

The Hill

McDANIEL COLLEGE | SPRING 2026




LUMEN
— SCHOLARS —

The Hill

McDaniel College
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Editor: Lindsay Sherman

Staff Writers: Cheryl Knauer,
Caroline Willis '26

Staff Designers: Samantha Arellano,
Lily Coburn '26, Jamie Reams Leinauer,
Katie Leonardis

Staff Photographer/Videographer:
Curtis Blank

Proofreader: Joannah Hill

Alumni correspondence to:
alumni@mcdaniel.edu
410-857-2296 or
The Office of Alumni Engagement
McDaniel College
2 College Hill
Westminster, MD 21157-4390

All other correspondence to:
ocm@mcdaniel.edu
410-857-2290 or
The Office of Communications
and Marketing
McDaniel College
2 College Hill
Westminster, MD 21157-4390

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On the cover:
Chloe Watson Irla '07 is the director of the
revamped honors program on the Hill, known
as Lumen Scholars.



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Don't forget to check out the online edition
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mcdaniel.edu/magazine!

LETTER FROM THE
President



Dear McDaniel Community,

I always look forward to the coming of spring on the Hill — early clusters of miniature daffodils are the telltale sign of warmer weather on the horizon. But this year, it feels there is something extra special in the air. A sense of optimism and momentum; a campus alive with purpose. It is an especially fitting backdrop for this issue of The Hill, which celebrates academic excellence and innovation at McDaniel College.

At McDaniel, excellence is not static. It is something we continually reimagine — through curricular renewal, bold faculty leadership, and programs that challenge students to connect learning across disciplines and apply it in meaningful ways. You will see that spirit reflected throughout these pages, from the reinvention of our Computer Science curriculum to the launch of the Lumen Scholars program, which builds on McDaniel’s long tradition of honors education while providing every student with an opportunity to take a January Term at McDaniel’s branch campus in beautiful Budapest, Hungary.

You will read about Dean of Graduate & Professional Studies Vickie Mazer, who has led the college in the development of exciting new graduate programs in Speech-Language Pathology and Occupational Therapy, which have already seen tremendous early success. As we prepare to welcome the inaugural cohort of M.S.O.T. students to the Hill in May, Dr. Mazer and her team are continuing the tradition of excellence established decades ago in our graduate and professional programs.

This issue also offers a glimpse into how the college is investing — thoughtfully and strategically — in the future. Through the generosity of alumni and friends, we are strengthening academic programs, supporting faculty excellence, enhancing student opportunities, and improving campus spaces that foster learning and community. These investments are not about bricks or budgets alone; they are about people, possibilities, and ensuring that a McDaniel education remains distinctive, relevant, and transformative.

I hope that as you read this issue, you feel the same pride that I do in the fact that academic excellence and innovation are not abstract ideals at McDaniel. On the Hill, we live these values, renewed each day through teaching, learning, and shared purpose.

With gratitude,

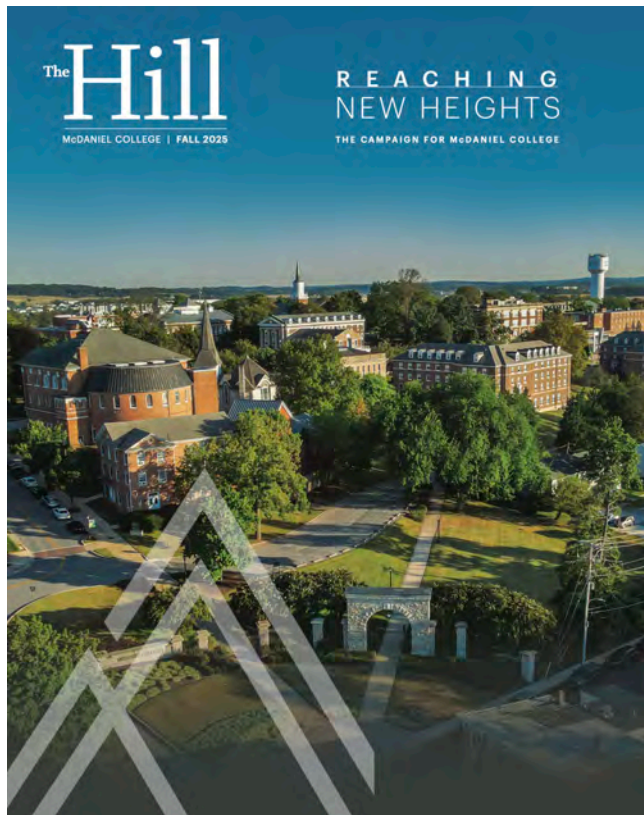
President Julia Jasken



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**McDANIEL HELPED ME
REACH NEW HEIGHTS BY...**



In the fall 2025 issue of *The Hill* announcing the public phase of **Reaching New Heights: The Campaign for McDaniel College**, we asked readers to submit their own stories of how McDaniel (formerly Western Maryland College) helped them reach new heights. The responses ranged from practical and professional to sentimental and personal. A selection of those submissions is below.

“I am submitting this in loving memory of our son ... Spencer Butler Wiersberg '17. Spencer passed away on Jan. 12, 2020, from cancer. McDaniel was the perfect college for him. ...

Because of the support he received there, from small classes to his coaches' emphasis on academics, Spence graduated a semester early in December 2017. This allowed him to enroll in the police academy in January 2018. In hindsight, without that opportunity, Spencer would not have been able to be on patrol for very long before his diagnosis. But because he graduated early, he was on the road for 10 months. He completed his field training and was able to work independently, leading the department in statistics. ...

When Spence was sick, Coach Mike Dailey sent him some McDaniel football swag to lift his spirits and replace items ruined during chemo. Coach Dailey still checks in with us several times a year. At his funeral, Coach Demarcus White had Spencer's #16 jerseys framed for us. That day, they had a place of pride in front of Spencer's casket. Now, they grace our dining room. They are the first thing that people see upon entering our home.

... Spencer's McDaniel story will ALWAYS be part of our family story. And Spencer's McDaniel family will ALWAYS be a part of our family. We cannot thank you enough for helping our sweet son reach new heights and for leaving us so many good memories. ...”

— **Gerrie Wiersberg P'17**

“McDaniel helped me reach new heights by broadening my learning perspective through different courses I was required to take in my four years on the Hill. Playing baseball for three years also helped grow and shape me as a player. Now, as the head baseball coach for 13- to 15-year-olds in my town, I use what I learned while playing at McDaniel to help mold and shape my players into fine young men with a voracious appetite for winning as well as respecting our opponents, all while having a blast doing so.”

— **Matt Bejsiuk '14**

“McDaniel/WMC helped me reach new heights by inspiring me to become a writer and professor.”

— **Christine Keiner '93**

“McDaniel/WMC helped me reach new heights by giving me the tools to be a creative thinker and reasoner, and connected me with great people starting with my wife, Michele Reavy Wilson '94. The college also helped me reach new heights by doing the same for my children, Mia '21 and Matt '23.”

— **Tyler Wilson '95, P'21, P'23**

“McDaniel/WMC helped me reach new heights by providing me with an amazing education. But, more importantly, giving me the opportunity to meet the best people who share the same drive, values, and zest for life as I do ... and this year celebrating over 45 years of friendship!”

— **Kathy Lyhus Dixon '84**

“WMC helped me reach new heights by finding my wife and giving me the confidence to succeed in my career and in my endeavors.”

— **Ryan Zimmerman '02**

Thank you for sharing your stories from the Hill. We look forward to being a part of your story for years to come!

**YOU'RE INVITED
TO OUR ANNUAL**

ACADEMIC SYMPOSIUM

**MONDAY | MAY 4
9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

Join McDaniel College in honoring the original research, scholarship, and creative achievement of McDaniel students, faculty, and staff!

The Academic Symposium and related events — including a keynote lunch by Cody Knipfer '15, senior advisor for the Office of Space Commerce — are free and open to the public.

This year's theme — “Pass On What You Have Learned” — celebrates research, mentorship, and discovery!



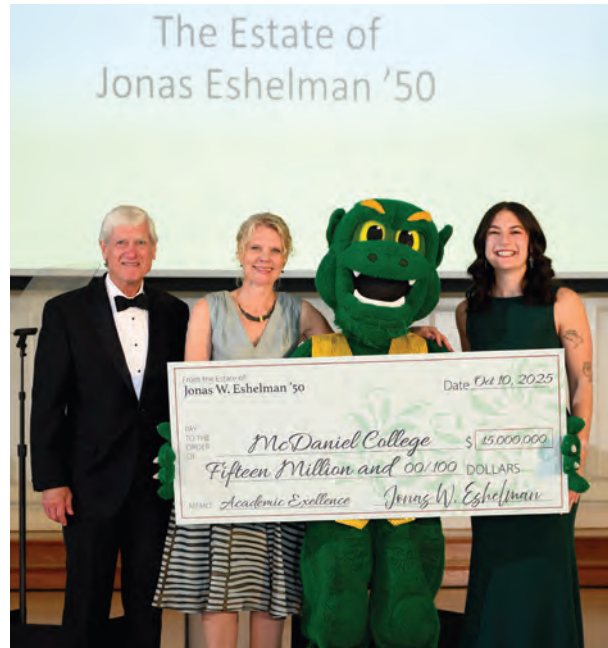
Visit mcdaniel.edu/academic-symposium for the full schedule and complete details.

SOUND OFF

THE MAIL DEPARTMENT IS YOUR PLACE TO SOUND OFF ABOUT WHAT YOU READ IN THE HILL.

Letters should include your full name, address, phone number, or email address so we can contact you for confirmation. Letters may be edited for length, style, clarity, and/or civility.

Mail: Lindsay Sherman, The Hill magazine, McDaniel College, 2 College Hill, Westminster, MD 21157
Email: ocm@mcdaniel.edu with “The Hill magazine” as the subject line.



McDaniel Board of Trustees Chair Bruce Preston '75, McDaniel President Julia Jasken, senior Nicki James, and the Green Terror pose with an oversized check.

LARGEST GIFT IN COLLEGE HISTORY USHERS IN PUBLIC LAUNCH OF \$50 MILLION COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN

During the Founders Society Gala, an estate gift from the late Jonas Eshelman '50 valued at approximately \$15 million was announced as the largest gift in McDaniel's history. Supporting Reaching New Heights: The Campaign for McDaniel College, Eshelman's gift will fund initiatives to enhance McDaniel's academic excellence. This includes the Endowed Professor of Computer Science and Technology Innovation and upgrades to classrooms and lab spaces.

Eshelman served in the U.S. Navy before enrolling in Western Maryland (now McDaniel) College and choosing to major in Economics. He passed away in 2023 at the age of 95.



McDANIEL COLLEGE EXPANDS LEGACY SCHOLARSHIPS

McDaniel College has expanded the Legacy Scholarships it offers to current high school seniors and transfer students that recognize the sacrifices made by their families. The new scholarships will be awarded beginning with fall 2026 admission and are designed for children of first responders, health professionals, and government employees. They are valued at up to \$132,000 over four years and join the existing Educator and Military Legacy Scholarships.

The Military & First Responder Legacy Scholarship is open to children who have a parent or guardian with at least four consecutive years of current employment as an active law enforcement officer, career firefighter, licensed EMT or paramedic, or 911 operator. This includes children of first responders who died in the line of duty, as well as veterans and active-duty military members and their children.

The Health Professional Legacy Scholarship is open to children of full-time health professionals. This includes those who work in hospitals, health systems, long-term care and rehabilitation facilities, hospice, public or community or counseling clinics, home health, or public health agencies.

The Public Servant Legacy Scholarship is open to children of full-time and benefits-eligible government employees at the local, state, tribal, and federal levels with at least four years of current and consecutive employment.

There is no limit to the number of Legacy Scholarships awarded. Students who sustain continuous enrollment and acceptable academic progress at McDaniel will have their scholarships renewed each year. To learn more about the Legacy Scholarships, go to mcdaniel.edu/legacy.

McDONOGH SCHOOL AND McDANIEL COLLEGE PARTNER TO FULLY FUND FACULTY GRADUATE DEGREES

McDonogh School — an independent, coeducational day and five-day boarding school located in Owings Mills, Maryland, that enrolls students in prekindergarten through 12th grade — and McDaniel College are excited to announce a partnership providing full tuition coverage at McDaniel for McDonogh faculty pursuing their first graduate degree. The partnership commenced in January.

The McDaniel partnership eliminates tuition costs entirely, making graduate education more accessible for faculty who are early in their careers and may be managing undergraduate debt or other financial obligations.



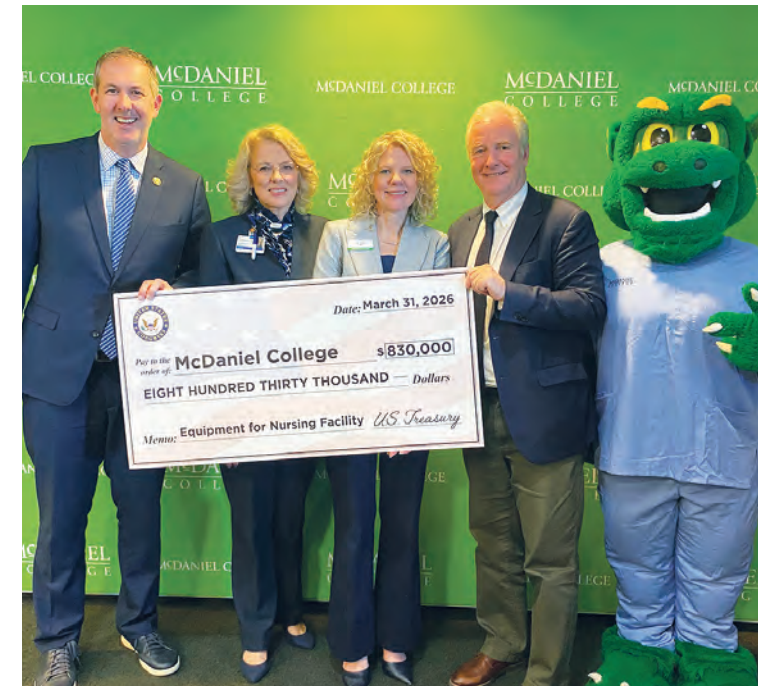
Courtesy of McDonogh School

McDANIEL COLLEGE RECEIVES FEDERAL FUNDING FOR NEW NURSING FACILITY

McDaniel College has secured \$830,000 in Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) to supply equipment for a new state-of-the-art Nursing facility at Carroll Hospital, as announced by Maryland's U.S. Senators Chris Van Hollen and Angela Alsobrooks.

Under the leadership of Dean Vickie Mazer (see page 30), the award directly supports the purchase of technology and equipment to be used in McDaniel's Nursing simulation and skills labs and interactive classrooms housed in the new facility on the campus of Carroll Hospital, part of the LifeBridge Health network. Nursing courses are slated to begin at Carroll Hospital in fall 2026.

The funding was approved through the fiscal year 2026 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Related Agencies appropriations bill, passed by Congress and signed into law by President Donald Trump.



Rep. Johnny Olszewski, Carroll Hospital's Leslie Simmons, McDaniel College President Julia Jasken, and Senator Chris Van Hollen.

McDANIEL EARNS RECOGNITION AS ONE OF THE NATION'S MOST TRANSFER-FRIENDLY COLLEGES

McDaniel College was named to the 2025 Transfer Honor Roll by the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society as one of the 251 most transfer-friendly colleges in the nation. This is the second consecutive year McDaniel has been honored for its support of community college transfer students.

The Phi Theta Kappa honor roll is determined by 40 key metrics related to the support and success of transfer students. This includes college cost, financial aid, admission prices, campus life for transfer students, and bachelor's degree completion. The honor roll is chosen from the top 25% of highest-rated colleges.

McDANIEL EARNS NATIONAL ACCOLADES IN COLLEGE RANKINGS

McDaniel College has earned national accolades in college rankings from industry-respected media.

- The Wall Street Journal/College Pulse named McDaniel as one of the "Best Colleges in America" for the third consecutive year.
- U.S. News & World Report recognized the Hill as a regional university for "Best Value," "Top Performer on Social Mobility," and "Best Undergraduate Teaching."
- The Washington Monthly placed McDaniel on the list of "Best Bang for the Buck Northeast Colleges," and ranks the college among the best master's universities in the nation.
- The Princeton Review named McDaniel as one of the 98 "Best Mid-Atlantic" colleges.



BRETT FOELBER '08 HONORED AMONG BALTIMORE BUSINESS JOURNAL'S 40 UNDER 40

Brett Foelber '08 has been named to the Baltimore Business Journal's 2025 40 Under 40 list. Foelber transferred to McDaniel College his junior year, and has worked on the corporate side of retail and commercial real estate since graduating.

He is currently serving as assistant vice president of marketing at St. John Properties Inc., and emphasizes that his Communication degree and its versatility has allowed him to navigate with ease throughout his career.

McDANIEL FACULTY RECOGNIZED WITH AWARDS

During the 2025-26 opening faculty meeting, nine awards were given to deserving faculty members for their publications, exhibitions, grant proposals, and special achievements.

The Faculty Scholarly Publications Award is given to faculty who have published five or more articles in recognized publications over the span of three years. The honorees include: (pictured at right, from left to right, with President Julia Jasken)

- Holly Martinson, Associate Professor of Biology
- Diane Williams, Assistant Professor of Kinesiology
- Martine Motard-Noar, Professor of French.

The Faculty Creativity Awards are presented to faculty who receive unusual recognition, often in the fine or performing arts. The recipients include:

- James Bigwood, Senior Adjunct Lecturer in Communication and Cinema
- Linda M. Kirkpatrick, Senior Lecturer in Music (pictured at right with President Julia Jasken)
- Robert Lemieux, Associate Professor of Communication and Cinema
- Steven Pearson, Professor of Art and Joan Develin Coley Chair in Creative Expression and the Arts.

The Faculty Grant Award is given to faculty who have both proposed and received \$10,000 or more in grants from external sources in the past year. The award was received by Program Director of Nursing Heather A. Gable. Gable was awarded \$5,000 for obtaining the National League for Nursing's Certified Nurse Educator credential, and McDaniel received a grant of over \$40,000 to support professional development opportunities for McDaniel's nurse educators.

The Special Achievement Award is awarded to a member of the college community who, through voluntary service of exceptional nature, reflects high credit upon the institution. This year's award was given to Professor of Communication Jonathan Slade '88.





MARYLAND PUBLIC TELEVISION DEBUTS NEW DOCUMENTARY BY COMMUNICATION AND CINEMA PROFESSOR

Associate Professor of Communication and Cinema Robert Lemieux has been working since 2023 on a documentary exploring Maryland's champion trees that premiered on Maryland Public Television (MPT) in November 2025. Titled "Growing into Greatness: Maryland's Champion Trees," the film combines new interviews and footage with archival material from the Maryland State Archives. Lemieux wrote, directed, and edited the film, honoring Maryland's Big Tree Program, which is celebrating its centennial. The first state forester, Fred W. Besley, founded the program in 1925, and currently there are 137 species of trees registered in Maryland that are defined as being the largest trees of their species. The documentary highlights six of these national champion trees.



Sam Fadel interned as a coach with Rockawave Volleyball Training.

STUDENTS GAIN REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE WITH SUMMER 2025 INTERNSHIPS

McDaniel College undergraduate students who participated in summer 2025 internships gained insightful real-world experience while still in their academic years. Study abroad, student-faculty research, and independent studies offer McDaniel students integral, experiential learning opportunities that support the McDaniel Commitment.

Students engaged in internships across the country, focusing on a variety of industries and practices. Ryan Shaffer, a sophomore Criminal Justice major, interned with PhotoFax, a national leader in private investigations based in Hampshire, Illinois, while Tony Miller, a senior Business Administration major, worked with Western & Southern Life insurance agency located in Owings Mills, Maryland, as a field marketing intern. Miller had duties spanning from assisting with marketing campaign development to supporting branding initiatives.

Sam Fadel, a senior Kinesiology major, interned as a coach for beach and indoor volleyball with Rockawave Volleyball Training in New York City. Applying skills from coaching and sports management classes at McDaniel, "I created practice plans, facilitated various drills, as well as fostered a positive learning environment for the athletes," Fadel says.

McDANIEL EXHIBITION SHOWCASES DIVERSE WORKS BY FOUR RECENT ART ALUMNAE

An exhibition in Rice Gallery titled "Four Alumnae, Four Paths" was on display during the fall semester, featuring work from four graduates.

- EJ Lee '15, mixed media collage artist
- Sarah Méndez '24, narrative figurative painter
- Quyen Nguyen '21, multidisciplinary artist
- Brenay Spencer '24, mixed media artist



Portrait of an artist in pause, oil on canvas, 46" x 36", by Sarah Méndez '24

SENIOR THEATRE ARTS AND ENGLISH DOUBLE MAJOR SELECTED FOR PERFORMING ARTS COMPETITION

Senior Jaylin Smith was one of eight performing artists chosen to compete in the Howard County, Maryland, Arts Council Rising Star Performing Arts Competition in October. Majoring in both Theatre Arts and English, this is the second time Smith has participated in the competition while at McDaniel; she was a finalist in 2023 as well.

Performing since the age of 10, Smith trained at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University and Baltimore School for the Arts before attending McDaniel. She has since been involved in several McDaniel College Theatre productions and is a member of several honor societies on campus.

"McDaniel has pushed me to challenge myself and reach further," Smith says. "I am so grateful for this opportunity that I have been granted."



DONORS LEAVE THEIR MARKS ON GILL STADIUM

CAMPAIGN GIFTS LEAD THE WAY TO REVITALIZE ATHLETICS FACILITIES

BY LINDSAY SHERMAN

IF YOU'VE BEEN TO THE HILL FOR A FOOTBALL, FIELD HOCKEY, OR LACROSSE GAME SINCE LATE LAST FALL, YOU'VE BEEN IMMEDIATELY GREETED BY VIBRANT NEW SCOREBOARD ART WELCOMING VISITORS TO THE HOME OF THE GREEN TERROR.

This is just one of three major upgrades to Gill Stadium this year, most of which have been donor-supported during Reaching New Heights: The Campaign for McDaniel College.

Renovations like these enhance the experiences of student-athletes, fans, and the community as a whole. By investing in intercollegiate athletics, McDaniel College will continue creating alumni with the grit, determination, and winning attitude to make an impact beyond their years on the Hill.

Read on for more information about the upgrades made to the stadium, and ways you can support these and future projects.





I enjoyed watching our student-athletes walk through the locker room doors to see their lockers for the first time. They were so happy, and I'm grateful to our donors for making this enhanced experience for our dedicated student-athletes a reality."

- JEREMY SHEPHERD



DR. RICHARD A. CLOWER '50 TRACK

Prior to kickoff at the Homecoming 2025 football game against Dickinson on Oct. 25, McDaniel celebrated the official dedication and ribbon-cutting of the new donor-funded Dr. Richard A. Clower '50 Track. Through the generosity of a group of anonymous donors, the track is named in honor of 1950 alum Richard A. "Dick" Clower, professor emeritus of Exercise Science and Physical Education (now Kinesiology), who also served as the college's director of Athletics.

"I was proud to join Dick and his wife, Sherry Albright Clower '94, M.S. '99; McDaniel President Julia Jasken; and Board Chair Bruce Preston '75, along with Head Track and Field Coach Kendall Luy and former Head Track and Field Coach Doug Renner '80, for the ceremony," says Director of Athletics Jeremy Shepherd.

In a moment fitting for the occasion, members of the men's and women's track and field teams ran a ceremonial lap around the track after the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

But it wasn't just the track that got a facelift; renovated jumping areas will make track and field events on the Hill a point of pride again, thanks to the support of donors including Darrell Guyton '87, Kris Twiford Guyton '88, Don Rembert '61, Judy Ellis Rembert '60, and Susan C. Stevenson '85.

"The new track and jumping areas provide an exceptional training and home meet venue for our track programs," Shepherd says. "They also allow community members to exercise on a safe track, offer high schools and running clubs the opportunity to have meets on campus, and showcase the college's commitment to top-quality athletics facilities as part of our recruiting efforts."

LOCKER ROOM UPGRADES

McDaniel is excited to announce recent upgrades for NCAA Division III student-athletes at Gill Stadium with the addition of much-needed new lockers in the team rooms underneath the stadium. The Green Terror teams that use Gill Stadium — football, field hockey, men's lacrosse, and women's lacrosse — now benefit from team-specific, professional-grade locker rooms that will alleviate overcrowding in the Gill Center locker rooms.

"The new lockers in Gill Stadium look fantastic and are already being utilized by our men's and women's lacrosse programs," Shepherd says. The project was completed ahead of the start of the spring sports season, and reaction from lacrosse players has been overwhelmingly positive.

"I enjoyed watching our student-athletes walk through the locker room doors to see their lockers for the first time," Shepherd says. "They were so happy, and I'm grateful to our donors for making this enhanced experience for our dedicated student-athletes a reality."

Facility improvements like these are essential to help the college attract and retain the most talented student-athletes, and are not possible without the support of donors, including Donald Rembert '61, Judith Ellis Rembert '60, Joseph Browning '11, and Caitlin Browning, who supported this project.

BE A PART OF THE GREEN TERROR LEGACY

While these projects are complete and currently in use by student-athletes and the wider McDaniel and Westminster communities, donors and friends can still be part of the great legacy of athletics on the Hill. In the track and field realm, there are still naming opportunities available for those interested in donating to the record board, the finish line, running lanes, the steeplechase pit, starting lines for various races, and the donor wall.

McDaniel College Athletics is also eager to begin improvements to Gill Center, which will significantly enhance the safety, functionality, and appeal of one of the campus's more widely used facilities. Renovated flooring, scoreboards, and bleachers will benefit not only basketball, volleyball, and wrestling, but also the thousands of community members who visit the space for community and college events each year.

Beyond facilities, there is no doubt that coaches have a profound influence on students during their time as collegiate athletes. To provide McDaniel's student-athletes with the coaching support they deserve, donors can establish or contribute to endowed and current-use funds to allow the college to hire and retain head and assistant coaches that will help McDaniel Athletics reach new heights.

To learn more about ways you can support Green Terror student-athletes, go to campaign.mcdaniel.edu.



BRINGING HONORS TO

Light

HOW A NEW VISION IS BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO THE HONORS PROGRAM ON THE HILL

BY LINDSAY SHERMAN

Chloe Watson Irla '07 was a strong student on the Hill. She graduated summa cum laude — “Canoeing was the only class I got a B in!” she recalls — and was highly engaged in her coursework and the McDaniel community. And yet, she never considered the Honors Program.

“Honors was just this thing that I was never even concerned with,” she says. “I think that was because I didn’t quite understand how it would enhance my McDaniel experience.”

When she returned to McDaniel as a faculty member and advisor, she learned that many of her students and advisees felt the same way — a little bit like the benefits of an honors education left them in the dark.

“From an advising standpoint, it was really challenging for a lot of my students,” Irla says. “They were these highly involved students — double majoring, playing a sport, and involved in clubs — but they weren’t feeling an improved sense of community, belonging, or support to help them thrive. Their honors curriculum wasn’t teaching them a new way to look at or exist in the world.”

On June 1, 2024, Irla took over as the director of the Honors Program and was charged with revamping the curriculum and the perception of the program on the Hill.

“When I was designing this, I was really mindful of the fact that it had to be streamlined,” she says. “It had to be unified in vision with the McDaniel Plan and McDaniel Commitment, and it had to be something students wanted to be a part of because of the ways it could change their lives.”

And so, Irla set out on her greatest professional challenge: not just directing the existing Honors Program — which was instituted by the faculty in 1986 — but also rebranding and re-envisioning what honors education could and should be on the Hill and recruiting the first class of new honors students for fall 2025 entry.

It was demanding work, but she needed to find a way to enlighten students about Honors.

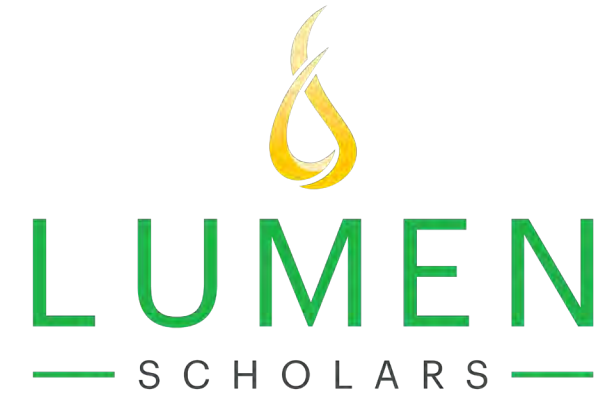
Her inspiration? The college’s motto: “I call you out of darkness into light.”

Introducing ... Lumen Scholars.



I WANT TO HELP THIS GENERATION OF SCHOLARS FIND A CONSTANT, A HOME, AND A SENSE OF BELONGING HERE IN THIS SAME COMMUNITY AND BEYOND.”

-CHLOE IRLA



INTRODUCTION TO LUMEN SCHOLARS

How is Lumen Scholars different from the Honors Program that will be taught out through the Class of 2028? New co-curricular, social, and service opportunities — as well as a funded, embedded study abroad experience — are highlights that Director Chloe Watson Irla is excited about. Ultimately, Lumen Scholars beginning with the Class of 2029 will have enhanced opportunities to find their sense of belonging on the Hill and beyond.

A CRASH COURSE IN LUMEN SCHOLARS

Designed to support curious, highly motivated students, the Lumen Scholars program is McDaniel College’s four-year honors program. After completing the Lumen courses — which satisfy existing McDaniel Plan requirements — and maintaining a 3.5 GPA, students grow into confident and engaged leaders, who will graduate with a Lumen Scholar designation on their transcripts.

The program offers meaningful academic and community engagement experiences, smaller classes, and opportunities to explore the world beyond campus. Over four years, students move through a sequence of courses that broaden their awareness locally, nationally, and globally while developing academic and personal confidence.

LUMEN SCHOLARS VS. THE HONORS PROGRAM

Most honors programs add more coursework that might delay graduation, a fear Irla often heard from her advisees in the Honors Program. “Lumen is designed to enrich a student’s college experience, not overwhelm it,” says Irla. The new program adds distinct experiences that complement a student’s coursework, and students benefit from collaborative, discussion-based classes, hands-on exploratory opportunities, a close community of

peers, faculty who mentor them throughout their college years, and real-world experiences that prepare them for internships, careers, and graduate study.

THE IDEAL LUMEN SCHOLAR

Lumen Scholars are intellectually curious and open-minded. “I see Lumens asking more questions and being comfortable with not having the right answer all the time,” Irla says. “That can be really uncomfortable at first, but it’s such an important skill as you move into the world.”

She also thinks Lumen Scholars are excited by hands-on learning, interested in exploring new places, and committed to community engagement service. They should be strong thinkers, writers, and communicators who are looking for a supportive, close-knit academic community.

“Lumen Scholars understand that extracurriculars buoy the academic experience and that there’s a balance to be found there,” Irla says. “They are not just academically minded but also creative, authentic, and curious. They are exemplars of the well-rounded McDaniel experience: they hold leadership positions, they’re student-athletes, they’re performers. They shine a light on all that McDaniel has to offer.”

Opposite page: Chloe Watson Irla '07, director of the Honors Program and Lumen Scholars, meets with first-year scholars in the Lumen Lounge. Irla believes in the importance of place as it relates to belonging and community, which she is fostering with the new honors curriculum.

PROGRAM LOGISTICS

HOW MANY STUDENTS ARE IN THE LUMEN SCHOLARS PROGRAM?

Admission to the Lumen Scholars program is highly selective and designed to identify students whose applications demonstrate intellectual curiosity, an intrinsic motivation to learn, and potential as leaders in the McDaniel community. The program is capped at just 40 spots per year.

WHAT CLASSES DO LUMEN SCHOLARS TAKE?

Students complete a structured sequence of four courses. Each course builds on the last, giving students a clear path through the program.

YEAR 1: EMBED – Learn to notice, explore, and reflect on the local campus and Westminster community.

YEAR 2: EXPLORE – Build deeper questioning and observational skills through the scientific method in the local campus and Westminster community.

YEAR 3: Select between Enlighten OR Examine.

ENLIGHTEN – Engage with global literature and international perspectives.

EXAMINE – Tackle real-world, international problems using research.

YEAR 4: ENVISION – Create a meaningful project that showcases personal and academic growth and creativity.

ARE THERE OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDY ABROAD?

During the Jan Term of their third year, Lumen Scholars will be invited to spend the term at McDaniel's campus in Budapest, Hungary, thanks to a travel stipend. Scholars who are winter sport athletes and may not be able to make that trip will have an alternative travel option.



LUMEN, THE HILL, AND "PLACE"

"What I've learned over almost two years is that an honors program can be anything you want it to be — and whatever your community of students needs it to be," Irla says. "I wanted to really lean into what already makes McDaniel special, and in a lot of ways, that is the idea of 'place.' We are already rooted in place, starting with McDaniel Local and the My Place component of the McDaniel Commitment."

Irla's graduate work was about spatial theories: "How we make connections, what's invisible, what's in a space that we're not seeing. And that can all be interpreted really broadly," she says. So, she wanted to bring that to the Lumens from the very beginning, asking them to contemplate their role in the places they occupy.

This starts with an expanded summer McDaniel Local experience (known as "Lumen Local," where Lumen Scholars come to campus a day before other incoming first-year students to participate in community-building exercises) and extends to a funded study abroad experience in Budapest, Hungary, in their junior year.

Place is also built into their required courses each year, beginning with the Embed course. Through this curriculum, Lumen Scholars get the opportunity to think about their place in the world and how where we are influences who we are and how we navigate the world. That comes from a personal place for Irla.

"What I've realized over the past 20 or so years is that McDaniel and Westminster have been this constant for me," she says. "These students chose McDaniel for a reason. I want to help this generation of scholars find a constant, a home, and a sense of belonging here in this same community and beyond."

COMMUNITY AND CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

"I heard that current and past Honors Program students were frustrated with the lack of community building within the program, so I wanted to remedy that," Irla says.

From the introductory Lumen Local, the Honors Club, and the Honors/Lumen Lounge, to the informal "T-Shirt Mondays" and gamifying events with buttons for Lumens to collect, a sense of belonging and showing up in community is a major emphasis in the Lumen Scholars program.

The inaugural Lumen Lecture held this fall was open to the community, but the Lumen Scholars had special access to the speaker. The Honors Club is focused on scholarship, service, and social activities, with a little bit of something for every member of the Honors Program or Lumen Scholars.

Irla is also exploring ways to have Honors Program alumni come back to serve as mentors and establish connections with current students. She has already done that by pairing Dorsey Scholar recipients with alumni mentors from the McDaniel Women's Leadership Network, and she's eager to see how alumni who come back to the Hill for Alumni Weekend can reconnect with the program during the Senior Honors Colloquium.

Lumen Scholars, like first-year student Gracie Curtin, benefit from close faculty guidance and mentorship during their time in the program.



SHINING BRIGHT ON THE HILL MEET SOME OF THE FIRST LUMEN SCHOLARS

From their first steps on the Hill as the inaugural cohort of Lumen Scholars, these members of the Class of 2029 have found community both inside and outside of the classroom. As the program continues to evolve, their experiences are informing decisions that Chloe Watson Irla makes as the program director.



NAME: **ABBY DAY**
HOMETOWN: **SYKESVILLE, MARYLAND**
MAJOR: **GRAPHIC DESIGN**
MINOR: **SPANISH**

WHY McDANIEL?

After hearing about the positive experiences of several of my high school teachers, I was encouraged to explore their alma mater. I soon discovered that McDaniel checked many of my own boxes: a small campus, vast extracurricular opportunities, and proximity to home.

HOW ARE YOU ENJOYING YOUR FIRST YEAR ON THE HILL?

My first semester was certainly an adjustment; change is hard for anyone. But the dedicated staff and personable students here made my welcome warmer and transition smoother than it would be anywhere else. I'm working my way through gen eds and beginning to dip my toes into career-focused classes, establishing a strong circle of friends, and experiencing new and exciting social events.

HOW HAS BEING A LUMEN SCHOLAR AFFECTED YOUR SENSE OF BELONGING?

Being a part of a community even before stepping onto the Hill made me feel so much more welcome when I finally began my time on campus. While I've already gained so many critical and introspective thinking skills, the greatest thing I've gained from the Lumen Scholars program is the connections I've made. Close friends, supportive peers, and friendly faces around campus are all bonds I've been able to form as a result of Lumen events, which makes me feel more at home here at McDaniel.

WHAT ARE YOUR PERSONAL HOPES FOR YOUR LUMEN EXPERIENCE?

I hope that it builds me as a person, in ways that my typical classes and experiences will not. Challenging myself, whether I end up succeeding or failing, teaches me things about myself that I never would have thought to look for. I hope that this program brings out those hidden qualities in me and prepares me for my future beyond the classroom.



NAME: **NIA CUENCAS**
HOMETOWN: **UPPER MARLBORO, MARYLAND**
MAJOR: **ENGLISH**

WHAT EXCITED YOU ABOUT LUMEN SCHOLARS?

I think what excited me was the idea of having an almost more "personalized" direction to go in. For example, the application had us describing some type of service project we'd like to do and that was enticing for me since it places the control in my hands. I'm able to be of service to other people, while being able to put 110% of myself into it because of how it fits in my life.

WHAT'S BEEN YOUR MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE SO FAR?

I would have to say the visit and Lumen Lecture from Lael Wilcox. The conversation that she created was inspiring, and seeing how down-to-earth she was might be what made it so memorable to me. For a woman who literally biked around the world, she was really humble and, overall, a hoot. If that Lumen Lecture was anything to go off of, I have some high hopes for what Professor Irla has planned.

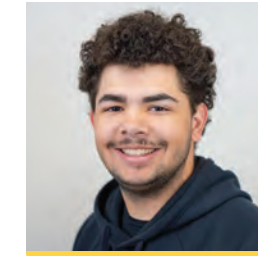
WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE EMBED COURSE?

The course gave me some insights into how to look deeper into communities and how to almost unravel them like you would if you were trying to detangle your headphones. Embed taught me to be vigilant, not in the paranoid way but in the type of way that requires thought and true intent about what it means to exist within something and find yourself a part of it.

WHAT HAS BEEN AN UNEXPECTED PERK OF BEING A LUMEN SCHOLAR?

The Lumen Lounge is a place where we can kind of just be. It doesn't tend to be too overcrowded and can be a nice place to hang out if you have friends with you or if there are events going on in there.

To learn more about ways you can support academic excellence on the Hill through scholarships, go to campaign.mcdaniel.edu.



NAME: **GABRIEL CHAPMAN**
HOMETOWN: **BOWIE, MARYLAND**
MAJOR: **PHYSICS — ENGINEERING**

WHY McDANIEL?

I decided to attend McDaniel because I wanted to play baseball here, and I really liked the partnership with Washington University for Engineering graduate school if I decide I'd like to choose that path.

HOW WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE AT LUMEN LOCAL LAST SUMMER?

Lumen Local was a good introduction to the program and the school. It allowed me to meet many of the people I interact with daily now that we are done with our first semester. It really helped me make a few close friends in a small group.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST REWARDING PART OF LUMEN SCHOLARS SO FAR?

In a way, seeing others similar to me in the same position of slight struggle and confusion about what to do and how they were supposed to be made me feel better about how I was feeling coming into college. It helped me not feel alone when I was confused or lost in any way.

HOW HAS THE EMBED COURSE POSITIVELY IMPACTED YOUR TIME AT McDANIEL AND IN WESTMINSTER?

Embed got us thinking about Westminster, the community, and how it functions, which helped me learn about the area and the culture of the town very quickly. Our excursions put us right into Main Street and other areas that I may not have visited or explored had I not been in this class.



THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

A career-focused evolution for McDaniel's Computer Science program

■ By Lindsay Sherman

On a Saturday in early March, a group of admitted students and their parents gathered in a classroom in Gill Center to learn about the college's Computer Science program. Questions asked by the attendees included the impacts of artificial intelligence - both in the classroom and the job market - and how McDaniel College will help students attain internships and careers in the computer science industry.

One year ago, the answers to those questions may have been different. Now, after a yearlong deep dive into the discipline, McDaniel is ready to establish its Computer Science program as among the best in Maryland. With conversations around artificial intelligence (AI) happening in every business and household around the world, and beliefs that recent graduates are losing entry-level jobs because of the prevalence of AI in the tech industry, McDaniel College faculty and administrators knew that something needed to change.

The college has found that despite common misconceptions, labor market data continues to project strong growth in roles such as software developers, testers, QA analysts, and related positions. However, it is becoming apparent that the industry is looking for employees to fill those positions who are industry-ready with broad educational and hands-on experiences that make them stand out in the marketplace - including practical skills rather than just theoretical.

McDaniel College's newly redesigned Computer Science curriculum is ready to meet that need.

In alignment with the college's five-year strategic plan and coinciding comprehensive campaign, Reaching New Heights, Provost Flavius Lilly initiated a comprehensive review of the Computer Science curriculum as part of the college's focus on academic excellence and innovation. A year of research, consulting, and planning has resulted in a reimagining of the program, which will be implemented in fall 2026.

"It's been exhilarating," Lilly says. "I love to learn, and my favorite part was starting with interviewing our alumni who are leading tech companies to learn what they knew and what the future holds for the computer science discipline."

The findings from the alumni review of the existing Computer Science curriculum "echoed the same themes: the curriculum was too abstract, too math-centric, and too disconnected from today's fast-evolving technological landscape," administrators reported to the Academic Planning Committee and Curriculum Committee in pursuit of approval of the new curriculum.

McDaniel alumni pointed to gaps in areas like cloud computing, cybersecurity, data science, and AI. Equally important, they emphasized that graduates need real-world experiences like internships, co-ops, and certifications to be competitive job candidates after graduation.

GETTING STUDENTS ON TRACK

One of the foundational changes to the program is that Computer Science majors will now have an opportunity to choose a specialization that aligns with the goals for their career track. The two specializations to choose from beginning in fall 2026 will be Software Engineering and Data Science & Machine Learning (AI). In the future, the college plans to add Cybersecurity as a third specialization, which would align with the existing National Security Fellows Program.

Like most, the college has been grappling with the rapid rise of artificial intelligence, with an understanding that the path forward must integrate emerging technology skills into the curriculum. It's been an oft-repeated mantra in numerous industries in recent years: "AI isn't going to take your job; someone who understands AI is going to take your job."

"To me, that is a mandate for higher education," Lilly says. "We have to start thinking about how we educate our students on the use of AI and how it's relevant to the discipline they want to pursue."

The most obvious place to start? Computer Science, where students will now understand and be proficient at using — and building — AI systems as they enter the workforce.

EXCELLENCE THROUGH EXPERIENCE

The biggest change in the new curriculum is a requirement for all Computer Science majors to complete six credits of industry-based research fellowships or internships. The internships are embedded in the curriculum as required credit-bearing experiential learning. That means hands-on learning will no longer be supplemental to the Computer Science curriculum, but part of its core.

This experiential learning opportunity will be coordinated by a new Endowed Professor of Computer Science and Technology Innovation, which is being funded through a \$2 million gift from the estate of Jonas Eshelman '50 and a matching \$2 million grant from Maryland's E-Innovation Initiative Fund (MEIF).



Associate Professor of Computer Science Ting Zhang

The new endowed professor will split their time between teaching and leading the internship/research fellowship program by building relationships and partnerships with regional tech employers and industry associations. Students may be paired with startups, nonprofits, government contractors, or research labs to gain relevant technical expertise that will give them an advantage in the job market after graduation.

"With this change, McDaniel will offer more industry-embedded experience in Computer Science through internships than any liberal arts college in Maryland," Lilly says. "The curriculum is truly designed in the spirit of experiential learning, and students will have early and frequent exposure to tech companies throughout their course of study."

To further align the Computer Science program with workforce needs, McDaniel will also transition the current senior project course into a culminating advanced certification course, which will guide students through preparation for and completion of an industry-recognized certification exam in their area of specialization.

The college will partner with the Mid-Atlantic Gigabit Innovation Collaboratory (MAGIC) and the Carroll Technology and Innovation Council (CTIC) to facilitate certification preparation for students. These industry-recognized credentials in cloud computing, cybersecurity, networking, software development, AI and machine learning, and data science will signal career readiness and technical fluency for McDaniel graduates as they enter the workforce.

Left: Computer Science at McDaniel has always been hands-on, but the new curriculum will take this outside of the classroom and lab and into industry spaces.

Right: A hallmark of a McDaniel education is the close student-faculty relationships. "I am always thrilled ... to connect with students both in and out of a classroom," says Associate Professor of Computer Science Paul Lin.

A UNIQUELY MCDANIEL EXPERIENCE

Despite the changes, the Computer Science program will still be grounded in what makes a McDaniel education unique and meaningful: a foundation in the liberal arts. This will benefit not only the students pursuing their degrees here on the Hill but also the industry partners who host them for internships and the employers who ultimately hire them.

"It's unique for industry partners to have a Computer Science student who is educated in the liberal arts," Lilly says. "They're largely accustomed to working with students from College Park, UMBC, or Towson, where they don't get the same liberal arts foundation because they are hyper-focused on the technical side."

The alumni that the college engaged with about the curricular revamp consistently identified the communication and professional skills gained in their liberal arts classes at McDaniel as some of the most valuable assets in their professional lives. The new curriculum will retain and refine that emphasis.

Through the McDaniel Plan and the McDaniel Commitment, Computer Science on the Hill will give students a well-rounded educational experience. They will now be required to take a Professional Communication course and will hone their critical thinking skills as part of the general education requirements.

With the changes to the program, McDaniel's Computer Science students will be technically prepared and ready to excel in a field that benefits from people who can communicate complex topics in a clear and compelling way.

In other words, what makes McDaniel's new Computer Science program innovative is simply what has always made McDaniel special: an education grounded in academic excellence, accessibility, careful mentoring, and life-changing experiences that prepare students to go on to succeed in their careers and lives.

"UMBC and Hopkins have wonderful Computer Science programs," Lilly says. "I think we can now say that our curriculum and the pedagogy associated with it compete at that level. It's going to be a top-notch program that I believe students and parents are going to want to choose."



Our vision is to create a distinctive, applied computer science program rooted in the liberal arts and responsive to the rapidly evolving demands of the tech industry. We aim to prepare students as computer science experts who are ethical, adaptable problem solvers ready to lead and innovate in real-world contexts.



SETH MARPLE '12

graduated with dual majors in English and Computer Science and a minor in Writing before going on to get a master's degree in Computer Science from Johns Hopkins University.

He is the co-founder and chief technology officer (CTO) of Calibr Corporation, which was named the third fastest-growing private company in the Mid-Atlantic last year by Inc. Regionals for achieving 1,225% growth between 2021 and 2023. Calibr also ranked 212 on the prestigious Inc. 5000 list for achieving 1,825% growth between 2021 and 2024.

Marple has been busy leading the company in providing "secure, scalable, and mission-critical technology solutions that empower federal agencies to navigate an ever-evolving threat landscape with confidence."

We talked to him about his journey from English major to software engineer to entrepreneur in the computer science industry, and how McDaniel helped him get there.

Q: What brought you to McDaniel and the world of computer science?

A: I didn't want to go to a bigger school, and McDaniel was the right fit. I was in the Honors Program, and I wanted to play my trumpet and soccer. McDaniel met my goals, but I wasn't sure what I was going to study.

I started as a Math major but I had already taken Calc 1 and Calc 2 in high school, so I ended up starting in this very theoretical math class. I bombed it. Hated it. But I was taking courses for the Honors Program with English professors, so I switched my major to English while still taking some applied math courses.

The spring semester of my sophomore year, I took Intro to Computer Science and realized, "Hey, I really like this. What would it take for me to do Comp Sci?" This was the end of my sophomore year, and I was set to study abroad in Budapest the next semester, so I only had three semesters left to add this major. But I had already taken all the math courses for it, so I just needed to fit in the actual Comp Sci courses. I was able to get it done in that year and a half I had left.

Q: What was that evolution like for you?

A: Growing up, I'd kind of been like a Swiss Army knife: You could throw anything at me and I would solve it. I didn't really have a passion specifically for any one thing and enjoyed everything. So, the liberal arts education at McDaniel allowed me to take different courses, focus in on something and see, "OK, I could make a career out of this."

That evolution continued in my professional journey, too. I started out in a medium-sized government contractor for three or four years and then moved to a small company. That made me realize that there are a lot of small companies out there doing this work; maybe I could do it, too, and maybe even do it better.

I decided I wanted to found my own company while I was still working for a small company where the CEO was very supportive of me establishing my own footprint in the space. Founding a company was never the plan; it's just something I found along the way in my journey.

Q: What parts of the Computer Science curriculum were most useful to you as you started your career in the industry?

A: I loved that the Comp Sci program was a mix of theory and hands-on lab experience where we were learning and writing code. I also appreciated learning several different computer languages during my time at McDaniel because once I went into the real world, it wasn't all Java. Having the experience of navigating different languages within the same data structures was hugely helpful.

The biggest thing for computer scientists and this profession in general is the willingness to solve a problem, to research and synthesize what others have done to figure out the solution. Someone might not have done exactly what you're doing before, but they may have done pieces that you can put together with your own experience to solve the problem. McDaniel helped me learn how to think critically in those situations.

Scan to read more about Seth's McDaniel experience.



ARCHITECT

OF

INNOVATION



DEAN VICKIE MAZER BUILDS ON A DECADES-STRONG FOUNDATION TO EXPAND GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

BY LINDSAY SHERMAN

Sometimes the most important work in higher education isn't simply maintaining what has long been successful. It's having the courage and skill to build what comes next.

But not just anyone can do that. Work that ambitious in scope and detailed in execution requires a particular kind of leader. It requires a builder.

When Vickie Mazer, Ed.D., interviewed for the role of dean of Graduate and Professional Studies, the search committee posed a simple question: How would she ensure the continued success of the graduate division at McDaniel College? Mazer's answer reflected that kind of builder's mindset.

"We quite simply needed to diversify our program portfolio," she says. "We've had a long, strong history of offering Education programs, and they have been the foundation of Graduate and Professional Studies on the Hill for decades. But I knew we would also need to look at how to evolve those programs while building new ones to ensure the longevity and sustainability of graduate enrollment moving forward."

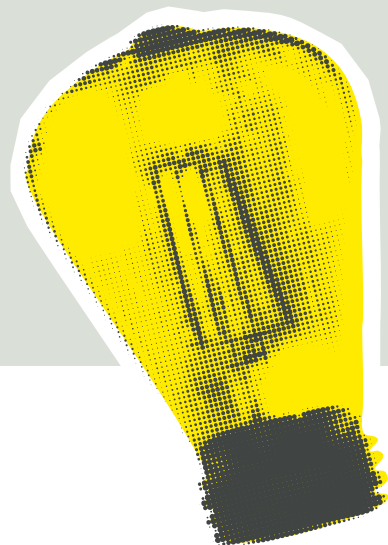
Mazer identified the vulnerability of relying too heavily on just one vertical and quickly got to work with her team to reimagine and update current programs and identify new programs to add to the offerings on the Hill.

LEANING INTO WORKFORCE NEEDS

The key to becoming an architect of academic innovation on the Hill has been a disciplined focus on emerging trends in society and the workforce — and the willingness to evolve alongside them. "You can't stay still. You have to be nimble and respond to what's happening in the landscape. This requires getting comfortable with change and being bold, which isn't always easy," Mazer says.

That's exactly what happened when the COVID-19 pandemic hit and the college — and the world as a whole — learned firsthand how devastating the nursing shortage was.

"The college had been having conversations about Nursing even before I joined McDaniel in 2020," Mazer says. "But when COVID hit, the worsening shortage was the impetus for us to consider launching a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.). Carroll Hospital came to us and said, 'Our community is in need of nurses,' and so we set the wheels in motion leading to the launch of our B.S.N. program last year."



“YOU CAN'T STAY STILL. YOU HAVE TO BE NIMBLE AND RESPOND TO WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE LANDSCAPE. THIS REQUIRES GETTING COMFORTABLE WITH CHANGE AND BEING BOLD.”

The same workforce need drove the decision to develop the college's new M.S. in Occupational Therapy (M.S.O.T.) and M.S. in Speech-Language Pathology (S-LP) programs. Just a day or two prior to the college submitting its applications to the Maryland Higher Education Commission for program approval, a headline in the Carroll County Times called out the county's need for speech-language pathologists in the public school system.

Some may call it luck or maybe kismet. But for McDaniel College and Mazer, it's much more than that. It reflects decades of experience in health and higher education and her passion for developing innovative academic programs — experience Mazer brought to McDaniel to build on the strong foundation established with the college's first master's degree program in 1933.

RIGHT PEOPLE, RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME

As Mazer reflects on the past six years of hard work that resulted in more than a few sleepless nights, she marvels at the fact that many of the challenges she and her team were anticipating have not slowed progress. The biggest among them? Recruiting health science faculty from disciplines that are suffering from shortages across the nation.

“We've had great success in recruiting highly qualified and experienced health science faculty who come to the Hill with amazing ideas and a strong vision for what the future of graduate and professional education at McDaniel looks like,” Mazer says.

It's McDaniel's mission-driven educational philosophy and the clear vision of the Reaching New Heights strategic plan that has drawn many of the newest faculty members to the college.

“The college's blend of tradition and forward-looking innovation made it a natural fit for me,” says D'Jaris Coles-White, Ph.D., the inaugural director of the M.S. in Speech-Language Pathology program. “The opportunity to build a new S-LP program from the ground up aligned perfectly with my passion for teaching, clinical training, and expanding access to the profession.”

Her counterpart in the new M.S.O.T. program, inaugural director Cathy Felmlee Shanholtz, O.T.D., saw an opportunity to build something new at McDaniel while staying true to the foundation of both the college and the profession she has always loved.

“When I heard that McDaniel was starting an Occupational Therapy program, I immediately recognized the potential to reconnect occupational therapy to its foundational roots in a meaningful and intentional way,” Felmlee Shanholtz says. “OT began in the arts, in creativity, in engagement, and in the belief that participation in meaningful occupations shapes health and identity. McDaniel's liberal arts tradition provides an ideal environment to honor that history while preparing students for contemporary practice.”

Mazer couldn't be happier with the teams she has assembled to launch these new programs because they have a shared vision of what a McDaniel graduate education means.

“For all of us, it's about giving students the best experience and training them at the highest level of quality to go out into the world to work, lead, serve, and advocate through their professions,” Mazer says.



LEADING THE WAY

Building a new program from scratch is a daunting task. But for both Coles-White and Felmlee Shanholtz, the job was made easier by the leader they had in their corner.

“Working alongside Vickie has been collaborative, energizing, and deeply encouraging. Her deep understanding of the higher education landscape, combined with her collaborative approach, has allowed us to plan strategically while building the infrastructure needed for long-term success,” Coles-White says. “She brings a clear, student-centered vision to the program's development and her leadership is marked by strategic clarity and genuine support, which has been invaluable as we navigate the complexities of accreditation and program planning.”

Felmlee Shanholtz recalls a particular moment that demonstrates Mazer's leadership style. During planning discussions, the M.S.O.T. leadership team collectively decided to reconsider the structure of the research sequence.

“As we examined the broader goals of graduate education and interprofessional collaboration, the conversation shifted toward making the first two research courses more interdisciplinary and aligning them with the Speech-Language Pathology program,” she says.

She notes that this was not a small adjustment; it required thoughtful consideration of accreditation standards, course sequencing, faculty coordination, and long-term program alignment.

“What stood out was how Vickie facilitated that process. She encouraged open dialogue, asked clarifying questions, and ensured that every perspective was heard,” she says. “Her leadership in that moment reflected a balance of inclusivity and direction. She created the conditions for shared decision-making while providing the steadiness and strategic lens needed to move from idea to implementation.”

Mazer's leadership has also empowered her new faculty members with a sense of ownership and pride in their programs and to feel comfortable coming to her with new ideas.

“Recently, a group of OT faculty came to see me about an idea that they had,” Mazer says. “I'm almost always going to default to ‘Yes, let's do that,’ with one caveat: What is the why? What is it that we hope to accomplish? How will this fit into our vision? Our faculty in GPS is always able to answer that for me.”

Opposite left: Inaugural Director of M.S. in Speech-Language Pathology D'Jaris Coles-White, Ph.D.

Opposite right: Inaugural Director of M.S. in Occupational Therapy Cathy Felmlee Shanholtz, O.T.D.



THE COLLEGE'S FIRST GRADUATE PROGRAM WAS THE MASTER OF ART, ESTABLISHED IN 1933 AS A FIFTH YEAR OF STUDY. IN 1940, IT WAS REPLACED BY THE MASTER OF EDUCATION (M.ED.), AND THE FIRST M.ED. DEGREE WAS CONFERRED IN 1943.

Now, in addition to post-bachelor's certificates and non-degree certification courses, Graduate & Professional Studies offers master's degrees in the following programs:

- Counseling — Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- Counseling — School Counseling
- Data Analytics
- Deaf Education
- Educational Leadership
- Elementary Education
- Human Resources Management
- Human Services Management
- Innovations in Teaching and Learning
- Kinesiology
- Occupational Therapy
- Reading Specialist: Literacy Leadership
- School Librarianship
- Secondary Education
- Special Education
- Speech-Language Pathology
- Teaching (Initial Licensure)
- Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)



Scan to learn more about grants the college has received to support Education.

BLUEPRINT IN ACTION

Mazer attributes the ease of attracting strong, innovative new faculty members to the firm foundation that was already in place on the Hill with dedicated existing faculty and staff and long-established and well-respected programs in Education, Counseling, and others.

“I can’t say enough about our GPS and Education faculty and staff. They are the silent giants behind our success,” Mazer says. “Our team under Steve Johnson and Tracey Lucas’ leadership has worked so hard putting in extra hours, writing grants, putting proposals together, reimagining curriculum, and going above and beyond to ensure that we are prepared for what’s next. The landscape has been shifting so quickly, and our faculty and dedicated staff have done a tremendous job of shifting with it, without losing sight of what we need to keep doing for our current students and programs.”

That landscape in the education vertical is shifting so drastically in large part due to the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future, which was passed by the Maryland General Assembly in 2021 to transform public education in the state. In support of the goals laid out by the Blueprint, McDaniel received a \$1.8 million grant that helped fund several new initiatives in Education on the Hill. From the new major in Early Childhood Education (ECE) to the Teacher Collaborative Fellowship and a new three-semester graduate course sequence to prepare teachers for National Board Certification, McDaniel has built on its 110-year reputation as a powerhouse in teacher preparation.

“We’ve been working with partner schools on grants and other initiatives designed to meet the professional development needs of current in-service teachers and to respond to the need to develop a sustainable teacher pipeline,” Mazer says. “We’ve created two new post-baccalaureate certificates that are specifically designed to accelerate a path to teacher licensure, particularly for those currently working as conditional teachers. It’s been an exciting time here on the Hill.”

Assistant Dean of Graduate and Professional Studies Operations Steven Johnson ’87, M.S. ’95, and Assistant Dean of Education for GPS Tracey Lucas.

THE SPIRIT OF McDANIEL

But Mazer knows there’s no way she could have accomplished all of this on her own. She identifies the support of the faculty and staff as well as her colleagues on the college’s leadership team who have rolled up their sleeves to support and help along the way. Equally as important, Mazer acknowledges the willingness of President Julia Jasken and the Board of Trustees to take some risks on a bold vision.

“That is the spirit of McDaniel. It’s the spirit that lives within everyone at every level in this institution — graduate and undergraduate alike,” Mazer says. “We are fortunate to have people throughout the college who step in when they need to, support when they need to, and lead when they need to. It is what makes McDaniel special. You can’t create new programs and evolve existing programs — this many all at the same time — without that level of support and teamwork.”

The past six years have been “tough” and “fast,” but Mazer knows it’s all been worth it. She has several milestones she’s anticipating in the coming months and years: white coat ceremonies, open houses for the new state-of-the-art facilities on the Hill and at Carroll Hospital, and the first students in Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Early Childhood Education, and Speech-Language Pathology walking across the stage at Commencement.

“I am looking forward to the day when I get to hear our students share their excitement when they pass their licensure tests and celebrating with them,” she says. “But most of all, when they can express why they’ve chosen their profession and how they plan to work lead, serve, and advocate through their profession, then we will know we’ve done our job.”



NIKKI WOODSON '19 B.A. IN BIOLOGY

Enrolled in the inaugural cohort of the M.S. in Occupational Therapy (M.S.O.T.)

Meet one of the first M.S.O.T. students, for whom a return to the Hill is a full-circle moment.

WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE THAT OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY WAS THE RIGHT PATH FOR YOU?

Working in health care has given me a front-row seat to the resilience and fragility of the human mind. I’ve seen individuals at their most vulnerable, navigating not only mental health challenges but also disruptions to their routines, roles, and sense of identity. Over time, I realized that what moved me most wasn’t just helping someone stabilize, it was the idea of helping them rebuild.

Occupational therapy felt like the natural intersection of everything I value: advocacy, compassion, and a desire to empower individuals to regain independence, purpose, and meaning. It focuses not just on the diagnosis, but on daily life, on the small, powerful routines that allow someone to feel capable again. That holistic, person-centered approach deeply resonates with me.

WHY PURSUE YOUR MASTER’S HERE AT McDANIEL?

Choosing to pursue my master’s at McDaniel was an easy decision for me. This is where my academic foundation began. McDaniel shaped how I think, how I communicate, and how I carry myself as a leader. Returning now, for a program that is both innovative and rooted in community, feels like building on something solid, like coming home to grow into the next version of myself.

Being part of the inaugural M.S.O.T. cohort is especially significant and honestly is what drew me back to the Hill. There’s a responsibility and excitement in helping shape a new program’s culture. It’s an opportunity to contribute to something that will impact future students and the surrounding community for years to come.

WHAT STANDS OUT TO YOU ABOUT THIS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM COMPARED TO OTHERS?

As an inaugural cohort, there’s a clear emphasis on building something meaningful from the ground up, not just replicating existing models, but creating a program rooted in community engagement and student contributions.

The faculty’s investment in student collaboration and the program’s focus on real-world application immediately resonated with me.

There’s a strong sense that this program understands occupational therapy as both science and service. The commitment to community outreach and partnership signals that students won’t just learn theory, we’ll apply it in ways that directly benefit those around us.

WHERE DO YOU HOPE THIS DEGREE WILL TAKE YOU — PROFESSIONALLY AND PERSONALLY?

My goal is to contribute to reducing stigma and increasing access to holistic, functional care, especially in communities where disparities are most evident. I want to combine my systems-level understanding of health care with direct patient-centered intervention.

Personally, I believe this degree represents alignment. It reflects a decision to pursue work that feels deeply connected to my values: compassion, advocacy, and empowerment. I hope it challenges me, stretches me, and continues to grow my empathy and resilience.

Ultimately, I hope this journey allows me to be a steady presence for individuals working to reclaim their independence and sense of self.

GIFT HIGHLIGHTS

Our future as an innovative liberal arts college focused on student achievement and professional success lies in us reaching new heights — together. Thank you to the following donors for their recent gifts and gift commitments to the college in support of the strategic plan and Reaching New Heights: The Campaign for McDaniel College. We can't do what we do without you!

Make your gift online today at campaign.mcdaniel.edu or contact Justin Forget, director of annual giving, at 410-386-4801 or jforget@mcdaniel.edu.

MCDANIEL COLLEGE

\$15,000,000

from the estate of Jonas Eshelman '50.

\$205,974.75

from the late Joan E. Coffman to support The Edgar Coffman Golf Teaching Center.

\$150,000

from Christopher Newman '88 and Susan Shoumer Newman '89 to support the Learning Commons and The Fund for McDaniel.

\$100,000

from Roger N. Casey and Robyn C. Allers to support the renovation of Caseys' Corner in Hoover Library.

\$100,000

from Donald Rembert '61 and Judith Ellis Rembert '60 for The Locker Room Renovation Fund.

\$55,000

from Peter W. Johnson '71 to support The Ralph and Annette Johnson Fund.

\$50,000

from Lloyd Musselman '60 to support The Musselman Family Scholarship.

\$30,000

from the family of Jean and Martha Saulnier to support The Jean M. and Martha K. Saulnier Experiential Learning Endowed Fund and The Jean M. and Martha K. Saulnier Experiential Learning Current Use Fund.

\$27,526.97

from Beth Witzke Barnes '53 and L. John Barnes to support Reaching New Heights: The Campaign for McDaniel College.

\$26,867

from Thomas Quirk '92 to support The Fund for McDaniel and The Lewis Recitation Hall Renovations Fund.

\$25,000

from Joseph Browning '11 and Caitlin Browning for The Locker Room Renovation Fund.

\$25,000

from Richard and Susan Palmer to support The Track Renovation Fund and The Richard W. and Susan Palmer Scholarship Fund.

Gifts and commitments received between July 16, 2025, and Jan. 15, 2026.

ALUMNI UPDATES

LIFE AFTER COLLEGE



COREY NOLEN PHOTO

Thanks to the support of donors, Baltimore-based artist and muralist Saba Hamidi installed a custom mural in the hallway that connects Rouzer Hall to the Roj Student Center in front of the Financial Aid and Bursar's Office. Current students were part of the mural visioning process, identifying McDaniel "Easter eggs" that could be hidden in the design.

1959

Our 65th Reunion in June 2024 was a great success with about 20 members of our class attending. Much conversation about our lives, our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, travels, assisted living, medical adventures, and our memories of life at WMC. We all agreed that we all looked great, and the number 65 for our reunion couldn't possibly be correct.

Bob Fothergill thoroughly enjoyed his life after graduating from WMC. He spent 20 years in the army and 30 years working in the state of Virginia, primarily in purchasing management positions. He was married to **Louise Clark Fothergill '58**, who passed away four years ago and who was the "light of his life" for 61 years. They were blessed with two children, six grandchildren, and now the great-grandchildren are arriving. They had a wonderful life together, and he attributed much of it to the values Western Maryland instilled in him.

Warren Braunwarth, the husband of **Ginni Pott Braunwarth**, sent a note that Ginni is experiencing memory problems and he is responding with their news. They have mobility issues but no walkers or wheelchairs and are checking out assisted living facilities in case they need to relocate. So far, it seems that they will continue living in their home.

Stephen Callender and his wife, Barbara, have moved into an independent living community. She loves it because she no longer needs to cook as they eat their meals in a dining room with many friends. They recently celebrated their anniversary with a couple they met who were married on the same month, day, and year as they were.

Bruce Lee and **Melba Nelms Lee** sent their news while in Canada on an 11-day Great Lakes tour. Melba fell again, badly injuring her knee, and now has one rod in each leg and a plate in her knee. Bruce had a heart attack in May requiring six stents while they were vacationing in North Carolina, but played 18 holes of golf the next week. After 23 years of summer RV traveling, they sold their coach. Of late, they enjoy attending grandchildren's weddings — three out of seven so far — and still keep as active as possible with golfing, choral singing, Bible studies, fitness center workouts, and weekly games. They are grateful for the good life God has blessed them with.

Carmela DeFlora Veit writes that she is still responding with "present" as she remains active in The Gunpowder Club and the Northern Central Rail Trail volunteers. She and Ed enjoy their woodland home, feeding the birds, watching the deer graze, and the neighborhood bear visits.

Kay Mitchell Kantorowski and her husband, Ted, still live in Fly Creek, one mile outside Cooperstown, New York, where things have settled down after all the junior baseball leagues have left, and they are back to a more normal, quieter lifestyle. They are doing fine and continue biking the Erie Canal trail for 10 miles two or three times a week and also go to the Clark Sports Center for workouts.

Eva Lallas writes that her U.S. and European travels are now fond memories, but she is grateful that she can do a little

gardening and take an active part in planning the activities of the senior group of her church in North Wildwood, New Jersey. She continues to write articles and has added two bilingual features to their monthly newsletter. She recently has developed an interest and love for classical opera and has realized the void she's had in her life all these years.

Marjorie Woodward continues to enjoy living at Messiah Village in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, in an apartment with a wonderful balcony where she can sit and take in the scenery and outside air. She likes playing bridge and other activities there. She adds that her daughter, Evelyn, who lived in Hawaii, passed away in August after a long battle with leukemia. She was a pilot, airplane mechanic, musician, dedicated wife, sister, and daughter, and is sadly missed.

Cabin life in Frederick's Catoctin Mountain range is still great but moving slower, says **Sherry Phelps Jackson** and her husband, Roger. They still have their small antique business with their daughter, **Becky Jackson Butler '84**, and enjoy family reunions each fall. Conversations always include their days at WMC/McDaniel where 13 family members have attended school. They have welcomed four great-grandchildren into the family and three of their children have retired.

Dorothy "Dot" Gross Grim has moved from her old schoolhouse home in Granbury, Texas, to a home with her daughter and son-in-law in Arlington, Texas, just outside Fort Worth — with major changes such as traffic jams and long waits at restaurants. But she gets to enjoy three sets of grandchildren, a wonderful church, and great stores. She traveled to North Carolina to see her brother, **Edward Gross '60**, and his wife, **Barbara Long Gross '60**, and plans to soon go to Branson, Missouri, to see a production of "David" at the Sight & Sound Theatre. She is blessed with good health except for some eye problems.

Don D'Angelo celebrated his 89th birthday recently and writes that he has outlived three wives. He gets around with a cane or walker and still practices his trumpet and piano and sings high tenor in vocal groups. He says that he has lived a "fairy tale life" and has performed around the world. He lives in northern California, has two adult children, and is enjoying his fourth marriage. He adds that God has been very good to him, and he still loves all the people and the education he received at WMC.

DonnaLee Brown wrote that she had just returned from a trip to Boston and Gloucester, Massachusetts, and is now home in Montrose, Colorado. "Nostalgia for the East Coast and our WMC years of innocence and optimism came swirling in when she saw the card" asking for news. She feels we are truly blessed to be able to relive those years. All is well with her thanks to her mother who instilled in her the habit of swimming laps three times a week, a meditative practice that makes the recent loss of dear friends and her son, Paul, bearable day by day. Her small city is on the western side of

All submitted class notes are edited multiple times, first by the designated class reporter, then by the college. Submitted notes may be edited for length, clarity, cultural sensitivity, or any reason deemed reasonable by the class reporter and/or editor.

the Rockies and close to Telluride, her family homestead and a place of many childhood memories. She hopes that “all my classmates can find in their heritage the often-surprising links to positive habits of our long-gone elders that now inspire us to keep on keeping on.”

Ellen “Winkie” Richmond Sauerbrey and her husband are still living in their circa-1835 home. She is still in physical therapy after a bad break of her upper leg. She is an elder in her church, goes to the gym regularly, and stays active in the Republican Women of Baltimore County.

Kitty Bond Allen has been living at Edenwald in Towson, Maryland, for 10 years and still chairs the Edenwald Scholarship Fund board, which offers 100 employee scholarships each year. She uses a rollator but is otherwise pretty healthy. In May 2025, her Nebraska family welcomed her second great-grandchild, Cal, born two years to the date of his older brother. Their whole family enjoyed a week’s staycation in Ocean City, Maryland, in July.

Dan and I celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary in June and have been living in Rockville, Maryland, for 50 years. Dan has some health issues and now uses a walker or a wheelchair to get around. The last of the nine grandchildren (Mark’s sons) graduated from college in the spring of 2025: Timmy from Vanderbilt with an Engineering degree now works in Baltimore, and Conor from Dartmouth with a Political Science and Spanish degree is now in Bogota, Colombia, teaching at the university there on a Fulbright scholarship. The others are scattered around between Denver; Baltimore; Charlotte, North Carolina; Jacksonville, Florida; and Richmond, Virginia. I continue to be amazed at the achievements of all of them but especially the five granddaughters who had and still have opportunities we could not have dreamed of during our college years. I am well and keep busy with multiple projects and reading, reading, reading. Please keep in touch, I love hearing from everyone!

Joanne Trabucco Shaheen
1959 Class Reporter
126 Evans St.
Rockville, MD 20850
joannshaheen@aol.com

1965

Ed Daniels still lives in Mexico just south of Tijuana, on the coast, and absolutely loves it! They sold their home in Mexico at a nice profit and are currently renting, which is very inexpensive. Ed is still playing golf and skiing, so life is good. He skied at Brian Head in Utah last winter and loved it! In the spring, he traveled to Death Valley, checked out Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, then the Lake Tahoe area, and Virginia City. They were still skiing in late May at Mammoth, so he added it to his wish list for skiing next year. Ed usually does a road trip to Florida at Thanksgiving to see his daughter and her family. On his bucket list is Alaska (that will make 50 states visited). He still administers his psychology practice in Philadelphia remotely from Baja, while his associate does

the work of accommodations and evaluations for college students, so he is only partially retired but loving it.

Ron Garvin and **Joan Smith Garvin** are still loving life in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, with most of their time focused on church and friends. Joan says God has blessed them with relatively good health and other than her recent knee replacement, they both still have most of their original body parts. Ron continues to ride his motorcycle — he rode almost 4,000 miles with his friends in August to and from the big bike rally in Sturgis, South Dakota. Joan’s passion for gardening keeps her busy growing and gifting flowers to friends and caring for flower beds at church. With all four grandchildren in college or graduate school, they return often to Vermont to celebrate graduations. Even though it was a small group, they enjoyed catching up with classmates at the Reunion dinner in June, and thought using Zoom to reach those at home was a clever idea. They report, “The campus looks beautiful and has come a long way since ‘65.”

Dianne Briggs Martin lives in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, near her daughter and two grandchildren. Her son Chuck lives with his wife in Wilmington, North Carolina, where he still surfs at age 53. Dianne continues to teach information policy and computer ethics (with a new emphasis on AI) for both The George Washington University online and the University of North Carolina in person. She stays active leading three exercise classes a week at the local senior center and being involved in local social justice issues.

Calvin “Cal” Fuhrmann is retired, and Denise is still working part time as a psychiatric nurse practitioner. They live in Maine and enjoy the summer weather. Cal is keeping up with **Frank Kidd** and **Dennis Amico**, who are both well and enjoying retirement.

Frank Kidd is still traveling. He and his wife took another Viking cruise, called the British Isles Explorer. It started in Norway and included many shore excursions in Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and England. In addition to walking 45 miles on their shore excursions, they toured many castles, churches, and WWII museums. Frank was able to visit the alleged spot in London where his long-distant relative Captain Kidd was hung for being an unwelcome seafaring buccaneer. In July, they took 15 family members on a five-day Grand Canyon river rafting adventure. Truly a trip of a lifetime, sleeping on the riverbanks, riding horses, ATVs, helicopters, and swimming in the Colorado River. He is still actively biking (pedal powering) about 80 to 100 miles a week through the back roads of Concord, Lexington, and western Massachusetts with his bike club buddies. If you ever plan on coming to Boston for the Fourth of July, please look him up as they always have room on their rooftop deck, which is near the Hatch Shell, the Boston Pops July 4 concert venue, and directly below the massive fireworks extravaganza. They are always willing to host any WMC alumni.

Over the past couple of years, **Pat Mullinix** has visited many different retirement communities in several mid-Atlantic states. She finally decided upon Homewood Living Plum Creek in Hanover, Pennsylvania, as her new community. With lots of help from friends, the house near Deep Creek Lake got emptied out, was sold, and the move accomplished in October

2024. One advantage of the new location is that all the worries of homeownership have dissolved. She still has more rooms than needed, a two-car garage, and a beautiful yard with lots of trees, flowers, and wildlife, but all maintenance issues are handled by the staff there. She has wonderful neighbors and is involved in a very active and caring community. It was a good move! Another advantage is that she is again close to Westminster, Maryland. She was able to join our class for the 60th Reunion dinner on June 7, 2025. She says it was wonderful to be back on campus (many more buildings there than in 1965) and good to be with classmates again!

Barbara Nolan Haroz is spending her retirement in the small town of Shirley, Massachusetts, with frequent trips to Boston and other urban areas. She enjoys cooking, shopping for farm food, home decorating, and keeping up on all international affairs issues in the news. Her son, Carim, who works as a mental health counselor, likes to visit Shirley. He enjoys all of the sports teams here, she says, and explores the roads of central Massachusetts on his Honda motorcycle. Barbara sends greetings to her classmates and invites anyone to visit if passing through Massachusetts.

Tom Bloom is in Maine and still auditioning for theatre and film via Zoom, unfortunately the preferred way now. The last acting job he did was at Old Globe in San Diego, which was a nice job. He is looking for more like it since he loves going to other cities to act. He is trying to do more directing in Maine, but there are not a lot of opportunities. He is also plugging away cultivating a fine garden and visiting NYC as often as he can. Tom also has a major photo exhibition at the airport in Portland, Maine, of portraits he’s worked on for five years, called “Portland Works.” The collection comprises studio black-and-white portraits of 30 hardworking local folks, including a police officer, a barber, a tree surgeon, a firefighter, artists, sewer workers, and even a service dog!

Lynn and **Eric Wagner** are still living in Calabash, North Carolina, where they enjoy some beach time, golf, and biking. They also enjoy time with their two children and three grandchildren. They were all together in June at Topsail Island, North Carolina. In 2024, they went on a two-week trip to visit some of the national parks and canyons. They are active in church, and both sing in the choir and serve on two committees with their POA.

It has been a while since **Connie Bue Schlee** has contributed. Ten years ago, she found her birth mother, visited her in Idaho, and contacted her birth father’s family on the Blackfeet Reservation in Montana. As a result, she has a rather large extended family now, which is a wonderful thing to happen to an only child. Her birth mother passed away several years ago, but Connie is very close to her newfound sister, Val. On her birth father’s side, she has several brothers. Connie’s daughter, Lauren, has traveled out west several times with her over the years to visit their new family. This summer, her son joined them and they had a wonderful trip together. They are all members of the Blackfeet Nation, but her son Chris missed out on receiving his American Indian name. Connie’s cousin Joe performed the ceremony and gave him his name: Three Bears. At home in Frederick, Connie is still painting and involved with the art community. In the winter, she and Al travel to Florida, where she paints as often as possible in the

warm sun and visits Lauren and family in North Carolina. She still manages to get to Bethany Beach, Delaware, in the summer to join Chris and family on the beach. They always stop at **Judy Hobart Pearson** and **Dan “Danny” Pearson’s** in Durham, North Carolina, for a lovely visit. Connie enjoys Zooming with many of her lifelong friends from WMC once a month, the Diva girls from the Class of ‘65!

Fran Sybert Baroch says she hesitated to respond this time because she really has nothing to report! But maybe someone would just like to know that she is still alive, so here’s a little something. She and **Jerry Baroch ‘64** still live in Sarasota, Florida. They both continue to enjoy golf, and Fran also plays tennis and bridge. They keep an apartment in Washington, D.C., because their only grandchild resides there. He’s 7, and they want to spend as much time with him as they can. They love it when he visits Florida, and they enjoy their summers in D.C. with him. While in D.C. this summer, Fran enjoyed lunch with five other ‘65 grads: **Mara Dilson Walter**; **Susan Snodgrass Case, M.Ed. ‘84**; **Connie Bue Schlee**; **Carole Price Frederick**; and **Sylvia White Winterling**. For many years, Fran and Jerry have spent a month each spring in France, in the Loire Valley, at the same charming 17th-century cottage near Orleans. They fell in love with France years ago when they took a barge trip through the Loire Valley. They enjoy cruises and are planning to visit the Dutch Caribbean in the winter.

Alice “Bunny” Krizek Bafford is in the same place in Frederick, Maryland, and dealing with being without Bob for over a year now. She did get some unplanned traveling to San Diego, California, three times in five months. First, her daughter Megan’s beloved dog died unexpectedly, and she was all alone. In July, she and her daughter Becky went for her birthday, and then Megan had kidney surgery and Bunny stayed to care for her afterward. Becky will have two knee replacements and will stay with Bunny to recuperate. She recently met up with **Carolyn Dowell Mohler** in Westminster, Maryland, and they had lunch at Baugher’s for old times’ sake.

Carla Smith Moxon was excited to return to WMC for our 60th Reunion. It was fun visiting with old friends. She moved to the Los Angeles area in 1986 and has lived in the same house for over 30 years, with her husband of 51 years, Rick Moxon. They have two children and four grandchildren — ages 16, 15, 14, and 13. She retired in 2020 but keeps busy. Several days a week, she helps her daughter with her kids so that she can manage her work schedule. She enjoys being part of the “Divas” Zoom meetings as often as she can. Thank you to **Dianne Briggs Martin** for setting that up. In her spare time, she enjoys outside exercises such as swimming, bike riding, and walking her dog.

Mary Ellen Graybill is a pianist certified in piano and ear training. She is an easy-listening performer for special events and celebrations of life.

Charles Manning, Hon. LL.D. ‘05 and **Sherry Fischer Manning, Hon. L.H.D. ‘79** say they had a great spring and summer in Northern Idaho. The weather is wonderful, almost no humidity, and beautiful sunny days. Every day, Sherry swims on the rooftop overlooking the lake, and they have

taken a number of road trips up toward Canada and over to Montana. Charles is doing well after his stroke six years ago, and all of the children and grandchildren, ages 4 to almost 24, have been very attentive, taking them to church on Sundays, and flying in often from Vancouver, British Columbia; Boulder, Colorado; Nashville, Tennessee; and Berkeley, California. Sherry does much more real estate investing than she ever imagined, but it's like a sport for her, creating design and maximizing value. And who knew all that mathematics from Drs. Spicer and **Jim Lightner '59** would come in so handy!

Art Lang and his wife, Barbara, are still living on Orcas Island in Washington. They spend their winters on the Big Island of Hawaii, especially enjoying getting out on the water with the Kawaihae Canoe Club hanging out with humpback whales. In the summer, they are on their boat up in British Columbia waters fishing, hiking, and just hanging out. The rest of the year they enjoy Orcas and try to never go to the mainland. Every day is precious and at this age, they are focusing more on the little things they enjoy. Many of their adventures revolve around good food.

Jarrett Wicklein writes that he and **Pam Gebhard Wicklein '68** still live in Timonium, Maryland, and just celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary. Their granddaughter **Sadie Bowman '25** graduated from McDaniel. She won several awards for leadership, athletics, and scholastic honors, including cum laude, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Tri Beta. They look forward to her next steps. Their grandson Brady Bayne graduated summa cum laude from Shepherd University. He is now working for the Gunpowder Riverkeeper program in Sparks, Maryland. Their grandson **Jack Bayne '22** was an assistant baseball coach at McDaniel last year. He is the program and instruction coordinator for the Carroll Technology and Innovation Council in Westminster. Their youngest grandson is a junior at Endicott College in Massachusetts. He is a rugby player and honor student. Jerry continues as a part-time pastor and Pam keeps him busy around the house. She continues to be his muse and inspiration.

Carolyn Steelman Drucker is now a resident of Sebastian, Florida. She moved there five years ago when the Jersey winters finally got to her. Now she has to deal with the hot Florida summers! She left her home in New Jersey where she lived for 47 years. Her son and daughter still live in New Jersey. Carolyn is still in touch with **Carol Yeager**, who has a winter home in Florida near her.

Simma and **Ron Liebman** now live full time on Maryland's Eastern Shore. They are just outside the town of Easton, in an historic house on a creek that empties into the Miles River, leading to the Chesapeake Bay — a truly beautiful area amenable to fine fishing and waterfowl hunting. Simma continues to paint, and Ron is still writing. They often visit D.C. where they lived for so many years, enjoying its vibrant restaurant scene, excellent theatres, and visiting good friends. Their two married daughters and their families (five grandchildren) live in New York, so they travel there frequently as well. Ron thinks back with great fondness to his time at WMC. In addition to receiving a great education, he made so many wonderful friends. It was an important part of his life.

After a several-year hiatus, **Elaine Gardiner Taylor** has resumed playing the violin. She was surprised to realize that this is the first time she is playing for herself, not practicing for a teacher, orchestra, or informal group. Viking has been giving her true vacations — no cooking. The latest has been cruising through the Panama Canal (Pacific to Atlantic), and along the lower Danube (Vienna to Bucharest). Others await, but in the meantime, they continue to pare possessions from their lives.

Bob Dinger and **Char-Lu Swenson Dinger** have now been living in Chico, California, for 25 years. Her health continues to be good, with relatively few medical issues, and they recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Their three sons and three of their five grandchildren (ages 14 to 26) live within a three-hour drive, and they enjoy getting together. In the summer of 2023, Bob and Char-Lu flew to Reykjavik, Iceland, and took a cruise from there back to Boston, and in the summer of 2024 they went on a cruise from Alaska to Vancouver. Although Bob no longer does any backpacking, he still enjoys hiking in the mountains of Northern California and Oregon. Bob continues his woodworking, and Char-Lu her knitting and genealogy research. They haven't seen any of their WMC classmates in the past three years and would enjoy a visit from any classmate passing through Chico.

Mike Schlee tells us that life is great at the beach. The shore beats work! The children are prospering, the grandchildren are wonderful, and the cottage is power washed.

Marilyn Hahnefeld Wockley and **Ray Wockley '63** still enjoy their rather peaceful life in southern Delaware. Although summers bring crowds and traffic, they like all of the perks of being in a resort area. Ray is active in the local Lions Club, and Marilyn is busy with a variety of church activities. Their community sponsors a number of activities with a monthly potluck dinner, trivia night, and book club meeting. Their neighbors are delightful, and they enjoy spending time with them. Walks from their beach house to the ocean with their curly-coated retriever also occur regularly. These are easier since Marilyn got a new knee in July. They are doing well, and so are their families. They especially enjoy their summer family get-togethers in Bethany Beach, Delaware. They send good wishes to their classmates from WMC and are always receptive to visits.

Martha "Marty" Taylor Dzioba says the 60th Reunion was great! It began with smashing thunderstorms on Friday that moved the happy hour inside before the sun came out. It was fascinating to talk with alumni across classes since ours. It was heartening to see that the ideals and commitment to education and the world at large are alive and thriving at McDaniel and in its alumni. **Dianne Briggs Martin's** Saturday presentation and dialogue about AI was riveting and cautionary. About 17 attended the delicious dinner, plus several Zoomed in. She wishes many more had. Marty loves the Hill as much as she did 60-plus years ago and felt college-aged again at least for a day! Ed's comment from his advanced age viewpoint was "No matter where you are on campus, it's uphill to where you want to go."

Bruce Knauff says he has little to report from the home front in Towson, Maryland. Leslea and he are trying to keep their

IN MEMORIAM

TRUSTEE EMERITUS DOLORES "DOLLY" CAUWELS SNYDER M.ED. '63, P'97, HON. L.H.D. '89

Trustee Emeritus Dolores "Dolly" Cauwels Snyder M.Ed. '63, P'97, Hon. L.H.D. '89 of Westminster, Maryland, died on July 16 at the age of 95. For more than 60 years, Snyder was a treasured and integral part of our community here on the Hill.

Her journey at McDaniel began when she transferred to then Western Maryland College from Johns Hopkins, graduating in 1963 with a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction. Snyder began her career teaching English and history at Manchester High School, later becoming vice principal. Eventually, she transferred to the Carroll County Board of Education, serving as the only woman director there until her retirement in 1979.

Shortly after her retirement from the Board of Education, Snyder was elected to the McDaniel College's Board of Trustees. In 1998, she became the first woman to serve as vice chair on this board, a position she held until 2003. In 2023, Snyder was named trustee emeritus after serving 43 years on the board.

She received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the college in 1989. In 1993, she received the Joseph R. Bailer Award for her significant contribution to the field of education. In 2007, she established The Dolores J. Snyder Scholarship Fund, awarded to a student who portrays a strong spiritual, moral, ethical character that demonstrates a genuine commitment to teaching, inspiring, and investing in the lives of others.

17-year-old cat Missy going. She has some degree of renal failure and is on her seventh life, but she's a trooper. "It was terrific to be at our class Reunion dinner Saturday evening, June 7, on the Hill. Counting the Green Terror, there were maybe 25 of us in all, including several who joined us on Zoom. The college planners did an excellent job in organizing it and featured extras like the campus memories quiz, for which prizes were distributed." Recently Leslea, Bruce, and their daughter Amy enjoyed a visit to the Baltimore Museum of Industry in the southeast part of the city. "It really is a wonderful assembly of machinery and artifacts from Baltimore-area business, railroading, manufacturing and canning, stretching back 200-plus years, some of the firms being the very first in their field. If you can get to BMI, it's eye-opening."



As for myself, I have done no long-distance traveling since I went on my last Viking cruise in Europe. My health has been good, so I feel very fortunate. I am still quilting and doing lots of reading. My son and daughter-in-law live in West Ocean City, Maryland, and my daughter is a newspaper reporter in Hagerstown Maryland, so all are close enough to visit.

Victoria "Vicki" Weber Greene
1965 Class Reporter
117 East Isabella St.
Salisbury, MD 21801
vgreene43@gmail.com

Coe Sherrard says there is not a lot of news from the Shenandoah Valley, but he and Jean still see **Dave Harrison '70** and Joan frequently, as they live two houses down from them in Edinburg, Virginia. **Fran McCabe '72** also stopped by on her way back from Ohio last summer. Coe released his sixth novel, "The Right Side of Wrong," from Evolved Publishing on June 16, 2025, and the book ranked as a finalist in the 2025 Readers' Favorite Book Award. Coe writes under the pen name E. A. Coe, a pseudonym he began using as a sophomore at WMC — "a whimsical salute to a better author, Edgar Allen Poe." Coe adds that **Jean Castle Sherrard** is as great as ever, and Coe would love it if you picked up one of his books ... and read it!

Harold Baker and Donna celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June, with an extended family reunion. Although mostly retired, Harold does consulting work in D.C. on U.S. energy policy and gives lectures on physics at local Christian schools.

Back in the day, **Richard Anderson** was often the man with a camera as he moved around campus. When he last sent in a class note, he mentioned a family trip to Europe they were taking with his son, Nicholas. In fall 2024, Nicholas began a five-year doctoral program in physics at Duke University. He is settled in now, and it seems to be going well. "We have no idea what he is working on," Richard says, "even though Nicholas explains it in great detail." Richard still carries a camera, but these days it is likely to be a video camera. He's making movies, averaging about one per year. He also helps other filmmakers finish their films, providing postproduction services. Richard is excited about remastering the dialogue on a very clever short horror film. Richard's current film project is based in Capon Bridge, West Virginia, so he's spending a fair amount of time there. At least it is only 2½ hours away instead of the normal five to six hours for most of his other West Virginia films. He's still bicycling as much as possible, and was aiming for 2,500 miles in 2025.

Dorothy Insley Ansell is still making glass and metal art and received an honorable mention in the Perquimans Arts League (PAL) Members Show at the PAL gallery. Her submission was a glass pendent on a silver necklace called "The Wise Woman."

Candy Cooper Fairbanks has been busy since last summer trying to get her grandparents' house in western Maryland ready for sale. This means trips to Maryland every month from North Carolina. Thankfully, she has one special niece and her husband with a pickup truck who were a big help in tackling the job. Candy thought she had sold it more than once, but the buyers couldn't sell their houses. After a lot of negotiating with a new buyer, a settlement was reached on July 11, 2025. Those last weeks were exhausting with doing the final packing, Candy says. "The house had been in the family for over 100 years, so there were many items that I wanted to stay in the family. Anyhow, the house is sold and my life is a lot easier." In August, Candy spent several days with **Donna March Zeller** and Kent in Hershey, Pennsylvania,

helping with preparations for their annual mini-McDaniel College reunion. I (Pam) was bummed I couldn't be there this year, but Donna, Candy, **Mary Lou O'Neill Hoopes**, **Gloria Phillips-Wren**, **Janet Schroeder Meeks '69**, and **Susan Hanna Martin '69** plus four spouses had a great time. In August, Candy also joined the retired ranks leaving Walmart after 36½ years. Standing for seven or eight hours at a time was taking a huge toll, she says.

Carol Sims Nupp and Jim went to Scottsdale, Arizona, in January with family and Navy friends. In May 2024, they drove up to Camden, Maine, and Boothbay Harbor, Maine, by themselves. They finally made it to **Donna March Zeller's** home in Pennsylvania in June 2024 for her annual third floor Blanche Ward Hall reunion. She convinced Jim to join as they visited with more Navy friends at their farm in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Jim and Carol thoroughly enjoyed a local concert by Judy Collins in August 2024. September 2024 saw the Nupps at the reunion of all the VP squadrons flying P-3s that had been based at the former Brunswick Naval Air Station in Maine, home to them from 1974 to 1977. Later that month, Jim and both their sons, Jason and Josh, hiked the Camino Trail the "French Way," France to Spain, backpacking from hostel to hostel. More visiting with family occupied fall 2024, and continued right into 2025 with lots of company for Carol's 76th birthday. Jim's passion is travel for adventure, both in the U.S. and worldwide. His frequent comment is, "I've always wanted to go there!"

Hugh Carew and **Sue Ball Carew** have been married 55 years. The Carews traveled to Europe stopping at the Carew Castle in Wales and staying at the Carew Inn while there. They checked out some genealogy and maybe a castle key for next time.

Don Schenk and his wife, Janet, have been busy assisting in planning the February 2026 wedding of their youngest son, Zachary. This and other McDaniel and Phi Delta Theta business have had Don traveling from Michigan to Washington, D.C., and Maryland. The campus-related highlights were his participation at the fraternity General Convention in Atlanta and the bi-annual crab feast hosted by **Charlie Moore** and **Carole Hoerichs Moore '70** attended by almost 80 friends from WMC/McDaniel. Don was also recently in contact with **John Nesbitt** who just moved to Friday Harbor, Washington, with his wife, Leslie. John reports he loves the Pacific Northwest and relocated to Leslie's family home since Leslie opted to join him in Maryland after their marriage 26 years ago.

Viveca "Viv" Mummert Michaels says her son-in-law refers to her as the gardener extraordinaire, but in 2025, the weather was winning the battle. She spent the summer making jams and pickles, forgoing travel, but enjoying retirement and the pool. Sadly, Viv's husband of nearly 54 years passed away from kidney cancer last year. "That left me with quite a learning curve," Viveca said, "but I think I'm past the inflection point now." Her eldest grandson is now a senior in high school and just completed his Eagle Scout project. Meanwhile, the youngest grandchild has just entered third grade. "Time flies when you don't pay attention," Viveca noted.

Chris Spencer is celebrating 35 years retired and "goofing off on my idyllic island overlooking the Puget Sound and the Olympic mountains. Travel hasn't been as frequent, especially since the summer weather here is fabulous unlike the hot, humid East." (Don't rub it in, Chris!) That said, Chris did spend two weeks sailing among the Maine islands, then to London and Venice, with another two weeks in Tuscany. Mostly though, Chris says, "I try to manage my little forest and farm and putter in my studio building stuff and not thinking too much about the state of the nation." Chris has branched out into steampunk sculpting and writing short stories.

Lynn Gallant-Blume's husband of 54 years, **Randy Blume '70**, died in April. "I'm still in the 'shock' stage of grief, with good days and bad days (honestly, I should say 'good minutes and bad minutes'). We were fortunate to have so many years together and the opportunity to travel extensively in retirement (55 countries). So many of my friends haven't been so fortunate to be with their loved ones for that long, so I know I've been blessed."

Dan Wiles shared that his wife, **Tina Mantakos Wiles '72**, passed away after a long illness. As you may remember, they married while still at WMC and were married for 54 years. Dan retired last year, for a second time, after working for 24 years with one of the "Big 4" accounting/tax firms. His first retirement was in 2000 from the federal government. Yet Dan is still not totally retired as he continues to teach a graduate course at the University of Baltimore Law School. "During our marriage and before her illness, Tina and I frequently attended theatre in New York, London, and other places, which reflected our common interest, which began when we both worked on WMC theatre productions. Sometime after her death, I returned alone to attend theatre productions in New York and intend to do so again."

The most significant change in **Joe Powell's** life lately has been their change of address. "The grand idea of retiring to Florida lasted just 13 years. The semiannual trips to New Jersey to see the grandchildren and the upkeep of the RV we stayed in were getting too wearing on our old bones. We downsized to a smaller house in South Jersey, only about 15 minutes from the kids. Now we see them several times a week. I have to get readjusted to winters colder than 60 degrees. While in Florida I had a bass boat, but my fishing buddies got jobs (how rude) or moved."

Leon Cronce noted the passing of **Art "Artie" Blake** and how much he and **Tom Mavity** will miss him. Leon spoke at Artie's memorial and is staying in close touch with **Ginny Golden Blake '72**, Davy, and Mikey. They also attended the induction for Art at the Maryland chapter Hall of Fame for wrestling. This year, Leon was unable to go on his annual fishing trip in Cross Fork's, Pennsylvania. But Leon and Betty did attend the annual **Sam Case '63, M.Ed. '66** duals and visited with **Susan Snodgrass Case '65, M.Ed. '84** and many past WMC wrestlers. Betty and Leon spent most of spring/summer at their lake house at Lake Owasco with Leon fishing with relatives and Captain Betty driving the boat. The Cronces entertained their Danish exchange student and family. They also had a month with their German friend who visits each year.

Darlene Richardson Robison spent summer 2024 in a boot for 10 weeks for a broken bone in her left foot. In summer 2025, she and Steve were coping with a fractured left shoulder and two broken fingers on her left hand. "This has been an adventure I wish we were not having, but I am grateful we have each other. Each day has some joy and this will pass and will feel joyful again," she says.

Brenda Murray, M.Ed. '77 is still living in Manchester Manor, a 55-plus community, and she can still get around with the help of a rollator and a cane. Reading and walking through the neighborhood with her rollator are her favorite things to do.

Barb Shipley Guthrie, M.Ed. '76 and Steve moved from Bethany to Lewes in Delaware in 2025 and are enjoying it a lot! "We are close to Rehoboth Beach and boardwalk, as well as Savannah Beach and Cape Henlopen beaches. Most of the children are fairly close," Barb noted. They all got together for several days and had a great time at restaurants, the beach, boardwalk, and minigolf. Steve is working on a committee for the homeowners association in their community and it seems to keep him busy. He is still biking regularly, and she is still running six days a week! Barb also sings in the Camp Rehoboth Chorus, and they do several concerts a year. They sing songs that we all know and love from the '60s and '70s.

"Martha and I are fully retired and living in Delaware, near Bethany Beach," reports **Bob Gagnon**. Their daughter, Rebecca, bought a house nearby and the grandkids visit frequently. The Gagnons celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2025, leading Bob to muse that time flies so fast. To make sure that time didn't get away from them, Bob and Martha took an anniversary cruise from Los Angeles to several ports in Mexico, Guatemala, and Costa Rica, through the Panama Canal, to Cartagena and Grand Cayman, debarking in Miami. Bob still has pleasant memories of our 50th Class Reunion!

Gary Scholl, M.L.A. '78 says life is good in Forest Hill, Maryland. His wife, Kathy, is busy keeping the Historical Society of Harford County's textile collection in museum-quality shape. In the fall, Gary will start his 51st year of employment at John Carroll School teaching a great course titled Human Rights, Genocide, and the Pursuit of Justice. "I wish every student in the country could take this course. It's something desperately needed right now," says Gary. The 24th Morning Star Pow Wow will be held at the arena at Harford Community College this year. It is a bigger and better venue for raising funds for St. Labre Indian School in Ashland, Montana. Still staying in touch with his wrestling buddies and gathering with them at the **Sam Case '63, M.Ed. '66** duals, Gary says, "I have many good memories of my days at WMC. Being part of the wrestling team is the best of those memories. Peace and good health to all my classmates."

Lorraine Lamaina Misk says they are doing fine, keeping busy in retirement, and enjoying seeing their three grandkids growing and thriving, albeit from a distance. They all live on the West Coast in Oregon and California, so they are happy for the occasional visits, and frequent FaceTime chats.

This time around, I got a couple of absolutely wonderful, albeit very short, missives:

First, from someone I don't think I've ever heard from until now:

"Hi, Pam! Since I made it to 75, think it's about time to send you my update. Best, **Donna Marie Stawski Wilson.**"

And second, from the West Coast, **Susan Seney** always has great news. Like this time, when she wrote: "Help me out here, Pamela, I may have sent an update. 'We are yet alive here, though a bit wet in Seattle.'... If not, maybe that will do." And, so it will!

Cathy McCullough Shultz and **Michael Shultz** live in the same Annapolis, Maryland, home they bought 31 years ago. But it doesn't seem like they have been there a whole lot lately. Recent highlights include a driving trip to New Orleans, following the National Park Services Civil Rights Trail. The Equal Justice Initiative Legacy Sites in Montgomery are a "must-see," she reports, as is the Whitney Plantation outside of New Orleans, which focuses on the people who had been enslaved there. They met 18 of Cathy's high school friends in New Orleans for a fun week. Other highlights include attending a gathering of SOS/Hinge folks, where they hung out and saw many longtime WMC friends, and in July attending an incredible blues concert in WMC Alumni Hall. Cathy sends thanks to **Walt Michael '68** and Common Ground on the Hill for making that happen.

The adventures of the Shermer/Seevers trio — **Sue Shermer SeEVERS**, her husband Eric, and her 96-year-old mom, Betty Shermer — continue. After a COVID break, they hit the road again in June 2023, when they made a weeklong trip to Atlanta to watch the Braves defeat the Nationals. They stopped to see the Biltmore House gardens on the way. And since their 17½-year-old mini dachshund passed in December 2022, Eric wanted a new puppy. So ... they got TWO! Samwise Gamgee and Rosie Cotton are a brother-sister pair of mini dachshunds. Sam is black and tan, while Rosie is dapple black and gray-white. In between, Eric had a pacemaker installed, changed meds, and lost 60 pounds, putting him in really good health for the first time in a while. Sue went through lots of physical therapy to adjust her neck after finding out a bone pinching her spinal cord was what caused her legs to collapse and sent her to the ER. Betty had an unexpected reaction to bone density med — a fractured hip! She's back to independent living, just using a cane for outings, after having a rod put in her thigh.

Ellen Cook Nibali is holding down the fort and keeping up with friends and kids now in three states: Jenn's family newly settled in Florida, Ben's family in Tennessee, and Vince and Himali are still nearby. Bonus: grandson Evan moved closer, with a new job in Alexandria, Virginia. Ellen jumped into pickleball, but still hopes to get back to a little golf. She traveled with the family to Iceland and Ireland, then with widow/widowers' group (WOW) to Spain, Morocco, and the length of the Rhine and loved the river cruise approach. WOW has been great for happy hours, parties, and branching out into trivia teams. She had one couple's wedding after-party at her place recently. She still loves getting her hands dirty and encouraging wildlife, battling invasives (winning), and nurturing the natives. She has lately been exploring ways that her play "On National Road: The Musical" might be useful

to schools and communities, especially since it covers 250 years of history and music through its time portal puzzle, and the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Declaration of Independence is coming up fast. She is happy to keep up with **Janet Ellin Baker '70**, **Debbie Dunphy Grosh '72**, **Kathy Walter Hobart '73, M.Ed. '76**, and **David Frankfurter '68**. She even saw **Walt Michael '68** performing at the county fair this summer and hopes to see more WMC faces in the year ahead.

Corinne Klein Vinopol, M.Ed. '75 and Ron are still happily living in their home on Kent Island, Maryland, with their Jack Russell terrier, Jackson, ruler of the roost. Jackson's favorite thing in the world is the vacuum cleaner. "We have to supervise his use of it because he tries to help it clean by pulling aside the curtains, lifting the rugs, and moving the furniture out of its way." They didn't get any ospreys in the nest this year, but the bald eagles (George and Martha) have been using it as a hunting perch. Corinne spent a lot of time last summer doing gardening — she hasn't figured out a way for the weeds to pull themselves. "They should be more considerate of our age," she said. They went to Las Vegas to see their grandson graduate elementary school and their eldest granddaughter graduate high school. She got a free ride to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and is majoring in Film Studies. Their son, daughter-in-law, youngest granddaughter, and foster daughter (who has remained their daughter) and her partner came to Las Vegas, too, so it was quite the celebration. "Ron and I are still working for our company, Institute for Disabilities Research and Training (IDRT), mostly on our website, myASLTech," Corinne said. "In fact, I recently did a workshop for a team in Singapore." Corinne works with the Citizens Review Board for Children, overseeing the welfare of foster children throughout Maryland and is a mentor for the IMPACT Center at the University of Pittsburgh. Also, teaching ASL to adult learners taught Corinne that we old folks are pretty fast learners! Other than cleaning the office once a week and participating in book club, Corinne has no idea where the rest of her time goes.

Like many of us, **Pat Callbeck Harper** has retired from a long career working in many ways for the rights of women and children. Her work included her role as a founder of the Montana Women's Lobbyist Fund and working for the Montana Office of Public Instruction as a gender and race equity specialist. Never one to sit still, Pat's eight-year tenure on the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries included traveling broadly and using her office in New York overlooking the United Nations to provide leadership for other United Methodist Women volunteering with the UN. Now that she's retired, Pat and her husband, Rusty, are staying active in church and are involved in local issues, sharing their time with their extended family and congregation as they continue to find ways to change things for the better. She may be retired but she's still getting things done.

Johnson Bowie, M.Ed. '75 still lives in Philadelphia, but makes the trip back to campus frequently. He was at McDaniel for soccer camps and was also back on the Hill for Homecoming 2025 to see Coach **Dick Clower '50** cut the ribbon and open the new Dr. Richard A. Clower '50 Track.

As for me, I'm still living in Uniontown, about five miles west of McDaniel. So, it's a short commute to work. I'm teaching first-year students these days, which is fun and educational. I learn a lot about what the world is really like today from them. My course is called Take It to the Streets: Nonviolent Protest. It's quite an experience teaching nonviolence in the same place where **Ira Zepp '52, Hon. L.H.D. '15** first taught me how nonviolence works. My husband, Charlie Collyer, and I are co-directors of the Ira and Mary Zepp Center for Nonviolence and Peace Education. We do nonviolence workshops locally and around the country. Community groups, churches, and others are becoming interested in how to keep protests peaceful (not to mention committee meetings!), and how to keep conversations on an even keel. I also work with the Living Legacy Project leading pilgrimages through the South to sites of Civil Rights campaigns, meeting veterans of the movement, and learning what is happening now. We also produce free webinars online about historic and current civil rights issues. I am still the academic credit coordinator at Common Ground on the Hill and I teach Peace Psychology online for the University of Rhode Island. In my free time, I have my mountain dulcimer, my camera, and my 10 cats (yes, you read that right, 10.) It's a long story involving house cats, taming ferals, unexpected kittens, and so on.

As you have read through this column, you have seen that our class has gotten a little smaller. Condolences from the Class of 1971 to the families and friends of those members of the class who have passed on since our last class column: **Artie Blake, Martha Moore, Tom Shelor, and Bill Westervelt**. We remember them well.

Wishing you all wonderful adventures until you hear from us again, begging for news!

Pam "ZAP" Zappardino
1971 Class Reporter
zapinator@aol.com

1977

Rob Andrews and **Betsy Eline Andrews** write that the last two years have been full of travel. In 2024, it was Morocco and Sicily and glamping two nights in the Sahara. In 2025, they visited Greece, Turkey, the Baltics, and the Nordic countries, enjoying an incredible amount of history, culture, food, wine, scenery, and a chance to cuddle with huskies and hand-feed reindeer. They also waded into the Arctic Ocean, which means they have been in all oceans. Domestically, they had their eighth annual trip to Kentucky in May with their son Kevin for lots of bourbon tasting; September in Bethany Beach with **Jan Wilder, Robyn Kramer Talbott, and Lonni Myers Bechen**; and their spring and fall visits with **Jerry Landsman** and **Cathy Dannenfeldt Landsman**. In July, their kids Brian, Erica, and Kevin and granddaughters Theona, 13, and Frankie, 9, surprised them in Baltimore with a visit, inviting 50 friends and family for a combined celebration at BC Brewery for Rob and Betsy's 70th birthdays.

Rick Barnes and **Kim Hockenbery Barnes** are near Charlottesville, Virginia, after moving from Towson in 2021, and are living in the same

neighborhood as Rick's brother, **Ken Barnes '76**, and **Laura Hayner Barnes '76**. Two of their four daughters live in Virginia and the other two live in the Baltimore area. Much of their time is spent with their daughters' families, which include six grandchildren. Rick is working half time and looking forward to wrapping up his law practice soon.

Lonni Myers Bechen and her husband, Scott, decided to sell their farm, which is heartbreaking, as they purchased the vacant land in 1989 and built everything themselves. They will stay in the southeastern Ocala, Florida, area and downsize to "just" a house and board their one remaining horse. They plan to escape Florida summers by renting a cabin next summer near Asheville, North Carolina, and get together with WMC friends **Rob Andrews** and **Betsy Eline Andrews, Jan Wilder, Robyn Kramer Talbott, and Cathy Dannenfeldt Landsman** and **Jerry Landsman**. They have met over the years at various fun spots to enjoy their friendship and adventures, including Asheville, North Carolina; Fort Mill, South Carolina; Helen, Georgia; and Bethany Beach, Delaware, with many reunions at their Florida farm. Lonni visited Hanover, Pennsylvania, in September for a family reunion and her Franklin High School reunion.

Dale Brenneman and his wife, Cheryl, are happily enjoying life in Virginia Beach after living in Maryland for over 46 years.

Jack Buckley has been living in the Netherlands for more than 35 years. A naturalized Dutch citizen since 1997, he retired two years ago from a career in journalism that had him working in Amsterdam, The Hague, and London for Bloomberg News and other news organizations. With more time for music now, he plays guitar and mandolin in various performance and recording projects in genres ranging from bluegrass to indie pop and jazz. He lives in a small, 375-year-old house in the heart of Leiden, a picturesque medieval town near the North Sea that is home to the country's oldest university. His son and daughter both live within a 35-mile radius so he sees them regularly. He's happy to be living in Europe, he says.

Franklin Caplan sends greetings and good wishes, with fond memories of classmates and happy times on our pretty little campus. Whether or not he thought so 48 years ago, we were fortunate in being exposed to all kinds of opportunities for an excellent education. Frank has spent 32 years with the same law firm. He is still in Key Biscayne, Florida, after 40-some years, still in local government after two terms as mayor, and on a state planning agency. He is busy serving on boards, healthy, and having fun. He and Gina are in a happy state of being, enjoying time with good friends and traveling when and where they want to, often visiting their daughter, Cailen, in California or family in Rhode Island.

Sadly, **Rev. Edward "Ed" Carll** passed away on Aug. 6, 2025. After WMC, Ed pursued his calling to ministry at Princeton Theological Seminary, receiving a Master of Divinity and a Master of Theology in Clinical Pastoral Care and Counseling. He did extensive work in the area of Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Stockton University. He served Methodist churches in Englishtown/Spotswood, Highland Park, Tuckerton, Westfield, and Denville, retiring from

active ministry in 2018. In the past 10 years, he served on the foundation board of the United Methodist Communities in various positions, his last being chair for the operating board. Ed loved being outdoors, and especially enjoyed fishing, hiking, hunting, kayaking, boating, and gardening. He sang with the Mendelssohn Chorus of Philadelphia; the Oratorio Singers of Westfield, New Jersey; and most recently the New Jersey MasterChorale in Haddonfield. He helped organize the Middlesex County AIDS Alliance, Habitat for Humanity for Southern Ocean County, a domestic violence response team clergy training program, CROP Hunger Walks, and worked with the local Juvenile Conference Committee. He organized and funded mission trips to the Dominican Republic where he helped build homes for local residents. **Gabriele Lesti Carll M.Ed. '77** and Ed had been planning to go to the Dominican Republic to build an "anniversary house" in honor of their 50th anniversary in 2026.

Jack Dyson and Gladys have three grandchildren. They relocated to a 55-plus community in Red Lion, Pennsylvania, in 2021. Jack reminisces about the fall days playing soccer. Jack and Gladys also enjoy spending some time down at Fenwick Island, Delaware. While he thought he would be retired by now, he has an opportunity to work with Youth in Transformation, an NGO in Cape Town, South Africa. He works with severely under-resourced Black and biracial kids (kindergarten through 12th grade). In December 2024, they had their first high school graduates. Jack told them he would give until reaching age 70, but now he wants to see those students graduate from college. He also wants to know if anyone wants to go to Cape Town with him for 12 days to work with the kids.

Robyn Furness-Fallin is semi-retired, working remotely as a consultant to nonprofits with the DBD Group. She and her husband, Bill, live on Mobile Bay in Fairhope, Alabama, with their two pups. They love boating, sailing, and hosting family and friends. When not traveling to meet with clients, Robyn and Bill are seeing the world with recent trips to Canada (crossing it by train); Morocco; Barcelona, Spain (to watch the America's Cup sailing races); Lisbon, Portugal; Madeira; Sedona, Arizona; Crested Butte, Colorado; and South Africa. She is looking forward to catching up at our 50th Reunion in 2027!

Nan Hollinger Gangler retired from 36 years of teaching in June 2019. Since then, she has been babysitting for her seven grandchildren, spending time watching them grow, doing dance and gymnastics, playing ball, and racing dirt bikes. Nan finds time for music, handbell choir, hammered dulcimer, and is learning to play a recorder. She also discovered a love for watercolor painting. The Munchkins of WMC (**Nancy Schwarzkopf Gaffney, Sherry Wensel Bowers '78, M.Ed. '84; Beth Heckert Tevis, M.Ed. '84; and Brenda Eccard Dellinger '79**) still find time to get together. They lost Munchkin sister **Terry Holland** in May 2023 and miss her so much.

Schuyler Grant and **Margi Voelkel Grant** are still living in San Diego. Schuyler is working for Leidos with no plans to retire anytime soon. They have two dogs. All three of their daughters live nearby. Schuyler and Margi travel a lot. They

recently returned from an Iceland intensive cruise. In March 2024, they took a Danube cruise and then went on to Poland. A Nile cruise, a Japan intensive cruise, a Scotland intensive cruise, and Portugal and Canary Islands cruises are in the plans. Sadly, they lost both their dads 11 days apart in 2023, then Margi's mom seven months later.

In fall 2023, **Kim Grove** and his wife, Debbie, after 34 years in Findlay, Ohio, moved to Milford, Ohio, to be closer to their grandchildren in Cincinnati. They downsized to a condo; no more snow shoveling or lawn maintenance! They are both retired. Debbie keeps busy babysitting Addy, 4, and Grant, 2. Kim is busy singing in local choirs: the Clermont Chorale, Chromatix, and the choir at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Terrace Park, Ohio.

Carlton Harris now lives in Issaquah, Washington, a town east of Seattle, where it rains a lot, but is beautiful, with two streams running through their property and mountains looming in the distance. Carlton is a semi-retired financial consultant, with two active clients. Most of his time is spent supporting his wife, Ji, who works for Amazon, and his son, Zhen, 15. Carlton's three older kids are all well, living in New York City; Media, Pennsylvania; and Newport Beach, California. Eldest son Mac was married in August 2024, and the other two are now engaged. Carlton and Ji like to travel around Washington and the Pacific Northwest. Carlton and his son recently took a trip through Southern Utah, visiting Zion and Bryce Canyon national parks.

Donna Zarycranski Hartman and Dave are thoroughly enjoying retirement at the shore. Weeks are filled with reading, crafting, cooking, traveling, relaxing, protesting, and a whole lot of time with grandkids, ages 11, 10, 7, and 4. Daughter Laura lives locally in New Jersey, and Kate is only two hours away in Churchville, Maryland. Donna enjoyed a visit from Eric and **Jane Trafton-Winch '78** who keep busy with world traveling. This spring, Donna and Dave stopped for lunch and a short visit with Joe and **Sally Kinsella Voith '78** in Washington, D.C.

Jeff Heinbaugh '76 and **Cathy Clayton Heinbaugh** are healthy, retired, grandparents to three precious preschoolers, and enjoying life as Tennessee residents who still maintain a household in Maryland. Life is full of caretaking (parents and grandchildren), friends, family, church, travel, quilting, reading, and walking.

Lynn Reeser Henderson retired in 2017 from a school psychologist position in Queen Anne's County, Maryland. Her granddaughter, Charlotte, is 6 years old and lives nearby, with Lynn's daughter, Laura, and her husband, Rob. Lynn lives in St. Michaels, Maryland, playing guitar whenever she can.

Susan Burgard Hermann is doing well. A year ago, she moved into what was her parents' house, where she lived from age 12 until she got married. Sue has adjusted to living alone after her husband, **Ed Hermann '70**, died in 2010. She has good friends to travel with and is looking forward to her next cruise from Barcelona, Spain, to Miami. She retired at age 62.

Gary Honeman and **Mary Frank Honeman** moved to the Eastern Shore of Maryland last summer to the community of Lakeside at Trappe. Gary continues his telehealth psychotherapy practice and teaching as an adjunct in the

Salisbury University Social Work Department. Mary retired from the Westminster Library and is now actively involved with the Talbot County Free Library Friends Association in Easton. Gary enjoys running and biking the flat roads of the shore. They are near their son Chris and his family including his wife, Brittny, and 6-year-old granddaughter Londyn Blu. Justin and his partner, Natalie, live in Denver and they take turns with reciprocal visits. They had great visits recently from Gary's WMC tennis coach Ron Jones and **Joe Carrico '75**.

Bill Johnson and his wife, Ruth, send greetings from Columbus, Ohio. They are grandparents to a beautiful granddaughter and have perfected spoiling her. Bill moved from working with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida to working remotely with Blue Cross Blue Shield North Carolina. Bill's son, Will, runs the IT department at the Youth Behavioral Facility in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Bill calls him for help with computer and smart TV issues. Bill and Ruth spent 18 days running around southern France and Paris with a day trip to Normandy in 2025. Ruth sings for a symphony in Columbus and they did a mini tour in Southern France (Nice, Provence, Marseille, Toulouse, Cahors, Rocamadour, Gramat, and Montpellier) and then headed north to Paris. If you visit Bill's Facebook page, you can hear her singing in some of France's cathedrals. They were planning a trip to the Caribbean in the winter, visiting San Juan, Tortola, St. John's, Bridgetown, Saint Lucia, Saint Maarten, and Saint Thomas.

Jerry Landsman and **Cathy Dannenfeldt Landsman** are still enjoying life in Boonsboro, Maryland, their home for 47 years! Their son, Drew, and family live close by, so they see their 12-year-old granddaughter often. Drew is chief of resources at Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, having started with the National Park Service during college breaks. Daughter Amy just began her 15th year teaching a fourth grade inclusion class in Virginia. Last fall, they traveled to the Finger Lakes in New York, enjoyed the waterfalls, hiking trails, and many of the wineries. They also made a visit to the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Annual visits continue with **Rob Andrews** and **Betsy Eline Andrews**. A lovely 70th birthday celebration in January included the Andrewses, Delt sisters **Jan Wilder, Robyn Kramer Talbott, and Bob "Cubby" Mitchell '75, M.Ed. '82**, and his wife, Georgie. Jerry continues to buy, sell, and play with model trains. He and Cubby, **Bob Cullison '75, M.S. '97**, and **Ray Ulm '76** love the hobby and get together to compare notes and buy more trains.

Gay Jewell Love, M.Ed. '85 and **Dick Love '78** are both recently retired. They are enjoying traveling and spending more time with their East Coast and West Coast children and grandchildren.

Russ Mason writes that after retirement from the University of Delaware English Language Institute faculty, he moved with his wife, Abby, to the shore to be caregiver for his parents. Russ and Abby now live on the family farm on the bay, attend LiFT Church, and operate a prison outreach ministry. Russ sometimes sees fellow classmates **Jim Martin** and **Alison Nicoll Martin '78, Bill Bruning**, and **Bob Hulburd**, and he is still in touch with **Steve Maker '76** and **Bob Davis '75**. Russ writes, "While at WMC, I recorded original music with Steve and played

WE DID!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLYWEDS!

Gary Smith '13 to Maria Ciabattoni on June 14, 2025. They reside in Pasadena, Maryland.

Lisa Starr '13 to **Colin Shorter '14** on June 8, 2024. They reside in Odenton, Maryland.

Juliana Ottomano '16 to Ben Hamblett on June 21, 2025. They reside in Philadelphia.

Femi Grace Hounsou '17 to Scott Nunn on May 24, 2024. They reside in Baltimore.

Mable Buchanan '18 to Theron Palmer on April 13, 2024. They reside in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Austin Cannon '19 to **Morgan Collinson '19** on May 18, 2024. They reside in Hampstead, Maryland.

Jasmin Chavez Cruz '19 to **Elias Jaffe '19** on Aug. 31, 2025. They reside in Reston, Virginia.

Kayla Stout '20 to Ryan Dunford on Oct. 12, 2024. They reside in Westminster, Maryland.

Katelyn Van Mater '24 to **Donald Stockton '22** on Sept. 7, 2025. They reside in Hampstead, North Carolina.

Caitlyn Gilbert Hays '24 to **Matthew Hays '23** on June 6, 2025. They reside in Laurel, Maryland.



with Bob in his band Wild Turkey. Later, Bob and I played in the band Just Us, which morphed into Tranzfusion, a regional classic rock mainstay. Occasionally, I catch up with Bob and enjoy hearing Tranzfusion's renditions of old favorites." Russ is still playing music, teaching tai chi chuan, and conducting workshops in various places.

Nancy Dean Mattingly writes that their family continues to grow with the addition of two more grandchildren, four total, ages 8½, 7, 2, and 3 months. They live nearby so Nancy and **Curt Mattingly '75** can help out from time to time. Nancy is still involved with the care ministry at the Lutheran church, and Curt's Brew Group at church also continues to brew for different events at church. They are staying busy, traveling more often.

Mike May is enjoying retirement, living outside Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, particularly enjoying the months the tourists are not there. He recognizes that priorities are now different and enjoying the day is more important than completing tasks. Like many others of our age, he has moved from completing the daily to-do list to embracing opportunities and adventures when presented. He says it is nice to walk the beach in the off-season without crowds or noise. Between his dog and his partner's 5-year-old granddaughter, there is plenty to fill the days. He hears regularly from **Marjorie Feuer Waxenberg** who is enjoying her three grandchildren. Mike hopes we can all get back together at our next Reunion. Mike also writes that **Debbie Pferdeort Bonds** passed away in January 2025.

Karen Miller is still living the country life in White Hall, Maryland, enjoying her volunteer days at Oldfields School where she manages the library, and still playing bridge at the local senior center. She had a good visit with **Reggie Lee '75** in August when he passed through the area.

Karen Zawacki Pillets has been living in lower, slower Delaware for almost 10 years. She is enjoying boating, all things water related, and pickleball. She sees **Gary Honeman** and **Mary Frank Honeman** occasionally.

Eric "Schwartz" Rosenberg is well in Little River, South Carolina, still enjoying retirement — playing golf, deep sea fishing, and traveling with his wife, Anita. They recently returned from a two-month visit to Washington state to see their daughter, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and other family members. Eric visited the Bourbon Trail in Louisville, Kentucky, last spring with two high school buddies. His brother and former business partner, **Mark "Manny" Rosenberg '79**, still lives nearby. They have lunch almost weekly and play golf together as often as they can. Eric's plans for the next year include more golf, more fishing, and more traveling.

Tony Sager and **Susan Fairchild Sager '79, M.Ed. '85** are still working, each in their second careers and both having too much fun to stop just yet. Susan will celebrate 20 years with Southwest Airlines next year, which is her target. Despite their winter scheduling meltdown, she loves her work, the many friends she flies with, and all the new friends she makes along the way. Tony has been working from home since 2012 for the nonprofit Center for Internet Security. He has moved all "real work" to the next generation and spends his time focused on company strategy and messaging. He also does volunteer work

on numerous government and industry boards, study groups, and more. Currently, he is focused on the Cyber Safety Review Board, created last year by executive order as a cybersecurity version of the National Transportation Safety Board. Recently, he had the honor of speaking to students in the McDaniel College National Security Fellows program. His topic was "Cyber Security as a Liberal Arts Challenge," which might resonate with some readers. Beyond work, Susan and Tony are still very active in bicycling and hiking adventures. They just returned from a bike trip in Florida, which was really a training ride for an upcoming bicycling trip in Japan in April, followed by the legendary Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI) in July — a chaotic 500-mile ride with tens of thousands of cyclists, like a horde of eating/drinking/camping/cycling locusts overwhelming a series of small towns. They also spend time with their two granddaughters, ages 5 and 2.

Jeff and **Wona Vanadit Silbert** have nine grandchildren, three of whom live across from them, while the other six live nearby. Wona and Jeff are planning to take their son on his first trip to Thailand, then on to Hawaii for a family wedding where Wona is hoping to visit **Mike Carroll '75** in Lanai. Last year, Wona and her sister took a river cruise in Cambodia and Vietnam. Traffic in Ho Chi Minh City was worse than in Bangkok, but the food was so good.

Steve Spinelli and **Carol Fulton Spinelli** have two grandsons — Alexander, 9, who loves baseball and is a talented pianist, and William, 7, who is charming, energetic, and a budding actor. Carol is immersed in not-for-profit work after 40-plus years in church music. She serves on the board of the Nantucket Community Music Center, three garden clubs, and supports churches in Wellesley and Nantucket. Steve is president of Babson College. He serves on the board of Planet Fitness and two other private multinational companies.

Robyn Kramer Talbott writes that the last few years have been a whirlwind of change and activity. She retired from teaching special education in Dorchester County in June 2022. However, in fall 2022, she was asked to mentor new special education teachers two days a week. That is what she is now doing and loves it. The rest of her time is spent traveling and with grandkids Quint, 18; Jacob, 11; Gavin, 9; and Ellie, 3. Robyn, Quint, and Robyn's son, Guy, went to Scotland in 2021. Robyn has been back twice since then to meet up with friends from the U.S., Canada, the Netherlands, Australia, and Great Britain who she met through an online global fitness and charity group. This past summer, Robyn, Guy and his wife Vicki, Quint, and Jacob toured Iceland for 10 days. Yearly, she spends a week with **Jan Wilder, Lonni Myers Bechen, Betsy Eline Andrews, and Rob Andrews** in Bethany Beach, Delaware. This year, they spent time with **Cathy Dannenfeldt Landsman** and **Jerry Landsman** celebrating CL, Betsy, and Rob's 70th birthdays.

Sara Waldron continues to enjoy providing executive and life transitions coaching through her coaching practice. In June, she traveled to Norway with **Karen Merkle '76**, for a 12-day tour of UNESCO villages, fjords, glaciers, and a visit to the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo, Norway.

Gary Walters is happy to report that despite the installation of artificial body parts during the past year, all is well in his world — and his family still talks to him! He also says that he sees a number — too many to list — of classmates and GBX brothers, mostly thanks to golf outings several times a year and the efforts of **Randy Cole '79** and **Eric Brown '79** to organize events to keep a band of GBX brothers together for 50 years! In the past several years, Gary has participated in bike trips along the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal and the Eastern Shore with **Chuck Boehlke '78, Jay Cook '78, and Mike Cottingham '78**, along with spouses/significant others, and is looking forward to continuing those rides until "we can ride no more." Gary still lives on Kent Island, "an oyster shell toss up the creek" (not a commonly known unit of measure) from where he was born and raised, and welcomes anyone brave enough to tackle the Route 50 traffic to stop by and share an adult beverage or two.

Michael Warthen writes that the downsizing movement has finally reached him, as he and Mary Fran have sold their Syracuse lake house and bought a townhouse near the grandkids, where they spend the summer. The rest of the year, they remain residents of North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, thankful to escape the frozen tundra. He and Mary Fran enjoy the beach and the many golf courses in the area. They look forward to seeing **Rusty Hess** on his annual trek south for some golf and dinners and hope to include **Rob Andrews** (who is only a couple of hours away), in their outings.

Marjorie Feuer Waxenberg has a new grandson. He was born on April 18, 2025, a month early, with a necrotic colon and was in the NICU for a month. Marjorie started teaching her granddaughter, Madeleine, beginner piano. Recently, Marjorie participated in a piano retreat at St. John's University in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Every night she played a few pieces, including Bach's Italian Concerto. She has an upcoming trip to New Smyrna Beach, Florida, with a fellow pianist, Jane. Marjorie's husband, Steve, has been having a lot of health problems — in and out of the hospital, including ER visits. Marjorie is active in her piano club, has started a new needlepoint project (her daughter wonders what she is going to do with all the needlepoint pillows Marjorie makes), keeps the garden going, runs the house, and has lunches with friends.

Rick Williams retired from the National Institutes of Health in 2023, after decades wrangling viruses and patents. He is now living the WMC Biology major's dream — and seeing a lot of ticks — on 140 acres of woodland near the Connecticut River with his family. To stay sharp and not become part of the mulch, he enrolled in the University of Connecticut's yearlong Woodland Management course. They travel all over the state learning how not to ruin a forest. Rick says it is like field trips for grownups, with chainsaws. Life's slower, greener, and full of leaf-identifying apps. If you're ever lost in the woods, Rick says he might actually be helpful now.

I am working full time as financial administrator for Intercissors for America. I also work with the local Celebrate Recovery group, as well as working with the Loudoun County Board of Elections during each election season. It gives

me much happiness to hear from each of you and produce this class news column. It has been an honor and privilege.

Now, as a class, we need to prepare for our 50th Reunion. We cannot have a repeat of our 45th Reunion. We need your input on the time, date, and place and help planning our activities. Let's all work together to make it a very memorable time of celebrating our connection and memories.

*Donna Joy Armstrong
1977 Class Reporter
P.O. Box 431
Round Hill, VA 20142
freshmerciestoday@gmail.com*

1983

For the past 10 years, **Patrick Rogan** has run his HR consulting firm, IgnitionHR. He's now transitioned into partial retirement — embracing a slower work pace and a faster pace of fun. He and his wife have two granddaughters. Their recent travels have been to Montreal; St. Augustine, Florida; and Honolulu (to visit their son, daughter-in-law, and second granddaughter). He also enjoyed spending time with **Mark Fabian** and **Paul Lewis** and enjoys the frequent Phi Delt golf tournaments.

Steve Ports retired from the state nine years ago and started Steve Ports Consulting and continues to consult and lobby on health care finance matters. Three years ago, he and his wife moved to Ocean City, Maryland, but still spend quite a bit of time at their Severna Park house. He met up with the Techs — **Mark Jordan, Bob Butler, Becky Jackson Butler '84, John O'Connell, Scott Kohr, M.S. '89, and Lynn Stone Kohr '88, M.L.A. '08**. He is honored to continue to chair the McDaniel College Alumni Awards Committee, where he gets to learn about and spend time with some of our incredible fellow alums — the Green Terror certainly is a rare breed.

Cynthia Baxter retired from active ministry and is now busy with supply at Lutheran churches in the Hanover, Pennsylvania, area. She has moved into a senior retirement community. Both of her grandchildren (shared with McDaniel Trustee **Marjorie Rankin Kimble '86**) are in college now. She published a genealogy book for her Baxter family, who settled in Pennsylvania in 1764.

Jeff Morrison finished a year as a visiting professor of Politics at the University of Virginia for the 2024-25 school year, and returned to his positions as professor of American Studies at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia, and director of academics at the federal government's James Madison Foundation in Alexandria, Virginia. He continues to enjoy life in Williamsburg, Virginia, where he's lived since 2001. He stays in touch with **Jeff Trice '84, Nelson Thacker '82**, and honorary Green Terror Paul Beard, who is building him a custom acoustic guitar.

Mark McCullin, M.S. '95 is in year seven of his "second career" working in the HR department at the Brooke Grove Retirement Village near Olney, Maryland. He says that it is gratifying being able to hire staff to help take care of the senior citizens and rehab patients in the facility. He and his wife, **Jennifer Eisberg-McCullin '84**, get to see

other Class of 1982-84 WMC grads periodically. Every Homecoming, they see **Jacki Anderson Stranathan** and her husband, Malcolm; **Bruce Mable, Luis Aranaga, Julie Olmsted Beaudry** and her husband, Ed; **Kathy Maxwell Mayne** and her husband, Marty; **Ann Blizzard Dell '84, M.S. '89** and her husband, Dan; and **Jackie Smith Runner '84** and her husband, **Rick Runner '82**. "We also get together with them periodically through the year. Reminiscing is one of the favorite things that we do."

Lisa Stahl Gastelle, M.Ed. '84 and her husband, Greg, have just completed trips to Belgium, France, Germany, and Switzerland. They are also enjoying camping, hiking, biking, and kayaking with a new addition — a rescue Tibetan spaniel. Lisa just spent a great weekend with 11 other women from WMC. "**Debbie Armsworthy Shifflette** is an amazing organizer and host. We continued our storytelling, laughing, and silliness as if we weren't in our mid-60s." Their three grown kids are doing well and making them very proud.

Paul Cale and his wife became grandparents for the first time three years ago and spend lots of time with their grandson. They began having "Beach Week" at the Outer Banks every Fourth of July. Beach Week has been a great success and watching their whole family grow has been a blessing. Last fall they took their grandson back to the Hill to see his first McDaniel football game. Paul says it was very exciting sitting on the Hill watching the game instead of being on the field playing in the game.

Since retiring from the U.S. Agency for Global Media in 2018, **Mollie King** has been active in various nonprofits and lineage societies including Daughters of the American Revolution, Daughters of 1812, First Families of Maryland, Colonial Dames of the 17th Century, and Descendants of American Farmers.

Laurie Bimestefer Shields, M.S. '97 retired in 2023 after 29 years with Carroll Community College. She moved to Floyd, Virginia, and celebrated 25 years married to her husband, Mike. She is enjoying the grandma gig, teaching stained glass classes at the Floyd Art Center, and spending lots of time in the garden.

Sadly, **Paul Parlette** had to say goodbye to his mother, **Edith Sanner Parlette '50**. Gratefully, they said hello to their second granddaughter. He is known as "Grand Paul" to the grandchildren. He and **Nancy Turner Parlette '82** celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary. He is giving thanks to still being alive and kicking by completing four marathons in the last two years.

Marybeth Gaiser is going through a huge transition now. At this point after 20 years of being a controller, MBA, and with her systems development and implementation experience, she is headed to a quiet life working remotely with many animals and acres. She raised her daughter, got her through college, and she established herself with a great career, so she is headed south and to stay away from HOAs. She is looking to further her music in a new spiritual home!

Scott Lohmann is married and has been happily settled in Silicon Valley for the past 27 years. He has spent much of that time building and driving revenue for startups. He's also been channeling his energy into a few nonprofit education boards. Three years ago, he took on a whole new adventure as the head coach of the

ARRIVED

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY, FUTURE GREEN TERRORS!

Everly Maisyn Clark on April 22, 2024, to **Chelsea Phillips Clark '07** and Phil Clark.

Amelianna Marie DeFrehn on Sept. 9, 2024, to **Brittany Parrish DeFrehn '07** and Sean DeFrehn.

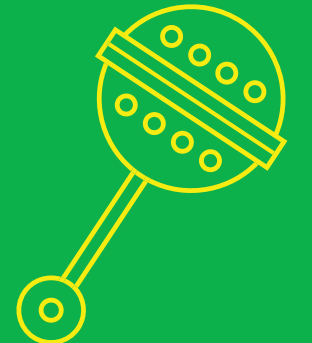
Matthew Barr on Aug. 17, 2025, to Emily **Trainer Barr '08** and Chris Barr.

Madilyn Grace York on June 7, 2024, to **Rachel Smirolido York '11** and Brian York.

Emilia Rose Connor in Feb. 2025 to **Kira Young Connor '13** and **Kyle Connor '13**.

Jesper Reed Rinker on Aug. 7, 2025, to **Nolan Rinker '16** and Brittney Rinker.

Charlotte Asher Ray on May 5, 2025, to **Isaac Ray '19** and Jeanine Ray.



varsity boys' lacrosse team at their local high school, which has been incredibly rewarding. He really enjoys reconnecting with the Phi Delt crew at the Phi Delt Golf Extravaganza.

Rixey Lebherz Houl and her husband, Chris, continue to live in Frederick, Maryland. Their kids are on both sides of the U.S. in St. Petersburg, Florida, and San Francisco, and are sorely missed. Rix coaches 5- to 7-year-olds at Monocacy Aquatic Club.

Stan Murray and his wife, Chris, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with a Rhine River cruise and a family vacation to Lake Tahoe. Stan retired from Steel & Wire Products and lives in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. They have two grandchildren and are looking forward to more travel.

I had to put the two roommates **Jerry Balentine** and **Bob Iber** in the same paragraph. Instead of slowing down, Jerry decided to accept one more challenge as the president of the New York Institute of Technology, a university with approximately 8,000 students, six different schools, and four campuses in North America. As if that is not enough, he and his wife run a goat farm in Woodstock, New York, and a small business for tourists offering goat yoga. He and his wife have three children. Bob and his wife, Roberta, enjoy their small farm in Sparks, Maryland. He continues to work for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. They have traveled a lot recently to Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons; to Texas for the baseball stadiums; and Ohio, Wisconsin, and New Hampshire for family get-togethers. They are looking forward to many more travels in the years ahead.

Eileen Riley Richardot has been married to Bill for 38 years and lives in Bergen County, New Jersey. They have two sons. She retired from a career in cardiac ultrasound. They split their time between New Jersey, Long Beach Island in South Jersey, and a lake house in Peacham, Vermont. She enjoys yoga and spending time with their dog.

Joann Krout Luckenbaugh shared some information that I didn't know, which was that she started college 14 years after she graduated high school. Sadly, she lost her husband in 2025 after almost 60 years of marriage. She is keeping busy by playing in six bands. She is also choir director at Gettysburg Church of the Brethren. She exercises every day for a goal of 15,000 steps a day.

Dan Guy and **Jennifer Gill Guy** are still enjoying life in Howard County, Maryland. They travel annually with their three sons and two daughters-in-law, and relish time with their two young grandsons. Dan plays golf on occasion with **Greg Shockley** and **Steve Sturiale**. Both travel and golf with **Cathy Littmann Bryan** and her husband, Donny. Dan surprised Jen with a trip to the Cotswolds and the Chelsea Flower Show in London. Jen stays in close touch with **Mary Barker Bachinger**, **Liz Macsherry Moag**, **Laine Gillespie**, **Nancy Reid Caspari**, **Kathie Harrison Offutt**, and **Diane Culver Borucki '85**.

Jacki Anderson Stranathan spent the past year as a missionary in Barahona, Dominican Republic. She and her husband, Malcolm, felt blessed to be able to feed families and provide activities for everyone. They have been married 42 years and have two grandsons. For the holidays, they travel to England to visit their grandsons along with Jacki's parents, **Jane Roeder Anderson '58** and **Jack Anderson '58**.

Cathy Lawson Breslin and her husband are both retired and loving it. They spend a lot of time at the beach. They have two sons whom they wish lived closer.

Lynn Goldstein Phillips enjoys her life in the Pacific Northwest. She and her husband often camp in their teardrop trailer named the Ciao Wagon. They camped at crystal-clear Crater Lake, Oregon, and a cute Bavarian-themed town called Leavenworth, Washington. She continues to work at their financial software company, Core Commissions. She implores classmates to come visit — it's beautiful here!

Nick Feurer retired from his insurance business four years ago and has been trying to figure out how he had time to work since he is always busy. The Bachelors had a 100-year anniversary get-together last year, and it was great to see many of his old classmates. Most of his winters are spent in Florida staying warm and playing pickleball while summers are spent crabbing and fishing.

Jim Johnson and his wife, Katie, are officially empty nesters. All three of their children are now officially out of the house and working (woo hoo!). They are living the dream in Rumson, New Jersey, where they can walk to the beach from their house and enjoy the Jersey Shore. He had an amazing time at the Preacher 100th anniversary.

Kent Galvin and his wife, Sheila, continue to enjoy their morning coffee watching the sunrise over their lake in Boynton, Virginia. They now have 14 grandkids and love regularly hosting all of them for lake fun and building cousin memories. He thoroughly enjoyed reconnecting with **Wayne Keen** and sharing where life has taken them both.

Suzanne Herbert-Forton and her husband, Ray, have had a life filled with music thanks to his love of playing guitar. She has had two careers that she loves. She has worked in union theatrical wardrobe for over 30 years by helping with quick changes and sewing. Her love of backstage theatre work really took root when she got a work-study job in WMC Alumni Hall working under Ira Domser. Her liberal arts education gets put to good use in her work as a teaching artist. She is a roster artist with Arts for Learning, Maryland. In this work, she engages with students and teachers around the state to create arts integrated projects in embroidered work or ceramic murals.

Debbie Armsworthy Shifflette and her husband, Mark, celebrated their 41st anniversary in their home of Gainesville, Virginia. Their sons and their wives live close by. In 2016, the first weekend in August was declared WMC Wine Weekend, with Mark driving **Annette Horn Seiler, M.Ed. '85**, **Erin O'Connell Peiffer**, **Peggy Stoneback Beardmore**, **Jane Krug**, **Mary York '84**, **Ann Hilton Horn '84**, **Beth White Werrell**, and **Debbie** to several wineries. Last year, they celebrated the lives of **Helen Potter Curry '85** and **Robin Garland Bair '84** at a house in Taneytown, Maryland, with **Sandra Michener Lazar '85**, **Dee Kennedy '85**, **Amy Barnes-Elliott '84**, **Deirdre O'Neill '85**, **Carrie Miller Parker '85**, and **Becky Poynter Kirkner**. This year was a weekend of disco, muumuus, and portraits in Centreville with **Lisa Stahl Gastelle, M.Ed. '84**, and **Chrysanthi Tegeris Jaffe '84** as the newest additions.

Theresa Gertner Kormann, M.Ed. '86 and **Matt Kormann** are both retired. They live 30 minutes south of McDaniel, but they spend more time with their daughter Jackie (a University of Maryland graduate and 2009 McDaniel Budapest student), and family in Sarasota, Florida. They also travel to San Antonio, Texas, to visit their son **Tony Kormann '16** and family. Their other son, **Tommy Kormann '23**, is completing his master's in Occupational Therapy at Towson University. They also like to spend time hiking in Colorado and cruising in Europe and the Caribbean. When they are not traveling, they keep in touch with **Nelson Thacker '82**, **Jim Cook**, **Jeff Stone '82** and his wife, **Vicki**, **Wayne Tart '81**, and **Ellen Nash-West**.

Debbie Lum Gimmy, M.Ed. '85 and her husband are still living in Chesapeake City, Maryland. After working for a few years with hearing-impaired students, she became a stay-at-home mom. During these years, she also volunteered in their local library and schools, and as a Girl Scout leader (for 25 years!). Her children are grown and out of the house. She now fills her time with music, playing in five community ensembles as well as her church handbell choir. One of the bands in which she plays had the honor of being invited to travel to Honolulu in 2021 to play for the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Then in 2024, they were invited to Normandy and Paris, France, where they participated in memorial ceremonies, concerts, and a parade to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day. These were two incredible experiences she will never forget!

Sue Lucy Maseth retired after 41 years of teaching art in Frederick County Schools. She is loving the retired life and focusing on her true joy of creating art and painting again. **Rob Maseth** is looking to join the retirement crew this coming year with hopes of finding a golf game and spending time on the beach and water doing some fishing. Last year, they traveled to Italy and look forward to getting back to travel after their youngest is married in June of 2026 and seeing the completion of their new home in Grandy, North Carolina, about 15 minutes from the shores of the Outer Banks.

Rick Koplowitz welcomed his first grandchild in May 2024, and he visits her regularly. Since retiring in March 2024, travel is a big part of his life. He takes yearly cruises around Europe with his girlfriend of 16 years, Paula. He still keeps up playing guitar at local bars a few times a year with his band The Six. Rick stays in touch with **Greg Peterson '82**, **Steve Ports**, and **Robert "Pete" Weller** who were in school bands together including the self-designed Jan Term "Jamming for Credit."

Dwight Eichelberger and **Brenda Jones Eichelberger** have been married 39 years. Dwight retired from his position of medical director of analytics and clinical decision support with Penn Medicine this past April. Now he gets to work in the yard all day. Brenda is still working as a speech therapist with IU13 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Her hobbies are bonsai trees, working, orchids, and lying on the sofa. Her beautiful blue Hyundai had an unfortunate run-in with a telephone pole last summer. Luckily, she now has a new Hyundai with a plug-in EV feature. She plugs it right into the wall just like a toaster. They have three sons and a young granddaughter.

I have been able to see **Peggy Stoneback Beardmore** more lately because her husband, Paul, plays with a friend at a local restaurant about once a month. We were also passengers on their boat to watch the Fourth of July fireworks near the Severn River Bridge. They have two grandchildren who they get to see often. Brad and I continue to love living in Severna Park, Maryland, because it is very walkable. Brad is playing with the band Radio City. I love substituting and just walk to work. Our weekends are spent at our grandsons' sporting events. I have lunch with **Corjie Simmons Tarlton '82, M.Ed. '86** and **Nancy Zuidema Radcliffe '82** about once a month; this summer we met poolside at Corjie's. Our children still live close by for which we are very thankful.

*Traci "Breeze" Holland Anderson
1983 Class Reporter
Anderb1@verizon.net*

1989

Denise Laudenberger recently celebrated her six-year anniversary with Hanger Clinic, where she serves as an office administrator. Hanger Clinic is a nationwide provider of orthotic and prosthetic devices, with roots dating back to the Civil War. A fun fact about Denise is that she owns a three-legged cat — an amputee she adopted even before joining Hanger. Outside of work, Denise has embraced "cruise life," having taken three Royal Caribbean cruises this past year to Bermuda, the Bahamas, and Canada. She's already busy planning her next adventure!

Mary Van Pelt Waskey has officially begun her 37th year of teaching! The last several she has been teaching second grade. Both of her daughters are now in high school, and the family enjoyed a wonderful Disney vacation last January followed by a relaxing beach trip over the summer. Mary stays busy keeping up with her daughters' dance, theatre, and church youth group activities.

Brian Baugus continues to reside in Chesapeake, Virginia, and is now in his 13th year as an economics professor at Regent University. Since the last update, Brian and his wife have enjoyed traveling to several European countries, as well as Mexico and Guatemala, where they celebrated their 32nd wedding anniversary. At home, they have a bit of land and quite the menagerie — ranging from a flock of 50 assorted birds to goats, donkeys, pigs, and even a few exotic animals, including a Burmese python and a pet alligator. Brian says that if you're ever heading to Virginia Beach or the Outer Banks, be sure to reach out!

After 36 years of federal service **Theresa Bernhardt Ballinger** retired in August 2025. Most recently, she was the Goddard Space Flight Center's chief financial officer for finance. She looks forward to continuing her work on the board of the Autism Society of Maryland and leading the task force for its affordable housing project, Patuxent Commons. Theresa is looking forward to spending more time at the beach with her family and reconnecting with her WMC friends.

Emma "Marie" Upperco Douglas '56 of Westminster, Maryland, on Aug. 14, 2025.

Paul Ensor '57 of Frederick, Maryland, on Aug. 12, 2025.

Jane Roeder Ander '58 of Catonsville, Maryland, on Sept. 14, 2025.

Margaret Conover Cheney '58 of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, on June 5, 2024.

Anne Voshell Stout-Duff '59 of New Freedom, Pennsylvania, on Jan. 8, 2025.

Roland McCahan continues to enjoy the beach bum life on the beautiful Outer Banks of North Carolina. He notes that he doesn't influence anyone about anything!

IN MEMORIAM

REMEMBERING THESE DEARLY DEPARTED MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY

Claire Miller Garrett '46 of West Friendship, Maryland, on Aug. 31, 2025.

Helen Becker Decker '48 of Westfield, New Jersey, on Aug. 11, 2025.

Louise Scott Widdup '48 of Sarasota, Florida, on Sept. 24, 2025.

Dr. Mary Ellen Smith Elwell '50 of Solomons, Maryland, on July 4, 2025.

Anne Thompson Shockey '50 of Severna Park, Maryland, on May 7, 2025.

William Simpson '51 of Lynn, Massachusetts, on Oct. 9, 2025.

Ann Fitzsimmons Van Wetering '53 of Midland Park, New Jersey, on Aug. 30, 2025.

Joan Barkelew Coffman '54 of McLean, Virginia, on Sept. 5, 2025.

Mary Plasket Toman '54 of Harbeson, Delaware, on Oct. 6, 2025.

Martha Nicholson Bortner '55 of Satellite Beach, Florida, on July 17, 2025.

Emma "Marie" Upperco Douglas '56 of Westminster, Maryland, on Aug. 14, 2025.

Paul Ensor '57 of Frederick, Maryland, on Aug. 12, 2025.

Jane Roeder Ander '58 of Catonsville, Maryland, on Sept. 14, 2025.

Margaret Conover Cheney '58 of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, on June 5, 2024.

Anne Voshell Stout-Duff '59 of New Freedom, Pennsylvania, on Jan. 8, 2025.

John Rebert M.Ed. '60 of York, Pennsylvania, on Aug. 1, 2025.

Carolyn Hoecker Gassaway '63 of Portland, Oregon, on April 13, 2023.

Dolores "Dolly" Cauwels Snyder M.Ed. '63, Hon. L.H.D. '89 of Westminster, Maryland, on July 15, 2025.

Thomas Warner '63 of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on Aug. 18, 2025.

Dr. Ralph Smith '65 of State College, Pennsylvania, on June 28, 2025.

Capt. John Trainor '65 of Germantown, Tennessee, on Oct. 18, 2025.

Michael Idoine '66 of Wendell, Massachusetts, on Sept. 13, 2025.

Lawrence Sanders '70 of Magnolia, Delaware, on Oct. 4, 2025.

Dr. James Cregg '72 of Carlsbad, California, on Sept. 16, 2025.

James Johnstone '72 of Mount Holly Springs, Pennsylvania, on July 13, 2024.

Raymond Land '74 of Selbyville, Delaware, on July 2, 2025.

Deborah Pferdeort Bonds '77 of Parkville, Maryland, on Jan. 9, 2025.

The Rev. Edward Carl '77 of Shamong, New Jersey, on Aug. 6, 2025.

Shirley Quidas Findeisen M.Ed. '79 of Sykesville, Maryland, on July 22, 2025.

Ruth Gorey Schneehagen M.Ed. '82 of Westminster, Maryland, on June 18, 2025.

James Hursey '86 of Odenton, Maryland, on June 19, 2025.

Elizabeth Cavey M.Ed. '87 of New Windsor, Maryland, on Aug. 13, 2025.

William Hoffacker Jr. '90 of New Oxford, Pennsylvania, on Nov. 19, 2025.

Robert Downer '91 of Havre de Grace, Maryland, on July 28, 2025.

Mildred Worthen M.L.A. '97 of Westminster, Maryland, on Aug. 22, 2025.

Rose Blizzard '02 of Westminster, Maryland, on Aug. 31, 2025.

Gregg Shelton '02 of Wilmington, Delaware, on March 18, 2025.

Kristin Brennan '07 of New York, on Sept. 20, 2025.

Tina Hagarman '09 of Hanover, Pennsylvania, on Nov. 20, 2025.

Theodore "Teddy" Golubowski III '20 of Toms River, New Jersey, on June 26, 2025.

Bryan Lynch retired from the New Jersey State Police in January 2022 after 26 years of dedicated service, including 19 years on the governor's detail. He has since begun his second career as an executive protection (EP) specialist with Venvue, a company that spun off from Johnson & Johnson. Bryan and his wife, Kerri, recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. Their daughter, Madalyn, graduated from UMass Amherst in May, while their son, Gavin, also graduated in May from Ocean County College and is now attending Gwynedd Mercy University, where he plays baseball. Their youngest daughter, Camryn, is a senior at Toms River High School, ranked eighth in a class of 500, and shines in both volleyball and softball.

Debbie Ridpath divides her time between Los Angeles, England, and the East Coast for work. She continues to work as a showrunner, writer, director, and producer. Her children, now 27 and 25, also work in the entertainment industry, and she enjoys spending much of her time with them. Deb hopes to eventually settle back in England on a farm property — provided she can convince her kids to join her! She remains in touch with **Janine Advice** as well as **Nora Soliman '92** and **Dina Soliman '91**, and she's hoping to reconnect with more old friends soon.

Bob Hutchinson is still working in research and development compliance at Johnson & Johnson. His sons are both in high school now. This past year, his family enjoyed trips to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic; Watoga State Park in West Virginia; and Ocean City, Maryland.

Mel Fahlteich Fernandez shares that life is fantastic! She and her husband recently celebrated 10 wonderful years of marriage. Their children are all grown and thriving — just like their parents. Mel's favorite role these days is being "Gogo" to her four grandchildren: three boys and one girl, ages 4, 3, 2, and 1. With her kids living nearby, she gets to see them often. Mel's career with the county in Central Florida continues to go great, and she still makes it back to Maryland a few times a year to visit her mom and sister, who both live in Anne Arundel County.

Roxanne Benjovsky McClanahan and her husband, Dan, are enjoying life with their three grown sons, two daughters-in-law, and their beautiful new granddaughter, Ava Jane McClanahan, who arrived on May 21, 2025. Ava lives just two miles away, so "GranDan" and "Moxie" get plenty of visits! Roxanne is back to working in the office in Washington, D.C., where she serves as a ServiceNow engagement specialist for Hogan Lovells. She jokes that it's funny how an Art major ended up working in IT at a law firm — proof of the power of a liberal arts education! While she admits to being a little envious of classmates who have already retired, she's still a few years away herself. Roxanne stays closely connected with her WMC friends, especially through the "Thirsty Thursday" gatherings that her Phi Sig sisters have kept going every month since 1989. She sends her best wishes to everyone!

Patrick Dail began a new role in June 2025 as vice president for workforce development in Danville, Virginia, after previously working with a community college in Charlotte, North Carolina. He's been really enjoying the region

and extends an open invitation to anyone for a hike — or some good barbeque!

Chris Schaber and **Cathi Frantzen Schaber '90** welcomed their first grandchild, Ella, on July 14, 2025. Chris continues his long and successful career in biotech and was honored with McDaniel's Alumni Professional Achievement Award in 2024. He remains close friends with **Steve Hollander**, **Dan Moskowitz**, and **Harry Cohen**.

Jim Cardea and **Frances Fato Cardea** are now proud grandparents — and officially empty nesters! Their oldest daughter, Jaimie, welcomed a baby girl, Sawyer, last June, and Jim and Frances have loved every moment of watching their granddaughter grow and reach new milestones. Just two months later, their youngest daughter, Kelly, headed off to Penn State, leaving the couple on their own for the first time in 28 years. Frances continues to serve as controller at the Aspen Hill Club in Silver Spring, Maryland, where she's worked for 32 years, while Jim remains a partner at Schochor, Staton, Goldberg, and Cardea, P.A. in Baltimore, practicing medical malpractice law. In their free time, Jim and Frances enjoy traveling and relaxing at their home in Bethany Beach, Delaware. Last summer, they caught up with several fellow alums, including **Chris Newman '88** and **Sue Shoumer Newman**, **Tom Paranzino '82** and **Kathy Marvel Paranzino '85**, **Mike Schmall '90**, **Chris Flatter**, and **Ann Kangas '90**. They've also enjoyed attending various McDaniel alumni events and staying connected to the Hill. Next September, Jim plans to host the final Dr. Don Cardea Memorial Golf Tournament in New Jersey. To date, the event has raised nearly \$100,000 for the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia.

Maria Filshie Douglas and her husband **Dave Douglas '87** of Easton, Maryland, are enjoying retired life to the fullest. Their recent travels have taken them across Europe, to sunny Aruba with **Tracy Buckman Dunne '88** and **Matt Dunne '87**, and to Key West, Florida, with **Richie Wheatley '87** and his wife, Martha. They also love visiting their daughters in Kansas City and Bentonville, Arkansas. Maria especially treasures catching up with her sorority sisters **Mary O'Hara Zorbach**, **Barb Pierantozzi-McCaughy**, and **Elizabeth Burkitt Leasure**.

Elizabeth Burkitt Leasure is loving life with her husband, Ted. They spent winter in Cocoa Beach, Florida, and enjoyed travels to Nashville, Tennessee; St. Petersburg, Florida, for the Firestone Grand Prix; Northern California; the Bahamas; and Virginia Beach to visit **Shawn Chatfield Ott '88**. Elizabeth also loves her visits with **Mary O'Hara Zorbach**, **Maria Filshie Douglas**, and **Barb Pierantozzi-McCaughy**.

As for me, my husband and I are splitting our time between Maryland and South Carolina. We still have our home in Timonium, Maryland, but spend as much time as possible in Pawleys Island, South Carolina. Since my kids and most of my family are still up north, I travel back and forth quite a bit. Eventually, we plan to make the move to South Carolina full time. When I'm in Maryland, I work for Redfin as an associate agent. I love running into WMC friends wherever I go! We're looking forward to celebrating weddings, milestones, and birthdays — and with our 60th birthdays coming up, we're already planning a girls' trip to celebrate! It's hard

to believe that almost 40 years have passed — it feels like just yesterday we were waiting in line at Glar, going to club room parties, tailgating, and dancing at Champs.

*Mary O'Hara Zorbach
1989 Class Reporter
8 Forest Ridge Court
Timonium, MD 21093
mozorbach@yahoo.com*

1995

Donna Munson Bartos can't believe it's been 30 years since "club room parties and late-night Sheetz runs!" She and her husband, Peter, are loving the full-circle journey, including visiting their daughter at Dartmouth and son at Arizona State University. Their youngest just started high school, so they're inching their way to becoming empty nesters and supporting her dream of becoming an MLB umpire. "Since everyone has a podcast now, I jumped on the bandwagon. My new show, 'Uproot Abuse,' proves that those late nights interviewing students for Dr. Jane Degroot's senior thesis on how men and women talk about one-night stands actually paid off." Donna is now traveling the globe through her nonprofit BLOOM365, training students, junior military leaders, and even major league baseball players on how to prevent and respond to sexual assault and dating abuse, peer to peer. She says it's heavy work, but incredibly meaningful.

Tyler Wilson says their biggest news is their daughter **Mia Wilson '21, M.S. '22** got engaged this summer to **Derick Chase '20**. Tyler has been a guest on McDaniel's Board of Trustees, which has been rewarding. Along with fellow empty nester **Michele Reavy Wilson '94**, Tyler has visited Mia in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, and **Matthew Wilson '23** in Baltimore.

Scott Stout says his daughter, **Kayla Stout '20**, married Ryan Dunford on Oct. 12, 2024. They now reside in Westminster, Maryland. Scott has worked with Athletic Physical Therapy for eight years, and he and his wife, Angie, recently celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary.

Starting July 1, 2025, **Lisa Taneyhill** became the new associate provost for academic affairs in the Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost at the University of Maryland, College Park. In this role, Lisa oversees a variety of academic units that cover areas such as innovation and entrepreneurship, teaching and learning success for instructors and students, and undergraduate research. Lisa continues to have her lab in the Department of Animal Sciences, training undergraduate and graduate students in developmental biology. She recently connected with **Pete Briskman '94** and **Marilyn Naas Keane '94, M.S. '97** at an event in Rockville, Maryland, and looks forward to continued connections with WMC/McDaniel.

As for me, my big news is that I left MIT and moved to San Francisco to be the vice chancellor at the University of California in Berkeley. I love exploring a new city and UC Berkeley is an amazing university — the work is very rewarding and fun.

*Julie Lucas Davitian
1995 Class Reporter
julieandrealucas@gmail.com*

2001

Danielle Council has been committed to her journey of caring for others, completing her Associate of Arts in Nursing in 2004 and finally — after 20 years — obtaining her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in December 2024. Danielle, thank you for reminding us to always move forward to reach our dreams, no matter what might stand in the way!

Jon Renaut and his wife, Barb Sheehy, live in Washington, D.C., with their two daughters. His business managing small condo associations is going well. A friend described it as "you ride bikes and unlock doors," which is mostly accurate and not a terrible way to make a living. He and his wife burn way too many hours driving the kids to soccer. Jon spent a good chunk of this summer gallivanting across both coasts doing college tours with his older daughter. We hope you made it to the Hill, Jon!

Don Todt and **Roxann Ingram Todt '00** are still living in Dillsburg, Pennsylvania. After more than seven years volunteering as a leader for his boys' (ages 15 and 11) Cub Scout pack, Don enjoyed a leisurely two-week "retirement" before stepping in as president of the local school district's Music Boosters organization. In what's left of his free time, he plays with a brass quintet and helps with the local historical society. (Check out the Eichelberger Distillery at Dills Tavern if you're ever passing through on Route 15!) The two had a great time at Alumni Weekend in June, staying on campus and celebrating Roxy's 25th with dear WMC Theatre and Alpha Psi Omega friends **Faye Ingram Hillman '00** and her husband, **Aaron, Elton Keith Knupp '00, Andrew McCord '00, Kelly Dunnavant '00, Joy Thomas, Cassie Domser Lammers, Hendrik Lammers '03, Sara Gruber Long '99, Ryan Keough '99, and Dan Franko '97**.

Brandi Holmes Sheets and her husband, Caleb, have recently been enjoying their two grandsons, Watson and Koa! Their youngest daughter is a sophomore in high school and on the varsity volleyball team; their middle daughter started her freshman year of college this fall; their oldest daughter is enjoying newlywed life and parenthood; and their son has been setting records at his job and getting the perks of a newly mobile baby! Brandi is still going strong in her career in insurance and works for Travelers Insurance. She makes time to get together with **Carie Campbell Reese '02, M.S. '06** and **Adrienne Doerrmann Reeder '02, M.S. '05** at least once a year.

Michelle Bernhardt Young begins her 17th year on the Hill, where she continues to love teaching at an institution that taught her so much! She says, "To work alongside professors I recall fondly from my time as a student and also fellow alumni like **Richard Smith '00, Lisa Peterson Lebo, and Jenny McKenzie** is part of what makes work so fun!" Her three kids keep her and husband, Scott, quite busy: Ryan is a freshman at St. Francis University studying Exercise Physiology and running for the Red Flash; Alexa is a sophomore at Delone Catholic participating in volleyball and track; and Ashleigh is in sixth grade at St. Teresa and loves soccer, volleyball, and school cheer. Cheer is a family affair — Michelle coaches and Alexa is an assistant. They spend as much time as they can at their family beach house in Ocean City, Maryland — 64th Street is the perfect place to relax and unwind, especially

when they are joined by Michelle's sister **Theresa Bernhardt Ballinger '89** and brother-in-law **Bob Ballinger '88** along with their kids, Trey and Will.

Benn Liska and **Holly Smith Liska '03** remain happily married. Benn is helping his brother revive comic book legends over at Green Archer Comics, and Holly continues to expand her travel agency, Cherry Tree Lane Vacations, which now has 22 agents.

Jessica Hines Henderson teaches third grade in Anne Arundel County and was nominated last school year for Teacher of the Year by her principal for the county. Her husband, Wil, just retired from the Air Force Reserve after 30 years of service. Both kids are also doing well in seventh and first grades. Jessica still gets together with her bestie **Rasheeda George** as much as she can.

Justin King '02 and I live in Ellicott City with our two sons, Wyatt and Jonathan. Justin continues to work with Aeroseal Windows & Storefront, and I'm still at University of Maryland, Baltimore County serving as director of undergraduate admissions and orientation. Our Howard County cheering section is strong at the ice rink when **Ryan Legge '00** and **Kristen Rider Legge '00, M.S. '04**, along with their kids Samantha, Elizabeth, and Christopher cheer on Wyatt and Jonathan playing in the Howard Huskies youth hockey club, and we always return the favor on the fields whenever we can.

Thank you all for sending in your updates. I hope we're all enjoying life at this stage, and remember to stay connected to each other, through social media and girls'/guys' weekends, and anything in between. The notion of the "good ole days" gets more real each year!

*Gina Rende King, M.L.A. '07
2001 Class Reporter
ginaking25@gmail.com*

2007

Martin Camper married Jerry Schearer in July 2024 at First Presbyterian Church in Bel Air, Maryland, with several members of the Hill community in attendance, including **Jason Stambaugh** and **Adam Barner '06**, who were among his groom's attendants, and **Adrian Pettaway '09**, who served as a reader. Dr. Mary Bendel-Simso, dean of faculty and professor of English, and Bill Spence, retired senior lecturer of English, were also present. Martin now lives in Kutztown, Pennsylvania, with Jerry; their nephew, Dakota; and their three dogs. He commutes weekly to Loyola University Maryland, where he was promoted to full professor in July 2025. In his last class note, Martin was remiss not to mention that he delivered the English Department's 2022 Holloway Lecture, an honor he will never forget, with many of his beloved English and Spanish professors in the audience.

Brittany Parrish DeFrehn and her husband, Sean, welcomed their fifth baby, Amelianna Marie, on Sept. 9, 2024. Amelianna joins siblings Adalynn, Shepherd, Deacon, and Ellawren. Brittany also celebrated her 40th birthday with a trip with friends, including **Sarah Fisher Hetrick '09**, to Puerto Rico, where they helped with a turtle release and reminisced about their days in Whiteford Hall.

Britnie Greene Ehret celebrated 15 years with PNC Bank, five of which she has worked from home as her two boys, ages 5 and 3, grow up. She has also found a renewed passion for working out.

Lindsey Grieb Graves celebrated 10 years of marriage to her husband, Tylar, this October. Life with four daughters — ranging from preschool to high school — means she's now a full-time chaos coordinator, moonlighting as PTO vice president, Girl Scout leader, Girls on the Run coach, room mom, and sports mom. Thankfully, senior year in Stackhouse Hall with her five best roommates — **Chelsea Phillips Clark, Kathleen Woodward, Melanie Scocco Greenway, Melissa Magnuson Salemie, and Heather Williams Barton** — gave her plenty of practice living in a house full of girls.

Chloe Watson Irla currently wears many hats at McDaniel: associate professor of Art, chair of the Art Department, assistant dean of Faculty Development, and director of the Honors Program. As Honors Program director, Chloe established the new Lumen Scholars program, which incorporates interdisciplinary approaches and civic engagement into a new honors curriculum. Outside of McDaniel, Chloe became a Master Gardener in 2023 and regularly rides her bike on the trails and roads in Carroll County, Maryland.

Scott Koleszar and **Lauren Schwartzbart Koleszar '11** still live in Sykesville, Maryland. With a 3-year-old, a dog, and two cats, there's plenty to keep them busy. Scott also volunteers for various college events as much as his time allows, and the family frequently attends local alumni gatherings. Scott encourages everyone — especially his fellow Class of '07 alums — to join them at an alumni event soon.

David Greisman has made significant strides — literally and figuratively — toward his goal of visiting all of the country's national parks. He is now at 44 of 63 after working remotely for 200 days in 2024, visiting 30 states and 27 national parks, and joining up with **Randy Neaton '09** while hiking at Rocky Mountain National Park and exploring Yellowstone.

Jamie Ridgely Rooney, M.S. '11 is currently a part-time elementary school librarian with Carroll County Public Schools. She also serves as a senior online adjunct lecturer and supervisor of library interns in McDaniel College's School Librarianship graduate program. At the Class of 2025 Commencement Ceremony, she was presented The Shelton Adjunct Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence. Jamie is wife to Matthew and proud mom of Declan, 9, and Torin, 6, who keep her busy with their many community service projects.

Josh Russin and Maggie Leberz enjoyed a busy summer season with their son, Orion Leberz, including trips to Ocean City, Maryland; West Virginia; and local parks and playgrounds. They love tent camping and exploring creeks in the Catocin Mountains. Josh is overseeing his third municipal election in the City of Frederick this year — he just can't seem to escape politics. Josh and Maggie remain close with McDaniel friends including **Sean Maslin, Andy Cummings, Kelly Friedman Cummings '06, Beth McLane, Allison "Allie" Smith '06, M.S. '08, Djerdj Matkovic, Rob Goeke, and Steve Furst**. They celebrated 15 years of business at their shop, Leberz Oil & Vinegar Emporium, in downtown Frederick — stop by and say hello!

Samantha Hemler-Parthree Schlitzer has found a unicorn! In August 2022, Samantha became an executive assistant at local technology

McDANIEL COLLEGE
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Go to mcdaniel.edu/refer-a-student or scan the QR code to get started.



company Doceo, where she is surrounded by like-minded individuals who love helping others. This year, Samantha celebrated 21 years as a part-time communications officer with McDaniel's Department of Campus Safety. She loves being an alumni campus employee ("ACE") and helping incoming students navigate the campus. At home, two kittens recently joined the family after Samantha and her daughter fell in love with them at a cat café in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania.

Shanté Williams serves as chief operating officer and clinical director of Life's Journey, LLC, a mental health agency in Virginia. She oversees clinical services, staff development, and new program growth. She recently defended her dissertation and will be awarded her Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision at Regent University. Shanté and her husband, Gary, are raising three daughters — Zhia, Naomi, and Sadie — who keep life lively and full. She continues to be passionate about supporting communities through mental health advocacy and reentry services.

Kathleen Woodward continues to thrive in her dynamic 16-year career as a physician associate, embracing her role with both passion and purpose. Traveling across the United States for her work, she has honed her skills in various clinical settings and expanded her professional network. Her travels have taken her to Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Scotland, and Ireland — experiences that have enriched her life and broadened her perspective on health care and humanity. Kathleen remains thankful for her continued friendship and get-togethers with fellow classmates **Chelsea Phillips Clark**, **Lindsey Grieb Graves**, **Melissa Magnuson Salemie**, **Melanie Scocco Greenway**, and **Heather Williams Barton**.

Chelsea Phillips Clark "retired" at the end of 2024 from her decade-long role as a research associate at the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy to take on what she calls a "split role" — raising her two young daughters, Emma Jordyn, 6, and Everly Maisyn, 1, and helping grow the company she and her husband, Phil, co-founded in 2017, ENABLE Special Needs Planning. What began as a small business serving local families in Indiana has since grown into a national company, and Chelsea has fully embraced her identity as an entrepreneur — something she never would have pictured back in her days on the Hill. These days, she and Phil juggle marketing funnels, sales scripts, client meetings, nap schedules, and the eternal question of who's on child duty. Their oldest daughter, Emma, started kindergarten at Wisdom Builders in fall 2025, a Christian hybrid homeschool program she attends two days a week, and baby girl Everly has been home full time since birth. To stay connected with her North Village 191 roomies (**Lindsey Grieb Graves**, **Kathleen Woodward**, **Melanie Scocco Greenway**, and **Heather Williams Barton**), Chelsea started a "Tuesday Trivia" text chain that's become a weekly highlight full of laughter and nostalgia. She can't believe it's almost time for the Class of 2007's 20th Reunion and hopes to see plenty of familiar faces back on the Hill next year!

*Chelsea Phillips Clark
2007 Class Reporter
14926 Warner Trail
Westfield, IN 46074
chelseajclark86@gmail.com
301-606-0746*

2013

Every time I put together this column, I'm reminded how many directions our lives have taken since we left the Hill. Some of us are raising kids, others are advancing in careers or starting new ones, and many are finding joy in travel, community, or even house projects. For me, serving as class reporter is a small thread back to who I was in college (you may remember me as the Free Press editor) and an opportunity for reflection on how the values we carried from those years continue to shape us today.

Gary Smith shared exciting news: He recently married his wife, Maria Ciabattoni, on June 14, 2025, at Meredith Manor in Pennsylvania. He noted how meaningful it was to have **Jason Stein '14** as a groomsman, proof that college friendships still run strong despite physical distance. Gary and Maria met in Sarasota, Florida, a few years ago and now own a home there where they live with Piper, a puppy they rescued from the side of the road in Tallahassee. After earning his master's degree in Athletic Training from Seton Hall University and working at clinical sites — ranging from high schools to Division I college and the New York Jets — Gary traveled as an athletic trainer with the Baltimore Orioles for 7½ years. He now works at an independent school in Florida — a shift that offers better work-life balance with plenty of time for volleyball, soccer, and lacrosse leagues.

Lisa Starr married her college sweetheart, **Colin Shorter '14**, and together they're raising their son, Hudsyn. After earning her master's degree in Applied Behavior Analysis from Ball State University eight years ago, she became board certified as a behavior analyst. She now specializes in creating strategies that help children and families build meaningful skills and reduce challenging behaviors, a role she finds deeply rewarding.

Annie McShea Wilson and her husband, **Steve Wilson '09**, are soaking up the joys — and challenges — of life with two young daughters under the age of 2, Carolyn and Collette. They've recently moved back to her hometown of Frederick, Maryland, and she writes that this season of life is as chaotic as it is wonderful.

Life on the farm keeps **Kira Young Connor** and **Kyle Connor** busy in the scenic Blue Ridge Mountains. They recently became a family of four with the arrival of their baby girl in February 2025 and also welcomed six Silkie chickens to the animal count.

Shelby Dolby recently marked 10 years of service in the U.S. Coast Guard as a flight mechanic. He and his wife — married for nearly eight years after meeting straight out of boot camp — are enjoying life with their 1-year-old son. A highlight each summer continues to be the annual fantasy football draft with a group of college friends, a tradition they've kept alive every year since graduation.

Sydney Kirchhoff Knower, M.L.A. '15 is living in Annapolis, Maryland, with her own college sweetheart, **Chuck Knower '15**, and their two children, Callan, 8, and Cora, 5. She teaches fifth grade at her neighborhood school and loves having her kids nearby. Sydney also volunteers with the PTO and YWCA, participates in book club when she can, and cheers on her children in their year-round activities — Naval Academy Aquatic Club and Cub Scouts for Cal and dance company and swim lessons for Cora.

Ben Eveler has been teaching elementary physical education for 12 years — four at the McLean School of Maryland and eight for Northeastern York (Pennsylvania) School district. He is also an assistant coach for high school soccer and runs his own soccer camps and clinics, passing his love for the sport along to the next generation. He lives with his wife and their two sons, ages 3 and 1.

Tyler Justice was promoted to deputy chief of police (second in command) for the Seaford (Delaware) Police Department in February 2025, and he also founded a nonprofit aimed at improving wellness for officers. His wife, Christine, recently started a new position as director of horticulture at the Delaware Botanic Gardens, and their daughters, ages 6 and 4, are thriving at home — along with their sibling cats, Artemis and Apollo.

After years of service in legal aid, **Gregory Nolen** recently started a new role as executive assistant with Washington, D.C.-based legal services nonprofit Rising for Justice. He continues to live in Laurel, Maryland, with his family and cannot believe it has been a decade since graduation.

Kelsey Dickman was recently promoted to support magistrate in New York City Family Court. She now presides over child support and paternity cases and continues to enjoy city life after more than a decade in New York.

Still in Seattle, **Laura Nichols** works as a senior accountant at Big Fish Games (the same company she started her career with after graduating) and is enjoying renovating her 72-year-old home — most recently wrapping up the bathroom. She also enjoys time with her dog, Scout, who she describes as "the best dog there ever was."

Zach Wright lives in upstate New York just outside the Finger Lakes region with his wife. Working for the State University of New York system at the Oswego campus as a senior project coordinator in their major projects department, he oversees academic building renovations and remediation projects. Outside of work, Zach and his wife enjoy hiking, visiting breweries and wineries, and competing in pool tournaments across the state.

Benjamin "Ben" Munyan, his wife, and their two daughters continue their globe-trotting lifestyle. After completing a third assignment with the U.S. Department of State in Costa Rica, they're back in Washington, D.C., preparing for their next destination abroad, Moscow, and attempting to learn Russian. This journey follows a path he began after graduation, when he served for four years with the Peace Corps in Nicaragua.

Shannon Savoia and her husband, **Zach Jones**, make their home in Tinton Falls, New Jersey, where they both work full time but enjoy traveling and exploring new restaurants together. A 2022 road trip with fellow alumni **Kaitlyn Vadenais** and **Garret Nemser '14** from Denver to Vegas turned adventurous with a flat tire in the Arizona desert. More recently, Shannon joined Zach on one of his occasional work trips to Germany, and they traveled through Bavaria, the Swiss Alps (including a stop at the Matterhorn), and ended in Northern Italy where they indulged in "far too much pasta."

Kaitlyn Vadenais reports that life remains steady in Miami. She continues working in customer success at a software company, stays active with golf and pickleball, and takes opportunities to travel whenever possible.

Charles Mullin and I are living in Baltimore County with our cats, Margaret Catwood and Mindy. He's hitting his stride as an AP English teacher and Early Career teacher coach at Digital Harbor High School in Baltimore City, and I'm continuing to find challenge and fulfillment as a litigation paralegal. Outside of work, we enjoy concerts and video games with complex storytelling. This year has had its share of challenges, including the loss of Charles' father, but the support of so many, including numerous McDaniel friends, has been a true pillar. College ties can never be broken, or so the song goes. Approaching the edge of the "18-34" age bracket has made me extra sentimental lately.

*Until next time,
Hanna Barker Mullin
2013 Class Reporter
barkerhanna@gmail.com*

2019

Since graduating, **Savaughna Monteith** has worked for the U.S. Army as a federal account executive. In 2025, she traveled to seven states to meet and support the needs of the U.S. Army's mission. It's given her the opportunity to meet many industry leaders including some of our nation's greatest heroes. Savaughna writes, "Being a Psychology major provided me with the tools to be a great listener, problem solver, and a trusted advisor. It's been so fulfilling to support our service members — it's my way of giving back to the mission and contributing to something greater."

Ben Michaels and **Alex Tolle Michaels '18** were married on March 29, 2025, in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. Ben received his master's degree in Data Science from Merrimack College in December 2024 and is currently working as a data analyst for Deluxe Corporation. Ben and Alex have since relocated to Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Jasmin Chavez Cruz and **Elias Jaffe** were married in August 2025 in a beautiful ceremony surrounded by 200 guests in Great Falls, Virginia. Jasmin concluded her service in the Biden-Harris White House and served as the Latino Liaison for the Spanberger for Governor campaign. She is now a transition staff member for the governor-elect. Elias recently began a new role as a data engineer at Verax.

Isaac Ray and his wife, Jeanine, had their second child, a daughter named Charlotte Asher Ray, born on May 5, 2025. Isaac and his family relocated to Hanover, Pennsylvania, and purchased their first house. Isaac is now in his fifth year of working for ATG Online Coaching, an online personal training business that focuses on helping members decrease joint pain and increase longevity. Isaac still frequently visits Carroll County as he helps with the benevolence ministry at St. James Orthodox Church in Taneytown, Maryland, that helps serve parish members and other people from the community that need monetary aid or other means of assistance.

*Isaac Ray
2019 Class Reporter
isaac.ray4@outlook.com*



EMBRACING OUR POWER TO CHANGE THE WORLD

BY JOE WESTWRIGHT '14

Coming to McDaniel as a first-generation college student, I did not have a clear picture of what I wanted to pursue for a career, a definitive major, or even what the college experience itself would entail. But quickly — through both my studies and simply being immersed in the community I found on the Hill — it became a second home to me. Through McDaniel's innovative structure and liberal arts grounding, the college fostered critical thinking and problem solving that would influence the trajectory of my life and inform my worldview.

The lessons learned on the Hill came not just from the content of the courses, but from every part of the college — from the president to the faculty, staff, and the Westminster community. My time on the Hill prepared me to not only accept that the path in life is often not linear but also to fully embrace the road less traveled.

My time at McDaniel prepared me to engage in a diverse set of experiences in my career. These have included: overhauling the facilities management program at the University of Miami; serving on a national facilities technology board; establishing enterprise analytics for the Memphis K-12 school system; acquiring millions in grant dollars for school transformation initiatives; and implementing predictive analytics solutions in school systems across the United States. These accomplishments have affected some of the country's largest and most densely populated areas as well as some of the smallest and most rural schools.

I have been honored as a 30 Under 30 graduate from the University of Miami, held a fellowship in innovation science at the University of Washington, was a 2025 Generation West Virginia Fellow, and have been accepted as a 2026 EdSafe AI Catalyst Fellow. These

experiences led me to my current role at Google, where I work on global tools for the betterment of student experiences at home and abroad.

But perhaps most profoundly, during my time at McDaniel, I found my eventual spouse, Dr. Jesica Westwright '14. Prepared with her liberal arts training from McDaniel, she pursued a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at the University of Miami and began a lifetime of service to veterans as part of the Veterans Affairs hospital system. A fellow 30 Under 30 graduate, she was also featured as one of the 35 Under 35 in our tri-state area. She is currently assistant director of training, guiding early-career psychologists serving veterans here in Appalachia.

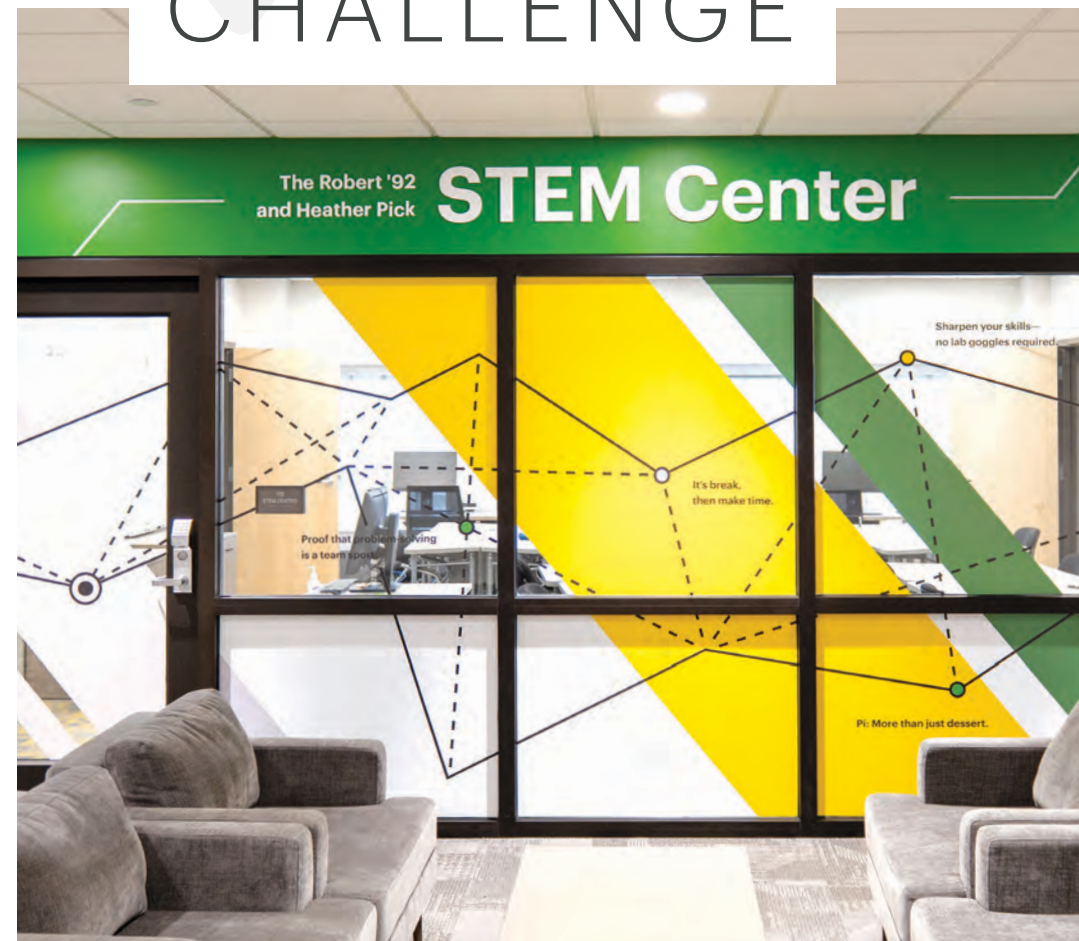
Aside from the direct academic preparation, McDaniel embedded a deeper sense of purpose and solidified for both of us a commitment to serving the world around us with the skills we have. We often think kindly on our time at McDaniel and are forever thankful for the experiences, friends, faculty, staff, and community that helped shape our formative years and put us on paths to aid the lives of others.

If I have one lesson to take away it is this: We are not alone in this world, and each of us has the power to improve that world even just a tiny bit.

INTERESTED IN WRITING ABOUT HOW THE HILL INFLUENCED YOUR LIFE BEYOND GRADUATION?

Email ocm@mcdaniel.edu with your column idea!

CAMPUS LANDMARK CHALLENGE



The new Robert '92 and Heather Pick STEM Center recently got a bold facelift.

In which building is the STEM Center located as part of the college's new Learning Commons one-stop shop for academic support?

Prize:

Everyone who answers correctly will be entered into a drawing for McDaniel College swag!

Submit:

Please send submissions via email to ocm@mcdaniel.edu with "Campus Landmark Challenge" as the subject line or via mail to:

McDaniel College
The Hill magazine
2 College Hill
Westminster, MD 21157

Deadline:

Friday, May 29, 2026



Scan the QR code for more information on named giving opportunities as part of Reaching New Heights: The Campaign for McDaniel College.

“

Lumen Scholars ... are not just academically minded but also creative, authentic, and curious. They are exemplars of the well-rounded McDaniel experience: they hold leadership positions, they're student-athletes, they're performers. They shine a light on all that McDaniel has to offer.”

— **CHLOE WATSON IRLA '07**
DIRECTOR OF THE LUMEN SCHOLARS HONORS PROGRAM

Read more about the new vision for honors on the Hill on page 16.

