

SPRING/SUMMER 2008

# WU WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY



## CELEBRATING SUCCESS

*Following the achievements of our distinguished alumni*

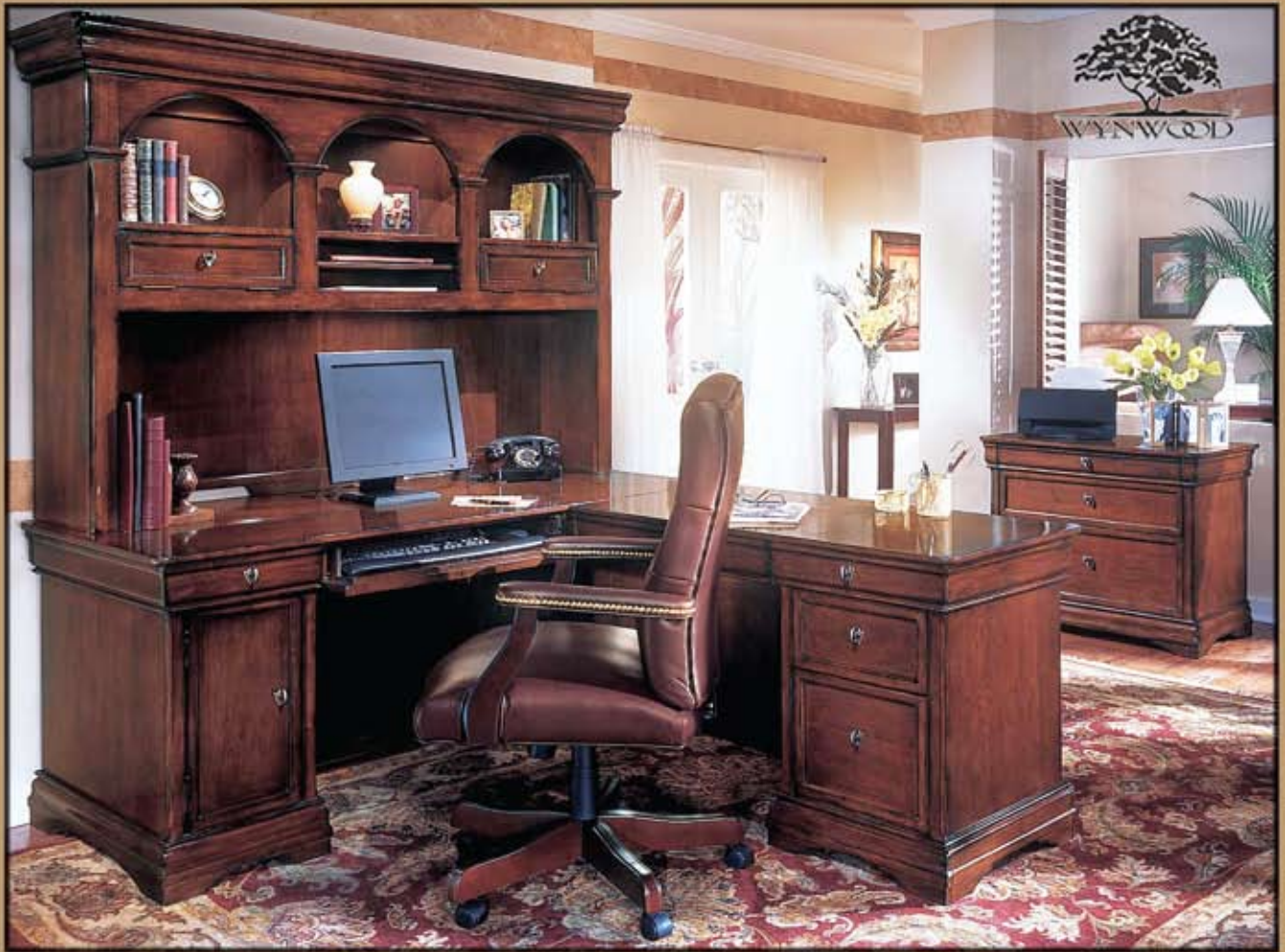
## THE GREEN TEAM

*See how Wilmington University is going green*

## INTRODUCING *the class of* 2008

The first class to graduate with  
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Dear Readers,



Once again, we have come to the end of a very successful academic year. I am very pleased of all the accomplishments the University has made in the past year, and I would particularly like to acknowledge the accomplishments of the class of 2008. Each and every one of our graduates deserves recognition and I wish them success in their future career paths. As many of you may already know, our winter commencement ceremony was a very momentous occasion because it marked the first time our students graduated since the recent change in designation. I was delighted to see how many students and families were proud of the change in designation and eager to receive their Wilmington University diplomas.

Wilmington University has been very active in the community this year. Students, faculty, staff and friends of the University have participated in fundraising and awareness events for causes such as breast cancer, multiple sclerosis, heart disease, arthritis and more. The Wilmington University Green Team has brought students, staff and faculty together to ensure that protecting the environment is one of the University's top priorities.

Being active in the community has always been important to the mission of Wilmington University, and I would like to thank all the people who spent time and energy in community service efforts this year.

Congratulations to our divisions. The division of Education recently received accreditation from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education; the Business division added a new certificate in entrepreneurship and small business; and the Distance Learning program continues to do very well with more and more students signing up to take online classes.

This year also saw the retirement of some irreplaceable faculty and staff. We wish them the best of luck, and thank them for their dedication to Wilmington University.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack P. Varsalona". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Jack P. Varsalona  
President



It has been my pleasure to work with the Alumni Association for the past 13 years. In that time, I have made some long lasting-relationships with our alumni and have had the opportunity to meet with many of you. With our increased focus on our alumni through the creation of a new Alumni Relations Department, there will be even more opportunities for you to stay in touch with your alma mater.

In the fall, we will open our 40th anniversary year with an Alumni Celebration Picnic. Mark your calendars now for Sept. 6, 2008. The picnic celebration will be held on the Green at our New Castle campus. You will also see the formation of alumni chapters within your major. This will give you the opportunity to attend alumni activities to rekindle friendships with classmates and faculty from our sites in Delaware and New Jersey.

The University's increased fundraising events will benefit the scholarship fund to offer new and current students the opportunity to succeed as you have in your careers.

As always, your continued support is appreciated and recognized by students, family, friends, faculty, staff and administration at Wilmington University.

I look forward to seeing you at our alumni events in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia L. Jennings".

Patricia L. Jennings  
*Alumni Relations Coordinator*



**DONATIONS TO THE ALUMNI FUND DRIVE ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.**

To make a donation please use the attached postage paid, addressed envelope. You can also pledge online and locate our matching gift companies by visiting [www.wilmu.edu/alumni](http://www.wilmu.edu/alumni).





# GREETINGS & GRATITUDE

## WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY

President.....Dr. Jack P. Varsalona  
 Assistant Vice President .....Dr. Thomas B. Cupples  
 Editor .....Christopher Pitcher  
 Managing Editor.....Jacque Varsalona  
 Associate Editor.....Suki Deen  
 Alumni Relations Coordinator...Patricia L. Jennings  
 Annual Fund Coordinator.....Gloria Johnson  
 University Photographer.....Susan L. Gregg

### QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

Please send all correspondence to:

Department of University Relations  
 Wilmington University  
 31 Read's Way  
 New Castle, DE 19720  
 Email: wilmumag@wilmu.edu

For address changes,  
 please call 1-877-967-5464

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President.....Jonathan Witty  
 Chairman.....Robert F. Martinelli  
 Managing Editor.....Pete Kerzel  
 Project Manager.....Julie Lang  
 Advertising Account Executive.....Jessica Stryker  
 Creative Director.....Randy Clark  
 Art Director.....Lanie Bologna

WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE is the official magazine of Wilmington University and is produced by the University Relations Department of Wilmington University. It is published and distributed twice a year. With a circulation of more than 36,000, WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE is sent to active students, alumni and other constituents of the University community. Personal views expressed in articles by faculty and staff do not necessarily reflect the official policies of Wilmington University.

Well, here we are again at the end of another wonderful year at Wilmington University. Let me be one of the first to congratulate our graduates and to welcome them to our ever-growing



list of alumni. We here at University Relations have always felt a special connection to our alumni since so many of our staff can be counted among them.

Speaking of University Relations, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank everyone who helped support us in our efforts to build recognition of our new programs in the state of New Jersey. It was a tremendous group effort and much of the Wilmington University community, from administration to academics, came together to participate in our 2008 New Jersey Open House Series.

It was our intention to present an accurate image of the University we have become, and yet illustrate how our small-college culture is still alive and well. I cannot tell you how surprised and pleased the prospective New Jersey students were when I

introduced them to deans of academic divisions and high-level administrators. The Wilmington University family really turned out in full force, ready to answer any and all questions. I would especially like to mention our students who

participated, greeting our guests from the Garden State with more enthusiasm and knowledge of our mission than you could possibly imagine.

It was clear that our guests had not expected to enjoy the time and attention of so many people at every level of the Wilmington University community. I am proud to say there are now 209 new people in New Jersey who have experienced the personal touch that identifies Wilmington University.

So, once again, thank you to everyone who helped make this exciting time in our shared history that much more special. You did an outstanding job.

Best Wishes,

Christopher Griffin Pitcher  
 Director of University Relations



# Where

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PLAZA**  
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*The pink hotel on the boardwalk.*





# SPRINGSUMMER

Volume 2, Number 2

Summer 2008

## FEATURES

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The 2008 commencement ceremonies were held in January and May. Read about some of the proud graduates, take a look at our photo gallery and join us in congratulating the class of 2008!

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COVER: Wilmington University celebrates the class of 2008: Kimberly Conwell (A.S., Media Art, Design & Technology), Jacob Meehan (B.S., Marketing), Cheyann Gilroy (M.S., Administration of Justice) and Dr. Sean Moriarty (Doctor of Education, Organizational Leadership). Photograph by Susan L. Gregg  
ABOVE: Graduates at the Georgetown commencement ceremony celebrated after receiving their diplomas. Photograph by Susan L. Gregg

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THE DELAWARE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, LED BY HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER Rep. Richard Cathcart, commemorated Wilmington University with a presentation made to President Dr. Jack P. Varsalona. The presentation recognized the strides the school has made, particularly in becoming a University in September 2007.



Paul Patton

# WU NOTES

## GO RED FOR WOMEN FASHION SHOW AND LUNCHEON

In honor of the women suffering from heart disease, the American Heart Association held the Go Red for Women Luncheon and Fashion Show at the Sheraton Dover Hotel as a social and educational event designed to encourage women to focus on heart health. Wilmington University was proud to be a silver sponsor of the event and to help design the presentation.

Among the women affected by this deadly disease is **CHERYL ROCHA**, assistant to the provost and vice president of academic affairs at Wilmington University. Rocha participated in the fashion show as a Go Red model.

"I decided to get involved so I could share my successful heart surgery story with other women," said Rocha. "I wanted to let them know that sometimes women are brushed aside by doctors because their heart condition cannot be detected. I knew my body better than anyone else and I knew that heart



*Cheryl Rocha, assistant to the provost and vice president of academic affairs, participated in the fashion show.*

Susan L. Gregg

disease was the No. 1 killer in women."

Heart disease has touched Rocha's life since the age of 13, when she began noticing heart irregularities. "I can remember running track in school and my heart feeling like it was going to come out of my chest with sharp pains and palpitations," remembered Rocha.

After many years of doctors telling her

nothing was wrong, she was diagnosed with mitral valve prolapse with supraventricular tachycardia, a condition that affects the mitral valve of the heart.

All Go Red models are people who have had their lives affected by heart disease, or people who are active volunteers for the American Heart Association. Eight million American women are currently living with heart disease, the leading cause of death of women in this country.



## INTRODUCING THE STUDENT AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT



Erin Harvey

*LeAnne Barnhart (left) and Christyn Rudolf (right) are new faces in the Student Affairs Department.*

*The Student Affairs Department is gearing up to offer a more expansive array of events and activities! Meet our two new employees:*

**CHRISTYN RUDOLF**, assistant director of student affairs – Rudolph joins the department after working as a site associate at the Wilson Graduate Center. She is very enthusiastic about creating and implementing new opportunities for student involvement and leadership.

**LEANNE BARNHART**, student affairs associate – Barnhart is a new face at Wilmington University. She is eager to begin working with student organizations and promoting ways to improve the student experience on campus.

Please stop in to visit us in the Pratt Student Center, Room 101 to introduce yourself and receive a free “WU” giveaway. We would love to see your faces and hear your ideas!

### WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY AND BCC PRESENT PRESIDENTS SCHOLARSHIP

Burlington County College (BCC) student **IBRAHIM KLILOV KONATE** received the Presidents Scholarship this year, meaning he will receive full tuition and fees to finish his bachelor’s degree at Wilmington University.

The presidents of BCC and Wilmington University present the scholarship annually to a graduating BCC student who excels in leadership and service.

Konate will major in Business Administration at Wilmington University.



Traci Grabler

*From Left: Dr. Thomas Cupples, assistant vice president of Wilmington University, Ibrahim Konate and BCC President Robert C. Messina.*

### U.S. REP MIKE CASTLE HELPS PASS BILL TO BENEFIT VETERAN STUDENTS

U.S. Rep. Mike Castle visited Wilmington University in February to discuss important legislation that will help veterans pursue higher education. The legislation, known as the *Securing Success for Veterans on Campus Act*, will assist veterans by providing colleges and universities with the resources necessary to address the academic, financial and social needs of veterans.

Rep. Castle explained how some veteran students have had difficulties following the various GI

Bill financial aid and eligibility requirements. Because of these challenges, only 8 percent of veterans actually use their GI benefit, while 30 percent of veterans do not use the benefit at all. Castle hopes this bill will change that.

He also praised Wilmington University for its bountiful opportunities for military personnel, saying, “The University represents an ideal postsecondary experience for soldiers and veterans.”



Jacquie Varsalona

*U.S. Rep. Mike Castle shakes hands with Dr. Thomas Cupples, assistant vice president of Wilmington University.*

## STUDENT-ATHLETES TEAM UP TO FIGHT BREAST CANCER



Erin Harvey

Members of the Wilmington University Athletic Department participated in the American Cancer Society's annual "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk" held at the Wilmington Riverfront last October.

The Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) was instrumental in gathering all of the student-athletes to participate for such a worthy cause. A

total of 40 members of the Athletic Department participated in the walk. Staff and student-athletes from the softball and volleyball teams raised more than \$1,000 for the cause.

The walk had about 5,800 participants and raised more than \$425,000 to help fight breast cancer. This is the fifth year the event has been held and both the number of walkers and the amount raised were new records for the event.

Sports Information Director and softball coach **ERIN HARVEY**, volleyball coach **KIM HUGGINS-HABBERT** and SAAC President **CHEYANN GILROY** organized Wilmington University's participation in the event, which was deemed a huge success.

## UNIVERSITY STAFF PARTICIPATE IN MS WALK

Wilmington University participated in the 2008 Multiple Sclerosis walk on April 19 at the Wilmington Riverfront. The team walked to support **NICOLE PURCELL-ROWE**, executive administrative assistant to Chris Pitcher in the Wilson Graduate Center, who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2007.

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a disease that affects approximately 400,000 Americans and 2.5 million people worldwide. It is a chronic disease that attacks the central nervous system and causes numbness in the limbs, severe paralysis and sometimes loss of vision. MS is unpredictable and can appear without warning, and although there is no cure at this time, research is being done to try and fight the onset of MS.

The Wilmington University team is excited to have raised more than \$1,000 for this great cause. The National Multiple Sclerosis Society will use funds collected from the MS Walk to support research and provide programs to address the needs of people living with MS.



Pattie Jennings

Wilmington University's Team Nicole, featuring Nicole Purcell-Rowe (third from right), helped raise more than \$1,000 for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

## DOVER SITE HOSTS ARTHRITIS KICKOFF PARTY

Wilmington University's Dover site hosted a kickoff party for the "Speed the Way to a Cure" Arthritis Walk on April 14. The Arthritis Foundation invited the community to sign up to participate in or donate to the event, which took place at Dover International Speedway on Saturday, April 26.

The kickoff party was fun for all, with music, food and prizes. Wilmington University is proud to announce that its Walk Team is currently the highest-ranked team on the Arthritis Foundation Web site, raising more



Dr. Jack Noid

Arthritis Foundation Executive Director Carolyn Barczak poses next to one of Monster Racing's stock cars at the Arthritis Walk kickoff party hosted by Wilmington University (Dover site).

than \$1,100 for this great cause.

Arthritis affects more than 46 million people nationwide (nearly one in five adults) and is one of the leading causes of work disability. Arthritis affects people in all age groups, including nearly 300,000 children. People who are affected with the disease are limited in everyday activities like walking, dressing and bathing.



## WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY *Holds National Library Week Event*

The Wilmington University Library held a special event in honor of National Library Week called “Inspired by Books: How Books and Visual Art Make a Difference in the Lives of Troubled Youth.” James McCloskey, director of the Wilmington University Library, welcomed guest speaker, author **BILLIE TRAVALINI**, who discussed her experiences working with troubled youth, and how literature and visual art can help with the rehabilitation process.

“What amazed us,” recalled Travalini, “was how it gave us a window into their dreams, desires and hopes. It allowed them to have a voice and that is such a beautiful thing.”

Travalini is the author of “Teaching Troubled Youth: A Pedagogical Approach.” Aside from being an author and poet, Travalini is an adjunct professor of English at Wilmington University and has worked with youth involved in the rehabilitative and child mental health divisions of the Delaware Children’s Department.

Several works of art created by these troubled youth were on display. After Travalini’s presentation, several panelists responded to her presentation speaking on the experiences of



*From left: James McCloskey, director of the Wilmington University Library; Vincenza Carrieri-Russo, Miss Delaware USA; and Billie Travalini, author and guest speaker at the event.*

troubled youth, the need for art and literature programs, and the importance of libraries and reading.

Along with Travalini, Miss Delaware USA, Vincenza Carrieri-Russo, attended the event. She has been an advocate of literacy and libraries through the “Success Won’t Wait” foundation, which she co-founded in 2002.

“I have a strong passion for promoting literacy,” said Carrieri-Russo. “It is so important to encourage reading and not just to read, but to read well.”

## SECOND ANNUAL NEW CASTLE WRITER’S CONFERENCE

Writing enthusiasts from far and wide participated in the second annual New Castle Writer’s Conference sponsored by the Delaware Literary Connection and Wilmington University, which was held at the University’s Dover site in March.

The conference began with an announcement by event organizer Billie Travalini about four literary contest winners. This was the first time that a writing contest was affiliated with the New Castle Writer’s Conference and it was a smashing success. All winners received cash prizes and an award certificate.

The following awards were presented to exemplary writers:

- **WENDY INGERSOLL** received the Susan Clapp Jamison Prize for poetry.
- **JOANN BALINGIT** received the Dr. Norman H. Runge Award for prose.
- **VIOLET KAPLAN** received the Irwin M. Schmuckler Award for high school poetry.
- **BRITTANY BOWMAN** was runner-up in non-fiction prose.

The daylong conference featured writing workshops on poetry, dialogue, nonfiction and editing. Over lunch hour, attendees listened to spoken poetry and learned how to apply for a Delaware Division of the Arts grant.

For more advanced writers, the conference offered master’s workshops in poetry and prose. Meanwhile, more workshops continued into the afternoon, with attendees learning about scriptwriting, photojournalism and more.

# ATHLETICS

## WILMINGTON CLAIMS ECAC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

The No. 1-seeded Wildcats of Wilmington University claimed their first Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC) Division II Women's Basketball Championship presented by FieldTurf Tarkett, as they defeated third-seeded Caldwell College, 83-62.

The Wildcats (22-9) were leading by nine after an **AMELIA SIMMONS** tip-in made it 23-14. The advantage extended to 13 points when a **KIM PARKER** layup made the score 35-22. The Cougars battled back to cut the lead to five, but the Wildcats scored the final four points to

take a 41-32 lead into halftime.

Wilmington opened up a 26-point lead when **JAMIE GALLAGHER** converted a 3-point play with a fast-break layup and a free throw that made the score 69-43 in favor of the Wildcats with just under nine minutes to play. From there, the eventual champions coasted home to the easy, 21-point win.

The tournament's most outstanding player, sophomore forward **AMELIA SIMMONS**, finished with 20 points, eight rebounds and two steals. Senior center **NORDIA HENRY** finished with 16 points

and a game-high nine boards for the victors, who also received solid performances from Parker (14 points, a game-high six assists and four rebounds) and **JILLIAN BENNETT** (eight rebounds, four points and four assists).

The ECAC selected Henry and Simmons for the all-tournament team.

It was the Wildcats' first ECAC postseason championship, and Wilmington's 22 wins are a new school record. The Wildcats became the first team of any sport in school history to claim an ECAC title.



Jackie Cleary



Jackie Cleary

*Above: Amelia Simmons, the tournament's most outstanding player, receiving her award.*

*Left: The women's basketball team after winning the ECAC Tournament.*



## BURCHAM NAMED TO USTFCCCA ALL-ACADEMIC TEAM

*Sophomore cross country standout Danielle Burcham has been named to the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) all-academic team for the 2007 season.*



Erin Harvey

**BURCHAM** is only the second runner in Wilmington history to receive this prestigious honor. She is a two-time All-Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) award winner and was also awarded Academic All-Conference honors this past season.

Burcham, a Studio Production and Broadcast Journalism major with a 3.85 grade point average, recently completed her second season of competition for the Wildcats. Burcham finished in the top 10 in every race except for one. At the CACC Championships at Belmont Plateau in Philadelphia, Burcham finished fifth, helping the Wildcats to a

third-place finish. She concluded her season with a 45<sup>th</sup>-place finish at the NCAA East Regionals at Lock Haven University, helping the Wildcats place 16<sup>th</sup> out of 24 teams.

The women's team earned 2007 Division II All-Academic status according to the USTFCCCA. A total of 99 women's teams in the nation earned the honor among the 272 Division II schools that offer cross country.

To qualify for this honor, a team must have a cumulative team grade point average through the semester of competition of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. The Lady Wildcats held an astounding 3.55 grade point average, proving they succeed both in the classroom and also out on the course.

## WILMINGTON UNVEILS NEW ATHLETIC LOGOS

Wilmington University unveiled its new athletics logos, a representation of the name change from College to University.



The primary Wilmington logo features a redesigned Wildcat with a paw coming across the words "Wilmington Wildcats." The secondary logos depict the letters "WU," both alone and with the Wildcat mascot. New to the design is a specific font that will be used solely for athletics at the University.

Frank Aiello, director of athletics, stated, "I am delighted with the new look for Wilmington University. It is a refreshing change and will help us create a new identity while keeping the same values and traditions the sports programs have had for decades."

The official school colors will remain Wilmington green and white; however, the color of the Wildcat will be Wilmington gold. Those colors match the Wilmington University institutional logo of the clock tower, introduced last fall.

Erin Hart, graphic designer in the University

Relations department, designed the new logos with input from various members of the Athletic Department and University Relations staff.



## STUDENT ATHLETIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELPS OUT MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION



Erin Harvey



Erin Harvey

Top: Dr. Varsalona & Coach Welch.  
Above: Gift baskets that were auctioned off.

The Wilmington University Athletic Department held a silent auction benefiting the Make-A-Wish Foundation during the men’s and women’s basketball games against Goldey-Beacom College in February.

The Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) was instrumental in gathering all of the basket items to be auctioned off for this worthy cause. The auction had more than 30 participants and raised more than \$700 to help the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The SAAC raised the money in conjunction with the NCAA and Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) fundraising efforts.

Sports Information Director **ERIN HARVEY**, SAAC President **CHEYANN GILROY**, and SAAC and Faculty Athletics Representative **DR. CLINT ROBERTSON** organized Wilmington Univer-

sity’s participation in the event, which was a huge success.

**DR. JACK P. VARSALONA**, president of Wilmington University, was a guest coach on the Wildcats bench during the men’s game. Unfortunately, his presence was not enough to help propel the Wildcats to victory, as they fell, 81-64, to the Lightning. The Wilmington women defeated Goldey-Beacom, 78-75, to secure the No. 2 seed in the CACC playoffs.

Wilmington Athletic Director **FRANK AIELLO** stated, “The SAAC did a wonderful job with the silent auction. It was an honor to have Dr. Varsalona help us out, as he continues to be a great supporter of the athletics program here at Wilmington.”

Over the course of the school year, the SAAC has raised more than \$1,500 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

## BEGUM MALALI NAMED FIRST TEAM ALL-AMERICAN IN WOMEN’S SOCCER

Wilmington University is pleased to announce that **BEGUM MALALI** was named to the women’s soccer Daktronics All-American First Team for her performance this past season.

Malali, the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) player of the year, also garnered first team all-conference honors for the fourth time in her career. She was also named to the All-New England Region first team.

As a senior forward, Malali earned All-American honors for the first time in her career. She had career highs in goals and points this past season. A dynamic scorer, Malali led the Wildcats in almost every offensive category and won the CACC scoring title, finishing first in

goals, points, goals per game, points per game and shots. Her spectacular offensive efforts were good for fifth in Division II in goals per game and sixth in the nation in points per game.

Her season totals of 27 goals and 60 points were the highest in CACC history, and she also owns Wilmington’s school records for goals, points, goals per game and points per game. The most decorated women’s soccer player in Wilmington University history, Malali went 49-27-3 during her career, and she netted 80 goals, including

19 game-winners. Her season totals in goals and points were also CACC records.

Malali becomes the first Lady Wildcat soccer player in school history to have earned NCAA first-team All-American honors. This past season, Malali helped lead the Wildcats to a 7-4 record in the CACC and an overall record of 14-6-2. The ‘Cats finished the regular season in fourth place, and Malali’s high-powered scoring helped



Erin Harvey

the Wildcats to the sixth-ranked offense in Division II.



## WILMINGTON MEN WIN CACC CHAMPIONSHIP OVER HOLY FAMILY

*Insert Photo: CACC Tournament MVP Dan Mangat with CACC Commissioner Dan Mara.*



Kirk Reed—CACC Office

The Wildcats of Wilmington University capped off an exciting 2007 season with a thrilling shootout victory over the Tigers of Holy Family University, giving Wilmington its first Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference tournament title.

Wilmington entered the finals as the No. 2 seed and shot first in the shootout round. Junior midfielder **AUGUSTIN AGUILERA** converted his attempt and Holy Family's Ed Szambelak followed with the same result. Next, freshman defender **BILLY CURRAN** netted his opportunity and the Tigers were stopped by a beautiful save from Wildcat keeper **DAN MANGAT**.

Freshman **ANTHONY RANDAZZO** buried his opportunity and Holy Family's Steve Kientzy followed up with a goal of his own. In the fourth round, senior **OREN SEGEV** converted his try, and the final round saw sophomore forward **SARGBAH TARPEH** find the back of



Kirk Reed—CACC Office

the net to give the 'Cats the thrilling 5-3 victory.

Holy Family dominated play for much of the first half, but the Wildcats were able to get on the board when freshman midfielder **JOE STANT** connected on a long ball from sophomore defender **SELEKIE KAMARA** during the 37th minute.

The Tigers tied the game when Sean Hordijenko found Steve Kientzy on a breakaway. The two squads would not score again, thanks to stellar play by both goalkeepers.

Mangat, the tournament's most valuable player, recorded nine saves for the Wildcats. Mangat, along with Curran, freshman midfielder Joe Stant, Tarpeh, and sophomore midfielder **FATOMA TURAY**, were named to the all-tournament team.

Wilmington ended the season with a record of 12-5-2, while Holy Family closed out the year at 14-7-2.

# COMMENCEMENT

*Congratulations, Class of 2008!*



Susan L. Gregg

**H**undreds of proud friends and family members gathered to honor Wilmington University graduates at the winter and spring commencement ceremonies held in Wilmington and in Georgetown. The class of 2008 should be proud to be the first class to receive diplomas that read “Wilmington University” since Wilmington College became a University in September 2007.

The University held five commencement ceremonies this year so that each graduate could be recognized individually.

The winter graduation ceremony held in January saw approximately 1,228 students receive their diplomas. The next ceremony, held in Georgetown in the spring, had to be pushed back by two days due to inclement weather. However, the ceremony, held on May 14, 2008 went very well and saw 215 graduates receive their undergraduate and graduate degrees.

On May 18, 2008, the spring commencement ceremonies in

New Castle were held at the Chase Center on the Wilmington Riverfront, where 943 undergraduate and graduate students received their diplomas. Altogether, Wilmington University welcomed 2,400 students to the class of 2008.

Many eager graduates stated how excited they were to be graduating from a University, and how their experiences at Wilmington University would be something they could never forget.

President Dr. Jack P. Varsalona congratulated the class of 2008, saying, “May you seize this day, and those that are to follow. The University is proud of you, and remember you will always be a cherished member of the Wilmington University family.”

As a tribute to our graduates, we have devoted the following pages to award winners, graduates, commencement speakers and more. We hope you enjoy the photo gallery, and reading about some of our successful graduates. Once again, congratulations class of 2008!



# California Dreaming

Jamie Varsalona was a bundle of emotions as she watched all her belongings shoved into the back of a rental truck bound for Sherman Oaks, Calif.

Just three days after graduating from Wilmington University with her bachelor's degree in Media Design with a concentration in Photography, Varsalona was preparing to start the next chapter of her life: moving into a studio apartment outside of Los Angeles and pursuing her dream of becoming a professional photographer.

"When I first got out here, the only thing on my mind was getting a job," says Varsalona, a native of Newark, Del. "Before I moved, I contacted Brad Buckman, a professional photographer in the area. I asked if he had any job openings at his studio or whether he would give me the opportunity to just meet him."

A few weeks later, she was contacted by his office and eventually landed the position of studio manager at his Hollywood studio.

"I answer the phones, handle the money and assist with all the photo shoots," says Varsalona, who is enjoying her new line of work.

Being thrust into the real world and far away from friends and family, Varsalona has had to readjust to her new life.

"I still can't figure out these highways," she laughs, "but I love it here. I have been making friends and doing some freelance photography."

The experiences and people Varsalona met while at Wilmington University have been extremely helpful on her journey out west.

"As a student, I really enjoyed meeting people, getting to know them and learning from them," recalls Varsalona. "Peers, teachers, guest speakers and more – they have all prepared me for the real world. They also taught me the right things to ask and look for and gave me a great business sense."

In the future, Varsalona hopes to do more freelance photography and one day own her own studio.

"Within a year, I have set a goal to start doing more lifestyle and commercial photography," says Varsalona. "I am more than I ever thought I would be, and impressed with how far I have come since graduation – and hopefully how far I will go."



Jessica Sterling

## ON THE SCENE



"I'm very excited and grateful to be graduating today. I originally intended on just getting my associate's degree, but four years later, I am honored to be getting my bachelor's degree. I hope to be able to use it to

earn a job in the field of design."

—Caleb Guertin, Bachelor of Science in Media Design concentrating in Multimedia and Print (New Castle)



"I'm so happy to be graduating from Wilmington University. The knowledge and experience I have gained have been so useful to me in my everyday job!"

—Penelope Heras, Bachelor of Science in Business Management (Georgetown)



"I am one of the first people in my family to get a master's degree, so I am setting a precedent for my family and for my two children. Today, I am walking for my children,

showing them that if you keep going and persevere, you can accomplish a lot of things."

—Ivory L. Dewitt Jr., Master of Business Administration (New Castle)



"This is a huge accomplishment in my life. I'm very glad for the opportunities and the mentorship here at Wilmington University and I'm very excited to take the next step and begin my master's degree here in the fall."

—Rebecca Byrne, Bachelor of Science in Nursing (New Castle)



"Earning my degree from Wilmington University has really given me the skills for the counseling program I work in, the skills to be able to talk to the students and guide them

through their educational and occupational pathways."

—Celeste Cassidy, Master of Education in School Counseling (New Castle)

## SPOTLIGHT ON DOCTORATE

## DR. MARY THERESA CAPUTO

*Doctor of Education  
Educational Leadership*



Mary Theresa Caputo is used to juggling school, work and kids. The Philadelphia native completed her bachelor's degree in Theology from St. Joseph's University while working for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, and a master of education in Middle School Mathematics from Wilmington University while working at the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington. After graduation, she became a teacher on special assignment in the Red Clay School District, where she traveled to various schools to model lesson plans, give feedback to teachers and help assist schools that were struggling in their mathematics programs.

In January 2008, Caputo topped off her education with a Doctor of Educational Leadership to become Dr. Mary Theresa Caputo. "At first, I was nervous to enter a doctoral program," recalls Dr. Caputo. "I really wasn't sure if I was capable of doing it. But once I got started I realized that I couldn't keep looking at it as how much I had to do, but instead I had to look at it as how much I had already done." Dr. Caputo added that you can accomplish all your goals with a little dedication and hard work.

Dr. Caputo was delighted with the program schedule at Wilmington University, which allowed her to take class just one night a week and earn her degree in about three years, leaving her time to take care of her family. "My educational journey has been a long one, as I earned four degrees – all in evening programs – while fulfilling my roles as wife and mother," she says.

In August 2007, Dr. Caputo defended her dissertation, "A Comparison of the Effects of the Accelerated Math Program and the Delaware Procedural Fluency Workbooks on Academic Growth in Grade Six at X Middle School." She graduated from Wilmington University in January 2008 and earned an academic award. She hopes to begin working in administration in a Delaware school district, preferably the Red Clay School District where she currently works.

## DR. SEAN E. MORIARTY

*Doctor of Education  
Organizational Leadership*



Originally from Framingham, Mass., Sean Moriarty has always had a special interest in law enforcement, leadership and education. Having graduated cum laude from St. Anselm College with a degree in Criminal Justice and earned a master's degree in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Administration from Northeastern University, Moriarty worked as a police officer and dispatcher in Wayland, Mass.

Moriarty moved to Delaware in 1995 and joined the Delaware State Police, where he climbed the ranks to lieutenant. Moriarty has worked with polygraphs, firearms transactions and as detective in the major crimes unit, among other duties.

In 2002, Moriarty became an adjunct professor of Criminal Justice at Wilmington University. It was here that Moriarty began thinking about earning his doctoral degree.

"The truth is, I just love to learn," says Moriarty. "Earning my doctorate has been a lifelong dream and when I decided to go back, I really felt it was the right time in my life."

He particularly liked the one-evening-a-week class design and through his cohort has developed some lifelong friendships.

Putting his doctoral degree to good use has not been a problem for Moriarty. While working on his degree, Moriarty researched and developed the International Association of Chiefs of Police "Leadership in Police Organizations" course for the Delaware State Police. This was the first in-house leadership program for any state police agency in the United States.

Dr. Moriarty's research led to his dissertation, "Establishing a Leadership Development Program in the Delaware State Police: Recommendations for Law Enforcement Leadership Development."

Moriarty graduated in May 2008 from Wilmington to become Dr. Sean Moriarty. He received the Audrey K. Doberstein President's Award For Leadership at the commencement ceremony. Thankful for all the great experiences he had at Wilmington University, Dr. Moriarty says, "This has been the perfect degree for me. I really believe this doctoral program is a cut above the rest."



## SPOTLIGHT ON MASTER'S

### CHEYANN GILROY

*Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice  
Master of Science in Administration  
of Justice*



Born and raised in the small southern town of Bryans Road, Md., Cheyann Gilroy started at Wilmington University on a volleyball scholarship in the fall of 2004.

"Academically, I fell in love with this school from the start," recalls Gilroy. "The teachers are great, most of them are in the field and are doing exactly what I want to do. Some of them are still my mentors, and I talk to them regularly."

At Wilmington, Gilroy worked as a library assistant and became a member of Alpha Phi Sigma, the National Criminal

Justice Honor Society, where she remained a member throughout her bachelor's and master's degree studies.

After graduating cum laude with a degree in Criminal Justice, Gilroy continued with a Master of Science in Administration of Justice. While pursuing her graduate degree, she became the president of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee, an organization that emphasizes academic opportunities to student-athletes.

In her spare time, Gilroy did community service work with the Boys & Girls Club of Delaware, where she served as a volleyball coach to children 9 to 15. Back at Wilmington University, she became the captain of the volleyball team and developed some lifelong friendships with her teammates.

"My best friends are here in Delaware now. I'm definitely going to miss them," says Gilroy.

## SPOTLIGHT ON BACHELOR'S

### JACOB MEEHAN

*Bachelor of Science in Marketing*



Jacob Meehan had always been interested in business, leadership and politics when he started at Wilmington University. Though originally a Criminal Justice major, he soon found his true calling when he switched to Marketing.

"I've grown so much through taking business and marketing classes," says Meehan, who was a full-time undergraduate student.

While pursuing his degree, Meehan got involved with and became president of the Student Government Association, a group of students dedicated to making sure students have a voice in university activities. Meehan also participated in the Business Professionals of America, where over the years he held various positions, including president pro-tem.

Overall, Meehan has had a great experience at Wilmington University. "These have been some of the best years of my life," says Meehan. "I will genuinely miss this place, and will never forget the people I've met, the experiences I've had and the things I've learned."

## SPOTLIGHT ON ASSOCIATE'S

### KIMBERLY CONWELL

*Media Art, Design & Technology*



Artist, disc jockey and fashion designer Kimberly Conwell is happy to be graduating with her associate's degree in Media Art, Design and Technology from Wilmington University. With bountiful creative talents, Conwell had been searching for her niche when she decided to go back to school and pursue her degree.

"I've been sewing, sketching and drawing all my life, since I was a kid," says Conwell, "and then I got into music, and music has always been a big part of my life. So right now, I am trying to find out where I'm supposed to be."

A part-time employee and the mother of an 8-year-old daughter, Conwell was excited to find that the faculty and staff at Wilmington University were very accommodating.

"Comfort is a big thing with me, and so it was great to find a place where I felt comfortable," said Conwell. One of the biggest things Conwell learned while a student at Wilmington University was, "If you ask, you will receive. People are here to guide you."

# ACADEMIC AWARDS



## Winter Commencement

JAN. 27, 2008 – CHASE CENTER ON THE RIVERFRONT

### COMMENCEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Student Speaker Graduate.....	William A. McWatters
Student Speaker Undergraduate.....	Monica L. Hofmann
Trustees' Award for Service Graduate.....	Karen R. DeLissio
Trustees' Award for Service Undergraduate.....	Chase Lake
Audrey K. Doberstein President's Award for Leadership Graduate.....	Charlene L. Madanat

### ACADEMIC AWARDS GRADUATE PROGRAM

Master of Science in Business Administration.....	Nancy M. Cox
Master of Science (Business).....	Daniel K. Meadows
Master of Science in Information Systems Technologies.....	Karen R. DeLissio
Graduate Behavioral Science.....	Wayne D. Kline
Master of Science in Nursing.....	Angela Kaptсан
Master of Education.....	Molly M. Chorman
Master of Arts.....	Wendy L. Peterman
Doctor of Education.....	Mary Theresa Caputo

### ACADEMIC AWARDS UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

Division of Behavioral Science.....	Amanda B. Richter
Division of Business.....	Eric L. Henry
Division of Education.....	Jessica G. Stuhlman
Division of General Studies.....	Alfred L. Saindon IV
Division of Information Technology and Advanced Communications.....	Sergiy Kuzhanov
Division of Nursing.....	Rosella J. Ganoudis



# Spring Commencement

MAY 18, 2008 – CHASE CENTER ON THE RIVERFRONT

## COMMENCEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Student Speaker Graduate.....	Michelle F. Lauer
Student Speaker Undergraduate.....	Penni K. Foster
Trustees' Award for Service Graduate.....	Funda Cinar
Trustees' Award for Service Undergraduate.....	Keitha F. Davis
Audrey K. Doberstein President's Award For Leadership Graduate.....	Jacalyn Beam
Audrey K. Doberstein President's Award For Leadership Undergraduate.....	Alvaro W. Camacho

## ACADEMIC AWARDS GRADUATE PROGRAM

Master of Science in Business Administration.....	Meredith L. Sullivan
Master of Science (Business).....	Carol A. Lemieux
Master of Science in Information Systems Technologies.....	Jason C. Romeo
Graduate Behavioral Science.....	Brianne L. Snow
Master of Science in Nursing.....	Heather C. Dixon
Master of Education.....	Eric T. Jones
Master of Arts.....	Megan L. Hegenbarth
Doctor of Education.....	Debra A. Webster

## ACADEMIC AWARDS UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

Division of Behavioral Science.....	Karen E. Larson
Division of Business.....	Jerrold M. Taylor III
Division of Education.....	Melissa A. Pratt
Division of General Studies.....	Michaëlle McGinnes
Division of Information Technology and Advanced Communications.....	Timothy W. Steiner
Division of Nursing.....	Susan L. Weaver

# Spring Commencement

MAY 14, 2008 – GEORGETOWN, DEL.

## COMMENCEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Student Speaker.....	Kathryn A. Byrne
Trustees' Award for Service.....	Dane L. Sears
Audrey K. Doberstein President's Award For Leadership.....	Sean Moriarty

*Right,  
from left:  
Michele Holman,  
Emily Levitt-Gopie,  
Cynthia Mallee,  
Martha Lins,  
Tina Keane,  
Ed Hatton,  
Angela Carroll.*

*Far right,  
from left:  
Latoya Blake,  
B.S. Organizational  
Management.*



Susan L. Gregg



Dan Moran

# JANUARY COMMENCEMENT



Dan Moran



*Left: Wilmington University undergraduate students prepare for Commencement.*

*Bottom left, from left: Stacey Eby, Victoria Gokdemir, Sarah Park, Kimberly Foster, Rosemary Altamuro.*

*Below, from left: Bill Dowling and Jason Rash, Television and Video Production Design.*



Susan L. Gregg



Susan L. Gregg



*Right, Dr. Debra Webster received the Doctor of Education academic award.*

*Far right, from left: Graduate Lista Lincoln, her baby Lincoln Colman, and her husband, Peter Colman.*



Susan L. Gregg



Christine Warren

# MAY COMMENCEMENT



Jacque Varsalona

*Left: Dr. Dot Baker, Dr. Margaret Jopp, Dr. Pam Curtiss, Dr. Mike Czarkowski, Dean Jobanna Adams, and Dr. Thomas Cupples.*

*Below left: President's Award winner Alvaro W. Camacho, faculty member Dr. Jack Nold and academic award winner Timothy W. Steiner.*

*Bottom right: Mother and daughter Leandra Lewis (left) and Vanessa Preston (right) graduated together, both receiving their master's degree in Elementary Education.*



Susan L. Gregg



Tom Shewbrooks

See more pictures of graduation! Visit [www.wilmu.edu/tur/multimedia/galleries](http://www.wilmu.edu/tur/multimedia/galleries)



# COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS

At each Wilmington University Commencement ceremony, both graduate and undergraduate, a speaker is selected to recount their experiences, what they have learned, the memories they will take with them, and their hopes for the future.

## WINTER COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES – JAN. 27, 2008

### GRADUATE CEREMONY

#### WILLIAM A. MCWATTERS

Completing his doctoral studies with a *Doctor of Education*, William A. McWatters excelled academically at Wilmington University. McWatters earned his Master of Arts degree in Physics and his Bachelor of Arts degree in Physics Education with a minor in Mathematics from the University of Delaware and has attended numerous conferences and workshops on science standards, curriculum mapping and advanced placement physics.



Employed by the Octorara Area School District in Pennsylvania since 2002 as a physics teacher at Octorara High School, he is also the chair of the science department, a position he has held since 2004. His doctoral dissertation, “The Effect of Two-Year Transition Algebra Instruction on Student Performance in the Eleventh Grade Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) Exam,” has helped to bring about significant changes to the district’s mathematics curriculum.

Among his professional accomplishments are the revision and alignment of the K-12 science curriculum and a complete revision of the school schedule structure, moving toward a modified block-scheduling model. McWatters also has collaborated in the development of a competitive grant and is currently one of the key integrators of the technology necessary for the grant’s implementation. Throughout his career in education, McWatters has been the recipient of many awards and honors for teaching excellence.

He and his family are residents of Newark, Del.

### UNDERGRADUATE CEREMONY

#### MONICA L. HOFMANN

While earning a *Bachelor of Science degree in Sports Management* from Wilmington University, Monica L. Hofmann has been striving for success. A dean’s list scholar, she is also a member of Delta Epsilon Rho, the Wilmington University Honor Society. Since 2004, she has been a member of the women’s basketball team, receiving the conference All-Academic Athletic Award for each of the three years she has played.



Hofmann also has served on the Student Athletic Advisory Committee for three years and was the president for the 2006-2007 school year. As a member of the advisory committee, she helped to organize and lead a variety of community service activities, including canned food drives, visits to the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Make-A-Wish Foundation fundraisers, and participation in the Breast Cancer Walk and Philadelphia’s “Light the Night” walk.

From April-September 2007, Hofmann was an intern with the Wilmington Blue Rocks at Frawley Stadium. In November, she secured a position as a sports and entertainment marketing distributor with J.D. Advertising in Charlotte, N.C. She is currently a resident of Matthews, N.C.

## SPRING COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES – MAY 18, 2008

### GRADUATE CEREMONY

#### MICHELLE F. LAUER

Michelle Lauer completed her *Master of Science in Nursing* degree program in the Nursing Leadership: Educator concentration from Wilmington University and has been a diligent student.

Having received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from California State University and her Associate of Science in Nursing degree from Delaware Technical and Community College in Stanton, Del., Lauer is the patient care coordinator with the psychiatric crisis team at Christiana Care. A member of the team since 2003 and the coordinator since 2006, she oversees its daily operations in two hospital emergency rooms.

Bilingual in English and Spanish, Lauer holds a number of professional licenses, certifications, and affiliations. She is the chair of the Nurses Healing Our Planet Environmental Task Force of the Delaware Nurses Association and, in 2008, was inducted into Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

Lauer and her family are residents of Wilmington, Del.



### UNDERGRADUATE CEREMONY

#### PENNI K. FOSTER

Penni Foster, a highly motivated student, graduated with a *Bachelor of Science degree in General Studies* from Wilmington University. She received an Associate in Arts degree in Education from Salem Community College and is currently enrolled in the Master of Education in Elementary Studies program at Wilmington University.

A dean's list scholar and a member of Delta Epsilon Rho, the Wilmington University Honor Society, Foster is extremely active in a variety of church and school-related activities.

Among her many volunteer commitments, Foster is a vacation Bible school instructor and acolyte coordinator at Clonmell United Methodist Church, secretary for the Pennsville Middle School parent and faculty committee, homeroom parent at Penn Beach Elementary School and team parent for the Pennsville Force soccer team.

Foster and her family are residents of Pennsville, N.J.



## SPRING COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES – MAY 14, 2008

### GEORGETOWN CEREMONY

#### KATHRYN A. BYRNE

Active in the community and committed to the field of health care, Kathryn Byrne completed her *Bachelor of Science in Nursing* with a high grade point average.

Byrne received her Associate in Applied Science Nursing Technology degree from Delaware Technical and Community College in



Georgetown, Del. Employed by Beebe Medical Center in a wide range of nursing and health care areas for the past 17 years, she is currently the director of inpatient services, a position she has held since 2002. In this role, Byrne is responsible for providing and overseeing high-quality, service-oriented nursing care and delivery throughout the medical center.

Her many volunteer activities include the Rehoboth Beach Jazz Festival, American Cancer Society and various community health fairs.

Byrne and her family are residents of Lewes, Del.

# A FOND FAREWELL

*After 13 years at Wilmington University,  
Dr. John Corrozi retires from the Psychology program,  
but he will leave a legacy of work behind.*



Susan L. Gregg

**T**HE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE Division bids a fond farewell to Dr. John Corrozi, who retired recently from his full-time position as coordinator of the Psychology program.

Born and reared in Wilmington, Del., Dr. Corrozi graduated from Salesianum School and received his B.A. in Psychology from the University of Delaware. After a short stint as an epidemiologist with the U.S. Public Health Service, he enrolled in a master's program in Communications Research at Boston University, where he received his M.S. in 1966. He received his Ph.D. in Behavioral Science from the University of Delaware in 1970 and worked developing and directing the Delaware Teacher Corps Program. This federally funded master's program trained liberal arts graduates to teach in urban classrooms in Wilmington.

The following year, Dr. Corrozi was appointed executive director of the Educational Research and Development Council of Delaware. He led the effort to bring business and industry together with education to develop approaches to work toward goals common to both sectors.

Dr. Corrozi continued to have an impact on education in Delaware when, in 1975, he joined the new Delaware Postsecondary Education Commission (later called the Delaware Commission on Higher Education), to serve as its first executive director. During his tenure with the commission, Dr. Corrozi created and managed several state grant and scholarship programs that have, over the years, provided millions of dollars to Delaware's college-going population.

In 1994, Dr. Corrozi resigned his



state position and spent six years doing consulting while teaching as an adjunct professor at three colleges. He taught his first course as an adjunct at Wilmington University in 1995.

In 2000, Dr. Corrozi extended his time at Wilmington University by accepting the position of half-time coordinator for Behavioral Science. The following year the position was expanded to full-time.

During the next seven years, both the Behavioral Science program and the Behavioral Science Division grew steadily. In 2002, Dr. Corrozi led the division's development of the Psychology major and served as coordinator for both Behavioral Science and Psychology until early 2007, at which time he devoted his time exclusively to the Psychology program.

He and his wife of 42 years, Ann Marie

Boeck Corrozi, live in Wilmington and Ocean View, Del. They have five adult children – two sons, three daughters – and 11 grandchildren. When asked about retirement plans, Dr. Corrozi says that while he's sure that he's finished with full-time jobs, he's not sure whether he's finished working. After a couple of months of travel and relaxation, he plans to start thinking about the next stage of his life.

## WOMEN IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

The fourth annual Women in Criminal Justice Leadership Seminar featured dynamic and insightful presentations by an array of successful leaders. The event, held on Friday, April 4 at the New Castle campus, was sponsored by the Wilmington University Criminal Justice Program. This year's seminar featured women leaders representing the Judiciary, Victim Services, and Law Enforcement professions.

The event began with a distinguished law enforcement panel of Wilmington Police Capt. Nancy Dietz, Maryland Transportation Authority Police Capt. Lucy Lyles, and U.S. Postal Inspector in Charge Teresa Thome. The panel set the tone for the day with a powerful discussion about how to navigate a path to success.

Dr. Jack P. Varsalona, president of Wilmington University, greeted the 130 guests and introduced this year's distinguished keynote speaker: the Hon. Ruth Ann Minner, governor of Delaware.

Gov. Minner's address centered on the determination she needed to achieve success. She illustrated this resolve through accounts of her earlier years in the political arena, a career she was inspired to seek after being refused a car loan due to her gender. Since that time, she has continued to break barriers for all women and promote

many accomplished women into key roles in state government.

Later, a panel discussion began featuring Director Mariann Ken- nville-Moore, Director Debra Reed and Children's Advocacy Center Coordinator Terri Kaiser, who represent women working in victim services. This was a new topic for this year's event and was well

received by the audience.

Finally, two women working in the Delaware court system took the stage. Ilana Eisenstein, assistant U.S. attorney, and Maria Knoll, Delaware deputy attorney general, spoke about their judiciary experiences and how to pioneer in a male-dominated workplace. Both women encouraged the audience to prepare for success and be accepting of new professional challenges.

To round out the event, recruitment officers from five different criminal justice agencies in the region provided information on state, local and federal law enforcement employment opportunities.

The seminar committee of U.S. Postal Inspector Yvette Thomas, (MS, '04) Lt. Laura O'Sullivan (MS, '03) and Lt. Melissa Zebley (MS, '03) received positive feedback from the attendees, who enjoyed the unique opportunity to hear from women leaders in a variety of criminal justice professions.



*From left: Laura O'Sullivan, lieutenant for the New Castle County Police Department; Delaware Gov. Ruth Ann Minner; Yvette Thomas, supervisor in U.S Postal Inspection; Melissa Zebley, lieutenant in the Delaware State Police; and Wilmington University President Dr. Jack P. Varsalona.*

Lois Siller

# NEW HONORS PROGRAM

*The first group of students is admitted to the Division of Business Honors program, which allows students to complete their undergraduate and graduate business degree in just five years.*



From left: Honors student Teniqua Grant, Dean of Business Dr. Robert Edelson, Program Coordinator Janice Wardle and Honors student Michael Van Gorder.

Jacque Varsalona

**T**HE DIVISION OF BUSINESS Honors program allows Wilmington University undergraduates majoring in Business to earn their Bachelor of Science degree and their Master of Business Administration or Master in Management degree in just five years. The program is designed for students who have demonstrated academic ability and the desire to begin their professional career with all of the higher educational credentials required for success in their chosen profession. Being part of the Honors program will help prepare students for management and leadership positions in the business world.

The first group of students to be admitted into the Division of Business

## NEW CERTIFICATE IN

If you currently own or recently started a small business (or you're thinking about it), you are in good company. Entrepreneurship and small business ownership have become increasingly popular career choices in today's marketplace.

With those thoughts in mind, the Business Division is now offering a certificate program in Entrepreneurship/Small Business Management. The certificate requires successful completion of five three-credit courses and a one-credit workshop on customer service.

"This certificate was based on research done in 2007, including a focus group comprised of local

Honors program had their orientation dinner earlier this year. To date, 15 students have been admitted into the program. These honor students have started internships at organizations such as Astra Zeneca, Swarthmore Financial and the Delaware Department of Transportation. Many of the students will be starting their graduate courses this summer with expected graduation in May 2009.

Students interested in applying for the Honors program are required to have and maintain a certain grade point average and complete an internship. They must also take two graduate courses the senior year of their undergraduate curriculum before starting the graduate degree track. Interested students should contact Stephanie Narvell at 302-356-6784 to see if they qualify.

## EX-TROOPER NAMED FUSION COORDINATOR



Gregory A. Warren, Ed.D., a retired 22-year veteran, captain and former director of training for the Delaware State Police, has been appointed assistant professor and coordinator of the accelerated learning Organizational Management Fusion degree-completion program. He replaces Dr. Don Durandetta, who recently became coordinator of the Doctor of Business Administration program.

## SPORTS TALK BRINGS PROS TO CAMPUS

The Sports Management Program launched its Sports Talk series in February 2008 with Milt Thompson, the Philadelphia Phillies hitting coach. Spring also brought National Football League sports agent Jim Solano and Ernie Distefano, author of "The Happy Athlete" to the Wilmington University campus. The series will continue with speakers from Major League Baseball and the Washington Capitals hockey team. For more information, contact Janice Wardle at 302-356-6786.



*Left to right: Milt Thompson and Janice Wardle.*

Susan L. Gregg

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP, SMALL BUSINESS

small business owners and the president of the Small Business Association," said Lynda Fuller, coordinator of the undergraduate management program and developer of the new certificate. "We did a comprehensive review of how other educational institutions are meeting the needs of a small business community, and realized there is a strong need for a program that will provide small business owners with the resources to effectively manage their businesses."

Although there are numerous workshops within the community and one-credit courses at other institutions, the Wilmington University certificate would be offered in class, online or in a hybrid format (half online, half in class).

It will also allow participants to earn 16 university credits, which can also be applied toward any Business Bachelor of Science degree.

The nine courses from which a student can choose are small business finance, small business law, entrepreneurship, small business management, accounting, operations management, sales force management, supervision and human resource management.

"For now, all courses are being offered at the New Castle campus in a seven-week block format, but eventually we will offer the certificate at all sites, and plan to make it entirely available online to attract students outside our region," Fuller said.

## CHAMBER "U"

The Wilmington University Business Division is among several area colleges and universities sponsoring a series of seminars on various business topics of interest to start-ups and small businesses at the New Castle Chamber of Commerce.

The first of several Chamber "U" programs kicked off on April 22 when Lynda Fuller, coordinator of the Management program, presented "Best Practices in Customer Service." The workshop focused on both external and internal customers and practices by which customer-driven organizations operate.

Seminars are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month. The next one featuring a Wilmington University business faculty member is on "Web-based Marketing," slated for June 24 to be taught by Bruce Puckett, marketing adjunct.



# IN A NEW YORK MINUTE

*A Wilmington University alumna*

*is hitting it big in the Big Apple.*

*Amanda Gibellino now works at MTV studios.*



Susan L. Gregg

AS TAXIS SPEED BY, PEOPLE rush around and digital advertisements sweep across televisions, Amanda Gibellino is standing still outside MTV Studios in New York's Times Square.

Upon graduating from Wilmington University with a bachelor's degree in TV/Video Production and an associate's degree in Media and Design Technology, Gibellino interned at MTV studios and is now coordinator of studio production for MTV.

"What they say about a New York minute is the truth," says Gibellino. "Living in NYC is fast-paced and I love that. Working in production is tough, but I fit in and I am proud to be using my skills and putting my degree to work!"

In classes at Wilmington, Gibellino learned script writing, lighting, analog editing and digital editing.

"When I came to MTV for my internship, I couldn't believe it when I saw that everyone used tape decks with the huge Beta tapes for editing and logging footage," recalls Gibellino. "I didn't think anyone used that equipment anymore, and it was certainly helpful that I knew how to dub, edit and use the equipment."

Starting the internship in fall 2006, Gibellino worked in various areas of the production department and highly impressed the staff. Brushing elbows with celebrities is just one of the perks of working for MTV.

"My office is located in the office corridor within the MTV studio, so celebrity talent walks past my door every day," says Gibellino, who has worked in the production department for

“Total Request Live,” “The Big Ten,” “Sucker Free” and the award-winning series “Made.”

“I remember when I was part of ‘The Killers Live Leak,’ where we invited The Killers’ top 100 MySpace friends to come listen to their new CD before it was released,” recalls Gibellino. The CD skipped on purpose and when the music resumed, the real band was playing. “Some of the kids were crying and it was such an amazing experience, one I will never forget.”

Gibellino also coordinates MTV production interns. “It’s great to work with the interns because I would never be where I am without my internship here. If you are a standout intern and show you have what it takes, it can open so many doors for you,” she says.

She suggests current iTAC students gain as much experience as possible and intern as many places as they can.

“Eighty percent of MTV Network’s employees were once interns,” says Gibellino. “It is the best way for employers to see how you work, feel out your work ethic and give you the opportunity to prove yourself.”



Susan L. Gregg

## CAPTURING THE WONDERS OF NATURE

Spring Faculty Development Day was made a little more colorful this year when **MICKEY TURNBO**, adjunct professor at Wilmington University, led a workshop on “Self Publishing” and displayed his self-published book on nature photography.



The book, “A Perspective on Nature,” was published using an online software engine called Blurb, a program designed for people interested in publishing photography books. Turnbo led the workshop, showing faculty and staff how to decide on layout, import photographs, add text and send the book to an online vendor for printing.

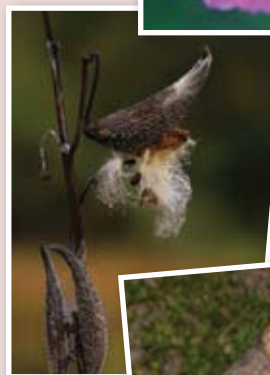
The process is surprisingly inexpensive and makes for a great addition to your coffee table. Turnbo has now completed his second book, “A Perspective on Nature II,” which features photographs taken from locations in Florida, New Mexico, Maine, Georgia, Texas and the tri-state area and focuses on flora and fauna.

Turnbo began taking pictures as yearbook photographer in high school. A 24-year stretch in the Air Force distracted him from his enjoyment of photography, but after retiring, he was back behind the lens.

Nowadays Turnbo and son Robert make regular excursions around the United States, looking for that new bird to photograph and to add to their own “life list.” Birders are known to keep a life list of birds they would like to see and photograph, and Turnbo and his son are no exception. Turnbo has an upcoming trip back to Baring, Maine, to attend the 2008 Down East Birding Festival. While there last year, shooting the Atlantic puffin, he and Robert saw a wide variety of warblers and plan to try for some better shots of these small, evasive birds.

Turnbo has been at Wilmington University 22 years, teaching computer operations courses and two of the photography minor classes, “Techniques in Basic Photography” and a course he developed for the minor, “Nature Photography.”

Anyone interested in putting together a photo book for a class project, family reunion, anniversary or student portfolio can call Turnbo at (302) 356-6832.





# NURSING HONORS

*Omicron Gamma Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau celebrates anniversary. The society has grown tremendously in the last 10 years.*



Congratulations Nursing Graduates.

Susan L. Gregg

IN THE EARLY 1990S, A SMALL group of nursing students spoke with then-Division Chair Dr. Betty Caffo and division faculty members about developing a student group. Their initial thought of a social group swiftly morphed into a much greater vision and, in 1992, the Nursing Honor Society was born. From the very beginning, this group planned to become a part of the International Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau. They followed the guidelines of the international society for induction of members and held scholarly meetings.

## NEWS CLIPS FROM THE

**STEPHANIE PREBULA**, a 2005 graduate of Wilmington University, earned a master's degree in Nursing from Villanova University in December 2007.



**MICHELLE LAUER**, New Castle commencement speaker, completed her Master of Science in Nursing degree program in the Nursing Leadership: Educator concentration. Lauer has been the Patient Care Coordinator of the Psychiatric Crisis Team at Christiana Care since 2006 and oversees its daily operations in two hospital emergency rooms.

**DOT BAKER** wrote a student resource guide for 14 chapters of Lubkin & Larsen's textbook "Chronic Illness: Impact & Interventions" (6th ed., Jones & Bartlett). The guide includes exercises in critical thinking, small group discussion, case



In 1997, after a rigorous application process, several representatives of the Wilmington University Honor Society traveled to Indianapolis, Ind., the home of Sigma Theta Tau International, to present their petition for chapter membership. That petition was accepted and the chapter was officially named Omicron Gamma.

Omicron Gamma Chapter became official on March 29, 1998 when the chartering ceremony was held in the auditorium on the New Castle campus. One hundred and sixty-nine members were inducted as charter members in

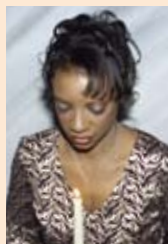
the company of family and friends. A lovely afternoon tea followed the event – the day was so warm that iced tea became the fluid of choice for all!

Since that time, Omicron Gamma has continued to grow and develop. We now have 583 active members and continue to hold scholarly and social events at venues across the state. We have a new Web site ready to launch and several students have been supported by chapter grants or scholarships. We participate in regional Sigma Theta Tau events and always have a presence at the international biennial conferences.

Our 2008 induction was combined this year with a tenth anniversary celebration. All charter members were invited to join us for this event, which featured an address by Dr. Betty Caffo, now academic vice president and provost of Wilmington University. Dee Jones, a 2008 MSN in Nursing Leadership graduate sang the “Nurses’ Anthem,” which she wrote and recorded. Thirty-nine new members were inducted during the ceremony, after which the audience and participants enjoyed hors d’oeuvres, punch and fellowship.

## DIVISION OF NURSING & ALLIED HEALTH

studies and related Internet links. She also wrote an instructor’s manual for 17 chapters of Schmidt & Brown’s textbook “Evidence-based Practice for Nurses: Appraisal and Application of Research” (Jones & Bartlett). The manual focuses on professional nurses’ critical roles as innovators and leaders and features a variety of classroom activities and homework assignments.



**DEE JONES**, a January 2008 MSN in Nursing Leadership graduate, has recorded her song “Nurses’ Anthem.” She wrote the “Nurse’s Anthem” song as part of

her membership in the Nightingale Initiative for Global Health (NIGH). NIGH’s members work to empower nurses, health care workers and educators to become modern Nightingales in the local, national, and global communities. Dee is an accomplished vocalist who has performed in many settings and

will sing with her choir group in Jerusalem this spring.

**EVIE LOGUE**, adjunct professor, is back in the classroom again after missing a few blocks due to illness. Welcome back, Evie!



**KATHRYN A. BYRNE**, Georgetown commencement speaker, earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. Employed by Beebe Medical Center in a wide range of nursing and health care areas for the past 17 years, Byrne has been the Director of Inpatient Services since 2002.

**LYNDA KOPISHKE**, who graduated from Wilmington University and is an adjunct professor in our MSN Legal Nurse Consultant track, had an article published in American Nurse Today in December 2007. The article was entitled “Legal Nurse Consultant: A Career at the Crossroads of Health Care and the Law.”

**VERONICA WILBUR**, full-time faculty member, has a new title - she is now Dr. Veronica Wilbur. She successfully defended her dissertation at Widener University School of Nursing on March 17. Dr. Wilbur’s dissertation topic was “Factors that Influence the Cultural Competence of Nurse Practitioner Students.”

*Our Allied Health completion program started in fall 2006 and we had our first graduate in spring 2007. The program continues to grow – we now have almost 70 students and had eight graduates in May 2008. Maria Weeks is the coordinator of this program.*

# ACHIEVING ACCREDITATION

*Division of Education Receives Professional Accreditation by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).*

**T**HE DIVISION OF EDUCATION has proven its commitment to producing quality teachers and educators for our region's children by achieving accreditation under the performance-oriented standards of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), the organization responsible for professional accreditation of teacher education.



NCATE was founded in 1954 and aims to help establish high-quality teacher preparation, thus encouraging competent classroom teachers and improving the education of P-12 students. Institutions of higher learning that receive NCATE accreditation must meet rigorous standards set by the profession and members of the public. Teacher candidates must have in-depth knowledge of the subject matter that they plan to teach, as well as the skills necessary to convey that knowledge to their students.

## “5-2-1-ALMOST NONE”: One Formula for a Healthy Lifestyle

Wilmington University has partnered with the Nemours Health and Prevention Services (NHPS) in their work to combat childhood obesity. NHPS has launched an effort in Delaware: The Campaign to Make Delaware's Kids the Healthiest in the Nation.

NHPS, a non-profit organization based in Newark, Del., works with families and communities to help children grow up healthy. The



Michael Monti

The institution must have partnerships with P-12 schools that enable candidates to develop the skills in the field and be prepared to work with diverse student populations. In addition, the faculty must model effective teaching practices and the institution must have the resources necessary to prepare candidates to meet the new performance standards.

The accrediting team that visited Wilmington University was comprised of nine professional educators from California, Kansas, Ohio, Maine, South Carolina, Alabama and Delaware. Their visit spanned a six-day period during which University sites and P-12 schools were visited, a myriad of documents were reviewed and hundreds of students, school partners and faculty members were interviewed.

The visit was preceded by a review of all educator preparation programs and careful preparation of many required documents and reports, which was accomplished by the faculty and staff members of the division.

organization's goal is to develop programs and contribute knowledge to enhance efforts to promote the health of children in Delaware, and eventually the nation.

The emphasis on childhood obesity prevention is centered in the "5-2-1-Almost None" campaign:

- Eat five fruits and vegetables per day.
- Spend no more than two hours per day in front of a screen (television, video games, recreational computer time).
- Get at least one hour of physical activity per day.
- Consume almost no sugary drinks like soda and sports drinks (one to two servings per week).

## BECK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



For the fifth consecutive year, the Division of Education is pleased to be in a position to select the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship in memory of Karen Beck, a former director of special services in the Red Clay Consolidated School District who passed away in 2002 at an early age from cancer.

Beck was well known throughout Delaware as an outstanding leader in the field of special education, as well as a tireless advocate for special needs children. Beck worked in various positions including being a special education teacher, instructional facilitator and supervisor of special services before becoming director of special services.

The award, graciously sponsored by the Alpha Delta Kappa Honorary Sorority, is available to any Wilmington University graduate student pursuing a master's degree in Special Education. Selection criteria for the award include:

- Outstanding scholarship in the Master of Education in Elementary Special Program
- Active participation in activities involving individuals with special needs
- Demonstrated qualities of future promise in the field of special education

All applicants are asked to explain what influenced them the most in selecting special education as a chosen career and to include activities that demonstrate their current involvement with individuals who have special needs. Two letters of recommendation are required. The award is presented at the Karen Beck Memorial Walk held at Brandywine Springs School in early May.

Wilmington University's division of Education has incorporated the "5-2-1-Almost None" information into several of its programs. Students study the ongoing impact of obesity in various developmental areas for children and

discuss corrective strategies. In the MEC School Counseling program, student interns are also encouraged to develop counseling intervention projects that focus upon childhood obesity prevention during their school placements.



Susan L. Gregg

*The Education Division's Staff and Faculty.*



# DEARDORFF TO RETIRE



**T**HE DEAN OF THE DOCTORAL Studies program, Dr. Joseph Deardorff, has announced his retirement effective July 2008. Dr. Deardorff plans to spend time traveling, including three months in warmer weather.

Dr. Deardorff came to Wilmington University to help create both master's and bachelor's programs in Career and Technical Education. Shortly after the programs were approved and initiated, he was appointed as the dean of Doctoral Studies.

During the four and a half years that he served

as the dean of the program, a concentration in Organizational Leadership was added to the existing Educational Leadership concentration in the Ed.D. program. The Educational Leadership program, meanwhile, has been significantly modified to include rigorous standards-based coursework that addresses the requirements for NCATE accreditation, which the Division of Education received in 2007.

He formerly served as the superintendent of the New Castle County Vocational Technical School District, where he previously had experience as its deputy superintendent and high school principal. He retired from the school district after 35 years of service and joined the faculty at Wilmington University in July 2003.



## TAN LIKE NEVER BEFORE

The summer months are coming so get your summer glow going by visiting Peace of Mind Tanning, now open for your convenience in the Shops at Limestone Hills. Check out our new line of tanning equipment including a state-of-the-art UV-free tanner, our Thermo-jet body contouring system, and our indoor tanning skin care products. Get the skin care that best suits your lifestyle.

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TANNING

5329 Limestone Road • Shops at Limestone Hills  
Wilmington, DE 19808

302.239.TANS (8267)  
[peaceofmindtanning.com](http://peaceofmindtanning.com)

## WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY HOSTS EVENING WITH LAUREN GROFF

By Suki Deen

The Wilmington University community was fortunate to host an evening with critically acclaimed author Lauren Groff in March 2008 and afterwards sit down for an interview with her. Groff's debut novel, *"The Monsters of Templeton,"* is a captivating novel filled with mystery, romance and the fantastic.



**WU Magazine:** First, congratulations on your debut novel. A lot of well-known authors have written many novels before they gained any real recognition. What went in to writing *"The Monsters of Templeton"*?

**Lauren Groff:** A really long time, and a lot of work! The reception has been absolute luck, and I am overjoyed by it. But I did spend four years of my life writing it, and it took a year and a half after that to get it published. So it feels like a long time, and I wrote pretty much every day.

**WU:** The town of Templeton is based on your hometown of Cooperstown, N.Y. You describe the book as a "love story for Cooperstown." Tell us more about your hometown and how it compares and contrasts to the town of Templeton?

**LG:** Templeton is Cooperstown the way I've always viewed it since I was a child but it's much more imaginative. I've taken a lot of the history of Cooperstown and translated it into this mythical town. It was so great growing up in the small town of Cooperstown because it has been very prominent in American history, and is just a basket of culture in the middle of upstate New York.

The town of Templeton was introduced to me while reading James Fenimore Cooper's *"The Pioneers."* Cooper wrote about his hometown of Cooperstown, taking the truths of the town but changing some of its history, creating new characters and naming it Templeton. I found it so interesting that I decided to write about Templeton, taking the idea and playing around with it, creating my own characters along the way.

**WU:** *"The Monsters of Templeton"* is written with great attention to detail. How do you set the scene?

**LG:** Well, usually I spend about 15 minutes at my desk every morning with my eyes closed trying to imagine the scene that is coming up. I try to get into all the senses, all the smells, all the sights and all the sounds. Thank you for picking up on that; I appreciate it!

**WU:** You're welcome! What's the best advice would you give to up-and-coming writers?

**LG:** You know, people come up to me all the time and say, "I've always wanted to write but I've never had the time." And I just don't believe in that excuse. Mainly because I believe that if you have 10 minutes a day, you will get something done. It may take 10 years, but you will have a finished novel.



Dan Moran

**WU:** Finally, what can we expect from you in the future?

**LG:** I have two books under contract. One is coming out next January; it is a book of short stories called *"Delicate Edible Birds."* And the second book is still a work in process.

Lauren Groff's novel, *"The Monsters of Templeton,"* is available wherever quality books are sold.

By Suki Deen

# Wilmington University IS GOING GREEN

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HESE DAYS, EVERYBODY HAS BEEN talking about going green. Have you stepped into your local grocery store and found yourself walking down the organic aisle? Have you noticed the influx of hybrid cars? Have you heard politicians and celebrities talking about recycling, global warming and saving energy?

Well, if you haven't noticed, you might just be living under a rock. The new trend is saving this rock – planet Earth.

You don't have to be a superhero

to save the planet, but you do have to do some research, take some time and make some adjustments. The Green Team at Wilmington University has been making some adjustments all over campus. The Green Team, which

began in November 2006, is a volunteer group of faculty, students and staff who are striving to improve environmental quality, decrease waste and conserve natural resources and energy on campus, at home and in the community.



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**GO GREEN NOW!**

*If you are interested in joining the Green Team  
visit [www.wilmu.edu/greenteam](http://www.wilmu.edu/greenteam) or email Mark Paris at [mark.s.paris@wilmu.edu](mailto:mark.s.paris@wilmu.edu).*



## LOOK AT HOW WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY IS GOING GREEN

*The Wilmington University Green Team has been striving to save the planet — just look at all they have done in a little under two years:*

### RECYCLING

The University recycles paper, plastic bottles, ink and toner cartridges manufactured by Dell and more. Wilmington University has also been striving to use recycled paper as much as possible when printing.

In October 2007, the Green Team staffed a table at Faculty Development Day to raise awareness of recycling programs on campus. The team raffled off a refurbished computer to raise money and successfully raised \$600 for use with future events.

### SAVING ENERGY

Dupli, the preferred printer of Wilmington University, fuels their operations with 100 percent wind power, thus saving energy while being eco-friendly. Wilmington University Canon copiers are all Energy Star rated, which means they use less energy, save money and help protect the environment. The Facilities Department has replaced lighting with T8 fluorescent lighting, which use less energy, and installed “wattstopper” light switches, which use motion sensors that time out after 15 minutes.

### ADOPT- A-HIGHWAY

The Green Team participated in its first Adopt-A-Highway cleanup in New Castle County. Wilmington University has adopted Frenchtown Road (Route 273 between Route 141 and Route 13) and members of the team cleaned up 21 large garbage bags of trash from the highway.



Thomas Hurd



Thomas Hurd

On April 19, the Green Team participated in the second Adopt-A-Highway cleanup and, once again, it was a great success.

### STAYING GREEN

Wilmington University President Dr. Jack P. Varsalona recognized the achievements of Green Team leader Mark Paris and the entire team by saying, “I would like to congratulate you and the entire team for making the University’s recycling program such a huge success. As an institution of higher learning, it is our responsibility to raise awareness and increase knowledge of just how important it is to create a sustainable future. I look forward to watching the program grow.”

In March 2008, the Green Team raised

awareness at Faculty Development Day by demonstrating a “kill-a-watt” meter on a standard printer, demonstrating how leaving one standard personal printer on and occasionally printing something could cost up to \$85 a year in electrical energy. The team raised more than \$300 and raffled off some great green prizes.

Thomas Hurd, assistant manager of the Wilson Graduate Center, has been a longtime member of the Green Team. “It has become the most rewarding organization I’m associated with at Wilmington University,” said Hurd. “It’s so exciting to be a part of something that is having a real, immediate and lasting impact on the environment that we live and work in each day.” ■

### WHY DO WE NEED TO GO GREEN?

The Earth naturally heats and cools over time, but human activity can cause an increase in global warming. Human activity increases the emission of greenhouse gases. These gases have been documented as having a devastating effect on the temperature of the planet, which in turn causes sea levels to rise, increases extreme weather events, melts glaciers, kills coral reefs, increases disease and causes species extinction.

# WU ALUMNI

## MEET THE TEAM



Jacque Varsalona

*From left, Alumni Relations Coordinator Pattie Jennings, University Events Coordinator Jane West (B.S. '08), Annual Fund Coordinator Gloria Johnson (B.S. '94) and Alumni Relations Associate Brandi Purcell.*

In January 2008, Dr. Jack P. Varsalona established the new Alumni Relations Department under the leadership of Dr. Thomas B. Cupples, Assistant Vice President in the Office of the President. Pattie Jennings has been coordinator of alumni activities for a number of years and brings a wealth of experience to the department. Brandi Purcell adds her administrative expertise to the group while updating the alumni database and using software to keep in touch with Wilmington University alumni. Gloria Johnson will coordinate the Annual Fund and

## ALUMNI RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

- Patricia L. Jennings *Alumni Relations Coordinator*
- Gloria R. Johnson *Annual Fund Coordinator*
- Brandi D. Purcell *Alumni Relations Associate*
- Jane V. West *University Events Coordinator*

other educational activities, and Jane West, who coordinates major events for the University, is now involved with planning and implementing alumni events and activities.

One of the first tasks of the new department was to write a mission statement and come up with solid strategic plans. There are six major alumni events planned this year, the first of which was the successful Alumni Celebration of Education on May 1. The Wilmington University Specialty License Tag Campaign, organized by the department, combines the opportunity to display a specialty license tag with a donation to the Annual Fund. In the future the alumni can expect to hear a lot more from this group as they make contact with graduates. One of the immediate goals is to establish individual activities for graduates in various majors.

# ALUMNI,

send us your  
career, marriage  
and baby news!

Please send all alumni correspondence to:

Patricia L. Jennings, *Alumni Relations Coordinator*  
320 N. DuPont Hwy. / New Castle, DE 19720  
Tel: 302.295.1163 / email: alumni@wilmu.edu

**72**

**Elbert Kennard** (*B.B.A. Business Management*) of Winterville, N.C., is a medical photographer at East Carolina University.



Elbert, or "Big E" as he was known on the Wilmington University basketball team, participated in the Senior Olympics and his team ended up 13th in the nation. He also has

his own professional photography company. Contact him at [www.coastalphotography.com](http://www.coastalphotography.com)

**74**

**Joseph Gentile** (*B.A. Business Management*) of Jackson, Miss., is a case manager for the state of Mississippi. Although he has not been back to his home state of Delaware for more than 20 years, he keeps in touch with the University with cards and letters.

**Douglas A. Hotmer** (*B.S. Criminal Justice*) of West Chester, Pa., is vice president and chief financial officer for About Consulting LLC and has been named a Princeton Premiers Honored Member in Business. Douglas serves his community as the director of the Delaware Children's Theater and plays drums and creates sound effects for the performances.

**86**

**Charles J. Simpson** (*B.S. Criminal Justice*) of Lewes, Del., is a captain with the Delaware State Police, Troop 4, in Georgetown, Del.

**90**

**Yvette Santiago** (*B.S. Criminal Justice*) of Middletown, Del., is the senior manager for community relations at Nemours Health and Prevention Services. In October 2007, Yvette took the oath of office for her seat on the New Castle County Vocational Technical School District Board of Education. She was appointed to the seven-year term by Gov. Ruth Ann Minner.

**91**

**Major Robert J. Reiss Jr.** (*B.S. Aviation Management*) resides in Papillion, Neb. Major Reiss currently is the chief of the



Special Operations Branch for HQ US Strategic Command and has led the command in all aspects of the war on terror for the U.S. Air Force.

His previous assignments include a deployment to the Middle East and South Korea. Major Reiss, a career space and missile officer, has had a very unique career. He has been published in three military magazines and awarded numerous medals and commendations. He received his Master's in Business Administration from Regis University in Denver, Colo., and numerous certificates from Pennsylvania State University and the Emergency Management Institute at the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

**92**

**Dr. Jeffrey Sanders** (*M.S. Human Resources Management*) of Pittsburgh, Pa., is a business enterprise analyst for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

**Michelle A. Taylor** (*M.B.A. Business Administration*) of Middletown, Del., has been appointed president of United Way of Delaware. Michelle serves on the board of the Delaware Association of Nonprofit Agencies.

**93**

**Lisa Marie Butterworth** (*M.B.A. Business Administration*) of Dover, Del., is a senior manager in the customer service department for Playtex Products, Inc.

**96**

**Stephanie Brown-Richardson** (*M.Ed. Educational Counseling*) of Philadelphia, Pa., is in her eighth year as a school counselor in the Philadelphia School District. "I am very grateful that I could work and go to school at the same time," said Stephanie. "Thanks, Wilmington University."

**98**

**Lt. Lewis W. Briggs II** (*B.S. Criminal Justice*) of Georgetown, Del., retired in 2007 after serving 37 years in law enforcement. Lt. Briggs began his career as a U.S. Air Force security police officer assigned to strategic air command in Southeast Asia. Prior to retirement, he was Director of 911 operations and headquarters communications for the Delaware State Police Department of Safety and Homeland Security. Lt. Briggs and wife, Lisa, are enjoying retirement, spending time with their four children and eight grandchildren.

**Steve Grandizio** (*M.S. Public Administration*) of Philadelphia, Pa., is president of Friendly Mortgage and was honored as the recipient of the "Young Entrepreneur of the Year Excellence Award" by the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce in November 2007. Steve is co-founder and co-chair for Little Smiles of Pennsylvania, a charitable organization for children in local hospitals, hospices and shelters; chair of Covenant House, a national organization providing shelter and assistance to runaway youth; and executive committee member of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Light the Night 2007. Steve received his B.A. in Communications from Wilmington University in 1993. In between degrees, he played professional baseball in the St. Louis Cardinals organization.

**Lt. Col. Kurt Guyer** (*M.S. Management*) of Crofton, Md., recently served as an operations officer supporting command level



nuclear surety exercises at the Headquarters Defense Threat Reduction Agency at Ft. Belvoir, Va. Lt. Guyer is currently assigned as an admissions liaison officer

to the Air Force Academy and the reserve officer training program. He holds a senior space/missile operations designation and has been activated for Operation Joint Endeavor and Operation Enduring Freedom. When not on assignment, he works



for the headquarters of the Department of Homeland Security. Spending time with his son Kraig is the highlight of his life.

**Dr. Christine Oldham** (*Ed.D. Innovation & Leadership*), a native of the Johnstown, Pa., area, has been selected as the superintendent of the Ligonier Valley School District in Pennsylvania. Her tenure will begin in July 2008. She is currently superintendent of the Ferndale School District. Dr. Oldham's first position in education was as an elementary teacher in 1988 in Camden, Del. Since then, she has served as an assistant principal, elementary school principal, curriculum director and instructional coordinator.

## 99

**Cyndi Clay** (*M.Ed. Instruction: Teaching and Learning*) of Middletown, Del., has been named the new assistant principal at Silver Lake Elementary School. Cyndi, a nationally board-certified teacher, has 27 years of teaching experience and has taught every grade except kindergarten. She started her teaching career at the old Middletown high school on Broad Street. Cyndi and her husband, Dennis, have three children, Chris, Kim and Mike.

## 01

**Ramona Bradley** (*B.S.N. Nursing*) of Laurel, Del., is a residential health director for the Deaf Independent Living Association.

**Carol H. Chiffens** (*M.B.A. Business Administration*) of Pasadena, Md., is a program specialist in business operations for the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. "I utilize my education in business from the University in budgetary functions every day," she said.

**Christine Jeffery** (*B.S. Early Childhood Education*) of New Castle, Del., is employed by the Chase Academy of Learning. She is a director and preschool teacher. Christine and her husband have five sons.

**John Singer** (*M.Ed. Applied Technology*) of New Castle, Del, was recently recognized at the annual conference of the International Technology Education Association held in Salt Lake City, Utah. John is one of 39 teachers worldwide to earn the prestigious Teacher in Excellence Award for 2008. He was also recognized as one of three teachers to receive the Distinguished Technology Educator Citation.



John is a technology education teacher at Hanby Middle School and an instructor at the Delaware Aerospace Academy.

## 02

**Goodwin K. Cobb** (*M.B.A. Business Administration*) of Newark, Del., is with the marketing group of the Christiana Care Health System. He presented "Implementing a Health and Wellness Plan in Occupational Health Practices" at the National Association of Occupational Health Professionals in Nashville, Tenn.

**Kathleen S. Peake** (*B.S. Business Management*) of Wilmington, Del., is a management analyst for the Delaware Department of Labor.

**Lawrence Tan** (*B.S. Human Resources Management*) of Newark, Del., is the chief of emergency medical services for New Castle County Government. Lawrence recently graduated from Widener University School of Law with a Juris Doctor degree and has been admitted to practice law by the supreme courts of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. In October 2007, he was awarded a senior executive fellowship to the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government by the National EMS Chiefs Division of the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians.

## ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP

The Alumni Relations Department is pleased to recognize the first scholarship recipient awarded 10 years ago. **ROBERT A. WILLOUGHBY JR.** of Middletown, Del., earned his B.S. in Business Management in 1998 from Wilmington University. He has been employed by Delaware for 15 years and is currently a senior probation and parole officer for the probation and parole department. During his nine-year tenure in this position, he has earned seven departmental commendations and the New Castle County Police Chiefs Award in 2007. Although Robert's major was Business, it prepared him for the many

challenges in law enforcement, whether it was report writing, computer literacy or public speaking in court. Robert said, "Being awarded the alumni scholarship meant a great deal to me at that time and it was a motivator to complete my degree. Wilmington University and the people I met along the way, both faculty and students, helped shape me into who I am today. I am appreciative of the alumni donors' generosity and support in funding the scholarship program throughout the years and I look forward, as an alumnus, to take part as an active member."



**Robert Yeatman** (*M.B.A. Master of Business Administration*) of Kinnelon, N.J., has been appointed to general manager of sales management and volume planning for Mercedes-Benz USA.

### 03

**Cassandra Hopkins** (*B.S. Human Resources Management*) of Claymont, Del., is a program facilitator and instructor for the Professional Staffing Employee Training and Development Company. Cassandra said, "I have found my dream position! Without Wilmington University, I am sure it would not have happened. I completed a course at the University entitled "Adventures in Attitudes," and remember thinking that this class held for me life-changing ideas and information. Every time I stand before my classes, I do so thinking of the wonderful instructors and directors I encountered during my education at Wilmington University."

**Laura M. O'Sullivan** (*M.S. Administration of Justice*) of Newark, Del., was promoted to lieutenant on Jan. 23, 2008 and is patrol squad commander for E Squad for the New Castle County Police Department.

### 04

**Dorothy R. Burke** (*M.Ed. Educational Leadership*) of Pittsgrove, N.J., was promoted from English teacher to assistant principal at Vineland High School South in Vineland, N.J. "The educational training that I received from Wilmington University, including the rigorous compilation of the capstone project, prepared me for my journey into administration," said Dorothy.

**Pablo Reyes Jr.**, (*M.Ed. Elementary Education*) of Felton, Del., is a computer technology teacher in the Lake Forest School District. Pablo also earned his B.S. in Business Management in 1997 and his M.B.A. in Business Administration in 2000 from Wilmington University.

## WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY ALUMNA NAMED DIRECTOR OF DMV

On Dec. 3, 2007 Delaware Department of Transportation Secretary Carolann Wicks named **JENNIFER L. COHAN** (B.S. in Business Management 2002 and M.S. in Public Administration 2003) as the first female director of the Division of Motor Vehicles. Jennifer, an 18-year state employee, has held various positions within the executive and legislative branches of government.

She attributes her success to her positive learning experience at Wilmington University, its professors and fellow alumni.

"Wilmington University made it easy for me to continue working a full-time career and still meet my educational goals. It also allowed me to learn from other professionals with various backgrounds - you do not get that level of diverse exposure with just any university. It is that experience that I rely on every day and fuels my dedication to public service," she said. Jennifer lives in Dover with her husband, Chris, and daughter Brittany. Her hobbies include running, reading and spending time with her family.



Jacque Varsalona

*Jennifer L. Cohan, director of the Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles (left) presents the new Wilmington University license tag to Pattie Jennings, alumni relations coordinator. For license tag information, go to [www.wilmu.edu/alumni](http://www.wilmu.edu/alumni) or call 302-356-4636.*

## WU Softball Team – Rebel Spring Games, Kissimmee, Fla.



Erin Harvey

The Wilmington University women's softball team paused for a moment for a photo during their spring training session. Donations from alumni and friends to the Annual Fund helped defray some of their expenses for the trip.

## ALUMNI CELEBRATION OF EDUCATION

The Alumni Relations Department, in coordination with the Division of Education and the Division of Doctoral Studies, held the first Alumni Celebration of Education as part of a new series of alumni events planned by the department.

The event was held to celebrate the Education alumni and Wilmington University's profound impact on K-12 schools throughout the region. Many alumni participated in poster presentations, showing interesting events in



*From left, Pat McCarthy, Sid Collison, Dr. Barbara Raetsch, Dr. Richard Gochbauer and Dr. Joseph Deardorff.*

their school districts or presenting their recent doctoral dissertations.

**DR. THOMAS CUPPLES**, assistant vice president of Wilmington University, welcomed alumni, special guests and educators, saying he was pleased that so many alumni had returned to Wilmington University for this special event.

The Dean of the Division of Education, **DR. RICHARD GOCHNAUER**, discussed the progress Wilmington University and the division have made in the past 20 years. **DR. JOSEPH DEARDOFF**, dean of the Division of Doctoral Studies, welcomed distinguished alumni, including 2007 Delaware, Superintendent of the Year **DR. TONY MARCHIO** and 2007 Delaware Principal of the Year **DR. BRUCE CURRY**, both of whom are graduates of Wilmington University's doctoral program.

Other notable guests included Dr. Chuck Staropoli, former vice president; Dr. Jim Spartz, former vice president; Pat McCarthy, former program coordinator; Sid Collison, Founding Chair of the Education Program, Dr. Barbara Raetsch, former dean of Education; and Dr. Fred Raetsch, former coordinator of the Master of Reading and Literacy programs.

Wilmington University President **DR. JACK P. VARSALONA** thanked the alumni for attending the event and congratulated them on their achievements.

"When we began offering degrees in this division, we wanted to make it practical, convenient and hands-on," said Dr. Varsalona, adding that this hands-on experience has been helpful to the Education alumni. "From our humble beginnings we now have over 7000 education alumni and I am very proud of each and every one."

**Lyncoya Simpson** (*M.B.A. Business Administration*) of Indian Trail, N.C., and his wife, Maria, also a graduate of Wilmington University (B.S. Business Administration in 1999) have started their own business. Their technology consulting firm, The Brownstone Group, LLC specializes in industries of financial services, defense, transportation and education.

## 06

**Jeanine Brown** (*B.S. Accounting*) of West Chester, Pa., is a revenue agent for the Internal Revenue Service. Jeanine credits her success to her Wilmington University degree. In addition, Jeanine said, "I attended the career fair held by the Career Counseling Office at WU and it was the vehicle that led to my wonderful job."

**Nan Howe** (*M.Ed. Leadership*) resides in West Ocean City, Md., with her husband, Bruce, two children and three chocolate labs. Nan was named Teacher of the Year in the Ocean City Elementary School. She has taught first, second and third grade in Worcester County since 1983 at Snow Hill Elementary School and Ocean City Elementary School.

**Stephanie McCready** (*B.S. General Studies*) of Milwaukee, Wis., is the owner of Muscari Flowers & Gifts. Stephanie opened her shop in April 2007. "My diverse training in the general studies program at Wilmington University prepared me for this business enterprise," said Stephanie.

**Dr. Brenda Windemuth** (*M.S.N. Family Nurse Practitioner*) of Eden, Md., is a faculty member and nurse practitioner for the University of Maryland School of Nursing. "Wilmington University gave me the building blocks to succeed in my current career," said Dr. Windemuth. She also received her B.S.N. in Nursing in 1998 from Wilmington University and received her Doctorate of Nurse Practice from the University of Maryland School of Nursing.



## 07

**Olusegun Agbaje** (*M.Ed. School Counseling*) of Middletown, Del., is a social worker adoption specialist for the Department of Family Protective Services.

**Quinton Buckley** (*B.S. Elementary Education*) of Ellendale, Del., is currently teaching math and science in a small school in Honduras.

**Jennifer Wynne Goldman** (*M.Ed. Special Education*) of Grand Cayman, Ky., is working as a coordinator for the Ambassadors of the Environment children's program for the Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman.

**Mary Elizabeth Libro** (*M.Ed. Elementary and Secondary Counseling*) of Marmora, N.J., is a first-grade teacher in the Ocean City School District.

**Faith T. Messick** (*B.S. Legal Studies*) of Seaford, Del., is a paralegal at the Law Office of Dean A. Campbell, LLC. She is a member of Lambda Epsilon Chi, the Na-

tional Paralegal Association. Faith, who is eager to begin a career in law, has applied to Widener School of Law. She has two grown children and two beautiful granddaughters.

**Dr. Melvin Roberts** (*Ed.D. Innovation and Leadership*) of Wenonah, N.J., has been named dean of Camden County College's Division of Business. Dr. Roberts, a registered professional engineer, received a master's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

## 08

**David Dunnington** (*M.S. Public Administration*) of Dover, Del., is working as a student enrichment coordinator with Upward Bound. David works with high school students to provide fundamental support in their preparation for college entrance. He also earned a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice in 2006 from Wilmington University that gave him the expertise for his position as an adjunct Criminal

Justice instructor at Delaware Technical and Community College.

**Patricia Ann Walker Griffin** (*M.S. Public Administration*) of Bear, Del., is a member of the office staff for the Colonial School



District. Patricia, a licensed minister and church administrator, is also on the board of directors for her community center. She received a B.S. in

Human Resources Management in 1993, and an M.S. in Management in 2008 from Wilmington University. Patricia and husband, Tilghman, have two daughters and one son.

**Sean MacKinnon** (*B.S. Primary Education*) of Odenton, Md., is director of the automotive training development department for the Tire Industry Association (TIA). Sean is in charge of education programs that TIA uses to train and educate tire retailers around the world. ■

## BEVERLY ROSS BECOMES TRUSTEE OF NEW CASTLE COMMON

**BEVERLY ROSS**, (B.S. Human Resources Management 1993 and M.S. Public Administration 1996), alumna and adjunct faculty member of Wilmington University, was sworn in as the 13th trustee of New Castle Common on Jan. 9, 2008. The Trustees of New Castle Common is a unique organization within Delaware and has a history as old as New Castle. The common land has existed as such since the days of early Dutch colonization.



In 1701, William Penn surveyed and formally recognized the lands that were already being used as a common. A body of 13 trustees was appointed to life terms to act as stewards of the land. Trustees are now elected officials and their terms have been shortened to 12 years. Beverly is the third female trustee in more than 300 years.

### ENGAGEMENTS

Kyle Muller (*2007 B.S. Criminal Justice*) to Krystal Lynn Perrone

Mark Phelps (*2006 M.Ed. Elementary Education*) to Adrienne Monaco

Laura Renee Raffaelli (*2008 M.Ed. Elementary Education*) to Barry David Archambault

Samantha Wiley (*2003 B.S. Behavioral Science*) to Joshua Parker

### MARRIAGES

Angie Galloway (*2001 M.B.A. Business Administration*) to Gregory Warrell on Sept. 9, 2007

Richard Groff (*2003 B.S. General Studies*) to Kelly Marie Garber on Sept. 22, 2007

# FROM WILDCAT TO TAMING CRIMINALS

By Suki Deen

It's not easy being a Wildcat – just ask the friendly feline and Wilmington University mascot, the Wildcat. This Wildcat is not just an entertainer; he is an ambassador of Wilmington University, exuding school pride, charisma and energy. The Wildcat is full of spirit, an avid athlete and has a great personality, all while being a diligent student. In fact, the Wildcat is very much like many other Wilmington University students; he is reaching for the stars.

Jason Efelis knows all about the trials and tribulations of being a Wildcat. He was the Wilmington University mascot while pursuing his bachelor's degree. "I remember jumping off this mini trampoline and trying to dunk a basketball," recalls Efelis with a laugh. "Well I ended up missing the basket, but that wasn't the worst of it. I grabbed a hold of the rim, my feet swung up, and I ended up falling to the ground and hitting my head. I was knocked unconscious and when I came to a few seconds later, I stumbled off the court."

Although a lot of people in the audience found it amusing, Efelis had sprained his neck and had a mild concussion, one of the few times that Efelis proved being a Wildcat was no easy job.

A native of the small town of Pennsville, N.J., Efelis was a gymnast, athlete, and mascot for his high school sport's team. Growing up, Efelis was one of five children, including a paternal twin brother to whom he always has a special bond. As a child, Efelis



suffered from asthma, and his struggle with this chronic condition helped him decide on a career path: he wanted to be a doctor and help people battling health conditions. In high school, he changed his mind and decided upon law enforcement. "I guess that is why I decided on this line of work," says Efelis. "I like to help people."

Efelis decided to pursue his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice after his mother declared that she was go-

ing back to school to earn her bachelor's degree. "When I saw she had decided to go back after all these years, I decided I had to get my degree, too," says Efelis. After both were accepted to Wilmington University, Efelis and his mother inspired each other to persevere and work hard towards their educational goals.

While completing his Master of Administration of Justice degree at Wilmington, he was accepted to the Gloucester County Police Academy, where he excelled in his police training to become president of his class.

"Getting an education at Wilmington University was so helpful to me when pursuing police academy training at Gloucester," says Efelis. "Everything I learned at Wilmington University was applicable to the training I was receiving."

Today, Efelis is pursuing another tough job; he is a patrolman in the Pennsville Police Department. Interested in teaching criminal justice, and possibly coaching gymnastics, Efelis is excited to see what the future holds.

"I really enjoy working in law enforcement. Every day is new and interesting," says Efelis. And while taming criminals might be his new line of work, he will always be a Wildcat at heart. ■

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