



WILMU[®]

WITH A WILMU
DUAL-CREDIT CERTIFICATE,
CHRIS DAVIS
CHOREOGRAPHS HIS FUTURE

*The Center for
Teaching Excellence*

A Profile of Dr. Aaron Sebach

From STEM to STEAM

Chris Davis

Give to WilmU

WilmU Scholarship Fund



Double your donation!

Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match charitable contributions and volunteer hours for employees. Search for your employer at www.matchinggifts.com/wilmu.



Support WilmU while you shop through Amazon Smile!

At smile.amazon.com, select Wilmington University as your charitable organization. Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to WilmU!

Thank you, donors!

We extend our deepest thanks to our generous 2018-19 donors. Visit wilmu.edu/donors to view our Donor Honor Roll.

WilmU works because of donors like you.
Make your 2019-20 tax deductible gift today at wilmu.edu/ScholarshipFund

“No longer is it considered ‘soft’ for employees to develop so-called ‘soft skills.’ Students — and future employees — must also demonstrate adaptability, resilience and empathy.”

—Dr. LaVerne T. Harmon



Dear friends,

We have so much to tell you about in this spring issue!

One of our feature stories, called “From STEM to STEAM,” discusses how the sciences and arts have combined to create more holistic learning. While the concentration of STEM in academic settings builds analytical skills, such as measuring data or outcomes, employers have noted a need for future employees to communicate effectively and think critically, with innovation and creativity. The arts do just that. Add the “A” for STEAM, and you enhance a future employee’s readiness for the rapidly changing world. No longer is it considered “soft” for employees to develop so-called “soft skills.” Students — and future employees — must demonstrate adaptability, resilience and empathy.

We pay homage to our Center for Teaching Excellence. As a student-centered institution, WilmU excels in bringing real-world experience into the classroom. We prepare our industry experts to become classroom-ready instructors by offering them workshops, mentoring, feedback, and a host of other professional resources — all of which ultimately give our students an edge in the competitive workplace.

You might also like reading about a student who achieved success after earning one of our many Dual-Credit Certificates®; a stellar nursing faculty member and nurse practitioner; a WilmU bowling coach who also happens to be a race car driver — and many other pieces about our faculty, staff, students and alumni.

I hope you’ll find some time to catch up on all the news as you enjoy the warmer months ahead. **WU**

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

CONTENTS



Dr. Aaron Sebach

FEATURES

16 *More than a Title – or Titles*

A supportive partner, a color-coded calendar, and a flexible schedule allow Dr. Aaron Sebach to put as much passion into his practice as his teaching. WilmU's nursing practitioner students reap the rewards.

by Maria Hess

22 *Educating the Educators*

WilmU's Center for Teaching Excellence is building a better classroom, starting at the front.

by David Bernard

COVER STORY

28 *One Singular Sensation*

A Dual-Credit Certificate® can go a long way. Just ask this singer/dancer/director/recruiter/social activist and mentor.

by Bob Yearick

COVER: photo by Susan L. Gregg



16

PAUL PATTON



10

4 Trending

Hot topics in social media.
by Rebecca Slinger

6 The News

The latest news on WilmU's faculty, staff, students and alumni; and Luminary.

38 Sports

WilmU Assistant Bowling Coach Nicole Bower is pumped to succeed in the male-dominated sports she loves.
by Bob Yearick



44

SUSAN L. GREGG

42 Alumni

Dr. Wallena Gould's efforts to increase diversity in her chosen profession has gained the attention of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists; As founder of Picture the World, a humanitarian consulting firm, Dr. Franca Del Signore collaborates with nonprofits in Italy and South Africa; and News & Notes.
by David Bernard and Donna Hardy

48 Updates

Interesting reports about equally interesting faculty, students, alumni and staff of Wilmington University; plus New at WilmU.

54 Events

See what's going on at various campus locations, and what the Alumni Department is cooking up.
Compiled by David Bernard

32 From STEM to STEAM

Data is just data without insight, creativity and innovation. That's why bringing the arts into the STEM field is causing such a stir.
by Janice Colvin

DAN DEMARCO

38





President

DR. LAVERNE T. HARMON

Institutional Advancement

Vice President

DR. JACQUELINE VARSALONA

University Relations

Assistant Vice President

BILL SWAIN

Editor-in Chief

Senior Writer

DR. MARIA HESS

Contributors

Staff Writer/Proofreader

BOB YEARICK

Staff Writer

DAVID BERNARD

University Photographer

SUSAN L. GREGG

University Photographer

PAUL PATTON

Writers

AARON AGRESTA

DONNA HARDY

REBECCA SLINGER

DR. JANICE COLVIN

Photographer

RON DUBICK

Have a question, comment or story idea?

Contact Dr. Maria Hess
maria.f.hess@wilmu.edu

Want an event listed?

Contact David Bernard
david.bernard@wilmu.edu

Like us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/
WilmingtonUniversity/

Follow us on Twitter:

@thewilmu

WilmU magazine is designed and published by:

Today Media Custom
Communications

3301 Lancaster Pike, Ste. 5C

Wilmington, DE 19805,

800-466-8721

www.todaymediacustom.com

Chairman

ROBERT F. MARTINELLI

Creative Director

RANDY CLARK

Project Manager

COURTNEY FIORE

WilmU Magazine, produced in-house by Wilmington University's Publications Department, is a service for WilmU students, alumni, staff, faculty, friends and Board of Trustees. It is published and distributed two times a year and has a circulation of more than 65,000. Personal views expressed in articles do not necessarily reflect the official policies of Wilmington University.

#TRENDING



1. OUR POLAR BEAR PLUNGE WAS A SUCCESS AGAIN THIS YEAR.

Our 10th annual plunge as the WilmU Pi Gamma Mu Plunge team sent us into the 40 degree Atlantic in support of the Special Olympics.



Jim "Fitz" Fitzgerald

2. Our 2019 True Crime Lecture Series concluded with JIM "FITZ" FITZGERALD, a criminal profiler who worked on investigations of international notoriety like the Unabomber case. This year we'll host a stolen art recovery expert, a criminal profiling expert, and agent who infiltrated the Gambino crime family. You can see what's upcoming on our social media sites or the Criminal Justice Institute's website:

wilmu.edu/cji.

by Rebecca Slinger

3. The beginning of 2020 saw another successful graduation class for Year Up Wilmington. Year Up Wilmington is a partnership between WilmU and various businesses that starts with six months of in-class education, and then a six-month internship in a chosen career path for urban young adults closing the opportunity divide.



4. The **DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD** recognizes WilmU alumni for their outstanding achievements and contributions in their professional careers or public service activities. **DO YOU KNOW AN ALUM WHO IS DESERVING OF THIS AWARD?** Submit a nomination at wilmu.edu/Nominate. Closing date: June 30, 2020



Read exclusive stories on our digital edition.



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

THE NEWS

BRUSHSTROKES FOR HUMANITY

Through it all, **RICHMOND GARRICK** always had his art. Ever since that day in grade school, when he picked up a colored pencil, opened a music book, and began drawing almost exact images of the composers he saw there — Chopin, Mozart, Bach, Brahms — he had his art.

It sustained him through a childhood of hardship in his native Sierra Leone, the war-ravaged, diamond-rich yet impoverished nation on the southwest coast of West Africa. A few years later, after graduating from high school, he found himself jobless and unable to afford college, and he sank into a depression that bordered on suicidal.

But he rallied, began searching for funds to continue his schooling, finally receiving a scholarship from the European Economic Community. At 21, he entered Milton Margai Teachers College in Freetown, his hometown and the capital of Sierra Leone.

Meanwhile, carrying his paintings in a homemade cloth portfolio, he went to galleries, restaurants and studios to sell a few and gain some local fame. He also earned his teaching certificate and started teaching art in secondary schools in Freetown.

But a brutal civil war exploded in March of 1991. When a friend who had been on the front line described to him the daily atrocities, it so unnerved Garrick that he decided to join his older sister, who had moved to New Brunswick, New Jersey.

In September of 1991, he fled the savagery in his homeland and made the 4,400-mile journey to the U.S. Here,

he worked odd jobs while looking for scholarships to slake his thirst for education.

Eventually, he found funding, and earned an associate degree in Media Arts from Middlesex County College, a Bachelor of Fine Arts/Graphic Design from Montclair State University, and a Master of Fine Arts from Rutgers University.

Now he's pursuing an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership at Wilmington University. When Garrick receives his doctorate, it will mark the latest in a series of stepping stones that have led him, despite monumental obstacles, to a life as a respected educator, successful artist, husband, and father. He and his wife, Wanona, have three children in college: a son who is pursuing a master's degree in music management, and two daughters, both majoring in the sciences.

Garrick teaches graphic design at Williamstown High School in New Jersey, and has been a visiting professor at DeVry University in Cherry Hill as well as an adjunct at both Rutgers and Middlesex County College.

His art has received wide acclaim. He has exhibited in museums and galleries, including the Hunterdon Art Museum in Clinton, New Jersey, the African American Heritage Museum in Hammond, Louisiana, and the PPOW Gallery in New York City. He works in all mediums, but mostly oils and ball point pen. The latter are portraits of iconic African-Americans, including Martin Luther King Jr., Harriet Tubman, Nelson Mandela and Barack Obama.

Garrick has collected many awards, including the Gloucester County NAACP Game Changer Award for Education. He received a Sierra Leone @50 Culture Award during the nation's 50-year celebration of independence. Garrick earned a Legends Award from the Sierra Leone Association of Artists & Musicians.

The civil war Garrick left behind was never far from his mind. And in 2000, the savagery reached across the miles and touched him more personally than ever when he received a phone call telling him that his brother, Sydney — six years older — had been captured and killed in the conflict.

Garrick was in grad school at Rutgers at the time, and news of his brother's death, he says, was particularly "painful, very hard." When he met with his academic committee after the devastating phone call, they discussed how he could deal with the inhumanity of the war. The obvious answer: through his art.

"I wanted to recount my experiences, the brutality of war, the sadistic nature of it, through the didactic nature of the brush strokes," Garrick says. "When I met with my committee, [I decided that] red was symbolic of blood for me, and greens and browns were earth colors for me."

On canvases thick with layers of paint, he used these bold colors to create art that portrayed the war more powerfully than any photograph. His work was not only didactic — instructive, educational — in some cases, it shocked viewers, or brought



Richmond Garrick

tears to their eyes. One painting, titled “Blood Diamond, Peering into the Future,” portrays a boy whose right arm ends at the elbow in a bloody stump.

“The curator in a museum that I exhibited refused to show this painting because she felt it was too strong,” says Garrick.

He defends “Blood Diamond,” saying it “does not provide escapism or fantasy, but examines human rights, ethics, and confronts the viewer face-to-face with such issues.”

While gaining some fame for his art, Garrick also wanted to enhance his credentials as an educator. “My wife had been pushing me to get my Ed.D. for the last two years,” he says. “She has been instrumental in my education. Everything I have accomplished I owe to her.”

He enrolled in WilmU’s Educational Leadership program in 2018. “Some of my colleagues had received their master’s from Wilmington, and

they recommended this institution highly,” he says. “They told me most of the instructors were either teachers or principals and have long-term experience in education. Based on their recommendations, I decided to come to WilmU, which welcomed him. “I was delighted to have a gifted artist in our classes,” says Dr. Joseph Crossen, chair of the Educational Leadership program. “He reminds us — and demonstrates — that the arts are important for leaders as they try to build rich and fulfilling cultures in their schools.”

Garrick travels from his home in Willingboro to Wilmington one day a week for classroom work. The rest of his studies are online.

“It’s quite an amazing program,” Garrick says. “It gives you very good groundwork, and [in his cohort] we have a lot of professionals in the field of education who are starting to become leaders, and all of us individually are bringing various experiences from our

education and personal lives.”

He cites, in particular, classes taught by Adjunct Professor Dr. T. J. Vari, whom he calls “motivational and collaborative.”

Dr. Vari, who has Garrick in two of his courses, says: “Richmond adds value to every discussion with an often unique perspective on the topics we cover. It’s clear that he challenges the status quo, as many artists do. He prompts others to think deeply about an issue, without passing judgment or staking a claim.”

After Garrick receives his doctorate, he hopes to teach art full-time on the college level while continuing to use his art to address humanitarian issues around the world.

“I want my paintings to have a dialogue with viewers,” he says. “I want people to be sensitive to what is going on in the world. If there is terrorism going on in the world, it affects all of us.” **WU** —*Bob Yearick*



WINTER WONDERLAND

With a wave of her hand, Elsa of Arendelle created ice crystals and ice castles that climbed the walls of the Delaware Children’s Theatre during its recent production of “Frozen Jr.” She had a little help from two Wilmington University College of Technology students, who harnessed technology and timing to give Elsa her powers.

As part of a Fall 2019 Visual Effects course, students **STEVEN QUIGLEY** and **WILLIAM JAMISON**

utilized image rendering, computer networking, and projection mapping techniques to frost the stage in a virtual winter and thrill the audience with an immersive environment.

“It was a lot different than our typical class projects,” says Assistant Professor Scott Shaw, who chairs WilmU’s Video and Motion Graphics program. “We were breaking the mold of what we’ve done in the past, because this time we were doing it for a live production.”

The opportunity arrived through Adjunct Professor Kenn Koubek, a 2004 graduate of the College of Technology, whose local video production company has worked on previous Delaware Children’s Theatre shows. He and Shaw supervised the students’ work as their Introduction to Compositing for Visual Effects class (VFX 200) turned the proposal into reality. Quigley and Jamison even got to visit the theater’s Wilmington playhouse to set up, test, and



WILMU STUDENTS BRING THE ICE TO DELAWARE CHILDREN'S THEATRE'S 'FROZEN JR.'

troubleshoot the computers and projectors that would enable Elsa to control ice and snow.

"We did this in about two weeks, which is not easy, and not quite enough time, especially when we were meeting once a week," says Shaw. "It was essentially two classes. But the students were able to see what it takes to do the job in a high-pressure situation. This gave them a chance to see a real-world work project."

"Frozen Jr." sold out every

performance during its Nov. 16 to Dec. 15 run. On opening night, Shaw texted Koubek, who was one of the show's musicians, to ask if everything had gone according to plan. "Kenn said he thought the coolest thing was watching all the little hands in the audience pointing to the ice when it started going," says Shaw.

He sees Quigley and Jamison's work — and other community partnership projects like it — as a unique and valuable prospect for

WilmU's College of Technology students.

"There are a lot of opportunities for students to show what they're capable of doing, and a lot of opportunity for us to dovetail it into cooperative education," says Shaw. "Everybody's in need of technology. And the amazing thing is, our students can actually step in and do these jobs, right now, in a way that a nursing student or an education student can't just yet step into the roles they're training for." **WU** —David Bernard



Liberia's President George Weah visited Sigrid Marfo and other health care providers who participated in the Operation International Medical Mission.



DNP CANDIDATE HELPS PATIENTS AT LIBERIA CLINIC

SIGRID MARFO, a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) candidate, is already a successful, certified registered nurse-anesthetist who shared her skills helping patients in a clinic in Liberia — and also met the president of the West Africa nation.

“She is interested in improving health outcomes across the continuum and taking her skills to the next level, particularly in Epidemiology and Population Health,” says Dr. Aaron Sebach, chair of Wilmington University’s DNP program. “Her work in Liberia allowed her to put the concepts she learned in class into practice.”

Marfo worked with volunteer doctors and nurses to treat patients who required surgery and was the sole anesthesia provider in the clinic.

While in Liberia, she met President George Weah, who visited Marfo and other health care providers who participated in the Operation International Medical Mission.

The College of Health Professions also organizes medical trips to the Dominican Republic and Kenya each year to help people who don’t have ready access to care.

“We now have a doctoral nursing student from Kenya who met our faculty and students when they were there and became interested in our program,” says Dr. Sebach. **WU**

—Eileen Dallabrida



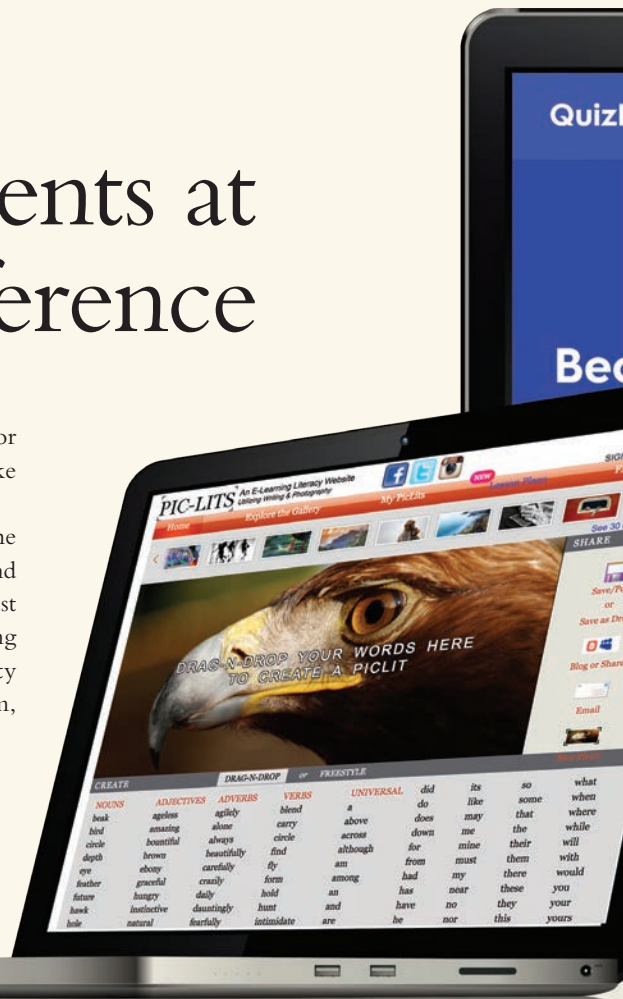
CAS Professor Presents at International Conference

Technology is always evolving and every day sees the release of new websites, apps and tools, many of which are not reliable.

The same is true in the field of English Language Learning. Many

resources for English as a second or foreign language (ESL/EFL) make promises that don't deliver.

For ESL/EFL instructors, the constant change in technology and resources combined with the vast range of quality, means spending hours searching for free, high-quality resources to use in the classroom,



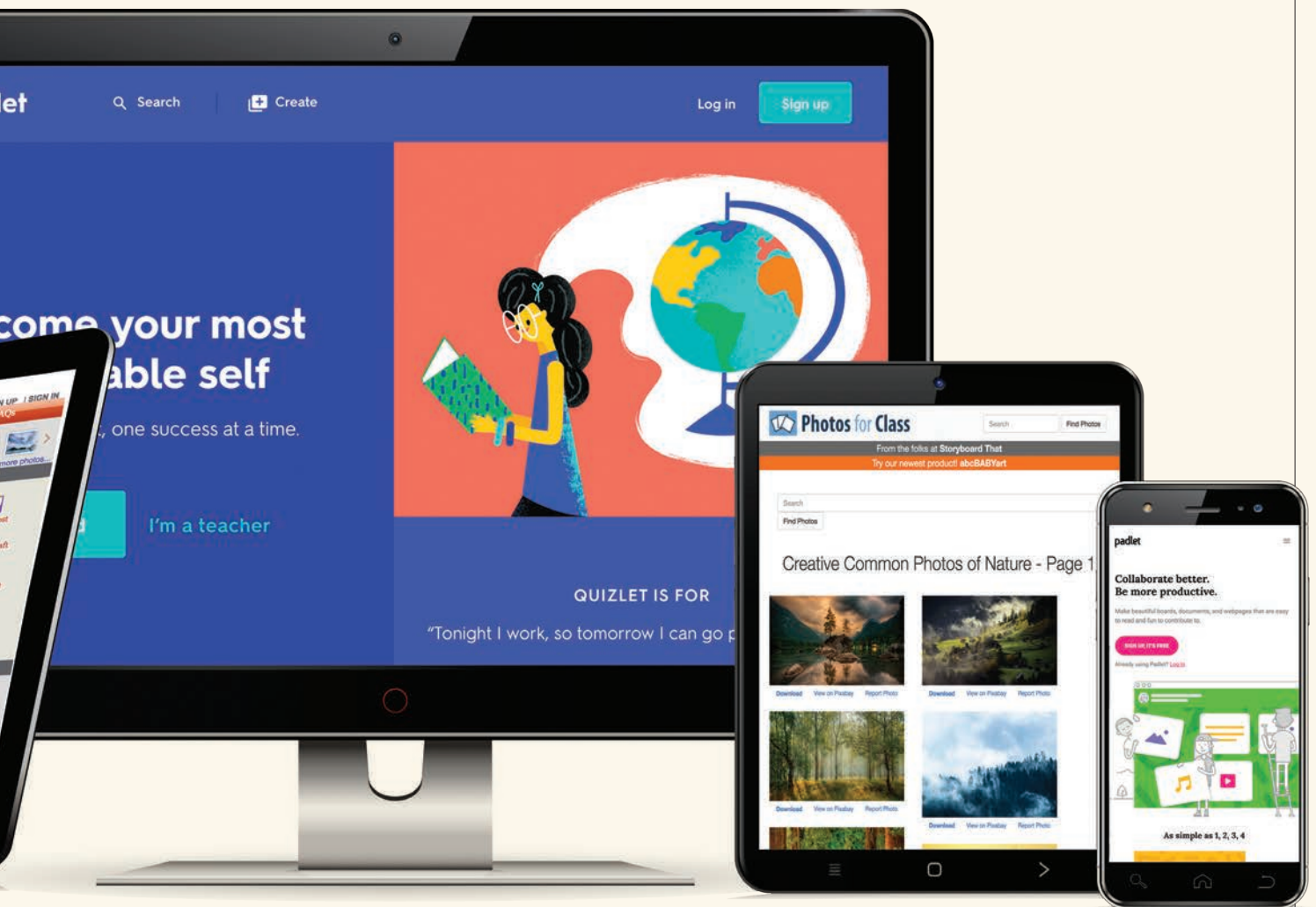
Dr. Matt Wilson

PAUL PATTON

whether face-to-face or online.

In October, **DR. MATT WILSON**, College of Arts & Sciences associate professor and chair of First Year Experience (FYE), English as a Second Language (ESL) and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), presented at the 16th annual ANUPI-COPEI 2018 International Conference in Huatulco, Oaxaca, Mexico, to discuss this very challenge.

His presentation, *High Tech, Not High Cost: Free Resources for the ESL Classroom*, was presented to a standing-room-only audience. Wilson shared resources included in the curriculum of WilmU's TESOL course TEL 7330: Technology & Language Learning.



Quizlet, Pic-Lits, Photos for Class, and Padlet: Tools that demonstrate a specific skill within language learning education (listening, speaking, reading and writing).

The presentation identified excellent English language resources that can be accessed using only an internet connection and basic computing equipment, featuring four specific tools: Quizlet, Pic-Lits, Photos for Class, and Padlet. Each tool demonstrated a specific skill within language learning education (listening, speaking, reading and writing), as well as provided attendees with suggested activities

and plans for using the tools.

“It was important to demonstrate not only how the tool works but also how to use the free resources as inspiration to develop materials for a classroom that does not have technology access,” Dr. Wilson says. “The presentation showcased relevant and cutting-edge curriculum, but also how technology can be used in any setting.”

The presentation highlighted the conference’s theme of “Internationalization and Digital Learning: Perspectives and Challenges in ELT” well. Representing Wilmington University, Dr. Wilson presented alongside representatives of institutions from Australia, Mexico, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States. [WU](#)

—Eileen Dallabrida

A New Dream for this Retired Pitcher

Growing up, **SAM KMIEC** nurtured a dream not uncommon to boys throughout America: to play Major League Baseball. But unlike most aspiring big leaguers, young Sam showed the potential to actually make that dream come true.

Encouraged and tutored by his father, Kmiec (pronounced “Ka-metch”) became a shutdown left-handed pitcher. With a fastball in the mid-80s and an excellent curve, he made All-State in both his junior and senior years of high school in West Virginia, then went on to pitch in college. After a red-shirt freshman year at Wake Forest University, he transferred to Winthrop University, in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

In 2016, despite a senior season as Winthrop’s top pitcher, he was passed over in the baseball draft. But the morning after the draft ended, the St. Louis Cardinals called, offering to sign him as a free agent. Excited, Kmiec quickly accepted, and in late June, the Cardinals flew him to their training site in Jupiter, Florida. There, he hoped, his journey to the Major Leagues would begin.

But first he had to pass a physical. “We got our lockers, and then they took all the pitchers to get MRIs on their arms,” he says. Afterward, he and the other players spent the night in a hotel. As he tried to sleep, Kmiec remembers being mildly worried because he had experienced some arm problems during his senior season, but he

had pitched through them.

“In the morning we all went back to the locker room,” he says. “We’re waiting around to sign our contracts, and then they pulled me out, took me aside and told me the MRI showed my elbow was torn and I needed Tommy John surgery and they couldn’t sign me.”

The surgery, named after the pitcher who first underwent the operation and formally known as ulnar collateral ligament (UCL) reconstruction, is a procedure to repair a torn ulnar collateral ligament inside the elbow. Recovery takes nine months to a year. The Cardinals weren’t willing to make that investment in Kmiec, who was an undrafted free agent, not a top prospect.

“Totally understandable,” Kmiec says of the decision. “No ill will towards them.”

But it was devastating, his dream of a big league career gone, snatched from him in the space of less than 36 hours. By the next afternoon, he was flying home to his parents’ house in Middletown, Delaware. There, he sat on the couch and contemplated his future.

He had no Plan B. “I did OK in school,” he says, “but I was always pretty much focused on baseball my whole life.” Fighting off depression, he soldiered through the summer, but says, “I couldn’t watch baseball the rest of that season.”

He had a girlfriend in Charlotte, so he moved there and worked at a sales job for about a year, but the relationship ended, and the job

proved to Kmiec that he was not cut out for sales.

He moved back in with his parents in the summer of 2017 to, as he says, “reset, get a breather and figure out what I was going to do now that baseball was over.”

He had a degree from Winthrop in Mass Communications with a focus on Broadcast Journalism, and he had made what he calls “cool stuff while I had the camera in my hand” at Winthrop. He enjoyed the creative process.

It was serendipitous, then, when his mother introduced him to Scott Shaw, chair of Game Design and Development and Video and Film Production in Wilmington University’s College of Technology. Jennifer Kmiec knew Shaw through her work as executive director of The Committee of 100, a non-partisan, nonprofit association of Delaware business leaders that promotes responsible economic development and Delaware’s economic health.

Shaw showed Kmiec around campus and told him about WilmU’s video and film program. Kmiec was immediately intrigued. “I’ve always had this creative hunger and I wanted to make art,” he says, “but I never really had the tools to do it because I was so focused on baseball. After Scott told me about the program, and without doing really much more research, I decided this is what I wanted to do, and I hit the gas pedal.”

That was in the fall of 2017, and it’s been full speed ahead ever since. Working with Timothy Day



Sam Kmiec

of the Video and Film Production program while pursuing his second bachelor's degree, Kmiec soon found many opportunities to use his growing skill set.

Day was immediately impressed with his new student. "I first had Sam in a 100 level Video and Film Production course (VFP100 Camera and Cinematography)," he says, "and I quickly realized he was extremely motivated and hard-working, always asked good questions, and put a lot of effort into every assignment."

Under Day's guidance, Kmiec went to work in WilmU's Freelance for Media Co-Op. There he developed professional projects for external groups like U.S. Sen. Chris Coons' office, Christiana Care, Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children, the New Castle County

Police Department, the YWCA and many more.

"Sam joined the crew ready to learn and soon became one of the leaders of the group," says Day.

Kmiec then interned for about a year with NCCTV, New Castle County's public access channel, getting valuable on-the-job training by doing event videos and what he calls "mini-documentaries." That led to a part-time job with NCCTV, and then, last December, he landed a full-time gig as a video producer with Delaware's Government Information Center.

The job, which involves creating videos for all state departments, has clearly energized him. "It's great to have a lot of creative freedom and drive projects from concept to finished product," he says.

"They want to do storytelling and cinematic things."

As for his former dream, he says, "I've played a couple of games in an adult league here and there, but my passion for baseball has been replaced at this point with the passion for creating art through visual storytelling. I view myself as an artist who is trying to hone his craft, but is still in the early stages of developing his voice in the creative world."

Kmiec was on track to walk the stage at May's commencement, and Day says he definitely will be in attendance. "I've seen Sam grow both professionally and technically in his video productions, and I couldn't be more excited to see what he works on in the future." **WU**

—Bob Yearick



PhD • DNP • M

FNP-B • NP

AGA

CRM

Dr. Aaron Sebach

A supportive partner, a color-coded calendar, and a flexible schedule allow Dr. Aaron Sebach to put as much passion into his practice as his teaching. And WilmU's nursing practitioner students reap the rewards.

MORE THAN A TITLE — OR TITLES



Dr. Aaron Sebach is chair of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program (DNP) for Wilmington University's College of Health Professions. And these are the credentials that follow his name: *PhD, DNP, MBA, FNP-BC, NP-C, AGACNP-BC, CRNP, RN, CEN, CPEN, CDME, FHM.*

A layperson wouldn't understand the significance of these "letters," but Dr. Denise Wells, dean of WilmU's College of Health Professions, does.

“Aaron’s impressive list of post-nominal credentials indicates his investment in professional and practice excellence,” she says. “Earning terminal degrees and national certifications formally recognizes his specialty knowledge, skills and experience.”

Dr. Sebach is compassionate and steadfast in his pledge to protect human welfare. “These credentials represent my commitment to the profession and ensure that I am best prepared for my career,” he says.

Prepared he is, both at WilmU and at Peninsula Regional Medical Center in Salisbury, Maryland, where he maintains a practice as an acute care and family nurse practitioner working within the hospital’s adult inpatient medicine service.

His husband, Dr. Charles Dolan, is his best friend; his color-coded calendar is arguably his second. It helps him balance demanding professional responsibilities with a robust personal life. And while the couple has traveled the world, they have embraced their most inspiring journey yet.

A Teacher

Dr. Sebach’s *first* doctorate, a DNP in Leadership and Administration from Salisbury University, was for his patients. His second, a Ph.D. in Nursing Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, was for his students. Both terminal degrees —

not to mention his bachelors, master’s, three post-master’s certificates, and MBA in Healthcare Administration — have fortified his career in several areas, including hospital medicine, perioperative medicine, primary care, and many others.

The College of Health Professions’ accrediting body, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), requires academic nurse practitioners to practice outside the University actively. Doing so aligns with WilmU’s mission to improve students’ competitiveness in the flourishing job market. Nursing is a growing field, which means that nursing students need an edge.

“Our dean allows for practice time each week to maintain the relevancy of our practice and to translate that knowledge to our students,” says Dr. Sebach, also a nationally board-certified family nurse practitioner and adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner “It speaks to our scholar-practitioner model here at the University as we’re actively working in the fields for which we prepare our students.”

In addition to chairing the DNP program, Dr. Sebach’s teaching responsibilities also involve clinical site visits for nurse practitioner (NP) students. He evaluates NP students in clinical settings that the college arranges. Further boosting his classroom effectiveness,

Dr. Sebach has published and presented nationally on a variety of preoperative medicine topics. His list of publications, international and national presentations, and fellowships is voluminous.

“I find that our students are well-prepared and are really leading health care,” says Dr. Sebach. He primarily visits the Southern Delaware region, which fills a tremendous need for primary care providers. “It’s a dire need,” he adds. “A lot of physicians are not going into primary care as a specialty — other specialties pay more. That’s where NPs can fill that void and provide much-needed care to patients in rural communities such as Southern Delaware.”

A Calling

A native and current resident of Salisbury, Dr. Sebach was born in the same hospital where he practices. “It’s been full-circle for my career,” he says.

He knew at James M. Bennett High School that he wanted to do something in health care and his parents encouraged him to become a pharmacist. It would’ve been a great career, he says, but when he enrolled in a two-year health occupations program at nearby Parkside High School’s Career and Technology Center and did a dual enrollment in academics and health care, he realized that pharmacology was not his calling.

12% of registered nurses are now men, which is up from 2.7 percent in 1970. Regardless of gender, statistics project that nursing will add more than **735,000** jobs by 2024, becoming the third largest job growth of any industry.





COURTESY OF DR. AARON SEBACH

Dr. Aaron Sebach and husband, Dr. Charles Dolan, on one of their many outings

He completed the required clinical experiences and earned his nursing assistant license.

“I appreciated the human touch and the ability to speak to patients and really get to know them,” says Dr. Sebach. He changed course and headed to nursing school, earning both a BSN and MSN at Salisbury University. “It’s been one of the best decisions I’ve ever made.”

Not a lot of high school kids know definitively what field they want to pursue, but for Dr. Sebach, health care was in his blood. His aunt was a nurse leader — also at Peninsula — and he’d often go to work with her. There, the nursing units, monitor beeps, conversations between doctors, nurses and patients — the cacophony of a healing environment fueled his interest.

Dr. Sebach’s parents had a few reservations, mostly because there

weren’t many men in nursing, and pharmacists made more money. That was true then, but things have changed. Salary-wise, pharmacists and NPs are probably on par at this point, says Dr. Sebach. Sans the stereotyping, men realize that nursing is a rewarding profession with high growth potential. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, they’re right. Twelve percent of registered nurses are now men, which is up from 2.7 percent in 1970. Regardless of gender, statistics project that nursing will add more than 735,000 jobs by 2024, becoming the third largest job growth of any industry.

A Family

Dr. Sebach met his husband, Dr. Charles Dolan, in 2012, when both worked at a commercial ambulance service in Maryland. Dr. Sebach was

the director of nursing, while Dr. Dolan led operations.

They planned to marry anyway but made it official in January to formally adopt a child. (The adoption process had been in the works for some time. The marriage certificate sealed the deal.)

“We did things backward: house, child, marriage,” says Dr. Sebach. Both were in health care and shared a passion for providing care. They wanted to have a family and build a legacy. Surrogacy and private adoptions were options, but the couple chose the local Social Services department’s foster-to-adopt program. The experience was eye-opening.

“There are so many children who’ve had terrible things happen to them,” says Dr. Sebach. “So many that need a loving family.”

The adoption process began in May of 2018 when the couple received

an email requesting respite placement (temporary care) for Tony, an 11-year-old boy who was the oldest of five siblings. Their mother had physically and emotionally abused all of them.

“Tony had been parentified to take care of his siblings since his mother did not,” says Dr. Sebach, “So we started to do weekend respites just to give him a break and help him feel like a kid.”

Like many adopters, the couple initially hoped for a baby or toddler under 5, but they felt a connection to Tony. By December of 2018, Tony had been making regular weekend visits to their home. Social Services determined that it was no longer possible for him to return to his natural family since Tony’s mother had been convicted of child abuse, then incarcerated.

A year later, in July, Tony was placed with Drs. Sebach and Dolan full-time and adopted officially on March 12, 2020. His siblings found homes as well: the two sisters in one adoptive home; the two brothers each have new families.

“They all live local to us,” says Dr. Sebach, “so the children see each other a few times a month. All the adoptive families have committed to the children staying connected. That was the goal.”

It’s been an exciting time, says Dr. Sebach. “Certainly a lot of changes. I have been most appreciative of the flexibility the University offers to have the time to make sure all of Tony’s needs are met.”

A Global View

The travel bug bit when Dr. Sebach’s friend, an emergency and part-time cruise ship nurse, told him about Holland America Line. “Charles and I booked a cruise to the Caribbean one Easter and really enjoyed that.” They’ve voyaged to Hong Kong, Spain, Greece, Alaska, and this summer, from Rome to Copenhagen.

Now, the family of three will sail the high seas together, since Tony’s official adoption allows him to travel internationally. He’s already taken a few trips with his new parents, including a weeklong escape to San Diego for Christmas.

Travel has been an academic pursuit as well for Dr. Sebach. He studied abroad in Tanzania while earning his bachelor’s and taught there about HIV and AIDS. For his master’s, he visited China to learn about traditional Chinese medicine, which, he says, “is an augment to Western medicine.”

Salisbury didn’t require studying abroad; Dr. Sebach wanted to explore a universal view of health care. “Both trips inspired my practice in different ways,” he says. “The trip to Tanzania taught me that you can provide a lot of care with limited resources, and how to best provide care to rural populations.”

In China, he learned to focus on the whole patient, not just to prescribe medications. “I think that’s one thing that distinguishes NPs from

physicians. We are good at being our patients’ advocates and really understanding their needs from a holistic perspective.”

In several states, including Delaware and Maryland, NPs have independent practice authority and are hanging their own shingles for primary care and specialty offices. Data that NPs have provided over time show that outcomes are identical to physicians in terms of managing and diagnosing chronic and acute conditions.

The American Association of Nurse Practitioners reports that in the past two years, “the numbers of NPs have doubled, and today, more than 270,000 practice across the U.S.” The increase can be attributed to the confidence patients and health care systems place in NP-provided care.

In 2018, more than 87 percent of NPs were prepared in primary care programs, while 8 percent of physicians entered a primary care residency. Patients elected to see an NP for their care in more than 1 billion visits.

A Competitive Advantage

WilmU’s DNP program, which was reaccredited last month by CCNE and is offered in two formats, online and in a weekend intensive format at Jack P. Varsalona Hall at Wilmington University Brandywine, provides advanced practice nurses and nurse leaders with integrated clinical and

*The family of three will sail the high seas together, since **Tony’s official adoption** allows him to travel internationally. He’s already taken a few trips with his new parents, including a weeklong escape to San Diego for Christmas.*



COURTESY OF LIFE TOUCH, USED BY PERMISSION



COURTESY OF DR. AARON SEBACH

Dr. Sebach travels by plane, train, automobile — and camel.

leadership skills. It also encourages them to go way beyond the data.

“It’s about taking a step back, examining the available evidence, and translating that knowledge to practice,” says Dr. Sebach. “DNP-prepared nurses decrease the knowledge-practice gap. They are experts in leading practice changes across the continuum of care for patients, families, health care providers and health systems.”

For advanced practice nurses and nurse leaders who have a passion for providing high-quality care and improving health outcomes, says Dr. Sebach, “they should pursue a DNP degree. They should proceed with that goal and not let their gender be a barrier for them.”

It certainly hasn’t for Dr. Sebach or many of his colleagues. “If you look at men in nursing,” he says, “they seem to excel in their careers

and often move into management positions or advanced practice roles like NPs or nurse anesthetists.”

Future advanced practice nurses and nurse leaders need strong role models and mentors, Dr. Sebach says. The health care field is wide open. America is aging, and the older we get, the more nurses we’ll need. **WU**

To learn more about the WilmU’s DNP program, visit wilmu.edu/health.



Educating *the*

| BY DAVID BERNARD | PHOTOS BY PAUL PATTON |



Educators

WilmU's Center for Teaching Excellence is building a better classroom, starting at the front.



From left: Dr. Terri G. Trent, Tara Fridley, Dr. Nancy Doody, Dr. C. Joshua Simpson, Taquana Woodards, Dr. Adrienne Bey, Patti Winter

Teachers have to learn how to teach.

If they want to be effective teachers, if they want to have a positive impact on their students, it would seem necessary that they spend some time studying how education works before they set foot in a classroom.

This doesn't always happen, though, especially at the college level.

“Most of the people who join our faculty are not prepared to be educators — and we recognize this as a strength,” says Assistant Professor Dr. C. Joshua Simpson. “They’re great nurses, police officers, and cyber security technicians. Our students will absolutely benefit from their knowledge and experience. But they’ve never taught a class, graded an exam, or kept students engaged.”

As the faculty development manager for Wilmington University’s Center for Teaching Excellence, Dr. Simpson helps to hire and train these industry experts into classroom-ready instructors. He and his colleagues provide workshops, mentoring, feedback, and other professional

resources to equip WilmU’s newest faculty members with the skills they’ll need to succeed as educators. But that’s not their only audience. The CTE was created to serve WilmU’s academics at any stage of their careers.

“We’re here for all of our faculty, our adjuncts and our full-timers, with a variety of training opportunities so they can be more effective in the classroom,” says Dr. Adrienne Bey, the CTE’s director since 2018. “It’s an on-the-job training program for educators,” she says, but in the long view, it’s much more. “We help faculty help students achieve their goals.”

“With the Center for Teaching Excellence, I was able to self-evaluate. I’m able to look at my current teaching methods and see ways for improving those in the classroom. Being a technology guy, I never really learned how to be a teacher. But being able to network and learn from others’ experiences helped me tremendously.”

—Dr. Michael Blair
Adjunct, College of Technology

While the concept of higher education is thousands of years old, faculty development is a relatively new idea.

Members of Wilmington University’s Office of Academic Affairs began hearing other colleges’ proposals for in-house continuing education efforts at the professional conferences they’d attended in the 2000s. Following a recommendation from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, which accredits Wilmington University’s academic programs, the office launched the Center for Teaching Excellence toward the end of the decade.

“The center was formed in part because we have such a large adjunct faculty,” says Dr. Nancy Doody, its associate director. “It’s intended to help us stay in touch with them, make them part of the community, integrate them into the University and who we are.”

“Who we are” is rather important, and a career-focused university sees great importance in keeping its real-world experienced instructors sharp. “We needed a way to develop our faculty in line with our unique mission,” says Dr. Bey. “The center offers them the opportunity to take their expertise and translate it into teaching.”

“I have just grown so much, in leaps and bounds, at my understanding of adult learning and how I can apply it to what I’m currently teaching.”

—Mariann Sennstrom
Adjunct, College of Education

From their offices on the second floor of the Peoples Building at the New Castle campus, the center’s staff organizes Faculty Development Day, a twice-annual event each fall and spring semester at which WilmU educators can learn about and discuss best practices and current trends while networking with their teaching peers.

In addition, the CTE distributes, reviews, and communicates the results of the university’s Course and Teaching Survey, the questionnaire through which students provide feedback on their learning experience — and a user’s eye view of faculty effectiveness — at the end of each term.



Dr. C. Joshua Simpson

But they're also open for business in between those initiatives, offering personalized workshops, classroom observations, and one-on-one coaching sessions. They're teaching teachers about grading students' work and measuring their progress, problem solving and decision making, team building and diversity. They're spreading the word about teaching strategies, student interaction, and classroom effectiveness.

"Our faculty development training is built on a curriculum that we developed in collaboration with WilmU's Office of Educational Technology and Online Learning and our library," says Dr. Bey.

The curriculum, called Pathways to Instructional Excellence, guides WilmU instructors from the basic understanding of technology and instructional strategies to a mastery of these subjects, with the aim of broadening and strengthening their ability to communicate with, engage, and assess students.

Pathways to Instructional Excellence was recognized by two industry associations last year. In February, it won the Instructional Technology Council's Outstanding eLearning Support for Faculty Award, and in August the University Professional and Continuing Education Association selected it to receive its 2019 Mid-Atlantic

Region Faculty and Staff Development Award.

To the CTE's staff, however, the real honor has been the results, among WilmU's faculty and those they teach. "We provide our instructors with a home base for professional development in the classroom, and this in turn leads to academic success and the retention of students," says Dr. Doody.

"I've learned some blind spots that I didn't even know that I had, even after being an instructor for so long. The Center for Teaching Excellence is a win for everybody."

—Maureen Shockley

Adjunct, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

"If you're not familiar with Wilmington University, you might teach the way you were taught," says Dr. Simpson. "If you come to us with your pain points as a teacher, we'll provide guidance on how to teach the Wilmington University way — accessible, practical, learner-centered instruction — and how to deliver on those promises."

Maybe this is your first semester teaching at WilmU, after you've built a career in another field. Maybe you've

“

Wilmington University thinks very highly of its faculty. We make efforts to put the best faculty member possible in front of a class, so that when you invest in a WilmU education, you get a quality product.” —*Dr. Adrienne Bey*



*Dr. Adrienne Bey, foreground,
and Taquana Woodards*



Patti Winter (left) and Tara Fridley



been on the faculty for more than a decade, but you're not connecting with your students the way you used to. Maybe your program chair or dean referred you to the CTE. Maybe you've sought out professional development on your own. Maybe you're wondering how the latest technology can help you deliver your lessons. Maybe you're concerned about some comments that appeared on your last student surveys. Maybe you'd like to update your course curriculum or develop more relevant assignments. Maybe you're worried that you spend all your time grading. In any case, the Center for Teaching Excellence is here to help.

"Wilmington University thinks very highly of its faculty," says Dr. Bey. "We make efforts to put the best faculty member possible in front of a class, so that when you invest in a WilmU education, you get a quality product."

The Center for Teaching Excellence, she says, "is how we ensure that you get the best." **WU**





ONE SINGULAR SENSATION

A DUAL-CREDIT CERTIFICATE® CAN GO A LONG WAY. JUST ASK THIS
SINGER/DANCER/DIRECTOR/RECRUITER/SOCIAL ACTIVIST AND MENTOR.

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



When he first arrived in New York City on Aug. 1, 1989, Chris Davis admits, “I was as green as I could be.”

Having shaken the dust of his hometown, Lake Charles, Louisiana, Davis was a young man determined to become a professional dancer. While the odds against him were daunting, he did have a couple of things in his favor: singular talent as both a dancer and singer, and, thanks to finishing fourth in the Mr. Dance of America competition, a scholarship that provided a temporary home at the Marriott Marquis hotel.

What’s more, unlike many wide-eyed show biz wannabes arriving in the Big Apple, Davis had what he calls “a survival job right off the plane.” Through a Louisiana friend who worked at Taffy’s Inc., he landed a sales position at the dancewear store then located at 57th and Broadway. (Although his stint there was brief, he did put Kathleen Turner’s daughter into her first pair of ballet slippers. Davis calls the “Body Heat” actress “very imposing, but really cool.”)

His luck continued when, within two weeks, he scored his first audition — for a show on a Holland America cruise ship. It required dancing and singing, but Davis had no sheet music, not even a head shot — “that’s how green I was,” he says.

But he had done “A Chorus Line” in community theater back in Lake Charles, and he dazzled the audition audience with a couple of numbers from that musical. He got a callback, and then, to his amazement, was offered the job: an eight-month gig in the Caribbean.

With rehearsals starting two weeks later, he wangled a leave of absence from Taffy’s, found an inexpensive apartment through a friend, and, a few weeks after that, flew out of New York for Tampa, Florida, and the cruise ship.

“When we took off,” he remembers, “it was snowing — one of

the first snows I had seen as an adult.”

The flight from cold and snowy New York to sunny Florida could serve as a metaphor for a career that was about to get hot — a career that would eventually land him in Wilmington, where he has brought a touch of Broadway to a grateful arts community while finding time to earn a Dual-Certificate® in Nonprofit Management from Wilmington University.

AN ARTS INFLUENCE

Davis accumulated impressive credentials as a performer, with national and international tours in such musicals as “The Wiz,” “Ziegfeld: A Night at the Follies” and “Guys and Dolls,” as well as seven Broadway shows, including “Miss Saigon” and “Peter Pan” (with Cathy Rigby).

He also was chosen for a three-month stint in “A Christmas Carol” at Madison Square Garden, choreographed by Delaware’s own Tony Award-winning Susan Stroman. He added some TV work and appeared in three movies, including “Center Stage” in 2000. After a final national tour with Jimmy Buffet, he retired as a performer 17 years ago.

Since then Davis has been even busier, if that’s possible. He has retained a firm presence in the world of performing arts as a teacher, mentor, director and recruiter for arts organizations, while at the same time working with civil rights and social action groups, especially in the LGBT community.

For several years after retiring as a performer, his base of operations was the place he knew best and where the action was: New York City. He served nine years as managing producer for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. Founded in the late ’80s as the theater community’s response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the nonprofit raises funds for AIDS-related causes across the United States. He then

joined Step One International, an organization incorporated in 2015 that caters to dancers from Andorra and Spain. Davis opened and became director of operations for the New York branch, which offers customized workshops for these Spanish speakers as they arrive in the city.

Around this time, Wilmington — and, eventually, Wilmington University — entered the picture. He and his husband, Dennis Voorheis, whom he met while doing “West Side Story” in Switzerland, were invited to visit Wilmington by friends who also had a home in New York.

“We had a fun time and started thinking long-term and decided to look into Wilmington as an investment in our future,” Davis says. “Real estate is so expensive in New York, so Wilmington was obviously cheaper, and it’s close to Philadelphia, so there is access to high quality arts and culture, which is my personal focus.”

They got a real estate agent, started a search, “and a few months later, we had our home,” he says.

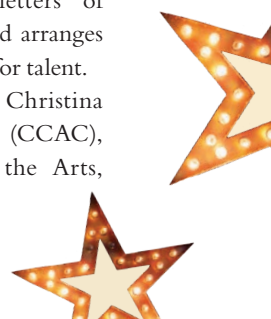
They bought their house in Brandywine Hundred 10 years ago as a second home while keeping an apartment in New York, which they now sublet, and moved here permanently in 2017.

“We have dear friends in Philly, so this works socially, and we’ve made some wonderful connections in Wilmington,” Davis says.

He found a job as a member services representative for AAA’s office in Newark, Delaware, meanwhile immediately immersing himself in the local arts community, which has welcomed him enthusiastically.

Through his company, The Performing Arts Experience LLC (PAE), he contracts top-notch teachers for performing arts institutions in the Delaware Valley. He vets talent, writes and implements letters of agreement and contracts, and arranges transportation and payment for talent.

PAE works with the Christina Cultural Arts Center (CCAC), Cab Calloway School of the Arts,





DAVIS “is extremely thoughtful, and his energy will make you want to try harder for yourself, your friends, and your community. His philanthropic heart bleeds for a better world.” —Bevin Hileman



Delaware Contemporary, and others. He serves on the Contemporary’s 40th Anniversary Committee and the board of the Bruce Montgomery Foundation for the Arts, based in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania. He also teaches at Wilmington Ballet.

“Chris is a fresh, much-welcome addition to the Wilmington arts circle,” says Michelle Kramer-Fitzgerald, owner of Arts in Media. “His energy is simply infectious. He brings us a wealth of ideas, talent and experience of his own, but he also has incredible relationships with national and international artists that he generously connects with our local

arts organizations.”

Kramer-Fitzgerald says that last year, Davis helped to bring Jeremy McQueen, artistic director of the Black Iris Project, to the CCAC for a contemporary ballet workshop for students.

“Chris even hosted his own workshop there last year on how to properly prepare for auditions,” she says. “He’s quite a gem for this community to treasure.”

Davis was introduced to Wilmington University three years ago at a charity event at Longwood Gardens, where he met Bevin Hileman, assistant to the vice president of Student Affairs and

Alumni Relations, coordinator of Special Projects and an adjunct instructor. She invited him and his husband to the Green and White Scholarship Ball in both 2018 and 2019. Through Hileman and others at the University, he learned about WilmU curricula that dovetailed with his career aspirations. Result: He was soon enrolled in WilmU’s Certificate in Nonprofit Management program.

The seven-week, 18-credit certification teaches concepts and methods, and lays the groundwork for the student to become an effective and creative leader of a nonprofit.

Hileman, who teaches the program’s Fundraising course, says of Davis, who has become a friend: “He is extremely thoughtful, and his energy will make you want to try harder for yourself, your friends, and your community. His philanthropic heart bleeds for a better world.”

A graduate of McNeese State University (Mass Communications) in his hometown and Cornell University’s Johnson Graduate School of Management, Davis has enjoyed his return to academia. “The University has been great,” he says, “especially the ability to study online, which has fit into my very busy schedule — full-time job, serving on two boards, bringing in teachers, going to the gym, teaching two classes a month at Wilmington Ballet.”

He received his certification in March, and he hopes to find a management position with a nonprofit “that engages people in terms of arts and culture.”

With an apartment and friends in New York, Davis continues to stay in touch with happenings there. But he and Voorheis have settled into a comfortable if sometimes frenetic suburban lifestyle. With frequent forays into the city (often Market Street’s Merchant Bar) and Greenville (Pizza by Elizabeths), the former song-and-dance man has become a true Wilmingtonian.

“I’m looking forward to my next chapter,” he says — “in this area.” **WU**



FROM STEM TO



Data is just data without insight, creativity and innovation. That's why bringing the arts into the STEM field is causing such a stir.

| BY JANICE COLVIN |





🗨️ Take any challenge as a creative opportunity.”

—Alexandra Watkins, writer

Creativity, innovation, curiosity, resilience.

Important skills in today’s world, especially if you’re a scientist, analyst, or a mathematician.

Because, while the last few years brought an emphasis on increased training in the STEM disciplines — Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics — something else has been moving forward: STEAM.

STEAM, which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics, is STEM with

the skills that the arts can offer: being able to take something tangible, like a set of data, or outcomes from an experiment, and moving beyond just that result into something new and innovative.

Employers have noted they need their employees to embody what is called the soft skills, the key skills of effective communication with work teams, clients, or the public, and to think critically, with innovation and creativity. A recent article in the London Evening Standard makes it clear that the skills for working in the

business world in 2020 include soft skills like adaptability, proactivity, resilience, curiosity and empathy.

“The missing ‘A’ in a STEM program is the arts,” says Dr. Danny Walker, chair of Philosophy and Arts in the College of Arts and Sciences. “The inclusion of the arts as an important component of students’ preparation for their careers has been driven by the growing realization that creativity has become an essential skill for facing the rapid changes in both the types and meaning of work in the 21st century.”

Walker notes that Sam Leed, senior vice president of WeWorks, said last year there is both “a science and an art in creativity.”

Fine arts courses, such as those offered in the drama department, are aimed at helping students develop skills in conceptualizing.



emphasis with a focus on creativity can be attributed to increasing obsolescence of process-driven jobs, repeatable tasks that can be increasingly performed more efficiently by automation and artificial intelligence. “The skills associated with artistic, expressive, imaginative thinking that are developed in fine arts courses can help equip students with the creativity needed to produce innovative solutions for future challenges in our rapidly changing world,” he says. “Degree programs that add STEAM to their STEM will better equip students to benefit from these changes.”

Indeed, the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) is streamlining physical processes in business and industry, but it can also be used in the data automation. Dr. John Sparco, director and chair of WilmU’s Business Analytics program, is co-chairing an ad hoc faculty committee formulating curricular goals around AI, which he says is connected to STEAM.

At Wilmington University, he continues, “fine arts courses, such as those offered in the Art and Drama departments, are aimed at helping students develop skills in conceptualizing and expressing creative designs across a range of subjects and situations.”

A McKinsey Global Institute study in 2017 found that the need for developing higher cognitive skills, including creativity, will rise to almost 20 percent in the next decade. Reports from the World Economic Forum and LinkedIn note that creativity has risen in importance to one of the top sought-after skills employers are now seeking.

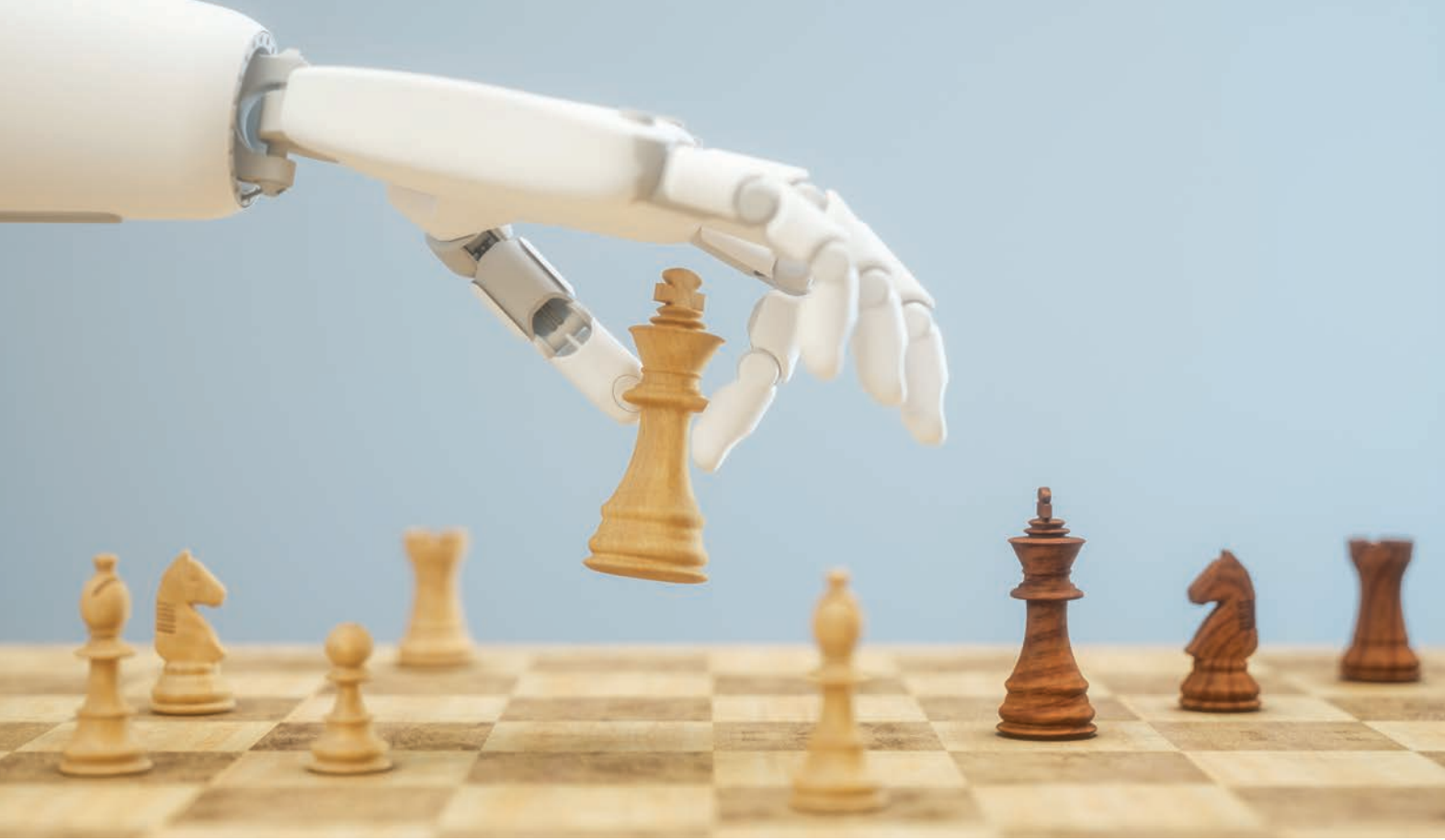
Walker says the change in

“**T**he missing ‘A’
in a STEM

program is the arts.

The inclusion of the arts as an important component of students’ preparation for their careers has been driven by the growing realization that creativity has become an essential skill for facing the rapid changes in the 21st century.” —Dr. Danny Walker





Sparco defines AI as something more than simple automation, which a company such as Amazon, for example, is using to great effect in their warehouses to speed product fulfillment.

He says you should think about automation like this: “I can program the lights to come on at 9 every morning and go off at 5 p.m. But if there are sensors in the room that can collect your pattern of arrival and departure, which may be different from your neighbor next door, the room is learning about when the occupants are there without me having to tell it what to do when. That’s the differentiation between artificial intelligence and automation.”

He adds, “artificial intelligence is more about computers sensing and iterating and figuring out things on their own.”

The part artificial intelligence does not do so well, at least right now, is critical thinking – creativity, being able to move beyond simple mechanics. Sparco mentions the defeat of a world champion chess

player by a supercomputer in the late 1990s. In a first match against the computer in 1996, Garry Kasparov defeated the computer, but in 1997, the computer, called Deep Blue, beat the champion.

“Chess is a very structured game, the board is well defined, pieces can only do certain things,” says Dr. Sparco. “And it took forever for a computer to actually beat a chess champion. But what they really found is, if you take that computer that can process literally millions of moves in a second and pair it with a human who has creativity, the results are much better than a human alone or a computer alone.”

Referring to his field of analytics, Dr. Sparco says that artificial intelligence can use raw data, something that our world now has plenty of, to make all sorts of decisions for us. And this is not necessarily a bad thing. “That frees up time for those other things we need to develop,” using what the computer can’t provide, which is innovation.

“STEM and STEAM are

tangentially related to the AI/analytics discussion,” he continues. “I think there’s an aspect of creativity. We’re talking about innovation and coming up with new things out of experiences and intuition.”

He mentions the accumulation of data in the retailing world, which is used most often today to predict the purchasing habits of the public as the foundation for marketing to them. These organizations are awash in data, he says. But without a thoughtful way to approach it, the results can and have backfired on companies.

“There was the incident with Target a few years ago where they could predict whether somebody was pregnant based on their purchases,” he says. “The company got a lot of blowback on that, from using the data in that way.”

In this case, The NYT reported in 2012 that data Target collected of purchases made by new parents had revealed something significant — buying habits changed markedly around the time a new baby was born. They also knew that with a new baby comes a public birth record,

and other retailers barrage the parents with advertisements for their own products. Based on this habit change, the Times reported that Target would then market to pregnant women before other retailers even knew of a new baby: an interesting data-based strategy to capture and keep customers, but not very popular with women who didn't want their status known.

Dr. Sparco notes that soft skills, one being empathy, perhaps could have helped those making that marketing decision determine a better way to reach their goal.

"When you start to talk about the arts, you understand cultures, you understand aesthetic, you understand a lot of different things, and it brings a different dimension to the way a quantitative thinker views the world," Dr. Sparco says. The ability to think critically is key.

STEM programs have been around quite a few years now, thanks to some federal and state initiatives designed to strengthen the country's foundation of workers trained in technical skills. Wilmington University's new Biology and Environmental Science and Public Policy degrees, or Business Analytics, among many other programs throughout the University, are there to help build that workforce.

"Science programming is a relatively new endeavor at Wilmington University," says Science Chair Dr. Milton Muldrow. "As such, it's important early on to establish the style and substance of information that should be conveyed to the student. By taking a more thorough examination of the place of arts in STEM, WilmU is taking that step."

"Creativity is an inherent aspect of science," he continues. "Our undergraduate research emphasis in both our Environmental Science and Biology programs emphasize this in particular, as designing a new experiment is both a technical skill, and can be a surprisingly elegant craft," he says. "I support WilmU's

efforts to emphasize the arts in its programming, and look forward to the outcome."

Dr. James Wilson, vice president of Academic Affairs, notes that for some time there seems to have been in general a deemphasis upon the liberal arts in higher education as budgets have become tighter. However, "the pendulum is starting to swing the other way," he says. "I hope the arts will continue to be more highly valued in educating the STEM workforce."

Also, AI and its relationship to STEM and STEAM has been a topic Dr. Wilson has discussed with the Faculty Senate.

"I've noticed more of a conversation going on about AI among the faculty, and people have commented from time to time about AI, just what they've read or

seen, and getting a dialogue going," Wilson adds. After all, he says, part of WilmU's mission states that "The University's programs prepare students to begin or continue their career, improve their competitiveness in the job market, and engage in lifelong learning."

The future is something the University is always moving toward, and as society and industry change, so, too, must the programs adapt.

"What are we going to be?" Dr. Wilson asks. We are clearly leaders in the region, in a number of fields, including criminal justice, education, computer science, and computer security. We certainly have the science, technology and math, and we have the arts down as well. So it's all coming together. We're open to what's happening in the marketplace for our students." **WU**



“Creativity is an inherent

aspect of science. Our undergraduate research

emphasis in both our Environmental Science and Biology programs emphasize this in particular. . . .

I support WilmU's efforts to emphasize the arts in its programming.” —Dr. Milton Muldrow

SPORTS

TWO-SPORT STANDOUT

Ask experts to rattle off the names of successful two-sport professional athletes and they will no doubt mention Bo Jackson and Deion Sanders (football and baseball), Danny Ainge (basketball and baseball), or, if they really know their history, the legendary Jim Thorpe, who dominated on the gridiron and also patrolled Major League outfields in the early 20th century.

Now, Wilmington University can lay claim to its own member of that exclusive club: **NICOLE BOWER**, the school's assistant bowling coach. Bower not only excels in that sport, she's also a professional sprint car driver.

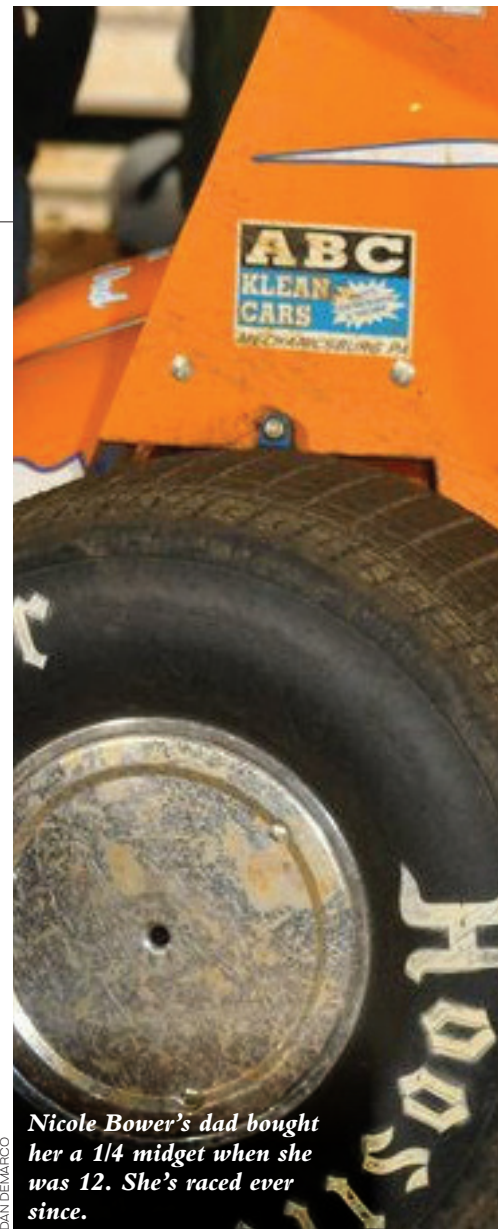
The native of Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, comes by her bowling skills naturally: Her family has owned three alleys in Central Pennsylvania for 50-plus years; her father, Gary, is a United States Bowling Congress Hall of Famer; her uncle, Darryl Bower, is in the Pennsylvania State Bowling

Association Hall of Fame; her younger sister, Brooke, won the Diamond Singles title at the 2015 USBC Women's Championships and is a regular on the professional circuit.

Says Nicole: "I've been bowling since I could walk."

Even her sprint car passion is related to the 10-pin sport, as she explains: "ABC West lanes, my family's center in Mechanicsburg, was located beside a dirt track and my father and the owner of the track used to work together for kids' nights and other events. We would attend the races frequently and I got the itch to start racing. My dad got me a 1/4 midget when I was 12 and I worked my way up from there."

Move up she did, from the quarter midget, with a Honda lawn mower engine, to 358- and 410-cubic-inch aluminum block engines, which can approach 900 horsepower. She's been driving those for the past 13 years with



DAN DELVARCO

Nicole Bower's dad bought her a 1/4 midget when she was 12. She's raced ever since.

WilmU's assistant bowling coach

NICOLE BOWER

is pumped to succeed in the two sports she loves.





notable success, including being the first female to win a sprint car race at Williams Grove Speedway in Mechanicsburg.

Using her favorite adjective, she says, “I’m *super* passionate about racing,” but adds that “it’s not a cheap sport.”

In fact, she calls it “a money pit,” with cars costing \$100,000 or more to build. First place pays \$3,000–\$5,000. “Otherwise,” she says, “you take home a couple of hundred dollars.”

Fortunately, she says, her

parents have been “super supportive” by sponsoring her. She admits, however, that her mother “loves the sport but doesn’t love that I do it.”

No wonder. Bower has slammed into a few walls on the track, suffering a couple of concussions. Seven years ago, she hit the wall going 130 mph. “After the car and I stopped flipping, I got out, took four steps and fell down,” she says. “Afterward, things hurt that had never hurt before.”

She’s become a bit more cautious since then. “When you’re

18, you think you’re invincible, but I’m not that young and dumb anymore.”

That same appellation might be applied to Bower the bowler. A standout kegler at Cedar Cliff High School in Camp Hill, where she also swam and played softball and basketball, she had no intention of going to college until she was contacted by Kim Kearney, then head coach at Delaware State University.

Bower knew Kearney from the women’s professional tour. “When



Nicole Bower has rolled eight perfect games.

MOTIV

my sister and I were young and my dad hosted women's professional events, Kim took us under her wing," says Bower. "She told me, 'if I ever coach in college, you're going to bowl for me.' So when she called, I went."

Bower says she loved Delaware State, making "many friends and getting a great education." She stayed on as an assistant coach for one year after getting a degree in Business Management in 2013. Two years later, she got an email from John York, who had just been hired to coach women's bowling, a new sport at WilmU.

York had coached at Cheyney University and the New Jersey Institute of Technology, and had been a personal coach for many high schoolers in New Jersey, so he had seen Bower in action and was impressed.

"He said he remembered me and asked if I would be interested in being his assistant," says Bower.

She immediately accepted, partially because WilmU is much closer to her Camp Hill home than Delaware State's Dover campus, but also because she was excited about being part of the inaugural season.

Bower says she and York faced quite a challenge in putting together that first team. "We had one bowler, one cheerleader, two softball players and a basketball player," she says.

Despite the cobbled-together lineup, the team had credibility, she says, thanks to York.

"John is so knowledgeable, and he got uniforms and made sure everyone had drilled balls. That first year we may not have hit the head

pin every time, but we looked like we belonged."

It's been a steady upward trajectory since then. During the past season (college bowling runs from October to March), the Wildcats for the first time were ranked in the top 25 (No. 24) among all D1, D2 and D3 schools. They also won their first tournament — the Virginia Union Invitational — defeating 10 other schools. At this writing, they had an outstanding 31-13 record, although they had not yet started play in the East Coast Conference. (The Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference, in which all other WilmU sports compete, does not have bowling.)

York gives his assistant much of the credit for the program's growing success. "I was looking for someone who could bridge the generational and gender gap between myself and the players," says the 60-year-old coach, "and also someone who could inspire them to expand their horizons far beyond what they initially thought they were capable of. Nicole sets the ideal example of this for the players, with her ability to compete, excel and win in two male-dominated sports. Just incredible."

York says Bower goes about her business "with a quiet, understated, yet firm approach, befitting her character. Her competitive nature fits perfectly in our program, and she is always there to reinforce that winning attitude to the team whenever it may start to waver. She has

the absolute respect of all the players, coaches and opponents."

Right now, Bower has no aspirations to become a head coach. For one thing, the time commitment is daunting. "John puts in so much time with recruiting, meetings and practices," she says.

And Bower has precious little free time. "Travel for bowling, between college and personal, probably fills about half of if not more of the year," she estimates, "and racing I do locally, but I race about 40–50 shows a year on the weekends, March through October." Oh, and she also manages the bar at one of her family's centers.

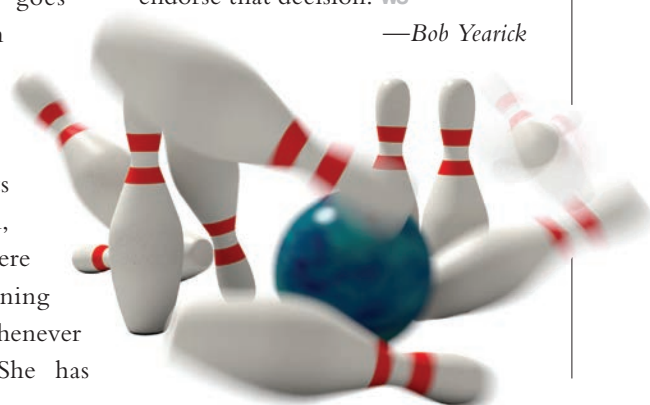
She is not officially on the professional women's tour, but she's been bowling in professional events for the past four years and has eight 300-games to her credit. "I'm super fortunate to have Motiv Bowling sponsor me," she says.

"I'd like to go full pro," she says, although she realizes that may mean walking away from racing — while she still can.

It would be a difficult decision. "I love (both sports) the same," she says, "but in bowling, I can pretty much support myself."

Her mother no doubt would endorse that decision. **WU**

—Bob Yearick



ALUMNI

DR. WALLENA GOULD: Bringing New Faces to Nurse Anesthesia

By David Bernard

WALLENA GOULD found her calling in a class assignment. While studying toward a master's degree in Nurse Anesthesia, she put together a poster presentation that demonstrated the lack of diversity in the field.

The findings were hardly surprising: she'd worked her way up from OR nurse to certified registered nurse anesthetist without meeting any other CRNAs of color. The fact that no one else was addressing the low rate of minority representation among nurses trained to administer anesthesia — her poster reported six percent nationwide — compelled her to take on the cause herself.

Her efforts to increase diversity in her chosen profession gained the attention of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists last year. Its annual Agatha Hodgins Award for Outstanding Accomplishment recognizes “individuals whose dedication to excellence has furthered the art and science of nurse anesthesia.”

To Dr. Gould, a 2013 graduate of Wilmington University's Ed.D. in Higher Education Leadership

program, it honors even more. “We're changing the face of anesthesia, and we're changing the culture,” she says. “It's a necessary change.”

Based in Mickleton, New Jersey, the Diversity in Nurse Anesthesia Mentorship Program that Dr. Gould founded in 2007 educates and empowers nursing students from underrepresented populations who have an interest in the clinical specialty.

Through college lectures, information sessions, hands-on practice workshops, and visits to high school career days, the program has mentored more than 400 minority nursing students and encouraged their entry into nurse anesthesia careers in healthcare and academia.

While the program originated in the Philadelphia area — to be specific, with word-of-mouth events held at Dr. Gould's house — solid attendance led to the reservation of classrooms at local universities. “To my surprise, it was no longer just Delaware, Philadelphia and Jersey,” she recalls. “It was New York, Washington, D.C. and Maryland, too. Then I knew I was onto something.” She now schedules events nationwide.

“Before all of this, there was no network where minority students could get primary information,” says Dr. Gould. “When I say we're changing the culture, I mean that there are people of color who came through our program, who are chief CRNAs and clinical coordinators, who can be role models to nursing students.”

That's an important development for the students, as well as the patients they may one day treat. “A healthcare workforce should reflect the community it serves,” she notes. “I'm not just talking about the language that patients speak, but also the culture they're coming from. There are many sensitivities surrounding healthcare treatment, and we should acknowledge that. A diverse workforce can bring that to the table.”

Dr. Gould's path to nurse anesthesia and mentorship is itself a case study in diversity. Thirty years ago, she earned a bachelor's degree in accounting. As a single mother on welfare, it secured her a job as an auditor for Ernst & Young in New York City. But her goal was a nursing career.

Working as a surgical nurse



Dr. Wallena Gould

introduced her to nurse-administered anesthesia, and she earned her master's degree in that field in 2004. The former chief nurse anesthetist and clinical coordinator for Vineland, New Jersey-based Inspira Health Network and the

Main Line Endoscopy Centers in the Philadelphia suburbs, Dr. Gould has also taught at the Rutgers University School of Nursing's Camden campus. And the assignment that led her to reach out to future nurses directly influenced her doctoral dissertation

on amending the lack of diversity among CRNAs.

"I'm blessed and I'm thrilled," she says, "that I've been able to fulfill the recommendations that I made in there." **WU**

FRANCA DEL SIGNORE: Between WilmU and the World

By David Bernard

Like most graduate students, **FRANCA DEL SIGNORE** occasionally wondered where she'd find the time to earn her degree. Unlike most graduate students, the career that competed for attention with her coursework involved living overseas for months at a time. Plus, she didn't much care for online learning.

And yet, somewhere between Delaware, Italy and South Africa, she was able to accomplish her educational goal. She even rearranged her schedule to attend WilmU's commencement ceremonies in January and receive her Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) degree.

"I was really surprised how accommodating Wilmington University was when I met with the program chair and the dean back at the beginning," says Dr. Del Signore. "I didn't expect them to say that they would work with me so much to accommodate my travels, and I was really happy, because I prefer face-to-face courses."

As the founder of Picture the World (picturetheworldunited.org), a humanitarian consulting firm, the Delaware native collaborates with nonprofit public health, business development, and environmental organizations in Rome and Cape Town. Since 2013, her group's efforts have improved the quality of life for underserved individuals and their communities, while building



Somewhere between **Delaware, Italy and South Africa**, Franca Del Signore was able to accomplish her educational goal.

efficiency and innovation at the aid organizations themselves.

"I started Picture the World to help people get jobs, to reach success, to gain autonomy," says Dr. Del Signore. "But it has the dual aims of empowering people and also those who help them."

She decided that adding the latest thinking in business to her wide-ranging credentials — she'd previously earned a bachelor's in Chemistry and master's degrees in Forensic Science and Public Health, and her interest in photography gave her group its name — would help her provide resources and support to aid organizations.

WilmU's Doctor of Business Administration program offered

a multi-faceted curriculum, from finance and marketing to leadership and organizational behavior, if she could fit it into her schedule. "I was interested in the face-to-face cohort, but because I travel so much for work, I wasn't sure if that was possible," she says.

At the encouragement of Dr. Robert Rescigno, then the dean of the College of Business, and Dr. Kathy Kennedy-Ratajack, who chaired the DBA program, she enrolled. Through coordination with the program's faculty, who strategically rescheduled courses and assigned independent study projects, she managed the seven-week blocks when she could.

"I feel so grateful to the faculty,



Franca Del Signore founded Picture the World in 2013.

how they accommodated me,” she says, recalling the completion of a spring semester’s coursework in December, two weeks before a planned six-month stay in Italy.

As it turns out, she only had to take three courses online, which presented their own unique challenges. Who,

after all, wants to pack textbooks for a flight to Rome? Or stay up until 11:30 p.m. for a class that’s being livestreamed from 5:30 p.m. Delaware time? “Those days were really long, and I was really tired,” says Dr. Del Signore.

The results, however, have been worth it to her work. “My whole

dissertation was about helping people to solve the problems they face, to develop strategies and processes, to build bridges between nonprofits and for-profits. My dissertation brought it all together,” she says. “That’s probably why it ended up being almost 350 pages long.” **WU**

STAY INVOLVED

WITH YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

1990

LIANA THOMPSON, B.S. in Banking and Finance, of Newark, Delaware, announced the recent opening of her business, Simply Sound Vibrations, located in the Aspire Wellness Center in Newark.

2000

TACY STEELE, M.Ed., Elementary Studies, joined Sussex Technical High School as the new special education teacher. She has taught language arts, social studies and special education for 20 years in the Laurel School District in New Jersey.

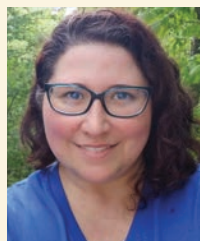
2002



PATRICK SUTTER, MBA, of Dearing, Georgia, is the co-owner of White Hills Farm in

Dearing, with his wife, Amy.

2004



HOLLY VAUGHN WAGNER, B.S., Criminal Justice, of Dover, Delaware, led a project

to update the Delaware Legislative Drafting Manual, which earned the 2019 Notable Document Award from the National Conference of State Legislatures. This award recognizes innovative publications that produce substantive information about contemporary issues of interest to legislators.

2005

DELL COLLER, B.S., Aviation Management, of New Castle, Delaware, performed at the Thunder Over Dover Air Show. His 12-minute show, from takeoff to touchdown, featured high- and low-speed maneuvers.

2006

ELY DEANGELO, M.S. Administration, of Millsboro, Delaware, was promoted to assistant principal and dean of students at Sussex Technical High School. He worked for nine years as a criminal justice teacher at Sussex Tech and a hearing officer for family court.

2009

MICHAEL HADDIX, M.S., Administration of Human Services, of Monroe, Georgia, was inducted into the Mississippi State Sports Hall of Fame. MSU considered him one of the greatest running backs in its football program. In 1983, the Philadelphia Eagles drafted him eighth overall. He played six seasons with the Eagles, then completed the last two years of his career with the Green Bay Packers. After retiring from football, Haddix went back to college and turned his attention to building a legacy outside of sports. He has committed his life to working with the juvenile justice system to help at-risk children.

2010



CRAIG LYTLE, MBA, of Lincoln, Pennsylvania, recently released "The Sandwich Generation," a resource for

families. The book is designed to help readers understand and make wise decisions as they navigate through the chaos of careers, children and aging parents. Lytle is also founder and president of Income & Estate Planning Partners, PA, in Newark.

SEPT.
26

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.

2015



TYLER KASAK, B.S., Business Management, of Alexandria, Virginia, is now a project manager for IDI Group Companies, a

family-owned real estate development company in Rosslyn, Virginia. In this role, Kasak leads a multi-million-dollar redevelopment of a Catholic High School near Washington, D.C.

2016

SARA PARRISH, M.Ed., Secondary Teaching, of Millsboro, Delaware, is a social studies teacher at Sussex Technical High School. Previously, she taught the same subject at Seaford Senior High School and was named Seaford School District Social Studies Teacher of the Year.

2018



CLARKE LEICHTE, DBA., of Pikeville, Kentucky, began a new position as associate professor of Entrepreneurship

at the University of Pikeville.



HOMECOMING GAME DAY

Wear your green and white to cheer on the Wildcats in volleyball and soccer.

Game day festivities include family-friendly fun, alumni alley, and food trucks

from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the WilmU Athletics Complex, 1365 Pulaski Highway, Newark.

Free admission. Tailgate parking \$25, advance registration required.

Contact brandi.d.purcell@wilmu.edu

SAVE THE DATE

UPDATES

The Accelerated Advantage

A lumna **CARLY DEVIRGILIO GIORDANO** wanted to earn her bachelor's degree in the most efficient way possible. She had been expecting a child, working full-time and attending college. To say she was on a time crunch would be an understatement, yet she managed to complete her 33-credit bachelor's in Organizational Management in six months.

She took advantage of WilmU's accelerated block courses, which means that instead of the traditional 15-week semester, DeVirgilio Giordano opted to finish block courses in seven weeks. They weren't difficult to schedule since WilmU offers six blocks per year, with start times every other month.

Many students like DeVirgilio Giordano transfer credits, and WilmU accepts up to 90 of them that go toward bachelor's programs. Graduates of numerous local community colleges, including Delaware Tech, can trans-

fer their full associate degrees to their WilmU bachelor's degree programs, too.

WilmU recognizes that learning is also achieved outside the classroom, which is why it awards credit for professional experiences, licenses and certificates, to name some. Students are guided through a Prior Learning Assessment, since even they may not be aware of how much the University respects and awards them for their experiences.

They can also get things moving by completing graduate-level courses as part of their undergraduate degree programs through elective courses. And since WilmU courses are charged at the degree level instead of the course level, students save money.

DeVirgilio Giordano is not unlike other WilmU students. She needed to complete her studies resourcefully while balancing significant personal responsibilities. WilmU's Accelerated Advantage made that possible. **WU**

—Virginia Gould



Here's a list of accelerated programs, grouped by college.

ARTS AND SCIENCES

BS in Communication

BUSINESS

BS in Accounting & Finance

BS in Business Analytics

BS in Business Management

BS in Finance

BS in Human Resource Management

BS in Marketing

BS in Sports Management

HEALTH PROFESSIONS

BS in Nursing

BS in Health Sciences

MS in Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner to Doctor of Nursing Practice

MS in Family Nurse Practitioner to Doctor of Nursing Practice



Carly DeVirgilio Giordano took advantage of WilmU's accelerated block courses.

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

- BS in Criminal Justice
- BS in Behavioral Science
- BS in Psychology
- BS in Law, Government and Political Science with Government & Public Policy concentration

TECHNOLOGY

- BS in Animation and 3D
- BS in Applied Technology
- BS in Computer and Network Security
- BS in Computer Science
- BS in Game Design & Development
- BS in Information Systems Management
- BS in Photography
- BS in Video and Film Production
- BS in Web Design

MILLENNIAL SUPERSTARS



more than 350 people from all walks of life gathered in February in Malvern, Pennsylvania, at the North American headquarters of Saint-Gobain to celebrate 40 of Chester County's most distinguished millennials at the inaugural VISTA Millennial Superstars Award Reception.

Wilmington University was an executive sponsor of the event, launched by VISTA Today, an online news journal that celebrates all things Chester County. VISTA Millennial Superstars was created to recognize young professionals who are creating a bright future for the county. **wu** —Mark Hostutler (editor of VISTA Today)



Senior Vice President and COO Dr. Erin DiMarco offered remarks at the Millennial Superstars event.



COURTESY OF SARAH MURPHY

Patrice Martin (left) with her sister, Sarah Murphy

It's not so much what happened before. It's about managing the now.

On Oct. 28, 1976, an infant, only hours old, lay abandoned in a Pittsburgh garbage bin. An anonymous call to the police would alert the authorities that she was there.

That baby was WilmU adjunct and Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) candidate **PATRICE MARTIN**.

Martin, who was adopted into a loving home five months after living in foster care, was always curious. She knew about her adoption early on and was grateful to be blessed with a loving family and good friends. It wasn't until her late 20s that her mother shared information about those first hours of her life.

Like most people would, Martin wondered how a person could leave a newborn in a bin, though in her case,

“learning about it didn't come from a place where I didn't feel loved,” she says. It was more curiosity than anything else, and she knew that chances of getting an answer or finding her birth mother and father were slim, let alone any blood relatives.

In May of 2018, when she tuned into a TLC network television show called “Long Lost Family,” an idea came to her. The show follows the stories of people who have experienced long-term separation from members of their family and want to reunite with them.

This was an opportunity, Martin thought. “I printed out the application and typed it up the next day.”

In November of 2018, after months

of back-and-forth communication, the show's producers finally agreed to do a segment on Martin. A DNA test through Ancestry.com found a match. In August of 2019, producers flew her to Pittsburgh to embark on a week of filming. On the last day, the viewers, as well as Martin, got to meet her long-lost sister, Sarah Murphy. The bond was instant; the emotion palpable. She also learned on the show that she had a brother, but she didn't meet him then. Months later, while meeting him, she discovered that she had another sister — and nephews to boot. The siblings are building a relationship.

Martin is focused on a new chapter, she says. “Now, it's just about forging ahead with new relationships.” **WU**

—Aaron Agresta

Is the Master's the New Bachelor's?

Stats suggest it is.

The number of master's degrees conferred by U.S. institutions has risen dramatically since 1980, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. In 1979–80, 305,000 master's degrees were awarded, compared to 786,000 in 2015–16, an increase of 158 percent.

The New York Times recently reported that two out of 25 Americans ages 25 or older hold master's degrees, roughly the same proportion of those who held bachelor's degrees or higher in 1960.

That's useful information for job seekers. For its 2017 national survey, Career Builder surveyed 2,300 hiring

managers in industries spanning the private sector. Twenty-seven percent said they recruited candidates with master's degrees for positions that used to require bachelor's degrees, and 37 percent hire grads with bachelor's degrees for jobs once attainable with high school diplomas.

Advanced education makes a clear, positive impact on productivity, communication skills and innovation. That's because jobs now require increased levels of specialized knowledge and skills not always covered in undergraduate study. Filtering applicants by education level is, for the most part, a sorting system for hiring managers bombarded

with résumés.

But how can prospective students afford these advanced degrees? Those that choose Wilmington University do so because of its commitment to keeping higher education affordable, accessible, flexible and convenient. WilmU also offers numerous accelerated degree programs that allow students to fulfill bachelor's degree electives with master's-level courses relevant to their programs of study. They save time and money because tuition is charged by degree level, not course level. It's a smart way to get ahead without breaking the bank. **WU**

—Virginia Gould

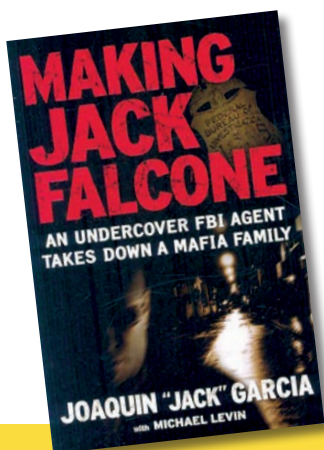
Advanced education makes a clear, positive impact on productivity, communication skills and innovation. That's because jobs now require increased levels of specialized knowledge and skills not always covered in undergraduate study.



TRUE CRIME Lecture Series



Retired FBI Agent Joaquin "Jack" Garcia *Infiltrating the Gambino Crime Family*



**Tuesday, May 12, 2020
5:30PM - 8:00PM
DoubleTree By Hilton
4727 Concord Pike
Wilmington, DE 19803**



**OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. COST IS FREE.
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED: WWW.WILMU.EDU/CJI
Law Enforcement Officers can receive training credit hours for each lecture.**

University Events



Ongoing

GET TO KNOW WILMU BRANDYWINE

Visit WilmU's 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 150+ career-focused degree or certificate programs, or register for classes. WilmU Brandywine is open to visitors from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and until 7 p.m. on Wednesdays. wilmu.edu/VisitUs

April 14



TRUE CRIME LECTURE SERIES: JERRY CLARK

WilmU's Criminal Justice Institute presents retired FBI

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

April 28, 29, and 30



VIOLENT CRIME SYMPOSIUM

Open to all members of law enforcement agencies, the Criminal Justice Institute's first

annual Violent Crime Symposium features talks by CNN analyst and retired FBI agent James Gagliano, Philip Wright of the FBI's Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted Program, and author and retired FBI agent Edmundo Mireles. Contact cji@wilmu.edu for costs and registration.

May 12



TRUE CRIME LECTURE SERIES: JOAQUIN "JACK" GARCIA

WilmU's Criminal Justice Institute presents

Joaquin "Jack" Garcia, who spent 24 of his 26 years of FBI service as an undercover agent, infiltrating and exposing organized crime and police corruption. 5:30 to 8 p.m., at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 4727 Concord Pike, Wilmington. Free and open to the public, registration required. Contact cji@wilmu.edu



May 17

SPRING COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

Congratulations to Wilmington University's Class of 2020, whose academic achievements will be recognized as the new graduates cross the stage at the Chase Center on the Riverfront in Wilmington. wilmu.edu/Graduation

June 10 and 11

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

June 19

CYBER SECURITY CONFERENCE

The College of Technology hosts the Information Systems Security Association's Delaware Valley chapter for its June meeting and talks on a range of cyber security topics. The event, which will take place in the Doberstein Admissions Center auditorium on the New Castle campus from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., is free and open to the public. [Contact mark.j.hufe@wilmu.edu](mailto:mark.j.hufe@wilmu.edu)

Alumni Events

April 16

NEW CASTLE ALUMNI CHAPTER MIXER

Join WilmU grads, students, and staff at Celebrations on Market, 340 S. Market St., in Wilmington, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., for an evening of food, beverages and networking. [Contact donna.j.hardy@wilmu.edu](mailto:donna.j.hardy@wilmu.edu)

April 21

INTERNATIONAL CRICKET GAME AND SOCIAL

The second most popular sport in the world comes to the Green on the New Castle campus from 1 to 3 p.m. Pick up a bat and play, or just enjoy the innings and refreshments. [Contact donna.j.hardy@wilmu.edu](mailto:donna.j.hardy@wilmu.edu)

May 7

SCHOLARSHIP GOLF CLASSIC

WilmU's 10th annual golf outing helps raise funds for student scholarships. Enjoy refreshments, raffles, and a scholarship dinner with silent auction and live music at the Deerfield Golf Club, 507 Thompson Station Rd., in Newark. wilmu.edu/GolfClassic

July 30

MARYLAND CRAB FEAST

Meet the Maryland Alumni Chapter at The Wellwood, 532 Water St., in Charlestown, Maryland, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. for its annual crab dinner. [Contact donna.j.hardy@wilmu.edu](mailto:donna.j.hardy@wilmu.edu)



Sept. 26

HOMECOMING GAME DAY

Wear your green and white to cheer on the Wildcats in volleyball and soccer. Game day festivities include family-friendly fun, alumni alley, and food trucks from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the WilmU Athletics Complex, 1365 Pulaski Highway, Newark. Free admission. Tailgate parking \$25, advance registration required. [Contact brandi.d.purcell@wilmu.edu](mailto:brandi.d.purcell@wilmu.edu)

Admissions Events

Ongoing

WILMU WEBINARS

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





NEW AT WILMU

B.S. in Law, Policy and Political Science

This fall, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences will introduce a B.S. in Law, Policy and Political Science program.

According to attorney **NICOLE E. BALLENGER**, who chairs the Law, Policy and Political Science programs, the degree will serve students interested in paralegal, government work or politics. Since courses are taught by highly-qualified attorneys, government administrators, compliance specialists and political representatives, students will be privy to relevant information and an awareness of

what opportunities await them.

“The Law, Policy and Political Science bachelor’s degree, with a choice of a concentration in Legal Studies, Government and Public Policy or Political Science,” says Ballenger, “offers a student-focused curriculum, provides expanded opportunity and academic excellence, and invests in the graduate’s future.”

Also, the bachelor’s option is customizable, which means that students can affordably stack credentials via minors, like Pre-Law, Political Science and others;

or certificates in Criminal Justice, Compliance, and many more.

The Legal Studies concentration is approved by the American Bar Association. **WU**

TO LEARN MORE visit wilmu.edu/behavioralscience, or contact Nicole Ballenger at nicole.e.ballenger@wilmu.edu.



WANT TO BOOST YOUR CAREER?

Take a major step toward your career goals with a Dual-Credit Certificate®



WilmU's Dual-Credit Certificate programs are an affordable, accessible option for expanding your education to meet your professional goals. Certificates can benefit your career at any stage. They'll build your resumé and even accumulate credits toward a degree. Plus, WilmU makes it easy to apply, enroll and attend classes. Here are 10 ways WilmU's certificate programs help you make your next move.

1. Choose your path. WilmU currently offers certificates in more than 70 subject areas to match your career path and academic interests, from small business management and health information technology to special education and graphic design. Many can be completed in as little as one year, and many can be completed entirely online.

2. Find career opportunities. WilmU's certificate programs offer convenient, focused education for working learners. Whether you're looking to advance in an evolving field, re-enter the workplace, or explore the possibility of a career change, certificates provide a manageable option for upgrading your skill sets or acquiring additional training.

3. Add value to a degree ... For bachelor's and master's degree students, career-oriented certificates in specialized subjects allow them to customize their degrees and stand out in a competitive job market. Since many certificates include courses required by related degree programs, students can often earn them without adding time or expense to their studies.

4. ... or build a degree from a certificate. You can apply the same credit hours you've earned through a Dual-Credit Certificate toward a bachelor's or master's degree in a related subject, if you choose to continue your education.

5. Accelerate an advanced degree. Certain certificates, when earned in conjunction with a bachelor's degree, can even accelerate master's degree studies. In the College of Technology, for instance, a student who fulfills a bachelor's degree's elective requirements with the courses that make up the Technology Project Management certificate can reduce the courseload, and the cost, for a Master of Science in Information Systems Technology.

6. Earn some exposure. Even high school graduates can benefit from WilmU's certificate programs. Those who aren't yet ready to commit to a degree program, but recognize the value of gaining career-oriented skills upon entering the workforce, may find our Dual-Credit Certificates useful stepping stones to employment or college degrees.

7. Learn from experience. The courses that constitute WilmU's certificate programs are taught by the same instructors who teach the University's degree programs: experienced professionals and active practitioners who bring real-world lessons and cutting-edge insights to the classroom.

8. Learn close to home. With classrooms throughout Delaware and South Jersey, and many certificates available entirely online, WilmU makes it possible for you to attend the classes you need wherever you are.

9. Study on your schedule. Daytime, evening and weekend classes, as well as semester, block and modular schedules offer you the flexibility to pursue your studies on your schedule. Classes begin every eight weeks, allowing you to choose from six start times per year for most academic programs.

10. Apply today! No standardized test scores, such as SAT, ACT or GRE, are required for enrollment, so getting started is quick and convenient. Visit wilmu.edu/Certificates for more information on how WilmU certificates can work for you, or to apply now!

WilmU's Most Popular Certificate Programs

College of Business

- Human Resource Management
- Training and Staff Development
- Entrepreneurship/Small Business Management

College of Education

- Special Education: K-12 Teachers of Students with Disabilities
- Special Education: Autism/Severe Intellectual Disabilities
- Special Education: Early Childhood Exceptional Children

College of Health Professions

- Health Information Technology
- Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
- Family Nurse Practitioner

College of Social and Behavioral Science

- Child Advocacy Studies
- Trauma-Informed Approaches
- Criminal Justice

College of Technology

- Digital Evidence Discovery
- Digital Evidence Investigation
- Graphic Design

Note: Most certificate programs require 5 courses. Check specific requirements for your desired certificate.

Jump start your career
in just five courses.

WilmU works.



Learn more at
wilmu.edu/Certificates



DAN DEVARCO

Guess who's driving this 410 sprint car. *Find out on page 38.*