ROLLIN' ON THE RIVER

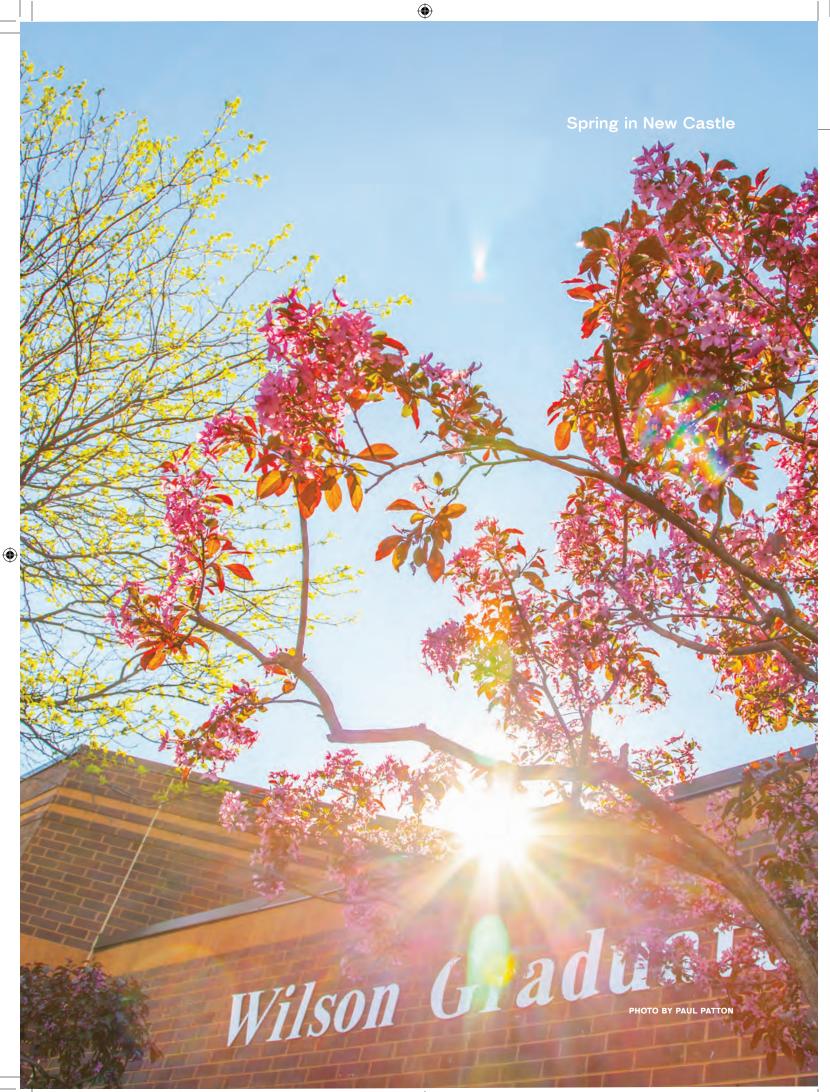
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Alumna Yvette Buckner-Rouse started a new business five minutes after graduating. Now she's calling the shots at Wilmington's burgeoning Riverfront.

THE PUBLICATION FOR THE WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

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SPRING 2018



FROM THE PRESIDENT

••• Our alumni association comprises graduates worldwide who have transformed their lives through quality education. •• —Dr. LaVerne T. Harmon



Genuine Pride

Gracing our cover this issue is alumna Yvette Buckner-Rouse, who recently walked the stage to receive her diploma at the Chase Center on the Riverfront and within five minutes, sprinted to her new Riverfront business. Still dressed in academic regalia, Ms. Buckner-Rouse led opening day ceremonies for the Riverfront Development Corporation's newly acquired Riverboat Queen, which would welcome passengers on cruises as it set sail from the Christina and Brandywine Rivers to the tip of the Delaware. She could have taken off her cap and gown and been more comfortable, but earning her bachelor's degree in Marketing was so important to her that she felt honored to wear it. To this day, she still wears her student ID badge at work, and happily shares her Wilmington University experiences with tourists, schoolchildren and other passengers.

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Now that's pride — not just for Ms. Buckner-Rouse's alma mater, but also for earning a degree while working full-time and raising a daughter — who, as it turns out, will soon be a Wilmington University student.

Ms. Buckner-Rouse is among our 50,934-member alumni association, which comprises graduates worldwide who have transformed their lives through quality education. This spring issue also features alumnus Marty Hageman, a former police officer who rose through the ranks, earned 26 official commendations and Detective of the Year and Patrolman of the Year honors, and is now executive director of Downtown Visions, the management company for Wilmington's Downtown Business Improvement District.

We're happy to report on Dr. Michael J. Axe, who has served our Athletics Department for more than 30 years and is considered an icon in Delaware's world of sports medicine. Dr. Axe has worked with more than 3,000 students during his tenure at WilmU and offers weekly clinics to our student-athletes. Along with his team of doctors, including his son, Dr. Jeremie Axe, as well as Dr. Joseph Straight and WilmU's training staff, the team also supports our award-winning cheerleaders.

I hope you'll read our other offerings, including faculty and student success stories, reports on new programs, and news about staff ho are making positive contributions to the WilmU community.

Enjoy the issue. WU

Sincerely, une J. Harmon

Dr. LaVerne T. Harmon President

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CONTRIBUTORS



DAVID BERNARD

David is a writer for Wilmington University's University Relations department. He highlights the University's academic achievements, faculty successes, upcoming events, and more. He has previously worked as a writer and editor for Outpatient Surgery Magazine and as the courthouse reporter for the Daily

Local News in West Chester, Pennsylvania. He studied American Literature and History at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey, occupied various jobs in Boston, Massachusetts, and earned a master's degree in Journalism from Columbia University in New York City. He is not working on a novel, but he has hiked across Delaware, makes very good crabcakes, and is helping to raise a 1-year-old son. "Joint Efforts in Jersey" is David's first feature article for WilmU Magazine — though he has filed smaller pieces in the past — and the magazine team looks forward to nurturing an inspiring literary collaboration.



BRITNEY GULLEDGE

Britney is a storyteller working as a digital editorial associate in WilmU's publications department. In this role, she manages the University's seven Academic Digests and the digital issue of the magazine. (She also does quite a bit of writing.) After earning a bachelor's in Journalism from Hampton University, she earned a master's in

Management with a concentration in Marketing at WilmU. She's also a freelance writer, and enjoys assisting companies in telling their powerful stories. Britney is Network Delaware's communication coordinator and a member of its organizational steering committee, in which she's responsible for communication strategy and developing strategic vision. When she's not working, Britney is traveling, reading a book, or trying out a new recipe. Among several shorter pieces, she offers "The Unsung MVP," a profile on Dr. Michael J. Axe.



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by Britney Gulledge

TRENDING



KUDOS TO THE COE!

BestEducationDegrees.com ranked



WilmU third for best **Education Studies** degree programs in 2017.

DR. ROBERT RESCIGNO, ■ assistant vice president of Academic Affairs, offered sound leadership advice on the Schoolhouse 302 podcast. http://bit.ly/2w1wT6P

WilmU's Game Design students caused quite a stir at Philly's **"PRESTON AND STEVE'S CAMP** OUT FOR HUNGER" (WMMR, 93.3 FM) event. Read more about their technological adventure on page 12.



BEEP, BEEP! Lyft partners with Ζ Guild Education to offer drivers discounts on tuition to Wilmington University. For more, contact the University Partnership Center at wilmu.edu/partnerships/ index.aspx.



Don't forget to

connect with Wilmington University on Facebook.



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THE NEWS

Innovative Development Training For Correctional Officers

ilmington University Criminal Justice program faculty members DR. JIM WARWICK and DR. GREG WARREN are leading a team of seasoned law enforcement practitioners to provide essential training to correctional officers and supervisors under a contract recently awarded to WilmU by the Delaware Department of Correction (DOC). Following a siege by inmates at the James T. Vaughn Correctional Center in February of 2017, during which Sgt. Steven Floyd was killed, Delaware Gov. John Carney issued an executive order establishing an independent review team to investigate the incident

and security issues at the facility. As part of its set of comprehensive recommendations, the team suggested additional training for the DOC's 1,600 correctional officers, from newly-sworn officers to corporals and more veteran supervisors, captains and wardens.

With training sessions from January through July 2018, Drs. Warwick and Warren spent the fall conducting a needs assessment, meeting with correctional officers, developing curriculum and recruiting a team of trainers, all of whom are highly skilled law enforcement professionals and WilmU adjunct faculty members. The sixhour training module provided to 1,200

correctional officers includes sessions on interpersonal communication, conflict resolution, crisis intervention and deescalation techniques. In addition, 400 supervisory personnel will receive eight hours of training, including sessions on supervisory management techniques, risk assessment and building trust within the institution. Dr. Warwick says the training team is uniquely qualified to "share our experiences and expertise with DOC staff in this important professional development training." He said the goal of the training is to help create a safer environment for staff nd inmates.

The majority of the training sessions will be held at WilmU's Dover

WILMU NURSES OFFER AID IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



WilmU's Dr. Lori Irelan, Family Nurse Practitioner Jennifer Reynolds and RN Leah Chimes join other health care professionals in Santo Domingo.

A team from Wilmington University's College of Health Professions recently embarked on a weeklong mission to Santo Domingo, capital city of the Dominican Republic, where they delivered medical treatment to a population in need. This was the second time WilmU faculty and student nurses volunteered their time and expertise to the New Jerseybased nonprofit Foundation for Peace, which organized the trip.

An assistant professor, two students, and a nurse practitioner graduate joined caregivers from across

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campus to provide DOC staff with a block of uninterrupted time, away from the correctional facility. Dr. Warren hopes this will be the start of a long-term training and education relationship with the DOC.

As retired troopers of the Delaware State Police, Warwick and Warren understand first-hand the challenges and stresses on law enforcement personnel. And as educators with extensive teaching and training experience, they know the merits of staff development and continuing education. They are a uniquely qualified team to spearhead this Wilmington University professional training initiative. WU

—Lori Sitler

PHOTO BY PAUL PATTON

the U.S. and Canada in staffing a medical clinic and lending a hand in the construction of a special needs facility.

"Last year, the group was able to bring more than \$15,000 worth of medication and treat more than 1,000 patients in our mobile clinics," says **DR. LORI IRELAN**, regional chair of the nurse practitioner program at WilmU's Dover and Georgetown campuses. "We were bused to remote villages, 45 minutes to an hour away, and worked for 10 hours a day until we saw all the patients who were waiting for care."

Diabetes, high blood pressure, and joint pain were commonly treated complaints, as were mosquitoborne illnesses, fungal infections, and parasitic diseases. Many of the patients were children.

The group aimed to educate village residents, provide them with a supply of donated medications, and arrange follow-up visits for them with area physicians.

On an island nation where the average annual income is under \$5,000, where 14 percent of the population is unemployed, where more than 40 percent live below the poverty line, and where — in the months since the trip was planned — Hurricane Maria flooded communities and destroyed housing on its way across the Caribbean last September, the assistance was desperately needed.

"The mission trip is rewarding in many ways," says Dr. Irelan. "It's a way to serve people who are underserved. It's very humbling to see the level of poverty they're in, and to make a difference."

It also demonstrates the ideals that WilmU's nursing program aims to instill in its students. "We emphasize holistic care, practical skills, and a passion for nursing across boundaries," she says. WU —David Bernard

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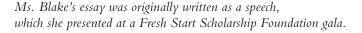
For women like me, the Fresh Start Scholarship Foundation made all the difference.

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THE NEWS





faced many obstacles when I first decided to begin my academic including homelessness, career, abuse, the death of my father, an attempted suicide, poverty and substance abuse in the home, illness, single motherhood, being a victim of armed robbery, the death of my 13-year-old brother from meningitis, miscarriage, depression, anxiety, and much more. Though the odds were stacked against me, I did not falter. My faith may have wavered, but I stood strong in my belief that I would finish what I started and use my adversity as fuel to cross the finish line. More important, I needed to be an example for my children.

My "middle" began in 2014, just after the death of my brother. There were more than 300 people at his funeral, and it made me realize the impact he had on so many in his short time on earth. I knew that because God gave me the gift of life, I could not waste the opportunity to make an impact in this world. I continued to take classes at DelTech, eventually transferring to Wilmington University as a full-time student. I was also a mother of two, a wife, and a fulltime employee with Child Support Services.

I had many sleepless nights and early mornings. Family time was often cut short. My social life was nonexistent.

PHOTO BY RON DUBICK

Sometimes I cried, sometimes I yelled, but I always kept pressing forward. I was determined not to allow my and my family's sacrifice be in vain. And because of my dear friend, Latoya Rodriguez, I became aware of the Fresh Start Scholarship Foundation. Not only was I able to pay for my college tuition, but also my books and other necessary tools. Without this foundation, I would not have been able to afford most of my college education nor complete the accelerated program at WilmU. I remember the first time I met my Fresh Start mentor, Mary Maloney and I cried while thanking her for founding such a fundamental foundation. For women like me, it made all the difference between a successful career and destitution.

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When I finally got to the last semester of my bachelor's program, I was still working full-time and attending school full-time - taking five online classes. It took dedication, discipline and commitment, not to mention the fact that I was pregnant with my third child. I thought to myself, You're absolutely insane and a glutton for punishment. On May 16, 2017, I gave birth to our rainbow baby, Riley. She's perfect, just like my eldest daughter Kyndol, and my son Ja'Cori. And on May 21, 2017, I walked across the stage at the Chase Center on the Riverfront as a Wilmington University graduate with a bachelor's degree in Behavioral Science and a certificate in Child Advocacy. My overall GPA was a 4.0. I was a Summa Cum Laude graduate and a member of Delta Epsilon Rho honor society. The joy I felt that day was indescribable.

I'm now an administrative specialist for the Division of Family Services and plan to pursue my master's in Social Work. In the meantime, I'm enjoying spending time with my family and working on hobbies like motivational speaking and cosmetology.

My message: Remember that it's OK to ask for help and guidance. True strength is found in one's ability to be humble enough to ask questions and admit that you don't have all the answers. You will make mistakes. You may have to take a break from your education. Life happens, and though we like to control destiny, we must realize that we don't always control the journey.

The Serenity Prayer is my favorite because it's three-dimensional. God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference. I encourage you all to do just that: believe in yourselves and always keep pressing forward. WU

For more info about Fresh Start, visit freshstartscholarship.org.



The NextFab Partnership

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ilmington University students now have access to laser-cutters, 3D printers and electronics and software-training labs, thanks to the College of Technology's partnership

with NextFab, a collaborative makerspace network that opened a location in Wilmington's Creative District last year.

With two other locations in Philadelphia, NextFab provides direct access to equipment, software, training, and consultants for a diverse, collaborative community who pay monthly membership fees.

DR. MARY ANN WESTERFIELD, dean of the College of Technology, calls the partnership "a really nice fit."

"Through our Maker Certificate, students will be able to utilize the cutting-edge technology that NextFab offers," she says. "Deeply rooted in STEAM initiatives and philosophy, the Maker Certificate aims to create

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critical thinkers who can implement solutions using technology. The Maker Certificate fosters innovation, collaboration and problem-solving. These skills and ideals will be enhanced through access to and learning experiences obtained with NextFab."

NextFab is a collaborative makerspace network.

SCOTT SHAW, chair of Game Design & Development and Video & Motion Graphics in the College of Technology, says students will begin utilizing the NextFab facility during the Spring Semester.

Shaw emphasizes that the Makers Certificate, which comprises five courses, is open to any student, not just technology majors. Education majors, for instance, may have a 3D printer in the classroom and want to learn how to use it. Business majors may have an idea for a product that can be brought to market.

Shaw says there are opportunities "for just about any area of the university" to leverage the Makers Certificate, and the NextFab partnership enhances those opportunities.

Summing up, he says: "It's pretty awesome stuff." WU

PHOTO BY SUSAN L. GREGG

NEED A BEER?

hroughout time, cities were built and destroyed, kingdoms rose and fell, but one thing is certain: They had plenty of beer along the way. Some scholars say beer has been around for 7,000 years, arriving soon after barley was sown into the ground. WilmU adjunct **MATT BARTH**, who teaches College of Arts & Sciences' The Craft of Beer (CUL 303), knows that while it's been around a long time, beer is something a lot of us want to know about today.

A former U.S. Coast Guard petty officer, he has been Dogfish Head Craft Brewery's "off-centered experience ambassador" for the past seven years. Barth loves craft beer, so much so that he put together a highly interactive online course to add to the face-to-face course offerings. The popularity of both continues to grow, with sections filling quickly.

The course explores the history of beer, ingredients, brewing processes, beer styles, the business of beer and more. "It's action-packed and rich with content," Barth says.

He worked with Director of Educational Technology and Multimedia Russ Lichterman and his team at the College of Online and Experiential Learning to bring his ideas to life. Filming took place at two Delaware locations: the Dogfish Head Craft Brewery, Milton, and at Revelation Craft Brewing in Rehoboth.

"The videos that Russ and his crew and I were able to make have made me so excited for the future of this course," says Barth. "We met at the brewery and I told them what I had in my mind and all my crazy day dreams about it." He says the video style is very much "Bill Nye meets Dirty Jobs."

"It's more accessible now and not limited at all like the face-to-face class was in certain ways," says Barth. "And the students have loved it! It's been a blast." WU —Janice Colvin

For a taste of the course, check out some video highlights at https://wilmu.mediaspace. kaltura.com/craftofbeer



PHOTO BY RON DUBICK

Dr. Curtiss Goes to Harvard

R. PAM CURTISS, a full professor for the College of Education at Wilmington University, visited Cambridge, Massachusetts, in November to work with a group of Harvard professors and practitioners studying new and more effective ways to organize and offer professional development programs for teachers. Their major study, titled "Visibly Better," is intended to generate a set of guiding principles and research-based best-practices that focus on using videotaping techniques to gain a deeper understanding of what works in classrooms - and what doesn't - and to improve teaching and learning at all educational levels. The project director extended a personal invitation for Dr. Curtiss because of the highly regarded research on this topic she conducted at the University of Nebraska/Lincoln beginning in 1987. The team also has asked Dr. Curtiss to continue with the project until it is completed. Dr. Steven Lamkin, one of Dr. Curtiss's former doctoral advisers and a graduate of WilmU, also attended this -John Gray working group. WU

To view Dr. Curtiss' s work, visit http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/ dissertations/AAI9225468/

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WilmU Game Designers Entertain Philly DJs

eanbag toss is about as low-tech as games get, but a team of students from Wilmington University's College of Technology recently reimagined it to show what virtual reality can do - and what they can do with virtual reality.

On Nov. 30, eleven game design students and two faculty advisors demonstrated an immersive, computer-generated version of the backyard pastime for a Philadelphia radio station's morning show and a live audience of about 200 people, not to mention thousands of listeners across the region.

"The students created everything in the game," says SCOTT SHAW, who chairs WilmU's Game Design and Development and its Video and Motion Graphics programs. "All of the models, the mechanics of the

game, the scripting and testing. Only the initial photos of the show's hosts and sound effects from the show were provided."

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They exhibited their work during "The Preston & Steve Show's" annual "Camp Out for Hunger" food drive on WMMR (93.3 FM), on a big screen under the big tent that had been pitched for the weeklong event at South Philly's sports complex.

It was the end result of a frenetic production cycle — all in a day's work for game designers, says Shaw. At an initial planning meeting on Oct. 25, students enrolled in the fall semester's Game Development I (GMD 401) and the spring follow-up Game Development II (GMD 405) were given a deadline to deliver the finished product by Nov. 22, the day before Thanksgiving.

"Lots of intense weeks, lots of communication throughout the

team, and weekly work sessions during class," Shaw says. "However, our lead guy, T.J. PHILLIPS, barely broke a sweat! He was totally ready and up to the task. Our entire 3-D team churned out models as quickly as possible and, without any real guidance, made everything work."

In addition to Phillips, the students who developed the game and attended its presentation included (in alphabetical order): ALAN BEECHAM II, REBECCA **BOULTER, JEREMY BREGERMANN,** MATTHEW DOYLE, JOE GARRISON. GARY MAYO, DAULTON NELSON, LEHEL OUANO, MAURICE ROACH, and CHELSEA WEST.

WilmU's University Relations Department suggested the opportunity to Shaw and Assistant Professor Timothy Day, who brainstormed ideas for buildable games and met radio station



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Opposite page: A team of College of Technology students. Above: Scott Shaw; Participants work the high-tech magic

personnel with a proposal.

In this virtual version of bag toss, headshot photos of the show's hosts have been mapped onto "ragdoll" likenesses. But there are more than just holes to aim for. "The object of the game is to throw the ragdolls into anything and everything to score points," says Shaw. "Tim and the students came up with the idea of adding more stuff o fill out the area around the player. We added can knock-downs, boxes that were branded for the event, a basketball hoop, and some revolving billboards."

Also, "any time you throw someone's ragdoll, they make a sound effect or catchphrase from the show," he says. "For instance, Preston says 'Oh yeah!' when he's thrown."

On Nov. 29, the day before their scheduled appearance, the team traveled to Philadelphia to set up and test-drive the game on site. "That was nerve-racking," Shaw recalls. "We always prepare for the

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worst and try to assume nothing, but you still worry. I had my doubts for a second. Just a second, though. Once we got everything up and running, it was just the normal glitches that happen with any technology."

The next day, they just had to show up, bright and early. "Some of our students were up at 3 a.m. to get to campus, and to the show by 6:30," he says. "Keep in mind, most of my students — and sometimes myself — are just going to bed by then."

There's a lot to be learned from an experience like this one. "I learned that I don't like getting up that early, and neither do my students," says Shaw. "But, all kidding aside, our students are amazing. Every one of them was a valuable part of the team that made this happen." WU

-David Bernard

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BP MILLER AT CHORUS PHOTOGRAPHY



DID YOU KNOW?...

Fun facts compiled by University Relations

THE WILMU LIBRARY SYSTEM IS A VALUABLE RESOURCE? (2016-17)

- 4,139,986 searches across all online platforms
- 489,604 total library holdings (print, microfilm, eBook and eJournal titles)
- 375,047 library homepage visits

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- 107,099 in-person visits to library sites
- 12,539 service interactions (phone, chat, and face-to-face assistance)
- 539 total instruction and research consultations performed by library staff

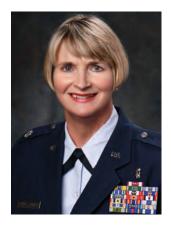
ACCORDING TO THE 2017 WILMU LIBRARY SURVEY OF **DOCTORAL STUDENTS**:

- 97% applied knowledge learned from library staff to their coursework.
- 73% applied the same to their workplace.
- 87% say library staff and resources played an important role in their overall academic success.
- Learn more at wilmu.edu/Library



Nurse, Student, Role Model

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U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. **GWYN PARRIS-ATWELL** knows all too well the cost of freedom. The military nurse deployed to Iraq on New Year's Day in 2010 and also in 2013, on Mother's Day. Now, as a student in WilmU's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, she is applying the same tenacity and commitment.

Parris-Atwell is responsible for overseeing 50 nursing service personnel at the McGuire Air Force Base (New Jersey) squadron as well as 2,400 airmen. She also works as a full-time nurse practitioner, managing the Occupational Medicine/Urgent Care and Combatant Sports Department at Kennedy Health in New Jersey.

It's not that Parris-Atwell needs more accolades to add to her list of civilian and military titles and awards, which include induction into the Emergency Nurses Association Academy as a fellow, four Meritorious Service Awards, and a recent induction to the Cumberland Community College Distinguished Alumni Gallery. Rather, she wants to ensure the delivery of effective and quality nursing care and to teach the next generation of nurses.

While in Iraq, Parris-Atwell recognized the need for trauma education and then implemented a joint services college program on her base to assist combat-ready nurses and medics before their deployments.

"She is an exceptional student and lifelong learner, always seeking new knowledge that she can apply to her practice," says DNP Program Chair Dr. Aaron Sebach. "She is a WilmU ambassador, referring colleagues to pursue graduate education."

Stories of Parris-Atwell's WilmU pride go back decades. Former University Provost Dr. Betty Caffo, who was also a dean of the Nursing program, surprised Parris-Atwell with a gold watch for recommending many students to WilmU while earning her BSN and MSN.

"WilmU has always been geared to professionals working full-time," says Parris-Atwell. "And it's palpable that the faculty and administration cared about the students. We are not just a number." WU

IN 1977, THE MBA BECAME THE **FIRST GRADUATE DEGREE** OFFERED BY THE UNIVERSITY? Now the second most popular graduate degree at WilmU, it offers 10 concentrations.



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INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE AT WILMU?

The top five non-US countries of origin for WilmU students are India, Nepal, Turkey, Bangladesh and China. IT PAYS TO BE A WILMU ALUM? Alumni benefits are available in insurance, travel, shopping, dining and real estate. Check out: wilmu.edu/alumni/ alumnibenefits.

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THE NEWS

Study Abroad

his spring, Wilmington University's Criminal Justice program leaders will host a study abroad in Ireland. (This will be the ninth time that the program is sponsoring this special learning experience.) Students in any major can join the study abroad and can earn either undergraduate or graduate credit through special topics courses.

For a glimpse into this twoweek travel program, Professor Kirk Trate, director of Criminal Justice Programs, and Dr. Greg Warren, chair of the Administration of Justice and Homeland Security graduate programs, shared their travelogue from the April 2017 trip.

A group of 19 students embarked on a 13-day excursion that started with a tour of London, including a visit to the Sherlock Holmes Museum, the Tower of London, and a Jack the Ripper walking tour. The group visited the prestigious Cambridge University on their way to the medieval city of York. The next stop was Alnwick Castle. In addition to its historic significance, the castle was the site of filming for the "Harry Potter" films and the television series "Downton Abbey."

Next, the group traveled to the Scottish capital of Edinburgh. After dinner one night, some of the students participated on stage with traditional Scottish music performers. The tour of the Edinburgh Castle was a high point. Unfortunately, there was no time to play golf in the country where the sport began because the group was booked on the ferry from Cairnyan, Scotland, which would take them across the Irish Sea to Larne, in Northern Ireland. The group had been on buses, trains, boats and planes in less than a week. The Ireland driver and guide, Niall McErlean, was a native Northern Irishman blessed with an outgoing, frank and eloquent disposition. The group's time in Belfast was noteworthy for its Irish lunch at The Crown Bar, a memorable visit to the Peace Wall, and a guided tour of Queen's University.

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The nearly 200-mile trip that began in the wee hours of the morning was, as the song says, "a long way to Tipperary." Departing Belfast, in the United Kingdom, and driving into the Republic of Ireland meant the group was crossing an international border, significant because students would trade British pounds for European Union euros.

The first stop in the Republic was the Garda Siochana College and National Police Academy in Templemore, County Tipperary. The group was greeted by the chief superintendent and enjoyed a lecture in the Academy Museum by noted author and Garda Sergeant Dr. John Reynolds. Several students had read Dr. Reynolds' book, "46 Men Dead," which focused on police deaths in Tipperary County at the time of the Irish Rebellion. He graciously signed several copies of his book. Students attended two additional lectures by academy staff and embarked on a series of tours of the academy facilities and grounds led by Garda. cadets. Upon leaving the academy, the group stopped to see the famous Rock of Cashel, the site once occupied by St. Patrick, according to legend.

During a two-night stay at a Victorian mansion in Killarney, the group saw the Cliffs of Moher, Dingle Peninsula, the Skellig Islands (of "Star Wars VII" fame), and the Blarney

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Castle — yes, many kissed the stone.

Castle — yes, many kissed the stone. A stop in the town of Ennis offered fun at the Knappogue Castle. It is rumored that WilmU's Dr. Greg Warren was made the King of Leinster that evening and a grad student starred in the castle musical presentation.

The final stop was Dublin, the capital of the Republic. The group spent their final two days visiting the Kilmainham Gaol (jail) and Trinity College, with its "Book of Kells." The Garda Siochana hosted the group at its Special Operations branch offices at Camden Court. At this police center, students attended presentations on the history and state of today's force of more than 14,500 officers and civilians, as well as Ireland's community policing program. Many students used their remaining free time in Dublin to explore the city with visits to the Guinness Brewery and shopping on Grafton



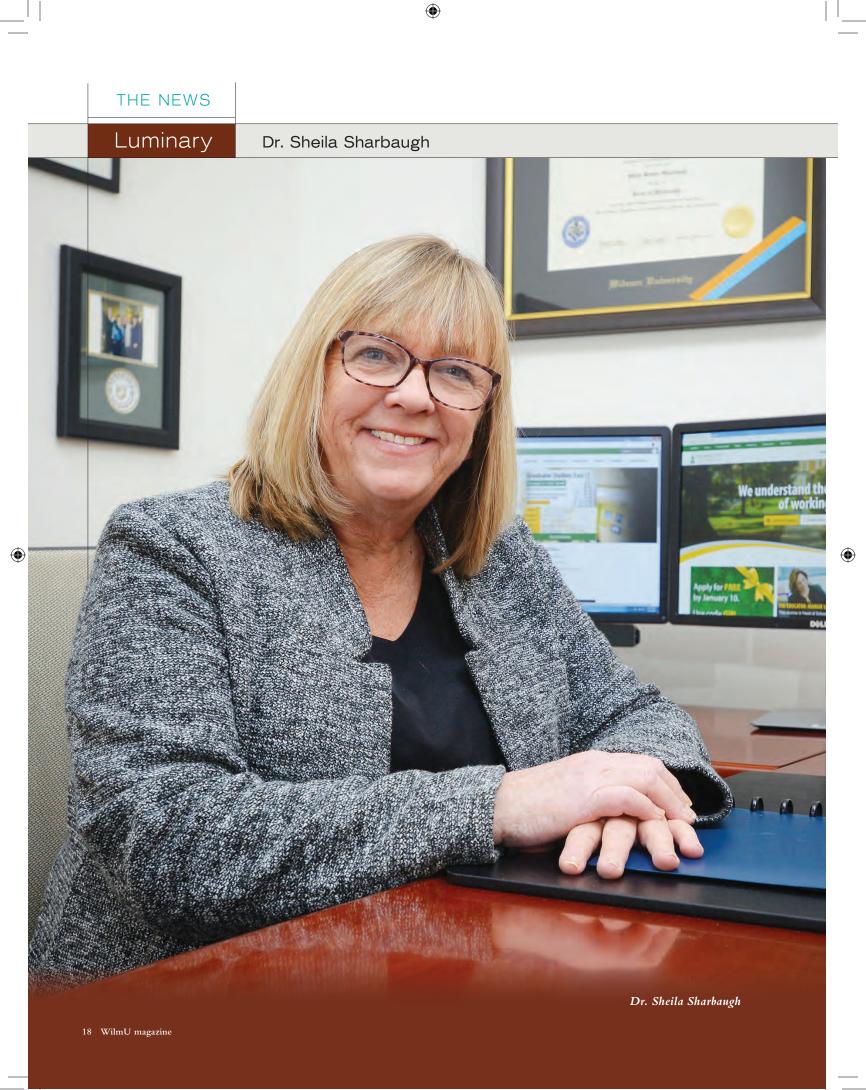
Street. The last evening featured great food, music and storytelling at the Brazen Head Pub, the oldest pub in Ireland, which opened in 1198.

Although activity logs, presentations, research papers and several classroom sessions will be required of the students, the consensus was that the trip had been a once-in-alifetime event. WO

—Kirk Trate, Greg Warren (compiled by Lori Sitler)

RING 2018

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A Lesson in Compassion

t all started in a grocery store, where **DR. SHEILA SHARBAUGH** ran into a nursing colleague from Delaware Technical Community College. "She asked if I'd ever thought about teaching," she says, adding that DelTech was hiring in a week.

A successful ER nurse for more than two decades, Dr. Sharbaugh had to think quickly. "I said yes and ended up falling in love with teaching."

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She then chose WilmU to earn her master's in Nursing Leadership with a focus on Education, and was the first student admitted to and to graduate from the program. Her first instructor was former Provost Dr. Betty Caffo.

"I am where I am because of the fabulous women who preceded me, specifically Betty Caffo and Tish Gallagher," she says. "I had the greatest role models for leadership that anybody could've asked for and they were instrumental in my ability to move forward in my career."

"To attract someone so bright, inquisitive and professional into our first Nursing Leadership cohort helped me realize our program would be a big success," says Dr. Caffo. "Sheila's clinical acumen is very impressive, and she has always been one of my 'go-to' nurses for advice on health care issues. Since leaving WilmU, it was also my pleasure to work alongside Dr. Sharbaugh on the Quality & Safety Committee for Christiana Care's board."

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Dr. Gallagher concurs. "Sheila was an excellent student," she says. "As an educator, she was caring, consistent and creative. As a colleague, she was collaborative, dependable and always focused on the mission of the University."

Shortly after graduating in 1999, Dr. Sharbaugh received a call from WilmU, asking if she'd be interested in a teaching position. "I took a chance and never looked back."

But she did pay it forward. Now an AVP of Academic Affairs, Dr. Sharbaugh is a role model and advocate for students and faculty. Her 18-year trajectory included roles as assistant professor, chair, dean, and, with Dr. Angela Suchanic, co-chair of the self-study for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education assessment. She is a full professor now, and her AVP role feeds her passion for building solid curricula, an interest ignited at Widener University, where she earned her Ph.D. and took on extra coursework involving curriculum.

"What I enjoy most is being able to sit with a chair or a dean, look at new programs, and figure out how to offer that curriculum in a smart way that assures students will get what they need," she says. "We strive to create programs that allow students to prepare for the workplace."

The former ER nurse learned to assess situations quickly and discover solutions. Thanks to Dr. Jim Wilson, vice president for Academic Affairs, her pacing has changed. "The beauty of working with Dr. Wilson is that we have the same value system but we come at it from different directions," says Dr. Sharbaugh. "He has taught me to pause. I needed to learn how to take a minute and evaluate, instead of my usual quick nursing process."

Dr. Wilson says the best decision he made as vice president for Academic Affairs was appointing Dr. Sharbaugh to her current position. "Our values pertaining to the University's students, faculty and staff are the same; however, we often approach opportunities from a different perspective," he says. "She brings numerous leadership strengths to the position which result in a more balanced and synergistic leadership team."

Ultimately it's about excellent communication. "The thing I'm proudest of is that faculty, for the most part, feel comfortable coming to me," says Dr. Sharbaugh. "We all want to make sure our product is the best thing going, and our product is our programs." WU

—Maria Hess

PHOTO BY SUSAN L. GREGG

COVER STORY BY MARIA HESS

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Yvette Buckner-Rouse started a new business minutes after graduating. Now she's calling the shots at Wilmington's burgeoning Riverfront.

Rollin' On The River

t took Yvette Buckner-Rouse all of five minutes to walk from the stage at commencement to the opening day of her new business.

It was May 21, 2017. Wilmington University's spring graduation ceremonies at the Chase Center on the Riverfront had just ended. Buckner-Rouse, the promotion and event manager for the Riverfront Development Corporation (RDC), also at the Chase, had just graduated with her bachelor's in Marketing. In the months leading up to commencement, she had been charged with running the company's newly acquired Riverboat Queen, an 86-ton vessel that would host hundreds of events a year as it sailed from the Christina and Brandywine Rivers to the tip of the Delaware. The only challenge was that the Queen's opening day was also graduation day.

Still clad in cap and gown, Buckner-Rouse sprinted to the boat. "I literally put my degree to work within five minutes," she says, adding that she kept the cap on throughout the day. "I opened up a brand new business, welcomed a new staff, and celebrated my new degree. It was a first for everything — so exciting and rewarding."

This real-life steel magnolia envisioned two things: that this skipper liner would be an upscale dining venue that would become a major tourist attraction; and that this new chapter would be full of promise. Both became reality.

The degree was Buckner-Rouse's gift to herself, she says. WilmU offered courses that helped define the business world and her place in it. "It gave me the solid foundation that helped build my character in this industry."

PHOTOS BY PAUL PATTON

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⁶Yvette is smart, determined and tough-minded. She's an achiever and gets every job done to perfection. At the same time, she's one of the most pleasant individuals I know. ⁹ —*Wilmington Mayor Mike Purzycki*

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Buckner-Rouse's handshake is firm, her smile is wide and her warmth is genuine. It's clear that she paid attention to her professors and mentors and has mastered the tenets of exemplary customer service. Also clear are the things you can't teach, like working hard, treating colleagues respectfully and being humble all traits that appear innate to this alumna.

Not that things have been easy. Going back to school later in life, like Buckner-Rouse did, has its challenges. She's also a parent, and as most working parents will attest, life is a balancing act. Buckner-Rouse had no choice but to simultaneously tackle motherhood, career and college.

She isn't in this alone. Her daughter is watching. So Buckner-

Rouse's goal is to demonstrate to the young woman she is raising that with hard work, anything is possible.

SERIOUS WORK . . . ETHIC

Buckner-Rouse, who rose from receptionist to promotion and event manager, credits the collaborative work of her tight-knit group at RDC for its successes, adding that her solid foundation in business is in part due to her education and in part to working with colleagues who "will back you no matter what." She oversees all of RDC's outdoor events on land and water. (There were more than 200 events and 3,100 guests in 2017 alone.) That includes Wilmington events at Dravo Plaza, Frawley Stadium, Tubman-Garrett Riverfront Park, Hare Pavilion and Justison Landing Park. There are music festivals, summer

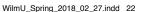


Buckner-Rouse was still wearing her cap and gown when she opened her business, and when she changed into professional attire, she couldn't forgo the cap.

concert series, 5K walks and runs, ethnic festivals — even flea markets. Buckner-Rouse also manages two boats — the Riverboat Queen and the River Taxi, which hosts birthday parties, employee team building exercises, business social gatherings, senior center excursions, youth or church group outings — just about any type of group outing. She coordinates wine and cheese excursions, too, serving and teaching about local wines that customers can then purchase from nearby retailers.

On the taxi, she partners with Captain Lionel Hynson, revered for his entertaining and informative history tours of the Riverfront. (He's taken a few WilmU courses as well.) The taxi attracts out-of-town visitors, but even locals are surprised to learn about the history of Wilmington's Christina River. The Captain discusses World War II shipbuilding and its competing companies, offering the kind of plot lines that would enhance a good British drama. He explains the history of the Underground Railroad and is knowledgeable about wildlife that has managed to survive. Like Buckner-Rouse, he remembers most passengers by name.

Buckner-Rouse offers a similar history tour on the Riverboat Queen, and is equally animated with her guests. For all intents and purposes, the Queen is her baby. Former RDC Executive Director Mike Purzycki, now the Mayor of Wilmington, had asked her to conceive a vision for the boat and then run it. RDC had purchased the Queen from former Wilmington





Harbormaster and Police Lieutenant Steven Barnes, who now works for the Army Corps of Engineers. Extensive upgrades were necessary for the 1989 skipper liner to reside on the Christina. "Today she is a beautiful lady on the water and a force to be reckoned with," says Buckner-Rouse.

Purzycki had placed his faith in Buckner-Rouse before, but this was a big undertaking. "I never imaged that I would learn so much about boats," she says. "It pushed me into the belly of the whale. It was amazing to see this vessel being transformed from beginning to end."

When Purzycki asked Buckner-Rouse what her vision was for the Queen, she suggested it be an upscale, air-conditioned dining venue, which it became, and business has been steady. "I hold Mr. Purzycki in very high regard," she says. "As our leader and executive director, he had always operated in the very best interest of our organization, economic development and growth."

The feeling is mutual for Mayor Purzycki. "Yvette is smart, determined and tough-minded," he says. "She's an achiever and gets every job done to perfection. At the same time, she's one of the most pleasant individuals I know. She was one of my stars at the RDC."

Buckner-Rouse is equally complimentary of her current boss and RDC Executive Director Megan McGlinchey, calling her "the real queen of the Queen." McGlinchey and Purzycki appear to have similar leadership styles, believing strongly



in the talents of their employees. As Jim Collins wrote in his famed book "Good to Great," "Great vision without great people is irrelevant."

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"We have honestly been so fortunate to have a team of people who really love what they do," McGlinchey says. "They're all very proud of the role they play in making our city a better place. I guess you could say my management style is to lead by example. They all know that whatever they need, I am right there by their sides."

Indeed, she stood by Buckner-Rouse at a pivotal time.

THE WILMU INFLUENCE

Buckner-Rouse remembers the day she approached McGlinchey about her potential at the company. She enjoyed her time as a receptionist but wanted more. "So I asked Megan what I could do to help contribute to the organization," she says. "What role could I play?"

At the time, Buckner-Rouse was attending classes at Delaware Technical Community College and had discussed with McGlinchey the excitement she felt completing her coursework. The promotion and events position had just opened up and Buckner-Rouse ()

knew she was qualified. She also knew she wanted to complete her bachelor's program at WilmU. McGlinchey was not threatened by Buckner-Rouse's ability to self-advocate, and in fact, helped guide her next step. She promoted her to the post while Buckner-Rouse was still at DelTech, and Buckner-Rouse has held the title for seven years.

"Yvette has an incredible work ethic and is always eager to learn new things," says McGlinchey. "She is extremely customer-focused in all that she does, so bringing her into a role where she deals with the public who are our customers — was an easy decision. She's a natural."

McGlinchey told her she needed help with marketing, which was a component of the new position.

"I said 'OK, marketing it is," says Buckner-Rouse. "And I went to WilmU for marketing."

WilmU, she says, left her openminded, in terms of business practices. "Everything I learned was useful at my job. Can I take on more? I believe I can, because I have the education and the skills. The courses I took helped define what I wanted to do even more. I knew I had all possibilities available to me. My marketing courses taught and showed me how to interact with the public, to appropriately do my budgeting and forecasting, and the importance of time management.

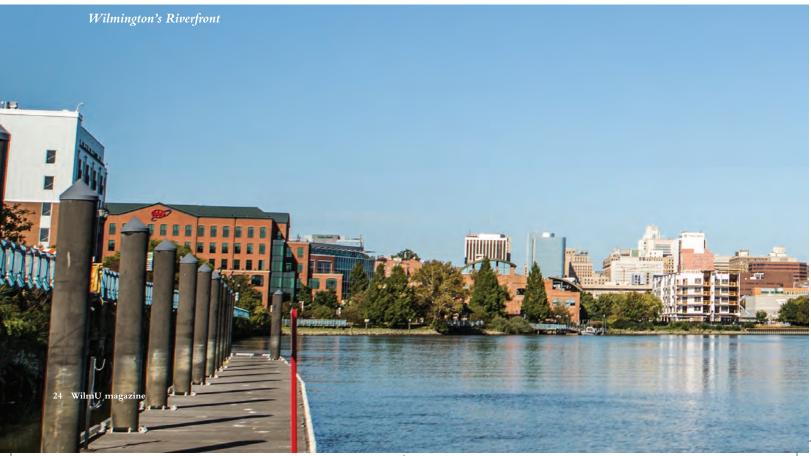
"Plus, I'm old school. I got to WilmU at a good time because the marketing language has changed. Work was my canvas to apply all of my new skills. I needed to stay abreast of the latest technologies, including social media, which is the catalyst for the way we communicate. Everything goes out with the click of a button. WilmU taught me how to be a part of today's social media, advertising and marketing communities.

"It was all about the four Ps (price, product, promotion, place), and seeing how they can work for the organization and generate additional revenue while adhering to our mission. No matter what, communicating, being a team player, and remaining accessible to my colleagues are also things I learned at WilmU. It helped me open myself up to greater opportunities."

Dr. Rob Rescigno, AVP for Academic Affairs, believes Buckner-Rouse's success is a strong indicator of how WilmU's curriculum and faculty, who are scholarly practitioners, take theory and transform it into action. "Our students are continually saying, 'What I learned in class last week I used in my job," he says. "It's a true compliment to our instructors and their ability to deliver a concept in class and turn it into a practical application."

Buckner-Rouse thinks WilmU helped her character. "When you tell people you're an alumna of WilmU, they're really impressed," she says. "The instructors are excellent, but also you have networking opportunities with classmates in all fields. You never know who you're going to come across, and being in my type of industry, you cross many paths. WilmU helped me establish skills to engage and maintain great working relationships."

She still wears her WilmU student badge on the boats. "I refuse to put it down," she says, explaining the pride



she feels about graduating at 47 with her degree in Marketing. On her desk is a slip of paper with the words, *You deserve better.* "Starting at such a late age (she enrolled at DelTech at 37), I convinced myself that I did deserve better. And from that point forward I set myself out to do better every day."

THE WHY BEHIND THE HOW

"I have a young lady who's following me," says Buckner-Rouse of her daughter, Amber Rouse, who is studying marketing at DelTech and, like her mom, plans to finish her bachelor's at WilmU. "I need to show and exhibit skills that will prove successful for her."

Those skills will be useful to

a daughter who's been taught to embrace a world of possibilities. "There are so many things she can learn and that I want to emulate," says Buckner-Rouse. "When you're in public service, the job is helping people and selling great experiences. If you have the attitude, the willingness, if you work well under pressure and have great negotiating skills, and if you can compromise and are willing to bring home the big fish — no pun intended — you'll do great in this business."

And just about any other business. Buckner-Rouse feels a sense of pride reporting that her daughter will one day graduate from Wilmington University. "It's a place I trust," she says.

Recently, Buckner-Rouse was hired by DelTech to teach Hospitality Management. One day, she plans to earn her master's at WilmU in hopes of teaching there. For now, she's excited to share her wisdom with DelTech students, knowing she'll bring real-world experience into her classrooms.

Amber has learned that for most, success is earned; it's not handed to you. She watched her mom that day in May sprint from stage to boat, ready to start a new chapter. "She told me how proud of me she was," says Buckner-Rouse. "Also, that she's going to be just as successful as I am. So watch out!" WU



When you tell people you're an alumna of WilmU, they're really impressed. . . . WilmU helped me establish skills to engage and maintain great working relationships.





Joint Efforts

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Rowan College

In Jersey

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Wilmington University's partnerships with community colleges in southern New Jersey build bridges to academic success. by David Bernard

Photos by Paul Patton



or Madison Humphries, learning and earning go hand in hand.

"My mom always pushed me to stay busy," she says. "I held small part-time jobs throughout high school and as I was starting my college career."

After completing an associate degree at Rowan College at Burlington County (RCBC) in Mount Laurel, New Jersey, she set her sights on building it into a bachelor's in Behavioral Science. However, any degree completion program she transferred into would have to satisfy two requirements.

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"I lived at home while earning my associate degree, and I was looking to do the same for my bachelor's degree," says Humphries, who lives in Maple Shade, New Jersey. "Also, it was important that I was able to have a flexible schedule, in order to work."

Wilmington University met both of her needs, thanks to a unique agreement it forged with RCBC. "WilmU's classes were offered right on the Mount Laurel campus, in the evening, which made it extremely easy to manage both my education and my work life," she says. "It allowed me to gain a distinguished degree while also saving money. Win-win situation."

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She's one of thousands of South Jersey residents who have taken advantage of Wilmington University's academic partnerships with the region's community colleges. Since 2007, these partnerships have brought WilmU's student-focused, careeroriented educational opportunities across the river to the Garden State.

Sharing the Mission

At RCBC in Mt. Laurel and Cumberland County College in Vineland, at Salem Community College in Carneys Point, and Rowan College at Gloucester County in Sewell, WilmU is expanding the region's

educational options, enabling college students and working professionals to achieve their educational goals in South Jersey. It has, over the past 11 years, empowered more than 2,050 residents of the state to earn a bachelor's or graduate level degree.

The partnerships have been "an opportunity for Wilmington University to share our way of providing higher education with others," says Dr. Jim Wilson, the school's vice president of Academic Affairs. "We're extending our mission to students in New Jersey."

The "Wilmington University way" offers degree and certificate programs, taught by real-worldexperienced professionals in flexible course formats. They prepare undergraduate, graduate and midcareer students for their futures while fitting into budgets and schedules.

Academic partnerships with New Jersey community colleges build on those advantages, starting with direct transfer agreements that save students time and money. With the ability to apply the credits they've earned in the course of their associate degrees toward studies in related fields at WilmU, they're within easy reach of a bachelor's degree.

"The community colleges have developed many partnership agreements, so we're in competition with a good many schools," says Louise Babuschak, senior director of WilmU's New Jersey sites. But among students, "our affordability and the ease of our seamless transfers usually win out over competing options."

Continuing their education locally is another benefit. In many cases, students can take Wilmington University courses and graduate with Wilmington University degrees without having to commute out of state, since the classrooms are on sites at or near the community colleges they're attending.

"It just makes so much sense," says Dr. Maude Goodnight, executive director of Cumberland County College's University Center, which hosts partner schools' programs on

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its campus. "Students who do not want to travel far for their degree completions benefit, as do financially savvy students, who can complete their bachelor's degrees for half of what it might cost at a state university."

WilmU also offers a wide range of online courses; the convenience and accessibility of which are key to students like Deniqua Antoine, a human resources business partner from Marlton, New Jersey.

"I wanted to work full time while I completed my degree in order to pay for my education," says Antoine, who followed up an associate degree from RCBC with a bachelor's in Business Management and an HR certificate from WilmU — where she's working on an MBA in Organizational Leadership. "The online program gave me the flexibility to begin working in my field while continuing my degree."

Providing the Pathways

WilmU's New Jersey partnerships deliver more than credit transfers and conveniently located classes. They also promise on-site support to guide each student throughout his or her degree program, from initial inquiry to graduation. At

the Burlington, Cumberland, and Gloucester campuses, WilmU professionals are always on hand to assist students in application, admission, registration, financial aid and other matters. Since 2010, the University has even overseen bachelor's and master's degree programs for military personnel at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst near Trenton.

"Having a dedicated Wilmington University team on campus is a major advantage," says Michael Cioce,

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RCBC's acting president and its vice president of Enrollment Management and Student Services. "It's beneficial for us to have subject matter experts on site, who my team can consult with. And it's beneficial for our students, who aren't calling or e-mailing into a black hole for help. The advisors are here, and they're accessible."

Madison Humphries can attest to that. She's one of them. "While I was in progress with my bachelor's degree, I was fortunate enough to land an interview with Wilmington University for a site associate position at Burlington," she says. Learning and earning, together again: Ms. Humphries now guides other degree completion students while working on her master's in Elementary and Secondary School Counseling through WilmU.

This level of support is central to the success of the New Jersey partnerships. "Our students appreciate the 'user-friendly' posture of WilmU," says Dr. Michael Gorman, president of Salem Community College. "The fact that Wilmington works with our students so individually makes them comfortable and keeps them on track for their degrees. It makes the difference."

Individual attention extends to the institutional level, too. The courses and degrees that WilmU offers at its partner colleges have been selected through consultations with each. Reviews of enrollment and graduation data, the strategic goals of the colleges and New Jersey's higher education authorities, and even the needs and trends in local communities help to determine which educational programs will meet the greatest demand and carry the greatest impact.

"Our partnership with Wilmington University allows us to provide graduates with access to cutting-edge programs that align with what employers are looking for in new talent," says Cioce. "Like us, WilmU understands the diverse needs of working adults, and is committed to helping our students achieve their goals professionally and personally."

The result is wider visibility for WilmU and for its network of

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graduates, in New Jersey as it is in Delaware. Just ask James Parrish of Vineland, who earned a bachelor's in Behavioral Science and master's in Administration of Human Services through WilmU after graduating from Cumberland.

"It was important to me to further my education at Wilmington University, because it has a very strong alumni community, and I learned early on that having great connections is a key to career success," says Parrish, a case manager for Atlanticare Behavioral Health who has taught as an adjunct at both schools. "Opportunities such as this give me the necessary tools for future endeavors."

Measuring Success

These New Jersey partnerships grew out of the region's need for local, economical access to bachelor's and graduate degree programs, as well as the schools' shared values over the benefits of higher education.

Former WilmU President Dr. Jack Varsalona "had the light bulb moment," says Babuschak. "In the mid-2000s, he held talks with the presidents of out-of-state institutions. We started with two," what was then known as Burlington County College and Cumberland County College, and began recruiting a pool of adjunct instructors to back up the full-time faculty traveling from Delaware.

"When we started the partnerships, they were an experiment to see if they'd take off," she says. "Now we've been there 11 years."

Longevity isn't the only way to measure their success, says Dr. Gorman, who says he counts degrees attained, as well as dreams realized. "We are small enough to get anecdotal reports from students," he says, "and the WilmU experience seems to be very solid for them."

As the partnerships have enrolled

class after class of students, WilmU has requested the state's permission to add undergraduate and graduate degree programs at its existing partnership sites and to extend partnership agreements to Camden County College (in Blackwood and Camden) and Mercer County Community College (in West Windsor and Trenton).

The potential benefits to South Jersey's college students can't be understated, says Cumberland's Dr. Goodnight. "We are here to see the pathway to a better life for our students, and many students take advantage of this," she says. "WilmU has really changed our students' lives with this partnership."

Their graduations represent more than one fulfillment. "They say we deliver what we promise," says WilmU's Dr. Wilson. "It confirms our mission. People really do appreciate the educational opportunities we provide in their communities." WU

Favored Fields

The top WilmU degrees completed with credits earned in New Jersey:

- B.S., Nursing
- B.S., Behavioral Science
- B.S., Criminal Justice
- B.S., Business Management
- B.S., Psychology
- M.Ed., School Leadership
- B.S., Liberal Studies
- B.S., Accounting

- M.S.N., Nursing Leadership
- B.S., Human Resource Management
- M.Ed., Special Education
- M.Ed., School Counseling
- B.S., Finance
- B.S., Computer and Network Security



John D. Hair's sculpture "Olympic Strength" at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado ۲

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P LA FAT (Merrich),

by Bob Yearick

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Calling it "a childhood dream," Manon Neal just had to do it — she couldn't help herself. She got a running start, then did a cartwheel — on the very mat where U.S. Olympic gymnasts train.

"I was achy the next day, but it was so worth it," she says. "That was the closest I will come to fulfilling any Olympic aspirations."

The cartwheel was just one of the many highlights for Neal and three other Wilmington University graduate students who accompanied Dr. Janice Wardle, chair of the Sports Management undergraduate degree program, to the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado, last October. They spent five days participating in The Team USA Experience, which was developed by the OTC in partnership with various colleges and universities.

All four students are enrolled in WilmU's Master of Science Management program. Besides Neal, who is studying for her MSM in study as a part of their thesis for MGT Organizational Leadership, the

Hillary Sinclair (Organizational Leadership).

They used the experience and case 8800 Integrative Independent Study

the application of knowledge and skills that were acquired in regular course work

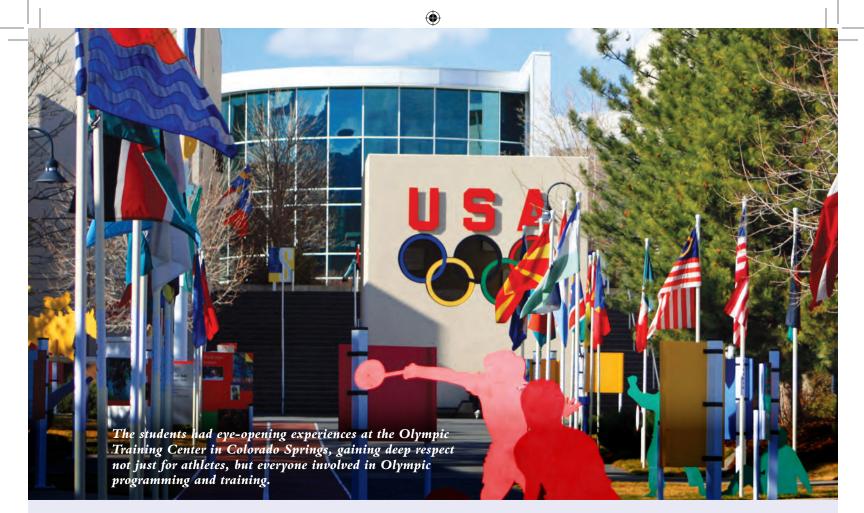
Says Dr. Sheryl Scanlon, chair of the MSM program: "The course





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For Neal, Moore, Scott and Sinclair, that meant a two-fold task: developing a campaign to motivate 1 million individuals to donate \$100 each by 2020 to the United States Olympic and Paralympic Foundation, and engaging 350 million people via social media to Team USA 2020.

The U.S. government does not fund the games, so persuading private citizens to contribute to the Olympic effort is critical, says Dr. Wardle. "Thirty to 40 percent of funding comes from corporate sponsors or organizations, but the remaining support must come from individuals."

To get the students fired up for the project, their hosts immersed them in the Olympic training experience. The week started with a tour of the 40-acre campus, including the swimming, boxing and gymnastics facilities. Sessions and presentations from Olympic officials began at 8:30 in the morning and ended around 3 in the afternoon. What's more, the group got to stay in the athletes' dorms and eat in their dining halls.

"It's all fresh food, and almost customized to your individual needs," says Dr. Wardle of the OTC menu.

They also observed some of the athletes training, and heard from current and former Olympians about the challenges of competing at a world-class level in their sports. As a result, the WilmU students gained a deep respect, bordering on awe, for not only the athletes but everyone associated with the Olympic program. They got an insider's sense for the extensive skills and professional diversity that's required for a successful Olympic program.

"What I learned from this experience is that there are so many educational opportunities out there beyond what you may think," says Scott, whose employer, Green Clinics Laboratory of Dover, helped fund her trip. "I would have never thought there were so many careers involved in operating an Olympic Training Center. We spoke to individuals from transportation to nutrition. It was so fascinating to know that these careers and more are needed for this facility."

The group also gained an understanding of the high standards that must be met by everyone at the OTC. "The people were absolutely amazing," says Moore (who admits she wanted to, but didn't, "jump around on the mat like Manon"). "They filled our heads with knowledge that we never would had gotten if we didn't go out there and do this."

The entire OTC, of course, is focused on the athletes, whose challenges are the most demanding. "Becoming an Olympian requires years of sacrifice," says Dr. Wardle, "and because of the time they must spend training, they often don't have time for full-time jobs. We learned that the average Olympian makes less than \$20,000 a year."

Sarah Hammer, a four-time silver medalist in cycling, was among the athletes who spoke to the group. The 34-year-old Californian explained that Olympic athletes must pay for their own training unless they're funded by an organization, and that rarely happens unless the athlete is an almostguaranteed medal winner. She told the group that she held down three jobs to cover her training expenses.

The interaction with Hammer was another highlight of the trip. Says

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Wardle. "Now the postings are daily."

Another suggestion was to make it possible for visitors to the site to identify current Olympians who live in the visitor's state or Zip code. Another idea that seemed to generate enthusiasm was "20 for 20": Encourage Americans to donate \$20 for 20 months leading up to the 2020 Summer Olympics in Japan.

As yet, the recommendations have



Scott: "To be able to hold one of her medals was priceless."

The group had been given the topic for their thesis in the summer, so they had already completed extensive research prior to arriving in Colorado Springs. But every day, the sessions with Olympic officials and athletes altered the students' approach to their project. "Everyone would go back to their rooms at night and make changes to their proposals," says Dr. Wardle. "It was a very dynamic experience."

On their last day, the students made two power point presentations to the Olympic officials in which they detailed their recommendations. Perhaps the most significant proposal was to increase the postings on the website to make it more of an not been officially adopted, but if they are the University will receive credit.

The trip left each member of the WilmU group with her own unique impressions. "I now feel a more personal connection to the events I commonly see on TV, such as men's gymnastics, wrestling, and judo," says Sinclair.

Scott, who is the mother of five, admits she's "not an athletic person," but she does like boxing. "My oldest son is training to become a professional boxer and being able to relate to the boxing foundation speaker and some of the inspirational stories of the athletes' struggles really resonated with me."

Dr. Wardle extended this opportunity to other MSM students,

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she says. "I was excited that my research could possibly benefit Team USA and I look forward to having an invaluable real-world experience to put on my resume. In the end, I feel the experience not only provided me with these things, but also, unexpectedly, I left the OTC feeling that my small contribution made me a part of something so big. Now, when I watch the Olympics and Paralympic Games, I'll have a greater regard and a sense of connectedness with Team USA."

Neal also praises Dr. Wardle's mentoring skills. "I appreciated her insight, support and guidance during the preparation of our case study and our presentations. And, she was a great travel partner!"

Moore says the trip made her thesis "rewarding," and she recognizes that it was a unique experience. "In my undergrad, I wasn't able to do anything like study abroad or go on any trips," she says. "When this opportunity arose in my master's, I knew I had to jump at it. And knowing that I was able to directly affect how funds are raised for the foundation is something I can sure say I am very proud of."

What's more, says Dr. Wardle, "The project fit perfectly into the Wilmington University model, which is practitioner based — trying to bring real-world experience into the classroom." And while other universities have been invited to visit the OTC, "we are the first to incorporate it into our thesis work."

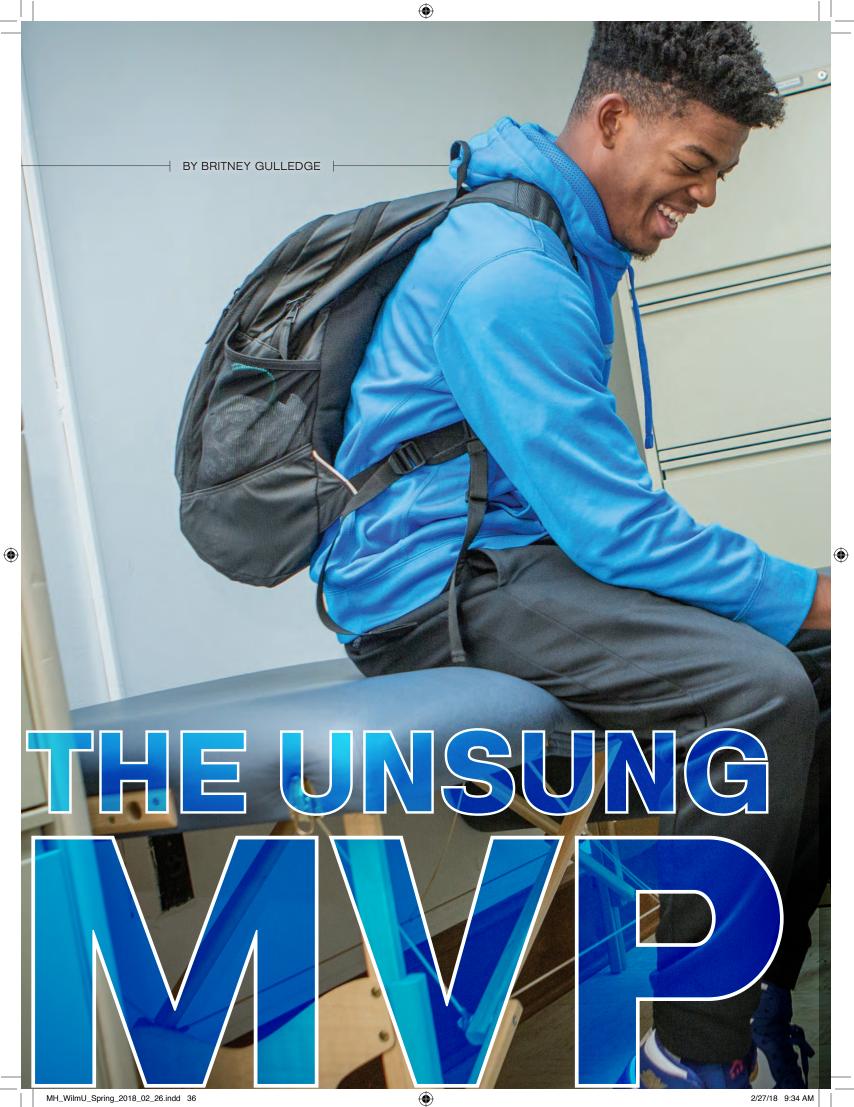
The once-in-a-lifetime experience may become available to other WilmU students. Dr. Wardle reports that the Olympic committee has invited the University to send another group this fall, perhaps during Reading Week.

As for this year's group, Stephanie Moore probably sums it up best: "This trip will be something I'll talk about for years, and I will be grateful forever." WU

Follow the Olympic team on teamusa.org. To contribute to the Olympic fund, go to donate.teamusa.org/page/contribute.

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"Brote lour visit], they were noting grateful if feel she provided us with To a every two or three says' says DR valuable educational experience," dona



Dr. Michael J. Axe

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Dr. Michael J. Axe is a force in WilmU's Athletics Department, fortified by more than 30 years of service. He's also an icon in Delaware sports medicine.

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PHOTOS BY PAUL PATTON AND RON DUBICK



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Dr. Axe attends a WilmU women's basketball game.



t's a quiet Thursday night at the Pratt Student Center with students shuffling through the hallways to their evening classes — all except the athletes. Each one garbed in a team sweatshirt, hoodie or track jacket, they wait patiently in the lobby for their turn to be seen by the head team doctor, Dr. Michael Axe.

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Makayla McCarthy is up first. The freshman pitcher from El Cajon, California, is checking up on old injuries to make sure she stays in tip-top shape for the upcoming year. She's greeted with a smile and hops on the table.

It's here that Dr. Axe is in his element — working with athletes and cracking jokes.

WilmU's Athletic Department Head Trainer Chris Stella believes Dr. Axe can inject humor when appropriate yet maintain the seriousness that creates the trust between him and the students.

He hosts these clinics weekly to serve the student-athletes of WilmU. Dr. Axe, along with his team of doctors — his son, Dr. Jeremie Axe, and Dr. Joseph Straight — and the WilmU training staff work with roughly 275 students in the Athletic Department, including the cheer team. Dr. Axe has personally worked with more than 3,000 students in his 33-year tenure at WilmU.

It was his well-known dedication to sports medicine that brought him to the then-Wilmington College.

Dr. Axe created the All Sports Clinic of Delaware in 1985 with the intent to provide athletes in the area with health care geared toward safe and rapid return to play. Before that, many patients were forced to travel to Philadelphia and Baltimore for their sports-related surgeries. He created the clinic as the fourth founding partner of Wilmington Orthopaedics Consultants, which later merged with Christiana Orthopaedics to establish Delaware's largest orthopaedic practice, First State Orthopaedics.

"I moved to Delaware after working with the world-renowned orthopaedic surgeon, Dr. Jim Andrews, known as Mr. Baseball," says Dr. Axe. "It was natural to gravitate to Wilmington College because it was known as a baseball powerhouse."

Since then, the athletics department has continued to flourish as a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II institution that competes in the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC).

Some of that growth, Stella believes, is due to Dr. Axe's commitment to adding resources to the University by way of access to additional specialists at his practice, updated medical technology, and helping to structure new policies and procedures for the department.

From Idea to Fruition

he passion for sports started early for Dr. Axe, who participated in wrestling, track and field events, and football. By junior high school, he'd set his sights on football. He earned a starting position on every team from seventh grade through his senior year at Bucknell University. Dr. Axe captured the George Rieu Award as the team's most outstanding lineman in both 1973 and 1974, and he was twice named to the AP All-Pennsylvania Team and the ECAC Division II All-East First Team.

It was an injury at the start of his senior year that introduced him to the idea of becoming an orthopaedic surgeon.

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Following graduation from Bucknell, he received his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University in 1979. He served a surgical residency at the Medical Center of Delaware through 1981 and an orthopaedic residency at the University of Pittsburgh through 1984. He then completed sports and trauma fellowships at the Hughston Sports Medicine Hospital in Columbus, Georgia, and Harborview Hospital in Seattle, Washington.

In addition to being the head team doctor for WilmU Athletics and an orthopaedic surgeon at First State Orthopaedics, Dr. Axe is a professor of Physical Therapy at the University of Delaware and chair of the Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association Sports Medicine Advisory Committee. He co-hosts "Youth and Sports" on a local cable station, and volunteers with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware.

His impact on sports medicine has made him an international speaker, and he's written more than 85 peer-reviewed, academic papers. One of his most significant accomplishments was earning the 2012 Robert E. Leach "Mr. Sports Medicine Award" from the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine, an annual award given to a sports orthopedic surgeon who has made significant contributions in sports medicine.

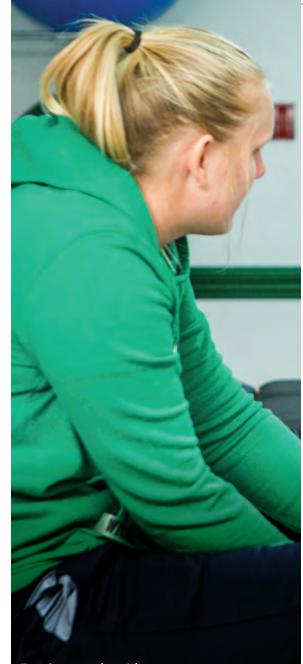
The Dream Team

ne doesn't have to look far to see Dr. Axe's impact on local sports medicine there's even a weight room named in his honor at the Greater Newark Boys & Girls Club. And then there are the two people he works with every day: his son and Dr. Straight.

"We provide both surgical and nonsurgical treatment for a variety of orthopaedic conditions and are specially trained in the current stateof-the-art techniques," says Dr. Axe. "It doesn't get any better than to have my son on my team. Jeremie is extremely orthopaedically talented, and he thinks well. Those two things together make him a budding



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Dr. Axe consults with a WilmU student-athlete.

superstar."

Dr. Jeremie Axe attended his first football game when he was ninemonths-old, with a special sideline view.

"I had to hand him to the football coach while I ran on the field to deal with an injury," says Dr. Axe, who then worked as a team doctor for the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Jeremie Axe says it was one of his dreams to join his father in practice. He is quickly building a name for himself in sports medicine as an international speaker and a sought۲

M.J. Axe, M.D.



"I GET THE MOST JOY OUT OF PROVIDING OUTLETS TO YOUTH IN SPORTS, OR YOUNG RESEARCHERS, OR IN ASSISTING PEOPLE IN GETTING BACK TO AN ACTIVE LIFESTYLE."

after surgeon who performs almost 600 surgeries a year.

Dr. Straight is a sports medicine physician focused on regenerative therapy and musculoskeletal injuries and disorders. Dr. Axe was one of his mentors.

"The reason I got into medicine is because I needed a knee surgery at 12 years old, and Dr. Micheal Axe and his partner, Dr. Bill Newcomb, were my surgeons," says Dr. Straight.

As Dr. Straight matured, he continued to witness Dr. Axe actively

participate at St. Elizabeth High School as its team doctor. He knew what he wanted to do.

The trio provide WilmU teams and other local college teams with excellent sports medicine support.

Giving Back

r. Axe believes in creating opportunities for others. He loves his job as an orthopaedic surgeon. It's a way to give back to his community.

"I get the most joy out of providing

outlets to youth in sports, or young researchers, or in assisting people in getting back to an active lifestyle," he says. "That's my life's purpose: to help."

Whether he's assisting freshman softball players like McCarthy, or kidding around with WilmU basketball player Ed Henderson, Dr. Axe honors his responsibility to help inspire each patient.

"My favorite part of the job is talking to the patients about their ambitions and encouraging them to strive for more," he says. WU

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SPORTS

University's First AD Moves to New Post

hen DR. LINDA VAN DRIE-ANDRZJEWSKI started working for Wilmington University in Student Affairs in 2001, the athletic director title didn't exist. Ten years later, when she was named the University's first AD, she quickly made the Athletic Department one of the best in the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference and even the East Region.

Now, after six years as AD, Dr. Van Drie-Andrzjewski has moved on to a new role: executive director of Title IX, Cleary Act, and Regulatory Affairs for the University. It's not unfamiliar territory for Van Drie-Andrzjewski. Before becoming AD, she spent the previous nine years as the Athletic Department's associate athletic director for Compliance and the Senior Woman Administrator (SWA).

When she joined the Athletic Department in 2001, the Wildcats were a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), a smaller association of schools than the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). Due to the dwindling numbers of NAIA opponents in the tri-state area, it was decided that the University needed to attain NCAA status.

The process to join the NCAA is in-depth and drawn out, but thanks to Dr. Van Drie-Andrzjewski's skill and

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knowledge of compliance, the Wildcats made the jump in the 2004-05 season.

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The next milestone occurred a year after she became AD, when the 20,000-square-foot WilmU Athletics Complex and turf field on Route 40 in Newark was completed. It became the hub for a successful run of Wildcat sports. Under Dr. Van Drie-Andrzjewski, the Wildcats brought home 17 CACC championships, 17 berths in the NCAA Division II East Regional Tournament, and six trips to the NCAA Division II National Tournament. The golf team has won two Super Regional events, while the baseball team won the East Regional Tournament in 2015.

Since 2011, she has overseen the addition of five sports: women's bowling, women's tennis, men's lacrosse, and most recently, men's and women's track and field.

She also has been active in the NCAA. She recently became chair of the NCAA Division II Legislation Committee and has provided leadership on the Division II Academic Requirements Committee, the National High School Review Committee, the Division II Degree Completion Scholarship Selection Committee, and the Division II Academic Requirements Task Force. During her tenure on both the Academic Requirements Committee and Academic Requirements Task Force, Division II made sweeping



Mark Corino with former AD Dr. Linda Van Drie-Andrzjewski

changes to its academic eligibility requirements through the passage of the Path to Graduation legislation. She is also a 2009 graduate of the NCAA Fellows Leadership Program and a graduate of the NACWAA/ HERS institute.

Few have known and worked with Van Drie-Andrzjewski as long as Assistant Athletic Director/SWA

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Erin Harvey, a 2001 graduate of the Sports Management program at WilmU, a program in which she has been a professor for more than two decades.

"I have known and respected Dr. Drie-Andrzjewski for over 20 years, first as a student in her Sports Management classes, then working alongside her administratively in the athletic department," says Harvey. "In each of those capacities, she has led, taught, and inspired with purpose, passion, and integrity. What she has done for the Athletic Department, including the studentathletes and coaches she's served, is enormous. Linda transitioned us from a very uncertain time in the department and played a huge role in helping our program develop and rise to new heights. Dr. Drie-Andrzjewski should head into her future endeavors proud of the significant impact she has had on the success of Wilmington athletics." WU —Dan Lauletta

(Note: Dr. Stefanie Whitby was named Athletic Director in February.)

Keeping the Cup: Men's Teams Dominate CACC

t has been handed out since the 1976–77 season, but no institution has dominated it like Wilmington University.

It's the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference Men's Alfred R. Restaino Cup.

The Cup is awarded annually to the institution that performs at the highest level in all CACC-sponsored men's sports, and it hasn't left the Wildcats' grip since the 2009–10 academic year.

The award is named after the late Bloomfield College Director of Athletics and Head Coach Alfred R. Restaino, Sr., who served a vital role in not just the school's athletic department but also in the formation of the CACC.

The point system used for the award takes into account each athletic program's finish in both CACC regular season contests and conference tournaments. Each institution receives a combined point total and the sum is then divided by

the number of sports the institution sponsors. Since the inception of the award in 1976, the Wildcats have won the most Restaino Cups in the CACC, even though Wilmington did not join the conference until 1999. At the end of the 2016–17 season, the Wildcats took home their eighth straight Cup. No other men's athletic department has won

The University's eight-year dominance has been spurred by the golf team (eight straight CACC championships), baseball team (three CACC regular

more than three in a row.

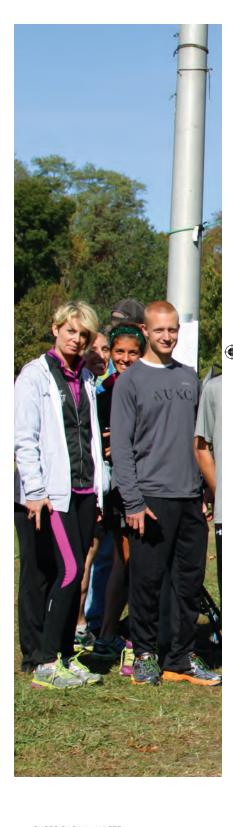
Since the inception of the award in 1976, **the Wildcats have won the most Restaino Cups in the CACC**, even though Wilmington did not join the conference until 1999.

season titles and four CACC Tournament Championships), men's cross country (four CACC championships), men's soccer (eight playoff appearances and two CACC regular season titles), and men's basketball (two playoff ppearances).

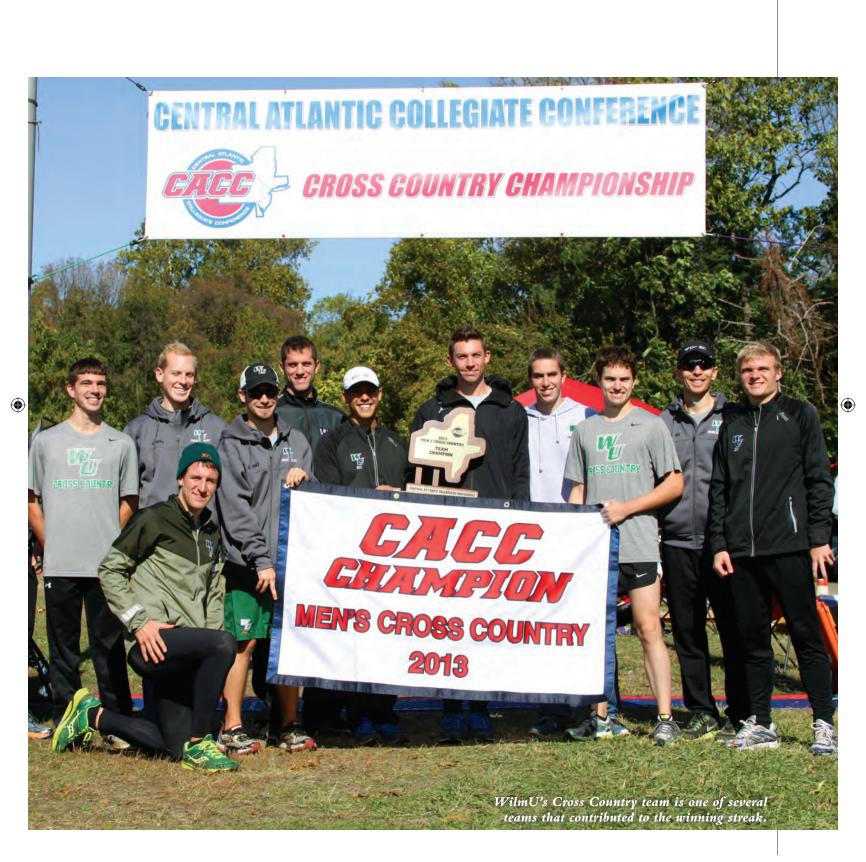
Current CACC rival Dominican College, which joined the conference in the fall of 1982, has seven Restaino Cups. The Chargers' best run was three straight Cups from 1994–97. St. Thomas Aquinas College also won three consecutive Cups, from 1982–85, but currently is a part of the East Coast Conference. King's College is the only other program to win at least three Cups, the last coming in 1989–90. King's is currently an NCAA Division III school.

"It's a truly remarkable run these programs have been able to establish," says former Athletics Director Dr. Linda Van Drie-Andrzjewski. "It's not only a testament to the student-athletes performing on their respective fields, but it's also a testament to the coaching staffs that have been able to replenish the teams year after year. I'm lucky I get to watch these teams compete." The Wildcats are at it again in 2017–18, emerging from the fall season with the lead in the Restaino Cup Standings. The golf, men's soccer, and men's cross country teams are leading the way to what would be an unprecedented ninth straight Cup. **WU**

—Dan Lauletta



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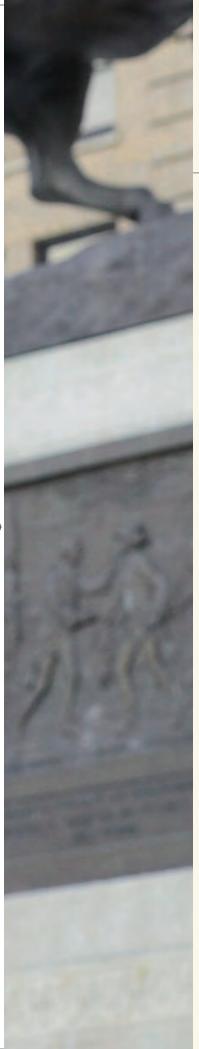




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Marty Hageman



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Service to the City: MARTY HAGEMAN

This alumnus credits WilmU for much of his success as both a police officer and leader of Downtown Visions.

By Bob Yearick

ARTY HAGEMAN remembers when Downtown Visions, the management company for Wilmington's Downtown Business Improvement District, turned on its first surveillance camera 17 years ago. "Within 30 seconds of being activated, it caught a crime being committed," he says.

Which could not have been a surprise to him, because if anyone knows the mean streets of Delaware's largest city and its attendant crime problems, it's Martin P. Hageman, who also happens to be executive director of Downtown Visions.

The baby in a family of two girls and two boys, Hageman grew up on the city's West Side and went to St. Elizabeth Elementary School and then Salesianum School. And on his 21st birthday, he was sworn in as a Wilmington policeman, a title he held with distinction for the next 23 years.

"It's kind of funny," he says, "because back then I never pictured myself as a police officer. I kind of pictured myself in the military."

His parents couldn't afford to send him to college, and when he graduated from Salesianum in 1970, he planned to work through the summer, then

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enlist in the Army. The Vietnam War was at its height and his father had served in the military.

Then a friend told him about the police academy. "He said the department would pay for two college courses per semester," remembers Hageman, "and there were a lot of policemen who were our neighbors who I had a lot of respect for."

The friend talked him into taking the test for the academy, which he found less than challenging thanks, he says, to his Salesianum education. He took the test on a Saturday. On the following Monday, he became a police cadet. With his Catholic school background, he quickly adapted to the discipline and the environment.

Hageman began his career like most cops: pounding a beat. There his previous summer job at a Market Street men's store served him well, especially in dealing with the quotidian challenges of enforcing the law. "When I was a walking officer assigned to downtown, I couldn't leave my district," he says. "Which meant that any bathroom breaks had to happen in the district — even on a midnight shift. So unless you knew a storeowner who would give you a key,

PHOTO BY SUSAN L. GREGG

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you would be very disappointed. Fortunately, I forged a relationship with a lot of retailers."

Hageman rose steadily through the ranks. He became a field training officer, worked a year undercover, was chosen for the SWAT team, became a detective, and finally served as commanding officer of the Drug, Organized Crime, & Vice Division.

He received 26 official commendations and given Detective of the Year and Patrolman of the Year honors.

And he's not one of those ex-cops who can say "I never fired my gun." In fact, as a patrol lieutenant, the platoon he commanded was involved in gunfights with bank robbers two days apart in March of 1991. Two officers were wounded in the battles, one of them critically.

Training for his career and being the father of two daughters and a son had left him with neither the time nor the finances to further his education beyond the years' worth of credits he had managed to accumulate from Brandywine College, thanks to the Law Enforcement Education Program. But by the late '80s, he decided he could afford to pursue a degree in Criminal Justice, and he chose what was then Wilmington College, in large part because of the demands on his time.

"WilmU understood that education was important," he says, "but they also knew I was in the midst of my career, and there were times when I would have to tell my professors that I couldn't be in class." By then Hageman was a detective, a job that entailed shift work and court appearances. Always a good student, he worked around his demanding academic and professional schedules and received his degree in 1992.

He says courses not directly related to his major, like Creative

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Writing and American Cinema, proved particularly valuable. "They helped me think outside the box," he says. "That helped in my police work, and it also improved my writing and in giving presentations."

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Through his Wilmington College education, he says, "I became a more rounded individual, and it helped me develop leadership skills."

Those abilities became critical in 1994 when he left the police force to become executive director of Downtown Visions, a nonprofit created by the State of Delaware and City of Wilmington to manage a 70-block area of Wilmington consisting of 700 commercial buildings and approximately 355 independent businesses.

He didn't realize it at the time, but he had been training for many years to lead Downtown Visions. He had commanded the Police Department's Community Affairs Division, which required him to go into the community, and he served as public information officer. "I handled media relations, wrote speeches for people, that kind of thing," he says. "The releases were often political in nature," and there were politics to deal with in his new job. What's more, during his time on the SWAT team, he worked DuPont shareholder meetings at the Hotel du Pont, and got to know some of the company's top executives. DuPont, it turned out, was a major mover behind Downtown Visions.

All this work history came to bear on what would be his second career.

His job interview was conducted by two officials with Wilmington 2000, the precursor of the Wilmington Renaissance Corporation. "I was told I'd be interviewing for the operational director's position," says Hageman. "They needed someone to train people, and I was a certified police trainer."

Although he was eligible, having been a cop for more than 20 years, he had no plans to retire. So when the interviewers asked for his thoughts on the strengths and weaknesses of downtown, he was candid. "I told them we were weak in retail, but we were strong in restaurants and the arts."

He remembers the interview lasting about four hours. "At the end," he says, "they said they weren't really interested in hiring me as operational director. I said, 'I understand,' and got up to go and said — in all honesty — 'I really enjoyed this.' And they said, 'no, no, sit down, we want to offer you the job of executive director.'"

That was a Thursday. He went home, talked with his wife, and on the following Monday morning accepted the offer. Twenty-four years later, he's still on the job.

"I liked it from the start," he says, "because I'm a multi-tasker, and I could take all the skills that I learned at WilmU and my other experiences and apply them here. It's been great, and I've never looked back."

He reports to a 35-member board of directors which, he says, "represents every strata of the downtown community: the arts, education, small retailers, and others."

Most of the nonprofit's funding comes from an assessment on parcels of land located within its operational area. That brings in about \$2.1 million annually, which is supplemented by sponsorships and grants as well as a commercial trash removal business.

Headquartered in a former Packard automobile dealership on the 400 block of North Orange Street, Downtown Visions has 50

Through his Wilmington College education, Hageman says, "I became a more rounded individual, and it helped me develop leadership skills."

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employees, including a six-person administrative staff. Their greatest accomplishment, Hageman believes, has been to create and maintain "an atmosphere that has allowed economic development to occur."

"Without our Safety Ambassadors and our Cleaning Ambassadors, downtown would truly be a much more . . ." Here he pauses, then finishes with "unwelcoming place." The Ambassadors remove graffiti, provide a friendly presence on the streets, and escort people to their cars after dark, among other functions.

Hageman also points to such events as the Downtown Farmers Market, which draws up to 5,000 people on Wednesdays. "We had a history of farmers markets downtown and we're kind of bringing back that history," he says.

But arguably the biggest success is the video surveillance program.

"It was one of the first things we did," says Hageman. "We wanted to assist the police, and we knew that most of the corporations downtown had video cameras for their own areas, but none of them spoke to each other. We placed them on a common communication system, then we used our nonprofit status to raise \$800,000 to put 25 cameras strategically located downtown, and we facilitated the entire program."

Through a for-profit subsidiary, Clean and Safe Services, Downtown Visions now operates and monitors 99 cameras in high crime areas throughout the city. (Hageman notes that there is no real profit involved with Clean and Safe "because we rent our services to ourselves.")

He admits that plenty of work needs to be done to make the downtown area a true success and attract what he calls "a critical mass of people and a 24-hour presence." But he sees positive signs, starting with the Main Street Program, a movement of The National Trust for Historic Preservation. Formed in 2006, Main Street is a privately funded nonprofit coalition of businesses, city government and Downtown Visions aimed at revitalizing the business district. "We need retail," Hageman says, "and Main Street is helping us accomplish that, concentrating on small businesses. It enables us to work on retail recruitment and retention."

Residential areas also are experiencing what might be called a "boomlet." "The environment is changing," he says. "We have a lot of developers like the Buccini/ Pollin Group who see downtown as a jewel, and apartments are being built at an incredible rate, and with it are coming bars and restaurants and retail."

Like his career as a policeman, his work at Downtown Visions has drawn praise from many who work with him. Among them is Mark Fields, executive director at The Grand Opera House. "Marty has been a genuine partner for me in several interlinked ways," says Fields. "He intuitively understands the importance of the creative sector and the arts for the present and future vibrancy of downtown Wilmington, and has always advocated for the arts community having a place at the table. He's long been an enthusiastic fan of The Grand and supportive of the IN Wilmington campaign. And he's a real champion of partnership and collaboration. More than anything, I appreciate Marty's unwavering but clear-eyed optimism for this community."

Off the job, Hageman is close to his three children as well as two stepdaughters from his second marriage. One of his daughters, Lindsay, is a Wilmington Police detective. He and his wife, Mary, enjoy frequent trips to Ocean City, Maryland — "we're addicted to sunsets," he says. He's also an avid reader, and he likes to hike, kayak, and work out in his basement with weights and an elliptical machine.

So at 66, with such an active personal life, it's conceivable that Hageman might be considering retirement. "No way," says the man who has had just two employers in 48 years.

"I've got the best job in the world," he says. "I get to work with government, including the governor and county officials, and with people in the arts, bankers, restaurant owners — you name it. I'm still having fun, and I see results."

He glances out the window of his modest office in the heart of Delaware's largest city and, with the optimism of a man who has lived and worked here his entire life, declares, "Revitalization is really beginning to occur." WU

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Brittany Lewis

BRITTANY LEWIS: Building a Legacy that Honors African-Americans' Past, Present and Future

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by Britney Gulledge

ilmU alumna BRITTANY LEWIS is an activist and educator who is making her voice heard. Whether it's in boardrooms, college campuses or on social media, she captivates audiences and makes them think.

Last August, she used that voice to speak against domestic violence, a plea so passionate that she won over judges of the Miss Black America pageant and took the crown. (She joined the ranks of Oprah Winfrey, who represented Tennessee in the pageant in 1971.)

Lewis had been in pageants before;

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she was named Miss Delaware in 2014. But for her, the title of Miss Black America was more significant. It aligned with her passion for highlighting the African-American experience in America.

"In my overall experience with pageants, there are plenty of times where I was told that my social commentary or ideas were a bit too political," says Lewis. "But at Miss Black America, my ideas were welcomed. I was able to speak unapologetically about issues affecting my community."

ALIGNING LEGACIES

At 21, Lewis entered the Miss America pageant to help cover tuition for her undergraduate program at Temple University. She had no formal training and didn't place, but she did win a \$1,000 scholarship in the congeniality category.

She thought her career in pageants had ended with Miss America, but she stumbled upon information for the Miss Black America enterprise while conducting research for her Ph.D. program at Georgetown University. She's in her third year of study, and her research interests include 20th-century

PHOTO: COURTESY OF BRITTANY LEWIS



Closing date: April 30, 2018

Nominations are welcome from all members of the University community.

Every day, Wilmington University alums make an impact locally, nationally and globally. The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes our alumni for their outstanding achievements and contributions in their professional careers or public service activities.

Do you know an alum who is deserving of this award?

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Submit a nomination at **wilmu.edu/Nominate.** Or, complete the form on the reverse to mail to:

Wilmington University

ATTN: Alumni Relations—Distinguished Alumni Award 320 N. DuPont Highway New Castle, DE 19720 (\bullet)

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DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD	Nomination Form Anyone is welcome to nominate a Wilmington University alumna or alumnus for this prestigious award.
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Cut along the dotted line and return form to Wilmington University I I

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* Denotes a required field.

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African-American history, crosscultural solidarity movements and citysuburb formation. She was intrigued with the Miss Black America program, particularly its origin, purpose, and, on a more personal note, its proximity to Atlantic City, where her parents worked for more than 30 years.

In 1968, the most famous demonstration against Miss America was the liberation picket, in which more than 400 women's liberation and civil rights activists stormed the Miss America pageant along the Atlantic City Boardwalk and protested the pageant's repressive ideal of feminism. While there were "freedom trashcans," banners, and megaphones, there was a quieter demonstration happening directly across the street that focused on racial inequality.

Miss Black America was a form of protest against the Miss America pageant, which included rule No. 7, stating that "contestants must be of good health and of the White race." (Miss America finally featured a black contestant in 1970.)

Philadelphia entrepreneur and Miss Black America creator J. Morris Anderson staged the event the same night to create a safe space to embrace African-American women's beauty and their role in America. According to its website, Miss Black America today remains "ever committed to the empowerment of women of color throughout America, representing all of our sisters of the African Diaspora."

Lewis was drawn to the concept and decided to take part. "It's not enough to continue to break barriers and solidify spaces in organizations that initially barred us from participating," says Lewis. "It's about reaffirming the importance of institutions created for us and by us."

MAKING A STATEMENT

After earning her bachelor's at Temple, Lewis was selected from some 50,000 applicants nationwide to be part of the competitive Teach for America program. During her years of service, the state of Delaware awarded her the Teacher Cooperative/Retention Award for outstanding dedication and success in the classroom.

She found her calling as an and critical educator thinker. She openly questioned diversity concerns regarding the organization's recruitment population and lack of culturally responsible classroom materials, and what the implications would be if those issues remained unresolved. Because she had a voice and wasn't afraid to use it, the Teach for America regional team asked for her assistance with cultural competency training and classroom materials

Her opinions also would inspire a new Ethnic Studies course at WilmU.

Lewis had earned her master's in Secondary Education at WilmU, maintaining a 4.0-GPA. By then, she had been working full-time at Prestige Academy Charter school in Wilmington, and thanks to WilmU's flexible options, was able to complete her degree while teaching.

In 2015, WilmU College of Arts and Sciences Dean Dr. Doreen Turnbo invited Lewis to draft a curriculum that explored the complexities and history of African-American women. Lewis also worked with Kate Cottle, assistant professor and the college's chair of Humanities and Literature, to bring Ethnic Studies: The Black Woman (ETN 338) to fruition. Lewis calls Cottle a mentor.

Cottle was equally enthusiastic about the project. "The course fulfilled the mission of the University, in terms of addressing diversity," says Cottle. "African-American women have a history and culture that can sometimes be hidden by the forces of racism and sexism. This class is for any student who doesn't know about the richness and depth of African-American women's history and how that history informs and contributes to the tapestry of American culture as a whole."

ETN 338 is now in its third year, and Lewis teaches it online. Cottle wishes she could take the class herself.

"Brittany is highly engaging and allows space for a broad-ranging conversation," she says. "She's given me sources, like Geneva Smitherman, that have changed how I think about language in culture."

PERSONAL, NOT POLITICAL

Lewis wears many hats these days.

She spends much of her time working on her pageant platform of domestic violence. Sadly, her older sister, Gina Nicole Clarke Lewis, was a victim of domestic violence, and passed away as a result in 2010.

"Unfortunately, my sister's story is not an isolated one," says Lewis. "There are millions of women around the country that live in fear and violence that are still searching for a way out. I will tirelessly serve her memory through community outreach. No family should have to experience the pain of losing a loved one (this way)."

Lewis has crafted a three-pronged approach that includes communication, education and legislation designed to help reduce domestic violence issues. She visits high schools and colleges to promote healthy relationships and make students aware of the signs of domestic abuse.

She is also committed to increasing African-American education. Her initiative, "Returning to our Roots: Liberation Through Education," strives to reclaim and celebrate the Black narrative.

Lewis hopes to become a full-time, tenured professor at a major university. "I find that understanding my history, culture and narrative is very liberating," she says. "I want to disseminate what I learn and offer that same liberation to others who have yet to learn the power of who they are." WU

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news & notes

Compiled by Jake McCready

STAY INVOLVED WITH YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

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1989

THOMAS GORDON, M.S. in Personnel Management, of



Hockessin. Delaware, was awarded the 2017 Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award by the

New Castle County Farm Bureau. Gordon served as New Castle County Executive from 1997-2004 and 2012-2016.

1993

DAVID TIDWELL, M.Ed. in School Counseling, of Georgetown,



Delaware, has been selected as a recipient of the 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award for Delaware Technical Community

College's Owens Campus. Tidwell's career includes financial advising, real estate, senior care and higher education. He also is a U.S. Marine veteran.

1997

PATRIK WILLIAMS. M.Ed. in School Administration, of Felton,



Delaware, has been named superintendent of the Smyrna School District in Smyrna, Delaware. Prior to accepting this position,

Williams served as the assistant superintendent under Dr. Debbie Wicks.

2003

AMBER EVANS, BSN, of

Landenberg, Pennsylvania, has



joined the team of providers at the Carroll Health Group OB/GYN as a certified nurse midwife. Evans brings more than a decade

of experience to the organization.

2003

SHERRY A. PERNA, MBA, of Wilmington, Delaware, was named



executive director of Morris James LLP. Perna brings 16 years of legal management and administrative

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experience to the firm and was most recently its CFO.

2008

SAMANTHA VIRDIN-SMETANA,

B.S. in General Studies, of Dover,



City National Bank as vicepresident and trust officer for its Trust and Estate Division in Nevada. She will administer estate and

Delaware, has

been hired by

personal trust accounts including large, complex structures and family relationships, and be responsible for all trust administration issues involving bank clients in the Nevada region.

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2009

ANDREW GILES, B.S. in Organizational Management, of



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Honolulu, Hawaii, has been promoted to assistant administrator for Hospital Operations and Support Services by

Kaiser Permanente Hawaii. Giles will lead multiple departments including food and nutrition services, communications, spiritual care, gift shop operations, parking and environmental services. Prior to joining Kaiser Permanente, he was area general manager for Sodexo in Hawaii, providing contract services to healthcare facilities statewide.



2013

MADELINE DOBBS, MBA in Marketing Management, of



Delaware, has been recognized by Century 21 Emerald as a top real estate agent. She earned this

Wilmington,

award due to her high sales volume and level of professionalism.

2014

DENISE R. ELLIOTT, MSN, of Newark, Delaware, has retired from



active duty as a U.S. Navy captain. Elliott was recognized in Bremerton, Washington, and Washington, D.C. She recently served as senior nurse executive and was stationed at Bremerton Naval Hospital. Elliot had been posted at Balboa Naval Hospital, Bethesda Naval Hospital, and Wilmington, Delaware Naval Operational

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Support Center (NOSC). She also served humanitarian missions on the USNS Comfort in Colombia, El Salvador, Senegal, and in Haiti, after the earthquake. She holds degrees from Howard and Emory Universities, and a master's in Nursing Leadership from Wilmington University. She also serves as the director of nursing for the Delaware Veteran's Home.

2014

LEE HALLORAN, B.S. in Organizational Management, of Lewes, Delaware, is the manager of Volunteer Services at Beebe Hospital. She has been instrumental in increasing the use of pet therapy teams to aid in the recovery of patients with a wide array of medical conditions.

2016

PAMELA SHEATS, M.Ed. in Secondary Education, of Smyrna, Delaware, has been hired by the



Smyrna School District as a math teacher for its ninth and 10th grades at Smyrna High School.

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Compiled by Gloria Johnson

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KEY: Deceased (†)

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UPDATES

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WilmU student Kalyn Butt and partner Kevin Connor manage goats for their award-winning business, Green Grazer <u>Goats</u>.



GOATS: J J J J Who Would Have Thought?

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reen Grazer Goats business owner and WilmU student KALYN BUTT won more than \$22,000 in cash and prizes in a local Shark Tankstyle competition. Green Grazer Goats is an eco-friendly farming operation that uses goats instead of heavy machinery to clear weeds and brush. The goats simply graze the overgrown areas and brush.

It all started with Pete, a goat Butt got for her 17th birthday. Sure, her parents thought a goat-inspired business was a "hare-brained plan," but they went with it.

"I researched how businesses in California and other western states used goats to clear brush from wildfires," says Butt, who is pursuing a bachelor's in Behavioral Science. "That led me to think about how we could use goats to do similar work near my family's farm (in Lincoln University, Pennsylvania)."

For the next few years, she played around with the idea until Kevin Connor, her boyfriend-turned-business partner, invested in the goat business. In 2016, he surprised Butt for Christmas with two baby goats named Pumpkin and Petunia. The business — and goats — were up and running by last May.

Green Grazer Goats also eliminates dangerous chemicals, and the business has become an innovative and economical option for customers. The team started with 10 goats, then 41, and now Butt thinks she'll need at least 60 by spring's end.

"Goat brush removal is the best bet for the environment since they create a very small carbon footprint, don't require toxic chemicals and stabilize the soil," says Butt.

Last September, Butt, just 24, and Connor wowed the judges at the Emerging Enterprise Center's "Swim with the Sharks" video pitch competition.

"The judging was based on multiple criteria, including clarity of message and vision, value proposition and feasibility of the business concept," says Dora Cheatham, program manager for the Wilmington-based Emerging Enterprise Center, which helps start-up owners grow their businesses and develop long-term, sustainable models.

Butt learned about the competition by attending a Young Professional Networking group hosted by the New Castle Chamber of Commerce in WilmU's Pratt Student Center. She even hired fellow student Taylor Moore to produce the video.

Eventually, Butt wants to put her new degree to work by hosting a therapeutic program camp that would serve people with emotional disorders. She'd still utilize the goats, since they've been to known to aid in such therapies. For now, she's just happy chasing them. WU

-Britney Gulledge

PHOTO BY PAUL PATTON

SCHOLARSHIP SAVED, DREAM REALIZED

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or the past 20-plus years, **TIFF McCULLOUGH JR.,** ninth grade

principal at Dover

(Delaware) High
School, has been living his dream

While his two degrees from Wilmington University were essential in achieving that dream,

- being a teacher.

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UPDATES

he got some help along the way from mentors at Wilmington University.

In 1994, when he was in his second year at WilmU, McCullough was in danger of losing his basketball scholarship because a newly hired coach wanted to go with his own players. McCullough asked for assistance, and as they had done for any student who faced financial or other hardships, the staff stepped in to help.

"Because of (their) efforts I was able to complete my bachelor's degree in Human Resources and graduate in three years," says McCullough. "Without that assistance, I probably would have had to drop out of school and postpone graduating early. He says he was saved "big time," and

PHOTO: SUSAN L. GREGG

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that he is thankful. McCullough went on to complete his teaching certification in Business Education at Delaware State University, then returned to WilmU to earn a master's in School Leadership in 2006.

"I left WilmU totally prepared," he says. As proof, he adds: "The first interview I had was for the position I have now." **WU**

Earning Rank

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ongratulations to WilmU alumnus JEREMY JANKOWSKI, who became a Palmyra (New Jersey) police sergeant after just four years as an officer. He earned a bachelor's in Criminal Justice and a master's in Homeland Security.

Jankowski completed a nine-month Gloucester County Police Academy program in May of 2013, receiving awards in physical training, attendance, academics, and the prestigious Directors Award. He was the recruit who maintained the highest GPA and epitomized the highest degree of honor, integrity and service.

Since becoming a police officer, Jankowski has served the Palmyra borough, managing the youth, police, citizens and senior citizens academies. The entities spur positive interactions between the police department and members of the community.

"We do more community events now than when I started," says Jankowski. "It helps the townspeople become more comfortable around us.

"I have worked with great officers along the way and I cannot thank them enough," he adds, attributing much of his success to the mentorship of his sergeants and the tight-knit department. WU



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UPDATES

Goin' Big in Texas

RISTEN DAMON is a grandmother and she lives in Texas — two facts that, combined, earn her unique status among the 29 online students who have received Wilmington University's Online Student of the Block award. She's also the second Texan to win the award, which honors an online student who has excelled in his or her seven-week block of courses.

Damon works full-time as a

senior executive assistant to the vice president of an oil and gas services company in Houston. She has four children, ranging in age from 16 to 32, and three grandchildren, with another on the way as of this writing.

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She completed her associate degree at Lone Star College in Houston in 2013 and enrolled in WilmU's online Psychology program two years later. She chose the University after thoroughly vetting several candidate schools. WilmU's flexible online programs, connection to her employer, and benefits for students stood out in her selection process.

Houston

"Kristen is a good example of a working adult who's taking advantage of her employer's education benefit to take classes," says Dr. Matt Davis, senior director of Online Learning. "The fact that she chose Wilmington University's online program over many others and is in Texas is a good statement about the quality and reach of our online programs and our University's



reputation in general."

Damon has noticed that the quality of the online course content is paired with a personal touch. "The University feels like a big school as far as the material in my classes," Damon says, "but like a small one with regard to the personal attention."

Earning a bachelor's degree has been her lifelong dream. "I've been working hard at advancing my career and learning everything I possibly can so that I can be the best at whatever I do," she says.

In 2016, she switched majors



to Criminal Justice. "I had been majoring in Psychology," she says, "but I was also very interested in Criminal Justice; the two are very close, due to the human factor.

"My ultimate goal is to become a counselor, and since my first psychology class in high school I have wanted to help teenagers who just need an understanding ear. Through research for a recent assignment and completely by accident, I learned of an opportunity to help young victims of human trafficking. It just seems like everything is falling right into place." WU



Student Life departments, the Wildcats are hitting the road in new wheels. The new WilmU bus, which made its debut at the 2017 Homecoming tailgate party, will shuttle students, athletes and alumni to myriad events. The departments tapped the expertise of WilmU's University Relations team to marry their vision with quality design. It was one of UR's many annual marketing and design projects, but the biggest to date.

According to Graphic Designer Johan Way, the initial design was completed in a little over a month. WU

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UPDATES

For the Love of Teaching

ilmU education students **SARAH BELL** and **CHRISTIAN DILUZIO** met in Chemistry class, and and as corny as it sounds, they have great chemistry. The couple is taking part in the University's nationally recognized Yearlong Teaching Residency Program while planning a

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June wedding.

Bell and Diluzio are completing their teaching residencies at East Millsboro Elementary School in Millsboro, Delaware, in third- and



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fifth-grade classrooms, respectively. The wedding plans have to play second fiddle to working full school days, managing pre-licensure assessments and house hunting, but as Bell says, "Despite the craziness and chaos, we both manage to get it all done."

The National Center for Teacher Residencies named the College of Education's innovative yearlong initiative as one of its 2017 SEED grant recipients. The program allows those pursuing education WilmU degrees to work alongside mentor teachers for an entire school year instead of the traditional 10-week student teaching model.

"We decided that we would be foolish if we didn't take advantage of this great opportunity," says Diluzio. "Being able to have a full year of experience under our belts was very crucial in our decision-making process."

Adds Bell: "The residency exposes students to everything about teaching that can't be taught in a classroom. From planning and teaching lessons to being part of parent-teacher conferences, YLR interns can truly experience the everyday life of a teacher."

The two find comfort in going through the rigorous residency program together.

"It's pretty cool to watch each other grow as teachers and to know that I'm marrying an amazing guy with the same dreams and visions," says Bell.

They will marry in June, with 150 friends and family members in attendance. "It'll be a great way to end the school year and start our next chapter," says Diluzio. WU



From left: Chantille Kennedy, Sharon Banks, Jackki Kennedy, Taleah Kennedy, Asi'a Darring, Byron Alston, and Deshauna Barber (Miss USA 2016)

ALUMNA FORMS NONPROFIT TO FIGHT CANCER

ACKKI KENNEDY, a 1987 Wilmington College alumna, is a fighter. Want proof? She has survived five bouts with cancer. Unfortunately, her sister, Michelle Denise Penn, was not so fortunate. She died in 2007 at 27. A year later, Kennedy started the MDP Cancer Fund, a 501c3 nonprofit organization, in memory of her sister. She formed a seven-member board of directors, including Asi'a Darring, a 2008 WilmU alumna, and they have molded the Wilmington organization into a powerful educational and fundraising tool in the battle against cancer.

Says Kennedy, a resident of New Castle, Delaware: "Our mission is to create awareness of, educate on, and provide emotional and financial support to those impacted by breast cancer and other cancers primarily affecting women. Those cancers are breast, lung, colorectal and the gynecological cancers."

The group raises funds largely through two events: The Kennedy Black and White Ball and the Springtime Splendor Luncheon and Fashion Show.

Now in its 10th year, the Black and White Ball is held each November, usually at Harry's Savoy Ballroom in North Wilmington. It's a black-tie affair with dinner, dancing, silent auction and program. Last year's special guests included Miss USA 2016 Deshauna Barber.

The Springtime Splendor Luncheon and Fashion Show started three years ago. It's held in April or May at Deerfield Golf & Country Club in Newark, Delaware. Along with a fashion show, it features vendors selling jewelry, household and kitchen items and clothing. Last year, Banana Republic, JoS. A. Bank and an independent designer donated clothing for the fashion show. WU

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EVENTS

Want your event listed in the summer 2018 issue? Please send your information to **BRITNEY GULLEDGE AT BRITNEY.J.GULLEDGE@WILMU.EDU.** Deadline is **April 15, 2018**.



March 20

STUDENT APPRECIATION DAY: NEW CASTLE

WilmU wants to thank you for being a Wildcat. Stop by the café area in the DAC Building from noon to 2 p.m., and 5 to 7 p.m., for refreshments, games and prizes, and to learn how to be more involved on campus.

(Contact: alice.k.miller@wilmu.edu)

March 24

BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

Hop over with the little ones for the University's annual breakfast. Enjoy food, crafts and fun for the family from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the New Castle and Dover campuses.

(Contact: alice.k.miller@wilmu.edu)

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April 21

360 YOGA •

Strengthen your body and mind during this series of wellness and centering workshops led by local yoga instructors and practitioners. All levels of experience and ability are welcome.

For more information, visit wilmu.edu/ Yoga.

(Contact: anah.e.galloway@wilmu.edu)

April 24

BLOOD DRIVE

Give a little, save a life. The Student Life and Human Resources departments will host a blood drive to benefit the Blood Bank of Delmarva.

(*Contact: anah.e.galloway@wilmu.edu*)

May 8

DIGIGIRLZ

The College of Technology is hosting DigiGirlz, an event designed to expose 150 eighth- and ninth-grade girls to careers in STEM. The students choose workshops in programming, robotics, game design, and more. The event is held at the Dover site.

(Contact: maria.i.bannon@wilmu.edu)



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May 11

SIGMA BETA DELTA CEREMONY

The Sigma Beta Delta Honor Society ceremony will recognize the academic achievements of the top 20 percent of business graduates. (*Contact: tammy.m.lemire@wilmu.edu*)

May 16, May 20, May 21

SPRING COMMENCEMENTS

It's time again for the procession, the cheers, the sighs of relief, and smiles from Wilmington University's 2018 spring class. Celebrate the achievement of the graduates at the Georgetown (May 16) and New Castle (May 20 and May 21) ceremonies.

(Visit wilmu.edu/Graduation for more information.)



Alumni Events

April 7

WINTERTHUR HOME TOUR

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Tour H.F. du Pont's 175-room former home, one of the few surviving great American country estates. Experience this premier museum of American decorative arts, and its unparalleled collection of nearly 90,000 objects made or used in America between 1640 and 1860.

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

May 3

SCHOLARSHIP GOLF CLASSIC

Spend the day playing a full round of golf, networking with fellow golfers and listening to live music while contributing to student scholarships.

For more information, visit wilmu.edu/ GolfClassic.

(Contact: brandi.d.purcell@ wilmu.edu)

May 5

SPRING FEST

There's music, crafts and palpable WilmU pride. Celebrate the arrival of spring at this free, family-friendly festival.



For more information, visit wilmu.edu/ SpringFest.

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



THE BATTLESHIP NEW JERSEY Spend the afternoon with the Pennsylvania and New Jersey alumni chapters on a guided tour of the Battleship New Jersey. (Contact: donna.j.hardy@wilmu.edu)

Admissions

May 9

SPRING OPEN HOUSE

You know there's something great about Wilmington University's dedication to students. Why not share the opportunity so that those closest to you can experience the WilmU difference? Open Houses will take place at the New Castle, Dover and Georgetown campuses. For more information, visit wilmu.edu/OpenHouse.

June 7

GRADUATE STUDIES FAIR

Learn how to advance your career with a graduate degree or certificate both of which you can earn on your time and budget. *For more information, visit wilmu.edu/GradFair.*

On-going

INFORMATION SESSIONS

Information sessions are your opportunity to learn about new WilmU programs and other topics. Sessions are available online and in-person. For more information, visit wilmu.edu/VisitUs, or call the University Information Center at (877) 967-5464.

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The Numbers Tell Our Story

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most affordable private, nonprofit institution^{*} in the region

60% less student loan debt

than the US average

87% of WilmU students work

full-time or part-time

72% of WilmU students are over the age of 25





Wilmington University makes education affordable and accessible for working adults.

Spread the word—classes start every eight weeks!

Learn more at wilmu.edu/StartNow

* Based on published 2016-17 tuition rates | Sources: Delaware Department of Labor | National Center for Education Statistics

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This WilmU student has created a company that's good for the planet and her customers' pocketbooks. Those goats? They're part of it.

Read her story on page 62.

HOTO BY PAUL PATTON