

**WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY
THE FREDERICK DOUGLASS INSTITUTE**

The Third Annual

Dr. Clifford E. DeBaptiste Frederick Douglass Institute Lecture

Featuring Senator Andrew Dinniman

**The Life and Legacy of Frederick Douglass
in the America of 2022**

Thursday, October 13, 2022

3:00 - 4:30 pm in Philips Autograph Library

Philips Memorial Building





In a fitting tribute to the great abolitionist, orator, and statesman, the third Dr. Clifford E. DeBaptiste Frederick Douglass Lecture will be held in Philips Autograph Library next to the University's Academic Quad alongside the majestic statue of Frederick Douglass, which stands in commemoration of the abolitionist's last public lecture on WCU's campus and was erected in 2003 by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

The lecture, which is open to the public free of charge, is hosted by the Frederick Douglass Institute and is made possible through the generous gift of Dr. Clifford DeBaptiste, the first African-American mayor of West Chester Borough and a recognized champion of education.

Highlighting Dr. DeBaptiste's life of service and dedication to the West Chester University community, Dr. Christopher Fiorentino made the following observations, "Our students and those who live in the community are fortunate to be aligned with an individual who is deeply committed to advancing humanity and initiating rich conversations about the legacy of a man whose life merits much reflection. All of us can become well-rounded citizen scholars by studying Douglass' example, examining issues of social justice, and improving the present by learning from the past. We are equally proud that West Chester University's Frederick Douglass Institute will be taking the lead in coordinating these particularly relevant lectures for many years to come."

Dr. Christopher Fiorentino

President, West Chester University

Program Schedule:

Welcome Remarks

Dr. Chris Awuyah
Professor/Director
Frederick Douglass Institute

Song Selection

Lift Every Voice and Sing
Sung by Fai'nese Morris
West Chester University Gospel Choir

Invocation

Dr. James Trotman
Professor Emeritus
FDI Founding Director

Remarks from the President

Dr. Chris Fiorentino
West Chester University President

Speaker Introduction

Katie Walker
President
Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce

Speaker

Senator Andrew Dinniman
The Life and Legacy of Frederick Douglass in the America of 2022

Closing Remarks

Dr. Tracey Robinson
Vice President for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
and Chief Diversity Inclusion Officer



The mission of the Frederick Douglass Institute at West Chester University of Pennsylvania (FDI) is to maintain the legacy of the great abolitionist, orator, and statesman Frederick Douglass before the campus community, local community, region, and the nation through the highest quality of academic programming that promotes excellence in scholarship, teaching, and institutional advancement. Consistent with its mission, and with the mission, vision, and values of the university, the Institute is an educational and cultural resource for advancing multicultural studies across the curriculum and for deepening the intellectual heritage of Frederick Douglass, the former slave, distinguished orator, journalist, author, and statesman. Douglass, who was a frequent visitor to the West Chester area, gave his last public lecture on West Chester's campus on February 1, 1895, just nineteen days before his death.

Guided by the spirit of Douglass and his legacy, the Institute aims to create opportunities to build a better community for all of us to fulfill our destiny as human beings. Perhaps Douglass himself put it best when on October 1, 1865, at the inauguration of an Institute named for him in Baltimore, Maryland, Douglass said that the mission of that Institute was, in part, "to be a dispenser of knowledge," and "a radiator of light." Douglass also declared in his remarks that "In a word, we dedicate this Institution to virtue, temperance, truth, liberty, and justice." Through the leadership of WCU, there are Frederick Douglass Institutes at all campuses of the Pennsylvania State Universities System. Collectively the Frederick Douglass Institutes at all campuses of the Pennsylvania State University System are known as the FDI Collaborative.

The programs listed below are examples of how we continually work to keep the spirit of Douglass alive.

The DeBaptiste/Douglass Lecture: The past speakers, Dr. James Trotman, and Rev. Dr. Wayne Croft. The future speakers are Rev. Dr. Kyle Boyle (2024) and Dr. Brenda A. Allen, President of Lincoln University (2025).

The Lunch (En)Counter Series which takes its name from the famed Lunch-Counter Protests of Civil Rights era, aims to provide campus forums for discussing topical issues related to race and civil rights.

The FDI Educational Outreach in the Coatesville and Norristown school systems.

Dr. Beatrice Adera

*Professor and Chair of Special Education,
Department of Special Education*

Dr. Ginneh Akbar

*Associate Professor and Chairperson,
Department of Graduate Social Work*

Dr. Sedy Alcidonis

*Adjunct Professor and Senior Director,
Center for Women & Gender Equity*

Dr. Bridget Asempapa

*Associate Professor of Counselor
Education, Department of
Counselor Education*

Dr. Francis Atuahene

*Associate Professor and
Director of Exploratory Studies*

Dr. Christian Awuyah,

*Professor of English and
Director of Frederick Douglass Institute*

Dr. Michael Burns

*Associate Professor of English,
Department of English*

Dr. Hadih Deedat

*Assistant Professor of Undergraduate
Social Work, Department of
Undergraduate Social Work*

Dr. Martha Donkor

Professor of History, Department of History

Dr. Tiffany Jones

*Associate Professor and
Learning Specialist of ASP*

Dr. William Lalicker

Professor of English, Department of English

Dr. Jocelyn Manigo

Assistant Professor and Director of LARC

Dr. Gerardina Martin

*Associate Professor and Assistant Director
of Honors College*

Hiram Martinez

*Assistant Director/Coordinator of
Diversity Initiatives, Office for Diversity,
Equity & Inclusion*

Dr. Jeremy McCool

*Assistant Professor of Digital/Global Media,
Department of Communication and Media.*

Dr. Omosehin Moyebi

Instructor, Department of Health

Dr. Margaret Ottley

*Professor of Kinesiology,
Department of Kinesiology*

Dr. Nicholas Prephan

*Assistant Professor, Department of
Communication and Media*

Dr. Tracey Robinson

*Vice President for Diversity, Equity,
and Inclusion and Chief Diversity &
Inclusion Officer*

Dr. Eleanor Shevlin

*Professor and Graduate Coordinate,
Department of English*

Dr. la tonya thames-taylor

*Associate Professor of History,
Department of History*

Sophia Vilceus

Assistant Professor, Department of English

Dr. York Williams

*Professor, Special Education,
College of Education*

Andria Young

*Interim Executive Associate to the
Interim VP for Student Affairs*

June Thompson

Administrative Assistant

Miriam Andoh

*Graduate Assistant, Department of
Public Health -Community Health*

Nvasekie Konneh

*Graduate Assistant, Department of
Communication and Media*



Dr. Clifford Evans DeBaptiste

The life and legacy of Dr. Clifford E. DeBaptiste is defined by four equally important pillars. Those of business, civic engagement, education, and philanthropy are the building blocks on which he has continually built his life.

Having visited West Chester often as a young man to see his Aunt Louise he fell in love with the town of West Chester. Following Clifford's discharge from the United State Army, serving in both WWII and the Korean conflict, he made the bold decision to move to West Chester, PA. It was here in West Chester in 1954, that he opened his first Funeral Home. This single proprietor business would grow to two locations. Under his visionary leadership he acquired four additional mortuaries across The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Which he, as a licensed Funeral Director, continued to operate until their sale. In 1964, he along with his wife, constructed the first funeral home to be built in West Chester. It was then it became DeBaptiste Funeral Home, Inc. In 2008 he opened Milestone Events LLC, a reception center, which expanded the business model to allow a place for receptions and other life changing events to be held. Since 1949, Dr. DeBaptiste has diligently served his profession. He has served as a member, Past-Chairman (13 Years) of PA State Board of Funeral Directors Association, Past-President of Pennsylvania Funeral Directors Association, Past-President of Chester County Funeral Directors Association, Past- President of Quaker State Funeral Directors Association and remains active in funeral service at DeBaptiste Funeral Home, Inc. mentoring and inspiring many others in funeral service.

Clifford DeBaptiste's civic, social, and community engagement is legendary. From the very first African- American award in 1956 to over 500 awards later recognizing his many leadership roles. Through the years he has served on numerous boards. These boards include but are not limited to Board of Trustees

for West Chester University. As trustee he promoted the university's expansion and advocated for enhanced student opportunities and diversity programs. Dr. DeBaptiste also served for 35 years as a Director of the First National Bank of Chester County (1975-2010). His participation in a plethora of organizations including Rotary International, Corporate Board of YMCA, Chester County Private Industrial Council, Chester County Art Association Board, Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, Sigma Pi Phi (Boule), Past Exalted Ruler of Captain Levi Hood #159 Lodge, I.B.P.O.E. of West Chester, along with being 33rd Degree Member of the Martin Luther King Jr. Consistory #86 of Freemasonry working, collaborating, building community across the borough of West Chester, Chester County, and WCU allowed him to become a successful and first black Mayor of West Chester, PA (1994-2002). As Mayor, Clifford E. DeBaptiste had the unique ability to unite people. As a catalyst for change he turned West Chester from a tumbleweed town to set the tone for the world class town we have today. The pinnacle of his masterful collaborative efforts as Mayor was a yearlong Bicentennial Celebration in 1999, commemorating West Chester's 200th year.

Educating himself, his children, and making education possible for countless other has been a hallmark in Dr. DeBaptiste's life. His first goal after successfully raising three college educated daughters, was to return to school himself. Thus in 1984 he received his Master's in Human Services from Lincoln University. Understanding the importance of education towards achieving a productive and successful life, he wanted to provide assistance for others to achieve, Dr. DeBaptiste began a lifelong habit of philanthropy with scholarships across many platforms. These scholarships have been established at West Chester public high schools, at West Chester University School of Social Work, a scholarship for aspiring funeral directors with Pennsylvania Funeral Directors Association, The Inez DeBaptiste Scholarship at the Woman's League for Minority Education, and lastly, he provided the seed money for a multitude of scholarship initiatives. These scholarships, many in other's names, are held by the community foundation of Chester County. This selfless giving to others for their academic pursuits have been game changers in many students lives. Dr. DeBaptiste's love of education and belief in giving back to the community led him in 2010 to make the initial \$50,00 commitment towards the Frederick Douglass monument at WCU. This 19th century author, orator, and civil rights leader gave his final public speech on West

Chester's campus in 1895. In addition, in 2018 Dr. DeBaptiste established the Frederick Douglass annual lecture series for others to continue to learn of the impact of Frederick Douglass.

This magnificent bronze sculpture of Frederick Douglass legacy prominently surveys the academic quad of WCU in the Clifford and Inez DeBaptiste Plaza. This serene oasis on the campus is a spot where everyone can site in history while contemplating their own future. Clifford E. DeBaptiste's life has been replete with both the magic of God's blessing and the mundane of a purpose driven life. Through the years he has been honored by both grassroots and prominent organizations, churches, and clubs. In 1984 he was named Outstanding Citizen of the Year. In 1994 he received both the Presidents Medallion and an Honorary Doctor Laws from WCU. In 2001 he became only the 4th recipient to receive the rarely given Founders award by Chester County Historical Society (now history center). Assigned by the state department to the far east during his tour of duty, he was honored in 2009 by the National Purple Heart Association. In 2013 he was one of 7 to be inducted into West Chester Walk of Fame. In 2014, honored by Quaker State FD with the Guiding Light award. In 2022 he was the recipient of the Doctor of Humane Letters from Lincoln University. These awards along with countless others encompass a lifetime of overcoming obstacles, determination, tireless work ethic, perseverance, but most importantly faith, his faith in God and belief that there are more good people in this world than otherwise. This confidence has sustained his efforts to bring a spirit of unity to his beloved community of West Chester.

His faith, principles, and values were modeled by his mother, Lillian. Widowed at a young age with three young children, she showed him what hard work, frugal living, and a God centered life looked like. It is those same values Dr. Clifford E. DeBaptiste lives by today. His faith is grounded in membership at the church of the Holy Trinity and St. Paul's Baptist Church, both in West Chester. His extraordinary career has taken him around the world, and yet there is nowhere he'd rather be than home. A home where he and the late Inez E. DeBaptiste (1990) raised three daughters, Mayor Lillian L. DeBaptiste, Inez A. DeBaptiste Esq., and Dr. Celeste E. DeBaptiste MD. Along with four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, at 98 years, Dr. DeBaptiste's wisdom, infectious optimism, quick wit, and active mind continue to influence all those who seek his counsel. See you on his 100th birthday May 19th, 2024.



Dr. Andrew E. Dinniman

Dr. Dinniman received his Ed.D. from Pennsylvania State University, his M.A. from the University of Maryland, and his B.A. from the University of Connecticut. While an undergraduate at UConn, Andy served as President of his freshmen, sophomore, and junior classes, and as President of the student government in his senior year.

He continued his commitment to public service as State Senator (2006-2020), County Commissioner (1992-2006), and as a member of two school boards. For his public service and for his work as a professor at WCU, he has received more than 175 awards and recognitions. This October he is being presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the West Chester Area Chamber of Commerce.

During his four terms in the State Senate, Andy was Democratic Chairman of the Education Committee. Senator Dinniman represented the Senate on many boards and commissions, including the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority, Education Commission of the States, the State Board of Education, and both the Public Schools and Higher Education Building Authorities.

Dr. Dinniman was named Professor Emeritus at West Chester University in 2021. During his time at WCU he taught undergraduate courses including African American History, Racial and Ethnic Understanding, and Global Studies, as well as graduate courses in public policy. He has served as Director of both the Ethnic Studies Institute and the Center for International Programs. He has authored numerous publications, and he has given numerous workshops and presentations.

Andy has recently established the Together Endowment at WCU, which further reflects his passion and commitment to diversity, inclusion, and equity. It is clearly evident that Andy Dinniman has had a transformative impact on WCU as well as on Chester County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Previous Speakers

2018: Dr. James Trotman

2021: Rev. Dr. Wayne Croft Sr.

Upcoming Speakers

2023: Rev. Dr. Kyle Boyer—Citizen of the Year

2024: Dr. Brenda A. Allen, President, Lincoln University

