

WP



50 YEARS OF NURSING

A Pioneering Program Celebrates
a Milestone Anniversary

The Magazine of William Paterson University

WVU Inside

William Paterson University Celebrates 50 Years of the Nursing Program

A pioneering program continues to shape the future of healthcare



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➔ For a video of the making of the nursing department's special 50th anniversary cover photo, visit bit.ly/WPNursing



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Shaping the Future of Healthcare

Dear Friends,

As one of the largest public institutions of higher education in New Jersey, William Paterson University plays a significant role in supporting the workforce needs of our region and state.

According to Choose New Jersey, an organization that advocates for and nurtures economic growth throughout the state, healthcare is one of seven key industries driving development. Home to more than 21,000 healthcare establishments, New Jersey supports more than 140,000 healthcare workers in hospitals alone; their indirect impact adds more than \$20 billion to the Garden State economy each year.

We are proud that William Paterson University has been a leading provider of health professionals for our state for five decades. Since its inception in 1966, William Paterson's nursing program has continued to develop and evolve, expanding to include the master of science in nursing degree in several areas of concentration and, in 2010, the University's first doctoral program, the doctor of nursing practice. Today, our students learn in cutting-edge, technologically advanced laboratories and clinical spaces in our newest academic building, University Hall, supported by clinical rotations with major hospitals and medical centers and other agencies. More than 3,600 William Paterson nursing alumni, prepared in a program high in academic standards and rich in clinical experience, are making an impact throughout our state and beyond, as practitioners, nurse leaders, and scholars.

As we recognize the program's 50th anniversary this year (see article on page 18), we look forward to continuing to educate nurses who will shape the future of healthcare in our state and nation.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Waldron

Kathleen Waldron
President



WMP Newsbeats



Freshman Jazz Major Places Third on NBC's *The Voice*

Freshman Wé McDonald and singer-songwriter Alicia Keys, her coach on *The Voice*, perform a duet on the show. Photo by Tyler Golden/NBC | 2016 NBCUniversal Media, LLC

Freshman jazz major Wé McDonald, who garnered national attention for her jazz- and blues-inspired performances on NBC's *The Voice*, reached the finals of the hit TV singing competition and placed third.

McDonald tried out for the show prior to arriving on campus for the fall semester. Her blind audition for the show—a powerful version of the Nina Simone classic “Feelin’ Good”—catapulted her to the attention of the American public when it aired during a preview episode of the show following the closing ceremonies for the 2016 Summer Olympics.

Mentored on the show by the Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter Alicia Keys, McDonald performed a wide range of music, from jazz classics to show tunes to contemporary, including a dramatic version

of Irish singer-songwriter Hozier’s “Take Me to Church,” a show-stopping performance of Barbra Streisand’s rendition of “Don’t Rain on My Parade” from *Funny Girl*, and a duo performance with Keys of “Ave Maria.” Many of her performances charted on iTunes.

The campus followed her journey with great excitement. “She has a rare combination of world-class talent and total humility,” David Demsey, professor of music and coordinator of jazz studies, told *The Record*. “The amazing thing is what we see on TV is really her. And that’s very,

very rare that you meet somebody, at any age, that’s the same person in a school corridor and in front of a national TV audience. It’s going to carry her far.”

McDonald, who was active in the performing arts theater program in high school at Passaic County Technical Institute in Wayne and also studied dance, vocal music, and theater at the Harlem School of the Arts, is now back on campus, pursuing her studies in the jazz program and excited to see where her experience on *The Voice* will take her.

➤ To see Wé McDonald’s performance of “Don’t Rain on my Parade,” visit bit.ly/WPMcDonald



SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVIST ANITA HILL LECTURES ON CAMPUS

Anita Hill, the renowned social justice activist, discussed the continuing issue of equity, including sexual harassment, gender and racial economic gaps, and leadership disparities, during a talk in Shea Center on February 24 as part of the 38th season of the Distinguished Lecturer Series.

Hill, a University Professor of Social Policy, Law, and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Brandeis University and the author of several books, also met with students for an intimate discussion prior to her lecture.

Photo: President Kathleen Waldron and Anita Hill



Professor Joan Feeley
in 1986

ALUMNA ESTABLISHES ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF EDUCATION PROFESSOR

Karen Cheney, MEd '79, a former adjunct professor of education, has donated \$50,000 to establish an endowed scholarship in honor of Joan T. Feeley, late professor *emeritus* of education, the teacher she says inspired her the most.

The Joan Feeley Endowed Scholarship will provide an annual award for a full-time undergraduate or full-time or part-time graduate student in the University's College of Education. Each year's selected applicant will receive at least \$1,000 toward his or her studies.

For Cheney, establishing a scholarship was an opportunity to say thank you to her *alma mater* and to a special professor. "I took many classes with Dr. Feeley and got to know her beyond the classroom. I would meet her at the International Reading Association," Cheney recalls. "She was a mentor and an inspiration to me. Everyone I know who lived in my hometown of Fair Lawn knew of Dr. Feeley because I would always talk about her."

When Cheney first graduated with her master's degree, she began teaching in the Fair Lawn public school system. Inspired by her beloved professor, she later decided to apply for a position as an adjunct at



Karen Cheney, MEd '79

William Paterson. A few years as an adjunct at the University eventually led to a more than 30-year career in higher education spanning numerous colleges. Cheney worked at Ramapo College for two decades, and has spent the past 13 years teaching reading and basic skills at The College of the Desert in California, where she and her husband have since relocated.

"It's all because of Dr. Feeley," she says. "Sometimes we don't realize how people affect our lives, but I know how she affected mine. She was a really strong force when she was teaching."

Thanks to the University's Office of Alumni Relations, Cheney was able to rekindle her relationship with Feeley, who died in February. Feeley, who had learned of the scholarship, was incredibly moved by news of its establishment. "I am incredibly honored," Feeley said earlier this year. "This is the most wonderful thing, to have this done to help future students."

For Cheney, the honor is hers. "William Paterson changed my life," she says. "Every time I talk to someone from William Paterson, I get tears in my eyes. I have tears in my eyes right now. I really loved it there."

Newsbeats



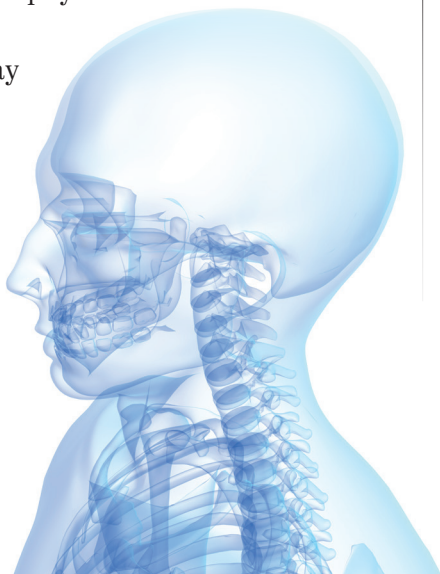
PROFESSOR TAKES EXPERTISE TO NFL AS MEDICAL SPOTTER

During all the 2016 New York Jets home games at MetLife Stadium, Robb Rehberg, professor of kinesiology, sat at a post high above the action. As an Athletic Trainer Certified (ATC) spotter for the National Football League, Rehberg was responsible for spotting potential injuries on the field—mainly of the head and neck—and alerting medical personnel on the ground. This was his first season in the position.

“It’s really a split-second decision,” says Rehberg. “As calm as I am in emergency situations, and I usually stay calm, we have a big responsibility to make the right call at the right time. If we decide that stopping a game is necessary, we must have certainly done it for the right reason.”

Rehberg, who played football for a decade and spent years as a high school athletic trainer, youth football coach, and emergency medical services chief prior to becoming a professor, has always had a strong interest in concussion management and athlete safety. One of the first athletic trainers in New Jersey to work in a hospital-based concussion program at Overlook Medical Center, he is also co-founder and president of Sport Safety International, which is dedicated to promoting safe participation in sport and physical activities through education.

“One of the things I can say from my perspective is that the NFL is doing everything it can, and using athletic trainers as spotters has the ability to make a big difference. I’m really excited to be a part of that,” he says.



Susan and Fred Gruel

Fred and Susan Gruel Endow Scholarship for First-Generation Students

Fred Gruel, chairman of the University’s Board of Trustees, and his wife Susan have pledged \$100,000 to establish the Frederick and Susan Gruel Endowed Scholarship Fund. The scholarship will support a full-time, first-generation student at the University who demonstrates academic excellence and financial need.

Gruel, who retired in 2013 as president and CEO of AAA New Jersey Automobile Club, joined the William Paterson Board of Trustees in 1992 and has served as chair since 2012; he previously served as chair from 1996 to 2000 and as vice chair from 2000 to 2004.

“Having the privilege of sitting on the Board of Trustees and seeing the quality of the students at William Paterson and the efforts they put forth to achieve an education, it made so much sense to us to provide assistance by establishing a scholarship fund,” says Fred Gruel. “Susan and I are so proud to give the gift of helping someone gain an education, and we know it will touch students for generations. Our hope is that those who benefit will one day pay it forward.”

“Scholarship support is transformative for our students, providing them with the financial means to take advantage of the academic programs and experiences available to them,” says President Kathleen Waldron. “We are so grateful to Fred and Susan for their commitment to our students and for their dedication to supporting academic excellence at William Paterson.”



Tens of Thousands of Honeybees Make University Campus Their Home

Some of William Paterson's newest residents are causing quite a buzz on campus.

This past summer, approximately 60,000 honeybees were given a home on the roof of Science West thanks to a donation from the New Jersey Beekeepers Association. The new four-colony apiary, under the direction of David Gilley, associate professor of biology, offers expanded opportunities for student education and research. The apiary joins Gilley's already-established indoor honeybee lab and observatory.

"We hope that William Paterson University can further the development of its educational processes with their students in biology, and in animal behavior, with respect to honeybees," says Charles Ilsley, treasurer of the New Jersey Beekeepers Association and vice president of its northwest New Jersey division. "Our reason to be is to educate the public on the art and science of beekeeping. That means answering fundamental questions about honeybee

behavior that we then try to put to use. And there's no one better with which to try than Dr. Gilley. We think putting our eggs in this basket is a good bet."



Professor Dave Gilley with bees from the honeybee lab

"Biology students will be able to directly contact and manipulate live animals, which is a critical experience for students interested in behavior, physiology, evolution, and ecology," says Gilley. "Plus, bees play an important role in sustainability and agriculture, so both the training and the research we do with the apiary will be of public benefit. This generous donation from the New Jersey Beekeepers is a perfect example of the good that can come from partnerships

between our state universities and the New Jersey community."

The New Jersey Beekeepers Association donated both the honeybees and two of the four wooden colonies in which the bees work and reside. Gilley, whose research is centered on honeybees, previously housed a few colonies off-campus, in nearby Haledon. He relocated two of those structures to Science West following the Association's donation.

Students are already benefitting from having full-scale hives right on campus. Honors biology student Trevor Courtright '18, who interned at the apiary last summer, is working on a research project this spring. With the use of pollen traps on the colonies, he will analyze the pollen honeybees carry to campus to learn what types of plants the bees visit and with what frequency. Then, he will correlate what the bees are eating to the health of plant species in our area.

➤ For a video about the University's honeybee lab, visit bit.ly/WPHoneybees

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM IN PUBLIC HEALTH AMONG FIRST IN NATION TO EARN ACCREDITATION

The University's bachelor's degree program in public health is one of eight undergraduate programs that are the first in the nation to be accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). The organization previously only accredited graduate programs and schools of public health.

"I believe this accreditation speaks to the fact that our

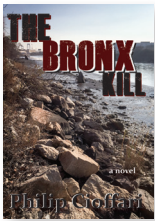
undergraduate program is extremely strong, anchored by a superb faculty and state-of-the-art curriculum," says Kenneth Wolf, dean of the College of Science and Health. "Accreditation by an organization such as CEPH provides external validation that reaffirms the dedication of the faculty. We are very proud of this accomplishment."

William Paterson's public health faculty of scholar-educators are national leaders in the public health field. In the classroom, they merge their real-world public health experience with their expertise in a variety of fields, including health education, sexual health, health research methodology, epidemiology, stress, global health, public health nutrition,

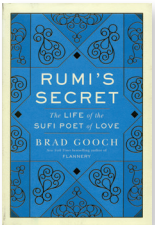
and environmental health, among others. The faculty are actively engaged in public health research and community-based public health projects, and often involve students directly in these projects. Every public health undergraduate is required to complete a semester-long internship at a public health agency.



Latest Books from Faculty Authors



Phillip Cioffari's new novel, *The Bronx Kill*, focuses on a dare that compels five friends to swim in New York's East River. One boy drowns and the body of the only girl among them is never found. Five years later, the three survivors reunite, but find themselves at the mercy of the drowned boy's brother, an NYPD detective, who holds them responsible for his brother's death and vows to bring them to justice by any means possible. Cioffari, a professor of English, is the award-winning author of several novels and short story collections and has written and directed for Off and Off-Off Broadway and wrote and directed an independent film.



In *Rumi's Secret: The Life of the Sufi Poet of Love*, **Brad Gooch**, professor of English, delivers the first popular biography of Rumi, the 13th century Persian poet revered by contemporary Western readers. In researching his subject, Gooch traced the poet's steps through the Middle East and spent years learning Persian in order to translate Rumi's works. The book has garnered national and international attention, including reviews in the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times Book Review*, an interview on NPR with Leonard Lopate, and inclusion on the BBC's list of 10 books to read in 2017.



Christopher Salerno, associate professor of English, has just published his fourth collection of poems, *Sun & Urn*, which examines his personal journey through grief and loss. Salerno was the recipient of the inaugural Georgia Poetry Prize in 2016, which included publication of the poems by the University of Georgia Press. His poem "In Vitro," included in the book, was published in the November 23, 2016 issue of the *New York Times Magazine*. He has won numerous awards for his poetry, including a 2014 New Jersey State Council on the Arts Fellowship.



Victoria Reyes and Brian Potoczak

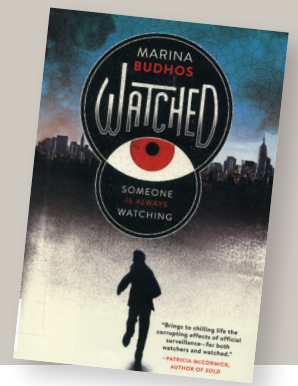
RUSS BERRIE INSTITUTE MARKS 10TH ANNUAL NATIONAL SALES CHALLENGE

Sales students from across the nation, as well as from Edinburgh Napier University in Scotland, converged on the University's Cotaskos College of Business for the 10th Annual Russ Berrie Institute for Professional Sales National Sales Challenge, an intense series of selling competitions and workshops held on campus. In addition to the students, who hailed from 31 universities, 113 executives from 16 sponsor companies participated in the event, marking the largest executive attendance in the competition's history.

Victoria Reyes, a William Paterson senior, was named the overall individual winner. William Paterson's two-member team, comprised of Reyes and Brian Potoczak, also a senior, placed third in the University sales team category; the sales team from University of Wisconsin-Parkside placed first.

The competition is designed to strengthen students' sales skills and offer them an opportunity to network with business executives from companies around the country who judge the events and serve as sponsors. Competitions included a sales role-play event, which used a selling situation from sponsor ADP, and a speed-selling competition, which requires students to rotate through tables seated with company executives to pitch themselves for two minutes for a generic job.

➤ To watch sales students in action, visit bit.ly/WPRBI



NEW BOOK BY MARINA BUDHOS WINS LITERARY AWARD

Watched, the latest young adult book by Marina Budhos, professor of English, has been named a Walter Dean Myers Honor Book for 2017. The prize is administered by the We Need Diverse Books Foundation, which recognizes outstanding children's literature that addresses diversity in a meaningful way. Budhos was honored during a ceremony at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC.

Watched takes on the topic of Muslim surveillance in New York City through the eyes of Naeem, a Bangladeshi immigrant and high school senior who agrees to be a paid informant for the NYPD's controversial Muslim spying operation in exchange for a clean record.

The Walter Dean Myers Award is named for the late prolific children's/young adult author, a champion of diversity in youth literature. "It's incredibly thrilling to receive this honor," says Budhos. "At such a difficult moment in our nation's history, this award gives *Watched* national visibility to combat the rising tide of Islamophobia and anti-immigrant bigotry through empathy and art. What more could a novelist ask for?"

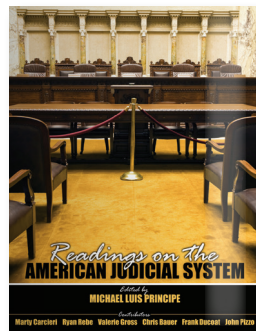
Alumni and Professor Team Up to Publish Pre-law Textbook

Though they graduated years ago, four William Paterson alumni suddenly found themselves submitting assignments last summer to Michael Principe, professor of political science.

Principe, who also directs the Legal Studies Program, asked the graduates to join him and two fellow academics, Ryan Rebe, William Paterson assistant professor of political science, and Marty Carcieri, professor of political science at San Francisco State University, in a project to write and publish an electronic textbook for pre-law students titled *Readings on the American Judicial System*.

Joining him in the project were alumni Christopher Bauer '13, attorney at Steptoe and Johnson PLLC in West Virginia; Frank Ducoat '03, assistant prosecutor and director of the appellate section of the Essex County Prosecutor's Office; Valerie Gross '03, an attorney at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius; and John Pizzo '12, law clerk for United States District Court Judge Irene M. Keeley in the Northern District of West Virginia.

Principe spearheaded the project and served as editor. Every team member wrote a chapter, with the contributors focusing on topics in which they have particular interest and experience. This marks the first time any of the alumni contributed to a book.



"What I wanted was a book that gave students both a legal practitioner's perspective and an academic's perspective on different areas within our judicial system," says Principe.

The alumni, who lovingly refer to Principe as "Doc," said they felt honored when he reached out to ask them to collaborate. "I had the same response as everyone else—that we'd love to, in part because Doc has done a lot for all of us individually and collectively as a group," says Bauer. "He really does care about his students and does whatever he can to help them, and also keeps in touch with all of his former students."

Principe has been using the electronic textbook with his students, and teaching them lessons born of William Paterson graduates, he says, is quite meaningful. "I tell my students, 'This chapter was written by a former student who sat right here in that chair, in jeans and a t-shirt just like you,'" Principe recounts. Citing each of the alumni's professional success, he adds, "This is what you can do with hard work. It inspires our kids when they see other kids from their background go on to achieve great things."

CHARLES LOWE NAMED DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND UNIVERSITY POLICE

Charles Lowe has joined the campus community as director of public safety and University police. He previously served as assistant vice president and chief of police at Florida Atlantic University for nine years, and as director of public safety and chief of police for seven years at Longwood University in Virginia. Lowe began his

career in higher education public safety at the Medical College of Georgia. Prior, he was a special agent in the Air Force where he received a Meritorious Service Medal.

"With his combined experience as a public safety leader in a higher education environment and as a commissioned police officer, Charles is well suited

for his important role on our campus," says Stephen Bolyai, vice president for administration and finance. "He is a strong proponent of community policing which encourages collaborative interactions and positive relationships between all campus police officers and the campus community."



PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR AWARDED FEDERAL RESEARCH GRANTS FOR PROJECTS ON RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT



Michele Cascardi, associate professor of psychology, has been awarded two grants for research projects centered on relationship violence and sexual assault. She received \$285,000 from the National Institute of Justice to improve how researchers and practitioners measure teen dating violence, and \$44,000 from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to study the role of bystanders in preventing sexual assault and relationship violence on college campuses.

Funds from the grant from the National Institute of Justice will be focused on improving the precision of relationship violence measurement. According to Cascardi, current surveys that measure whether a young person has experienced relationship violence lack context, and as a result,

researchers and practitioners cannot easily differentiate typical, but inappropriate, adolescent behaviors from those which may be harmful.

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development-funded project is a multi-institution collaboration headed by Southern Methodist University in Texas and joined by William Paterson, Stony Brook, and Marquette universities. Their cross-campus efforts aim to teach first-year freshmen how to recognize someone's risk of being victimized, what to do when that risk exists, and evaluate how the experimental intervention affects their behavior.

Cascardi hopes the work of both grant-funded projects will reduce dating violence and lead to more people having healthy romantic relationships. "Many young people have trouble avoiding relationship harm," Cascardi says. "Our romantic relationships set the stage for how marital and parent-child conflicts get settled, so by improving romantic relationship quality, we also hope to improve the quality of future family relationships as well."

Annual Legacy Gala to Honor Three



John Galandak, Blair Schleicher Bravo '95, and Toys R Us, Legacy honorees



The William Paterson University Foundation will honor John Galandak, president *emeritus* of the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey and a member of the University's Board of Trustees, Wayne-based corporation Toys R Us, and alumna Blair Schleicher Bravo '95, chief executive officer of Morris Habitat for Humanity, at its 27th Annual Legacy Award Gala on April 20, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at The Grove in Cedar Grove.

The Legacy Awards honor those who exemplify the leadership of the University's namesake, New Jersey patriot and statesman William Paterson, by demonstrating a strong support for public higher education in the state of New Jersey, and generosity to others through philanthropic leadership. Funds raised through the gala directly affect the lives of William Paterson students,

many of whom rely on scholarships to complete their studies, while supporting the University's mission of academic excellence and student success.

➤ Tickets for the gala are \$500. For additional information, visit wpunj.edu/legacy or call 973.720.2934.



WP 88.7 FM NAMED BEST RADIO STATION IN THE NATION

For the third time in six years, the University's student-run radio station WP 88.7 FM was named Best Radio Station in the Nation (among institutions with more than 10,000 students) by the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System (IBS). The station also won for Best Sports Pre- or Post-Game Show by students Mason Mills and Dylan Burns, and was a finalist in three other categories.

"I'm so proud of our students and absolutely thrilled that WP 88.7 FM is maintaining its reputation as the best station in the nation, winning these first-place awards" says Brave New Radio general manager Rob Quicke, professor of communication. "I congratulate all our students for putting their passion and talent into the station."

Additionally, in IBS's first year offering awards in the medium of video, WP-TV, the campus television station, was a finalist for four awards and won for Best Sports Report. The show featured students Wyatt Kalb, Dylan Burns, Justin McHugh, Chris Johnson, and Dante Vocaturo on *WP Sports Desk*.

"What distinguishes WP-TV is the fact that it is entirely student-produced, which means the participating students have a lot of breathing room to be as creative as they want to be in a self-motivated manner," says Jamsheed Akrami, professor of communication and director of the television curriculum's programming component. "Of course, there is also faculty and staff involvement, but in a supportive, mentoring role."

Economics Professor Points Out Five Common Financial Mistakes

The average American, even after obtaining professional financial advice, still makes five common financial mistakes, according to Lawrence Verzani, assistant professor of economics and finance. His research appears in the latest issue of *The International Journal of Finance*.

Using data from the Survey of Consumer Finances for his research, Verzani found that professional financial advice did not influence better household investment behavior. What did he find as the most common errors?

1 Mortgage Mistakes: For example, not taking the opportunity to refinance at a lower interest rate. The home is the single largest purchase for many households; not refinancing or choosing the wrong mortgage can cost a family tens of thousands of dollars.

2 Failing to Address "Longevity Risk": For retirees this means the risk of outliving one's savings. People are living longer and there are far fewer defined benefit pensions offered than there used to be. Families face a substantial risk of running out of money early. Insurance products used to address this issue are often not used or used incorrectly.

3 Overlooking Tax Deductions and Credits: Credits are even more valuable than deductions and not everyone takes advantage of them. For example, full-time students or their parents may be eligible for a tuition credit that can save them thousands of dollars on their taxes.

4 Not Participating in the Stock Market: Everyone faces inflation risk and this is one way to address it. Lack of investment can result in significant losses in potential gains over the long term.

5 Not Diversifying a Stock Portfolio: People generally do not like risk and diversifying can nearly eliminate non-systematic risk.

Newsbeats



FOOD SERVES AS SUBJECT FOR NEW CHEMISTRY CLASS

Students in Jay Foley's chemistry class are conducting an experiment that looks at the impact of salt on gluten formation. Specifically, they are making pizza dough.

The course? Chemistry of Cuisine, a new offering in the Chemistry Department specifically designed to introduce students to chemical concepts as they pertain to food, the culinary industry, agriculture, taste, and nutrition.

According to Foley, the course was created to be approachable to all University students, who are required to take a course in scientific perspectives as part of the University Core Curriculum. "Food is a very accessible way to

introduce chemical concepts," says Foley. The course is covering topics such as the chemical components of flavor, chemical components of nutrition, chemical features of food, and chemical aspects of agriculture, with lab exercises that teach fundamentals such as measurement, precision, and analysis.

For example, for the pizza dough experiment, the students divided into four groups. Each group made the dough using the same amount of flour and water, but with a different percentage of salt: no salt dough (0 percent), low-salt dough (1 percent), normal salt dough (2 percent), and high salt dough (3 percent). After making the four kinds of dough,

samples were analyzed using the University's scanning electron microscope, which allowed the students to see how the gluten fibers formed at the molecular level, and how they differed across the four different dough preparations.

Foley hopes the students will come away feeling that science is relevant in their lives. "Everybody eats every day," he says. "People have a great deal of passion in how they make, prepare, and enjoy food. I hope they will see the relationship to science, and how they can use scientific ways to encounter things in their everyday lives."



Julie Rosenthal, associate professor of elementary and early childhood education, led one of 16 education teams nationwide selected to participate in a "Teach to Lead" Teacher Preparation Summit

Education Professor Participates in National Teacher Preparation Summit

in November 2016 in Washington, DC. The event focused on helping teachers exercise leadership to improve teacher preparation and

develop national education policy and practices to benefit student learning.

Rosenthal's team, which was unique in offering multiple perspectives including University

and school faculty, a school administrator, and a student teacher, was comprised of Betsy Golden, an adjunct professor in the Department of Secondary and Middle School Education and professor in residence at School 12 in Paterson; Tyeshia Hilbert, vice principal, School 12; Anissa Martin-Conyers, veteran third grade teacher, School 12; and Chidinma Emenike, a teacher candidate at William Paterson.

"The University's College of Education has long collaborated with school partners like School 12 to support educator preparation," says Candace Burns, dean of the College of Education. "We're very proud that our team had an opportunity to play a central role in developing policies that affect the work of teaching and learning in the classroom."



Kevin Lenahan '90 and President Kathleen Waldron

KEVIN LENAHAN '90 JOINS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kevin J. Lenahan '90, senior vice president, chief financial officer, and chief administrative officer for Atlantic Health System, Inc., has joined the University's Board of Trustees.

"We are delighted that Kevin Lenahan has joined the William Paterson University Board of Trustees," says President Kathleen Waldron. "As an alumnus who is a leader in the provision of healthcare in northern New Jersey, we welcome the unique perspective he brings on a major industry that impacts our state, including our students. His experience as a chief financial officer brings valuable fiscal expertise to our board."

Lenahan, who holds a bachelor's degree in accounting, began his career at Atlantic Health in 1995 and has served the organization in numerous capacities over the past 20 years, including as chief financial officer since 2010. Lenahan also holds the positions of president and chair of Atlantic Health Management Corporation, president of Atlantic Insurance Company, Ltd., and president of Atlantic Ambulance, as well as treasurer of the Atlantic Health System Board.

His numerous honors and awards include the NJBIZ 2013 "CFO of the Year" Award in the large, not-for-profit category and the 2016 CFO Innovation Award, presented by CFO Studios. A fellow of the Healthcare Financial Management Association, he is a member of the New Jersey Society of CPAs and the College of Healthcare Executives. Lenahan also serves on the Advisory Board of the Cotsakos College of Business at William Paterson.

Malu Receives Second Fulbright Award

Kathleen Malu, a professor of secondary and middle school education, has received a Fulbright Scholar award to conduct research at the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London on language policy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

This marks Malu's second Fulbright Scholar award; she was previously awarded funding for teaching and research in Rwanda from 2009 to 2010. There, she prepared English language pre-service teachers at the National University of Rwanda's Kigali Institute of Education. At that time, Rwanda had changed its official international language from French to English at all levels of education and throughout society in 2009.

Similarly, though French is still the official language in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Congolese are increasingly seeking to learn English—confident this will offer a more effective global voice, Malu explains. Her Fulbright research will explore this unofficial shift in language, drawing upon the disciplines of sociolinguistics, anthropology, and language education, as well as her previous teaching and research on language changes in Rwanda.

"The effects of the language policy change have been poorly documented," Malu says. "This project offers an opportunity to examine the effects of a grassroots change in language use that may, or may not, become official language policy. It is extremely important that this study be conducted."

Malu is eager to bring her research findings back to campus. "As the world becomes a global village, it is extremely important that there is mutual understanding within and across cultures, societies, and nations," she says. "To promote mutual understanding, we must consider the interplay between language, culture, and society. It is a great honor for me to receive this second award and I am grateful to the University for its support and encouragement."



STUDENTS FROM THREE HEALTH SCIENCE MAJORS COLLABORATE ON INTERPROFESSIONAL PROJECT

William Paterson is putting its own spin on an education ideology commonly employed at medical schools. A pilot program launched during the fall 2016 semester brought together students in nursing, communication disorders and sciences, and exercise science for a multi-week project: developing an interprofessional comprehensive diagnosis and treatment plan for each of their case-study patients.

“We need to collaborate for that patient in the bed,” says Kem Louie, professor and graduate director of nursing and the driving force behind the pilot program. “Research shows, and from my nursing experience I know, that collaboration increases quality of care and improves patient outcomes. The more we can educate our students in this prior to graduation, the more likely they’ll be to inculcate that value as practitioners.”

Interprofessional Collaborative Education (IPE) has become more prevalent in medical education



A student group presents its interprofessional diagnosis and treatment plan

over the past decade, in line with a global health movement toward team-based patient care. In IPE settings, professors and students in medicine, dentistry, osteopathy, pharmacy, and public health, among others, teach and learn together. In professional practice, a physician often serves as team captain.

But Louie points out that nurse practitioners diagnose patients and manage their care, just as a physician would. “Also, once the patient is out of the hospital, in rehab and ready to go home, other specialists continue to manage that patient’s needs,” she explains.

Michael A. Figueroa, associate professor of kinesiology; Betty

Kollia, professor of communication disorders and sciences; and Persephone Vargas, assistant professor of nursing, taught the courses that teamed up for the pilot program. Students formed collaborative groups cutting across majors to develop IPE diagnoses and treatment plans for case-study patients requiring various degrees of nursing, speech/language/cognitive therapy, and physical rehabilitation.

The faculty colleagues are currently assessing the program and exploring ways to enhance IPE efforts going forward. For Ken Wolf, dean of the College of Science and Health, the program offers significant benefits for students of applied health. “Think of all the people you deal with when a patient is in the hospital—doctors, nurses, physical therapists, respiratory therapists,” he says. “If you expect to have a coordinated game plan and good outcome, those people need to know how to work together.”

Professors Laura Fattal (left) and Sandy Alon



Fulbright Award Supports Educational Trip to Israel

Six William Paterson education majors and six current New Jersey teachers will travel to Israel this summer through a Fulbright-Hays grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Sandy Alon and Laura Fattal, professors in the University's College of Education, have been co-awarded \$95,000 to lead the four-week group trip. The Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad grant seeks to advance K-12 teachers' cultural awareness of and interdisciplinary instruction about Israel.

While in Israel, the group will take part in experiential learning that includes visits to UNESCO historical sites, unique environmental landscapes,

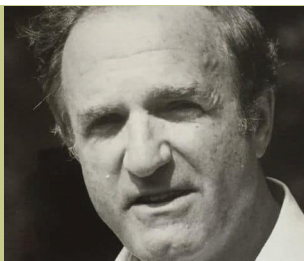
and museums, as well as lectures at prominent educational institutions and hands-on learning with innovators of education technology.

Before their trip, participants will learn the basics of Modern Hebrew and emergent bilingual teaching strategies. Following the trip, they will develop a handbook of interdisciplinary lessons and an online photo-essay that documents their experience—an exercise in teaching global studies by means of the visual arts.

"With our University's location in northern New Jersey—a multicultural area—it is paramount that we develop teachers who are culturally competent

and equipped to provide inclusive instruction that advances global education," says Candace Burns, dean of the College of Education.

William Paterson has a history of global educational exchanges. The University has taken part in student and/or teacher cross-cultural programming in the Netherlands, India, Namibia, and South Korea. Research on communicative strategies used by teachers of non-native language learners is ongoing between William Paterson and the Western Galilee College in Israel by means of publications and conference presentations.



In Memoriam

IT IS WITH SADNESS THAT WE MOURN THE PASSING OF A MEMBER OF THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY...

Joseph Brandes, professor *emeritus* of history, died January 12, 2017. He was 88. Brandes, who was born in Poland, fled Europe with his Jewish family in 1939. After earning a doctorate in economics and history from New York University, he taught for several years in New York City schools before joining the William Paterson community

in 1958. His expertise ranged from immigration to the labor movement to Herbert Hoover, and he was the author of several acclaimed books, including *Herbert Hoover and Economic Diplomacy*, and *Immigrants in Freedom: Jewish Communities in Rural New Jersey*, which earned him designation as a fellow of the New Jersey Historical Society.

He was an active member of *Phi Alpha Theta* International History Honors Society, serving on the organization's national governing board as well as faculty advisor of the University chapter for more than 20 years. He also was a member of numerous other scholarly organizations, including the American Jewish Historical

Society, and was active in the community, particularly as a volunteer with Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey. Following his retirement in 1992, Brandes continued to teach on campus as an adjunct professor and to help organize conferences on Holocaust and genocide education for teachers.



Legendary Swim Coach Ed Gurka Marks Four Decades on Campus

BY HEATHER BROCIOS

Forty-one years. More than 700 dual-meet victories. Fourteen Metropolitan Conference crowns. Five individual national titles, 76 appearances at the NCAA Championships, and 42 all-America certificates earned by Pioneer individuals and relay teams. Eleven former student-athletes inducted into the William Paterson Alumni Association Athletic Hall of Fame.

When simply judged by the numbers, the career of William Paterson University men's and women's swimming and diving head coach Ed Gurka has certainly been one for the record books, and he shows no signs of slowing down as he looks forward to the start of his 42nd season next fall.

Gurka grew up in the shadow of William Paterson, three times earning all-state accolades at Wayne Valley High School, and moving on to swim the butterfly and individual medley collegiately at the University of Maryland. He returned home following his graduation in 1976, and while managing two local pools that summer, he heard that William Paterson was looking for a new part-time head coach for its swimming and diving program. Shortly after being offered the job by then-athletic director Art Eason, Gurka also secured a full-time teaching position in nearby Haworth.

"I went from being uncertain about my future to getting two jobs in two weeks," he recalls. "It all fell into place and worked out perfectly."

Gurka remembers clearly his first meet as the Pioneers' mentor, a pair of lopsided losses to Manhattanville during the fall of 1976, but his charges steadily improved as the season progressed.

By the early 1980s, the Pioneers were a force in the tri-state area, securing three Metropolitan Conference dual-meet titles and two Mets Championships crowns during the decade. Joe Gentile was one of the all-time Pioneer greats on the men's side, winning five national championships (including two then-Division III records) en route to being named the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) Male Student-Athlete of the 1980s.

In 1989, Gurka became the first swim coach in NCAA (all divisions) history to win 100 meets as coach of both the men's and women's swimming and diving teams at one school. During the 2016-17 season, he

registered his 700th combined dual-meet victory (345 men's, 372 women's), and is the longest-tenured coach for any sport in the NJAC.

The men may have dominated the '80s, but the Pioneer women were the driving force of the 1990s. Laurie Gazdalski Genna '96 helped to lead the charge, earning all-America honors in the 50 free-style, butterfly, and medley relay events from 1992-95 before her 2000 induction into the William Paterson Athletic Hall of Fame.



LaBruna Named First Four-Time NJAC Tennis Player of the Year

William Paterson senior Brittany LaBruna garnered her fourth consecutive NJAC Tennis Player of the Year award last fall, the first student-athlete in league history to accomplish the feat.

LaBruna also earned a spot on the NJAC All-Singles Team for the fourth straight year (2013-16), and joined freshman teammate Kaworu Ishikawa on the 2016 NJAC All-Doubles Team.

LaBruna was 15-1 at first singles this season, including a 6-0 mark in league play, and secured the New Jersey Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women Tournament Flight A singles title on October 9, 2016. She also advanced to the third round of the 2016 Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Small College Northeast Regional Championship and was named ECAC Co-Player

of the Month in October 2016.

LaBruna finished her four-year career with a 67-6 first singles record, including a perfect 23-0 mark in NJAC play. She was the 2013 NJAC Rookie of the Year, and was named a 2013 and 2015 ITA all-American after winning those years' ITA Northeast Regional titles.



"Ed was always a lot of fun to be around, and the swim teams were a big family," says Genna, now a sixth grade science teacher at Wayne's Schuyler-Colfax Middle School. "He just has a great way of communicating with young adults, and it has made a big difference in my own life to this day because it has influenced how I talk to my own students and my family as well."

The 2000s also saw a fair share of success, including four all-America certificates for Kristin Clegg Bell '06, as well as new individual school records in the 50 free, 100 back, and 200 IM by NCAA qualifier Vojtech Karas '10. Both were later enshrined in the Athletic Hall of Fame.

"When the list for nationals came out at the end of my senior season, I was the first name below the (qualifying) line," says Karas, who is sharing the knowledge he has gained as a senior trading strategist by serving as a mentor for William Paterson's Pesce Family Mentoring Institute. "I was crushed that I wasn't going to the NCAA Championships. I just couldn't believe it. But Ed told me to not lose hope, that maybe we could appeal. I looked at the list again and thought I found an error, and I brought it to Ed's attention. He took that information and ran with it, and then he called me in the middle of the night and said, 'Buddy, you're in. Pack your bags because we're going to Minneapolis.' I had stopped training for 10 days because I had given up any hope of going to nationals, but he didn't. It's a testament to Ed and what he stands for that he kept fighting on my behalf."

Some things have certainly changed during Gurka's four decades at the University. Technological suit innovations have resulted in faster times. The Division III season was shortened to 19 weeks, condensing the amount of time the team has for organized practices and meets. Even the way student-athletes register for, and attend, classes has evolved as online options have become more widespread.

While Gurka has embraced these modifications, his training philosophy has remained relatively unchanged over the years. He still relies on the tried-and-true advice offered in the 1968 publication, *The Science of Swimming*, by James "Doc" Counsilman.

"The progressive system that Doc Counsilman established works, and works very well," Gurka says. "We've gone up a little bit more in distance over the years, but the system itself is effective and has stood the test of time."

For his first 37 years, Gurka's in-season schedule consisted of arriving at the Bergen Center for Child Development by 7:30 a.m., teaching until 2:15 p.m., rushing to campus by 3:00 p.m., and conducting practice until 7:30 p.m.

"Looking back on it, I'm really not sure how I did it," he chuckles. "I'm very lucky to have a wife who put up with that schedule. With three kids, a lot of responsibility fell on her, and Janet did a great job of making sure everything was running smoothly at home for Eddie, Brian, and Lauren."

"I also have been very lucky to have assistant coaches who were a big help," he continues. "People like Steve McDonough, who has been with me for 35

years, and Angel Camacho, Julia Anderson, and Ken Berk, who each served 10 years or more. I have been extremely fortunate to have them as part of the program."

Prior to the start of the 2013-14 campaign, Gurka's part-time passion turned into his full-time profession, as William Paterson made the swimming and diving head coaching role into a full-time position. He retired from the Bergen Center for Child Development, shifting his sole focus to Wightman Pool and the Pioneers.

Whether serving in a part-time or full-time capacity, Gurka's commitment to his student-athletes has never changed during his time on campus.

"Since my parents aren't here, Coach Gurka is one of the most important people in this country for me," explains Vera Blazevska '17, who moved from Macedonia to Wayne when she was 16 years old, staying with an uncle while completing high school and college. "He's there for me in every single way, and I know that he's just a phone call away and always there to help."

"In the pool, he has given me confidence I never had before," the 2016 NJAC Co-Swimmer of the Year continues. "After 15 years of swimming growing up, I didn't have the confidence that I could swim at the college level or achieve my goals. Of course, he wants me to swim fast, but he really cares about my growth in every phase of my life, and he has definitely taught me how to believe in myself."

The numbers only tell part of the story when encapsulating Ed Gurka's first 41 seasons leading William Paterson. His true legacy lies in the influence he has had on the lives of hundreds of Pioneers over the years.

Ed Gurka (right) coaches members of the Pioneer swimming and diving team



WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

CELEBRATES

50 YEARS

OF THE NURSING PROGRAM



BY THERESA E. ROSS '80

Above: A view from the control room into one of the nursing program's six patient simulation laboratories

During a labor and delivery class in the Nel Bolger, RN Nursing Laboratory, William Paterson University nursing students care for “Lucina,” a simulated birthing mother controlled by a computer. In this lifelike obstetrical setting, students learn to monitor the baby’s and mother’s heartbeats, palpate the fetus, and participate in a delivery process that will take 20 minutes.

“The pioneers of William Paterson’s nursing program would be absolutely astounded by the facilities that we are training nurses in today,” says Kenneth Wolf, dean of the University’s College of Science and Health. This year, William Paterson University celebrates the 50th anniversary of the nursing program. Since the program’s inception in 1966, William Paterson has been a leader in nursing education in New Jersey.

In 1970, the first nursing class with a baccalaureate degree graduated from William Paterson College. Today, the program includes a master of science (MSN) with concentrations in the areas of adult gerontology, family practice, administration, adult nurse practitioner, education, and family nurse practitioner. In 2010, the University established its first doctoral degree program, the doctor of nursing practice (DNP), to provide the advanced practice nurse with preparation for leadership roles in healthcare.

In the coming decades, William Paterson President Kathleen Waldron envisions a bright future for graduates of the nursing program. “Our highly trained faculty, building on their own clinical experience, are demanding of their students and have helped them obtain some of the top nursing positions in the region,” says Waldron. “We are proud to see our alumni working across the industry, providing care, leading organizations, and teaching future practitioners, to shape the future of healthcare.”

“We take great pride in our program and have come full circle in that we now have two faculty members who are graduates of our DNP program,” says Nadine Aktan, chair and professor of nursing at

William Paterson. “Our own graduates are sharing their wealth of knowledge in clinical nursing and education with future nurse leaders.” Today enrollment is at 500 students and nearly 15 percent of current students are male. More than 335 are undergraduates; 140 are in the master’s program and 22 students are earning their doctorate. There are more than 50 nursing faculty.

The Department of Nursing received a boost in January 2016 when it moved into the spacious, newly constructed University Hall, with its open-glass atrium and high-tech facilities. The department includes six patient simulation laboratories, including the relocated Nel Bolger, RN laboratories, with control and debriefing rooms to provide enhanced clinical training. Adjacent to these impressive labs are three, state-of-the-art nursing basic skills labs.

“Because of our new basic skills labs and simulation center, we’re able to provide students with cutting-edge, technologically sound classrooms and simulation labs where they’re learning state-of-the-art nursing skills,” says Aktan.



A 1996 photo of a student nurse (right) during a clinical rotation in the pediatric ward at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Paterson

was the first doctorally prepared chair. I became the second, and from then on we only hired doctorally prepared faculty for full-time positions,” says DeYoung.

The University’s nursing program has always had a reputation for being academically challenging, strong in

participated in medical missions to Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

“Participating in a medical mission is a life-changing experience that can enhance nursing skills beyond any lesson learned in a classroom,” says Aktan. Raissa Lynn Sanchez ’11 and Ashley Perone ’11 are among the William Paterson nursing students who have volunteered in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Their work in public health gained attention at the honor society’s international level, and a year after graduation, they were both selected as Youth Representatives to the United Nations. “This experience provided me with a great deal of insight into how involved nursing can and will be in the future of global health,” says Sanchez. She encourages fellow nursing students to participate in the honor society, a program that has opened doors and led to making presentations at national and international conferences.

William Paterson’s nursing program is affiliated with more than 50 cooperating agencies in the surrounding North Jersey region, including major hospital and medical centers, public health agencies, clinics, and nursing homes. Alumni hold positions at every major hospital in the region, including Beth Israel Hospital, Mount Sinai Medical Center, Hackensack

“THE PIONEERS OF WILLIAM PATERSON’S NURSING PROGRAM WOULD BE ABSOLUTELY ASTOUNDED BY THE FACILITIES THAT WE ARE TRAINING NURSES IN TODAY.”

KENNETH WOLF, DEAN, COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND HEALTH

“We also updated our curriculum five years ago to a concept-based curriculum, which promotes critical thinking and clinical reasoning,” she explains. “We teach the concept of pain, for example—you can have obstetrical pain, post-operative pain, or emotional pain. By teaching in broad principles, the novice nurse can apply his or her knowledge to every setting, whether it is a pediatric or critical care setting.”

Throughout her 27-year career at William Paterson, Sandra DeYoung took a leadership role in shaping the nursing program. DeYoung joined the nursing faculty in 1985, became chair of the department in 1987, and later associate dean and dean of the College of Science and Health. “When I arrived, Mary Patrick

science and rich in clinical experience, says DeYoung. It was also supportive. “No matter how quickly the program grew, the faculty always took an interest in the students,” she says. “We spent a lot of time advising them, spending time on career goals, preparing them for their license or exam. Students who transferred into William Paterson would often tell us, ‘I went to X, Y, or Z university and felt like a number. But here I felt that faculty really took a personal interest in me.’”

In May 1986, William Paterson inaugurated the *Iota Alpha* chapter of *Sigma Theta Tau*, an international honor society of nursing and worldwide network of nurse leaders. For the last seven years, working with an organization called Foundation for Peace, members of *Iota Alpha* have



A student nurse (left) does a blood pressure check during a health screening event on campus, circa 1980

College's nursing honors track also take on a challenging project during their junior year and will present it as their honors thesis, explains Jill Nocella, assistant professor and director of the nursing honors track. Nursing student Tyler Burd, who is also on the soccer team, is researching the knowledge level of collegiate athletes regarding concussion symptoms and protocol on the field, and Kayleigh Orocchi is researching

every single thing I did for my patients was determined by the people working in the U.S. Congress," says Judi Buckalew '74, a registered nurse who went on to become one of the most influential nurses in the country. With a keen interest in influencing public health policy, Buckalew moved to Washington, DC, where she served as a legislative assistant, drafted legislation for health planning activities, and became the first nurse to serve as a commissioned officer in the White House under President Ronald Reagan. Today Buckalew is a regulatory and government relations professional with the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. She joins forces with fellow nurses and physicians, some elected to Congress, to make and change laws. "We are working to provide better patient care by influencing the way it is paid for through the Medicare program, primarily because that influences private health insurance policies. If you are on the inside, you are better able to influence the outcome. And that's for the good of all patients and their families."

Many nurses are drawn into the profession because of their own personal experience. The dream of opening a medical practice to help the underserved community is what motivated Gustavo Gonzales, a nurse practitioner, to earn his MSN in 2005 and DNP in 2014 from William Paterson. "I came from an economically challenged area in

University Medical Center, Clara Maass Medical Center, Memorial Sloan Kettering, Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, New York University Medical Center, Robert Wood Johnson, and more. "We might send a student to a domestic violence shelter, wound care center, or to a school nurse to learn about the role of the nurse in a public school system," Aktan explains. The variety of settings affords students a wealth of opportunities to gain clinical experience during their junior and senior years.

Many nursing faculty are actively engaged in research and publication, as are graduate and DNP students. Undergraduate students in the Honors

PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) among labor and delivery nurses. "Most undergraduate nursing programs do not require students to do their own studies," says Nocella. "The fact that our honors track students are doing what I consider master's level work is really tremendous. By the time they graduate, it is impressive."

More than 3,600 health professionals have graduated from William Paterson's nursing program, and many have gone on to distinguished careers. Each brings his or her own dream and vision to the profession.

Healthcare and its future continues to be a major concern for all nursing professionals. "Early on, I realized that

A TIMELINE OF THE NURSING PROGRAM

September 1966

First class of nursing students enters the Department of Nursing Education at William Paterson College.

1975

School of Nursing becomes the School of Nursing and Allied Health.

1986

Iota Alpha chapter of *Sigma Theta Tau* is inaugurated and 180 charter members are inducted.

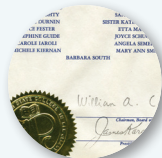
1999

First MSN student graduates.



1970

Department of Nursing Education receives National League for Nursing accreditation and becomes known as the School of Nursing. First class graduates.



1978-88

Hunziker Wing is renovated and designated for nursing and health professions.



1996

Master of science degree in nursing (MSN) established. Professor Barbara Bohny named first director of the graduate program.

2003

School nurse and adult nurse practitioner certification programs established.

Argentina and have seen firsthand the devastation that can be caused by lack of access and education regarding health and wellness,” he says. This led Gonzales, who began his career as a mathematics teacher in Argentina, to devote his life to health promotion and management. Gonzales is now the principal/owner of a clinic in Dover, serving a primarily Hispanic population. He plans to become more involved in research to influence policy-making and to empower change for communities in need.

Stephanie Goldberg '81 knew she wanted to be a nurse when she had the frightening experience of being hospitalized at age five and then having a compassionate nurse calm her fears. Goldberg earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from William Paterson, and spent more than 20 years working with her mentor and fellow alumna Toni Fiore '76. Both Goldberg and Fiore began as staff nurses and went on to leadership and administrative positions at Hackensack University Medical Center.

Today, Goldberg is senior vice president and chief nursing officer at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City where she is in charge of more than 2,500 nurses on staff in the 209-bed facility. She is most proud of leading the institutions she has worked at to Magnate designation four times, the most prestigious distinction a healthcare organization can receive

for nursing excellence and high-quality patient care. Her advice to future nurses is to always remember why they went into nursing—to care for the patient.

With the aging of the baby boomer population, there's also more demand for nursing care in geriatric care and rehabilitation. Monique Coriolan '04 is director of nursing at the Cranford Rehab & Nursing Center in Cranford, a rehabilitation and long-term care facility for seniors. “We provide subacute care at our facility. It is complex because patients are coming to us sicker than they used to, so we have to be able to meet their clinical needs and at the same time provide a good customer

service experience. To do it well, we constantly look at data and make necessary improvements,” says Coriolan. She praises her education at William Paterson for helping to prepare her for her career. “It was a challenging program, but I had the support I needed from my professors,” she adds. She is currently pursuing her MSN degree at William Paterson.

As the nursing profession and health industry continue to experience growth and change, President Waldron envisions more master's degrees will be pursued and more qualified, diverse applicants and nurse practitioners will be the norm. “There is such a demand for our student nurses and our academic standards are high,” she says. “William Paterson is well prepared for the future.”



William Paterson student nurses practice on an infant in the pediatric simulation lab



2005

First cohort of accelerated program students graduates; master's program accredited by Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

2008

Nel Bolger, RN Nursing Laboratory opens, featuring a state-of-the-art simulation lab for undergraduate and graduate nursing students.

2011

Doctor of nursing practice (DNP) program initiated. It is the University's first doctoral program. Master's degree track in family nurse practitioner implemented.

2015

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education reaccredits MSN program and DNP program earns initial accreditation.

2007

Philanthropist David Bolger donates \$500,000 to the University to create the Nel Bolger, RN Nursing Simulation Lab in honor of his aunt, a nurse in the Netherlands during World War II.



2010

Concept-based curriculum launched.



2013

First cohort of 11 doctor of nursing practice students graduates.



2016

University Hall, new home of the Department of Nursing, opens.

CLASS NOTES:

Diversity and Equity in Schools

BY MARY BETH ZEMAN

On a recent morning, the students in Professor Maria Kromidas's anthropology class are gathered at the front of their classroom. There are 20 faces projected on the screen, and as a group, they are trying to sort them—based simply on appearance—into the current U.S. racial categories of American Indian, Asian, black, Hispanic/Latino, and white.

The students make their decisions quickly, debating some images, much more definitive about others. The result? As a group, they have correctly matched only four of the pictures to the self-identification of those individuals. And the students are clearly chagrined—and surprised—at their inability to categorize the people in the photos.

“It’s crazy how we were so quick to judge people based on how they look,” says one student.

The reality, says Kromidas, is that race is a social construct, not a biological fact, noting that scientists have found greater genetic variation between individuals within a so-called racial group than between different racial groups. Traits used to characterize race, such as hair texture, skin color, eye color, or bone structure, she adds, vary continuously. “Where we draw the line is arbitrary,” she explains. “How do we decide someone is light enough to be white, or dark enough to be black?”

“It’s not enough for me to just tell you why this isn’t true,” she says. “If all the experts tell us it’s not true, how did we come to think it? Why does it matter?”

For Kromidas, an associate professor of anthropology, it matters a great deal. “So much of our daily life is structured around race,” she says. “We all have a frame of reference from our own experiences. And it affects our understanding of ourselves and of others. We need to examine how our racial worldviews are formed and develop reflective practice.”

Her course, *Diversity and Equity in Schools*, offers students just such an opportunity. An elective in the anthropology major and currently a requirement for matriculation in any undergraduate major



Professor Maria Kromidas and her students discussing diversity in schools

in the College of Education, the course focuses on the role that schools play in the cultural production of the educated person, and challenges future teachers to think about schools as sites of intense cultural politics. “There is cutting-edge social science that our students need to know if they are going to be teachers,” Kromidas says. The course also fulfills the three-credit diversity and justice requirement for all undergraduates as part of the University Core Curriculum, William Paterson’s general education program.

The primary goal of the course is to apply an anthropological approach to helping students better understand the school system in the United States. Kromidas begins the course by asking her students to fill out an education survey on the first day of class (and again at the end of the semester) that asks how strongly they agree or disagree with a number of statements that the course explores, such as “If you work hard, you will succeed in America,” “All schools in America are more or less equal,” and “Middle class students are advantaged in school by their parents’ class.”

The students then get into groups and share their answers. “In that five-minute conversation, they learn something right away by talking to someone with a different background or experience,” Kromidas says.

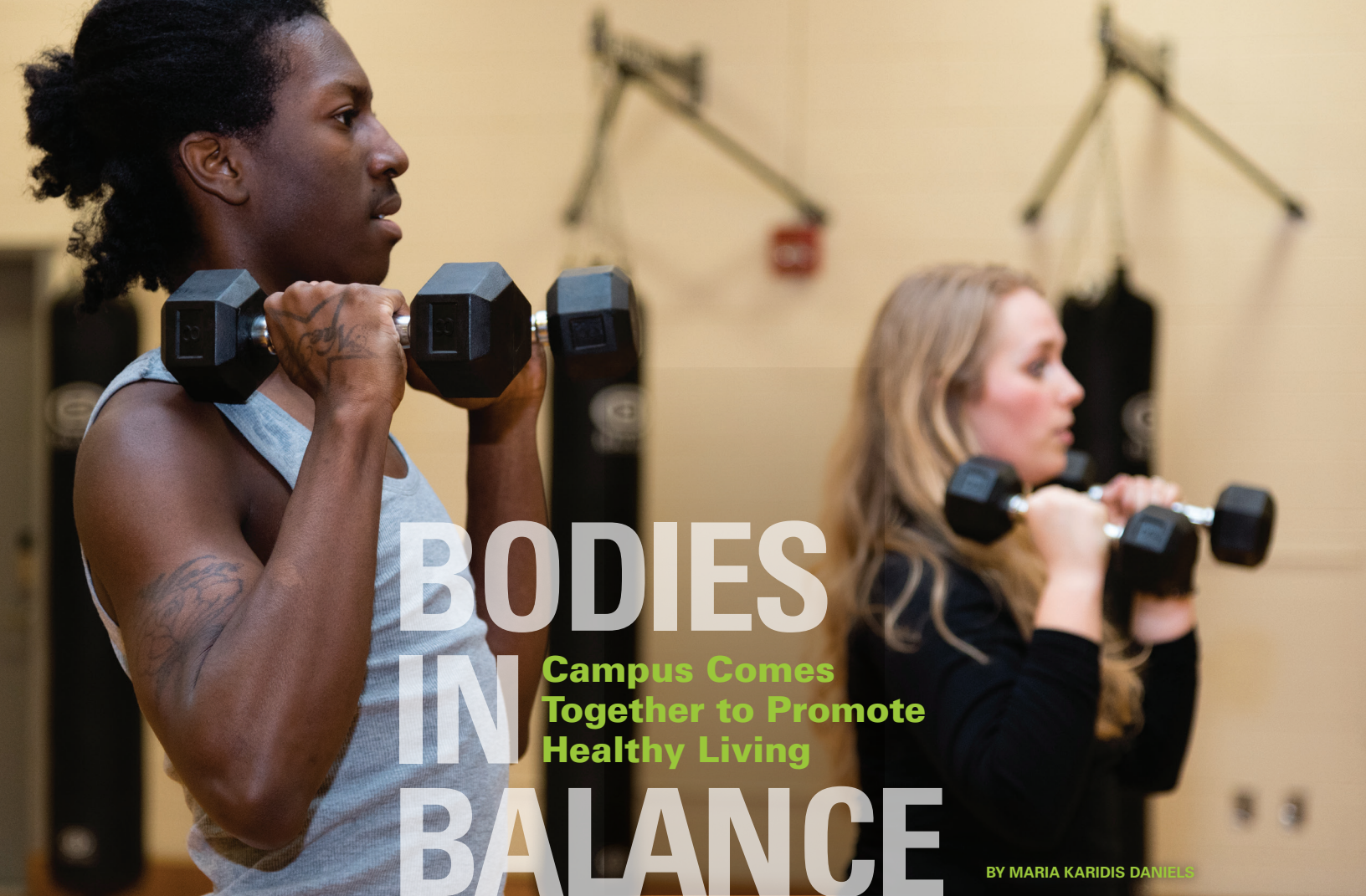
Kromidas says our environments—including schools—play a critical role as sites for racial learning. “The spaces around us, such as the places we grow up, are imbued with meaning. It’s dynamic, changing through time. And it is never race neutral,” she says.

That discussion is particularly pertinent to New Jersey, with its geographic mix of rural, suburban, and urban spaces. On another class day, the discussion focuses on perceptions of urban districts.

One student from a rural district reveals that “growing up in a rural area, my mom would lock the car doors in any town with a sidewalk,” while another student from Newark says that if she mentions her hometown, “it’s a stigma.”

As part of the course, the class visits a public school in Paterson. Their visit forms the basis for their ethnographic research project—using observational data, notetaking, and analysis to write a report focusing on some aspect of the school, a typical method that cultural anthropologists use to study a setting or group.

Much of the course content is grounded in the professor’s own experiences, which include three years as a teacher in a New York City public school and, most recently, as a researcher who spent more than a year observing and interviewing



BODIES IN BALANCE

Campus Comes Together to Promote Healthy Living

BY MARIA KARIDIS DANIELS

Chemistry major TaeVon Lewis '19 works out alongside his newfound personal trainer, exercise science major Samantha Kanuch '17

A rapidly expanding collection of research points to exercise as the key to a long, healthy life. Regular physical activity can both prevent and treat several dozen diseases, and without it, the potential for premature death skyrockets. Exercise, experts say, is medicine.

It's a philosophy that William Paterson University is embracing as one of 106 colleges/universities worldwide with a recognized "Exercise is Medicine on Campus" program—calling upon faculty, staff, and students to improve their collective health by making physical activity a part of campus culture. The program is an offshoot of "Exercise is Medicine" (EIM), a global initiative coordinated by the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), which encourages healthcare providers to prescribe

exercise when designing treatment plans for patients.

"You have to take care of yourself now so you can be healthy later," says Toni LaSala, assistant professor of exercise science and the woman responsible for bringing EIM to the University. The project is near and dear to her heart. LaSala's sister died at age 52 due to medical complications stemming from obesity. "That was my motivating force," she explains of bringing EIM to William Paterson. "I don't want to see somebody die at a young age due to something they can prevent."

Through the two sections of her Aerobic/Anaerobic Leadership course, LaSala has put together an EIM team of 45 student leaders. They have brought to campus such activities as open-to-all volleyball, flag football, and

basketball, as well as free blood pressure screenings, cardiovascular testing, and fitness assessments. They've also led a walking program, handing out pedometers to students, faculty, and staff.

ACSM bestowed bronze-level accolades on the University's EIM efforts in 2014—its first year of participation—and silver in 2015. Determined to get the gold, LaSala and her student leaders significantly expanded EIM offerings for 2016 and their hard work paid off. William Paterson University is now one of 23 institutions across the globe awarded gold level recognition for its commitment to exercise.

DOCTORS' ORDERS

The average adult should work out with moderate intensity four to five times per week for 30 to 45 minutes per day. "Moderate

intensity" means the exercise is hard enough that you can't sing while in action, but not so hard that you can't talk. However, most patients seen at William Paterson's Counseling, Health, and Wellness Center are falling short of that standard, says center director Jill Guzman, DNP '14. Students often cite a lack of time and energy as the cause.

"We tell them, 'You have to find that life balance,'" Guzman explains. "You have class, maybe a job on the side, families, studying...but you need to make yourself—taking care of yourself—a priority. It's about making you important."

"Important" is indeed an operative word. According to research published by the National Institutes of Health, regular physical activity counteracts more than 30 chronic conditions including diabetes, coronary heart disease, depression,

colon cancer, breast cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, obesity, and hypertension. Unfortunately, some William Paterson students, only in their 20s, have been diagnosed with pre-diabetes or hypertension. Meanwhile, others are dealing with orthopedic issues overwhelmingly caused by a lack of physical activity and being overweight, according to the wellness center's Fazia Weaver, nurse practitioner. "I'm already seeing students who complain, 'Oh, my knee; oh, my back,' just from being sedentary, from sitting for hours and hours at a time," Weaver explains. "As they age, especially for women, the risk for osteoarthritis is great."

"We really focus on nonpharmacological intervention when the patients are this young," Guzman adds. "We don't want to have to start our students on medication from such an early age. We would rather they try exercise first."

And, thanks to the wellness center's new partnership with LaSala, that's where the University's EIM program now plays a role.

As of fall 2016, wellness center visitors contending with the aforementioned conditions, as well as those struggling to lose weight, are given "prescriptions" for exercise.

FITNESS FIX

Download a free step-tracking app for your smartphone or purchase a Fitbit to count how many steps you take each day.
"People often don't realize how sedentary they are."

Jill Guzman, DNP '14,
 director, wellness center

Though not a prescription in the literal sense, the students are given written recommendations for the amount, type, and duration of exercise activity. They are also directed to contact LaSala. She pairs them up with exercise science majors in Section One of her Aerobic/Anaerobic Leadership class who, as a requirement of the course, must serve as personal trainers to their assigned "clients." Each trainer is graded

on the exercise plan created. The trainer and client meet for an initial consultation, then for a physical fitness test—which the trainer uses to design a plan based on the client's challenges and goals—and the duo follows up throughout the semester as needed.

The clients benefit from getting free personal training sessions that would cost them upwards of \$60 each at a gym. The exercise science majors benefit from experiential learning.

Senior Karissa Melfi was charged with being the on-campus trainer to a first-semester freshman last fall. With both students taking five courses each and working part-time jobs, they scheduled their meetings for 7:00 a.m. and sometimes had to wait a few weeks between those meetings. They made it work and Melfi appreciated the challenge, saying LaSala's course allowed students to "get the experience as though we were professionals."

"The number one thing I learned from this was how to meet and work with someone new. I had no idea who this person was and I had to come up with an exercise program to meet her needs. Every person out there is different, and every person out there requires different things when it comes to their bodies. How do I create a plan for someone who isn't me?" Melfi asks.

It's a question she learned how to answer successfully, thanks to her professor's instruction.

"Dr. LaSala definitely gave me and my class the tools to work with our students. She always answered our questions as quickly as possible, met us in the gym, and provided written tools and explanations," Melfi explains. "I was able to learn

how to produce a plan for my client and future clients I might have."

The exercise science major is now working part time at a gym and studying for the written exam to become a certified personal trainer. She plans to pursue post-graduate studies for either a career as a physicians' assistant or physical therapist.

NO PRESCRIPTION NECESSARY

The University's team of EIM leaders created brochures about the student-to-student personal training program, and in order to ascertain interest and need beyond the wellness center, a few professors of public health distributed the brochures in class. The response, LaSala says, was great. Between those with wellness center prescriptions and those who received a brochure, she had so many prospective clients that numerous students in Section One of Aerobic/Anaerobic Leadership agreed to train more than one client during the semester. A group of overflow requestors were paired up with students from Section Two who volunteered to help. Those in Section Two are not required to serve as students' personal trainers as part of their final grade; they are instead required to plan and lead group health and fitness classes for University employees.

Those classes have been born of a new partnership between the University's EIM leaders and human resources department. Together, starting in fall 2016, the two groups have co-planned various health and fitness classes for William Paterson faculty and staff. The most popular thus far was a bone density workshop hosted in the HR department mid-afternoon, coinciding with



Professor Toni LaSala demonstrates exercises to her Aerobic/Anaerobic Leadership students that they can incorporate into a group fitness class for University employees

most employees' lunch breaks. During the class, students taught employees how to improve their bone mass using dumbbells, resistance bands, or tubes, and their own body weight.

The one-on-one exercise instruction from students was a huge hit, and after receiving multiple employee requests for more, human resources teamed up with EIM again.

From early February through early April, about 30 University employees met in Wightman Gym once a week for 45 minutes. There, students guided them through warmups, cardiovascular activities, resistance training, stretching, and cool downs. Every week,

participants rotated through 10 student-monitored exercise stations, where every activity was modified on an individual basis so that employees of every fitness level could take part.

Mary Thomas, University director of business services, and Patrice Stewart, of the accounts payable department, attended the exercise classes religiously. They say they particularly appreciated learning exercises wherein only one's body weight is required, relinquishing the need for any equipment when it comes time to exercise off campus. Their biggest takeaway from the experience was proper exercise form, which they now know is

crucial to avoiding injury.

"The students were very knowledgeable and patient with us," Thomas says. "We are very much looking forward to the next round of classes."

Meanwhile, the students say they really benefitted from having to be prepared to lead a class, and then seeing how that preparation played out with University employees. They didn't realize how much they would have to cue participants, whether by physically demonstrating what a 90-degree angle looks like or what "stand with your feet hip-width apart" means. Each week, the students say they learned more and more how to use different styles

FITNESS FIX

No parking? "Leave the car where you can and walk. We have so many hills on campus. Go up a few of those with pep in your step and you've got some exercise done today."

Fazia Weaver, nurse practitioner, wellness center

of teaching to accommodate different types of learners.

"This is such a great opportunity for students to connect with employees of a diverse population," says Desyra Highsmith, associate director of

What's a Healthy Body Without a Healthy Mind?

Robin Nemeroff, associate professor of psychology, has been working on a campus-based research project that embodies the spirit of Exercise is Medicine—with a spin. Nemeroff, a clinical psychologist and director of the University's doctoral program in clinical psychology, is conducting a study on the use of yoga to reduce stress and anxiety in college students.

There are many different styles of yoga that emphasize different capabilities of the body, such as coordinating breath and movement or holding postures in strict alignment. Overall, the practice of yoga has been lauded for physical benefits that include muscle strength, flexibility, balance, and coordination.

But do the benefits of this type of exercise transcend the body?

"I practice yoga myself and I think it can be a very useful tool for stress reduction," Nemeroff says. "Surprisingly, even though yoga is a readily available, cost-effective, low-stigma approach to reducing stress, there is little empirical research on the benefits of yoga for reducing stress and anxiety symptoms."

The professor has subsequently spent the past several semesters recruiting high-stress University students who can commit to taking two free, on-campus yoga classes every week for three to six weeks.

Nemeroff uses a 20-minute questionnaire to evaluate participants' stress levels before, during, and after the block of yoga sessions. In her six-week pilot program, she found a staggering drop in participants' indicators of stress at the third week. Between weeks three and six, students in the program maintained that lower level of stress.

Whether she will draw the same results after studying many semesters worth of student-participants remains to be seen, but so far, the professor says, they seem to be benefiting from the yoga classes. A few students felt so much better after participating in her study that they volunteered to help set up subsequent semesters of Nemeroff's yoga classes as a way to pay it forward.

"For sure, exercise is a known antidepressant and has been known to reduce stress, and yoga certainly has a physical component," Nemeroff says. "But I view yoga as integrating

a few different variables, which is why I've decided to focus my research there. There is a body of literature that shows diaphragmatic breathing, which is a big component in yoga, is a stress- and anxiety-reducing technique. Additionally, an emerging body of research on mindfulness points to its therapeutic benefits. And the practice of yoga is also a mindfulness technique."

"There is no research that pieces apart the underlying mechanisms of how yoga does what it does," she adds. "There is much more work to be done on this topic."

Thanks to a \$25,000 grant from the Fred J. Brotherton Charitable Foundation, Nemeroff will start to chip away at that work, expanding her research off campus starting in fall 2017. She will explore the potential benefits of adding yoga to the treatment plans of adult outpatients diagnosed with generalized anxiety disorder. This work will take place at Christian Health Care Center, a



non-profit healthcare facility that provides mental health services in Wyckoff, New Jersey.

Teaming up with Nemeroff on this project will be the non-profit organization Kula for Karma, which offers therapeutic yoga programs at no cost to people with physical, mental, and emotional challenges. Since its inception in 2007, Kula for Karma has launched more than 600 yoga programs in the tri-state area.

Ultimately, Nemeroff hopes to find a place for yoga as an intervention for people with generalized anxiety disorder.

"Stress and anxiety are so pervasive in our world and we need to learn more about ways to manage them," Nemeroff says.

human resources. Aside from this semester's group exercise classes, the human resources team is also providing employees with expert-presented seminars about nutrition, smoking cessation, and heart health, among others.

"It's really important for staff and faculty to set a good example for our students," Guzman says, lauding the University's HR department for its efforts. A "Biggest Loser" fitness and weight loss competition and a Weight Watchers support group were among Guzman's favorite HR-organized activities. "The University has really made strides," she says.

The wellness center, too, is offering more prevention and outreach services than it did in years past. Among recent offerings were free dance and Zumba classes,

athletic events and competitions in partnership with the Rec Center, and patient participation in the campus breast cancer and suicide prevention walks thanks to assistance from the Campus Activities staff. Classes about healthy eating, including one on how to cook nutritious meals using only a microwave, have been offered as well.

"I realize, walking around campus, that many members of our campus community need a little more exercise," LaSala says. "We do have the people who will go anywhere and do anything to work out, but I want to target everyone else. I want to target the people who really need to understand how important exercise is, and how important it is to get started at a young age, so they can prevent



Exercise science major Alysse Marcello '17 guides Sandy De Jesus (left), financial secretary to the dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Mary Thomas, director of business services, through a set of bent-over rows

those comorbidity diseases from occurring when they get older."

"It's not about having time," she adds. "It's about making time."

➤ For a video of students demonstrating exercises for an office or residence hall room, visit bit.ly/WPEExercise

FITNESS FIX

Don't have a 45-minute block for exercise? Split your physical activity up into three sessions throughout the day. "It doesn't matter how you get it done, so long as you get it done."

Jill Guzman, DNP '14, director, wellness center

Achieving Campus Wellness Through the Classroom

To be truly healthy is to be more than healthy in a physical sense; it is to be healthy in a comprehensive sense—psychologically, socially, spiritually, intellectually, and environmentally. But building and maintaining the various dimensions of health, particularly for busy college students, can be a challenge. Enter Healthy U, a course in the Department of Public Health that helps students navigate their paths to wellbeing.

Healthy U covers such topics as self-esteem, sexuality, addiction, weight management, and fitness, and fulfills one of the requirements in the University Core Curriculum (UCC), the general education program at William Paterson. Of the UCC's six required areas, Healthy U is offered as an option in Area 1, "Personal Wellbeing."

And, the course is definitely personal.

Each student must take an online wellness assessment at the start of the semester. The assessment rates students' health behaviors, showing them what they are doing well and

where they could improve. They then choose one behavior to work on for their Behavior Change Project. Students set goals, keep diaries, and analyze what helps them or keeps them from succeeding, aiming to end the project with new behaviors incorporated into their lifestyles.

Jean Levitan, longtime professor of public health, has taught the course extensively over the years. A common choice for students' Behavior Change Project as of late, she says, has been to eat better. Students often keep a food log to help them track their intake.

"Sometimes it's about correcting a lot of misinformation, such as breakfast bars and smoothies being the way to go," Levitan explains. "People truly can and should eat more 'real' food, but we have a lot of students who are eating on the run."

Another common choice for the Behavior Change Project lately, and one that was certainly not seen with as much frequency several years ago, is the desire to better handle anxiety and stress.

"I don't remember as much anxiety and stress in my students in the '70s and '80s—anxiety and stress are much more a part of their lives," Levitan says. For such students in Healthy U, Levitan focuses on stress management and the many counseling and support services available to students on campus and off.

While the number of Healthy U students trying to change behaviors relative to stress has increased through the decades, Levitan is happy to report that the pool of students with tobacco addictions has decreased.

On the other hand, alcohol use and abuse hasn't changed much, she says, and neither have students' challenges with dating and forming healthy relationships. "For some of them, you really have to break down how you get to know people and make friends," Levitan says.

Inspired by Healthy U, several years ago, Levitan developed a sister course titled Healthy Living After 30, which addresses wellness in a way



that is more attractive to the older student. It, too, is offered as an option to fulfill the UCC Area 1 requirement. Whereas a Healthy U section on healthy relationships may focus on dating from an age-appropriate perspective, one in Healthy Living After 30 may also cover divorce, she explains.

"Public health is an academic discipline, but in the overall core curriculum, this is where we clearly focus on how a student is managing his/her life," Levitan says of both courses. "We are directly applying the information and the research to the behavior."

The Price We Pay for Obesity

Over the past 35 years, obesity rates in the United States have tripled, placing a strain not only on Americans' health but also on their wallets. The cost of obesity in the United States recently hit a whopping \$190 billion, or 20 percent of the country's annual medical spending, according to a study published in the *Journal of Health Economics*.

Unfortunately, the financial burden on our country isn't expected to decrease any time soon, says Rahi Abouk, assistant professor of economics.

Abouk is a health economist whose research has spanned such topics as the effect of homeschooling on students' weight, the relationship between school lunch programs and childhood obesity, and how minors acquire and use tobacco and electronic cigarettes.

"If we didn't have the problem of obesity in the United States, we could spend that almost \$200 billion on providing better education to people, which itself is a determining factor

in obesity. The rate of obesity goes down as education goes up, especially among women," Abouk says.

Surveys conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to analyze how the average American spends his/her time show a trend, over the past 30 to 40 years, of Americans spending more time on leisure, Abouk says. "However, when we look at the combination of the types of leisure, Americans spend the most time on sedentary leisure—like watching television and listening to the radio—and they are spending less time on physical activity," he explains.

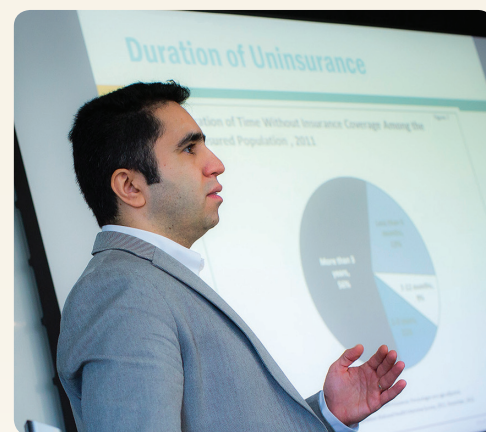
Per the most recent data (collected in 2000), the average American spends 130 minutes per day watching television, 10 minutes engaged in active sport, and five minutes hiking or walking.

The price of the country's overall sedentary lifestyle extends beyond our collective economy. Obese people are subject to negative impact on their personal incomes and employment, Abouk says.

According to a study published in the *Journal of Health Economics*, data collected between 1989 and 2003 shows that employers who provide health insurance coverage to their staffs offer less salary to obese candidates than they do to non-obese candidates.

"When a candidate has an interview with an employer, the employer naturally observes the physical condition of the candidate...and the data shows the employer automatically offers lower salaries to obese people to offset the added health insurance risk and cost," the professor explains.

In 2001, per the study, obese Americans were offered an average of \$17 per hour for jobs that included health insurance coverage; non-obese Americans were offered \$22.50 per hour for those same jobs. In jobs that do not offer health insurance coverage, the differences in offered salaries were negligible, Abouk says.



Such information is among that offered in Abouk's Healthcare Economics class on campus, in which students of various majors learn about the economic behavior of patients, physicians, and stakeholders in the healthcare market, in addition to how government policies and interventions influence health outcomes.

Understanding the underlying and determining factors of obesity, as well as its physical and economic harm, is a particularly important piece of his course, Abouk says. "With this knowledge, our students could promote healthy lifestyles among their families and communities," he explains.

Class Notes: Continued from page 22

fifth graders both inside and outside the classroom in one of New York's most diverse public schools to explore how they developed an understanding of race.

Her findings are detailed in her new book, *City Kids: Transforming Racial Baggage* (Rutgers University Press, 2016).

Kromidas sought to explore the variable meanings and felt experiences of race from the children's perspectives, noting that other research indicates that by age nine or ten, racial beliefs harden. She immersed herself in the school, an unusual practice among researchers who study race. "Most of the work that informs our common understandings of kids' racial knowledge is done through surveys or experiments," she says. "I wanted to explore the actual moments when they learn about race in



their everyday lives."

What did she find? "These kids demonstrated how race is decidedly NOT easy to learn," she says. "What was most interesting was that they had an open, savvy, and sophisticated orientation to race. These kids were fierce critics of our racial baggage, and I would argue that they have much to teach us."

In essence, the children she studied in this very diverse environment exhibited cosmopolitanism—the genuine appreciation of cultural and racial diversity, a trait often associated with adult worldliness and sophistication.

Notably, Kromidas says her book reflects the conversations she has with her students—and was implicitly written to them. "My students' questions, their curiosities, and their sincere desires for social justice and anti-racist stances have helped me to see the urgency of this project," she says. "Their understandings

and misunderstandings about race, how it is lived, learned, and formed, all inform the text." In one section, where she discusses a dispute between the children about whether a teacher was racist or fair, she also includes how her William Paterson University students interpreted the incident, a demonstration of their influence on both her teaching and her research.

Ultimately, Kromidas says, her goal is help others see the humanizing potential of diversity and to learn how to develop anti-racist stances in our everyday lives. "Race is a social fact that affects the quality of our lives from birth to death," she says. "We need to understand how that works. And those understandings are best built through dialogue with diverse others, a valuable opportunity we find here at William Paterson University."

Rhoda Mae Kerr '70: MAKING HISTORY AT THE TOP OF THE LADDER

BY CHRISTINE S. DIEHL



From the rooftops of burning buildings to the pinnacle of her profession, alumna Rhoda Mae (Huber) Kerr '70 has reached uncharted heights in her 33-year career as a professional firefighter. As the first female fire chief of the Austin Fire Department in Texas and the first woman ever named president and chair of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), no boundary is too great for her to conquer.

"I was so excited to break the mold," Kerr, a Ringwood native, says of her 2015 election as the first female to lead the IAFC in the organization's 143-year history. She is currently finishing her term as president of the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association—a subset of the IAFC which includes full-time fire chiefs from major cities in North America and around the world—to which she was elected in May 2016; she is also completing her term as past president of the IAFC, a role she will hold until this July.

"I didn't really think about it until a friend said, 'Rhoda Mae, you're making history here,'" she says. "I am so proud that I get to leave a legacy for others to follow and be a role model for women who aspire to be career firefighters."

Kerr, who holds a William Paterson bachelor's degree in physical education, initially pursued a teaching career while also coaching high school basketball, volleyball, and track and field. After 13 years, she sought a profession that offered more upward mobility, and decided to train for a career in firefighting.

"When I went to the fire training academy to get my certification, I knew right away that I had found my niche. I also knew that I wanted to be the person in charge one day, and I just kept working on that goal," says Kerr, who is a fourth-generation firefighter.

In 1983 when she was hired at Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue, Kerr was one of only a handful of female career firefighters nationwide. She was on the job for just three years when she was promoted and eventually rose through the ranks to deputy chief. In 2004, she was appointed fire chief of the Little Rock Fire Department, where she remained until 2009 when she joined the Austin Fire Department in that same position. Today in Austin, she oversees 1,200 personnel across 46 fire stations and seven additional work sites.

Kerr feels that her background as a teacher and coach prepared her to be in charge. "In the classroom or on the field you need to make decisions and have a commanding presence. The same is true here. You need to establish respect from day one."

In her years as fire chief, Kerr has strived to make the profession more accommodating to women. Efforts include replacing the term "fireman" with "firefighter," revamping aging fire station locker

and restroom facilities to serve a mixed gender workforce, and investing in fire protection turnout gear designed to fit women.

Under Kerr's leadership, the Austin Fire Department has hired and promoted more women than ever, and she is proud that her example has fostered a positive environment for women.

"Firefighting is a family-friendly career, with maternity leave and flexible work hours. We've come a long way and we have a good culture," she says.

Kerr continues to have significant influence at the national and international level. In December, she was appointed by President Barack Obama to the National Infrastructure Advisory Council, a 30-member committee drawn from private industry, academia, and state and local government who advise the President on the security of critical infrastructure sectors.

She also has had the opportunity to attend conferences across the globe and speak with aspiring firefighters.

"For these young firefighters to see a woman as a leader is one of the most impactful experiences," she says.

As a trailblazer in the U.S. fire service, Kerr has pushed for such fire safety measures as a "Zero Fire Deaths" campaign, the installation of residential sprinklers in all new construction, and working smoke alarms in every home.

Last year, the Austin Fire Department installed 2,600 free smoke alarms; 278 of those were installed in just one day, in conjunction with the Central Texas Chapter of the American Red Cross. "We want to keep up that momentum. It's ingrained that when we go on a call, if the building does not have working smoke alarms, we automatically install them at no cost to the citizen," she says.

For Kerr, a key part of instilling a fire safety culture begins with educating children—a mission that evolved from her days as deputy chief in Fort Lauderdale when she was deeply moved by the tragic deaths of two young children in a house fire. The Austin Fire Foundation was established in 2011 to fund community outreach and public education efforts focused around fire and life safety. With donor funding, she hopes to one day build an interactive children's fire museum in Austin.

"They would learn fire safety rules—like not blocking exits or draping a towel over an oven, and take those home to mom and dad," she says. "We need to spread a fire safety culture in this country. Nationwide, in 2016 we had more than 480,000 structure fires that caused 14,000 injuries and 2,800 civilian casualties. More than 30,000 firefighters were injured on the fireground. If we educate and change the mindset, one day we can get to zero fire deaths."



Alumni Connections



From left: Bill Joosten '66; Peter Grisafi '66, MA '69, with Pam Ferguson (left), vice president for institutional advancement, and President Kathleen Waldron; and Robert DeBlasi '63, Marie (Cerini) DeBlasi '60, Marie (Paladino) Schrieks '65, MS '72, and Judith (Lobell) Newell '62



Top left: student Kody Guedes '19, Sue Carol Scannelli, and James Scannelli '63; bottom left: Dr. Thomas Sciarillo '63, MA '65, Carol Wilderson, Doris (Knibbs) Stienstra '62, MA '66, and Barbara (Pfaff) Lehner '65; right: Dr. Harold MacMurren '65 and Margaret MacMurren '69

Class of 1966 Welcomed into Pioneer Society

The Pioneer Society—alumni who graduated at least 50 years ago—held its annual luncheon on December 8, 2016 on campus. Members of the newest reunion class, the Class of 1966, were formally inducted into the Society during the event, which provides alumni with a chance to share their favorite memories and reminisce with classmates and members of the University community. President Kathleen Waldron provided an update on University news, and student Kody Guedes '19, winner of the 2016 Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellows Award for civic engagement, made a presentation on civic engagement activities at William Paterson.

WP Alumni Connections



William Paterson alumni in front of the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia

Art and Shopping in Philadelphia Alumni enjoyed a fun-filled day of art and shopping during an excursion to Philadelphia on December 3, 2016. Participants visited the Barnes Collection, one of the finest holdings of Impressionist, post-Impressionist, and early modern paintings in the world, after an informal talk by alumna and artist Diane E. Israel '74 who accompanied the group. Then the group headed to the city's historic Reading Terminal Market to check out the restaurants and wide range of produce and other wares.

Neil Van Ess Elected Junior Vice Commander for Military Order of the Purple Heart



Neil Van Ess '85, a retired law enforcement officer and veteran who served in Vietnam, has been elected junior vice commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. The organization, composed of men and women who received the Purple Heart medal for wounds suffered in combat, provides assistance and support to all veterans and their families.

Van Ess served in the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1970. He was wounded in combat in Vietnam in 1968 as a member of the 101st Airborne Division. Following his military service, Van Ess returned to college, earning a bachelor's degree in criminal justice at William Paterson in 1985, and a master's degree from Seton Hall University in 1989. He joined the Totowa Police Department in 1982, and retired as captain of the department with

more than 30 years of service. Van Ess served on the Totowa Board of Education from 1986 to 2005, including 12 years as president of the board. In 1993, he was appointed to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, and served as chairman in 2006. A life member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart since 1989, he has held local, state, and national leadership positions with the organization.



Alumni, Students Share Stories Over Dinner Several alumni who are former members of the Student Alumni Council returned to campus on February 16 to share stories and advice with current students during an intimate dinner in Hobart Manor.



Rear, left to right: Douglas Hamilton Jr. '02, Seth Schneider '96, Robin Sammer Behn '96, Andrew Piester '96, Andrew Massefski; front, left to right: Destiny Jones, Karent Zorogastua '05, Dana McStowe, Michele Garcia '15, Zariah Hill, Angelica Fuller



Left to right: Leon Pender, Sherry Pender '10, Meredith Cooper '99, MaryAnn Cooper '70, Alyssa Rillo '10, Paul Bonney '00, and Nadia Esposito '04

Alumni Join Together for Escape Challenge

An adventurous group of alumni put their teamwork and problem-solving skills to the test on January 19 when they participated in an escape room challenge at Last Minute Escape in Wayne. Participants had 60 minutes to follow the clues and solve a mystery as they escaped from a locked room.



Alumni at the annual gathering of "WP in DC" in Washington, DC

President Waldron Visits with DC-Area Alumni President Kathleen Waldron (center, seated) headed to Washington, DC on March 10 for a special reception with area alumni at the Capitol Hill Club, just a block from the U.S. Capitol. She brought greetings from the University, and gave alumni an update on current campus activities and future plans.



Left to right: Carla Lezin '17, Al LoMartire '16, and Julia Saulenas '16

Young Alumni Chapter Holds Holiday Fun

The Young Alumni Chapter hosted a holiday celebration on December 14, 2016 with a fun-filled evening of food, drink, and laughter. Participants were invited to wear their ugliest holiday sweaters!

HOMECOMING WEEKEND 2017

OCTOBER 14 and 15

SAVE THE DATE

Wedding bells for...

- 2006** JONATHAN KURZEL
to Erin English (5/20/16)
- 2007** JULIE VILCHOCK
to Robert F. Darby III (10/8/16)
- 2009** MICHAEL VIVINO
to STEPHANIE THOMAS '16 (6/25/16)
- 2016** NICOLE DAUBERT
to Emanuel Disporto (7/30/16)

Mourning the loss of...

- '31** EDITH (SCIBETTA) SALVA
Allenhurst, NJ
October 26, 2016
- '51** ELEANOR (FUCHS) TONELSON
Wayne, NJ
November 25, 2016
- '54** EDITH ANN (SPROVIERO)
BIGICA
Lodi, NJ
October 10, 2016
- '57** JOAN BLAKE, MED '80
Mahwah, NJ
August 22, 2016
- RONALD SHERMAN, MA '62
Fair Lawn, NJ
October 18, 2016
- '60** LAWRENCE A. TILLI
Hardyston Twp., NJ
October 2, 2016
- '62** ANDREW ANTISTA, MA '85
Ridgewood, NJ
November 22, 2016
- RICHARD MOLA
Elmwood Park, NJ
October 20, 2016
- '64** VALERIE L. SCANDALE
Old Forge, PA
November 12, 2016
- DORIS I. WOOD, MA '67
Middleburgh, NY
August 11, 2016
- '66** ETTA MAE (RIEGER)
HENNESSY
Wanaque, NJ
September 24, 2016
- '67** HELENE R. RUBIN, MA '69
Orlando, FL
December 9, 2016
- '71** MARGARET (MCLINDEN)
CAMOOSO
Neptune, NJ
September 16, 2016
- CHERYL-JO FERRARO
Clifton, NJ
August 2, 2016
- JUDITH STORCH
Fort Lauderdale, FL
December 14, 2016
- BRENDA VINCENTZ-SMITH
Stamford, NY
September 6, 2016
- '73** TRUDY C. BAUMBERGER
Lakewood, NJ
September 11, 2016
- WILFRED O. HUG
Pompton Plains, NJ
September 8, 2016
- MARY MICH
Clifton, NJ
July 18, 2016
- JOSEPH R. SUTHERLAND
Township of Washington, NJ
November 10, 2016
- '75** EDWARD STEVEN MATERA
Jackson Twp., NJ
December 29, 2016
- '76** FRANK S. CAMPANA
Clifton, NJ
September 2, 2016
- '77** ANNE (MCCARTHY) LINTNER
Garfield, NJ
December 27, 2016
- NANCY H. MASTIN
East Dennis, MA
November 30, 2016
- JOHN OLDJA
St. Petersburg, FL
July 16, 2016
- DORIS MOGERLEY
Wayne, NJ
December 11, 2016
- '78** ANDREW M. DIELMO JR.
Maplewood, NJ
September 22, 2016
- '79** MICHAEL GORMLEY
Lanoka Harbor, NJ
July 14, 2016
- '80** ARLENE DICKERSON, MED
Hillsborough, NJ
July 22, 2016
- ARTHUR EVANS TAYLOR, MA
Brooklyn, NY
July 8, 2016
- '83** MARTIN PLUMP
Ridgewood, NJ
November 2, 2016
- '84** MAUREEN LINEHAN, MED
Chatham, NJ
October 11, 2016
- '86** DELAYNE (ROONEY) CHIRICO
Wharton, NJ
September 17, 2016
- '87** JOSEPH VRINDTEN
Highland Lakes, NJ
November 20, 2016
- '90** KRISTINE ZYDEL
Abu Dhabi, UAE
June 22, 2016
- '95** JEANNIE ROUTSIS, MED
Clifton, NJ
October 24, 2016
- '96** JOY BURKE
Sandy Springs, GA
September 4, 2016
- '04** DIANA BREEN DECRESCENZO
Cedar Knolls, NJ
August 27, 2016
- '13** JENNY SANTOS
Kearny, NJ
February 11, 2017

Class Notes

1963 JULIA DEWORK FINCKEN, MED '76, marked the 50th anniversary of teaching her first class in Little Falls. . . PAUL HOELSCHER celebrated his 25th anniversary as mayor of Harrington Park. Previously, he spent 33 years as a political science teacher.

1968 GEORGE OTTAVINIA was inducted into the Mount Olive High School Athletic Hall of Fame. He served Mount Olive as head softball, and assistant baseball, basketball, and field hockey coach in a career that spanned 39 years, and still works in a part-time post as assistant athletic director.

1970 MARY ANN (ROSS) COOPER has assumed the role of publisher and president of Careers Central, a talent acquisition social media publishing company. She recently retired as editor-in-chief of *The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education Magazine* after 16 years. She continues with Hispanic Outlook Publishing as a writer and an editor *emeritus*.

1971 SYLVIA PETILLO was elected to a three-year term on Sussex County's governing board as county freeholder. To assume the position, she resigned her position as mayor of Hopatcong. She had been mayor for the previous nine years.

1972 STEPHEN PARIGI was hired as an interim long-term leave replacement learning disabilities teacher consultant at Clarendon School in the Secaucus School District.

1975 NORA RENZULLI and her husband Richard, as well as their two sons, daughter, and daughter-in-law, spent this past Christmas morning in the kitchen at Eva's Village in Paterson feeding the homeless. The Renzulli family has been volunteering their time at the homeless shelter for more than 10 years.

1976 JUDITH LEPORE-SCHREIBER exhibited her series of mixed media portraits at the Women's Rights Information Center in downtown Englewood. Her exhibit was entitled "Heroines, Living Women Making a Difference in Our World."

1982 SONJA GAINES was appointed associate commissioner for intellectual and

developmental disabilities and behavioral health services for a Texas division of health and human services. Previously, she was the associate commissioner for mental health coordination with health and human services.

1983 BRIAN MCCOURT was re-elected to a three-year term on the K-12 board of education in Midland Park. This is his third term on the council.

1984 KEVIN RAMBOSK has joined the board of directors of the David Lawrence Center in Collier County, FL for a three-year term. The center is Collier County's only comprehensive not-for-profit mental health and substance abuse treatment facility serving children, adults, and families.

1985 DAVID BORDENKIRCHER was named Florida's Lake County School District's candidate for the state's 2016-17 Principal Achievement Award for Outstanding Leadership. This is his fifth year as principal at The Village Elementary of Lady Lake.

1987 MAUREEN MCGRATH joined Terrie O'Connor Realtors as a sales associate. Most recently she worked with the New Jersey Devils hockey team as a concierge, providing personalized service to VIP guests.

1988 WILLIAM CLARK performed with Emily Pulley at First Presbyterian Church in Bryan, Texas. Clark has played jazz guitar for more than three decades. . . JERRY SLAVIK was appointed vice president, area manager of Lakeland Bank's Waldwick, Westwood, and Hillsdale branches. . . BILL STEWART, jazz drummer, released his sixth solo record, *Space Squid*. He has been a professional jazz drummer for 30 years.

1990 LORI ACKER was promoted to senior vice president of operational transformation for Delta Dental of New Jersey. Acker was previously vice president of claims and customer service.

1992 MARIA A. AUDIN was selected by *Women of Distinction Magazine* as a distinguished professional in her field. Audin is the president of Archaeology and Historical Research Services, LLC.

1993 CHARLES CUNNINGHAM was promoted to the rank of sergeant for the Montclair Police Department. He has served as a detective in the Morris County Prosecutor's Office.

1994 MELISSA DABAL was elected to a council seat in Wallington. She has resided in Wallington for 17 years. . . ADAM FRIED was named 2017 North Regional Superintendent of the Year by the New Jersey Association of School Administrators. He has been superintendent of the Harrington Park K-8 school since 2008.

1995 RICK DEBONTA took over head coach duties for Montville Township High School's football team. He has been with Montville High School for 17 years. . . STEPHANIE DIEGMANN celebrated her 15th year with the West Orange School District. She has served as the district's testing coordinator for the past six years.

1996 ENRICO CUNDARI has been named controller of the corporate finance team for Villa Restaurant Group. He has more than 25 years of experience in all aspects of financial reporting including forecasting and planning.

1997 JESS SEILHEIMER has joined Intouch Solutions as its senior vice president of strategic development. Intouch Solutions is an agency that serves the pharmaceutical industry.

1999 MEREDITH COOPER has been promoted to the role of editor-in-chief for *The Hispanic Outlook on Education Magazine*. . . ADAM LINZ assembled a musical quartet to perform at the Khyber Pass in St. Paul, MN. Linz is an award-winning bass player. . . ANDY O'NEILL performed with the Ken Silverman Trio in a concert at Brandon Music in Middlebury, VT. . . DAVID SIMMS has been hired by the Rockbridge County board of education to teach English at Rockbridge County High School in Lexington, VA.

2000 EDWARD CISNEROS was appointed principal of Alexander Hamilton School in Morristown. He previously served as vice principal of the K-8 public school No. 2 in Paterson. He has spent 16 years as a professional educator.

Alumni Association Holds Florida Receptions



Alumni and friends gather in Boca Raton

President Kathleen Waldron, along with Pam Ferguson, vice president for institutional advancement, and Janis Schwartz, executive director of alumni relations, headed to Florida during spring break for annual Alumni and Friends Receptions in Boca Raton on March 14 and Naples on March 16. The trio brought greetings and updates from the campus, and all enjoyed the opportunity to connect with fellow WP alumni.

WV Alumni Connections

2001 LISA MARIE (BRADLEY) COATES was appointed to the Teacher Advisory Board for the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts... **DANIELLE ROMANO** was promoted to associate managing editor of *Convenience Store News*. She was previously the publication's assistant editor.

2002 DAVE FONT has been appointed executive director of Push to Walk, an organization that provides individualized workouts and resources to people with spinal cord injuries and other forms of paralysis... **MATTHEW NEDSWICK** was promoted to sergeant of the Hawthorne Police Department. He has been employed by the Hawthorne Police Department

since 2001... **LEAH K. TOMAINO** presented her nature-inspired art in a one woman exhibition at the Linda Grandis Blatt Gallery at Temple B'nai Or in Morristown.

2004 JENNIFER CIMAGLIA was appointed principal of Hardyston Elementary School... **LONA OZREK** is the new soccer coach of the Glen Rock High School girls team. Previously, Orek spent eight seasons as head women's soccer coach at Dominican College in Orangeburg, NY... **GARY PASCAL** was named supervisor of special education for the Florham Park school district... **ANDREA PRUYN** has joined Friedberg Properties as a real estate representative in River Vale... **JENNIFER STIANSEN, MA**, joined

JLG Industries, Inc., in Oshkosh, WI as a director of marketing for the Americas... **TYSHAWN SOREY**, composer and drummer, was featured in an article entitled "Tyshawn Sorey: The Maestro," in *Jazz Times* magazine.

2005 RYAN CURIONI won a seat on the Lodi Board of Elections. Curioni is a long-time resident of Lodi, having graduated from Lodi High School in 1999... **MARLEN TOMOSIESKI** was welcomed back to her hometown of Mount Arlington as a teacher in the area of health and physical education... **MICHAEL TURCO** brought his "Masters of Illusion" show to Montclair's Wellmont Theatre and Harrah's Resort in Atlantic City.

2006 LORI FIORILINO is the co-founder of Fight 4 Autism, a non-profit group that raises money for families with autistic children in northern New Jersey... **MOLLY (MCGOLDRICK) HIRD** has joined the practice of Deborah Drumm, a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, as one of her clinicians. Hird is a licensed professional counselor... **JESILYN IPPOLITO** has been named consultant within the construction group of New Day Underwriting Managers, a specialty intermediary of environmental and construction-related professional insurance coverage... **EMILY OZORIO** was hired by the Siegfried Group, a national CPA firm, to join its Northeast region offices... **REBECCA ST. LOUIS** is the new host for the ChangeMakers radio show.

Linda Bowden, MA '78, Named 2017 New Jersey Business Hall of Fame Laureate



Linda Bowden, MA '78, New Jersey regional president of PNC Bank and a member of the William Paterson University Foundation, has been selected as a 2017 New Jersey Business Hall of Fame™ Laureate.

Induction into the New Jersey Business Hall of Fame™ is a lifetime achievement award for individuals making a significant, positive impact on New Jersey. The award, presented at a gala event that benefits Junior Achievement New Jersey, honors business and community leaders who have consistently demonstrated business excellence; visionary, innovative leadership; community involvement, and high ethical standards.

Bowden, who joined PNC Bank in 2009, has served as New Jersey regional president since 2012. Previously, Bowden was the managing director of Wachovia Wealth Management. She began her career as a teacher for seven years in Wyckoff, and authored two children's math books. She has been named among the "25 Women to Watch" by *U.S. Banker* magazine and was recognized as one of the "Best 50 Women in Business" and "Power 100" by the New Jersey business news publication *NJBiz*.

In addition to her service on the University Foundation, Bowden is active in a range of community programs. She serves on the board of the Drumthwacket Foundation, as well as the executive committees of the Adler Aphasia Center and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. In addition, she is an executive committee member of the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce and secretary of the board for Choose New Jersey. She holds a master's degree in counseling from William Paterson.

Alumna Wins Fulbright Award



Lissette Acosta Corniel '99, MEd '05, is spending the 2016-17 academic year conducting research in the Dominican Republic as a Fulbright Scholar. The Fulbright Program, America's flagship international educational exchange program, is one of the most prestigious scholarship programs worldwide.

Acosta Corniel, who has been a scholar-in-residence and lecturer in Africana studies at Hamilton College, is conducting research in the Archivo General de la Nación, the Dominican Republic's national archives, on the first free and enslaved black Africans in the Americas. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, functioned as the initial main port of what later became known as transatlantic slave trade. Acosta Corniel is focusing on the first black female slaves.

A graduate of William Paterson with a bachelor's degree in English literature and a master's degree in education, she earned her doctorate in Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino studies from the State University of New York at Albany. She completed post-doctoral work at the Dominican Studies Institute, City College of New York, as associate director of the pioneering project, "First Blacks in the Americas." Acosta Corniel was co-curator of the exhibit, *Sixteenth Century La Española: Glimpses of the First Blacks in the Early Colonial Americas*, highlighted for its importance by the *New York Times* and New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo's Department of State website. She is the editor of the forthcoming book, *Blacks in Spain and Spanish Caribbean: Colonial Slave Legislation and Slavery in the Americas (1500-1860)*.

2007 SHAWN BALTAZOR, drummer and composer, has released a new album entitled *Lionsong* featuring songs he wrote and arranged. . . **ROSSY OLUSALA** was nominated for awards in the Miami Independent Film Festival and Toronto International Nollywood Film Festival for her web series, "Devil's Work: The Web Series."

2008 STACY ANN BOCCARDI joined the Mohawk Avenue School in Sparta as a classroom teacher. . . **ROXY COSS**, saxophonist, and her quintet performed at the New England Arts & Entertainment's Winter Jazz Series in Waterbury, CT. . . **JESSICA HATFIELD** starred as Jasmine in "Disney on Ice: Follow Your Heart," one of several touring Disney on Ice shows. . . **MATT PANAYIDES** appeared at the Cornelia Street Café in Greenwich Village in New York City with his quartet. . . **SHAREYNA N. SCOTT** has announced the publication of her book, *The Test of a Woman*. The focus is on women's emotional healing and building a healthier lifestyle.

2009 JENNIFER CENTIEMPO was appointed superintendent and principal for the Lafayette Township School District. She was previously the principal of the Woodland Park School in Passaic County. . . **RENEE FARIS** has launched her own bakery called Erie Coffeeshop &

Bakery in Rutherford. . . **RYAN VENEMAN** was sworn in as a police officer for the Bridgewater Township Police Department.

2010 GIOVANNI SIRACUSA is the new business teacher at Becton Regional High School in East Rutherford.

2011 PAUL MCCULLEN has been named director of bands and orchestra at Watchung Hills Regional High School. He was previously an instrumental music teacher at Irvington High School. . . **BILLY TEST** was guest pianist with the Altoona Symphony Orchestra for a special pops concert at the Mishler Theatre in Altoona, PA. . . **DEREK THOLEN**, owner of Oasis Pool Service in Mahwah, donated \$10 for every pool he opened last season to the cause of autism.

2012 CHRISTOPHER POMANTE, classical guitarist, performed at the Jefferson Township Public Library. His program included works by Spanish composers.

2013 ANNMARIE ALBERTA was welcomed as part of the newest class of future veterinarians during the fall 2016 White Coat Ceremony at Saint George's University in the West Indies. . . **IKE EJIOCHI** has been hired by Tribune Broadcasting's Fox affiliate WTIC in Hartford, CT as a multimedia

journalist. Most recently, Ejiochi was weekend and anchor/reporter for KODE in Joplin, MO. . . **AARON HASBROUCK** was named head coach of the John S. Burke Catholic High School football team in Goshen, NY. He presided over the most successful football season in Burke Catholic's history. . . **SIOBHAN TAUCHERT** was hired as the district-wide principal of Englewood Cliffs. She will oversee the Upper and North Cliff schools.

2014 MELISSA COCO has been named business administrator and board secretary of the West Essex Board of Education. Previously, she worked in the West Essex guidance office. . . **MARIA LARICCIA BRENNAN** has been appointed chief nursing officer and vice president of patient care services for Lourdes Health System and St. Francis Medical Center in Trenton. Brennan comes to Lourdes and St. Francis from St. Joseph's Healthcare System in Paterson where she served as vice president/ chief nursing officer.

2015 TINA DIFRANCO is currently a student at Seton Hall University School of Law where she was awarded the Clifford Fellowship. . . **RAQUEL LIMA**, a pre-school teacher in Clifton, participated in a live interview with former U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King Jr. The interview, which focused on issues of

high-quality pre-school, aired live on the U.S. Department of Education's Facebook page. . . **MARTIN NOVAK** has announced the publication of his first novel, *The Chocolate Chip in the Vanilla Cake*. The book describes his experiences growing up in the foster system.

2016 THOMAS PALOMBO spoke at the Pioneer Academy in Wayne about the events of September 11, 2001 in an effort to educate students in grades 5 through 8 about that day. Palombo is a New York City firefighter who has followed in his father's footsteps; his father Frank was a firefighter in Brooklyn who died in the South Tower. . . **MIKE VANNUCCI**, football wide receiver, has signed with the Firenze Guelfi football team in Italy, a team that reached the quarterfinals of the Italian Football League in 2016.

Corrections: Fall 2016 Issue

Page 30: We misspelled the name of an alumna in the botanical garden caption. The correct spelling is Jean Aires.

Page 35: We incorrectly listed the website for Steven Le Vine '06. The correct website is www.theprgrapevine.com.

Lorelei Mottese '82 Named Chair of Food Industry Alliance of New York



Lorelei Mottese '82, director of governmental affairs for Wakefern Food Corporation, has been named chairperson of the board of the Food Industry Alliance of New York, the only statewide trade association in New York representing the full spectrum of the grocery industry with more than 850 corporate members. Mottese is the first woman to serve as chairperson

Mottese, who joined Wakefern in 2000, is responsible for legislative/regulatory issues in 10 states and Washington, DC. During her tenure at Wakefern, she has led major legislative campaigns and developed a leading food industry government relations division. Prior to joining the Wakefern team, Mottese was involved in government for 13 years as a councilwoman, mayor, lobbyist, and an urban enterprise zone director for a large municipality. She is president of the Women Grocers Association. Mottese has received numerous honors, including the 2015 Clarence G. Adamy Great American Award presented by the National Grocers Association.

James Mohr '95 Named Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs at Washington State University Spokane



James Mohr '95 has been appointed vice chancellor of student affairs at Washington State University Spokane. Mohr leads the student affairs division at the health sciences-focused campus.

Mohr previously served at Olympic College in Bremerton, Washington, where he was dean of student development for three years. Before that, he was director of student success at Community Colleges of Spokane. He has student services experience at Marymount Manhattan College, University of Alaska Anchorage, and Eastern Washington University.

A 1995 graduate of William Paterson with a bachelor's degree in special education, Mohr began his career as a special education teacher in middle school and high school. In 2000, he earned a master's in student personnel administration from New York University and began a career in college student services. He holds a PhD in leadership studies from Gonzaga University and served in a leadership role at Gonzaga's Institute for Hate Studies.



JAZZING IT UP IN NEW YORK CITY

Grammy Award-winning jazz pianist and William Paterson director of jazz studies Bill Charlap joins a University student jazz group at Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola in New York City. This was the third straight year that William Paterson jazz groups have performed at the prestigious location, which is part of Jazz at Lincoln Center. "It's a privilege to teach and perform with our talented musicians and this venue gives them an opportunity to experience performance on a professional level," says Charlap.

Charlap, who is considered one of the world's premiere jazz pianists, was featured in March on the Emmy Award-winning public television show *State of the Arts*, which airs on NJTV.

➤ To see the segment, which includes clips from this year's performances at Dizzy's, visit: bit.ly/WPCharlap

WP Events

Rhythm Future Quartet



Jeremy Pelt



Southside Johnny
and the Asbury Jukes



ART

UNIVERSITY GALLERIES

Ben Shahn Center for the Visual Arts

Monday through Friday: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

April 9 and 30, and May 7, noon to 4:00 pm

Admission is free.

Dialogue of East and West: Graphic Design by Wu FeiFei

Through May 12, 2017

SOUTH GALLERY

African Art from the Tobias Collection

Through May 12, 2017

EAST GALLERY

Here/Now: The Annual Student Art Association Exhibition

Through May 12, 2017

COURT GALLERY

MUSIC

MIDDAY ARTIST SERIES

Hindemithon 15th Anniversary

April 13, 2017, 12:30 pm

SHEA CENTER

William Paterson Brass Ensembles

April 20, 2017, 8:00 pm

SHEA CENTER

WP PRESENTS!

The Machine Performs Pink Floyd

April 21, 2017, 8:00 pm

SHEA CENTER

WP PRESENTS!

Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes

April 22, 2017, 8:00 pm

SHEA CENTER

NEW MUSIC SERIES

William Paterson New Music and Percussion Ensembles

April 24, 2017, 7:30 pm

SHEA CENTER

William Paterson Wind Ensemble

April 27, 2017, 8:00 pm

SHEA CENTER

JAZZ ROOM

Gypsy Jazz with the Rhythm Future Quartet

April 30, 2017, 4:00 pm

SHEA CENTER

William Paterson Choral Concert: *Bridge to the Soul*

May 2, 2017, 8:00 pm

SHEA CENTER

JAZZ ROOM

Trumpeter Jeremy Pelt with the William Paterson Jazz Orchestra

May 7, 2017, 4:00 pm

SHEA CENTER

2ND ANNUAL WP DHRUPAD DAYS Featuring Payton MacDonald and the Gundecha Brothers

June 2-4, 2017

SHEA CENTER

SUMMER JAZZ ROOM

July 17-21, 2017, 7:30 pm

SHEA CENTER

THEATRE AND COMEDY

Circle Mirror Transformation by Annie Baker

April 4-9, 2017

SHEA CENTER

WP PRESENTS!

Johnny Peers and the Muttville Comix

April 23, 2017, 2:00 pm

SHEA CENTER

The Comedy Improv Show

May 3, 2017, 7:00 pm

HOBART HALL

The Sketch Comedy Show

May 5, 2017, 7:00 pm

HOBART HALL

The Stand-Up Show

May 6, 2017, 5:00 pm

GOTHAM COMEDY CLUB, NEW YORK CITY

LECTURES & CONFERENCES

EXPLORATIONS 2017

Research, Scholarship and Creative Expression at WP

April 4-22

2017 New Jersey Social Media Summit

April 21, 2017, 9:00 am-5:00 pm

UNIVERSITY COMMONS BALLROOM

Orlando Saa Poetry Recitation Contest

May 18, 2017, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

UNIVERSITY COMMONS BALLROOM

SPECIAL EVENTS

193RD COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

Graduate Ceremony

May 17, 2017, 7:00 pm

SHEA CENTER

Undergraduate Ceremony

May 19, 2017, 9:00 am

PRUDENTIAL CENTER, NEWARK

ALUMNI EVENTS

Class of 2017 Senior Send-Off

May 16, 2017, 7:00 pm

UNIVERSITY COMMONS BALLROOM

Class of 1967 Reunion Luncheon

May 21, 2017, noon

UNIVERSITY COMMONS BALLROOM



Wu FeiFei
Dialogue of East
and West, 2012,
Digital print

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Alumni Events: Office of Alumni Relations, 973.720.2175, wpunj.edu/alumni

Art: University Galleries, 973.720.2654, wpunj.edu/coac/gallery

Conferences: School of Continuing and Professional Education, 973.720.2463, wpunj.edu/cpe

Music, Lectures, Theater & Comedy: Shea Center, 973.720.2371, wp-presents.org

UNIVERSITY CALENDAR: wpunj.edu/calendar



 facebook.com/wpunj



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An
anthropologist
looks at race