

# West Chester University

MAGAZINE

Land of a Thousand Hills:  
**The Shinehouse Gishwati  
Research Station**





“I am proud to kick-off a year-long effort focused on campus safety. I am announcing the initiative at West Chester where so much good progress has been made, where there is a commitment from the top,” said Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro.

*The Office of the Attorney General selected WCU as the site to hold a press conference announcing a collaborative public safety effort with colleges and universities within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Shapiro has organized a series of roundtable discussions on campuses throughout Pennsylvania to talk about mental health awareness, sexual assault prevention, and drug and alcohol abuse prevention. WCU has been named one of the Safest Colleges in America for 2017 by The National Council for Home Safety and Security. Pictured (L to R) WCU student Sabrina Glass, Attorney General Josh Shapiro, and President Christopher M. Fiorentino.*

# West Chester University

MAGAZINE

FALL 2017

## On the Cover: Shinehouse Gishwati Research Station

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As an interdisciplinary research site, this facility will draw WCU students and faculty from across many areas of study.

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[wcupa.edu/socialmedia](http://wcupa.edu/socialmedia)

Digital version of the WCU magazine is available at [issuu.com/wcuofpa](http://issuu.com/wcuofpa).

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



As the holiday season is upon us, it is a good time to reflect on all that your West Chester University home has become. You have probably read in many news articles about WCU's robust enrollments at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, as well as our new programs, including a biomedical engineering degree to be introduced in 2019. During our recent 2017 Homecoming weekend, Sue and I enjoyed welcoming numerous alumni who shared their surprise about the "transformed" campus, and yet they said it still felt like "home."

With more than 17,000 students, the University's campus is vibrant and energized. I believe that as you read this issue, you will sense that the West Chester University community is doing its part to not only educate students, but

to encourage them to make a positive difference wherever they go. In the pages that follow you will read about students providing humanitarian support in Costa Rica, as well as a student's commitment to end sexual assault.

Faculty, staff, and alumni are leading by example, too. In our cover story you will learn about faculty who are building a research station for interdisciplinary study in Rwanda and the dedicated alumnus whose gift is supporting this important initiative; a professor's research that may one day lead to prison reform; and the opening of expanded space in the on-campus Resource Pantry for students in need.

WCU rams are making a difference wherever they roam, and we are grateful for the University's community of learners, including each of you, who are helping to show the way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher M. Fiorentino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christopher M. Fiorentino  
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The West Chester University Magazine is published three times a year for the alumni, families, students, and friends of West Chester University. We welcome letters concerning magazine content or issues pertaining to the University. Letters must be signed and kept to one typed page. Please include address and daytime phone number.

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WCU is an AA/EEO institution





WCU celebrated a new, permanent home for its Resource Pantry, which was created one year ago for a growing number of students who demonstrate need for basic essentials. The pantry, which had to be relocated due to its increased use by students experiencing financial challenges, now has expanded space, fresh food from the University's two gardens, and business attire services. Pictured (L to R) cutting the ribbon to the new space in Commonwealth Hall are Director of Service Learning & Volunteer Programs Jodi Roth-Saks, Resource Pantry Student Ambassador Gordina Butts, Chester County Food Bank Director of Agency & Community Partnerships Phoebe Kitson Davis, Pat Holveck '69, Dave Holveck '68, President Christopher Fiorentino, Assistant Director of Financial Aid Tori Nuccio, Vice President for Student Affairs Zeb Davenport, and Executive Vice President and Provost Laurie Bernotsky.

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Luther B. Sowers '49





## MATHER PLANETARIUM

### Beautification Project Links Art & Science

The installation of the kinetic “Sun Sculpture” this summer completed the Mather Planetarium beautification project. A solar-powered source emits light through pinholes in the sculpture’s yellow center, throwing “stars” of light onto its surroundings as breezes cause the outer blue elements to rotate. The “stars” also reflect off mirrors and tiles in “Constellation,” the space-themed mosaic by alumna Rhoda Kahler ’94 that highlights the planetarium entrance. Pictured at the celebration are (L-R) Jack Waber, interim dean of the College of the Sciences and Mathematics; Helga Knox ’79, benefactor; Chris Fiorentino, president; Jen Bacon, interim dean of the College of Arts and Humanities; David Beck, “Sun Sculpture” artist; John Baker, emeritus professor of art; and Rhoda Kahler, “Constellation” artist.

## Articulating a WCU Global Strategy

WCU has just begun a two-year process to advance global initiatives and internationalization, thanks to an invitation to join the American Council on Education's (ACE) Internationalization Laboratory. Participation allows West Chester to build on efforts already underway and learn from ACE experts as well as from the experiences of institutions with which ACE has worked on internationalization.

ACE guides the process of reviewing the University's array of international activities: enhancing global awareness across campus; articulating global student learning outcomes and assessing progress; and developing a strategic plan to broaden and deepen internationalization at the University.

Peter Loedel, political science professor and director of WCU's Center for International Programs (CIP), says that in the three years he has led CIP, interest in all international educational opportunities — from study abroad to international research partnerships and teaching collaborations — has skyrocketed. "I strongly believe that West Chester is poised on the precipice of further defining itself not just as a regional comprehensive university, but a truly global institution of higher education. I envision the ACE International Laboratory process as an effort to develop a truly comprehensive WCU 'Global Strategy.'"

Loedel will co-chair WCU's Internationalization Laboratory with Vishal Shah, associate dean of the College of the Sciences and Mathematics, who adds, "WCU's mission of graduating students who understand the world in which they live requires us to provide an education to our students that will lead them to be true global citizens — citizens who can interact purposefully with people from diverse places, appreciate diverse cultures and traditions, and be able to contribute positively anywhere on the globe."

Loedel and Shah will oversee the work of the University's newly formed Global Leadership Team as they build on WCU's existing foundation of global initiatives to develop cohesive goals and a strategic action plan to further advance internationalization across campus.



### Sciences & Engineering Center & The Commons

At 175,000 square feet, the Science & Engineering Center and the Commons building will be the University's largest academic and service building when it opens (planned for 2020). A unique educational space rich in technology, it has been designed to focus on student learning rather than conventional teaching. The building will house the departments of health, nursing, nutrition, and physics as well as the newly approved biomedical engineering program.

### Biomedical Engineering B.S. Is Approved

The University is taking its expertise in the health and life sciences to an historic level with a new bachelor of science in biomedical engineering, one of the fastest growing fields in engineering. Approved this summer by the State System's Board of Governors, it is WCU's first engineering degree.

The program will offer tracks in biosystems, bioinstrumentation, and imaging; biomolecular and biochemical; biomechanics; and biomaterials and tissues. All of the required core classes will be offered through the department of physics and engineering in the College of the Sciences and Mathematics. Students can take courses in a number of other departments, including biology, chemistry, and mathematics, to meet cognate requirements.

With the recent approval to construct a new Sciences & Engineering Center (attached to the Commons project), the University's biomedical engineering faculty and students will have a state-of-the-art environment in which to teach, learn, and innovate. The program will begin in fall 2019.





WCU in Ghana: Students and Aliza Richman (right) in Bonwire, the home of Kente cloth weaving.

## Summer Abroad for Broader Horizons

WCU students were all over the globe this summer, attending and presenting at conferences, taking study abroad courses, and providing service to citizens from many countries. WCU students can choose from more than 800 options for international coursework, including 30 study-abroad courses led by WCU faculty, plus exchange, and programs offered by eight affiliate partners. All are coordinated through the University's Center for International Programs (CIP).

Nursing major Sierra Annand traveled to Belize in Central America on the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Honors trip, where, she said, "As a future nurse, my visit to Mahogany Heights reaffirmed my desire to teach communities about healthy living both in the United States and abroad."

Annand spoke with a community nurse in an impoverished Belizean community where youth who cannot afford to attend high school either join gangs or prostitute themselves to earn money for food. The result is an abundance of pregnant 14-year-olds and youth with STIs. The nurse tries to educate the teens,

"but the parents will not give consent for their children to use contraceptives or condoms because they do not realize their children have sex."

On the same trip, education major Sara Nyholm visited a local school and compared the similarities between the Belizean teachers and students to what she's observed in U.S. schools. "It felt so familiar and foreign all at once. For me, the experience reaffirmed the importance of education and its value to families and communities."

Aliza D. Richman, assistant professor of sociology, led six WCU students from a variety of disciplines to Ghana for a month to study West African social and demographic issues, politics, geography, the environment, and culture while staying at the University of Ghana.

The impact of spending time in a nation less affluent than America led one student to ponder how to arrange a school supply drive here to benefit Ghana's elementary school students. Others said they experienced "a renewed sense of humility and



gratitude for my home life” and “When I saw how the people could be happy with so little, it made me re-evaluate everything I had grown up experiencing.”

Among a dozen more faculty-led programs were Thailand’s geography with Gary Coutu and Megan Heckert; international business and supply chain in China with Linda Zhu and Tony Jiang; German language and culture in Vienna, Austria, with Joseph Moser; and global art and design in Copenhagen with David Jones and Karen Watkins.

Some students who have returned from study abroad become peer advisors and assist the CIP with promoting study abroad on campus in a variety of ways as WCU Global Ambassadors.

And some students chose to make trips abroad on their own. One example: Softball players Brooke Harner and Heidi McCollister participated on a mission trip to Kitale, Kenya. Through the Neema Project, they worked on skill building and counseling with young women, intending to give them a secure place in their community and provide them with potential sources of income.

WCU is a commitment partner of Generation Study Abroad, a national movement to double U.S. student participation in study abroad.

## International Students Fall 2017

This fall, of the 17,306 students enrolled at WCU, 406 are international students from 94 countries (other than the U.S.). Of those 406, 119 are non-resident students who are here on a student visa. The non-resident students are from 42 countries; more than half of those students are from India, China, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and Norway.

## West Chester University’s Capital Campaign Concludes



*President Fiorentino (center) congratulates members of the WCU Foundation for raising the largest amount in the University’s history during the Becoming More Capital Campaign.*

Seven years ago, the University created a new strategic plan to guide the institution for the next decade. The plan focused on five themes: assuring student learning and academic excellence; enhancing student development; stewarding resources; advancing inclusion and equity; and building relationships with the community.

The WCU Foundation Campaign and Development Team asked you — our alumni, friends, faculty, staff, community, and students — to join us in supporting the plan and you answered the call enthusiastically. In March 2013, the University publicly launched

the Becoming More Campaign to raise \$50 million. Today, you have given more than \$57 million in commitments to support WCU.

As we celebrate your generosity and all that we have been able to accomplish with your support, we invite you to visit campus and see the impact of the plan and your impact on creating a bright future for the University and our students.

We look forward to the coming years, new horizons, and deeper friendships with each of you as WCU charts its next course under President Christopher Fiorentino.

Thank you!

## Global Conference in Costa Rica Offers Human Rights Opportunities



Hiram G.  
Martinez

Five WCU students from a variety of majors had the opportunity this summer to not only present research in Costa Rica, but also provide humanitarian support. The 26th Annual Conference of the Global Awareness Society International (GASI), “Global Inequality and Human Rights,” was overseen by GASI president Hiram G. Martinez, West Chester’s assistant director of social equity and coordinator of diversity initiatives. The West Chester students’ research covered such diverse human rights topics as reproductive justice for marginalized women, human trafficking, and alleviating homelessness. This year, GASI partnered with Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica, Heredia (UNA), with which WCU has had a relationship for a number of years, and the Hotel Bougainvillea, which lies within a 10-acre botanical garden. Thanks to UNA and the hotel administration, the conference theme was realized in several experiential humanitarian opportunities.

A children’s library that UNA supports for neighborhood working families received a variety of children’s books in both English and Spanish from conference participants, who also held a cultural reading program there featuring short stories from around the globe.

GASI also partnered with a regional adult daycare for persons with physical and intellectual disabilities to sponsor a picnic for them and their staff on the hotel grounds. Daycare clients who dressed in traditional Costa Rican garments presented attendees with a display of cultural music, song, and dance, and enjoyed socializing with conference-goers. “It was truly a moving and heartfelt experience,” said Martinez.

Samantha Jeune, a WCU senior and a women’s and gender studies major, relished the service component. “It allowed us to interact with the community and give back in many ways. It definitely taught me that a language barrier cannot stop me from helping others and impacting lives.” Jeune co-presented with fellow women’s and gender studies major, junior Odette Kolenky. In addition, GASI facilitated two separate donation drives as part of this year’s conference. Attendees donated Aquaphor (an ointment) to assist the Debra Foundation in providing care to children and young adults with Epidermolysis Bullosa, a painful incurable skin disease. The scholars also donated clothing, school supplies, hair ties, an electronic tablet, and more to Hogar Casa de Pan (Home of our Daily Bread), a private non-profit foster care facility for more than 45 children.

David Reyes-Farias, WCU graduate assistant in linguistics, called the experience “memorably intoxicating, highlighted by its focus to spread awareness of issues of inequality to an international audience.” Along with Jeune and Kolenky, he earned a GASI scholarship.

“The Center for International Programs was pleased to partner with GASI in two key ways: providing travel funding for five student research presentations and connecting GASI to UNA, West Chester University’s institutional partner in Costa Rica,” said Peter Loedel, political science professor and director of the Center for International Programs. “UNA was a wonderful host for the conference and we look forward to completing a new memorandum of agreement with UNA in the near future.”



## West Chester is in Top 75 on *U.S. News* List

In its 2018 list of best colleges, *U.S. News* positions West Chester at number 64 in Best Regional Universities North. WCU tied with six other institutions in the North region but had both the highest first-year retention rate of all schools in the tie and the highest actual 2016 graduation rate.

For its 2018 rankings, *U.S. News* assessed the academic quality of 1,611 schools, 659 of them regional universities divided into four geographic regions. Nonacademic considerations such as campus safety, athletics, and access to college-owned housing were not factored. In the National Universities, National Liberal Arts Colleges, Regional Universities and Regional Colleges categories, 77.5 percent of a school's ranking was based on a formula that uses objective measures of

academic quality: first-year student retention and graduation of students; peer assessment; faculty resources; admissions selectivity; financial resources; alumni giving; and graduation rate performance, which is the difference between the proportion of students expected to graduate and the proportion who actually do. The *U.S. News* formula puts an emphasis on outcomes, evidenced by measures of graduation and retention being the most heavily weighted factors.

Accredited four-year colleges and universities report most of the information directly to *U.S. News*, which annually surveys them via an extensive questionnaire. The full rankings, data, and methodologies can only be found online at *U.S. News* College Compass.



## *Money* Magazine Names WCU a **Best College**

**M**oney Magazine has listed West Chester University among 711 of the nation's best-performing colleges.

The magazine consulted with the American Institutes for Research and College Measures, resulting in "a new, uniquely practical analysis" that used 27 factors in three equally weighted categories to evaluate the institutions:

**Quality of education:** Graduation rates and faculty-student ratio were among several factors considered. For the first time, the researchers examined institutions' financial status.

**Affordability:** The net price of a degree (30% of the category score) is "the estimated amount a typical freshman starting in 2017 will pay to earn a degree...; how much the school awards in grants and scholarships; and the average time it takes students to graduate" as reported to the U.S. Department of Education.

**Outcomes:** For the first time, researchers took into account socio-economic mobility (20% of the category score) using "data provided by the Equality of Opportunity Project that reveals the percentage of students each school moves from low-income backgrounds to upper-middle class jobs by the time the student is 34 years old." Other factors in the category included graduates' earnings (12.5%) as reported by alumni to PayScale.com; College Scorecard 10-year earnings (10%); and the estimated market value of alumni's average job skills (10%).


 Sami  
Abdel-Salam

## BREAKING THE CYCLE OF INCARCERATION: Lessons Learned from Within the World's Most Humane Prison

“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you” is the golden rule for some. To Sami Abdel-Salam, assistant professor of criminal justice, it may just be the answer to reducing increasing levels of incarceration in the United States, a country that imprisons the most people in the world with a 65 percent recidivism rate for repeat offenders.

For the past three years, Abdel-Salam has been studying Halden Prison in Norway, one of the most innovative maximum-security facilities in the world. The Halden concept is based on a humanistic approach to punishment that is defined by Norway’s Normality Principle. “Unlike American prisons, where individuals are essentially stripped of personal autonomy and decision-making, the idea within the Norwegian correctional system is to do the opposite,” says Abdel-Salam. “The attempt is to make life inside prison as similar as possible to life outside prison, so the transition back to society is not as challenging.”

Outside Norway, the campus-like facility causes most to pause. Inmates are expected to do what any other person might do dur-

ing the course of a day — go to work, pay bills, cook for oneself, interact with peers, and learn life skills. Treatment services are provided for issues like substance abuse and mental health disorders. Living conditions are actually livable, too. There are attractive public spaces, comfortable private spaces, and even an engaging family room where inmates can spend time with loved ones. Inmates’ quarters resemble dorm rooms, and lighting and color schemes elicit upbeat moods. Correctional officers, who must hold two-year college degrees, are even required to spend time conversing with inmates, often over dinner. The environment inspires model-citizen behavior.

The humanistic approach seems to be working for Norway. Reentry into society from a Norwegian prison has been showing a recidivism rate of 20 percent for repeat offenders. Abdel-Salam believes that Halden may actually hold the key to reducing the number of those imprisoned in the U.S., thus slashing high costs associated with housing inmates and breaking the cycle for the many who wind up back in jail following their release.

Bringing his research and personal experiences to the classroom, Abdel-Salam engages WCU criminal justice students and students from the American College of Norway (ACN) in a collaborative study of the prison. Through numerous Skype sessions and lively in-class debates, students discuss the intricacies of this unique method of prison reform. In fact, Abdel-Salam even had two WCU students and two ACN students assist him and Halden Prison Deputy Warden Jan Stromnes in presenting the novel concept at the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize Forum in Minneapolis, MN.

Abdel-Salam’s compelling work continues. Halden has allowed him to conduct the prison’s largest-ever evaluation study about the impact of inmates’ daily life on post-release activities, especially with regard to motivational treatment and therapeutic engagement.

His goal is simple. “We need to find a better way forward for U.S. inmates and for the correctional staff who tend to them,” he says. Abdel-Salam planned to submit his findings to Halden Prison this fall.



## From Germany to The Big Four

While still a junior, Sara Driggers has received offers from all of the Big Four accounting firms: Ernst & Young, Deloitte & Touche, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), and KPMG. “My family gives me a lot of inspiration and my father gave me the words I live by: ‘Always ask questions. What’s the worst they can say? No?’ I take his advice and apply it to everything I do.”

When she applied that advice, she landed an internship with BHS Corrugated in Weiherhammer, Germany, in the summer of 2016. She enhanced her professional skills abroad, gained knowledge and exposure to an international environment, and learned true professional adaptability. This summer, she interned with BDO in Philadelphia; she recently accepted an internship with PwC in forensic accounting.

“All of these opportunities came by simply asking questions, working hard toward my goals, and using my network,” she notes. “It’s because of this that I’ve had opportunities to speak with CFOs from North America, China, and Germany.”

Driggers is an accounting major with two minors: white collar crime, and studio art/ceramics. She is a resident assistant, vice president for the accounting and finance international honors fraternity, and a volunteer with the SPCA. She plans to pass the CPA exam and pursue a career in forensic accounting, investigating white collar crime.

“The biggest thing about college is networking with professors and peers,” she maintains. “I think it’s crucial for people to go out there, learn from others, and maintain connections.”



Sara  
Driggers

Sabrina  
Glass



## SENIOR SABRINA GLASS Takes a Stand

Sabrina Glass was the first student thought of to represent WCU during Attorney General Josh Shapiro’s on-campus press conference to announce a series of discussions on Pennsylvania’s college campuses to address sexual assault, mental health, and opioid abuse issues. Glass, who was recently featured in *Forbes* magazine, is on a mission to eradicate sexual assault on college campuses as one of 344 student leaders selected to the national 2017 – 2018 It’s On Us Student Advisory Committee and Inaugural Class of Campus Organizers.

Begun in 2015 by former Vice President Joseph Biden, the It’s On Us Student Advisory Committee was

established to encourage student leaders to take a stand on their campuses.

Glass is a women’s and gender studies major with a health science minor, resident assistant, peer educator for the Center for Women and Gender Equity, and LGBTQA ally. A certified Green Dot Bystander, Glass is also trained to intervene safely in instances of power-based personal violence.

“I hope to have the impact of my words and passion touch as many people as possible,” says the WCU senior, who produced an inspiring It’s On Us video. “It’s On Us encourages everyone to stand up and say something to end sexual assault not just on college campuses, but everywhere.”

# CONNECTING ALL DISCIPLINES to the Land of a Thousand Hills:

## The Shinehouse Gishwati Research Station



When Rebecca Chancellor and Aaron Rundus stood atop a grassy hill overlooking the variegated colors of Rwanda's majestic Gishwati forest, the sounds of golden monkeys and great blue turacos could be heard in the distance. It was at this moment that Chancellor, a primatologist, and Rundus, an animal behaviorist, knew that the site for their next adventure had been found. The breathtaking location provided the vision for their long-anticipated dream — the building of a field research station that would unite students, faculty, and researchers alike from numerous disciplines and across continents.





*Shinehouse Gishwati Research Station*



“We truly envision this facility as an interdisciplinary research site that will draw WCU students and faculty from across many areas of study, as well as attract academics from throughout the U.S. and across the globe,” says Rundus. “There are fewer than

10 U.S.-based academic institutions that maintain long-term chimpanzee sites across Africa. Harvard, Yale, and the University of Michigan are just some of the big names involved with these projects, so it’s impressive company. Currently, WCU is the only university to have long-term researchers in Gishwati,” shares Rundus.

Thanks to James P. Shinehouse ’80 and his wife, Pat, and generous supporters who have contributed more than \$120,000, the dream has finally taken root on solid ground for the research team dedicated to studying unhabituated chimpanzees in the protected forest reserves of western Rwanda, known fondly as the “land of a thousand hills.” Their objective is to understand how living in a forest fragment affects chimpanzee health, ranging behavior, foraging behavior, and issues of human-primate conflict. In addition to better understanding and conserving this chimpanzee population, their research may also shed light on issues of early human evolution.

The two WCU professors are known for their work in the tropical rainforest nestled along the Congo-Nile Divide. Chancellor, who had been the principal investigator of the Great Ape Trust chimpanzee program in Rwanda in 2008, had previously spent years conducting extensive research on multiple primate species’



feeding, ranging, and social behaviors in Kenya and Uganda. Rundus, whose research program broadly seeks to examine the evolution and function of communicative signals across a variety of animal species, is focused on understanding the functional significance of signals that combine multiple components of different modalities (i.e. visual, auditory, vibratory, etc.). He has conducted this line of research using a variety of animal species, most recently the primates in Gishwati since 2008. Together, the two have forged a collaborative partnership with the Forest of Hope Association, a National Rwandan Non-Government Organization (NGO) focusing on the conservation of the Gishwati forest through a variety of community engagement projects.

Since their arrival at WCU in 2012 and 2011 respectively, Chancellor, assistant professor in the Departments of Anthropology & Sociology and Psychology, and Rundus, associate professor in the Department of Psychology, have been spreading their passion for primates. It has caught on wildly, too. Since 2014, the husband and wife team have led three WCU Rwanda Summer Field School student trips to their research site. These study-abroad trips have had broad appeal for a growing number of WCU students who come from a range of disciplines, including biology, geography, political science, women’s and gender studies, languages, and economics.

It’s easy to understand why these knowledge excursions are so popular. WCU students from all areas of the University are able to immerse themselves in Rwandan culture from head to toe, from participating in a community-wide service activity called ‘Umuganda’ to reading to Rwandan children about conservation and sustainability. Embracing perspectives never imagined, these students, some of whom have never traveled beyond Pennsylvania, have returned to campus totally transformed.



## Shinehouse Family Supports Gishwati Vision

James P. Shinehouse '80 and his family are passionate about making a difference where it matters most — at home and thousands of miles away. Inspired by a desire to give back to his alma mater and to help those in need in Africa, Shinehouse was intrigued when he heard Rebecca Chancellor and Aaron Rundus talk about the Gishwati research project at a meeting of the WCU Foundation Board of Trustees. The project's roots in psychology also resonated with Shinehouse, whose father, the late Robert Shinehouse, was a longtime professor of psychology at WCU, and whose daughter, Laura, is currently studying psychology at Dickinson College. The multi-pronged requirements for Shinehouse's philanthropic attention and support seemed to be perfectly aligned.

"I remember going home that evening and saying to my wife, Pat, 'I think we have something where we can help WCU and those in Africa; we can do both,'" recalls Shinehouse, a partner at Atlantic Financial Advisory in Philadelphia.

Ultimately, the husband and wife made a decision that literally put the structural frame to a vision intended to unite people from all disciplines and throughout the world. The couple's lead gift was the linchpin; the new field research station would not exist were it not for the generosity of the family for whom it bears its name.

"As my education at West Chester has helped me, I feel that it is important to take what I have been given and do the same," shares Shinehouse, who is a member of the WCU Foundation Board.

It's a conviction that means something to a man who is driven to give back to his community through active service on numerous charitable boards. Among his many volunteer roles, which include locally the Domestic Violence Center and Legacy Youth Tennis, is that of vice chairman of The Gemology Institute of America, a non-profit organization that has advanced his knowledge of those living in Africa.

Shinehouse is inspired by what awaits in the "land of a thousand hills." He says, "It is my hope that the facility will support and help the local community in Rwanda, while elevating WCU in the international community and supporting University faculty in their research."

In addition, students' contributions to primate research have been significant. From tracking golden monkeys to making behavioral observations of at least 10 species of primates, these eager learners have also enhanced the important research being done in the wild while earning course credit.

"Prior to this last trip, WCU students collaborated with our Rwandan research assistants over email and Skype to develop a chimpanzee crop-raiding project," says Chancellor. "The Rwandan research assistants went to the field and collected the data for the project. During our study-abroad trip this summer, our WCU students got to walk through the very maize fields where the research assistants had collected the data. It was exciting to see our WCU students and our Rwandan research assistants work as a team to get this project done."

For Chancellor and Rundus it is all about collaboration.

"Our focus on the chimpanzees has grown and blossomed. There is so much more that can be done to draw in students and researchers from all around the world to study," shares Chancellor. "Our old field station, which was a former health clinic in a local village, accommodates only up to six people and is too small for large student study-abroad groups and faculty researchers."

"We see the new field station we are constructing as a tremendous resource for WCU, and the worldwide academic community," says Rundus. "This summer, we had four graduate students from four academic institutions doing research projects. We have also had study-abroad groups from all over coming through. The highly interdisciplinary mission of this new field station will provide opportunities for students and faculty from around the world, and from a variety of disciplines such as the sciences, humanities, arts, education, and public health, to interact and collaborate."

Finding the goal compelling and the research inspirational, the WCU Foundation stepped in to accelerate the building of a comprehensive, multifaceted field research station. The Foundation worked diligently with a number of individuals committed to actively supporting and advancing the important work occurring miles away from home. Funds for international student travel were raised by the Foundation as part of the effort, as well. The results were visible this





*Dancing one of many times with the local people in Rwanda.*

*Rebecca Chancellor*

*Aaron Rundus*

summer as the initial structures comprising the new Shinehouse Gishwati Research Station were unveiled — a dormitory that can accommodate 24 students, a lavatory facility with running water, and some initial research space.

This is just the beginning. The Foundation’s overall plan includes helping to build a research laboratory, classroom space, accommodations for long-term researchers from other universities, and a staffed kitchen. There is even the intention to hire an onsite manager to help facilitate research and student groups from other universities around the globe. In fact, the University of Rwanda has already expressed interest in establishing a partnership for student research projects. Equally as important say Chancellor and Rundus will be the opportunity to have space available for local community meetings and educational programming.

“The site is transitioning from a forest reserve to a national park,” says Chancellor. “We have been the only ones doing long-term research in the forest, and now there is the potential for more ecotourism. This means there are going to be forest rangers. There may even be an ecotourism lodge. A lot more money may be coming into the small, rural community, which we think is great. With all of this activity, the new field station will really be the kind of resource that faculty from all over West Chester University will want to take advantage of.”

The primatologist is correct: If you build it, they will come. Already, Brenda Gaydosh, associate professor in the Department of History, has conducted a study-abroad trip with students to pursue the study of Rwandan history and genocide, and Michael Di Giovine, assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology & Sociology, has traveled with students to study the anthropology of tourism. Chancellor and Rundus welcome many more colleagues.

With the initial construction of the first phase of the project having been completed this fall, Chancellor and Rundus are now in the process of transferring everything from the old center to the new center. “We now have the basics,” says Rundus. “There is still more building to be done, more students to support for study-abroad opportunities, more faculty who need space to do important interdisciplinary research, and more lasting synergies to be made worldwide. The possibilities are endless.”

***To support the Shinehouse Gishwati Research Station, visit [www.wcufoundation.org/give](http://www.wcufoundation.org/give) and search “Shinehouse Gishwati Research Station.”***





## EIGHT NEW MEMBERS Inducted Into Hall of Fame

In September, eight former Golden Rams were inducted into the WCU Athletics Hall of Fame. Two were national players of the year in their sports, and a total of 11 All-America certificates were earned among the eight honorees. Two inductees were voted in in their first year of eligibility. The Hall of Fame now includes 382 outstanding Golden Rams.

The WCU Athletics Hall of Fame was created in 2000 when three of the five existing halls of fame (baseball, wrestling, women's athletics) were merged. The Killinger Foundation (football) and Messikomer Foundation (men's basketball) still operate separately; their inductees are included in the WCU Athletics Hall of Fame.

### **ERIC BROADBENT '07, MEN'S TRACK & FIELD**

A three-time All-America honoree and one of the University's all-time great jumpers, he holds three individual school records and one school mark as a member of a relay. He won eight Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) individual championships in four years and was named the PSAC Field Athlete of the Year during the 2007 PSAC Indoor Track & Field Championships. A three-time NCAA East Region Field Athlete of the Year, he ranks among the school's Top 10 in six events indoors and six outdoors. He signed a professional contract upon graduation and competed at the 2012 Olympic Trials in the Decathlon. He won the 2012 U.S. Indoor Heptathlon; finished 10th at the 2011 U.S. Outdoor Track & Field Championships; and finished fourth at the 2011 U.S. Indoor Heptathlon.

### **FRANK GAILEY '07, BASEBALL**

West Chester's strikeout king still holds the record for career K's with 242. He authored a career record of 24-9 with a 2.69 earned-run average. He was named the PSAC Eastern Division pitcher of the year in 2007 and helped the Golden Rams to division titles

in 2005 and 2006. The team reached the NCAA regionals in each of his four years and the finals three times. He was a starter on the 2006 squad that advanced to the Division II College World Series. Drafted in the 23rd round in 2007 by the Toronto Blue Jays, he began an eight-year minor league career, ultimately reaching Triple A in the Philadelphia Phillies organization. He posted a career record of 31-21 with a 2.72 ERA during his eight-year pro career while striking out 449 batters.

### **TINA HORN-LOCK '94, WOMEN'S SWIMMING**

A seven-time All-American and the first All-American under legendary head coach Jamie Rudisill, she was part of the women's swimming & diving teams that helped build West Chester's foundation as one of the elite programs in the nation. She qualified for the NCAA Division II Swimming & Diving Championships all four years in which she competed. She placed seventh, second, sixth, and fourth in the 1,650-yard freestyle during her four trips to the national meet. She placed third and fifth in the 500 free at nationals in 1992 and 1994 and fifth in the 200 butterfly at the 1994 NCAA Championships. She still ranks among WCU's Top 15 in the 200 fly, 500 free, and the 1000 free.

### **MIKE LAROSA '05, BASEBALL**

One of the top middle infielders in all of Division II, he was part of the Golden Rams' program that helped lay the groundwork for the team's three College World Series appearances and two national championships since his graduation. A career .362 hitter, he collected more than 200 hits and 100 RBI in his four years. He was named the NCAA DII Defensive Player of the Year in 2002 and graduated as the school's all-time hits leader. He was a three-time All-PSAC East selection and still ranks among the Top 10 in seven offensive categories at the school.



### **KATELYN MARTIN TAYLOR '06, WOMEN'S LACROSSE**

One of the all-time great lacrosse players at the Division II level, her NCAA career record of 299 goals scored still stands. She was a three-time All-American and the 2006 NCAA DII Midfielder of the Year. Her 91 goals scored in 2006 is the third-highest single-season total in NCAA DII history and she stands eighth all-time in career points (376) and 10th all-time in points per game (4.82). Her 11 goals scored in a single game is still the best in WCU history. She was named PSAC rookie of the year in 2003 and player of the year in 2006. As a two-year captain, she led West Chester to three straight PSAC titles from 2004-06.

### **DOUG MASCHERINO '02, MEN'S TRACK & FIELD**

An All-American in the 1500m at the 2001 NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships and a two-time conference champion and two-time ECAC Champion, he still holds three school records: 1500m outdoors and both the 800m and the mile indoors. He finished fifth in the 1500m at the 2001 NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships to earn his All-America status, a performance that followed a pair of conference titles in the 800m and the 1500m at the PSAC Championships. He appears on WCU's Top 10 in six categories. Named All-East in cross country in 2000, he was an ECAC champion in both the mile and the 1000m at the 2001 ECAC Indoor Track & Field Championships, and finished second in the 800m at the 2000 ECAC indoor championships.

### **JOHN ROCCO '59, MEN'S SOCCER**

One of the school's all-time top defenders for a soccer program that was among the nation's elite during his playing days, he led West Chester to the 1956 Eastern International Championship with a 9-1-2 record. The Rams followed that season with an 8-0-1 mark as they allowed just five goals in nine games. He was a three-time letter-winner and was team captain his senior year.

### **RYAN SEKKES '04, MEN'S SOCCER**

The all-time leading scorer in West Chester Men's Soccer history, he scored 45 goals and posted 103 points from 2000-03. He was twice named all-region and three times named to the All-PSAC first team and was conference Athlete of the Year in 2002. The two-time team captain ranks sixth in career assists and holds four school records on career and season levels. His 43 points in 2002 is a single-season school record (20th all time PSAC), while his 19 goals that fall is also a school mark. His 45 career goals ranks tied for 23rd all-time in the conference.



The WCU Alumni Association granted honorary alumnus status to Mark Pavlovich, former vice president for advancement and government relations, for his many years of service and dedication to the University. Pictured (L-R) are WCU President Chris Fiorentino, Mark Pavlovich, and Matt Holliday '09, president of the WCU Alumni Association.



Rammy, WCU's beloved mascot, revealed a new look during Homecoming 2017. Last spring, students were asked for their thoughts about updating Rammy's looks in a way that would capture WCU's energy. Voices were heard and a dynamic iteration was developed as part of a campus-wide spirit campaign led by the Division of Student Affairs.

CULTURAL EVENTS

CULTURAL EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

DECEMBER

- 2 96th Holiday Program
- 8-17 Brandywine Ballet: The Nutcracker
- 9 WCU Live!: Story Pirates

JANUARY

- 13-14 Alumni Dance Chapter: A Decade of Dance
- 19 WCU Live!: Tapestry: The Music of Carol King
- 24 Artist Reception: Leslie Brown
- 26 Planetarium Series: Astronomy on the Internet

FEBRUARY

- 3 Miss West Chester University 2018
- 23 Planetarium Series: The Final Frontier
- 23-24 11th Annual International Trumpet Festival
- 24 WCU Live!: Goitse

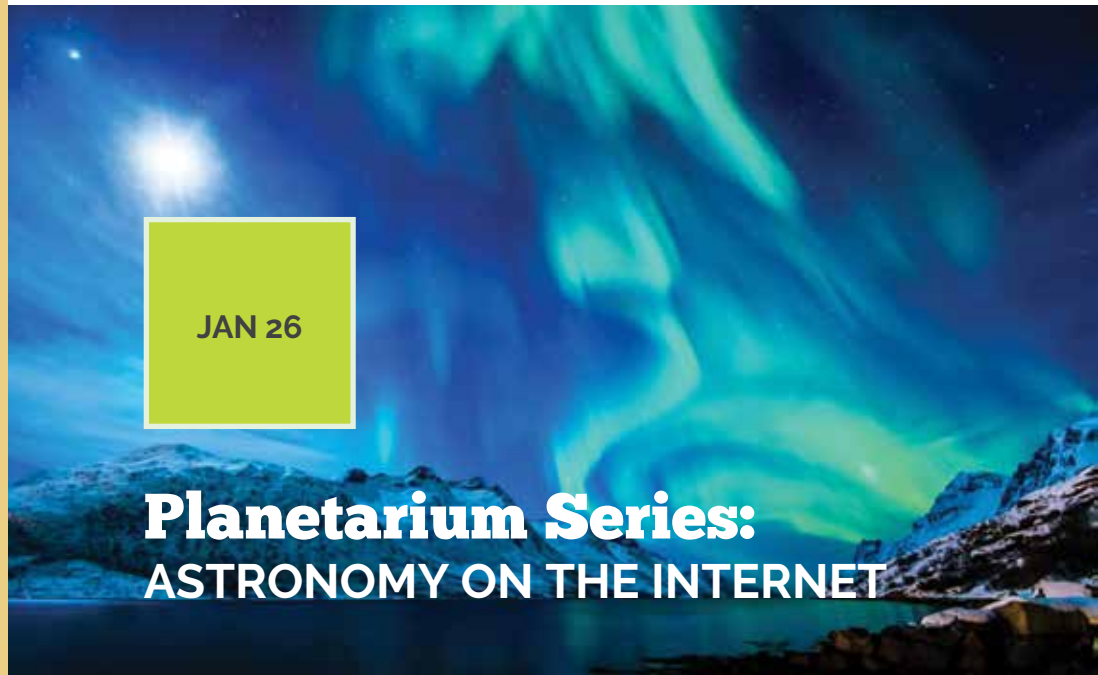
For a full schedule of events please visit Cultural & Community Affairs at [wcupa.edu/oca](http://wcupa.edu/oca)

& the College of Arts & Humanities at [wcupa.edu/arts-humanities/eventsCalendar.aspx](http://wcupa.edu/arts-humanities/eventsCalendar.aspx).



DEC 8-17

Brandywine Ballet THE NUTCRACKER



JAN 26

Planetarium Series: ASTRONOMY ON THE INTERNET



FEB 3

Miss West Chester University 2018



Rams on the Road!

# WCU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Nearly 100 alumni and friends enjoyed the Phillies game with Phireworks in July.



The Criterions held their annual reunion at the home of music faculty member Marc Jacoby before their reunion concert.



Chester County Alumni Chapter met at LaCabra Brewery in Devon to taste the new brew.



Alumni and their families enjoyed free ice cream while welcoming the Class of 2021 to WCU at the freshman send-offs in Pottstown and Chester Springs.



Golden Rams alumni in Avalon, NJ, for the 10th Annual Rams in the Sand.





## Emilie Lonardi '80: Thirty Years of Accepting Challenges

“Six months in, and I knew this was what I wanted to be,” says Emilie Lonardi '80, as she recounts her career path from teacher to administrator and, specifically, superintendent. Following graduation from West Chester, where she'd earned a B.S. in health, physical education and recreation, Lonardi had been teaching and working toward her doctorate when she got an intriguing phone call: She was offered a position as an assistant principal at a high school.

“I was surprised — it really wasn't something I'd thought about doing,” she says. “I said, ‘What do you guys do, anyway?’” she adds, laughing. Today, she said, the spot she was being offered is now usually called dean of students. Clearly, given how quickly she knew “this was it” for her, accepting the challenge was the right decision. A resume featuring an extensive list of honors, topped most recently with the 2014 Pennsylvania Superintendent of the Year award, bears that out in sharp detail.

Thirty years later, Lonardi is still in the business of providing school district leadership — and in the habit of accepting challenges. Following a lengthy and successful career as superintendent at the West York (PA) Area School District, this past summer she accepted the same role at the Downingtown (PA) Area School District. That transition took her from the leadership position of a district with 3,000 students to the job of heading one with more than 13,000; Downingtown comprises 16 schools and is the eighth largest district in the commonwealth.

“Oh, yes,” she says when asked about the increased difficulty presented by the larger numbers. “Especially the emails — I thought I got a lot before,” she chuckles, showing the sense of humor you presume she needs in a district boasting not only those 13,000 students but also 1,500 faculty and staff. “Downingtown is a growing district, and that brings both opportunity and challenge. There's a lot of new housing, and people are moving to the area in every school level; many move here with



older children, so the numbers go up across the board. We're looking at the demographics very closely."

Fortunately for Lonardi, she says the transition to Downingtown has been smooth. "This is a great district," she says. "Great schools, a terrific board, administrative team, staff, and students, and the parents have been really supportive. I mean it when I say I have gotten great support." Indeed, the size of the district was part of the attraction; not only was she not cowed by the scope, she says she'd always wanted to be in a larger school district.

"I am very fond of West Chester and the Philadelphia area," she adds. "The borough has really changed since my time in the area. I treasured my time at West Chester, I truly did." For Lonardi, who graduated summa cum laude, West Chester was a complete experience: She lived on campus, competed as an athlete, and embraced the entire college experience. "I liked the work, the academics; the programs were fantastic. I had lots of great faculty, people who were really generous with their time and who provided a huge amount of encouragement. I'm very proud to be a graduate of West Chester." For her, accepting the position at Downingtown was a win-win. "I love the area, and I love being part of the district and community."



**Matt  
Holliday '09**

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE WCU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

WCU Homecoming 2017 was one for the record books! It was a fantastic experience going from event to event, reunion to reunion, all weekend long. Everywhere I went I was surrounded by proud alumni who were beaming from ear to ear. Thank you to all who came out or participated in some way during this incredible three-day period.

Now that Homecoming is in the rearview mirror you may be feeling like you have to wait another year before you have a chance to reconnect with your alma mater again. I want to make sure you know that is certainly not the case. West Chester University is a home you can always return to, a family that is happy to see you when you stop by for a visit whenever you're in the neighborhood. With this in mind, I encourage you to go to our newly redesigned WCU Alumni Association website at [www.wcualumni.org](http://www.wcualumni.org) to check out the dozens of alumni events that are coming up in the next few months. The alumni board of directors and the alumni relations office staff work very hard to make sure that there are a variety of events planned for you to attend.

In addition to a plethora of events that are spread out during the calendar year, we have another big weekend coming up on the horizon. West Chester University's Alumni Weekend is scheduled for April 27, 28, and 29! Please mark this awesome occasion on your calendars now. Whether you missed Homecoming and need a second bite at the apple or you came and had a great time but can't wait until next fall to do it again, Alumni Weekend is a great opportunity to reconnect with the campus you love. Stay tuned for a full listing of events in an upcoming issue of this magazine. I look forward to seeing all of you at one or more of the dozen or so great events planned for that weekend. The board of directors thanks you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you soon. Your loyalty and passion for West Chester University is what makes our Alumni Association stand out from the rest.

Go Rams!

Matt Holliday '09  
President, WCU Alumni Association

*(Opposite page) Emilie Lonardi speaking about "the greatest profession in the world" to the Downingtown Area District's 89 new teachers at the district's teacher induction training session.*

## ALUMNI

### 1950s

**Martin (Marty) Stern '59** was inducted into the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Coaches Hall of Fame on December 14, 2016, on his 80th birthday. Stern led the Villanova Wildcats womens' cross country and track & field programs from 1984–1994. During his tenure, the cross country program won five consecutive national titles.

### 1960s

On September 23, 2017, **Ross Care '63** spoke to guests at The Walt Disney Family Museum about his most recent book, *Disney Legend Wilfred Jackson: A Life in Animation*. He has also written extensively on film and music for the Library of Congress, including for the book *Wonderful Inventions*, an in-depth discussion of Frank Churchill's *Bambi* music, based on scores in the music division and including musical examples.

**Alan Flashner '67** was inducted into the North Florida section of the PGA Hall of Fame “for a lifetime of dedication to his profession and the game of golf.”

**Kevin Kennedy '69** retired from the United Nations at the rank of assistant secretary-general. His last assignment was as the UN regional humanitarian coordinator for the crisis in Syria, based in Amman, and overseeing humanitarian relief efforts in Syria and cross-border operations from Jordan, Turkey, Iraq, and Lebanon. Kennedy was the commencement speaker at the May 2007 commencement.

### 1970s

**Mark V. Mayson '73**, longtime Lower Moreland High School



**Jones '04**



**Richardson '04**



**Dale '09**



**Artman '12**



**Dorso '15**



**Gilfillian '15**

athletic director, retired June 30, 2017, after 36 years with the school district. On June 2, 2017, Mayson was honored at a dedication ceremony at the high school stadium with the unveiling of a sign naming it the Mark V. Mayson Stadium.

**Mike Specktor '73** retired from Boeing in 2014.

**Tom McCabe '76** recently had four articles on terrorism and counter-terrorism published. “The Fires Next Time: The ISIS Terrorist Threat in the West,” “An ISIS-Al Qaeda Merger?,” “The Islamic State after the Caliphate — Can IS Go Underground?,” and “Are Returning Jihadists a Major Threat? Jihad in the West.” McCabe is a retired Department of Defense analyst and a retired lieutenant colonel from the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

**Doyen Nguyen '78**, a retired physician and former West Chester University Woman Alumna of the Year (1979), has received her doctorate in moral theology from the Pontifical University of St.

Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in Rome, Italy. Nguyen plans to stay in Rome with the intention of joining the faculty at the Angelicum for the 2018–2019 academic year.

### 1980s

**Carl Weber '81** has been appointed communications director for the newly formed New Jersey chapter of the Earthworm Society of Britain. The society's goal is to promote and support scientific research so that earthworms and their environment can be better understood.

On July 2, 2017, **Robert E. Davis '85** received his doctor of business administration specializing in information systems from Walden University. Davis' doctoral study addressed the relationship between corporate governance and information security governance effectiveness in United States corporations using corporate governance as the theoretical framework.



**Jim Verdeur '89** has been appointed artist endorser for Yamaha Musical Instruments, D'Addario Woodwinds, and Theo Wanne Mouthpieces.

## 1990s

**Howard Fidler '93** joined the medical team for the 20th World Maccabiah Games, which took place July 4–18, 2017, in Israel. Maccabi USA brought a team of 1,100+ athletes who were among 10,000 Jewish athletes from 80 countries participating in 43 sports. Maccabi USA is a federally recognized not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization with an extensive history of enriching Jewish lives through athletic, cultural, and educational programs.

**Alyssa Lang '94** was promoted to professor of graphic design at Cal Poly Pomona (CPP), in Pomona, CA. In 2017, Lang was recognized as outstanding advisor for the College of Environmental Design at CPP.

**James Etlén III '96** is currently a principal in Abington School District and earned his doctorate in educational leadership from Temple University in spring 2017.

**Kelly Peterfreund '98, M'02** was honored by the New Jersey School Counseling Association at the annual Counselor of the County awards program held at New Jersey City University. School counselors were nominated by their colleagues and were selected by their own counties' School Counselor Associations for this award. Peterfreund has been a high school counselor and director of school counseling for the past 15 years after finishing the master's program at WCU in 2002. She is now eligible for the state counselor of the year award.

**Nick Buddock '99** has been named vice president of operations for J.W. Pepper. In his new role, Buddock will provide corporate executive leadership over Pepper's distribution centers in Atlanta, GA, and Salt Lake City, UT.

## 2000s

**Jennifer Garcia-Griffin '01** graduated from Wilmington University with a master's in reading education in 2006 and a doctorate of educational leadership and innovation in 2013. Garcia-Griffin is a reading specialist and has been in the field for 17 years. She is a newly hired adjunct instructor for Rowan University and Wilmington University.

**Christopher Cameron '02, M'08** graduated in 2017 with an Ed.D. in educational leadership from Immaculata University. His dissertation was "Perceptions of Professional Educators on Increasing Parental Involvement in High School." Cameron teaches English at Spring-Ford Senior High.

**Anthony Biduck '03** received his doctor of psychology in clinical psychology in July 2017 from California School of Professional Psychology at Alliant International University, San Francisco. Biduck currently works as a psychologist for the Louis Stokes Cleveland Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

**Steven Jones '04** was named to the 2017 Pennsylvania Rising Stars list. Jones is an attorney for Begley Carlin & Mandio and represents clients in civil and criminal litigation matters. Notably, Jones has significant experience in the area of litigation, handling serious and high profile cases including jury and bench trials.

**Katherine Gilmore Richardson '04, M'06** has been selected as a 2018 Leadership Philadelphia Connector & Keeper. Leadership Philadelphia created the Connectors & Keepers program as an effort to recognize, empower, connect, and retain Philadelphia's most promising young leaders.

**Jonathan D. Landua '05** has joined Montgomery McCracken as an associate in the Wilmington, DE, office. Landua was previously an associate at a multi-practice law firm, where he represented clients in matters pending in Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. He has experience handling testimonies, defending depositions, and negotiating settlements.

**William R. Christman III '08** joined Lamb McErlane as an associate. He concentrates his practice in municipal law and election law.

**Aleks Musika '08** is the cofounder of Musika Frère, a label that specializes in custom men's suits that come in unusual colors or patterns. The label has drawn a clientele that includes Jay Z, Michael B. Jordan, Stephen Curry, Kevin Hart, and Beyoncé. Musika has been featured in *GQ* and *The New York Times*.

**Jenn Dale '09** has been named advisor in Faegre Baker Daniels Consulting's health and biosciences practice in the firm's Washington, D.C., office.

**Brandon M. Artman '12** was ordained a transitional deacon for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia on May 14, 2017, by Bishop Timothy C. Senior, auxiliary bishop of Philadelphia. Artman hopes to be ordained a priest in May 2018.

**Margaret Meade '14** completed her master of science in organic

## ALUMNI

chemistry at Temple University in spring 2016. She is currently working as a regional executive and technical sales specialist for Blacktrace Holdings, Inc., the world leader in productizing science technology. Meade has been recognized as the top salesperson in her division.

**Danni Peace '14** sang "God Bless America" at the Philadelphia Phillies game on July 30, 2017.

**Zachary Carl Wooten '14** earned his master of divinity degree at Princeton Theological Seminary's 205th commencement ceremony, held on May 20, 2017. The master of divinity is a three-year graduate degree that is the basic professional degree for ministry. Wooten will pursue a Ph.D. in leadership studies at Alvernia University in Reading, PA.

**Tyler A. Dorso '15** has been promoted to staff II accountant and celebrated his second anniversary with Belfint, Lyons & Shuman in June 2017. Dorso provides compliance and planning services to individuals, small businesses, and nonprofits.

**Devon Gilfillian '15** was featured on WHYY-TV's *On Tour* program on October 12 and 15, 2017.

**Alexander Homer '15** was accepted into the Peace Corps and departed for Senegal on September 24, 2017, to begin training as an agriculture volunteer. Homer will live and work in a community to increase its crop yields, diversity of diet, and food security.

**Devin DiFranks '16** travelled 3,700 miles for her first job out of college. She spent the 2016-17 school year teaching in the tiny Alaskan village

of White Mountain. Accessible only by a single-engine airplane, White Mountain School goes from kindergarten to 12th grade and has a total of 50 students. She also was named the head coach for the girls' high school basketball squad.

.....  
**SUBMIT** your class notes to the Office of Alumni Relations to [alumni@wcupa.edu](mailto:alumni@wcupa.edu).  
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## IN MEMORIAM

1943 Adele Hindenach Haas  
1952 G. Wesley Sell  
1952 Jean Buonanno Robb  
1954 Mildred Hake Dolheimer  
1956 Willis Frank  
1956 Neil Thompson  
1957 Richard Kelly  
1957 Barbara Treon Black  
1957 Ross Smith  
1958 George Demko  
1964 Sandra Clauser Wolf  
1965 Philip Houghton  
1971 Larry Care  
1977 Stephen Headly  
1982 John Hontz  
2005 Joseph Labolito  
2011 Christopher Andes

.....  
**DEATH NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE**  
Contact the Alumni Relations Office with a copy of the decedent's obituary from a newspaper or the internet, or a copy of a letter or email from a family member of the deceased. Please note: death notifications will not be accepted via telephone.  
.....



**Kim Babcock '94** was selected for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) undersecretary for health's Award for Excellence in social work practice. This prestigious honor is given to just one social worker in the VA system annually. (left to right): Joanne Peters, LCSW, chief of social work, San Francisco VA Medical Center; Bonnie Graham, medical center director, San Francisco VA Medical Center; Kim Babcock, LCSW, associate chief of social work, San Francisco VA Medical Center; C. Diana Nicoll, MD, chief of staff, San Francisco VA Medical Center.



West Chester Cousins! Future WCUPA grads enjoy the Brandywine Ballet *Beauty and the Beast* performance in May 2017 at West Chester University. Pictured are (left to right) **Vanessa (Boyd) Flick '02** and daughter Shayla; **Stephanie (Lilick) Boyd '07** and daughter Olivia; **Susan Boyd-Ridyard '76** with granddaughter Amelia Wagner (daughter of **Zack Wagner '06**) and daughter Ellen Ridyard; Vivian Flick (Vanessa's other daughter); Mallory Boyd (Stephanie's other daughter), and Joyce Boyd (grandmother). The girls loved the ballet and had fun touring the University.





(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)

## MARRIAGES

(1) **Katelyn Bright Alderfer '12** to **James Alderfer '13**

## ENGAGEMENTS

(2) **Ryan Kriebel '01** to **Danielle Corrao '08, M'13**

## FUTURE ALUMNI

(3) Sean Hower and **Christine Hower M'08, M'12** welcomed son Ryan Thomas Hower on February 25, 2017.

(4) John Patrick McTigue and **Alexandra Mary (Hartmann) McTigue '07** welcomed their fourth child, Theodore Lowell, this winter. He is joined by his big sister, Aubrie Anne, and brothers, John Frederick and Henry Patrick.

## A Message from the Director



Debbie  
Cornell  
Naughton

“

Frequently, I receive correspondence from alumni asking me questions, updating their addresses, suggesting ideas, or telling stories. Recently, I received the following email that I would like to share with you.

“My name is **Rosemarie Nesgoda Dowling '69**. I want to share this story with you because I was so touched! I live in Alstead, NH, and I was attending a baseball game in Keene, NH, about 15 minutes from my home. It was the end of July and it was a collegiate game between the Keene Swampbats and the Vermont Mountaineers. A young man on the Vermont team, #13 Nick Ward, came up to bat. The announcer said his name and that he was from West Chester University. I was so surprised as I hadn't read the program of players. After he made it to first base, I yelled, 'WOO HOO! West Chester State University Golden Ram.' Nick turned toward me in the stands and I waved my arms. He then tipped his ball cap to me and I nearly burst into tears. I felt such a connection and was so proud of this nice young man. I just wanted you to know this. Perhaps you can mention it to his coach.”

Well, how could I not tell our baseball coach! He replied, “Good stuff, thank

you for sharing this with me. It is a great reminder of how such a 'small thing' can have a positive impact. I appreciate your reaching out and passing this along. Thanks, Jad Prachniak.”

Yes, coach. Small things do have a positive impact. Whether you attend one of our many WCU alumni events, donate to a scholarship or campaign, or continue the legacy of having your son or daughter attend WCU, you are contributing to the mission of WCU for now and forever. Thank you for being a Golden Ram!

By the way, Coach Prachniak, who was also named NCAA Division II coach of the year by the American Baseball Coaches Association, has led his players into two NCAA Division II National Championships: in 2012 and this year.

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# West Chester UNIVERSITY

October 27-29



2017



# Homecoming IN REVIEW

## WCUAA



# 2018 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Class Year(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_

Class Year(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form to:

WCUAA AWARDS COMMITTEE  
c/o Alumni Relations Office  
202 Carter Drive  
West Chester, PA 19382

To submit this form electronically, visit [www.wcualumni.org](http://www.wcualumni.org).

Nominations will be accepted until December 29, 2017.

## 2018 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD NOMINEES SOUGHT

The Distinguished Alumni Awards have been presented by the West Chester University Alumni Association (WCUAA) annually since 1963. The WCUAA Awards Committee seeks candidates to be selected and recognized for this prestigious honor at the 2018 Distinguished Alumni Awards Celebration, which will be held on Alumni Weekend on Saturday, April 28, 2018.

The WCUAA Awards Committee is looking for candidates who have:

Achieved outstanding recognition in their chosen professions,

Rendered unusual service to a particular segment of society either vocationally or avocationally,

Achieved outstanding recognition or rendered unusual service by volunteering in a non-profit organization, or

Positively influenced large numbers of people throughout a career.

If you would like to nominate a deserving alumnus/alumna, please complete and mail the form below to the Alumni Relations Office at WCU. You may also submit a nomination online via: [www.wcualumni.org](http://www.wcualumni.org). Nominations will be accepted until December 29, 2017. Upon receipt of a nomination, a packet will be sent to the nominator for completion. Those who are selected as Distinguished Alumni Award recipients must be able to attend the event on April 28, 2018.



# 2018 WCUAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATION FORM

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Class Year(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form to:

WCUAA NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE  
c/o Alumni Relations Office  
202 Carter Drive  
West Chester, PA 19382

To submit this form electronically, visit [www.wcualumni.org](http://www.wcualumni.org).

Nominations will be accepted until December 29, 2017.

## Nominations are now being accepted for the WCUAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The Nominating Committee of the West Chester University Alumni Association (WCUAA) is accepting nominations for candidates who wish to serve on the Association's Board of Directors for the 2018-2021 term. Please review the following information prior to submitting your nomination:

Nomination forms must be completed and submitted by December 29, 2017.

The form below will also be available online at [www.wcualumni.org](http://www.wcualumni.org).

There are six seats on the WCUAA Board of Directors up for election each year.

Board members are expected to serve their full three-year term for which they are elected.

The terms of the newly elected members will begin on July 1, 2018.

There will be a minimum of six (6) and a maximum of twelve (12) candidates on the election ballot.

Board elections ballots will be available in the next issue of the *WCU Magazine*.

You may nominate yourself to run for the Board of Directors.

After all nominations are received, nominees will receive a biographical form/application to complete and a detailed description of duties associated with being a board member. This must be completed in its entirety to finalize the nomination.

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West Chester University  
West Chester, PA 19383-7401

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City \_\_\_\_\_

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E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: West Chester University Foundation, 202 Carter Drive,  
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# Upcoming WCUAA events!

**DECEMBER**

7 An Evening with Santa

**JANUARY**

- 6 Men's & Women's Basketball Alumni Reunion
- 8 American Football Coaches Association Alumni Reception in Charlotte, NC
- 19 Dinner & Show: Tapestry: A Tribute to Carol King

**MARCH**

- TBD Alumni Event in Clearwater & Sarasota, FL
- 23 Murder Mystery Dinner

**APRIL**

- 7 35th Annual Presidential Scholarship Community Gala
- 14 Princess & Superhero Brunch
- 27-29 Alumni Weekend



**CONNECT WITH US**  
www.wcualumni.org  
610-436-2813