

# link

THE MAGAZINE OF WILMINGTON COLLEGE

WC's  
**COVID**  
Spring

President  
**Jim**  
**Reynolds**  
leaving

College  
receives  
**\$13.5**  
million gift



# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Alumni and Friends:

Several years ago, perhaps like some of you, I was a big fan of *ABC Monday Night Football*. It was innovative when it first came on because each Monday night, there was only one football game to watch. No ESPN or Fox Sports – every Monday night at 9 p.m. (8 p.m. central time), the entire population of sports fans had one choice of football games to watch. As much as I enjoyed the games themselves, I also found the announcing crew to be very entertaining. Frank



President  
Jim Reynolds

Gifford was the lead announcer and did the play-by-play and Howard Cosell was the color commentator with an over-the-top vocabulary and narrator of the halftime highlights.

And then there was the incomparable Don Meredith, or “Dandy Don” as Howard would refer to him. Meredith was the former player (as was Frank Gifford) who would throw in a wry assessment from time to time and play up the “country boy from Texas” shtick with his

down-home phraseology. Usually, at the end of the game in the closing moments of the fourth quarter, the booth would become silent until the silence was broken by Don Meredith singing in a Texas twang:

“Turn out the lights, the party’s over. They say that all good things must end...”

I’ve been thinking a lot about those lyrics lately. I think many of you know that this is my last semester at Wilmington College. On July 1, I will begin the last chapter of my professional career as the 16th president of Millikin University in Decatur, Ill. It’s a special opportunity for me because Decatur is my hometown. I grew up six blocks from the Millikin campus and returning to be a part of the Decatur community is something that I know will be a blessing to Sue and me. So, in that sense, the party is over for me at Wilmington College.

What Dandy Don’s lyrics don’t convey is just how good this was for me. I loved Wilmington College, and, in every sense, Wilmington College has loved me back. I found a renewed sense of purpose when I arrived here almost 13 years ago. I had a great mentor and friend in Dan DiBiasio who gave me the chance to rebuild my professional life. I made and have kept many friends and colleagues who have provided me with moments of joy and caused me to be better at what I do because they deserved my best. When I became president in 2012, I was given the opportunity to visit alumni and friends of the College and met some of the best people I’ve ever met. Your stories about the College and its enduring legacy have made me continuously proud to have been a part of our campus community. And your generosity has humbled me because of the desire you have to make certain that new students have the same chance that you did.

But the good things aren’t ending for Wilmington College, not by a long shot. At their April meeting, our Board of Trustees named Dr. Erika Goodwin to be the Interim President for the next academic year. Erika is a lifelong Clinton County native, an alumnus of Wilmington College, has been a faculty member and administrator for close to 25 years, and loves our College. Almost 12 years ago, when I was the



*ZOOM meetings became the rule rather than the exception as the COVID-19 crisis prevented the occurrence of gatherings of persons in close proximity and forced most faculty and staff to work remotely. President Jim Reynolds is pictured on the far right, second from the top during a May meeting of WC’s CV-19 Task Force. Some have referred to the stacked photos of participants as ala The Brady Bunch or Hollywood Squares.*

Vice President for Academic Affairs, I hired Erika to be my Associate VP in the Academic Affairs Office. As I have told anyone who asks, Erika is the best hire I have ever made. She is devoted to our mission, loves the students, has an incredible work ethic and is a person who will never let you down. I’m so thrilled for her to have this opportunity and I know she will be a wonderful president who will continue the good work of the College.

You might also have heard that the College has received the largest gift in its 150-year history. Andy (’58) and Cathy Withrow bequeathed a \$13.5 million estate gift to the College that they asked to be used to improve our residence halls and other facilities. This gift comes at a time when we can use it to be mindful of how best to create living and learning spaces that are coronavirus safe. In honor of their generosity, our Board has renamed our new science building, “The Withrow Center for Agricultural, Life and Physical Sciences.”

So, the good times aren’t ending. Much like the traveling company of a Broadway musical, the cast members might be changing but the excellence of the production continues. For those of you who have chosen to support our College through your time, talents and treasures, you have my deepest gratitude for your confidence in us. I hope all of you will consider how best to help Wilmington College in the future.

It has been my privilege and honor to be your president for the last nine years. I’ll never be able to repay my debt of gratitude to this wonderful College. Sue and I will miss our times on campus with our students, staff and faculty and will continue to hold Wilmington College in the Light as we begin our new adventure at Millikin.

With great respect for you all,

Jim Reynolds, President



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## ON THE COVER

*The College experienced an unprecedented spring semester as the COVID-19 crisis forced WC to complete courses online and virtually present Commencement and other culminating ceremonies. Joshua Cyrus '21 is pictured symbolizing WC students caught in the crisis. See related stories on pgs. 4 and 6.*

### [p.7] SWAN SONG

*President Jim Reynolds looks back on his memorable nine years as WC's 18th president. He became president of Millikin University in his hometown of Decatur, Ill.*

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*The College received the largest gift in its 150-year history, a \$13.5 million bequest from the estate of Andrew '58 and Catherine Withrow.*

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*In observance of the College's 150th anniversary, The LINK is featuring "150 Stories for 150 Years," narratives written by alumni highlighting their favorite memories, life chronicles and the lasting impact of their days at Wilmington College.*

Your comments are welcome.

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Jared Shoemaker sits atop the Campus Rock when he returned to campus in early May to continue the tradition of graduating seniors signing the Rock.

# PANDEMIC HIJACKS SPRING SEMESTER

'Every little moment matters and should not be taken for granted'

*Randy Sarvis*

Wilmington College students learned in mid-March that their extended Spring Break away from campus would last the remainder of the semester as the institution planned to complete the term online.

The announcement sent shock waves throughout Quaker Nation, but especially hard hit were the seniors. One of them, Jared Shoemaker, a communication arts major from Springfield, vented his raw emotions on social media in a letter addressed "Dear COVID-19."

Shoemaker prefaced his remarks by acknowledging that he understands the need for health and safety precautions, "but I want to be selfish just for a moment" as a means for expressing his feelings.

"You have taken my last semester of College away from me," he said, noting that, as a swimmer, Shoemaker luckily was able to complete his final season, unlike his fellow spring sport student-athletes who barely started theirs. "I think I can speak for all seniors, high school and college —



*Senior Jeff Clydesdale was literally one of the last students to move out of campus housing in March, as evidenced by the nearly vacant Austin-Pickett parking lot.*

"We are devastated!"

He proceeded to list some of the post-Spring Break campus activities he missed, such as not being able to run his final fraternity meetings as president or "spending time with my brothers" as an active member. "Thanks to you, COVID-19, seniors will never get to take their final exam, walk out of class and say, 'I did it!'"

He recalled a few short weeks earlier when he and other WC students said goodbye to their friends for Spring Break "thinking they'll see them in a week, but now we may never actually see them again."

Shoemaker challenged those from other colleges who suggested online classes are basically the same as traditional in-person instruction. "It might be for some, but for me and most of my WC family, it's the exact opposite. The rapport we established with our professors often feels unmatched — all of this is gone in virtually the blink of an eye and it's out of our control.

"All of this is gone."

As he came to the close of his letter to the Coronavirus, Shoemaker, who signed the note, "A Shattered Senior," waxed philosophic in the best way a 22-year-old, skateboard-riding, artistically inclined, soon-to-be college graduate could, with a favorite line from the film, *Ford vs. Ferrari*: "You promised me a ride. You didn't promise a win. Thanks for the ride."

"Thank you to everyone that was part of my Wilmington College ride!"

Another graduating senior, Jillia Cook, an athletic training major from Canton, missed out on what promised to be a banner season for her senior-laden softball team. She noted how, since she was a freshman, seniors always told her your College days are over before you know it.

"I kind of brushed that off, but you don't quite understand that until you're a senior," Cook said, noting the unexpected termination of softball and on-campus activities lends additional substance to that advice. "Don't take any practice, game

or team-bonding activity for granted because, one day, you would do anything to have that time back.

"Cherish every moment and make the most of every day."

Kelton Gray, a graduating senior from Xenia majoring in mathematics education, echoed those sentiments. "Treat every day like game day," said the member of the lacrosse team and student assistant coach with the women's basketball team. "Those moments could be taken at any time."

Senior Hannah Davis, an exercise science and political science major on the swim team from West Union, said the pandemic has offered insight into how normal days and seemingly simple things can resonate greatly in one's life.

"If we are to learn something from this, maybe it should be to appreciate the time we have to experience the simple things a college student gets to do week to week," she said in mentioning going to class, pursuing an internship, practicing a sport, watching movies with friends or even studying for an exam into the early hours of the morning. "Not everyone has the opportunity to experience what we have. I'm grateful that we've at least had this much time to do all those things we love to do."

Senior Grace Shell, a biology major from Sidney, said missing her senior softball season and all those other "lasts" she was so looking forward to experiencing served to "open my eyes to how impactful everyone at WC is in my life and how every little moment matters and should not be taken for granted. I wish I would have realized all this and cherished it more before it was all taken away."

Sophomore Brittanie Clair, a social work major from Mentor, shared via social media her visceral reaction just moments after learning the College was suspending face-to-face interaction for the spring and how, for her, her second year at WC "suddenly" ended.

"I was crushed and cried for about 30 minutes but, while this is sad, it's also beautiful because, in this moment, I truly realized how much Wilmington means to me," she said, noting it affirmed she chose the right college in 2018, "You never realize how much a place means to you until you're forced not to go back."



*Sophomore Brittanie Clair has an especially close relationship with President Jim and Sue Reynolds, so the announcement in March that Spring Semester would be completed online hit her particularly hard.*



# COLLEGE ADOPTED DISTANCE LEARNING MODEL AS COVID-19 CRISIS FORCED CAMPUS EVACUATION

## Return to campus planned this fall — with caution

On March 10, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, based upon information from the Center for Disease Control and Ohio Dept. of Public Safety, called upon the state's college and university presidents to suspend operations on their campuses through the end of March as a means for controlling and assessing the impending novel Coronavirus pandemic.

Soon, it became evident that Wilmington College students — like many of their 20 million peers across the nation — would not be returning to campus for the balance of Spring Semester, albeit to gather their belongings.

President Jim Reynolds possesses a Ph.D. in biology and appreciates the havoc a highly contagious virus can wreak. He suspended in-person classes and closed the campus to all gatherings for the remainder of the spring. The institution marshalled its forces to facilitate the faculty's ability to continue teaching online via Blackboard, Zoom, Facebook Live and other means.

"This was not something on which there is a book I can take off my shelf that details how to take care of things," he said. "We took our time to make decisions and we made these decisions in the very best interest regarding our concern for the campus' safety and public health."

Reynolds said the faculty did "Herculean chores" in order to have all classes up and running by the end of March. While a small group of administrators and staff were designated as "essential" and allowed to work from campus on a limited basis, most faculty and staff worked remotely from home until they were called to return to campus in June.

"We worked hard to be nimble and flexible, and, at the same time, calm and resolute as we serve our students in these extremely trying and unprecedented days," the president added. "No one has been through this kind of national emergency before, and we all are working hard to take care and respond as rapidly as we can."

The College adjusted residential students' accounts with room and board rebates, and where possible, accommodated

students working remotely at campus jobs throughout the spring and, in some cases, extending through the summer. It also assisted international students and others stranded on campus in March.

Aside from finishing the spring courses online, the College wished to recognize student achievement in a public manner even though programs could not be presented live on campus. Indeed, both the Student Honors Convocation and Tyehimba ceremony celebrating diversity could be viewed around the world on YouTube and Facebook.

The College also presented the Commencement and Baccalaureate ceremonies virtually.

"The one thing that's really punching me in the stomach right now," Reynolds said in early April, "is knowing that we won't adequately be able to say goodbye to those students who've given so much to this College."

Since March, the College has been engaging in outreach to students and alumni on several fronts. The Quake Radio has been airing live shows with students working from home, in addition to a weekly program known as "Quarantined Quakers," in which a communication arts faculty member, Nick Wiget '01, is hosting interviews. Indeed, Wiget let a prospective student from Xenia have a go at hosting a music show to display, in a compelling way, the hands-on learning opportunities available at WC. That disc jockey is enrolled for fall!

Also the Alumni Engagement Office is hosting "Webinar Wednesdays," which feature alumni and faculty presenting in their areas of expertise.

At the time of this writing, the College was moving forward with plans for students to return to campus in the fall, including life in residence halls, in-person classes, on-campus dining, a sports season and all those "normal" things that, in retrospect, can easily be taken for granted. Special cautionary measures will be in place to ensure to the highest degree that WC remains a safe and secure environment in which to learn and live.



## WILLIAM YOAKLEY, CLASS OF 1902, WAS WC'S FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN GRADUATE

Physician served Wilmington for many years



**"He graduated in 1902 with a Bachelor of Arts degree — the first African American to graduate from WC."**

He returned to the College in 1898 and, while working as a township assessor, graduated in 1902 with a Bachelor of Arts degree — the first African American to graduate from WC.

Yoakley went on to teach for six years at nearby Midland School and, in 1909, he became the first African American to earn a lifetime teaching certificate from the State of Ohio. Also, in 1909, he took the Civil Service Examination and earned an assignment as a special agent of the Census Bureau, first in Cincinnati then in Washington, D. C.

While in Washington he began his study of medicine at Howard University taking evening classes, then becoming a full-time student and graduating with a Doctor of Medicine degree in June of 1915. The next year, at 40 years of age, Dr. Yoakley began a new career in medicine and went on to become a much-respected physician Wilmington, where he had a practice on N. South St.

In 1929, *The Wilmington Daily News-Journal* reported: "During the World War, he was one of the medical examiners on the draft board. He made an enviable reputation during the influenza epidemic in 1918. He is now and has been for several years one of the city physicians for the indigent poor. Three fourths of Dr. Yoakley's patients are white and he finds some of the wealthiest and most respected residents of the county among his patients."

Dr. William B. Yoakley's humble beginnings presented numerous obstacles to his becoming a highly respected physician.

Born in the rural burg of Guerneyville outside of Wilmington in 1875, he was six years old when his father died, leaving his mother to rear four small children. On top of that hardship, he was an African American in the 19th century.

Yoakley worked on a nearby farm through age 17 before enrolling at Wilmington College in 1892. Following two years, he began his teaching career at the Gist Settlement, a small community near New Vienna established by a group of freed, enslaved persons from Virginia in 1815 on land purchased by their former slaveowner.



# PRESIDENT JIM'S SWAN SONG

'I have loved this place and it has loved me back'

COLLEGE HALL

*Jim and Sue Reynolds and their Keeshund canines, Phoebe and Georgia, regularly have walked around Collett Mall during the evening — much to the delight of students.*





Randy Sarvis

As Jim Reynolds looks back upon his nearly nine years as president of Wilmington College, he takes pride in what has been referred to as the institution's 21st century renaissance.

The College successfully completed the largest building boom in more than a half century, enrollments of new students attained record watermarks, academic program offerings expanded, the institution underwent a rebranding process that places its longtime hallmark for hands-on learning front and center, and it successfully concluded its largest fundraising campaign before, this spring, realizing the biggest gift — \$13.5 million — in its 150-year history.

"You can look at a lot of things, but for me, it's knowing that we graduated 2,660 students during those nine years," he said. "We've witnessed so many grow and have an exceptional experience at Wilmington College. For many, it's changed their lives in very meaningful ways. A lot of those students really needed the College in their lives at that time."

Indeed, Reynolds often has cited a borrowed yet especially meaningful phrase: "We change family trees." The first in his family to graduate college, Reynolds empathizes with the sometimes-challenging plight faced by first-generation students and others for whom attaining higher education is a stretch.

"Wilmington College has a powerful purpose in extending

an opportunity to those students looking to improve their lives. I'm happy to have been part of a place that really wants to educate students and I'm really proud to have played a small part in their lives," he added.

Each spring as the academic year winds down to the frenzied finish that culminates with Commencement, Reynolds' resolve is renewed by "the power of what we do," witnessing student achievement and, ultimately, seeing graduates cross the stage while knowing many of their compelling stories.

He would move from event to event — Research Forum, Student Honors Convocation, WESPY Awards, Tyehimba, Senior Lunch, Cincinnati's Senior Banquet, Baccalaureate, even Late-Night Breakfast (at which he prepared for students his

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**"Wilmington College has a powerful purpose in extending an opportunity to those students looking to improve their lives."**

— JIM REYNOLDS



Jim Reynolds takes a selfie photo with the College's mascot, Quakerman, at Homecoming in 2017.



*Jim Reynolds introduces himself to incoming freshman Maddy Scott from Centerville at a picnic lunch hosted by the Reynoldses during New Student Orientation last August.*

popular sausage and cheese on glazed doughnuts). He was always reminded of how far so many students have come since, in most cases, arriving on campus as teenagers just weeks after finishing high school. Also, those nontraditional students at the Cincinnati Branch have held a special place in his heart for their sometimes decades of perseverance.

Sadly, this spring, just as the pandemic stole graduating seniors' opportunity to enjoy all those "lasts," so did Reynolds, his wife, Sue, and the rest of the campus miss out on experiencing the students' swan song final weeks with them.

"It was hard for us," he said. "We missed having the chance to say, in person, 'Congratulations, thanks and goodbye.'"

Sue added, "I especially missed this year seeing the enthusiasm and happiness of our students and their families at Commencement."

Jim admitted he was "emotionally drained" after presenting his final Commencement address, which was filmed for the College's online graduation ceremony. He said that, while he'd have much preferred to have given the speech live in a packed Hermann Court before the graduates and their families, friends, faculty, staff and trustees, he hopes there was something in it that "connects" with each of them.

For the past eight Commencements, Jim painstakingly prepared a keynote address that's tailored expressly with that year's class in mind.

"I hope they see the emotion I have," he added. "I want them to know how meaningful it is that Sue and I have gotten to know them and how much we care for them."

That care started the moment they arrived on campus as freshmen, when the Reynoldses were stationed at the entrance of Austin-Pickett parking lot, welcoming the College's newest students and giving their families reason to feel confident their children were joining a caring, nurturing community.

Those new students would see a lot of the Reynoldses in the coming days, weeks and years. Sue came up with the idea for them to host meals for cohorts of freshmen a dozen at a time throughout their first semester.

"Having been a K through 12 teacher I learned you stand at the door each day and welcome your students; you ask them about the important things going on in their lives," Sue said. "If you take that time with them, students feel you care about them and are invested in each of them as a person."

Sue got to know many of WC's students through their testimonials on social media. Never one to miss recognizing a birthday or congratulate student accomplishments, she came to appreciate even more the "grit and perseverance" they've exhibited in working their way through obstacles.

"You learn about what students have gone through and how they didn't let that stop them," she added.

"We're all on a journey and there's a purpose for every one of us."

Students can sense those who genuinely care about them, be they eight or 18-years-old. The College's first couple quickly became known for their student-centered approach to leading the campus community.

"One of the nice ways to get to know people has been walking around campus with Phoebe and Georgia," he said about their five and one-year-old Keeshunds, a breed of dog from Denmark. "Who doesn't want to pet a friendly dog? There's nothing better on a nice evening than walking around a college campus. With two dogs, it's a nice icebreaker."

The power of developing authentic relationships and seeking mutual respect in interactions is inherent in the president's leadership style.

"I worked for a number of presidents and found the most successful ones had a humanistic approach," he said, noting the persona he has sought to develop is that of a servant leader. "That they could trust me to focus on the best interests of the institution. We've developed really good and authentic relationships that have benefitted us and the College."

He noted that, while decisions are data-driven, leadership

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**"I especially missed this year seeing the enthusiasm and happiness of our students and their families at Commencement."**

— SUE REYNOLDS



*Jim and Sue Reynolds mingle with alumni at an event at Cape May Retirement Community in 2012.*

is different. "In almost every instance, leadership derives from the kind of relationship you have with people."

Based on that premise, Reynolds made himself especially accessible to the campus community.

"I've been in some places where entering the president's office is like entering a fortress," he said. "I've always believed that part of the job of president is making yourself available when people need you — and you can never predict when that is."

Jim and Sue believe in spiritual callings, that, "We're placed here for a reason — it's not just serendipity," he said about coming to WC as vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty in 2007 and becoming the College 18th president several years later. "I didn't realize how much I needed Wilmington in my life until I got here. A lot of important things happened to us while we've been at WC. We believe there's a reason for us to be where we are. Now, I know I'm being called to Millikin."

In July, Jim became the 16th president of Millikin University, a 119-year-old institution in Decatur, Ill. — his hometown.

He grew up six blocks from the Millikin campus, watched Saturday afternoon football games there, swam in its natatorium for a high school gym class and took his ACT exam in a room across the hall from where his presidential office will be.

"I have a lot of really fond memories of Millikin," he said. "It's the culmination of my professional career to go back to my hometown — that's really a blessing."

He recalls his father driving his family after church along Millikin Place, a cul-de-sac of spectacular homes, near the university, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright or a protégé. All these years later, he will live in the president's home on Millikin Place.

"I remember Millikin as a beacon of culture in my hometown. Decatur was a place where a blue-collar worker could live the American Dream," he said, noting his parents lived their final days there and he and Sue still have good friends they often visit in Decatur.

"It's a place that's really special to me."

They said Wilmington College also has been a special place to have invested their lives for the past 13 years. Their younger daughter, Erin, is a 2015 graduate. Also, the Quakers' ethos of promoting peace, equality and social justice found eager exemplars in the Reynoldses.

Indeed, in one of the president's final messages to the campus — on June 1 when the nation was reeling from the Coronavirus crisis and the ongoing civil unrest in the aftermath of the George Floyd killing by police in Minneapolis — he emphatically stated the College's support for those directly affected by the tragedy.

"We stand in solidarity with those who are peacefully protesting, asking only for the chance to be heard. We stand with those who have been

hurt by the hatred we see in America today and look for ways to help them to heal their pain. We stand with all of those seeking justice, all who value diversity and inclusion, all those who have been cast aside by society because their skin color, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnic origins, religious practices, and economic security is not what may be considered by some to be normative."

Jim said he's been impressed with how the College is a place that really lives out its community and values, and how those ideals have been perpetuated through the lives of WC's alumni. "There are so many good memories we have here and so many good people we've had the opportunity to know and work with."

He believes the future of Wilmington College is bright.

"People have worked hard and pulled together to put us on a positive trajectory," he added. "I feel we've positioned ourselves really well. Really good people have sat around tables — and in Zoom meetings — and made really good decisions. I have every expectation that things will continue to be really good here and I'm proud to have been a small part of that."

Sue added, "I'll miss the students, faculty and staff, and our alumni. Places are neat but it's always the people that make places special."

As for a legacy at WC, Jim said, "I want to be remembered as the kind of president who focused my attention on making students' experience the best it can be. I have loved this place and it has loved me back. I've given my heart and soul to Wilmington College.

"I'm a Quaker for life!"

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The College has established the Jim and Sue Reynolds Helping Hands Fund in the couple's honor as a means for continuing their interest in assisting students in need. Those wishing to contribute to the fund are welcome to send a check to the Advancement Office, Wilmington College, 1870 Quaker Way, Wilmington, OH 45177.*



*Andy and Cathy Withrow are pictured in 2007 on the occasion of giving the College its first-ever \$1 million gift that was not part of an estate. It provided seed money for the Center for the Sciences and Agriculture building project. That facility will be known as The Withrow Center.*

## 'MOMENTOUS GIFT'

### Wife of '58 alum bequeaths \$13.5 million gift

Wilmington College's largest gift ever received in its 150-year history will accelerate the ongoing renaissance WC has enjoyed in recent years as a result of enrollment records, new academic programs, major gifts, fiscal stability, and new and renovated facilities.

With the disbursement pending this summer, the College expects to receive \$13.5 million from the estate of Catherine (Cathy) Withrow, widow of 1958 alumnus Andrew (Andy) Withrow. They join a fellowship of key supporters who continue to demonstrate their confidence in Wilmington College.

President Jim Reynolds said the College accepts their gift as a reflection of the couple's belief in WC's ongoing commitment to excellence as a Quaker-affiliated institution of higher education that is preparing the leaders of tomorrow.

The Withrows, of Cincinnati, have a long history of supporting Andy's alma mater. Starting in the 1960s, almost immediately after Andy graduated, they contributed \$20 annually to the College phonathon. Their legacy of giving continued through the decades and increased as their means allowed. In 2008, theirs was the first \$1 million non-estate gift received by WC. It provided seed funding for the construction of the Center for the Sciences and Agricul-

ture (CSA), the College's largest academic building, which opened in 2016.

In accordance with the impact their estate gift, the Board of Trustees chose to rename the CSA building The Withrow Center for Agricultural, Life and Physical Sciences. A dedication ceremony will be announced in due time, welcoming back to campus the Withrows' core group of WC friends.

Reynolds expressed his great appreciation with what he described as a "momentous gift." Their "investment in the future of the College will enable us to move forward with important elements of our Campus Master Plan now." According to the wishes of the Withrows, the gift is restricted to capital projects and scholarships. A considerable amount has been earmarked for the renovation of campus residence halls, to ensure they meet the needs of the students of tomorrow.

"This wonderful couple loved Wilmington College," Reynolds said.

"Andy and Cathy saw Wilmington College as an institution that continues to play a vital and distinct role in the region's educational landscape," he added. "They were impressed with the momentum of the College in the 21st century and wished to have a significant and lasting impact on the future



of the school and its students. This considerable gift will reshape much of the housing infrastructure and make the College an even more appealing living and learning community for our students.”

“This is an exhilarating time at Wilmington College” Reynolds added, noting that the 150-year-old institution is well placed to weather the storms of today and tomorrow.

He stressed that Wilmington College continues to be successful and adaptive in the ever-evolving higher education landscape. With strong academic programs, WC stands out in a crowded marketplace offering students a holistic approach to education. Hands-on learning, critical thinking, leadership and collaboration are not just buzzwords but part of the transformative education that students experience at WC.

Wilmington College ranks in the top quarter of colleges in the 12-state Midwest Region, according to the *U.S. News & World Report’s* 2019 “Best Colleges” issue. Wilmington delivers a world-class education to students, while remaining one of the most affordable private schools in the region.

In the past 10 years, the College has enrolled two of the largest freshman classes in its history, constructed two major buildings and strengthened its financial situation, all while continuing to offer rigorous academic programs, he said. It is widely respected for its comprehensive agriculture program, one of only three in Ohio and the only one housed at an independent institution. Its athletic training program, one of the largest and oldest in the state, recently transitioned to a master’s level program. A new master’s level occupational therapy program is set to launch within the next 18 months.

Reynolds believes that this period of renaissance was foreseen by the Withrows, a sentiment that further endeared the preeminent school to them and other major donors. “We believe that this significant gift will encourage alumni and friends to continue, and even increase their donations, advancing the great work of the College.”

The Withrows began their support of WC right after his graduation and became even closer to the College later in life. The institution recognized Andy for his career, service and philanthropy with an honorary doctorate at the 2007 Commencement ceremonies. He passed away unexpectedly in September of 2009.

As a token of Andy’s lifelong connection to WC, his widow, Cathy, presented the College with his framed doctoral hood. This artifact has been displayed ever since in the President’s Office as a reminder that a graduate’s connection with the College does not end after Commencement but continues for life and beyond.

In the 10 years after her husband’s passing, Cathy continued to be impressed with the College’s strategic direction. She maintained a close affiliation with the College and the many alumni friends the couple so greatly valued. Cathy joined her husband in death March of 2019.

Andy hearkened back to both of his grandfathers instilling in him the value of giving back. Indeed, his paternal grandfather, Cincinnati surgeon Dr. John Withrow, is the namesake for the city’s Withrow High School.

“My wife and I have been blessed to have the ability to share in similar ways. Giving to focused areas in our life has



*After Andy Withrow’s passing in 2009, his widow, Cathy, presented the College with the doctoral hood WC presented to him in 2007. The framed artifact has been displayed in the president’s outer office as a reminder that a student’s affiliation with the College can be felt can be realized throughout one’s lifetime and beyond.*

been our main goal,” Andy said in 2008. “Cathy and I, many years ago, felt if we were in the position to give to a project, Wilmington College was high on our list.”

Peggy Roads Sturdivant ’82, chair of the Board of Trustees, also expressed the College’s excitement resulting from the couple’s “magnanimous gesture” of support.

“The impact of the Withrows’ gift will be felt for decades at the College,” she said, noting that the Trustees identified residence hall renovation as of “paramount importance as the institution continues towards a future of excellence, and a key part of the Campus Master Plan.”

“Andy greatly valued his Wilmington College experience and how it affected his life in a multitude of positive ways, including so many lifelong friendships. Cathy obviously admired greatly how much the College meant to him — and ultimately appreciated how much it meant to her.

“Wilmington College is forever grateful to the Withrows,” Sturdivant concluded. “With a student-centered educational experience, Wilmington has served its students well for 150 years and is poised to continue to transform lives into the next 150 years.”



*President Jim Reynolds symbolically passed the torch of leadership to Interim President Erika Goodwin during the College's virtual Commencement June 6, which represented his last official duty as president.*

# GLASS CEILING CRACKS

Erika Goodwin '95 named interim president

**"Goodwin will be not only the College's first female president but the first Wilmington College graduate to serve as president since Robert Lucas, a member of the Class of 1937."**

*Randy Sarvis*

Dr. Erika (Smith) Goodwin will bring years of experience as a member of Wilmington College's faculty and senior administration when she assumes the role of interim president this summer. Also, she will be the College's first female president.



*Dr. Erika Goodwin*

The College's Board of Trustees in late February named Goodwin president on an interim basis upon the June 30 departure of President Jim Reynolds, who has served in the top administrative role since August 2011. Reynolds announced his decision in February to become the next president at Millikin University in his hometown of Decatur, Ill.

Peggy Sturdivant, chair of the Board of Trustees, made the announcement, noting Goodwin, a highly respected member of the College community for many years, has been

closely involved with the College's day-to-day operation while also leading the academics area and heading a number of strategic initiatives.

"We are pleased that Erika has agreed to step into this role for her alma mater and all of us look forward to working with her to continue the good work that is taking place at WC," Sturdivant said.

Goodwin served as vice president for academic affairs and strategic initiatives, dean of the faculty and a tenured professor of athletic training/sport sciences. She is a 1995 graduate of Wilmington College in athletic training who went on to earn a Master of Arts degree from Wright State University in physical education with a focus in athletic training and anatomy. She also has a Ph.D. from Union Institute and University in higher education administration with an interdisciplinary component in athletic training.

She is determined that the College, which has gained great momentum in recent years,



will continue to move forward — rather than hitting the “pause” button — during this period in which the institution searches for its permanent president.

“My close working relationship with President Jim Reynolds over the last 12 years will make this presidency an easy transition,” she said, noting her 25-year history with the College, which includes being an alumna with a local upbringing, also helps “continue the continuity and build on the momentum” experienced under Reynolds’ leadership.

“Our focus will continue to be the goals of the current strategic plan,” Goodwin said in listing those priorities of: developing new academic and co-curricular programs that are consistent with WC’s mission and values as a Quaker institution; enrollment, retention and marketing strategies; fundraising; fiscal stability; implementing the new campus master plan; growing the external programs in Cincinnati; continuing the work of the Title III grant for student retention; and to cultivate, retain, reward and develop professional faculty and staff committed to student learning and educational quality.

Goodwin’s diverse educational and experiential background has allowed her to teach a variety of courses since 1995 in the Athletic Training, Agriculture and Biology departments. She was the College’s first female head athletic trainer.

Goodwin entered WC’s academic administration in 2008 as the associate vice president for academic affairs and, upon Reynolds’ move to the presidency, she became the interim VP for academic affairs in 2011 and was named the vice president and dean of faculty in 2013.

In recent years, Goodwin has managed the development and tracking of the College’s current strategic plan and its successful Higher Learning Commission (HLC) re-accreditation. She serves as the College’s liaison officer with the HLC and is a peer reviewer engaged in consulting and evaluation visits to other campuses in the 19-state, Chicago-based Higher Learning Commission region.

Also, Goodwin has worked very closely with the president on a number of new initiatives, including several graduate programs that have either already been implemented or are in development, specifically the new Master of Science in Athletic Training and the nascent graduate program in occupational therapy. Throughout her time in the College’s administration, she has continued to teach the research and statistics courses for the athletic training program — one course each semester. “That is a passion of mine,” she noted.

Indeed, her keen interest in research is centered upon the value of exposing those required soft skills to students, whether or not they continue scholarly research after graduation from WC. Goodwin, who has championed the annual Student-Faculty Research Forum each spring, has co-authored some 200 student research projects between 2004 and 2020. This spring she exceeded the 100 mark of research projects that have been presented at state, district and national athletic training conferences and/or been published.

Indeed, 11 students under her mentorship have won the Undergraduate Exceptional Research Award from the Ohio

## **“My close working relationship with President Jim Reynolds over the last 12 years will make this presidency an easy transition.”**

— ERIKA GOODWIN

Athletic Trainers’ Association (OATA) over the past 16 years and two of her students have been Undergraduate Poster Presentation Finalists at the National Athletic Trainers’ Association conference. Goodwin received the 2007 Exceptional Research Award (Professional Division) presented by the OATA.

In 2007, students selected her to receive the College’s Distinguished Faculty Award.

Goodwin is a native of the Wilmington area with numerous local connections. She served for 25 years as 4-H club adviser to the Clinton County 4-H horse program and is a current member of the Laurel Oaks Business and Industry Advisory Council for its Equine Science and Management Program. A 2010 member of the Leadership Clinton graduation class, she also served on the Board of Directors of the Clinton County Free Clinic from 2010 through 2015. In addition, Goodwin is a 2015 inductee into Outstanding Women of Clinton County.

She and her husband, Brad, a member of the Class of ’98, are the parents of two daughters, Gracie and Emily. They are members of St. Columbkille Catholic Church in Wilmington.

Goodwin will be not only the College’s first female president but the first Wilmington College graduate to serve as president since Robert Lucas, a member of the Class of 1937, who was president from 1975 to ’82. Prior to him, Robert Hinshaw, president from 1971 to ’75, attended WC for a year and is considered as a member of the Class of ’55. Also, Oscar Boyd ’12 served as acting/interim president two times, 1931–32 and in 1940, while Henry G. Williams, the eighth president, 1927–28, was a graduate of Lebanon National Normal University, which merged with the College in 1916, so he is considered a WC alumnus.

Goodwin spoke of the “honor and privilege” of working under Reynolds, both when he was vice president for academic affairs from 2007 through 2011 and during his presidency.

“He has not only been a great mentor but became a good friend,” Goodwin said, noting how she will miss him and his wife, Sue, after their summer departure.

“I am very happy he is going back to his hometown of Decatur to assume the presidency at Millikin University. There is something to be said about going back to your roots and remembering where you came from,” she added. “That’s what makes me so passionate about being here at Wilmington College — these are my roots.

“It’s always been more than just a job, it’s a calling — and it’s profoundly meaningful to work here at WC and in the higher education setting.”

## COMMENCEMENT



*This year's unprecedented Commencement was moved from May 9 to June 6 in hope large gatherings would be possible, but the pandemic dictated a virtual ceremony that was created for viewing on YouTube.*

# THE ROLLING STONES, A SUPER BOWL MVP AND 'A DRESSER OF FIGS'

## College confers 273 degrees at 144th (and first virtual) Commencement

*Randy Sarvis*

President Jim Reynolds hearkened a favorite song from his childhood, the Rolling Stones' 1969 hit, "You Can't Always Get What You Want," as he presented the keynote address at Wilmington College's 144th Commencement, which was presented online June 6.

He said today was an "unpleasant reminder" that we can't always get what we want. The COVID-19 pandemic forced the closing of the physical campus for students from March 16 through the Class of 2020's online graduation ceremony.

"Commencement for me is a time of celebration, but more importantly, it's a time of contact: contact with my friends and colleagues here on campus, contact with proud families, who have loved their graduates to the finish line, and contact with our students, who have overcome adversity and unimaginable hurdles to graduate from college," he said.

The president noted that, through the 40-plus commencement ceremonies he's witnessed over his lifetime, he's been given the gift of watching the "very essence of being human" take place.

"Hugs, kisses, tears, laughter, joyful celebration — contact with the people in our lives that have made us who we are and what we are to become," he said, adding how a simple touch of a shoulder, squeeze of a hand, heartfelt hug or knowing smile all reinforce our common humanity. "It's the contact with others in the world that makes our lives so rich and keeps us grounded and able to persevere through difficult periods."

Reynolds expressed his frustration that all those who would normally gather in Hermann Court for Commencement — graduates, families, friends, faculty and staff — are this year unable to "publicly affirm" the meaningful relationships that have been built over their time at Wilmington College.

In spite of that disappointment of being unable to be together physically, Reynolds alluded to the next line of the chorus after "you can't always get what you want." It states, "If you try sometime, you'll find, you get what you need." In these times of a deadly virus, social distancing, masks and flattening the curve, he said the Class of 2020 actually has what it needs today.



"You have our love and respect because of your authentic selves, people who are able to rise above the grind and understand the purpose for which you have been made," Reynolds said. "You have our undying gratitude for making this place better by what you did for all of us; in the way you worked and played; in the way you loved and lived your Wilmy life.

"You have a personal victory — today is not an L, it's a W!"

Kameron Rinehart '20, an agricultural business major from Jeffersonville and the 2019–20 Student Government Assn president, introduced Reynolds — "President Jim" — as a "friend, mentor, leader and one of students' greatest supporters" who's gone to great lengths during his nearly nine years as president to create a family environment on campus. He cited Reynolds' regular contact with students in March through May as being especially appreciated during a time of anxiety and uncertainty.

"Those video messages meant the world to us," Rinehart added while mentioning his will be the last class for which Reynolds will preside as president. He will become Millikin University's next president in July.

After alluding to the Rolling Stones tune, Reynolds mentioned the second of three vignettes he wished to share with the class: "Chuck Howley, MVP."

A lifelong fan of the Dallas Cowboys, his favorite player among all the great players of that storied franchise is Howley, whom he described as "an everyman, a down-to-earth grinder." An undersized yet tenacious linebacker, Howley earned the Most Valuable Player award for Super Bowl V, which featured the Baltimore Colts defeating the Cowboys 16–13 on a late field goal.

"It was not an entertaining game. Both teams were playing not to lose and the play on the field was not memorable — except for the play of Chuck Howley," he said, noting that Howley intercepted two passes, caused and recovered a fumble and made key tackles throughout the game.

To this day, nearly 50 years later, Howley remains the only Super Bowl MVP that played for the losing team.

"I still think about the level of personal pride he must have felt knowing that he gave everything he could in that game and people recognized his absolute commitment to excellence, despite the fact he wasn't on the winning team," Reynolds added.

The president said we have become a society that has created a false dichotomy, that winning is the only thing and there is no glory in being the runner-up — that "it's no longer the case that there is dignity in simply running the race to the very best of our abilities."

Reynolds said there will be times in which the graduates will not receive the promotion or bonus for which they worked so hard, that there will be times in which they will not be viewed as victors even though they did their best and finished the race.

It's easy to be the most valuable person when everything in your life goes right, but it's a lot more important to be that most valuable person during a losing streak," he said. "In my opinion, life is not about winning at all. It's about perseverance, dignity, civility, caring and compassion.

"You don't have to be a Super Bowl winner to be recognized

for how valuable you are — just ask Chuck Howley."

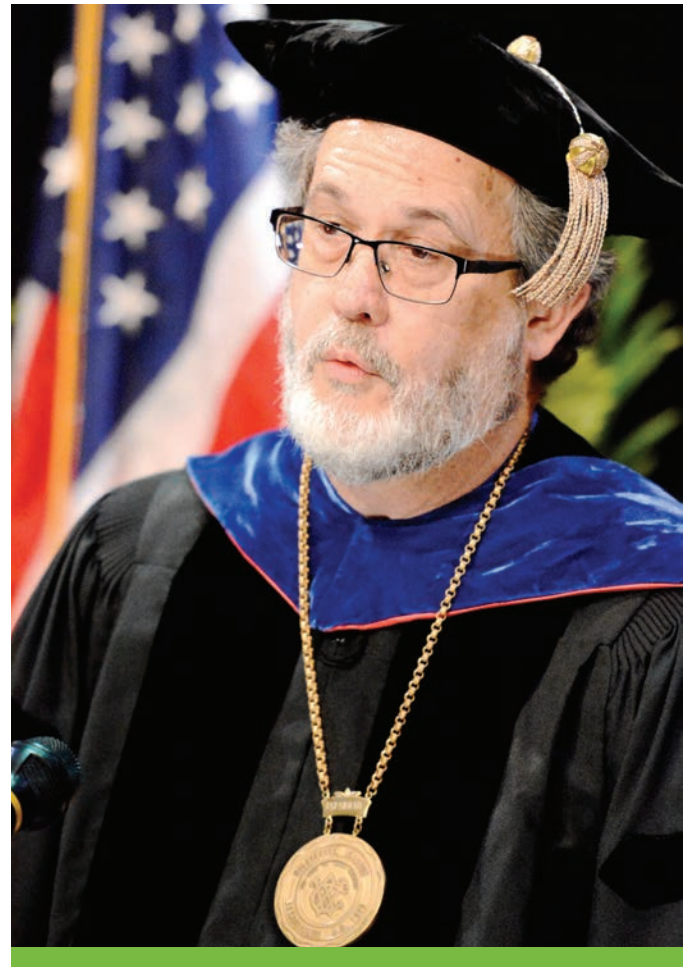
Rounding out the triad of vignettes is the phrase, "a dresser of figs."

Reynolds spoke about a religion professor he had at Drake University who dismissed class each day by saying, in a deep booming voice, "Go forth and be as Amos, for he was a dresser of figs."

Years later when Reynolds reconnected with that professor, he inquired as to the meaning of his encouragement to be like Amos. He replied, "Because I wanted you all to know that sometimes you will be called to do something bigger than yourselves, not because of your titles or honors but because you are the only person at that moment that can."

Reynolds told the graduates that, especially in these days of uncertainty, "This is your moment and you are that person. The world needs all of your very best today and into the future. We need you to show us your resilience, your kindness, your caring and your dignity.

"We need you to let us know that things are going to be alright and you are committed to a life of purpose and meaning."



*President Jim Reynolds presided at his ninth Commencement, the last eight of which he served as keynote speaker and crafted a special message specific for that graduating class.*



Graduating senior Kameron Rinehart introduced the president at Commencement. He is pictured during a visit back to campus in May continuing the tradition of soon-to-be graduates signing the Campus Rock and, in essence, bookending their WC experience that started when they first visited The Rock and signed in as new freshmen.

# 'WE WERE MADE FOR A TIME LIKE THIS'

## Students reflect upon their Dub-C experience

Brandon Ford Jr. said he has experienced and witnessed impressive acts of love during the isolation forced upon society in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. He believes this monumental event in the nation's history could help usher in an era defined by love, patience, kindness and hope.



Brandon Ford, Jr.

"We have an opportunity to serve as a new generation," he said during the College's online Baccalaureate ceremony, which aired June 5. "Consider this time as a new beginning. These four or five years at WC have equipped us for a greater purpose. We were made for a time like this."

Ford, the recipient of the College's Robert E. Lucas Leadership Award, is an accounting major from Cincinnati. He also provided the introduction at the Commencement ceremony.

Tricia Seckel, an agricultural business major from Caledonia, who graduated *summa cum laude*, spoke of the power of a generous and well-meaning smile from a classmate and how it would immediately improve and alter the outlook of her day.

**"Just imagine what you can do in your career field if your simple smile can change someone's life."**

— TRICIA SECKEL



**"I formed lasting bonds I'll cherish all my life. Those friends will be a constant reminder of why I fell in love with Wilmington."**

— LAUREN GROVER

"Just imagine what you can do in your career field if your simple smile can change someone's life," she said.

Lauren Grover, an agriculture/animal science major from Hillsboro who graduated *magna cum laude*, mentioned the importance of relationships and how a "shy and timid freshman" blossomed at Wilmington College.

"I formed lasting bonds I'll cherish all my life," she said. "Those friends will be a constant reminder of why I fell in love with Wilmington. Also, I'm forever grateful to my mentors and for my relationships with faculty and staff."

She also thanked Campus Minister Nancy McCormick and her husband, Mike, for helping "me grow in my faith."

Nancy McCormick, who presided at Baccalaureate, said she hopes and prays the Class of 2020 will "see the core values of this College as a blueprint for your lives. Please continue to let your light shine."



Emma Marks

Emma Marks, an agricultural communications/political science major with a minor in sustainability from York, Pa., who graduated *summa cum laude*, took her role in providing the Commencement welcome especially seriously. She addressed the concept from both a local and global context.

"From my first day on campus, I quickly learned first-name greetings were a beloved tradition in our community," she said, noting that was an initial exposure to an "embracing campus." Marks spoke of the need, in any community aspiring to be a beloved one, for it be welcoming to all, including those who perhaps have been marginalized or even demonized: refugees, the incarcerated, immigrants, minorities, the LGBTQ community, etc.

"While we can't be together to share a welcome today, the value of inclusiveness is more important than ever," she said. "I urge all of you at this time of crisis to think about what it means to feel welcome, safe and wanted in your community — to feel included."



Warren Owens

Warren L. Owens, a strategic organizational leadership major from Cincinnati who graduated *magna cum laude*, represented the Cincinnati Branch at Commencement. He spoke of the "understanding, giving and caring" faculty and staff who were his partners in earning a bachelor's degree.

"Without the assistance of Sharron Colon, my academic adviser, I would have given up," he said. "My wonderful profes-

sors understand that many of us have careers, that most of us have families and some of us struggle from time to time to complete our work."

Owens mentioned he had several "false starts" in his life that might have prevented others from attaining this level of academic success. He was in the lower third of his high school class and it took him more than 20 years to complete his associate degree. He thanked his wife and family for "standing by me" as he studied at WC.

"You can argue that I did all of this for them, but my rebuttal would be that, without them, I couldn't have done this," he added. "I would not trade my time at Wilmington College for an opportunity at any other school."



Cheyann McKee

Vanessa Cheyann McKee, a criminal justice and psychology major from Wilmington who graduated *summa cum laude*, represented students from the main campus. She alluded to the pandemic and how, in a matter of several months, it leaves in question economic and employment opportunities for graduates embarking upon their careers.

"These are scary unprecedented times," she said while urging her classmates to persevere in the face of uncertainty. She quoted the *Holy Bible* from "Corinthians": "We are afflicted in every way but not crushed, perplexed but not driven to despair, persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed."

"Despite the confusion, chaos and calamity that have contaminated our lives, our lives are just beginning," she said, noting there is a term in psychology — dandelions — that describes persons who are resilient in the face of obstacles. Indeed, dandelions — is it a weed or a flower? — have a proclivity for rebounding after being mowed, poisoned and dug up.

"We have to have the ability to bounce back and persevere through difficult life events," McKee added.

Dr. Erika Goodwin, vice president for academic affairs and strategic initiatives, and dean of the faculty, acknowledged the faculty, staff, coaches and trustees who "challenged, pushed, supported and changed you for the better." She also spoke about the graduates' final spring semester, which was "turned upside-down" forcing them to complete their studies online, and how they successfully emerged from an unanticipated reality.

"You persevered during one of the most challenging times in our history," said Goodwin, who will become interim president in July. "I know good things are in store for you."

**"You persevered during one of the most challenging times in our history, 'I know good things are in store for you.'"**

— ERIKA GOODWIN

# 'TEACHER ELLEN' STRONGLY INFLUENCED THE COLLEGE'S FORMATIVE HALF CENTURY



*Ellen C. Wright is pictured on the left as a member of WC's inaugural graduating class in 1875.*

*Randy Sarvis*

Credited with selecting the school's motto and green and white colors, along with being a master teacher and introducing the first literary societies and religious organizations on campus, Ellen C. Wright is remembered as among the Wilmington College pioneers who most profoundly influenced the institution's first 50 years.



*Ellen C. Wright*

Wright, a Quaker, was one of the original students at the College, a member of the inaugural graduating class and a beloved faculty member for 46 years. After spending a year in a preparatory program at Earlham College, she was among those students enrolled for the institution's first day of classes in April 1871. She lived on third floor College Hall just down the hall from President Lewis Estes and his family. Wright and three classmates — two of whom were also women — comprised WC's first graduating class in 1875.

Upon receiving her bachelor's degree, Wright, ultimately a

professor of Latin, began her service on the College faculty as a tutor in Greek and Latin. For many years, she was active in the Preparatory Department, which offered a course of study designed to prepare students for a rigorous college curriculum. Wright also taught English courses and became well known for her classes in rhetoric and composition.

Students and faculty alike affectionately knew her as "Teacher Ellen."

One of her students between 1908 and 1912 was Faith Austin Terrell, a member of the Class of '12 who went on to serve WC as dean of women, instructor of history and education, Alumni Office volunteer and, for 30 years, secretary of the College's Board of Trustees.

In 1970, on the occasion of Wilmington's College's 100th anniversary, she prepared a tribute to Teacher Ellen, whom she remembered from firsthand experience for her "splendid teaching, simplicity, sensitive conscience, beauty and calmness of spirit" — all of which had a profound influence on five decades of WC students.

In his *History of Wilmington College*, published in 1961,



Oscar Boyd, the longtime faculty member who, himself, was a member of the Class of 1911, recalled Wright's talks at the weekly chapel service as a "source of inspiration and delight."

Terrell also remembered "the originality, the uniqueness and the appeal of Teacher Ellen's talks."

During her tenure, Wright was a key figure in fostering religious life on campus through prayer meetings, an organization known as Christian Endeavor and the YMCA/YWCA. Also, she was an original member of such WC literary groups as the Douglas Society and its successors, the Athenaeum, Dorian and Browning societies. In times of particular financial hardship at the College, she even was known for allowing her salary to be deferred until more favorable times.

In her recollections, Terrell mentioned that Wright took a year's sabbatical from her teaching duties, during the 1888–89 academic year, to study for an advanced degree at the Friends' newly established Bryn Mawr College in eastern Pennsylvania.

Terrell's interest in this apparent footnote to Wright's career was that Teacher Ellen's substitute that year was a member of Earlham College's Class of 1888, Elma C. Watson, who, at WC, became acquainted with Dr. George M. Austin. They married a year later and became Faith Austin Terrell's parents.

While at Bryn Mawr, according to Terrell's account, Wright "recognized the exactness" with which words were pronounced in the East, which often was in stark contrast to what Terrell described as the "careless speech habits" of many persons in southern Ohio.

"In an attempt to encourage consciousness of the beauty of good speech, she taught her classes, the chapel groups, frequently and impressively, the sentence: 'Every student in this institution should do his whole duty, especially on Tuesdays.'" Terrell said.

Apparently, this sentence contained many of the elements that signaled either sufficient or deficient pronunciation and enunciation.

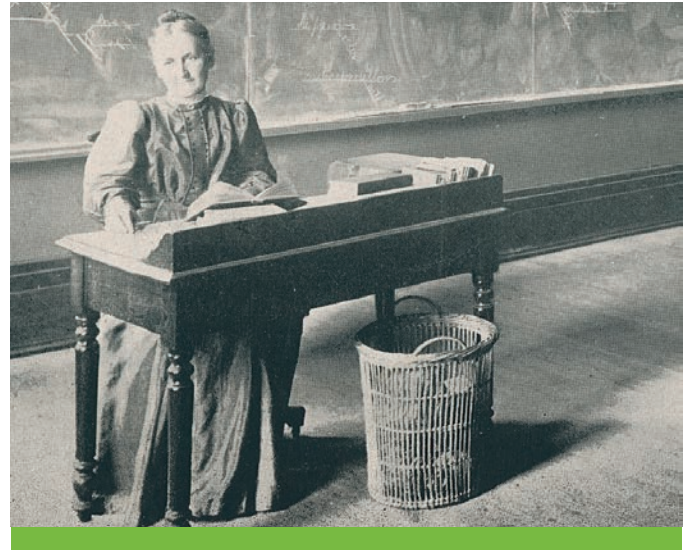
"No better teacher of grammatical forms ever lived," Terrell added. "She drew teachers from all parts of southern Ohio who came to gain inspiration and academic excellence from her classes."

She also recalled that a wall in Wright's classroom in College Hall had been painted, ceiling to floor, with a Greek mythology mural depicting Andromache bidding her beloved husband, Hector, farewell as he sat in his chariot on the walls of Troy.

"It was appropriate for her classroom," Terrell noted, also recalling Wright directed her class in the translation from Latin and subsequent dramatic interpretation in costume of Roman playwright Plautus' *Captive*. It is a humorous play written in 200 B.C. depicting "a man, who was a parasite and lived happily off the full pantries of his neighbors."

Wright's 46 years as a full-time faculty member concluded in 1921 — "Forty-six years of ever fresh, ever impressive teaching at its best," Terrell said.

Teacher Ellen's longevity as a full-time faculty member



*Teacher Ellen sits at her desk in College Hall.*

was equaled in duration by Robert J. Haskins, professor of music, some 90 years later, and eclipsed by Dr. William Kincaid, professor of mathematics, who taught for 50 years before retiring in 2019.

As Terrell concluded her remarks at the 1970 centennial celebration, she marveled at how Teacher Ellen's devotion to her students transcended the classroom.

In 1908, the senior class presented a class gift to the College in the form of a literary publication/yearbook known as *The Alpha*, which, in its dedication to Teacher Ellen, featured a description of Wright's foundational impact upon their alma mater: "If the College is a book, she is the binding. If a tapestry, she is the warp. If a painting, she is the background."

*The Alpha* dedication described her as "the first, the last, the best."

Indeed, she was a member of the first class at WC and, while in the ensuing 34 years since the College's inception, with all the students, faculty and staff that had passed through its doors, she alone remained, *ala* the last. Finally, the rationale for declaring her as the best seemed obvious in 1908 as, "No student of Wilmington College, past or present, need to be told why," *The Alpha* stated.

The publication lauded her leading characteristics as firmness, sweetness and conscientiousness.

"No student in her classes every felt like trifling with her rules, and yet none ever heard her voice raised in provocation, nor saw a flush of anger on her cheek," *The Alpha* dedication continued. "Perhaps, after all, the best lessons of life are those not set down in the textbooks. Miss Wright has taught two generations of students 'to love' in both Latin and English, and better than that, in the universal language of the heart."

The College houses its Quaker circulating collection in a space in Watson Library known as The Ellen C. Wright Quaker Reading Room.



*Henry Fenichel displays the yellow star the Nazi invaders made him display indicating he was a Dutch Jew in 1940.*

# 'DON'T BE A BYSTANDER'

Holocaust survivor shares his story on 75th anniversary of the death camp's liberation

*Randy Sarvis*

Eighty-two-year-old Henry Fenichel held up a yellow Star of David featuring the Dutch word for Jew — Jood. Nearly 80 years ago, the Nazis pinned that on his shirt with orders for him to display it every day and everywhere.

Fenichel shared his incredible journey as a Jewish Holocaust survivor at a forum in January that included two-dozen Wilmington College students visiting the Tri-State Warbird Museum in Batavia. He titled his presentation "The Story of a Star Child."

The program coincided with the 75th anniversary of the Allies' liberation of the Nazi death camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau. Some 11 million persons perished in Nazi camps, including 6 million Jews, 1.2 million of whom were children. Fenichel warned his audience against being complacent in the face of any hate-filled ideology or actions, whether or not attacks are directed toward persons of another race, ethnicity or orientation than themselves.

"Not all Germans were Nazis, but too many German bystanders allowed the Nazis to do what they did — don't be a bystander!" he said.

Dr. Marlaina Leppert-Wahl, associate professor of political science, took students from her sociology and global issues classes to Batavia for a guided tour of the museum featuring

restored World War II airplanes followed with a lecture by the emeritus physicist from the University of Cincinnati.

Fenichel hearkened May 1940 when "all hell broke loose and life changed" for the four-year-old and his parents. The Nazis had invaded the Netherlands. Their takeover was both incremental and insidious. First, the neighborhood policeman was no longer Dutch — he was German. Then restrictions of movement were implemented, identification cards were issued highlighting a large "J" for Jews and later all Jewish men — including his father — were taken away "to assist the war effort" in work camps.

"A year (after the invasion), we had to wear that special star," he added.

When the Nazis began rounding up the Jewish women and children, Fenichel and his mother sought sanctuary at an infirmary in their city, The Hague. They eventually were discovered and taken to Westerbork, a transit detention camp near the Dutch-German border. There, they learned his father perished at Auschwitz.

Meanwhile, the family applied for an exchange program in which Christian Germans, whose ancestors had settled in Palestine dating back to the 1800s, who wished to return to Germany, were "exchanged" for European Jews.



The arrangement was facilitated by the British, which then controlled Palestine. While the Fenichels attained the proper certification in late 1943, they were not immediately selected and, in February 1944, were taken from Westerbork to Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp in Germany.

"This was no summer camp. It was more like a kennel than a camp with all its fences," he said, adding that while tens of thousands (including Anne Frank) died at Bergen-Belsen, primarily from illness and disease, it was not a death camp per se like the notorious Auschwitz. However, trains arrived regularly to transport 1,000 prisoners each day from Bergen-Belsen to the Nazi death camps.

Throughout this terrifying ordeal, Fenichel said his mother kept the young boy calm and sheltered from the horrors around them in much the same way as depicted in the 1997 film, *Life Is Beautiful*, in which the prisoner father convinces his young son that life in the concentration camp is a game in which everyone is merely playing a role.

After six months surviving on soup and bread at Bergen-Belsen, they, miraculously, were among 222 Dutch Jews allowed to emigrate to Palestine. They were loaded onto a train bound for Turkey, where a ferry transported them to the Holy Land. Upon arrival, they were split up with young Henry sent to a children's home. Fortunately, his mother was able to visit him frequently.

Following Israel's war for independence in 1948, he was reunited with his mother in Tel Aviv, where she had remarried. His stepfather's brothers in the United States urged them come to America, saying, "The streets are paved in gold." The three of them traveled on the ill-fated Italian ship, *Andrea Doria*, which sank in 1956, landing in the U.S. in January 1953.

"We arrived in New York Harbor," Fenichel excitedly recalled. "That was my welcome to this great country!"

The family lived in Brooklyn and he graduated from

Brooklyn College and earned a Ph.D. in physics from Rutgers University. In 1965, Fenichel joined the faculty at the University of Cincinnati, where he taught physics and conducted research until his retirement. He married and had two daughters and now grandchildren. Upon his stepfather's death, his mother joined them in the "incredible community" of Cincinnati, where she happily lived out the remainder of her life.

"I found out the streets in America really are paved in gold!"

Leppert-Wahl said opportunities to hear directly from Holocaust survivors are rapidly dwindling and their Saturday venture was a great hands-on learning experience for her students.

"Those personal stories touch people in a way that simply hearing '6 million Jews' cannot do," she said, noting the State of Israel is discussed significantly in her global issues course that has a Middle Eastern theme. "The Holocaust is central to the Jewish people."

Also, World War II was a defining experience for the American people and learning about period airplanes that helped win the war — and hearing a Holocaust survivor — "give us an initial or enhanced appreciation" of that part of history, she added. "World War II is so closely identified with the so-called Greatest Generation.

"It colors Americans as a people and their role as defenders of freedom."

Sophomore Brittanie Clair greatly appreciated hearing Fenichel's story. "It's amazing and it hits home for me," she said. "My grandparents were part of the Holocaust. It's important to learn more than from the history books."

Another sophomore, DeLanie Weber, concurred that, "Not a lot of people my age have the opportunity to hear from a living Holocaust survivor. I also liked that the World War II planes were part of the trip."



Pictured on a tour of the Warbird Museum guided by a museum volunteer are, from the left, Mikala Duncan-Wolf and her brother, Braden Wolf; Dustin Howard, Montana Davis, Jimmy Strunk, Kaylee Barber, political science professor Dr. Marlaina Leppert-Wahl and Renee Flick.

# MILESTONES



Nathan Dean



Brooke Edwards



Michael Goldcamp



Joseph Hall



Shannon Isaacs



Jay Peterson



Stephen Potthoff



Sara Ressing



Jim Reynolds



Sue Reynolds



Randall Sarvis

Susan Terrell  
Simmons

Gina Thomas



Elliott Ziemann

## Faculty, staff, trustees transition and earn accolades

Many Wilmington College students from the past nine years possess pleasant memories of dining with President **JIM** and **SUE REYNOLDS** while also seeing them support student endeavors in academics and extra-curricular activities, and through their cheerful greetings "hello" while passing them on campus.

The Student Government Association (SGA) recognized WC's First Couple with the 2020 Van Black Award presented at this spring's virtual Student Honors Convocation. The president accepted the presidency of Millikin University in his hometown of Decatur, Ill., where they moved in late June.

Also, Dr. **MICHAEL GOLDCAMP**, associate professor of chemistry, received the SGA's Teaching Excellence Award. Goldcamp's award recognizes a faculty member whose involvement with teaching students to comprehend at a higher level of education goes above and beyond that professor's job description. He has been a member of the chemistry faculty since 2003.

Goldcamp also received a faculty promotion, from associate professor to full professor of chemistry, as did Dr. **STEPHEN POTTHOFF**, from associate professor to full professor of religion & philosophy.

At this spring's Tyehimba ceremony, **JIM REYNOLDS** and **RANDALL SARVIS**, senior director of public relations, received Diversity Impact Awards for their support of diversity and inclusion on campus. Reynolds garnered accolades for being an extremely student-oriented president while Sarvis was cited, in particular, for his work with international students over the last 25 years.

A number of College personnel left their posts in fall 2019 or during the first half of 2020. Three members of the Board of Trustees, **SUSAN TERRELL SIMMONS**, **SHANNON ISAACS** and **JAY PETERSON**, completed their time on the College's governing body.

Also parting ways were: **LYNN RATLIFF**, administrative computing specialist since 2013; **ANTON NIKLASSON '14**, accountant/systems analyst since 2016; Dr. **VIRGINIA THOMAS**, assistant professor of psychology since 2017; **NATHAN DEAN '16**, coordinator of the Annual Fund since 2018; Dr. **ELLIOTT ZIEMAN**, assistant professor of biology since 2018; and **SARA RESSING**, student success coach with the Title III Team since 2018.

Also moving on to other opportunities were Dr. **JOSEPH HALL**, assistant professor of education since 2016; **BROOKE EDWARDS '04**, Student Resource Center manager since 2016; and **KATIE FINKES-TURNER**, manager of the Equine Center and equestrian coach since 2018.



## COLLEGES OF DISTINCTION AND BEST VALUE COLLEGES RECOGNIZE WC FOR EXCELLENCE

In the often-cluttered world of college rankings and ratings, Colleges of Distinction prides itself as an “unconventional guide” featuring schools with engaging programs.

Wilmington College again this year received word of its inclusion as one of the nation’s Colleges of Distinction for the 2019–20 academic year. It joins a handful of other Ohio schools to receive this honor, including Cincinnati, Denison, Miami, Otterbein and Xavier universities.

Colleges of Distinction not only features WC for national and state recognition, but the organization also cited the College for its programs in career development, business and education.

Tyson Schritter, chief operating officer for Colleges of Distinction, said his staff was impressed with WC’s “commitment” to implementing high-impact educational practices.

“Wilmington College has proven itself to be at the forefront of American higher education with a modern, student-centered approach to teaching,” he said in citing the institution’s dedication to hands-on learning and leadership development opportunities, along with fostering close relationships between students, faculty and staff.

Schritter lauded the College’s “effective dedication to student success.”

The ninth annual edition of *America’s Best Value Colleges* for 2020 recognizes Wilmington College as an institution at which students can find “top-notch” academic programs at a

reasonable cost.

WC was among 123 colleges and universities recognized nationally by University Research and Review ([www.BestValueColleges.org](http://www.BestValueColleges.org)), which identified schools that meet its “rigorous criteria” for quality, student engagement and satisfaction, actual out-of-pocket costs and the availability of financial aid. The new edition also highlights specific academic areas that stood out in its research and review, including agriculture, business management, marketing, communication arts, education and health programs.

In addition, two other organizations, College Factual and Study.Com, announced Wilmington College as among its recipients for recognition.

Study.Com selected WC’s program in business management as ranking 48th among the nation’s hundreds of smaller institutions. The citation is based upon academic and career resources for business management students, along with the program accessibility and quality of education.

College Factual ([www.CollegeFactual.com](http://www.CollegeFactual.com)) gives students an opportunity to match their academic interests with schools that excel in those areas. It cited WC as being in the top one percent in the nation for the most focused program in agricultural economics and business and in the top five percent for most focused agriculture program in general. The College also made College Factual’s top 10 percent listing for most focused general education program.

# CAMPUS FILLED WITH ACTIVITY THROUGH SPRING BREAK



*Members of the Zuzu troupe of acrobats build a human pyramid, which dazzled their WC audience during their Black History Month visit to WC.*



From art and African American history to music, theatre and livestock judging, the Wilmington College community was engaged, enlightened and entertained with a host of activities during the first half of the Spring 2020 Semester. The COVID-19 crisis forced the closure of the physical campus and, in turn, all non-academic programming ceased after Spring Break through the remainder of the semester.



*Two opening night viewers enjoy Jason Morgan's still life images in Harcum Gallery.*

## Artist presents intriguing juxtaposition of inanimate objects

Still life artist Jason Morgan arranges inanimate objects so they "relate to one another and engage the viewer in a theatrical way." An exhibit of his paintings opened the winter series in Harcum Art Gallery. "Faces have always been intriguing to me and I love the long buildup in portrait painting to the ultimate satisfaction of capturing a likeness," Morgan said.

Curator Hal Shunk hung a stunning exhibit by Mike Elsass but the cessation of gatherings on campus after Spring Break made his WC exhibit the greatest show that no one ever viewed. Elsass is a nationally recognized artist with works in more than 2,000 private collections featuring abstract images painted on sheets of reused and recycled steel with a resin finish.

## 'Powered by Pancakes': Debra Faulk shared the true story of Aunt Jemima at Murphy Theatre

Former enslaved person Nancy Green gained employment in 1889 as the face of pancakes — she portrayed the image of a friendly and lively African American cook wearing a headscarf and apron serving an affluent white family. While playing Aunt Jemima made her one of the first prosperous, formerly enslaved women in the country, Green leveraged her affluence to empower both herself and her community.



*Debra F. Faulk portrays Nancy Green, a previously enslaved person who, in 1889, became the face of Aunt Jemima Pancakes.*

Debra F. Faulk presented her acclaimed portrayal of Green titled "Nancy Green in: Being Aunt Jemima, The Pancake Queen" as part of Black History Month. The College partnered with a number of local entities to present Faulk in the historic Murphy Theatre in downtown Wilmington.

Green (1834–1923) was among the initial African Americans to promote a corporate brand when she became the first model hired to portray Aunt Jemima. Born in Kentucky, she was 56 years old when she became the face of Aunt Jemima Pancake Mix.

## Aggies' annual Livestock Judging attracts record 1,402 participants

A record-breaking 1,402 participants, representing 97 high schools from Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky, honed their skills in agronomy and judging swine, sheep, goats,



*The Aggies put on a record-breaking Livestock Judging Contest in early March. Pictured are high school students judging sheep at the 62nd annual event.*

equine, beef and dairy cattle March 4 at the Wilmington College Aggies' 62nd annual Livestock Judging Contest.

Billed as the largest competition of its kind east of the Mississippi, WC's competition represents real life application and an experiential learning experience for both the high school students and WC's agriculture students that stage the event.

Rachel Jordan, president of the Aggies, declared the contest "a huge success" for both her organization, which staged the mega-event at the Clark County Fairgrounds, and also for all those high school students who are now better prepared for judging at county fairs, 4-H contests and other upcoming competitions.

"This is really exciting for us as a college," Jordan said. "Not only is this contest a way for us agriculture students to give back to a program that means so much to us but it's a great way for high school students to see a glimpse of what Wilmington College has to offer."

## Gara history lecture addresses 'Black Farmers and the Rural South'

One hundred years ago, 420,000 black farmers owned 50 million acres. By 1970, it was down to 5 million acres and, today, only one in 67 farmers is black. What happened?"



Dr. Alec Hickmott

Dr. Alec Hickmott, a historian of rural America at Amherst College, said that major shift in the last century was no accident.

"The history of American land ownership is political and related to race relations in the South," he told the audience at the Larry and Lenna Mae Gara History Lecture, the first since the passing of the emeritus professor in late 2019.

Hickmott claims the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture instituted discriminatory policies and farm subsidies that, when coupled with decades of segregation in the 20th century South, dispossessed African American



Gage Clemen's Jack Palmer character (CENTER) tries to reason with (LEFT) Norman Bulansky, played by Joshua Woodward, and Arnold Wiggins, played by Layne Frederick on a topic involving charcoal briquets, doughnuts and boxes of Wheaties breakfast cereal.

landowners, leading to their selling land cheaply to facilitate migrating to northern cities for employment opportunities.

"The rural disposition in the South was in a way a rehearsal for future practices that played against blacks in cities," he added.

## Bryan Wallingford '02 directs *The Boys Next Door*

Wilmington College Theatre presented the poignant comedy, *The Boys Next Door*, in late February in Hugh G. Heiland Theatre. Bryan Wallingford '02, a new member of the Theatre Dept. staff in 2019-20, directed the show that featured, among others, Layne Frederick, Jalen Douglas, Joshua Woodward, Parker Gunkel and Gage Clemen.

The play by Tom Griffin is about four men living in a group home for persons with disabilities. In brief vignettes, the play offers humorous and touching commentary on the lives of the four men and their earnest, but increasingly "burned out" social worker. From date night dances and impromptu puppet shows to workplace bullies and disappointed fathers, the audience viewed how all the characters navigate their way through a constantly changing world.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of the spring show, *The Wolves*, and this year's College-Community Summer Theatre production.



## Tax prep service students and clients emerge as winners in pandemic-shortened program

Wilmington College's free tax preparation service for area residents was on track to eclipse last year's record 205 returns when the COVID-19 crisis forced WC to shutter its signature hands-on learning program in early March.

Shelbi Long, a senior accounting and agriculture major from Ashland, again this year served as the student site supervisor for the Internal Revenue Service's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA) at Wilmington College.

She was one of WC's 13 IRS-certified, volunteer tax preparers who, along with a support staff of seven fellow students that greeted clients and handled logistics, successfully assisted 141 area residents with fixed and low to moderate incomes in filing their tax returns through the first week of March.

Long said the service was running like a well-oiled machine with the IRS accepting 100 percent of the returns.

"The success was amazing. We increased the number of returns we were able to complete on a nightly basis to 14

to 16," she said. "At the pace we were operating, we were set to break another record by the end of the tax season. It was heart-breaking to have to close the site early because we were looking to help many more people complete their income taxes. I reassured many of our clients that we will be open again next year."

## African Zuzu Acrobats dazzle WC audience

Both spirits and tension were high as a troupe of African acrobats presented a breadth and depth of skills that ranged from humorous and effortlessly joyous to jaw-dropping and death-defying as part of WC's Black History Month programming in February.

The Zuzu Acrobats come from Mombasa, Kenya, in East Africa. The group has performed together since the members were eight years old. At that time, they learned from village elders the art of making traditional circus performances or *sarakasi* as it is known in ki-Swahili. The art of *sarakasi* was traditionally used in marriage celebrations and festivities to mark special events. In more modern times, it was adapted to entertain international



*Mac-n-cheese ruled the day as WC held its annual Soul Food Jam as part of Black History Month in February. The event offered plentiful helpings of pulled pork, greens, gumbo, baked beans, cornbread and, yes, everyone's favorite, macaroni and cheese. Sophomore Cheyenne Baldwin picks a winner in selecting Donovan Hayes' mac-n-cheese, which judges selected as the best from the nine recipes entered in the contest.*

tourists at resorts in Kenya.

Those five little boys practicing their routines on the beaches around Mombasa — preforming for tips from travelers — can hardly believe how their hard work has paid off into massive success in the United States. The group, which endeared themselves to their WC audience, has been seen on such television shows as *America's Got Talent*, *Late Night* on CBS and two Super Bowls, in addition to every National Basketball Assoc. team's halftime show and at the White House.

## Lunchtime violin/cello concert wound up as spring's final in-person campus activity

The Price Hill neighborhood in Cincinnati is known as one of the nation's most eclectic and its musical namesake, The Price Hill Duo, presented a lunchtime concert worthy of its moniker March 6, the eve of the College's Spring Break.

The Price Hill Duo featured Laura Jekel on cello and violinist Jordana Greenberg performing a repertoire comprised largely of Jekel's original arrangements from a variety of classical composers. Their performance style has been described as "passionate, distinct and progressive."

## Paul Moke headlines Quaker Lecture Series

The 75th anniversary this winter of the Allies' liberation of Nazi death camps in World War II was an especially opportune time for Dr. Paul Moke '75 to present his talk, "Quakers and the Holocaust: Pathways of Conscience in Vichy, France, 1938-1942."



Paul Moke '75

Moke, professor of political science and criminal justice, spoke in February at what turned out to be the only Spring Semester program in the Office of Campus Ministry Quaker Lecture Series. His presentation examined the story of volunteers from

the American Friends Service Committee who aided stateless refugees in Vichy France during World War II. The volunteers, who included two Friends from the Wilmington Yearly Meeting, told a story with two conflicting narratives.

The first, involving individuals in leadership positions, stressed the engagement of officials on both sides of the conflict on a "non-political basis" in order to move foodstuffs across battle lines. The second, involving persons who distributed the supplies in concentration camps, included clandestine efforts to smuggle Jewish children out of the camps and across international boundaries to safety.

"The ethical choices reflected in this story raise compelling questions about Quaker peacemaking perspectives and the behavior of institutional and individual bystanders in times of humanitarian crisis," Moke said.



Junior Mikaela Prescott checks the contents of box number 136 — a framed photograph, a 19th century diary, a Friend's copy of the Holy Bible and other Quaker-related artifacts — against the corresponding page in a thick binder cataloguing each piece in the ever-growing collection at Wilmington College's Meriam R. Hare Quaker Heritage Center. It's one of 300 or so identical, archival quality boxes that line the shelves in a storage space in Boyd Cultural Arts Center. While the Quaker Heritage Center gallery is a jewel in the crown on WC's campus, this off-the-beaten path depository is known simply as the "Collections Area."



Sophomores Emily Williams (LEFT) and Brittanie Clair sort clean clothing at Hope House as part of the College's Martin Luther King Jr. Day service projects.



## FOUNDING PEP BAND MEMBER GRADUATES WITH GREAT SATISFACTION

Samantha Zimmerman recalls back in 2017 seeking out musically inclined fellow students with the intent of starting a pep band at Wilmington College. This spring, only weeks from graduating, her dream is a reality — and then some.

The Quaker Thunder Pep Band finished the year, albeit prematurely due to the COVID-19 crisis, with 32 members as it looks to 2021 to evolve into a marching band.

In presenting her funding appeal for an emerging pep band to Student Government Assn. in 2017, she and the handful of instrumental musicians — supported by members of the cheer squad and WC's mascot, Quakerman — made their point the best way they knew how, musically.

"We set up sort of a mini-parade when walking into the SGA meeting for our pitch," said Zimmerman, an education major from Hudson. What that core group of musicians lacked in initial numbers, they more than made up for in enthusiasm as SGA deemed pep band an official campus organization and earmarked enough funding to bring in a part-time director.

"It was actually a very fun and exciting process."

Zimmerman, who plays trombone and occasionally directed the band, and Kelsey Truex, a senior agriculture major from Johnstown who plays the tuba, are the two, active founding members who graduated this spring. "I feel accomplished in what I helped create," she said.

Stephen Wadsack, director of athletic bands and assistant professor of music, praised the duo for their dedication to the band's success since first soliciting signatures on peti-

tions in 2017.

"Sam and Kelsey have been so willing to step in and take charge," he said, noting how Truex took on the service project of repairing and repainting music stands last fall.

"When I met Sam as a candidate for the director's position, she asked about my philosophy on leadership and student ownership — that really stood out that she wanted to be so involved," he said. "That's part of the culture and legacy of this group."

Zimmerman hearkened early winter, 2018, when the pep band premiered at a Fightin' Quakers basketball game.

"When we first debuted, I felt a little nervous because we were so small, but I was ultimately very proud of what we had accomplished in such a small amount of time with the little resources we had," she said. "I think the band began to grow because people started noticing how much fun we had at games."

Wadsack inherited only about five members when he arrived in fall 2018. He built the numbers through football season and the 2019 basketball campaign to 16 in spring 2019. The College recognized the value of the program and offered \$1,000 Talent Awards to members, a move that aided Wadsack's recruitment efforts. The band started the 2019 football season with as many as 40 musicians.

"Our goal is to bring in 20 to 25 new members for fall 2020," he said, numbers that would put the band at nearly 50 — inching the group ever closer to a viable number for instituting a marching band.



*Several of the nearly dozen drummers presenting "The Call" at the MLK program are, from the left, senior Nicholas Keller, senior Brandon Ford and community member Joshua McGee.*

# KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE

Campus minister: 'MLK Day is not just another program. This is to move us, stir us and take us beyond'

A dozen WC and local high school students known as the Legacy Troupe manned African drums in presenting a cadence in the tradition known as "The Call" as this year's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day program Jan. 20. It got off to a musical start, complemented by a "praise medley" of rousing gospel tunes from the Bible Missionary Baptist Church Choir.

"This is not just another program," said campus minister Nancy McCormick '97. "This is to move us, stir us and take us beyond."

Senior Cheyann McKee, president of Black Student Initiative, urged those in attendance — black and white — to combat racism when it creeps into their lives. She shared how her truck driver grandfather was confronted by "no colored people allowed" signs at diners, her mother was called the "N-word" in her hometown of Washington Court House and McKee herself was referred to as "the little black girl" in her third grade class at Wilmington.

She said to look to MLK's example and "find comfort in the uncomfortable and make your actions matter."

Also offering reflections, Dr. Nina Talley, director of the Career Resource Center, shared her story of "growing up in

the projects" in Toledo with a dream "of becoming more than what I saw around me."

Talley's vision, which was inspired in part by King's legacy, involves what she's doing now — working with students, whom she refers to as "glistening diamonds."

"My job is to take that diamond and mount it so the world can see how excellent you are," she said. "You have incredible gifts and talents you don't even know that you have yet. I help others discover their undiscovered potential."

President Jim Reynolds alluded to some of the lesser known elements of King's immortal "I Have a Dream" speech, including MLK's declaration that he came to Washington, D.C., to "cash a check" promised to all Americans in the Constitution, yet denied to African Americans for so many years.

"America has defaulted on this promissory note," King said. "We refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt."

Reynolds called out "despicable acts" the government has practiced in the name of security. "It's on us to be the people that do good."



# #GIVING TUESDAY

## WC RAISES \$60,000 WHILE EXCEEDING #GIVING TUESDAY GOAL

More than 200 alumni and friends of Wilmington College gave more than \$60,000 in support of students during the national #GivingTuesday promotion May 5. The total far exceeded the \$25,000 goal set to supplement funding that allows the College to proactively address issues arising from COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

Matt Wahrhaftig, vice president for advancement, expressed his appreciation for the “generous outpouring of support,” adding that 70 percent of the \$60,000 raised came from WC alumni and the average gift size was \$156.

“This was the first time the College has attempted a second day of giving — the popular original #GivingTuesday is annually held in late fall — and we are thrilled with the results,” he said. “It was really great to see alumni and friends rally around the College and our students.”

Wahrhaftig cited several large gifts totaling \$25,000 from a trio of alumni who challenged WC stakeholders to give a total of \$25,000 to “unlock” their gift. Once that occurred Tuesday evening, another donor stepped up and offered to match \$5,000 in gifts made before midnight.

“Mission accomplished! The response was awe-inspiring,” he added. “Our alumni and friends showed up when we needed them and sent a message loud and clear to the campus of how much they appreciate everything the faculty, staff and trustees do at Wilmington College and the special efforts we make to take care of our students.”

He mentioned that a notable attraction in the days leading up to the day-long campaign was a series of short videos created by faculty, staff and alumni promoting the value of giving to this relief fund with the proclamation that, “We’re all Quakers for life!”

Indeed, the hashtag, #Quaker4Life, resonated throughout social media as the day’s total number of gifts continued to climb.

In addition to directly addressing student financial need in the wake of the pandemic, gifts to the fund will aid in supporting extra counseling for students, faculty and staff during this period of uncertainty, investments in distance learning technology, crisis management planning and yet-to-be identified needs relating to the pandemic.

# SPORT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM EARN'S 'PRESTIGIOUS' NATIONAL ACCREDITATION



*A representative of the Columbus Crew Major League Soccer team interviews, from the left, juniors Adam Eckert, Tyler Kingus and Drew Harbour during the Sport Management Professional Day on campus.*

One of Wilmington College's most popular academic programs received a national endorsement for its quality from the Commission on Sport Management Accreditation (COSMA).

COSMA awarded the sport management program the maximum seven-year accreditation through February 2027. The entity is a specialized accrediting body whose designated purpose is to promote and recognize excellence in sport management education worldwide at colleges and universities.

WC's program is now one of only four in Ohio



to have earned such certification of approval and is among only 54 COSMA-accredited programs in the United States — that's only about 10 percent of all the sport management programs in the country.

Dr. Alan Ledford '02, WC's program director, said the endorsement offers yet another reason why students should feel confident that studying sport management at the College can lay the foundation for a successful career in the field.

"National accreditation is a point of pride

*Continued on Page 35*

*Continued from Page 34*

for the school," he said. "I want Wilmington College to be recognized as the best small college, sport management program in the United States."

Indeed, Best Small Colleges rated the sport management program as tops in the nation for institutions with fewer than 3,000 students in its 2015 *Sport Management Degree Guide* and, in 2018, the website, <Schools.com>, ranked WC ninth in the country for Best Colleges for Sports Management Degree Programs.

He said COSMA evaluators were especially impressed with the program's focus upon hands-on learning. Indeed, the sport management program is known for offering students such high-profile experiential learning opportunities as working at the Super Bowl, NCAA D-I National Football Championship and, new this year, the NCAA D-I March Madness Final Four in Atlanta.

"They especially liked that we do so much outside the classroom," Ledford added, noting that COSMA accreditation increases the value of the degrees earned by the 389 graduates in sport management over the years. Currently, sport management is WC's fifth largest major with 102 students enrolled.

Wilmington College alumni are working with the Cincinnati Bengals, Atlanta Hawks, Milwaukee Bucks, Columbus Blue Jackets, Cleveland Monsters, Columbus Crew, Ohio State University and the Kentucky Speedway, to name a few.

In another development, Ohio Dominican University partnered with the College to allow WC students who are pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Sport Management the ability to earn a master's degree in just one additional year of study through ODU's online Master of Science in Sport Management program.

Through this accelerated bachelor's-to-master's program, WC students will take graduate-level courses during their senior year that meet both undergraduate elective and graduate program requirements. Students then spend their fifth year completing requirements for their master's degree.



## 1969 alum reflects on 50th class reunion: 'It was easy for all the happy memories to come flooding back'

I've been meaning to email you a retrospective of my 50th reunion for some time now and receiving *The LINK* (and its LOVING tribute to Dr. Gara) spurred me into action.

I, too, was influenced by Dr. Gara on many levels during my four years at Wilmington and consider him one of my favorite professors! {I'm sure he was involved in the production of "Jazz '67," during which I heard Duke Ellington's Orchestra perform on campus}.

Before (and during) the reunion, I'd wondered if any of the administration or faculty of the time were still alive. Because the last time I'd been to WC was in 1979 (for my 10th reunion), I decided to stay in town for a couple extra days and was very glad I did. I attended the Campus Friends Meeting that Sunday, stayed for their business meeting, and learned Larry and Lenna Mae were living in the Cape May Retirement Village in Wilmington. Getting there was a little more difficult than expected, but I had a very rewarding visit with them — they both remembered me!

From my interactions with other people while I was there, I could tell WC is still fulfilling its mission — just like it did when I was a student! Please keep me informed as reunion plans develop.

**In appreciation,  
Peter Beck, Class of '69**

I only attended Wilmington from 1969 to '71 but am really enjoying *The LINK*! I read lots of the articles and it makes me proud again to have been part of Wilmington College. I am especially enjoying articles that mention professors I knew, such as Larry Gara, Hugh Heiland and others. Keep up the great work!

**Heather Johnson Miller '73**



*Terry Johnson is pictured this spring in the Physical Plant shop.*

# ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL

## Terry Johnson '77 retires after 43 years at WC

*Randy Sarvis*

In any normal year, a weekday in late April finds the campus abuzz with activity as the academic year is running at full stride into the homestretch. This year, the students were home while the faculty finished the semester teaching online and all but a few staff members worked remotely. The campus was essentially empty — except for the Physical Plant staff.

"Our work cannot be done from home," said Terry Johnson, director since 2001. "I can't mow the College grass from my own yard."

Physical Plant staff is on campus whether the College is open for business or is forced to close for snow days, extreme cold, a dry hurricane (witness 2008's 80-plus mph winds), electrical shutdowns and any other time Mother Nature or a coronavirus prevents normal operation.

"We take the lead in power outages and weather emergencies — we're on call 24/7," he said. "My guys are considered essential personnel."

The current pandemic hearkened memories of numerous instances when the Physical Plant was called upon to restore a sense of normalcy to abnormal situations. This

summer is no exception as the maintenance workers will be installing plexiglass barriers in high traffic offices, sanitizing stations and other measures to help ensure a safe return of students, faculty and staff to campus for fall semester.

But, after June 30, it won't be Johnson leading the charge. He's retiring after 43 years on the job at WC.

After studying for two years at Wright State University, the Beavercreek native transferred to Wilmington College as an agriculture major. "I always assumed I'd go here because my dad went here and I was into agriculture," he said in referring to his father, Robert Johnson '54, who regaled his children with stories of living in an Army surplus Quonset hut while attending WC.

Johnson's final quarter, he had an independent study managing a College-operated hog farm on Orchard Road. Less than a week after graduating in 1977, the College hired him to manage that farm full time, a position he held until 2001 when WC shut down its production farm operations and rented the agricultural property.

That year, Johnson started his own hog farm, which has grown to 2,500 sows and sales of 70,000 pigs a year. His



son and daughter-in-law, Adam and Beth, now manage the facility. "My desire was always to farm and specifically to raise pigs," he added. "I've done that for Wilmington College and I've done that for myself."

That same year, the College hired Johnson as director of Physical Plant. As the farm manager, he regularly worked with the staff carpenters, electricians, plumbers and grounds keepers, so the transition was a smooth one.

"I have a background in all the trades, but all the guys know more about their trades than I do – and that's the way it should be," Johnson said. "I'm a jack-of-all-trades and a master of none."

Johnson praised his "dedicated" staff of nine men and office coordinator Eileen Bowman, many of whom have been with the College for decades.

"It's a luxury to have that much experience and knowledge and work ethic. They've made themselves available for anything that's happened," he said. "Also, we couldn't do all we do without students, especially in the summer when we have about 10 weeks to complete capital projects and get the campus ready for fall."

The Physical Plant staff was especially busy in recent years when, from 2014 to 2017, the College was engaged in the most concurrent building projects in a half century with the construction of the Center for Sport Science and the renovation/expansion of the Center for the Sciences and Agriculture. Johnson served as the College's liaison with architects and construction companies.

"Even though we didn't build them, I wanted my guys to see how it was built because we would have to maintain them," he added. "That demanded a lot of extra time in addition to the regular things we do. We have a campus-wide reach."

Johnson described the Physical Plant as a "pretty close group" with whom he'll feel the absence of their day-to-day



*Terry Johnson enjoys the hobby of working with stained glass. His piece featuring a flying pig alludes to not only his long history of raising hogs but also having competed in half marathons in the 2010, '11 and '12 Cincinnati Flying Pig Marathons.*



*Terry Johnson developed a passion for scuba diving, which was inspired by the old TV show, Sea Hunt, starring Lloyd Bridges.*

interaction. "I'll miss Eileen and the guys."

As he looked back on his 43 years at the College, he wanted to especially thank his wife, Madonna, whom Johnson married in the same month in 1977 when he graduated College and was hired by WC. He noted that being on call 24/7 and the job's inherent "odd hours," along with working a large hog farm, shifted many child-rearing responsibilities to her.

They are the parents of six children, all of whom are WC alumni: Ashley Wolf '07, Amy Carter '12, Joshua '02, Adam '03, Tyler '10 and Justin '05. Alumni spouses include Adam's wife, Beth (Reichenbach) '02; Ashley's husband, Kyle Wolf '03; and Tyler's wife, Whitney (McManus) '13. The Johnsons have 15 grandchildren.

With his retirement from the College on the near horizon, Johnson doesn't have to think too hard for activities that will keep him busy in the coming years. Besides maintaining close ties to his farm, Johnson enjoys working with stained glass and scuba diving, the latter of which he started by getting certified when he was 16. He and his brother were inspired by the television show, *Sea Hunt*, starring Lloyd Bridges, which aired in syndication throughout his childhood.

"I dabbled in it over the years but got serious the last three years," he said, adding that he's scuba-dived off the Philippines, Cayman Islands, Honduras, Belize, Cozumel, Bahama Islands, Florida, Alabama and in gravel quarries in Ohio. In February, he dived off Bon-Air near Aruba, completing 27 dives in six days.

"Out at sea for a week, we did nothing but eat, sleep and dive – that's why I went there. It was awesome!" he said. "You're weightless, the coral reefs, tropical fish, turtles, shark and eel. You're in your own world!"

# FINAL ACT



*Lois Hock fondly remembers the set she designed for Tobacco Road in 1980. The "farm lost in time" featured a bedroom for grandma (played by faculty wife Barbara Bayless) under the porch.*

## Lois Hock retires after 43 years with WC Theatre

Randy Sarvis

Lois Hock recalls her first encounter with Wilmington College 43 years ago this summer. Fresh from becoming the first woman at Illinois State University to earn a Master of Fine Arts in the then-male-dominated field of set and lighting design, she attended a job placement conference in Chicago.



Lois Hock

"You moved from table-to-table every 15 minutes showing a portfolio of your work," she said. "All of a sudden, I met this man with patch over his eye — he looked like a pirate."

It was Hugh G. Heiland, WC's longtime theatre director and faculty member, who was recovering from an eye problem. Senior theatre student Carla Aufderheide '78 accompanied him.

"He looked at my portfolio and there was an instant 'click.' Also, Carla was interested in the tech side of theatre," Hock added, noting Heiland asked to meet her in the lobby at the conclusion of the interviewing sessions. It turned out the representative from another school, a larger, perhaps better-known institution, also wanted to meet with her.

At different ends of the lobby, both schools offered her a

job. While the larger school required final approval from its administration, Heiland simply said, "You're signing on the dotted line because I'm leaving in a half hour."

Hock became a faculty member at Wilmington College without ever visiting the campus or researching the institution. "I thought, 'Oh, my God, what have I done?'"

The 24-year-old Hock left her native Illinois and rented an apartment in Wilmington that August and began teaching in September. While the Theatre Dept. might not have had the quality lighting and other technical equipment she was used to at ISU while earning both her MFA and a Master of Science in set and lighting design, it had a reputation as a top-notch program that put on impressive productions.

"It was clear that theatre was a big deal here," she said. That first year, Hock provided set and lighting design, scene painting and props, and tech direction for four shows: the twin bill featuring *Precious Damsels* and *Doctor in Spite of Himself*, along with *Our Town* and *Man of La Mancha*. Those would be the first of the more than 100 shows in which she was involved at WC.

Hock cited an especially memorable early production as among her most challenging set designs. In 1980, Col-



*Lois Hock works on the set of her first WC Theatre production, Doctor in Spite of Himself.*

lege-Community Summer Theatre presented *Tobacco Road*, a story of "down and out farmers at the end of a six-year drought" based on the 1932 novel by Erskine Caldwell.

"It was the most naturalistic set I ever did," she said. "It was extreme realism. All the details of everyday life were exaggerated."

Indeed, Hock and her crew built the farmhouse from salvaged materials and reassembled a corncrib on stage. She brought in a dead tree from her neighborhood and they covered the stage floor in dirt and weeds. "It was a farm lost in time," Hock said. "I spun cobwebs and the set literally had bugs."

Hock's classroom teaching featured a wide array of courses over the decades: Set Design, Stage Makeup, Stagecraft, Scene Design, Lighting Design, Scene Painting, Theatre History, Introduction to Theatre and courses she team-taught, called Introduction to the Arts I and II, with Phil Hodge and Max Carr, members of the art and music faculties, respectively.

Hock has a special passion for the work she's done in children's summer theatre by establishing Kids & Company (now in its 27th season) and Summer Drama Camp (26th season).

"I was doing children's theatre before there was a budget and a name," she said. Undoubtedly, that experience fostered an early love for theatre in hundreds of area children, many of whom ended up coming to WC. "With my busy schedule at the College, I haven't had time to volunteer with community organizations, so I've considered this as my service to the community."

Hock plans to continue both entities in her retirement.

As an undergraduate student at Southern Illinois Univer-

sity — Edwardsville, she triple-majored in her first love, art, along with theatre and mass communications. She sees her work with Kids & Company and Drama Camp as the "culmination" of all three.

An award-winning art student in high school, Hock initially planned to focus exclusively on art studies in college, but a class in stagecraft provided the realization that, "You use art to design stage sets," she said. "So, I got into theatre — and it was exciting."

Throughout her years at WC, Hock has taken great pleasure in seeing students excel and exceed even their own expectations.

"I liked to give students a challenge and see if they'll rise to the occasion and do their best. It's such a wonderful and great feeling when they do," she said, adding that working with students on a show parallels the collaboration and interaction often associated with athletics.

"I compare theatre and sports a lot. Like a coach on a team, you really get to know the kids when you're working on plays," she said. "There are students with whom we worked late painting a floor or building a set. They knew I'd order pizza. I really got to know a lot of students working alongside them."

Hock, a full professor of theatre, who eased into her retirement by working part time during the 2019-20 academic year, said she's entering this next phase of her life with the mindset she employed going into faculty sabbaticals — there are activities ahead that are different than teaching full time, but meaningful and fulfilling nonetheless. In addition to her children's theatre programs, Hock looks forward to enjoying nature photography, especially as it applies to birding. Also, she plans to regularly visit her many friends at Cape May Retirement Village.

"Because I went to a large university where you didn't even know people in your own area, it's like a family here at Wilmington College," she said. "I'll miss the interaction with students and my colleagues — that's what kept me here all these years — but I won't miss the alarm in the morning!"



*Lois Hock (RIGHT) is pictured circa early 1990s with longtime theatre colleagues Wynn Alexander, professor of theatre, and Becky Heiland Haines '72, theatre technical support and fine arts secretary. Collectively, the trio has served the College for 124 years.*

## WINTER SPORTS WRAP-UP



*Jeffrey Mansfield drives for two against Ohio Northern.*

*Mitch Blankespoor*

### Soph Mansfield among OAC elite

**MEN'S BASKETBALL** – The men's basketball team finished the 2019–20 season with a 10–16 overall record including an 8–10 Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) record under 13th-year Head Coach K.C. Hunt.

The Fightin' Quakers once again qualified for the OAC Tournament, and it was there WC gave eventual NCAA Division III Tournament participant Marietta College all it could handle. After a 31–point defeat at Ban Johnson Arena just 10 days earlier, the Quakers fell 83–78 in a hard-fought contest.

Wilmington was well represented on the All-OAC teams as sophomore Jeffery Mansfield garnered First Team All-OAC honors while DaeShawn Jackson picked up his second All-OAC award with Honorable Mention honors.

Colin Myers rounded out Wilmington's postseason recognition as the sophomore earned Academic All-OAC honors for his

3.56 cumulative grade point average in the College's renowned agriculture program.

### McKayla Binkley is top OAC scorer

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL** – Under the direction of long-time Head Coach Jerry Scheve, the women's basketball team once again qualified for the Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) Tournament in 2019–20. The Fightin' Quakers, coincidentally, finished 11–15 overall and 6–12 in conference play for the third consecutive season after falling to John Carroll University 79–67 in a hard-fought game.

McKayla Binkley, who led the conference in scoring, garnered First Team All-OAC honors while Kennedy Lewis earned Honorable Mention All-OAC recognition. Both scored over 10 points a game for an offense that finished in the top 20 in the country in scoring.

Lewis and Ellen Nilback were named Academic All-OAC.



*McKayla Binkley won the OAC scoring title as a junior*



*Isak Alin won the OAC championship in the 200-meter breaststroke.*

## Alin sets four more swimming records

**MEN'S SWIMMING** – The men's swimming team concluded another successful season under Head Coach Trip Breen, the only coach in program history.

Isak Alin, a sophomore from Sweden, highlighted the Fightin' Quakers' individual performances at the Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) Championships by winning the 200-yard breaststroke with a program record time of 2:02.17. In total, Alin set four program records on the year – 200-yard IM, 100-yard butterfly, 100-yard breaststroke, 200-yard breaststroke. As a team, Wilmington finished fifth with 261 points.

Four other individuals – Samuel Wallace, Logan Schroer, Nicholas Keller and Samuel Shanes – joined Alin to earn Academic All-Ohio honors.



*Macki Leon excels at the backstroke during a home competition.*

## Macki Leon breaks 3 records in single day

**WOMEN'S SWIMMING** – The women's swimming team concluded another successful season under Head Coach Trip Breen, the only coach in program history. Macki Leon and Fynn Roberts both garnered All-OAC honors at the 2020 OAC Championships. Leon, who broke three school records on the final day of competition, earned a third-place finish in the 200-yard backstroke (2:10.63). Roberts's time of 1:08.19 earned her runner-up honors in the 100-yard breaststroke. As a team, Wilmington finished fifth with 293 points.

Seven Quakers – Hannah Davis, Kadie Grundy, Maryn Herring, Margaret Hover, Shelby Mays, Ashley Boone and Laura Swinehart – garnered Academic All-OAC honors.

## Team improves by three places in OAC Championships

**MEN'S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD** – The men's track & field team finished sixth, a three-spot improvement, at the Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) indoor championships in 2019 under the direction of long-time Head Coach Ron Combs.

On the first day of the event, WC's distance medley relay team of Taton Bertsch, Aaron Koch, Josh Cyrus and Simon Heys earned All-OAC honors with a third-place finish (10:34.71) in the event. On day two, Jeff Clydesdale's leap



*Teiara Sailing cheers on the men's basketball team.*



Blake Jamison throws the shot put in December action at Wittenberg.

of 1.88 meters earned him third place and All-OAC honors in the high jump. Heys also nearly notched his second All-OAC performance, finishing less than three seconds from third place in the 3,000-meter run (8:47.91).

## Burke, Sullivan place at OACs

**WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD** – The women's track & field team finished ninth at the Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) indoor championships in 2019 under the direction of long-time Head Coach Ron Combs.

Emma Burke once again placed in the finals of the 55-meter hurdles, taking seventh place with a time of 8.90 seconds. Kayli Sullivan also earned a sixth-place finish in the weight throw. WC's highest-finishing relay team of Burke, Cheyenne Rhodes, Sidney Fields and Miranda Gibson crossed the finish line in fourth place in the 4-x-400-meter relay.

## 4 compete at Regional Wrestling Meet

**WRESTLING** – The wrestling team, led by second-year Head Coach Justin Kihn, competed in its second varsity season in seven years in 2019–20. The Quakers hosted a single Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) dual meet, falling to Otterbein University on Nov. 19. Four individuals – Spencer Dukes, Jacob Fox, Patrick Kelley and Adrian Salamone – competed at the NCAA Regional meet hosted by Adrian College on Feb. 28.



Emme Burke runs the hurdles at the Wittenberg Invitational Meet.



*Jaden Flannery maneuvers to find an opening for a goal.*

## NCAA SHUTS DOWN SPRING SPORTS AMID COVID-19 CRISIS

The 2020 calendar year saw something that collegiate athletics has not experienced in more than a century. Due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, Wilmington College, the Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) and the NCAA as a whole shut down operations of intercollegiate athletics in March for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year.

Winter sports were halted in the midst of NCAA Championships, and along with nearly every institution of higher learning in the country moving to online classes, spring sports were never allotted the chance to get into the swing of their seasons.

Wilmington College would like to take this time to honor its spring sports as well as the seniors in those sports whose seasons were cut short or eliminated altogether.

In spite of the loss of spring sports, the conference continued the tradition of each member school selecting male and female, senior student-athletes as recipients of Clyde Lamb Awards. WC's winners were Grace Shell, a standout on the softball field, and Colin Myers, who leaves a legacy of excellence as both a member of the men's basketball and track & field teams.

**BASEBALL:** Wilmington was in year two of a culture change under the direction of former University of Dayton Head Coach Tony Vittorio. The Fightin' Quakers played eight games including finishing the season with three losses to Alma College on March 7-8. The squad was set to travel south for a trio of games in Alabama before the season got cut short.

**SOFTBALL:** Wilmington, which was picked for its highest finish in the OAC preseason poll since joining the league

two decades ago, was poised to make a push for its first OAC Tournament appearance in school history. The Fightin' Quakers were fortunate to play a fourth of their originally scheduled season with the program's annual spring trip to Florida. Wilmington concluded the trip 7-3, which included four shutouts and two contests that involved victories via mercy rule.

**MEN'S TRACK & FIELD:** Wilmington did not get to compete in its outdoor season started as the first competition, the Bellarmine Invitational, was scheduled for March 27-28. The Fightin' Quakers were scheduled to host one home meet, the JennaStrong Invitational named after Jenna Parlette, at Williams Stadium on April 24.

**WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD:** Wilmington did not get to compete in its outdoor season started as the first competition, the Bellarmine Invitational, was scheduled for March 27-28. The Fightin' Quakers were scheduled to host one home meet, the JennaStrong Invitational named after Jenna Parlette, at Williams Stadium on April 24.

**MEN'S LACROSSE:** Wilmington was looking to rebound from a winless OAC campaign a season ago and was off to a great start under Wilmington High School alumnus and third-year Head Coach Jeff Arneson. The Fightin' Quakers won all three games on the year, coincidentally allowing seven goals each game. Wilmington opened the season with a 10-7 victory over Bethany College (West Virginia) on Feb. 27 and dispatched Anderson University (Indiana) 15-7 two days later. The season concluded with a 10-7 Quaker Bowl Rivalry victory over Earlham College on March 4.

Wilmington College is observing the 150th anniversary of its founding during 2020 and into 2021. While the bulk of the programming on campus will occur between September 2020 and April 2021, a special opportunity is available for alumni, students, faculty, staff, trustees and friends of the College to be part of this historic celebration.

It's a project called "150 Stories for 150 Years." The response to this project already has been overwhelming. A selection of the initial stories is printed here with others to follow in future *LINKs*.

For those who have not yet submitted favorite stories, see WC's 150th anniversary page on the website at [www.wilmington.edu/150](http://www.wilmington.edu/150). The College is hoping to ultimately have 150 stories. Be a part of Wilmington College's 150th anniversary celebration!

Enjoy these Wilmington College stories. They are a delightful mixture of being humorous, poignant, joyous and nostalgic.

## We danced to Duke Ellington and saw *Blue Hawaii*

**Judith "Judi" McIlvain Lewis '68**  
Bradenton, FL

We met in 1965 when I (Judi McIlvain) was a freshman and he (Donovan Lewis) was a sophomore. He says he spotted me on the Boyd Auditorium stage as I walked across wearing a ridiculous beanie and signboard sporting a poem that we had to write to introduce ourselves.



*Donovan Lewis and Judi McIlvain are pictured during at Wilmington College's Homecoming dance in the mid-1960s.*



*Donovan and Judi Lewis are retired in Florida on the Gulf Coast.*

The only part of it I remember is: "I'm from Mount Holly, by-golly."

We formally met at a potluck on Sept. 26 at Wilmington Friends Meeting when a classmate (Gretchen Koenig) introduced us. We danced to Duke Ellington and saw the movie *Blue Hawaii* with Elvis, and got chased out of the park after hours while stargazing with friends (Yes! We had a telescope with us) in our brief College relationship.

We dated for one month before he asked me to marry him. Not ready to give up my College fun, I ditched him. And, to be honest, it was not an easy route for a racially mixed couple in southern Ohio in the 1960s.

Five years later, we re-met while living in Xenia and Dayton, had a first date in August 1970, got engaged in September and married in October. We will have been married 50 years in October 2020. We have had a great life, teaching in Providence, RI, for 40 years and now retiring in Florida along the lovely Gulf Coast.

We laugh about our brief time together at Wilmington College, but more often we appreciate the wonderful education we got there, and we have fond memories of friendships made on that lovely campus, many of which endure today through Facebook, Christmas letters and cards, and visits.



## 'I decided to go to college later in life'

**Theodore McCreadie '16**  
North Bend, OH

I was a first-generation, non-traditional college student. I am the second person out of a family of four to graduate high school. I decided to go to college later in life and wish I would have made the decision sooner.

From that, I am the only one in my entire extended family to receive a bachelor's degree. I decided to go for an MBA program and finished my master's degree in December 2018. I am very proud of my accomplishments, the support I received while pursuing my goals of higher education and the chance that Wilmington gave me.

Currently, I am working as an accountant and, from my education, I have taken away amazing relationships with outstanding individuals and organizations.

I am more proactive in the community and I give back any chance I can, where I can. One of things about higher education that got my attention was the change in my mind set. I found compassion, guidance and stability in my thought process and actions.

I owe everything to those who taught me what took them a lifetime to learn.

I am so proud to say I belong to Wilmington and the Quaker value system I follow every day. I never thought in a million years I would be putting this on paper. Thank you, Wilmington, for giving me, my family and career a chance.

I work hard, utilize what I took away from textbook challenges and lectures, and apply that every day to everything I touch.

## 'My memories of Wilmington College are cherished'

**Stephen Vaughn '75**  
Plantation, FL

I transferred to WC my sophomore year, fall 1972. I was not on campus for more a day or so when I saw her, walking across campus. I said to myself, "I'm going to marry her."

It took me about a week to find out her name, Thelma Ann Craig (Class of 1976). Before I could find a proper way to meet her, she started dating the WC star quarterback. Fortunately, for me that relationship did not last long.

I got to know one of her close friends who egged me on to ask her out. As she was a biology major, one of our first



*Stephen Vaughn and Thelma Ann Craig are pictured during their WC days.*



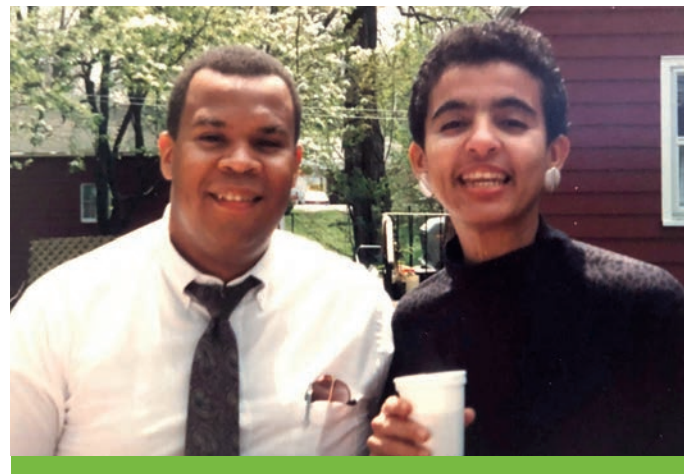
*Theodore McCreadie is pictured on campus the day he graduated in 2016.*

dates was catching insects using a flashlight and white sheet. We caught the most beautiful lunar moth. We had many dates like that throughout the next two years at WC.

I graduated in '75 and moved to New York. Thelma graduated the next year and was accepted at University of Georgia, where she received her master's degree in agronomy and entomology. Upon her graduation in 1979, she accepted a job in Kansas City, MO. I was working for TWA in New York and transferred to Kansas City.

We married in November that year. We traveled and enjoyed a loving relationship starting a family seven years later. Thelma blessed me with three beautiful children, Rachel, Daniel and Christopher. When they were ages eight, six and four, Thelma, age 40, was diagnosed with and died of colon cancer.

My memories of Wilmington College are cherished as they framed my life and connected me with the love of my life.



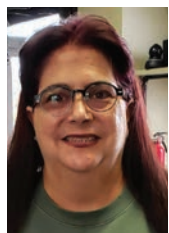
*Stephen and Thelma Vaughn*

## 'Coming back to visit over the years is like going home'

**Anni West LaPrise '84**  
Springfield, MI

Wilmington took an 18-year-old that would have been homeless if a friend's family hadn't given me a place to stay when I wasn't living at the College.

I turned down the likes of Harvard and Notre Dame to go to WC — and ended up with a much better undergraduate education. I worked at Saga full time after my freshman year along with working a work-study job running those 16mm films for classes. I even carried the full load of 17 credits at the time we were on quarters.



Anni LaPrise

I had no choice but to work all those hours since I had no family that could or would help. President Thorburn even hired me to babysit his son at times. An alumnus gave me a job cleaning her house a few times a year to help me out.

Since I couldn't borrow money like they do now, the College's program to give small loans that was created by an alumnus' money left to the College helped me fill in the final piece of the puzzle my junior and senior years.

When I graduated, I was hugged by every professor, even the ones I didn't have for class. They were proud of me. (Math professor) Proctor Dean cared enough to send me a card telling me how proud he was.

I moved from the College to grad school at Indiana University, where I thought it was a vacation since I was only allowed to work at most 20 hours a term and the course work wasn't that hard. It was a top five library science program in the nation and half of the students that started with me didn't finish.

When I finished that program in December 1985, I had done grad and undergrad in five years and three months. Not bad for a kid who grew up on welfare in Hillsboro. I have been a children's librarian since graduation.

My late partner, Minh, was very impressed with my education and told me so many times. He was a double Ph.D. that was tenured at Yale and Brown universities.

Coming back to visit over the years is like going home. It was my home that cared and supported me. I wasn't a number there — I had a name. As the staff changed, their replacements still remembered my name visit after visit. Where else do you call the president by their first name?

Since I don't really have any family since I'm widowed and don't have children, Wilmington College is my heir so when I am gone, what I leave behind will help students like money from previous donors helped me and many others.

That is the Wilmington way: someone helped you, so you help others.

## Williams family has century-long impact at WC

**Bonnie Sandy '92**  
Columbus, OH

My grandfather, James W.D. Williams 1915; my father, David Rombach Williams, 1950s; my sister, Abby Honnerlaw 1991; and I, Class of 1992, all graduated from Wilmington College!

I was told little about my grandfather, James W.D. Williams, from my dad, David Rombach Williams. I just learned recently that he graduated from The Ohio State University in 1917 after Wilmington College in 1915. I now am a proud fan of the OSU!

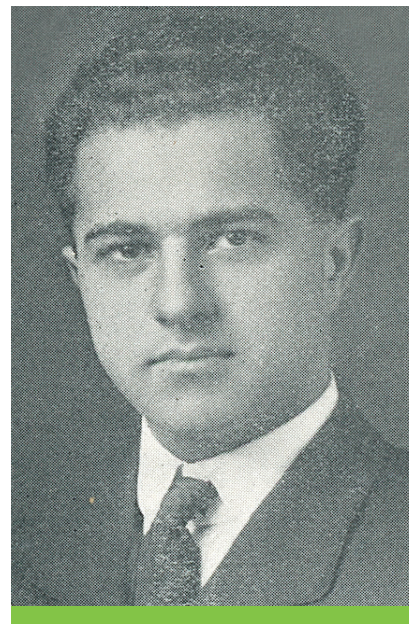
He was deaf since boyhood. He lost his hearing from what was called "whooping cough," my dad told me. He played "foot ball" (old days term) at Wilmington College. After he graduated from both WC and OSU, he continued farming, scouting and being actively involved in business in Wilmington.

His name became James W.D. Williams, Sr. after he had a son named James W.D. Williams, Jr. He received an early education at Clarke School for the Deaf in Massachusetts to receive speech and lipreading training. He continued his education at the Boys Academy here in Columbus.

My dad, David Rombach Williams, is the second son of James W.D. Williams, Sr., and graduated from Wilmington College in the 1950s. He became deaf during his boyhood, too. He lost hearing as a result of an ear infection when he fell from the second-floor window. (Science and medicine were not as advanced in 1920s and 1930s).

He received an early education at Central Institute for the Deaf in St. Louis, MO, and then continued his high school at the Boys Academy here in Columbus. He followed his father's footsteps into farming, scouting and business in Wilmington. He married to my mom, Elizabeth W. Williams, and had three children: James W.D., III, Abigail Lou and (me) Bonnie Marie.

My parents, David and Elizabeth, contributed so much to



*J.W. Denver Williams was a 1915 graduate of Wilmington College. The Williams family has a more than century-long affiliation with Wilmington College.*



Wilmington College. My mom was on the Board of Trustees at Wilmington College after my dad's passing until her death. Abby graduated from Wilmington College as Abigail Lou Honner-law and now uses her maiden name, Abigail Lou Williams.

I graduated from Wilmington College as Bonnie Marie Williams in May 1992 and immediately married to Steve Sandy the same month. I had various jobs here in Columbus until we started a family with two children, now attending high school.

Ever since, I have been called myself a "domestic engineer" and an artist. I received an early education at Central Institute for the Deaf like my dad and at a mainstreaming public high school.



*David and Elizabeth Williams were great friends of the College.*

## Ollies' tuition (in 1888) was a wagonload of corn

**Olive Garner, Class of 1892**  
(Submitted by her great granddaughter, Melinda Danenbergs of Midland, OH)

This photograph is Olive Garner upon the occasion of her entry into Wilmington College in 1888. Ollies' tuition payment to Wilmington College was a wagonload of corn. Through our family word-of-mouth, I learned she attended and completed the fall semester, but sadly was called home to care for her aging parents.

She was the 10th and youngest child of the family. Her father was James Garner, an ordained minister of the Society of Friends whose memorial is archived in the yearly meeting minutes. He



*Olive Garner is pictured in 1888.*

built a meetinghouse in the Sycamore community.

This collection of farms, homes and a one-room schoolhouse is located in southwestern Jefferson Township, near Westboro, in Clinton County. The church building was built of recycled wood salvaged from the torn-down Ferris-town railroad boarding house, which housed the company's tie-makers in Perry Township of Brown County.

The ties, brought through the Sycamore area, were used to build the Hillsboro branch of the Marietta & Cincinnati Railroad through Westboro in 1852. This was the first railroad built in Clinton County. The meeting house was built at the corner of Hunt & Sycamore roads.



*Lucy Steinitz is picture working in Africa, where she spent much of her career.*

## 'Wilmington taught me to trust my inner strengths and resilience'

**Lucy Steinitz '72**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Back in 1969, I almost dropped out from a big university back East and my parents – Holocaust survivors for whom anything west of the Hudson River was another country – were very worried.

A guidance counselor suggested that a small Quaker school like Wilmington might make a good fit, so I took the overnight bus from New York City via Columbus and interviewed on campus with Sterling Olmsted.

I fell in love with Wilmington and immediately accepted admission, but Sterling later told me that he was skeptical I would make it past the first semester. I am grateful to him – to the late Canby Jones, to Neil Snarr and to all my professors – that I proved him wrong. Two and a half years later, I graduated *magna cum laude*.

I owe much of my career that followed to the support, guidance and foundational education that I received at Wilmington. Above all, Wilmington taught me to trust my inner strengths and resilience, which are lessons that I have applied in multiple non-profit leadership roles in this country and in Africa, where I have lived and worked for most of my career.

## 'Homecoming is like visiting a friend'

**Sue Bennett '79**  
Bremen, OH

Gosh, where should I begin? I have so many fond memories from Wilmington College.

In fall of 1975, I started my education as a nervous freshman. From day one at WC, I felt at home. The administration and staff were welcoming and readily accessible. The friends I made that day and throughout my four years became life-long friends.

I was given opportunities in my classes and through involvement in extracurricular activities (Delta Omega Theta sorority, cheerleading and as a career development student instructor) to identify my strengths and skills that were transferrable to my various jobs throughout my career.

I attend Homecoming whenever possible and when I do it's like visiting a best friend.

## 'The reporter returned to campus and, by asking around, found out my last name'

**Martha Cramer Ventolo '69**  
Enon, OH

My Wilmington College story began in the fall of 1959. My parents couldn't afford to send me to college, so I selected Wilmington and the work-study program.

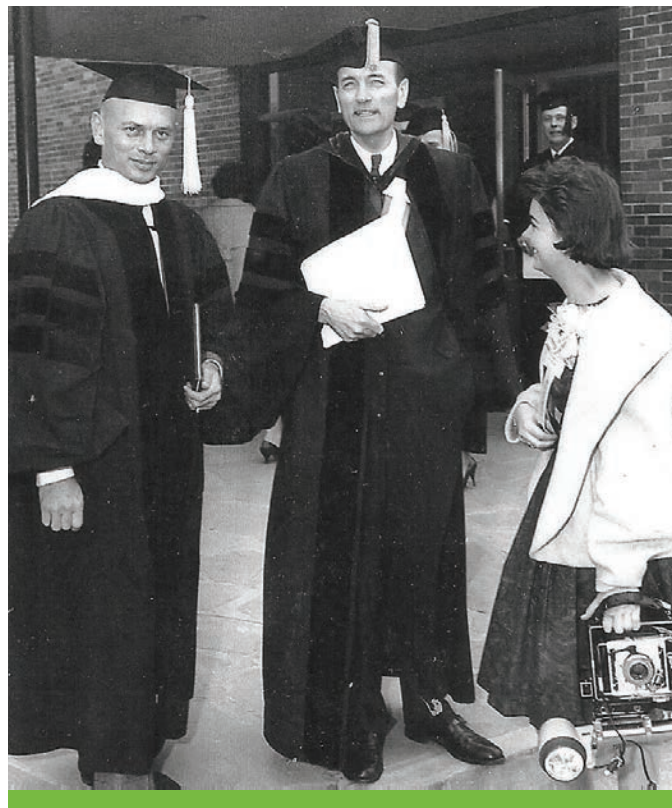
Upon arrival, there was an announcement that they needed photographers for the Annual. I had a Brownie camera so I volunteered. I was shown a large Speed Graphic Camera, which I learned to use. My freshman year became a year of learning new skills taking pictures around campus plus in my classes and at work. The following year, I was asked to serve as editor of the Wilmington College *Annual*.

In March of 1961, Wilmington inaugurated Dr. James Read as president and presented Yul Brynner with an honorary degree. I served as the media receptionist for the event as well as the photographer for *The Annual*.

As the crowds were gathering, a young man walked up to



*Martha Cramer is pictured with her camera at the ready*



*Martha Cramer is pictured with WC President James Read and actor Yul Brynner in 1961.*

me ask if I was the College photographer. "Yes, may I help you" I replied. He introduced himself as the reporter from Channel 2 in Dayton. I welcomed him and gave him a brief overview of the ceremony.

I moved into Boyd Auditorium and took a seat in front section reserved for the press. The reporter took a seat next to me. Before the ceremony, he leaned over and said the low lighting wouldn't permit the tiny focusing window on his camera to focus. Could I give him the distance measurements from my camera to help him focus his camera?

After the ceremony was over, he said goodbye and thanked me for the help.

The next week, I was called downstairs in my dorm for a visitor. The reporter had returned to campus and, by asking around, found out that my last name was Cramer and I lived in Twin Oaks, so he came to visit. After a few minutes of introductions, we toured the campus and talked.

Two weeks later Joe (the reporter) and I went on our first date.

A little over one year later, on May 4, 1962, we were married.

During my senior year, I took a break from College classes on campus as we were expecting our first daughter. I continued class work from home as time allowed and graduated in December 1968. Because I was the first in my family to attend college, my parents wanted to see me walk at gradu-



ation. I walked with the class of 1969.

We have three daughters and seven grandchildren. We celebrated our 58th anniversary in May 2020.

I received an education that I loved at Wilmington and used for 45 years as a teacher and director of Enon United Methodist Preschool. I also found the love of my life, and I'm still volunteering and using a camera.

I was honored in September 2019 to receive WC's John Frazier Award for Distinguished Volunteer Service. My Wilmington College story is how three and a half years at Wilmington College set the stage for a life I am still living and enjoying.



Jason and Kary Ellen Berger are pictured with their three children.

## 'Fate brought us together at WC'

**Kary Ellen Sherlock Berger '08**  
Dayton, OH

Jason Berger '06 and Kary Ellen Sherlock Berger '08 did not have a traditional college sweetheart story by any means. He was a resident assistant, about to travel abroad for the fall semester of his fifth year at WC while she was about to be a first-time RA when the two met in the spring of 2005.

While Jason hadn't planned on being an RA when he came back for the spring semester in 2006, he was asked to be one. It was then that Jason and Kary Ellen got to know each other.

Upon graduating in 2006, Jason continued to remain close to WC by working as a Campus Safety officer until he was selected to be in the Dayton Police Academy. Kary Ellen continued her education at WC, securing two internships at WDTN-TV in Dayton, which hired her as a full-time producer three weeks before graduation.

Jason and Kary Ellen are pleased to still be working in

fields that they received their degrees in (Jason in criminal justice and Kary Ellen in communications). While fate may have brought the two together when they were both working in Dayton, they are both grateful that they instead met each other in the halls of WC.

Jason and Kary Ellen celebrated their 11th wedding anniversary in March 2020. They are proud parents of twin daughters, Elizabeth and Madelyn (7) and son, Ian (3).

Jason is still with the Dayton Police Department and Kary Ellen now works in the communications office at Chaminade Julianne Catholic High School in Dayton. Jason continues to remain close with his fraternity brothers (Gamma Phi Gamma) and the couple enjoys returning to WC for homecoming celebrations.

## Alumna's WC theatre experience still resonates

**Judith Logan '60**  
Spring City, TN

As a freshman, I showed up to be a Christian in *Androcles and the Lion*, which set me on a course for the next three years of WC theatre productions either as an actor or technical crew.

My last summer included summer theatre and a senior trip gift from my mother of a spring break trip to New York for Broadway productions. My drama major provided my memories of WC.

## 'Our fraternity was having a party and I needed a date'

**Tony '60 Lamke and Barbara Sue Allen Lamke '64**  
Wilmington, OH

It was late fall of 1959 and our football season had just ended. It was not a good year, but our team was small in number and we all worked hard. Our coach told me, much to my surprise, that I was the team's leading ground gainer and pass receiver. It was my senior year so no more football, but I finished strong.

Our fraternity was having a party and I needed a date. As I sat in the student center, I noticed this girl, a freshman cheerleader, coming towards me. I had noticed her before, so this could be my date. After all, I was a senior football player and she was a freshman, so she would be impressed.

I stopped her, asked her to go to the party with me and, after some hesitation, she agreed. And why not: senior football player, leading ground gainer, etc. I was doing her a favor. It was sometime much later I found out she had to look me up in an old College yearbook.

Well, I showed her. I married her and, 59 years later, she still has to look me up in the yearbook almost daily!

## 'I went to Wilmington to find a husband'

**Janeal Turnbull Ravndal '61**  
Yellow Springs, OH

In 1955, I went to Wilmington find a husband. It helped that they gave me a small scholarship to make it through the first semester — till I'd be 18 and old enough to earn my tuition in the factory. But I also was propelled by learning, while exploring possible colleges in my high school library, that Wilmington had the highest ratio of men to women.



Janeal Turnbull



Chris Ravndal

I liked Wilmington, but as far as I could see, no one in that preponderance of men was looking for me as a wife. When, in my sophomore year, a guy I had dated in high school, then a pre-med student at another college, visited me at Wilmington and asked me to marry him. I accepted; and we set the wedding date.

But June was still a semester away. One social studies course I chose was called Marriage and Family. I think the professor had come from New York City. Good course; but then one day in class I found myself doodling words beginning with my fiancé's initials — not enthusiastic words.

I had to face my doubts about signing on to life with the guy.

But I had already promised, and the wedding was now only a month away! After class one day, I asked the professor if I could talk to him. In his office, he listened to my story. Then he explained that the very function of an engagement is to provide time to reconsider, including the option to change your mind and call it off.

What a relief!

The business of saying, "No, thanks," was difficult. It even included my housemother, Miss Shackelford, taking the boy's side and trying to persuade me I was wrong. Yet, I was wonderfully clear. I think of that time as my first experience of sensing the real rightness of a personal action.

But I still didn't even have a boyfriend at Wilmington, let alone prospects for a husband! While I was saving dorm fees by living with the Marble family and helping with childcare, I won the annual writing contest. I assumed the financial bounty would go toward tuition, but Sam Marble suggested I was working too hard.

He recommended I spend my windfall on adventure and told me about an American Friends Service Committee work camp with migrant bean pickers in Clinton, NY. I took his advice and it was there, on the first day after my long bus ride, that I met the right guy. Chris and I have now been married 61 years.

So, after all, it's thanks to Wilmington and President Sam Marble that I found a husband.



Janeal Turnbull is pictured in her dorm room in Friends Hall in the late 1950s.

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

Janeal mentioned she found Quakerism at WC, where her affiliation with Campus Meeting, highlighted by the likes of T. Canby Jones and Joe and Teresina Havens, led to the Ravndals spending 40 years in Quaker educational communities. They retired from Pendle Hill to Friends Care Community in Yellow Springs in 2006. Janeal, who at age 50 earned a Master of Social Work degree from Case Reserve University, enjoyed work in journalism, cooking and social work.



Chris and Janeal Ravndal have been married for 61 years.



Karie Shelton (CENTER) presided at the wedding ceremony for Sue Lucas (RIGHT) and her wife, Rebecca.

## 'Nights at the Manhattan Lounge, Champs and the Sig barn led us down a path of forever friendship'

**Sue Cluxton Lucas '00**  
Cincinnati, OH

In the fall of 1996, I arrived on WC's campus as a scared freshman. A young lady by the name of Karie Shelton (Class of 1999) greeted me and introduced herself as my RA.

Within a week Karie and I were thick as thieves. We spent night after night doing the typical dorm activities together and she even convinced me to stay on campus for my first weekend to attend the WEBN Fireworks in Cincinnati.

That was the start of what would become an epic friendship. Following that weekend, we were inseparable and eventually ended up as roommates in Marble Hall for a year before she graduated.

Nineteen years later, Karie became an even bigger part of my life in a very unexpected way. On June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples could legally be married. My fiancé, Rebecca, and I were overcome with joy

and began to finalize our marriage plans — which I knew had to include Karie.

After the briefest of conversations, Karie set out to be ordained so that she could be the one to officiate our wedding, cementing her place in our story forever. Karie officiated our wedding at The Lodge at Geneva On-the-Lake on Aug. 8, 2015.

Nights at the Manhattan Lounge, Champs and the Sig barn led us down a path of forever friendship. Days in the computer lab, Pyle Center and Marble Hall created a friendship that would become deeper than we could have known as kids. Three years of craziness that resulted in perfection on my most special day.

Thanks WC.



## Alum recalls James Bond's connection to the College

**Stephen Drabek '69**  
Mission Viejo, CA

The big movie of the day was *Goldfinger* and the local theater had a full lobby size poster of the Golden Girl.

The poster was promised to a local fraternity at the end of the movie run. But, alas, the poster disappeared. A few weeks later a scheduled convocation speaker discussed aspects of this new scientific tool, the laser. The first question at the end of the presentation was from Dr. Larry Gara.

As he started to ask about its use in the movie.....the theme music from the movie was played, the poster came down on a scenery drop, and the most interesting mixed reactions were observed.



## Alumna fondly remembers WC Theatre's *Everyman* opening Boyd Auditorium

**Norma Robinson Buckingham '54**  
Ashville, NC

My days at Wilmington College were different from many because I lived at home and drove to College. The Theatre Department with director Hugh Heiland became my College life of friends.

In 1951, our stage was part of the gym (Whittier Court, long gone). Boyd Auditorium was then built. We were so happy to be in the first play performed there, *Everyman*. After rehearsals, we often piled a bunch in my Club Coupe for a trip to Clark's for refreshments.

I even married one such friend, Thom Buckingham, who is now deceased.

It was possible to go above the stage and seating area, but be careful, one must walk on the beams! A girl fell through and landed in a seat with a leg over the back of another seat. Bad for her leg, but she was alive.

Wilmington College was a family affair – my parents, aunt and cousin, Carolyn Bonecutter, also were alumni.

Thanks for the memories.

## Alum proud of team's response to Jim Crow segregation on Kentucky road trip

**John G. Thomas '65**  
Cary, NC

Having fallen in love with a soccer ball at age four, I was one of the first students, along with Rocksby (a.k.a. Peter) Sturdivant, to letter all four years in the young Wilmington soccer program. In those days, the game was mostly kick and run, especially with the basketball coach, Fred Raizk, drafted to teach us.



John Thomas

I remember Coach Raizk saying, "I don't know much about the game of soccer, but they asked me to coach anyway." To his credit, he did recruit the star forward on his basketball team to be our goalie one year, since he was so good with his hands. He coached in 1961 and '62, then Rocksby took over. Understandably, we won few games and had trouble keeping talented foreign players on the team.

However, one dedicated Nigerian student, Tim Ombima, did stick with us a season or two, and my best play was a fast run down the left wing with a cross to center that scooted along the ground just out of reach of the defense and onto Tim's foot for an easy goal. I never told anyone

that cross was meant to be airborne. At the age of 18 or 19, it was often difficult to know whether to be proud or embarrassed.

There was one occasion, though, when I was clearly proud of our whole team. At an away game lunch stop in Berea, Kentucky, in 1963. I met the team coming back out of the restaurant just as I was going in. In response to my puzzled look, one of the guys said, "They won't let Tim eat inside, so we're leaving."

While I was shocked that segregation existed so close to Wilmington and wondered if I would have been as quick thinking as my teammates, I was immensely proud that a rough and tumble bunch of guys would act together on principle. I vaguely remember us eating take-out on the bus.

Over the years, with many other groups, I've found working together for a common, worthy goal to be just as satisfying as the 50 years I continued to play the "beautiful game." Thanks, Wilmington, for being a platform where these important life lessons can take root.

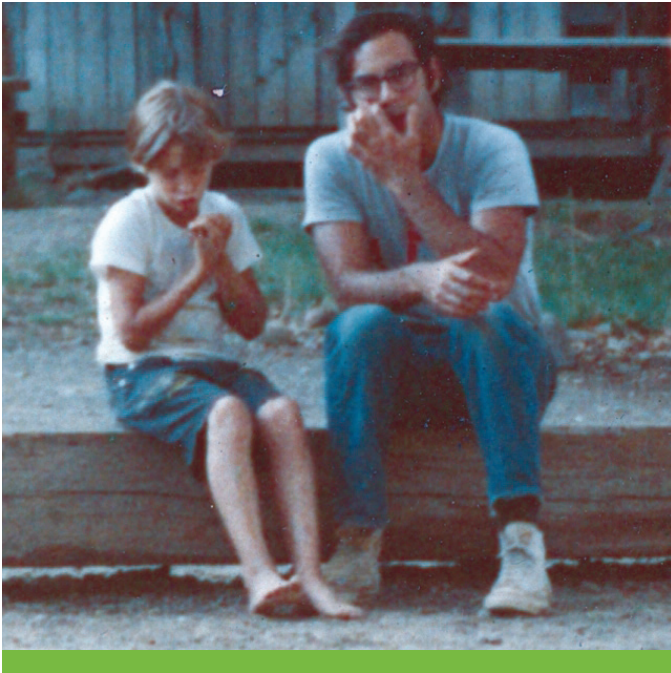


The 1963 soccer team is pictured, from the left: TOP ROW – Phil Otieno, Alfred Hartoonians, John Kizito, John Thomas, Dale Shears, Floyd Smith, Larry Wilson, trainer Paul Williams; MIDDLE ROW – John Hamilton, Paul Wilson, Jack Campbell, Carl Patterson, Bud Baldwin, Ken Schaefer, Al Centner, Dale Jordan, Jim Bovard, Roger Kaufman, Ted Cope; FRONT ROW – Ron Clark, Oton Obesh, Gil Coon, Petr Sturtevant, Dick Gamble, Farrookh Shams and Dennis Magley. While the team finished 4–5–1, its greatest victory occurred off the field in Kentucky.

## WC-facilitated hands-on learning experience that led to career helping autistic persons

**David Nepley '71**  
Philadelphia, PA

I took a quarter off in spring 1969 to drive to northern California in the 1953 Ford that I purchased in Wilmington. I took advantage of the connection the College had with Clear Water Ranch to work with who were then referred to as "disturbed children."



*David Nepley works with an autistic child in 1969 at Clearwater Ranch in northern California.*

Then, there was no common usage of the term “autism.” It was a group home in Cloverdale where three boys lived along with staff, so that was advanced for the time when institutions were in full operation. The experience was the first for me in the field.

Morgan Baynham, Class of 1974, also came to work at Clear Water Ranch. He later bought property in Anderson Valley and drives a log truck. I visited him several times over the years and we remain friends.

I recently retired, as a result of the virus, 51 years later, after having worked as a program specialist and most recently in another group home in Philadelphia.

Thanks to Wilmington College and my parents for their support and this opportunity.

## Easter egg pranksters revealed

**Jillia Cook '20**  
Canton, Ohio

It was in the spring of 2017 my freshman year, a week or so after Easter. My softball teammate, senior Becca Carpenter, and I were working on a project in A-P. My RA was having an Easter egg hunt, so we decided to join.

We found probably over 30 eggs. After the egg hunt, you were allowed to keep the eggs. Well we definitely weren't going to let them go to waste, so we decided to hide them all over campus. We put notes in a couple of them saying to go to the “Kaitlyn Center” to receive your prize.

There is no such thing as the Kaitlyn Center on campus.



*Softball teammates Jillia Cook and Becca Carpenter*

We hid them at night, so no one saw us. The next thing you know there was an article about the eggs in *The Witness*. Becca and I didn't really tell anyone that it was us — we just kept it to ourselves.

This is definitely one of my favorite memories created here at WC.





*David Bumbaugh and Beverly Keplinger are pictured in the mid-1950s.*

## 'This improbable journal is rooted in my experience at Wilmington'

**David Bumbaugh '58**  
Waverly, Ohio

I entered Wilmington in 1954 as a first-generation college student and part of the first generation in my family to complete high school. Having no financial support, I chose Wilmington because the work-study program allowed me to pay for my college education.

For the next four years, I worked three nights a week at the Randall factory and attended classes during the day. From the middle of my freshman year into my senior year, I edited the College paper, *Quaker Quips*, a four-page weekly tabloid printed in a local printshop and covering news and sports, along with editorials, student columns, advertising and comic strips.

As editor, I needed to quickly learn about type faces and editorial practices, about how to organize a volunteer staff, meet deadlines and interact with the local printer. In those same years, I helped found a non-Greek men's social organization known as "The Jasons" (I don't remember why we named it that). I served on the staff of *The Wilmingtonian* yearbook and the Publications Committee and edited the literary magazine and served as student secretary to a faculty member. During my senior year, I also served as minister to the Universalist church in Blanchester.

At the end of my sophomore year, I married my high school sweetheart, Beverly Keplinger, who had transferred to Wilmington the previous fall. We graduated together in 1958. I received my BA *cum laude* with majors in English and history. In 1964, I graduated from Meadville Lombard Theological School, affiliated with the University of Chicago, and went on to a 40-year career as a Unitarian Universalist minister, serving congregations in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois,

**"I remember those years at Wilmington with profound gratitude. Whatever I have accomplished over the decades is a consequence of the life-changing experience at a small Quaker college in southern Ohio."**

— DAVID BUMBAUGH

Virginia, New York and New Jersey, as well as Ontario, Canada, and London, England. In 1999, I joined the faculty of Meadville Lombard as professor of ministry and taught Arts of Ministry there for 11 years.

In 2010, Beverly and I retired to Bristol Village, a retirement community in Waverly, Ohio, where, after 61 years of marriage and four children, Beverly died in 2019.

Over the years, I have published two books, contributed to several others, and written articles for publication in a variety of journals and reference works. Over the decades, Beverly and I were deeply involved in civil rights campaigns, anti-war activities, abortion rights, gay rights and a variety of other social justice issues.

All of this improbable journal is rooted in my experience at Wilmington. There, my world was enlarged, I discovered unsuspected skills and abilities, I was challenged to think unconventionally, I was encouraged to enlarge my vision of the possible and the morally responsible.

I remember those years at Wilmington with profound gratitude. Whatever I have accomplished over the decades is a consequence of the life-changing experience at a small Quaker college in southern Ohio.



*David and Beverly were married for 61 years and had four children.*



*Ed Fields, wearing a New York Yankees ballcap, is pictured with Ron, a 600-pound Bengal tiger born in captivity and successfully introduced into the wild. "Thank God he's not a Red Sox fan," he said.*

# 'CLARITY—WITH BREVITY'

Emmy Award-winning Ed Fields '74 is acclaimed documentary writer/producer

*Randy Sarvis*

Ed Fields recalled a grueling, 24-hour trip to South Africa where, after arriving late at night, he was awakened before dawn to enter into an enclosure containing the stars of the documentary he was writing.

"Ron brushed up against my leg as he walked past," Fields said, noting that Ron is a 600-pound Bengal tiger. "I absolutely freaked out! That just blew my mind."

Ron, who was born in captivity at the Cincinnati Zoo, was relocated with his twin sister, Julie, to South Africa to determine if the captive-bred, Asian tigers could survive in an alien environment. They were featured in the 2003 documentary, *Living with Tigers*, on the Discovery Channel.

"Could apex predators born in captivity learn to live in the wild?" Fields said about the film's premise. "Normally, they would learn to hunt from their mothers, in the wild."

Indeed, trainers taught them to hunt and, re-wilded, they "thrived" in that alien environment. Fields noted that, with tigers' habitat disappearing so rapidly, it was especially

gratifying to learn the twins are flourishing in a wild place in Africa "that looks like it did 100,000 years ago."

A longtime writer of nonfiction films with history or science themes, this was his first venture into natural science — but by no means his last. Fields had creative authority and management responsibility for the 2015–16 television series, *Polar Bear Town*, viewed on the Smithsonian Channel.

The town of Churchill, Manitoba, in Canada, finds itself each autumn in a maelstrom of polar bear migration to the soon-to-be-frozen Hudson Bay, which hosts its primary winter food sources. The annual influx of more than 1,000 polar bears moving through Churchill turns a sleepy town of 800 into a popular attraction bringing in up to 10,000 tourists expecting to glimpse the animals.

South Africa and Manitoba are a long way from Wilmington College, where Fields spent four years in the

*Continued on Page 56*



early 1970s while earning a Bachelor of Arts degree with majors in language, literature, and religion and philosophy.

Fields grew up in Scarsdale, which is just north of New York City. His best friend's brother, Henry "Corky" Ehrlich '71, attended WC so, intrigued, he only applied at WC and arrived on campus in fall 1970.

He described his life on campus during a "very political time." History professor Larry Gara, "whom I respected enormously," was a magnet for activism involving the Vietnam War, especially among students from the East, yet

**"I thrived there both personally and academically. In many ways, going to Wilmington College was the best thing that ever happened to me."**

— ED FIELDS

Fields found a home in which film and music were a central focus for him and his friends.

"WC was a fun place to be. I had a good time on that campus," he said in fondly recalling "radically wonderful, blues guitar players" and the student film club, with which he was especially active, known as The Sardine Screen. For \$1, students could watch a pair of films and were offered sardines on crackers.

"I made about enough money to rent the next two films," he said.

Indeed, Fields' passion for movies, especially American classics and foreign films, led the College to hire him to teach a course in film history for a quarter.

"If you wanted an education — and I did — at Wilmington you could get it," he added. "I thrived there both personally and academically. In many ways, going to Wilmington College was the best thing that ever happened to me. It got me out of New York for a while."

Fields noted he now realizes how living in the Midwest for four years acclimated him to "know the American audience" and "come away with a better sense of who the audience is that watches my films." He said his Ohio experience showed him how to "step out of a script and see the show I'm making through the eyes of the audience."

It provides him with insight into what might not be clear and what is too complicated to comprehend for those with little background in the subject.

"A lot of people in the entertainment business only know New York and Los Angeles," he said. I needed to get to the middle of the country. It ultimately helped me with my work."

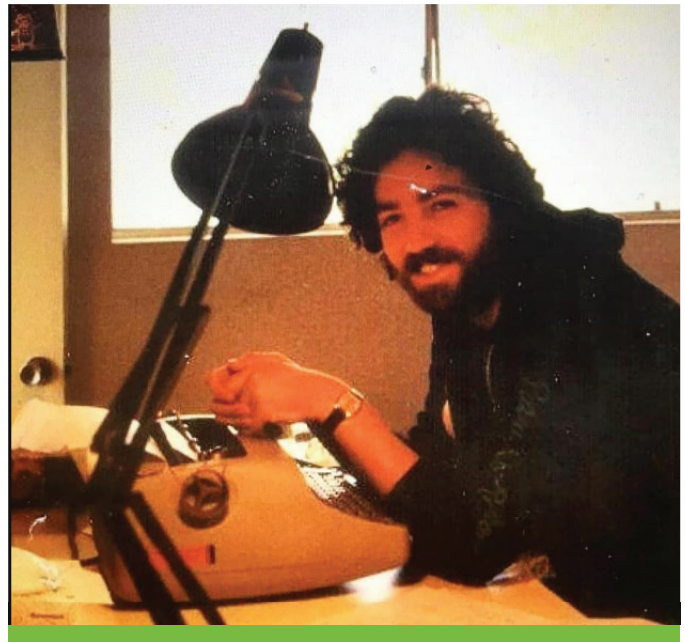
Following his graduation in 1974, Fields fueled his passion for film by living for a time in Paris "just to watch movies." He then moved to Los Angeles and earned a master's degree in philosophy at Claremont Graduate School. In LA, he gravitated toward the written word and had jobs writing everything from travel brochures and speeches to industrial films — "anything, just so it was writing."

The film industry commissioned him to write five feature-length film scripts. The movies, which included the low-budget sci-fi film, *Moles*, and one featuring an Israeli soldier and Palestinian woman titled *Torn Apart*, "never went anywhere."

"In the year I spent in Los Angeles working on movies, I decided I wanted to be a writer," he said, "but I realized LA is a terrible place to be a failed writer, so I went back to New York City, where there is some dignity in it."

Also, his then-wife was a television producer there. They have a daughter, Chloe.

Fields started out in New York writing for ABC News magazine shows like *20/20* and *Turning Point*, as well as *Good Morning America* and *World News Hour*. "I couldn't



Ed Fields is pictured in Malibu during the time he spent in Southern California working on his master's degree and getting started in his writing career.



Ed Fields is pictured with his Emmy Award for best writer for a nonfiction series on Prime-Time Emmy Awards night in 1996.

stand it," he said. Then, "suddenly cable TV exploded onto the scene and If you could spell your name, you could work!"

The History Channel, Discovery Channel, TLC, Smithsonian Channel, Military Channel, Travel Channel, National Geographic Channel and Travel Channel, as well as PBS and NBC all have hired Fields as a writer for their programming.

In 1996, Fields won a Prime-Time Emmy Award as a writer of the nonfiction series, *Lost Civilizations*, on NBC. He went on to receive three more Emmy nominations as a writer for *America – The Story of Us* in 2010, *Gettysburg* in 2011 and *The Men Who Build America* in 2013, all of which appeared on The History Channel.

Fields hearkened that 1996 Emmy Award.

"It was amazing!" he said. "When I heard my name, I squealed. As I was running up to the stage, my only thought was to check my zipper. His presenters were Jerry Mathers and Tony Dow of TV's *Leave It to Beaver* fame.

"Your life changes," he added. "You're treated like royalty when you're carrying your Emmy. I flew to Los Angeles on miles but, for my return flight to New York, I had my Emmy with me when I checked in and they gave me first class."

Fields believes that behind every great writer for nonfiction films, there are great researchers.

"I've worked with some of the best experts and research teams," he said. "I need someone to compile a lot of information and distill it quickly. I can't do my work without great research. Because I do a lot of history and science, I

get hired to write about things I know nothing about. When speaking to scientists, I have to understand what they tell me and turn it into language people can understand that is simple and clear – and dramatic."

Fields recalled a three-part series he wrote dealing with The Cold War.

"I worked for weeks to come up with an easily understood explanation for Einstein's seminal equation,  $E=MC^2$ , which basically launched the Atomic Age when it was first published in 1905," he said. Fields worked with a physicist from Johannesburg to boil down this complex theory down to three sentences.

"Everyone I tested them on was shocked to come away with a clear sense of something they always assumed was beyond their understanding," he added. "I was able to incorporate very complicated and technical information into common, casual language that's easily understood."

Fields said "clarity – with brevity" is always a primary goal of his writing, as writing nonfiction for film is a very specialized endeavor.

"It demands painstaking clarity because viewers only hear the information once," he said. "The words in the script are, in effect, in collaboration with the pictures on the screen. Each must use and enhance the other without just repeating the same information."

Fields loves the process of writing. Learning from experts and his researchers, writing and re-writing, realizing he's expertly crafted words to move the story along, to move the picture forward.

"I'm a re-writer by nature," he said. "I craft until the very end. I love sitting in a room crafting every block of narration. I love digging in and making it right at the end."



Ed Fields is pictured this year with girlfriend Ellie Sugarman, who is the younger sister of WC alumnus and fellow New Yorker Michael Sugarman '72.

# OHIO'S BEAUTIFUL BATS

*A single bat can consume up to its body weight in insects on any given night.*

## Much maligned mammal is critical to ecosystem

Alex Tillapaugh '18

Here in Ohio we are blessed to have some of the most beautiful natural landscapes filled with countless breathtaking examples of unique wildlife. The wildlands of the state are full of forests, streams and rivers, waterfalls and stunning caves.



Alex Tillapaugh

When taking a closer look, we have the opportunity to admire the wildlife which inhabits these environments: eagles, owls, deer, coyotes, raccoons, opossums and skunks just to name a few. All stunning and unique examples of proud Ohio wildlife.

If you keep your lookout sharp and are outside at the right times, you may even encounter one of our state's most specialized creatures. They are the planet's only mammal capable of flight, hunt using sound and, despite being barely any larger than a mouse, can live up to four decades. This amazing animal is the bat.

There are 14 species of bats here in Ohio that come in a wide variety of shapes, colors and sizes, but they all have a lot in common. Every one of our bat species are insectivores, meaning they exclusively consume insects. Their diet

includes harmful bugs such as mosquitoes, flies, destructive beetles and other flying pests. A single bat can consume up to its body weight in insects on any given night, which could be several thousand bugs. Bats are one of Ohio's most important animals regarding insect population control.

One thing you may have noticed is that bats seemingly only come out on warm summer nights. This is an evolutionary adaptation that helps them find the most insects. A good rule of thumb to remember is when bugs are out, bats are out; but where do they go during the colder portions of the year? This answer varies by species; some bats migrate south and feed year-round while others will hibernate here in Ohio.

During the warmer months, bats prefer to stay away from people, they usually inhabit caves or areas of dense tree cover. A place that is quiet, dark, and safe from predators is where they prefer to spend their days. Recently however, two of Ohio's bat species — the Little Brown and the Big Brown — have begun entering people's attic spaces and wall voids looking for shelter. They do this through natural construction gaps, and because of how non-destructive and quiet they are. Bats have the potential to go years or even



decades living in a home before ever being noticed.

None of Ohio's bats will attack you.

They are some of the most docile animals in the state. They recognize how big and scary people are and will rely on camouflage to stay hidden if we get too close. Bats have a poor reputation in many cultures, a lot of people fear them or call them flying rats. This fear is misguided and leads to irrational phobias.

People who fear bats argue that they carry life threatening diseases such as rabies, a real and terminal disease spread from animal to animal through bodily fluids such as saliva. Bats along with most every other mammal in the state can carry rabies, but you must remember the odds of this are exceptionally low. Throughout the past five years, about 3 percent of tested bats in Ohio have been positive for rabies. Yet, even with these figures, it is important to note that you have a greater likelihood of being struck by lightning twice than you do being bitten by a rabid bat.

Most bites that occur happen when people try to grab them with their bare hands. Though they are docile and almost certainly harmless, you should never attempt to touch a bat. Every year, thousands of Ohio residents will notice a bat in their house. The best thing you can do in this situation is to attempt to contain the bat in one room leaving a door or window open so that it can go outside on its own.

Bats are extremely intelligent and most of the time will find their own way out. Even if you believe the bat did not come into contact with anyone in the home, it is best to contact a medical professional and explain the situation to them and always follow a doctor's recommendations.

Lastly, it is recommended you also call a specialty bat

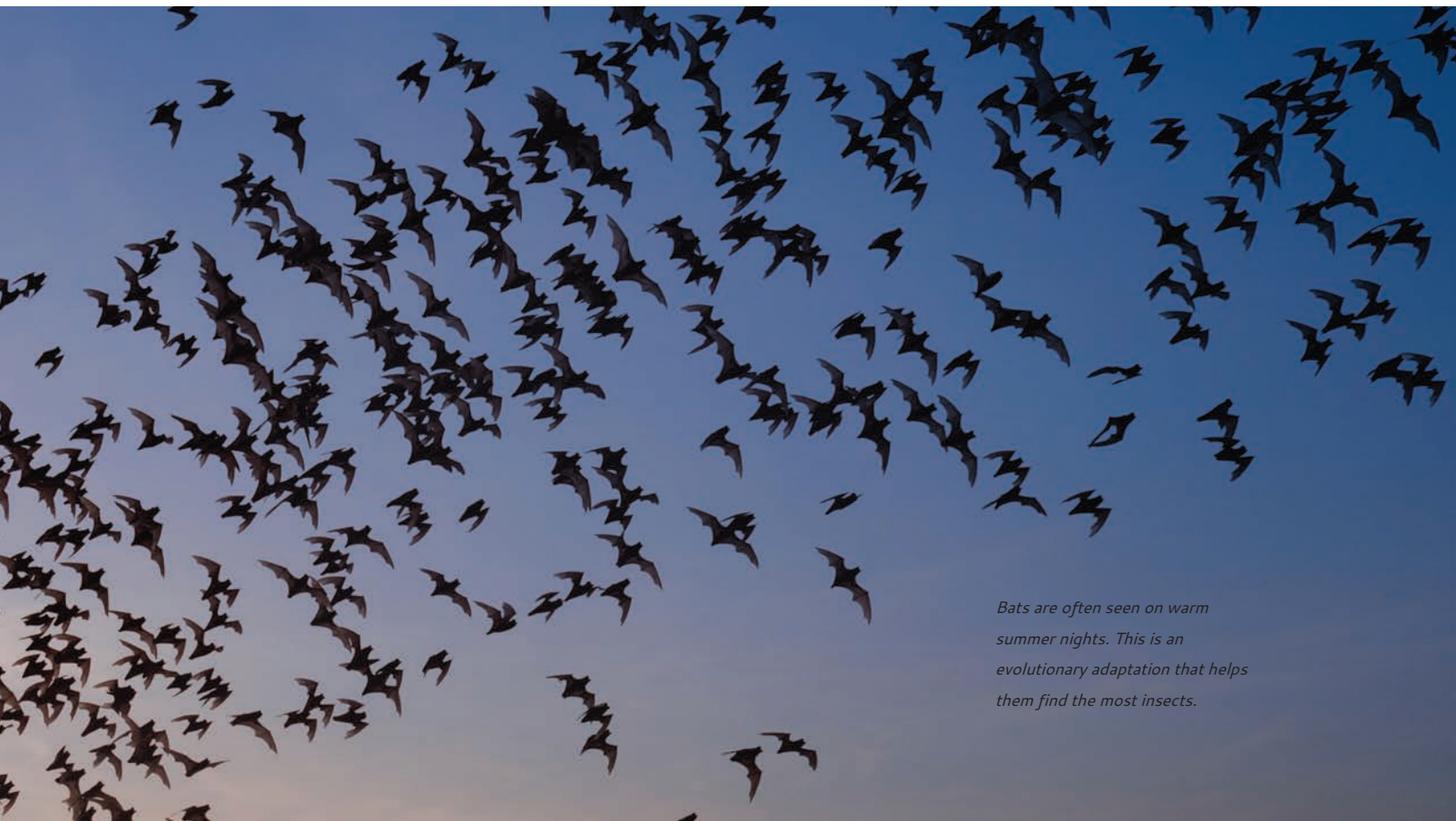
control company to come inspect your home. It is extremely rare for a bat to inadvertently fly in through a window, door, or chimney; what usually happens is one of the members of a family of bats living in the home will accidentally leave a wall void and enter a living space such as an unfinished basement. Once the bat is safely removed or contained, the next step from here would be removing the bats from the home, which is executed through the use of one-way exits. Wildlife professionals do not kill your bats; rather, they remove them from the home so they can find somewhere else to live.

Ohio's bats are beautiful and impactful creatures that are critical to our ecosystem with their insect population control.

Human urbanization has been negatively affecting our bats as well as every other native species more and more with every passing year. Habitat loss, traffic accidents and pollution are ravaging our state's wildlife. Awareness is crucial before anything can be done to fix this. It is our job as people to learn to live with nature instead of against it. If you encounter a bat or any other type of wild animal in or around your home, leave it alone. Give it the opportunity to leave. If you want to help your bats even more-so, try installing a bat house on your property. There are dozens of great do-it-yourself ideas online.

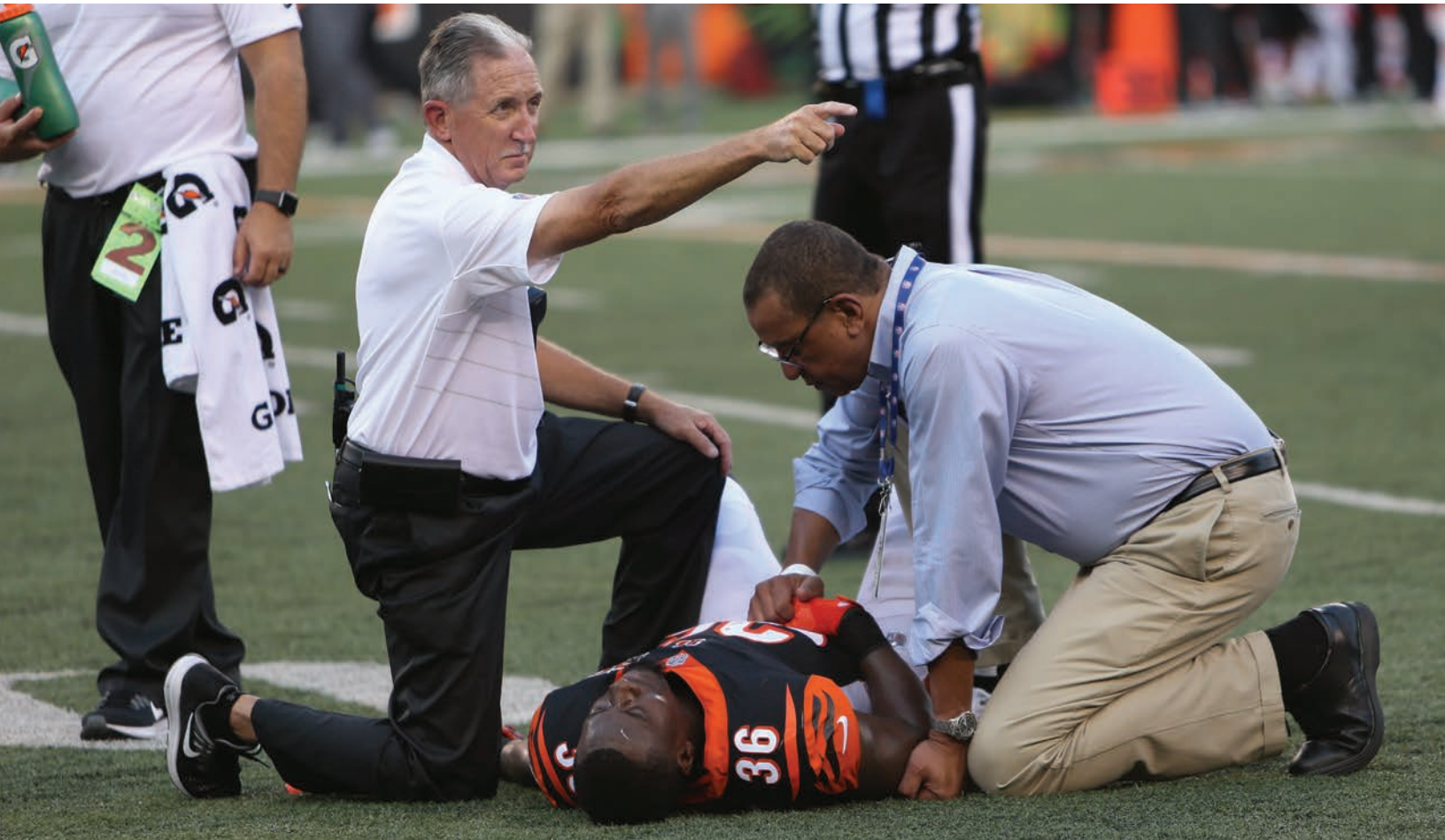
We have to do this because only we can keep Ohio beautiful and it is our duty to do so.

*Alex Tillapaugh is 2018 graduate in biology from Wilmington College; he is currently working on a master's degree in biology through Miami University.*



*Bats are often seen on warm summer nights. This is an evolutionary adaptation that helps them find the most insects.*

# NFL ATHLETIC TRAINER-OF-THE-YEAR



*Paul Sparling tends to an injured Bengal with the team's head team physician, Marc Galloway, M.D.*

## Paul Sparling '82 praised for 'unmatched knowledge and professionalism' in long Bengals career

*Randy Sarvis*

At the end of the 2019 National Football League (NFL) season, the Baltimore Ravens' Lamar Jackson earned the designation as Most Valuable Player with the 49ers' Nick Bosa garnering Defensive Rookie-of-the-Year and the Saints' Michael Thomas, Offensive Player-of-the-Year.

Add to that prestigious list Wilmington College alumnus and Cincinnati Bengals' head athletic trainer Paul B. Sparling '81, who was selected Outstanding NFL Athletic Trainer-of-the-Year.

The NFL Physicians Society (NFLPS) presented Sparling with the Fain-Cain Memorial Award at a ceremony held in Indianapolis at the NFL Scouting Combine in February.

The Bengals' head team physician, Marc Galloway, M.D., described him as "a proven leader who is extremely well respected among our players, coaches, ownership and medical staff. Paul's extensive experience has helped countless athletes; his knowledge and professionalism are unmatched."

NFLPS President Dr. Leigh Ann Curl lauded Sparling for "dedicating his life to working with the Bengals and being a role model for other athletic trainers."

Sparling's association with the Cincinnati team started as an athletic training student at Wilmington College. He had a job as a laundry boy when the team held its summer training camp on campus in 1978. Upon his graduation in 1981, he



joined the team as an assistant athletic trainer. The Bengals named Sparling head athletic trainer in 1992. He continues to hold that position along with the title, director of sports medicine administration.

"(Bengals owner) Mike Brown took a chance on me as a 32-year-old assistant to take over as head athletic trainer in 1992," Sparling said, noting that such longevity with a single franchise is rare as teams regularly make changes in that key position.

"I never could have imagined being able to stay with the same team all those years," he added. "Loyalty, dedication and solid work are recognized and rewarded here. I've seen firsthand how much this ownership values their team members and will be forever grateful for that."

Sparling noted that Galloway nominated him for the Fain-Cain Memorial Award, which requires unanimous approval from all voting members of the NFLPS. He said the honor represents acknowledgement of a job well done.

"Athletic trainers don't score touchdowns and we don't make game-saving tackles, etc. We are routinely behind-the-scenes and our mission is to serve others," he said. "I have been blessed to work with many fine physicians and assistant athletic trainers, and alongside many coaches and literally thousands of players over the years."

Sparling has accepted some four-dozen Wilmington College athletic training students as interns since becoming the head athletic trainer nearly 30 years ago. In fact, he's expecting to have two for the 2020 season, including WC's first female Bengals' intern. He feels confident the College will continue to send top quality students for this signature internship.

"I know the program. I know the professors and athletic trainers," he said. "I know the facilities and I know the history of athletic training at Wilmington College. I know that I will have an opportunity to accept well-educated and deserving athletic training students from Wilmington."

"It's also my way of giving back to the school that gave me the opportunity so many years ago."



*Paul Sparling and his wife, Karen, pose with the 2019-20 Fain-Cain Memorial Award for the NFL's Outstanding Athlete Trainer of-the-Year. He says Karen "deserves to be recognized for her never-ending support and encouragement over the years, and for being there for our family when my position with the club and work obligations prevented me from being there myself."*





*Andy Fitzenrider is pictured in one of the videos he made highlighting the support available for persons who stutter.*

# ANDY HAS A LOT TO SAY

## Alumnus promotes patience with persons who stutter via award-winning videos for Sprint

*Randy Sarvis*

Andrew Fitzenrider recalls while in high school driving 30 minutes to make an appointment because of the anxiety he experienced at simply the thought of using the telephone. He feigned sickness in school to avoid his turn in front of a class to give a speech or presentation.

He also remembers every Tuesday, at 11 a.m., the knock on his classroom door and the school's speech therapist pulling him from class for his weekly therapy session.

Fitzenrider stutters. He always has and likely always will.

But today, he embraces his speech difference and is a champion for promoting both services that assist persons who stutter and letting them know that their speech impediment doesn't have to define them.

"We have a lot to say and to offer the world," he said about those who stutter. "We just ask you to be patient — sometimes it takes us a little longer to get our words out."

Fitzenrider's parents noticed something different about his speech around the time he was two-and-a-half: stuttering repetitions and periods of blocking — when he was unable to say anything for seconds as he was obviously attempting to speak.

"I was really a shy kid with no confidence," he said about his childhood in suburban Columbus. "I think my stuttering had a lot to do with it."

He underwent extensive speech therapy and was convinced by others that his stuttering was something he had to "get rid of" in order for him to get on with his life. He recalled his father, an engineer with IBM, who "fixed things for a living being frustrated because his son had something he couldn't fix."

"I would do everything I could do to hide it and conceal it — it was something I was ashamed of," he said. "I just



wanted to be like any other kid."

High school is a time when "how you think others see you" means everything to teenagers and any imperfection — whether it's acne, shyness or a speech difference — is magnified to the nth degree. Fitzenrider recalls periods in which his speech was fluent and, just as quickly he experienced periods in which every word was a struggle.

"When my speech was good, everything was good," he said.

Attending Wilmington College was a pivotal experience for Fitzenrider. The psychology major/English minor came out of his shell at WC through getting involved. He joined the track and cross country teams, wrote for *The Witness* newspaper and was a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"At Wilmington, I felt like I was a part of something," he said, noting it, in many ways, represented the idyllic high school experience he never had. "I tell people how fortunate I feel to have gone to a small college like Wilmington. I explored many opportunities, made amazing friendships and felt like I could make a difference."

Indeed, he believed he could make a difference on campus, in the lives of others — and in his own life. Fitzenrider graduated in 1993 and got a job working for the State of Ohio. Some 21 years ago, the outdoor lifestyle of the Pacific Coast attracted him to Seattle, where he is employed as a data technician with the Seattle Police Dept.

"At that time, I was beginning to accept stuttering as something I'd have to deal with for the rest of my life," he said, "My attitude changed from, 'I need to fix this' to 'This may be something I have forever — but I can have a great life in spite of it.'"

Fitzenrider became involved with the National Stuttering Association (NSA), writing articles for disability-related publications and websites. He's promoted assistive technology and the work of organizations like <[www.westutter.org](http://www.westutter.org)> and <[www.stutteringhelp.org](http://www.stutteringhelp.org)>.

"I met people from around the world who stutter. They are very successful and educated people," he said. "Eventually, I came to the realization that these adults all stutter, yet they are successful in life and are doing what they want to do. I began to see this speech difference I have can be a good thing, that it's not some big, shameful secret I need to hide anymore."

In the years shortly following his WC graduation, Fitzenrider learned from a Wilmington friend of a new telephone relay service for persons with speech disorders and such afflictions in which one's speech can be compromised as Cerebral Palsy and Parkinson's disease.

In essence, persons with speech differences who are not comfortable speaking on the phone can call a relay operator who is trained in deciphering various speech patterns. The operator will contact the party and explain the person who wishes to speak with them stutters or experiences blocking, and they simply need to be patient for the caller to convey the message.

"We hate the phone," he said about persons who stutter. "I never knew what kind of reaction I'd get, whether they were going to be patient with me or laugh or think I was a prank

caller and hang up. We have spent our whole life avoiding the phone because it's such a frustrating experience."

Fitzenrider's prayers were answered. He contacted the man who founded the service, known as Speech-to-Speech (<[www.speechtospeech.org](http://www.speechtospeech.org)>), and, through his writing of articles advocating for persons with speech differences, offered his help with outreach.

Three years ago, his articles and posts caught the attention of Sprint Wireless, which offers the Speech-to-Speech service on its networks across the nation.

Fitzenrider has since starred in six videos in which he shares details about the service and how it has empowered him and others to no longer fear the phone.

"It won't take away your stuttering, but it helps decrease your anxiety, which often makes stuttering less severe. I'm not hiding the fact that I stutter. Rather, it allows me to talk without the sense of time pressure — or that they're going to laugh at me or hang up," he said.

"It allows me to be myself," he added. "What if this service had been available when I was a kid?"

Fitzenrider often directs his articles or speaks in person to children with speech differences.

"The most important thing with kids who stutter is they need to know it's just one small part of them — stuttering is not the whole of them," he said, noting he tells both children and their parents that stuttering is no one's fault. They're just "wired" a bit differently. "We can't let our speech consume our whole self-concept. Kids need to know they're the same great kid whether they stutter or not."

Fitzenrider's passion for advocating has been recognized publicly as his Sprint video, titled "Andy's Story," won a 2019 Silver Telly Award for outstanding TV and video productions. Also, Hamilton Relay, a telephone service for the deaf and hard of hearing that also offers services for those with speech differences, presented him with its 2018 Better Hearing and Speech Month Recognition Award for the State of Washington.

"I spent the first half of my life trying to hide my stuttering," he said, "and the second half accepting and embracing it!"



Andy Fitzenrider is pictured as a member of the 1991 cross country team that competed at the Association of Mideast Colleges conference meet. From the left are: Jim Miller, Justin Piatt, Andy Fitzenrider, Casey Hupman, Mike Chatfield, Head Coach Jim Bolland, Carl Miller, Greg Cook, Ron Combs and Darren Darling.

# CLASS NOTES

## ABOUT CLASS NOTES

*The LINK* is interested in learning more about your accomplishments and other newsworthy items. Please direct information and photographs to: Class Notes, Pyle Center Box 1313, Wilmington College, Wilmington, OH 45177, or via email to: [alumni@wilmington.edu](mailto:alumni@wilmington.edu). When reporting the death of an alumna/us, please send a copy of the obituary, which should include the date of death. If possible, include the names and class years of any survivors who attended Wilmington College. Deadline for the next issue is December 1, 2020.

### 1939

Thanks to Tom Mason, the son of the late FRANK MASON '39 and late FERNE MALOTT MASON '59 for, upon his mother's passing last summer, sending the College a 1940 *Wilmingtonian* yearbook and two Commencement programs from that era. The College Archives welcomes those artifacts into its collection.

### 1951

East Clinton Schools honored PAUL D. "OAKIE" WADDELL for his service in the U.S. Marines at the E.C. boys' basketball team's Military Appreciation Night in January. He received the "E.C. Medal of Honor."

### 1978

ROB RUSSO retired this year after a very successful career in collegiate soccer coaching. A player on some of Coach Bud Lewis' early teams, Rob served as head men's soccer coach at Miami University, Gannon University, University of South Carolina, SUNY-Oneonta and, since 1999, Denison University. He was the 1985 NCAA D-II Coach-of-the-Year while at Gannon.

### 1981

Congratulations Dr. ANTHONY (Tony) PRICE upon being named "Adjunct Educator of the Year" by Georgia Military College. Tony teaches American and World History. and also serves as an adjunct professor of education at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, FL., where he teaches doctoral students in the educational leadership program.

Congratulations to PAUL SPARLING, head athletic trainer with the Cincinnati Bengals, who in February received the National

Football League Physicians Society's Fain Cain Memorial Award as the 2020 Outstanding NFL Athletic Trainer-of-the-Year. (SEE STORY ON PG. 56)

### 1984

ANNI WEST LAPRISE is now the media specialist for Cornerstone Schools in Detroit, MI. She is living in Southfield, MI. She gets to bring back to life three schools' libraries to

serve the needs of the students and plans on turning more than 2,000 kids into life-long readers. She has been a children's librarian for almost 34 years with a six-month break spent being a prison librarian in Ohio. "To say I am very excited to be back working where the need is great and the rewards can be even greater is an understatement," she said, noting that her career shows how the values that Wilmington College teaches its students can change the world one child at time.

### 1986

Clinton-Massie High School inducted BRIAN LAMKE into its Athletic Hall of Fame in January. Brian, a member of the Quakers' tennis team for four years, was a standout in high school as he was named All-Kenton Trace Conference three times and KTC Player-of-the-Year in 1981. He led his team to conference championships in 1978 and 1981 while winning individual titles three times. Brian was the Clinton County champion in 2003.



## 2010 psychology homework assignment came due in 2020

*Former psychology professor, Dr. Caroline Stanley, who taught at WC from 2010 to 2013, returned to WC this winter to speak about a project she started with her WC students 10 years ago. They were to seal in envelopes their responses to such questions as "Who am I?" "What are my essential traits?" and "What is the meaning of life?" so, 10 years later, they could compare that with how they currently think. Stanley, a member of the psychology faculty at Bridgewater State University, addressed in her presentation, "Who Are They Now and Have They Done Their Homework?" Dozens of alumni contacted her and even two showed up for her lecture, as pictured from the left, Angela Nace '15, Stanley and Kayle Cox '14.*



## 1991

Congratulations to ANDREA TUVELL DAVIS, who was inducted into Outstanding Women of Clinton County in March. Andrea is a faculty member at East Clinton Schools and is known for not only being a master teacher but also caring for her students well beyond the realm of her English classes, making sure, among other things, they are adequately fed and have a gift to open at Christmas.

## 1993



SCOTT BRINER has been appointed to lead the training and development functions for LifeGift, a federally designated organ and tissue recovery agency in Houston, TX. He left his previous position as chief executive officer with Sweeny Hospital District in Sweeny, TX.

## 1999

KARIE SHELTON GIPSON and her brother, ISAAC SHELTON '03, starred in Warsaw Federal Incline Theatre's production of *Hand of God*, a new American play that ran in Cincinnati from Jan. 23 through Feb. 9. *Hand of God* "explores the startlingly fragile nature of faith, mortality and the ties that bind us."

## 2002

Congratulations to SCOTT REULE for being named Athletic Director-of-the-Year by the Southwest Ohio Athletic Directors Assn. Scott, the AD at Benjamin Logan High School for the past 13 years, was an assistant coach when the Lady Quakers won the 2004 NCAA D-III Championship and he also served as head coach while leading a resurgence of the men's basketball program before leaving WC after the 2007 season.

## 2003

MICHAEL WESTCAMP is the new varsity football coach at Groveport Madison High School. He was an assistant coach with the Cruisers' program since 2008.

## 2004

Fairfield Local High School inducted JULIE PURTELL ROHDY into its Athletic Hall of Fame. A four-year starter on WC's softball team, Julie played shortstop on Fairfield's team, which won sectional titles in 1997, 1998 and 2000, and the Southern Hills Athletic Conference championship in 2000. The SHAC named Julie All-League for her sophomore through senior seasons, and Southeast District First Team her senior year.

## 2012

ANGEL BURTON this spring brought her 16 years of experience in government finance to a new position as finance director for Butler County, Ohio. Angel previously served as division manager for business operations with the Cincinnati Health Dept. A year away from earning her master's degree in public administration from Northern Kentucky University, she holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and finance from WC.

## 2015

ERIN WOLLETT is, again this year, among the 10 Golden Owl Award Honorees and, as such, a finalist for Ohio's 2020 Ag-Educator-of-the-Year award, which she won in 2019. Erin is an agricultural educator and FFA adviser at Cardington-Lincoln High School in Cardington, OH.

## 2018

Taylor Pontsler was named Ohio Farm Bureau Federation organization director for Champaign, Clark, Darke and Miami counties. The agronomy graduate resides in New Carlisle.



## Alumni observe 10th anniversary of men's basketball team's OAC Title season

*Members of the 2009-10 men's basketball team gathered to commemorate the 10th anniversary of winning the 2010 Ohio Athletic Conference Tournament title. It's been a decade since that Final Four Tournament at John Carroll University when Coach K.C. Hunt's team peaked at tourney time and beat Capital at the buzzer in the semifinals (during a snowstorm) and Heidelberg in the championship game. The title gave the program its first berth in the NCAA Tournament. The Alumni Engagement Officer hosted them for a reunion lunch and the former players were introduced prior to the Fightin' Quakers' game with Mount Union Jan. 25. Pictured from the left are: Nolan Darland, Daniel Rogers, Keegan Nowlin, Brandon Rogers, Miles Bankston, Antonio Bowman, Randy "RJ" Brown, Tyler Ledford, assistant coach Brian Lawhon, Justin Gaines and Ethan Fite.*

# TEACHING MATH AND FISHING BUDDIES

## 1973 alumnus retires after 42 years

Randy Sarvis

Don Muchmore '73 chuckles when considering that his teaching tenure at Wilmington College is bookended by the Blizzard of '78 and the COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020. "I guess I was a storm going in and coming out," he joked.



Don Muchmore '73

The 1973 alumnus worked full time for 36 years in public schools while his service teaching mathematics at WC both paralleled and succeeded his years at Little Miami High School. There, he taught math for a dozen years, was a guidance counselor for 14 years and worked in industrial technology for 10 years before retiring in 2009.

While teaching at Little Miami — and soon after earning his Master of Education degree at Xavier University — Muchmore began part-time teaching at WC in summer 1978. His first class was an Algebra II course in College Hall before that venerable building's remodeling. "When I dropped piece of chalk, it would roll on the wooden floor to the middle of the room."

After instructing math courses for several summers, he expanded to teaching evenings with the College's prison program at Lebanon Correctional

Institution, followed by stints at various locations of WC's Cincinnati Branch. Upon his 2009 retirement, his "good friend, mentor and fishing buddy," Bill Kincaid, professor of mathematics, contacted him about "teaching with him" on the main campus.

"That was really special for me," he said. "I had an office next to Bill's. For me, it was a lot of fun teaching college students. I couldn't have written it a whole lot better!"

The two go back to 1970 when Muchmore transferred from the University of Dayton and "Bill spent two hours talking to me in Kettering Hall. His friendship and inspiration helped me to decide to become a math and science teacher."

Muchmore was a full-time faculty member for his last several years at WC and retired as a visiting assistant professor of mathematics.

While he admits, "I'm gonna miss it," Muchmore is content with his decision to retire while still at the top of his game. He looks forward to having the time to travel with his wife, Nancy, from Alaska to Florida — and finding time to go fishing with his old math prof.

"I can't say enough about what WC has done for me," he added. "It's been a big part of my life for the past 50 years."

## TV's *Jeopardy!* features question highlighting alum André De Shields

In January, Television's long-running game show, *Jeopardy!*, featured an answer in the "Broadway" category involving 1968 WC alumnus André De Shields, who won a Tony Award in 2019 for Best Actor in a Musical. The veteran of stage, film and television won the coveted award for his portrayal of Hermes in the musical *Hadestown*, which was nominated for 14 Tonys and won eight trophies, including for Best New Musical.

### BROADWAY

600

13

The 2019 musical "Hadestown" goes straight to Hell with Tony winner André de Shields as this Greek messenger god

"The wage is nothing and the work is hard / It's a graveyard in Hadestown"

"Way down Hadestown / Way down under the ground"



## DEATHS

### 1940

VIRGINIA PRAY SCHROEK  
Portsmouth, OH DOD Unknown

### 1943

JOHN HENRY  
Zanesville, OH May 16, 2019

GEORGE CROUT  
Monroe, OH Nov. 30, 2004

### 1947

MARJORIE RISLEY MIKESELL  
Eugene, OR June 15, 2019

### 1948

DELBERT C. ROCKWELL  
Weslaco, TX Sept. 15, 2014

### 1949

JOEL ROTTMAN  
Deerfield Beach, FL May 17, 2019

### 1950

GLENN ARMSTRONG  
Wilmington, OH March 4, 2020

CARL FREEMAN  
Tampa, FL Jan. 27, 2017

### 1951

HARRY V. TURNER  
Greenfield, OH March 24, 2020

MARJORIE MCNEMAR HAINES  
Waynesville, OH Feb. 6, 2020

### 1952

MARTHA INNIS BEACH  
Batavia, OH Feb. 23, 2020

### 1954

HANS OTTO PETSCH  
CONNEAUT, OH Nov. 16, 2019

REX NASH  
North Olmsted, OH

BARBARA BAILEY BUTTS  
Franklin, NY Mar. 17, 2015

DAVID BONE  
Vandalia, OH Sept. 8, 2019

NAOMI BOONE OETZEL  
New Richmond, OH April 13, 2020

### 1955

CHARLES E. GUZI  
Greenhills, OH Feb. 18, 2020

ROBERT CRAGG  
Emigrant, MT Dec. 20, 2015

CHARLES "PHIL" RICHARDSON  
Athens, OH Dec. 17, 2019

### 1956

BETTY LOU WEIDINGER  
ALBRIGHT  
Aurora, OH Dec. 30, 2019

ROBERT KELLOGG  
Milford, OH April 3, 2013

### 1957

ROBERT C. MOLER  
Bethel, OH Nov. 28, 2018

### 1958

CHARLES DOUGLAS ROLFE JR.  
Bainbridge, IN March 25, 2020

CAROLYN CONN PYLES  
Tipp City, OH Dec. 24, 2018

### 1960

JEANNE M. ANDERSON  
IMMELL  
Washington Court House, OH  
Jan. 1, 2010

### 1962

JOHN SMITH WILSON  
Greensboro, NC Nov. 29, 2019

GEORGIA WHITACRE  
Lebanon, OH Sept. 10, 2017

### 1963

CHARLES REICHLER  
Oswego, IL Jan. 3, 2019

### 1964

LENA TURNER RUBY  
Rubyville, OH May 17, 2018

### 1965

KATHY STEPHAN BLACKBURN  
Mt. Vernon, OH March 19, 2020

ARTHUR ALEXANDER  
Greenfield, OH Jan. 8, 2019

DALE NORDYKE  
Columbus, OH Sept. 9, 2018

### 1968

MARTHA JEAN BURK  
Columbus, OH Feb. 23, 2020

JERRY MILLER  
Westwood, KY June 7, 2017

### 1969

WILLIAM H. "BILL" KLOPPER  
Dover, OH Feb. 11, 2020

JOE SZYMCAK  
Bowling Green, OH Jan. 15, 2020

### 1970

CARL ANDERS  
Sabina, OH May 20, 2020

MARY "EILEEN" MARSH  
OSTERMEIER  
Wilmington, OH Jan. 3, 2020

### 1971

BILL BECKETT  
Waynesville, OH Nov. 18, 2018

### 1973

ARIS KALOYANO  
Palm Harbor, FL March 2, 2020

### 1975

ED NICHOLAS  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL April 5, 2020

### 1978

BERRY BAKER  
Peebles, OH Dec. 19, 2014

### 1980

JEFFREY M. CHAFFIN  
Wheelersburg, OH April 6, 2020

WILLIAM PHILLIPS  
Columbus, OH Dec. 22, 2019

### 1981

MICHAEL SWINNING  
Waverly, OH Feb. 15, 2017

### 1982

MARK HEFFERNAN  
Copley, OH March 25, 2020

### 1984

LESLIE ALCORN  
Seymour, TN Feb. 20, 2017

### 1985

DANIEL R. FOX  
Thornville, OH April 21, 2020

### 1987

BERNADETTE ANDREW  
Milford, OH Feb. 27, 2018

### 1990

JEFF McMURRAY  
Fairfield, Twp., OH Dec. 9, 2017

### 1993

CONNIE M. BRANHAM  
Bemidji, MN May 16, 2020

### 1998

ERIC N. BESANKO  
Cincinnati, OH March 5, 2020

### 2009

JENNIFER PHILLIPS PFISTER  
Springfield, OH Feb. 6, 2020

### 2012

TONI CONLEY PENWELL  
Washington Court House, OH  
April 6, 2020

## FORMER FACULTY/STAFF DEATHS

GLENN ARMSTRONG, 92, Class of '50, of Wilmington, died March 4, 2020. He was an adjunct professor of mathematics from 1950 through 1994



Office of College Advancement  
1870 Quaker Way  
Wilmington, OH 45177

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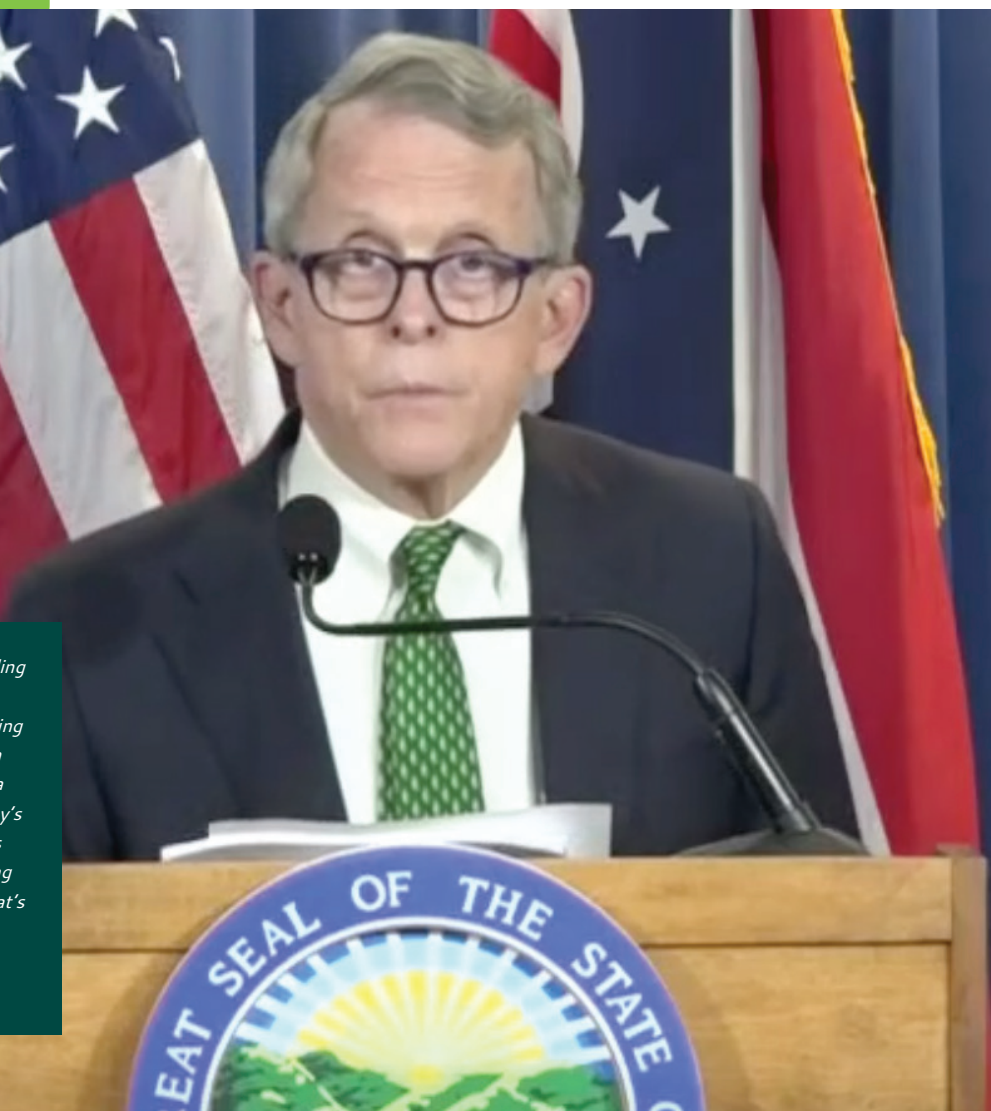
## HOMECOMING/ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND

Sept. 25-26, 2020

The College currently has every intention of holding these time-honored events, however, uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic is slowing down its planning and preparation process. Look for details later this summer.

*When Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine started holding daily press conferences in the advent of the COVID-19 crisis, he often wore ties depicting sports teams, colleges and universities from the Buckeye State. On May 28, he donned a Wilmington College tie and initiated that day's press conference by noting the institution is celebrating its 150th anniversary and lauding WC as "a great, small liberal arts college that's known for offering students outside-the-classroom learning activities."*

*(Courtesy of Ohio News Channel.)*



**Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine sports a Wilmington College necktie**