West Chester University MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2020

History and Heritage

AT 150 YEARS

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY
West Chester Borough was rural and there was only one campus building on South High Street when West Chester State Normal School opened for its first 160 students in the fall of 1871. As the University prepares to celebrate the 150th anniversary of its founding, more than 17,600 students now enjoy learning on North and South campuses, at the Philadelphia location, and the Graduate Center, in person, online, and in blended format classes.
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Emeriti
Carmen Evans Culp ’52, M’64
(deceased)
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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.

Send correspondence to: Editor, The WCU Magazine, West Chester University, West Chester, PA 19383

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WCU is an AA/EEO institution
At this historical moment…

This season has been nothing less than unprecedented and filled with what has ultimately tested our resilience and our souls. I cannot help but think that the past few months have changed each of us beyond measure. Compelling events have altered the course of history and lifelong lessons have forced a much needed national reset.

As you may know, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, West Chester University announced on March 11 that it would extend spring break for two weeks in order to allow faculty to prepare to move all face-to-face classes to alternate modes of delivery for the remainder of the semester. The initial shock wave that resulted from this announcement soon gave way to the widespread realization that this was a prudent course of action. From that point, the clock was ticking on a two-week window of time to put the necessary changes in place. The challenge was exacerbated by the related decision to implement a policy directing employees to work from home. What we were asking our faculty and staff to do was work as a team to completely reinvent our program delivery model in two weeks and to do it with 98% of our employees working remotely — a completely new operational model for the campus.

The University community rallied together and practiced what we preach. We engaged in critical thinking and problem solving to address the obstacles in front of us. Administrators and faculty leaders met to establish rules of engagement that ensured the continuity of our shared governance practices. Administrators and leaders of the collective bargaining units met to agree on how to work within the structure of our agreements to set up processes that would enable us to be successful. Faculty and staff worked together to ensure that the faculty received the tools and training necessary to make the transition and sustain the high quality of course delivery. Surveys were done to identify students who did not have access to the necessary technology and connectivity, and steps were taken to get them what they needed to fully participate. Policies were adjusted to ensure that students would not be penalized for the need to adapt to new course delivery modes in the middle of a semester, and faculty would not be penalized on evaluations for problems resulting from course modifications. On Monday, March 30, we were fully remote. Students, faculty, and staff were excited to be “live.”
Similar responses occurred on other campuses. Evidently, colleges and universities are far more nimble than is generally assumed. Success such as this has the potential to unleash creativity to address challenges faced by campuses across the nation. When stakeholder groups with competing interests all of a sudden realize that they have compelling shared interests, it creates urgency to work together more effectively.

Amidst the sweeping health and economic effects that have touched all corners of the globe, we have witnessed a similar coming together that has characterized the best of humankind. Surely, we have been touched by the heroic day-to-day acts exhibited by our first-line responders, our essential workers, our neighbors, our teachers, our friends, and our students.

Today, communities continue to lift the human spirit by working together to defy the impacts of COVID-19. From sending healthy snacks to Chester County Hospital to promoting local restaurants to helping area children and everything in between, the University has been doing its part.

At the same time, WCU has also been contributing important resources to the relief effort, as local businesses need tremendous help in today’s changed environment. WCU’s School of Business offered free marketing support from senior marketing majors to area businesses impacted by the global health crisis. The Cottrell Entrepreneurial Leadership Center provided free summer virtual internships for startups and small businesses. The Twardowski Career Development Center continued to support business’ brand presence within the WCU community through opportunities like virtual mock interviews, virtual resume reviews, and general information sessions. The examples are numerous and far exceed the page allotted in this message.

Then sadly, in the blink of an eye, everything changed and we saw the worst of humankind. We continue to mourn the death of George Floyd and countless others who have been murdered because of the color of their skin. Pervasive, institutional racism must be eradicated by those of us who are willing to acknowledge its existence and to actually do something about it.

Our nation has reached its tipping point and an exhausted generation has evoked a call to action. A new Civil Rights Movement has erupted and we are eager to respond. The time is more than right for us to foster meaningful conversations about guaranteeing, protecting, and practicing civil rights. These critical discussions ensue as we commend the Supreme Court’s recent landmark decision to extend federal workplace protections nationwide to LGBTQ and transgender employees and ensure their rights under the law.

The executive vice president and provost, vice president for student affairs, deputy provost, and I have joined with the leadership of the Curriculum Committee to establish a taskforce with the explicit charge of reviewing and recommending revisions to the University’s “Diverse Communities” Requirement. This taskforce will be guided not only by recent events, but by some of the following questions: What more can we be doing as an institution of higher education to ensure that we are changing what is normal and expected in our society? How are our curricular and co-curricular activities providing students with an ability to think critically about their own beliefs surrounding issues of race and ethnicity? Are we giving our students the tools necessary to be agents of change in their communities by preparing them to fight against the bigotry they will inevitably encounter?

Comprising faculty, staff, and students from the entire campus community, the goal of this group will be to make recommendations to the Curriculum and Academic Policies Council that will reinvigorate and make relevant an important part of our undergraduate curriculum that informs every single undergraduate student’s educational experience at West Chester University.

I could not be more proud of the people who constitute this University and make WCU what it is every day. Our community’s desire to come together, act, and respond in intentional ways is fueled by the fact that we welcome challenges. We welcome being a catalyst. We welcome being the difference that counts.

As Dwight D. Eisenhower said, “Together we must learn how to compose difference, not with arms, but with intellect and decent purpose.” The past works to inform the future and hope inspires the days ahead. Emerging from a successful and storied past, we stand at the threshold of this University’s sesquicentennial. I remain hopeful about what the next 150 years will look like thanks to the compelling work that we are doing now that promises to widen the angles of vision on generations of West Chester University students and alumni to come.

President Christopher M. Fiorentino
When the concept for a teacher education school in Chester County first took shape in the late 1860s, 19th-century educators could not have envisioned how successful this institution would become.

As we prepare to celebrate our 150th anniversary in what has become an important and historic time, West Chester University continues to display the resilience, adaptability, and nimble responsiveness that has carried this institution through advances in education, workforce development, population and campus growth, technological changes, pandemics, wars, economic challenges, and more.

Foresighted leaders and educators have ensured WCU’s success, and President Christopher M. Fiorentino is following this tradition in new ways (see next page). As early as 1918, the vision was set for future expansion of the curriculum when professor C. B. Cochran noted in the school newspaper that by the 1880s, very few students enrolled “with the idea of graduating and teaching.” Later, President Charles S. Swope ’21, whose term ran until his death in 1959, worked to lay the foundations for a comprehensive regional liberal arts institution that could better meet the career goals of more of Pennsylvania’s residents. After the end of the 1959-60 academic year, the legislature officially changed the school’s name to West Chester State College.

West Chester University’s mission as a community of educators that develops graduates to succeed personally and professionally and contribute to the common good hasn’t truly changed since 1871. Meeting community needs while placing students on a lifelong path of active citizenship is as integral to our mission today as it was then. And while methods advance and terminology changes over time, West Chester University will continue to ensure student success and serve our community.
Chester County native George Morris Philips served as a mathematics professor at West Chester Normal School from 1873 to 1878, when he resigned to teach at Lewisburg University (now Bucknell). He returned to the institution in 1881 and served as its principal for the next 39 years, leading a period of tremendous growth in enrollment, academic programs, and campus facilities.

Bucks County native Christopher M. Fiorentino became the 15th president of the University in 2017. Like Philips, he began his career as a West Chester professor. Unlike Philips, he has served here his entire career, rising from assistant economics professor...
to dean of what is now the College of Business and Public Management. Later he was the vice president for External Operations.

As president, Fiorentino has accomplished much in the last three years, including the launch of the biomedical engineering program and the First Year Experience program. He has worked with the chief diversity and inclusion officer and others to identify and address campus climate issues; maintained the University’s excellence in retention and graduation rates; and implemented a financial aid optimization plan to ensure that a West Chester University education remains widely accessible.

In 2019, he led the campus community in the collaborative process of developing a new strategic plan: Pathways to Student Success. This plan is aligned with the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education’s educational priorities. Fiorentino works closely with the State System to utilize all available resources to advance student success.
Long gone are the days when an entire West Chester graduating class could fit in one photo, such as this photo of the graduating class of 1898 — let alone in one ceremony. In 2019, the University hosted 14 separate spring commencement ceremonies divided by college to accommodate more than 3,200 undergraduate and graduate students earning their degrees. West Chester conferred more than 4,700 total degrees in 2018-19.

Originally, West Chester graduates became teachers and many of the early classes were predominantly female since teaching was viewed as a profession for women. Today, those who identify as female still compose the majority of the University’s student population but their career paths are limitless. While WCU graduates of all genders remain committed to teaching professions, the College of Business and Public Management has been awarding the most degrees annually for a number of years.
Sports have always played an important role at West Chester. In fact, the second building erected was a gymnasium (1893), seen on the Quad behind Recitation Hall in the image of the 1920-1921 field hockey team.

Until about 1910, the school only had club sports, including field hockey and baseball, pictured here. Football was the most popular sport in the early part of last century and, beginning in 1929, the yearbook devoted an entire page to each football game.

West Chester has historically been recognized for the strength of its athletics programs. In 1896, West Chester received its first invitation to participate in the Penn Relays, the only normal school extended an invitation. WCU won the honors that year and again in 1900. Today, WCU continues to win national championships, including baseball in 2012 and 2017, women's rugby in 2019, and field hockey in 2011, 2012, and 2019. With 24 intercollegiate men's and women's sports, WCU is proud to sponsor one of the largest varsity programs in NCAA Division II.

WCU's student-athletes also excel in the classroom. More than 60 percent are named to the athletic director's honor roll each year. Currently, the combined grade point average of WCU student-athletes regularly exceeds 3.0.
FIELD HOCKEY TEAM 1920 - 1921
The founders of West Chester Normal School could not have foreseen its amazing growth and success. Although the institution initially focused on teacher training, as early as 1890 it offered a “one-year post-graduate course in mathematics, geometry, plane trigonometry,” and other subjects. The first graduate class was offered in 1938 in “principles of education” and the first graduate degrees were offered in the 1959-60 academic year — when the legislature officially changed the school’s name to West Chester State College. Doctoral programs were launched in 2013.

In 1927, the school had 1,216 full-time students; by 1959 that number had risen to 2,086 full-time students, 435 part-time students, and 183 part-time graduate students. Today, WCU is home to more than 14,600 undergraduates and just over 3,000 graduate students.

Students come from nearly every state and many countries. An increasing number of undergraduates are of non-traditional age.

Today, the University offers more than 180 undergraduate and graduate programs including four doctoral degrees across two campuses and with hybrid and online options.

WCU’s modern students can live at home, commute, live in a variety of styles of campus housing, or take courses entirely online or at the Philadelphia site. Many take advantage of domestic and international study opportunities on their paths to becoming engaged and responsible global citizens. Principal George Morris Philips certainly didn’t envision such a far-reaching curriculum when he organized the first official student trip to Washington, D.C., in 1896.
In this 1909 image, Dr. Samuel Schmucker leads a biology lab. Students could also take classes in physiology, botany, zoology, and nature study. Today, West Chester University offers a robust science curricula that fosters a broad understanding of our world and an ability to reason and solve problems using the methods of the social, natural, computational, and mathematical sciences. Students in the College of the Sciences and Mathematics can major in biomedical engineering, pharmaceutical product development, geoscience, computer science, and other fields. Graduate degrees are offered in many of these disciplines.
The College of Health Sciences also offers a diverse array of undergraduate and graduate majors. These programs are offered through the departments of communication sciences and disorders, health, kinesiology, nursing, nutrition, and sports medicine.

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs promotes and facilitates the research environment of WCU via Research Day programs, a Summer Undergraduate Research Institute, and faculty forums. WCU graduates are sought after by regional and national employers in a variety of science-related sectors, including healthcare, technology, the pharmaceutical industry, and education.
Pictured here is the cast of a 1908 production of Shakespeare’s *As You Like It* and female students practicing dance as part of their gym class. Theatre at West Chester has grown in popularity since the 1920s with opportunities for both majors and non-majors to perform on campus and for the community. For example, the spring 2018 campus production of *Berlin to Broadway* with Kurt Weill, *A Musical Voyage*, also pictured here, was produced for the 2018 Philadelphia Fringe Festival.

Today’s students in the Department of Theatre & Dance research, rehearse, and stage major productions drawn from the classics, contemporary drama, and Broadway musicals. They are regularly involved with national organizations including the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival and the American College Dance Association. They have hosted festivals, taken their productions to competitions, and learned from working professionals through master classes. Many have performed in the Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS benefit, a December tradition uniting many performing groups across campus and raising more than $125,000 over the past 20 years.

Students also promote dance as an art form through University Dance Company, a student-run concert dance organization through which they can explore choreography, performance, stage management, lighting, and costume design, and arts administration as both vocations and avocations.

With a theatre major and minor, dance minor, and the opportunity to receive a certificate in ballet, students receive a well-rounded performing arts education while gaining experience performing for the campus and community.
By 1874, every student at West Chester Normal School was required to take part in daily outdoor exercise when “the weather outside was favorable.” Daily drills focused on “building muscle and improving hand-eye coordination” and instructors tracked a whopping 60 different measures of health and fitness. The institution was one of only two normal schools that had a full-time gym instructor.

Today, there are no requirements to stay active but WCU students eagerly do so of their own accord. Last year, more than 4,300 students participated in intramural sports and more than 1,100 in the 27 registered club sports that include dance team, fencing, roller hockey, men’s and women’s ultimate Frisbee, and women’s ice hockey.

The 69,000-square-foot Student Recreation Center features three fitness studios, two basketball/volleyball courts, two racquetball/squash/wallyball courts, a climbing wall, and much more. There are open swim times at both pools on campus and yoga at the Contemplative Studies Center. Outdoor adventure pursuits run the gamut from camping and high ropes to stand-up paddleboard and cross-country skiing.
During the early to mid-20th century, when racial inequality sadly was socially acceptable in this country, policies at West Chester State Teachers College denied African American students on-campus housing, dining room privileges, and other opportunities. This spring, Lawrence A. Dowdy, ’73, M’80, retired executive deputy to the WCU president and governmental relations officer, prepared an historical summary of injustices suffered by those students. In “Denied and Segregated Campus Housing and Other Inequities: African American West Chester University Alumni Stories,” he wrote about West Chester’s shameful practices but also about dignified individuals who persevered.

Dowdy wrote about educator and civil rights leader John H. Brodhead, class of 1919, father of Fleta Brodhead Waters ’50, who “fought for the integration of dorms in Pennsylvania. The governor called [him] in June 1945 to tell him that as a result of his efforts, blacks would be admitted to the dorms at all of the PA state colleges starting in September 1945.” Fleta was the first black student to live in campus housing.

Noted Dowdy, “While black students were subjected to many institutional acts of discrimination, segregation, … most were triumphant in overcoming these inequalities and excelled in their professions. Many of the alums attributed this accomplishment to the bonds they formed with their black classmates and the high quality of education they received at West Chester.”

While discrimination at West Chester decreased, the sting of the injuries remained. In 2007, Carson Carr ’58 led a request for the University to offer an institutional apology to all living African American graduates. The result was the program “Reaffirmation of Civility and Equality” held February 20, 2008, during which then-president Madeleine Wing Adler issued a Proclamation of Regret. More than 300 attended, including nearly 30 black alumni from the classes of 1939 through 1959.

Dowdy spoke with several alumni present at the 2008 event. Two examples:

**Littleton Mitchell ’48** attended 1939-41, left to join the Air Force and became a Tuskegee Airman. He was not allowed to live on campus, even when he returned in 1946. For his lifeguard course, which was held at the whites-only West Chester YMCA, the college made arrangements to chauffeur him to Temple University’s pool to complete his class.

**Geneva Bost ’36** was accepted into the music program in 1932, but when her picture was submitted, her application was rescinded. She and her mother, raising the point that blacks paid taxes, fought the decision. Bost was the honor soloist to sing “O Holy Night” at the 1935 holiday program despite not being allowed to live on campus or eat in the dining hall.
One might be hard-pressed to find a West Chester University “legacy family” more aptly named than the Kienles. Tracking their connections to the University is like reading a subway map.

As a student, patriarch Joe Kienle ’72, M’73 played football, worked in student government, and opened Wayne Hall as its first resident director in 1972.

“I learned a lot from the leadership of the administration and faculty,” says Joe. “It greatly influenced who I am today.”

He met his wife, Denise Howe ’72, on a spring break trip their junior year. They married after graduation. Joe and Denise lived outside West Chester for 10 years, both working in higher education, but moved back to raise their two daughters closer to family. Joe, always fascinated with the stock market, took his first job in the financial world with Morgan Stanley (formerly Dean Witter), where he worked for 27 years, while Denise took a job with the WCU Graduate School, where she worked for 25 years as assistant to the dean. Joe finished his career at Wells Fargo Advisors, retiring in 2015.

Growing up, both Kienle daughters attended camps and events on campus. Joe says they were “all in” as Golden Rams when it came time to choose a college. Jessica Kienle ’05 followed in her father’s footsteps, now working for Charles Schwab & Co. Stephanie Kienle ’08, M’18 was a two-time First Team All-American lacrosse player and now works in WCU’s College of Health Sciences as director of internship and practicum experiences.

The Kienles have endowed two scholarships: The Denise Howe Kienle Memorial Scholarship, awarded annually since 2016, was named for the beloved wife and mother they lost in 2013. The Kienle Family Legacy Scholarship was awarded for the first time last fall. A student conference room in the new Sciences and Engineering Center is also named for the Kienles.

Joe has served on a long list of boards and committees for the University. He was appointed to the Alumni Association Board in 1987 and served for many years in leadership capacities, including as president. He currently serves on the Gala Committee, the Killinger Foundation board, and is chairing the community relations subcommittee for the University’s sesquicentennial celebration.

“As a family, we’ve gotten tremendous pleasure from our affiliations with the University. We’ve received more than we’ve given,” says Joe, amazingly. “It’s our home.”
CHAPTER NEWS

For more information about any chapter or its events, contact the chapter directly or the WCU Alumni Office at alumni@wcupa.edu.

BALTIMORE METRO AREA ALUMNI
Our Baltimore Chapter welcomed alumni from near and far for a day at the National Aquarium and we look forward to future events. We will be hosting elections online for anyone interested in serving as an executive member of the chapter. Check out our chapter page for more information and to stay connected with our upcoming events and meetings: www.wcualumni.org/baltimoremetro. Interested in getting involved or have an idea for an event? We are always looking for new alumni to join us! Follow us on Facebook: BMAC WCU.

BANDS ALUMNI
Mark your calendars! Homecoming is October 23–25, 2020, and the Bands Alumni chapter is looking forward to being a part of all the festivities. Are you an alumnus of WCU Bands interested in getting involved with this chapter? Find us on Facebook: WCU Bands Alumni Association or on our website: https://www.wcubaa.com.

BLACK ALUMNI CHAPTER
The BAC is celebrating their 55th Chapter Anniversary and looking forward to commemorating the milestone with an event this fall. Amidst the switch to virtual events, the chapter has maintained virtual engagement and celebrated a virtual Kente Ceremony. We awarded $1,600 for the annual BAC scholarships and book awards. Congratulations to five new legacy undergraduates and graduates of the Class of 2020: Jordan Jackson, Jordan Coles, D’Lalah Joell, Brett Glasco, and Ashley Lyles. Additionally, the chapter celebrated five members honored as the 2020 Class of Legacy of Leadership Awardees: Latifah Fields, Curtis Callands, Dr. Tammy James, Dr. Tammy Hilliard-Thompson, and Eric Worley. We are looking forward to getting together soon and a big year ahead of us. Follow us on social media for updates on future events. Facebook: WCU BAC.

CHESTER COUNTY CHAPTER
Looking forward to the election of our new executive board members. We invite you to check our chapter page to stay updated on our events and meetings and submit nominations in August for our chapter election: www.wcualumni.org/ccc. We hope to see you at the next event! Make sure you LIKE our Chester County Facebook Page to stay tuned with the latest and greatest. Facebook: WCU Chester County.

COMMUNICATION ALUMNI CHAPTER
The Communication Alumni Network has been actively engaged with supporting our most recent graduates and welcoming them into the Golden Ram Alumni family. While we have boosted our virtual engagement and offerings, we look forward to continuing to grow and we hope to see everyone in the fall. Interested in getting connected? Check out our chapter page: www.wcualumni.org/CAN.

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY ALUMNI CHAPTER
Congratulations to our recent WCU veterans of the Class of 2020! We are excited for you to join our WCU alumni veterans. Are you an alumnus veteran interested in getting involved, taking on a leadership role with this chapter, or joining us in supporting the efforts of the Student Veterans Group? Stay in touch with all that is going on within our alumni veteran community on the chapter page: www.wcualumni.org/IMAC.

LAW ALUMNI CHAPTER
The Law Alumni Chapter is looking forward to our upcoming events this fall and we encourage all alumni in the legal-related field to join our group on Ram Nation! To stay connected, check out our chapter page: www.wcualumni.org/lawalumnichapter or contact our chapter representative to get involved: wcu.law.alumni@gmail.com.

LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER
The LV Alumni Chapter mission is to engage alumni in the Lehigh Valley to continue giving back to our alma mater along with strengthening our relationships locally here in the Lehigh Valley. Join our team of alumni and strengthen our Golden Ram network. To stay connected, check out our chapter page: www.wcualumni.org/LehighValley. Like us on Facebook: WCU Lehigh Valley Alumni Chapter.

YORK COUNTY CHAPTER
At 100 years old, we are celebrating all the accomplishments we have made as a chapter and the tremendous impact we have had on our alumni, West Chester University, and current students. Our events throughout the year will support the York County Chapter Scholarship and offer community outreach to our local York County alumni. Looking ahead to our 100th anniversary celebration this fall, we encourage alumni and friends to connect with us on social media for all upcoming events and a glimpse of our history over the years. Check out our chapter page for the most updated information and to support our chapter scholarship: www.wcualumni.org/YorkChapter. Find us on Facebook: York County West Chester Alumni Association.
RECONNECT
To view the entire list of alumni chapters and to find out how you can reconnect with your fellow Golden Rams visit www.wcualumni.org/chapters.

Newly formed chapters include: New York, Lehigh Valley, WCUR, Public Policy & Administration, and Zeta Psi. Look for our newest chapter coming soon, MBA Alumni Chapter! Email the Alumni Office (alumni@wcupa.edu) for ways to get involved.

A Message from the Alumni Association President

I t’s finally summer! I’m Bill Scottoline and I’m honored and humbled to be your new president. I will work diligently to support our mission and will listen carefully to your ideas. What a past year it has been! The class of 2020 went through some unique challenges. They finished their studies virtually, had no live commencement ceremonies, had no in-person face time with their classmates and faculty, and were not able to walk our beautiful campus during its most scenic season! They deserve our thanks for their patience and perseverance. Change will remain constant through the summer and into fall. What we do know is our beautiful campus remains and alumni and students will return in the fall, hopefully in person, to take advantage of all that the University offers.

We are working hard to rethink our strategy for reaching you. Our virtual and social media presence will continue to be an important method of engagement. I urge you to utilize wcualumni.org, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn to stay current and to take advantage of programs, events, and discounts on services from our affinity partners. Please share your ideas with me via email at alumni@wcupa.edu.

On behalf of the Alumni Association I wish each of you a safe, healthy, and restful summer. I look forward to your engagement and to meeting each of you virtually or in person soon. RAMS UP!
1960s

Stephen Kane ’62 was inducted into the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame in 2020.

E. Ted Gladue M’62 wrote two journalistic pieces entitled “C-19 Chinese Biological Terrorism” and “Made in China: China's Diplomatic Warriors.”

Barbara (Miller) Vaka ’65 published her 6th novel, Embroidered on the Heart, in 2019. Other published novels include Tharsis Zone, Secrets, Crimes of Passion, Pretty Maids, and Hank's Mountain.

Jeanne (Bieberbach) McClellan ’67, M’85 published three books since 2011, is working on her fourth, and continues to coach individual executives to develop their leadership skills. She writes under the name Jeanne Taylor McClellan.

Kevin Kennedy ’69 is serving as the United Nations regional humanitarian coordinator for the crisis in Syria at the rank of assistant secretary-general. Based in Amman, he is charged with ensuring an effective humanitarian response from the countries bordering Syria. He is married to the former Kathleen Schrandt ’69.

Tom Mack ’69 retired from the English department at the University of South Carolina as of distinguished professor emeritus. Author of six books, he is currently serving as chair of the board of South Carolina Humanities, the state’s program of the National Endowment for Humanities.

1970s

Susan Bangs M’77 retired this year as senior professor of ESL and Spanish at Harrisburg Area Community College. She credits Dr. Phillip Smith, one of the founders of the ESL degree at WCU, with encouraging her to pursue a doctorate.

Lori Lacy ’79, M’82 retired as a health and physical education teacher of 32 years from the Reading School District. She has been volunteering time with the Eastern Kentucky dog rescues for the last eight years trying to save dogs from euthanizations and to relocate them to rescues for adoption. It is an unending task but so rewarding to see these pups get a new lease on life as well as bring joy to the new adopter.

1980s

Lyvita Lacy ’87 retired from the Maryland School District as acting principal after 30 years of service. She now hosts the Hanging Out with Jesus podcast and is the author of The Me Project Journal and E-Journal series.

1990s

Christopher Ruel ’94 is a journalist with OperaWire.com. His work includes New York City stage reviews, CD reviews, and interviews with opera’s most prominent singers, conductors, contemporary composers, and librettists.

Vernon Harper, Jr. ’96 has been named provost and vice president for academic affairs at California State University, Bakersfield. Dr. Harper has served as interim provost and vice president for academic affairs since January 2019.

Jim McDevitt ’97 earned his M.S. in industrial hygiene from Johns Hopkins University, served in the Air Force as an industrial hygienist, and returned to Johns Hopkins for his Ph.D. He has been an infectious researcher at Harvard University, working on the frontlines of research and developed a device for measuring airborne viruses in exhaled breath.

Jeffrey McGeary ’99 serves as an Army reserve lieutenant colonel and recently returned from deployment to Afghanistan under Operation Freedom Sentinel. He served at the United States Forces Afghanistan (USFOR-A) Headquarters in Bagram and NATO Headquarters in Kabul.

2000s

Kelly Grubb ’04 received a master’s in educational administration from the University of Scranton.

David Reynolds ’06 recently published the book Revising History in Communist Europe: Constructing Counter-Revolution in 1956 and 1968.
Marissa Sperazza ’09 has been promoted to partner at Barsz Gowie Amon & Fultz, LLC. She formerly served as senior tax manager of the firm.

2010s
Siobhan Correnty ’11 recently took a position teaching English as a second language at a bilingual school in Sweden.

Steve Bertil ’11 joined Klehr Harrison as an associate in its real estate and finance department.

Keri Palasz ’15, M’18 represented the state of Pennsylvania in the USA Yoga finalist competition for women age 50 plus/masters division, placing 7th in the United States. A registered dietitian, she teaches nutrition at WCU.

2020s
Christina Bewley ’20 accepted a position with Vanguard in Malvern, PA, as a client relationship associate.

Mackenzie Kilgariff ’20 was recently hired by Two Men and a Truck.

Jessica Leatherman ’20 was offered a full-time position at The Goddard School.

Daniel Williams ’20 is the artistic director of Bravo Theatre Company, a theatre community based in West Chester, PA.

IN MEMORIAM
1940 Glenn O. Miller
1941 Jayne K. Miller
1962 Richard William Clemmer
1965 Frederick Ross Hamil, Jr.
1967 Ralph E. Byers
1982 Theodore (Ted) Harmon Butcher
2005 Donald Brandon Douglass

MARRIAGES
(1) Teresa DeSantis ’11, M’12 to Matthew Rychlak ’09 in March 2019
(2) Ellen Gilroy ’12 to Chris Hanna ’09 in October 2019
(3) Abigail Smith ’17 to Tyler Welty ’18 in September 2019
(3) Alexandra-Lynn Weinholdt to Justin Rosenbaum ’20 in May 2020

FUTURE ALUMNI
(4) Dane Mansfield ’09 and Ashley Miller Mansfield ’10 welcomed Layla Jane Mansfield in April 2020.
(5) Bruce Benson M’84 and Toni Benson ’78 became grandparents to Branson Michael Hatcher in April 2019.

ATTENTION ALL VETERAN AND MILITARY ALUMNI
West Chester University is looking to improve the recruitment of student veterans and military. Our alumni are some of WCU’s strongest ambassadors and we hope that you will join us by using your voice and experience to support recruitment events.

To learn more about this opportunity visit www.wcupa.edu/militaryveteran.
**2020 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI**

**EILEEN R. GLENN ’69, M’99** is the retired athletic director for Academy of the New Church in Bryn Athyn, PA and a current member of the school’s Board of Trustees and Finance Committee. Previously, she taught elementary physical education in Massachusetts.

As an undergraduate student-athlete at West Chester University, Glenn competed in field hockey, basketball, and track; participated in student government; and served as an RA. She graduated first in 1969 with a bachelor of science degree in health education, then in 1999 with a master’s degree in sports and athletic administration.

Helping others is what has given Glenn the most satisfaction in her life, including supporting veterans during their re-entry into society; her husband, Terry, served in the U.S. Army Reserves before his passing in 2007. Her legacy at the University includes generous gifts to the Greg and Sandra Weisenstein Veteran’s Center from her family’s Terry and Eileen Glenn Foundation, and the establishment of the Eileen Glenn Veterans’ Support Fund in 2000 to endow the employment of a licensed professional counselor at the Center. She is an honorary graduate of the College of William & Mary, where she supports student veterans and has established a scholarship named in memory of her late husband.

While she has lived in many places, Glenn has called Bryn Athyn home for almost 25 years. Her daughter, Erin Busby, is a professor at University of Texas Law School and her daughter, Brooke Mullin, is a coach at Shady Side Academy, as well as a real estate developer.

**CHRISTOPHER KASKER ’97** is the chief operating officer of HEPCO, Inc., an engineering staffing firm located in the greater New York City area. He is a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel and lives in the Town of Tuxedo, NY, where he is a planning board member, volunteer firefighter, and a chamber of commerce trustee.

Kasker graduated from Phoenixville Area High School and was a criminal justice major and ROTC cadet at West Chester University. His graduate degrees include a master’s in business and organizational security management from Webster University, 2002, and a master’s in communication sciences from the University of Connecticut, 2007.

Some of the positions Kasker held in the Army include: military police platoon leader in Germany, Bosnia, Kosovo (1998-2001); operations officer then company commander at Fort Hood, Texas with two deployments to Iraq (2002-2006); instructor then assistant professor and acting director of Defense and Strategic Studies at West Point (2007-2010); public affairs officer to the secretary of the Army at the Pentagon (2012-2015); and director of public affairs at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point (2015-2017).

Kasker is the recipient of numerous awards and decorations. He was a General Douglas MacArthur Award Finalist in 2000 and the first-ever Major Megan McClung Award recipient for “excellence in leadership” in 2011. He led his team to win a New York City Big Apple award in crisis communication in 2016. Additionally, he presented award winning academic research in 2010. His highest military awards include two Legions of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, and two Meritorious Service Medals.
2020 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Dr. James R. Wells ’54 majored in music education as an undergraduate at West Chester University. He returned to WCU becoming a full professor, directing the marching band, and teaching in music education and music history departments. He created the Marching Band and Band Front Conference in 1970. In addition, he and his brother, Richard, started Festivals of Music, a school band clinic/conference in 1982. In 1983, the two started World Travel Inc. to facilitate travel to their National/International Music Festivals. World Travel Inc. evolved into specializing in corporate travel and is the fourth largest independent travel company in the U.S. Dr. Wells is married to Joanne M. (Noble) Wells ’55, who received a bachelor of science in music at West Chester State College, and is a former music teacher and organist who continues to share her musical forte as church organist.

Mr. Richard G. Wells ’58 majored in music education as an undergraduate at West Chester University. He taught for 29 years at Kutztown University as an associate professor in the Department of Music and as director of bands. In 1971, he created the Jazz Program as an accredited course at Kutztown University. Mr. Wells completed successful tenures at Kutztown Area and Owen J. Roberts School Systems. He partnered with his brother in the Festivals of Music and World Travel, Inc. enterprises. Mr. Wells is married to Elizabeth J. (Noble) Wells ’60, who graduated from West Chester State College in 1960 with a bachelor of science in education. She received her master of education degree in 1968, and, after 40 years, retired from teaching in 2000.

2020 EMERGING LEADER

Montana Leaks ’17, M’20 is a native of Breinigsville, PA. She earned her bachelor’s degree in political science and communications from West Chester in 2017 and completed her master’s in public administration in May. While earning her undergraduate degree, she played a pivotal role in many organizations but was best seen serving as president of the Student Government Association. She also served as the president of the Graduate Student Association for this past school term. Leaks is excited to continue her commitment to West Chester through her involvement in the Alumni Association. She believes in laughter, football, and coffee. She plans to utilize her skills, gained from WCU, to continue serving her community through what she likes to call the “West Chester Way.”

Montana Leaks ’17, M’20

Connect with us

www.wcualumni.org
610-436-2813
2021 WCUAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NOMINATION FORM

Name of 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 NOMINATING COMMITTEE
c/o Alumni Relations Office
202 Carter Drive
West Chester, PA 19382

To submit this form electronically, visit: www.wcualumni.org. Nominations must be received by 4 p.m. on September 25, 2020.

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 2021-2024 term. Please review the following information prior to submitting your nomination.

Nomination forms must be completed and received by 4 p.m. on September 25, 2020. The form below will also be available online at www.wcualumni.org.

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

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

The terms of the newly elected members will begin on July 1, 2021.

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 spring 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.
2021 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Name of 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. Nominations must be received by 4 p.m. on September 25, 2020.

2021 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD NOMINEES SOUGHT

The Distinguished Alumni Awards have been presented by the West Chester University Alumni Association annually since 1963. The WCUAA Awards Committee seeks candidates to be selected and recognized for this prestigious honor at the 2021 Distinguished Alumni Awards Celebration.

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 the candidate’s career.

If you would like to nominate a deserving alumnus/a, please complete and mail this form to the WCU Alumni Relations Office. You may also submit a nomination online at www.wcualumni.org. Nominations must be received by 4 p.m. on September 25, 2020. Upon receipt of a nomination, a packet will be sent to the nominator for completion.
The University continues to plan ways for our Ram family to come together when it is safe to do so. We encourage you to check www.wcualumni.org frequently for updates regarding the status of all scheduled events, including Homecoming festivities. During this sensitive time, events may need to be cancelled and/or rescheduled.

We will be together soon!