

WILMU[®]

A close-up photograph of a nurse in a surgical setting. The nurse is wearing a light blue surgical cap, a matching face mask, and a blue surgical gown. They are looking down, focused on their work. The background is blurred, showing other people in similar attire, suggesting an operating room or a clinical setting.

The Delaware Nurse Anesthesiology Program At ChristianaCare and Wilmington University

*This innovative offering is the state's first
doctoral nurse anesthesiology academic program.*



As spring brings *new possibilities*,
WilmU students can reach theirs.



Support their growth by making a gift at

wilmu.edu/Giving.



“Together, we celebrate the impact and dedication of everyone who makes our University such a remarkable place.”

—Dr. LaVerne Harmon



Dear Friends,

We welcome spring with a new issue filled with inspirational stories about our faculty, students, alumni, and staff. They reflect the heart of our community and the achievements that make us proud to be part of it. Together, we celebrate the impact and dedication of everyone who makes our University such a remarkable place. As I read these stories, I felt grateful to be part of a caring institution that has always been student-centered.

Our cover story focuses on Delaware’s first doctoral-level nurse anesthesiology program — a groundbreaking collaboration between Wilmington University and ChristianaCare. The director, a certified registered nurse anesthetist, nurse educator, is also a WilmU alumna. Backed by Anesthesia Services, P.A., this full-time, 36-month program culminates in a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, setting a new standard for nurse anesthesiology education in the state.

You’ll also meet a police chief who leveraged his WilmU degree in Behavioral Sciences and certificate in Emotional Intelligence and Leadership to launch the DeepBlu Project, a podcast dedicated to addressing mental health challenges in law enforcement.

We’re excited to expand our archives with the development of a new Archives and Special Collections Division. Archives play a vital role in preserving and commemorating our history and serving as a bridge between our past and future. I hope you’ll enjoy a story highlighting our talented archivist and her vision for advancing a collection that will safeguard our legacy.

These are just a few examples of the many stories showcasing our community, including student-athletes and coaches. I also invite you to explore the latest updates from the Wilmington University School of Law and Criminal Justice Institute.

Enjoy the issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "LaVerne Harmon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly legible.

Dr. LaVerne Harmon
President

President

DR. LAVERNE HARMON

Editor-in-Chief

DR. MARIA HESS

MAGAZINE TEAM

Staff Writer/Proofreader
BOB YEARICK

University Photographer
SUSAN L. GREGG

University Photographer
PAUL PATTON

Writers

VERLIN JAY ALEXANDER III
VERONICA J. FINKELSTEIN, J.D.

PAM GEORGE

DR. MARIA HESS

NICOLE M. MOZEE, J.D.

DAN LAULETTA

EMILY RYAN

EILEEN SMITH DALLABRIDA

*Have a question,
comment or story idea?*

Contact Dr. Maria Hess
maria.f.hess@wilmu.edu

Like us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/
WilmingtonUniversity/

Follow us on Twitter:

@thewilmu

**WilmU Magazine is designed
and published by:**

Today Media Custom Communications
1000 N. West Street, Suite 601
Wilmington, DE 19801
(302) 656-1809
www.todaymediacustom.com

Chairman

ROBERT F. MARTINELLI

Project Manager

KIM FORTUNA

Art Director

RANDY CLARK

WilmU Magazine is a publication for WilmU students, alumni, staff, faculty, friends, and Board of Trustees. Produced in-house and distributed twice a year, the magazine has a circulation of over 65,000. Personal views expressed in articles do not reflect official Wilmington University policies.

CONTENTS

Adrienne Johnson



FEATURES

20 COVER STORY *Leading Delaware's First Doctoral Nurse Anesthesiology Program*

Meet **DR. JACQUELINE MAINWARING**, the director of the new Delaware Nurse Anesthesiology Program at ChristianaCare and Wilmington University — the first doctoral nurse anesthesiology program in Delaware.

by Emily Ryan

24 *Preserving Our Legacy*

Wilmington University advances its collection and preservation of materials with a new Archives and Special Collections Division.

by Pam George

30 *A Novel Approach to Career Choices*

DR. GUILLERMINA GONZALEZ has authored a new book designed to inspire young readers as they embark on their journey of self-discovery.

by Bob Yearick





p.24



COURTESY OF SAXON METZGER

34 *A Journey to Sustainability Leadership*

From Osage roots to renewable energy, alumnus **SAXON METZGER** leads the charge in sustainable innovation.
by Bob Yearick

p.34

Saxon Metzger

PAUL PATTON



p.38

Toby Templeton

PHOTO COURTESY OF WORLD LACROSSE



p.44

Wade Girard Jones

PAUL PATTON

4 News

The latest news on Wilmu's faculty, staff, students and alums.

38 Sports

Softball coach **MIKE SHEHORN** and staff garner several honors; three Wildcats represent their countries on the world stage.

by Bob Yearick

44 Alumni

CHRISTOPHER WORKMAN topples the blue wall of silence, *by Bob Yearick*; **WADE GIRARD JONES** offers alternatives to improve mental health, *by Pam George*; and News & Notes, *by Verlin Jay Alexander III*.

52 Wilmington University School of Law

KIMBERLY RICHARDSON's journey toward empowering future lawyers; **NICOLE MOZEE** reports on the Civil Rights and Social Justice Symposium; **VERONICA FINKELSTEIN** teaches in Lagos, Nigeria.

60 Criminal Justice Institute

The Cold Case Internship; the Delaware Active Threat Response; **SCOTT DUFFEY**'s visit to the annual Hamptons Whodunit Festival in East Hampton Village, New York; a yearlong course development initiative on Elder Abuse and Fraud. *by Maria Hess*

CONNECT WITH US



Read exclusive stories in our **DIGITAL EDITION**.



Don't forget to connect with Wilmington University on **FACEBOOK**.

THE NEWS



From left: Angie, Amy and Abigail Chomo

Bringing Their Game

Wilmington University students Abigail, Amy and Angeline Chomo work, compete and study together.

Famous sisters include the writing Brontes, the Schuyler sisters — made famous in “Hamilton” — and the acting Olsens. Now, Wilmington University has its own sister set: **ABIGAIL (ABBY)**, **AMY**, and **ANGELINE (ANGIE) CHOMO** are students who work there. On the track & field and cross-country teams, they’re triple-threat Wildcats. They’re also roommates in a Newark apartment.

The Chomos don’t see anything unusual about their togetherness. “It feels pretty natural to me,” Amy says. They were all in high school at the same time and played soccer and basketball and ran track. “It’s what I’ve known my whole life, and we’ve been blessed to continue that in college,” Angie says.

Abby blazed the path to Delaware when she enrolled at WilmU following two years at Salem County Community College (SCC).

“I knew I wanted to stay close to home, and I’m paying for school with scholarships and work,” says Abby, whose parents have a small chicken farm in Lower Alloways Creek, a township in Salem County, New Jersey. “I didn’t want to take out a loan.”

Her SCC advisor recommended WilmU, and Abby was pleasantly surprised with the course cost. The accomplished high school athlete didn’t plan on being a student-athlete until she landed on the Track and Field page on the website. A scholarship sweetened the appeal.

After graduating with a bachelor’s degree in Business Management, Abby is pursuing a master’s in Business Administration with a concentration in Nonprofit Management.

Meanwhile, Amy was in contact with the WilmU track team before leaving SCC. As for academics, she appreciated that the College of Business has a Sports Management concentration. She applied for and received WilmU’s Presidential Scholarship, which was given to one SCC graduate.

“I was blessed and honored to receive the award,” she says. “These factors, as well as a lot of prayer, ultimately led me to choose WilmU as my home for the next two years — and I am very glad I did.”

After seeing Abby’s experience, Angie elected to spend all four years at WilmU. “She had been able to work a part-time job at WilmU while finishing her education and competing collegiately,” says Angie, a Health Sciences major focusing on Fitness. Angie wanted the same opportunities, and “it is where God has called me to be,” she says.

The sisters opted to pay for classes by working part-time at the University. Abby is an administrative assistant in the College of Social and Behavioral

Sciences. Angie is a Student Life associate, and Amy is an administrative assistant in the College of Education and Liberal Arts.

Although they’ve taken many online classes, they’ve built relationships with their track & field and cross-country teams. “I love the team and the environment,” Abby says. The assistant coaches are “some of the most amazing people I’ve met in my life.”

Angie says that being a college athlete has helped her grow while achieving her academic goals. Plus, she can travel to meets.

The three aren’t the only Chomo siblings with names that start with an A. Alyssa and Amanda are the oldest. Steven, the youngest, is an exception to the As. He is named for his father and grandfather. However, his middle name is Andrew.

Amy considers her sisters her best friends. “My life is infinitely better with them in it,” she says. “I think we will look back on this part of our lives with a lot of gratitude.” **WU**

—Pam George



BORN FROM LOVE



Growing up in Lewes, Delaware, **LOGAN SHUTTLEWORTH** enjoyed science classes. However, the Wilmington University alumna also relished her creative side. “I went back and forth between wanting to be a special education teacher or physical therapist,” she says.

She found the perfect marriage in occupational therapy. “It’s a beautiful blend of science, anatomy and creativity,” she says. An occupation involves any meaningful activity, not just a job. It includes parenting, managing your home, shopping and playing sports. However, disease, surgery, and injuries can hinder any of these occupations and affect the quality of life.

The profession has a variety of subgroups, and shortly after the birth of Shuttleworth’s daughter, she found her focus. “I was listening to a podcast about maternal health, and it made me

realize that babies get about 12 visits in their first six months, and moms get one. In other countries, women get an automatic referral to pelvic floor therapists after giving birth.”

Pelvic health therapy can also benefit athletes, people with spinal cord injuries, and children. In Shuttleworth’s Lewes-based practice, Triumph Pelvic Health, she helps young women, athletes, pregnant and postpartum women, and women experiencing urogynecological changes related to perimenopause and menopause.

Her journey to college graduate and entrepreneur took a high-pressure turn when the star volleyball player learned she was pregnant. At the time, Shuttleworth was a West Chester University student. She needed to move home to be near her supportive family. The expectant mother also wanted to quickly earn a degree to provide for her daughter. “I needed to come up with a game plan, and Wilmington University

was a huge part of it,” she says.

By taking WilmU courses throughout the year, she earned a bachelor’s degree in Health Science one year earlier than planned. Five days after graduation, she entered a master’s program in Occupational Therapy at Shenandoah University, which had a hybrid program.

Shuttleworth interned for **DR. MEGAN ANDERSON** in Lewes, who specializes in treating women with pelvic pain. “She’s been a wonderful mentor to me,” says Shuttleworth, who also completed a rotation at Bayhealth Medical Center and in the Cape Henlopen School District.

In 2023, she earned the M.S. in Occupational Therapy and started working in an outpatient clinic. However, the insurance-based model didn’t give her enough time with patients. So, she opened Triumph Pelvic Health to provide personalized, holistic support.

Services include evidence-based interventions to treat incontinence, constipation, pain with intimacy and prolapse. Take, for instance, myofascial release, internal and external trigger-point release, visceral manipulation, diaphragm manipulation, core rehab, pressure management and strength training.

The certified pregnancy and postpartum corrective exercise specialist also uses exercises to improve functionality. For instance, a client with postpartum back pain learned to breathe and mindfully move as she cared for her toddler. Concentration and repetition lead to automatic corrections over time.

Not all the treatments are physical. Women experiencing painful sexual



Logan Shuttleworth

intercourse learn to manage their bodies' nervous systems' response to anticipated pain. Consequently, the brain views intimacy as an opportunity for safe connection and pleasure instead of a perceived threat. Owning her own business has helped Shuttleworth

maintain her work-life balance, a priority she started in college.

"I was taking a strong course load for a while, but after I picked my daughter up from school, I did not use my computer until after she went to bed," says Shuttleworth, who plans to

receive a post-professional doctorate of Occupational Therapy this summer. "I worked really hard before and after. Even when I was in school, even when I was coaching volleyball, I had to have time with her. She comes first." **WU**

—Pam George

Dr. Esosa Iriowen



Chemistry Studies Rooted in Practical Experience



Dr. Esosa Iriowen is an accomplished educator, administrator, and community leader with over 12 years of experience in scientific research, academia, and higher education leadership. He joined Wilmington University as an adjunct faculty member in 2017 and now serves as chair of the Natural Sciences Programs. Dr. Iriowen's career spans teaching Chemistry, Physics, Data Science, and Environmental Sciences while contributing to scientific research in prestigious journals. As a fellow of The American Institute of Chemists and a global conference leader, he continues to inspire students and advance scientific knowledge worldwide.

The chemical industry drives a \$4 trillion global market, with Delaware considered a hub for cutting-edge research and innovation. Across Delaware and nationwide, chemistry careers are projected to soar, outpacing average job growth through 2032. Wilmington University's new dynamic and hands-on bachelor's degree in Chemistry could be a gateway to seizing these opportunities and shaping the future of this thriving field.

The program is designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge they need for dynamic careers in environmental science, materials science, pharmaceuticals, and numerous applied chemistry fields. Thanks to the program's strong academic foundation, personalized one-on-one mentoring, and career development resources, its graduates will be sought after, all of which should pave the way for a seamless transition into the professional world.

"As scientists, we carry the responsibility of using our expertise to create a better world," says **DR. ESOSA IRIOWEN**, chair of the Natural Sciences Programs and an assistant professor of Chemistry in the College of Health Professions and Natural Sciences. "Chemistry fuels innovation, and our program empowers students with the tools they need to thrive in this transformative field."

Adds Director of Natural Sciences and Assistant Professor **DR. MILTON MULDROW JR.**, "Our new Chemistry program is designed to meet the growing demand for skilled chemists in Delaware's pharmaceutical, biotech, and manufacturing industries. By combining hands-on training with practical knowledge, we're preparing graduates to drive innovation and strengthen the local workforce." **WU** —*Maria Hess*

To learn more, visit wilmu.edu/health/chemistry.



WilmU HR Professionals Revolutionize Onboarding

Wilmington University's HR experts **COURTNEY ROSSI** and **JAIMEE CAMPBELL** took center stage at the 2024 College



COURTESY OF COURTNEY ROSSI

and University Professional Association for Human Resources (CUPA) regional conference, captivating higher education HR professionals with their innovative “90-Day Manager Roadmap and Toolkit,” a game-changer in onboarding best practices.

“Before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we worked together and developed the roadmap, a guide to the onboarding process for new employees during their first three months,” says Rossi, employee relations/training and development specialist. “This crucial period for new employees is where managers seek the most guidance.

Adds Campbell, a classification and compensation specialist, “As we transitioned to remote work, we faced the challenge of adapting this experience to effectively serve both in-person and virtual onboarding, all while preserving the University’s culture.”

After successfully implementing the roadmap and witnessing its impact, Rossi and Campbell recognized its value and felt

compelled to share it with others. They submitted a proposal, which earned them an invitation to present at the prestigious CUPA regional conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

According to its website, CUPA is “higher ed HR.” It provides higher education with the knowledge, resources, advocacy, and connections to achieve organizational and workforce excellence. The nonprofit monitors trends, explores emerging workforce issues, conducts research, and promotes strategic discussions among colleges and universities. It also hosts conferences and webinars, publishes tools and resources, and offers online communities for collaboration.

Building on the success of their conference presentation, Rossi and Campbell were invited to extend their session through a CUPA webinar, allowing them to reach a broader national higher-ed HR audience.

Both were humbled by the opportunity to highlight the positive contributions of the Human Resources Department and Wilmington University as a whole.

“Courtney and Jaimee’s work exemplifies our department’s commitment to always striving to enhance the employee experience,” says Assistant Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer Dr. Nicole Romano. “Their innovative work on creating the ‘90-Day Manager Roadmap and Toolkit’ empowers managers and fosters a more welcoming and impactful onboarding journey for new employees. This effort not only supports our team but also strengthens our University community. I couldn’t be prouder of their dedication to enhancing the employee experience and the well-deserved recognition they’ve received.” **WU**

—Maria Hess





Courtney Rossi and Jaimee Campbell

Dr. Johanna Bishop

Dr. Johanna Bishop Continues to ‘Make the Invisible Visible’



For almost a decade now, **DR. JOHANNA BISHOP** has been on a campaign to, as she calls it, “make the invisible visible.” By that, she means exposing the crime of human trafficking.

Dr. Bishop is an associate professor and director of WilmU’s Behavioral Science Programs, so her workdays are full. But since 2016, when she founded the University’s Human Trafficking Symposium, she has devoted untold hours to fighting an insidious barbarity that victimizes an estimated 27.6 million worldwide.

Traffickers prey on people of all ages, backgrounds, and nationalities, profiting by compelling them to perform labor or engage in commercial sex. As both a crime and a human rights abuse, it compromises national and economic security, undermines the rule of law, and harms the well-being of individuals and communities everywhere. Out of every 10 victims detected globally, five are adult women, and two are girls. Migrants account for a significant share of the detected victims in most regions because traffickers focus on the marginalized and impoverished.

Dr. Bishop’s initial Human Trafficking Symposium quickly gained momentum and became an annual event, and by 2020, during the pandemic, she introduced human trafficking webinars. Presented monthly during the academic year and available free to the public, the seminars are conducted by human service specialists, academics, law enforcement and legal professionals, nurses, survivors, and others. By the end of last year, Dr. Bishop had hosted 76 such online events, making WilmU a leader in human trafficking studies and awareness.



The webinars' popularity has been growing, attracting attendees from dozens of states and several countries, with an average attendance of about 225. Registration and actual attendance can vary because all registrants receive a link to a webinar recording to watch at their convenience. Dr. Bishop says many ask for a certificate of attendance and use it for professional development.

Her passion for her cause has attracted an ever-growing list of compelling speakers to both the webinars and the symposium. Dr. Bishop is particularly gratified that there has been a growing number of male presenters. "Everyone is now starting to recognize that boys and

men get abused, too," she says.

She points out that the keynote speaker for last October's conference was **DAVID GARLOCK**, a formerly incarcerated criminal justice reform advocate and reentry expert. Garlock and his brother received 25-year sentences in Alabama after taking the life of their abuser. A client of the Equal Justice Initiative, Garlock was released on parole in 2013 after serving more than 13 years and pursuing educational opportunities while incarcerated. He subsequently earned a bachelor's degree from Eastern University.

Another presenter at the conference was **DAN BURKE**, WilmU men's basketball coach and director

of Student Concerns, whose subject was "Grooming Behavior in Athletics."

"This became something big when Olympic gymnast **SIMONE BILES** and others went public with it happening in their sport," says Dr. Bishop. "The audience loved what Dan had to say, so by popular request, we're having him do this as a webinar."

A recent addition to the schedule is Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT), a nonprofit organization formed in 2009 that trains truck drivers to recognize and report instances of human trafficking. Noting that truck stops are notorious for trafficking, Dr. Bishop says TAT "has helped to train

the entire transportation industry, and we have had three presentations by them.”

That’s just one example of how awareness about human trafficking is spreading. “We’re developing expertise among many professions,” says Dr. Bishop. “Teachers and educators, for instance. There are kids in classrooms who their parents are trafficking for drug money. One of my speakers in 2022 was actually trafficked by her father, who was an alcoholic. It was a horrible childhood.” The speaker, **LOCKEY MAISONNEUVE**, authored a book about her experiences, “A Girl Raised by Wolves.”

Not surprisingly, knowledge about human trafficking has increased throughout WilmU. “I’m proud of how we are strengthening

the infrastructure so that we have people in-house who have developed more capacity and more knowledge and have been able to train others,” says Dr. Bishop.

She points to **DR. LISA DREWS**, WilmU professor and chair of the R.N. to B.S.N. & M.S.N. Leadership Programs, who has been educating nurses and healthcare professionals at Dr. Bishop’s conferences since 2016. She has developed a curricular module for the American Association of Colleges of Nursing focused on identifying, advocating, and caring for human trafficking victims.

Dr. Bishop, Dr. Drews, and others on the front line of this battle are facing daunting challenges. Despite increased international attention and resources from states and non-governmental institutions, the

number of people falling victim to human trafficking around the world continues to grow.

“In the last 10 years, government agencies have looked at it much more seriously than they ever did before,” says Dr. Bishop. “But we’re not reducing the number because of several factors: technology, open borders, disasters and conflicts, and people having to move because of climate change. All of that is creating a situation where people are vulnerable and at risk for being trafficked.”

But she is far from discouraged. As she told this magazine in 2021: “It’s a heinous crime. You can’t ignore that and be a human being. You have to do what you can do. So that’s what we’re working on.” **WU** —*Bob Yearick*



Dr. Bishop with keynote speaker David Garlock (left), a returning citizen, reentry professional, and criminal justice reform advocate. To her right is conference sponsor Andrew Thurn, executive director of First State Alliance for Recovery Residences.

An essay by student Denise Ortiz

A SINGLE MOM'S JOURNEY TO EDUCATION, ADVOCACY, AND BREAKING BARRIERS

I'm a 34-year-old mom with a 14-year-old daughter, and I'm finishing my bachelor's degree at Wilmington University. Alongside being a student, I work as a community health worker in Delaware, where I help single moms across the state. I'm incredibly honored to be recognized as a finalist nominee for the 2024 Community Health Worker Champion Award. This recognition means so much because it reflects my passion for supporting and helping others in my community.

When I was younger, I didn't fully understand the importance of education. I was born and raised in Wilmington, where life in my neighborhood was full of challenges like poverty, violence, and limited opportunities. Many people felt stuck, and dreams often faded before they could begin. Despite the hardships, I wanted more for myself and my daughter. I was determined to rise above my circumstances and build a better future for us.

I had my daughter when I was 20. I didn't even have a high school diploma and struggled to make ends meet. When I started applying for jobs, I faced rejection after rejection because of my lack of education. The jobs I could get didn't pay enough to support me and my daughter. That was my wake-up call. I knew I had to make a change for her and myself.

At 23, I learned I only needed six credits to earn my high school diploma. I enrolled at James Groves Adult High School, and walking across that stage with my 2-year-old watching was one of the most amazing moments of my life. It gave me the confidence I needed to move forward. With my diploma in hand, I started working in health care, but I was still hesitant about going to college. To ease into it, I enrolled in a trade school at 25 to become a certified dental assistant. That experience showed me I could set and achieve goals, giving me the courage to start college at 26.

My college journey hasn't been easy. Life as a single mom can be unpredictable, and there were times I had to put my education on hold. Balancing multiple jobs while doing everything on my own wasn't easy. But I never gave up on my dream. I took breaks when needed to make time to live my life and travel, but I always returned to my goals. I'm nearing the finish line, and I couldn't be prouder. I will

become the first in my family to earn a bachelor's degree this June. I can't wait for that day to have my daughter watch me cross the stage, just as she did when I earned my high school degree. One of my long-term goals is to attend law school to serve and advocate for my community, God willing. I want to help others overcome their struggles and make a lasting impact.



TO ALL THE SINGLE MOMS OUT THERE:

I know how hard it is to feel like there's no way out of your struggles. But trust me, put God first and never give up on your dreams,

no matter what challenges life throws you. You are stronger than you realize. Keep pushing through, and don't hesitate to ask for help when needed. Taking risks might be scary, but those risks can lead to significant opportunities. It's okay to take breaks and focus on yourself when needed, but always come back stronger and stay focused on your goals. As single moms, we have the power to break generational curses and create a better future for our kids. We are resilient, hardworking, and determined to improve things, no matter the odds. Every sacrifice, every step forward, shows your strength and love. Even on the toughest days, remember you're setting an example for your children about staying strong and never giving up. The journey won't be easy, but it will be worth it. Believe in yourself, trust the process, and keep moving forward. You can do amazing things, and your dreams are still within reach. Stay strong, stay focused, and never forget you've got this.

You are capable of incredible things. Benjamin Franklin wrote one of my favorite quotes: "You can do anything you set your mind to." It's true. Believe in yourself, take that first step, and finish what you started. You'll be amazed at what you can accomplish. **WU**

This June, Denise Ortiz will graduate with a B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies.



Denise Ortiz



Dr. Kathy Kennedy-Ratajack

Meet the Partnership and Community Affairs Department

Created in 2012 as a function of the External Affairs Department, the Partnership and Community Affairs Department (PACD) has evolved and expanded into a far-reaching, collaborative force that connects academics,

industry, and the community. The PACD has developed relationships with internal academic and external partners nationwide.

External partners include businesses, corporate and community leaders, state agencies, and the academic community — especially

high schools and community colleges.

Internally, the PACD's activities cross all areas of the University and align directly with the mission of providing a range of exemplary career-oriented undergraduate and graduate degree programs and certificates, or customized offerings based

“This office strives to distinguish WilmU as an innovative academic institution that is responsive to students and the community, as well as industry and market needs.”

—Dr. Kathy Kennedy-Ratajack

on market needs, for a growing and diverse learner population.

“This office strives to distinguish WilmU as an innovative academic institution that is responsive to students and the community, as well as industry and market needs,” says **DR. KATHY KENNEDY-RATAJACK**, assistant vice president of Academic Affairs and Partnerships.

“We prioritize our agility and flexibility in responding to the evolving needs of both our community and industry leaders,” she says. “We also ensure that our training and professional development opportunities are designed to address a broad range of needs.”

The University maintains partnerships with 28 community colleges in five states, according to **LINDSAY RICE**, senior director of Academic Partnerships and Military Affairs. “Wilmington University is widely recognized as the premier transfer partner for community college students because of our transfer-friendly services, faculty, and policies that generously recognize students’ credits from their associate degrees,” Rice says.

The PACD office also manages 16 Transfer Credit Articulation partnerships with the Delaware Department of Education and school districts in disciplines like Computer Science, Teaching, Finance, Marketing, Criminal Justice, Broadcast Media, Gene Editing, and others.

The PACD recently worked with the State Department of Labor to introduce the Construction Management Certificate, an 18-credit program that helps skilled laborers advance into management roles. Says Rice: “The certificate was developed in response to the workforce crisis in the construction trades, which have an aging population and a looming retirement cliff in management.”

Meanwhile, Senior Director **JEFF MARTINO** works with industry leaders to enhance professional development and offer academic programs for employees. His team consults with various corporate departments, including Human Resources, Learning & Development, Talent Acquisition and Management, and Executive Leadership.

“We begin by listening to the learners’ goals for skill development and growth areas,” says Martino. “Based on their needs, we identify relevant certificate or degree programs, customized course bundles, and develop needed professional development options. This approach positions WilmU as a leader in workplace development by providing targeted training solutions.”

Among the University’s regional and national partners are such companies as ChristianaCare, Valvoline, CSC, and BAYADA. “We also work closely with Delaware’s Departments of Labor and Education,” Martino says.

An example of this learner- and industry-focused approach is the new Master of Science in Management cohort with a concentration in Healthcare Administration for Acts Retirement-Life Communities. “It’s designed to develop future site operations directors, with course-work specifically contextualized for senior living,” Martino says. “We brought in a former executive from the industry as the instructor and used our technology to deliver the course live online, supplemented by asynchronous work.”

The PACD also serves the more than 1,550 military-connected students at WilmU. Under the direction of **DR. JIM WEBB**, the Military Affairs Office (MAO) guides those students, and any prospective military-connected students, through the enrollment and admissions processes and helps them navigate a variety of often complex education benefits, including VA and Tuition Assistance. The MAO conducts military-specific orientation webinars to inform students about benefits, degree options, and transfer processes. It fosters community through entities like the Military Veteran Student Organization.

Says Dr. Webb: “Unlike many institutions, we actively collaborate with various departments to streamline support and enhance communication. The establishment of Veterans Corners across campus creates welcoming spaces for military-connected students to engage and connect with peers.”

Dr. Webb has extensive military experience, having served in the Air Force as a financial management and comptroller specialist stationed at Dover Air Force Base. He was also a trusted advisor and recruiter for the Delaware Air National Guard as a senior noncommissioned officer. **WU**

—Bob Yearick

A LIFELONG CALLING:

Leading Delaware's First Doctoral Nurse Anesthesiology Program

BY EMILY RYAN



Dr. Jacqueline Mainwaring

*In collaboration with ChristianaCare and with support from Anesthesia Services, P.A., Wilmington University announced the launch of the Delaware Nurse Anesthesiology Program at ChristianaCare and Wilmington University. This innovative offering is the state's first doctoral nurse anesthesiology academic program. **MEET THE DIRECTOR.***

While most teenagers may worry about their grades, their futures, or their friends, a young Dr. Jacqueline Mainwaring faced a much deeper fear: her oldest sister Debbie's battle with cystic fibrosis, a genetic condition affecting her lungs and other organs.

"She was in and out of hospitals her entire life. She passed away when I was 15. She was 18," Dr. Mainwaring says. "The nurses that cared for her directly impacted my wanting to become a nurse."

As a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA), certified nurse educator, and WilMU graduate, she's delighted to serve as director of the new Delaware Nurse Anesthesiology Program at ChristianaCare and Wilmington University. "I care so much about the school, the practice, the state," Dr. Mainwaring says.

The third of four children in a military family, she "grew up all over the world," which taught her to be "open to other perspectives or views."

"It actually makes you very adaptable and able to reach out for help because you're always new," Dr. Mainwaring says. "As an adult looking back, I don't think I appreciated that as a child."

BECOMING A COMPASSIONATE CRNA

When her father retired from the Air Force, her parents returned to their home state of Delaware. By then, she was studying nursing at Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia. One day, during clinical rounds, a chance encounter left an impression.

The operating room nurse "wanted nothing to do with a student nurse, nothing. And the CRNA said, 'Hey,



ALBERT SHAPIROV VIA GETTY IMAGES

come over here with me. You can hang out with me,' and I was hooked," says Dr. Mainwaring. "I knew then that that's what I wanted to do."

She remembers how the nurse anesthetist "immediately clicked with the patient and put them at ease. It was advanced practice with so much responsibility, respect, and leadership, but it was bedside," Dr. Mainwaring says. "For the practice of nurse anesthesia, we are at the patient's bedside all the time."

She graduated with an associate degree and started caring for patients as a registered nurse at the Medical Center of Delaware, now ChristianaCare. Dr. Mainwaring took classes at night and earned a bachelor's degree in Nursing from Wilmington College, now Wilmington University. In 1996, she completed her master's in Nurse Anesthesia at the Medical College of Pennsylvania. She joined Anesthesia Services, P.A. (ASPA) in New Castle, where she continues to work today.

"A CRNA is an advanced practice registered nurse who undergoes rigorous specialized training to care for patients in any setting in which anesthesia services are needed, so

that's all across the lifespan," Dr. Mainwaring says. "CRNAs have been around for over 150 years. It was a specialty in nursing before it was a physician specialty."

She considers practicing that specialty an honor. "It's a privilege to me that patients entrust you at probably their most vulnerable time, a time that they can't advocate for themselves," Dr. Mainwaring says. "We are there for them. We have to be there for them, so our vigilance, knowledge, and skills are critical. And I think that it's not boastful. It's almost humbling."

She's cared for thousands of patients, including colleagues' family members and several surgeons' mothers.

"I always felt as a mother, 'Wow, if this person is asking me to take care of their mother, it means something,'" Dr. Mainwaring says. "I'm going to care for her like she's my loved one, and that's how I approach every patient because they are someone's loved one."

Her commitment and compassion help even the most anxious patients feel comfortable, including one woman who had "some serious concerns" with anesthesia.

"I went out of my way to talk to her for a longer period to come up with a

solution that I thought would make her experience different, hopefully, better than it had been in the past. And it was just something that I would normally do,” Dr. Mainwaring says. “Afterward, she wrote this long letter expressing how impactful my valuing her past experiences and considering them in the plan (was), how grateful she was.”

BECOMING AN ENGAGING EDUCATOR

These days, Dr. Mainwaring is grateful for her new position and eager to make a difference. ChristianaCare and ASPA are partners in the Delaware Nurse Anesthesiology Program, bringing her journey full circle.

“It was the perfect timing and connections and how it all happened,” Dr. Mainwaring says. “It just feels right to be here right now.”

This marks her third time at Wilmington University. Since she had “such a good experience” with the B.S. in Nursing program, Dr. Mainwaring chose WilmU for her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree, graduating in 2018. While working toward her DNP, she began teaching at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, advancing to assistant director and then director of Jefferson’s DNP Nurse Anesthesia Program.

To qualify as a CRNA, “it’s a rigorous program. It’s three years full time. The clinical component is tough. It’s in an environment that is high stakes. It is dynamic. You’re being evaluated every day. It’s not easy,” says Dr. Mainwaring, stressing the need for a collaborative environment. “I want (students) to support one another. I want faculty to support one another, and I want faculty to support students. It’s an intentional culture. You create this culture.”

She is as devoted to teaching as she is to health care. “I’m passionate about curriculum. I’m passionate about education. I’m passionate about advocacy and well-being,” says Dr. Mainwaring, who also holds a Ph.D. in Nursing from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Plus, “I am genuinely,

Dr. Jacqueline Mainwaring



authentically passionate about my practice and my patients.”

Like other WilmU instructors who are active leaders in their fields, she will continue her clinical practice part time — recognizing the importance of “role modeling and empowering and inspiring the future CRNAs.”

Staying involved in patient care “gives you credibility with the students that you know what you’re talking about: ‘Yes, I was in the operating room last week, and this happened to me. How can we learn from this experience? Tell me about your experience,’” Dr. Mainwaring says. “There is a story for each of these cases. And each case then informs your clinical decision-making for the next case.”

Those who know her praise Dr. Mainwaring’s knowledge and kindness. “The students love her. She would always go out of her way to help all of her students,” says **DR. LI MACEDA**, an anesthesiologist, ASPA board chair, and longtime co-worker. “If you talk to Jacqui, the first thing that comes to mind is just how kind and thoughtful she is. You see that in patient interactions. You see that in her interaction with colleagues, students, surgeons — across the board.”

“Dr. Mainwaring is deeply committed to the comprehensive development of nurse anesthetist students in her program,” says **DR.**

TABASSUM SALAM, chief learning officer at ChristianaCare. “She emphasizes the importance of creating a positive environment and actively works to foster a culture that supports student well-being alongside their academic and technical achievements.”

BECOMING AN ARDENT ADVOCATE

Dr. Mainwaring effects change in and out of the classroom. When she was president of the Delaware Association of Nurse Anesthetists (DANA), she and others successfully lobbied for advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), including CRNAs, to have full practice authority in the state.

“It was very exciting. I got to testify in front of the House and Senate,” says Dr. Mainwaring, calling 2021 “a landmark year” because Delaware **GOV. JOHN CARNEY** signed the bill into law.

Dr. Mainwaring advocates for nurses as vice president of the Delaware Board of Nursing and chair of DANA’s Government Relations Committee.

“Even though she’s gentle and kind, she’ll also stand up for what she believes to be right,” Dr. Maceda says. “She has a lot of emotional intelligence, which I think is an extremely important quality to be a good program director.”

“Dr. Mainwaring is an experienced clinician and academic leader with deep roots in the Delaware anesthesiology community,” says **DR. AARON SEBACH**, dean of WilmU’s College of Health Professions and Natural Sciences. “Her unwavering dedication to academic excellence and advocacy advancing the nurse anesthesiology profession make Dr. Mainwaring the ideal leader for the Delaware Nurse Anesthesiology Program at ChristianaCare and Wilmington University.”

ESTABLISHING A DNP DEGREE IN ANESTHESIOLOGY

The 36-month, full-time, cohort-based DNP degree program will transform critical care registered nurses into CRNAs. Courses will focus on real-world learning, with

more than 2,000 hours of clinical experience across surgical specialties and patient populations.

“Delaware provides a unique opportunity to do that in a small geographical area,” Dr. Mainwaring says. “We have only three counties, but our students can engage with the urban patient population, the suburban patient population, and rural populations.”

From a staffing perspective, the timing couldn’t be better. “The demand for surgical services has just gone up to an incredible amount compared to five years ago, and the number of our anesthesia providers has gone down 20% since COVID, both physicians and CRNAs, due to retirement and due to just the average age of the current providers being above 55 years old,” says Dr. Maceda, who describes “phenomenal” interest in the new program. “The enthusiasm

from other health systems throughout Delaware: It has just been incredible.”

Everyone involved is eagerly awaiting Delaware’s first doctoral nurse anesthesiology program, which is under review and pending approval from the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA). Once the COA awards its initial accreditation, WilmU can start enrolling students.

LOOKING AHEAD TO A MEANINGFUL YEAR

“I just think it’s going to make an impact in this state, and that means a lot to me,” says Dr. Mainwaring as she prepares for a “huge” year ahead, personally and professionally.

In addition to launching the much-anticipated Delaware Nurse Anesthesiology Program at ChristianaCare and Wilmington University, she’s looking forward to

two family weddings.

Dr. Mainwaring’s daughter will walk down the aisle in May, and her son will marry in September. She and her husband, a retired anesthesiologist, have been married for 15 years and enjoy being grandparents to his daughter’s two children. “This is a big year, but it’s an exciting time for all of us,” Dr. Mainwaring says, speaking as a mother, educator, and nurse.

“It was my personal experiences with the nursing profession that influenced my decision to become a nurse, and I love being a nurse,” she says. Reflecting on her future at Wilmington University, Dr. Mainwaring shares a piece of wisdom someone once gave her: “If each of your graduates takes care of 1,000 patients a year, how many patients are you actually impacting? So many more than if you were a full-time practitioner.” **WU**

“Dr. Mainwaring is deeply committed to the comprehensive development of nurse anesthetist students in her program. She emphasizes the importance of creating a positive environment and actively works to foster a culture that supports student well-being alongside their academic and technical achievements.” —DR. TABASSUM SALAM



ALBERT SHAKROV VIA GETTY IMAGES

BY PAM GEORGE

Preserving Our Legacy



Wilmington University advances its collection and preservation of materials with a new Archives and Special Collections Division.

In 1968, nearly 200 students enrolled at Wilmington College, a four-year institution housed in a former New Castle motel. It was an unconventional site for an innovative college. Founder **DR. DONALD ROSS** wanted to increase access to higher education and career-minded programs regardless of socioeconomic status.

The story of the college's transformation into a highly respected university is laced with strong, determined visionaries unafraid to take chances. **ADRIENNE JOHNSON** is committed to ensuring that story is accurate, detailed, and available in a centralized repository.

| PHOTOS BY PAUL PATTON |





Adrienne Johnson

“We’re unique,” says University Archivist Johnson, who leads the division that debuted in February 2025 and operates within the President’s Office.

“People 50 years from now might want to look back and see how the decision was made to become a university. All the documentation that details the transition and the decision should be stored and protected. We grew exponentially in the early 2000s. I’m intrigued by figuring out what happened, documenting it, and sharing it.”

Admittedly, when people hear the word archive, they picture a dusty basement filled with yellowing books and papers. Or they imagine a treasure-packed chamber from an Indiana Jones movie, Johnson says.

However, WilmU’s archival collections include photographs, textiles, documents, three-dimensional objects, and digital assets. Oral histories, written accounts, event programs, and advertisements provide a better picture of the University’s evolution: The classes and programs that were popular and why or when they were discontinued.

WilmU’s archival collections include photographs, textiles, documents, three-dimensional objects, and digital assets.

The information is also a portal to an era. For instance, Johnson says that the University’s response to the pandemic will be valuable to future scholars and historians. The archives are also helpful to those interested in Delaware’s history and the growth of the state’s higher education industry.

Former Library Director **JAMES MCCLOSKEY** had long prioritized creating a specialized archives program and, in 2017, formed a committee to pursue a department and dedicated archivist. The initiative gained momentum after the pandemic.

There is a sense of urgency. Given that the University was founded in 1968, there are faculty and charter students who can provide critical information, says Johnson. “But if we wait too long, those stories disappear. We want to make sure the history is preserved in perpetuity.”

The University archives already have a solid foundation with some 6,000 inventoried items. Credit essentially goes to former Chief Librarian **MARY LOU PONSELL**, who diligently assembled items and documents from Wilmington

Adrienne Johnson

College’s early days.

Ponsell was the librarian in 1973 when the college received 35,000 books from Cardinal Cushing College. This purchase allowed Wilmington to meet the accreditation standards of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

Ponsell spent 25 years at WilmU, collecting meeting minutes and program and course information. After her retirement, library staff took over the role, but it was part





of their overall duties. Johnson had been assistant library director and archivist.

Without oversight, unknowing employees purged their offices without wondering if programs, ads, or course guides were worth saving. Emails and digital documents were easily deleted.

“There’s a huge gap in our recorded history,” says Johnson. “Can what’s stored here be used for research in another 50 years? We need to recapture periods from the

late ’90s to when we didn’t have an archivist.”

A New Leader

Johnson was a natural choice. She has a master’s in Library and Information Science from Drexel University and has been at the library since 2006. She previously worked for the Chester County History Center as a project photo archivist.

“It’s what I always wanted to do,” she says of her dream job. “I

got my master’s in Library Science to go into archive work.”

Moreover, the Delaware native was also a Wilmington University student. Initially, she studied History and Art History at the University of Delaware while working full-time. She had to reconsider her options since she had only three courses left to earn her degree, but all the required classes met during the day.

“I just couldn’t do it,” she says. “A friend referred me to



“It’s always fun to find a little nugget of history that demonstrates the unique culture of Wilmington University.” —Adrienne Johnson

Wilmington University.” She worked full-time for the next 18 months while earning a bachelor’s in Liberal Studies with a concentration in History.

“We’re fortunate to have a dedicated and knowledgeable professional like Adrienne to serve as our archivist,” says Wilmington University President **DR. LAVERNE HARMON**. “She is collecting and preserving materials that document the University’s history while promoting its use for research, institutional development, and community engagement. The fact that Adrienne is also an alumna is equally important. She’s passionate about her work and understands our culture. She’s also widely respected, so she can work collaboratively with faculty, staff, alumni, and community stakeholders to document an accurate history of the University.”

Johnson is developing a strategic plan to establish the initial goals and objectives for the division, ensuring alignment with the University’s mission, vision, and institutional priorities. She will also develop policies and procedures for archives access, collection management, disaster preparedness, digitization, donations, and records manage-

ment. She aspires to integrate archival initiatives into broader institutional goals and engagement efforts.

As the University’s first full-time archivist, Johnson is identifying relevant items that might benefit future scholars and decision-makers. The process involves a record-management policy to determine which University records should be destroyed or archived for preservation. Awareness campaigns will help prevent soon-to-retire staff and faculty from doing a clean sweep of their offices.

Alumni are also valuable resources. “We have received some neat items, including a blazer that men used to wear back in the ’70s when they were on campus, as well as an original student ID,” says Johnson.

Donated yearbooks are prized; a few are missing from the early years. These objects are historical and engaging. For example, yearbooks were on view at the 2018 Green & White Scholarship Ball honoring the University’s 50th anniversary. Archival photos published on social media by WilmU’s University Relations team resulted in scores of “likes” and comments.

When the first graduating classes

celebrated the 50th anniversary, alumni could reminisce over student newspapers, yearbooks, photographs, and programs. The outreach is having a positive effect. In 2024, views of the archives’ institutional repository soared 900% from the school year 2022–2023.

In addition to collecting and preserving exhibits related to the school’s history, the department will manage special collections. **DR. ARTHUR GILBERT**, previously coordinator of the Adjunct Graduate Program at WilmU’s downstate campus, donated his comprehensive collection of automobile-related ads, books, magazines, diecast models and riding clothes.

Dr. Gilbert fell in love with automobile advertising as a teenager when he saw an ad for the Nash Ambassador car in the January 1954 *Time* magazine, according to a 2017 article in this magazine. He amassed 30 pieces of promotional glassware, more than 230 models, and 320 binders of original advertisements.

His collection includes 41 editions of “Dr. Art’s Auto Ramblings” newsletters, which Gilbert wrote for the Historical Vintage Car Club of Delaware. Many are hundreds of pages,

and Johnson and her team have digitized the newsletters. They hope to catalog the entire collection so outside researchers interested in automobile history can access them.

Johnson plans to collaborate with University academic colleges on projects to grow the division. Having a temperature-controlled, dedicated space is a long-term goal. “We want proper security, humidity controls, and space to grow the collections,” she says.

In the meantime, keeping archival and special collections in a centralized, professionally managed location is essential. A record-keeping system that

controls and tracks the items is necessary.

Moreover, the collection must be accessible via public-facing interfaces, online exhibits, and digital content to inform and interest stakeholders and add value to the University and the community. Over the past several years, approximately 50 gigabytes of archival content has been digitized, including newsletters, yearbooks, and photographs.

Johnson does not limit her passion for archiving to the University. She says she is the “keeper of everything” related to her family. “I have all the photographs and ancestry.com accounts, and I do the family history.”

The self-professed packrat feels privileged to pursue her passion at WilmU. “It’s just so wonderful,” she says of her new role. “It’s always fun to find a little nugget of history that demonstrates the unique culture of Wilmington University. It makes me so proud to work here. Since 1968, the culture and mission have been the same.” **WU**

While the site is expected to grow significantly, Wilmington University digitized objects can be viewed at delaware.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16397coll2/search

Adrienne Johnson





Dr. Guillermina Gonzalez

*Dr. Guillermina Gonzalez has authored
a new book designed to inspire young readers as they
embark on their journey of self-discovery.*

—| BY BOB YEARICK |—

A Novel Approach to Career Choice

W

ith a father who was a neurosurgeon and a mother who was a chemist, it would seem only natural for Dr. Guillermina Gonzalez to pursue a career in the sciences. And she did give it a try, studying chemistry in her native Mexico.

“But it was not my cup of tea,” says Dr. Gonzalez, chair of the Doctor of Business Administration Program for the University’s College of Business. “I didn’t see myself working in a lab.”

Although her parents were dedicated to careers in medicine and chemistry, they also appreciated the arts. “I always remember going to museums and exhibitions, and my mom and dad made it part of a fun day,” Dr. Gonzalez told Delaware Today magazine in 2013.

As a result, she was something of a Renaissance woman and considered several careers. “Everything got my interest,” she said. She took a skill assessment test, and was told, she says, “You’re so good you can do anything you want.”

“What kind of advice is that?” Dr. Gonzalez says. “It was very confusing, and it’s not true — no one is good at everything. And so it was actually painful for me to make a decision.”

—| PHOTOS BY SUSAN L. GREGG |—

Eventually, she decided that a business career might encompass her many interests, so she earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and an MBA in Mexico. She began her career while still in school and worked in marketing and sales for multinational corporations like ExxonMobil, Mars, Tetra Pak, and Olivetti.

Dr. Gonzalez came to the United States in 2001 while on assignment for ExxonMobil. After three years, she was to return to Mexico City, but she met and married **CHARLES GONZALEZ**, a Ph.D. chemist who worked for DuPont at its plant in Parkersburg, West Virginia. He was soon transferred to the DuPont Experimental Station, and the couple moved to Pike Creek in the Wilmington suburbs.

Once settled in Delaware, Dr. Gonzalez left the business world and embarked on multiple careers that confirmed her renaissance bona fides: educator, leader of nonprofits, radio host, and, briefly, political candidate. Recently, she added another vocation: novelist.

Her first endeavor in the Wilmington area was a marketing agency that, among other things, conducted focus groups for those interested in tapping

into the Hispanic community. She then served as executive director of two advocacy organizations: Voices Without Borders, a faith-based nonprofit founded in 2000 and based in Wilmington, and later, the Delaware Arts Alliance.

She found time to complete a second master's in Liberal Studies from the University of Delaware in 2009, then almost immediately pursued a DBA from WilmU, which she completed in 2013. Two years later, she joined the University as an adjunct and then a full-time professor. She has served on more than 20 boards.

Ever the community activist, in 2018, she made a brief foray into politics, running as a Democrat for state representative of District 22 — the Pike Creek area. She lost a close race to the Republican incumbent.

It was her work in radio that spawned her novel. She had served as host for “Delaware State of the Arts” (1450 WILM News Radio/1410 WDOV) and “Latinísimo” (91.3 WVUD), the only program in Spanish from the University of Delaware. She also co-hosted “The Latin Beat” (1150 WDEL) for eight years.

Her radio gigs put her in touch with leaders inside and outside the Latin community, many of them from nonprofits. And that, in turn, led to her novel, “Alexa Hope and the Avenue of Possibilities, A Tale of Teenage Career Choices,” which was published last year.

Dr. Gonzalez says she started the 248-page paperback during the pandemic. Initially, she envisioned it as a qualitative research project based on the nearly 300 half-hour radio interviews she had conducted. Through a series of questions submitted to interviewees, she hoped to find the motivation for their career choices.

She began working with a publisher, and one of her editors quickly convinced her to change course. “She asked me what I would like to achieve with the book,” says Dr. Gonzalez, “and I said I’d like to have some impact on individuals struggling to find role models and their path in life. That’s because I struggled a lot with that in my life.

“The editor told me that no youngster reads qualitative research and suggested I turn it into a novel.”

So, she did, creating **ALEXA HOPE**, a 17-year-old Latin immigrant who, according to the book’s introduction, “is standing at the threshold of a world full of endless possibilities and daunting obstacles.” She faces socio-economic disadvantages and discrimination. Some of the latter come from her school counselor, who tries to discourage her from pursuing challenging careers or elite colleges.

Fortunately, Alexa meets **ELLA TORRES**, the host



Dr. Guillermina Gonzalez

Dr. Gonzalez created Alexa Hope, a 17-year-old Latin immigrant who, according to the book's introduction, "is standing at the threshold of a world full of endless possibilities and daunting obstacles." She faces socio-economic disadvantages and discrimination.

of "Latinisimo." Ella hires Alexa as her assistant, giving the teenager an opportunity to embark on a journey of self-discovery. Together, they conduct a series of interviews with women who are leaders in education, the arts, and the nonprofit community. The book features 11 interviews with real women from the Wilmington area, all of whom Dr. Gonzalez met during her decade of radio work.

"Each one has a lot to say and can serve as a role model for youngsters looking for a career path," says Dr. Gonzalez. "That was the inspiration for the book."

Among the novel's interviewees is **SHARON BAKER**, president of TELEDUCTION/Hearts and Minds Film, an award-winning Delaware-based company that produces video programs and presentations for nonprofits and businesses.

Calling Dr. Gonzalez "smart and enthusiastic, a giving person who is genuinely interested in the community," Baker says the book can serve as "a North Star" for young people to follow. "It's very important to mentor and inspire them, especially in these divisive times."

The first person interviewed in the book is **LISA BARTOLI**, long-time executive director of Art Therapy Express, a nonprofit providing therapeutic arts programming throughout Delaware.

"I thought it was wonderful the way Guillermina put the book together," Bartoli says. "I love it when people use their hearts to make a difference in the world."

Dr. Gonzalez says that while feedback on the book has been "very positive," she isn't concerned about sales. "This is not about the money," she says. "If I can have two or three youngsters tell me their lives improved because they were able to read it and get inspiration out of it, that's what I'm hoping for."

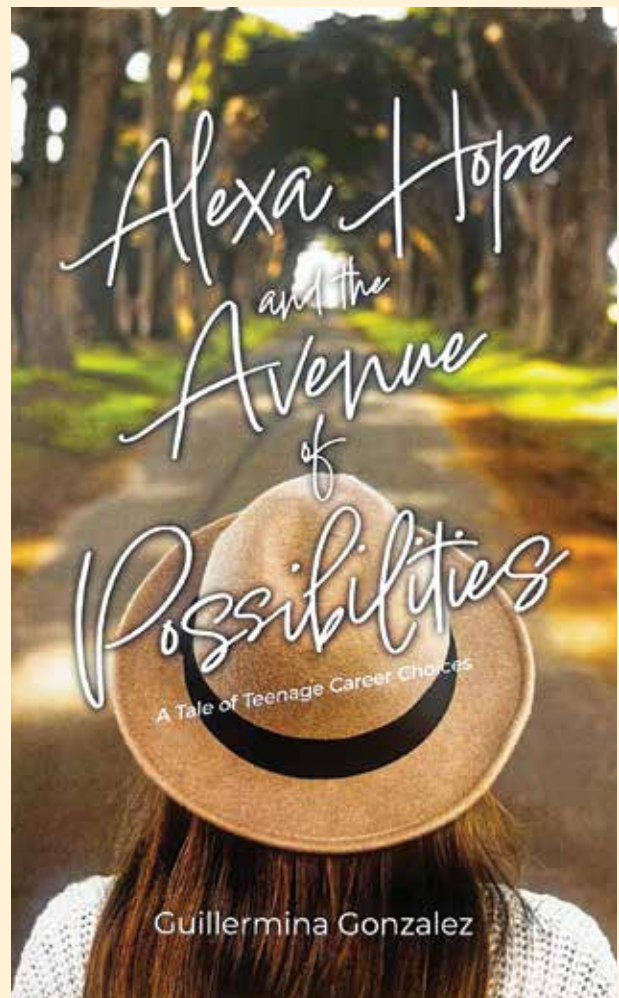
She wishes she could dedicate more time to promoting the book, but her responsibilities at WilmU, especially her efforts to support students working on dissertations, fill her days. Her decade as a faculty member has been a tremendous experience.

"Education is one of those professions that bring a

lot of joy by virtue of the connections with students," she says. "And this is one of the most nurturing environments I've found, and I've worked for many multinationals. I have excellent colleagues — fantastic people to work with. I feel taken care of."

This was especially true when her husband passed away in March of last year. "My colleagues really took care of me," she says. "I feel very lucky." **WU**

For a copy of "Alexa Hope and the Avenue of Possibilities, A Tale of Teenage Career Choices," visit www.amazon.com/dp/B0DB66J3FS.





From Osage roots to renewable energy, alumnus Saxon Metzger leads the charge in sustainable innovation.

BY BOB YEARICK

A JOURNEY TO SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP

As a full-fledged member of the Osage Nation, **SAXON METZGER** entered the world with an innate appreciation of the environment. But it was the public schools of Carlsbad, a California coastal city, that taught him the fragile nature of the world around him.

“The Pacific Ocean was something you grew up orienting yourself towards,” Metzger says, “and I credit those schools with making it a childhood lesson that you should take care of your planet. They taught you about things like sea turtles and plastic straws and made it more understandable that everyone’s actions had a direct effect on the ocean and the environment.”

The seed planted by that early

education sprouted into a career that has made the 29-year-old Metzger, through his company, Eighth Generation Consulting, a renowned player in sustainability and renewable energy. He recently enhanced his credentials by earning an MBA, with a concentration in Sustainability, from Wilmington University, which led to his becoming a guest lecturer for the University’s MBA program.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SAXON METZGER



Metzger stands on the tallgrass prairie of the Osage Nation, an ecosystem of beauty and history that is now one of the most endangered in the world. Behind him, the juxtaposition of oil wells and wind turbines symbolizes the environmental and cultural challenges faced by the Osage, from the legacy of orphaned oil wells to disputes over renewable energy development.

Saxon Metzger



Metzger lives in Chicago and teaches remotely, specializing in Sustainable Business and Economics courses, including Quantitative Analytics, Economics, Global Marketing Management, and Sustainable Business.

“Saxon earned his MBA two years ago and was eager to give back by sharing his knowledge as an adjunct faculty member,” says Dr. Shawn McCloud, chair of the MBA Program. “As a

WilmU alum with a diverse range of professional experiences, he is a great match for WilmU’s mission and an invaluable asset to our students. His real-world experience, especially in areas like sustainability and cross-sector collaboration, helps students learn and apply concepts to their future careers.”

Metzger received a degree in Economics from the University of Utah in 2021, the same year

he started Seventh Generation as a part-time endeavor. He wanted to supplement his professional credentials with an MBA, and he had some knowledge of WilmU because his fiancée had earned a WilmU MBA the previous summer. After doing a bit more research, he enrolled.

“It was a program that I could pursue while writing a sustainability plan for the city of Carbondale as well as working as a director of Solarize Southern Illinois, both requiring me to be physically in the area,” he says.

According to Dr. McCloud, teaching via Zoom has not hampered Metzger’s effectiveness. “Students have expressed how much they appreciate Saxon’s responsiveness and flexibility,” he says. “They consistently rave about his availability, clarity, and real-life applications of coursework. He ensures that they understand expectations and feel supported throughout the course.”

Metzger went full-time into Seventh Generation in January of last year. Since then, the company has flourished with a staff of just three, along with several interns.

“We’ve managed sustainability plans, land acquisition projects, grants, climate baseline reporting, educational seminars, and more,” says Metzger. “I focus on the decommissioning of solar, storage, and wind systems.”

Much of Seventh Generation’s work has been centered in Osage County, Oklahoma, where, Metzger says, there are more orphaned oil wells than anywhere else in the world — more than 19,000, according to some estimates.

He points out that the wind turbine, representative of the transition into clean energy, also comes with challenges. “When wind gets decommissioned,” he says, “some folks have thrown

turbines into landfills, and our company focuses on not just workforce development and education to help train folks to solve these problems, it engages in construction and demos to actually work on decommissioning safely and sustainably by diverting solar panels and other material to optimum use, even allowing for re-use and remanufacturing.”

Seventh Generation has been recognized by MIT Solve and won the 2024 Department of Energy Community Energy Innovation Prize. While Metzger is Osage, the company’s name is derived

from the Iroquois philosophy that decisions made today should result in a sustainable world seven generations into the future. “Eighth Generation” extends that philosophy.

He hopes to relocate the company soon to Pawhuska, Oklahoma, Osage Nation’s cultural and governmental center, where his family’s ties run deep. As documented by the book and film adaptation “Killers of the Flower Moon,” the discovery of oil in the early 1900s on Osage land led to the murder of more than 100 Osage.

“My great-grandmother fled the Nation when the violence claimed members of their family,” says Metzger, “and my work with my brother, a PhD candidate at NYU who’s our director of Grants and Research, is the first time that our family has had a business in Pawhuska. We are in the process of moving back.

“Our journey has been humbling, filled with overwhelming support and opportunities, and we’ve learned that great ideas need collaboration, support, and refinement.” **WU**



Montrose Point Bird Sanctuary, a hub of biodiversity in Illinois, highlights the blend of urban infrastructure and the natural world. This image connects Metzger’s work in urban economics and sustainability with the need to amplify the stories of Native communities today.

SPORTS



WilmU freshman Toby Templeton gets help from his goalkeeper to move out of their defensive end during a game for Australia against Puerto Rico in the World Lacrosse Men's Box Championship.

THREE WILDCATS COMPETE ON THE WORLD STAGE

by Bob Yearick

Last fall, three Wilmington University student-athletes displayed their skills while representing their countries on the world stage.

ELLA ROYER, a junior on the Wildcat women's lacrosse team, played for Canada in the Women's

World Box (Indoor) Lacrosse Championship in Utica, New York, during the Sept. 20–29 competition.

TOBY TEMPLETON, a first-year student on the Wildcat men's lacrosse squad, also traveled to Utica as a member of the Australian team in the Men's World Box (Indoor) Lacrosse

Championship.

Meanwhile, **TUNG LAM "STANLEY" HO**, a freshman forward on the soccer squad, represented Hong Kong, China, as a member of the U20 National Team at the AFC U20 Asian Cup 2025 Qualifiers from Sept. 23–30 in Doha, Qatar.

For all three student-athletes, it was an honor to be chosen to their national teams and an opportunity to measure their game against and learn from top-flight international competition.

Royer, from Sherwood Park, Alberta, Canada, helped her squad finish as the runner-up in the tournament, losing 10-7 to the United States in the championship game.

She says it was “a surreal feeling” to be chosen to represent her country in the first women’s World Box Lacrosse Championships. She calls her experience in Utica “life-changing.”

“Meeting and playing with people I have looked up to was an incredible thing,” she says. “Throughout the entire competition, the coaching staff was outstanding. The other women on my team taught me a lot as well. For two weeks, I was surrounded by the top Canadian players, and I made an effort to learn a few things from each of them.”

One of four captains on Coach **KEVIN DAY**’s squad, Royer has had a stellar career so far at WilmU. Last year, she was named the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference Women’s Lacrosse Player of the Year after leading the conference and ranking fifth in all of NCAA Division II with 86 goals. She tacked on 22 assists for 108 points, ranking 11th in DII. A Behavioral Science major, she has a 3.70 grade point average.

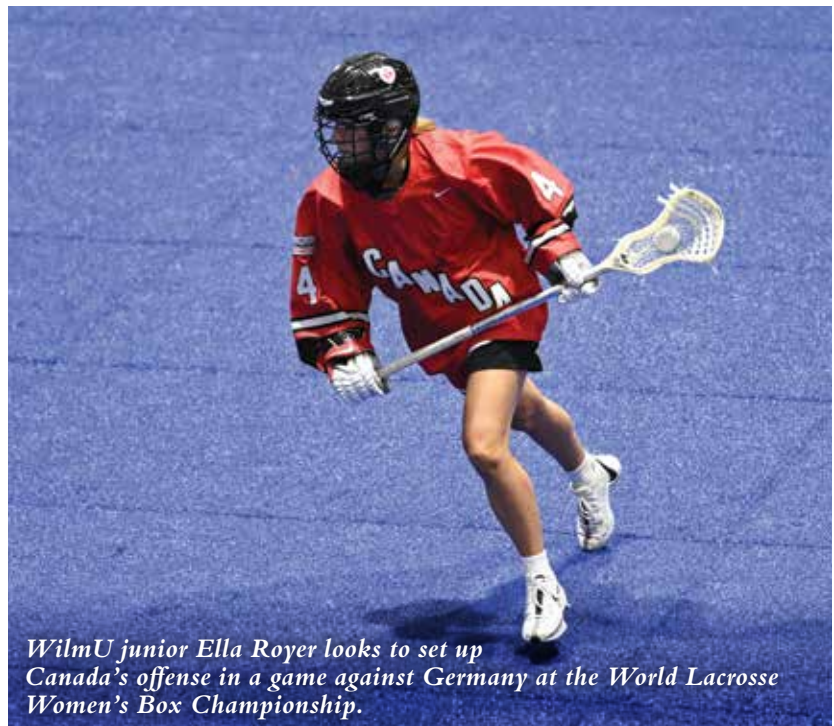
Royer’s success on the field and in the classroom can be attributed mainly to a work ethic that “is second to none,” according to Day. “She is full speed all the time,” he says. “She’s been able to apply her years of box lacrosse experience to the outdoor game very well. She’s a true midfielder who is able to be very effective on both ends of the field while also excelling at draw controls on the center circle.”

For Templeton, the phone call that would send him to Utica was preceded by perhaps the longest 20 minutes of his life.

“Me and my best buddy were both



Templeton works the ball up the field in Australia’s contest against Scotland at the World Lacrosse Men’s Box Championship.



WilmU junior Ella Royer looks to set up Canada’s offense in a game against Germany at the World Lacrosse Women’s Box Championship.

trying out for the team,” he explains, “and we knew when the phone calls would be going out. We went to lunch and then went to a park and waited for the calls. He got his call that he had made the team, and I had to wait for what was a very long 20 minutes before the coach called me.”

The two of them then hurried home to celebrate with their families.

At 19, Templeton was one of the

youngest Aussie box lacrosse roster members. A defender and face-off specialist, he has earned numerous accolades throughout his levels of play in his home country. He helped lead the Victorian Men’s Box U18 and National Team to the National Championships in 2023, as well as a runner-up finish in 2024.

In Utica, Templeton tallied three goals and an assist as the Australian

squad finished 11th among 28 teams. Calling the eight-day experience “a blast,” he adds, “The competition was the best I’ve ever played against, and I had to adapt quickly.”

A Biology major, Templeton made an immediate impression on Wildcat Men’s Lacrosse Coach **CHRISTIAN ZWICKERT**. “He’s a quick learner,” Zwickert says. “He missed two weeks of the fall season while he was with Team Australia, but he came in and learned everything on the fly in about a week. He’s got a great mindset, and he loves everything about Wilmington.”

“It was a big move,” Templeton says about coming to the US, “but I had the idea for quite a while that I wanted to play here.” He says he gets homesick sometimes, resulting in frequent calls to friends and family back in Elgin, Victoria. Meanwhile,

his teammates have welcomed him into their social circles. “He’s soaking up everything he possibly can,” says Zwickert.

Ho, a Business Management major, took a leave of absence from the Wildcat soccer squad last fall to join the other 22 young men representing Hong Kong in Qatar. His squad finished third with a 1-2 record, and the 19-year-old forward scored a goal and an assist during a 2-0 win over Singapore.

Ho says the tournament was an “unreal experience,” marked by top-level players and facilities. “It was very hot,” he says, “but one stadium was air-conditioned, and all of them had world-class grass. Everything was very professional.”

Wildcat Coach **NICK PAPANICOLAS** recruited Ho out of Rush Premier

Sports Academy in Port St. Lucie, Florida, where he spent the last three academic years. He goes home to Chung, Hong Kong, during the summers. He has played soccer since he was 7 and hopes to enter the professional ranks eventually.

Ho returned to Wilmington and joined the Wildcat squad a day after the Qatar tournament ended. He played significant minutes in four games last season before taking his leave of absence and is continuing to adjust to a new system.

Says Papanicolas: “Stanley is a very talented player with the potential to be a great player.”

Like Royer and Templeton, he brought back memories of a unique experience that allowed all three to test their skills against some of the best athletes in the world. **WU**

WilmU junior Stanley Ho (#11) and his Hong Kong starting lineup pose for a picture before their matchup against Singapore in the 2025 AFC U20 Asian Cup Group Stage game.





WILMU'S SOFTBALL TEAM HONORED AS DELAWARE TEAM OF THE YEAR

The Delaware Sportswriters and Broadcasters Association (DSBA) hosted its 76th annual awards banquet in February at the Hyatt Place Wilmington Riverfront. The DSBA, a growing group of current and former sportswriters and broadcasters passionate about Delaware sports at all levels, accepted nominations for five awards: Delaware Team of the Year, Tubby Raymond Coach of the Year, Herm Reitzes Public Service Award, Buddy Hurlock Unsung Hero Award, and the John J. Brady Delaware Athlete of the Year.

The Wilmington University softball team was selected as the Delaware Team of the Year by a vote of the group. The team achieved an impressive 46-16 record during the spring of 2024, setting a school record for wins in a single season. Their accomplishments included winning the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference regular-season

championship, the CACC tournament championship, the NCAA Division II East Region 1 tournament, and the NCAA Division II East Super Regional championship, all on their home field at Asbury Field. They advanced to the NCAA Division II World Series in Longwood, Florida, where they secured the University's first-ever victory at a finals site in its NCAA era by defeating Augustana (South Dakota), 5-2. A significant factor in the Wildcats' recognition was the contribution of 12 student-athletes from the state of Delaware.

Other nominees for the 2024 Delaware Team of the Year included the Dover High School boys basketball team, the Salesianum boys lacrosse team, the Caesar Rodney boys soccer team, the Delaware Veterans American Legion baseball team, the Padua Academy cross-country team, the Delaware State University volleyball team, and the Caravel Academy football team. [WU](#) —Dan Lauletta

Softball Coaches Earn Honors

While their team again set a single-season record for victories, Wilmington University softball coach **MIKE SHEHORN** and his staff garnered a couple of honors of their own last year.

In June, Shehorn and his assistants — **JAMES BRITTINGHAM**, **TOM FREELAND**, and **JERRY GRASSO** — were named the 2024 ATEC/NFCA East Region Coaching Staff of the Year. It marked the second year in a row that the Wildcat staff received this honor.

In October, Shehorn was invited to speak at the National Fastpitch Coaches Association annual convention in Dallas. On the last day of the convention, Dec. 7, he delivered a 50-minute presentation on Infield defense, focusing on each position and the fundamentals that can help any player make plays more efficiently. Other speakers in Dallas came from many of the powers in Division I softball, including Kentucky, LSU, Oklahoma State, and Tennessee.

Shehorn, who completed his 11th season as the Wildcat mentor in 2024, has brought the program to new heights. He led the team to a 46-16 overall record last season and has raised his overall coaching record to 353-197 — a winning percentage of .642. The Wildcats have set new single-season win records in each of the past two years, with 46 victories last year, setting the new program mark.

WilmU ended the regular season ranked 17th in the NFCA Division II Top 25 Coaches Poll. They captured the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference Regular Season and Tournament Championships. They made their second consecutive trip to the National Softball Championships with a 5-0 record through Regionals and Super Regionals.

After winning the University's first-ever game at a finals site, the Wildcats were ranked a program-high No. 5 in the final 2024 NFCA Division II Top 25 Coaches Poll with 330 points. National Champion UT Tyler was No. 1, followed by Western Washington, Indianapolis, and Lenoir-Rhyne.

During the 2024 season, the Wildcats hosted the CACC Tournament, the NCAA DII East Region 1 Tournament as the No. 1 seed, and the East Super Regional Tournament at Asbury Field — all firsts for the softball program.

Looking forward to the 2025 season, Shehorn says: "We have a great core of returning players that have not only been on the team during those World Series appearances but were also major contributors. I believe our conference and region will be even stronger this year, so it won't be easy. Hopefully, we can stay healthy as a team and continue to grow together and peak at the right time." **WU** —Bob Yearick





From left: Assistant Coach Jerry Grasso, Assistant Coach Tom Freeland, Head Coach Mike Shehorn, Assistant Coach James Brittingham

ALUMNI

A full-page portrait of Wade Girard Jones, a Black man with a shaved head and glasses, wearing a grey checkered suit, white shirt, and dark tie. He is leaning against a light blue architectural ledge. The background is a blurred modern building.

Wade Girard Jones

WADE GIRARD JONES: Offering Alternatives to Improve Mental Health

by Pam George

When **WADE GIRARD JONES** played football for Seaford High School, he gained valuable insight into effective teamwork. The co-captain also realized he was good with people. But after graduation, Jones stumbled. Not only did he lack a career path, but he landed on the wrong side of the law.

Jones put his prison time to good use. “It gave me a chance at a young age to reevaluate my life and realize there had to be a better way,” he recalls. What’s more, he uses his experience to benefit others. The WilmU alumnus is the executive director of Alternative Solutions Consulting Group (ASCG) in Millsboro, Delaware.

The practice offers mental health and substance abuse services and training. ASCG also provides management consulting in child and family counseling, substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, and prison reentry case management.

Earning licenses as a mental health counselor, chemical dependency professional, and certifications as an advanced alcohol and drug counselor and clinical supervisor is no small accomplishment. But Jones had encouragement from professors every step of the way. He was 31 when he enrolled at Delaware Technical Community College (DTCC) to study criminal justice. A DTCC dean told him to pursue a bachelor’s degree. “You can’t stop here,” he said.

So, Jones continued his education at WilmU when it was still Wilmington College. In 2006, he graduated with a B.S. in Behavioral Science. The University provided a welcoming, unintimidating environment for an adult student, says Jones, who worked two jobs while in school.

Once again, his instructors urged him to press forward. “I was scared to death,” he says of pursuing a master of science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at WilmU. Before smartphones became prevalent, he took a thesaurus and a dictionary to every class.

His teachers put him at ease. “I had great instructors,” he says. “They actually taught; they didn’t just regurgitate information.” He learned to listen and find key clues in a client’s conversation. Too often, novice counselors have a lot of knowledge but don’t practice good listening skills, he notes.

While learning to help others, Jones gained insight into himself. Looking back, he says the classes validated how he seeks to operate on a personal, professional, and ethical level, regardless of whether he is writing a paper or speaking.

In addition to receiving his master’s degree from WilmU, he has a post-master’s certificate in Child and Family Counseling and Mental Health. Jones is working toward a doctorate and teaches at Delaware State University, using the same approach his WilmU instructors practiced.

The name Alternative Services is poetic, he says. Growing up in Seaford, he did not encounter licensed professional counselors of color. “It was just that simple: There was nobody that looked like me providing the services that I provide today,” he says.

Raised by a single mother, Jones is the former statewide coordinator of Delaware Fatherhood and Family Coalition, an advocacy coalition that encourages fathers to be involved with their children. Jones never knew his father.

He says more people of color have entered the mental health field, partly thanks to WilmU’s flexible curriculum. People can work and tend to their families while still pursuing a degree. However, he adds that few

people of color are in private practice in Sussex County.

Along with seeing private clients, Jones offers corporate employment assistance services and strategies that help federal, state, and local agencies manage mental health programs with measurable outcomes. ASCG also works with agencies supporting at-risk individuals and families to prevent service gaps.

In his spare time, Jones hits the gym, plays basketball, and hopes to restart the flag football league that stopped during the pandemic. In the past, he coached sports at his old high school. “Kids are the greatest,” he says. “They keep you honest, and you can always spot a good person because young people gravitate toward them.”

The once troubled teen wants youth to know “there’s always hope.”

During a speaking engagement, Jones asked his audience if one’s truth could change. Some nodded, while others looked puzzled. “Wilmington University gave me the opportunity to look at life, situations, and scenarios differently,” he says. “So, yes, my truth changed because my perception of reality changed. That is the greatest gift that Wilmington University gives many of us — the opportunity to change our perspective on where we want to go in life.”

Jones is glad he listened to his mentors’ advice and pursued his degrees at WilmU. “I love what I do, and I impact people on a daily basis,” he says. **WU**



Wade Girard Jones

— ANNUAL —

WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY

SCHOLARSHIP

Golf Classic

The Scholarship Golf Classic is a friendly golf tournament that helps raise money for the Wilmington University Scholarship Fund. Join us at Deerfield's beautiful golf course as a sponsor, golf team, dinner guest — or all three!



Thursday, May 8, 2025



Deerfield

507 Thompson Station Road
Newark, DE 19711



Learn more, donate or register at:
wilmu.edu/GolfClassic



SCAN HERE

CHRISTOPHER WORKMAN:

Toppling the Blue Wall of Silence

by Bob Yearick

Everyone knows that law enforcement is a dangerous profession. What most people may not know is that police officers are more likely to harm themselves than to be harmed by others. Compared to the general population, law enforcement officers face a 54% higher risk of dying by suicide.

“It’s the nature of our job,” says Wilmington University alumnus **CHRISTOPHER WORKMAN**, who has been chief of police in Cheswold, Delaware, since 2013.

“We are constantly dealing with people on their worst day,” Workman says. “So we’re exposed to a lot of trauma, and that can cause emotional problems. You’re always on edge, and over the years, it gets worse, and you get to a point where you don’t trust anyone. You’re skeptical of everything.”

Another factor is easy access to firearms. According to CNA, an independent, nonprofit research and analysis organization, firearms were used in 82% of public safety personnel deaths by suicide.

But perhaps the most critical factor, Workman believes, is “the stigma over mental health.”

“We are in a profession that demands that we ‘be a man’ and ‘suck it up’ when it comes to revealing our emotions,” says the veteran of 24 years in law enforcement and 30 years as a first responder. Sometimes, he says, officers believe that talking about



their mental problems will cost them their jobs.

“As a result, we remain silent. That’s what leads to alcoholism. That’s what leads to pills — things to help us forget. And sometimes, that leads to suicide.”

Workman is speaking from experience. He suffered his own emotional crisis in the winter of 2023. “I had a lot going on,” he says. “I had stress at work. I had stress at home. Not through anybody’s fault, but things were kind of falling apart all around me. This was after years of fighting these feelings. And I just wanted to stop the madness.”

He was home — alone except for his two dogs — when his despair and anxiety became overwhelming. He went outside and began walking in circles in his driveway, trying to block out the thought of ending it all.

Luckily, he didn’t have immediate access to a firearm. “I don’t take a weapon home,” Workman says, “because my wife doesn’t like guns, and I have a young kid in the house. It may seem odd for a police officer to never leave a gun in his house, but I’ve

never been a gun guy. It’s a tool of my job. I’m proficient at it, I use it, but I don’t bring it home.”

He didn’t have a plan, and he didn’t have the means, but still, the thought was there. “Probably not having a gun at home saved my life,” he says.

He eventually went inside, sat down, and called COPLINE, a 24/7 hotline staffed by trained volunteers who are retired law enforcement professionals.

“You find out you’re not by yourself,” he says, “and that helped me start to get back on track.”

Almost as soon as he set off on his journey to mental wellness, he began thinking about how to help fellow officers dealing with similar problems. He says “the psychiatrist thing” and anxiety drugs didn’t work for him, but talking about his problems did.

In 2022, he earned a WilmU degree in Behavioral Sciences with a certificate in Emotional Intelligence and Leadership, so he had an educational starting point for such conversations. After conferring with officers he had befriended at police conferences, Workman decided to start a podcast.

The DeepBlu Project began last June. Its mission is to provide listeners with thought-provoking discussions about PTSD, police officer suicide, occupational trauma, and overall officer health and wellness. Workman conducts the podcasts from his home in Middletown and usually has guests with wellness or leadership experience. By the end of last year,

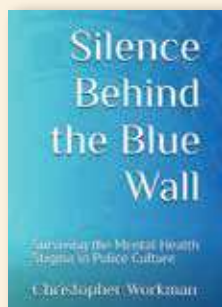


Christopher Workman

he had produced 19 episodes.

At about the same time, he started writing a book. He had developed the habit of keeping notes — mini-journaling — throughout his career, and that became the basis for “Silence Behind the Blue Wall: Surviving the Mental Health Stigma in Police Culture.”

Published last September, the 113-page book is meant to help law enforcement officers navigate the emotional demands of their profession “and build resilience in the face of adversity.” Drawing on his experiences, Workman challenges his fellow officers to prioritize their mental



well-being and build resilience. To help them, he presents practical tools and techniques, such as meditation, mindfulness, journaling, exercise, creating a support system, and therapy and counseling.

“The book is a quick read, and it’s officer-friendly,” he says. “It was written to let officers know that they’re not by themselves and that it’s OK to not be OK, but it’s not OK to stay that way.”

He emphasizes that maintaining your mental health as a cop requires constant work. “It’s a process that you need to go through every day — cleaning out your mental closet. It’s also important to never stop learning —

to continually seek out resources and support.”

A native of Chester, Pennsylvania, Workman is continuing his education by pursuing a WilmU master’s in Administration of Justice with a concentration on Leadership and Administration. He’s scheduled to graduate this summer.

As a result of the DeepBlu Project and the book, many people have contacted Workman through LinkedIn and other social media, and he has gotten several speaking gigs. “I haven’t been paid a dime for any of them,” he says, “but that’s not the point. If one person listens to the podcast, if one person reads the book, and it stops them from doing something and hurting themselves, that’s a win.” **WU**

STAY INVOLVED

WITH YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP IS FREE!

Become an active member of your local chapter. Learn more about Wilmington University Alumni Association's events and meetings by visiting



WILMU.EDU/ALUMNI

1997

LISA CRISTOFICH M.B.A. in Business Administration, of Wilmington, self-published a family story collection titled "Kittens, Kisses, and Cousins."

1999



CHRISTOPHER BUFANO B.S. in Criminal Justice, of Tallahassee, Florida, was appointed county court judge for Liberty County, Florida.

2002



CHRISTOPHER WORKMAN B.S. in Criminal Justice, of Middletown, published the book, "Silence Behind the Blue Wall: Surviving the Mental Health Stigma in Police Culture."



MELISSA ZEBLEY M.S. in Administration of Justice, of Wilmington, who was appointed as the first female superintendent of the Delaware State Police, announced her retirement after 32 years in law enforcement.

2004



MATTHEW MAZZONI M.Ed. in School Leadership, of Mullica Hill, New Jersey, was named superintendent of Millville Schools.

2012



DARVIS HOLLEY M.Ed. in School Leadership, of Willingboro, New Jersey, was named principal of Pemberton Township High School.



CHELSEA SEABREASE M.Ed. in School Leadership, of Hebron, Maryland, was named director of Elementary Education for Wicomico County

Public Schools.

2014



AMYSTIQUE HARRIS CHURCH Ed.D. in Higher Education Leadership and Innovation, of Milford, Delaware, self-published the book "Transformation: Pathway to Purpose," available on online media platforms.

2015



ALONNA BERRY M.S.M. in Management, of Milton, was named to the Delaware Community Foundation board.

2017



PATRICIA BENSON Ed.D. in Higher Education Leadership and Innovation, of Abington, Pennsylvania, was named chief executive officer of Connecticut State Community College, Housatonic Campus.

2018



CHRISTINA DARWIN B.S. in Psychology, of Maple Shade, New Jersey, wrote the article, "My Experience in WilmU's Clinical Mental Health

Counseling Program," for Authority Magazine.



SHANELLE JOHNSON B.S. in Business Management and certificate in Human Resource Management, of New Castle, was appointed

as human resources manager of the Chester Housing Authority

2019



JAMIE AYALA D.N.P., of Middletown, was appointed chief nursing officer at ChristianaCare.

2020



AMANDA BOWIE M.S.M. in Marketing, of Felton, was appointed vice president of marketing, communications, and community outreach

at Bayhealth.

2022



DUSTIN MCFARLAND M.S.N. in Nursing Leadership, of Middletown, was named chief executive officer of Encompass Health Rehabilitation

Hospital of Middletown.

GREEN & WHITE SCHOLARSHIP

gala

THANK YOU

GREEN & WHITE BALLROOM SPONSOR

PNC Bank

THEMED-ROOM SPONSORS

CBM Insurance – an Alera
Group Company

Delaware Technical
Community College

Delaware Today/Delaware
Business Times

EDiS Company

Freedom Mechanical

Master Interiors

M&T Bank

Security Instrument Corporation

ShureLine Electrical Inc.

GOLD SPONSORS

Andy and Sarah Lubin

Larry and Florence Miller

Larry D. and Joan C. Gehrke

SILVER SPONSOR

BSN Sports

BRONZE SPONSORS

Action Unlimited Resources

Apex Engineering

Delmarva Power

Drs. Aaron Sebach
and Charles Dolan

First State Orthopaedics

Highmark Blue Cross
Blue Shield Delaware

NFP

Richards, Layton & Finger

Salem Community College

BEVERAGE SPONSORS

Del-One Federal Credit Union

Drs. Denise and Tyler Wells

Laird Stabler & Associates LLC

Union Park Buick GMC

Veery Capital

DECORATIONS SPONSORS

Dr. Eileen Donnelly and Jim Powers

Dr. Kathryn and Mrs. Alexis Leach

Mutual of Omaha

Precision Wealth Partners

TIAA

White Clay Insurance

ENTERTAINMENT SPONSORS

Dominion National

Donna M. Quinn

Group Vision Insurance

VENDORS & GIFTS IN KIND

Breakthru Beverage Group

Caffè Gelato

Canteen Vending

Chick-fil-A

Deerfield

Desserts by Dana

Drexelbrook Catering

Eggspectation

Food for Thought Catering

Graze Craze

Italian Kitchen Pennsville

JC Contractors LLC

Jerry Deen's Food Truck

Limestone BBQ and Bourbon

Nick's Pizza

Nothing Bundt Cakes

Oath 84

Scoops

Sherm's Catering

SmoQ-N-Meat BBQ

Southern Glazer's Wine
and Spirits of Delaware

Standard Distributing Company

Trattoria di Napoli Restaurant

Troisième Café

Uncle John's BBQ Stand



WILMINGTON
UNIVERSITY™



Wilmington University
School of Law

WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW



Kimberly Richardson

JOE DEL TUFO

A Journey Toward Empowering Future Lawyers

KIMBERLY RICHARDSON was still a law student when she negotiated her first labor contract. Her professor, **DR. KENNETH DAU-SCHMIDT**, owned “Labor Law Inc.,” and in response to the company’s unfair practices, Richardson and her classmates unionized.

When their needs were unmet, the students elected to strike, and their picketing outside the Indiana University Maurer School of Law attracted the attention of a curious NPR reporter. Richardson was part of the group that negotiated with management.

The company was fictitious, but the exercise helped students understand the National Labor Relations Act and advocacy. “It was an absolutely amazing class, and it was taught in a way that transferred our skills to the outside world,” says Richardson, who graduated in 2006.

Dr. Dau-Schmidt is one of the influential mentors who has led Richardson to the head of the classroom. “I have always wanted to teach,” she says.

Since last July, she has been an associate professor at the Wilmington

University School of Law, where her classes include Sales and Leases, as well as Agency and Partnerships. Richardson is also the chair of the Career Services and Professional Development Committee, the Academic Standards Committee, and a member of the Student Life Committee.

Richardson’s impressive résumé includes eight years with DuPont de Nemours, where she was the sole attorney overseeing health, safety, and security legal issues worldwide. She entered the safety and health practice area

after joining the U.S. Postal Service in 2009. There, Richardson also handled union-related litigation and collective bargaining.

Wilmington University School of Law marks Richardson's first full-time teaching role. Previously, she served as an adjunct professor at several institutions, including Davenport University in Michigan, where she taught Business Law; Maurer School of Law, where she taught Workplace Safety and Employment Law in 2020; and Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law from 2023 to 2024.

The Wilmington resident is talented at using Dr. Dau-Schmidt's tactics. For instance, in a Health and Safety course, students were the in-house counsel for Santa Claus, who encountered boobytraps from children displeased with their gifts. He also faced a discrimination lawsuit filed by reindeer lacking Rudolph's red nose. Consequently, they were forbidden to guide the sleigh.

Richardson's creative techniques aren't surprising, given her many interests. She studied Mathematics at the University of Michigan. However, she says if she had to do it over again, she'd double major in History and Sociology. Her favorite undergraduate class was Sports and Society, which focused on the cultural and societal impact of sporting activities in the United States — starting with the European settlers.

While working as an actuarial analyst, the young graduate became fascinated with the rise of cash balance plans and associated litigation, which led her to law school. Along with Dr. Dau-Schmidt's classes, she enjoyed HIV and the Law, taught by Prof. Susan Williams, a former clerk to the Hon. Ruth Bader Ginsberg.

Other interests include birding, wildlife photography, gardening, live music, her two dogs, and film. "I love attending the Tribeca Film Fest and related events in New York," she says. "I had the opportunity to hear Al Pacino and

Robert DeNiro talk about the making of 'The Godfather' and 'The Godfather Part II.' I've also listened to Martin Scorsese and DeNiro talk about the making of 'Mean Streets.'"

Adept at thinking outside the box, Richardson was intrigued by Wilmington University's new law school. "WilmU provides an amazing legal education at an affordable price in a way that is accessible to people who [otherwise] may not have gone to law school," she says. "The inventive curriculum and robust academic support structure make law school available to a broader group of people."

Her students have included recent college graduates and high-level corporate executives. "The diversity brings interesting perspectives to classroom discussions," she says. Some plan to take the bar; others want legal

knowledge to broaden their career. WilmU has two years of required courses to ensure a solid foundation. The third year can be an externship.

Delaware's bar exam is challenging. "Delaware is a small but legally powerful state," she says. "The bar includes requirements that some states do not have, such as the preceptor requirement akin to a legal apprenticeship. The law school has built these considerations into their curriculum to prepare the students."

Richardson is doing her best to do the same. "I just want to convey complex ideas in a way my students understand and to make sure I'm listening to them," she says. It's important to know what each student needs and where they want to go with their law degree. In short, she says, "My main goal is to be a good professor." **WU**

—Pam George







Nicole M. Mozee

It's Only the Beginning!

WilmU Law's 2024 Civil Rights and Social Justice Symposium

by Nicole M. Mozee, J.D.

"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."

These are the great words of renowned author and activist **JAMES BALDWIN**, one of the most influential voices in civil rights. I live my life by these words. These words encourage me to confront and overcome adversity by being an advocate. These words inspired me to organize Wilmington University School of Law's inaugural Civil Rights and Social Justice Symposium.

For as long as I can remember, I have been deeply tethered to community, committed to uplifting others. At the core of my being is a relentless drive to beat on the drum for justice and serve those who are often overlooked, ostracized, or forgotten. Equity and equality are principles that lead my charge as a civil rights advocate. Yet, as a Delaware practitioner, I was disappointed by the lack of awareness and concern on civil rights and social justice issues. As a member of the newly established WilmU School of Law faculty, I saw an opportunity to educate the Delaware community while bolstering the University's positive relationship with the public. With a blessing from Law Dean **PHIL**

CLOSIUS, my vision manifested into a historic fall event.

On Sept. 13, 2024, WilmU School of Law hosted its first Civil Rights and Social Justice Symposium. The event was co-sponsored by the Delaware State Bar Association (DSBA) and co-chaired by **PATRICIA WISE**, associate professor at WilmU School of Law. Over 125 people gathered at the Brandywine Campus, with many more joining virtually, to spend a day learning about civil rights and social justice initiatives. Esteemed guests included the **HONORABLE MARGARET ROSE HENRY**, the first African American woman elected to the Delaware Senate (retired); Delaware Lt. Gov. **KYLE EVANS GAY**; former Delaware Attorney General, and former Lt. Gov. **MATTHEW P. DENN**, and many more. The day consisted of three panels highlighting activism, voting rights, and the fight against hate. An array of outstanding speakers filled these panels, giving the audience invaluable knowledge and motivation to engage.

The symposium kicked off with a panel detailing Delaware's road to equity and inclusion in the legal profession and community activism. The **HONORABLE ALEX J. SMALLS**, WilmU Law Professor of Legal

Practice and retired Chief Judge of the Delaware Court of Common Pleas, moderated the conversation between Judge **VIVIAN MEDINILLA**, the first Latina judge appointed to the Delaware Superior Court; **GEORGE EVANS**, solo practitioner and co-founder of the Delaware Barristers Association; and **DR. FREEMAN L. WILLIAMS**, former superintendent of the Christina School District and president of the Newark chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The panel discussed the Delaware Bar's weary path to inclusion, with the late **LOUIS L. REDDING** being the first African American person admitted to the Delaware Bar in 1929. Evans and Judge Medinilla recalled the many strides in building a bench and bar that reflects the community it serves. Panelists then dove into Delaware's historic communities of color, like Newark's New London Avenue School (now known as the George Wilson Center) and the racial divide and impact on public education. Dr. Freeman shared bleak statistics on Delaware's national ranking in public education and the common occurrence of overlooking students of color and those with disabilities.

The second panel discussed the critical need for accessibility to voting in Delaware during the most significant global election year in recent history. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Delaware's Legal Director **DWAYNE BENSING** facilitated the panel with colleagues **ANDREW BERNSTEIN** (Cozen Voting Rights Fellow) and **CHARITO CALVACHIMATEYKO** (Immigrant Rights Organizer). **JOANN KINGSLEY**, Voting Rights Advocate at the Delaware Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. (CLASI), also served as a panelist. The



group raised awareness about the lack of accessible voting places throughout the state for voters with disabilities and CLASI's extraordinary efforts to partner with the state Department of Elections to rectify this issue. The panelists also highlighted efforts by other jurisdictions to enhance accessibility for voters with language barriers and those with criminal histories. The audience relished the panel's insight and commitment to ensuring equity in one of the most civic and democratic things a person can ever do: vote.

The third panel, "United Against Hate," was a concerted effort between the federal and state law enforcement offices to educate the audience on the occurrence of hate crimes and incidents. **TIANA N. SAMPSON**, assistant U.S. attorney, moderated the discussion. **DR. DENISE NAZAIRE**, lead conciliation specialist (U.S. Department of Justice), **DANIEL MCBRIDE**, director of Civil Rights and Public Trust, Delaware Department of Justice, and **SGT. TIMOTHY POWELL**, Homeland Security supervisor, Delaware State Police, served as panelists. The conversation shed light on recent statistics on hate crimes in Delaware, with the most targeted population being African Americans and the LGBTQ+ com-

munity. One of the biggest challenges with investigating and prosecuting hate crimes is underreporting. The panelists discussed resources and strategies to encourage reporting incidents while also advising attendees of the dangers of adolescents' hate-motivated behaviors and social media.

The event's highlight was a keynote address by **JIN HEE LEE**, director of Strategic Initiatives at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. Lee discussed the 70th anniversary of the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case of *Brown v. the Board of Education* and its trajectory over the years. She clearly illustrated the pipeline of legal cases derived



from Brown, including Regents of the University of California v. Bakke (1978) and the more recent Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard (2023). “It is just, I think, even more important now than ever before to not only commit but prioritize the importance of racial equity in our educational system because it produces the opportunities and the pipelines that will make us a better country,” she told the audience. “You know, otherwise, we are depriving ourselves of an incredible, untapped resource of people who can do amazing things.”

The symposium was a huge success, primarily due to the many WilmU

staff and faculty who played a role in bringing it to life. Attendees were impressed with the event, giving positive reviews and expressing deep appreciation for the highlighted topics. Within a year of opening its doors, WilmU School of Law hosted one of the most revered events for the Delaware legal community. “We hope for many years of collaborating on such notable events, and we are eager to see the facilities that the school is building to hold larger crowds,” says **KARL RANDALL**, DSBA executive director. “With experiences like the symposium, they will be filled.”

Plans are underway for the 2025

symposium, “Equity and Equality in Living: Exploring Housing Justice.” It will be held at the University’s new law school building, set to open in the fall of 2025. At WilmU, I want to program events that educate and motivate the community — leaving people with a charge to make the world a better place.

I look forward to reprising my role as chair for the 2025 symposium. It’s only the beginning! There is nowhere to go but up from here. **WU**

Nicole M. Mozee, J.D., is an assistant professor at the Wilmington University School of Law.



Dean Phillip Closius



Finkelstein (second from right) and Miriam Wachira, a human rights lawyer from Kenya (holding the flipboard), lead a brainstorming session designed to identify roadblocks in access to justice and possible solutions.

Against the Odds: *Teaching Public Defenders in Nigeria*

by Veronica J. Finkelstein

This past November, I stood in front of a class, teaching the methods for properly conducting a cross-examination at trial. The experience was routine in many ways — I have been teaching trial skills to lawyers and law students for decades. However, this experience was distinct in one notable way: the class was in Lagos, Nigeria, and I was teaching a truly inspirational group of public defense attorneys who fight against the odds to ensure justice. These attorneys lacked many of the opportunities I had had, yet here we were, together, working to protect the rights of those most in need.

As a law student, I had many opportunities to explore a variety of legal careers even before graduation. Indeed, one of the benefits of law school is the ability to explore career paths while still a student. I worked as a benefits advisor for the United States Department of

Labor, and I interned with an administrative law judge for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

After graduation, I went directly into private practice. I worked for both a large law and a small boutique firm. I clerked for the Pennsylvania Supreme Court before transitioning to the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. In my time as an attorney, I have been fortunate enough to experience nearly every type of legal practice, except for one: I was never a public defender.

A public defender is a lawyer appointed to represent individuals in criminal trials who otherwise could not reasonably afford to hire their own counsel. In the United States, public defenders are fundamental to upholding the constitutional right to a fair trial. In Philadelphia, where I served as an assistant United States attorney, approximately

225 public defenders serve the city's 1.2 million residents. I have always greatly admired public defenders. It is a challenging and often thankless job. Yet, it is critical because public defenders ensure that all citizens, whether rich or poor, have equal access to justice.

Although public defender offices are well established in the United States, the same is not true globally. Access to a public defender is especially limited on the African continent. Ghana, Kenya, and South Africa all provide counsel under some circumstances, though none extend the right to counsel as broadly as in the United States. Only one country exceeds what is offered in the United States: Nigeria.

The Lagos State Office of the Public Defender (OPD) was established in 2000 by the civilian government of Gov. Bola Ahmed Tinubu. With a population of 15–20 million, Lagos is the most populous city in Africa and one of the fastest-growing urban areas in the world. The OPD, a division of the Ministry of Justice, employs just 38 public defenders. Along with a handful of volunteers, these 38 lawyers defend the city's residents in civil and criminal matters. In the United States, public defenders are typically only available in criminal cases.

Despite its limited resources, the OPD is committed to ensuring access to justice for all Lagosians, particularly the most vulnerable. The OPD offers legal advice, assistance, representation, education, and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms like mediation and conciliation. They handle everything from homicide cases to custody disputes.

To ensure high-quality representation, the Ministry of Justice has partnered with the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) and the law firm of Jones Day to provide skills training to its public defenders. NITA is an American not-for-profit organization that specializes in hands-on legal training. I have

been teaching in NITA programs since 2009, and during that time, I have frequently taught in American public interest programs. NITA selects a handful of its faculty members each year for the Nigerian program. My Lagos trip last fall was my first international teaching experience.

The experience was memorable. Every day, our team was ushered onto a bus by a guard wielding a semi-automatic gun. A team of two police cars with sirens blazing escorted the bus through the teeming Nigerian traffic to the conference center. There, we met the dedicated Ministry of Justice attorneys.

Together, we worked from morning to night. The faculty taught vital courtroom skills in the context of a realistic custom case file, which I co-authored with Professor J.C. Lore III of Rutgers Law. The Nigerian attorneys practiced opening statements, direct and cross-ex-

aminations, and closing arguments throughout the week-long training. They learned how to properly offer exhibits into evidence and impeach and refresh the recollection of a testifying witness. We discussed legal and judicial ethics, as well as a variety of institutional roadblocks those attorneys faced.

Over the course of the week, these attorneys blossomed. NITA programs involve trial by fire. They are not passive. All attorneys must perform a variety of skills and be critiqued in front of the group. This is the NITA method, and it works.

Attorneys who were reluctant to speak on the first day of the program found themselves confidently arguing objections by the end of the program. Attorneys halting and tentative in their presentations became fluid and persuasive. These attorneys faced hardships unlike those generally faced by U.S. attorneys. OPD attorneys must be

generalists in all areas of the law, both civil and criminal. They have heavy dockets and caseloads. Trials are brief; judges often try 20 cases in a day. They cannot compel witnesses to testify and have no budget to hire expert witnesses. Yet these attorneys were willing to set aside an entire week for personal growth — all because it would better guarantee just outcomes for their clients.

I boarded that bus every day, knowing that we were making a difference. These attorneys were thirsty for knowledge and ready to put it into action. The attorneys — many of whom travel much more than an hour each way to work and who buy their computers and supplies — honed their skills all week. It became clear that the task facing them was nearly insurmountable, yet they showed up every day for the program as they did for their clients in court. Their commitment to justice was awe-inspiring; it left me hopeful about the future. More than in any other program, I knew the skills I was imparting would genuinely make a difference.

The experience has fundamentally changed me. I was recently honored by NITA with its Jo Ann Harris Public Service Award for my commitment to teaching and supporting public service programs. But I feel like I'm the one who should be giving, not receiving an award. This and other public interest programs leave me feeling rejuvenated. They remind me of what attracted me to the practice of law in the first place. They make me both a better lawyer and a better teacher. These programs inspire me to train the next generation of law students who will positively impact the world. I can't impact the odds facing public defenders in Nigeria and elsewhere. But through these programs, I can help them beat those odds. **WU**

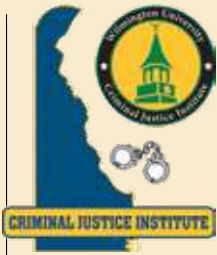
Veronica J. Finkelstein, J.D., is an associate professor at the Wilmington University School of Law.



Finkelstein and Lagos Attorney General Lawal Pedro (center, white robe) and participants



Finkelstein with program participants, mostly Nigerian public defense attorneys.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSTITUTE

DUFFEY LEADS DEVELOPMENT OF STATEWIDE ELDER ABUSE AND FRAUD TRAINING

Criminal Justice Institute Director **SCOTT DUFFEY** recently completed a yearlong course development initiative on Elder Abuse and Fraud for the Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission. The program addresses identifying, preventing, and investigating crimes targeting elderly populations, rolls out in April for Pennsylvania police officers.

As part of the development process, Duffey collaborated with law enforcement agencies, community leaders,



SOLSTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES



PAUL PATTON

and subject matter experts, traveling to key locations such as Pittsburgh, State College, Harrisburg, and Blue Bell. These efforts ensured that the course integrates practical insights, real-world case studies, and the latest investigative techniques, equipping officers with new techniques to protect one of the state's most vulnerable populations. **WU**

—Maria Hess

Delaware Active Threat Response

The Criminal Justice Institute has introduced a transformative course, Delaware Active Threat Response, set to become a mandatory requirement for all state constables in Delaware. Modeled after the FBI's renowned ALERRT training, this program provides constables with advanced skills to effectively respond to active threat situations, raising the bar for public safety across the state.

"This course is specifically designed to prepare Delaware state constables as first responders capable of isolating, distracting, and neutralizing an

active shooter," says CJI Director Dr. Ray Carr. "The curriculum includes critical components such as shooting and moving, threshold evaluation, principles of team movement, room entry techniques, crisis site approaches and breaching, secondary responder tactics, improvised explosive device awareness, and post-engagement priorities. The training concludes with dynamic, force-on-force scenarios to ensure practical application of these skills."

This comprehensive program underscores Delaware's commitment to proactive and effective law enforcement training. **WU** —Maria Hess





An interactive session of a CSI challenge by Forensics World

TAKING THE STAGE AT HAMPTONS WHODUNIT FESTIVAL



CJI DIRECTOR SCOTT DUFFEY will join the third annual Hamptons Whodunit Festival in East Hampton Village, New York, as a featured panelist this spring. Widely regarded as the nation's premier boutique crime



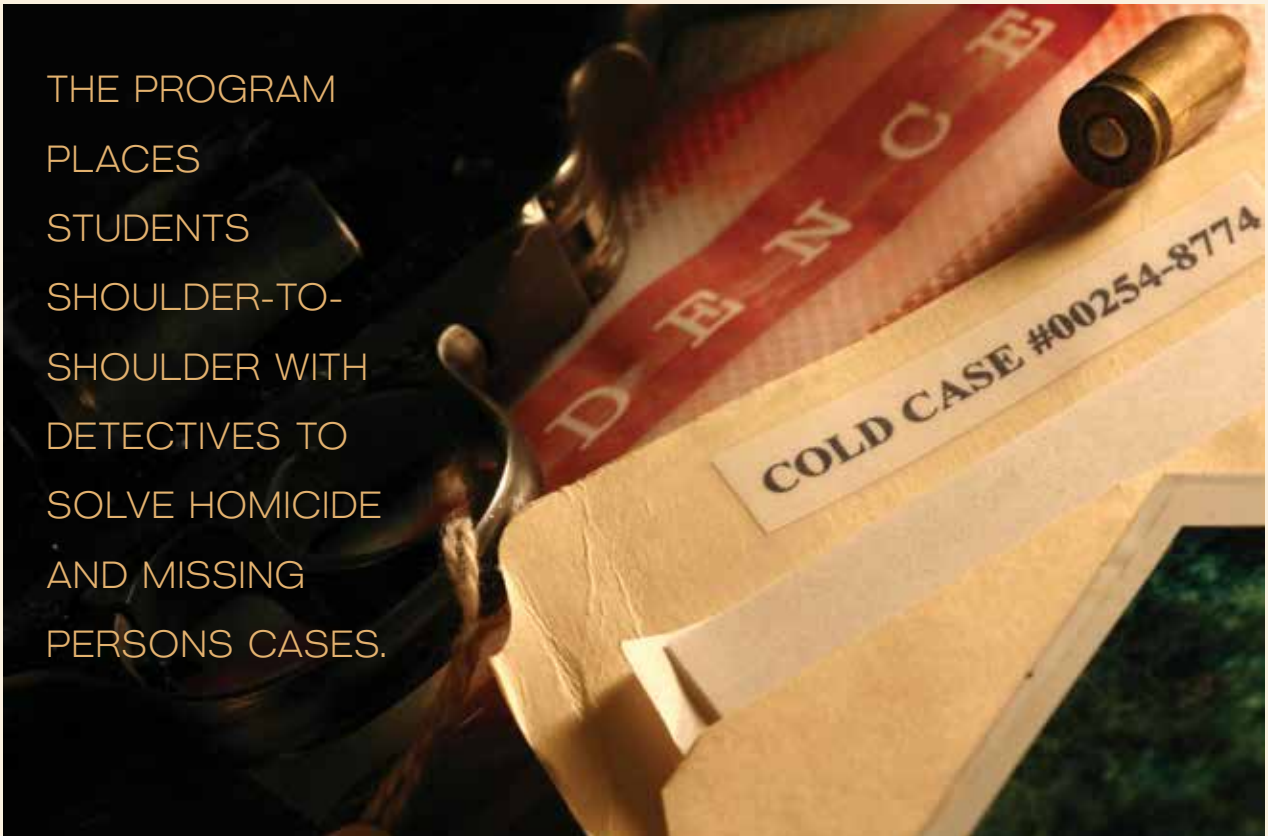
festival, the event draws true crime enthusiasts, readers, and writers worldwide. Last year, the festival hosted more than 35 bestselling authors and experts in thriller, suspense, and true crime, attracting more than 2,000 attendees.

As an invited guest, Duffey will share insights from his extensive career as an FBI agent and prominent true-crime commentator. Over the past two years, he has discussed investigative practices during hundreds of media appearances on television, podcasts, and other platforms, specializing in trending crime stories. He has become a go-to source for Fox Live, Good Day Philadelphia, and often CNN. [wu](#)

—Maria Hess

THE COLD CASE INTERNSHIP

THE PROGRAM
PLACES
STUDENTS
SHOULDER-TO-
SHOULDER WITH
DETECTIVES TO
SOLVE HOMICIDE
AND MISSING
PERSONS CASES.



SPXCHROME VIA GETTY IMAGES



PAUL PATTON

The Criminal Justice Institute (CJI) has launched an innovative cold case internship, the first of its kind, in partnership with the Chester County District Attorney's Office and the Chester County Detective Bureau. This groundbreaking program immerses students in the investigation of an active cold case, offering an unparalleled experiential learning opportunity that equips them for careers in national and state law enforcement. With more than 20,000 cold homicide and missing person cases in the tri-state area and an estimated 270,000 nationwide, this initiative

addresses a critical need to support law enforcement in solving these unresolved cases.

"The Cold Case Program, in collaboration with local law enforcement, places students shoulder-to-shoulder with detectives to solve homicide and missing persons cases," says CJI Director **DR. RAY CARR**. "As an exemplar of experience-driven learning, the program allows participants to apply criminal investigative techniques under the guidance of seasoned law enforcement officials, aiming to resolve cases that have remained unsolved for decades." **WU**

—Maria Hess

NEW PROGRAMS, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Build new skills to pursue your dream career! Our newest academic programs will prepare you for success in today's job market.

NEW DEGREE PROGRAMS

A.S. in Applied Behavioral Health	M.Ed. in Interdisciplinary Studies in Education
A.S. in Organizational Leadership	M.S. in Computer Science
A.S. in Health Sciences	M.S. in Digital Communication
B.S. in Applied Mathematics	M.S. in Environmental Science
B.S. in Chemistry	M.S. in Health Sciences
Juris Doctor	M.S. in Professional Studies
MBA in Banking and Financial Services	

NEW CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Biotechnology	Forensic Science
Construction Management	Logistics and Supply Chain Management
Cybersecurity and Fintech	Teacher Licensure: K-6
Esports	Teacher Licensure: 6-12
Essentials of People Management	Teacher Licensure: Special Education
Fintech	UX/UI Design
Financial Management in Human Services	

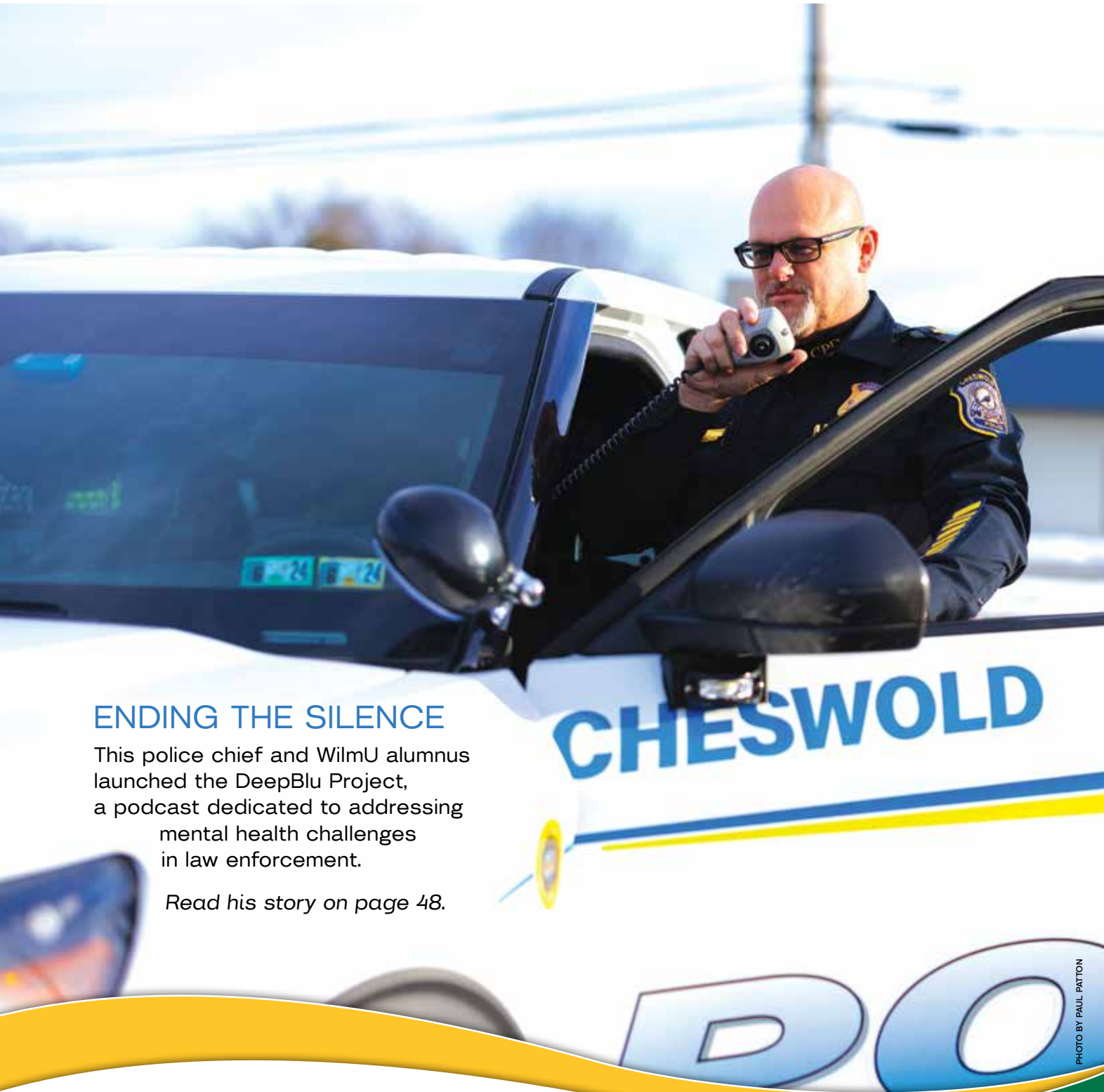
Explore all WilmU academic programs today: wilmu.edu/Programs.

Your Dream, Our Mission



WILMINGTON
UNIVERSITY™





ENDING THE SILENCE

This police chief and WilmU alumnus launched the DeepBlu Project, a podcast dedicated to addressing mental health challenges in law enforcement.

Read his story on page 48.