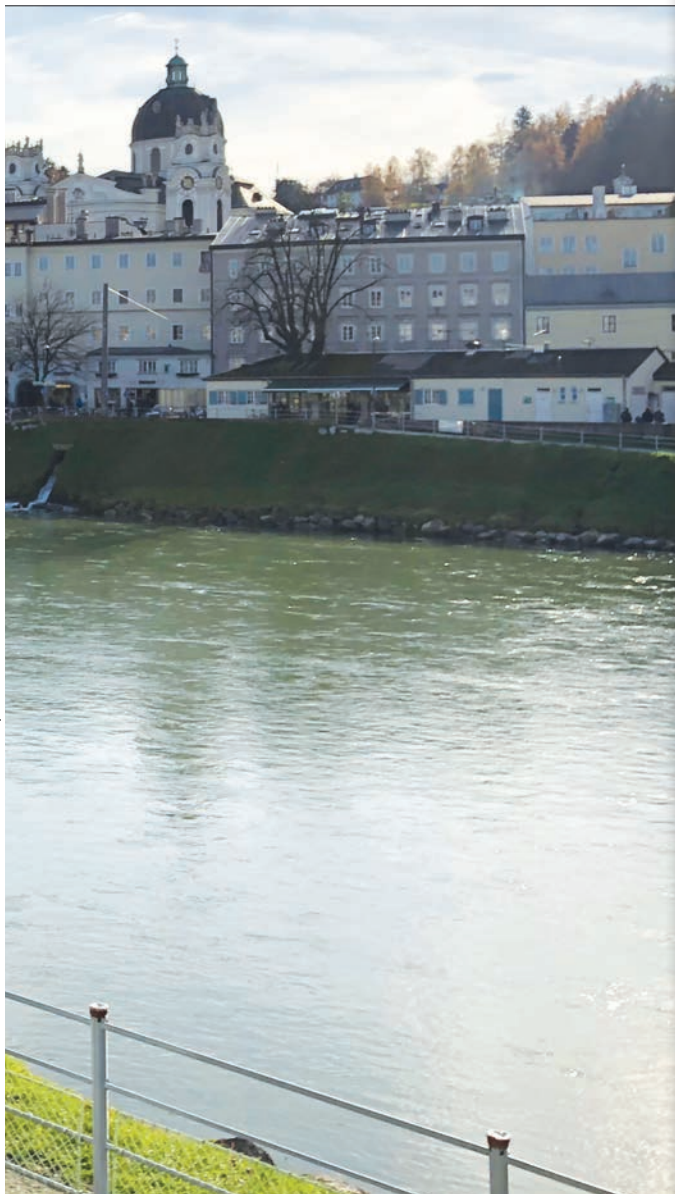
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*Edited and compiled by Tina Barksdale and Maria Hess*

PHOTO COURTESY OF NEWOURS ESTATE

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*Compiled by Britney Gullledge*



## CONTRIBUTOR



### BRITNEY GULLEDGE

As the digital editorial associate for WilmU's Publications Department, Britney managed the University's Academic Digest, which promotes and supports seven colleges. She also served as a staff writer for WilmU Magazine and was responsible for its digital issue — among many other duties.

After receiving a bachelor's in Journalism from Hampton University, Britney earned her master's in Management with a concentration in Marketing at Wilmington University. She has been involved with several outside community projects as well, including her service as communications coordinator and steering committee member for Network Delaware. Now a freelance writer and marketer, Britney helps corporate and nonprofit leaders tell their stories. When time permits, she travels, reads and tries out new recipes.

Britney left WilmU in August of 2018 to build her freelance portfolio and to begin doctoral studies at Howard University. An activist deeply concerned about social justice, Britney is excited about using her postgraduate studies to explore how communication impacts policy, and how leaders in various sectors can communicate more effectively.

She was a beloved and valued member of the Publications team and a devoted colleague and friend to many coworkers university-wide. We miss her smile, her attention to detail, her positive spirit, and her fervent support of this magazine. Novelist Richard Bach wrote the familiar expression that begins with these words: *If you love someone, set them free.* That's easier said than done, of course, but we realize that an incredible human being like Britney has many gifts to share with the world.

One thing is certain: Wherever Britney goes, and for whomever she serves, her light will shine. We were fortunate to have basked in that light for as long as we did, and we thank her sincerely for her extraordinary service to Wilmington University. People like Britney *will* change the world. We can't wait to see what's next.

—Maria Hess



### President

Dr. LaVerne T. Harmon

### VP, Institutional Advancement

Dr. Jacqueline Varsalona

### AVP, University Relations

Bill Swain

### WilmU Magazine Staff

#### Editor-in-Chief/Senior Writer

Dr. Maria Hess

University Photographer

Susan L. Gregg

University Photographer

Paul Patton

Staff Writer/Proofreader

Bob Yearick

#### Writers

Britney Gullledge

Chris Knauss

Linda Muldrew

Ruth Norman

### Have a question or comment?

#### Contact Dr. Maria Hess

maria.f.hess@wilmu.edu

### Want an event listed?

#### Contact David Bernard

david.bernard@wilmu.edu

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WilmingtonUniversity/

### Follow us on Twitter:

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WilmU magazine is designed and published by:

### Today Media Custom Communications

3301 Lancaster Pike, Ste. 5C

Wilmington, DE 19805

800-466-8721

www.todaymediacustom.com

Chairman Robert F. Martinelli

President Jonathan Witty

Creative Director Randy Clark

Project Manager Courtney Fiore

WilmU Magazine is produced in-house for Wilmington University students, alumni, staff, faculty, friends and its Board of Trustees. It is published and distributed three times a year and has a circulation of more than 62,000. Personal views expressed in articles do not necessarily reflect the official policies of Wilmington University.



by Britney Gullede

# #TRENDING



## 1. HACKING FOR GOOD!

This year's annual Delaware Cyber Camp, hosted at WilmU, ended with competition winners awarded by Gov. John Carney, U.S. Sen. Tom Carper and U.S. Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester.

2. WilmU is proud to be chosen to work with **DISCOVER** and **DISNEY** as the companies make college free for employees.



3. News of **DR. CARRIE GRAY** joining the College of Business as the assistant professor and chair of the Doctor of Business Administration program caused quite a good stir online. Welcome, Dr. Gray!

## 5. PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS!

WilmU extended its mission of affordable and accessible education through two new partnerships with Camden County College and Mercer County Community College students. Both partnerships provide a seamless transfer for students.



Read exclusive stories on our digital edition.



Don't forget to connect with Wilmington University on Facebook.

4. **GRAB THE TISSUES!** A heartwarming story of former student and Army National Guardsman Mike Laureano went viral after his bone marrow saved 7-year-old Adriana Aviles's life. His decision to sign up for Be The Match while on the way to class at WilmU has forever changed his and Aviles's life. The story was featured nationwide.







*Dr. Irelan holds a baby  
in the Dominican Republic.*



# THE NEWS

## On A Mission

missionary work is a family affair with **DR. LORI IRELAN**, and that includes her Wilmington University family.

Dr. Irelan, of the College of Health Professions and the regional chair of the Nurse Practitioner program at WilmU's Dover and Georgetown campuses, left for a week-long mission this month to Santo Domingo, capital city of the Dominican Republic.

Accompanying her were her husband, her 16-year-old daughter and several WilmU students. Under the auspices of New Jersey-based nonprofit Foundation for Peace, they are staffing a medical clinic and helping with construction projects. Caregivers from across the U.S. and Canada take part in the mission.

Dr. Irelan has been participating in the trips to Santo Domingo for three years. Her daughter, Mackenzie, has accompanied her mother since she was 12, as has her husband, Chris. "He works in the pharmacy," says Dr. Irelan, "but construction is his niche." Last year, the group worked on a special needs orphanage.

In June, she added a 10-day trip to Kibera, a slum in Nairobi, Kenya, that is one of the worst on the planet. Again accompanied by her



Dr. Lori Irelan

PHOTO BY SUSAN L. GREGG



A child in Kenya

COURTESY OF LORI IRELAN

daughter and husband, Dr. Irelan and the Foundation for Peace team helped care for HIV/AIDS patients, worked in an orphanage, taught at a community health fair, and helped build a church.

While conditions in the Dominican Republic are desperate, with more than 40 percent living below the poverty line on an island ripped by Hurricane Maria last year, Nairobi is much worse. "It's one of the poorest places in the world," says Dr. Irelan. "There is no power and little running water."

Five Nurse Practitioner students, two NP alumnae and another undergraduate, were scheduled to make the trip with her.

Not content to minister to the underprivileged in other countries, Irelan also spearheaded the "Be The Match" stem cell/bone marrow drive at the University this fall. Be the Match runs the United States registry of volunteer stem cell/marrow donors. Marrow transplants are a cure for more than 80 diseases, including leukemia, lymphoma, and autoimmune and genetic disorders such as sickle cell disease.

"Lori is an incredible role model of genuine service to the community, both locally and globally," says Dr. Denise Westbrook, dean of the College of Health Professions. "You won't find another person more humble and selfless than she." **WU**

COURTESY OF LORI IRELAN

# Co-Op Program Targets Children with Asthma

**A**MY LOVENGUTH calls it “the best decision I made to help further my education.”

**VALERI HOLBERT** says, “It really helped me work on my communications skills and refine how I talk with individuals.”

The two Wilmington University Allied Health graduates are talking about their experience in a cooperative education program with the American Lung Association, arranged through the University’s College of Health Professions.

For both the working mothers, their co-op work focused on asthma. The most common chronic condition among children under the age of 18, asthma affects 6.3 million and is the leading cause of missed school days among students ages 5 to 17.

Lovenguth, who lives in Ridley Park, Pennsylvania, graduated summa cum laude in May and was the recipient of the Trustees’ Award for Scholarship in Health Professions. Her co-op lasted 14 weeks, during which she put in 14–21 hours a week in what she calls “a very flexible schedule” that accommodated her job as a respiratory therapist at Symbria

Rehab and COPD Educator at the United Methodist Communities in Collingswood, New Jersey.

Trained as an educator for the Open Airways program, Lovenguth had a variety of duties during the co-op. She taught asthma education to children with asthma at Warner Elementary School in Wilmington, created an Asthma Education program for school nurses in Delaware, and spoke to a Wilmington HIV support group about asthma and smoking. “Also,” she says, “I made fact-sheets on allergic asthma and E-cigarettes for parents that would be handed out at summer asthma camp.” Lovenguth worked with school nurse and Site Supervisor **FRAN RUSSO-AVENA**, who is a graduate of WilmU’s nursing program.

Holbert, who lives in Newark, Delaware, is currently a Work Study intern with the Transitional Assistance Team helping coordinate spinal cord injury veterans at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Wilmington. She had duties similar to Lovenguth’s during two 15-week co-ops. Besides serving as an asthma education facilitator at Warner, she represented



the ALA at several asthma and lung-associated outreach events.

“I loved going to the outreach events,” says Holbert. “It really helped me work on my communications skills and refine how I talk with individuals.”

She completed her undergraduate work in the fall of 2017, then continued in the master’s program.





*From left:  
Amy Lovenguth,  
Valerie Holbert,  
Fran Russo-Avena*

She expects to complete her MSM in December.

Like Lovenguth, she found her classroom work especially meaningful. “As the Asthma Education facilitator, I recognized that the students understood the information we talked about and started to utilize the knowledge to better control their asthma,” says

Holbert. “It is amazing when you truly grab someone’s interest and help them see how small changes to their lifestyle could dramatically improve their overall health.”

Both WilmU alums worked through Nicole Goldsboro, national manager, Lung Health Education. “I was program specialist when I worked with Valeri and Amy,

and it was a great pleasure,” says Goldsborough. “Both of them went above and beyond to deliver the ALA’s Open Airways for Schools Program, and the students had a great time participating.” **WU**

*To learn more about the American Lung Association or Open Airways for Schools, visit [Lung.org](http://Lung.org).*





*Christie Ray works for DNREC's  
Division of Waste and Hazardous Substances.*



# Working the Work-Integrated Program

**M**arjorie Crofts, the Division of Waste & Hazardous Substances director for the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), was concerned that some of her colleagues would retire in five years. So she asked colleague **CHRISTIE RAY** if she'd consider going back to school.

"I was like, 'financially, not really,'" says Ray, who, after doing some research, found WilmU and realized it was an affordable option. "So Marjorie asked if I'd go back to school and consider something environmental, and that's what I did."

Ray, who works as an Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act support specialist at DNREC's HazMat Response Dover office, was already equipped with an associate degree in Emergency Management and Homeland Defense from Delaware Technical Community College. She had years of experience as an EMT and possessed significant knowledge in environmental compliance.

Which is why WilmU's Environmental Science and Policy

WilmU's Environmental Science and Policy program was the right fit. Ray's state benefits included some tuition reimbursement and she's earning college credit on the job while learning more about HazMat procedures and policies.

program was the right fit. Ray's state benefits included some tuition reimbursement and she's earning college credit on the job while learning more about HazMat procedures and policies. She can reflect on that experience through WilmU's Work-Integrated Learning program.

"I think Marjorie saw something in me; that want, that go-go-go, because I don't stop ever," says Ray. "I get very upset when I get a B."

She chose an environmental career, she says, because "I wanted to get a state job so I would have retirement. I didn't care who I worked for, whether it was DNREC or DelDOT. I wanted a state job. I've been an EMT for 15 years. I paid big money for insurance and it didn't cover anything. So, I just got to this

point where I wanted to get a state job. The timing was right."

Ray is an administrative specialist, yet she can operate a forklift, drive the Emergency Response trucks, and confirm that her division's HazMat-certified employees have everything they need. The division responds to emergencies and oversees more than 2,000 Delaware businesses that use and/or store hazardous substances.

"It's so much more than just computer and paper for us," says Ray. "You'll never find any admins like us in any other department — and we are proud of that experience." **WU**

—Chris Knauss

*Chris Knauss is a co-op coordinator and Communications instructor for WilmU's College of Arts & Sciences.*

# INBRE: A Game Changer

Wilmington University is now an affiliate partner of IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence, better known as INBRE.

The Delaware INBRE is a program dedicated to developing sustainable and impactful research opportunities for future scientists,

and its partner institutions include the University of Delaware, Delaware State University, Delaware Technical Community College, Wesley College, Christiana Care Health System, and Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the state of Delaware fund it.

WilmU's affiliate partnership offers advantages to its students who are interested in STEM fields, providing them access to collaborative research opportunities while working with or assisting scientists.

**DR. MILTON MULDROW**, WilmU's Chair of Science and Environmental Science & Policy, serves as liaison and attends monthly steering committee meetings to discuss the financial and scientific status of the consortium, as well as cutting-edge research and resources. Says Dr. Muldrew: "INBRE is a potential game-changer in terms of WilmU's integration into Delaware's biomedical community."

**APRIL ROEPER** is the first WilmU student to receive a Delaware INBRE award to conduct neuroscience research at the University of Delaware with Dr. Tom Buckley. Roeper majors in Psychology and hopes to become a neuroscience researcher. **WU**



*April Roeper conducts neuroscience research.*

PHOTO BY PAUL PATTON

## DID YOU KNOW?...

## FUN FACTS about WilmU's Student Life Department

→ There are **28 CLUBS AND 12 HONOR SOCIETIES** for students to join?

↓ The Student Life department hosts **100+ EVENTS** across campuses each year? These include the well-known Hoopfest, New York City bus trips, and more.



→ The department provides students with an online health magazine, named Health 101? There were more than **4,500 READERS IN 2017**.



↓ Students, faculty and staff can take advantage of confidential online **MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING?**





PHOTO BY PALL PATTON

## New Jersey Partnerships Continue to Grow

*WilmU President Dr. LaVerne Harmon and Rowan College at Burlington County President Dr. Michael Cioce sign the Online Programs Pathway Agreement.*

More opportunities abound for New Jersey residents to transfer seamlessly to Wilmington University after earning their associate degrees at community colleges throughout the state.

This summer, the University partnered with Mercer County Community College to offer area residents more higher education options. The agreement enables students to earn bachelor's degrees from Wilmington on MCCC's James Kerney Campus in Trenton. Initially, WilmU will offer degree programs in three majors at MCCC: Criminal Justice, Media Design and a master's

of Education degree in School Leadership. Eventually, the program will be expanded to include Health Sciences and Software Design.

While the University has partnered with Rowan College at Burlington County (RCBC) for 10 years, the institutions joined forces in July to establish the Online Programs Pathway Agreement, which will offer unprecedented opportunities to RCBC's online students (pictured above). As the latest in a history of academic partnerships between WilmU and RCBC, the agreement continues the colleges' missions to combine practical, experience-based

education with flexible course formats to provide the benefits of higher education on a local, economical scale. The agreement also establishes WilmU as RCBC's preferred partner for online degree completion programs, and guarantees that students who have earned associate degrees online at RCBC can apply those credits toward related bachelor's programs at WilmU.

WilmU also embraces New Jersey partnerships with Camden County College, Cumberland County College, Rowan College at Gloucester County, Salem Community College and at the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. **WU**

by Britney Gulledge

↩  
The team hosts an alternative spring break each year for students who want to give back? In the past five years, students have gone to New Orleans to help rebuild homes for families displaced after Hurricane Katrina, northern New Jersey to rebuild homes after Hurricane Sandy, James River State Park in Virginia to build and renovate hiking trails, and stayed local to build a home with Habitat for Humanity of New Castle County. **(THAT'S NEARLY 8,000 ALTRUISTIC MILES!)**



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# ‘Just Keep Chippin’ Away’

**G**o to the word “perseverance” in your dictionary. Is there a picture of **WENDY HARRIS** there?

No? Well, maybe there should be.

At last May’s Wilmington University commencement, Harris received a BS in Education Studies after an eight-year academic odyssey. Along the way, she overcame sickness, divorce, the challenges of technology, financial problems, and more — all while holding down two and sometimes three jobs.

As she is the first to admit, she had plenty of help — from University staff and faculty, from her church, her employers and her family.

But in the end, it was the perseverance of this mother, grandmother and great-grandmother that carried her to the stage of the Chase Center on the Riverfront. And she earned that degree not only for herself, but for her beloved students at the Bright Horizons at Nemours Learning Development Center in North Wilmington. They are at the center of her chosen career — early childhood education.

Harris came late to that career, just as she came late to her degree. And the road proved to be a bit winding.

Born Wendy Simmons, she was raised by a single mother in Philadelphia, along with a younger sister (now a retired teacher) and an older brother who died at 2006. “My mother made sure we stayed on the straight and narrow,” Harris remembers.

She graduated from the old William Penn High School for Girls in the Spring Garden section of Philly,

where she was a good student and president of the student body one year. But college was not an immediate goal back then.

Married soon after high school, she went to work for a Philadelphia bank, staying 27 years and becoming manager of customer service. Along the way, she enrolled at what was then Peirce Junior College for one course in public speaking. But, after earning those three credits, she had to drop out when her mother died in 1983 to focus on her three children. “I wanted to make sure they would pursue their education and go to college,” Harris says.

After she left the bank in 2002, she and her family moved to Smyrna, Delaware. “Remarried, relocated and retired” is the way she characterizes her life at that point. But two of those conditions failed to last. She was soon divorced and back in the workforce.

It was then that her church — she’s a devout Jehovah’s Witness — helped guide her. A member of the congregation sensed that Harris had a talent for teaching (she had been a trainer during her banking career) and suggested that she apply to become a substitute in the Smyrna School District. She had earned enough credits from the bank as a customer service manager and as a trainer to qualify, and she was hired.

At first, she worked two days a week. Then, during the divorce, she went to five days, at all grade levels and all subjects, and became one of the district’s preferred substitutes. She was so effective, in fact, that she was recruited for the Reading Training Intervention (RTI) program at Sunnyside Elementary School.

In 2009, she got her first taste of early childhood education, at the Academy of Early Learning in Smyrna. Meanwhile, she dropped out of substitute teaching but continued her RTI work and landed a weekend job at Acme, in the meat department. That’s three jobs, in case you’re counting.

At about this time, she developed a gastrointestinal problem that required surgery, followed by three months of bed rest. Her church was quick to respond during the illness, helping Harris to pay her bills and bringing hot meals to her home. “I never saw so much food in my life,” she says.

Once recovered, she found that her work at the Academy of Early Learning whetted her appetite for education, and she started looking into area colleges. She chose WilmU, and signed up for two psychology courses at the Dover campus. And promptly failed them.

It had been more than two decades since she had been in a college classroom, and much had changed. For instance, she says, “I had no idea about APA (the style guide of the American Psychological Association).” New teaching technology also proved daunting.

Her supervisor at the Academy of Early Learning stepped in then and offered to tutor Harris, who gratefully accepted.

She moved on to the Boy & Girls Club in Smyrna, then commuted to a job at Girls, Inc. in Claymont. In May of 2015, she moved to Bear and landed her current job as an assistant preschool teacher at Bright Horizons. She loves working with the kids, most



of whom are children of employees at Nemours Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children and Astra Zeneca.

Meanwhile, she began having doubts about whether she was up to the challenge of working full-time and attending classes. She unburdened herself to Gary Seydell, a WilmU undergraduate academic advisor, telling him, “I just don’t know if this is going to work.”

“He told me, ‘Just keep chipping away,’” says Harris. “‘Don’t worry about how old you are or how long

it takes. Just keep chipping.’”

Says Seydell: “Wendy stayed focused and determined to complete her program, all while balancing family, work, and school. She stayed connected, utilized the University’s resources and pursued her dream part-time over eight years. She was even able to apply prior learning and life experience for one of her courses. She is the embodiment of Wilmington University’s mission and values.”

Taking Seydell’s advice, Harris

“chipped away.” But by 2017, she was ready to settle for an associate degree. Then in a one of several meetings with Dr. James Boyd, chair, B.S. in Education, he informed her that she needed only 10 credits for her bachelor’s degree. Says Harris: “He told me, ‘You are so close, why don’t you go for it?’”

Dr. Boyd, who also helped her find financial assistance, is a big Wendy Harris fan. “When most people her age are thinking about retirement or completing careers, Wendy wanted to learn as much as she could about Early Childhood Education,” he says. “Having worked in that field for years, the truth is that she probably could have taught a number of the courses from personal experience, but she wanted that degree. She and I met several times as she moved through the program. She was particularly challenged by technology, as most people our age are from time to time, but we worked through those challenges. Instead of being afraid of it, she plowed forward.”

Indeed she did, making the dean’s list three times. Her family, who has encouraged her throughout her college years, attended commencement, and afterward they went to a restaurant on the Wilmington Riverfront to celebrate with a big dinner, topped off with a huge green-and-white cake.

And she’s not done. In September, when she marked her 67th birthday, Harris planned to start working toward her master’s degree.

“Wendy is one of those students who come along once in a while who remind us of why we are at Wilmington University,” says Dr. Boyd. “She is a model of our goal of lifelong learning.” **WU**

—Bob Yearick



# 50 YEARS



COVER STORY BY MARIA HESS

*Special thanks to Dr. Angela Suchanic and Natalie Ridgeway*

# Wilmington University Turns 50



ilmington College was chartered by the state of Delaware on Dec. 27, 1967, though its classes began in 1968. Students recruited from New Jersey and New York lived in dorms and attended classes at the newly purchased Tour Inn Motor Court on DuPont Highway in New Castle, Delaware.

The governance of Wilmington University rests with its Board of Trustees. Today, Joseph J. Farnan Jr. leads the dedicated board.

Dr. Donald E. Ross was appointed founding president late in 1967 and held the office from 1968 through 1977. Chairman Nicholas N. Mazarella, who served as acting president from July 1, 1977, through January 30, 1979, succeeded him. Dr. Audrey K. Doberstein became president on April 6, 1979, then was succeeded by Dr. Jack P. Varsalona in 2005. He served as president until June 2017. Dr. LaVerne T. Harmon was appointed president on July 1, 2017, and leads the University today.





**THIS TIMELINE DEPICTS IMPORTANT EVENTS OF WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY'S HISTORY.**

This distinguished organization honors an open admissions policy and welcomes applications from all interested potential students. The University seeks a diversified student body and encourages the submission of applications from students of widely differing backgrounds, aptitudes, and interests, including career-minded adults who wish to upgrade their skills or complete degree programs. An institution that has never wavered in its mission to offer quality education to all who seek it, Wilmington University is, and always will be, a place for opportunity, enrichment and inspiration.

### 1968

Under the direction of President **DONALD E. ROSS**, Wilmington College opened to 147 students. Eight men and women were hired as full-time professors and several community members and field experts formed the adjunct faculty. In its first year, the college offered bachelor's degree programs in Political Science, English and Business Administration.



### FALL, 1972

Student demographics shifted significantly. Enrollment consisted of 630 students — 482 men and 148 women; 402 were full-time students while 228 enrolled as part-timers. Two-thirds were local and commuted to classes. The majority of students were now from Delaware. Many were non-traditional — age 24 or older — and had work experience. Most of these students were the first in their families to attend college.

1968

1969

1970

1972



### 1969

Wilmington College established a location at **DOVER AIR FORCE BASE** to accommodate numerous military students as well as those interested in Aviation curriculum.



### 1970

The **STUDENT POPULATION** had grown to 310, an increase of 35 percent in one year. Four majors, Behavioral Science, Communication Arts, Criminal Justice and Aviation Management, were added, making it a total of seven degree programs.

### 1972

Wilmington College established its baseball and basketball teams: the Wilmington College Wildcats. The teams became part of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and then the National Collegiate Athletic Association.



**1972**  
The college celebrated its **FIRST GRADUATING CLASS** of 174 students.

**1974**  
Wilmington College introduced the Professional Arts majors.

**JUNE 26, 1975**  
Wilmington College received accreditation from the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States. As President Ross stated upon receipt of the accreditation letter: "We crawled before we walked. Now we're getting ready to run."

**APRIL 1979**

**DR. AUDREY KOHL DOBERSTEIN** was named president of Wilmington College, which made her the first female to preside over a four-year college in Delaware. Her vision was to transform the college into a thriving institution with satellite colleges throughout Delaware and a student body of more than 10,000. That vision was realized. Dr. Doberstein was inducted into the Hall of Fame of Delaware Women in 2011.

**1972**

**1973**

**1974**

**1975**

**1977**

**1979**

**1973**  
Enrollment hit 650. Evening and weekend classes were scheduled to accommodate the growing numbers of working students. The year also saw the initiation of **WCOM**, the college's radio and television stations.



**1977**  
Enrollment reached 725 students.

**FEBRUARY, 1977**  
The college initiated its first graduate program, a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree.







### 1980

The college opened its **GEORGETOWN LOCATION** at Delaware Technical Community College's southern campus — the genesis of a fruitful partnership.

### 1980

Enrollment reached 1,000 students.

### MID-1980s

The first BSN program was formed to serve working nurses who needed flexible schedules and wanted to advance in the health care industry. (The MSN was established in 1993.) Police academies were added to the college's Criminal Justice program for cadets wishing to accelerate their training processes via weekend classes. Master's level programs in Counseling, Instructional Leadership, Special Education, and Alternative Certification were added, as well as a bachelor's in Elementary Education and a doctoral program in Education.

### 1980

### 1980s

Men's and women's softball and volleyball varsity teams were formed.

### 1980s

The institution moved from a two-semester to a three-semester year and began offering eight-week courses.

### 1980



### 1980s

The college opened a second location in Dover at **SILVER LAKE**.

### 1981

### APRIL 1981

The college acquired the **U.S. CUSTOMS HOUSE** in Wilmington. Its classrooms and conference rooms accommodated students who lived or worked in the city. (The building was sold in 2007.)



### 1986

### 1986

Enrollment reached 1,650 students.



## 1986

Ground was broken for the 26,000-square-foot **PRATT STUDENT CENTER** at the New Castle location. Dedicated on April 20, 1988, it housed a gym, exercise room, student services, faculty offices, labs and lecture rooms. (The New Pratt Center opened in 2012 after an extensive renovation, and is now an inviting student center with a game and recreation room, lounge and conversation pit.)

## 1998

A new academic division, **DIVISION OF ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY**, was introduced. It later became the College of Technology.



1986

1989

1991

1995

1998

## 1989

The dorms were closed, making Wilmington a commuter college.

## 1989

Enrollment reached 2,000 students.

## 1991

The Doctor of Education in Innovation and Leadership program began and was offered in both the northern and southern portions of the state.

## 1995

Ground was broken for the 65,000-square-foot **ROBERT C. AND DOROTHY M. PEOPLES LIBRARY BUILDING** on the New Castle location. It housed an extensive library, as well as labs, classrooms and offices.



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YEARS OF  
OPPORTUNITY  
1968-2018





### JANUARY 2004

The college's sports program became NCAA Division II. Eleven sports were added.

### 2004

The Vision 2010 Strategic Plan was adopted.



### 2004

A 58,000-square-foot **ACADEMIC BUILDING** in northern Dover opened, reflecting projections in the region's growth.

### 2000

The Admissions and Classroom Center opened. (It was renamed the Audrey Kohl Doberstein Admissions Center in the fall of 2007.)

### 2003

Carving a path for future distance learning opportunities, Wilmington College offered its first hybrid (fusion) courses, blending face-to-face and **ONLINE INTERACTION** with students. This paved the way for its first fully online degree programs that were introduced in 2007.

2000

2003

2004

2005



*Dr. Varsalona with his daughters, Dr. Jacqueline Varsalona and Jamie Meanor*

### 2005

**DR. JACK P. VARSALONA** was named the third president of Wilmington College. He had taught courses as an adjunct since 1983 and was hired full-time on April 6, 1987. Under his leadership, enrollment grew from 10,222 in 2005 to more than 21,000 by 2017; locations increased from four to 11, expanding to New Jersey and Maryland; and 118 online programs were developed, making WilmU a regional pioneer in distance learning.



**2005**

The **WILSON GRADUATE CENTER** opened in the New Castle Corporate Commons complex.

**2005**

Reaccreditation followed self-study and a team visit. There were no recommendations.

**2005**

The University's Faculty Development area was created. (It became the Center for Teaching Excellence in September of 2016.)

**2006**

The DBA program was introduced.

**2007**

Wilmington College became **WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY** to better reflect its strong strategic plan and evolving nature. Wilmington College had met many of the criteria to be considered a University, including multiple campuses and programs of study ranging from associate to doctoral degrees, and served more than 11,500 students.



**2005**

**2005**

**2005**

**2006**

**2007**

**2008**

**2007**

WilmU **GAINED LICENSURE IN NEW JERSEY**, a huge advance for the University. Expansion of New Jersey licensures took place in 2007, 2010, 2012, 2015 and 2018.



**SPRING, 2008**

The Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) program was initiated.



## JUNE 1, 2009

Divisions became colleges. The University housed the colleges of Arts and Sciences (formerly General Studies, founded in 1989), Business (1968), Education (1978) Health Professions (formerly Nursing and Allied Health, 1985), Social and Behavioral Sciences (1972), and Technology (1998).



## 2009

The University opened its location at the **JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST AIR FORCE BASE**.

2009

## JANUARY 10, 2011

Brandywine, a new location at Concord Plaza in North Wilmington, opened to serve the large population of students who lived and worked north of the New Castle area.

2011



## 2011

Ground was broken for the 22,000-square-foot **WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY SPORTS COMPLEX** on Route 40 in New Castle. It opened a year later to house a gym, built-in bleachers, locker rooms, training facility, staff offices and concession areas.

## 2011

WilmU's Dual Enrollment Program started, partnering with William Penn High School in New Castle.

2011

2011

2011

## SUMMER/FALL, 2011

WilmU piloted its co-op (CAP/Co-Op) Community & Academic Partnerships Cooperative Education program. (The initiative commenced in the spring of 2012. The department was renamed Work Integrated Learning and operates within the College of Online and Experiential Learning.)

## 2013

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program was launched. (The first cohort graduated in May of 2015.)

## 2013

WilmU's College of Online and Experiential Learning was established.

## 2013

Enrollment of international students hits 1,000. The students hailed from India, Nepal, Turkey, Bangladesh, China and other countries.

2013

2015

## 2015

WilmU was reaccredited following a self-study. There were no recommendations.



## SERVICE FOR THE REGION

Embarking on its fifth decade of service to students and community, Wilmington University introduces its **CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSTITUTE**, which will be housed at the new Wilmington University Brandywine location. The institute will provide research and professional development programs and services in the region, while addressing crime-related problems and public safety concerns.

For more information, email [CJI@wilmu.edu](mailto:CJI@wilmu.edu)

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YEARS OF  
OPPORTUNITY  
1968-2018



## 2017

Ground was broken in 2017 for **WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY BRANDYWINE**, a 44,000-acre location that will replace the Concord Plaza location. For more info, visit [wilmu.edu/brandywine](http://wilmu.edu/brandywine). Classes begin this January!

## 2018

Wilmington University serves more than 20,000 students, 87 percent of whom work full- or part-time. It offers more than 150 degree and certificate programs and conducts more than 100 fully online programs at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels. The University is one of the most affordable private, nonprofit institutions in the region, and students graduate with 60 percent less student loan debt than the U.S. average. Twelve locations are in operation: Delaware: New Castle, Wilson Graduate Center, Brandywine, Dover, Dover Air Force Base, Georgetown; and in New Jersey at the following partner schools: Rowan College at Burlington County, Camden County College, Cumberland County College, Salem Community College, Rowan College at Gloucester County, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, and Mercer County Community College. The quest to offer opportunity to all who wish to transform their lives through quality education has never been stronger. [wu](http://wu)

2017

2018

## JULY 1, 2017

**DR. LAVERNE T. HARMON** was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees to serve as the fourth president of Wilmington University. She is the first African-American woman to be named the president of a university in the state of Delaware. Dr. Harmon began working at Wilmington University in 1989 and held numerous positions while earning undergraduate and graduate degrees from Wilmington University and a Doctorate in Higher Education Administration from the University of Pennsylvania. She has played key roles in the University's internal operations, strategic planning and growth since becoming its executive vice president in 2014. She is committed to the University's strategic initiatives: focusing on students, expanding opportunity, enhancing academic excellence, strengthening the organization, and investing in its future.



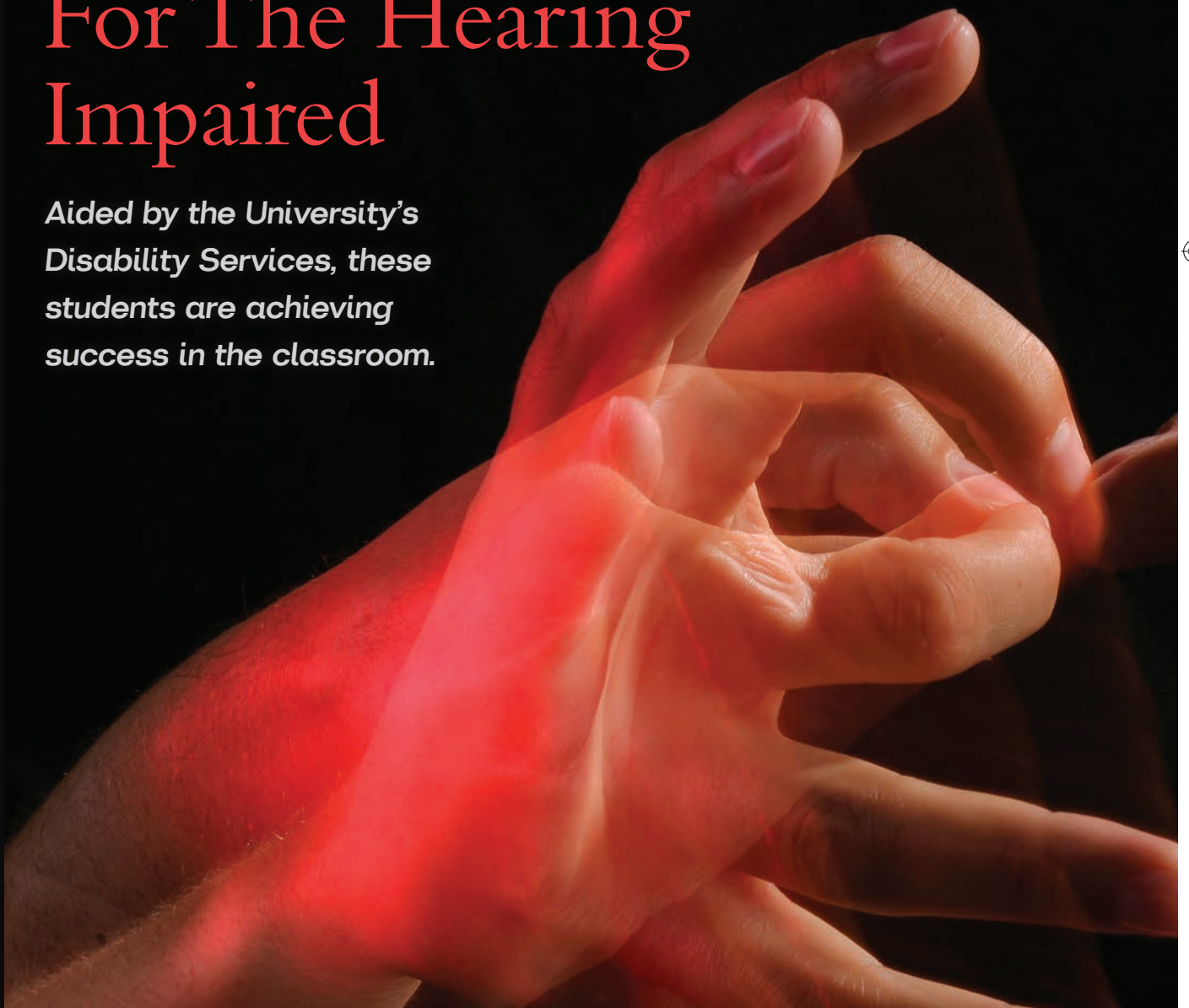
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# WilmU: A Sound Choice For The Hearing Impaired

*Aided by the University's  
Disability Services, these  
students are achieving  
success in the classroom.*



BY BOB YEARICK

**T**he human ear is a fragile, complex organ, made up of tiny bones and membranes and hair cells. When something goes awry in that complicated mechanism and a human being loses the sense of hearing, it alters that person's world dramatically. Of the five senses, only sight is more critical to the quality of life.

Communication is the biggest challenge for the deaf. Estimates of the number of Americans who know American Sign Language (ASL) range from 500,000 to two million — less than one percent of the population. And lip-reading is minimally effective; it catches less than 30 percent of what a speaker says. So loss of hearing can be devastating.





Or, it can be just another of life's challenges to be met and overcome. That's the case with Wilmington University students Dawn Peer, Brittainy Payne and William "Billy" Malaspino, who, with an attitude that mixes determination with a bit of stubbornness, have refused to let their handicap define them. And in the classroom, they have received invaluable help from the University's Disability Services.

**Dawn Peer** lost her hearing when she was a few months old due to an unknown cause, although it was suspected that her cochlear hair cells had disintegrated. She is the only member of her family who is deaf.

Her family moved from Long

Island to Delaware in 1983 when she was 8 years old, and she was placed in the Margaret S. Sterck School for the Hearing Impaired in Newark (now the Delaware School for the Deaf).

"I was an angry child and difficult child to my mother and step-father for a very long time," Peer admits. "I didn't know how to deal with my emotions."

At 14, she was mainstreamed to a vocational high school. Inspired by the television show "China Beach" and Dana Delaney, the actress who played nurse Colleen McMurphy, she became interested in nursing. That is, she says, until a teacher pulled her aside one day and, after

complimenting her on her ambition, told her she couldn't be a nurse because she was deaf. "It was one of the most malevolent comments, and something I'll never forget," says Peer.

Depression set in, and the following year she was ready to drop out of school. But her mother, who had always been supportive, worked with her school advisor to have her daughter transferred to Christiana High School. Peer's grades jumped. English class proved especially challenging, but with the help of a tutor she met the school's standards and received her diploma.

Now 43, Peer has experienced some low points, but she has

Brittainy Payne





met each setback with resilience and determination, although she sometimes has paid the price for her pride. “I don’t ask for help,” she says, “and [when I was younger] I was very stubborn and did things on my own and I learned a lot from my mistakes along the way.”

Today, she has her first apartment and her first car, and she holds down two jobs. She is in her third year at Connections Community Support Programs, Inc., which provides an array of health care, housing, and employment opportunities. There she aids individuals in group and independent homes. At Jicha Communication, which offers client services that connect employers with prospective employees, she assists clients at their job sites.

Happily married for five years, Peer has three daughters from a previous relationship — 12-year-old twins and a 9-year-old. She ended that 20-year relationship in 2012, but she has an amicable arrangement with the girls’ father. “My girls are very fortunate to have three parents who are on same side and support them. We all are on same team,” says Peer.

One of her proudest achievements was enrolling in Wilmington University in 2015. Encouraged by her husband “to go out and get my degree,” she was steered to WilmU by Christy Hennessey, program coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services at Independent Resources Inc., a nonprofit that serves people with disabilities. “Christy told me that Wilmington has a wonderful system for disabled students,” Peer says.

She wasn’t sure what major to choose but eventually, she says, “I chose Psychology because of the field I work in. Once I attended the classes, I learned things about myself and my job aspirations. I want to work with disabled children who grew up in broken homes being told they can’t do something because they



Dawn Peer

**“I want to work with disabled children who grew up in broken homes being told they can’t do something because they can’t hear. I want to encourage them to be successful in life regardless of their handicap.”** —Dawn Peer

can’t hear. I want to encourage them to be successful in life regardless of their handicap.”

Unlike Dawn Peer, **Brittainy Payne** has trod a relatively smooth path through life, thanks in large part to her athletic ability, which has led to her calling — coaching. But above and beyond that is her positive

attitude. “I’m proud to be deaf,” she says. “That’s who I am.”

Now 31 years old, she was born without hearing, but was supported by her parents and two sisters, all of whom can hear. While her parents didn’t learn ASL, they used “home signing” — personalized gestures to communicate with her.



She was mainstreamed in her New Jersey district high school, where she had deaf friends, but she eventually enrolled at the New Jersey School for the Deaf in Trenton. There she played volleyball, soccer, softball and basketball, setting some records in the latter sport.

She moved on to Gallaudet University, the only higher education institution for deaf and hard of hearing students in the world. She played two years of softball and four years of basketball at the Washington, D.C., school and graduated in 2011 with a degree in Physical Education.

Following a two-year stint as a dormitory supervisor and substitute teacher at the New Jersey School for the Deaf, Payne went to work for the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf in Philadelphia, where she teaches gym and coaches the girls basketball team.

“Basketball is my jam,” she says with a smile. She takes great pride in her team’s success. Last season, they lost in the finals of the league championship. “We’ll be back this year,” she says confidently.

She enrolled in WilmU in 2016, and expects to receive her master’s in Special Needs Education in December.

“I’ve been very happy here,” Payne says. “I find the University is incredibly accepting of me, the teachers, counselors. I fit right in. I feel the University really understands the Americans With Disabilities Act [a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination based on disability].” In praising the University’s services for the deaf, she singles out the interpreters. “They have been the best,” she says.

Deaf students are required to notify Christyn Rudolf, manager of Disability Services, about their need for interpreters at least two weeks before the start of each semester. Students are assigned two interpreters

per class. Each interpreter signs for 15–20 minutes, then the other takes over, which minimizes fatigue. For tutoring sessions, a single interpreter is assigned. The student is not charged for any of these services.

**Billy Malaspino** also grew up in a supportive household with a brother, two sisters and a mother who knew sign language. But he’s not as dependent on interpreters as Peer and Payne. Although born deaf, he received a cochlear implant 13 years ago when he was 26. The electronic implant provides a sense of sound to those with severe hearing loss. He can also read lips. As a result, he can carry on a spoken conversation, but he needs an interpreter in the classroom.

Malaspino, who lives in Claymont, Delaware, with his 16-year-old daughter, enrolled in Wilmington University in 2014 with an eye toward changing occupations. He’s been an automobile technician for 20 years, and the job has taken a toll on his body. So he’s looking forward to getting his degree in Computer Network Security at fall commencement. Cyber security is a growing field and, as he explains, much less physically demanding than repairing cars.

He chose WilmU because of the convenient, flexible scheduling that has allowed him to take nighttime classes at both the Brandywine and New Castle campuses following his shifts at Pep Boys in Prices Corner, just outside Wilmington. He says he’s done well at WilmU, carrying a 3.5 GPA.

Like others in the deaf community — even those with college degrees — Malaspino faces some challenges. He’s had a few job interviews, and he finds some potential employers hesitant to hire someone who’s hearing-impaired.

But, he adds, “I’m fortunate to have supportive parents.”

As are Peer and Payne. And



all three appreciate and value the positive response they’ve received from the WilmU community. As Peer says, “I feel fully accepted by other students and my professors. I’m just like any other student to them.” **WU**

Billy Malaspino



Malaspino chose WilmU because of the convenient, flexible scheduling that has allowed him to take nighttime classes at both the Brandywine and New Castle campuses following his shifts at Pep Boys in Prices Corner, just outside Wilmington.



# The DBA Hits Its 10-YEAR MILESTONE



| BY RUTH NORMAN |

**DBA** grads work in multiple fields: higher education, finance, health care, government and nonprofit and more. Their titles: chief marketing officer, chief financial officer, senior vice president, dean, executive director, director of supply chain, professor, and others, are illustrative of their successes. In fact, two-thirds of DBA graduates have received a promotion or a new full-time job since starting their WilmU programs.

The gathering of DBA alums who celebrated the recent 10-year anniversary inspired serious buzz. And it was no wonder. The event, “A Decade of Impact...The Journey Continues,” reflected the high level of alumni success.

Graduates of  
Wilmington  
University’s  
Doctor of  
Business  
Administration  
(DBA) program  
are leading  
organizations in  
diverse fields —  
not to mention  
**MAKING THE  
WORLD A  
BETTER PLACE.**





Some of the 125 alums couldn't attend and sent their good wishes and thoughts. In addition to obtaining a highly valued credential, they noted an appreciation for the enhanced leadership, communication and critical thinking skills, as well as increased confidence and decision-making abilities. Equally important were the strong relationships they



*Dr. Helena Costakis*

developed with faculty and fellow students.

The DBA grads shared many inspiring stories. Like **Dr. Helena Costakis**, who had long harbored a dream of earning a doctoral degree, though it took a life-threatening illness for her to muster the resolve to move forward despite many obstacles. After much research, she found that WilmU offered a nurturing environment that valued her as a whole person and recognized her potential. Dr. Costakis loved the program's practical focus and was able to apply everything she learned immediately in her role as a human resources executive.

Dr. Costakis is passionate about helping people, especially those with disabilities. Accordingly, her career has focused on nonprofit human services organizations, in which employees need to engage in "emotional labor" — the extra effort required to present



*Dr. Helena Costakis (left),  
Claire Rudolph and Dr. Stacey Legler*

positive emotions despite difficult circumstances. In her dissertation research, Dr. Costakis was able to demonstrate a relationship between emotional labor and job satisfaction and burnout, and a relationship between burnout and turnover intention. Based on her results, she developed recommendations to help nonprofits recognize the implications of emotional labor and develop approaches to reduce burnout and turnover intentions.

According to Dr. Costakis, "The DBA program changed my life and the way I think. While enrolled in the program, I was promoted multiple times. I started as a mid-level manager and ultimately achieved an executive-level position. I am now shifting my career into academia and have obtained a





“I’ve come to learn that the magic is how one takes pieces of the theory, learns from them, and then applies them in a way that makes practical sense.”

—Dr. Edward Soto

full-time faculty position with the prestigious SUNY New Paltz.”

In summing up her DBA experience, Dr. Costakis emphasized its personal and professional impact and the profound bonds she established with fellow students and faculty.

Similarly, **Dr. Edward Soto** has found the DBA journey to be rewarding, despite the challenges of being on another continent!

When Dr. Soto started working for Bayer in Pittsburgh, he couldn’t have imagined that his financial skills would take him to corporate headquarters in Germany, but that’s what happened. Fortunately, he was open to differences in languages, food and culture, and embraced the opportunity. Dr. Soto credits his

cultural dexterity with growing up in a multi-ethnic neighborhood and spending his childhood summers with relatives in Puerto Rico. Enjoying the multinational experience, Dr. Soto transitioned to Covestro, a spin-off company, and moved on to lead the company’s global risk management process.

Dr. Soto noticed that many of his German colleagues held doctoral degrees. Earning a doctoral degree would boost his career, he figured, but his busy travel schedule seemed to make this an impossible dream. Dr. Soto discovered WilmU’s fully online DBA program and enrolled. It was a challenge to juggle his many commitments, but disciplined time management led to his success.

Dr. Soto particularly appreciated that the program helped him think



*Dr. Edward Soto*

outside of box. “Before I started the DBA program I was a bit dismissive about whether theory could be useful for the real world,” he says. “However, I’ve come to learn that the magic is how one takes pieces of the theory,





*Dr. Soto and colleagues*

learns from them, and then applies them in a way that makes practical sense.”

He looks forward to using his enhanced skills and insights in his new position as vice president, head of internal accounting for Corporate Risk Management and Internal Controls at Covestro.

The DBA program’s impact on alumni careers has been substantial. Equally impressive are the contributions graduates are making to their communities. Alumni feedback indicated that nearly half have significant volunteer commitments that include serving on nonprofit boards, establishing nonprofit organizations and mentoring students.

DBA grad **Dr. Jamar Purnsley** is passionate about helping people and making a difference, a commitment evidenced not only in volunteer activities but also in his dissertation research and choice of a public service

career. He was promoted recently to assistant chief of statewide court processing services in the New Jersey Superior Court Clerk’s office.

Dr. Purnsley’s concern for helping his community guided his doctoral research, for which he conducted an economic development analysis for the township of Willingboro, New Jersey. He collected data from a wide range of stakeholders to determine what types of business the community wanted and was prepared to support. Willingboro’s mayor and city council were fully supportive of the study and have subsequently begun implementing the recommendations, including outreach programs to increase interaction between business and community, campaigns to connect young people to companies, and matching vacancies to community priorities.

As part of his commitment to

making the world a better place, Dr. Purnsley established the Extraordinary Hearts Achievement Foundation, a nonprofit organization promoting advocacy and community service. A critical organizational value is mentoring high school students concerning business skills, leadership, project management and community service. The foundation also responds to the community in times of urgent need.

The devastation in Houston due to Hurricane Harvey deeply touched Dr. Purnsley. Under his leadership, the foundation launched “Packabox Challenge for Houston,” a social media campaign. Individuals and organizations were challenged to pack boxes of food, water, toiletries, and clothing to be distributed by Houston’s Saltmine Ministries. This highly successful campaign rendered two 10x10 storage units, and its impact was so powerful, says Dr. Purnsley, that “we were able to bless over 350 people who had been hit hard by the hurricane.”



Looking over his DBA experience, Dr. Purnsley says he enjoyed the diverse faculty who challenged students on every level to be great and never to lower standards. “The rigors of this program reinforced a new sense of hard work, excellence, team work, innovation, and perseverance in all that I do,” he says.

For these DBA alumni and others, this has been a decade of impact for them as individuals, and for their colleagues and communities. It’s exciting to think about the continuation of the journey for the growing ranks of DBA alumni. When you combine their leadership, critical thinking, creativity, research, and decision-making skills with their passion for making a difference, the alumni will make the world a better place as they represent their alma mater. **WU**



*Dr. Purnsley's concern for helping his community guided his doctoral research.*



The devastation in Houston due to Hurricane Harvey deeply touched Dr. Purnsley. Under his leadership, the foundation launched “Packabox Challenge for Houston.”





*By Johanna Bishop, Adam Voyton, Doris Lauckner, Tasha Jackson, Stefanie Whitby, Katie Burke, Regina Allen-Sharpe, the College of Business team, Ashley Mundy, Tina Barksdale, Maria Hess*

*Edited and compiled by Maria Hess and Tina Barksdale*





# WAYS WILMU GIVES BACK

**THERE ARE FAR MORE THAN 50.** So consider this sampling representative of the many altruistic endeavors that Wilmington University's staff, faculty and students and alumni undertake. To them, it's all about paying it forward.

FALL 2018 39





Pi Gamma Mu students

**1. Pi Gamma Mu students** participate in the Polar Bear Plunge and raise funds for Special Olympics —more than \$3,000 annually! Each year, Pi Gamma Mu students also perform volunteer service hours at various community locations.

**2. The College of Technology** is quite involved in the community and has held multiple events in conjunction with Microsoft to help kids and adults learn how to play and program games. The college also built a VR game for a local radio program's "Campout for Hunger" event.

This resulted in a Campbell's Soup donation of 1,600 cans of food to the Philabundance food bank.

**3. Men's and Women's soccer teams** supported the 321foundation's World Down Syndrome Day.

**4. Wilmington University's Administration of Human Services** program prepares leaders to lead nonprofit community organizations.

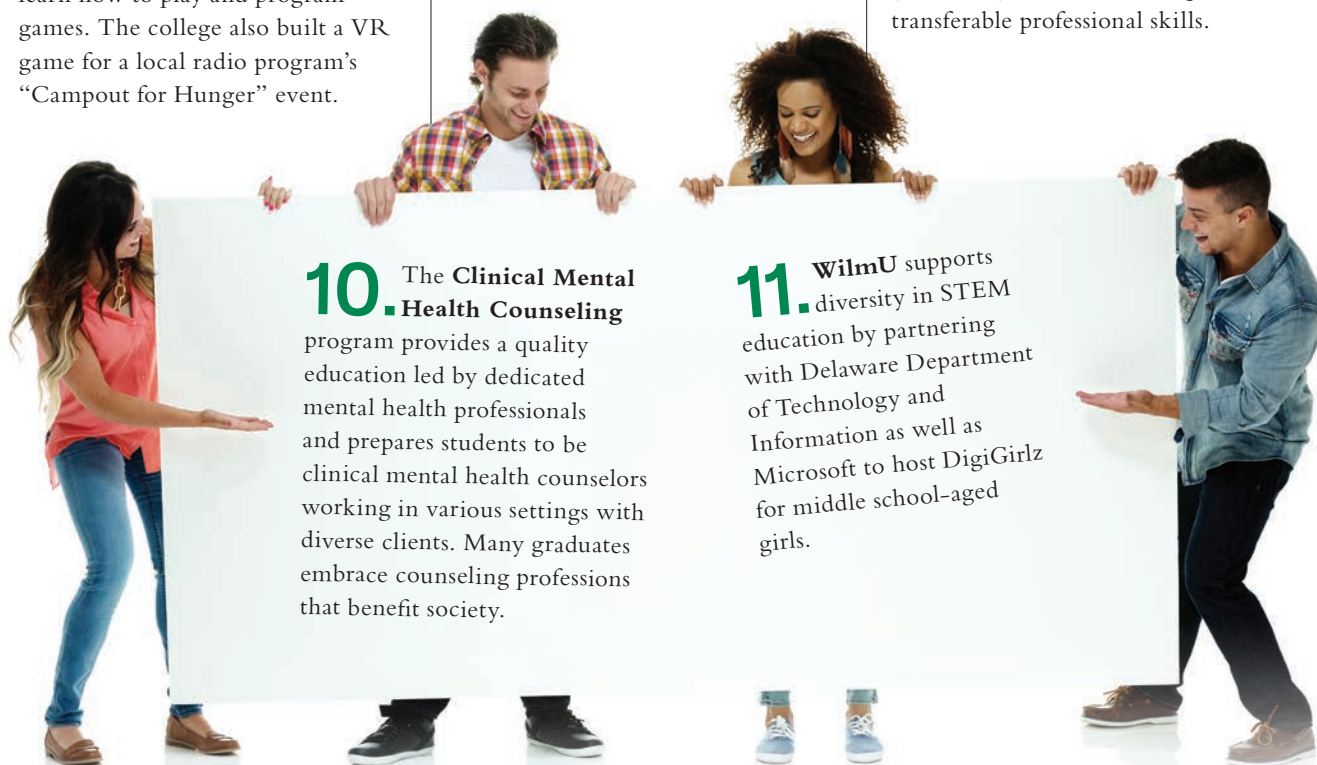
**5. WilmU faculty** have been active in the community as members of the New Castle County Ethics Commission: as Court Appointed Special Advocate Coordinator in New Jersey and Delaware; with youth programs in various faith-based community groups; and with the American Red Cross.

**6. The Pathway to Instructional Excellence** serves as an open-source professional development curriculum with on-demand videos.

**7. The College of Online and Experiential Learning** staff volunteers often to support numerous social causes.

**8. WilmU** offered a Transition Assistance Plan for DuPont employees who suffered layoffs.

**9. Many Behavioral Science majors** take advantage of completing their internships at community organizations. This benefits the internship site (free labor), and students acquire transferable professional skills.



**10. The Clinical Mental Health Counseling** program provides a quality education led by dedicated mental health professionals and prepares students to be clinical mental health counselors working in various settings with diverse clients. Many graduates embrace counseling professions that benefit society.

**11. WilmU** supports diversity in STEM education by partnering with Delaware Department of Technology and Information as well as Microsoft to host DigiGirlz for middle school-aged girls.

**12.** **Student-athletes** have supported Academic Affairs Vice President Dr. Jim Wilson by participating in the Annual Kidney Foundation 5K run.

**13.** The **men's soccer team** participated in the Townsend (Delaware) "I Love to Read Month." The team also received the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's outstanding volunteer group award.

**14.** **WilmU** has sponsored 86 nonprofit organizations, including The Salvation Army, Delaware Hospice, Easter Seals, and Nemours Fund for Children's Health, to name a few.

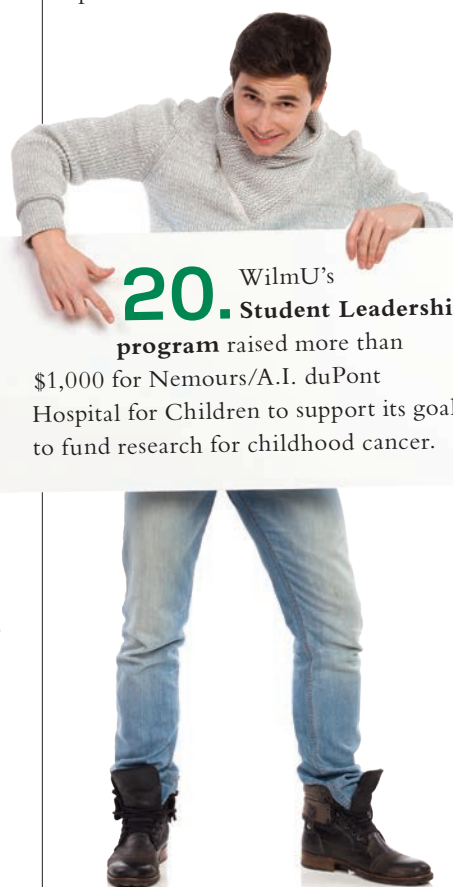
**15.** **Student-athletic teams** have participated in Adopt a Highway, Make A Wish, Military Appreciation, New Castle County Parks Clean Up, and have also supported local organizations. They have raised awareness for numerous causes at local games, including breast cancer awareness, juvenile diabetes research, domestic violence, National Girls & Women in Sports Day, Toys for Tots and Wilmington firefighters.

**16.** **WilmU** sends **volunteers**, often students, to the Ronald McDonald House to man phones and support its annual telethon, "Change the Luck of a Child."

**17.** For the third year in a row, **Wilmington University's College of Social & Behavioral Sciences** has raised human trafficking awareness in the community via its Human Trafficking Awareness Symposium. The Behavioral Science Advisory Board, consisting of community members and leaders, provides guidance on and awareness of trends in the professional sector.

**18.** Former **WilmU** student and Army veteran **Mike Laureano** was a successful donor for a 4-year-old girl via Be the Match, which he signed up for at the University. (WilmU students marketed and recruited potential donors at the campus event.) Only one out of 400 people are expected to be matches. *(See story on page 5.)*

**19.** **AVP of Student Affairs and Dean of Students Dr. Regina Allen-Sharpe** volunteers with the Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition, where she mentors newly diagnosed patients.



**20.** **WilmU's Student Leadership program** raised more than \$1,000 for Nemours/A.I. duPont Hospital for Children to support its goal to fund research for childhood cancer.



Student athletes at one of many functions





Alternative  
spring break

**21.** Groups of WilmU **students** have traveled the country for their Alternative Spring Breaks to aid survivors of such disasters as Hurricane Sandy in New Jersey and Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. Others have volunteered for Habitat for Humanity of New Castle County to build homes for deserving Wilmington families.

**22.** **Stephanie Battis** serves on the board of The Greater Valley Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

**23.** The **Student Alumni Association** has raised funds for and participated in the Susan G. Komen Foundation's "Race for the Cure."

**24.** **Alice Miller**, coordinator of Student Activities, volunteered for Big Brother Big Sisters and met weekly with her little sister at her school. She provided academic support and engagement activities.

**25.** The **Psychology/Organizational Dynamics Student Association** participated in the National Association of Mental Illness walk.

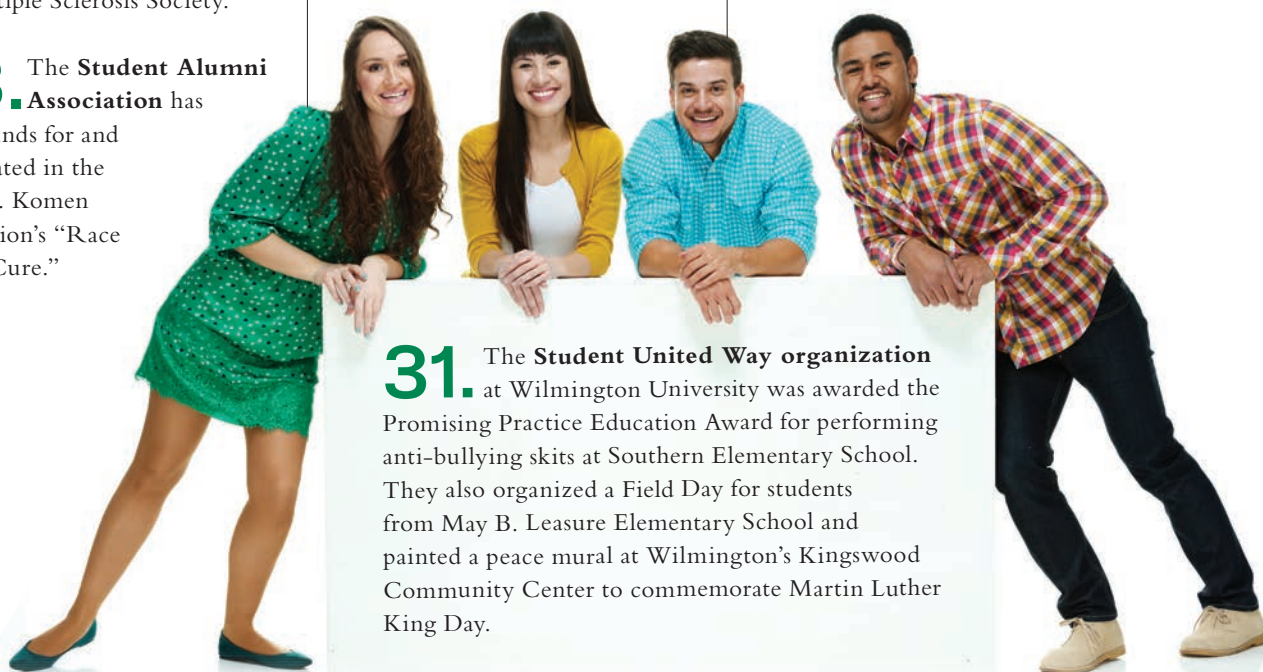
**26.** Wilmington University's **Student Government Association** assembled duffel bags for children entering foster care through the Kind to Kids Foundation. The group has also volunteered at Foulk Manor North (North Wilmington) and hosted activity days for its elderly residents.

**27.** A team from Wilmington University's **College of Health Professions** embarked on a weeklong mission trip to Santo Domingo, the capital city of the Dominican Republic, where they delivered medical treatment to a population in need and help set up clinics.

**28.** WilmU **students and staff** contribute annually to the Joy of Sharing Toy Drive in partnership with CBS Philadelphia.

**29.** WilmU **students and staff** donate blood annually to the Blood Bank of Delmarva.

**30.** **Student Leadership participants** have developed and facilitated leadership workshops for middle and high school students for the Jefferson Awards Foundation Conferences.



**31.** The **Student United Way organization** at Wilmington University was awarded the Promising Practice Education Award for performing anti-bullying skits at Southern Elementary School. They also organized a Field Day for students from May B. Leasure Elementary School and painted a peace mural at Wilmington's Kingswood Community Center to commemorate Martin Luther King Day.



WilmU students take a needed break during an uplifting day of service.

**32.** WilmU's **Dover Ambassadors** have volunteered at the Delaware Heart Ball, which is organized by the American Heart Association.

**33.** The **College of Business** partnered with the Salvation Army during the holiday season. They even worked Red Kettles and rang bells.

**34.** **Dr. Kathy Kennedy-Ratajack** and **Stephanie Battis**, both of the College of Business, assisted with the judging for Jobs for Delaware Graduates. The mission was to enable students to achieve academic, career, personal and social success.

**35.** **Dr. Kennedy-Ratajack** served as co-chair of the American Heart and Stroke Association's Go Red for Women Event.

**36.** Representatives from the **College of Business** provided classroom volunteers for Junior Achievement, an organization that fosters work-readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy skills, and uses experiential learning to inspire students in our communities to dream big and reach their potential.

**37.** Assistant Professor **Piyen Chang** picks up litter for communities in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

**38.** Associate Professor **Dr. Robin Weinstein** has worked tirelessly to engage, equip, empower and mobilize individuals and organizations in New Jersey, to employ innovative and cooperative solutions to alleviate suffering, to feed the hungry, end poverty, reduce crime, revitalize a spirited community and transform lives. He is the co-founder of the Cumberland County

Code Blue Coalition and the convener of the Cumberland County Housing First Collaborative, which address the plight of homelessness through community engagement, grassroots activism, and innovative partnerships.

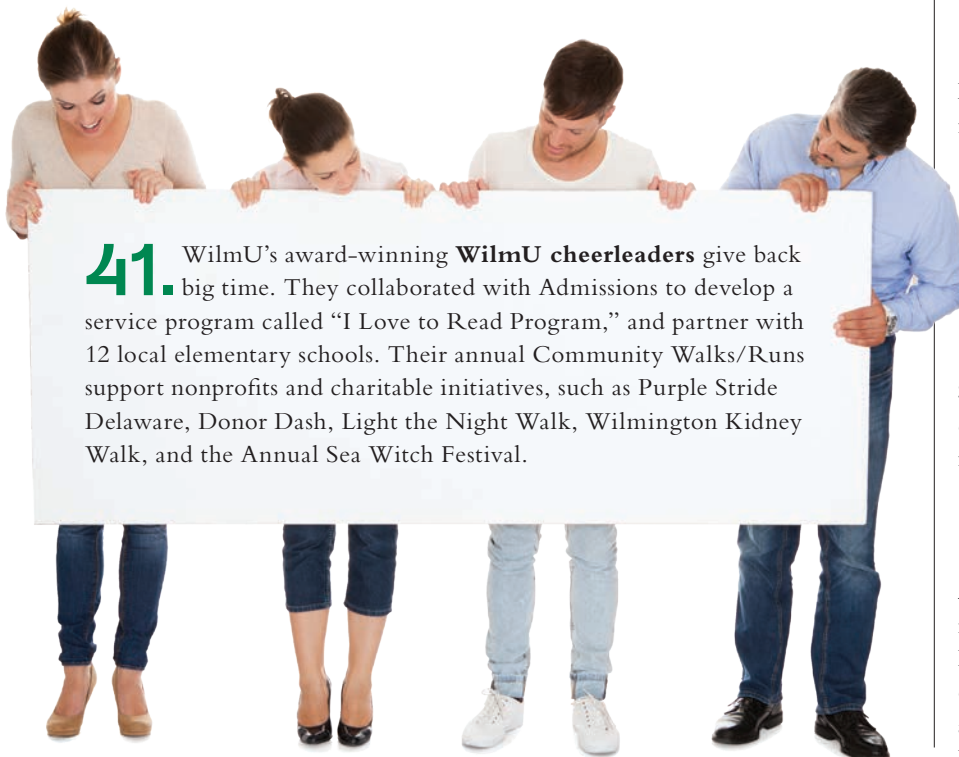
**39.** Senior Director **Dr. Maria Hess** has served the Ministry of Caring for many years and was awarded the 2018 Caring Bowl, the nonprofit's highest award honoring individuals who have demonstrated consistent service to the poor and homeless. Dr. Hess also moderates for Great Dames, Inc., a nonprofit that supports women and inspires them to build their legacies.

**40.** The **College of Technology** team created a training module Proof of Concept for pediatric doctors from the Nemours/A.I. duPont Hospital for Children.





The men's soccer team inspires elementary students in Townsend, Delaware, to love reading.



**41.** WilmU's award-winning **WilmU cheerleaders** give back big time. They collaborated with Admissions to develop a service program called "I Love to Read Program," and partner with 12 local elementary schools. Their annual Community Walks/Runs support nonprofits and charitable initiatives, such as Purple Stride Delaware, Donor Dash, Light the Night Walk, Wilmington Kidney Walk, and the Annual Sea Witch Festival.

**42.** Dr. Katie Ellis, director of the WilmU's Brandywine site, serves on the board for Nemours Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders. She was the former Woman of the Year for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, for which she raised \$17,000 in 10 weeks. Dr. Ellis also co-chaired a Fresh Start Scholarship Foundation (FSSF) signature event that raised \$40,000 for student scholarships. She currently mentors a WilmU scholar for FSSF.

**43.** The **Student Government Association** has cooked and served meals at Ronald McDonald House of Delaware, and volunteered by taking calls at its annual telethon. They also participated in the nonprofit's Delaware Run for Kids.



## 44. The University Relations team

volunteers annually at the Delaware Food Bank to assemble hundreds of food backpacks for children who might otherwise go hungry.

## 45. Student United Way, Student Government Association

and the women's lacrosse team joined forces to serve meals for the Sunday Breakfast Mission.

## 46. The Human Resources team

developed a comprehensive training and development program called "Learn and Earn," where they offer diversity workshops focused on cultural awareness, sensitivity and diversity for all levels of employees.

## 47. The University encourages its employees to be involved

in the community and has implemented a "Community Connections" program so that employees can be awarded time off to participate.

## 48. Alumnus Georgetown Charles

has dedicated his life to serving the people of his native Haiti, who to this day are still recovering from a devastating 2010 earthquake.

## 49. Associate Professor Dr. Kathryn Brown

has volunteered for Read Aloud Delaware and worked with non-English speaking parents who wanted to build better futures for their children by improving their reading skills.

## 50. Many WilmU staffers volunteer at the Ministry of Caring's Emmanuel Dining Room to serve meals to the homeless and hungry. WU



The Wildcat pride is everywhere.





# SPORTS

## Softball's California Pipeline Brings Native American to WilmU

**A**LYSSA VELASQUEZ, shortstop on the Wilmington University softball team, hails from California. Which, believe it or not, is not at all unusual. Coach Mike Shehorn has created a California pipeline, and eight members of the 2018 squad list the Golden State as home.

What makes Velasquez unique is her heritage: She is the only Native American on the team — perhaps in the entire University. She is Kumeyaay/Diegueno from the Barona Band of Mission Indians on her great-grandmother's side and Luiseño from the La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians on her great-grandfather's side.

If you've never heard of those tribes, don't be surprised. Velasquez says there are more than 500 officially recognized tribes in the U.S.

Born and raised in Indio, California, she says that her great grand-father moved to Indio for work "because he was in the golf course business and that is where the majority of the golf courses were at the time."

"Since then," she says, "my family hasn't moved back to the reservation, which is two-and-a-half hours away from Indio."

Coached by her dad, Velasquez has been playing softball since the age of 4. She was influenced to come to WilmU by teammate Caitlyn Whiteside, another California product who is one year ahead of Velasquez, a junior.

"I love Wilmington University," she says. "The campus is beautiful, the softball field is

great, and the softball program is amazing. I love my coaches and teammates. They are my second family. My coaches are awesome and funny, and my teammates are my softball sisters. It's my home away from home."

Shehorn explains the California connection this way: "When I took over as the head coach in 2013 I wanted to see how far I could stretch the boundaries of recruiting. Subsequently we were able to land a couple Cali kids and they have had great experiences. And they have been our best recruiters; they spread the word about us on the West Coast."

"As for Alyssa," he adds, "she's an amazing person, player, and teammate. She's a student of the game who has been raised around the game. Her dad and summer coaches have taught her how to play the game rather than allowing the game play her. She has started at shortstop for us since her freshman year and has continued to blossom."

A Health Sciences major, Velasquez helped her father coach her sister's 10-and-under team and her cousin's 12-and-under team during the summer. "I enjoy teaching these young girls this wonderful sport and I tried to be a good role model for them," she says. "And I hope I can inspire them to continue their education and pursue their dreams of playing college softball. Maybe even play or attend Wilmington University. Go Wildcats!" **WU**

—Bob Yearick







*Alyssa Velasquez*



# Coach Named for New Men's, Women's Outdoor Track and Field

**Track and field will become the 11th men's sport and 12th women's sport at WilmU to compete in the NCAA Division II Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference.**

**C**HRISTIAN STAMM, a successful high school coach, will seek to duplicate that success at the collegiate level as he takes over the newly-minted Wilmington University men's and women's outdoor track and field programs, which will begin competing next spring.

Track and field will become the 11th men's sport and 12th women's sport at WilmU to compete in the NCAA Division II Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference.

Stamm has been a winning coach for 10 years at high schools in Delaware and Pennsylvania. Last season he was an assistant at Wilmington Friends, coaching the sprints, relays and hurdles. The bulk of his coaching experience came at the helm of his alma mater, Methacton High School, in Eagleville, Pennsylvania. He began coaching at Methacton in 2008 as an assistant coach and became head coach of the boys winter and spring teams in the fall of 2012. Over the following four seasons, his teams produced a record of 30-6 in the Pioneer

Athletic Conference.

Stamm is a 1994 graduate of Moravian College, where he excelled in both track and field, and football.

"We are excited to be able to add men's and women's track and field at Wilmington University," said Athletics Director Dr. Stefanie Whitby, a former track and field student-athlete and coach. "Delaware, as well as the tri-state area, has been developing strong track and field programs for many years and now many of those student athletes can choose to continue their track careers here at WilmU."

In announcing Stamm as the program's first coach, Dr. Whitby said: "Christian brings a passion for the sport, as well as an understanding of what it takes to build a successful program. His athletes have attained success at the conference, district, state and national level, and we are looking forward to building this new program and providing so many athletes with a chance to compete at the DII level." **WU**

—Bob Yearick



Christian Stamm



PHOTO BY SUSAN L. GREGG



# ALUMNI

Alderman Pettyjohn has been selected from numerous nominees as the recipient of the first **Distinguished Alumni Award**, presented by the Wilmington University Alumni Association. **by Britney Gullede**

## ALDERMAN KELLY PETTYJOHN



Alderman and alumna **KELLY PETTYJOHN** uses her background, work experience and education to lead with compassion and make a positive impact in her community.

And she does that in Court 35 in Laurel, Delaware, where she speaks with elementary students about civics lessons, listens to defendants' backgrounds, or sets up payment arrangements for those who find themselves in her court. An alderman is nominated by the governor and confirmed by the state Senate to decide all violations of city ordinances occurring within the city.

Pettyjohn never imagined presiding over a courtroom. "I would not have guessed that I would be a judge," she says. "I am honored to work in such a small town where I can get to know the stories of those who enter the court for whatever reason."

She found solace in those stories, mainly because, at 17, she had been a victim of domestic violence in a romantic relationship. "I knew what it felt like to be scared and feel helpless," she says. "Domestic violence can sometimes seem manageable until it's too much to bear. I was able to heal from my experience through helping others find their voices. It was most

important to me that we educated others to advocate for themselves when no one else could."

Before becoming an alderman, Pettyjohn worked as a domestic violence liaison and program manager at People's Place II, a multi-service nonprofit dedicated to helping people find their paths to growth and independence by connecting them with counseling, education, prevention, intervention, supportive services and advocacy. She coordinated and mediated visitations between custodial and non-custodial parents, and the position utilized her ability to deescalate emotionally-charged situations.

Pettyjohn earned two WilmU degrees: a bachelor's in Behavioral Science in 2015, and a master's in Administration of Justice in 2017. "My passion to work with domestic violence survivors in a more impactful way pushed me to continue my education," she says.

The alderman hopes that her hard work is an inspiration to her 14-year-old daughter, Mollie. "I couldn't imagine her going through



### THE NOMINATIONS ARE IN!

The Alumni Association is excited to announce the names of those **ALUMNI NOMINATED** for its Distinguished Alumni Award. View the full list in the digital edition of WilmU Magazine, at <http://blog.wilmu.edu/magazine/>.



everything I had to go through to find my voice,” says Pettyjohn. “I’m stronger because I know she’s watching.”

When Pettyjohn thinks about how differently things could’ve

turned out, she’s “incredibly grateful,” she says. “I have spent the past 24 years trying to convince myself that I am worthy, and that is difficult once your spirit is crushed. I don’t need recognition or to be on

television or in the news. Just the feeling that the folks in the town I serve feel welcome and comfortable talking to me or asking for help. That’s how I know I’m absolutely where I’m supposed to be.” **WU**



# DR. LEMAR WHITE:

## A Champion for Diversity by Britney Gulledge

Diversity shows itself in many ways: race, sexuality, culture, values, religion, gender and a multitude of others. Alumnus **DR. LEMAR WHITE** understands this and wants to push forward a culture of acceptance and understanding in professional spaces.

Dr. White works at the Internet giant, Google, as an ethics and compliance program manager in its Anti-Bribery Division. It's a widely coveted position, and research shows it's harder to get hired at Google than it is to get into Harvard University.

But earning the position wasn't enough for Dr. White; he wanted to contribute to the diversity and community service mission of the organization as well. At Google, Dr. White heads the Gayglers D.C. Network, an employee resource group for LGBTQ professionals at Google, and also co-leads the Black Googlers Network. In 2017, he led a team of about 100 Google employees to Flint, Michigan, to address poor water quality affecting the community.

"People have extended support to me in times that I've needed it the most," says Dr. White, "and I want to extend that same favor to others."

He grew up in Barbados and moved to the United States at 17 to attend Florida International University, where he studied accounting.

"I didn't know anyone when I moved to Miami," says Dr. White. "I grew up with such a strong family connection but moved to a place where I knew no one and had to figure life out on my own."

He built his support system through the student government association, honor societies, peer advising club and other campus groups. "My time in Miami pushed me to make strong ties and recognize the importance of your community, identity and support system," says Dr. White.

Dr. White holds an MBA from Texas A&M University-Commerce, and an Ed.D. with a concentration in Organizational Leadership and Communication from Northeastern University. At WilmU, he earned an MS in Management with a concentration in Information Systems and an MS in Management with a Concentration in Human Resources Management.

He has become an expert in the fields of anti-bribery and anti-corruption, and is regularly called upon to speak at conferences in the U.S. and abroad. Recently, leaders

of the Barbadian government invited him to review and consult on an anti-corruption legislative policy that would be presented in the House of Parliament.

In 2017, Dr. White joined forces with another WilmU alum, Andrea Singleton, to create the Proud Professionals Network. The mission of the organization is to provide professional development for LGBTQ and allies, along with business and social networking opportunities for members, while also focusing on community engagement, activism and philanthropy.

"I understand the struggles that are presented to those in the LGBTQ community who are working in spaces that don't accept us," he says. "We want to develop current and future leaders, both professionally and personally. I've done some recruiting with Google and I see how so many people are underprepared for the tough interview process. I want to make sure that we are preparing students and the next generation of those who want to be in tech or companies like Google, Amazon, Facebook or the like."

Within a year of starting the organization, the team provided scholarships to two homeless



*Dr. Lemar White*

Dr. White joined forces with another WilmU alum, Andrea Singleton, to create the Proud Professionals Network. **The mission of the organization is to provide professional development for LGBTQ and allies, along with business and social networking opportunities for members,**

LGBTQ students attending Florida International. The team plans to add more scholarships each year.

In connection with Wilmington University's Colleges of Business and Online and Experiential Learning, the Proud Professional

Network is offering a Leadership & Diversity Academy to college students to prepare them to handle issues pertaining to diversity and LGBTQ matters. The inaugural course in September filled up quickly. Participants are eligible to

receive college credit for completing this training. **WU**

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*To learn more about the Leadership and Diversity Academy, visit <http://www.wilmu.edu/coel/2018diversity>.*



# UPDATES

*Sharon Dutton*





# First Environmental Science and Policy Grad Scores NASA Grant

Environmental Science and Policy graduate Sharon Dutton delivered the Wilmington University 2018 Commencement Speech in May after being selected in a competitive process that took into account high academic achievements and service to the community. WilmU's Board of Trustees member Dr. Thomas Shaw introduced her, calling Sutton "a trailblazer for Science at Wilmington University."

It was an apt description. During her time as a student, Dutton was awarded a NASA Space Grant summer research internship. She was tasked with using GIS mapping technology to establish tools for evaluating the percentage of coral reef cover in the Florida Keys, then created hundreds of maps and gained valuable experience using GIS technology. WilmU Science Chair Dr. Milton Muldrow Jr. supervised these findings, and the cumulative research was presented recently at the Delmarva GIS Conference at the Dover Downs Hotel & Casino.

"Sharon was an exemplary student and has a promising future in science," says Dr. Muldrew. "I'm proud to have had our first Environmental Science and Policy graduate become a much-deserved commencement speaker."

Before she graduated, Dutton accepted an offer to become an environmental technician at Formosa Plastics Corporation, which is headquartered in Livingston, New Jersey. [WU](#)

—Linda Muldrew

PHOTO BY PAUL PATTON



# The Next Worst Generation?

**A**re millennials the worst generation ever? You might think so from listening to the barrage of negative comments in the media. However, WilmU DBA student **BRYAN YAKULIC** helps put that hot topic in perspective in his presentation, “The Next Worst Generation” for TEDxDover.

As an adjunct professor at The American College of Financial Services, Yakulic teaches cross-generational leadership. He has been featured as a keynote speaker at industry events, and has contributed articles and quotes to industry publications, as well as popular press such as Forbes.

Yakulic notes that disparaging

comments about young adults have been made for decades and even centuries, going back as far as Socrates. Generations are just different, not inherently better or worse, he feels. The key to success is for the generations to learn from each other and leverage the positives.

Yakulic ends his talk with an appeal to millennials to reach out to the next “worst” generation — Generation Z — in order to foster innovation and competitiveness in the marketplace. He thinks that by respecting these differences, we might make the world a better place.

Beyond his TEDx talk, Yakulic has been delving deeper into cross-generational issues in his doctoral



Bryan Yakulic

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRYAN YAKULIC

dissertation research, in which he is assessing the diversity climate of a major airline. The objectives of the research are to find ways for the airline to leverage diversity and

## Cumberland County College Honors WilmU Alumna



PHOTO COURTESY OF DANIELLE HUGHES

Danielle Hughes

**W**ilmington University graduate **DANIELLE HUGHES** was among four Distinguished Alumni honored at the 10th anniversary ceremonies at The Shirlee and Bernard Brown University Center at Cumberland County College in Vineland, New Jersey.

Since opening in 2008, the University Center has filled more than 9,000 bachelor’s and master’s level seats in support of students completing their

advanced degrees through partnerships with prominent universities, including WilmU.

Hughes, who received her master’s in Nursing at Wilmington, began her higher education journey at CCC, where she earned an RN degree in 2010. She began working full-time in the field of oncology immediately after graduating from Cumberland and became certified to administer chemotherapy and biotherapies while also enrolled in

increase retention.

Yackulic praises the DBA program as an incredibly impactful and authentic learning experience. The deep conversations with faculty and peers have opened his mind and enabled him to think differently. As demonstrated by his TEDx talk, the program helped Yackulic hone his presentation and executive writing skills. He looks forward to using those tools to promote diversity in the workplace and community and credits the DBA program and WilmU faculty for giving him the ability to do so. **WU**

—Ruth Norman

Wilmington's BSN program, offered through the University Center. Her passion for helping people "fight their fight" led her to become an OCN (Oncology Certified Nurse).

She is a lead clinical practice nurse in medical hematology and oncology at MD Anderson in New Jersey, where she has developed patient and chemotherapy education programs. **WU**



PHOTO COURTESY OF WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY HUMAN RESOURCES

## BACK-PACKING IT

Every year, WilmU employees band together to provide backpacks and school supplies to children of the Dover Boys and Girls Club and the Rosehill Community Center in New Castle, Delaware.

"Employees see this as a wonderful way to pay it forward in our community, and each year we seem to outdo the year before with our donations," says Assistant Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer **DR. NICOLE ROMANO**.

"This year our employees — and even some students — donated more than 230 backpacks filled with essential back-to-school supplies."

The Human Resources team has been leading the backpack program since 2005. **WU**







*Tamara Varella*

# HEARTFELT THANKS

At the Delaware Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) 2018 Diversity Conference this past July, alumna **TAMARA VARELLA** surprised Wilmington University President Dr. LaVerne Harmon with a special gift.

"I wanted to thank Dr. Harmon for all she has done for students like me over the years," says Varella.

In 2008, Varella went back to school with the goal of earning a bachelor's degree in two years — hoping to meet this goal between the time her daughter received her license at 16 (so she could drive her siblings to various appointments) and when she graduated from high school at 18.

WilmU's financial aid and scholarship opportunities made it possible for Varella to return to college. "Without that aid, I would never have been able to go," says Varella, adding that she couldn't afford Internet or cable at the time and had spent countless hours in the library.

Varella took on an incredible eight-course load in her summer term and continued to populate her schedule each semester. The busy mother of four admits it took an intense amount of focus, and via online and face-to-face classes, she earned her bachelor's in Business Administration with minors in Finance and Global Management. The straight-A student credits WilmU for being the only institution flexible enough to afford her such individualized opportunities.

"For me, as a single mom raising four kids while working toward my degree," says Varella, "WilmU means freedom: freedom to

achieve every dream by equipping me with a strong educational foundation; freedom to enter the marketplace empowered from learning from instructors who have hands-on experience and expertise; freedom to navigate within my community from the relationships established with my classmates; freedom to remove my own limitations by having access to those who have achieved the level of success I am striving for; and ultimately, freedom to be the best version of me."

Today Varella is the owner of iManifest Now Coach, a full-service business growth and consultancy firm. She says her degree opened her mind to myriad possibilities. "There's a certain amount of money you have to make and a certain amount you deserve to make," she says. "My degree made me more comfortable having the conversation about what I'm worth and what I deserve."



At the SHRM conference, Varella thanked Dr. Harmon for the support she offered her and countless others by giving her a framed letter that contained the phrases below. She chose to leave the letter open-ended so that each student who has been inspired by Dr. Harmon could complete the sentences individually.

*Because of you, I was...*

*Because of you, I can...*

*Because of you, I am... **WU***

—Britney Gullledge



# New Development Office

Wilmington University welcomes the new Development Office to the Alumni Relations Department. The team, **FELICIA QUINN, DANA WHITE** and **CRYSTAL RUTIHINDA**, is charged with developing a culture of philanthropy among alumni and community, and creating meaningful ways to keep donors and fundraising volunteers aware of the impact of their giving.

“Our [development] team is different from many other universities because every dollar raised goes to student scholarships,” says Quinn, the Development Office director. Last year, the University awarded

\$182,500 in scholarships, and the new team wants to surpass that total.

“We plan to expand on the University mission of providing access to students by

offering larger, more impactful scholarships that could remove the barriers from those looking to earn a degree,” says Development Associate Dana White.

To coincide with WilmU’s fifth decade in existence, the team will kick off the 50th Anniversary Giving Day on Nov. 27, which happens to be National Giving Day. “This will be the institution’s first-ever Giving Day campaign and all proceeds will support the Wilmington University scholarship fund,” says Quinn, who hopes alumni and all others will save the date. “We want our alumni to be proud to be a part of this institution because we are especially proud of them.” **WU**

*Felicia Quinn*



*Above: Development Office’s Crystal Rutihinda, Dana White and Felicia Quinn.*



**SAVE THE DATE**

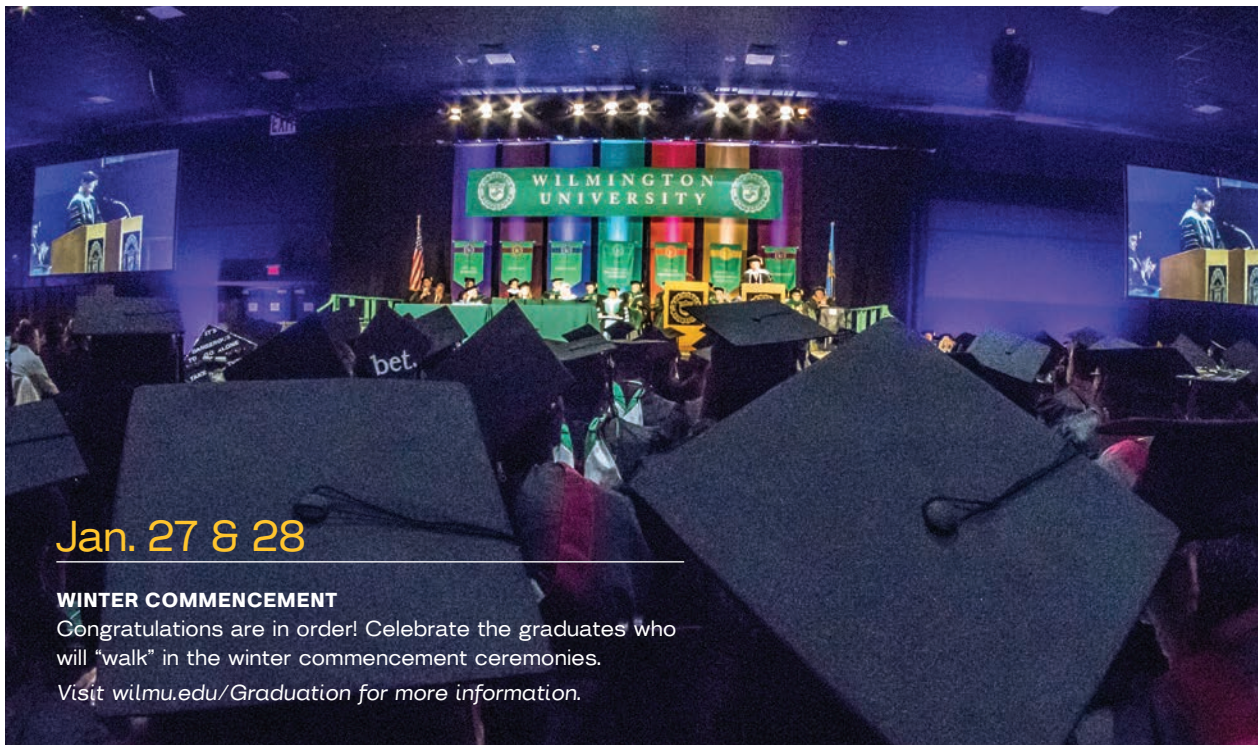
**The 50th Anniversary Giving Day is on Nov. 27.**  
For more information or to make a donation,  
visit [wilmu.edu/give](http://wilmu.edu/give).



## EVENTS

Want your event listed in the Spring 2018 issue? Please send your information to **DAVID BERNARD AT [DAVID.BERNARD@WILMU.EDU](mailto:DAVID.BERNARD@WILMU.EDU)**. The deadline is **Dec. 15, 2018**.

# University Events



**Jan. 27 & 28**

### WINTER COMMENCEMENT

Congratulations are in order! Celebrate the graduates who will "walk" in the winter commencement ceremonies.

Visit [wilmu.edu/Graduation](http://wilmu.edu/Graduation) for more information.

**Feb. 2**

### POLAR BEAR PLUNGE

Solve this riddle: Who is ice cold with a warm heart? Join the Pi Gamma Mu team as they submerge in Rehoboth Beach's frigid February waters to raise funds for Special Olympics.

(Contact: [johanna.p.bishop@wilmu.edu](mailto:johanna.p.bishop@wilmu.edu))





# Alumni Events

**Dec. 1**

## **NEMOURS ESTATE HOLIDAY TOUR**

Join the New Castle alumni chapter in a visit the former duPont estate (850 Alapocas Drive, Wilmington) while it's decked for the holidays, including Christmas trees, hand-painted ornaments and antique decorations.

(Contact: donna.j.hardy@wilmu.edu)

PHOTO COURTESY OF NEMOURS ESTATE



**Dec. 8**

## **NYC BUS TRIP**

See the bright lights and big city on the annual New York City bus trip! Students and alumni are welcome (limit of two guests). Tickets are \$10 and \$15 per guest. The bus will leave the Dover campus at 7 a.m. and the New Castle campus at 8 a.m.

(Contact: donna.j.hardy@wilmu.edu)

**March 5**

## **CAREER SERVICES & MENTORING FOR ALUMNI**

Join the New Castle alumni chapter for a presentation titled "8 Reasons to Connect with Career Services," presented by Career Services Associate Kim Plusch. The event will take place from 5:30–7:30 p.m. at the New Castle campus.

(Contact: donna.j.hardy@wilmu.edu)



## Admissions Events

To thank you for attending admission events, attendees will receive a code to waive the application fee to apply or reapply to WilmU!



## Ongoing

### **INFORMATION SESSIONS**

Information sessions help you learn about new WilmU programs and other topics. Sessions are available online and in-person.

For more information, visit [wilmu.edu/VisitUs](http://wilmu.edu/VisitUs), or call the University Information Center at (877) 967-5464.





# NEW AT WILMU

## Two New Communication Courses Offered Now!

The B.S. in Communication program has expanded its curriculum with two new courses. Program Chair Dr. Janice Colvin says the two courses, offered as electives, will add value to the degree by increasing skills, therefore meeting needs employers report they require for multi-faceted employees.

**Communication Editing** (COM 255) will provide foundational training in editing written material for both print and digital presentations. Thorough, careful and sensitive editing is needed to ensure factual and grammatically correct written material prepared for time-pressed readers. This course teaches four types of editing (revising, substantive editing, copyediting and proofreading) for multiple forms of writing. The capstone project combines these skills for a hypothetical website.

“Knowing how to edit your work and the work of others is an important skill no matter where you are employed,” Dr. Colvin says. “Learning the fundamentals of editing and routinely

practicing it helps your mind focus on what you or another writer is communicating to the reader. Some say editing is more than a skill, it’s an art.”

The second course, **Advanced Technical Communication** (COM 355), which continues the work of the introductory course — COM 250, Technical Writing — covering the requirements for designing and developing technical documentation. In this new course, students will further define audience and purpose, determine appropriate format and style, improve the clarity and organization of writing, and review and edit work effectively. Project work will require teamwork, oral communication and presentation skills.

Dr. Colvin also gave details on COM 355’s unique enhancement: the course provides specific training for the international Certified Professional Technical Communication (CPTC) professional certification exam now being offered at Wilmington University.

“The Advanced Technical Communication course, in particular, will be open to all University students who wish to add this training to their skills,” she says. “Employers in many industries and fields need good communicators, and this training will help provide that.”

After training, students may take the qualifying exam for certification if they wish, she says. “And we welcome those already working in the technical communication field who desire to add to their credentials by taking the training and the exam for the professional certification,” Dr. Colvin adds.

The CPTC is offered by the Society for Technical Communication, a professional association for technical communicators and content specialists. [www.wilmu.edu/artsandsciences/comm.aspx](http://www.wilmu.edu/artsandsciences/comm.aspx)

For more information, see <http://www.wilmu.edu/artsandsciences/comm.aspx> or call (302) 327-4701.



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[wilmu.edu/BrandywineValley](http://wilmu.edu/BrandywineValley)

**NEW** WilmU site serves Chester,  
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Open for classes **January 14, 2019**

\*Based on published 2016-17 tuition rates

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This recent alumna was awarded a NASA  
Space Grant summer research internship.

**Find out how her degree catapulted  
her career on page 54.**

PHOTO BY PAUL PATTON