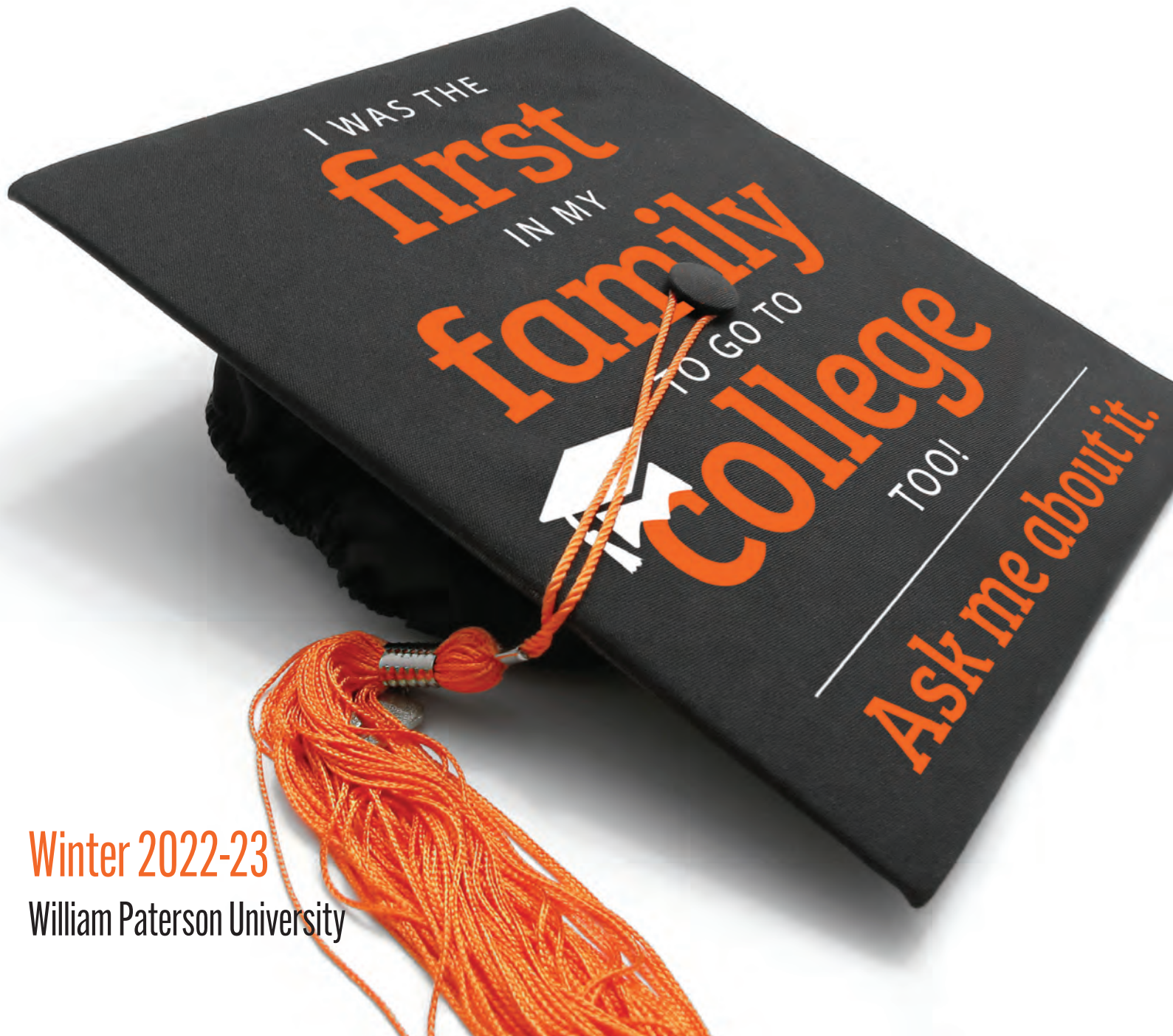


WP

## WE ARE FIRST-GEN

WP change makers are transforming lives



Winter 2022-23

William Paterson University

The Magazine of William Paterson University

# WP Inside

## New Dining Hall Reimagines Campus Dining Experience

With 10 themed dining stations, fresh, made-to-order food, and a colorful, modern interior designed to spur community engagement, this eatery is the place to gather.



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## 24 We Are First-Gen

Throughout its history, William Paterson has served to educate those who are the first in their families to attend college—Pioneers in every sense of the word. Meet some of our alumni, faculty, and staff who are first-generation college graduates.

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President Richard Helldobler and a Homecoming attendee snap a selfie

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## Linda Niro '76 Supports Scholarship with Blended Gift to WP

*"It's important to me to help future generations have access to the same education and experiences I had. I structured my gift so part of it is cash over multiple years, and the rest will be made sometime in the future. It's nice to be able to see the impact during my lifetime and meet scholarship recipients. I think gifting for scholarships is the best thing you can do. I really think we all have an obligation to give back."*

—Linda Niro '76

A first-generation student, a scholarship recipient, a 31-year loyal donor, and a member of the University's Board of Trustees and Foundation Board,

Linda Niro established the Linda Niro Endowed Scholarship to ensure that her scholarship support of WP students continues beyond her lifetime. Her blended gift combines current cash gifts with a bequest in her will. We are grateful to Linda and our Hobart Society planned giving members for their gifts that impact the next generation of William Paterson University students.

Visit us online at [wpunj.giftplans.org](http://wpunj.giftplans.org) for information about gifting opportunities that may be best for you and your family. Please contact **Judy Linder**, senior director of development and planned giving, at **973.720.2309** or at [linderj@wpunj.edu](mailto:linderj@wpunj.edu) for a complimentary guide, *Common Financial Scenarios and Charitable Actions You Can Take at Year-End*.



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Dear Friends,

On a door in my office suite in Hobart Manor, there is a new decal that reads, “First Generation College Graduate: Ask me about it.” Like nearly half of today’s William Paterson students, I was the first in my family to graduate college. While I was fortunate to grow up in a loving and supportive family, there was understandably little guidance my immigrant parents could offer me when it was decided that I would continue my education beyond high school. When I enrolled at the University of Toledo, I was lucky to find women who staffed the College of Business, where I got a work-study position, who took me under their wing and helped me navigate college life. I often say it was dumb luck that I got that job and that those women were kind enough to help me. But no student should have to rely on luck to succeed and earn a college degree.

Which brings me back to that “First-Gen” decal. As you’ll read in more detail, starting on page 24, it is one of more than 150 fixed to the doors of faculty, staff, and administrators across campus. Representation matters, so these decals are important signals that our first-generation students belong here and will succeed here, as well as a sincere invitation for them to ask questions and share their experiences.

College isn’t easy for anyone. First-generation students, however, too often face a unique set of challenges without the informed guidance of parents or other family members who have experienced what they are dealing with. At William Paterson, we are determined to ensure that our first-generation students get that critical support from many sources across our campus community. In addition to formal efforts on the part of advisors and mentors, we support our first-generation students through initiatives like establishing New Jersey’s first chapter of Tri-Alpha, the national honor society that recognizes the accomplishments of first-generation college students.

First-generation students have been central to the institution’s mission since its founding in 1855. Much has changed since then, of course, but what remains constant is the incredible value that putting a college degree in the hands of a first-generation student unlocks for the graduate, their family, future employers, and their community. That’s why, come Commencement, I make sure to call out “first-gen!” when a graduate walks to the stage wearing their stole identifying them as a first-gen graduate. I do this to mark a point in time when that student’s life changes for the better, and with it, our state and country change for the better, too.

I hope you enjoy reading in these pages about some of the many wonderful first-generation William Paterson alumni, faculty, and staff, who are doing amazing things here, all around New Jersey, and across the country. Like the decal on my office door, their stories are a meaningful signal to our first-generation students that we are here for them.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Helldobler, PhD  
President

## William Paterson Among Top Regional Universities in Social Mobility in U.S. News & World Report's *Best Colleges 2023*

—The University also showed progress in other rankings, including the Best Regional Universities North and Best Value Schools categories



William Paterson is once again among the top-ranked schools in its region in terms of its significant impact in providing an education for students who come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, with a higher ranking than last year, according to U.S. News & World Report's 2023 edition of *Best Colleges*.

The University ranks no. 21 among 175 regional universities in the northern United States on the *Best Colleges* list of top performers on **social mobility**, which measures how well schools graduate students with exceptional financial need. The University jumped five spots from no. 26 in the 2022 report, and from no. 38 in the 2021 report.

The institution's rankings in the 2023 edition of *Best Colleges* also include significant gains in other categories, including moving up 15 spots, to no. 75 from no. 90, in the Best Regional Universities-North category. William Paterson is also included on the Best Value Schools, Top Public Regional Universities North, and Best Colleges for Veterans lists, and is nationally ranked for its undergraduate nursing program.

In addition, William Paterson tied for no. 6 of the same 175 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."

"Our University's climb up the *Best Colleges* rankings is a testament to the great work being done across campus every day to support the success of William Paterson students," says President Richard J. Helldobler. "I am proud of the achievements of our students, faculty, and staff, which are reflected in our largest gains in recent years in being

recognized as a leading regional public university. Most importantly, they can be seen in our continued climb up the social mobility rankings, which are the truest measure of the life-changing power of a William Paterson degree."

William Paterson also was named to U.S. News's **Best Value Schools** list in the 2023 *Best Colleges* edition; the ranking factors academic quality and cost after accounting for total expenses and financial need. The University was ranked no. 67 in the Regional Universities North category.

The institution improved to no. 75 of the 175 institutions in the Best Regional Universities North category, marking the institution's highest ranking in recent years, and was ranked no. 19 on the *Best Colleges* list of **Top Public Regional Universities North**.

William Paterson is also included on the *Best Colleges* list of **Best Colleges for Veterans**, ranked at 29 in its region. The list is designed to provide data on top-ranked schools that make pursuing a college education more affordable for veterans and active-duty service members. In addition, William Paterson's **undergraduate nursing program** was ranked no. 247 out of 681 BSN programs nationwide, jumping 141 spots from its ranking of 388 in 2022.

William Paterson is among the national leaders in helping its students climb the socioeconomic ladder. It ranks in the top 3 percent of 1,549 institutions in the country in the 2021 Social Mobility Index, created by CollegeNet to measure the extent to which a college or university educates more economically disadvantaged students at lower tuition and graduates them into good-paying jobs.



# INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS EXPLORE “SILK ROAD” FROM CHINA TO PATERSON DURING TWO-DAY SYMPOSIUM

The history of the famous Silk Road, its connection to the silk industry in Paterson during the 1900s, and its continued role in the development of China and the United States in culture, education, art, industry, and commerce, were the topics of a two-day international symposium, “Across Time and Space: The Silk Road and the Silk City,” held on campus on October 26 and 27.

Hosted by the University’s Center for Chinese Art, the symposium featured academic presentations and panel discussions with scholars from China, Europe, and the United States, who participated both in person and online, as well as two art exhibitions in the University Galleries on campus, all designed to offer a fresh look at the historical orientation of the Silk Road and the “Silk City” of Paterson.

“Cross-cultural academic exchanges are an integral part of a diverse, modern university’s educational mission, whether in the home country, abroad, or, in the contemporary world of virtual education, online,” said President Richard J. Helldobler in his opening remarks for the event. “Since its founding in 2009, our Center has been a wonderful conduit for these exchanges and for the enrichment of our students and faculty, as well as participating artists and scholars. Today’s symposium and the companion exhibits in our University Galleries together illustrate the spirit of the mission of the Center and the University.”

“The goal of the symposium was to stimulate historical research on the Silk Road, expand and enhance international understanding and cooperation, provide a forum for discussion between the governments and universities of sister cities, and promote the development of cultural, educational, economic, and commercial exchange,” says Zhiyuan Cong, professor of art and director of the Center for Chinese Art at William Paterson.

Also on hand to provide opening remarks and participate in the symposium was Huang Ping, Consul General of the People’s Republic of China, as well as the mayor of Paterson, Andre Sayegh, among others. Featured speakers included Feng Zhao, honorary director



Professor Zhiyuan Cong, director of the Center for Chinese Art; President Richard J. Helldobler; Huang Ping, Consul General, People’s Republic of China, and Chunmei Chen, Cultural Counselor, Consulate General of the People’s Republic of China

of the China National Silk Museum; Ben Marsh, professor, School of History, University of Kent, United Kingdom; and Stephen Hahn, William Paterson University professor *emeritus* of English.

Guests also visited the two exhibitions: *A Durable Thread: The Silk Road from China to America*, which connected China to Paterson through a world of silk objects from Asia, Europe, and North America, and *Textile Arts from Guizhou, China*, a selection of traditional textiles and new artworks by artists renowned for utilizing resist dyeing, also known as batik, as well as embroidery and metalworking. A guided field trip to Paterson, led by Hahn, took participants to important sites directly connected to Paterson’s role in the silk industry, including Great Falls National Historical Park, the Paterson Museum, the Lambert Castle Observatory and Overlook, and Botto House/American Labor Museum.



He Zhang, professor of art, gives visitors a guided tour of the exhibition, *A Durable Thread*

# Professor Assigns Acts of Kindness to Bolster Students' Mental Health While Teaching Lessons on Marketing

Bela Florenthal, a professor of marketing and management, saw a need in class beyond educating her students on the principles of marketing. She saw a generation struggling with mental health issues and got creative with her course syllabi in trying to flip the script.

In the fall of 2019, as part of her Marketing Management and Marketing Research courses in the University's Cotsakos College of Business, Florenthal launched the "Spread Kindness" project, wherein students are required to perform acts of kindness—intentional, selfless acts toward another human, animal, or nature without a foreseeable reward to the performer except for feeling good, as her syllabus describes them.

"Studies indicate that engaging in prosocial behavior, such as performing intentional acts of kindness, for a period of time may have a lasting impact on wellbeing," Florenthal explains. "Many argue that to create a habit, you need to do something for 21 days. I decided that engaging students in an acts of kindness project for the entire semester might increase the possibility that my students will make acts of kindness a habit long after the semester is over."

Now, with several semesters of very positive student survey reactions under her belt, Florenthal is taking "Spread Kindness" beyond

campus. Two cohorts of students at Butler High School were assigned the project in a dual-enrollment course, Principles of Marketing, developed by Florenthal and taught by Butler High's Lisa Chestnutt. With assistance from her high school counterpart, Florenthal has been writing papers and presenting data about both the University and high school projects' results for peer-reviewed conferences. Her hope: that class projects like "Spread Kindness" will, themselves, spread.

As the 17 to 24 age group is at a peak period for the onset of mental health disorders, Florenthal says citing numerous studies, she'd love to see intentional, systematic enactment of prosocial projects in courses in other disciplines, at other universities, and in K-12 settings.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

In her "Spread Kindness" project, Florenthal's students are divided into groups, with each group treated as though it were a non-profit organization. Within those non-profits, each student is considered a "brand." As the project unfolds, students learn and enact various marketing concepts, including how to position themselves in relation to other students (or "competing brands") based on the growth rate



Professor Bela Florenthal discusses World Kindness Day in her course with students Bruce Olson and Allison Thewn

of their acts of kindness and their market share within their groups.

Students must report their acts of kindness in qualitative (photos and blog posts) and quantitative (spreadsheet) manners, describing any witnesses or efforts to promote the act of kindness via social media or other forms, and then they analyze their data with the application of course models.

"Students reported committing incredible acts of kindness," Florenthal says. "They were cleaning parks, giving food to homeless people, baking and bringing treats to share with coworkers, driving their friends around to save on emissions, and donating clothes and toys to organizations and neighbors."

The result on their mental health? Eighty-four percent of surveyed WP students expressed overall personal satisfaction from taking part in the acts of kindness project, rating emotional, cognitive, and behavioral engagement highly (4's and 5's on a 5-point scale).

Meanwhile, at the high school level, the emotional component of the project resonated most, according to collected data. Excitement, pride, inspiration, and enthusiasm were mentioned by the younger students most frequently, at 77 percent.

"The qualitative data provide strong evidence for students fulfilling their self-actualization need by engaging in selfless and altruistic behaviors," Florenthal says, adding that "the ultimate goal of educators, overall, is promoting students' wellbeing, of which good mental health is a very integral part."



Students (left to right) Arijana Salioska, Jencil Nunez, Tyler Sisti, and Olivia Alonso with Professor Bela Florenthal



## CHANGING THE FACE OF SCIENCE: FIRST-YEAR HISPANIC AND LOW-INCOME STUDENTS PURSUING STEM MAJORS BENEFIT FROM GRANT-FUNDED PROGRAM

A group of new first-year students were able to get acclimated to both the campus and their majors in the College of Science and Health through their participation in the ASPIRE Bridge Programs, offered during summer and winter breaks, and made possible through a \$4.99 million U.S. Department of Education grant.

The ASPIRE (Access to STEM Pathways through Integrated Research and Engagement) Programs support Hispanic students and low-income students pursuing degrees in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), who are about to start their freshman year or who are transferring to William Paterson from community colleges.

Through the program, incoming freshmen spend several days on campus prior to the fall and spring semesters, exploring such topics as DNA extraction and purity, mitosis and meiosis, and climate change. They also take part in various soft skills and professional development workshops, and received vital information to improve writing, note-taking, and study skills.

Meanwhile, transfer students from community colleges, who already have an associate's degree in a STEM field, benefit from an intensive research experience. Under the tutelage of faculty in the College of Science and Health, they spend time on campus learning about research ethics, data collection, authorship, and working with modern lab instruments.

"The students receive a transformative learning experience, and they are eager and enthusiastic throughout the program," says



From left, ASPIRE peer mentors Jerel Hooper and Nicole Andrade; Michael Peek, professor and chair, biology, and incoming freshman Hugo Arevalo work in the lab

Venkat Sharma, dean of the College of Science and Health, who serves as program director and principal investigator for the grant. Sharma lauds the many faculty and staff involved in the program from across the college and campus for providing a "supportive, educational foundation where students were encouraged to demonstrate their Will. Power. and 'aspire for greatness' inside and outside of the classroom as future STEM scholars and leaders at William Paterson University."

Following their participation in the ASPIRE Bridge Programs, through the Department of Education grant, Hispanic and low-income STEM students have access to holistic student support services and resources on campus such as tutoring, supplemental instruction, peer mentorship, and financial assistance

Freshman Ruma Parvin, a biology major from Paterson, took part in the summer program. "I feel that I am ready to become a WP student because of this program," she said afterwards. "It created a second family for me on campus."

## NEW BOOK BY TWO WP EMERITUS PROFESSORS OFFERS INSIGHTS ABOUT HIZMET SCHOOLS

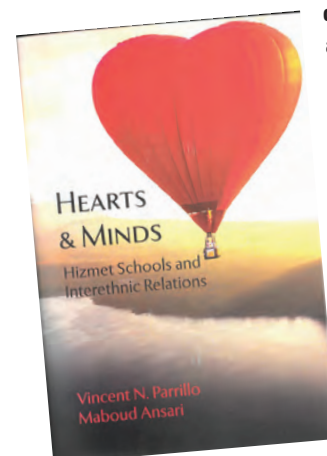
A new book, *Hearts and Minds: Hizmet Schools and Interethnic Relations*, by Vincent N. Parrillo and Maboud Ansari, emeritus professors of sociology, presents a cross-cultural study of Hizmet schools in seven countries of varying histories and ethnic compositions.

According to Parrillo, *Hizmet* is a Turkish word that essentially means altruistic service for the common good. There are more than 1,100 Hizmet schools worldwide, and more than 100 in the U.S.

"One significant aspect of these schools is that, although Islamic faith is the driving force for their creation, students are of all faiths and races," says Parrillo. "The schools do not teach religion but do promote ethical values. Our study found that the schools excel in academic excellence, in close student-teacher bonds, and actively promote interethnic dialogue and acceptance of diverse others."

The book represents the culmination of four years of field research by the professors in Albania, Bosnia, Canada, Kazakhstan, Poland, Romania, and the United States. Through hundreds of interviews with students, parents, staff, and financial supporters, the authors explored individual perceptions and experiences, as well as the triad of student, parent, and school interaction. Analyzing the commonality of the schools' structures and processes in different settings, they

offer their insights about the schools' successes in achieving their twin goals of offering a quality education and promoting interethnic harmony.





## ENGLISH PROFESSOR AWARDED FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR FELLOWSHIP

Martha Witt, a professor of English, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar Fellowship that will bring her to Ilhéus, Brazil during the spring 2023 semester.

Witt's main project will be to complete a draft of a novel titled *The Truth Lies Between*, which is partly set in Ilhéus and based on her mother-in-law's life. The novel tells the story of Celia Albini, whose poverty-stricken family marries her off, at age 18, to a middle-aged man who emigrated to Brazil from her hometown in Italy.

Witt will collaborate with an English professor at the Universidade Estadual de Santa Cruz (UESC), located in Ilhéus, to translate select poems by Lívia Natália, an African-Brazilian writer whose poetry protesting police violence made headlines last year when it was vetoed by the local government. Witt, who speaks French, Italian, and Portuguese, has previously translated plays and novels originally written in Italian and French. A project in Portuguese, she says, will challenge her in

new ways.

She also will teach a graduate creative writing workshop at UESC and assist faculty in the university's English department to develop syllabi for graduate-level creative writing workshops. She expects to return to William Paterson with a better understanding of teaching creative writing to English language learners.

"I hope to be able to offer students in my courses at WP a larger sampling of literature from Latin America, and I will

certainly be able to better contextualize that work," Witt adds. Moreover, she plans to integrate into her creative writing classes on campus an "exchange" workshop, wherein WP students will be paired with students at UESC.



Martha Witt

## Amirah Elayan '22 Wins Third Place in Prestigious National Ethics Contest

Amirah Elayan, a May 2022 *summa cum laude* graduate with a bachelor's degree in English, has been nationally recognized by the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanities, which awarded her third place in its prestigious annual Prize in Ethics Essay Contest.

The Foundation, created by the late Elie Wiesel soon after he was awarded the 1986 Nobel Peace Prize, aims to combat indifference, intolerance, and injustice through international dialogues and youth-focused programs that promote acceptance, understanding, and equality.

Elayan was recognized for her essay, "The Moral Dilemma of Living," wherein she tackles the complexity inherent in just being alive. "Joy is ephemeral but so is pain. Life is so long and yet so short. I am 21 years old, and that is such a long time, but there is still so much time left," Elayan writes in her essay. "The dilemma is larger than life, or perhaps just large enough to contain it—why do we live, why do we choose to keep on living," she continues, concluding, "We discover and create meaning as we live."

Elayan also took part in an all-day seminar in New York City, during which the award-winning students spoke about their essays and inspiration and related it back to the Foundation's namesake. "I was the only winner from a small state school," Elayan notes, proudly. The first and second place winners were from Yale University and Amherst College, respectively; two honorable mention prizes went to students from University of Chicago and Syracuse University.

"I don't think that it even really set in, like what I won, and the prestige of the scholarship I won, until I was at the dinner, and I had people coming up to me, explaining the feat of what I've done and how much they loved my piece," she continues.

Elayan also was one of five students nationwide selected by Literary Agents of Change to receive the Association of American Literary Agents Fellowship, which afforded her the opportunity to intern with Salky Literary Management this past summer. The fellowship strives to diversify the world of literary agents, which is mostly white. Elayan, who is Palestinian-American, aims to become a literary agent.



Amirah Elayan '22

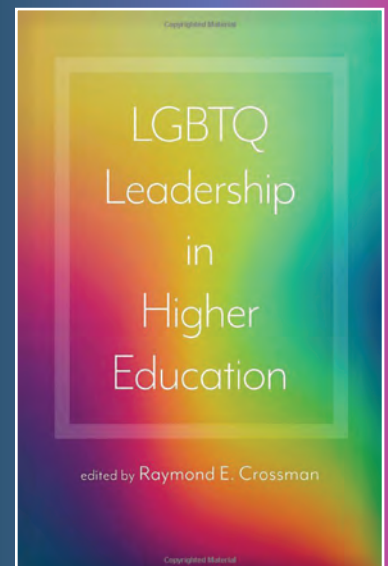
## PRESIDENT HELLDOBBLER SHARES INSIGHTS IN NEW BOOK ON LGBTQ LEADERS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

President Richard J. Helldobler is among 15 currently serving or retired LGBTQ presidents and chancellors in higher education who share their perspectives on why their leadership matters in the new book, *LGBTQ Leadership in Higher Education*, published by Johns Hopkins University Press.

In the book, President Helldobler and other leaders write from the perspective of their lived and specific experiences as LGBTQ presidents to consider whether there is something distinctive about LGBTQ leadership, as well as draw insights and principles from their personal stories.

In their essays, the authors address why LGBTQ leadership matters at this moment, and more broadly, why diversity, inclusion, and equity in leadership are important to meet today's challenges for higher education and human rights. This is the first book on this topic.

One of President Helldobler's two essays from the book was adapted and published in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, which has the country's largest newsroom dedicated to covering colleges and universities.



## UNIVERSITY RECOGNIZED FOR BEING LGBTQ-FRIENDLY

William Paterson has been nationally recognized for being among the top LGBTQ-friendly campuses in 2022 by the Campus Pride Index, a national listing of LGBTQ-friendly colleges and universities. The University earned a score of 4.5 out of a possible 5.

The Campus Pride Index is an overall indicator of institutional commitment to LGBTQ-inclusive policies, programs, and practices.

"I am delighted and proud to report that the University received this national recognition," says Miki Cammarata, vice president for student development. "William Paterson has a long-standing commitment to welcoming, affirming, celebrating, and supporting our LGBTQIA students and allies. This designation serves as great recognition of that work and identifies opportunities for growth."

"This score was made possible through the support of the University's leadership team, the contributions and longstanding work of faculty, staff, and alumni and a desire and willingness to bolster LGBTQIA best practices," says Yolany Gonell, director for student diversity and inclusion.

Among the factors that led to the LGBTQ-friendly designation are the University's inclusive policies, gender-neutral housing, student conduct policies, health insurance options, and practices for pronouns and preferred names, explains Gonell.

In recent years, Gonell worked with student ambassadors and graduate assistants to implement the LGBTQIA Student Support Group, Brave Space LGBTQIA Student Training, the LGBTEA+ Mentorship Program, Transgender and Non-Binary Awareness Week, and the Lavender Graduation Ceremony. As of fall 2020, WP is one of three New Jersey institutions that displays the Pride Flag on University grounds in October and June during national Pride Month celebrations. Nathan Reilly '22 and Nuu Grenier, MA '22, established the mentorship program through a grant from Campus Pride, and Grenier curated the content for the Brave Space training.



Students and alumni demonstrate their pride: Top, left to right: Gavin Mckeon, El Barb, Diana Abreu, Greyson Blanton, and Kevin Cosme; Left: Paola Ruiz '21

## NJEA Supports Program Focused on Diversifying the Teacher Workforce

The New Jersey Education Association (NJEA), the union representing more than 200,000 public school employees across the state, has provided \$15,000 to the College of Education's Aspiring Educators Program, with a commitment for another \$15,000.

The program aims to diversify the state's teaching workforce through a partnership with high school students from underrepresented backgrounds—rising juniors and seniors who are interested in teaching as a profession.

While approximately 60 percent of children in New Jersey's public schools come from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds, 83 percent of teachers in the



Above: Jaime Valente, NJEA membership manager; Steve Beatty, NJEA vice president; Amy Ginsberg, dean, College of Education; and David Fuentes, professor of education and interim associate dean, College of Education; Left: Students on campus during the program

state are white, according to the New Jersey Department of Education.

"There is no more important job than that of being an educator, and there is no more satisfying job," said Steve Beatty, NJEA vice president, who visited with this year's participants on campus, noting the equally important job of finding and supporting "our next generation of colleagues."

During summer 2022, 18 high school students from Clifton, Hawthorne, Passaic, Paterson, and Passaic County Technical Institute participated in the program, which launched in 2021.



Anthony Amante '23 and Brooke Sachau '23 practice their skills

## UNIVERSITY OFFERS NEW DEGREE PROGRAMS IN SOCIAL WORK, SPORT MEDICINE

correctional counselors, and substance abuse counselors, among others. The University is currently pursuing national accreditation from the Council on Social Work Education and is currently in pre-candidacy status, the Council's first accreditation benchmark.

The interdisciplinary degree program is comprised of 12 required social work courses as well as courses in sociology and psychology. Students must complete a 400-hour qualified fieldwork experience. Graduates are eligible to apply for a certified social work (CSW) license in New Jersey, as well as advanced standing status in master of social work programs.

This fall, the University welcomed its first cohort of students for an accelerated program "3 + 2" program

through which students can graduate with a bachelor of science in sport medicine in three years—the only such bachelor's degree program in New Jersey and the surrounding region. Students can go on to complete an accredited master of science degree in athletic training in two years.

Students have the option to complete the sport medicine degree without continuing into the athletic training master's degree program. The sport medicine degree's industry-focused, hand-on curriculum prepares students to work with sports teams or in hospitals, clinics, fitness centers, and doctors' offices, as well as for post-graduate studies in occupational therapy, physical therapy, physician assistant, and related allied healthcare fields.

William Paterson is now offering a bachelor's degree program in social work (BSW), as well as an accelerated "3 + 2" program in sport medicine and athletic training that is the only one of its kind in the region.

The BSW program, designed to meet the increasing demand for social workers in the region, provides students with enhanced training and credentials for careers as case workers, case managers, child welfare specialists,

## NICHOLAS WILKERSON '23 GOES TO THE WHITE HOUSE, INTERVIEWS TOP OFFICIALS, AND RECEIVES MEDAL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO COLLEGE RADIO



Nicholas Wilkerson '23 and Professor Rob Quicke at the White House

Student Nicholas Wilkerson '23 visited the White House in October, where he met with top officials, and interviewed Vice President Kamala Harris for a segment that aired on WPSC 88.7 FM, Brave New Radio—the University's non-commercial radio station that airs in northern New Jersey and southern New York State.

A communication major, Wilkerson serves as WPSC-FM's event and promotions director, and is also a volunteer U.S.

board member with World College

Radio Day, an annual event founded 12 years ago by William Paterson University communication professor Rob Quicke.

In honor of World College Radio Day 2022, Wilkerson and Quicke were invited to the White House as part of a group of about 15 people—students, faculty, and staff from across the United States representing the best of college radio, each of whom was awarded a medal for their great work in that arena.

During the visit, the group met with top White House officials—including Vice President Harris, whose appearance was a surprise; White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre; and Deputy Director for the National Economic Council Bharat Ramamurti, among others.

"I actually had my notes with me and because of that, I was able to get my thoughts together really quick and prepare, and was able to deliver a question to Vice President Harris and ask her about what was going on," Wilkerson explains, crediting the WP communication department for teaching him the importance of note-taking and preparedness as a member of the media.

"One of my proudest moments at William Paterson University has to be witnessing our student, Nicholas Wilkerson, talking with the vice president of the United States," Quicke adds.

## TYLER SANCHEZ '24 SELECTED FOR AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION SCHOLAR PROGRAM



Biology major Tyler Sanchez '24 is one of 30 college students nationwide selected for the American Heart Association's Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) Scholars Program, which supports promising undergraduate students who are committed to diminishing health inequities in Latino communities.

Through the HSI Scholars Program, students are paired with a mentor in their field who provides them with research experience. They also attend healthcare conferences, leadership skills workshops, and cultural competence training.

Each student receives a \$7,000 stipend and all-expenses-paid trip to attend the American Heart Association's annual Scientific Sessions—several days of programming on the latest science research, multidisciplinary health care initiatives, and health equity.

Sanchez, a junior, maintains a 4.0 grade point average and is a member of the University's Honors College. His goal is to become a physician assistant in emergency medicine, and through the program, he has been paired with an emergency medicine doctor who also studies hypertensive medicine.

"Through the years, physician assistant programs have gotten a lot more competitive, almost as competitive as medical school, so any way to stand out will benefit me," says Sanchez, who grew up in Hamburg, NJ. His mother, Cheryl Sanchez, graduated from William Paterson in 1994, as did two of his aunts.



## ANNUAL GOLF AND TENNIS OUTING RAISES FUNDS TO SUPPORT STUDENTS

The William Paterson University Foundation hosted its Annual Golf and Tennis Outing on September 15. Foundation Board members Stephen Bolyai, retired vice president for administration and finance, served as Tennis Chair; Domenico DiMaio '97, MBA '21, former Alumni Association president, served as Golf Chair; and Michele Garcia '15, current Alumni Association president, was Product Chair.

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

# NEW SOCIAL MEDIA LAB PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH HANDS-ON SKILLS AND RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES



Above, left: Professor Angie Yoo (third from left) with students in the SMART Lab; Right: Students can explore skills such as podcasting in the lab

To stay on top of the ever-evolving landscape of the social media industry, William Paterson's communication department has launched a Social Media Applications Research and Teaching (SMART) Lab, providing students and faculty with access to innovative software needed to learn about new social media technology and conduct advanced research.

"Many companies are now looking for tech-savvy employees who understand these emerging technologies and have strategic analytical skills," says Angie Yoo, professor of communication and director of the SMART Lab. "Our department understands the importance of an education tailored to this demand and is proud to present the SMART Lab to provide such a learning experience to our undergraduate and graduate students."

Located in Hamilton Hall, the lab is outfitted with cutting-edge programs such as Brandwatch, Sprout Social, and NodeXL. Students can conduct consumer research, manage multiple social media platforms, conduct social

media campaign projects for real clients, and research advanced metrics used by industry professionals in their prospective fields.

The software gives students the tools to explore and hone their skills in popular and emerging areas like social media research and analytics, podcasting, public relations, and journalism.

"The SMART Lab aims to serve as a hub for education, research, and service in social media practice and scholarship," says Jugyun Won, assistant professor of communication and research director of the lab. "By integrating software programs and tools from the lab in our current and future courses, both faculty and students will gain advanced social media monitoring and analytic skills. Also, the lab is open to supporting any collaborative or interdisciplinary research projects that focus on digital and social media technologies."

This semester, undergraduate students in Digital and Social Media Communication are learning how to use social listening and social media management tools, while

graduate students in Introduction to Research are learning about social media analytics tools, which they will integrate into their master's degree projects.

Students are excited about using the lab and its resources. "The atmosphere in the SMART Lab is different from being in a traditional classroom," says Beatrice Amune, a graduate student in WP's professional communication master's degree program. "My professors' ability to harmonize their teachings and lectures with the resources has been amazing and the caliber of computers and programs makes social media research during class activities fun and easy."

"I've found the most valuable aspect of the lab to be the exposure to different strategies and tools that are transferable to my future endeavors, which have added another strength to my skill set in the social media field," says Esma Senman, a senior studying public relations. Students can also earn industry certifications in social listening, content management, and social analytics.

## GIVING DAY RAISES FUNDS TO SUPPORT STUDENTS

The William Paterson University Foundation raised nearly \$40,000 during its Fall 2022 Giving Day initiative, all for projects focused on assisting students who need financial support.

"We are pleased to share that our Fall Giving Day was a success thanks to the generous support of the WP community," says Pamela Ferguson, vice president for institutional advancement and president of the Foundation. "The funds raised will make a meaningful difference for William Paterson University students."

Funds were raised for the Cotsakos College of Business Scholarship Fund; the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Last Mile Fund, which supports seniors experiencing an unexpected financial hardship; the College of Education Head of the Class Fund, which helps students with funding for

required testing needed to become a teacher; and the College of Science and Health General Scholarship Fund. It also raised funds for the Pioneer Pantry, which helps University students who are struggling with food insecurity. Provost Joshua Powers kicked off the Fall 2022 Giving



Provost Joshua Powers shares some thoughts during the Fall Giving Day hike



Day initiative on November 4 with a hike he led to the top of High Mountain, adjacent to campus in the High Mountain Park Preserve. The event raised awareness about first-generation students, as well as funds for the Provost Powers Emergency Grant Fund, which helps students meet critical, immediate financial needs that are likely to have a direct impact on their academic success or ability to remain enrolled at WP.

More than two dozen faculty, staff, and alumni joined Powers on the 3.2-mile, round-trip hike to the 800-foot summit. Powers matched every gift in support of his fund dollar-for-dollar. During the trip, he shared stories about WP students for whom a scholarship made a difference, as well as stories about the University's history, values, and students through the years.

"Hiking and climbing is hard work," he says. "Going to college, especially for a first-generation student, is also hard work. Many first-generation students are also low-income, which poses additional challenges that can be an obstacle to completing a degree. I want to raise awareness of how big an impact that even a small gift to the University can make for such a student."

## In Memoriam

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

**Donato Fornuto**, professor *emeritus* of music, died April 11, 2022. He was 90. A graduate of City University of New York, he received a certificate in Italian language and culture from the Università di Perugia per Stranieri and a doctorate in education from Teachers College, Columbia University. He joined the music faculty in 1967 after positions at Teachers College, Columbia University, and in public schools in Midland Park, NJ and New York City. Throughout his career, Fornuto taught courses in composition, keyboard harmony, music appreciation, and jazz. He composed numerous choral and instrumental works, including Fanfare for Freshman, written for WP's freshman convocation, and was the recipient of several ASCAP Awards, designed to assist and encourage composers. A pianist, he accompanied many vocalists in performances of his works. Following his retirement in 1994, Fornuto offered American Songwriter talks through the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**Betsy Jable**, who served for nearly 20 years in the Registrar's Office on campus, died October 26, 2021. She was 80. A graduate of the State University of New York at Geneseo, Jable taught English and drama at high schools in Olean and West Nyack, NY and Saddle Brook, NJ. She joined the University community in 1973 to coordinate the college catalog, and later became the scheduling officer in the Registrar's Office, a position she held until her retirement in 1991. During her tenure, she earned a master's degree in communication at William Paterson, and was joined on campus in 1975 by her husband, Thomas Jable, who was a professor of kinesiology until his retirement in 2006.

**Angelo (Jeff) Juffras**, professor *emeritus* of philosophy, died on June 7, 2022. He was 100. A veteran of the U.S. Army, who enlisted in 1942, Juffras was stationed in Hawaii and Japan. Following his military service, he enrolled at Hunter College on the G.I. Bill, where he discovered philosophy. He subsequently earned his PhD in philosophy from Columbia University and joined the William Paterson faculty in 1970. Juffras served as chair of the philosophy department during the 1970s and 1980s and was instrumental in developing both the department and the philosophy major during William Paterson's transition from a teacher's college to a comprehensive institution. After retiring in 1991, he remained active in philosophy, working on a book about William James and meeting regularly with former students and colleagues.

**Gloria Leventhal-Caulfield**, professor *emeritus* of psychology, died on May 3, 2022. She was 75. Leventhal, who joined the University in 1972, was a specialist in applied statistics and experimental psychology. Among her research areas were the perceptions of speech and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in boys. During her tenure, she served as assistant chair of the psychology department and helped initiate a psychology research conference. Leventhal-Caulfield, who retired in 2021, was the author of three books and numerous articles in academic journals. A graduate of Hunter College with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and psychology, she held a master's in psychology and a doctorate in experimental psychology from Yeshiva University.

## Graduate Students Win Prestigious American Psychological Association Awards



Kimberly Perez-Lucero

Kimberly Perez-Lucero and Melissa Zea, both entering their second year as master's degree students in clinical and counseling psychology, have been awarded prestigious American Psychological Association (APA) 2022-23 Minority Fellowship Program awards.

Perez-Lucero received the award for Services for Transition Age Youth (STAY), designed for students whose training prepares them to provide mental health services to youth ages 16 through 25 and their families. She has assisted with a Spanish-speaking group for newly arrived Latinx students at Paterson public schools via WP's Culture and Resilience Lab, under the leadership of psychology professors Pei-Wen "Winnie" Ma and Aileen Torres.

Zea received APA's Interdisciplinary Minority Fellowship Program (IMFP) award for graduate students who commit to significantly improving the quality of care provided to ethnic and racial minorities who have a mental or co-occurring mental and substance use disorder.

With support from the fellowship, Zea will be able to further her education and receive training to help her develop a well-rounded program for ethnic minorities. She is working on creating such a program for children who are referred for misconduct issues, depression, anxiety, or other diagnoses.



Melissa Zea

## EDUCATION PROFESSOR APPOINTED TO NEW JERSEY SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Pamela Brillante '88, MEd '92, a professor of special education and disability studies, has been appointed to the New Jersey Special Education Advisory Council. The council provides policy guidance on special education and related services for children with disabilities in New Jersey.



Pamela Brillante

The panel is comprised of people involved in, or concerned with, the education of children with disabilities, including parents, individuals with disabilities, state and local education officials, and representatives of state agencies. Brillante is the only member of the advisory panel representing New Jersey institutions of higher education, which prepare special education and related services personnel.

"It is important for faculty from higher education institutions like William Paterson University to be active members of an important group like this in order to advise the New Jersey Department of Education about unmet needs in the education of children with disabilities within the state, as well as effectively prepare teachers and leaders to meet these needs," she says.

A specialist in disability studies and early childhood special education, Brillante led the development of WP's bachelor's degree in disability studies. A former public school early childhood special education teacher and administrator, she has served as a county supervisor of child study teams and a program development specialist for the New Jersey Department of Education. She is the author of *The Essentials of Supporting Young Children with Disabilities in the Classroom* and *Universal Design for Learning for Early Childhood Education*.

## CANNABIS RESEARCH INSTITUTE OFFERS CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONALS



WP's Cannabis Research Institute is now offering educational programs for students, professionals, and the general public.

A fully online, interdisciplinary cannabis studies program launches in spring 2023 for undergraduate students and the general public. Completion leads to a certificate in cannabis studies, well-positioning students for employment with regulatory groups, public health departments or organizations, medical bodies, and cannabis firms.

Any undergraduate student can pursue the program, which is open to members of the general public who are not enrolled in a degree program at the University. Throughout the 15-credit program, participants will be connected to employers in related sectors for internships

and job opportunities. Beginning in summer 2023, the University will offer an accelerated option, wherein all five required courses can be taken simultaneously.

Two non-credit, online courses on medical cannabis are available for pharmacists and medical practitioners. The Medical Cannabis Core Education Program provides the knowledge and skills required to respond to inquiries from clients, patients, and other healthcare providers on cannabis usage, proper assessment, monitoring, and care plan development. The Medical Cannabis Advanced Program focuses on topics such as the major difference between cannabis constituents, cannabinoid pharmacokinetics, potential drug-drug interactions, and the relationship between cannabinoids and opioids. Each program is self-paced and results in a professional certificate.



# Agreement with South Korean University Extends Global Reach

In a move to further globalize both institutions, William Paterson and Kongju National University (KNU) in South Korea have entered into an academic exchange agreement, laying the groundwork for both a student exchange program and joint faculty research.

Since 2020, the two institutions have been building a relationship and engaging in global exchange enrichment activities in undergraduate and graduate courses. For example, students in WP's Sociological Theory and Environmental Anthropology courses have been exchanging class projects with KNU students. Also, WP graduate students pursuing master of education degrees in literacy interviewed KNU education majors and learned about the Korean education system.

With four campuses and approximately 19,000 students, KNU is the ninth largest among national and public universities in Korea.

"We are excited for this new partnership with Kongju National University, which extends the global reach of William Paterson," says President Richard J. Helldobler. "In an increasingly interconnected world, the more opportunities we can provide our students to study with and learn from people from other nations and cultures, the better prepared they will be for successful careers and rewarding lives after graduation."



Professor Angie Yoo, communication (far left), with students on the trip to South Korea

Representatives from both universities were present at a recent signing ceremony on campus, including WP professors Carrie Hong, educational leadership and professional studies; Keumjae Park, sociology and criminal justice; and Angie Yoo, communication. The three faculty secured and are executing a three-year grant from the Korean Studies Promotion Service to develop Korean global exchange and collaborative research programs on campus. It was through that grant that the relationship between WP and KNU began.

They also initiated a summer study abroad trip to South Korea that offered a variety of learning opportunities as well as transferrable credits to William Paterson. Seven students participated in the inaugural month-long program at Ewha University in South Korea this past summer, supported by the grant and the SEED program funded by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea.

"It was a wonderful learning opportunity for our students," says Park. "In addition to Korean language classes, students were able to take classes of their own interest." For example, Vienne Voysey, a music major, learned how to play a Korean string instrument called the gayageum and a drum called janggu in a Korean traditional music class. The group also visited famous Korean landmarks

including Gyeongbokgung Palace, N-tower, and Lotte World.

"It was the best experience I've ever had," says Elsie Castillo, a business management major with a minor in international studies. "In one course, international students were mixed with Ewha University students, and we learned from each other. We had conversations about the differences and similarities between our cultures. It was a great way to learn, not only about Korea, but about people from different countries."

Nursing major Rosemarie Beyers took a Korean culture and tradition class where she learned about the origin of Korean beliefs. "I believe that applying my understanding of why some people believe in what they do or act the way they do will help me to communicate with patients and coworkers in the future," she says.

The students can continue their learning journey with the University's Korean studies minor, which launched this semester.



Students Cortney Pruden and Rosemarie Beyers in South Korea



Sung-Soo Won, president of Kongju University, and President Richard J. Helldobler during the agreement signing in Hobart Manor



Head football coach Shaun Williams, who spent nine seasons in the NFL

## Former New York Giant Shaun Williams Takes the Helm of WP Football Program, Leads Team to Best Finish in a Decade

A California native who spent nine seasons playing at football's highest level, Shaun Williams decided to put down roots in his adopted hometown when he hung up his helmet. William Paterson's Division III program continues to benefit from that decision 14 seasons later.

Williams, who was promoted to head coach this past June, led the Pioneers to a 4-1 start this fall en route to a 5-5 final record, the team's best finish in a decade and an encouraging first step in his larger goal of building a respected and winning program. But his ultimate goals for his student-athletes and coaching staff won't just show up in future wins columns.

"Our purpose is really to help these young men graduate and become respectable adults who are productive citizens in their communities," Williams says. "It's about teaching them how to be successful outside of football by providing mentorship, developing self-discipline, and creating structure. Those are all things that football gave me, and those things will carry through into the rest of their lives. If they can develop those skills while

they're here, then the football wins will take care of themselves."

Looking to break into coaching following his NFL retirement, Williams's North Jersey connections landed him an interview at WP in 2009 and he's remained in Wayne ever since, getting promoted from part-time assistant coach to full-time assistant/defensive coordinator, and now head coach of the Pioneers.

"When I first got here, I really bonded with the players, and I could see that many of them needed a role model and needed support," says Williams. "Helping them develop into better students and better people has always been my focus. I see their growth, and when our alumni come back and I know they're on the right path, it just makes all of our efforts worthwhile."

Following a standout career at Crespi Carmelite High School in Encino, California, Williams was a three-year starter and two-time all-Pac-10 selection at UCLA, then a first-round draft pick by the New York Giants in 1998. He spent nine years in the NFL (1998-2006), eight of those with the Giants, and played in Super Bowl XXXV.

No matter how successful a career one might enjoy, at some point every

professional athlete must move on to other endeavors, and Williams describes his coaching start at WP in 2009 as his first "real job." He was taking classes in Wayne, finishing his UCLA degree requirements while learning how to be impactful from the sideline instead of the field.

"I'm always trying to get better, to learn from my mistakes, and I enjoy that process and the challenge of it," he said. "Becoming the head coach this season has been a new challenge, and I'm striving to be better at it each day. It's the same message I try to share with our student-athletes. Mistakes happen, but you have to get back up, learn from it and move forward. No one's life goes exactly as planned, so you have to be resilient and make the best of every situation."

"My time in the NFL instilled in me a belief that, if you work hard and are disciplined, you can be successful in anything you choose to do," Williams continues. "That's what we're trying to instill in our student-athletes. There's a lot of life left to live after football is over, even if you're fortunate enough to play professionally. Having that degree, and also that ability to believe and persevere, will help them succeed in whatever they pursue." WP





A rendering of the proposed renovation to the athletic fieldhouse

## PIONEERING CHAMPIONS CAMPAIGN TO RAISE FUNDS FOR ATHLETIC FIELDHOUSE ADDITION AND RENOVATION

In an effort to provide its student-athletes with the resources they need to compete and succeed at the highest level, William Paterson has launched the Pioneering Champions Campaign to generate \$1.5 million toward a 4,000-square-foot addition to its existing athletic fieldhouse facility.

“As part of the University’s Division of Student Development, the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics is focused on extending the learning environment beyond the classroom to enrich our student-athletes’ educational growth, giving them the opportunities and means to be successful both in the classroom and the athletic arena,” says Kristen Foley, director of intercollegiate athletics and recreation. “This addition and renovation project will provide our current and future student-athletes with an enhanced training facility that will support their needs.”

The project will include a student-athlete-specific fitness center, featuring strength training and cardio areas, with roll-

up glass garage doors facing Wightman Stadium. It will also feature an expanded athletic training facility; individual locker rooms for field hockey, softball, and women’s soccer; and a renovation of the existing football and baseball locker rooms.

William Paterson fields 13 NCAA Division III intercollegiate teams and currently has 300 student-athletes.

“The University now turns to its community and invites them to help make this project a reality,” says Pamela Ferguson, vice president for institutional advancement. “The Pioneering Champions Campaign gives alumni and friends the opportunity to make an investment that will allow the University to enhance athletic recruitment and raise visibility with student-athletes on a national level, while meeting the needs of all our current student-athletes.”

*For more information on how to contribute to the campaign, including naming opportunities, please contact Pamela Ferguson, vice president for institutional advancement: 973.720.2615 or [fergusonp@wpunj.edu](mailto:fergusonp@wpunj.edu).*

## BASEBALL SWEEPS ITS WAY TO FIRST NJAC TITLE IN 25 YEARS

The Pioneer Baseball Team concluded a perfect run through the 2022 New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) Baseball Tournament, seizing the trophy with a resounding 10-4 victory against Kean University. The team secured its 13th NJAC Tournament title in program history, and first in 25 years. WP also secured an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament, returning to the national stage for the first time since 1999.

WP finished with a 31-15 overall record as seven Pioneers earned all-conference awards and five were all-region honorees, led by NJAC Player of the Year and all-American Dan Carter, and Colin Lombardo, who secured all-America laurels both athletically and academically.



The Pioneer Baseball Team celebrates winning the 2022 NJAC Baseball Tournament

# NEW DINING HALL REIMAGINES CAMPUS DINING EXPERIENCE

BY MARIA KARIDIS DANIELS



When students arrived on campus for the fall 2022 semester, they found something exciting: an entirely renovated and reimagined Wayne Dining Hall with a menu sure to please a wide variety of tastes.

The updated facility, the product of a nearly two-year renovation project, has become a new hub for students, faculty, and staff to gather on campus throughout the day.

“A dining hall is more than just a place to eat; it’s a major part of the college experience, a place to meet new people and host events,” says Eric Lynch ’23, a marketing major who spoke on behalf of the student body at a ribbon-cutting for the new facility. “A good dining hall is something you can brag about to your family and friends.”

Featuring 10 themed stations—mini-restaurants of their own—with chef-inspired creations and fresh, made-to-order meals ranging from the traditional slow-roasted to globally inspired, plant-based and allergen-free, dining on campus is officially next-level.

President Richard J. Helldobler says the project is an example of the University’s commitment to creating and sustaining a comfortable, modern campus that provides “a great environment in which to study, work, live—and, of course, eat.”

“Food is the most fundamental of our basic needs, and we know how important good nutrition is to the health of our entire

community, and especially for our students and their ability to perform their best academically and in everything they do on and off campus,” President Helldobler adds. “As a society, we’ve come to better appreciate the importance of having equitable access to a variety of fresh, healthy, and delicious foods. And our students’ expectations for what a campus dining hall should offer have also, justifiably, evolved.”

Each food station in the dining hall includes open concepts that allow visitors to interact with kitchen staff while their menu selection is being prepared.

In addition, the modern facility features an inviting, colorful interior with a wall of windows, USB charging ports, and a selection of seating options including restaurant-style booths and high-top tables designed to support community engagement. “Students love the new booths and seating arrangements,” says Lynch.

At the entrance is a hydroponic garden where rows of fresh herbs and lettuces are grown and utilized in the various menu items. Behind the salad bar, the produce used in the dining hall is on display in a wall of extra-large, glass-door refrigerators, making the food itself part of the facility’s fresh and colorful design aesthetic.


The dining hall is open to students, faculty, and staff, and since its debut, the dining hall has seen an increase in foot traffic from all groups, according to Manmeet Kohli, director of hospitality. There has subsequently been an uptick in students signing up for campus meal plans, and, for the first time ever, the University is



offering a meal plan for employees due to demand. Cash and card payment options are available for visitors who do not have a campus meal plan.

Menus will be modified based on popularity, as well as through student surveys and requests. Through dining hall vendor Aramark's "Be Heard" platform, available through a QR code at each table, students can submit instant feedback to managers.

With a seating capacity of 530, both the University and Aramark hope the new Wayne Dining Hall will become a hangout on campus for resident and commuter students alike, as well as faculty and staff.

A schedule of activities, entertainment, and community engagement programming launched this fall, including live chef demonstrations, trivia nights, special food theme days like World Vegetarian Day and National Taco Day, and pumpkin painting right before Halloween. Also in the works is a "Recipe from Home" campaign—wherein students submit their favorite recipes and help kitchen staff cook and serve the food. 

## What You'll Find at the New Wayne Dining Hall

**IRON SKILLET:** A made-to-order breakfast station during daytime hours, and an "action" station of street-inspired cuisine at dinner. Think tacos and kebabs.

**TRATTORIA:** Hand-stretched pizzas (including gluten-free), calzones, and pasta dishes prepared in a wood-stone oven.

**ROOT:** Made-to-order plant-based cuisine for vegetarians and vegans. Thanks to the presence of Root, every station has a vegetarian option.

**TRUE BALANCE:** A lunch and dinner station that supports diners with food allergies. Complete meals—soups, salads, entrees, and sides—are created free of the top eight food allergens.

**PROOF:** Baked goods prepared fresh by the in-house baker and pastry chef, as well as interactive guest experiences such as "decorate your own cupcake." Through Proof, the Cake Lab offers on-campus custom cakes, including allergen-free and gluten-free options.

**GLOBAL KITCHEN:** A rotating variety of international foods ranging from Chinese to Indian and everything in between, designed to introduce students to new cuisines while providing the University's diverse campus community with favorite tastes from home.

**UNDER THE HOOD:** Hand-pressed burgers, hand-cut French fries, and handmade falafel; all options are made fresh to order.

**SALAD BAR:** Raw and grilled vegetables, as well as prepared options such as pasta salad and tabouli.

**DELI STATION:** Chef-inspired creations featuring daily and weekly specials, traditional sandwiches, and healthy grab-and-go snacks like fruit and granola.

**HIGH-TECH:** A touch-screen barista that can brew anything from a double espresso to a latte or macchiato.

To see a video: [bit.ly/WPDining](https://bit.ly/WPDining)



# Our Youngest Pioneers

—New Child Development Center on campus provides quality education and care from preschool through kindergarten

BY MARIA KARIDIS DANIELS AND MARY BETH ZEMAN

*From the moment you enter William Paterson University's brand-new Child Development Center, it is apparent that you are somewhere special.*

*From the sounds of young children engaged in active learning, to hallways filled with a variety of hands-on, interactive, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) opportunities, this new facility focused on children in their earliest phases of development is both serious in approach and inviting to early learners.*



The Center, which kicked off its inaugural school year on September 6, is located inside the University's building at 1800 Valley Road in Wayne. Designed and managed by leaders in William Paterson's College of Education, the Center serves children ages two and a half through kindergarten.

"We are thrilled to open our doors to children of our faculty, staff, students, and alumni, as well as children from the surrounding communities," says Amy Ginsberg, dean of the College of Education. "And it's wonderful that our classrooms and hallways are filled with the sounds of children learning and exploring. Our team of veteran educators have tapped their decades of experience to create the highest-caliber program of early childhood learning and care. We cherish the opportunity to help young children become lifelong learners and collaborators, and to ensure that they feel

valued, respected, and loved under our roof."

Current undergraduate and graduate students in the College of Education who are seeking certification as preschool-grade 3 teachers will be able to supplement their learning with applied experiences at the Child Development Center—a relationship that will not only benefit the University students but also the Center's children and teachers, Ginsberg says.

Teachers in the Child Development Center, most of whom are graduates of WP's College of Education, have previously worked in public school districts, are New Jersey state-certified, and have at least a bachelor's degree in education; the majority hold master's degrees. They come from diverse backgrounds, and most are bilingual, speaking Spanish, Bengali, Arabic, Italian, and Polish, in addition to English.

Supporting the teaching staff at the Center is Ronni Mendez, its social service coordinator and instructional coach.

"The children in our Center benefit immensely from our carefully chosen teaching and support staff," says Cindy Gennarelli, director. "In addition, our facility will serve as a laboratory center supporting College of Education teacher candidates, modeling best practices in early childhood. Through their coursework, research projects, and clinical experiences, teacher candidates have their fingertips on the pulse of current trends and best practices and will undoubtedly elevate the level of learning—both academic and social—in our classrooms," she adds.

The Center was created with inspiration from the Reggio Emilia Approach—a student-centered educational philosophy for preschool and



# Child Development Center

WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

primary education that views children as “competent and capable co-constructors of their own learning,” explains Gennarelli, who also serves as director of early childhood innovation in the College of Education. Collaboration and child-driven communication, “in the 100 languages of children,” are paramount in the Center’s curriculum, which meets all New Jersey Department of Education standards, she adds.

As part of the Reggio Emilia Approach, the physical learning environment is very important—considered to be a teacher itself—so every space has been very intentionally designed to promote self-guided, experiential learning; children are encouraged to explore, wonder, and question. Unlike more traditional daycare centers or preschools, walls, furnishings, and learning materials in WP’s Center are mostly neutral tones. “Everything is calm, not overstimulating, and respectful of children,” Gennarelli says.

Even the hallways are interactive and inviting, including such features as a complimentary library of books; child-sized living room furniture; rugs with oversized throw pillows and cozy enveloping tunnels where little ones can relax; and a large interactive physics wall with various ramps, inclines, pathways, and chutes.

A large common room includes a black-light area with fluorescent supplies, and a teacher resource center is filled to the brim with a carefully chosen collection of developmentally appropriate children’s books, as well as educational materials ranging from

pinecones to bird nests to puppets. Outside, there are two playgrounds—one for younger children and one for the older children.

Through a \$551,000 four-year, federal Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) grant, the Center is able to offer subsidized tuition assistance, up to 75 percent of the cost of childcare, to low-income William Paterson students who are eligible for federal Pell grants.

“William Paterson is grateful for this U.S. Department of Education grant,” says President Richard J. Helldobler. “These funds will allow us to enroll and educate more economically disadvantaged students, who can benefit the most from a life-changing college degree. By expanding local access to quality childcare, our new Child Development Center can help remove a common barrier to a college education and give more parents the means to lift up themselves and their families.”

In addition, the Center is partnering with the nearby Prospect Park School District, which applied for and was awarded funds through the New Jersey Preschool Program to expand its preschool capacity. Under the program, school districts that cannot accommodate eligible children in their own facilities can partner with high-quality facilities—like WP’s—to enroll and serve those children.

“We are very excited to partner with Prospect Park to support their preschool program,” says Gennarelli. “In addition, through this state-funded program, we are providing a professor-in-

residence to assist the school district’s overall pre-school program, as well as welcoming them as part of the College of Education’s Professional Development School network.”

The Center is planning a wide range of additional activities, including two conferences on early childhood topics in spring 2023. Also in the works are monthly family/parent outings and workshops, such as family hikes starting right on the trails of the Center’s wooded property, as well as group yoga classes and car seat safety checks guided by University police officers. Center administrators are also planning a rain boot drive.

“Even when it rains, we’ll take the children outside to play, and we believe that if you go out in the rain, you jump in puddles,” Gennarelli explains, with a smile. “It’s about joyful experiences.”

*WP’s Child Development Center is open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on weekdays, with extended/wrap-around care available starting at 7:45 a.m. and ending at 5:00 p.m.*

*For additional information, call or email Cindy Gennarelli, director, at 973-720-2529 or [gennarellc@wpunj.edu](mailto:gennarellc@wpunj.edu).*





# Family Bond Spurs Transformative Gift

—A significant gift from Dr. Dorothy Grant Hennings, sister of late WP professor *emerita* Dr. Barbara Grant, will benefit students in the science disciplines, and provides a tribute to her late husband, Dr. George Hennings, and his love of science.

BY MARY BETH ZEMAN

The former Science Hall East academic building on campus has been renamed in honor of Dr. Dorothy Grant Hennings and her late husband, Dr. George Hennings, in recognition of a transformative and extraordinary philanthropic commitment.

Dr. Dorothy Grant Hennings is the sister of the late Dr. Barbara Moll Grant '54, an alumna and WP professor *emerita* of education. After her sister's death in 2019, Dr. Hennings developed a personal relationship with William Paterson and established the Dorothy and George Hennings Endowed Scholarship at the University.

"Thanks to the special bond of family and shared values and purpose centered on higher education, William Paterson is the fortunate and very grateful recipient of a transformative gift

on behalf of Dorothy and George," said President Richard J. Helldobler during the building dedication ceremony.

The Hennings's gift provides additional support to the Dorothy and George Hennings Endowed Scholarship and for the already established Barbara M. Grant Endowed Scholarship. It also supports student research in the University's College of Science and Health, and creates an endowed fund to support strategic initiatives at the University.

"Such funds will assist William Paterson in making bold,

transformative moves on behalf of student success through innovative new programs," President Helldobler said.

"Through this very generous and transformative gift, students at William Paterson University in the science disciplines will benefit from scholarship support and research support that will assist them in attaining their dreams of a college education, as well as funds in support of innovative programs across the University," added Michael Seeve, chair of the University's Board of Trustees.

Dr. Grant Hennings spoke of her late husband in her remarks, "Ode to George: A Love Poem," in which she reminisced about their life together as they traveled the world and paid tribute to her "Renaissance man," a scientist who also studied literature, art,





and music. The couple, who were married for 48 years until George's death in 2016, had no children, and, as Dr. Grant Hennings noted, no heirs to carry on his name.

***“Today my George, we give you this, your surname in letters bold and tall: Hennings Hall.***

***No one will ever forget my Renaissance man, his name now engraved upon the wall of this fantastic science hall...***

***What a wonderful day this is for George, for me, for this great school, William Paterson University.”***

***—Dr. Dorothy Grant Hennings***

Hennings Science Hall East, as it is now known, was renovated in 2012 as part of a significant expansion and upgrade of the University's Science Complex. It features computer labs, research labs, a clinical psychology training suite, a microscopy suite, an animal research facility, a greenhouse, the Science Enrichment Center, and a mathematics learning center, among others.

Dr. Dorothy Grant Hennings is distinguished professor *emerita* at Kean University, where she was a professor of education from 1965 to 2002 and was instrumental in developing programs that transformed the institution from a teacher education college to a multipurpose university. Dr. Grant Hennings authored 50 textbooks and guides for teachers and children with prominent publishers such as Houghton Mifflin, Prentice Hall, and HarperRow. She received the Outstanding Teacher Educator in Reading Award from the International Reading Association in 1992 and the Distinguished Service Award from the New Jersey Reading Association in 1993. She also was named both Teacher of the Year and Presidential Scholar of the Year during her tenure at Kean.

Top: Dr. Dorothy Grant Hennings speaks about her husband during the ceremony  
Below: Left: (From left) Jenny Lu, Dr. Dorothy Grant Hennings; Venkat Sharma, dean, College of Science and Health, William “Bill” Stevens, and Nancy Zeliff. Right: Dr. Dorothy Grant Hennings and her husband, Dr. George Hennings

Dr. George Hennings was professor *emeritus* of biology at Kean University, where he was instrumental in developing its program in secondary school science

education and established courses in geology and astronomy as the university expanded its curriculum. Dr. Hennings was a charter member of Kean's faculty senate and served on numerous committees, including the promotion committee. He was a life member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the National Science Teachers Association. Together with his wife, he co-authored two books: *Keep Earth Clean, Blue and Green* (Scholastic Press) and *Today's Elementary Social Studies* (Harper and Row). Hennings Hall, home to the Kean College of Education, was dedicated in honor of the couple in 2005; in 2013, they received Kean's inaugural William Livingston Award for their service to education and their contribution to the university.

Dr. Barbara Moll Grant '54 was a member of the William Paterson faculty from 1963 until her retirement in 1998, and she coauthored two books with her sister: *The Teacher Moves* (Teachers College Press), and *Content and Craft: Written Expression in the Elementary School* (Prentice Hall). Upon her retirement, Dr. Grant was awarded the title of professor *emerita*. She continued to be closely involved with the University, establishing the Barbara M. Grant Scholarship in 2005. In 2021, William Paterson renamed the former Preakness Hall academic building on campus Barbara Moll Grant Hall in recognition of her generous philanthropic support of her *alma mater*.

“Thank you for believing in and investing in William Paterson and our students,” said President Helldobler. “Your support is truly an investment in New Jersey's future. I know that as someone who was born here and dedicated your life to making it a better place, you know full well the power and the potential of this region, its universities, and its people.”





# First

GENERATION

# College

GRADUATE

## We Are First-Gen

Throughout its history, William Paterson has served to educate those who are the first in their families to attend college—from its very beginning in 1855 as a normal school established to train teachers for Paterson’s public schools, to today, when close to half of the University’s undergraduates are first-generation college students.

BY CHRISTINE DIEHL, MARIA KARIDIS DANIELS, AND MARY BETH ZEMAN



Provost Joshua Powers

These first-generation alumni, along with our current students, are, in every sense of the word, Pioneers, and part of what makes our campus community so special. The University celebrates our first-generation students and alumni, their Will. Power., and their profound impact on their communities and beyond. And they are supported by a significant number of WP faculty and staff who are also first-gen graduates and share the unique perspective that comes with being the first in your family to attend college.

This semester, almost 150 office spaces on campus are adorned with a bright orange decal lovingly and proudly displayed by WP faculty or staff members who, like so many of our students, were the first in their family to go to college. From Hobart Manor to University Hall, the Campus Police Department and everywhere in between, the decals—a student support initiative spearheaded by Provost and Senior

Vice President for Academic Affairs Joshua Powers—declare, “First-generation college graduate. Ask me about it.”

“From time to time, I have opportunity to ask faculty and staff if they happened to be the first in their family to receive a college degree. It always warms my heart how many say yes, with deep pride when they say it and the clear desire to help others navigate college,” Powers says.

He subsequently had the decals created and sent an email to all faculty and staff, inviting them to request one for their workspace. Within a few weeks, almost 150 campus employees made that request.

The provost hopes the decals will spur discourse between students and faculty or staff to whom they could look for inspiration and advice.

Among those faculty and staff is President Richard J. Helldobler. He was the first in his family to earn a college degree, as well as the first to earn a doctorate, and he was not the last.

“Being first-generation means to me that I am a change maker within my family, my community, and the higher education landscape,” the president announced during a gathering of the WP community on November 8—National First-Generation College Student Day.

“While everyone’s story is unique, when I meet a first-generation student or graduate, I immediately know some key things about them,” he said in his remarks during the event. “I know that they have grit and determination. That they have Will. Power.”

For President Helldobler, the opportunity to work with a significant population of first-generation college students is one of the things that most attracted him to WP. “Given the large number of first-gen William Paterson Pioneers, their success is especially important to the success of the University in fulfilling our mission to put more degrees into the hands of those students who are changing the social fabric of our state and our nation,” he said.

While first-generation students may have supportive families, President Helldobler added, that support may be limited when it comes to preparing for, applying to, and succeeding in college.

“That’s why—in addition to a first-gen student’s desire—it is so important that they choose an institution where they find the community and the support that they need throughout their college journey,” he said. “Here, first-generation students are welcomed, supported, and valued for all the great things they contribute to this institution today and all that they will contribute as future alumni.”

Here, some of our first-gen alumni, faculty, and staff talk to us, in their words, about the impact of their experiences.



President Richard Rothblat shows off the first-generation decal affixed to the door of his study in Hobart Manor

and educationally disadvantaged, and *Lambda Theta Alpha* Latin Sorority, Inc.

“Through EOF, I was able to connect with students of similar backgrounds and experiences, while also receiving guidance from compassionate advisors, like Carmen Ortiz, who was vested in my success,” Diaz says.

In *Lambda Theta Alpha*, Diaz was introduced, for the first time, “to professional women who looked like me, a foreign concept at the time due to low enrollment of Latina women on college campuses,” she explains. Twenty-nine years later, she remains active in the sorority as a national advisor, continuing the group’s long tradition of mentoring young Latina women.

## Rogernelle Griffin

Director, WP’s Academic Success Center | BA, Buffalo State College | MA, CUNY | EdD Candidate, William Paterson University

**“While there are many generational differences, I share many common goals with the students today, such as the quest to achieve professional and personal success, and to make my family and community proud.”**

“My experience as a first-generation student was transformative, and contributes greatly not only to who I am, but how I function as a leader, supervisor, advisor, and community member on campus,” says Rogernelle Griffin. Griffin is in her 19th year as director of the Academic Support Center, providing academic support programs and services that increase student retention and achievement, and serving as a faculty resource for student success strategies. She connects with students on a daily basis, which has led to deep relationships with many alumni.

“I keep in touch with many of the students that have worked in my office and who I have advised, and it is great to see them attaining graduate degrees, starting businesses, and moving out of state and seeking new experiences,” she says. “I’d like to think I helped them see what’s possible after graduating.”



## Rosa Diaz '97

Chief School Administrator/Superintendent of Schools, Carteret, New Jersey | BA in Elementary Education, William Paterson University | MA, Kean University

**“I often use the phrase, ‘Leadership is not about being in charge. It’s about taking care of people in your charge.’ My life experience reminds me that sometimes people just need a bit of help to become the best versions of themselves.”**

Rosa Diaz '97 needed some extra support when she got to William Paterson. A first-generation college student and woman of color raised in poverty, she not only lacked the basic knowledge needed to navigate college life, but she also lacked access to resources that most other students had.

Diaz found that support in two groups: the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF), which provides added academic and financial support to students who are economically



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## Eliana Antoniou

Professor, Mathematical Sciences | Coordinator, GS-LSAMP (Garden State Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation) Program, College of Science and Health | BA, The College of New Jersey | MS and PhD, New Jersey Institute of Technology

**"I remember how discouraged I felt, feeling lost and like a fish in the middle of the ocean. I am very empathetic to first-generation students and when I ask them how they are doing, I really mean to ask them how they are doing."**

At age 19, Eliana Antoniou came to the U.S. from Greece as an international student to pursue her dream of becoming a mathematician, and found the American way of life was very different from her village in Cyprus.

"It was a rough transition and on the third day I was ready to leave and go back home, but one of the faculty reached out and said, 'You cannot run away. You will be successful, and things will work; be patient,'" Antoniou recalls.

That professor then introduced her to a Greek-American person, who picked her up on a Sunday morning to take her to the local Greek Orthodox church. With a taste of home, she decided to stay in the US. "It takes one person to make a difference in your life. That is why I go out of my way to help students," she explains.

A math professor at WP for more than 20 years, Antoniou is also the University's coordinator for the GS-LSAMP program, a National Science Foundation-funded program that provides academic support and specialized advising for

students from historically underrepresented groups who wish to enter non-medical STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) professions.

"Seeing so many first-generation students at WP brings back memories from my own experiences and I am excited to engage with them, and help them out to adjust, as I remember how isolating it was."



## Joset Brown

Assistant Professor of Nursing | Coordinator for Accelerated BSN Program | BS, Kaplan University | MS, EdD, Walden University

**"Often, they need just one person who recognizes their efforts, understands their aspirations and their journey, and the sacrifice that was made for them to gain their education as first-generation college students."**

As an immigrant and first-generation college student, Professor Joset Brown understands the social and emotional support that first-gen students may not be able to receive from their families. "I have experienced the same unique needs and trepidations they are currently facing," she says.

In her work with first-gen nursing students, Brown seeks to build relationships, understand their needs, and help them navigate resources to ensure their progression through to graduation. Since joining the University in 2018, she has mentored multiple first-gen students.

This involves everything from providing advice on work-life-school balance, interview skills, and professional guidance to writing scholarship recommendations, directing students to the right academic support service, talking about how to apply for additional financial resources, or even just being there to listen. She urges them to take advantage of every resource and opportunity available at WP. "Fully immerse yourself in the college experience; you belong here!"

## Samuel F. Fancera

Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership and Professional Studies | BA, Kean University | MS, University of Arizona | MEd, EdD, Rutgers University

**"I believe I can relate to the various demands our first-generation students face, whether professional, personal, or familial, which allows me to help them find solutions and better manage these demands as they continue with their graduate studies."**

"My experience as a first-generation college student was positive, however, I felt that I was left to figure things out on my own. Other than my sister who was also enrolled in an undergraduate program at the same time I was, few family members could provide much insight about the process," says Professor Samuel Fancera.

As director of the master's program in educational leadership, he advises the program's students—many of whom are first-generation graduate students. "Most first-gen students are likely to



encounter many hurdles along the way, but my job is to help them to keep going," he says.

Fancera says he has received many positive emails and comments from students about the impact he has had on them. "I think students appreciate the rapport we are able to build and the flexible approach we take in guiding them through the graduate degree process," he says.



## Manuel Garcia '04

Private Equity Consultant and Director, Accordion | BS, Business Administration, William Paterson University

**"As a first-generation college student, I needed guidance, so I networked with fellow business students, professors, and alumni. That gave me a competitive advantage in the workforce; I was better prepared to navigate and build my path to professional success."**

Manuel "Manny" Garcia '04 couldn't seek guidance from his family about higher education or a corporate career, but the WP connections he made more than made up for it. "I would tell first-generation college students to seek mentors within their field, both as students and post-graduation, who can provide guidance on networking, applying to competitive positions, and being successful long term," Garcia says.

Among the WP alums that he calls his mentors: William J. Pesce '73 and Jeff Millar '80. Pesce, a first-generation student himself and CEO of John Wiley and Sons at the time, invited Garcia to his office, where he helped introduce him to what it was like to work in a corporate environment. Pesce was "inspiring" to Garcia, who says he didn't know whether or not he "belonged" in a corporate environment at the time.

Through a shadowing program in the Cotsakos College of Business, Garcia met Millar, a managing director of global subsidiary banking at MUFUG, who provided career guidance, shared his resumé with colleagues, and proactively provided Garcia with mentorship in the early days of his finance career.

Garcia pays it forward as a mentor in the University's Pesce Family Mentoring Institute, where students are matched with mentors—both alumni and friends of WP—in their chosen professional field.



## Johanna Torres, MBA '17

Director, Student Enrollment Services | BA, New York University | MBA, William Paterson University

**"I always share with my students how I navigated through college, in hopes that it will be easier for them to accomplish their goals. There is significance in our first-gen journey. The more questions we ask and learn about systems and processes, the clearer path we can create for the generations that follow"**

When applying to college as a first-gen student, Johanna Torres recalls picking up a paper FAFSA application at the local post office and mailing it in even though she didn't understand the form. "I was not sure my family could afford college. My parents did not provide guidance and they barely spoke the language. It turns out I made a mistake on my FAFSA and only one financial aid counselor, at one school, took the time to help me correct it and understand it."

Torres brings lessons from her own college journey to her role as director of student enrollment services at WP, where she assists students with financial aid questions and works to help those with limited resources meet the financial gap.

Most of all, she encourages first-gen students to speak up, make connections, and get involved.

"William Paterson is your school.

These are your buildings, your library, your labs, your study rooms. Use them!"

Torres says. "Connect with groups and participate in campus activities. The more people you know, the more 'at home' you will feel."



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To read their full stories visit:  
[wpunj.edu/WeAreFirst-Gen](http://wpunj.edu/WeAreFirst-Gen)



## Dylan Johnson '21

Technology Risk Consultant at Ernst & Young | Cincinnati, Ohio | BS, Accounting, William Paterson University | MAcc, University of Tennessee

**"The University provided me with a wonderful education and campus experience that had a positive impact on me and my career. Through my involvement in so many wonderful WP clubs and activities, I connected with countless individuals who helped me succeed as a student and beyond."**

"As a first-generation student I couldn't look to my parents for guidance during my time in college because they didn't have the college experience. It was up to me to connect with University faculty, staff, and students for guidance throughout my time at William Paterson," says Dylan Johnson '21.



He made those connections by getting very involved in campus activities and organizations, serving on the Student Government Association and as a student representative to the University Board of Trustees, joining the nationally ranked rugby team, and becoming an undergraduate fellow with the Office of Alumni Relations.

"These clubs gave me the foundation I needed for success," Johnson adds, noting how many people he got to meet and how much they supported and guided him in different ways. His ability to build upon that foundation, he says, is credited to the "strong curriculum, professors, and professional enrichment opportunities" of WP's Cotsakos College of Business.

## Yvette Del Valle '04, MA '17

Assistant Director of Enrollment Growth, Cotsakos College of Business | BA, Communication, MA Higher Education Administration, William Paterson University

**"Grow your network, develop meaningful relationships, and surround yourself with people who have your best interest at heart and support you."**

"My parents instilled in me hard work, empathy, grit, and perseverance. They told me I could do and be anything I put my mind to and that education was a number one priority. But when I enrolled at William Paterson as a freshman, I didn't have a roadmap on how to navigate college, what to prioritize, what networks I should build," recalls Yvette Del Valle of her own experience as a first-generation college student.

"However, with the support of my parents and by being involved on campus I built a community of peers, mentors, faculty, and staff to help me along the way," says Del Valle, who went on to achieve her bachelor's in communication and her master's in higher education administration from the University.

Working in the Cotsakos College of Business's dean's office for the past two years, Del Valle's experience has come full circle. "I'm now in the position to help our students and be that resource for them," she says.

She often tells her first-generation students to advocate for themselves, ask for help, and build connections with a network of supporters. "They will be your community of champions!" says Del Valle, who remains proud of her roots and is appreciative of the sacrifices her parents made along the way to provide better opportunities for her and thrive as a first-gen student.

## Teresa Formica '17, MA '20

Clinical Case Manager | Center for Hope & Safety, a shelter for survivors of domestic violence | BA, Criminal Justice, MA, Applied Sociology, William Paterson University

**"I feel empowered that I have the opportunity to attend college when past generations in my family did not have that same opportunity,"**

Teresa Formica '17, MA '20 wanted more in life than taking over the family business and managing it "forever." She decided instead to go to cosmetology school immediately following high school and spent the next 11 years working in a hair salon. Formica realized she still wanted more.

She enrolled at William Paterson, earning a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, *magna cum laude*, and then a master's degree in applied sociology. She was the first in her family to go to college, and once she got there, she felt compelled to keep going. Formica is currently pursuing a second master's degree, in social work, at another institution.

Formica credits former WP sociology professor Sheetal Ranjan for helping her—a first-generation student entering University life after a full-time career—find her purpose and stay on course to achieve her full potential. "She is the reason I am where I am today."

Her advice to other first-generation students: "Never let anyone tell you how far you can go; you decide that. Keep pushing for what you want in life."



# WPU

## Alumni Connections

# Pioneers



### Record Crowds Enjoy Homecoming & Family Day 2022

William Paterson University welcomed alumni, students, families, faculty, staff, and community members to campus to celebrate Homecoming & Family Day 2022 on Saturday, October 29. Events included a pre-game tailgate with record-breaking attendance, a Pioneer Carnival with games, performances, and fun for the whole family, a football game vs. The College of New Jersey, and an ice hockey match-up against Navy. WP's mascot, Pio, was on hand to greet everyone and pose for photos. During the game, seniors from the cheerleading team and the football team were honored, and for the third straight year, *Tau Kappa Epsilon* was awarded the Annual President's Cup for having the most alumni and students participate in the day's activities.

# WP Alumni Connections



## Pre-game Tailgates Bring the Pioneer Community Together

Alumni, students, families, faculty, staff and community members were invited to campus for a traditional tailgate experience at every home football game of the 2022 season. Each pre-game tailgate held a special gathering and halftime celebration for specific departments, organizations, and groups, including the University Police Department | Physical Plant Operations Staff Members | All WP Divisions and Departments | College of Science and Health | College of Education | Cotsakos College of Business | College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences | Student-Athlete Gathering | WP Football Families | Title IX 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration | Class of 2022 Reunion | WP Legacy Families | WP Sweetheart Couples.



## Classes of 1970, 1971, and 1972 Celebrate 50<sup>th</sup> Reunions

Alumni from the Classes of 1970, 1971, and 1972 each had the opportunity during the spring of 2022 to celebrate a very special milestone: the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their graduation from William Paterson.

For the Classes of 1970 and 1971, the event was much anticipated, after plans were put on hold due to the pandemic. All three classes had the chance to participate in the 2022 Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony held on May 18 in the Prudential Center in Newark, where they joined in the procession with the graduating Class of 2022 and received special recognition from President Richard J. Helldobler.

The Class of 1970 celebrated at a reunion luncheon on Commencement Day, and the Classes of 1971 and 1972 enjoyed a combined reunion luncheon on June 16. Following the luncheons, those in attendance had the opportunity to take a tour of campus and learn about the many exciting changes that have occurred since their time at William Paterson. These alumni were able to reconnect with classmates, reminisce with friends, and reflect on their college experiences. Individuals traveled from all over the country and beyond, with one graduate traveling internationally to take part in this special celebration.

Each class generously raised funds for a scholarship in honor of their milestone reunions.





## Mary Angus '16 Makes a Splash with Children's Book



Mary Angus '16 just crossed an item off her bucket list: writing and illustrating her first children's book, *Max's Fuzzy Feelers*, which was published on November 28.

"Growing up, I was really completely mystified by children's books and the illustrations inside them," says Angus, who graduated with a BFA in art and has been working most recently to create scenic art and installations for film, television, and museum exhibitions, among other venues. "The inspiration followed me into adulthood, and I still think about the feelings of total wonderment I get from looking at *Miss Spider's Tea Party*, or *A Bad Case of the Stripes*."

Pegged for ages 3 through 6, Angus's story features Max, "a special moth with great big feelers and equally big heart."

"Sometimes big feelers can be a gift but sometimes Max can't wait for his feelers to shift," the book reads. "What happens when they get too big to hold? Sometimes having really big feelers can get old." As the story unfolds, readers find out how Max's feelers work and watch as Max learns to handle those big fuzzy feelers through good times and bad, happy and sad.

Angus, who lives in Asbury Park, started on her book after "the most stressful adult day ever," she explains. She decided to forego her evening plans, and instead, sat down to write about her feelings. Her words started coming out as a poem, and over the next few hours, the idea for a children's book about feelings was born.

"I had been an emotional child and am still a deeply emotional adult, and I thought writing a book introducing the idea of managing feelings to young children might be something I could be good at," she says. As for the illustrations, she adds, "I really tried my hardest to infuse the images with the same feelings of whimsy and creativity that I was inspired by in books from my childhood."



## Nikki Gaffney '22 Named 2022 Alumni Association "Outstanding Senior"

Nikki Gaffney '22, who graduated in May 2022 with a bachelor of science degree in biology and minors in art studio and ethics, *magna cum laude*, was named the 2022 "Outstanding Senior" by the William Paterson University Alumni Association.



Presented annually since 1962, the "Outstanding Senior" award recognizes a graduating senior with strong involvement in extracurricular activities, service to the University and community, demonstrated leadership ability, and high academic standing. It is the highest honor bestowed by the Alumni Association. The award was announced at the Senior Send-Off Celebration on May 18, where Michele Garcia '15, president of the Alumni Association, recognized all of the nominees and announced the recipient.

Gaffney was actively involved during her four years on campus, beginning in her freshman year when she became president of the Bioethics Club. Other activities included working as lab technician and greenhouse manager for the College of Science and Health and holding a variety of positions with the Political Science Club. In addition, she served as senator of academic affairs for the College of Science and Health for the Student Government Association and helped to spread awareness about the MaCS Scholars Program for computer science majors.

She also completed the Biology Honors Program, for which she conducted research analyzing the migration patterns of Agelenidae spiders across North America based on 20 environmental factors that she carefully selected to determine which factors are most influential in where they prefer to live.

Gaffney, whose long-term goal is to earn a PhD in ecological mapping software, says she is proud of her involvement on campus, and encourages other students to get involved. "Talk to as many people as you can," she says. "There are a lot of opportunities. If you want something, ask. If WP does not have it, they will offer it or you will have the lovely experience of making it happen yourself. That is what being a Pioneer is all about!"



## Kevin Burkhardt '97 to Announce Super Bowl LVII; Alumnus is Now Top NFL Play-by-Play Announcer for FOX Sports

Kevin Burkhardt '97, the lead studio host for FOX Major League Baseball, recently added another job title: lead play-by-play announcer for NFL on Fox. Burkhardt is teamed with three-time NFL Pro Bowler Greg Olsen—a graduate of Wayne Hills High School just down the road from William Paterson—as they call the network's top regular and post-season games, which will include Super Bowl LVII on February 12, 2023, marking the first time both are calling the national broadcast. Burkhardt will become just the 12<sup>th</sup> TV play-by-play announcer in history to call the Super Bowl.

As the lead studio host for FOX Major League Baseball, Burkhardt joined with former major league players Alex Rodriguez, David Ortiz, and Frank Thomas for baseball post-season coverage, including the World Series.



## ARTIST SARAH WINKLER '94 IS "WOMAN PAINTER TO WATCH"

Colorado-based painter and collage artist Sarah Winkler '94 has gained significant attention for her large-scale contemporary depictions of the geology of mountain and desert landscapes in the American West.

Named by the curators of ARTSY as a "Woman Painter to Watch" in 2021, the British-born artist was featured in their digital billboard campaign "Scenes of Summer," which was on view in New York City. She recently exhibited her works in solo exhibitions in Denver, Colorado and Park City, Utah, with upcoming solo shows slated for galleries in Vail, Colorado, and Seattle, Washington in 2023. Winkler is a participating artist in the U.S. Department of State's Art in Embassies program, and her work was exhibited in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Winkler, who studied art and earth science at William Paterson while earning a bachelor's degree in English, often embeds crushed minerals in her paintings collected in the landscape to foster a deeper connection to place. Her layered landscapes are narratives about time, process, and place with a focus on both the historical and present-day geological events she is observing in the American western landscape.

"In each painting, I want the viewer to feel transported to a familiar yet dreamy place, to feel the sun in a ranch meadow, touch the rye grass, smell the pine forest, taste the floral tangy colors from the pink snow-lit mountains to the arid desert landscape," Winkler said in a recent feature in *Cowboys & Indians Magazine*. "I like to portray the West as a destiny of alluring landscapes that draws people closer to it. It's a journey to a horizon line that never seems to approach."

## BESSIE AMES '74 HONORED BY PATERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR NEARLY 50 YEARS AS A TEACHER

Bessie Ames '74, a third-grade teacher at Paterson School 10, was honored by the Paterson School District for 48 years of service to the district, where she began teaching in September 1974.

Ames, a lifelong resident of Paterson, began her career as a fifth-grade teacher at Paterson School 6, where she taught for 36 years before moving to School 10, where she has taught for the past 12 years.

One of the children in the classroom next to hers in School 6 was Lolita Leary—now Lolita Vaughan '90, who is the principal of School 10, and who presented Ames with a certificate of service during a ceremony that was covered by *The Record* newspaper.

According to *The Record*, Ames was surprised to realize how many years she has been in the classroom. "Wow, it's been that long?" she said. "It doesn't make me feel old. It's like a reward for staying around all these years."



## ALONZO B. SLATER '14 FORGES CAREER AS ACTOR, MODEL, AND COMEDIAN

If you think Alonzo B. Slater '14 looks familiar, it might be because you've seen him on TV or in a print ad or TV commercial.

A graduate of WP with a bachelor's degree in English, Slater began his career as a wardrobe stylist in New York City before heading to Los Angeles, where he washed dishes and worked in a sandwich shop while auditioning. He is now forging a career as an actor, stand-up comedian, and model.

He has been seen in commercials and print ads for Asics, Verizon, American Express, Facebook, and Ford, to name a few, and starred in the films *A Christmas for Mary* (OWN), working alongside Vivica A. Fox and Jackee Harry, and *A Christmas Family Reunion* (Lifetime). In 2022, he has appeared in the TV series *The Upshaws* (Netflix), and *Keeping Up with the Joneses* (Lifetime), and he recently landed a role in season five of the Freeform series *Grown-ish*, a spin-off of the ABC series *Black-ish*.



## BEVERLY ARMENTO '63 PUBLISHES AWARD-WINNING MEMOIR



In her recently published book, *Seeing Eye Girl: A Memoir of Madness, Resilience, and Hope*, Beverly Armento '63 details the challenges she faced as the "seeing eye girl" for her blind, artistic, and mentally ill mother, the coping strategies she implemented to persevere, and the ways in which school

and church served as refuges over the course of her journey.

Through the book, which received a 2022 Bronze IPPY (Independent Book Publisher) Award in the Autobiography-Coming of Age/Family category, Armento hopes to raise awareness of and elevate the conversation about children who are exposed to adverse childhood experiences and the important role that educators and other mentors have in supporting, encouraging, and empowering them.

A 1963 graduate of William Paterson with a bachelor's degree in elementary education, Armento went on to earn a master of arts in teaching economics from Purdue University and a doctorate in social studies education from Indiana University. During her long and successful career as an educator, she worked with middle-school children and university students. Now retired, she is professor *emerita* at Georgia State University, where she was a research professor and chair of the Middle and Secondary Education and Instructional Technology Department.

Armento's college education was supported by grants, loans, and scholarships, which were made possible through the generous support of donors. Inspired by her own experiences, she has established the Beverly J. Armento Endowed Scholarship at William Paterson, that supports students majoring in education.



President Richard Helldobler (far right) and members of Skull and Poniard gather for the poem unveiling in University Hall

## Skull and Poniard Fraternity Celebrates Group's Campus Legacy with Poem Unveiling

Members of the Skull and Poniard fraternity, along with fellow alumni, friends, and University leadership, joined together on October 8 to celebrate the group's long-standing history on campus with the unveiling of the fraternity's poem in University Hall. The poem, written by Larry (Stacey) Cirignano '61, MA '70, the 1961 Skull and Poniard fraternity historian, hangs next to the Skull and Poniard banner that was unveiled in the lobby of University Hall in August 2021.

The efforts to continue to memorialize Skull and Poniard's legacy on the WP campus were led by member Bill Joosten '66, MA '69, whose dedication and commitment to keeping the fraternity's traditions vibrant and strong has kept the group connected for decades since graduation.

"I hope that it brings you pride to see the Skull and Poniard banner, and now the poem, mounted here in University Hall," said Pamela Ferguson, vice president for institutional advancement, in her remarks at the event. "These both signify the long-lasting mark that Skull and Poniard has made and the continued impact that each of you make here at WP. The commitment that you've made to stay connected to one another and our university is truly remarkable—and it's all because of that bond you created so many years ago."

President Richard J. Helldobler shared in the excitement, stating, "To paraphrase Larry (Stacey) Cirignano's poem... 'Those years together definitely left their mark!' They left their mark on all of you, and they left their mark on this institution."

Following the poem unveiling, members of the group headed over to the pre-game tailgate, a tradition that takes place ahead of every home football game.

In 2018, the brothers established and continue to support the Skull and Poniard Endowed Scholarship, which is awarded each year to a current undergraduate student. In creating the scholarship, Skull and Poniard has created a lasting legacy that helps ensure that students are able to achieve their goal of becoming college graduates. Recently, the group announced efforts to collectively come together to grow the endowed scholarship fund to \$50,000 to increase the impact of their support. **WP**



Left to right: Bill Joosten '66, MA '69, Peter Grisafi '66, MA '69, Michael Santoro '73, and Dennis Vroegindewey '71, MEEd '81

### 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!



AlumniWPUNJ | @wpunj\_alumni

# Class Notes

**1983 MICHAEL CARTER, MED '88**, entered his 32nd year coaching football for Bloomfield High School. Carter, who recently celebrated his 135<sup>th</sup> career win, is on track to become the longest-standing head coach in the school's history. During his tenure, he has coached with his two sons, Michael Jr. and Daniel, a 2022 graduate of William Paterson, who are both assistant coaches on the Bloomfield High School football team.

**1984 MARK CONSTANTINO** celebrated his 200th career victory as football coach for Shore Regional High School in West Long Branch. Constantino has served as a special education teacher for Shore Regional High School for 35 years.

**1985 DAVID MCCOMBS** celebrated his 108th career win as the Newark Barringer Bears Football coach.

**1987 MADELAINE TRICARICO** received the extended nursing care award from the CentraState Healthcare system. Tricarico, who has worked at CentraState since 1993, is known for strategizing and implementing change to align with cardiovascular best practices.

**1988 CHARLES BRUNS, MA**, published his first book, *Fatherlands: Identities of a Cuban American*, a memoir that touches on Cuban immigration in the United States. Bruns reflects on his journey as a Cuban American and explores the impact his identity and experiences as a son, stepson, and father have had on his family and career. Bruns, a communication consultant, has taught as an adjunct at William Paterson. ... **LISA M. QUATROCCHI** and her mother, Nancy, were featured in an exhibition, *Touch of Style*, at the Passaic County Arts Center in the John W. Rea House in Hawthorne. The mother

and daughter artists showcased their oil on canvas works inspired by nature. Quatrocchi, who is a member of the Oil Painters of America and the American Impressionist Society, has been teaching oil painting since 2015.

**1990 WAFA HOZIE** has been appointed vice provost for academic affairs at Wright State University. Hozien is an author and professor of educational leadership. ... **MARYANNE PELUSO** has published a memoir, *Behind the Tapestry: My Discovery of God's Grace Amidst Chronic Pain and Loss*. The memoir, written in hopes of helping other chronic pain sufferers, shares her struggles to "make peace" with a mysterious chronic illness and her unfulfilled dream of being a Catholic nun. The memoir is available for purchase at amazon.com. ... **PABLO SALDANA, MED '94**, was invited to present on career development in cystic fibrosis during the symposium session of the 2022 North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference (NAFCF). Saldana's abstract submission, titled "Vocational Rehabilitation Services for People with Cystic Fibrosis: Predictors of Employment Outcomes," will also be published electronically as a supplement to the *Journal of Cystic Fibrosis*. Saldana is manager of patient and family-centered care at Nemours Children's Health in Jacksonville, Florida.

**1994 JOSEPH NADILLO** began a new role on the Green Street news team as a managing editor for its *Asset-Backed Alert*. A former reporter for *Institutional Investor*, Gannett newspapers, and the *New Jersey Herald*, Nadillo serves as the lead reporter and oversees all content that is produced by *Asset-Backed Alert* reporters.

**1998 GIUSEPPE GIOVATTO** opened his own chiropractic practice after years of serving a number of professional sports organizations such as USA Fencing, USA Archery, and USA Track and Field, as well as the Toronto Blue Jays. Giovatto's practice, Ridgewood Spine & Sport, is located in Ridgewood, New Jersey. ... **JENNIFER WYLIE** opened her own business, Floor Coverings International in Clifton, in April 2021. Prior to her career switch, Wylie served as director of talent acquisition for Tapestry, the parent company of Coach, Kate Spade, and Stuart Weitzman.

**1999 GREGORY PANAS** has retired after 22 years as a science teacher at Wayne Hills High School. During his tenure, Panas served as treasurer of the Wayne Education Association for 14 years and the Passaic County Education Association for seven years. As the developer of the forensic science and astrology curriculum, he says, "Teaching something that you love is one of the most fulfilling life experiences one could have."

**2000 LISA LOMANTO AURICCHIO** was recognized by *NJBIZ* journal as one of the "Best 50 Women in Business" for 2022. Aurichio is the president of BSY Associates, a marketing communications agency that specializes in supply chain, logistics, and other industry services.

**2002 LAUREN SPEY** was promoted to nurse supervisor for the Orange County Health Department (OCHD) in North Carolina. She previously served as a public health nurse for the OCHD for three years and worked as a pediatric critical care nurse for 14 years at Duke University.

**2003 KATIE (KATHLEEN) NIEHOFF** has been named executive director of the American Red Cross of Coastal Virginia. As a recipient of life-saving blood during a medical emergency, Niehoff has devoted her time to promote and support the Red Cross so that she could give back and improve the lives of others.

**2004 ANGELA FIELDS** has published her third book, *A Way Out: A Story of Race, Poverty, and Christianity*. The author, reverend and executive director of the first local homeless shelter in Hunterdon County, confronts the legacies of racism and poverty in the United States from a Christian perspective through personal experience and through the anecdotes of the families she has served as social service servant.

**2009 MAYA (RABINOVICH) LORDO** was honored by the Essex County Executive for her efforts to promote emotional and physical resilience in the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Lordo, a health officer for the Essex County Health Department, received the Star of Essex Award,

presented during the county's annual Jewish Heritage Celebration. Lordo helped the department become a state-recognized Local Information Network and Communications System (LINCS) agency and emergency response coordinator with the New Jersey Department of Health. ... **SAMANTHA ORAS** was promoted to the role of chief operating officer at Employment Horizons, Inc., a nonprofit organization that provides job training and placement services to individuals with disabilities and other barriers to employment.

**2012 SAMUEL OCASIO** is currently in his first semester at the University of Albany pursuing a PhD in sociology.

**2014 EDWARD CONRAD, JR.** was promoted to sergeant at the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department after seven years of service in the Youth Services division.

**2018 LYDIA HONORATA ALBUQUERQUE, DNP**, was named a 2022 American Academy of Nursing Fellow. She is one of 250 distinguished nurse leaders from across the U.S. and 17 other countries selected for the honor based on their outstanding contributions to nursing, health care, and advancing the public's health. Albuquerque, an assistant professor of nursing at William Paterson, is also the president of the National Association of Indian Nurses of America.

**2019 LISA BARRETO** has been appointed as the principal of Burnet Hill Elementary School in Livingston. Barreto previously served for two decades in the Woodland Park School District, where she held numerous leadership positions, including basic skills coordinator, middle school assistant principal, and elementary and middle school principal. ... **ADRIAN RODRIGUEZ** has received his CFP (Certified Financial Professional) certificate. Rodriguez is an advisor at Access Wealth, a wealth management firm in East Hanover.

## CAMPUS COMMUNITY CELEBRATES STUDENT SUCCESS AT 24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

Approximately 300 students, alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and administrators attended the 24th Annual Scholarship Dinner on November 9, in recognition of the University's generous scholarship donors. The event celebrates the many deserving William Paterson students who receive donor scholarships, and recognizes the generosity of the donors who support our students.

Caryn Starr-Gates, who supports the Larry Gates Music Production Annual Scholarship, was the keynote donor speaker.

This year's student speaker was Tyler Sanchez, a junior who is majoring in biology with a concentration in pre-medical professions. Sanchez is the recipient of the Herman George Diello Memorial Annual Scholarship.



Top (left to right): Nathaniel Jolimere, President Richard J. Helldobler, and Dante X Alston; Alexa Grayson, and William Oliver; Bottom (left to right): Betty Cebrik, Kristta Bennett, Hana Daghestani, and Isabel Lopez; Kehinde Adeyefa, David Yen, Nia Jasper, Samir Hargrove, and Margaret Lam

# SAVE the DATE!

## Class of 1973 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion

### Reunion events:

**Undergraduate Commencement** | WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023

**Class of 1973 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Luncheon** | THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2023



Left to right: Tiffany Tshimanga, Naima Ricks '11, Michele Garcia '15, and Ashley Shoemaker

## Young Alumni Chapter Awards Scholarships

In June 2022, WP alumni and friends raised more than \$2,000 for the Annual Young Alumni Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to a full-time undergraduate student(s) who has a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0, is involved in activities on campus, and demonstrates leadership in the clubs in which they are involved. Due to the generous support of donors, there were two Young Alumni Scholarship recipients for the 2022-23 academic year: Tiffany Tshimanga, a nursing major and member of the Nursing Honors Program, and Ashley Shoemaker, an English major in the Humanities Honors Program.

## Mourning the loss of . . .

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| '51 PIERRE BONIN*<br>South Chatham, MA<br>September 26, 2022       | '66 ALICE VANDUYNE<br>Manasquan, NJ<br>April 11, 2022                         | '74 GEORGE MYRON, MA '76<br>Ocala, FL<br>May 6, 2022      | '82 ROBERT HOCHSTUHL<br>Bloomfield, NJ<br>April 4, 2022           |
| '52 MARIO COREY*<br>Sparta, NJ<br>June 3, 2022                     | MARYLU RIDEOUT*<br>Peoria, AZ<br>December 16, 2021                            | RONALD PECCI<br>Fair Lawn, NJ<br>April 11, 2022           | '83 RAYMOND SISCO<br>Woodland Park, NJ<br>March 13, 2022          |
| '54 RUTH HEITZMAN<br>Pompton Plains<br>March 5, 2022               | PATRICIA FAILLACI*<br>Ocean, NJ<br>May 8, 2022                                | FRANK VIVINO<br>Pompton Plains, NJ<br>August 25, 2022     | '84 MADELINE FAHEY<br>Hackensack, NJ<br>March 4, 2022             |
| LOIS REARDIN<br>Apex, NC<br>February 25, 2022                      | '68 RUTH ANN KELLET<br>Pompton Plains, NJ<br>September 17, 2022               | '75 CHARLES BAINBRIDGE<br>Morristown, NJ<br>July 1, 2022  | EDWARD POOLAS<br>Dover, NJ<br>April 1, 2022                       |
| '59 THOMAS DALY*<br>Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ<br>May 16, 2022                  | '69 ROY DEFRANCO SR.<br>West Milford, NJ<br>June 7, 2022                      | THOMAS DORSO<br>Lanoka Harbor, NJ<br>June 24, 2022        | JUDY TRIVETT<br>West End, NC<br>August 28, 2022                   |
| '62 EDYTHE GAINES<br>Wayland, MA<br>March 28, 2022                 | JOHN TYLER*<br>Sussex, NJ<br>August 25, 2022                                  | '78 BRUCE GELOTTE<br>Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ<br>May 15, 2022        | '85 JUDITH KIRSHBAUM, MED<br>Paramus, NJ<br>March 25, 2022        |
| ROSEMARIN LOVELL, MA '66*<br>Franklin Lakes, NJ<br>August 29, 2022 | '70 FRANCES MOLDOW*<br>Fair Lawn, NJ<br>April 27, 2022                        | GARRET KNORR<br>Port Saint Lucie, FL<br>May 1, 2022       | '88 MICHAEL CARLUCCI, MED '92<br>Verona, NJ<br>September 10, 2022 |
| '63 DONALD ERSKINE<br>Fredericksburg, VA<br>May 18, 2022           | ISABELLE HANSE-AMUNDSEN<br>Beverly Hills, FL<br>April 21, 2022                | '79 FREDERICK CARRELL<br>Myrtle Beach, SC<br>July 5, 2022 | '93 ANDREA TEDINO<br>Wayne, NJ<br>April 10, 2022                  |
| '64 ELLEN EISMEIER*<br>Mountain Lakes, NJ<br>March 28, 2022        | '71 JEREMIAH RYAN<br>Ridgewood, NJ<br>March 19, 2022                          | DEBRA COMERIE<br>Montclair, NJ<br>June 8, 2022            | '98 NICOLE MAGOULIS-TOULAS<br>Wayne, NJ<br>June 4, 2022           |
| CATHERINE ST. JOHN, MA '67<br>Thomasville, GA<br>May 7, 2022       | ADA SMITH<br>Bayonne, NJ<br>April 24, 2022                                    | JOHN DISTASO<br>Manchester, NH<br>April 21, 2022          | GLENN RISKO<br>Denville, NJ<br>April 7, 2022                      |
| '65 ELAINE FREDERICK<br>West Milford, NJ<br>June 11, 2022          | '72 JOANNE FERRARI-GRIFFO,<br>MED '94*<br>North Haledon, NJ<br>March 17, 2022 | JANE FEIBISH<br>Sparta, NJ<br>May 12, 2022                | '19 JANELLE ISAACS<br>Newark, NJ<br>September 16, 2022            |
| PHILIP LEES<br>Manchester, NJ<br>April 1, 2022                     | '73 JOSEPHINE TREGLIA, MA '76*<br>Wyckoff, NJ<br>October 5, 2022              | '80 GEORGE OLEAR<br>Stroudsburg, PA<br>July 29, 2022      | '22 JENNIFER MARTINEZ<br>Saddle Brook, NJ<br>March 3, 2022        |

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



## Class of 2022 Welcomed as Alumni

Members of the Class of 2022 were welcomed to the WP alumni network at the annual Senior Send-Off event held the evening prior to Commencement. The soon-to-be alumni had the opportunity to meet members of the Young Alumni Council and Alumni Executive Council and learn how to remain connected after graduation to the University's alumni community of more than 84,000 Pioneers throughout New Jersey, the country, and the world who are using their William Paterson degrees and experiences as a springboard to professional accomplishments and personal growth. The evening included congratulatory remarks from President Richard J. Helldobler, greetings from Jenna Villani, executive director of alumni relations, and a toast to the Class of 2022 by Michele Garcia '15, president of the Alumni Association, and graduating senior Jorge Villar '22, vice president for allocations for the SGA and vice president of the Accounting Society.



## EMERITI FACULTY RETURN FOR HOMECOMING & FAMILY DAY BREAKFAST

*Emeriti* faculty and librarians returned to campus for a special breakfast on Homecoming & Family Day hosted by President Richard J. Helldobler. In attendance were: (front row, left to right) Kara Rabbitt, associate provost; Susan Godar, professor *emerita*, marketing; Jean Levitan, professor *emerita*, public health; Jean Fuller-Stanley, professor *emerita*, chemistry, and retired associate dean, College of Science and Health; Sandra DeYoung, professor *emerita*, nursing, and retired dean, College of Science and Health; President Richard J. Helldobler; (second row, left to right) Anne Ciliberti, retired director, Cheng Library; Gunvor Satra, professor *emerita*, languages and cultures; Angela De Laura, retired professor, art; Provost Joshua Powers; (third row, left to right) Wartyna Davis, dean, College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; David Fuentes, interim associate dean, College of Education; Keumsil Kim-Yoon, retired professor, languages and cultures; (fourth row, left to right) Emroy Knaus, retired professor, marketing and management; Paul Swanson, professor *emeritus*, economics; Venkat Sharma, dean, College of Science and Health; (rear) Martin Gritsch, associate dean, Costakos College of Business.

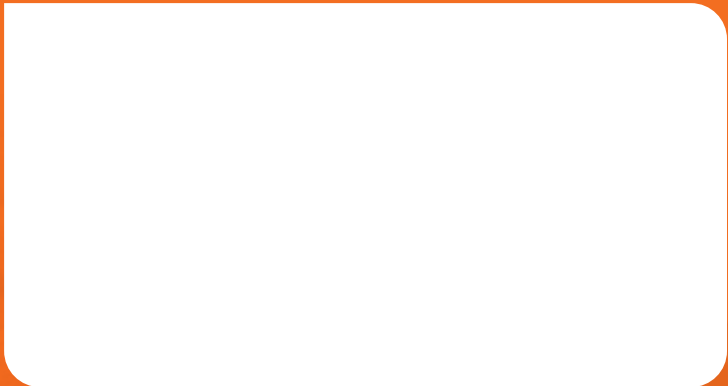
# Parting Shot



Top, left to right: Women's basketball, 1972; Field hockey, 1971; Softball, 1973; Middle, left to right: Tennis, 1974; Field hockey, 1973; Softball, 1974; Tennis, 1972; Bottom, left to right: Women's volleyball, 1972; Women's basketball, 1974; and Women's swimming, 1973. All photos from Pioneer Yearbooks.

## CELEBRATING THE IMPACT OF TITLE IX

The passage in June 1972 of Title IX, the federal civil rights law barring discrimination on the basis of sex in education or program activities, led to the advancement of women's athletics programs at colleges across the country. Women students at William Paterson had participated in intramural and club sports since 1948 through the Women's Athletic Association, especially a very successful program in fencing, which continued until the early 1990s. The early 1970s saw the advancement of more intercollegiate athletic opportunities. Here is a look at WP's women's athletic programs on campus in the early 1970s that continue to thrive today, 50 years later.



22

New Child  
Development Center  
on campus provides  
quality education  
and care from  
preschool through  
kindergarten