

WILMU[®]

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES

The partnership between
Year Up and **WilmU** is
transforming lives.

THE PUBLICATION FOR THE **WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY** COMMUNITY

SPRING 2019



Spring in New Castle

PHOTO BY PAUL PATTON

“Our missions are aligned.”

—Dr. LaVerne T. Harmon



Our Year Up Partnership

In January, I had the privilege of addressing our first cohort of Year Up graduates.

Even though I knew about the great things Year Up did, seeing these graduates beam with pride as they received their certificates reminded me how important it is to serve. It also made me even prouder of Wilmington University, and our mission to welcome all who wish to better themselves through quality education.

Year Up is a nonprofit dedicated to transforming the lives of young people. For many reasons, these young adults never had the chance to succeed and reach their potential. It's named Year Up because these participants enroll in a full year of academics and internships, each divided into six-month phases.

As you'll read in our cover story, Wilmington University and Year Up formed a partnership in August of 2017. We were happy to offer its statewide branch office space at our New Castle location and since they've come on board, Year Up's team has become part of the WilmU family.

Our missions are aligned; we each believe in empowering students. For the University, we do that by offering relevant, career-driven programs that prepare them for the competitive marketplace. Year Up builds corporate partnerships that provide internships for the students — and many have been hired for well-paying positions.

It's not easy. These students are held to high standards and are expected to be at their best in college and when interning for major companies. They must present themselves professionally at all times — and in one year, they learn to believe in themselves. They're ready to become productive members of society.

I hope you enjoy our cover feature, and the many other stories about our faculty, staff, students and alumni. [WU](#)

Sincerely,

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

Dr. LaVerne T. Harmon
President

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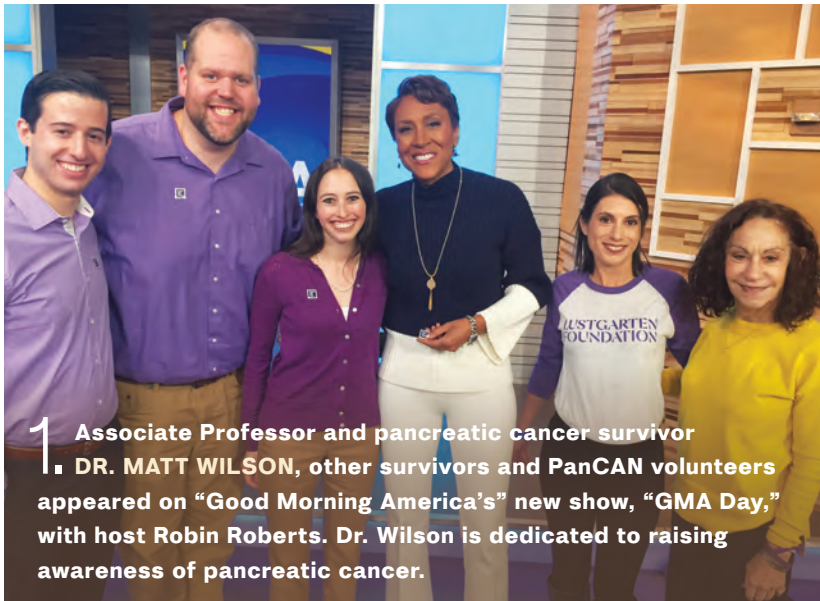
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1. Associate Professor and pancreatic cancer survivor DR. MATT WILSON, other survivors and PanCAN volunteers appeared on “Good Morning America’s” new show, “GMA Day,” with host Robin Roberts. Dr. Wilson is dedicated to raising awareness of pancreatic cancer.

#TRENDING

by Maria Hess



2. DBA alumnus **DR. JAHANGIR M. KABIR**'s dissertation, *Factors Influencing Customer Satisfaction at a Fast Food Hamburger Chain: The Relationship Between Customer Satisfaction and Customer Loyalty*, was one of the most accessed dissertations — fourth among 2.25 million, according to Proquest. Want to read it? Visit <https://www.proquest.com>.



3. Education alumna **DANA BOWE**, a K-2 Special Education teacher in the Seaford School District, was named the 2019 Delaware Teacher of the Year. She also leads a Polar Bear Plunge team, and was awarded the Down Syndrome Association of Delaware Teacher of the Year Award in 2017.



4. Alumnus **DR. JOHN B. GADDIS** was named Maryland's 2018 Superintendent of the Year. He earned his Ed.D. in 2005 and was awarded the Trustee Award for Service.



Read exclusive stories on our digital edition.



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THE NEWS

Celebrating Brandywine



On Tuesday, Jan. 8, a ribbon-cutting ceremony commemorated the **OFFICIAL OPENING** of Wilmington University's Brandywine location.

President Dr. LaVerne T. Harmon led the ceremony, acknowledging former President Dr. Jack Varsalona for his vision, as well as the Board of Trustees for their support. The President also thanked the many professionals and colleagues involved in the design, construction and management of the site, and added that Brandywine stands as a tangible reminder of the University's unwavering commitment to students. **WU**

From left: *Honorable Sue Robinson (Trustee), Dr. Erin DiMarco (Senior Vice President & COO), Brian DiSabatino (EDiS), Tom Leipold (Trustee), Dr. Jack Varsalona (President Emeritus), Honorable Joseph J. Farnan, Jr. (Board Chairman), President Dr. LaVerne T. Harmon, Dr. Audrey Doberstein (Past President), Dana Robinson (Trustee), Bill Quinn (Senior Director of Facilities & Maintenance), Dr. G. Dean MacEwen (Trustee), Curtis Harkin (Homsey Architects), Larry Miller (Trustee), Chuck Ryan (Homsey Architects), Alan Ellingsworth (Trustee)*

A Second Chance for Ex-Offenders

D **R. DARRELL MILLER** started his professional journey in financial and facilities management. But he discovered early on that the corporate life was just not fulfilling, and he felt a need to use his talents to help disadvantaged people.

This sense of mission initially led him to serve children with special education needs. He then worked as community coordinator for the New York City Department of Homeless Services. Eventually, Dr. Miller started working in the Delaware prison system, where he found his true calling — giving ex-offenders a second chance — in his current role supervising teachers and educational programs for inmates at the Howard R. Young Correctional Institution in Wilmington.

As part of that journey, Dr. Miller decided to pursue a Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) degree at Wilmington University to build advanced skills in leadership and management. “The DBA program helped me develop critical thinking and decision-making skills to better understand competition in adult education,” says Dr. Miller. “And, most importantly for the correctional setting, to learn how to persuasively articulate complex ideas.”

Dr. Miller brings compassion, respect for people in all walks of life, and a calm, levelheaded and practical approach to stressful situations. He is a problem solver with a rare ability to bridge the concerns of parties with different

agendas to develop workable solutions. He cares deeply about inmates, ex-offenders, the prison teachers he supervises, as well as volunteers, and he is always looking for ways to more effectively prepare inmates for productive lives after their release.

His work is essential because the state of Delaware every month releases more than 100 ex-offenders from Level 5, a level serious-enough to require 24-hour incarceration. According to Dr. Michael Grossman, education associate for Adult and Prison Education at the Delaware Department of Education (DOE), another way to look at the magnitude of this problem is that more than 90 percent of inmates will eventually be released. If these ex-offenders are not able to find jobs, they’re at high risk for recidivism and re-incarceration.

Sadly, a recent report published by the state of Delaware revealed that 45 percent of inmates were back in prison within one year. In December 2018, Gov. John Carney recognized the urgent need to change this pattern by creating the Delaware Correctional Reentry Commission to take a comprehensive approach to address the problem.

It is heartening to Dr. Miller to see the emphasis the state is putting on reentry programs. Although he has made many training improvements based on evolving vocational opportunities and inmates’ needs and goals, he recognizes that training is only the beginning of the reintegration process. The challenges during re-entry are complex, and there’s

a need to build bridges between agencies, employers and support groups.

Fortunately, the new commission provides a vehicle to facilitate such partnerships. In particular, two aspects of the Executive Order directly address ex-offender employment challenges: a new Department of Labor policy on skills training and employment and an employer incentive program.

Because employers form the linchpin for successful re-entry partnerships, Dr. Miller focused his DBA research on understanding the level of concern that employers have regarding employing ex-offenders, and what measures might increase their willingness to hire. Looking specifically at ex-offenders with drug convictions, Dr. Miller found that employers in target industries had relatively low reservations, which could be overcome by referrals from trusted individuals, organizations or systems.

These insights offer a promising path forward: fostering partnerships between re-entry organizations, staffing agencies, industry and vocational organizations, adult schools, work release sites and libraries. This recommendation is getting positive feedback from decision-makers in Delaware and prison education professionals in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Such partnerships are supported by the Delaware Restaurant Association Educational Foundation and the Delaware DOE Automotive Technology Advisory Committee. For example, the latter committee has played an active role in supporting DOE training for



*Dr. Darrell Miller at the Howard R. Young Correctional Institution,
where he is a teacher and supervisor*

Dr. Miller is always looking for ways to more effectively **prepare inmates for productive lives** after their release.

inmates who are candidates for automotive repair employment. Peter Rudloff, chair of the automotive advisory committee, notes, “There are minor risks, but there have also been successes. It

is rewarding when ex-offenders establish new lives.”

Longer term, Dr. Miller is looking at ways to leverage partnerships to establish systems for credible referrals, including feedback

mechanisms to guide performance improvement. In the meantime, he will continue to support inmates as they pursue their second chances — one inmate at a time. **WU**

—Ruth Norman

PHOTO BY RON DUBICK

SPRING 2019 7

Alums Become Trauma-Informed Champs

The three Wilmington University alums didn't know what to expect when they were invited to participate in Trauma-informed Approach (TIA) training last year. But **CHERI PYNE**, social worker and case manager supervisor at Delaware's Division of Social Services, **ARUKU DAVIS**, grant

diversion manager at the State Division of Public Health, and **JULIE EDWARDS**, social services administrator at the State Division of Child Support Services, soon found out.

Trauma-informed training deals with understanding, recognizing, and responding to all types of trauma. Trauma-informed champions bring information, resources and skills to others to

continue the trauma-informed change process for overall sustainability.

The story begins in the summer of 2017, with collaboration between WilmU and Delaware Health and Social Services (DHSS) under the leadership of Psychology Program Director **DR. DEBRA BERKE** and **RENEE BEAMAN**, director of the Delaware Division of State Service Centers. WilmU would offer

Aruku Davis





Cheri Pyne

Julie Edwards



training based on three key courses within the undergraduate Trauma-informed Approaches certificate — in which 88 students are now enrolled — to a select group of state

employees in a train-the-trainer format.

In January of 2018, 24 DHSS employees, including Davis, Edwards and Pyne, began a nine-

week, 54-hour, face-to-face or online learning experience to become trauma-informed and build the capacity of other state employees to be trauma-informed. They had trained nearly 1,000 state employees by December of 2018,

It took time for coworkers to become engaged and participate in group discussions. “They were able to correlate the training with real-life situations that they’ve encountered,” says Davis. When Edwards embraced the challenging material, she realized she had become part of a national movement.

On Oct. 17, 2018, Delaware Gov. John Carney announced via Executive Order Number 24, that “All state agencies that provide services for children and adults shall integrate trauma-informed best practices.”

This is not just an Executive Order. This is life-changing. **WU**

—*Marilyn Siebold*

THE NEWS

Farrell Moskow

2018 CRIMINAL JUSTICE GRAD LANDS 'DREAM JOB' WITH GOVERNMENT

Living and working “inside the Beltway” — Washington, D.C. and environs — can be extremely stressful. Traffic congestion, the high cost of living, the daily ebb and flow of political controversy — all contribute to a high-pressure environment.

But **FARRELL MOSKOW**, a 2018 Wilmington University graduate, is thriving in our country’s capitol, working as an analyst for the U.S. government. It’s a dream job for the 24-year-old, who received a degree in Criminal Justice at WilmU.

Moskow gives much of the credit for his success to caring teachers who encouraged and mentored him throughout his high school and college years. He is particularly complimentary of his professors at WilmU, where he enrolled as a junior after attending Burlington (New Jersey) County College and receiving the highly competitive Presidential Scholarship, which paid for his two years at Wilmington.

“I highly recommend this school to anybody interested in getting a quality education, no matter what level of degree you are looking for,” he says. “I have learned a lot and I owe a vast majority of my success to my professors at this institution. Even the office staff’s nice.”

Moskow says Dr. James Warwick, assistant

professor and chair of the Criminal Justice Program, was “an awesome influence.”

Calling Moskow “an exemplary student,” Dr. Warwick says, “Farrell had a strong desire to not only do well academically, but also to learn as much as he could about the different facets of criminal justice. His goal was to secure a position within law enforcement, where he could use his talents to best serve the community. His academic journey, fueled by his dreams, ultimately landed him a job of a lifetime.”

While at WilmU, Moskow served two internships with the government, which helped open the door to his current position. He says he loves his job. “Each day is a new adventure for me and not one day is the same. I really see the significance to the work that I’m doing, and I feel I am helping people one way or another. I get up each day with a smile, ready to start another adventure.”

A 2012 graduate of Cherokee High School in Marlton, New Jersey, Moskow now lives in Alexandria, Virginia. In his spare time, he gets together with friends and takes classes in Shotokan Karate. A student of the traditional Japanese martial art for the past four years, he holds a purple belt. He says he is following in the footsteps of his father, who is a black belt. **WU**

—Bob Yearick

E-books: Distinguished and Discounted

This academic year, the Philosophy and Arts Department of the College of Arts & Sciences worked with McGraw-Hill publishers, the WilmU bookstore, and the Information Technology Department to pilot a new program aimed at providing lower-cost textbooks for students.

The program, called Inclusive Access, converts textbooks into digital content at less than half the cost of paper textbooks and streamlines the process for students to receive their e-books. In the fall semester, all students enrolled in Intro to Critical Thinking (PHI 100) automatically received access to their textbooks when they registered for the course, and their student accounts were billed at the end of the drop/add period.

“Our initial pilot of the process involved all 53 sections of PHI 100 with more than 900 students enrolled,” says Department Chair **DR. DANNY WALKER**. “Students were pleased with the lower cost of the textbooks and appreciated the simplified process that gave them access to their e-books on the first day of class. Instructors were enthused about the lack of technical issues that students sometimes experience with the use of digital content and were supportive of continuing the inclusive access program.”

For the spring semester, he adds that the college is expanding the number of courses participating in the program and they look forward to working with their partners to better serve WilmU students. **WU**

—Janice Colvin

THE CLAW STRIKES

A new student-athletics newsletter called **THE CLAW** hit the scene last fall. Sports Management and Media Relations students joined forces to write, edit and publish the newsletter, which was made possible via a partnership with WilmU Athletics.

Academically, the goal for The Claw is to strengthen WilmU’s initiative of providing more experiential learning offerings, as well as textbook-free environments in some classrooms. Editorially, it will offer timely, comprehensive coverage of WilmU’s athletic teams and events – and prepare staff for the detail-oriented, deadline-driven, ever-evolving world of publications.

Students will ultimately run The Claw, and there will be writing, editing and photography opportunities for all students. The digital version will be distributed electronically to WilmU staff, faculty and alumni; the hard copy to all WilmU sites.

The Claw, like any good newsletter or publication, should inspire commitment, creativity and authenticity – and most important, raise awareness of the great Wildcats. **WU**

—Janice Wardle

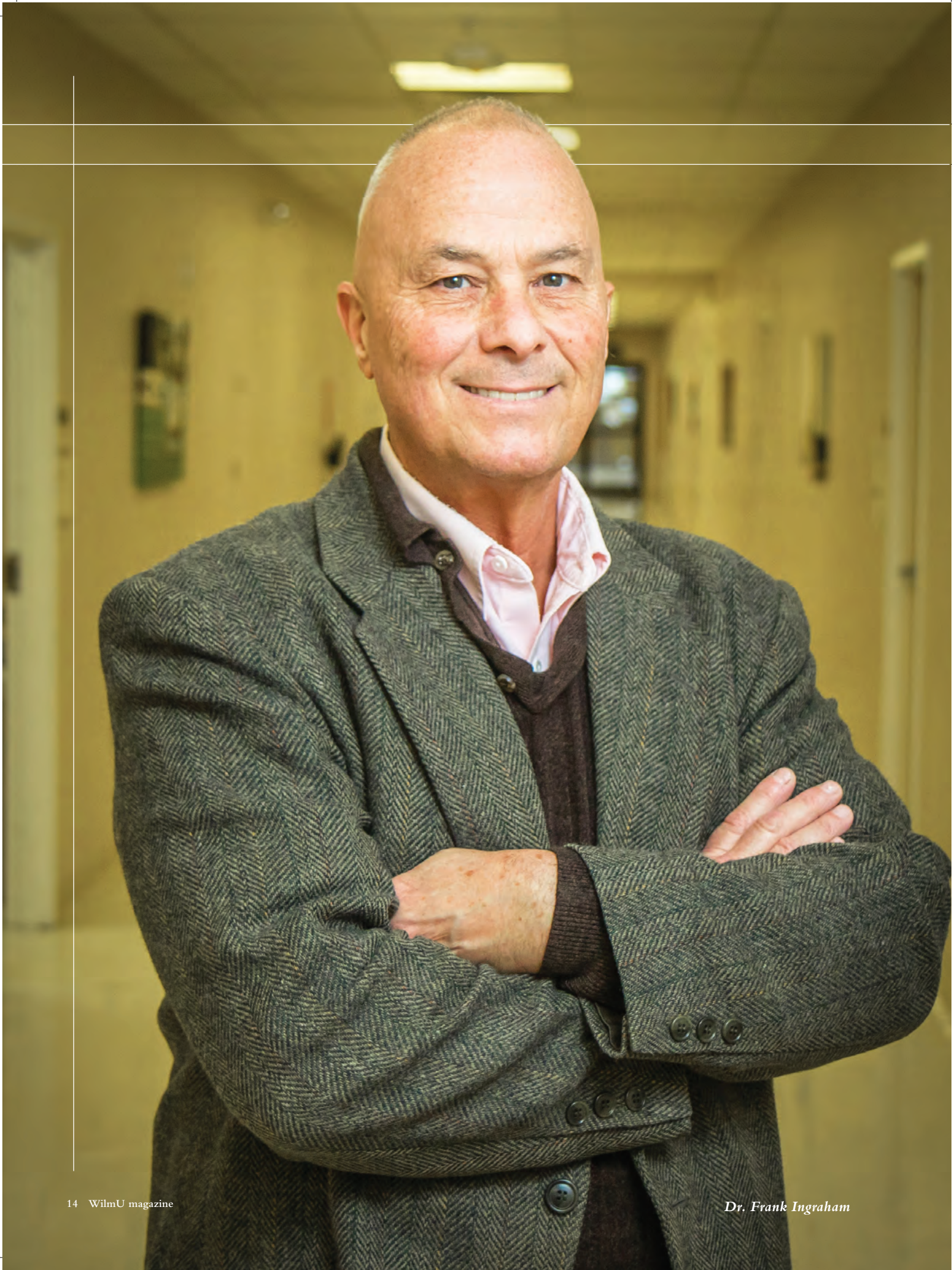
For more info, contact Dr. Janice Wardle at Janice.e.wardle@wilmu.edu or Dan Lauletta at Daniel.j.lauletta@wilmu.edu.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JANICE WARDLE



*Dr. Danny Walker chairs
the Philosophy and Arts
Department for the College
of Arts and Sciences.*



Leading Alumni with Gusto

DR. FRANK INGRAHAM has worn many hats in his life. During a 44-year career with the DuPont Company, he worked in labor relations, human resources, Six Sigma/Lean project management, training and development, and community relations. Post-DuPont, he's been a teacher and author. And in private life, he's a husband, father and doting grandfather.

But perhaps no job he has taken on is as tailor-made for his talents and considerable enthusiasm as his latest: president of the Wilmington University Alumni Association. The office, in which he succeeds Brian Adair, combines two things Ingraham loves: volunteering and WilmU.

He brings a solid Wildcat pedigree to the post. An adjunct professor at the University for the past four years, he holds two WilmU degrees — a master's in Human Resources (1998) and an Ed.D. in Organizational Leadership (2017).

He joined the Alumni Association as soon as he enrolled in the master's program, and he and his wife, Johna-Lee, who is also an alum (Nursing, 1995), have been regulars at association events ever since.

"I've been so very fortunate to grow and develop over the years with the help of Wilmington University," says Dr. Ingraham. "I'm convinced that I wouldn't be where I'm at without the University. It's been an excellent experience for me."

As an adjunct, he brings to his Strategy in Organizations (MGT 7800) classes his extensive DuPont experience along with the same gusto he applies to all aspects of his life. "I get to teach course

content by weaving in lots of corporate experiences while at the same time learning from each of (my students)," he says. Then, characteristically, he adds: "How lucky are we!"

Dr. Ingraham describes alumni events as family-friendly and "robust," citing as examples tours of the Battleship New Jersey and museum in Camden, New Jersey, and the Nemours Mansion and Garden in North Wilmington. Among the events he was looking forward to at this writing were "Vikings: Beyond the Legend," an exhibit at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, as well as the annual Scholarship Golf Classic this May.

He encourages alumni to check on future events at the association's website, wilmu.edu/alumni.

The Alumni Association was founded with the first graduating class of 198 students in 1972 to strengthen and promote the growth of the University. Chapter chairs lead their groups in alumni development and university engagement while coordinating special events and collaborating with the Alumni Relations Department for fundraising activities.

"In spite of its growth to over 50,000, the association still upholds its mission to value and care for our alumni as friends and partners by positively impacting our respective communities," Dr. Ingraham says.

His desire to "give back" has led him to volunteer with several other organizations and professional groups, including the Employer Support of the

Guard and Reserve, the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), and the Delaware Center for Justice. And he seems to have made a positive impression wherever he has served.

Joanne Lee, vice president of Human Resources at N.K.S. Distributors, in New Castle, Delaware, is on the SHRM State Council. "Last year," she says, "the director of the Council resigned unexpectedly. The first leader that came to mind to rescue the Council was Frank. His passion and commitment to HR and for SHRM is endless. As the interim leader, he navigated the team through turbulent waters and put the Council back on track."

Lee calls it an "honor and privilege to call Frank a colleague and friend."

"He inspires and encourages everyone around him," she says. "He shows that he cares for anyone that is lucky enough to get to know him or work with him or learn from him. I can truly say that I am a much better person for knowing him."

Susan Post, field services director with the SHRM, echoes those sentiments, and adds: "The Alumni Association is fortunate to have Frank serve as your president and I know you will value and appreciate his continued service — as we do at SHRM."

Dr. Ingraham believes ginning up enthusiasm for the group's activities will be a relatively easy task. "I think 99.9 percent of our alums have had a great Wilmington University experience," he says. "And my message is, 'if you thought that was great, you're going to love the Alumni Association.'" **WU**

—Bob Yearick

COVER STORY BY MARIA HESS

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES



The partnership between
YEAR UP and **WILMU**
is transforming lives.

PHOTOS BY PAUL PATTON

Photo of Maria Esther Mendez De La Cruz by Emir Lake



Maria Esther Mendez De La Cruz doubted herself before starting her Year Up program. Now, fortified with confidence, she's building a new life.



When Maria Esther Mendez De La Cruz's father was deported to Mexico, she became a statistic. She joined the ranks of thousands of U.S. citizen children of undocumented parents forced to adapt to a country they don't understand, a language they don't speak, and a society that considers them outcasts. Her father, Sebastian Mendez Gordillo, was left to deal with the agonizing uncertainty of ever being reunited with his family again. For Maria, who was 11 at the time, losing him was "horrible," she says. "It was out of nowhere that they took him. He always took care of us — anything school-related, he was there. He was the head of the household."

Like many migrant families, hers had come to America full of hope, only to see their dreams shattered by the loss of their patriarch. The deportation strained the marriage as well, and Maria's parents divorced. Left to fend for themselves, Maria, her mother, Josefina De La Cruz, and her siblings shared a small apartment with a relative until Josefina remarried.

School was Maria's salvation. She was good at math — her father forced her to learn every multiplication table before she turned 7. But now, he wasn't around to help, to offer guidance, or to witness her moving-up ceremonies in middle school.

Maria was accepted to Howard High School in Wilmington, but got pregnant in her sophomore year. Suddenly responsible for raising a baby boy, Isaias, she missed her junior and senior years. Josefina, who had had two more children, insisted that her daughter finish, and took on the role

of caregiver for Isaias while Maria transferred to nearby McKean High School and completed her studies. She took extra online classes, never missed a day of senior year, and graduated with honors.

Aside from Facetime, Maria hasn't seen her father in 10 years. And she can't go back to Mexico. As a DACA (Deferred Action for Young Childhood Arrivals) citizen, a designation granted to her in 2017, she had a two-year timeframe to get a Social Security number and a job, and did both. "And I couldn't leave the U.S.," she says. "I could work here, which was a plus — many others don't have that luxury — but DACA members couldn't get financial aid or health care. If anything, all that had to come out of our pockets."

Prospects would have been worse in Puebla, Mexico, where the rest of her family remains. Had she stayed there, the chances of going to college would've been slim, she says. "Most of my cousins didn't even make it to high school, and women rarely made it to college."

Maria hoped to enroll at Delaware Technical Community College, but without financial aid, she couldn't afford tuition. She worked as a waitress, married Francisco Sauce — also from Puebla — and worried that her dream of earning a degree and utilizing her considerable math skills for a potential banking career would never be realized.

Unwilling to throw in the towel, Maria discovered Wilmington Job Corps, a free education and job-training program for young adults, and earned certifications in Microsoft, Word and PowerPoint.



There, she learned about Year Up.

And that's where her new story began.

THE PLAN

Year Up, which was founded in 2000, is a national, one-year intensive program that provides low-income adults with hands-on skills, coursework eligible for college credit, an educational stipend, corporate



Dr. Eileen Donnelly and her colleagues, Jeff Martino (right) and Peter Lonie work closely with the Year Up team.

internships, and wraparound support from mentors and coaches immersed in their journeys. Corporate sponsors cover the costs, so the program, which has helped nearly 20,000 participants, is free. In August of 2017, a partnership between Wilmington University and Year Up was established, and the nonprofit operates its statewide office at WilmU's New Castle location. Maria is part of the 30-member inaugural class, though the number

of enrollees is expected to grow.

Year Up serves a neglected population that can potentially handle the rigors of college and succeed in the global workforce. According to its records, nearly 5 million youth, ages 18 to 24, have not progressed beyond a high school diploma and are neither employed nor enrolled in postsecondary institutions. Additionally, more than 70 percent of low-income minority

youth in America leave high school without a path to college or a decent job. Year Up addresses this crisis by empowering people who have slipped through the cracks. And Fortune 500 companies benefit as well — the nonprofit trains potential candidates for available jobs.

According to reports from marketwatch.com, postsecondary education is recommended for new jobs that require a combination of



decision-making, communication, analysis and administration skills — the same skills Year Up emphasizes. Some 12 million jobs requiring postsecondary learning are expected to go unfilled in the next decade, which is one reason Year Up provides students with resources, inspires them to persevere, and trains them to compete on the global stage. It prepares them for well-paying employment opportunities, which, in turn, will fulfill the needs of a booming marketplace.

Year Up students take six months of career-relevant courses at WilmU, then earn an internship at a local company for the next six months. While they're provided extraordinary coaching and mentors, they must embrace strict standards.

"The students are young and are vetted," says Dr. Eileen Donnelly, vice president of Enrollment Management at Wilmington University. "That's because this isn't an easy gig. You have to be able to do the work, because for the WilmU portion, it's 9 to 5, five days a week. Lateness and absences have consequences or result in infractions."

Maria can attest to that. She's considered a high-performing student, yet she's had a few stumbles. At WilmU, she says, "I got an infraction for being late," explaining that she got stuck in traffic. "I got another one due to illness, and another time, I was eating something in the computer lab and got another infraction."

If anyone had reasonable excuses for these breaches, it was Maria. She worked nights as a waitress from 5 to 11 — after a full day of school;



her husband, a cook, got one night off and couldn't help with Isaias; and every morning, before starting *her* day, Maria fed her son and got him ready for his. Year Up cut her no slack, theoretically preparing her for workplace reality. Like other working mothers, she would be expected to show up on time despite personal challenges.

She's fine with that. "I don't mind the infractions; I agree with them," Maria says. "Even now, I don't tend to be late. I learned at WilmU that being on time is important. The discipline made me more professional and more accountable for my actions."

Accountability is key, as is managing rigorous professional and academic standards and accepting constructive feedback. Still, poignant relationships blossom, particularly between mentees and mentors. Maria's Year Up coach is External Relations Manager Brittaney Shade. "She changed my life," says Maria. Of Dr. Donnelly, her WilmU mentor, she says, "I love her, I really

do. I see it in her eyes that she cares for me and wants me to succeed. She listens. There are people you talk to who don't pay attention, but Dr. Donnelly cares. I can feel it."

For Shade and Dr. Donnelly, the feelings are mutual. "As cliché as this sounds, Maria, like many of the Year Up students, motivates me every day to do more and work harder to close the Opportunity Divide," says Shade.

Dr. Donnelly concurs: "Maria is a wife, she's a mother, and she had a part-time job when she was a full-time student. But she was here every day and she did very well. I have great respect for her."

That respect was earned. Maria landed an internship at JP Morgan Chase, where she is exploring the financial industry. She attributes her success to family and mentors, as well as Michael Woglom, her Year Up admissions specialist coach, and her WilmU professors, especially Dr. Donald Stuhlman, who chairs the Finance programs.

Maria also thanks her father.



Partnership Center Director Jeff Martino serves as the liaison between Year Up and WilmU.

“After the internship, we’ll have a ceremony in July,” she says. “Unfortunately he can’t come back nor can I go (to Mexico) because I won’t be able to enter back into the U.S. But I think of him every day. If he never brought us here, none of this would have happened.”

THE WILMU CONNECTION

Hasan Charles, Year Up’s executive director for the greater Philadelphia region, works closely with Dr. Donnelly and her colleagues Jeff Martino, the director of WilmU’s University Partnership Center, and Peter Lonie, its Wilmington site director. “The relationships Year Up has developed across the campus and University community has had a tremendous impact on the success of our first cohort of students at Wilmington University,” says Charles. “From University leadership to individual departments to security and facilities staff, all have been welcoming and have provided the needed resources to support our students’ success. The professionalism and follow-up by Wilmington University staff truly reflects the

University’s values around equity, opportunity, student engagement, partnerships and responsiveness.”

He saw changes in the students in the first six months at WilmU. “Our learning and development phase is very transformative for students,” Charles says, adding that when they start the program, they lack confidence in their professional and technical skills, yet leave prepared to tackle a rigorous six-month internship at a Fortune 500 company. “Students are introduced to an array of content, ranging from finance to software development through classes taught by Wilmington University professors,” Charles says, so they develop professional skills and “leave able to deliver an effective elevator pitch, to network with other professionals, deliver presentations and even tie a necktie. They are transformed into motivated young professionals.”

Site Director Peter Lonie at Year Up’s statewide office on The Green at WilmU’s New Castle location





The Year Up/Wilmington University partnership became official in August of 2017. From left: Peter Lonie (Wilmington site director), Casey Recuperero (YU national site director), Erika Potts (YU program manager), Delaware Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester, Tom Horne (JP Morgan Chase), Dr. Eileen Donnelly (VP, Enrollment Management, WilmU), Wilmington Mayor Mike Purzycki, Rasheeda Russell (YU alumna), Hassan Charles (YU executive director), Jeff Martino (Partnership Center director), Dr. Erin DiMarco (WilmU Senior VP, COO), Claire Borelli (JPMorgan Chase, board member), Alyssa Bradley (YU Student Services)

At the beginning, Maria says, “I didn’t see myself going through those six months at a university. It would be too much work and stress. But I learned so much, and Year Up gave us classes on networking, teamwork, communication and the professional skills. I doubted myself, but I got it together and just did it.”

She studied economics, banking, finance and Excel at WilmU, which she believes prepared her for the finance-based internship at JP Morgan Chase. “It wasn’t easy,” she says, “but I chose those (courses) because we learned about bonds, financial statements, balance sheets and taxes, and all of that would have prepared me to intern at many

Fortune 500 companies.”

People who know Maria have little doubt that she will join the ranks of Year Up participants who go back to college to complete their degrees, or get an offer from the employer for whom they interned. Then there’s the best scenario: to be awarded tuition assistance from their new employers to finish college.

More than 90 percent of Year Up graduates in this region are working or continuing their education, says Charles. “More than half our students gain employment through their internship experiences with a Year Up corporate partner. Those students who are working earn

an average wage of \$19.30 per hour or more than \$40,000 annually.”

They work for it. “It’s through these WilmU and Year Up resources and pure effort on the part of our students that they are able to leverage the opportunities we can provide collectively to launch meaningful careers and become lifelong learners,” Charles says.

He adds that his greatest joy is talking about the students. “It’s telling potential partners that if they were to meet just one Year Up student, they would immediately understand the difference in their preparation and ability to contribute from day one on the job.”



A WIN-WIN

The partnership between WilmU and Year Up was the brainchild of Dr. Stefanie Whitby, who, at the time, worked with Dr. Donnelly in the Partnership Office and is now athletics director. “Stefanie is really the person who discovered Year Up, developed a Memo of Understanding and did the work,” says Dr. Donnelly.

The benefits are clear all around. For the University, it’s a chance to serve more students and nurture or establish corporate partnerships. “Our missions are aligned,” says Dr. Donnelly, adding that the Year Up students who choose to complete their degrees at WilmU will be welcomed with open arms. They already have long-term privileges to use University resources like the library, since a goal for both Year Up and WilmU is to inspire lifelong learning.

For Charles, Year Up provides him the opportunity to leave a legacy he thinks will far outlive him. “I’m passionate about closing the Opportunity Divide,” he says, “and providing opportunities to young adults who may not have the support and resources to self-actualize or develop to their full potential.”

For employers, Year Up is bringing well-trained workers to the table. “I have people coming to my company who have graduated directly out of Yale,” says New Signature CEO Christopher Hertz. “And I will tell you, they could learn something from the Year Up interns in terms of professionalism.”

For government leaders, job

jobs available, and this partnership is preparing dedicated students to fill them.”

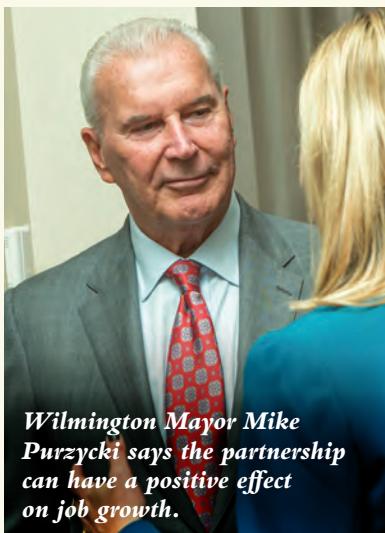
And the students — people like Maria — find hope. “I want to get a full-time job in corporate America, make sure my son is happy at school, and maybe even buy a house,” she says. “I want to be economically stable.”

She also plans to complete her degree at Wilmington University after her internship. When she does, she’ll be the first in her family to graduate from college. “Dropping out of school will not be an option for my brothers or my son,” she says. “They won’t go through life like I did.”

Maria desires a career in banking, since she is, after all, good with numbers. She didn’t know it at the time, but when her father forced her to study math at a young age, he was preparing her for a life he never had. His absence will always be painful. “There are times I still dream that I arrive in Mexico to see him,” Maria says. “Then I wake up crying.”

So for her, achieving success will honor her parents, Sebastian and Josefina. Maria understands their struggle to bring their children to America, knowing that their own happiness was never guaranteed. When she finally walks across the commencement stage in cap and gown, she will pay tribute to them and all those who supported her. Her diploma will serve as inspiration for her son.

Through the partnership between Year Up and WilmU, Maria has learned the value of higher education. “My degree will be mine,” she says. “No one can ever take that away from me.” **WU**



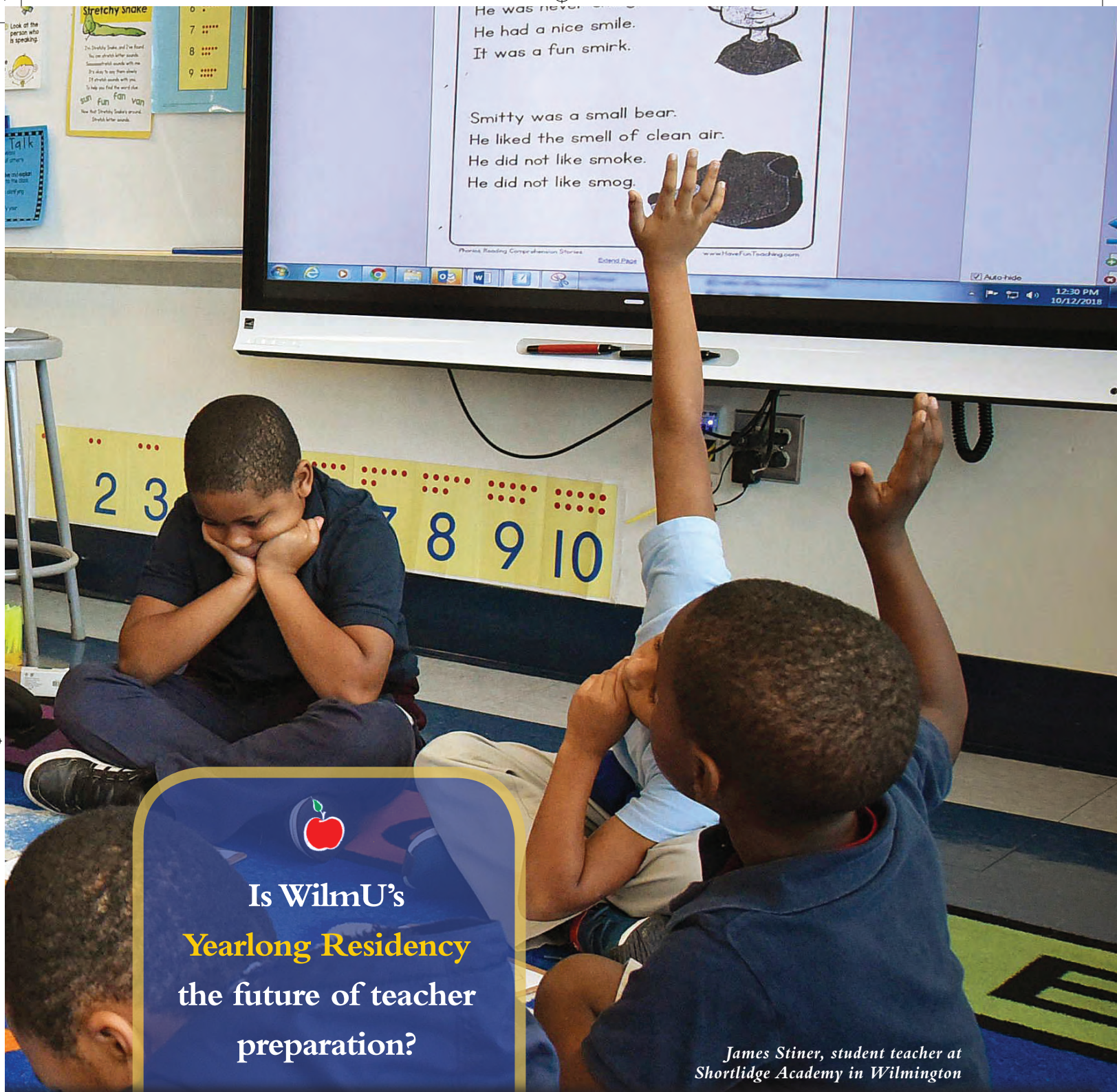
Wilmington Mayor Mike Purzycki says the partnership can have a positive effect on job growth.

creation is tied to economic growth. “The job crisis is fueled by a skills crisis,” says Wilmington Mayor Mike Purzycki. “The partnership between Year Up and Wilmington University combines relevant, career-driven academics with internships at large companies throughout Delaware. Those companies have well-paying

BY DAVID BERNARD
PHOTOS BY SUSAN L. GREGG



An Immersive Education for Student Teachers





Is WilmU's
Yearlong Residency
the future of teacher
preparation?

*James Stiner, student teacher at
Shortlidge Academy in Wilmington*

Thirty-two students from Wilmington University's College of Education have spent the entire school year as full-time teachers. This in-depth, on-the-job learning has been an extraordinary opportunity for them, but this year — for the first time in Delaware — they're also getting paid for their efforts. It's all part of WilmU's Yearlong Residency initiative, a training program that's transforming the way teaching is taught.

“The Yearlong Residency is an immersive experience,” says Assistant Professor Dr. Tyler Wells, who chairs the College of Education’s Office of Clinical Studies. “It’s learning by doing, which is the best way to learn. And the compensation we’ve been able to provide this year opened the experience to even more students.”

For those aspiring to careers in the classroom, WilmU’s innovative teacher preparation program can make a monumental difference. Here’s how:

 *My Yearlong Residency has given me an opportunity to experience moments that traditional student teaching would not. For instance, the first day of school. When has a student teacher ever truly experienced the first day of school?*

—James Stiner, Master of Education in Elementary Studies candidate, student teacher at Shortlidge Academy in Wilmington

As long as there have been teachers, there have been students learning how to teach. While formal apprenticeships are a relatively recent invention in educational careers, most states include student teaching among their requirements for teacher certification and licensing.

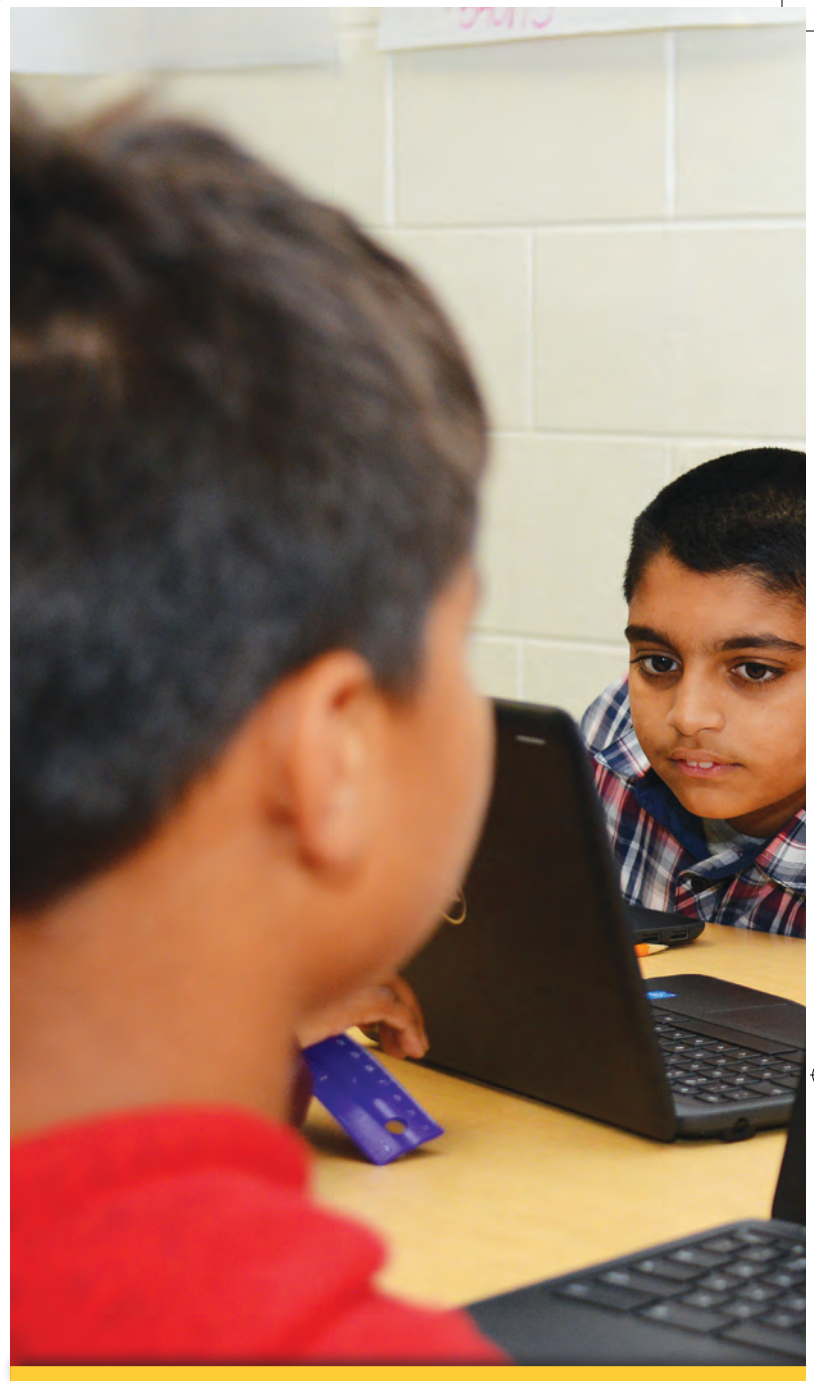
In Delaware, teacher candidates must perform at least 10 weeks of student teaching to make the grade. Many teacher preparation programs, including Wilmington University’s, incorporate a 16-week semester of shadowing a mentor teacher. Since 2014, however, WilmU’s College of Education has offered a radical alternative to this traditional pathway.


The Yearlong Residency initiative enables undergraduate and graduate education students to devote their final year of studies to collaborating with a mentor teacher, from setting up the classroom to closing for the summer.

“Our students are actually working alongside their mentor teachers every single day,” says Dr. Wells, “sharing all the responsibilities of the classroom. Their coursework is embedded into the residency as they plan and deliver instruction, as they observe and influence student development. They attend meet-the-teacher night and parent conferences. They take part in in-services and standardized testing. They’re real teachers.”

The sustained nature of WilmU’s Yearlong Residency — the only such teacher preparation program in Delaware, and one of only a handful nationwide — equips student teachers with an understanding of the job’s culture and demands that coursework or even short-term teaching assignments wouldn’t convey, says Dr. Wells.

“The first year of teaching can be very challenging,” he says, “but extended clinical experience can help to create ‘day-one ready’ teachers.”



 *The opportunity to spend an entire nine months learning is priceless in comparison to a traditional student teaching placement. I feel like a genuine part of the school staff. There is a much broader timespan to learn everything I possibly can, and to figure out how to be a better teacher to my students.*

—Kaycee Bean, BS in Elementary Education candidate, student teacher at East Millsboro Elementary in Millsboro, Delaware

The Yearlong Residency’s real-world application of teaching strategies reflects WilmU’s career-focused and cooperative-education-friendly mission. But the opportunity is out of reach for many of WilmU’s aspiring teachers, particularly those who cannot give up their day jobs while pursuing their dream jobs, or manage part-



Kaycee Bean, student teacher at East Millsboro Elementary in Millsboro

time work alongside a full-time educational experience. While some individual school districts offer small stipends to the teacher candidates learning in their classrooms, not everyone can afford to take part in an entire school year.

“Teaching is one of the only professions where, during a residency, the candidate goes unpaid,” says Dr. Wells. “Medical residents get paid. Why not student teachers?”

A Chicago-based non-profit organization agrees with Dr. Wells, and is backing his suggestion. In June 2017, the National Center for Teacher Residencies named WilmU’s College of Education as one of four recipients of its annual Supporting Effective Educator Development Grants. The \$500,000 grant, which recognizes innovation in teacher preparation, is lending a financial hand to this year’s yearlong residents in the form of a \$14,000 stipend for each

of the 32 over the course of the 2018–19 school year. (The NCTR’s grant is also subsidizing the registration costs of professional development and training seminars for their mentor teachers throughout the year.)

“This is where our program is really revolutionary,” says Dr. Wells. “The compensation from the grant helps to lessen the financial strain on our teacher candidates who are unable to work outside jobs during the academic year, given the rigor and requirements of the residency program.”

Along with a unique tuition benefit — yearlong student teachers receive a 50 percent reduction in tuition fees during their residency — the grant’s funding has enabled more Yearlong Residency participants to dedicate themselves to their teaching responsibilities with fewer worries about the cost of living.



The stipend has afforded me the opportunity to not have to work a second job on nights or weekends as I work to plan and create engaging, meaningful lessons for my students. I am able to fully immerse myself into this experience, not only at school during the day, but at after-school events where I can get to know my students and community better.

—Natalie Tucci, BS in Elementary Education candidate, student teacher at Richey Elementary in Newport, Delaware

The College of Education doesn't guarantee entry into the Yearlong Residency for any of its students. They have to meet the qualifications to take part in the opportunity. "There are levels of rigor in how we select the candidates, the school districts, and the school sites," says Dr. Wells. "There's a matching process for how we team our candidates with teachers."

First, though, there are the eligibility criteria: a record of coursework that's aligned to the chosen education degree's requirements: minimum grade-point average of 3.0 in the previous semester or transfer semester; completion of the Praxis II standardized teacher certification exam for the age group or subject matter the student aims to teach by June of the academic year prior to the residency.

A series of screenings and interviews with College of Education faculty and administrators from the school districts that have partnered with WilmU to establish and maintain the Yearlong Residency initiative — currently Red Clay, Colonial, and Appoquinimink in New Castle County, Capital in Kent County, and Indian River in Sussex County — are also instrumental in determining a student's suitability for the residency and the schools and classrooms where they'll best fit.



I applied for the program because I understood the value of watching the same class of students as they progress from the beginning to the middle to the end of the school year. It's impossible to be as immersed in a school's culture and its student population in a traditional student teaching semester. The Yearlong Residency is going to give me the confidence I need to efficiently run my own classroom.

—Jordan Larimore, BS in Elementary Education candidate, student teacher at Towne Point Elementary in Dover, Delaware

The lessons learned from a year in the classroom as both a student and a teacher are unlike any gathered from the previous three years at Wilmington University, according



to four participants in the current class of yearlong residents, each of whom is anticipating graduation this May.

"Academically, I am gaining most of my education through the events of daily classroom life instead of lectures," says Larimore. "I'm spending a large portion of my time learning from experience and asking questions, rather than reading a textbook or turning in required assignments."

These lessons are likely to make a difference in how they'll begin their teaching careers, says Tucci.

"The hands-on approach allows me many opportunities to learn, to practice and to reflect, with consistent feedback from my mentor teacher," she says. "Now I understand how everything fits together, and I know what it takes to run a successful classroom. It's been overwhelming at times, but after this experience, I'll essentially have my first year of teaching under my belt."

What's more, the lessons that the Yearlong Residency



Jordan Larimore, student teacher at Towne Point Elementary in Dover

teaches are also likely to affect how its participants will develop as educators.

“By stepping into a yearlong role, I have been able to make meaningful ties with the community,” says Stiner. “This allows me to cultivate a greater understanding of the impact of trauma and the availability of resources on young learners, and to observe the teaching process from implementation to intervention to outcome. This unique experience will inform my teaching for many years to come.”

“We are essentially co-teachers, not student teachers,” says Bean. “I’ll admit, it’s sometimes a lot of work. But nothing else would prepare me for a career in teaching like the Yearlong Residency will.”

WilmU’s College of Education still offers the traditional semester-long student teaching option, which included 42 students in the Fall 2018 semester and more

than 60 this spring, but it hopes to sustain its yearlong experience as well.

Dr. Wells says he and his colleagues are researching local and national sources of philanthropic funding that would allow the school to keep compensating its yearlong residents’ efforts, and enable more students to take advantage of the opportunity, once the NCTR grant expires at the end of the 2018–19 academic year.

The value of the Yearlong Residency initiative is evident, he says, not just in the success of its graduates, many of whom have been hired by the districts and schools where they served as student teachers, but in the growth of the program’s participation.

“From nine students in academic year 2014–15, we now have 32 students this year,” he says. “That’s not because of the grant. That’s because of the power of the program. Our candidates know it’s a better way to become a teacher.” **WU**

Billie Travalini



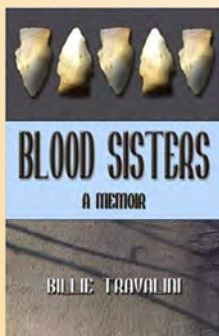
BY DAVID BERNARD | PHOTOS BY SUSAN L. GREGG

Her Voice ^{is a} Choice

In her 2014 memoir “Blood Sisters,” Billie Travalini writes, “I never was the sort of person who goes along with something without asking a fistful of questions.” Lately she’s been asking whether our community — the human community, or at least the part of it that seems to get all the media attention — wouldn’t benefit from a look in the mirror.

“There’s a dangerous lack of humility, a lack of awareness that the same dirt’s going to cover us all,” says Travalini, an adjunct professor of English and Creative Writing in Wilmington University’s College of Arts and Sciences. “Everyone has a voice, but having a voice for others is important, too. It’s our responsibility to speak up for those who can’t speak up for themselves.”

For WilmU
adjunct
and author
BILLIE TRAVALINI,
community
depends on
communication.



Speaking up for others has, in many ways, driven Travalini's career as an author and teacher. It has also gained her the praise of her peers, both statewide and nationally.

In January, the Delaware Division of the Arts selected her for its 2019 Masters Fellowship, the agency's highest honor, which is accompanied by a \$10,000 grant.

Since the year 2000, the fellowship has recognized one artist per year based on a body of work or a history of artistic accomplishments, and "the impact it has had in Delaware and beyond," says Roxanne Stanulis, program officer for the DDOA. "Members of the Arts Council voted unanimously to award her the Masters Fellowship."

In addition, last fall Travalini won the National Federation of Press Women's 61st annual Communicator of Achievement Award, an honor that recognizes its recipients' community impact as well as their

professional accomplishments.

"Billie Travalini is nothing short of magnificent," says Katherine Ward, executive director of the Delaware Press Association, which nominated its longtime member and current vice president of Programs for the national award when it granted her its statewide communication award the previous year. "It's not enough to say that she was chosen because of her outstanding career. Billie chooses to keep redefining herself through service to others. She's all about the other person, which is why people respond to her."

For Travalini, communication is the key to community service. "This is what writing does best: it gets people to think," she says. "It wins a little more dignity for, and gives a little more hope to, those who are the most vulnerable among us." It's a lesson she learned early in life.



Travalini wants every student to **SUCCEED**, and she wants them to succeed by tapping into their own unique set of skills.

THE STORY OF A GIRL

“Blood Sisters” describes the summer of 1960 through the eyes of 10-year-old Billie Elizabeth Toppin — then known as Betsy — as she meets her biological family for the first time. Raised since infancy by a loving foster mother, Betsy is returned to an abusive father, an indifferent mother, and two sisters she’d never known by a Delaware Family Court judge, leaving her longing for connection and a safe place.

“People ask me, ‘Were you sad writing the book? It was hard to read,’” says Travalini, who’d previously earned a DDOA grant for established writers the year after the book’s publication. “I was never sad, not for a moment. To be honest, I didn’t see Betsy as myself, but as a ‘universal me.’ I was giving a voice to all the children who were left out of the conversations that directed their lives.”

She came into contact with more than a few of them while growing up in and around Wilmington. Her chronic illness led her father to commit her to a year-and-a-half stay among the blind, epileptic, cerebral palsied, autistic and other disadvantaged children at the Governor Bacon Health Center in Delaware City, which she described as “a worn-down former U.S. Army fort turned dumping ground for unwanted children.” She spent much of the rest of her adolescence in foster families, group homes, and special needs programs before graduating from the former Wilmington High School.

“I was blessed to have had a childhood with a lot of diversity, but also an abundance of misinformed characters,” she remarks. “If I changed even one day of my life, though, I wouldn’t be me.”

LEARNING AND LEADING

An associate degree in accounting from Brandywine College (now part of Widener

University) guided Travalini into the workplace, and the birth of two children in the mid-1970s created a family of her own, but writing for the local newspaper fired up what would become her mission.

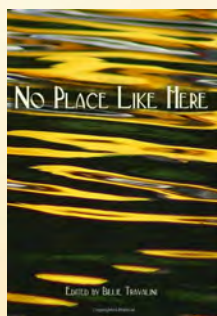
She’d been writing stories and poems since she was a child. “Every writer begins as a reader,” she notes, and she always loved books. But reporting on family, health, and community issues inspired her to earn bachelor’s degrees in English and journalism from the University of Delaware in 1983 and master’s degrees in literature and creative writing from Temple University in 1986.

Since 2002, Travalini has taught English Composition I and II (ENG 121 and 122) and Creative Writing (ENG 360) at Wilmington University. She’s also led writing and literature classes at Temple, Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Delaware, and the state’s youth detention centers.

She’s served as a consultant to Delaware’s Department of Services for Children, Youth, and Families, helping to incorporate creative writing and critical thinking into lesson plans. (Her 2008 book, “Teaching Troubled Youth: A Practical Pedagogical Approach,” showcases some of her students’ stories and poetry.) Her work as an educator even drew the attention of Delaware’s Governor’s Awards for the Arts in 2014.

“I am always surprised with Billie’s patience and persistence with her students,” says Assistant Professor Matt Whelihan, who chairs WilmU’s English program. “She wants every student to succeed, and she wants them to succeed by tapping into their own unique set of skills. When she has students who struggle, she truly personalizes the way she works with them to help them build connections with the content.”

Connection is the heart of her teaching efforts, he adds. “In her writing, you can see



“She really believes
that making all voices heard
will **CHANGE THE WORLD** for
the better.”

the compassion she has for her subjects and the way she really seeks to understand them, and I think that is what she does in the classroom as well.”

WORDS IN THE COMMUNITY

Outside the classroom, Travalini has helped mentor some of the region’s emerging and established authors. As the co-founder and coordinator of the Lewes Creative Writers Conference, which held its 11th annual gathering in August, and the editor of two collections of homegrown literature (2008’s “On the Mason-Dixon Line: An Anthology of Contemporary Delaware Writers” and 2011’s “No Place Like Here: An Anthology of Southern Delaware Poetry & Prose”), she’s provided numerous opportunities and outlets for First State voices.

Her friends and colleagues frequently use the word tireless when describing Travalini. “What has always impressed me about Billie is her energy,” says novelist Maribeth Fischer, executive director of the Rehoboth Beach Writers Guild. “Not just in the promotion of her writing, but in the promotion of a writing community and her unflinching support of other artists.”

This support reaches deeper than just words on a page, Fischer says. “I am constantly reminded, through Billie’s example, of what matters most: that people are encouraged to keep writing, encouraged to believe in their own stories, in their value and worth.”

“Billie thinks of writing as activism,” says Dr. David Teague, a professor of English at the University of Delaware. “She’s not just invested in writing her stories or even nurturing the work of others because she likes the sound of her own voice. She really believes that making all voices heard will change the world for the better. And her faith in that principle rubs off on people.”

For instance: her involvement in the Fort DuPont development project. From 1948 to 1984, the former military installation on

Delaware Bay was the site of the Governor Bacon Health Center’s adolescent unit, at which Travalini spent a formative year-and-a-half. She’s been sharing her recollections of that unsettling experience with the project’s planners in order to lobby for the inclusion of a special needs resource and treatment center in the proposed residential and business development.

“I think in most cases, most folks would just rather forget about that time,” says Jeffrey Randol, executive director of the Fort DuPont Redevelopment and Preservation Corporation. “Billie doesn’t want people to forget. She wants to make sure the history is remembered. She wants to make a difference where she can, and she embraces the challenges.”

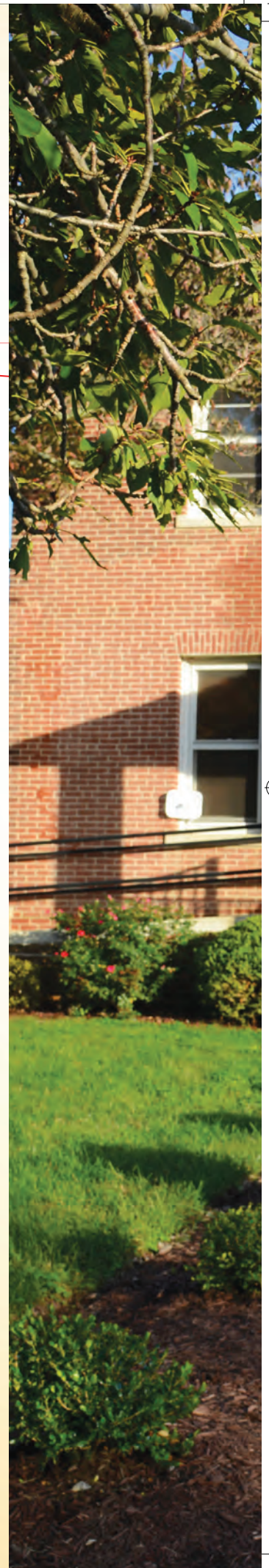
RULES TO SURVIVE

In the pages of “Blood Sisters,” Betsy has a long road ahead of her before she grows up to become a writer and teacher. Travalini is currently working to capture some of the ensuing experiences in a follow-up memoir, tentatively titled “Rules to Survive Childhood.” She’s assembling a collection of her short stories. She’s also keeping an eye on every moment, and urging her fellow community members to do likewise, starting now.

“We are speeding up every aspect of our lives,” she says. “What becomes important is the next thing. While the next thing is very important, it loses meaning without an understanding of what this moment means. And this moment can have consequences.”

In a moment, she says, we can choose to lie or tell the truth. We can choose to ignore a wrong or speak out against it. We can choose to give 50 percent or 100 percent. In Travalini’s view, the moments before decision, before action, define who we are.

“Each of these moments is an opportunity to become more, or less,” she says. “How we respond each time makes all the difference.” **WU**







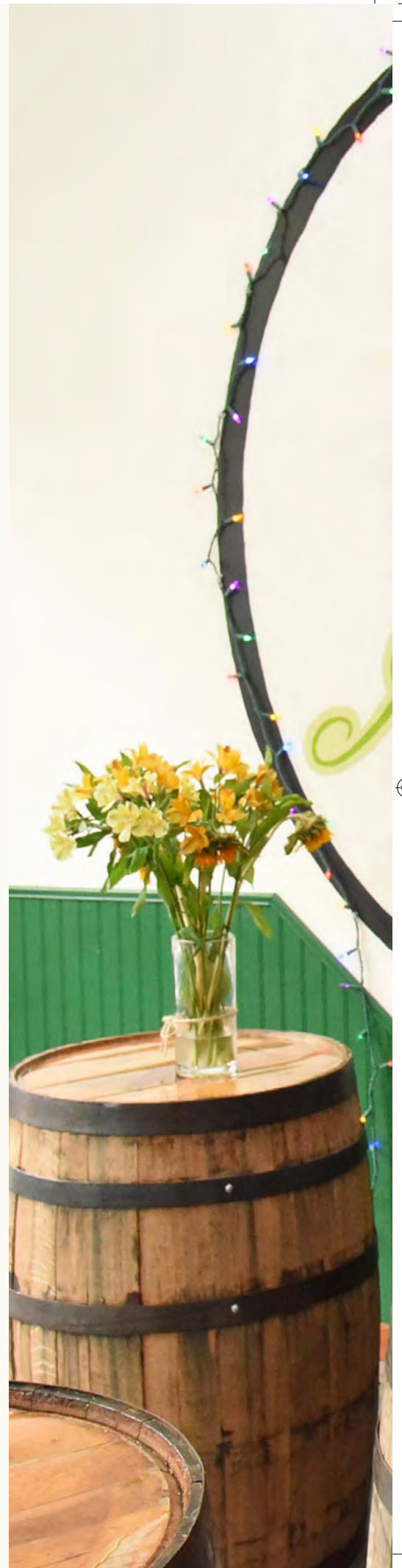
Look out, Anheuser-Busch.
This WilmU alumnus
is hopping.

CLEANING UP IN THE BREWING BUSINESS

BY **BOB YEARICK** | PHOTOS BY **SUSAN L. GREGG**

In the first two decades of the 21st century, craft beer has evolved from a trendy cottage industry to a phenomenon that has carved out a significant niche in the beer brewing market. There were eight craft brewers in 1980, 537 in 1994, and *more than 6,000* by 2018. And that's not counting the innumerable breweries that are in the planning stage. Every home brewer seems to dream of having his own 10-barrel fermenter.

Which, on reflection, is amazing, because these small, specialty brewers must take on long-established behemoths like Anheuser-Busch, Miller and Coors, who have had decades to gain loyal customers. As a result, many craft beer start-ups result in rather quick failure. It is not a business for the faint-hearted.





Neil Shea



To learn the ins and outs of cleaning houses, he would drive to a shopping center and meet The Dirt Squad night crew of three or four women, then go out with them to clean “about 30 homes.”

So who better to try his hand at it than an ex-Marine whose mettle was tested in the hell hole known as Afghanistan?

Say hello to Neil Shea, Wilmington University graduate and proud owner and founder of Bellefonte Brewing Co., located in a small industrial site on Old Capitol

Trail, south of Wilmington.

Shea took a bit of a roundabout route on his journey to the craft beer business. To start with, he says, “I love beer, but I really wasn’t a craft beer drinker.” Secondly, when he started Bellefonte Brewing, the 29-year-old Delaware native already owned a thriving business

— The Dirt Squad, a residential and commercial cleaning company he bought the day he graduated from WilmU, in January 2015.

While Shea seemed an unlikely candidate to run a craft brewery, he had even less knowledge of the cleaning business. But he is a willing and indefatigable worker. And he



was convinced the business held potential. Also, he felt confident in heading up his own enterprise.

“I’m a numbers guy,” Shea says, “and if you know how to manage finances and people, you can make a business work. And I thought this was a very viable business.”

To learn the ins and outs of cleaning houses, he would drive to a shopping center near Newark, Delaware, and meet The Dirt Squad night crew of three or four women, then go out with them to clean “about 30 homes.” And this was after

a day at his full-time job at a risk-management firm. (Not surprisingly, his two sports at Wilmington’s Salesianum School were cross-country and wrestling, both of which require serious stamina.)

It wasn’t long before Shea’s ever active mind saw the potential for additional services: power washing, gutter cleaning, window cleaning. So he expanded into those areas. Next, he bought out two competitors. Now he has about 20 employees and they clean “a couple of hundred houses” plus office buildings and individual offices. He says his clients are now approximately 60 percent residential and 40 percent commercial.

While working on purchasing The Dirt Squad, Shea already had his eye on the burgeoning craft beer market. But he quickly discovered that creating a brewery (literally from the ground up, as it turned out) would not be the relative walk in the park that purchasing an existing business had been.

Shea and two partners formalized their business plan in early 2015, and by November, after looking at several locations, they signed a lease for the Old Capitol Trail property. “It was just a gravel pit at the time,” he says.

All the partners had full-time jobs, so their spare time was devoted almost entirely to building a brewery on that gravel pit. They recruited family and friends to help and ultimately had to resort to that break-the-glass emergency move of the social media world: crowdfunding.

Still, it was touch-and-go right down to the wire.

“We were running out of money before we even opened the doors,” says Shea. “We needed to start recovering our investment.”

Finally, Bellefonte Brewing debuted in May of 2016. The owners heaved a collective sigh of relief, and

patrons soon started crowding the bar.

Since the opening, the company has upgraded its equipment.

“When we opened we were using a 1.5-barrel system that was not the most efficient,” says Shea. “The brewers brewed twice a day, nearly 16 to 18 hours, to make enough beer to meet the demand. Now our system is four barrels and we have six- and 10-barrel fermenters that allow us to have a surplus, which got us into distribution. Our next step is canning the beer, which we expect to do by the end of this year [2018]. That will take tens of thousands of dollars.”

By last winter, the brewery was turning out 600 barrels of beer a year, or roughly 1,200 kegs. And Bellefonte products were in bars and restaurants up and down the state.

It could have all been different for Neil Shea. After graduating from Salesianum, he seemed destined for a career in the military. “I always had a fascination with the military,” he says. Much of his zeal was inspired by his father’s service in the Navy and a couple of grade-school visits to the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Following graduation from high school, he spent one year at The Citadel, the military academy in Charleston, South Carolina. Then he joined the Marine Corps.

After basic training in Camp Lejeune, in Jacksonville, North Carolina, there were several postings in the states before the 22-year-old lance corporal was deployed to Afghanistan in 2011. His 10 months in that war-torn country in South Central Asia proved to be a cauldron that forged his view of the world.

First, he was introduced to the seven-day workweek. “You stop

thinking about the weekend as a God-given right,” says Shea.

Next, he learned to do more with less. “There were a lot of shortcomings,” he says. “We dealt with really junky equipment, and we were there during the government shutdown, so our pay was delayed.”

He also learned about trust. “It’s not like any war we’ve ever been in,” he says. “Somebody is working with you one day and they’re trying to kill you the next day.”

“It changed my perspective on a lot of things,” he sums up. “It was a wakeup call for me. At that age, people are full of themselves, but the world will continue without them. I learned patience, and that I’m a very small part of the world.”

Not surprisingly, Shea recommends military service for all young people.

His time in the Marines seemed to quench his thirst for military service and, more important, helped prepare him for success in civilian life. To enhance his skills, he decided to get a college degree. WilmU’s flexible scheduling and affordability got his attention, so he took advantage of the G.I. Bill and enrolled in the Organizational Management program at the University almost as soon as he was discharged.

At the time, he was working at the risk management firm, so he went to classes at night. This demanding schedule, coupled with the credits the University granted him for some online courses he took during his Marine days, enabled him to graduate in just one-and-a-half years.

In class, Shea displayed a zeal that indicated he meant to put his newfound knowledge to practical use.

“He really participated in class, asking a lot of detailed questions,” says Michael McGay, an adjunct

professor who remembers Shea from his Economics (105) class. “I’m not surprised that he would be running a successful business.”

Shea returns the compliment, saying that McGay brought a lot of real-world experience from his banking background to the classroom.

McGay says he has been a customer at Bellefonte Brewing “multiple times,” and his busy former student found time to serve him. “Neil is very personable, very customer-service focused, and it’s great to see him doing so well,” says McGay.

Then he adds: “They need to expand. I’m hoping they do it in the Pike Creek area, which is where I live.”

Shea has maintained his ties to the University. He has been accepted into the MBA program, but at this writing had not yet started those studies, and he donated five kegs of Bellefonte brew to the Green and White Scholarship Ball, held in December.

Meanwhile, he and his seven partners are pouring their profits back into the brewery. They added a canning line right after Christmas.

“We’ll use the cash flow from that for a second location, which we expect to be ready this summer,” Shea says. “Since we opened we’ve made a ton of improvements to the tap room, the bar experience and our culture. We get out to a lot of events, make custom beers and sell some trendy merchandise.

“Our philosophy has been to grow within our means. Instead of bank loans, we have utilized investors that have business backgrounds, and we’ve been able to operate profitably with no debt since day one.”

Shea touts the Bellefonte brand as “craft beer for the non-craft beer drinker.”

“Craft beer has a reputation



for being snooty,” he says. “But our crowd is eclectic; it’s blue-collar, white-collar, no-collar. We’ve converted a lot of them from Miller and Coors.”

He says his brewery can “make whatever flavor we want,” and its current offerings include sours, gooses (a brew that originated in Goslar, Germany), and the trending gluten-reduced beers. “We have a big group of customers who are gluten-free,” Shea says.

Local bands often play in the tap room, and sometimes there’s a food truck in the parking lot.



“Since we opened **we’ve made a ton of improvements** to the tap room, the bar experience and our culture. We get out to a lot of events, make custom beers and sell some trendy merchandise.” —Neil Shea

Bellefonte Brewing also is an active member of the community, holding frequent charitable and political fundraisers.

“We keep reinventing the business,” he says. “Besides another location, we expect to continue to grow to larger systems and increased distribution.”

Oh, and Shea recently broadened his portfolio of businesses by adding a photo booth rental business and a real estate rental firm. “I don’t get out much,” he deadpans.

And he hasn’t forgotten his formative years in the Marine Corps. One of Bellefonte’s products is “Chesty’s Ghost,” named in honor of

famed Marine Gen. Lewis “Chesty” Puller, who served with distinction in World War II and Korea.

Stop in at Bellefonte and try a bottle. As the sign behind the bar says, “Save Water. Drink Beer.” **wu**



SPORTS

Lacrosse: Ex-Sailor Brings Real-World Experience

Not surprisingly, **STEPHEN STROSSER** peppers his speech with “yes, sirs” and “no, sirs,” a habit formed while serving four years in the Navy.

Discharged last August, he’s now pursuing his Ed.D. in Organizational Learning, Leadership and Innovation at Wilmington University and preparing for his first season on the lacrosse team.

A confluence of circumstances brought him — actually, brought him back — to the University.

About two years ago, while stationed in Romania, Strosser started planning for his return to civilian life. He began by searching the internet for coaching jobs in the sport he loves — lacrosse. That search led him to the discovery that WilmU had established a lacrosse program, with 2018 being the inaugural season. What’s more, the school had an opening for an assistant coach.

The situation seemed ideal: Strosser had grown up in Delaware and planned to move back to his parents’ home in Dover after his discharge; he was familiar with the University, having received a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice just before entering the Navy; he had earned a master’s degree while in the Navy and could pursue a doctorate at

WilmU, with the goal of becoming a college athletic director.

And finally, his competitive juices kicked in. “I thought, oh, man, I’m not coaching. I’m playing if there’s a team that close.”

Strosser had a solid grounding in the sport. He had been a top defender at Polytech High School in Woodside, Delaware, and team captain and Regional Defensive Player of the Year while earning his associate degree at Delaware Technical Community College.

Wilmington Coach Christian Zwickert welcomed the ex-sailor to his young team, but couldn’t help wondering if Strosser’s skills had atrophied a bit.

“When Steve reached out to me while he was stationed in Romania with the Navy, I wasn’t sure what type of player he would be, considering he hadn’t played lacrosse for several years,” says Zwickert. “He had played on my club team, Delaware Silverbacks Lacrosse Club, while in high school and was a fast, tough kid but was just an average player.”

Strosser’s performance and dedication quickly dispelled all of Zwickert’s doubts. A hard 5-10 and 170 pounds, Strosser loves contact (he played football at Polytech) and brings loads of enthusiasm to the field



and the weight room.

“Steve has been a tremendous asset and addition to the program,” the coach says. “Since arriving on campus he’s been a leader on the field, in our strength and conditioning, and in the locker room. He drives from Dover every day and is the first to arrive for every work event. Watching him play, you would never know he hasn’t played in several years.”

At 26, Strosser is the oldest member



Stephen Strosser

of the team, which Zwickert views as a bonus. “Being the ‘old guy,’ he brings leadership and maturity to the team with his real-world experiences. We look for him to contribute a lot on and off the field.”

Strosser, in turn, calls Zwickert “a great coach,” adding: “He’s not all about winning and losing. He treats us like adults who will be working someday. He’s preparing us for life, not just lacrosse.”

Strosser is proud and grateful to have served his country, and for the benefits he derived from that service. He was stationed in Texas and California before being transferred to Romania, where he was a master-at-arms, protecting assets vital to national security. The Navy paid for his master’s degree while he was in the service and the G.I. Bill is helping him earn his doctorate.

He spent much of last fall and

winter refereeing and coaching lacrosse for the Kent Country Parks and Recreation Department. Early this year, he moved from Dover to an apartment in Newark to cut down on his commute and allow more time for his studies. He hopes to receive his degree in the spring of 2021.

“I’m trying not to think about that and just take it a semester at a time,” he says. **WU**

—Bob Yearick

A Champion in the Dugout

Here's a question to ponder as the Wilmington University baseball team's 2019 season gets into full swing: Is **MIKE SMITH's** presence in the Wildcat dugout more beneficial to him or to the team?

Call it even.

A WilmU student, Smith is afflicted with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. DMD is a genetic disease that causes muscle degeneration and weakness in the body, and as a result he is confined to a wheelchair. Last year, he became the baseball team's second "Muscle Champion," which means he was awarded a Letter of Participation and gets to sit in the dugout during games.

Coach Brian August and the entire team have welcomed Smith. "Our guys really feed off him being around us," says August. "Mike has a great attitude and our guys love having him with us. He has such a positive outlook in life every day. You can't believe he has problems because he's so positive."

Max Carney, one of the team's tri-captains, says Smith's impact is evident as soon as he appears at a game. "You get such a charge when you see him come rolling down the warning track," Carney says. "The mood in the dugout lightens." Smith's presence also amps up the pressure — in a good way — on the players. "We don't want to strike out or, if we're in the field, we don't want to walk anybody," Carney says. "We're putting our muscles to the test because he can't, and we don't want to let him down."

Frank Nigro, another captain, says Smith makes players realize "how blessed we are." As a result, says the 6-3 catcher, "we don't take [our abilities] for granted."

For his part, Smith is thrilled to be a member of the team. "It's so cool," he says. "I've never been part of a team before, and it has meant a lot to me. I get right in the dugout with the guys and

feel like I'm a player. I've made great friends on the team that go beyond baseball."

Says Nigro: "He's a happy kid, always messing around. He hangs with us in the dugout and everyone is always talking to him."

The bond between Smith and his teammates continues after the game ends. They compete against each other on PlayStation, which brings out Smith's competitive streak. "I try to be the last team standing in Fortnite," he says, adding that his favorite games are Call of Duty and Madden.

The team is providing more than companionship and emotional support for him. Through the Muscle Movement Foundation's Charity of Champions program, players are raising awareness of neuromuscular diseases and soliciting pledges based on their on-field performance — RBIs and defensive strikeouts — throughout the season.

Rob DeMasi, the founder and president of MMF, suffers from an autoimmune disease called myasthenia gravis. A cum laude graduate of WilmU and a nominee for the 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award, DeMasi explains that a Muscle Champion is an individual living with and defying the odds against neuromuscular disease.

"My fellow Muscle Champions continue to win each day in the face of adversity," he says. "This is why they are true champions, and they inspire so many."

He explains that the foundation pairs "Muscle Champions" with athletic teams across the country, so it comes as no surprise to him that Smith and the Wildcat ballplayers derive inspiration from each other.

"Joining an athletic team creates a new support system for our affected families, through physical, financial and emotional support, plus memories that will last a lifetime," he says.

As for the players, DeMasi says, "I believe they gain a new perspective about life. Witnessing the champion attitude many of our MMF



COURTESY OF ROB DEMASI

The 2018 baseball seniors flank Mike Smith.

From left: Christian Adorno, Kyle Fries, Nick Grant, Chuck Delagol; Front: Nick Macey, Mike Smith, Zach Rumford

Muscle Champions possess, despite living with muscle-debilitating symptoms and life-altering circumstances, inspires a new way of thinking. It allows our partnered athletes to understand the privilege of health and embrace their individualized health in full. It also increases students' knowledge about their community, themselves and a variety of academic disciplines."

The Wildcats welcomed their first Muscle Champion, Eddie Hazeldine, who was then 13, three years ago. The team raised about \$3,000 for him, according to DeMasi.

"That enabled the MMF to grant him a wheelchair-accessible ramp for his home," he says. "Eddie has successfully transitioned into a power wheelchair and has a clear and safe entry to his home now. MMF also provided Eddie's family a wheelchair-accessible automobile."

He adds that Hazeldine is currently a student at Delcastle Technical High School and is doing well.

Smith, who graduated from McKean High School in Wilmington, enrolled at WilmU in

2016. He originally planned to study Sports Management, but quickly changed direction when he discovered that the University offered Video Game Design.

The 22-year-old New Castle resident has found a welcoming and supportive atmosphere on campus. "WilmU is great with accommodations," he says. "I can't really write notes, so they supply a note taker. And all the classes I've had are easy to get around to."

Smith, who lives with his parents not far from WilmU's New Castle campus, has battled DMD since the age of 5. Throughout those 17 years, he says, he has had great support from his family and friends, which now includes the Wilmington University baseball team.

"They make me realize I'm more than just some guy in a wheelchair," he says.

Meanwhile, his teammates are battling to improve on last year's 35-21 record. But no matter what their final record may be, they're already champions. **WU**

—Bob Yearick

ALUMNI

DR. COURTNEY STEWART: Serving Delaware

By Britney Gullede

Alumna **DR. COURTNEY STEWART**'s list of titles is long and continues to grow. Right now, those titles include wife, mother, fitness instructor, adjunct instructor at WilmU, volunteer and deputy secretary for the Delaware Department of State.

This proud Delawarean grew up in Selbyville with dreams of being a farmer, but she has found her niche in government service, and today she's part of a team that's in charge of a wide array of state offices.

Two years ago, Dr. Stewart was promoted from director of administration for the Department of State to deputy secretary. In that post, she coordinates the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the Division of Libraries, the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs, the Board of Pardons, the Public Service Commission, the Delaware Public Archives, the Division of the Public Advocate, the Public Integrity Commission, the Government Information Center, the Secretary of State's administration section (human resources and fiscal staff), and the Delaware Veterans Home in Milford.

She admits that after earning bachelor's and master's degrees from Wesley College in Dover, she wasn't entirely sure what she wanted to do. "But," she says, "I knew that I wanted to stay in Dover, and I got

an accounting position with the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control."

She quickly found that she loved the feeling of accomplishment she got from being in state government.

"In each step of my career, I've worked with people who care about the trajectory and path of the state and its people," says Dr. Stewart. "I've always had a group of leaders around me mentoring me along the way."

In 2012, she completed Wilmington University's Doctorate in Business Administration (DBA) program and successfully defended her dissertation. While working on her doctorate, she developed valuable contacts.

"I was able to network with people in various departments throughout the state as classmates and instructors," says Dr. Stewart. "I built relationships with people that I collaborate with every day in my line of work."

One example of her WilmU connections is her work with Dr. Annie Norman, director of the Delaware Division of Libraries and holder of a DBA degree. The two Wildcat alumnae teamed with leaders in the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services to create an initiative to place social workers in public libraries throughout the state. The goal is to make Social Services resources

more accessible to Delawareans who need them. During regularly scheduled periods each week, social workers in Delaware libraries assist patrons in applying for food benefits, securing long-term nursing care or childcare, facilitating referrals to additional service agencies, finding employment and job training, and more.

In addition to her work with the state, Dr. Stewart is a fitness instructor at the Dover YMCA, where she promotes healthy living and an active lifestyle. She's also a volunteer coach with Girls on the Run (GOTR) at the Dover Y. GOTR is an after-school running program that encourages girls in third through fifth grades to build confidence, work hard, be healthy and develop genuine friendships through teamwork. She is also involved with Gals that Give, a non-profit focused on education and fundraising for other non-profits located in Kent County. To date, Gals that Give has raised more than \$248,000.

"I have a passion for doing what we can to make our communities better," says Dr. Stewart.

She lives in Dover with her two sons and her husband, James Pennewell, who works with the Department of Education. He also is a WilmU alum as well as an adjunct instructor. **WU**



Dr. Courtney Stewart



A LASTING LEGACY

Prospects looked grim for **DUSTYN THOMPSON** the night before he got the call.

He had long ago recovered from the opioid addiction that resulted from a trampoline accident when he was 13, but the chronic nerve pain in his back and neck was unrelenting. Money was so tight that he and his wife, Anna, had given up on starting a family. And there was the existential angst. His paycheck-to-paycheck lifestyle made Thompson

fear that he would never lead the meaningful life he had intended.

“I really doubted if I would be able to make the difference I wanted to make,” he says, adding that he worked as a massage therapist but felt a political calling. He yearned to help draft legislation that benefitted those afflicted with addictions. “My wife and I even stayed up, literally the night before I got the call, talking about the future and talking through my doubts.”

That call came from Wilmington

University, informing Thompson that he would be the first recipient of the **MARK S. QUINN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**, which was seeded with a \$60,000 contribution from Quinn’s estate last spring. The beloved maintenance manager passed away suddenly on March 5, 2015.

Receiving some funds from the scholarship was an affirmation for Thompson that he was on the right path. “Now I’m able to save and prepare for a growing family and worry

What Thompson could not have known was that Mark, his benefactor, also struggled financially at one time, and because of that, would have wanted to support a person who overcame obstacles to create positive change in the world.

“That’s the way Mark was,” says his brother, Bill Quinn, senior director of Facilities and Maintenance Services. “He was incredibly humble. He had sheer pride in doing everything to perfection, and his generosity never stopped. He would have been so proud of Dustyn.”

Mark’s legacy is his craftsmanship, and his creations are ubiquitous throughout the WilmU landscape. (His initials are written in permanent marker on the back of everything he built.) The Quinns think of him every day, as do their sons, Eric and Josh. Eric has Mark’s woodworking talents; Josh his sense of humor. Both developed expertise in the art of the practical joke, learning from their Uncle Mark how best to outwit the other.

As for Thompson, he has embraced his studies and is working toward a bachelor’s in Government and Public Policy with a focus on Social Policy. He’s still working as a massage therapist, but he’s also putting in 25 hours a week toward volunteer political work — and maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

“The best way I can honor Mark is to stay the course and commit entirely to what my intentions have been,” Thompson says. “To help do all I can to make this world a better place by pushing policies that will help ensure that others can afford their schooling, combat the opioid epidemic by providing meaningful and affordable treatment options to help prevent prescription opioid addiction in the first place, and ensuring that our criminal justice system is rehabilitating people and setting them up to reenter society successfully, not locking them up based on economic or racial factors.”

Like Mark, whose generosity is reflected in the scholarship, Thompson wants to devote his life to service.

“Mark cared so much about people and the University,” Donna says. “And even though he didn’t have direct contact with students, he took great pride in everything he did. In one capacity or another, he wanted his work to benefit students and fellow employees.”

Thompson can’t articulate fully his gratitude, but in a letter to the Quinns, he wrote: “I will do all I can to pay this forward . . . I do not have any way to thank you, aside from the promise that I will do what I can to live up to this opportunity.” **WU**

—Maria Hess

less about the debt at the end of my schooling sending me into default,” he says. “I received new confidence that only comes when someone completely objective reviews your goals and what you’re doing and tells you, ‘I believe in what you’re doing, and I want to help.’”

That someone, albeit posthumously, was Mark Quinn.

“Mark clearly had a hand in seeing that it went to Dustyn,” says his sister-in-law, Donna Quinn, executive director in the Office of the President. “The more we learned about Dustyn, the more we knew it would have meant a great deal to Mark.”



Donna and Bill Quinn hold a photo showing Mark Quinn (far right) at his nephew’s 2012 wedding in Washington D.C. This was the last family shot taken with Mark.



Dustyn Thompson with the Quinns

SUSAN L. GREGG

RONNIE WUEST: Transforming Lives through Jiu-Jitsu

by Britney Gulledge

RONNIE WUEST has one business goal: To provide the best possible self-defense education to his students in order to build their confidence for life.

It's that type of singular commitment that not only helped grow his business, Delaware Self Defense Academy, from 10 to almost 700 students, but also compelled one of his students, Wendy Rios, to nominate Wuest as a distinguished alumnus.

"Ronnie has made a huge impact in the community," says Rios. "He devotes his life to making sure that everyone — young and old — are able to defend themselves. He teaches kids how to cope with bullying, holds women's self-defense seminars and law enforcement seminars."

Rios joined Wuest's class after watching her elementary-age daughter blossom under his direction.

Wuest grew up in Smyrna, Delaware, where he wrestled for Smyrna High School. After graduation, he worked at a number of jobs that provided little direction for his future.

Then, in 1991, at 21 years old, Wuest's life changed forever when he was mistaken for someone else and was brutally attacked and kidnapped. He and a friend were held hostage for eight hours, and Wuest was left with a bullet wound to the head and several stab wounds. He spent eight days in the hospital, but it took years for him to begin to heal mentally and

emotionally.

"I was at the wrong place at the wrong time, hanging with the wrong crowd," says Wuest. "The attack showed me early on that making bad decisions make things worse and not all people are good. The positive is that it made me more aware of potential danger going forward. It took a few years, but undoubtedly that experience made me want to learn and teach self-defense."

"One thing that sticks with me," he adds, "is if I knew then what I know now, that situation would have gone quite differently. I may have still been attacked but I would have known the self-defense practices that would have lessened the severity."

About three years after the horrific event, Wuest refocused and settled into a position with Caterpillar, Inc. as a shop manager at a dealership in Bear, Delaware.

"This was the first job I really wanted to stick with and I knew to move up the ladder I would need to earn a degree," says Wuest.

Enter Wilmington University. In four years at WilmU, he earned an associate in behavioral science and bachelor's degree in finance.

"I entered Wilmington on a BS finance track with no previous credits," Wuest says. "I made sure all the electives I had to take matched those of an associate degree. I figured why not get two degrees for the price of one? I received both at the same time during graduation.

"I was determined to get done

even though I was a little bit of a late-bloomer. I was able to go to class, work and still spend time with my young sons, Ronnie and Tony."

He also began studying Gracie Jiu-Jitsu, which focuses beyond combat techniques to teach participants to live balanced, healthy lives based on the principles of efficiency, patience and control in all aspects of life.

Add these skills to his experience as a wrestler and a boxer, and it's no surprise that Wuest went pro. Wuest was a successful international professional mixed martial arts (MMA) fighter, earning an IBJJF (International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation) World Champion title and two Pans Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Champion titles.

In 2009, at 39, he retired from Caterpillar and professional fighting to teach jiu-jitsu full time. "I knew I wanted to own a business where I could share the skills that changed my life," says Wuest.

He opened Delaware Self Defense Academy, where he teaches jiu-jitsu, law enforcement training and youth combat sports. Today, there are locations in Middletown, Dover and Milford, Delaware, with 27 instructors.

"It's been a pleasure to watch the business expand, but it's more rewarding to see the students go from quiet and uncomfortable in the beginning to being self-assured and poised," says Wuest. "Our goal is to teach skills that can be applied for a lifetime for every situation." **WU**



Ronnie Wuest

STAY INVOLVED WITH YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

1997

JANA SIMPLER, M.S. in Public Administration, of Milton, Delaware, is the new director of the Division of Motor Vehicles, announced by DelDOT Secretary and WilmU alumna Jennifer Cohan. Previously, Simpler served as the Director of the Delaware Office of Highway Safety.

1998

MICHAEL WILBER, M.S. in Human Resources Management, of Wilmington, completed his doctorate from the University of New England in 2018.

2005

DREW STANLEY, B.S. in Marketing, of Avondale, Pennsylvania, was promoted at Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union from chief strategy officer to executive vice president, and oversees all member touch points, including community education. He is also responsible for FMFCU's Foundation and Credit Union Network for Financial Literacy.

2006



SHAMEKA BOOKER, M.S. in Administration of Justice, of Wilmington, was appointed by Gov. John Carney to

a four-year term as Justice of the Peace Judge for New Castle County.

ALLISON POLIZZI, B.S. in Finance, of Woodbridge, Virginia, was chosen to represent Woodbridge in the Mrs. Virginia competition at the Colonial Theater in South Hill, Virginia. She is a mother, Air Force veteran, Navy spouse and acquisition specialist.

2009



VARSAY LEWIS, M.Ed. in School Counseling, of Montclair, New Jersey, accepted the school counselor position at Montclair Kimberley

Academy's upper school.

2010

REBECCA TANKERSLEY, B.S. in Organizational Dynamics, of Irvine, California, was named executive



director of the Lion's Heart board of directors. After serving as corps member of AmeriCorps' City Year

Program, she supported the American Cancer Society, Girl Scouts of Orange County, and was the founder/chair of the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network of Orange County.

DAVID FORGAC, B.S. in Web Information Systems, of Lakewood, Ohio, currently works as a senior software engineer at American Greetings.

MELISSA PONTZER, M.S.N. in Nursing Education, of Riverview, Florida, is nurse manager of Student Health Services at the University of Florida.

Membership is free! Become an active member of your local chapter. Learn more about Wilmington University Alumni Association's events and meetings by visiting WILMU.EDU/ALUMNI.



2012



PATRICIA SPRATLEY, M.S. in Human Resources Management, of Newark, Delaware, was named benefits administration

manager at Delaware Transit Corp/DART, and has statewide responsibilities for more than 1,000 DART employees. She is a past chapter chair of WilmU's Pi Gamma Mu Alumni Chapter and an active member of its alumni association.

2014



QUINCY A. ROSE, Ed. D. in Innovation and Leadership, of Clayton, Missouri, was named dean of Harris-Stowe State

University's College of Education. She comes to HSSU from Grambling State University and Tusculum College in Greenville, Tennessee. Among many accolades, she was appointed by Delaware Gov. Ruth Ann Minner (2001) to serve on the

board of the Children's Trust Fund and earned a Jefferson Award for outstanding service, as well as membership in the Federal Women's Council Hall of Fame.

2015

LISA BYLSTONE, MSN in Nursing Leadership, Education Track, of Millville, New Jersey, is the clinical outcomes manager at Inspira Health Network.

2016



BRENDA ROSELLE, DBA in Business Administration, of Newark, Delaware, was master of ceremonies

at Manor College's spring 2018 graduation.

2017

STEPHANIE FEYLER, B.S. in Liberal Studies, of Gorham, Maine, is director of Alumni Services and Development at Saint Joseph's College in Standish, Maine.

PATRICIA BENSON, Ed.D. in Higher Education Leadership, of Abington, Pennsylvania, published an article for the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

AMANDA BAFFONE, B.S. in Accounting, of Hockessin, Delaware, is a tax accountant at Baffone & Associates, LLC.

KATHLEEN BLUMBERG, B.S. in Organizational Management, of Bear, Delaware, serves as the health information manager at Christiana Care Health System.

DEBRA JOHNSON, M.S. in Organizational Leadership, of Lincoln University, Pennsylvania, is the director of Administration at the Housing Authority of Chester County.

GRETA DIGUGLIELM, B.S. in Liberal Studies, of Riverview, Florida, works as a quality assurance specialist in the Air Force in MacDill, Florida.

2018



PAUL BECHLY, D.B.A. in Business Administration, of Wilmington, was named first vice president at Morgan Stanley in

Greenville, Delaware.

On behalf of our students, faculty and staff, we thank all of our alumni, friends, and corporate supporters who contributed to the 2017–2018 Annual Fund, thus providing scholarships and other benefits for students.



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 Dr. Doreen, '96, '02 and
 Mickey Turnbo
 Dr. Jack P. Varsalona
 Dr. Jacqueline Varsalona, '08
 Valarie S. Walls '09, '16
 Dr. Gregory A. Warren,
 '83, '83, '86

Christopher B. Waters,
 MPA, '06
 Jeremy D. Watkins
 Dr. Rosemary Watras, '95, '98
 Suzanne M. Watras, '05, '07
 Cynthia L. Webb
 Jane V. West, '08
 Denise Z. Westbrook, '01 '03
 Dr. Mary Ann, '13 and
 David Westerfield
 Matthew Whelihan
 Dr. Stefanie Whitby, '14
 Dana White
 Erin L. Wildman
 Donna Wilkinson
 Bryon and Stephanie Wille,
 '09, '11
 Ann Williams
 Pattie, '10 and Dennis Winter
 David S. Woolsey
 The Woolsey Family
 Kelly A. Wyszynski, '16
 Mary Beth Youse, '02

MEMORIALS

*In Memory of
 Dr. Johanna Adams*
 Lorraine Sitler

In Memory of Christine Allen
 Sue Miller

*In Memory of
 William and Mary Bescherer
 Nursing Scholarship*
 Anonymous - 1

*In Memory of
 Dr. H. Lee Brubaker*
 Brandi D. Purcell, '10, '17

In Memory of Jack V. Crossen
 Joseph L. Crossen

In Memory of Jen Hearn
 Dr. Sallie, '96, '99 and Luke, '10
 Reissman

In Memory of Louise Hyatt
 Dr. Angela C. Suchanic

*In Memory of
 Cassandra Hopkins*
 Project New Start, Inc.

*In Memory of
 Felicia Jones-Haskins*
 Dr. Lori S Irelan, '06

In Memory of Fred Kirkland
 Thomas W. Hurd, Jr., '11

In Memory of Eva Kohl
 Carole Pitcher

*In Memory of
 Doris R. Landsberg*
 Brandi D. Purcell, '10, '17

In Memory of Ann Marvain
 Richard and Pattie (†) Jennings

In Memory of Mark S. Quinn
 Gloria R. Johnson, '93, '11 and
 Henry Dickerson
 Mr. and Mrs. William P. Quinn

In Memory of Raymond Russo
 Catherine A. Russo, '10

In Memory of Richard Spitzer
 Richard and Pattie (†) Jennings

In Memory of James Trader
 Dr. Lynda K. Fuller, '83

In Memory of Ralph A. Warren
 Dr. Gregory A. Warren,
 '83, '83, '86

In Memory of Kathleen Yearick
 Dr. Angela C. Suchanic
 Scholarships
 Donovan Appleman
 Brian, '03, '05, '07 and
 Kristen Beard
 Denise Drummond
 Johanna Cohee Hastings, '10
 Dennis J. Huffman, '93, '95, '03
 Chris Owens
 Mark S. Paris
 Carole Pitcher
 Mr. Barry and
 Natalie R. Ridgeway, '14
 Dr. Nicole, '03, '05 and
 Mr. Joseph Romano
 Andrew W., '98, '05 and
 Stephanie Stratton, '99

SCHOLARSHIPS

*William and Mary Bescherer
 Nursing Scholarship*
 Anonymous - 1

*Milton and Hattie Kutz
 Scholarship*
 Sally Healy

Mark S. Quinn Scholarship
 Cheryl Bastien

*Marguerite "Mig" Reardon
 Memorial Nursing Scholarship*
 Mrs. Kara L. Dicecco, '94, '05
 Dr. Barbara H. Sartell, '96
 Dr. Sheila M Sharbaugh, '00
 Denise Z. Westbrook, '01 '03
 Mary Beth Youse, '02

Linda Thomas Scholarship
 Nialah Ali
 Dr. Regina Allen-Sharpe, '99, '01
 Dr. Tina Barksdale, '98, '00, '03
 Tesa-Patrice Greene,
 '05, '08, '10
 Dr. LaVerne, '90, '92 and
 Malone Harmon, '92, '95
 Bevin Hileman, '13
 Gloria R. Johnson, '93, '11 and
 Henry Dickerson
 Dr. Bonnie L. Kirkpatrick, '98, '12
 David and Laura M. Morris,
 '01, '06
 Rourke Moore
 Sharon Moore and
 Julius Jackson
 Mr. and Mrs. William P. Quinn
 Dorothy and Tamara Thomas
 Kathy Q. Tilghman, '92

Dr. Jack P. Varsalona Scholarship
 Fred Fisher
 Cynthia D. Healey, '98
 Dr. Nicole, '03, '05 and
 Mr. Joseph Romano

DISCLAIMER — The 2017-2018 Donor Honor Roll reflects gifts made to Wilmington University during the 2017 fiscal year, spanning July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. Careful attention was paid in the preparation of these lists. Our apologies for any errors or omissions that may have occurred. If your name has been incorrectly listed, please contact the Development Office at development@wilmu.edu.

KEY: Deceased (†)

UPDATES

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

*There are several questions students tend to ask.
We have the answers.*

Q *I want to learn more about Wilmington University, but I haven't been able to attend an open house. How can I find out what I need to know?*

A *Try our new webinar and text messaging options! They make information accessible, and they're available when and where you are.*

"Our hours are 9 to 5, but students' lives are 24/7," says WilmU Marketing Services Specialist Marie Gerrish. "These online options give them more opportunities to get to know us."

At WilmU's webinars, scheduled several times a week, you can listen in on 20-to-30-minute information sessions covering frequently asked questions and interact with your own.

They're presented twice a day, at noon and 7 p.m., with Tuesday's webinars focusing on financial aid, Wednesday's on undergraduate programs, and Thursday's on graduate programs. Additional webinars will address the concerns of transfer students and military learners, and spotlight individual degree programs and WilmU's colleges.

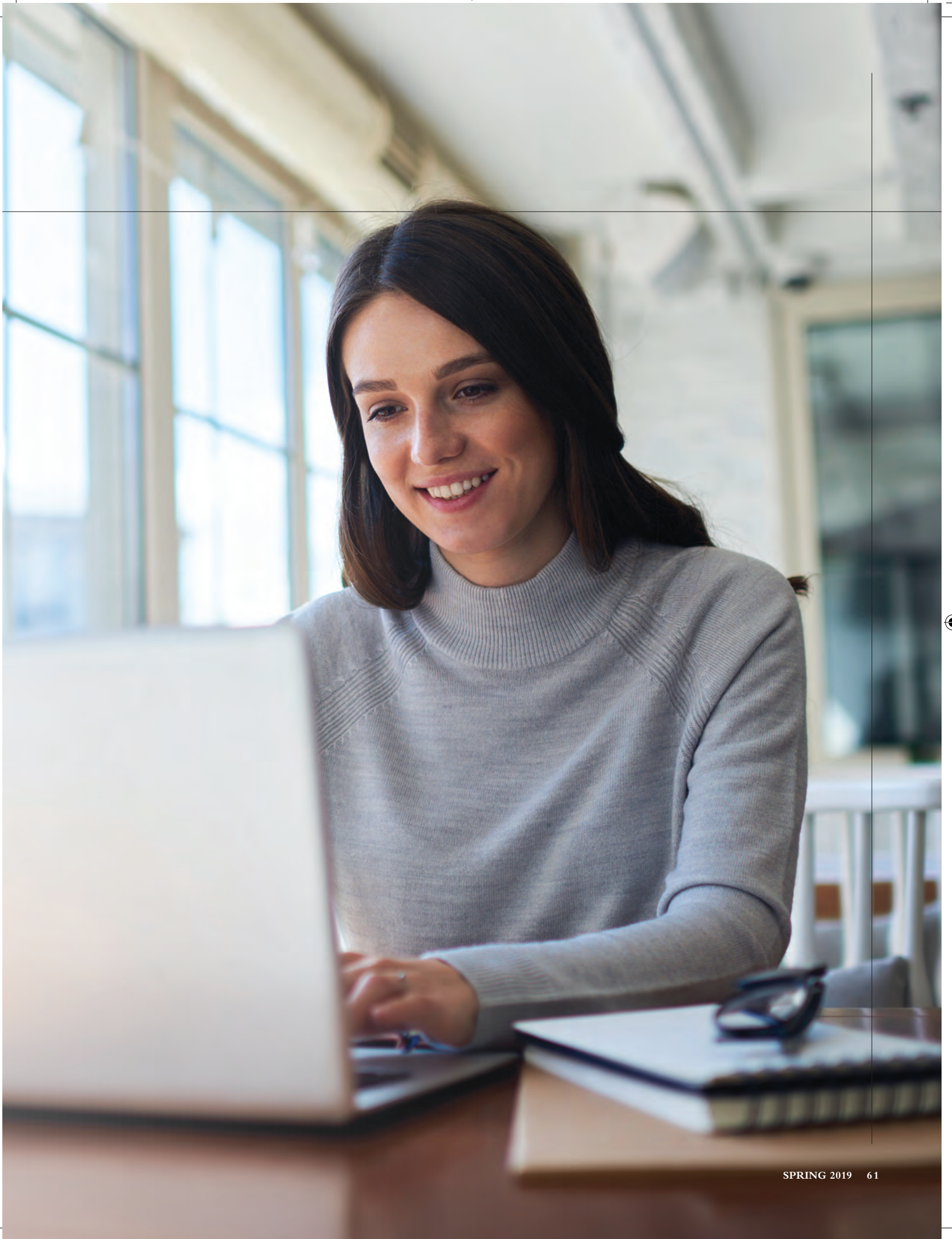
The webinars direct attendees to downloadable handouts and documents, and provide them with a code that will enable them to apply to WilmU for free. Check out our calendar of upcoming webinars and register at WILMU.EDU/VISITUS.

Text messaging is another way for students and prospective students to get their questions answered, even while they're on the go. Text WilmU anytime at **(302) 203-9516** and an Admissions Department representative will respond, live and in real time, during normal business hours. (Messages sent outside of business hours will receive a reply the following morning.)

The advantage of text messaging is that it can become a personalized process that leads from questions to actions, says WilmU Admissions Manager Greg Cope. Admissions specialists help students set up appointments with academic advisors or register for courses.

"Our students are looking to do things on their time, and in ways that are convenient for them," says Cope. "This technology is fantastic for opening up the lines of communication with them." **WU**

—David Bernard



UPDATES



THE ITALIAN KITCHEN: A MEDIA SENSATION

WilmU's Italian Kitchen scored big with Wilmington News Journal readers who gave it an Honorable Mention for Best Sandwich Shop.

"There was no particular sandwich that we got nominated for," says Owner **BERNIE DIMARCO**. "However, our cheesesteaks, wraps and Wildcat burgers are the best sellers."

The flourishing business has always been a family affair. "The Italian Kitchen was started in 1972 by my grandmother and grandfather," says DiMarco. "It was renamed DiPaolo's Ristorante in 2008. It's located in Penns Grove,

New Jersey, and owned by my uncle."

In the mid-'80s, DiMarco's parents opened two locations: Roman Pantry, which is still in operation, and Fast Eddies, which they sold. Under the umbrella of Italian Kitchen, they now own and operate Roman Pantry in Carneys Point, New Jersey, and Italian Kitchen in Pennsville (New Jersey). Both house a full-service pizza shop, deli, convenience store and bakery. The family started catering in the '90s and has won numerous "Best of Salem County" awards for catering.

DiMarco is both a foodie and an administrator. He loves the culinary industry, but he also loves

math — and taught it for 13 years for the Christina School District. He holds a BA in Mathematics Education and an MBA in School Leadership, both from WilmU.

DiMarco feels blessed to partner with WilmU. "I love associating with people, and the people at the University are terrific. They are always kind, supportive and a pleasure to serve. It's a privilege."

The partnership was established in 2010. "We offer many ethnic foods, in addition to our favorites — subs, steaks, pizza and sandwiches," DiMarco says. "We also offer catering on- and off-premise and our team has catered to groups as large as 350



From left: Ashley DiMarco, Brenda Galloway, LeShawn Hobbs, Bernie DiMarco, Carley Mills, Tina Luciano, Trudy Spence (Not Pictured: Sandy Swarter, Carmen DiGivantonio, Ryan Neave, Lorraine Galloway, Suzanne Crist, Barbara Miller and Robin Claycomb)

and as small as five." The business also specializes in fine dining, and its team is delighted to drop off catered items directly to any facility.

Leaders like DiMarco tend to inspire as well as manage. DiMarco knows he can't run the business alone and values the talents his team brings to the table. "I have the best staff anyone could ask for," he says. "They go above and beyond to serve customers, and they do it respectfully and graciously. I love them." **WU**

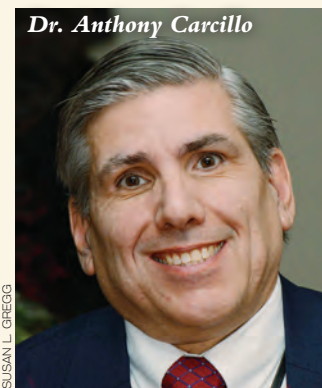
—Maria Hess

To contact the Italian Kitchen, call (302) 356-6788, or email at italiankitchen@wilmu.edu.

Veteran Educator is Named Dean

Effective Jan. 1, 2019, **DR. ANTHONY CARCILLO** was named dean of Wilmington University's College of Technology (COT). He had previously served as director of the COT's graduate programs, as well as chair of its Technology Project Management program and assistant professor. He holds a BA in Organization Dynamics and an MA in Organization Leadership, both from Immaculata University. He earned his DBA from Wilmington University when he defended a dissertation titled *The Impact of Project Management Maturity Upon IT/IS Project Management Outcomes*.

Before embracing higher education, Dr. Carcillo worked for organizations such as AAA Mid-Atlantic, Sungard Availability Services, and Catholic Health Initiatives. His 20-plus years in the private sector prepared him for roles in leadership, management and technology.



SUSAN L. GREGG

Dr. Carcillo is a certified Project Management Professional and member of the Project Management Institute and Delaware InfraGard chapter. He also presented the topic of Fileless Malware to the Las Vegas Electronic Crimes Task Force, which aims to increase the resources, skills, and vision by which state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies team with prosecutors, private industry and academia to combat criminal activity. **WU**

UPDATES



Daulton Nelson



PHOTO BY PAUL PATTON

Gaming Student is No Robot

One of the greatest joys of teaching is watching students blossom as they realize their personal potential.

DAULTON NELSON,

a gaming student, took charge of his education and career path by developing a stellar senior project, and taking the lead developer position on his class team project.

“I could tell he was trying to find his spot, how he could contribute,” says Scott Shaw, chair of Game Design and Development, Video and Motion Graphics, and Maker Certificate Programs.

Nelson attended Cecil Con, a sci-fi, fantasy, anime, and gaming convention held annually at Cecil College in North East, Maryland. He presented his senior project, a game called “No Robot,” in which players activate weapons to deactivate robots that have taken over an area.

“He took feedback from the conference and used it to develop a fully fleshed-out game ready to go to market,” Shaw says.

Nelson also was the leader in developing a team project, a virtual reality simulator used to train pediatric health care providers in the emergency room.

“He went from someone who was very quiet to a polished professional who adds value to projects,” Shaw says. “He took the project across the finish line.” **WU**

—Eileen Dallabrida



Dr. Doreen Turnbo

The Consummate Educator

A lifelong advocate for education and the consummate teacher with a deep passion to explore and to teach what she found to others, **DR. DOREEN TURNBO**, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, retired in December of 2018.

Her legacy is a thriving college offering hundreds of sections of general education courses, five minors, two certificates, and five degree programs, including communication, liberal studies associate and bachelor degrees, a master's in teaching English to speakers of other languages, and an Environmental Science and Policy degree.

This deep love of learning has always been with her — guiding her to teach English as a Second Language at many Air Force bases where she and her husband, Mickey, were stationed during his time in the military, and also fostering a child with multiple disabilities while raising their two children. After her husband's retirement, Dr. Turnbo wanted to study to be a nurse. But, as things often happen, that goal changed slightly and she found herself studying to be a high school science teacher.

"I loved biology and genetics," Dr. Turnbo says. "I love the study of it, I loved everything about it." Her children were also in high school at the time. "They kept saying, 'Mom, are you sure you want to do this?'" she laughs. Yes, she did, earning her bachelor's in biology, and she was soon teaching biology and physical science in the Appoquinimink School District.

"I did love the time I was teaching," she says, but a fellowship came her way

through the State of Delaware, and Dr. Turnbo found herself writing school curriculum for the Water Resource Department of the Department of Natural Resources. She traveled to schools throughout the state, helping teachers to understand the curriculum, and doing activities with the students to teach them the importance of water conservation — where water comes from, where it goes, she says. "All the water we have is all the water we'll ever have," she adds. "People don't realize we're only missing one gallon of water on this earth because they took it to the moon."

The fellowship ended, and she had started on her master's in education at then-Wilmington College. She also found a position working as a WilmU adjunct instructor, teaching science. The first dean, George Bellenger, tasked her with designing a three-credit environmental science course without a lab, and later she put together the first science lab in the People's building.

"Then I got called by Dr. Jack Varsalona to come in for 90 days to fill in for an employee in the Advising Department," Dr. Turnbo remembers. She walked in and didn't leave for 15 years, during which she earned her Ed.D. and later became director of Advising. "It was fun, but intense. There were many days I was in the office at 7:30 a.m. and students would be waiting," she says.

Dr. Turnbo and her team, which totaled three in the early years, including her, would work until 6 p.m. many days and rarely take a break. Students were registered for classes by hand. "No computers," she laughs. Over time, the college matured, changed

its name to Wilmington University, divisions became colleges, and student enrollment increased.

And then in 2011, former Provost Dr. Betty Caffo asked her if she wanted to become dean of the College of Arts & Sciences.

"I knew, as a science major, that being in an area with general education courses, I could really do that," she says. "I taught public speaking and science, and I loved every minute of it."

Dr. Turnbo says she answered yes to the question before Caffo even finished it. "And she asked if I wanted to talk it over with my husband and I said no," she smiles.

Heading up the college allowed her a different opportunity. "It allowed me to still serve the university," she says of becoming dean. "It was a different kind of job, just what I needed and I loved it. I have loved it the whole time."

Her thoughts, though, are always on the students, and that's where the University's future lies. "We have to be willing to make changes to meet the challenges of the careers out there, the ones we don't even know exist," she says. Much of what she put into motion has been just that — helping hundreds of students to find advancement and fulfillment in their careers.

It's really only about one thing, Dr. Turnbo says.

"We're here for the students, and the connection we make with the students," she says, encouraging staff and faculty to do this in a spirit of enjoyment in helping others. "The student needs to remain the center of our focus. That's the key." **WU**

—Janice Colvin

Farewell, Dr. Mike

DR. MICHAEL CZARKOWSKI, known as Dr. Mike, retired in December after 32 years of service. “It was my time to leave,” he says. “You get a sense of these things.”

He sensed that life was too short, given the loss of his brother- and sister-in-law, Tom and Elizabeth Schubmehl, who both died young, and his mother, Dorothy Czarkowski, who passed in 2013 of Alzheimer’s disease. He had been on a family trip to Eastern Europe when the subject of retirement came up. “I got to thinking that I wanted to spend more time with my family.”

That family includes Dr. Mike’s wife, Suzie Czarkowski, a WilmU administrative assistant in Dover, who also retired in December after 14 years of service.

Of the many accomplishments in his distinguished career, Dr. Mike calls the Ed.D. program his most significant. “It was certainly a team effort, and I’m proud of the direction we took in getting the Ed.D. in Educational Leadership to designation as a nationally recognized and accredited program.” College of Education Dean Dr. John Gray says, “That was something his two predecessors had been unable to do since the degree program’s inception.”

Dr. Mike, who holds an Ed.D. from Temple University, began his

career at then Wilmington College in 1986 as an academic advisor in Georgetown and an assistant professor of Education and Business Studies. He held numerous roles until becoming director of the Doctor of Education programs in 2008. In 2016, he was appointed the director of Academic Assessment and Program Review for the Center for Teaching Excellence. He chaired more than 300 dissertation committees and served as a dissertation second reader, additional reader, or data analysis consultant on 300-plus dissertation committees between 1998 and 2018. He authored numerous papers, including *A New Program Review Process at Wilmington University. Internal Consultants Report and Update of Critical Policy component* in October of 2018, and *A Curriculum Framework for Content Standards and Course Curriculum in Business, Finance and Marketing Education*, published by the State of Delaware.

Outside of WilmU, he served as an education associate and state supervisor for the Delaware Department of Education, as well as for the Air Force, from which he retired in 1994 as a master sergeant (E7).

Several people helped shape Dr. Mike’s career. Former WilmU President Dr. Jack Varsalona taught him that even good ideas have their time and place. Dr. Ronald Watts, a former vice president of Academic Affairs at then Wilmington College,

hired Dr. Mike and was like a second father to him after his father passed. Dr. John Camp, whom Dr. Mike knew from the military, was the college’s first academic dean and a loyal friend. Both lived downstate and enjoyed discussions while riding to New Castle together.

In a class by herself is Ann Gibason, whose official title is administrative coordinator/program specialist, though Dr. Mike calls her “the glue that keeps the Ed.D. program running.”

“Dr. Michael Czarkowski showed by example how to be a caring, generous leader and still keep structure and maintain integrity,” says Gibason. “I will miss him immensely.”

As will many others at WilmU, and he them. “I’ll miss the people, and walking into the building, saying hello to everyone,” says Dr. Mike. “I’ll miss the students. I had the most joy working with them one-on-one and teaching in the classroom.”

Perhaps a banana daiquiri (Dr. Mike’s preferred cocktail) will help. He and Suzie are planning a Caribbean cruise with their daughter and her husband, Melissa and Mark Johnston.

He did retire officially, but we haven’t seen the last of Dr. Mike. He’s still planning to teach as a WilmU adjunct. He can’t help himself. **WU**

—Maria Hess

*Dr. Mike and his wife, Suzie Czarkowski,
both of whom retired in December*



University Events



APRIL 6

Ongoing

GET TO KNOW WILMU BRANDYWINE

Visit WilmU's new Brandywine site, located at Beaver Valley Road and Route 202 in Wilmington, across from Concord Mall. Explore the full-service facilities, apply for one of its 150+ career-focused degree or certificate programs, or register for classes. WilmU Brandywine is open to visitors from 8:30 a.m.–6 p.m., and until 7 p.m. on Wednesdays.

(Visit wilmu.edu/VisitUs)

April 6

BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

Hop over with the little ones for a breakfast buffet, egg hunts, arts and crafts activities, and photos with the Easter Bunny at the Doberstein Admissions Center auditorium on the New Castle campus from 10 a.m. to noon. Tickets are \$3 for children 12 years and under and \$5 for adults.

(Contact brad.w.gilbert@wilmu.edu)

April 6

INTERNATIONAL FASHION SHOW

The world comes to WilmU's Dover site through an exhibition of fashion and food from around the globe. Building A auditorium, 6–8 p.m.

(Contact jonathan.b.mallory@wilmu.edu)

April 17 & 18

SPRING CAREER FAIRS

Students and alumni are invited to network with local employers at the Doberstein Admissions Center auditorium on the New Castle campus from 2–5 p.m. The April 17 highlights the Colleges of Arts & Sciences, Business, and Technology. April 18 highlights the Colleges of Education, Health Professions, and Social & Behavioral Sciences.

(Contact careerservices@wilmu.edu)

May 4

SOUL LINE DANCING

Learn soul-style line dances to R&B and hip-hop music in an all-ages event at WilmU's Dover site. Building A auditorium, 4–6 p.m.

(Contact jonathan.b.mallory@wilmu.edu)

May 15, 19 & 20

SPRING COMMENCEMENTS

It's time again for the procession, the cheers, the smiles, and the sighs of relief from WilmU's graduating class. Celebrate the achievements of the Class of 2019 at the Georgetown ceremony on May 15 (at the Carter Partnership Center, 21225 College Drive in Georgetown) and the Wilmington ceremonies on May 19 and 20 (Chase Center on the Riverfront, 815 Justison St., Wilmington).

(Contact infocenter@wilmu.edu)

June 12 & 13

HUMAN TRAFFICKING SYMPOSIUM

Learn how to recognize and respond to cases of human trafficking, a global social problem with a local impact. Educators, law enforcement personnel, healthcare and human services professionals, and other community members are invited to the New Castle campus for sessions on at-risk youth, treating victims' trauma, and common trafficking practices.

(Contact johanna.p.bishop@wilmu.edu)

FOR MORE INFORMATION
OR THE LATEST LISTINGS,
visit WilmU's online
calendar at
events.wilmu.edu or
contact the University
Information Center at
(877) 967-5464 or
infocenter@wilmu.edu.

Alumni Events

April 27

WILMUSIC FEST

Join the WilmU community for an afternoon of homegrown entertainment, sponsored by the Student Alumni Association. Four Delaware-based bands and a variety of food trucks will be at the Brandywine site, Beaver Valley Road and Route 202 in Wilmington, across from Concord Mall, from 12–4 p.m. Free admission.

(Contact saa@wilmu.edu)



APRIL 27

May 2

SCHOLARSHIP GOLF CLASSIC

WilmU's 9th annual golf outing helps to raise funds for student scholarships. Enjoy refreshments, raffles, and a scholarship dinner with silent auction and live music at the Deerfield Golf Club, 507 Thompson Station Road in Newark, Delaware, from 10:30 a.m.–7 p.m.

(Visit wilmu.edu/GolfClassic)



MAY 2

June 7

KENT AND SUSSEX COUNTIES ALUMNI CHAPTER MIXER

Enjoy an evening of food, beverages, and networking with fellow WilmU grads, students, and staff at Fraizer's, 9 E. Loockerman St. in Dover, from 6–8 p.m.; \$12 for alumni, \$6 for students.

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

June 8

NEW JERSEY AND PENNSYLVANIA ALUMNI CHAPTER MIXER

Lunch and cruise with fellow WilmU grads, students, and staff on the Spirit of Philadelphia from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; \$48 per person, parking fees not included. Board at Penns' Landing, 401 S. Columbus Blvd., Philadelphia.

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

Admissions

March 6

GRADUATE STUDIES FAIR

With 70+ programs to support your career goals, flexible options that enable coursework to fit your busy schedule, and low tuition to ease your education budget worries, WilmU's graduate studies offer a ladder to advancement. Find out more from faculty members and admissions staff at the Wilson Graduate Center and Dover locations from 4:30–7 p.m.

(Contact admissions@wilmu.edu)

April 11

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS INFORMATION SESSION

Meet WilmU's Undergraduate Admissions staff at the Dover location for an overview of the university's application process, degree programs, flexible scheduling, tuition and fees, student services, and other steps toward reaching your educational goals. The information sessions will be held from 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

(Contact Jonathan Mallory at dover@wilmu.edu)

PHOTOS BY PAUL PATTON

May 8

SPRING OPEN HOUSE

WilmU invites prospective students to attend the Spring Open House and learn about:

- Career-focused degree programs that align with your interests
- Seamless credit transfer policy that fast-tracks your degree
- Low tuition that helps your budget
- Flexible course options that fit your life and learning styles

The Open House will take place at WilmU's New Castle, Dover, and Georgetown locations from 4:30–7 p.m. Faculty and staff will be on hand to answer questions.

(Visit wilmu.edu/OpenHouse)

Ongoing

WILMU WEBINARS

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

NEW AT WILMU

The Criminal Justice Institute



Dr. Raymond Carr

Scott Duffey

Wilmington University's new **CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSTITUTE (CJI)** will soon offer customized professional development and training to law enforcement professionals in Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland and New Jersey. Housed at WilmU's new Brandywine location, the CJI will provide opportunities to professionals who wish to receive training close to home and save on travel costs.

CJI Director **DR. RAYMOND CARR** and Associate Director **SCOTT DUFFEY** will offer one-day to one-week specific courses that are based on individual needs or the needs of the community. Participants will be able to alert CJI staff to their immediate needs as well, and instructors

will create customized programs. Professionals can also consider training in the following areas:

- **Active Shooter Training (For Business Personnel, Educators or Students)**
- **Cyber Security**
- **Child Exploitation**
- **Violent Crimes**
- **Gangs**
- **Terrorism**
- **Constable Training**
- **Homicide Basics**
- **High School Safety**
- **Emergency/Mass Casualty Preparedness**
- **Penetration (Vulnerability) Assessment**

Dr. Carr, a certified police instructor, worked in law enforcement for 36 years and retired

recently from the FBI, where he supervised a violent crimes task force that investigated criminal behaviors involving drugs, terrorism, violent and white-collar crimes and public corruption. Duffey is also a certified police instructor and retired FBI agent. He served at the bureau's Baltimore division for 22 years and as a supervisory agent at the FBI's Wilmington (Delaware) office.

The CJI is expected to begin sessions in May, with a goal to provide relevant training to law enforcement professionals and service to the community. **WU**

—Maria Hess

For more information, email CJI@wilmu.edu or call (302) 268-1556



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- Learn about our diverse **program offerings**
- Discuss funding options with **financial aid staff**
- Apply with the help of **admissions specialists**

Classes start every 8 weeks. choose.wilmu.edu/Brandywine