

# WP

Bearing Pioneer Pride:  
New Mascot Pio Boosts  
Campus Spirit



Fall/Winter 2021  
William Paterson University

The Magazine of William Paterson University

# WP Inside

## Aspiring Educators Class Leads to Unexpected Learning About Equity and Inclusion

Twelve local high school students who enrolled in a summer dual enrollment class in education learned about equity and inclusion—and made an impact on the University.



Professor David Fuentes (top left) and students who participated in the Aspiring Educators program discuss their experience during an event in the Cheng Library in November

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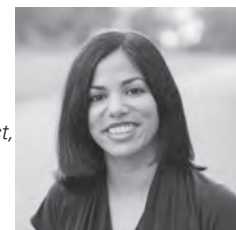
The University debuted a major athletic rebrand at Homecoming, featuring a furry new mascot, Pio; the first-ever spirit song; enhanced game day traditions; and more.

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### 26 Pre-Doctoral Fellows Enrich Campus with Diverse Perspectives

The four members of William Paterson's inaugural class of Pre-Doctoral Fellows are bringing a fresh perspective to campus as part of a new program designed to support doctoral or terminal degree candidates from underrepresented backgrounds as they launch their academic careers.

At this time of giving thanks, we are grateful to you and the many donors who are committed to William Paterson's mission of helping all our students succeed.

Your gift will help prepare the leaders of tomorrow.

[wpunj.edu/GIVENOW](http://wpunj.edu/GIVENOW)



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**Editor's Note:**  
In the Spring 2021 edition of WP, an error was printed on page 34 in the "Mourning the loss of..." section, which inaccurately included Ellen Flach Prendergast, MA '80, as deceased. We sincerely apologize for this error.



## Join Professor *Emeritus* Gabe Vitalone and Give Back Through a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA)

"As I matured, I was looking to make an investment. Because of my age, there was a good return—and the CGA sounded like a really good idea. Someone helped me, and now it's even more important with the prices of higher education to make the contribution closer to home. It's not a question of how much you give. Give back and you will never regret it."  
—*Dr. Gabriel "Gabe" Vitalone, WP professor emeritus*

In gratitude for all William Paterson has meant to him, Gabe established a charitable gift annuity that funds a scholarship in his name and that of his wife of 67 years, Evelyn. We are grateful to Gabe and all of our Hobart Society planned giving members as they establish a legacy to benefit current and future generations of WP students.

Visit us online at [wpunj.giftplans.org](http://wpunj.giftplans.org) for information about gifting opportunities that may be best for you. Please contact **Judy Linder**, director of development and planned giving, at **973.720.2309** or at [linderj@wpunj.edu](mailto:linderj@wpunj.edu) for a complimentary guide, *5 Reasons Why You Should Consider a CGA*.



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Dear Friends,

As prospective students and their families know, there are a dizzying number of college ranking systems out there, ranging from the trustworthy and informative to the dubious and downright confusing. Like anything ostensibly objective, however, the quality of the results is only as good as the usefulness of what's being measured. Which is why I am particularly proud of William Paterson's showing on the 2021 CollegeNet Social Mobility Index. WP climbed 33 spots to #43 of 1,549 schools, which puts us in the top 3 percent of colleges nationally for enrolling students from low-income backgrounds and graduating them into good-paying jobs.

Too many college ranking systems focus on inputs related to exclusivity. The Social Mobility Index, however, measures something fundamental to the purpose of public higher education—how well an institution improves the economic and career prospects of low-income graduates. William Paterson is an opportunity machine, and the more life-changing degrees we can put into the hands of our students, the better they and their families, our communities, and our state will be.

I am proud of all our students, faculty, staff, and friends, whose good work and support is reflected in these rankings. We have made a strong showing on both the CollegeNet and *U.S. News & World Report's* social mobility rankings for some time now. We have been able to make such a large jump during a particularly challenging period marked by the pandemic and long-term demographic declines in the number of New Jersey high school graduates. That is a testament to our success in delivering on our mission, especially for our low-income students—many of them first generation—who benefit most from a William Paterson degree.

Of course, the other critical part of what these rankings measure is what our alumni do with their degrees after graduating. One of my favorite ways of hearing from our alumni about all the interesting and meaningful things they are doing is at Homecoming, which returned to a fully in-person experience this year. It was wonderful to see so many of you and your friends and families coming together again on campus. I was also pleased to see the warm welcome everyone provided to Pio, our new mascot, who is part of the overall rebranding of Pioneer Athletics that you will also read about in this issue. This work is already helping provide a more powerful identity for our athletics programs. If you were able to join us for the Homecoming football victory, you've already seen the impact. If not, come out and cheer on our student athletes some time or watch them via livestream at wpupioneers.com and see for yourself. Until then, I wish you all the best for a happy and healthy 2022!

Richard J. Helldobler, PhD  
President

## University Receives Nearly \$5 Million U.S. Department of Education Grant for Hispanic-Serving Institutions to Increase STEM Majors



The University has received a \$4.99 million U.S. Department of Education Grant for Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) to enhance science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs. The grant, to be awarded over five years, will target Hispanic and low-income first-time, first-year students and transfer students from Passaic County Community College (PCCC).

“These funds will offer much-needed support for our community of students to pursue STEM programs,” says Joshua Powers, PhD, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs and a member of the grant’s project team. “This grant will greatly enhance opportunities and support pathways for students to learn and thrive in STEM majors

and increase the number of STEM graduates entering the workforce.”

The project, titled Access to STEM Pathways through Integrated Research and Engagement (ASPIRE), will aim to increase the total number of overall William Paterson STEM majors; particularly, the number of low-income and Hispanic STEM students transferring from PCCC to the University in a STEM discipline. The project will also aim to increase the number of Hispanic juniors and seniors who participate in work-based learning such as internships and research fellowships as well as increase the four-year graduation rates of the participating students.

The grant will also support the roles of specialized personnel who will provide individualized support to these students and who will connect them to resources at William Paterson and PCCC, all while facilitating a transfer plan. Once a student enrolls at William Paterson, the student will receive individualized coaching and access to resources such as tutoring, supplemental instruction, career services, mental health counseling, and financial aid.

In addition to Powers, other members of the grant project team include Guillermo de Veyga, vice president for strategic initiatives and university relations; Venkat Sharma, dean, College of Science and Health; Melkamu Zeleke, associate dean, College of Science and Health; Sandra Hill, associate provost for academic affairs; and Patrick Noonan, director of transfer programs and special sessions.

### CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING AND SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAMS EARN ACCREDITATION



The University’s master of education programs in clinical mental health counseling and school counseling have been granted accreditation by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).

CACREP is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), and its prestigious accreditation ensures a high standard of quality for master’s and doctoral programs in counseling and related educational programs.

“I am proud and appreciative of our extraordinary professional counseling faculty who are committed to ensuring high-quality educational and clinical experiences for graduate students in school counseling and mental health counseling,” says Amy Ginsberg, dean of the College of Education. “As the CACREP accreditation attests, these programs meet professional standards for excellence.”



## WP Lands in Top Three Percent of Four-Year Institutions Nationwide on 2021 Social Mobility Index

William Paterson has climbed 33 spots since last year, from No. 76 to No. 43, on a national ranking of 1,549 four-year colleges and universities based on how effectively they enroll students from low-income backgrounds and graduate them into good-paying jobs.

The 2021 Social Mobility Index, released by CollegeNet, now ranks the University in the top 3 percent of four-year colleges and universities nationwide.

“Our continued rise in the social mobility rankings shows that William Paterson University is successfully delivering on its mission to provide life-changing college degrees to the students who are transforming the social fabric of our region and our state,” says President Richard Helldobler. “Of all the many different college rankings, social mobility really gets to the heart of public higher education’s true purpose, and I am proud of the students, faculty, and staff whose good work is reflected here.”

Founded on the principle that growing economic disparity in this country is the most pressing problem of our time, the Social Mobility Index seeks to redirect the attribution of “prestige” in higher education toward colleges that are advancing economic opportunity and social mobility.

William Paterson is also ranked on social mobility in *U.S. News & World Report’s* 2022 edition of Best Colleges, which was released in September 2021. There, the University jumped 12 spots to No. 26 among 171 northern regional universities. The University moved up from No. 38 in the 2021 edition, and from No. 65 in the 2020 report. The ranking measures how well schools graduate students with exceptional financial need.

In addition, William Paterson tied for No. 6 of the same 171 regional universities in the Best Colleges category of “campus ethnic diversity,” which identifies colleges where “students are most likely to encounter undergraduates from racial or ethnic groups different from their own.”

### FINANCIAL PLANNING MAJOR NATALIA RYBAK RECEIVES 2021 RIA TALENT ADVANTAGE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Natalia Rybak, a junior majoring in financial planning, is one of 12 recipients of the first RIA Talent Advantage Student Scholarship, awarded by Schwab Advisor Services and the Charles Schwab Foundation. In addition to a \$10,000 scholarship for the 2021-22 academic year, she will be matched with an advisor/mentor from Schwab Advisor Services.



Natalia Rybak

The RIA Talent Advantage Student Scholarship was created to help remove financial barriers, advocate for diversity, and open doors for future talent within the independent registered investment advisor (RIA) industry, with half being awarded to students from historically underrepresented groups.

“The professors within the financial planning major really push you and encourage you to do your best,” says Rybak, who is also a member of the University’s Honors College. “The program has exposed me to so many more opportunities than I would’ve thought possible. I am just very excited for my next couple years here and for my career after I finish William Paterson University.”

## Tennis Courts Named After Professor *Emerita* and Retired Tennis Coach Dr. Ginny Overdorf

During her 45-year tenure at William Paterson, Dr. Virginia “Ginny” Overdorf was a dedicated professor of kinesiology, an active researcher in her field, committed to service on campus and to her field, an early and important advocate for Title IX and women’s sports, and the founder and winning coach of the women’s tennis team.

On October 1, members of the University community, including many former and current members of the women’s tennis team, gathered to celebrate the dedication of the Dr. Ginny Overdorf Tennis Courts on campus, named in recognition of Overdorf’s advocacy for women’s sports and her generous donation to the University, which will provide increased support and development opportunities for the tennis program.

“The naming of this court is such a wonderful legacy, but the real legacy is the lives we touch and the inspiration we give,” said Overdorf. “I hope I have touched your lives because you have touched mine in so many ways. Thank you for this wonderful honor.”

“Not many people can match the breadth and duration of Ginny’s service to and support for William Paterson. Yet people like her—people who get deeply involved in the life of the institution, start new programs and help grow others; people who stay involved long after they formally retire—are at the heart of every successful higher education institution,” said President Richard Helldobler.

“Through this gift to William Paterson, the tennis program will benefit from increased support and programming opportunities that will assist in recruiting athletic talent to our university,” said Michael Seeve, chair of the Board of Trustees. “We are grateful for Dr. Overdorf’s generosity and support for the William Paterson University community, and on behalf of the Board of Trustees, it is my honor to recognize her today.”

Overdorf was a member of the faculty from 1967 until her retirement in 2012. She taught a wide variety of courses and was an active researcher; in 1991, she was awarded a grant from Ronald McDonald Children’s Charities to study eating

disorders in female athletes. She played an important role in the development of various academic degree programs, and held numerous leadership positions on campus, including chair of her department, Faculty Senate vice chair and chair, Freshman Seminar coordinator, and director of the Institute for Creative Aging.

She coached the field hockey team and in 1970 founded the women’s tennis program. During her 17 seasons with the tennis team, her record was 244-82, and she was named NCAA Division III Tennis Coach of the Year in 1984 and inducted into the University’s Athletic Hall of Fame in 1993.

“The dedication of the WP tennis courts in honor of Ginny is well-earned and deserved,” said Marie “Sandy” Strother Ross, MA ’71, who played for Overdorf. “Ginny put tremendous effort forth to develop the team in 1968 and to have young women team members participate in competition and tournaments throughout the country.”

Another former team member, Ann Capobianco ’74, described Overdorf as “my professor, my coach, my mentor, and part of my family...she was tough but fair...she instilled a work ethic and a desire to win and to be a good human being. This honor is so fitting.”

Also on hand to honor his longtime colleague and friend was President *Emeritus* Arnold Speert. “Over the years, I have admired those characteristics that prevailed in the early ’70s: her tenacity, her sense of fair play, and her dedication to the University,” he said. “Now, Ginny and the University have come full circle with this gift that demonstrates her enduring love for her sport, for William Paterson’s student-athletes, and for this University.”



Present at the ribbon-cutting were (left to right) Ann Capobianco ’74, Marie “Sandy” Strother Ross, MA ’71, President Richard Helldobler, Dr. Ginny Overdorf, President *Emeritus* Arnold Speert, Michael Seeve, chair, Board of Trustees, and Pamela Ferguson, vice president for institutional advancement and president, William Paterson University Foundation



# BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT INCORPORATES NEW 3D ANATOMY AND VIRTUAL DISSECTION TABLE INTO CURRICULUM



Professor Jeung Woon Lee and students Hector Trego and Dana Edwards work on the Anatomage 3D virtual dissection and learning table

After William Paterson biology professor Jeung Woon Lee welcomes students into his Monday morning Anatomy 101 class, he brings a group of six over to the new 3D virtual dissection and anatomy learning table, the Anatomage, to begin a short lesson on the bronchioles and their branches.

One by one, the students take turns dragging their fingers across a large screen that resembles a computer tablet resting on a large table, rotating a full-size 3D model of a human male and navigating the Anatomage's menu options.

The Anatomage, an interactive anatomy and physiology learning system used in top medical schools across the U.S., allows undergraduate students to experience lessons and concepts that can be challenging to teach on the plastic models and diagrams commonly found in biology classrooms.

"With the Anatomage table, we can bring advanced lessons and knowledge to undergraduate-level students who wouldn't get a chance to experience them," says Professor Lee. "There's also a fun factor to this, and seeing how excited the students are to learn makes me excited to teach them."

After Professor Lee's anatomy students quickly familiarize themselves with the intuitive learning table, he begins demonstrating incisions before cycling through

the different valves and arteries of the heart, switching seamlessly between his lesson and controlling the table to show students 3D models of what he is instructing.

The virtual learning table, acquired by the biology department through strategic University funding for the College of Science and Health, offers cutting-edge 3D visualization of anatomy and physiology, with complete anatomical data of organs, muscles, tissues, nerves, and vascular systems. Users are also able to simulate medical practices such as EKG testing, prenatal care, radiology, and physical therapy.

"This tool will be essential for student engagement and learning, and William Paterson joins a few select schools nationwide that provide access for our students with anatomy and physiology learning," says Venkat Sharma, dean of the College of Science and Health. "I am certain that this instrument will be an essential tool to provide students custom-tailored lab components."

With the new addition, professors can instruct their classes with a captivating and intuitive digital tool, while minimizing quiz preparation with Anatomage's preloaded and easy-to-make testing functions. The option to project content onto a larger screen also allows professors to teach lessons and play built-in educational games with large classes.

## NEW CENTER PROVIDES EDUCATION, RESEARCH ON SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



Ana Siqueira

The Cotsakos College of Business has formed a Center for Socially Responsible Entrepreneurship and Innovation to empower current students, alumni, and members of the general public in various industries and geographic locations to formulate new business ideas and develop socially responsible innovations for their new or existing organizations.

The Center will support individuals from diverse backgrounds in developing organizations that align economic, social, and environmental goals, and guide them in generating economic prosperity, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion. Plans include educational services integrated with academic programs in a variety of disciplines, including science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), arts, social sciences, and health, among others.

"We formed this Center so that our highly qualified faculty can serve as a resource for entrepreneurs and support business development initiatives in the region, nationally, and internationally," says Joshua Powers, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs.

"Economic activities have shifted as we move beyond the pandemic and many businesses, such as those led by women and minority entrepreneurs, need support to recover and evolve their organizations," says Anthony Bowrin, dean of the Cotsakos College of Business. "This Center will support both entrepreneurship and intrapreneurship by enabling individuals from diverse backgrounds and career interests to create their new startups or develop their existing organizations."

Among the Center's initial offerings will be flexible e-learning opportunities, including a virtual New Venture Incubator course. Participants can develop their for-profit or nonprofit organizations by completing online sessions supported by a community-based interactive approach. The Center will also produce research in entrepreneurship and innovation focusing on organizations that align economic, social, and environmental goals.

"Some of the themes of the virtual New Venture Incubator course will include developing entrepreneurial ingenuity, sources of capital, formulating the business model, mission, and vision of the organization, taking the business online, community entrepreneurial solutions, as well as social and environmental responsibility," says Ana Siqueira, a William Paterson University associate professor of management, who will serve as director of the Center.

## IDIDA RODRIGUEZ '86 AND AUDREY MC DOWELL '91 APPOINTED TO WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Idida Rodriguez '86

**Idida Rodriguez '86**, one of New Jersey's top political strategists, and **Audrey McDowell '91**, a leading executive in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, have been appointed to the William Paterson University Board of Trustees.

"William Paterson is fortunate to have a wonderful board composed of wise and dedicated trustees, under the leadership of Chair Michael Seeve," says President Richard Helldobler. "I know that the deep experience and unique perspectives that both Idida

Rodriguez and Audrey McDowell will bring to the board will make it even more effective in helping the University grow stronger and continuously improve our service to our students. I am also proud to say that both of our new trustees are William Paterson alumnae. I, along with our cabinet of senior administrators, look forward to working with them."

**Idida Rodriguez**, of Woodland Park, earned a bachelor of arts in sociology from William Paterson and is now one of New Jersey's most renowned and respected political strategists, working as a partner at the firm 1868 Public Affairs. She has played a prominent role in a number of New Jersey gubernatorial campaigns. Among other key positions that she has held throughout her career, Rodriguez served as chief of staff for then-Assemblywoman (now Senator) Nellie Pou from 1997 to 2003. Throughout her career, Rodriguez has helped to strengthen local

communities and serve at-risk students through her work, including previous positions as director of Paterson's School-Based Youth Services and as an instructor for the Pre-College Consortium Program at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. She is the past owner of I. Rodriguez Sales & Marketing, where she worked with food industry companies, nationally and internationally. She has a long history of service through a variety of public and civic organizations, including her church.

**Audrey McDowell**, a resident of Paterson, earned a bachelor of science in community health education with a minor in biology from William Paterson. She has held executive sales and marketing positions with several leading organizations, primarily in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, where her success in increasing sales and launching new products has regularly been recognized with organizational awards. She is currently senior territory sales manager with Biogen, and has previously held positions with CSL Behring Biopharmaceuticals, Syneos Health, and Johnson & Johnson, as well as American Express Global Merchant Services. McDowell has served as the volunteer chair and commissioner of the Paterson Environmental Commission Board's Recycling Initiative. She also has long been active through various volunteer roles with her sorority, *Delta Sigma Theta*.



Audrey McDowell '91

## Associate VP Francisco Díaz Honored for Outstanding Service



Francisco Díaz '86, MA '88, associate vice president for student development, received the 2021 Fred Turner Award for Outstanding Service from NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education for Region II.

The award, named in honor of the former chair of the NASPA Board of Directors (1958-1959), honors a member who has served in leadership roles at the state, regional, national, and/or international levels of NASPA for a sustained period of time and who has demonstrated outstanding achievement to the student affairs profession and Region II over an extended period.

"I joined NASPA many years ago in hopes of networking with peers throughout the country and found a welcoming group of dedicated professionals committed to supporting student success who helped me grow in many ways," says Díaz. "The work we do at NASPA truly affects the lives of our students. I am grateful for this recognition, but most importantly, for the opportunity the organization has provided me to become involved in projects and activities, to

take on leadership roles, and to commit myself to helping others in student affairs positions in higher education."

A member of NASPA since the late '90s, Díaz has served in a myriad of roles, including National Conference and Multicultural Institute program reviewer, chair of the Region II Latino Knowledge Community, New Jersey representative, membership coordinator, AVP Cohort Connections co-facilitator for Region I and Region II, and as a NASPA Undergraduate Fellows Mentor.

He joined the University in 2001 as director of campus activities and student leadership. He was named assistant vice president for campus life in 2005, promoted to associate vice president for campus life in 2013, and named associate vice president for student development in 2021. Díaz has supervised a wide variety of student-centered departments and initiatives, including Athletics, Campus Activities, Service and Leadership, Commuter Services, Financial Aid, Greek Life, Hospitality Services, LGBTQA Programs, Orientation, Student Conduct, the Student Government Association, Veteran and Military Affairs, and the Women's Center.

Francisco Díaz '86, MA '88

# NBA Player Michael Kidd-Gilchrist Speaks to Students About His Journey as a Person Who Stutters



**N**BA player Michael Kidd-Gilchrist shared his very personal story as a person who stutters with graduate students in the communication disorders and sciences program, emphasizing the importance of the trusted relationship between a person who stutters and their speech language pathologist (SLP).

“It’s important for future speech-language pathologists to know that you are here to change lives,” he told the students. “At first, I didn’t want anyone to know about my stutter. When I entered speech therapy, I told my therapist that I didn’t want anyone to know. Today, I want to share my story and see my stutter as a gift that I have embraced because now I can help others, including those who are getting into the field of speech-language pathology.”

“This is a special opportunity for these future speech-language professionals to hear the personal story of someone who stutters,” says Jim Tsiamtsiouris, professor of communication disorders and sciences. “We are so honored that Michael is willing to openly share his experiences with us.”

Kidd-Gilchrist played in the National Basketball Association for the past 12 years. While spending time in the NBA “bubble” in 2020, he began reflecting on his own personal journey as a person who stutters. He considered how to turn his knowledge and experience into actionable and meaningful ways to help others who stutter. In 2021, he founded Change

& Impact, Inc., a stuttering initiative with a mission to improve access to healthcare and expand services and resources for those who stutter. Change & Impact is focused on raising awareness for stuttering, bringing together key stakeholders to improve the quality of life for those who stutter, and working on behalf of the stuttering community to improve insurance coverage for speech therapy.

communication disorder.

Kidd-Gilchrist says that while he has learned strategies to deal with his stuttering, his biggest success has been in accepting that he is a person who stutters, and using his platform as an athlete to serve as an advocate for the stuttering community. “I can’t change the world, but I genuinely want to help this community,” he said.

William Paterson offers



Professor Jim Tsiamtsiouris (seventh from left) and NBA player Michael Kidd-Gilchrist (red shirt) with graduate students in communication disorders and sciences

According to the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, roughly three million Americans stutter. While stuttering affects people of all ages, it occurs most often in children between the ages of two and six as they are developing their language skills. Approximately 75 percent of children recover from stuttering. For the remaining 25 percent who continue to stutter, stuttering can persist as a lifelong

bachelor’s and master’s degrees in communication disorders and sciences. Students receive hands-on experience working with real-life clients at the on-campus Speech and Hearing Clinic, a working clinic that is a primary practicum site for graduate students, allowing them to provide speech-language pathology services to children and adults.

# “A PLACE TO CALL THEIR OWN” — NEW CENTER FOR LATINIDAD PROVIDES WELCOMING SPACE FOR STUDENTS



Present at the ribbon-cutting for the grand opening of the Center for Latinidad are (left to right) Myranda Barreau, assistant director, student diversity and inclusion; Francisco Diaz '86, MA '88, associate vice president for student development; Kimberly Pena '21, member, HSI Task Force; Ildida Rodriguez '86, member, University Board of Trustees; President Richard Helldobler; Miki Cammarata, vice president for student development; Anisa Kamara '23, president, Student Government Association; Wilnell Martinez '21, member, HSI Task Force, and Yolany Gonell, director, student diversity and inclusion

An atmosphere of excitement and community filled the air as nearly 100 students, faculty, and staff gathered in the Machuga Student Center on September 21 to celebrate the grand opening of the Center for Latinidad.

The new Center was established to provide an affirming space for Latinidad students and enhance awareness of the cultural wealth and resiliency of the Latina/o/x identity, experiences, and voices. It will be managed by students, for students.

“I have been saying for some time that our designation as a Hispanic-serving institution is one of our greatest distinctions as a university,” said President Richard Helldobler. “But I have also said it is not enough to simply be a Hispanic-enrolling institution. We must truly live up to the name and be, in every respect, a Hispanic-serving institution. The Center for Latinidad is a significant step toward fulfilling that commitment.”

Ildida Rodriguez '86, a new member of the University's Board of Trustees (see page 8), was on hand to offer her congratulations. “This will be a special place, where the richly diverse Latinidad community of students—including many first-generation students—can come together to connect and learn from one another and to access resources to support them socially and academically,” she said. “This support is crucial to ensuring that every student feels they are a valued member of the University community.”

The establishment of the Center was a central recommendation of the University's Hispanic-serving Institution (HSI) Task Force, a committee of faculty, staff, and students charged by President Helldobler with understanding the Latinx student experience and making recommendations for institutional change. More than one in three WP students claim Hispanic heritage.

“Among the variety of comments, suggestions, and requests (from students), one that stood out was a space, a center to call their own... a space where they could feel at ease, acknowledged, and appreciated,” said keynote speaker Francisco Diaz '86, MA '88, associate vice president for student development and chair of the HSI Task Force. “Today, we have answered the call of many before us who believed in the need for such a center.”

Diaz, who described the opening of the Center as an “auspicious moment” for the University, shared his personal story as the son of immigrants from Cuba, and his early years on campus. The first among his brothers to attend college, he talked about the important role that one club, the Organization of Latin American Students, played in helping him find his voice and a community of students “as we sought ways to express our culture and ourselves.”

“The decades that followed saw much growth in Latinx students at William Paterson and many new student groups and

Greek-lettered organizations who supported and emphasized Latin roots, but many still expressed a need to find a space to connect with others,” he said. “I wish the very best to the current and future students who will avail themselves of all that the Center for Latinidad will lead, imagine, and bring to them for years to come.”

Miki Cammarata, vice president for student development, thanked Diaz for his dedication to the University's students and added her congratulations. “The Center for Latinidad was born out of deep and thoughtful research and discussion about what a Hispanic-serving institution should look and feel like,” she said. “Along with our other centers, (it) will provide opportunities for all members of the University to further understand and appreciate how diversity enriches and strengthens our community.”

Yolany Gonell, director of student diversity and inclusion, will provide oversight for the Center for Latinidad, which is under the auspices of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion. Its signature programs include the Conexiones Support Group, a partnership with Counseling, Health and Wellness for students navigating cultural barriers, and Adelante Pathways, a peer mentorship program open to all students that will focus on academic success, personal development, civic engagement, and health and wellness.

“Latinidad (solidarity) is experienced through language, music, art, customs, and traditions,” said Gonell, describing herself as “a proud Latina with a master's degree and 17 years of experience in higher education.” Adding that “it's not always easy being Latina, when I am in the Center for Latinidad, I am surrounded by *familia* and a community of allies... I am seen... I am heard... I am valued.”



# WPSC-FM Wins Prestigious National Marconi Award for College Station of the Year

William Paterson's student-run radio station, WPSC-FM (88.7), has won the 2021 Marconi Award for "College Radio Station of the Year." The prestigious Marconi Awards are presented by the National Association of Broadcasters to recognize outstanding achievement by radio stations and individuals.

The awards were announced on November 10 during the Virtual NAB Marconi Radio Awards celebration. In addition to WPSC-FM, other nominees in the category were WRHU-FM, Hofstra University; WMSC-FM, Montclair State University; WRRF-FM, Rider University; and WSOU-FM, Seton Hall University.

"I'm incredibly proud of the work we put in every year at WPSC," says Sebastian Escobar, interim general manager of the station. "Our students know we have a big reputation to uphold, and they show incredible passion to maintain that. What we have here is something special, and we will continue to work to keep improving every year in all aspects. I feel honored today."

On World Radio Day in February 2020, WPSC-FM became the first radio station to ever produce a live broadcast from the Marconi Museum in Bologna, Italy, the home where wireless radio was invented. During the trip, the station helped launch Outside Radio, a radio station located in Italy, by and for people with autism and other communication disorders. Shortly thereafter, the COVID-19 pandemic hit. After a short shutdown, WPSC continued to stay on the air due to the commitment of students and staff, relaying important health information to the community.

"We believe that our historic trip to Italy, to launch Outside Radio in Bologna on World Radio Day, in Marconi's house, where he invented wireless radio, definitely played a part in our win," says Robert Quicke, professor of communication and faculty advisor to the station. "This award is a truly deserved recognition for the students. It's been a tough time due to the pandemic, but their hard work and enthusiasm never diminished!"

WPSC-FM has won numerous accolades in the past decade. This is the station's second Marconi Award and fourth nomination; the station won the award for "Noncommercial Radio Station of the Year" in 2018, a category that included other college and NPR-affiliated stations. The station also has been named Best Radio Station in the Nation (among institutions with more than 10,000 students) by the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System (IBS) four times since 2012.



## AGREEMENT WITH BROOKDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROVIDES FOR SEAMLESS TRANSFERS

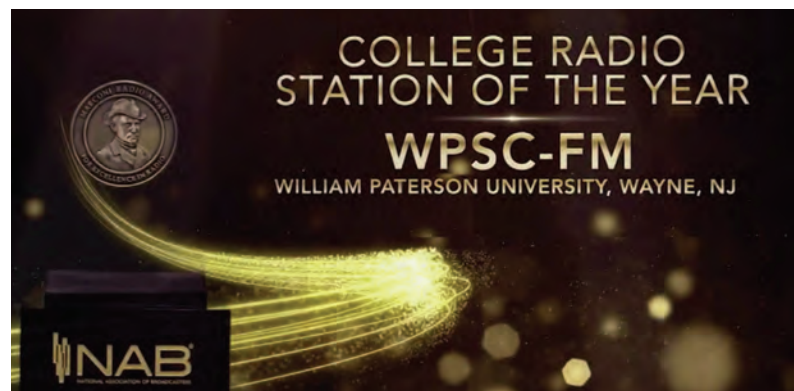
A new joint admission and transfer agreement with Brookdale Community College provides an opportunity for students to seamlessly transfer to William Paterson after earning an associate's degree and pursue bachelor's degrees in 26 different programs.

"William Paterson is excited to greatly expand its partnership with Brookdale to the benefit of New Jersey students," says President Richard Helldobler. "This agreement between two of New Jersey's great public institutions of higher education will provide Brookdale students with a variety of pathways to pursue bachelor's degrees and beyond at William Paterson. Brookdale and William Paterson both advance educational excellence, economic empowerment, institutional integrity, and diversity. These shared values have made for a strong relationship and will provide a solid foundation for our newly expanded partnership going forward."

"I want to thank William Paterson officials who worked closely on this pathway for the best interest of our students," says David Stout, president of Brookdale Community College. "Together, we have the potential to break through academic, financial, and other barriers and reach the individuals in the community who most need access to an affordable college education. These programs with this outstanding institution will ensure that our students leave ready for the next step."

The associate transfer agreements provide transfer into bachelor of science degree programs that include marketing, management, finance, accounting, biology, chemistry, computer science, environmental science, and mathematics, and bachelor of arts degree programs in political science, sociology, psychology, public health, health studies, criminology and criminal justice, communication, media studies, music studies, leadership and professional studies, and liberal studies.

In addition, for students interested in pursuing a career in nursing, transfer agreements were established for Brookdale's associate of applied science degree in nursing and William Paterson's RN to BSN (bachelor's degree) and MSN Express Plus Degree Program (master's degree).



Top photo left to right: Joshua Powers, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, William Paterson University; Richard Helldobler, president, William Paterson University; David Stout, president, Brookdale Community College, and Matthew Reed, vice president of academic affairs, Brookdale Community College.



## Music Professor Payton MacDonald Completes 52-Week Marimba Recording Series

In October 2020, William Paterson music professor Payton MacDonald made the decision to challenge himself to a year-long marimba recording series.

Drawing inspiration from the recent trend of visual artists digitally releasing a new piece of artwork every day, known as “everydays,” MacDonald set out to digitally release a new full-length music recording every week for 52 weeks.

The recordings, dubbed “weeklies” by MacDonald, are released on his Band Camp page every Sunday before midnight under one of four categories: Hindustani music, Marimba Meditations, Explorations, and Super Marimba.

“Payton’s project creates spaces that help to define the exceptional artistry and sonic timbral variability of the marimba,” says Lauren Fowler-Calisto, associate professor of music at WP. “Each week is a chance to explore the vast choices available to a musician who thinks outside the box in a way that appeals to all audiences.”

MacDonald, who considers himself an acoustic and experimental musician, was able to accomplish his goal, and on October 13, 2021 he released the 52<sup>nd</sup> weekly recording in his series. However, he has no plans of stopping there.

“I plan to keep going to 100, then I’ll see how I feel,” says MacDonald, who also directs the percussion studio in the WP music department.

His Explorations series features over 40 recordings, creating an opportunity for him to further explore the experimental side of his music and create “something new.” For MacDonald, creating something that hasn’t been done before is more exciting than selling a piece of music.

Each of MacDonald’s recordings took an average of 20 hours per week to complete, with all of the solo work recorded in his home—though some took up to 40 hours.

While most of the recordings took many hours of labor, he says he recorded his open improvisation solos relatively quickly, crediting the tens of thousands of hours of practice and 30 years of playing marimba throughout his career.

MacDonald also had the help of WP alumni and faculty, who collaborated with him on multiple recordings. Sean Dello Monaco ’19, playing a handpan that he built himself, and Alex Cichocki ’21, serving as recording engineer, worked with him on Marimba Meditations #5. Gideon Forbes, MM ’18, was featured on Explorations #22 playing the saxophone.

“He is constantly exploring and developing new sounds, compositional methods, and collaborators to push musical boundaries and challenge our ears. He is an inspiration to me, and I am lucky to have been a part of his project,” says Forbes, who also serves as coordinator of music applications, admissions, and recruitment at WP.

In addition to his careers as a musician and college professor, MacDonald is also a filmmaker and Dhrupad singer.

# STORIES ABOUT RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP, AND CREATIVE EXPRESSION



## PROFESSORS TO STUDY HUDSON AND PASSAIC REGIONAL WATER QUALITY AND AVAILABILITY

Professors Nicole Davi, environmental science, Marianne Sullivan, public health, and Lilian Milanés, community and social justice studies, have been awarded a nearly \$300,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to study access to reliable and safe drinking water and recreational waterways with a focus on equity in access to these resources.

The grant is a part of NSF's Build and Broaden Program, which focuses on supporting research, offering training opportunities, and creating greater research infrastructure at minority-serving institutions such as historically Black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, and tribal colleges and universities.

The interdisciplinary team of researchers will work to examine the social, behavioral, health, and climatic aspects related to water resources in the New York-New Jersey Watershed. A professor from Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory is also part of the project.

"Climate change impacts are already being felt across the country and a warming environment already impacts our water resources," says Davi. "This grant provides opportunities to show public audiences and students how climate change is impacting water availability in the New Jersey/New York region and how residents perceive their water quality and equity of water quality."

Students will be an integral component of the research and will join Davi for fieldwork in the Catskill Mountains region to sample trees for tree-ring records to discover a centuries-long record of drought in the region.

Sullivan and her students will work with the Environmental Data and Governance Initiative to develop a web-based tool for creating

environmental justice analyses of New Jersey drinking water quality. They also will examine the process of lead service line replacement in New Jersey and the extent to which environmental justice considerations are prioritized in this process.

Milanés will work with students to concentrate on the intersectional lived

Professors Marianne Sullivan, Nicole Davi, and Lilian Milanés

aspects of race, class, and gender of people and their drinking water. Her team will conduct participant observation, surveys, semi-structured interviews, and focus groups with Paterson community members to understand perceptions of water quality, access, and the implications on overall health and well-being.

A planned outcome for the research is a new curriculum for a multidisciplinary course centered around the theme of regional water vulnerability.

## STUDENT'S RESEARCH FOCUSES ON HISTORY OF SAINT GEORGE

For his Honors College thesis project, history and philosophy student Maxwell Johnson '22 decided to tackle a long-held historical mystery: why did Saint George suddenly become so important in Great Britain and the rest of Western Europe around 1100 C.E. after centuries of obscurity?

Johnson presented his research on that topic during the annual Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Conference (CEMERS), held this fall at Binghamton University. CEMERS, founded in 1966, is one of the oldest and most recognizable international meetings for medieval and Renaissance studies.

His presentation focused on the cultural mechanisms that surround the historical development of Saint George during the 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> centuries. In particular, he examined Saint George's ideological transformation from "bondman" to "dragon slayer" as a microcosm of the Western church's shift to a more militant social and political stance during the Crusade era. He discussed his findings on how medieval images and culture live on in the modern era as part of a panel alongside distinguished professors from Oslo and the University of Virginia.

"What inspired my research more than anything else was the idea that history is a living and breathing subject—that it is only through coming to understand the past that we can better understand ourselves and the world we live in," says Johnson, who did his first presentation at a regional history conference at Moravian College during his freshman year at WP.

His project required detailed research into the texts and images of Saint George, which show how he transformed from a passive martyr saint to a warrior saint.

"I'm very proud of Max for his many accomplishments; he is a standout among his peers," says Molly O'Donnell, professor of history and coordinator of the Honors humanities track. "He has become excellent at researching, developing, and presenting original ideas and arguments."



Maxwell Johnson '22



## Graphic Design Student Brings Online Art Gallery to Pediatric Cancer Patients

While Fabio Miyashiro '23 and his classmates were preparing their final projects for Professor Leslie Nobler's Computer Painting and 2D Art class, he had an idea to further build on the artist's and designer's responsibility to society, as discussed amongst the class, especially in regard to the pandemic and the burden of the quarantine on school-age children.

Miyashiro, a junior studying graphic design and interactive media, wanted to create something to give back to Hackensack Meridian Health (HMH), where he was once a patient undergoing cancer treatment as a child—and where his art journey began.

Family members and nurses brought him supplies like origami paper and markers and "set his imagination free."

"I wanted to give back," he says. "While everyone's experience is different, it is nice to have support. Drawing and painting is what kept me busy when I was a patient at HMH."

Under Nobler's guidance, Miyashiro began work on *World of Creativity*, a virtual art gallery made up of drawings done by the patients at HMH, in response to an activity booklet composed of work done by Miyashiro and his classmates for their final project.

For the gallery, Miyashiro curated a virtual walkthrough art exhibition. Online users that log on to the Linktree page can navigate a digitally rendered art gallery and view the wonderful artwork that was provided to him by HMH's young patients, and their siblings.



Fabio Miyashiro '23

The activity booklet was then distributed to patients at the same hospital he received care from years ago, with Miyashiro taking on all of the printing and assembling duties.

Both projects were a massive job that showed a lot of dedication and determination, according to Nobler. "I believe he learned so much about publication design, illustration, public relations, curating an exhibition, and most of all, being an artist for social good," she says. "Fabio used his heart, and so much of his talent, in art, design, and writing, along with his technological agility, to execute a brilliant project."

Each page of the coloring book draws inspiration from the children's books *Antiracist Baby* by Ibram W. Kendi and *This Little Dreamer* by Joan Holub. The major themes explored in *World of Creativity* are friendship, diversity, history, and leadership.

"I chose to put the pages together into an activity book for the patients," says Miyashiro. "During a time of isolation and uncertainty, I hope this book gives kids a creative outlet, a place to express themselves."

A student in the Honors College, humanities track, Miyashiro plans to incorporate his experience and passion into his research thesis next year. "I attend a summer camp for child cancer survivors and I see how their lives are affected, including the support they receive," he says. He plans to take a closer look at the resources that are provided to child cancer survivors through adulthood, and how it impacts their lives.

Both the virtual art gallery and activity booklet for *World of Creativity* can be viewed at <https://linktr.ee/fabsmiyashiro>.

## COMMUNICATION PROFESSORS RESEARCH BEST WAY FOR ORGANIZATIONS TO RESPOND TO A CRISIS ON TWITTER

New research by communication professors Kyung-Hyan "Angie" Yoo and Jennifer Owlett, along with colleague Soo Kwang Oh of Pepperdine University, found that organizations can best respond to a crisis on Twitter by assuming responsibility, putting the emotions of the receiver first, showing support, and offering solutions.

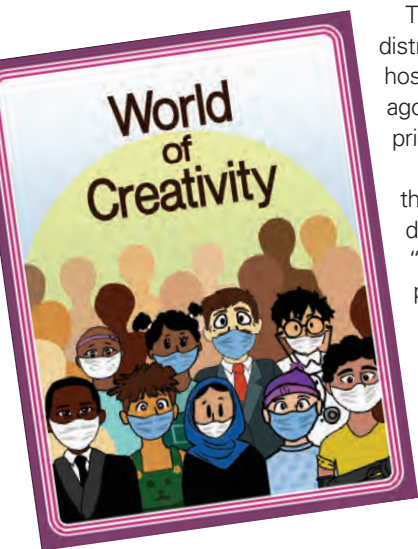
Their study, "The Importance of Person-Centered Messages (PCMs) in Crisis Communication on Twitter," was published in the *Journal of International Crisis and Risk Communication Research*.

Their results found that each response by an organization should consider how the receiver would personally feel. Taking what they call a "person-centered approach" can help the organization's reputation and reduce the likelihood of recipients to post negative feedback.

"Our research found that crisis communication should be operated with a person-centered mindset," says Yoo. "Strategies such as assuming responsibility, putting the emotions of the receiver first, displaying apologetic gestures, offering support, and providing solutions should be adopted."

While many practitioners acknowledge the importance of crisis communication on social media, little work has been done that examines how crisis message quality can influence post-crisis outcomes within the context of social media, according to Yoo. "Our findings shed light on this underexamined area."

Owlett is director of the University's MA in professional communication program and Yoo will serve as director of an upcoming social media applications, research, and teaching lab. Many undergraduate and graduate students in the Department of Communication are involved in digital and social media-related projects and research.



The World of Creativity coloring book



# WP Pioneers

## Athletic Hall of Fame Enshrines Five Individuals, One Team

**Adam Derner '14**, baseball; **Ryan Gresik '14**, football; **Mike Guadango '11**, baseball; **Michelle Marabondo '13**, women's soccer; **Tobias "Toby" Barboza**, posthumous, support staff; and the **1997-98 Pioneer women's basketball team** became the newest inductees into the William Paterson University Alumni Association Athletic Hall of Fame on October 10.

A two-year starter for the Pioneers, **Derner** (2011-12) was a 2012 American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) and D3baseball.com First Team All-American, and also a member of the 2012 All-New Jersey Collegiate Baseball Association (NJCBA), D3baseball.com All-Region, and ABCA Mid-Atlantic All-Region First Teams. Named to the 2012 All-New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) Second Team, he also was selected to the 2011 NJCBA Division II/III All-State Second Team. Derner was the 2012 conference leader in slugging percentage (.804, seventh nationally), RBI (62, first nationally), home runs (13, third in Division III), total bases (115, eighth nationally), RBI/game (1.48, second nationally), and homers/game (0.31, ninth in Division III), ranking second in walks (30, 27th in Division III) and on-base percentage (.527, 14th in Division III). He joined the Pioneers in 2011 after transferring from the University of Rhode Island.

**Gresik** (2009-13) owns every single Pioneer career passing record—attempts (992), completions (580), completion percentage (.590), yards (6,615), and touchdown passes (40). A two-time all-NJAC selection, Gresik also holds the WP record for total offense with 6,966 career yards from scrimmage, and has the



Athletic Hall of Fame inductees (seated, left to right): Martha Barboza, accepting on behalf of her late husband, Toby Barboza; Mike Guadango; Adam Derner; Ryan Gresik; Keith Woods; Michelle Marabondo; Stephanie Arrigo Smotrycz; Stacey Moscufo Bickett; Meghan Renna Fox; Mary Dean; (standing, left to right) Kelly Evans Gravatt; Dana Feltz Schwartz; Ammee Schubert; Liz Schoonmaker Jensen; Wendy Kane; Kathleen Sinram; Carolyn Saladis; and Erin Monahan

program's top spots for single-season passing yards (2,546; 2013), completion percentage (.603; 2012), and total offense (2,574; 2013), as well as single-game completions (39; 9/21/13) and touchdown passes (five; 10/5/13).

One of the most decorated players in program history, **Guadango** (2007-10) was a two-time All-American and a four-time First Team All-NJAC pick. He finished his career as William Paterson's hits (257) and doubles (54) leader, and ranked first in at-bats (622), second in RBI (177), third in runs (167), fourth in home runs (26), fifth in batting average (.413), tied for fifth in hit by pitches (17), and tied for 10th in triples (nine) while starting in 149 of 152 career games. Guadango was selected to the 2010 NJCBA Division II/III All-State Second Team and ABCA Mid-Atlantic Region

All-Third Team, the 2009 ABCA All-America Third Team and ABCA All-Region, All-ECAC Metro Region, and NJCBA Division II/III All-State First Teams, and the 2008 ABCA All-America Second Team and ABCA All-Region, ECAC All-Metro Region, and NJCBA Division II/III All-State First Teams. He also earned the 2007 NJCBA Division II/III Rookie Player of the Year award while garnering a spot on the ABCA All-Region Second Team.

The 2012 NJAC Women's Soccer Co-Offensive Player of the Year, **Marabondo** (2009-12) received three straight First Team All-NJAC awards (2010-12). Named to the 2012 National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) All-South Atlantic Region Third Team and the 2011 and 2012 ECAC All-Metro/Upstate Region Teams, she led the league with 24 goals (ninth in

Division III) and 55 points (ninth nationally), breaking the WP single-season records for both categories as a senior. In 77 career matches, she finished second in school history with 63 goals, 19 game-winning goals and 144 points, was tied for fifth with 18 assists, and was a 2010 first-team NSCAA all-region honoree and the 2009 ECAC Tournament Most Outstanding Player.

A mainstay on the Pioneer sidelines for nearly four decades, **Barboza** retired in 2011 after serving as the head athletic trainer at WP for 37 years. Barboza began his career in 1974, implementing an athletic training program that was non-existent before his arrival. He served as the program director for eight years and taught as an adjunct professor at WP until 2017.

Paced by all-conference performers Stephanie Arrigo and Meg Renna, the **1997-98 women's basketball team** strung together a 21-game winning streak while posting the best conference record in program history (17-1) en route to the second NCAA Tournament Elite Eight appearance for the Pioneers. WP finished 25-4 overall.

## ATHLETICS HIGHLIGHTS

The Pioneer women's soccer team reached the championship match of the 2021 ECAC Tournament this fall. WP posted a 3-0 quarterfinal victory against Mount Saint Mary and played to a 0-0 double-overtime semifinal draw at Alfred, advancing to the final thanks to a 3-2 advantage in the penalty-kick shootout.

William Paterson earned its fourth New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) Field Hockey Tournament title in program history with



The field hockey team

a 2-1 victory against Ramapo. The Pioneers tied the game at 1-1 with a second-quarter goal by sophomore Catie Wilson, and got the game winner from junior Abigail Viola. Due to the pandemic, all 13 of WP's teams conducted shortened competitive schedules during the spring 2021 semester.

A record 83 Pioneers earned selections to the NJAC All-Academic Team, highlighted by senior baseball center fielder Steven DiGirolamo, who garnered his second consecutive College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Academic All-America Third Team certificate.

## KRISTEN FOLEY APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS AND RECREATION



Kristen Foley

Kristen Foley, an accomplished athletic administrator and coach for more than three decades, has been appointed director of intercollegiate athletics and recreation. In this newly created role, she oversees all operations of the Pioneers' NCAA intercollegiate athletics program, as well as William Paterson's recreational services, intramurals, and club sports offerings.

Foley served as interim director of athletics since February 2021, and previously served as associate director of athletics since July 2017. As

interim director, she guided the Athletics Department through the COVID pandemic, with all 13 of the University's intercollegiate teams competing during the spring of 2021.

Prior to joining WP, Foley was an assistant women's basketball coach at Division I Lafayette College from 2015 to 2017. Prior, she served for 15 years in a variety of administrative positions at Temple University, including senior associate athletic director/senior woman administrator from 2011-15, associate athletic director/senior woman administrator from 2005-11, and assistant athletic director/senior woman administrator from 2000-05. She was the head women's basketball coach at Temple from 1995-2000 and at Drexel University from 1992-95 after turns as an assistant coach at Rutgers University from 1989-92 and Boston University from 1987-89.

A 1987 graduate of Rutgers University, Foley helped lead the Rutgers women's basketball team to the 1986 and 1987 NCAA Women's Basketball Elite Eight as a team captain. She was a 1987 GTE/College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) academic all-American and was awarded an NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship. She also holds a master's degree in educational administration from Rutgers and was inducted into the Rutgers Athletics Hall of Fame in 1995.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Arthur Raidy**, who started the first varsity swimming and diving program at William Paterson, died on November 4, 2020. Raidy, a graduate of the University of Miami, earned a master's degree from the University of Indiana. He coached the University's swim team from 1966 through the 1973-74 season, building it into one of the best programs in the region. The team was 16-0 in 1968-69, earning the school a spot in the New Jersey State College Championships; he led the team to the 1970, 1971, and 1972 New Jersey State College Conference Championships as well. He formed lifelong bonds with his swimmers and often talked about how much it meant to him that they still reached out and spoke of his impact on their lives. In 2013, he was inducted into the William Paterson Athletic Hall of Fame.





Pio, the University's new mascot, surrounded by the WP Cheerleading Team at Homecoming

# WP Alert: Bear Spotted on Campus

## Athletic Rebrand Features New Mascot, Spirit Song, and More

BY CHRISTINE DIEHL

**Pawprints bearing the hashtag #Pio.Power. adorned walkways around campus in the days leading up to Homecoming 2021—heralding a new era of Pioneer Pride at William Paterson University. A furry new mascot, the first-ever University spirit song, enhanced game day traditions, and more are all part of a major athletic rebrand launched this fall to boost campus spirit and engage the community and alumni.**

Making a debut at the Homecoming pre-game festivities, Pio, WP's energetic new bear mascot, worked the crowd, giving high-fives and hugs, posing for selfies, and dancing with tailgating students and returning alumni and their families. Pio then joined the cheerleaders in leading the WP football team's charge onto Wightman Field to the tune of the

catchy new University spirit song, going on to rally spectators from the sidelines.

Pio's grand entrance and the premiere of the University spirit song were more than a year in the making.

"We wanted to increase University spirit on campus and among alumni, and make the game-day experience more fun for athletes, coaches, and spectators by strengthening existing traditions and building new ones," says President Richard Helldobler. "We launched an athletic rebranding initiative in fall 2020, with plans to carefully consider our nickname—the Pioneers—and our mascot to determine the best fit for the University's values, image, and brand going forward."

A committee composed of students, alumni, faculty, and staff conducted surveys, discussion sessions, and focus groups with University constituents to evaluate the current athletic brand, determine the nickname and mascot, and create a University spirit song, among other enhancements.

The committee's efforts led to a recommendation to keep the Pioneers as the University nickname, with an emphasis on trailblazing, innovation, and leadership. The committee also recommended retaining a bear as the mascot—but with a more modern look and a name that connected to the Pioneers nickname, along with a new image and costume.

Based on input from the University community, Pio was born, with predecessor Billy the Bear "graduating" and moving on from mascot duties. The name Pio is short for Pioneer, a use of the nickname based on how some of the University's student athletes refer to their teammates, which came to light during the surveys and focus groups.

"Pioneers are all about breaking new ground and leaving a mark on the world," says Miki Cammarata, vice president for student development. "Pio is a bear with characteristics that reflect William Paterson University's values and

*continues on page 19*



## William Paterson Pioneers Spirit Song

I say Will, You say **POWER.**  
I say Will, You say **POWER.**  
**WILL. POWER. WILL. POWER.**

*We're William Paterson proud pioneers,  
Orange and black the colors ever held dear.  
"I say WILL, You say POWER!" is what we cheer to  
William Paterson Pioneers.*

*We are the "U" that's found in community,  
We strive for honor, justice, and equity.  
I'll stand for you, and you will stand for me as  
William Paterson Pioneers.*

*Trailblazing Pios we are brave Pioneers,  
Undaunted we will lead 'cross any frontier.  
We'll stand committed throughout our years to  
William Paterson Pioneers.*

I say Will, You say **POWER.**  
I say Will, You say **POWER.**  
William Paterson Pio  
William Paterson Pio  
William Paterson Pioneers!

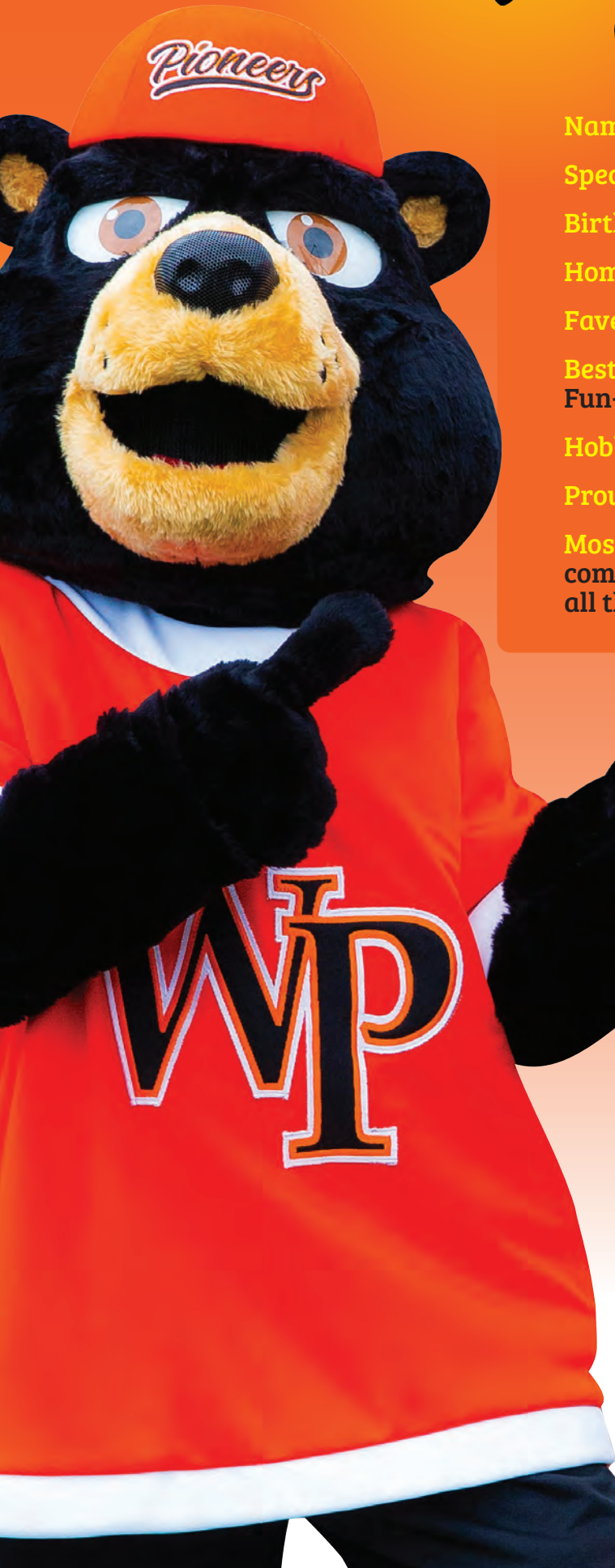


Words and Music by D. Mark McCoy  
Commissioned in 2021 during the presidency of Richard J. Helldobler, PhD

*Funded through the generous support of the  
William Paterson University Alumni Association*



# Meet Pio!



**Name:** Pio—short for Pioneer

**Species:** Black Bear

**Birthday:** October 9

**Hometown:** High Mountain Preserve

**Fave Food:** Pretzel Bites from the Concession Stand

**Best Qualities:** Gritty, Energetic, Confident, Resilient, Fun-loving (you might say a “Pawsitive” attitude)

**Hobbies:** Dancing to the University’s new spirit song

**Proudest Achievement:** First in family to go to college

**Most looking forward to:** Being an active part of the WP community, meeting fellow Pioneers, and experiencing all that William Paterson has to offer

the attributes of many of our students: gritty, confident, persevering, fun-loving, and the first in the family to attend college.”

The other major aspect of the athletic rebrand was the creation of the University’s first spirit song, which was commissioned and funded by the Alumni Association (see sidebar for lyrics). The spirit song highlights distinctive aspects of William Paterson University, including its widely embraced Will. Power. brand messaging, strong sense of community and social justice, as well as leadership and perseverance.

According to Cammarata, the spirit song, and in particular, its Will. Power. cheer component, is generating positive energy at University athletic events.

“The spirit song rallying cry, ‘I say “will,” you say “power,”’ is quickly becoming engrained in crowd chants during our home games,” says Cammarata. “At a recent soccer game, I was thrilled to see a player’s dad begin to engage the crowd with the rallying cry.”

In addition to Pio and the spirit song, the athletic rebrand features a new Pioneers logo with a modernized look and feel, as well as bold orange and black signage for athletic events.

When not busy boosting Pioneer spirit at NCAA and club sports events, Pio is making appearances at everything from Admissions Open Houses to campus activities and events, and will, of course, be on hand to offer fist bumps to WP’s Class of 2022 at Commencement next spring.

» **To hear the Spirit Song, visit [wpunj.edu/spiritsong](http://wpunj.edu/spiritsong)**

# BARBARA MOLL GRANT HALL



## University Renames Academic Building in Honor of Late Professor *Emerita* Dr. Barbara Moll Grant

—Renaming recognizes \$5 million gift from Dr. Grant's estate

BY MARY BETH ZEMAN

The former Preakness Hall academic building on campus was renamed in honor of the late Dr. Barbara Moll Grant '54, an alumna and professor *emerita* of education, during a dedication ceremony held on September 9 in recognition of Dr. Grant's generous philanthropic support of her *alma mater*.

The gift of \$5 million from Dr. Grant's estate will benefit an endowed scholarship fund that will support numerous students in multiple disciplines across the University.

The building, to be known as Barbara Moll Grant Hall, was completely renovated in 2017 as part of a long-term plan that saw the modernization of the University's facilities in the academic core of the campus. The 58,000-square-foot

building houses four state-of-the-art kinesiology laboratories, 14 smart classrooms, a 90-seat auditorium, numerous small and large group study rooms, the Writing Center, and faculty offices for the Department of English and Department of Philosophy.

"Dr. Grant was a committed educator, a respected scholar, an accomplished author, and a leader in this campus community. She cared deeply about the students of William Paterson, when she was teaching them and throughout her life," said President Richard Helldobler at the event. "Given the range and depth of Dr. Grant's many contributions to William Paterson—as alumna, professor, and benefactor—her name and memory are sure to live on across this campus that she loved so much. I am pleased that—with the naming of

Barbara Moll Grant Hall—it will do so right here in the heart of campus, for all to see."

"Through this transformative gift to her *alma mater*, students from across the institution and in multiple disciplines will benefit from the scholarship support that will allow them to fulfill their dreams of attaining a college education," said Michael Seeve, chair of the William Paterson University Board of Trustees. "We are so grateful for Dr. Grant's generosity and support for the William Paterson University, and on behalf of the Board of Trustees, it is my honor to recognize her today."

Dr. Grant's sister, Dr. Dorothy Grant Hennings, spoke of the family's connection to Paterson in her remarks, "The Grants and Molls: An Ode to Ancestors and Paterson

Cutting the ribbon were (front row, left to right) family members Bob Grant, Kevin Miller, MaryAnn Battersby '78, Janice Grant Murray, and Frank Battersby; Pamela Ferguson, vice president for institutional advancement; Aaron Van Duyne III '75, MM '08, chair, William Paterson University Foundation; Dr. Dorothy Grant Hennings, sister of Barbara Moll Grant; President Richard Helldobler; Michael Allen Seeve, chair, Board of Trustees; (back row, left to right) John Galandak member, Board of Trustees; Fredric Sirota, member, Foundation Board; Bill Duffy, member, Foundation Board; Domenic DiMaio '97, MBA '21, former president, Alumni Association; Audrey McDowell '91, member, Board of Trustees; and Donovan Taylor, student member, Board of Trustees

Silk.” Their parents, William Albert Grant and Ethel Moll Grant, were silk manufacturers. “Those names are woven into the silk fabric of Paterson, the city where William Paterson University began,” she said. “(My sister’s) name embodies what Paterson was when it was the ‘Silk Capital of America;’ (it) tells what can be achieved with a Paterson degree.”

“Now,” she added, “think of students, an endless stream of women and men...Grant Scholars marching into the future to make a more wonderful world. What a perfect picture. What a powerful picture. What a legacy to leave.”

Dr. Grant, who died in 2019 and was a long-time resident of Wyckoff, New Jersey, earned a degree in 1954 from what was then Paterson State Teachers College, and went on to earn a master’s degree in reading education from the University of Virginia and a doctorate in reading education from Teachers College, Columbia University. She began her career as an elementary school teacher in Glen Rock, where she taught for nine years.

In 1963, she joined the faculty at her *alma mater* as a reading instructor in what later became the College of Education at William Paterson. During her tenure at the University, she coauthored two books with her sister. Dr. Dorothy Grant Hennings: *The Teacher Moves*, published by Teachers College Press, and *Content and Craft: Written Expression in the Elementary School*, published by Prentice Hall. She was a founding member of the *Pi Lambda Theta* honor society chapter at William Paterson and held a leadership role in the organization for many years, speaking at national conventions as a representative of the William Paterson chapter. Upon her retirement from William Paterson in 1998, Dr. Grant was awarded the title of professor *emerita*.

Dr. Grant continued to be closely involved with the University until her death in 2019. She served for many years as a member of the Hobart Manor Revitalization Committee, and attended many events on campus. Her philanthropy began in 1980 with a gift to the Annual Fund, and she later established the Barbara M. Grant Scholarship in 2005 to provide support for a student in the College of Education. And, she very generously remembered the University in her estate plans.

“Her commitment to (her students) and to this University was evident in ways small and large—from her continued involvement with William Paterson long after her retirement, to the incredibly generous investment in our students that we recognize today,” said President Helldobler.

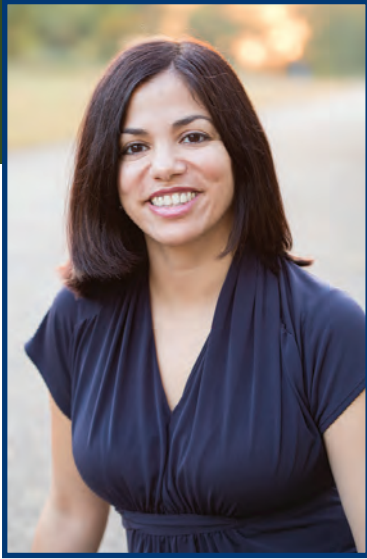


Photos, from top: The exterior of Grant Hall; Dr. Dorothy Grant Hennings shows photos of herself and her sister, Dr. Barbara Moll Grant; the ceremony in the atrium lounge of Grant Hall

# DAISY HERNÁNDEZ '97

## TELLS A PERSONAL STORY, SHINING A LIGHT ON RACIAL DISPARITIES AND HEALTH

BY MARY BETH ZEMAN



In 1980, when the memoirist, journalist, and cultural activist Daisy Hernández '97 was five, her Aunt Dora came to the United States from Colombia to seek medical treatment for a mysterious ailment that had caused her intestines to swell so much that she looked pregnant.

Aunt Dora's doctors in Colombia had not been able to find a cause, but a doctor at Columbia-Presbyterian in New York, which ran a clinic where anyone could be seen regardless of immigration status or insurance coverage, suspected Chagas disease.

Caused by the parasite *Trypanosoma cruzi*, and frequently transmitted through direct contact with a triatomine insect, or "kissing bug," Chagas disease affects an estimated eight million people in Mexico, Central America, and South America—including about 300,000 people in the United States, mostly immigrants from Latin America, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

As a young girl, Hernández had no idea her aunt's disease was caused by a parasite, or that it could cause her death. She also did not know that Chagas is a disease of poverty and neglect—one of 20 illnesses the World Health Organization considers "neglected tropical diseases" because they disproportionately affect poor families beyond our borders.

But after her aunt's death from Chagas in 2010, Hernández began to research and write about this disease that had such a profound effect on her family.

The result of that research is her new book, *The Kissing Bug: A True Story of a Family, an Insect, and a Nation's Neglect of a Deadly Disease*. Published by Tin House this past June to wide critical acclaim—BuzzFeed called it "a trenchant work of investigative journalism...weaving in cultural and political analysis, extensive research, and personal history"—the book is both a personal memoir and an in-depth exploration of a disease that is becoming more prevalent in the U.S., but still lacks widespread awareness in the medical community.

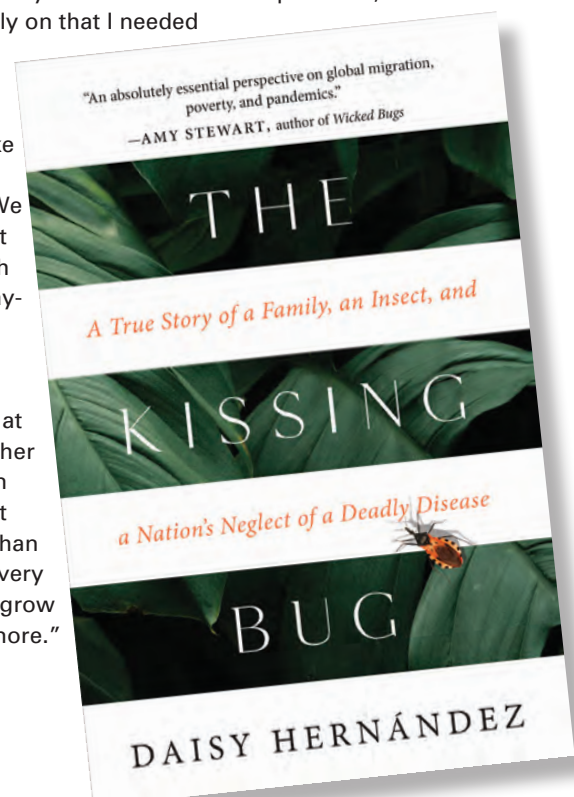
Hernández, who is an associate professor of creative writing at Miami University of Ohio, has no background in medicine or science. But she brought to the project her skills as a reporter

who has written for *National Geographic*, *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, and *Slate*, among others, and as the author of the award-winning memoir *A Cup of Water Under My Bed*, and co-editor of the anthology *Colonize This! Young Women of Color on Today's Feminism*.

"I read an enormous amount of medical and science articles, and gave myself a crash course in parasites," she says. "I knew early on that I needed

to be with the researchers; I needed to see their work to make it real for me and for my readers. We lose sight of what scientific research looks like on a day-to-day basis."

Hernández says she never imagined a book at the beginning of her research. "It soon became clear that there was more than one story, and it very quickly began to grow into something more."





She conducted more than 80 interviews, visiting Los Angeles to see the only clinic in the U.S. dedicated to Chagas patients, hunting for kissing bugs with researchers at Texas A & M University, and traveling to Colombia to see first-hand the origin of her story. “I wanted answers from doctors, from experts, from families in the U.S. and other places,” she says. “When you want to tell a story, doors will open.”

Untreated, Chagas can cause cardiac and gastrointestinal complications; one in three adults will end up with chronic heart disease. Many people do not experience symptoms, meaning few receive treatment. It also can be transmitted through blood transfusions, organ donation, and pregnancy.

“What was most surprising to me was that 63 to 300 children are born here each year with this disease,” says Hernández, who advocates for babies to be screened for Chagas at birth, as they are for other rare but serious medical conditions and genetic disorders. “The disease has no cure in the chronic stage for adults, but it can be cured in babies and children. It is 10 times cheaper to diagnose and treat a baby and mother than to manage the chronic disease.”

Writing her book during the COVID pandemic brought home the connection between public health and global health. “If we contain a disease to a certain part of the world, we are doing a disservice to ourselves because we are only containing it, not eradicating it,” she says. “That is so true for Chagas.”

She wants to raise awareness of the disease in the medical community, noting that few medical schools provide training in diseases like Chagas. “If a patient comes into the ER and is connected to Latin America, I hope they will think about Chagas disease if that patient has a heart problem,” she says.

Hernández grew up in Fairview, New Jersey, in a large, extended Cuban-Colombian family; her parents worked in textile factories and experienced cycles of unemployment. She applied to William Paterson because her entire friend group in high school applied—“I had no help in the college application process”—and because she found that the University offered a full scholarship. “I was working at the public library

which would not pay for college,” she says. She found someone in admissions and “kept calling,” and still recalls the day she received a call back telling her she had that full scholarship.

“I am forever grateful for that scholarship—it made it possible for me to have an undergraduate education,” she says. An English major, she took a small loan to study abroad in England, where she “got to be in all the places I had been reading about.”

Hernández found community in the Feminist Collective on campus, participating in Take Back the Night marches and Wednesday lunches where students talked about everything. She also found a confidante in Arlene Scala, now professor *emerita* of women’s and gender studies, who was the group’s advisor.



Daisy Hernández with her Aunt Dora in 1981

“She was a great instructor—nonjudgmental, compassionate, someone who told you that whatever was happening today is OK,” Hernández recalls. “She was my person at WP. When I came out as bisexual, she was the first person I told. Now I am the professor that students tell.”

During her undergraduate years, Hernández worked at *Ms. Magazine*, where then at age 25 she was invited to write a regular column. She then co-authored, with Bushra Rehman, the anthology *Colonize This! Young Women of Color on Today’s Feminism*. Her work with *Ms.* coupled with a master’s degree in journalism from New York University, took her to *The New York Times* where she reported for the Metro desk. She

later served as managing editor of *ColorLines*, a newsmagazine on race and politics in Oakland, California; her article about how transgender people of color experience race when they transition was nominated for a 2009 GLAAD media award.

In 2011, she put journalism on hold to pursue an MFA in creative writing at the University of Miami in Florida. The program also gave her a chance to see what teaching might look like—and she loved it. “I found it was a complete joy to show students what someone had shown me,” she says. “It is so humbling because I remember the impact my professors had on me.”

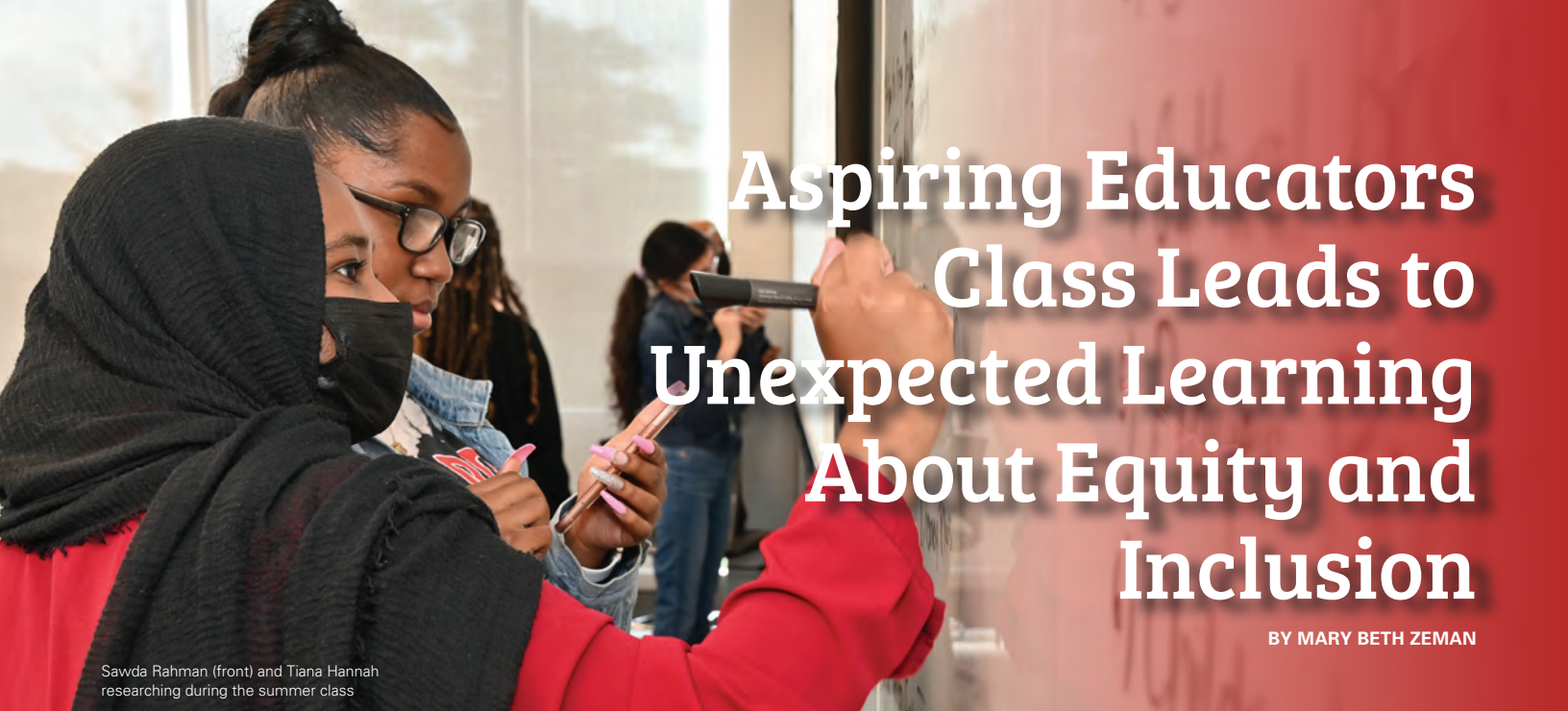
She currently teaches creative non-fiction, sharing her expertise in how to work in memoir and research. She says the process of writing *The Kissing Bug* has given her new insights to share with her students.

“Before writing this book, I would teach them about memoir, and guide them in how to deal with the difficult experience of writing about trauma,” she says. Now, she asks her students to not only write about their own experiences, but also to interview others in order to narrate someone’s story on the page. “They discover stories they think they know really well, but don’t. You may not find the story you thought you’d find.”

During the COVID pandemic, she came to appreciate how much the work that takes place in the classroom is truly about learning how to be in community with each other. “It is hard but necessary,” she says. “I really appreciate that learning and being changed is such a process.”

Hernández is also aware that what she tells students is something they will remember in five, 10 or 15 years, a fact brought home as she recalled advice from Jim Hauser, William Paterson professor *emeritus* of English, more than two decades ago.

“I remember Jim saying that when we are really specific in our writing, we open the door for the reader to walk in,” she says. “I realized how much those words meant as I was writing *The Kissing Bug*. I hope that my readers will come along on this journey, and appreciate that we can’t be satisfied with only taking care of those next to us.”



Sawda Rahman (front) and Tiana Hannah researching during the summer class

# Aspiring Educators Class Leads to Unexpected Learning About Equity and Inclusion

BY MARY BETH ZEMAN

When 12 local high school students signed up for a summer dual enrollment class in education at William Paterson, they never dreamed they would have a truly profound opportunity to learn about equity and inclusion—and make an impact on the University.

The students—all young women of color—enrolled in the class as part of a pilot academic enrichment initiative, the WP Aspiring Educators Program, for diverse students interested in teaching as a profession. The course, Foundations of Bilingual and Multicultural Education, focuses on understanding all aspects of multicultural and bilingual education, and how teachers can effectively explore and celebrate diversity in the classroom by engaging in culturally relevant instruction.

But the students, and their professor, David Fuentes, could not have anticipated the very personal equity and inclusion situation they would find in their classroom. It turned out that five of the students were Muslim, and would need to miss class one day in order to observe Eid al-Adha, an important celebration within their faith.

“These students were being asked to decide whether to observe their religious beliefs or miss out on this educational experience,” says Fuentes, a professor of teacher education. “Here we were studying about educational equity, and they saw inequity first hand.”

While the Muslim students were absent, the rest of the class decided it would be inequitable to continue with the planned lesson, so they instead chose to visit the University’s Cheng Library to learn about Eid. Once there, they quickly realized that the library’s holdings on Muslim heritage were very limited.

What happened next was something Fuentes describes as “the purpose of education: allowing young people to recognize that something needs to change, and acting on it.” The students took it upon themselves as a group, and with Fuentes’s guidance, decided to adapt the curriculum for the course to focus on researching and completing a literature review of available books about Muslim culture, and

recommending a list for purchase by the University.

“The class studied equity, was able to identify an issue of equity here at WP, and worked to find a solution,” says Fuentes. “That is what we call praxis and the goal of teaching students critical thinking.”

Amy Ginsberg, dean of the College of Education, developed the WP Aspiring Educators Program to expand and diversify the teacher pipeline. The program offered a six-week summer experience that included the dual enrollment course in the morning, and paid positions in the afternoon as teaching assistants working with younger students enrolled in the University’s Summer Life Program, offered through the School of Continuing and Professional Education. The 12 students selected hailed from three high schools in the University’s Professional Development Schools network—John F. Kennedy High School in Paterson, Clifton High School, and Passaic County Technical Institute (PCTI) in Wayne.

***“Many high school students who come from underrepresented backgrounds may not see themselves as future teachers. In the College of Education, we are continually looking for creative ways to draw more diverse students into the teaching profession. We were really excited about introducing potential education students to a collegiate teaching and learning experience through this program.”***

**—Amy Ginsberg, dean, College of Education**

When Ginsberg and Edward Owusu-Ansah, dean of the Cheng Library, learned of the students’ recommendations, they were supportive. The result: the library purchased 18 print and digital books, including books for children, which were added to the library’s collection this fall.

The students returned to campus in November to celebrate the new book collection and to discuss their experience with University administrators, faculty, and students.

Nadeen Khalil, a senior at PCTI and one of the Muslim students, said that to have her professor and classmates recognize this issue of equity was so important. “I am proud to say it was a truly meaningful experience,” she said.

Her sentiment was echoed by Sawda Rahman, a senior at PCTI and another of the Muslim students. “As Muslims, we are often not recognized,” she said. “To know that others will have access to these books, especially books about Muslim girls, is amazing.”

Natalie McKinney, a junior at PCTI, said she was proud of what the group had accomplished. “We didn’t think what we were doing would change anything, but we did,” she said.

A week later, the students joined a Zoom meeting of Issues and Trends in Early Childhood Education, a graduate course taught by Anita Kumar, who was inspired to invite them to her class after hearing them speak at the Aspiring Educators celebration. The meeting offered yet another opportunity for growth and learning.

“These young women were candid, bright, and full of energy, blooming in the validation of what they have accomplished,” says Kumar. “They also had a lot of insightful questions for the in-service teachers in the class about how they deal with inequities in their schools.”

Fuentes, who has deep experience in preparing pre-service and in-service teachers to teach in urban classrooms, and on diversity in the teacher workforce, says this class was one of the most impactful for him as a teacher educator.

“Dealing with inequity is inherently difficult,” he says. “The right atmosphere must be in place to take on that challenge. I am proud that William Paterson University and the College of Education enable an atmosphere that fosters and facilitates that process.”

“My goal is to learn alongside the students I work with,” he continues. “It is rare to have an experience like this in which that goal was not only met, but significantly exceeded in such an impactful way.”

For Ginsberg, the experience was a “resounding success in a variety of ways, not least of which was the high school students learning about each other in unexpected ways and inspiring the enhancement of the library’s holdings of curriculum materials on Muslim heritage.”

“We had no idea how phenomenal it would be,” adds Ginsberg, who hopes to institutionalize the program. “We learned as much as they did.”



Some of the books purchased by the library



At the Aspiring Educators celebration: (Rear, left to right) Smaryn De Jesus, Fahda Ahmad, Jayleen Morfa, Natalie McKinney, Sawda Rahman, Madina Hadi, Rainely Ramos Brito, Mia Ferreras; (front, left to right) Karla Lopez Tapia, WP student assistant for the course, Yocelin Ramirez, Nadeen Khalil, Walaa Abdelaziz, and Professor David Fuentes

# PRE-DOCTORAL FELLOWS

## Enrich Campus with Diverse Perspectives

BY CHRISTINE DIEHL AND MARY BETH ZEMAN

The University's inaugural class of Pre-Doctoral Fellows is bringing a fresh perspective to campus this fall as part of a new program designed to support doctoral or terminal degree candidates from underrepresented backgrounds as they launch their academic careers.

Four fellows—Jasmine Henry, music; Shannon Holder, educational leadership and professional studies; Steven Jones, psychology; and Soohyun (Ashley) Lee, management, marketing, and professional sales—joined the University in September. Each has been appointed to teach at William Paterson for up to two years while they finish their doctoral degrees.

"We are so pleased to welcome these four pre-doctoral fellows to our faculty," says Joshua Powers, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, who developed the program. "It is exciting to support the career development of highly qualified, underrepresented faculty who are committed to our mission as a teaching institution serving diverse students, and who bring cutting-edge scholarship and unique perspectives to our students."

The multifaceted program includes a wide range of activities to support the fellows in their roles as teachers and scholars in a public regional institution.

"Most graduate programs aren't able to provide their doctoral candidates with the preparation they really need as they get ready to begin their careers as faculty, such as experiencing how a department functions, how to advance their teaching skills, or what it is like to teach a full load of courses," says Kara Rabbitt, associate provost, who serves as coordinator of the program with David E. Jones, the University's chief diversity officer.

"Through this program, we are offering these fellows in-depth preparation for the complexities of being a faculty member and supporting them in learning how to balance teaching, research, and service—and how to do it well."

That preparation includes a monthly professional writing group facilitated by Christopher Salerno, professor of English and director of the University's Writing Across the Curriculum program, designed to support their professional writing goals as they seek publication opportunities for their research. Each fellow is also mentored both by faculty in their department and by an outside mentor

through William Paterson's Center for Teaching Excellence. They also meet as a group in monthly meetings with Rabbitt and Jones to discuss strategies for advancing their careers and for balancing faculty responsibilities.

William Paterson is recognized as both a Hispanic-serving institution and a minority-serving institution by the U.S. Department of Education. "This program is part of University-wide efforts to create a more inclusive campus culture by demonstrating our institutional commitment to building a more diverse teaching faculty that is dedicated to teaching and supporting our diverse students in the classroom," says Jones.

Each fellow is currently teaching three courses in their respective departments, with opportunities to teach both in person and online through WP Online, the University's platform of fully online degree programs. Each fellow will have the opportunity to co-teach a course with a senior faculty member, providing them with a unique opportunity to view another faculty member's teaching methods and strategies and to offer this faculty peer some new or different perspectives and strategies for the classroom.

The fellows also are pursuing their own research agendas as they complete their doctorates. "Each of these fellows brings an interesting area of research to William Paterson and by extension, to our students—many of whom may be affected or closely relate to the very topics they are studying," says Rabbitt. "They are very enthusiastic and engaging teachers and colleagues who will make a real impact in our classrooms. We are so thrilled to welcome them as members of our community."



### Soohyun (Ashley) Lee

Department of Management, Marketing, and Professional Sales, Cotsakos College of Business

**Doctoral Study:** PhD candidate in Industrial-Organizational Psychology, Baruch College, The Graduate Center and City University of New York

**WP Courses Taught:** Human Resource Management • Strategic Human Resource Management

**Research Interests:** Research includes study of employee well-being, job stressors, and cross-cultural issues.

#### Why is your research important to your discipline, or to the public?

I am currently studying knowledge hiding at work to understand why some employees withhold information from their colleagues and how organizations can facilitate knowledge sharing among employees. To quote Benjamin Schneider's 1987 paper, "The People Make the Place," people are the ones who build, run, and manage companies. Understanding how people think, feel, and behave can help solve many problems in organizations. My research aims to bridge psychology and business to benefit both individuals and organizations.

#### Why did you select this fellowship opportunity and what do you hope to gain by your participation?

The core mission of the program—developing underrepresented doctoral students and advancing faculty diversity in higher education—really got me. As an international Asian female PhD student, I sometimes felt doubtful about my ability. This program targets students like me and helps them succeed. I also really like the developmental opportunities that this fellowship offers such as formal and informal mentorship and cohort experiences.

# Meet Our Pre-Doctoral Fellows



## Jasmine Henry '14, MM '16

Department of Music, College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

**Doctoral Study:** PhD candidate in Musicology, Rutgers University

**WP Courses Taught:** Audio Recording for Musicians • Electronic Music I • Pop Music and Genre I

**Research Interests:** Popular music, race, and technology; doctoral dissertation: "Jersey Club: Race, Place, and Independent Music Production in Newark, New Jersey."

### Why is your research important to your discipline, or to the public?

My dissertation examines Jersey Club music and culture in Newark, New Jersey. Jersey Club is a popular style of electronic dance music that has gone viral on TikTok over the last couple of years! However, many people are unaware of the music's history, particularly that it was created and continues to be pioneered by predominantly Black DJs, dancers, and entrepreneurs in Newark. I expect my dissertation to shed new light on the past, present, and future of Jersey Club and why it is so meaningful to the key people who produce and perform to it.

### Why did you select this fellowship opportunity and what do you hope to gain by your participation?

What interested me was the offer of a highly supportive, full-time teaching position designed to help PhD candidates like me finish their dissertations while also providing unique mentorship and teaching opportunities. As an alumna, I jumped at the chance to provide a new generation of WP students with the amazing guidance, support, and inspiration I received here as an undergraduate and graduate student. I hope to gain experience balancing the heavy demands of full-time university teaching, research, and service through the personalized mentorship of the accomplished and trailblazing faculty.

## Shannon Holder

Department of Educational Leadership, College of Education

**Doctoral Study:** PhD candidate in Learning, Leadership, and Education Policy, University of Connecticut

**WP Courses Taught:** Leadership in Learning Communities: From Theory to Practice • Educational Research • Leadership Studies in Higher Education

**Research Interests:** Studying the experiences of students from traditionally marginalized communities who are impacted by educational policies and educational leadership.

### Why is your research important to your discipline, or to the public?

My current dissertation research focuses on the equity-based policy of "detracking," which is the dismantling of the historic injustices of academic tracking systems in order to increase equity for the students of color and marginalized students harmed by tracking. In particular, I am studying how high school principals implement and make sense of this reform. I aim to use my research to study equity-based initiatives and to uncover how to make the United States educational system more just.

### Why did you select this fellowship opportunity and what do you hope to gain by your participation?

I was interested in the program because of the leadership opportunities and writing support William Paterson offers its fellows. This program was unique in the supports that it provides for new faculty. Through this fellowship, I hope to gain more teaching experience and complete my dissertation.



## Steven Jones

Department of Psychology, College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

**Doctoral Study:** PhD candidate in Social Psychology, Rutgers University

**WP Courses Taught:** General Psychology • Experimental II: Research Methods

**Research Interests:** Investigating issues that impact equal opportunity, including exploring relationships between races and genders.

### Why is your research important to your discipline, or to the public?

My current research was inspired by intersectional frameworks predicting that Black men will strongly support gender equality. However, relevant research testing views of Black men about gender equality has been scant and inconsistent. My work aims to resolve past inconsistencies by examining the role of masculine and racial identity as interactive predictors. My dissertation will inform future projects, including interventions designed to increase Black men's support for gender equality, particularly when it advances Black women.

### Why did you select this fellowship opportunity and what do you hope to gain by your participation?

I accepted this fellowship because it offered me ample opportunity to grow as a teacher and mentor. This support was very important to me because I am as passionate about my teaching as my research. I am focused on imbuing my students with skills to become innovative, perceptive thinkers and researchers. I have been mentored by remarkable men and women throughout my academic career, and as an educator of color, I would like to do the same for all students, particularly students of color.

## \$1.5 MILLION GRANT WILL ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY

A nearly \$1.5 million grant through New Jersey's "Opportunity Meets Innovation Challenge" program will support a pilot project that aims to tackle the issue of food insecurity for William Paterson students with exceptional financial need.

The competitive challenge grant program is funded by \$28.5 million from the U.S. Department of Education, through the second round of the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funding. William Paterson is one of the public and public-mission private institutions who have received awards to increase college completion, address barriers to student success, and develop sustainable systemic reforms.

The University will use the grant funds to provide a meal allowance to incoming first-year and transfer students who are eligible for its innovative Pledge4Success Program and do not have

a meal plan in place. The Pledge4Success Program, launched in fall 2019, provides grants to incoming first-year students that make up the difference between what a student receives if eligible for full New Jersey TAG and federal PELL grants (for students with exceptional financial need) and what is owed in tuition and fees.

"William Paterson University has been at the forefront of access, equity, and affordability by implementing one of the first free college promises in the state through our Pledge4Success program," says President Richard Helldobler, noting that since its inception, the program has assisted more than 1,000 students. "Yet, the piece that still remains a challenge for our students is food insecurity. This grant funding will allow us to help one of our most vulnerable populations and to tackle one of the most pressing issues in terms of equity and affordability head-on by putting direct aid in our students' hands."

## In Memoriam

THE UNIVERSITY MOURNS THE PASSING OF FOUR MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY:



**Vishwa Bhat**, associate professor of communication disorders and sciences died July 22, 2021. Bhat, who joined the University in 1989, was a specialist in auditory processing disorders and the middle ear mechanism, teaching courses in the anatomy and physiology of speech and swallowing, and hearing science and the measurement

of hearing. He guided more than 35 graduate thesis and graduate research projects, several of which were presented at national and regional conferences and during William Paterson's celebration of research, *Explorations*. In addition, Bhat was the photographer for the New Jersey Speech Hearing Association (NJSHA) and his cooking expertise was featured several times on local cable channels. A graduate of the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing with bachelor's and master's degrees in audiology, Bhat earned his doctorate from the University of Texas, Dallas.



**Haruko Taya Cook**, retired instructor and coordinator of the Japanese language teaching program, died September 28, 2021. Cook, who was born in Osaka, Japan, was an accomplished oral historian. She was the co-author, with her husband Theodore F. Cook, professor of history, of *Japan at War: An Oral History*, and published extensively

on war and the common people of Japan and Asia during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Her later research focused on Japan's wartime experience and the consequences for individuals of decision-maker's choices, women and society, and examination of the literary and cultural representation of Japan's modern wars. A long-time faculty member at Marymount College, she was a Fordham Marymount Professor *Emerita* of History.

**Anthony Maltese**, professor *emeritus* of communication, died on October 20, 2021. He was 89. Maltese, who grew up in Newark, attended Rutgers University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in English. He joined the U.S. Army during the Korean War,



achieving the rank of corporal. After the war ended, Maltese taught at Arts High School in Newark while earning a master's degree in speech pathology at Columbia University. During the summers, he taught, acted, and directed summer stock theater in North Carolina. Maltese joined the University faculty in 1960; at age 28, he was

the youngest professor in the college's history. He started William Paterson's media production curriculum, pushing for resources to create the institution's first TV studio, which opened in 1970 in what today is Hamilton Hall. He was responsible for helping to obtain the FM license for WPSC radio station and initiated the department's internship program. He later earned his PhD in radio and television from Ohio University. Affectionately called "Doc" by his students, Maltese retired in 1996. Studio B in Hamilton Hall was named after him in recognition of his lifetime achievements. The Department of Communication also annually presents the Maltese Awards given to students for excellence in radio, television, film, broadcasting, journalism, theater, and comedy.



**John O'Connor**, professor *emeritus* of philosophy, died November 13, 2021. O'Connor joined the University in 1987 as dean of what was then the School of Humanities and later became the School of Humanities, Management, and Social Sciences. He returned to full-time teaching as a philosophy professor in 1993, after also

providing support to the Provost's Office on projects including advisement and articulation agreements with community colleges. He retired from William Paterson in 2001. Prior to joining the University, O'Connor served as assistant director for programs at the National Humanities Center, after teaching philosophy at the University of Delaware, Case Western Reserve University, and Vassar College. A graduate of Cornell University, with honors, he was the recipient of a Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship, and obtained his master's and doctoral degrees in philosophy from Harvard University. O'Connor, who taught courses on logic and ethics, among others, authored several publications on philosophy and made numerous presentations at scholarly conferences.

## Alumni Connections

### Alumni Come Back to Campus for Homecoming & Family Day 2021

After 18 months of hosting virtual events, William Paterson University welcomed alumni, family, and friends back to campus for Homecoming & Family Day 2021 on October 9. Saturday events included a pre-game tailgate near Wightman Stadium; a Pioneer Carnival with food, games, prizes, and fun activities; the Homecoming football game against Christopher Newport University, and a men's soccer match against Rowan University. The campus community was also introduced to WP's new mascot, Pio, and the University's first-ever spirit song (see story on page 17). Other events included honoring the newest Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees during halftime of the football game and presenting the 2nd Annual President's Cup to *Tau Kappa Epsilon*, who for the second straight year had the most alumni return to campus for Homecoming.



# Pioneers



## Pesce Family Mentoring Institute Welcomes First Mentee-Turned-Mentor

Stefanie Baroutoglou '16 credits her experience as a mentee in William Paterson's Pesce Family Mentoring Institute with helping her better find a way to the law degree and law career of which she's always dreamed. In fact, five years after graduating, she still keeps in touch with the mentor she was paired with through the University's Career Development Center.



Stefanie Baroutoglou '16 and her Pesce mentor, Debbie Gantert '77

For that reason, Baroutoglou decided to return to WP as a career mentor—becoming the first mentee-turned-mentor in the Pesce Family Mentoring Institute's history, which dates to fall 2014. Prospective mentors are required to have five years of relevant professional experience to be considered for the role.

"I wanted to give back to the William Paterson community, as the University will always have a special place in my heart...I experienced four of my greatest years there and I do miss it and hope to stay connected in any way I can," Baroutoglou explains. She is

also a member of the Young Alumni Council.

As a student, Baroutoglou thought going to law school directly after WP was her only option with a bachelor's degree in legal studies and history. She hadn't considered pursuing a career as a paralegal, where she could gain first-hand experience in the legal field, until she learned more about that profession from her Pesce mentor—Debbie Gantert '77, a paralegal who serves on the Alumni Association Executive Council.

Gantert, a mentor at the Institute since its inception, still keeps in touch with her first two mentees, of which Stefanie is one. She continues to serve as a mentor in the Institute for students pursuing degrees in legal studies largely because of the great experience she had with her first two students.

"College students are not always sure what they want to do afterwards, and so by sharing positive and negative experiences, it helps them; sometimes they change their minds about what they want to do," Gantert explains, noting that her previous mentee did just that.

Baroutoglou began working on her law degree at Pace University this fall. She says Gantert "celebrated that win" with her, and still provides professional motivation and a listening ear all these years later. Now, she wants to pay it forward.

"I hope to motivate her and confirm with her all the resources, so she never feels like she's alone in figuring out what the journey looks like," she says in discussing her current mentee, Samiha Ahmed '24, a sophomore majoring in legal studies and sociology.

For Ahmed, Baroutoglou has had a huge influence in a short time. "She has encouraged my academic success in so many ways in just the past five weeks," she says. "She is teaching me to connect with people, broaden my opportunities, engage in fields which I didn't think were attainable, and told me things about her career which are dreams of mine. As a mentee, I could say she's like an older sister, teacher, and encyclopedia all in one! She's a huge part of the reason I have gained so much confidence in myself with my academic goals and career prospects."

Mentors, aside from sharing career motivation and insight, help mentees with resumes, networking, interview skills, job searching, and overall life skills, notes Deborah Feingold, coordinator of the Institute. Some mentors have even hired their mentees as interns or full-time employees.

"Mentors get as much out of this program as mentees do," Gantert adds. "It is fun, rewarding, and fulfilling. This program means a great deal to me."

### BECOME A MENTOR TO A CURRENT STUDENT!

The Pesce Family Mentoring Institute is looking for alumni professionals to mentor current WP students. The Institute was created to help prepare students for their careers or graduate education by connecting successful professionals with select William Paterson undergraduate students. Mentees are individually matched with mentors who can offer life skills, career advice, and guidance. Consider this opportunity to remain connected to your *alma mater* and provide meaningful career guidance and mentoring to a current student.

To learn more about the Institute and the requirements of being a mentor, visit [wpunj.edu/wpmentoring](http://wpunj.edu/wpmentoring). Mentor applications for Spring 2022 are now being accepted. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please contact Jenna Villani, executive director of alumni relations, at [villanij3@wpunj.edu](mailto:villanij3@wpunj.edu) or 973.720.2932.

The Pesce Family Mentoring Institute was made possible through a generous gift by Board of Trustees member William Pesce '73 and his family to the William Paterson University Foundation.



Nicholas Montessano and his mentor, Mark DeZao '84

"My last mentee graduated so this is the first meeting with my new mentee. I stay in contact with my mentees after they graduate. I want to be there for them and be a sounding board for their careers."

—Mark DeZao '84, Mentor

"This is my third semester here, it's great. Mark has been more than helpful, and I love the program."

—Nicholas Montessano '24, Mentee

"I graduated from WP in 2011, so I'm happy to give back and help. Matteo is doing a lot in and outside of school, so I think he is setting himself up for success before he graduates."

—Jeffrey Szabo '11, Mentor

"I am a finance and accounting major. It's a great match, he's really nice, we have been matched for a month, still very fresh, first time meeting in person."

—Matteo Liccardo '22, Mentee



Jeffrey Szabo '11 and his mentee Matteo Liccardo



# Gwynne Stevenson '21 Named 2021 "Outstanding Senior" by WP Alumni Association



Gwynne Stevenson '21

Gwynne Stevenson, a May 2021 graduate with a bachelor of arts in music and minors in classical voice and music and entertainment industries, *summa cum laude*, was named the 2021 "Outstanding Senior" by the WP Alumni Association.

The award, presented annually since 1962, is the highest honor bestowed by the Alumni Association. The recipient is selected by the Association's Executive Council based on strong involvement in extracurricular activities, demonstrated leadership ability, service to the University, and high academic standing.

The award was announced at the Virtual Senior Send-Off Celebration on May 11, where Domenico DiMaio '97, MBA '21, president of the Alumni Association, recognized all of the nominees and announced the recipient.

"It was a pleasure to see so many members of the Class of 2021 participate in the Virtual Senior Send-Off Celebration and to recognize the nominees and recipient of the Outstanding Senior Award," says Jenna Villani, executive director of alumni relations.

"I am so humbled and honored to be the recipient of this award," says Stevenson. "I was very surprised to be chosen because I was among so many qualified students."

Stevenson, an Honors College student, rose to a high level of performance as a freshman, and participated in several vocal ensembles in the Department of Music. She was featured on virtual choir videos throughout the 2020-21 academic year, and received high accolades for her performances in virtually every genre, including pop, musical theatre, and classical studies.

She served as president of the Music and Entertainment Organization, a campus club, for three years, organizing numerous successful events, including panel discussions, concerts, and open mics. She played the leading role in the music department's production of *Pirates of Penzance* as a sophomore and was featured twice in its Collage concert in addition to participating in musicals and the "I Want My Eighties" concert.

As a member of *Theta Phi Alpha*, *Beta Xi* Chapter, she served as a Standards Board Representative and song chairperson, and on several other committees. She was also a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success. She participated in many recruitment events for the Department of Music, helping to secure new students in the program and widen participation in departmental events.

"I cannot think of a more disciplined, creative, deserving and passionate student who would represent the Alumni Association Outstanding Senior Award," says Lauren Fowler-Calisto, associate professor of music and director of choral activities. "I firmly believe that Gwynne holds the promise of an exceedingly successful career in the music and entertainment industry. She is a woman of true character and will further represent our music department and William Paterson in a way that will benefit the community as well as her future colleagues."

After graduation, Stevenson plans a career in the live music events industry. "After putting together live concerts on campus, I love seeing everyone enjoying themselves at an event that I was involved in creating—usually after months of hard work and preparation. That's the real payoff."

Also nominated for the award were: Aashish Andrew, Connor Brown, Kendra Chaiken, John Conlow, Abryanna Hernandez, Dena Janos, Julia Kragiel, Charlene Lisboa, Daniel Lopez, Amelia Medici, Pooja Patel, Linda Sheehan, and Carson Weis.

## Celebrating a Campus Engagement!

It was a day to remember for WP sweetheart couple Rashard Mills '10 and Gissel Cruz '12, who got engaged on campus on September 11, 2021. Rashard thought of every detail as he planned the surprise engagement at their *alma mater*, a place that means so much to them. Gissel thought they were visiting campus to celebrate their dating anniversary with a photo shoot in the Atrium, the building where they first met. Following the photo shoot, Rashard found a way to get Gissel to the University's tailgate gathering that was taking place in Lot 2 before the University's football game, where their family and friends—many of whom are WP alumni, faculty, and staff—were there to meet them as he got down on one knee.

"Our first campus lunch together was September 10, 2007, so we celebrate it every year with dinner and reminiscing our time of knowing each other, and we call it our first date anniversary," says Rashard. "The weather, the surprise, the music, the games, the food, and the decorations were all extraordinarily perfect. It was a day of fellowship and unity for all the WP departments that we had been involved with while attending back in our day; WP has become an extension of the family, and I wanted our families to feel the university's love while attending."

In honor of their engagement, Rashard decided to generously establish the Cruz-Mills Scholarship, to help future generations of Pioneer students achieve their goal of becoming WP graduates. "We now hope that our financial assistance and continued support will be a benefit to someone and a fair chance to obtain a degree, learn about themselves as well as find the love of their life and friend for life via higher education," he says.

Congratulations to Rashard and Gissel on their most memorable engagement!



Rashard Mills '10 and Gissel Cruz '12

## Skull and Poniard Banner Unveiled in University Hall

More than 20 members of Skull and Poniard fraternity gathered on August 26 for the unveiling of the organization's banner in the lobby of University Hall on campus. Alumni, University leadership, and friends had the chance to celebrate Skull and Poniard's rich history and legacy, the strong bond and connection the fraternity's brothers have maintained through the years, and the generosity of so many members who have supported the Skull and Poniard Endowed Scholarship.



Efforts to raise the banner on campus were led by Skull and Poniard brother Bill Joosten '66, MA '69, who has demonstrated dedication and enthusiasm for keeping the fraternity's traditions vibrant and strong.

"We are here to celebrate the unveiling of this special banner here in University Hall, one of the busiest, most central buildings on campus, where it will be seen and appreciated by students, faculty, and staff for years to come," said President Richard Helldobler. "Fittingly, the banner will

hang near a wall consisting of bricks from the original Coach House, where so many great William Paterson memories were made."

"It is truly a pleasure to be here with you all today, for this much anticipated celebration of the rich history and legacy of Skull and Poniard," remarked Pamela Ferguson, vice president for institutional advancement. "I know that this is a moment that you have been awaiting and looking forward to for quite some time and I'm so glad to join you all as it comes to fruition today."

The Skull and Poniard Endowed Scholarship was established in 2018 and funded through the collective and generous support of Skull and Poniard brothers. Thanks to the scholarship, a current undergraduate receives an award each year. In creating this scholarship, Skull and Poniard has created a lasting legacy that helps ensure students are able to achieve their goal of becoming college graduates.

## We will miss...

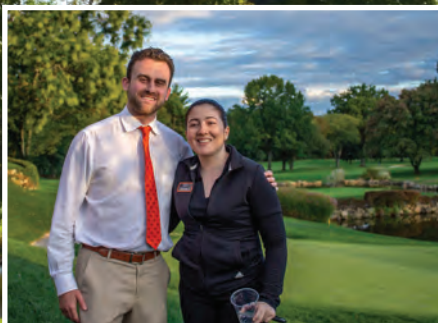
**John "Jack" Moran '61, MA '78**, a long-time member of the Alumni Association's Executive Council, passed away at 86 on June 23, 2021. He was 86. Moran joined the U.S. Army after high school, serving for two years in Germany. Upon his return, he enrolled at William Paterson, where he joined the Skull and Poniard fraternity. He was a member of the 1959 baseball team that was the first WP team to appear in any sport's national tournament, and advanced to the NAIA College World Series; the team was inducted into the University's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2013. A graduate of WP with a degree in education, Moran taught high school for 25 years, also coaching basketball at numerous schools including Pequannock Township High School. After retiring from teaching, he found a successful second career in the insurance industry with Met Life. Dedicated to supporting students in need, he was a member of the University's Heritage Society, which recognizes loyal donors.



## Foundation Holds Successful Annual Golf and Tennis Outing

The William Paterson University Foundation hosted its Annual Golf and Tennis Outing on Thursday, September 30. Due to popular demand, tennis was added to the event this year. Ginny Overdorf, professor emerita of kinesiology (photo, bottom right), served as Tennis Chair, Domenico DiMaio '97, MBA '21, former Alumni Association president, served as Golf Chair (photo, bottom right), and Michele Garcia '15, current Alumni Association president (photo, top left), served as Product Chair.

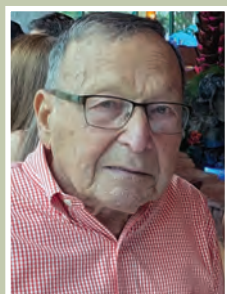
This year's event, which generates funds that directly support WP students, saw its highest tricky tray ticket sales ever, making a difference in the lives of William Paterson students and helping the University to achieve its mission of academic excellence and student success.



## Mourning the loss of . . .

- |   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| '34 BARBARA WARD BREWER,<br>CRT ED*<br>Rock Hill, SC<br>August 21, 2021 | '62 BEVERLY CLANCY<br>Paterson, NJ<br>February 22, 2021                    | JEAN EDWARDS*<br>Oakland, NJ<br>February 15, 2021            | '80 GARY CUMMINGS*<br>Morristown, NJ<br>March 12, 2021           |
| '48 SARAH LUSCIANDRELLO<br>SCILLIERI<br>Ramsey, NJ<br>March 29, 2021    | '65 RUTH STRICKHART, MA*<br>Pittsfield, NH<br>March 5, 1920                | EVELYN HOTALEN*<br>Sparta, NJ<br>July 20, 2021               | '81 DONNA GARRY FRY<br>Warwick, NY<br>June 18, 2021              |
| '51 JOSEPH TRIONE, MA*<br>West Palm Beach, FL<br>March 29, 2021         | '66 HAROLD DODDS, MED '82*<br>Madison, NJ<br>November 22, 2020             | RICHARD MUNIZ, MED '74*<br>Hamden, CT<br>January 17, 2021    | JOSEPH SIDOTE<br>Brooklyn, NY<br>April 6, 2021                   |
| '53 VIRGINIA CAVALLUZZO*<br>Pequanock, NJ<br>June 22, 2021              | JOSEPH DZIEZAWIEC, MED*<br>Paterson, NJ<br>October 9, 2021                 | '74 JOHN POKRIVCHAK<br>Phillipsburg, NJ<br>April 13, 2021    | '83 JUANITA FIERRO, MED<br>Old Tappan, NJ<br>July 14, 2021       |
| MARIE DEGRADO DABAGIAN*<br>Franklin Lakes, NJ<br>February 3, 2021       | '67 MARILYN LITTMAN<br>CUNNINGHAM<br>Southern Pines, NC<br>August 21, 2021 | '75 CONNIE MOHL<br>Oakland, NJ<br>April 5, 2021              | '84 ELINOR SODERLUND<br>Pompton Plains, NJ<br>September 22, 2021 |
| DOLORES KING<br>Maplewood, NJ<br>August 17, 2021                        | '68 CAROL MARTINELLI<br>HOLLANDER*<br>Skillman, NJ<br>August 13, 2021      | '76 ROBERT BACON<br>Port Orange, FL<br>March 31, 2021        | '85 MICHAEL MCCORMICK<br>Parsippany, NJ<br>July 29, 2021         |
| LOIS KNOPF LENNON<br>Scarsdale, NY<br>April 13, 2021                    | SYLVIA DE STEFANO JONES<br>Wayne, NJ<br>January 16, 2021                   | JOHN UNGER<br>Bradenton, FL<br>August 23, 2021               | '86 BRIAN MCLAUGHLIN<br>Pennington, NJ<br>July 22, 2021          |
| JUDITH WARNAAR, MS*<br>Garfield, NJ<br>May 10, 2021                     | BELLA WARSHAWSKI SHORE,<br>MED '01<br>Haledon, NJ<br>August 28, 2021       | '77 CATHY DELLAR LINDSTROM<br>Ann Arbor, MI<br>June 15, 2021 | '92 DAVID CILIO<br>Basking Ridge, NJ<br>July 2, 2021             |
| '59 DIANNE GREFF<br>Wayne, NJ<br>January 29, 2021                       | '69 ELIZABETH SCHNELL<br>FELLDIN*<br>Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ<br>July 31, 2021        | '78 NORMA CRAWFORD, MA<br>Summerville, SC<br>March 10, 2021  | '97 JOANNE COONEY, MED<br>Waretown, NJ<br>May 26, 2021           |
| KATHLEEN HARDY<br>Garfield, NJ<br>April 22, 2021                        | JOHN PRICKEN<br>Woodland Park, NJ<br>March 30, 2021                        | JOSEPH HART<br>Boulder, CO<br>April 10, 2021                 | '04 KIMBERLY ALFORD CREDIT<br>Boonton, NJ<br>April 6, 2021       |
| '61 GEORGE DELMONTE, MA<br>Paterson, NJ<br>Mary 23, 2021                | '70 ELEANOR CALDWELL<br>ROSSER<br>Jacksonville, AL<br>August 14, 2021      | DAVID RHINE, MA, MED '80<br>Galloway, NJ<br>April 20, 2021   | '07 TAMMY ASBURY VOORHEES<br>Trenton, NJ<br>September 2, 2021    |
| ANNE LAFERRERA*<br>Passaic, NJ<br>September 26, 2021                    | '71 PATRICIA TUIITE LOEB<br>Hackensack, NJ<br>April 28, 2021               | MARY ANN WEBER-DUBLIN<br>Johnston, NJ<br>August 8, 2021      | '12 JENNIE BYRAM<br>Butler, NJ<br>January 22, 2021               |
| CAROL TENEBRUSO*<br>Boynton Beach, Florida<br>February 24, 2021         | '72 KATHERINE AYERS*<br>Troutville, VA<br>April 24, 2021                   | '79 WALTER ERCK*<br>Williamsburg, VA<br>May 13, 2021         | '17 JONATHAN DIGANGI<br>Totowa, NJ<br>January 3, 2021            |

*\*Heritage Society Member:  
loyal donor who has given to the  
University for 20 or more years, no  
matter the giving level*



The University mourns the loss of **Richard A. Stone '57** on August 27, 2021. Stone earned his bachelor's degree in education from William Paterson and a master's degree in professional development from Teachers College, Columbia University. He spent many years as an educator and guidance counselor, ultimately

retiring as principal of Middlesex County Vocational Technical High School in Piscataway. Stone proudly served his country as an Army Reservist from 1954 until 1958 when he was honorably discharged.

Stone retired to Marco Island, Florida where he and his wife Jeannine hosted a reception of area alumni at their home in March 2005 attended by President *Emeritus* Arnold Speert. During his 50th reunion celebration, he shared his fondest memories of his time on campus, including playing on WP's inaugural baseball team and his professors Mark Karp and Dr. Paul Vouras. He was a member of WP's Heritage Society, representing 36 years of loyal giving; his gifting supported the Florida Alumni Association Scholarship and The Fund for WP, among other initiatives. An avid nature lover and birder, he ultimately moved to Naples, Florida in 2018.

Stone is survived by his sons Evan, Adam '91, and their spouses, as well as three grandchildren and his beloved dog, Chance.



Richard Stone as a member of the baseball team

## Class Notes

**1963 ROBERT DE BLASI, MA '68**, has been appointed the New Jersey State Commander for the National Association of Atomic Veterans. While serving in the Navy, he participated in the atmospheric and underwater testing of atomic bombs.

**1964 MARY ANN (PAGANO) FAILLACE** was awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship Award by the Phillipsburg Rotary. The award recognizes Rotary members who excel in devoting their time and talents to helping others. After retiring from teaching, Faillace co-founded the Greenwich Angels Education Foundation in 2013 and has assisted her husband in charitable activities at the Pompton Lakes, Pequannock, and Phillipsburg Rotaries.

**1968 VIRGINIA (SCHAFER) BLOCK, MA '71** will serve as curator for Inspired by an Object, a concurrent art exhibition at Studio Montclair (SMI) and Montclair Art Museum. This is the fourth exhibition in SMI's Community Partnership Exhibition Program, which was co-founded by Block.

**1970 WILLIAM "B.K." KIRKLAND** received a lifetime achievement award from Paterson, NJ Mayor Andre Sayegh in celebration of his decades-spanning R&B disc jockey career. Kirkland has been the program director for SiriusXM Radio for the past 20 years, and was recently named the number three urban disc jockey of all time by Urban Buzz.

**1971 RICHARD "DICK" VITALE, MED**, longtime college basketball broadcaster, has renewed his contract with ESPN for an additional two seasons. He has been with the network for 41 years and is considered one of their top college basketball analysts and ambassadors.

**1973 LINDA MAJKRZAK** has retired from her 32-year career as an educator and administrator for St. John's College High School. She served in a variety of roles for the Archdiocese of Washington, including high school teacher, principal of St. Elizabeth School in Rockville, MD and assistant principal for academic affairs at St. John's College High School in Washington,

MD...**ROBERT ADELHELM** served as keynote speaker at the seventh annual Navy SEAL Foundation Patriot Day Luncheon.

**1976 ANTHONY TAORMINA** was named Scouter of the Year by the Boy Scouts of America...**ELEANOR VERDUIN, MA '79**, has retired from her 27-year teaching career. She was a special education and mathematics teacher at Wayne Hills High School in Wayne.

**1977 NICHOLAS MULICK** was appointed to the Board of Directors for the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority by the governor of Florida. He has been a private practice attorney since 2003.

**1979 TRACEY (ENERSON) WOOD** released her latest novel, *The War Nurse*, in June 2021. She is an international best-selling author, playwright, and screenwriter. Wood has published both fiction and non-fiction titles that include *The Engineer's Wife* and *Homefront Cooking*.

**1980 JOSEPH BROCK** has been named northeast regional sales manager for Century Fasteners Corporation. He has over 30 years of sales and management experience in the aerospace fastening industry, with success in developing key aerospace accounts across North America.

**1982 JAMES WYNNE, MED**, is the chorus director and accompanist for the Jefferson Township Community Chorus in Jefferson, IN. He retired as the choral music director and instructor of music technology at Jefferson Township High School in 2018.

**1985 LISA BUCKLEY** has been named a partner at Pashman Stein Walder Hayden and will serve as chair of its intellectual property practice. She was previously an intellectual property and litigation partner in Manhattan for more than 20 years...**KIMBERLY UPDEGROVE** has been named a 2021 Fellow of the American College of Nurse-Midwives. She has served as executive director of Mother's Milk Bank, the world's largest non-profit human milk bank, since 2010...**LUCINDA EASON, MED '94**, was named principal of Newark Vocational High School.

**1986 CHRISTOPHER PETRO** has been promoted to vice president of Product Print Solutions Sales at Canon Solutions. He will lead the division's national sales and support team and focus on their top accounts and prospects...**PATRICIA (MCDONNELL) SMITH** was named the 2020-21 Shore Regional Educational Services

Professional for her work in school nursing during the pandemic. She has 34 years of experience in nursing, and has worked for Shore Regional since 2007...**TERESA (TIDABACK) VILAGOS** had her case study submission selected for Chaplains as Partners in Medical Decision-Making: Case Studies in Healthcare Chaplaincy. Her study will be used as part of a larger research project and was chosen for further development and publication by the editors.

**1987 SALVATORE BIAZZO** received the Administrative Faculty of the Year Award for 2020 from the University of Las Vegas, Nevada. He is currently a senior staff physician at the UNLV FAST Clinic, and has been practicing family medicine since 2001. Biazzo started the Transgender Care Team at UNLV to address healthcare disparities within the UNLV community, and provides cultural competency training for the Student Wellness Center...**LAURIE CARTER, MA**, was named president of Lawrence University. She is the first person of color to serve in such a role in the school's 174-year history. Carter previously served as president of Shippensburg University, and held positions at The Juilliard School and Eastern Kentucky University.

**1988 JERRY SLAVIK** has been promoted to senior vice president, marketing manager, at Lakeland Bank. He joined the bank in 2015 as vice president, area manager of the Wyckoff and Park Ridge offices...**IAN ZIERING** was featured as a celebrity guest on The Real Sharknado, an episode that aired during Shark Week on the Discovery Channel...**BILL STEWART** performed as part of a quartet that featured Peter Bernstein and Steven Cardenas for the fourth installment of the Litchfield Jazz free virtual concert series

**1989 JIMMY MATLOSZ** was the cinematographer for the feature film *F.E.A.R.*, a post-apocalyptic survival film that takes place in the Pacific Northwest. He has previously worked on high-profile films such as *The Nightmare Before Christmas* and *Snow White and the Huntsman*.

**1990 KEVIN LENAHAN** was chosen as one of NJBiz's 2021 Leaders in Finance honorees. He is the senior vice president-chief financial and administrative officer for Atlantic Health System.

**1991 HEIDI GOLDFARB** served as one of four directors on the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine study team, overseeing and leading different parts of the study analyses. The scientists on this

team were the ones that discovered that they had achieved the necessary efficacy levels required for the vaccine...**GERRY GESSIE** was hired as director of operations for the South Amboy YMCA...**MARIA (BECKER) ROLLINS** was chosen as one of NJBiz's 2021 Leaders in Finance honorees. She is a managing partner at KRS CPAs...**NICHOLAS SCHEUBLE** performed with his daughter, Leonie, as part of the Generations of Jazz Trio during the New Jersey Jazz Society's Virtual Social event. The drummer and keyboardist, respectively, were joined by 93-year-old bassist Bill Crow...**TIMOTHY KLAVON** successfully defended his dissertation, *Impact of Students' Scaffolded Small-Group Discussions on Their Written Explanations*, and received his doctor of philosophy in education with a concentration in math and science education from Temple University. He is currently completing a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Maryland, College Park and teaching science education courses at Temple...**DANA (LICAMELI) MARTINOTTI, MED**, was nominated by New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy to serve on the board of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. She is currently a councilwoman and public school teacher in Cliffside Park.

**1992 JOHN MARTINS** was interviewed for the series, *In Light of the Pandemic, Here Are the 5 Things We Need to Do to Improve the U.S. Healthcare System*, where healthcare leaders, doctors, hospital administrators, and nursing home administrators share lessons they have learned from the pandemic and how we can improve the U.S. healthcare system...**SEAN GILDAY, BS '94**, opened a retail music store, Rock Art Revival, with his business partner, Rachel Hill '11, during the pandemic after their booking agency, Blue Raven Entertainment, was impacted by COVID-19. The store is located in Frenchtown, NJ.

**1993 TARA BERNIE** served as master of ceremonies for the Morris Education Foundation's 14th annual talent show...**ANNA CARINA SINOCCHI, MFA '13**, had her artwork on display at the Passaic County Arts Center for her photogram showcase, *The Infinite Arch and Line*...**LISA MACVICAR, MM '18**, was named music director of the 2021 summer production team for the Charles Sella Foundation. She has taught music in the Hackensack public school district for more than 27 years...**TOMOKO (OHNO) FARNHAM** performed on piano during Jazz on Sloan, a South Orange jazz event that takes place in Spiotta Park.

**1994 MARC BREGMAN** was named chief financial officer at Elite Pharmaceuticals, a specialty pharmaceutical company that develops and produces niche generic products. He has more than 27 years of financial operations experience...**CURTIS GRAYSON III, BA '14**, had his designs featured during a solo exhibit, *Transitional Energy: Form, Shape, and Color*, at the Herb + Milley Iris Gallery in the South Orange Performing Arts Center. The mixed-media artwork was inspired by COVID-19 and the national social justice movement. 90 percent of the pieces on display were created during the pandemic...**LARA DUGOLINSKY** has been named principal of Fluvanna Middle School in Palmyra, VA...**JOHN MERRITT, MED**, has been named president of DePaul Catholic High School. He has worked at the school for his entire 44-year career, holding positions such as teacher, administrator, department chair, and track and field coach.

### JERI LYNN PIECHOSKI '79 PUBLISHES COLORING BOOK FOR THE DOODLER IN ALL OF US

As an elementary school art teacher for 17 years, Jeri Lynn Piechoski '79 always encouraged her students to think outside the box and lines when creating their artwork.

Piechoski recently published her own version of an adult coloring book titled, *Alphabet Soup for the Bored! the Coloring Book Alternative You Fill with Inspirational Words and Designs from A-Z: Oodles of Noodles to Doodle!* The book encourages people to draw outside the box—it contains 26 open bubble-shaped alphabet letters plus blank pages for doodling. Piechoski says it is ideal for adults and children, or can be used as an art therapy book.

The pandemic gave her time to create the coloring book, which was inspired by her mother. When the adult coloring book craze hit in 2015 as a way to de-stress, Piechoski's mom was given one of the popular versions at her assisted living residence. "The pre-designed, intricate shapes and words in these books are not always easy to color—and it gave me the idea to create an alternative version with big open shapes," she says.

"No matter what you have as your inspiration, be creative and stay artsy," Piechoski adds. "This book can be filled with doodling, your thoughts, or can be used as your journal. You have that big space—fill it up with you."

*Alphabet Soup for the Bored!* is available at Barnes & Noble, Target and Amazon.





## Alumni Association Recognizes Outgoing, Incoming Presidents

During the November Alumni Executive Council meeting, the William Paterson Alumni Association recognized Dominic DiMaio '97, MBA '21 as the outgoing Alumni Association president and welcomed Michele Garcia '15 as the incoming Alumni Association president.

DiMaio, a dedicated and committed leader for three terms of service, will remain actively involved on the Alumni Executive Council. He also will continue his involvement as a member of the board of the William Paterson University Foundation, as well as the Foundation's Golf and Tennis Outing committee, for which he served as Golf Chair for the 2021 event.

Garcia, who has been elected to serve as president from 2021-2023, has been actively involved in the Association since graduation. She has served on the Alumni Executive Council, as president of the Young Alumni Council, and as a committee member for the 2021 Foundation Golf and Tennis Outing, serving as Product Chair. She is a mentor for the Pesce Family Mentoring Institute.

**1995 ALTARIK WHITE** will be inducted into the Essex County Football Coaches Hall of Fame. His community leadership also earned him a spot on CORE Magazine's 2021 list of 100 Most Influential Blacks Today, alongside names such as Vice President Kamala Harris and Oprah Winfrey...

**MARK TONELLI** was named U.S. Fulbright Scholar by the U.S. Department of State and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. He will serve as a visiting professor at Universidade Federal de Uberlândia in Uberlândia, Minas Gerais in Brazil. Tonelli will teach courses in jazz guitar, jazz ensemble, and music entrepreneurship... **PATRICIA (VANHOUTEN) SULLIVAN** published her first book, *Breast Cancer. Seriously? Hot Chicks Get Cancer Too*. Going from Hot to Not, to Loving Me a Lot. The book takes readers on an adventure through the cancer and chemotherapy experience with gentle wit and colorful illustrations to encourage and empower those impacted by cancer... **JUDITH FRANCIS** has been named program manager for the Healthy Women Healthy Families program in Middlesex, Somerset, Mercer, and Hunterdon counties. This new role gives her the opportunity to work with maternal and child care issues for pregnant and postpartum mothers and their families.

**1996 ADRIENNE (GRECO) KRUSSELY, MED '02**, was honored for 25 years of service as an educator by the Wayne Education Association. She has spent her entire 25-year career at Packanack Elementary School in Wayne.

**1997 MARC WILLIAMS** was recognized as one of Miami's top Black educators for 2021 by Legacy Magazine... **DAVID MCMILLAN** was named library director for Bluefield State College... **KEVIN BURKHARDT** served as pre-game studio host for the special program that took place before MLB's Field of Dreams game that featured the New York Yankees and Chicago White Sox on Fox Sports. He is currently a play-by-play sportscaster for Fox NFL and the Tampa Bay Rays on Fox Sports Sun.

**1998 DANIEL EGBERT** was promoted to branch manager of UBS Wealth Management's Washington D.C. branch. He will serve as an advocate and partner to financial advisors and support staff within the office... **ALEXIS COLE** has joined William Paterson University as an adjunct faculty member in the music department. She previously taught at Berklee College of Music in Ecuador, and performed as a member of the West Point Band's Jazz Knights Big Band while serving in the military.

**1999 JOSEPH SCHMIDT** has been named director of continuing care at Cedar Crest, a senior living community located in Pompton Plains. He has over 30 years of healthcare leadership experience... **FREDDIE HENDRIX**

performed with his organ group during Jazz in the City, part of the Nimbus Arts Festival. The event was co-presented with Riverview Jazz Festival and Jersey City Jazz Festival.

**2000 SANDRA MONTANEZ-DIODONET** has been appointed superintendent of Passaic County's Board of Education. She is a Passaic High School graduate and worked as a law assistant while she was obtaining her degree at WP.

**2001 DANIELLE ROMANO** has been promoted to managing editor at Convenience Store News, where she started as an intern in 2014. Romano previously worked for Myron Corp. as a product content copywriter/editor... **DAN HABER**, a former detective sergeant, has rejoined the Morris County's prosecutor's office as a prosecutor's agent. He previously worked in the prosecutor's office for 16 years.

**2002 LISA MARIE COATES** has been named the inaugural director of children and youth for SOAR365 (formerly the Greater Richmond ARC) in Virginia.

**2003 FRANCIS LAMANNA** published his first book, *Smorgasbord: A Collection of Thoughts, Experiences, and Stories*. Unlike a traditional book, LaManna weaves seemingly unrelated thoughts and stories together to create a message with a deeper meaning than is obvious to readers at first glance... **JASON JOHNSON** is an accomplished licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) and has owned and operated his own practice, The In-Home Parent Coach, since 2015... **LESLIE SEVERINO** has been named senior property manager for Berger Commercial Realty/Corfac International's Miramar, Florida office. Severino previously managed properties for NAI/Merlin Hunter Codman and Rockefeller Group Development Corporation.

**2004 TYSHAWN SOREY** was featured in an article in *Cello Bello* for his work on *Cycles of My Being*, a music piece he created that was co-commissioned by Opera Philadelphia, Carnegie Hall, and Lyric Opera of Chicago... **RAMON MEDINA** has been named supervisor of visual and performing arts for the Teaneck public schools... **JENNIFER WALKUP, MA**, released her newest non-fiction book, *365 Days of Positive Living*. The book gives readers insights and practices with daily readings to improve their quality of life and happiness... **HAL WEARY, MM**, released his new nine-track jazz album, *Serendipity*. Weary has international experience as a pianist, educator, composer, and scholar.

**2005 LIZETH MORALES** was featured in *Union News Daily* for her success as a first-generation college graduate and small business owner. She opened her Peruvian restaurant, El Gordo,

in August 2020 on Morris Avenue in Union...

**WILLIAM VAN KERSEN** was named head football coach at Saddle Brook High School...

**MARY (STRIPEIKIS) TANZER** has been named general manager of commercial real estate firm SJP Properties. Tanzer previously worked as senior manager of facilities and operations for Tishman Speyer, supporting NBCUniversal at 30 Rockefeller Center... **EDDIE RIVERA** has rejoined Sax LLP, an accounting, tax, and business advisory firm, as partner on the real estate and construction team. He brings 15 years of experience in public accounting, tax, and advisory services to the role... **LOUIS PEPE, MBA**, is retiring as assistant superintendent for business/board secretary for the Summit public schools. He has worked within the district since 2008.

**2006 PHOEBE NORTH** published their latest novel *Strange Creatures*, in June 2021. North is known for their critically acclaimed young adult novels *Starglass* and *Starbreak*... **SHANNON SNOOK** was promoted to K-9 sergeant of the Somerset County Sheriff's Department. Snook and her German Shepard partner, Basilone, are a certified patrol and tracker team. She has worked for the department since 2015... **MICHELLE (BEATO) ENJOLI**, a bilingual international speaker and career coach, was a guest speaker at the inaugural TEDx event in Southampton, England. Enjoli motivates and teaches strategies on how to successfully connect to career opportunities for growth and development.

**2007 CHRIS MARTIN** was included as part of NJBiz's Forty Under 40 list for his contributions to the accounting industry in New Jersey. He is a member of the firm Sobel Co... **AMY MOORS** was honored by three separate national organizations for her work in relationship diversity. She received the Distinguished Professional Contribution Award from the Society for the Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity of the American Psychological Association, the Outstanding Theoretical Paper Award from the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, and the Lester A. Kirkendall Outstanding Mentor Award, also from the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality... **FLORENCE (MWANGI) KARIUKI** has been named chief clinical officer for Health Recovery Solutions, a leader in remote health monitoring. She will lead the company's clinical innovation and reimbursement strategies.

**2008 FRANK SAGATO** has joined Marquette Family Medicine Residency Program as a physician and will spend three years training in their community-based, family medicine program.

**2009 AMANDA CARREIRO-BARUDIN, MA**, was included in the Marquis Who's Who list for her dedication to the counseling field.

She is currently a part-time faculty member, director of field work for the counselor education department, and counselor education lab manager for Bridgewater University.

**2010 NATHAN WEBB, MM '15**, was inducted into Newton High School's Fine Arts Hall of Fame as part of the Webb Three, a jazz trio made up of Webb and his two siblings, Jacob Webb '11 and April Webb '15, in Newton, Kansas. He is currently enrolled in the doctor of leadership program at WP... **TODD SCHEFFLIN** released a new song titled *Laid Back* with Jacob Webb '11 as part of their duo, the JT Project... **MARK GENGARO, MED**, has been named assistant superintendent of schools for the Clifton Board of Education. He has served in a variety of roles for Clifton public schools since 2003.

**2011 RACHEL HILL** opened a retail music store, Rock Art Revival, with her business partner, Sean Gilday '92, during the pandemic after their booking agency, Blue Raven Entertainment, was impacted by COVID-19. The store is located in Frenchtown, NJ... **JACOB WEBB** was inducted into Newton High School's Fine Arts Hall of Fame as part of the Webb Three, a jazz trio made up of Webb and his two siblings, Nathan Webb '10 and April Webb '15, in Newton, Kansas. He also released a new song titled *Laid Back* with Todd Schefflin '10 as part of their duo, the JT Project.

**2013 PETER LIN** performed on trombone for A Special Night of Jazz during South Orange Summer Saturdays in Spiotta Park... **NATALIE SANTILLO, MS '16**, was hired as a police officer for the Berkeley Heights Police Department... **DEBRA (SAINZ) ANDROVETTE** was honored for her outstanding contribution to Morris County public education by the Morris County Council of Education Associations. Androvette is an English as a second language teacher at Bragg Elementary School in Chester, where she has taught for 15 years.

**2014 JOSEPH CORDATO** was hired as a police officer by the Bayonne Police Department... **JASMINE HENRY, MM '16**, was selected for the Cleveland Institute of Music's Future of Music Faculty Fellowship, a career development initiative that engaged 35 Black and Latinx music professionals to prepare them with skills, insights, and networks to flourish professionally and influence generations of musicians... **SHEHAN CHANDRASEKERA** was featured in Bloomberg Tax's Spotlight series as a cryptocurrency taxation expert. He is currently the head of tax strategy at CoinTracker, and was named by *Accounting Today* as an accountant who will help shape the field of accounting... **MARIA BRENNAN, DNP**, was appointed chief nursing officer for Penn State Health St. Joseph Medical Center. She will oversee all nursing

activities and clinical operations for the center. Brennan previously served as a consultant for the New Jersey Nursing Initiative in Princeton... **ALYSON CHANANIE, MS**, presented a program on Parkinson's disease at the Woodbridge Public Library. She is a speech language pathologist-clinical consultant at Hackensack Meridian Health JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute in Edison, where she has worked since 2014.

**2015 MARK TRAVIS RIVERA** served as the keynote speaker for William Paterson University's LGBTQIA Pride Celebration Opening Ceremony... **KIM (ESPOSITO) DEANGELO** painted and donated a mural for the Vernon Township Senior Center. The center was under renovation after being shuttered during COVID-19, and re-opened in July. The 58-by-12-foot mural depicted a "stairway to heaven," and took Deangelo over a week, working on the project for eight to nine hours per day... **APRIL WEBB** was inducted into Newton High School's Fine Arts Hall of Fame as part of the Webb Three, a jazz trio made up of Webb and her two siblings, Nathan Webb '10 and Jacob Webb '11, in Newton, Kansas...

**KATHERINE MATEO** was featured in Complex for her work as a stylist and casting director for Piers Moss fashion shows, where she challenges the conventional wisdom and ideas for luxury fashion with her casting choices... **VUYOLWETHU SOTASHE, MM**, an award-winning South African vocalist, performed at the 45th annual DeMiero Jazz Festival.

**2017 KIMBERLY FRYER** was hired as a police officer by the Wayne Police Department... **VINCENT DUPONT** was the winner of the jazz division in the International Society of Bassists (ISB) biennial performance competition... **ADRIANE MONTEMAYOR** has been promoted to senior accountant at KRS CPAs. She has worked for KRS since graduating from WP, previously serving as staff accountant.

**2018 ERIK WEGNER** was hired as a police officer by the Woodcliff Lake Police Department... **JONTE DREW, MFA '21**, has been named the next resident artist for Art Fair 14C, an initiative of Art House Productions created to expand opportunities for underserved artists in the Jersey City area... **JOAN PERRY, MED**, was included in the Marquis Who's Who Top Educators list for her dedication, achievements, and leadership in reading education. She has worked as a reading specialist in Paterson since 2012.



**Evelyn Gonzalez '11 and Waleska Herrera '18**

## WALESKA HERRERA '18 JOINS HER MOTHER, EVELYN GONZALEZ '11, ON PATERSON POLICE FORCE

Waleska Herrera '18 was recently hired as a police officer by the Paterson Police Department, joining her mother, Evelyn Gonzalez '11. They are the first mother and daughter to serve in the department together.

"I'm proud of her. I'm happy she made the decision," said Gonzalez, who joined the police department in 2005, in an article on Northjersey.com. Herrera credits her mother for making her the woman that she is today and told Northjersey.com that she believes it is important to have women do police work.

Herrera earned her bachelor's degree in criminology and criminal justice and women's and gender studies. Gonzalez graduated with a bachelor's degree in sociology with a concentration in criminal justice.

**2019 KERRY-ANN COLLINS** was featured as a top entrepreneur by the Jamaica Observer. She launched Joli Faire Organics, a natural hair product company, in 2018... **AHMIR GLOVER** was named a summer associate at Wiggins and Dana as part of the Yale New Haven Health System/Wiggins and Dana Diversity Scholar program. He is one of four second-year law students to be selected... **LOUIS PICONE, MA**, released his new book, *Grant's Tomb: The Epic Death of Ulysses S. Grant and the Making of an American Pantheon*, a deeply researched exploration of the final year of the famous Civil War general and former U.S. president's life.

## Stay Connected

For information about events, reunions, and activities, to update your contact information, or to share your news and accomplishments, visit [wpunj.edu/alumni](http://wpunj.edu/alumni).

Follow us on social media to keep up with current events announcements, activities, alumni spotlights, and more.

@wpunj\_alumni



## Tailgate Events Bring Together the WP Community

Alumni, students, families, faculty, staff, and community members were invited to come back to campus for a traditional tailgate experience at every home football game of the 2021 season. Each pre-game tailgate featured a special gathering and halftime celebration for specific departments, organizations, and groups, including:

College of Science and Health | College of Education | Cotsakos College of Business | College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences | Healthcare workers, first responders, and military veterans | Past Outstanding Senior Award recipients | Past Alumni Association Undergraduate Fellows | Former WP student-athletes/alumni athletes | Class of 2020 – One-Year Reunion | Black Alumni Network | Young Alumni Council

President Richard J. Helldobler also hosted special Advisory & Advancement Council brunches which gave fellow Advisory Board members an opportunity to connect with faculty and staff and enjoy a day at WP.

Support the  
Basketball  
Team

## The Paterson State Beacon

Read  
The  
Crier

Published by the Students of Paterson State Normal School

VOL. I, NO. 1

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1936

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY

### Masked Dance Tops All Records

The Hallowe'en Dance held Friday night proved beyond all doubt that our freshman class knows how to run successful dances. A new high in sociability at Normal School was reached by this informal dance.

Largely responsible for this happy situation was the good sportsmanship of all those attending the dance. The special dances were entered into in good spirit and the Broom Dance, the Nantucket and the other special dances were the cause of a great deal of fun for all participants. Many of the costumes were very colorful and imaginative. Prizes in the various costume contests were awarded as follows:

Olga and George Shulrat—most attractive couple; Mary McGuirk—the most original; George Keller—most characteristic. The judges were Miss Jackson and Miss Jeffries. One of the outstanding features of the affair was the evident real enjoyment with which the faculty members took part. The students were actually thrilled to see them "cutting up" with all the enthusiasm which is generally expected only of students. Refreshments in keeping with the occasion were served; everyone appreciated the doughnuts and cider.

The freshman class, the freshman committee responsible for the dance and Mr. Williams, the freshman advisor, are to be heartily congratulated on providing a grand evening for all concerned.

### Library Plans Active Season

Since the opening of school, the Library has ordered 200 new book titles, most of which are now on the shelves for the use of the students. The new titles include a large number of fiction and non-fiction best-sellers, several of which are mentioned in the "Book Notes" of this paper. The list also includes new and interesting titles in the fields of literature, education, vocational guidance, science, interior decoration, guidance and personnel, business and mathematics, music and children's books. Several new reference books have been purchased. The most important among

(Continued on Page Four)



### WANTED: A New School Picture

The picture reproduced herewith was taken under Principal Smith's regime back in 1918. It has served long and faithfully as the official picture of our school. For eighteen years it has appeared in Handbooks, City Newspapers, and other School and outside publications. It is due time to honor old age and faithful service by retirement, but before this can be accomplished we need a satisfactory substitute. This paper will publish next month the best recent picture of the school building. If the picture is good enough, it may possibly be adopted as our official school picture, thereby relieving the aged but active current "official." If you camera enthusiasts have not yet taken a picture of the building, do so now. We really need a good picture of our school. Will you help us get one?

### Dean White Reviews General College Course Plan

The educational plan whereby a Normal School or Teachers College offers general college courses for the first two years to students who do not intend to become teachers, is new to New Jersey. It is not, however, a wholly untried plan. A similar arrangement has met with unusual success at San Jose and Fresno State Colleges in California, and at the Teachers Colleges in the middle west.

There is every reason to believe that the reorganization of Paterson State Normal School to include instruction in general college courses marks a progressive step which may be considered of great significance in the improvement of higher education in New Jersey.

Students who are primarily interested in general college courses recognize a number of specific advantages attendant upon this arrangement, in contrast to a federally operated emergency junior college as operated for the last two years in this building. First, they know they are attending a permanent institution established over

eighty years ago to meet lasting educational needs rather than needs arising from an economic depression. Second, they attend classes during the regular school day. Third, because the school is administered by the State Department of Public Instruction, credits may be transferred to many other institutions without difficulty. Fourth, the program of student activities is much more varied and on a better financial basis. Fifth, they are assured of uninterrupted instruction of high quality.

For all of these advantages, the tuition is lower than in any other school offering standard college courses in this vicinity. The opportunity to work on the college aid program makes it possible for any serious student to meet nearly all of his college expenses.

The response to the new program this semester has been most gratifying. Teacher education students, general college students, and the entire staff may feel proud to have a part in inaugurating this new education. (Continued on Page Three)

### Field Trips Planned

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18  
NAMED AS DATE

At the last faculty meeting, Wednesday, November 18, was decided upon as the date on which all-day field trips will be conducted by the various departments and classes. There will be no meetings of the classes regularly scheduled for that day.

Although many different places of interest were suggested no definite decisions were made as to what places would be included in the program. The Planetarium, the American Museum of Natural History, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Federal Reserve Bank in New York City, the New York Stock Exchange, the Book Fair at Rockefeller Center, Valley View Sanitarium and Washington's Crossing and the Barracks (Trenton area of the Revolutionary War) were the most highly favored of the suggestions advanced.

At the next meeting of the faculty final decisions will be made regarding this important matter. Watch the "Crier" for further information in regard to final plans for the day of field trips.

### Extension Courses Prove Popular

The Paterson State Normal School Extension Division has registered for the fall semester of 1936-37, 344 students. Seventy different towns are represented. Two classes are given off the Campus. Dr. Clair S. Wightman travels to Pompton Plains every Monday afternoon and Mr. W. George Hayward, who is Supervising Principal of the Mahwah Schools and who, during the past summer taught at the N. Y. State Teachers' College at Oswego, makes a trip to Belvidere every Tuesday.

It seems that most of the students are interested in beautifying their classrooms, according to the number of registrants for the Interior Decorating course. Mr. Charles Henders, who is a graduate of Stuttgart College and Berlin College and manager of an interior decoration firm with offices in Paterson, has 86 in his class.

Mr. Williams' course in Modern European History has an enrollment of 86. (Continued on Page Four)

### A True College Newspaper

On November 2, 1936—85 years ago—*The Beacon* published its inaugural edition, marking the arrival of the first newspaper on campus. The newspaper continues to publish, primarily online, and can be found at [wpubeacon.com](http://wpubeacon.com).



7 New 3D  
Anatomy  
and Virtual  
Dissection Table  
Advances  
Curriculum