

The Hill

McDANIEL COLLEGE | SPRING 2025

OCHIENG' K'OLEWE'S
IMPACT ON EDUCATION

FROM THE HILL TO KENYA

The Hill

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On the cover:
*Over nearly three decades on the Hill,
Professor Ochieng' K'Olewe has had a
profound impact on generations of
McDaniel-educated teachers.*



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Don’t forget to check out the online edition for digital content and expanded features at mcdaniel.edu/magazine!

LETTER FROM THE
President



Dear McDaniel Community,

Education has always held a very special place in my life, with many of my earliest memories revolving around the joy of learning something new. My grandmother, an elementary school teacher and my lifelong role model, was the first to ignite my passion for the special relationship between teacher and student. Growing up, I delighted in playing “school,” a pastime that my parents wholeheartedly supported by transforming our back porch into a miniature classroom. With vintage school desks and an eager group of neighborhood children, it became a cherished space where my love for teaching and learning continued to blossom.

It is both a privilege and a profound joy to now lead an institution renowned for shaping exceptional educators. McDaniel College has a long-standing tradition of preparing teachers who leave an indelible mark on their students and communities. Over the past 15 years, more than 30 McDaniel graduates have been named County Teachers of the Year, with four achieving the prestigious distinction of Maryland Teacher of the Year. Equally inspiring, over 90% of our Education graduates remain dedicated to their profession, teaching in classrooms for at least five years after graduation — a testament to the enduring impact of their McDaniel experience. Building on this legacy of excellence, McDaniel continues to innovate and expand its programs to meet the evolving needs of the educational landscape.

This issue of *The Hill* highlights the transformative power of education within our community and beyond. The stories within these pages celebrate the remarkable efforts of McDaniel alumni, faculty, and staff as they work tirelessly to shape the future of education. Through their dedication, they are not only enhancing the lives of countless students but also embodying the very essence of the college’s mission.

As you read these stories, I hope you feel the same sense of pride and optimism that I do for the work being done by our McDaniel family. Together, we continue to honor the legacy of education as a force for good, one that uplifts individuals and strengthens communities.

Warm regards,

President Julia Jasken



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fall 2024 was a great issue of *The Hill*! I love, love, love “the family issue.” To me, that is what makes my alma mater home!

— MAUREEN CARROLL MARTIN '86



CAMPUS LANDMARK
CHALLENGE WINNER

CONGRATULATIONS TO SARA CAPORALETTI '14
FOR BEING OUR RANDOMLY SELECTED WINNER
OF THE CAMPUS LANDMARK CHALLENGE!

“The Library Courtyard Sculpture” by Professor
Emeritus of Art Wasyl Palijczuk has been located
on the terrace next to Hoover Library since 1993.

Thank you to all who submitted responses:

- Calvin Ball '15
- Amanda Blankenship M.S. '09
- Jessica Blum '03
- Britnie Greene Ehret '07
- Barb Gieselman
- Carolyn Buzanoski Heiger '97, M.S. '05
- Kimberly Hernandez '19
- Nicki James '25
- Hira Khan '25
- Max McLenaghan '27
- Joyce Muller
- Mandy Quarantillo '18
- Deborah Dale Seidel '84
- Victoria Lloyd Stinnett '07
- Alex Tolle '18

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL
ACADEMIC SYMPOSIUM

MONDAY, MAY 5 | 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 are free and open to the public.

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.



Take a piece of McDaniel
with you *always*.

THE MCDANIEL COLLEGE COLLECTION BY KYLE CAVAN

Take a piece of McDaniel College with you wherever you go with
the McDaniel Collection by women-owned Kyle Cavan Jewelry.

From classic coin styles to the Ward Memorial Arch necklace,
cherish your McDaniel memories with a one-of-a-kind piece.



SCAN TO SHOP



COINS & PENDANTS



WARD MEMORIAL
ARCH NECKLACE

McDANIEL COLLEGE AND
LIFEBRIDGE HEALTH
ANNOUNCE LANDMARK
PARTNERSHIP FOR
NURSING STUDENTS

A new partnership between LifeBridge Health and McDaniel addresses the need for qualified nurses by housing McDaniel's Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) program at Carroll Hospital. McDaniel Nursing students will have access to clinical placements at LifeBridge Health locations. McDaniel is establishing the LifeBridge Legacy Scholarship for the children of LifeBridge Health employees. Additionally, McDaniel received a \$2.5 million grant from The Kahlert Foundation. Carroll Hospital worked with McDaniel to build the college's B.S.N. program, which combines the liberal arts with the technical knowledge and skills to prepare future nurses who are practicing in diverse health care settings. The new partnership expands this effort by having McDaniel's Nursing program housed at Carroll Hospital, including offices, Nursing classrooms, and labs. Beginning in fall 2026, McDaniel's Nursing students will have access to Carroll Hospital's state-of-the-art facilities, including the Kahlert Foundation Simulation Center, and be provided early and frequent exposure to clinical work within a hospital setting.



Watch highlights of the announcement at Carroll Hospital.



McDaniel's first cohort of Nursing students with Jennifer Ort, assistant director and faculty member in Nursing, and Heather Gable, Nursing program director, along with the Green Terror.



Carroll Hospital President Garrett Hoover, McDaniel College President Julia Jasken, The Kahlert Foundation Director Roberta Kahlert and President Greg Kahlert, and Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of LifeBridge Health Leslie Simmons.

McDANIEL PROGRAM HELPS
CARROLL COUNTY TEACHERS
ACHIEVE NATIONAL BOARD
CERTIFICATION

McDaniel celebrated 20 new National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) who participated in the college's first cohort of a three-semester graduate course sequence, developed as part of a \$1.8 million Teacher Collaborative Grant from the Maryland State Department of Education.

A key component of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future is enhancing the quality of education in Maryland by attracting and retaining NBCTs who have not only completed a rigorous, performance-based, and peer-review process, but are also recognized as accomplished teachers and leaders in their profession.

The goal of McDaniel's program is to assist in increasing the number of teachers earning this nationally recognized advanced teaching credential through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, the highest certification that a teacher can obtain.

All of those newly certified teachers currently teach in Carroll County Public Schools and achieved an impressive 83% achievement rate, above the 71% current pass rate for National Board Certification.

New National Board Certified Teachers include:

- Kristy Bevans, Central Office
- Kate Breakey '03, M.S. '08, West Middle School
- Zachary Brown, South Carroll High School
- Laura Bullock, Runnymede Elementary School
- Rebecca Comegna M.S. '14, Century High School
- Ashley Everhart, Spring Garden Elementary School
- Jennifer Girard '08, M.S. '23, Winters Mill High School
- Amy Glascock, Winfield Elementary School
- Derrik Hess, Elmer Wolfe Elementary School
- Brandy Hunt, Mt. Airy Middle School
- Serra Jarboe '15, Westminster High School
- Jessica Krantz, Winfield Elementary School
- Lauren Latané-Valis M.S. '13, Liberty High School
- Jennifer Miller, Runnymede Elementary School
- Frank Reaver, Century High School
- Jami Robinson '01, M.S. '08, Runnymede Elementary School
- Shaun Thompson '20, Eldersburg Elementary School
- Catherine Vane, Shiloh Middle School
- Brianna Warner, ESOL Resource Teacher
- Kaetlin Wienholt, South Carroll High School



Top: National Board Certification Lead Mentors Laurian Etzel '98 and Laura Doolan. Middle: Jennifer Girard '08, M.S. '23 of Winters Mill High School with lead mentor Laura Doolan. Bottom: Nicholas Shockney, assistant superintendent of instruction at Carroll County Public Schools, addresses the NBCT recipients.

To learn about another element of this grant, read about the Teacher Collaborative Fellowship and accelerated Master of Science in Teaching on page 14.

INTRODUCING THE LEARNING COMMONS IN HOOVER LIBRARY

The college recently began renovations on the first floor of Hoover Library to create a new Learning Commons, which combines the college’s academic deans and student success coaches, Writing Center, STEM Center, and Student Accessibility and Support Services (SASS), with library and information technology resources. The \$3.6 million renovation, which is expected to be complete for the fall 2025 semester, is supported by donors with efforts underway to secure additional funds.

Donors include: current McDaniel trustees Charles A. Boehlke Jr. ’78; Marjorie Rankin Kimble M.Ed. ’86 and Jeffrey Kimble M.Ed. ’84; Millard Mazer ’83; Robert Pick ’92, parent of current senior Reagan Pick; James Francis ’84; and the late Jean Andrews Richards ’45 and Donald Richards.

According to McDaniel Provost Flavius Lilly, “The Learning Commons represents McDaniel’s commitment to integrated student support and academic excellence. By uniting our key resources and services in one space, we create a collaborative environment that enhances learning and empowers every student to succeed.”



ASSISTANT PROFESSOR NAMED MANAGING EDITOR OF THE SOCIOLOGICAL FORUM

Assistant Professor of Sociology Ginger Berndt was named managing editor of the academic journal Sociological Forum. From researching, reviewing, and keeping things organized, Berndt plays a key role in helping scholars achieve their dreams of publication. In this role, she is gaining a firsthand look at the most cutting-edge research in her field.



Assistant Professor of Sociology Ginger Berndt

ALUMNI CREATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR GLEN BURNIE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES STUDYING AT McDANIEL

Alumni couple Bryson and Carol Popham, who both graduated from the college in 1973, created the Mildred R. Popham Scholarship in honor of Bryson’s mother through a \$160,000 gift commitment. Up to four \$10,000 annual scholarships will be awarded starting in the 2025-26 academic year to graduates of Glen Burnie High School (GBHS) in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, with preference given to students planning to major or minor in Education. The program consists of a collaborative relationship between McDaniel and GBHS. The two institutions have already begun to work together in support of the scholarship with GBHS counselors visiting McDaniel’s campus.



Bryson Popham ’73, Carol Popham ’73, McDaniel Dean of Admissions Jill Centofanti, Assistant Director of Admissions Chad Koontz, and Vice President of Institutional Advancement David Sears at Glen Burnie High School.

FIRST CLASS: WOMEN’S WRESTLING GETS A KICK-START FROM A FAMILIAR FACE

WOMEN’S WRESTLING COACH JOHN LOWE HAS HIGH HOPES FOR MAKING HISTORY



“

WHEN A COACH CARES, THE ATHLETES CAN SEE IT. I WANT TO SEE THEM DEVELOP AS PEOPLE, I WANT THEM TO BE BETTER HUMANS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS.”

BY LINDSAY SHERMAN

“WHEREVER THEY PUT US, WE WANT TO BE CONSIDERED AMONG THE BEST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.” THAT’S AN AMBITIOUS GOAL FOR WRESTLING ASSISTANT HEAD COACH JOHN LOWE, WHO COACHES THE NEW WOMEN’S WRESTLING TEAM FOR MCDANIEL. THE START-UP PHASE OF AN EMERGING SPORT IS NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART, BUT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WOMEN’S WRESTLING PROGRAM ON THE HILL, HEAD COACH MASON GORETSAS KNEW THAT LOWE COULD BE THE MAN TO TAKE THEM WHERE THEY WANTED TO GO.

Coming to McDaniel in September 2024 would not be Lowe’s first steps on the Hill. In fact, he coached the men’s wrestling team at McDaniel (formerly Western Maryland College) from 1994 until 2003. And he has a history of making good on bold declarations, something Goretsas and the women starting their collegiate wrestling careers hope continues to be true.

“At my first meeting with the team of men in 1994, there were only six wrestlers at the meeting,” Lowe recalls. “I said to them, ‘Right now, it doesn’t look like much. But we’re going to find people. We’re going to contend for a Centennial Conference title within two years, and we’re going to win it in four.’ They laughed at me. And I took that as a challenge.”

Challenge not only accepted, but won: The team took its first Centennial Conference Championship in 1998, and added championships in 2000, 2001, and 2002 before Lowe’s desire for greater work-life balance took him down the road to Winters Mill High School.

“At the time, the men’s wrestling coaching position was only part time, so I was teaching to support my

coaching,” Lowe says. After the births of his children, he realized he was spending less and less time with his kids. “If the position couldn’t be full time, I was going to be really hard-pressed to see my family. I only left because I couldn’t stay and still be the dad I wanted to be. I never really wanted to leave, so to be back is a dream.”

Over the course of 22 years at the high school, Lowe coached Winters Mill to five state championships and seven individual state team championships. In 2020, he started the girls’ wrestling program at the school, leading them to a 22-3 record and nine state place-winners over five seasons.

“The girls’ program there kind of ballooned to 31 girls at one point, and I really fell in love with the sport

Opposite left: Coach John Lowe high-fives first-year wrestler Maria Samuel after a win.
Opposite right: Lowe coaches first-year wrestler Ilana Robinson.
Above: First-year wrestler Keira Cooper takes on a wrestler from York College of Pennsylvania during McDaniel’s first home match in November.

GREEN & GOLD

again, seeing it through their eyes,” he says. “Then, Mason Goretsas kind of tipped me off that McDaniel was proposing a women’s wrestling program. He told me, ‘Dust off your resume. I don’t know how long it’s going to take to get there, but I would love to have you ready.’ I told him, ‘Consider it dusted,’ and here we are now, making history with McDaniel’s first women’s wrestling team.”

Wrestling has been in Lowe’s family his whole life, so to be able to foster that love of the sport for a new generation — and a new demographic — is something he’s passionate about. “I grew up in a wrestling family. My love for wrestling started almost from birth,” he says. “My father was a coach. My uncle was a hall of fame coach. My brother wrestled. I started out on the living room rug, and now I’m here. Back to my passion of coaching.”

Lowe says his approach to coaching women is in some ways similar to teaching men, but in some ways very different. “I’ve found that the women are generally more interested in the ‘why’ of everything we do,” he says. “I’m a philosophical guy by nature, so it’s a good fit. I enjoy



McDANIEL WOMEN’S WRESTLING TIMELINE

NOV. 10, 2023	DEC. 10, 2023	SEPT. 19, 2024	NOV. 3, 2024	NOV. 23, 2024	DEC. 5, 2024	DEC. 7, 2024
McDaniel announced the addition of women’s wrestling to the intercollegiate athletics program.	McDaniel held a women’s wrestling prospect clinic on the Hill.	John Lowe announced as assistant head women’s wrestling coach.	First-year wrestler Maria Samuel posted the first win in McDaniel’s women’s wrestling program history and first-year student Taylor Mead had three wins at the ESU open.	McDaniel women’s wrestling hosted its first home match in the Sam Case Classic.	Women’s wrestling earned its first team win in program history with a 35-15 victory on the road over Randolph College.	First-year wrestler Taylor Mead posted two wins and a second-place finish at the New Standard Invitational hosted by York College of Pennsylvania. The McDaniel team finished in 10th place.



explaining to them why putting a hand here or their head there will give them an advantage.”

But Lowe says that at the end of the day, no matter their gender, they’re all student-athletes, they all have injuries, classes, personal disappointments to work through.

“The young ladies that are coming out this year are making history for us, and the door is always open for them. They’re part of my family now. My phone is always on for them,” he says. “When a coach cares, the athletes can see it. I want to see them develop as people, I want them to be better humans and community members.”

Lowe has seen with his wrestlers — from both McDaniel and Winters Mill — over his career that if you invest in them, they’ll invest right back. With former wrestlers helping his family move, recover from natural disasters, and maintain his late parents’

property on the Eastern Shore, he says his wrestlers have always shown up for him.

“We don’t get a whole lot of time on Earth, and I think we’re measured not by how many times you get your name on a wall but by how many people could say, ‘Yeah, I learned that from Coach Lowe,’ or ‘That was a Lowe-ism right there,’” Lowe says. “The highlight of my entire life is to know that you’ve mattered enough to somebody for them to stick around. That’s my measure of success. But a few more championships wouldn’t hurt either.”

Opposite: First-year wrestler Taylor Mead finished in second place at the New Standard Invitational in December. Above: First-year wrestler Maria Samuel recorded a win in the Sam Case Classic in November.



TEACHER COLLABORATIVE FELLOWSHIP ADDRESSES TEACHER SHORTAGE

HOW A STATE GRANT IS HELPING
A NEW GENERATION OF TEACHERS
HIT THE GROUND RUNNING

By Allison Nocera '25, Lindsay Sherman, and Caitlin Wilson

For decades, McDaniel College has been preparing teachers for long, fulfilling careers in education throughout Maryland — and especially right here in Carroll County. In fact, greater than 90% of Education graduates from McDaniel are still employed as teachers five years after graduation, far exceeding the state and national averages of around 50%.



Now, a grant from the Maryland State Department of Education has paved the way for a new generation of teachers to enroll in an accelerated Master of Science in Teaching (M.S.T.) program on the Hill.

The Teacher Collaborative Fellowship grant program was established in 2023 and supports the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, legislation passed in 2021 to support and improve education in Maryland over the next decade. McDaniel, in partnership with Carroll County Public Schools and Carroll County Education Association, is contributing to a major pillar of the Blueprint: produce high-quality and diverse teachers and leaders.

“The goal of the M.S.T. program is to provide an accelerated graduate-level pathway into teaching for recent graduates and career-changers,” says Deborah Piper, the Teacher Collaborative Grant director and M.S.T. program coordinator. “The fellowship includes a yearlong internship in a Carroll County Public School with a highly recommended mentor teacher, combining practical coursework with meaningful experience in the field.”

The fellowship is open to those with a bachelor's degree (or at least 30 credits) in English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Art, Kinesiology, or Spanish and a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0. In addition to graduate-level coursework completed toward their M.S.T., the fellows complete a full year of classroom experience with increasing responsibility within Carroll County Public Schools. To make the fellowship more accessible, students in the first three cohorts of the fellowship have been awarded up to \$23,000 to assist with tuition or living expenses.

“Graduates of the program will meet Maryland State Department of Education requirements to teach and will be in demand in Maryland public schools,” says Piper.

For three of those fellows — Darrin Naill, Montara Clay '24, and Matthew Hutton '23 — the experience has been life-changing, and they feel they are well on their way to successful teaching careers.

Darrin Naill (top), Montara Clay '24 (middle), and Matthew Hutton '23 (bottom) will be wrapping up their yearlong internships in Carroll County Public Schools this spring before graduating with their M.S.T. degrees from McDaniel. The intensive hands-on experiences will leave them well prepared for full-time careers in teaching.



MEET THE FELLOWS

DARRIN
NAILL



UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR:
Writing and Publishing

**UNDERGRADUATE
INSTITUTION:**
University of Baltimore

INTERSHIP PLACEMENT:
Francis Scott Key High School,
South Carroll High School

SUBJECT:
English

MONTARA
CLAY '24



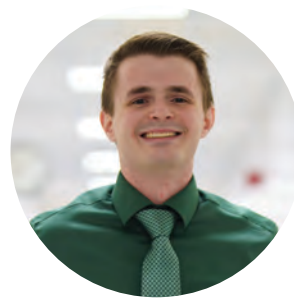
UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR:
Mathematics

**UNDERGRADUATE
INSTITUTION:**
McDaniel College

INTERSHIP PLACEMENT:
Liberty High School

SUBJECT:
Mathematics

MATTHEW
HUTTON '23



UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS:
History and
Business Administration

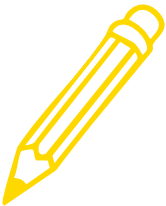
**UNDERGRADUATE
INSTITUTION:**
McDaniel College

INTERSHIP PLACEMENT:
Northwest Middle School

SUBJECT:
History/Social Studies

EMBRACING AUTHENTICITY IN TEACHING

HOW DARRIN NAILL WENT FROM BURNOUT TO BREAKTHROUGH



For Darrin Naill, working in music retail and warehouse management since the 1990s had run its course. He was burnt out and ready for a change. His wife encouraged him to use his bachelor's degree in Writing and Publishing to see if teaching might be his next step. In 2021, Naill began substitute teaching at South Carroll High School, and he found his new way forward.

The thought of changing careers in your 50s might be scary, but when Naill learned about McDaniel's Teacher Collaborative Fellowship, it seemed like the perfect way for him to transition from subbing to becoming a full-time teacher. In fall 2023, Naill enrolled in the M.S.T. program and then joined the fellowship program in spring 2024.

Since then, Naill has gotten an insider's view of what life as a teacher is really like. While he knew a bit from his wife, Joy Aspelmeier Naill '01, M.S. '05, who has been an art teacher in Baltimore County for nearly 20 years, Naill says it wasn't until he was really in her shoes that he understood why teachers are so vitally important.

"I have learned the job does not have an end; there is no clocking in and clocking out for teachers," says Naill. "There is a constant need to adapt to new circumstances. Daily schedules have to have at least some fluidity to accommodate unforeseen issues."

With the help of his teacher mentor, he has learned how to pace lessons, understand that each class learns differently, and use classroom management skills.

"Teachers — especially secondary school teachers — need to have thick skin but still maintain empathy for their students," he says. "Some recommend maintaining a 'teacher persona,' but I don't have that; I am the same inside the classroom as I am outside, and I think high school students especially appreciate and respond well to that authenticity."



**WATCH A VIDEO ABOUT DARRIN'S
EXPERIENCES AS A TEACHER INTERN**



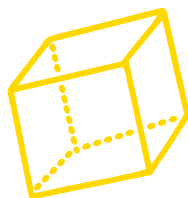
I HOPE MY
STUDENTS CAN TELL
EVERY DAY THAT I'M HERE FOR THEM.

—MATTHEW HUTTON '23



A McDANIEL MATH MAJOR TURNED EDUCATOR

MONTARA CLAY '24 BRINGS CONTENT EXPERTISE TO THE CLASSROOM



When Montara Clay graduated from McDaniel in May 2024 with her B.A. in Mathematics, she leaped immediately into the Teacher Collaborative Fellowship program to earn her M.S.T.

As an undergraduate, Clay got a glimpse of what it is like to teach K-12 math with internships at West Middle School, Franklin Middle School, and Manchester Valley High School. She learned classroom management and ways to connect with students. But the accelerated, one-year Teacher Collaborative Fellowship has given her a much deeper understanding of the field.

“This fellowship has made teaching a reality, because it gives me daily experience and perspective on what it takes to be a teacher,” she says.

Every school day, she teaches classes on geometry, algebra, and pre-calculus to ninth through eleventh graders at Liberty High School in Carroll County. In the classroom, she focuses on being present for her students to keep them engaged in the learning process. “Learning how to create high-level questions requires a lot of practice and prep before the lesson to help with generating them,” she says.

The rigorous fellowship has helped Clay truly discover her identity as an educator. Teaching by day and being a student herself by night means she has a great support system. Through McDaniel’s strong partnerships with regional schools, the M.S.T. program includes close mentorship opportunities for graduate students in their assigned schools.

“I have been developing and growing as a teacher through working with an experienced mentor teacher, and the staff have provided very helpful tips,” Clay says.

Clay perseveres through the ups and downs of being an educator and has been rewarded for her resilience by watching students learn and grow in her classroom — as she does, too.

A LIGHTBULB MOMENT

HOW MATTHEW HUTTON '23 REDISCOVERED HIS PASSION FOR TEACHING HISTORY



When Matthew Hutton '23 started his educational journey at McDaniel, he had an inkling that he would want to be a history teacher. However, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, he changed his mind as he saw what teachers were going through to manage remote learning. Instead, he declared a dual major in History and Business Administration, the latter of which included a concentration in Finance, with an ultimate goal of becoming a financial advisor.

“Once I graduated, I realized that I don’t enjoy sitting at a desk all day, which is what I would mostly be doing as a financial advisor,” Hutton says. “Teaching is a combination of all the things that I enjoy doing. So, I joined the Teacher Collaborative Fellowship in the spring of 2024, beginning classes for the M.S.T. in May. I should be graduating in summer 2025 and able to officially begin my career as a social studies teacher.”

Hutton’s classroom training ranges from ensuring that Individualized Education Programs and 504s are in place so that all students have the proper accommodations to ensure their success to adapting his expertise in history to a seventh grade level. He has found the “lightbulb moments” in the classroom, however, to be the most rewarding aspect of his experience so far.

“Since I have a broad knowledge of history as a subject, I can focus my time and energy on my own Education coursework and how to impart my knowledge to my students,” Hutton says. “This isn’t a profession where you can just show up, go through the motions, and leave for the day. I’m a firm believer that students can tell the teachers that are dedicated to the craft, and those that aren’t. I hope my students can tell every day that I’m here for them.”

For more in-depth profiles on Naill, Clay, and Hutton and the Teacher Collaborative Fellowship, go to mcdaniel.edu/magazine.





IT'S ALL ABSTRACT UNTIL WE MAKE IT REAL

On teaching pre-service educators

BY CAITLIN WILSON

During a time when the teaching profession is experiencing a 50-year low in prestige, interest, preparation, and satisfaction, McDaniel Education faculty share how they're preparing pre-service teachers to expect the unexpected and thrive as educators.

Professor of Education Ochieng' K'Olewe became a teacher because he had the worst professor ever. It was back when he was attending a midwestern graduate school and studying to become an economist, having already earned a bachelor's degree in Economics and Business.

"I never thought I'd be a teacher. I never wanted to be a teacher. If you asked me why I was taking economics classes, I'd say it was what I thought I wanted to do," he says. He just hadn't had his eureka moment yet.

That moment came during an exceedingly boring lecture given by a professor he couldn't stand. He thought to himself, "I can teach better than this guy."

The next day, he walked into the Education department and joined the Secondary Education graduate program. It's not the usual teacher origin story — and isn't a route he'd recommend everyone follow — but it perfectly suits K'Olewe's candid nature and his sense of humor.


And it worked out well for him. He went on to teach in K-12 schools in Illinois, Maryland, and West Virginia, earned his Doctor of Education, and is now in his 28th year of teaching in the Education Department at McDaniel College. He has supported countless cohorts of up-and-coming teachers.

As K'Olewe can attest, pre-service teachers choose the profession for many reasons. Some want to be different from their own teachers; some want to be just like them. Either way, what inspires them to become teachers is not as important as how they're trained to teach.

And in a time when the teaching profession is in a steep decline, teacher preparation is more important than ever.

DEFYING THE ODDS

A study published in the National Bureau of Economic Research in April 2024 found a decline in aspects of the U.S. K-12 teaching profession since 2010. Perceived prestige of the profession, interest in becoming a teacher, preparation for the career, and satisfaction with teaching jobs have sunk to record lows.



OCHIENG' K'OLEWE

PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION

“The majority of the U.S. population has had a school experience,” says Laura Albaugh Bitto ’04, assistant professor of Education. “In some ways, it makes people feel like they’re an expert on education. The average person may not view teachers as the professionals that they are, and some may even see them simply as caregivers.”

While many current issues facing the profession are related to public policy, perception, and even compensation, that does not mean the ranks of teachers won’t rise again. Programs dedicated to producing teachers who are well-prepared for their chosen career — like those offered at McDaniel — can be integral to reinvigorating the profession. In fact, McDaniel’s teacher graduates defy the odds during this 50-year low.

Over 90% of Education graduates from McDaniel are still employed as teachers five years after graduation, exceeding state and national averages of around 50%. For decades, McDaniel has consistently produced top educators in Maryland, with more than 30 alums since 2010 recognized as County Teachers of the Year — most recently in 2024 — and four as Maryland Teachers of the Year — one as recently as 2023.

So, how are McDaniel faculty training pre-service teachers to weather challenges and have long, successful careers in education? Two professors share their perspectives.

GETTING INTO THE STUDENT MINDSET

Education students typically begin with K’Olewe’s course Teaching and Learning in a Diverse Society. It’s all about educational psychology: theories about how we learn; the significance of teacher quality and relationships; the origin of classroom rules; theories of motivation; how we develop cognitively and why it’s important.

“As teachers, we deal with the brain, with student behavior and thinking,” K’Olewe says. “In elementary math, for instance, there’s a point at which they introduce counting in a series, because research shows children can begin thinking like that.”

Children develop at their own pace and their unique backgrounds can influence how they learn in school. Over time, educators may also teach at under-resourced schools or with different age groups, so K’Olewe prepares his pre-service teachers to be “able to understand your students and your own learning as a teacher,” he says. That class lays the groundwork for his next course. In Planning and Evaluation in Instruction, primarily first-year students

and sophomores observe professional teachers in local schools to connect their lessons to practical teaching.

“Taking that class is a good way for them to determine if they really want to teach,” K’Olewe says, since they see firsthand how theory doesn’t always translate to the bustle of a classroom. He encourages pre-service teachers to carefully consider their potential career early in their time at McDaniel. It’s key to producing confident educators who understand and are prepared for the realities of the classroom.

USING SELF-REFLECTION TO FIND NEW ROUTES

K’Olewe grew up in Kenya in the 1960s and 1970s, not long after the country declared independence from Britain. The Kenyan education system retained the British model: highly regimented and competitive with thousands of students striving for a few seats at a single university.

He took an alternative path by traveling to the United States to attend an American university, and says he had to adjust from the British to the American system. It took some time to get used to the American fondness for copious amounts of homework and quizzes.

“In that regard, I probably could have been a better student,” he admits with a laugh.

He teaches from his unique experiences, since his own time as a student was influenced by the school system in Kenya and his transition to U.S. universities. Teaching is all about self-reflection, so K’Olewe invites his students to consider their own experiences in elementary, middle, and high school while learning about the mechanisms behind teaching. “There’s always a lens through which you can look at your experience and find why it happened or what it means,” he says.

Encouraging his students to have a thorough social, cultural, and historical understanding of their experience and role within the education system is a core part of the McDaniel Plan. Including self-reflection in his pedagogy was inspired by his time as a high school teacher.

“I can still remember a conversation I had with a fellow high school teacher about how we can relate lessons to the students’ experiences. Because come to think of it, everything we teach is abstract,” he says. “That’s why I always say to my educational psychology class, ‘Bring your experiences into the classroom, because what we’ll talk about is abstract, but what makes it concrete are your experiences.’”

“Being able to have practicum experiences with my peers was an enriching and powerful experience. I get to learn from not only my classes at McDaniel but other like-minded people, such as my peers and other educators.”

ALEIGH FREED | SENIOR
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION MAJOR

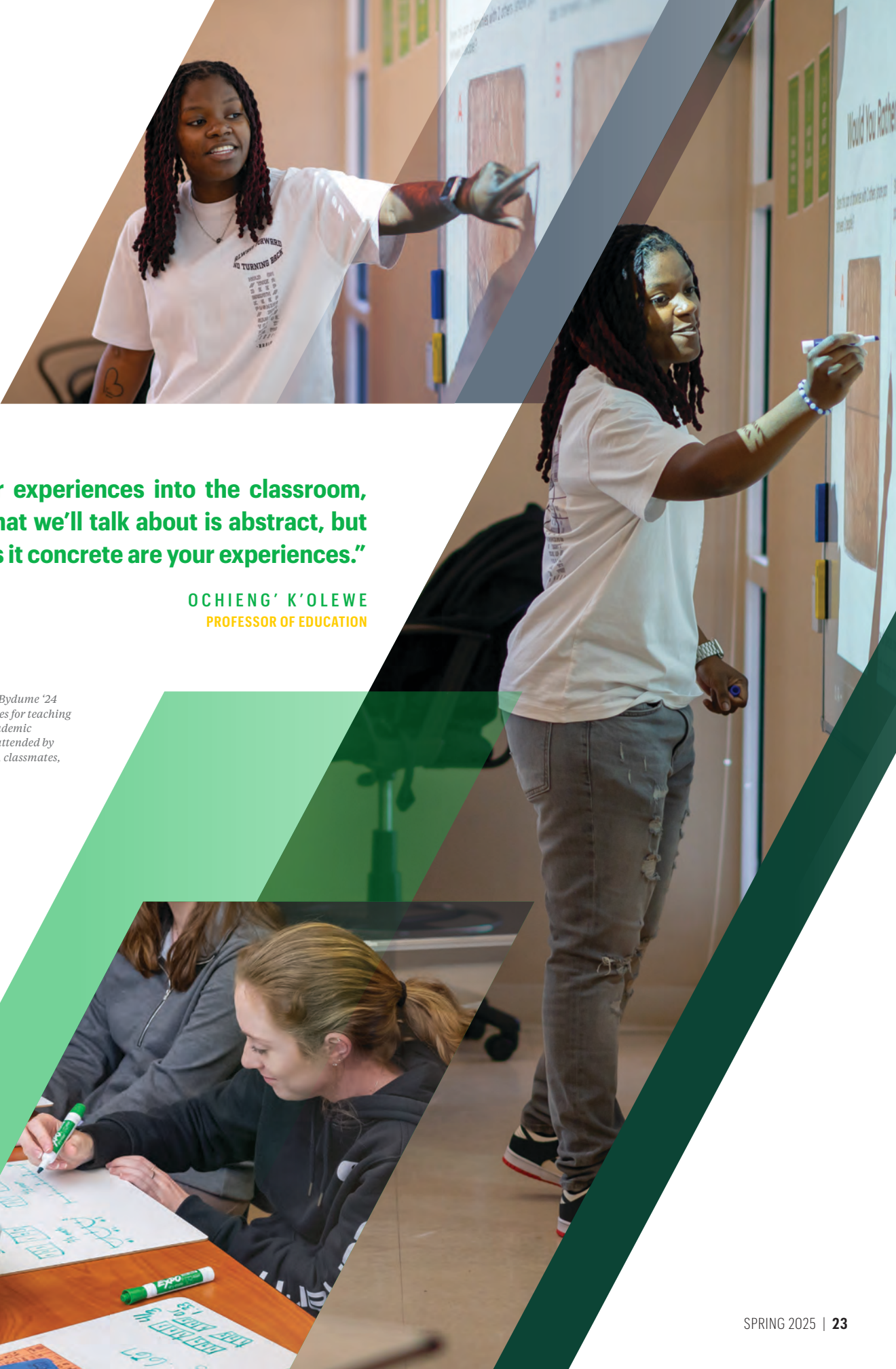
“The Education program at McDaniel equipped me with the essential skills to be a successful teacher. One of the greatest skills I learned was to be a reflective practitioner. This skill was crucial to my success as a student and as a teacher.”

TAMYA BYDUME ’24
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION MAJOR,
FIFTH GRADE TEACHER AT
CRANBERRY STATION
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

“Bring your experiences into the classroom, because what we’ll talk about is abstract, but what makes it concrete are your experiences.”

OCHIENG’ K’OLEWE
PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION

Education alum Tamya Bydume ’24 led a session on techniques for teaching fractions at the 2023 Academic Symposium, which was attended by fellow Education majors, classmates, faculty, and staff.





LAURA ALBAUGH BITTO '04

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION

SAVING MATH EDUCATION

"People usually want to go into teaching math because they either loved math class or they hated it and struggled, and they don't want that to be somebody else's experience," says Laura Albaugh Bitto '04.

Specializing in educating future math teachers at McDaniel, Bitto, plays a crucial role in the Education department, since math education has long been a challenging subject both for educators to teach and students to learn.

While some students become full-time math teachers, Elementary Education majors must be able to teach all subjects, sometimes with support from mathematics specialists.

Bitto was among the first in the nation to hold a K-8 Mathematics Specialist master's degree and spent years working as a mathematics specialist in schools. She's seen the ups and downs of math education firsthand.

Recently, there have been some downs. In December of 2024, the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study, released by the National Center for Education Statistics, found that 2023 math scores of fourth graders declined 18 points while math scores of eighth graders had declined by 27 points since 2019. Fourth grade math scores were the lowest they had been since the U.S. began participating in the global study in 1995.

The drop could be attributed to lingering effects of the pandemic, but regardless of the reason, many will look to teachers to be the solution. Which is why math teacher educators like Bitto are vital to producing the next generation of teachers.

Bitto follows in the footsteps of Professor Emeritus of Education Francis "Skip" Fennell, a former math teacher educator at McDaniel. He was key in establishing the department's approach to producing top math educators.

"The notion that we're preparing teachers to be equally proficient in what I refer to as the Big Four — classroom management, content, instruction, and assessment — is a huge challenge to begin with, let alone the unique challenges related to mathematics," Fennell

"Dr. Bitto and Dr. Becca Gibson made my time at McDaniel amazing. They were so supportive and helpful in my journey to becoming a teacher. I hated math as a kid and Dr. Bitto believed in me that I could do it and be the best math teacher I could be. Now, I love teaching math and fostering a math classroom where my students also love it."

HEATHER SHOCKLEY '23, M.S. '24
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION MAJOR AND
SPECIAL EDUCATION MASTER'S, FIRST
GRADE TEACHER AT TANEYTOWN
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

"Being a teacher means lifelong learning — a catchphrase we all use in education, but you have to be learning in order to succeed in the career."

LAURA ALBAUGH BITTO '04
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION

says. "We need to make sure that all children have an opportunity to experience a math curriculum where they feel engaged and are being led by a teacher who understands math, knows when to go back, and when to move forward."

LESSONS IN THE LITTLE THINGS

Bitto loves math. And she knows teaching is in the little things — and anything can be a lesson.

Twenty years ago, when she was a Mathematics major with a minor in Education, she was given the humble chore of organizing math manipulatives in a closet of Thompson Hall — boxes and boxes of colorful blocks, a veritable kaleidoscope for teaching geometry, rational numbers, division, and multiplication.

She would hike across campus with Professor Emeritus Fennell to the tucked-away closet whenever they needed the materials. When Fennell asked for her help organizing it all, she agreed.

"What I didn't know at the time was that Professor Fennell wanted me to see the different manipulatives that we didn't explore in class — to really get my hands on them as I'm organizing them," Bitto says. "His mentorship and leadership were woven into every interaction and simple task."

Encountering those materials early on prepared her to later incorporate them into her teaching. "Being a teacher means lifelong learning — a catchphrase we all use in education, but you have to be learning in order to succeed in the career," she says.

Now in the same role once held by Fennell, Bitto introduces her students to the techniques, tools, and materials of teaching that they can bring into their own classrooms one day. Her personal supply of math manipulatives lines her office shelves, and she hints the department has a stockpile of them too.

Subtle lessons are not all that's needed, however. Bitto makes it clear to her students that passion for teaching is only the beginning. "Teaching takes specialized training, at which I think McDaniel does a fantastic job," Bitto says.

Gaining tangible skills and knowing what to expect can help pre-service teachers go the long run in the profession.

"You have to know every content area," Bitto tells her students. "You have to take three courses each of science, social studies, math, and reading, because you're going to be teaching all of those in elementary school. You have to be a good communicator. You have to be in control of your emotions. You have to be strategic in your decisions. You have to be flexible, yet you have to be a really



Top: Bitto with best friend and college roommate Tara Morris Tully '04 at their Commencement.

Middle: 2003, the year before Bitto graduated from McDaniel, was the 60th wedding anniversary of her grandparents who met during their time on the Hill. Both became educators themselves: Emily Linton Carnochan '42, went on to teach home economics and physical education, and John Carnochan '40, M.Ed. '47 eventually became superintendent of Frederick County Public Schools.

Bottom: Bitto student teaching in a fourth grade classroom at Elmer Wolfe Elementary School in her last semester as a student at McDaniel.



good planner. And there’s the tension of autonomy versus lacking control over every variable.”

AN EARLY START IN REAL CLASSROOMS

It’s unique, but Education majors and minors begin student teaching in their sophomore year on the Hill.

“Getting practical experience in live classrooms with children is so valuable,” Bitto says. “Right away, we want our teacher candidates to bridge theory to reality. We could talk all day long about how to teach, but it’s in doing the teaching that you learn.”

Especially since no two classes will have the same dynamic.

“How do you prepare someone for the unknown? You can identify all of the behaviors happening in classrooms right now, but that doesn’t mean it will happen in your classroom. There are so many variables,” Bitto says.

To overcome uncertainties, she trains her pre-service teachers to facilitate a dynamic and responsive classroom that adapts to each student.

“At its heart, differentiation means I see you, the individual, and I will help you grow in your path,” she says. It’s a philosophy she follows with her McDaniel students too.

With guidance from faculty like K’Olewe and Bitto, McDaniel graduates go on to earn their professional licensure, joining the ranks of educators to stand out as leaders. They go on, equipped with educational psychology, teaching tools and practices —

and perhaps a new love for math, or social studies, or reading. They go on ready to make a difference in the lives of children.

“I have learned the importance of understanding that each student has unique learning differences and how to include each student’s learning styles into each and every lesson.”

KATELYN BAUR | SENIOR
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION MAJOR
WITH A MINOR IN AMERICAN SIGN
LANGUAGE

To learn more about Bitto, K’Olewe, and their students’ hands-on experiences in the McDaniel Education Department, go to mcdaniel.edu/magazine.



Right: A classroom in Ranen Girls Secondary School in North Alungo, Kenya.

Bottom left: During a 2011 Jan Term, McDaniel students traveled with K’Olewe to renovate Kopudo Primary School.

Bottom right: Principal of Ranen Girls School Alice Otieno with one of her students.

Supporting Schools in Kenya

K’Olewe’s experiences growing up in Kenya have opened the door for McDaniel students’ community service abroad, and his own support for schools overseas.

In 2002, he traveled to Kenya with two of his sons and decided to use their extra luggage allowance on the plane for suitcases stuffed with books and school supplies he had collected through a drive in the Education Department. He had no plans beyond delivering them to Kopudo, his hometown village. His family shared them with anyone interested, and a few years later, a kindergarten opened using some of the donated materials.

For a Jan Term in 2011, K’Olewe and a group of McDaniel students traveled to Kenya to help renovate the small building that housed the kindergarten to accommodate a first grade classroom. The school now teaches children up to the third grade. Over 500 students have gone through the school, and the first group of kindergarten students have graduated from high school. K’Olewe also established a scholarship for high-need students in the area.

In 2016, he helped establish an all-girls high school in Kopudo and a scholarship for its students. One year for his birthday, he refused gifts and instead invited family and friends to donate and establish a home economics program at the school.

Historically, it has taken a while for all-girls high schools to be common in rural Kenya, in part because of cultural traditions and limited resources. “Within my community, the Luo, you don’t marry within your clan, you get married across clans. Women leave their community to join another when they marry,” he explains.

Because of this tradition, rural families with limited resources often choose to educate their sons, rather than their daughters who will eventually leave.

“However, that is at the face value. The reality of the matter is, in rural communities, it’s women who do most of the development activities,” K’Olewe says. “Not only that, but women also tend to reach back to where they came from. And I can see that with my sister and my mother, who always took care of her mother.”

That reality is a major reason he supports girls’ education in Kopudo. It helps the girls catch up to the boys and benefits every community.

“The school has changed the lives of those kids. And it’s changed the thinking in the village because people realize that educating girls is not throwing away your money — it’s an investment. We are very, very proud of it,” he says.



GIFT HIGHLIGHTS

The success of many of the initiatives in the strategic plan are dependent upon the generosity of our donors. Thank you to the following donors for their recent gifts to the college. We can't do what we do without you!

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

\$2.5 million

from The Kahlert Foundation for the McDaniel College Nursing program.

\$1.5 million

from Martin K. P. Hill and Terri V. Hill.

\$250,000

from Robert Pick '92 and Heather Pick to support the STEM Lab in the McDaniel College Learning Commons.

\$250,000

from Dr. Ethan Seidel and Deborah Dale Seidel '84 to support renovation of the Department of Economics and Business Administration offices in Lewis Recitation Hall.

\$160,000

from Bryson F. Popham '73 and Carol Ward Popham '73 to support The Mildred R. Popham Scholarship Fund.

\$117,000

from Carolyn Seaman Scott '67, M.L.A. '76 to support the Food Studies Kitchen renovation and the WMC Alumni Hall Theatre Acting Studio in memory of Ms. Esther Cordelia Smith.

\$53,000

from Susan Horner Fulginiti '73 to support The Susan Horner '73 Fulginiti Scholarship.

\$50,000

from K. Richard Gill '86 and Melissa Gill to support the Group Study Space in the McDaniel College Learning Commons.

\$50,000

from M. Lee Primm '89 and Louna Primm.

\$50,000

from Susan C. Stevenson '85 to support the track renovation and the Fund for McDaniel.

\$49,500

from Charles Eric Moore '71 and Carol Hoerichs Moore '70.

\$41,190.62

from Marclyn S. Hendon to support The James R. Hendon Memorial Scholarship Fund.

\$25,460.40

from Susan Snodgrass Case '65, M.Ed. '84 to support The H. Samuel Case '63, M.Ed. '66 and Susan Snodgrass Case '65, M.Ed. '84 Scholarly Research Fund.

\$25,000

from Carolyn B. Boner for The Dr. Robert P. and Carolyn B. Boner Endowed Scholarship Fund.

\$25,000

from William Cornwell to support The Donna May Grewell Cornwell '62 Scholarship Fund.

\$25,000

from Marjorie Roy Espenschade '76 and Park Espenschade to support The Espenschade Class of 1976 Nursing Endowed Scholarship.

\$25,000

from Ralph Frith '84 and Char Wirts Frith '84 to support the Black Student Union Clubroom renovations and the Welcome Center.

\$25,000

from Marjorie Rankin Kimble M.Ed. '86 and Jeffrey Kimble M.Ed. '84 to support the McDaniel College Learning Commons.

\$25,000

from Dr. Eddy F. Laird to support The Dr. Eddy F. Laird Deaf Education/ASL Studies Scholarship Fund.



ENDURING LOVE PHILANTHROPY

— ON THE HILL —

How Joan Develin Coley and M. Lee Rice's
commitment to McDaniel continues to shape
the college's future

BY LINDSAY SHERMAN

When you talk to President Emeritus Joan Develin Coley and Trustee Emeritus M. Lee Rice '48, two things immediately become apparent: their love for McDaniel College and their love for each other. From the Rice Gallery to Coley Rice Lounge, it's only fitting that the couple who met here on the Hill have prioritized giving back to the place where their love story began. We chatted with the recipients of the 2024 Founders Award about their dedication to the college, their most recent gift to the Education Department in honor of a dear friend, and the legacy they hope to leave on the Hill.



Why is it important to you to continue to invest in McDaniel College?

LEE: McDaniel gave me a good start, graduating in 1948 after transferring and studying for two years here on the Hill. I also have a family history at the college, with my sister Ann Rice Jett graduating in 1944 and my cousin W. Kelley Rice and his wife, Eileen Weeks Rice, both graduating in 1949.

Decades later, I was invited to serve on the Board of Trustees. I accepted in 1980, but I told them that I was too busy in New York in my career to attend meetings for a couple years, which was very true. I became much more active starting in 1982-83 once I struck out on my own as a consultant and remained an active trustee until 2005, when I was given emeritus status.

JOAN: Fundraising, which Lee has done a lot of and contributed mightily to, is critical to the life of a college. Tuition does not cover everything, and we need to enhance the endowment and get significant gifts from donors. We're happy to contribute to that however we can.



Check out this video of Ashley Day-Gibbs reflecting on her connection with President Emeritus Coley.

What did it mean to the two of you to be named the recipients of the 2024 Founders Award?

LEE: I said in my speech that night that the college has always been important to me and to us as a couple. We are always grateful for what the college has given to us, and we're especially grateful to be able to give back to the college.

JOAN: Philanthropy to the college has always been an important part of what we do. Lee has been philanthropic toward the college for more than 50 years. I've given as well, just not for 50 years yet!

LEE: And it's not just about the philanthropic contributions. One of the most important things you can do is give back by volunteering your time with the college as well. There are a lot of things I was involved in over the years through my work on the board, which really is the managing foundation of the college. It's important that we continue to recruit great people to the board and to the ranks of our volunteers.

JOAN: I was so glad that Lee could be there for the Founders Celebration. So many people came up to interact with him, people who hadn't seen him for a long time. And I was just blown away by the video created with Ashley Day-Gibbs '12, with her sharing the story about the pearl necklace I gave her when she was a student. The Founders Celebration and that honor was a high point for both of us. We enjoyed it immensely.

Above: Lee Rice in 1948, the year he graduated from the college.
1. Lee Rice (second from left in the first row) and fellow Board of Trustees members in the early 1980s.
2. Joan Develin Coley served as the first female president of the college, from 2000 until 2010.

3. Coley with Ashley Day-Gibbs '12 at the 2024 Founders Celebration.
4. Coley and Rice address guests at the 2024 Founders Celebration after being announced as recipients of the Founders Award.



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Let’s talk about your most recent gift to the college. Why did you decide to fund an Education lab and equipment named in honor of Professor Emeritus Skip Fennell?

JOAN: Skip Fennell is one of the most distinguished professors we’ve ever had on the Hill, so there was no doubt we wanted to honor him. When students and alumni from our Education programs think about major influences on their lives, Skip Fennell is always near the top of the list. Lee and I both wanted to acknowledge that fact and honor Skip for the incredible work he has done that has helped us produce so many excellent educators at McDaniel.

LEE: Skip was just a great friend to me and an incredible intellect who did a lot of work in developing new mathematical management and teaching programs. As a mathematician myself in my education and early career, what Skip accomplished was almost unbelievable. He’s a nationally known math educator and had — and continues to have — an impact way beyond the bounds of McDaniel College.

What legacy do you think you’re leaving behind on the Hill?

JOAN: Well, our names are there now in multiple places. Lee made a gift assisting the college in restoring Peterson Hall and naming the Esther Prangley Rice Gallery after his late first wife. We helped renovate and named Coley Rice Lounge together. And now we’re helping Skip Fennell to leave a mark on the college as well in a very tangible way.

LEE: I would like to be remembered as a good chair of the Board of Trustees from 1991-96. And I worked hard with my successor, Jim Melhorn, to convince Joan that she would be a great president. We succeeded and were proven absolutely correct. Her presidency is my proudest achievement at the college, and I was proud to be on the board during the name change and then to chair the Carpe Diem campaign under Joan’s presidency.

JOAN: I would certainly like to be remembered as the president who led the name change, which I know was a hard pill for a lot of people to swallow. But McDaniel represents us so much better and has allowed us to better support our educational programs by reaching a wider student body. And, hopefully, people remember me as a president who led the college well. What more could I ask for?

1. As chair of the Board of Trustees from 1991-96, Lee Rice (left) worked closely with Bob Chambers (right), who was president of the college from 1984 until 2000.
2. Rice and Coley cut the ribbon at the dedication of the Coley Rice Lounge in McDaniel Hall as President Julia Jasken looks on.
3. President Coley welcomed the Class of 2002 to the ranks of alumni by leading them in the traditional ringing of Old Main bell.
4. Rice was named Alum of the Year in 2000 and was honored at the football game during Homecoming weekend by President Coley.
5. Coley and Rice in front of Peterson Hall, which houses the Esther Prangley Rice Gallery, dedicated in April 1996 in honor of Lee Rice’s late first wife.



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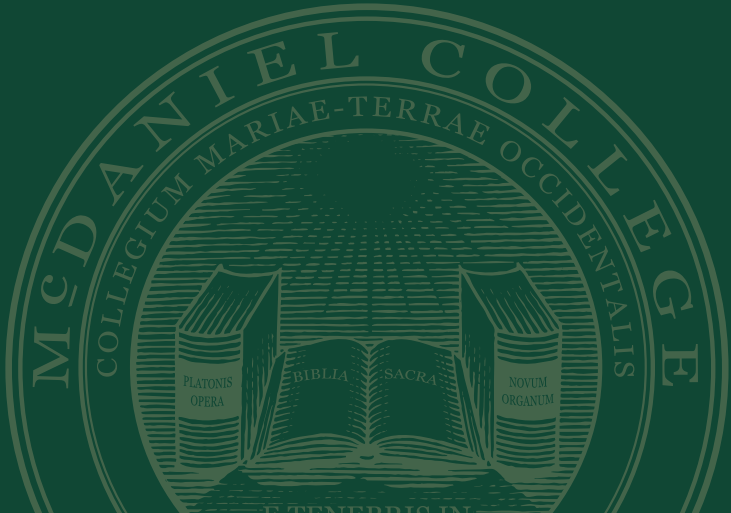


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“

WE ARE ALWAYS GRATEFUL FOR WHAT THE COLLEGE HAS GIVEN TO US, AND WE’RE ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL TO BE ABLE TO GIVE BACK TO THE COLLEGE.”

- LEE RICE





“

McDANIEL IS SPECIAL.
IT'S WHY I CAME HERE
AND WHY I CONTINUE
TO BE HERE ALMOST
FIVE DECADES LATER.”

-SKIP FENNELL

Continuing the legacy of Education on the Hill

For nearly five decades, the name Francis “Skip” Fennell has been synonymous with Education programs on the Hill. The professor emeritus, who arrived at McDaniel (then Western Maryland) College in 1976, is a nationally and internationally renowned mathematics educator, researcher, and subject matter expert. He is a past president of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators, the Research Council on Mathematics Learning, and past chair of the U.S. National Commission on Mathematics Instruction. His work is widely published in professional journals and books related to PreK-8 mathematics education, math specialists, and formative assessment.

Now, thanks to the generosity of President Emerita Joan Develin Coley and Trustee Emeritus M. Lee Rice '48, Fennell's name will continue to be a mainstay in the college's legacy of preparing future educators. Coley and Rice's recent gift to the college to name an Education lab in Fennell's honor will provide space and equipment to ensure the next generation of teachers coming out of McDaniel will be equipped to change lives in schools around the country.

Fennell was caught off guard by the announcement at the 2024 Founders Society Celebration of the gift made in his honor. He says the honor humbled him and was made even more special by the donors, who he considers lifelong friends and inspirations to be a better teacher educator.

“Joan and I worked together for a long time. She was the reading expert when I was the math expert,” Fennell says. “We worked in tandem at the undergraduate level before she became graduate dean and then provost. She also developed and ran the college's reading clinic, and I was inspired by her to set up a math clinic, which led to the emphasis I've put on math specialists in elementary schools ever since.”

He recalls that Coley has often referred to her husband, Lee Rice (who studied Mathematics and Physics on the Hill), as a “rock star scientist.”

“Lee and I used to have great discussions about what is going on with mathematics in this country and what we could do to make it better,” Fennell says. “Everything that Joan and Lee have done — both together and separately — for this college is amazing, and I'm happy to now be part of that portfolio.”



At the 2024 Founders Celebration, Coley and Rice surprised Fennell (center) with the announcement of their gift for an Education lab named in his honor.

While the plans for the Fennell Education Lab are still in the beginning stages, Fennell's expertise in the field allows him to recognize the benefits of smaller, seminar-type classes, a value that is already inherent in the college's philosophy.

“It's important that you can really discuss and become engaged with your classmates and your professors,” he says. “In our field, we must engage prospective teachers and graduate students with manipulative materials, access to technology, and the ability to work through mathematics and reading concepts in a hands-on, discussion-focused manner.”

Fennell hopes the lab will allow students to explore and become proficient in the subject, and then take the next step off the Hill: “I want them to be able to learn and then say, ‘OK, now how am I going to take what we just did into a fourth grade classroom at William Winchester or Robert Moton Elementary School?’

Fennell has had a vantage point of the legacy of Education on the Hill that only a handful of others have, and he is excited about continuing that legacy.

“We don't get the credit that state institutions that were founded for teacher education do, but so many of our students over the years have pursued full majors in their subject areas and stacked Education on top of it,” Fennell says. “We're going to continue to make a significant contribution to the field at a time when we need many, many more teachers in this world.”

With the introduction of new programs in Early Childhood Education and the Teacher Collaborative Fellowship providing increased access to an accelerated Master of Science in Teaching to help address the teacher shortage in the state, Fennell says it's all about one thing here on the Hill:

“McDaniel is special. It's why I came here and why I continue to be here almost five decades later. I'm honored beyond belief that my name will be associated with Education on the Hill for many years to come. I can't thank my dear friends Joan and Lee enough for that gift — not just to the college but to me.”

ALUMNI UPDATES

LIFE AFTER COLLEGE



The Green Terror joined Dick Clower '50; Sherry Albright Clower '94, M.S. '99; Susan Snodgrass Case '65, M.Ed. '84; Darrell Guyton '87; and Kris Twiford Guyton '88 on the field at Homecoming as the honorary coin toss captains for the game. A \$1.7 million renovation of the outdoor track and field facility at Kenneth R. Gill Stadium was announced in honor of Dick Clower, professor emeritus of Exercise Science and Physical Education (now Kinesiology), who served as the college's director of Athletics.

DAVID SINCLAIR '00

1957

Since my last column in 2022, I have been notified of the passing of these classmates: **Lee Bowen** (Aug. 13, 2021), **Mary “Pat” Doub Thompson** (June 20, 2022), **Richard “Dick” Kline** (Feb. 9, 2023), **Doris Burkert Galvin** (Feb. 11, 2023), **Bob Truitt** (May 10, 2023), **Arthur McKinstry** (June 8, 2023), **Beverly Parsons Carter** (June 8, 2023), **Charles “Chuck” Smith** (Dec. 1, 2023), **Carol Bingham Prendergast** (July 22, 2023), **Herb Sell** (Jan. 26, 2024), and **David Bailey** (Feb. 8, 2024). My saddest note is the passing of **John “Jack” Goettee**, my beloved husband of 66 years, on July 20, 2024. That nasty COVID-19 virus came out of the blue with no symptoms and after five vaccinations that began a downward spiral in his condition over the course of 18 months. I cared for him at home, with assistance. Three unfortunate hospital experiences also occurred during that time. My supportive family of three children, nine grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren were wonderful, even though most of them live far away from New Windsor, Maryland. They were here with me when needed and on the phone daily. One granddaughter and great-grandson live close to me. My 24-year-old grandson from New Mexico has been living with us for three years and continues to be a tremendous help to me. My life is definitely different now, but I am slowly adapting to it and returning to several of my favorite activities, like reading, knitting, church activities, and re-establishment of my 20-year-old book club!

Mike Savarese continues to send me updates about his life. He is still enjoying life as always, golfing at his community course in Pelican Preserve in Fort Myers, Florida, as well as at a fine selection of nearby venues. The pool, spa, and gym time continue as well. This is all enjoyed with Daleann as they continue into the seventh year of their loving relationship. Although he has not returned to the McDaniel campus for many years, Daleann and Mike had the pleasure and honor to enjoy an evening with our wonderful President Julia Jasken and Martin Hill, a noteworthy trustee, and several alumni at a gathering at Martin’s home in Sarasota, Florida.

Karin Shade James says she has been living alone in her own home for the past 10 years, staying socially active and even being able to drive at night. She feels very fortunate for that. Andy, her only surviving child, and Karin spent a weekend together in Hanover, Pennsylvania, visiting some of her old high school friends. Karin says that she keeps in touch with **Jean Goode Stahl**, and she also had a long phone conversation with **Marge Pott Ensinger**, who lives just 10 minutes away from her. Occasionally they meet for lunch.

Bob Butler and **Barbara Willis Butler '60** are busily trying to keep up with their 18 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. They still live in and maintain their home, but they joke that Walgreens Pharmacy has contacted them to open a branch in their basement! They are fortunate to be able to do most of the things they like to do and are blessed by a large, diverse, and wonderful family who care for them and bring them great happiness.

Anna Jarrell is now living at Asbury Methodist Village in Gaithersburg, Maryland, and she says that she is very happy there with lots of activities. Anna recently had knee replacement surgery but is progressing very well with therapy and lots of exercise.

Del Kohl, M.Ed. '70 wants all to know that he and **Barbara Moreau Kohl '60** are still in their cottage at the Acts Manor House in Seaford, Delaware, where they have lived for the past 10 years. Del stays in touch with **Denny Harmon, M.Ed. '61**.

Joan Durno Claybrooke says she and John have become homebodies, but thank God for everything they did when they first met. Joan uses a walker now, and they recently celebrated John’s 95th birthday.

Marjorie Pott Ensinger and her husband, Stuart, stay busy with their Bible studies, which is truly their lifeblood. Stuart does a wonderful job of managing household needs and activities and cooks many of their delicious meals. Marge has been organizing their family genealogy for future generations. This has brought her much satisfaction, although it will always be an uncompleted task. They are truly blessed to have a good, happy, and loving relationship with both of their children. Just one year ago, their daughter-in-law Becky was diagnosed with cancer. She received 12 low doses of chemotherapy combined with a targeted drug, many radiation treatments, and much prayer. She also received a number of non-traditional/alternative treatments. Scans in October 2024 showed the areas of concern were now mostly normal. They thank God for the good report!

Bob Radcliffe and **Helen Boardman Radcliffe** are still on the North Carolina coast. Bob still goes crabbing and Helen continues her artwork. They keep in touch with **Denny Harmon, M.Ed. '61**; **Charlie Phipps '55**; and **Ginnie Tull Phipps**.

Bruce Taylor spends a lot of time looking back on memories of a lifetime. Graduation day, 68 years ago, was such a proud moment for him. On the way over to get in line, he ran into Dr. H. P. Sturdivant. Bruce was a Biology major in his department, but his interest in biology quickly dimmed after his freshman year and hit rock bottom when he was persuaded to take botany! He wishes for that time back. Anyway, after they said their goodbyes, Dr. Sturdivant’s last words to Bruce were: “Don’t let them work you too hard.” Did he really know? In November 2023, Bruce’s wife of over 60 years passed away after an eight-year struggle with Alzheimer’s disease, and a lot of his joy of life went with her. So many of the people who touched his life are no longer alive except in memories. He lives alone in the house that his wife chose 48 years ago, but he has a cat that “keeps me on my toes.”

Paul Ensor has spent considerable time going through memorabilia that his wife **Mary-West Pitts Ensor**, who passed away in January 2019, had saved. He recently found an article

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.

titled “Growing Old” that was written by one of Mary-West’s favorite professors, Esther Smith. When Paul read the most recent copy of *The Hill*, he realized how appropriate her words were. The first paragraph of the article began, “Old age took me by surprise. It was not wanted, it was not expected, I was not prepared for, it was just suddenly here, an unwelcomed piece of inevitability.” Smith ended her piece with, “The miracle of life. The power of love. The acceptance of death. The life everlasting of the spirit, and the mystery of memory ... the sweet mystery of memory.” Paul went on to say, “It is those last words that enabled my thoughts to share the memories related to classmates and experiences in our graduating Class of 1957 at WMC! Aside from my memorable wife of 62 years, another memorable event occurred this past July 20 when Dr. **John ‘Jack’ Goettee** passed away after an extended illness. Jack was not only our family dentist, but he was like a brother. Our families grew up together and the kids were like brothers and sisters. Family camping trips, square dancing, dinner theatres, etc. Both wives volunteered at The Strawbridge Shrine in New Windsor. Several of our kids are also graduates of WMC/McDaniel. It was an honor for me to participate in the Celebration of Life service for Jack. I had actually met **Marian Scheder Goettee** in the eighth grade, but it was WMC that initiated our lifetime of friendship and memories. At almost 90 years of age, life would not have been the same with any success or happiness without the contacts and recommendations inspired by the professors, friends, and classmates of WMC/McDaniel.”

Marian Scheder Goettee
1957 Class Reporter

1963

Jerry Siegel and Jennifer are still living in York, Pennsylvania. They have become great-grandparents and continue to volunteer at the Belmont Theatre and are active with the York Junior Chamber of Commerce. Recently, Jerry had fun using ideas from the York College Literature of Terror course to present a program called “The Road to Karloff’s Frankenstein.” He talked about Mary Shelley’s novel, the legend of the golem, and the famous 1931 horror film. Their travels this year didn’t include any exotic places, but they were able to add some interesting side trips. In Orlando, they enjoyed the Titanic exhibit, and closer to home in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, they found the Flight 93 National Memorial very moving.

Barbara “Barb” Persion Carroll has relocated from the East Coast to the West Coast. “It was great seeing everyone at our 60th Reunion. That trip from South Carolina to Maryland included my grandson’s high school graduation and my granddaughter’s college graduation. I have not done much traveling since then. My three daughters and their spouses are doing very well, happy in their marriages and careers. My

youngest, Beth, and her husband moved to the West Coast about 15 years ago and settled in Portland, Oregon in 2018. Three years ago, they bought a successful vegan grocery store that had been in business for 20 years. In June, I moved out there to live with them and help Beth at the store. So, I’m employed once again. This time, I’m preparing and cooking deli items and baking vegan goodies. My salary being the most delicious chocolate-covered marshmallows imaginable. It’s fun, and I’m having a blast exploring all Oregon has to offer and reuniting with my youngest child. I’m realizing I will never be fully retired and that’s OK.”

When **Pris Ord** was teaching at Villanova University 51 years ago, a colleague told her about a children’s literature organization that was forming and asked if she was interested in joining. She was, and she did. They were unable to attend the first conference of the Children’s Literature Association (ChLA) in 1973 because of the gas crisis, but they attended the next one in Williamsburg, Virginia, in 1974. Without planning to do so, Pris attended each one after that, including the 25th in Paris, until COVID-19 intervened in 2020. Over the years, she served on the board, chaired committees, gave papers, and raised funds. In 2013, she received the association’s Outstanding Service Award and was accorded honorary life membership. In May 2024, at the conference in Madison, Wisconsin, Pris received the Anne Devereaux Jordan Award, ChLA’s lifetime achievement award, named for one of the association’s founders. The award itself is a framed citation, and the matting depicts illustrations from one of the recipient’s favorite children’s books. Hers has scenes of Ratty, Mole, and Toad by Ernest Shepherd from Kenneth Grahame’s “The Wind in the Willows.”

Howard “Howie” Davidov and Maureen always send fun updates. They went to Bermuda, where they originally honeymooned, to celebrate their 54th wedding anniversary. Howie says, “We enjoy cruising and have been to many of the Caribbean islands as well as to a number of countries ‘across the pond.’ Our real joy is being with our son, daughter-in-law, and three beautiful granddaughters. I still play the piano and enjoy giving tours at the Jewish Museum of Maryland.”

Jill Fredholm Porter and Ken moved from Manchester, New Hampshire, to a continuing care retirement community, The Huntington at Nashua, in Nashua, New Hampshire. Ken was accepted in the nursing care community, and Jill has an apartment in the independent living community, not far from his suite. All of Ken’s needs are taken care of. Jill visits him and sometimes he joins her for dinner. She found bridge players there and is now playing bridge again. “I continue to keep the Chandler House girls connected with our weekly Zoom call,” Jill says. “I’m still swimming, practicing yoga, and staying as active as possible.”

Janet Walker Gray says all is well in Point Pleasant, New Jersey, and she is still fortunate to spend the winter in Florida. “My condo is still standing (thank heaven) after all the storms. The family is fine, and grandchildren are growing

into young adults. It all reminds me that I am getting older, but the good thing is my kids have not committed me yet nor have they taken away my driver’s license.”

Rebecca “Becky” Wright did check in briefly. She and her golfing buddies had a wonderful trip to the Solheim Cup, and Team USA won the cup! I have to say that Becky is one of the finest volunteers at Homewood Retirement in Frederick, Maryland, as well as St. Peter the Apostle Roman Catholic Church in her hometown of Libertytown, Maryland.

Barbara “Barb” McCatharn Fultz is still in touch with **Marian Emery Ward**. Barbara now resides in Keene, New Hampshire. She has three children and 11 grandkids that keep her busy. Sadly, she has lost her husband and a son. Her busy life and church activities bring forth a message to all that God is good.

Barbara Moon Bensten called to report in from Nepean, Ontario. On a sad note, she has lost her dear husband, Ramon, to Parkinson’s disease. Living close to their son in an assisted living community has kept her active. She might, however, win a prize for too many falls, lots of body replacements, and an incredible positive spirit. Barbara had been out of high school for three years before receiving the senatorial scholarship that led to WMC. That accounts for her mature attitude not only in college but her life in general. One of her fondest travel adventures, not too long ago, was a trip to her home in Oakland, Maryland. She was blessed with many family reunions and precious time with an older sister.

Mara Dilson Walter ‘65 keeps us connected to **Charlie Walter**. Charlie served in Vietnam and was exposed to Agent Orange. In Mara’s words, Charlie has remained the same for several years. He is content, pain-free, well-fed, and blessedly unaware of his current state. Don and I visit Charlie as often as possible. He was in our wedding and gives us a smile when we recall his tricks from the wedding day.

William “Bill” MacDonald and **Joan Humphrey MacDonald ‘66** live in beautiful northern New Mexico less than a half mile from the entrance to the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, a mini Grand Canyon. They both work at the visitors center, welcoming visitors from all over the world. They built a house next to their son and his family, and their daughter’s family lives about 10 minutes away. “We are so blessed to have all of our family (13 in all) so close together! The latest addition is our 1½-year-old adorable great-grandson.” Bill had a couple of difficult years physically but is doing quite well now. “We celebrated our 59th wedding anniversary this past August and are so thankful for so many years together. We are both still very active and enjoying life!”

Ruth Verdone Neumann and Jim are staying active in Camarillo, California. They are blessed to have their family in state and some close by. Jim has slowed down a little with a Parkinson’s diagnosis. This busy family of four children, 15 grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter bring them joy. They also are involved in three Bible study classes at their Lutheran church. Since our last column, they enjoyed a full transit tour of the Panama Canal. Not too long ago, their son,

Dave, who is a history professor at Cal Poly State University, brought Ruth back to the East Coast for a grand “roots” tour. They visited her homes, churches, and schools, but Western Maryland College was the highlight. From the Eastern Shore to West Virginia, he better understands Ruth’s history.

Denise “Dee” Dehne Shaplow and Jay have moved closer to their daughter. It was quite a change of scenery. From the beautiful area of Naples, Florida, to those extraordinary Rocky Mountains in Colorado, they have adjusted. Their activities include the Boulder Unitarian Congregation, Boulder Newcomers, and several trips. They took a cruise from Switzerland to the North Pole and, just a little closer to home, The Walmart Museum in Bentonville, Arkansas.

Eric Buckner and his partner, Shelley Mazer, have been living in Dana Point, California, for the past five years. They love the weather and being a few miles from Eric’s daughter’s family. His oldest grandson, **Jordan Denes ‘27**, is in his sophomore year at McDaniel College and is on the lacrosse team. Jacob, the younger, is a high school senior and doing his college shopping. Eric and Shelley are happy and in good health, no complaints!

Ray Wockley is reporting from Bethany Dunes, Bethany Beach, Delaware. “**Marilyn Hahnefeld Wockley ‘65** and I celebrated our 58th wedding anniversary this past September and closed our beach home (The Arch) for the 41st time in Bethany Dunes. The Arch has been a haven to visit with family and friends to enjoy blue crabs by the bushel and lobsters by the pound. It is amazing how good one feels when enjoying sun, sand, and surf. I spend my extra time with our local Ocean View VFW 7234, where we built a 9 Flags Memorial Patio with our section dedicated to the four WMC ROTC graduates who died in Vietnam, and the Lord Baltimore Lions Club. In the summer, all visitors are welcome, but you might just have to sleep on the porch.”

Elizabeth (Trinka) McGibbeny Cueman, M.Ed. ‘84 writes: “**Ned Cueman ‘62** and I are still camped out in our home of 51 years in Pinch Valley outside Westminster, Maryland. We have enjoyed seeing our neighborhood grow from four families to 23, with what seems like the generation of young families and their children. I’m active at Ascension Church in Westminster. Ned and I continue to enjoy the family summer home at the Jersey Shore. Daughters Caroline and Jennifer, who live in Florida with their families, join us there every summer, and we join them in Florida during the winter. Our granddaughter, **Kaitlyn Parkins ‘09**, is married and living in Fort Collins, Colorado. Our grandson, Reid, is a mechanical engineering major at Auburn University in Alabama. Ned, the Mason/Dixon Circuit Rider, is planning on fully retiring from his practice soon. All in all, it’s a wonderful thing to be able to meet the challenges that come our way and still enjoy our lives together with our family and dear friends.”

Marsha Hoover Silverman and Steve remain active and have had some lovely travel adventures. A week spent in Berlin, Germany, was the highlight of their Danube River cruise.

On the other hand, the trip to Israel and Jordan, planned well in advance, was disrupted due to the Israel-Hamas war. They were on planes more hours than in each country and did not see one thing on the itinerary. They have lived in their neighborhood for 53 years in Worcester, Massachusetts. In Marsha’s words, “I enjoy the yard work and even the snow blowing. My activities haven’t changed: outdoor tennis April through October and pickleball in the winter, monthly book discussions and reading year-round, and spending time with friends. We still visit our daughter in San Francisco and son in Berlin yearly and, now that they realize we are getting old, they each visit often.”

Howard “Howie” Wagner has always had a smile on his face. His mixture of good news and not-so-good news reminds us all that time goes by quickly and we need to enjoy every moment. Most recently, after 42 years, the sale of the family business has been welcomed. Sadly, dear Joan is living with dementia. To all he says, “We live and move on doing the best we can, keep smiling.”

Marian Emery Ward remains very active in her Bridgeton Baptist Church in Nova Scotia. However, that 130-year-old church recently burned to the ground, and the congregation is now making use of community facilities. Marian continues to provide music wherever they are, and is active in efforts to build a new structure. Those services are available on YouTube. Marian’s daughter and her husband planted a very large garden in her yard, which Marian thinks is a way for them to check in on her frequently. Her oldest grandchild is an archaeologist in Idaho. Her family is scattered about but connects on Zoom every week.

Robert “Bob” Kleine and Judy still reside in East Lansing, Michigan. They have 10 grandchildren and three nieces and nephews who keep them busy. One of their grandsons, Schroeder, is a college basketball player, whose team has played McDaniel. Each summer those lucky grandkids get to Crystal Mountain Resort in Northern Michigan. One of their most delightful trips was a cruise from Boston to Montreal. That trip brought the joy of visiting their granddaughter at McGill University. Their Maryland connection is their daughter Amy and family who live in Catonsville, Maryland. That visit leads them to the Boatyard Bar & Grill in Annapolis, Maryland, for the “world’s best crabcake sandwich.” Bob keeps busy doing economic consulting and serving two nonprofit organizations.

Jackson “Jack” Day and Fran are enjoying their 11th year at the Charlestown Retirement Community in Catonsville, Maryland. “We made a special trip to Niagara Falls to celebrate the big eclipse occurring on our wedding anniversary, and Niagara Falls was said to be a good place to see it. It turned out to be cloudy that day, but the sky did get dark, and in the park where we watched the festivities, the staff played the Beatles’ ‘Here Comes the Sun’ at the end.” Trips have been to visit grandchildren in New Jersey and North Carolina to finalize and review the papers of his missionary parents. Those papers will be in the United Methodist Archives and History Center at Drew University.

Over the years, I have said, “**George Kemmerer** reports in from beautiful Santa Rosa, California.” How true it is. Don and I were blessed to visit George and Jeanette several years ago. On a sad note, Jeanette has passed. George tries to stay busy and continue with his life after 57 years of marriage. Don and I can vouch for the joy he gets from the herd of deer that roam close to his deck, looking for those apples. He also stays very active in Rotary Club and church.

For you golfers out there, **Bill Sitter** says, “Still haven’t sold my clubs on eBay but thoughts of shooting my age are a bit dim.” He and **Maureen Filbey Sitter ’62** are doing well in Garden Ridge, Texas. They have both had a few health scares but are fine. Bill is a mentor to 26 Christian business owners and has been involved in C12 for 11 years.

Susan Rushton Batson has bragging rights considering her family’s three generations of WMC/McDaniel grads. Susan has been a widow for 20 years but still maintains the house she and her husband bought 45 years ago. Despite having three joint replacements, she still enjoys gardening. She belongs to the American Association of University Women as well as the Howard County (Maryland) Historical Society and works on the Howard County decorator showhouse. Her son, **Alex Batson ’93**, works in the computer network security field. Granddaughters Marcella and **Lyndsay Batson ’19** are doing well. Lyndsay has worked as a clerk for a patent attorney in Ellicott City, Maryland, for the past two years.

Griffith “Moonie” Harrison and his wife are still enjoying living in Southern Maryland in a house they built in 2010 near the Chesapeake Bay in Plum Point. Fortunately, they both are in good health with various aches but no major issues. He says, “I feel much younger than 83, but when I get out of a chair my knees tell me otherwise!” He retired from Verizon in 2008 and intended to continue working in the data networking business but got too busy doing other things. Now he has a big garden where he grows vegetables, flowers, and 20 tobacco plants to put on the local fair each year. He was the grand champion this year. In March 2024, they had a patriotic grave marking for his third great-grandfather, Robert Harrison, who was born in 1745 and died in 1820. He signed the Oath of Allegiance in 1778 and was a member of a Calvert County (Maryland) militia group. The event was conducted by the local chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution in their Revolutionary War uniforms. “It was quite a show! We discovered the graveyard in 2007 through my wife’s genealogy studies. Our family cleared it of brambles, weeds, etc. and put a fence around it. Check it out on Harrison Family Graveyard, Huntington, Maryland.” They are blessed with four sons, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

I love **Joyce Brown Layman’s** quote: “The older I get, the older ‘old’ is! I am grateful to live at a large retirement community in Baltimore County. I have all I could ask for here and friends my age who have interesting life stories and share a lot in common. Pretty healthy so far, which is a real plus. My daughters and grandchildren are all over 20, and I love following their lives.”

James “Jim” Brooke is a faithful contributor. He stays extremely busy with volunteer work and might retire from a few of those almost full-time jobs in Rockford, Illinois.

Robert “Bob” Manthey writes, “Nancy and I continue to enjoy our settled life in Frederick, Maryland, now for almost 37 years. Our daughter lives close by, and she keeps an eye on us, now fulfilling the mother role. We share many activities with her family, especially our first great-grandson. Our daughter and her husband, both public school teachers, will retire in June 2025. They have big plans to move north shortly thereafter, and that includes us. We will see! Rather than lament the problems that aging brings, we are grateful for each day, each other, and make the most of it.”

Edna Bent Price and **Downey Price ’62** are both retired from their work at Conroe Woodlands Eye Clinic in Conroe/Woodlands, Texas. Downey was an ophthalmologist and Edna was in administrative roles. They continue their mission work with Benevolent Missions International that they founded over 50 years ago. The ophthalmic medical/surgical teams work in Belize twice a year and in Fiji twice a year. Edna and Downey plan to make their final mission trip in January 2025 to Belize, where they have built a clinic and surgery center. Having worked there since 1985, they are glad that the mission work will continue with their support from home, building teams and acquiring essential equipment and medical supplies. They love time with their three sons and their families, including five granddaughters (ages 19 to 25) and a 5-year-old grandson. They make an annual visit to the western and eastern shores of Maryland where they have several relatives. This past fall, they included a stop to visit Western Maryland College, which was truly a highlight of their year and trip. They enjoyed a lunch at Baugher’s and loved walking “our original campus” and seeing all the new. “Felt the memories! Walked under the Arch, of course!”

Wayne Whitmore and **Claudia Claire Fetrow Whitmore** have a charming home in Huntsville, Alabama. “We are getting longer in the tooth but, thankfully, we still have all of ours and are blessed to do the things we want to do: gardening, genealogy, quilting, scrapbooking, traveling, and volunteer work. We had a wonderful visit with **Janice Mooney Hobart** and **Don Hobart ’62** on their trip through the South. Claire did the ‘McKays Road Trip’ with her daughter, Chris, and 14-year-old granddaughter, Raven, and they were interviewed by Nashville’s Channel 5 and ended up on YouTube. Look for the ladies in turquoise. We did our annual week at the Chautauqua Institution, went west to visit cousins in Nebraska, and met up with **Lloyd Musselman ’60** and Nancy in Oklahoma City on the way home.”

Virginia “Ginger” Rummery Ward, M.L.A. ’80 was blessed to have **Marianthy Pappadopoulou Koucos** as a roommate and vice versa. Ginger writes, “Though Joe and I were not there this summer, I am happy to report that our older son, Alex; his wife, Morey; and their 13-year-old daughter, Caroline, were able to meet up with Marianthy and three generations

of her family while traveling in Greece. The threat of fire was very real as it came to their neighborhood, but thankfully, the Koucos home survived. It was a joyful time of reconnecting multi-generationally.” Ginger is the proud owner of a new hip. She and Joe enjoy their life at Homewood in Frederick, Maryland.

Roy Terry and **Helen Holmes Terry ’64** still reside in Naples, Florida, and are now both retired as Roy gave up his school board position after 13 years. They spend their time babysitting their great-granddaughter, eating out, taking an occasional trip, and working with their church. Their son, Roy, and his wife just built a horse barn on 13 acres in Naples, and they have 26 horses on the property.

Ronald “Ron” Cronise and Judy love their life in New Hope, Pennsylvania. “Judy and I continue to be in good health with four kids and seven grandkids. Things now move a little more slowly for us, and we stay a little closer to home. I’m sorry to report that there are no new around-the-world trips to tell you about, nor any exotic dinners overlooking the Mediterranean. Now, ‘travel’ means hop in the car and drive to one of our favorite getaways, usually someplace between Maine and the Carolinas.” They are both active in their Presbyterian church. Ron has been invited to join the Vanguard Steering Community. This is a small group of Vanguard clients that serve as a “sounding board” for Vanguard Management.

Judy Reinhart Lantz and **Richard Yobst** are doing fine in Wheaton, Maryland. One of their fun trips was spending a week at the Chautauqua Institution in New York. They met 120 people from 27 states.

Betty Jacobus Blackburn keeps us laughing in her artistic way. She rightfully states that it is no surprise we are getting older each day, more pills, physical therapy, and the list goes on. Her two falls remind her to walk not run! She still drives but did run out of gas on an eight-lane highway. She loves her nickname from WMC (“BJ”) but her grandkids call her “Bee Bee.”

Rich Klitzberg and **Judy Callahan Klitzberg** continue to spend eight months in Boca Raton, Florida, and four months in Princeton, New Jersey. Each September, they journey to a resort in Rockland, Maine, for lobster, sailing, and art. Rich and his son, Jamie, manage a specialty loan fund that has had only one down month in its 12 years. Jamie is a good golfer, and his 8-year-old son, Ben, is already playing local tournaments. Ben describes his grandpa’s golf skills: “He stinks!” Ouch. Finally, while down in Florida, Rich lunches with **Howie Wagner, Ozzie Stewart ’61, Rich Eigen ’66, Stan Makover ’65, and Gary Fass ’68**, all former McDaniel basketballers.

Dave Sutton’s next phase has been yet another adventure for him. Dave had 20 glorious years of living in China. His decision to return to the U.S. was complicated and confusing. To his rescue came the California Veterans Administration. He is now a resident at Yountville Veterans Home in California’s Napa Valley.

On a sad note, we have lost **Peggy Reynolds**. Her daughter, Laura Money, responded to me with this news and a small-world story as well. She and Anne Warman, daughter of **John Warman**,

who we lost in 2017, and **Janet Pricer Warman '62**, have been friends since elementary school. Laura is a physical therapist who graduated from the University of Maryland and had **Don "Doc" Hobart '62** for anatomy.

Carolyn Emmel Sharkey, wife of **Stan Sharkey '62**, has passed. Her family, and all who knew her, know she leaves behind a legacy of love and joy.

The Class of 1963 Endowed Scholarship, which we established at our 25th Reunion, is well thought of in the Financial Aid Office. Representing our class at the annual Scholarship Luncheon brings joy every year. Conversation with the recipients enlightens one and instills pride that we are lending a hand to this generation. Please consider a contribution.

Don Hobart '62 and I, **Janice Mooney Hobart**, are still on that "see-the-world" kick. Most recently, we were blessed to visit Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam. Having our daughters Kim and Dona along with us kept us from falling over ruins, ordering the wrong food, and boarding the wrong plane. For us, Thailand has been on the bucket list since our Army days in Hawaii. From north to south, it was beautiful. Cambodia's tragic history can now boast kind, genuine, forgiving people. The ruins, Angkor Wat especially, were beyond expectations. Vietnam, Hanoi, and Hoi An brought us mixed/complex emotions. Don had trained shotgunners in Hawaii and just missed being sent over. Schoolchildren everywhere were delightful and asked us to listen to their English. Please give me a yodel when you are in Westminster, Maryland. Our Alumni Engagement Office has been beyond helpful. What a privilege to work with them. The other Janice — Janice Hartlieb — is a treasure. Thank you, classmates, for sharing your memories. It is an honor to write this column.

*Janice Mooney Hobart
1963 Class Reporter
janicehobart@gmail.com*

1969

From Havre de Grace, Maryland, **Pat Wilkinson Vandrey** and **Hanns Vandrey '68** report they "enjoy very active lives away from their home" even though the allure of wildlife outside their sunroom is fantastic. With a morning coffee in hand and cat in lap, they've even seen the "occasional" coyote. As Swan Creek is nearby, they also get to see and hear bald eagles. They both play tennis, love to travel, and attend shows at the Hippodrome Theatre in Baltimore. Hanns added being an election judge to his resume. He still gets together monthly with the Crab Guys for crabs and Natty Boh. They see Hanns' brother **Jobst Vandrey** often, as he lives just across town. Also nearby are their sons' families. Their three grandchildren keep them proudly entertained.

Ira Klemons and Janet split their time between Long Island, New York, and South Florida. According to Ira, the U.S. Army relies on the Air Force for certain technical requirements. That's why their paratrooper son, a major in

the USAF, is "commander of the Air Force contingent embedded in the Army's 82nd Airborne Division." While in Iraq, his colonel informed Ira and Janet that their "son is a hero." They were also apprised that the details could not be disclosed for 30 years.

Don Elliott wrote to say his former roommate **Earl "Ron" Wilkins** passed away July 2024 in Anderson, South Carolina. Don and Mary are still living near St. Louis, Missouri. For their 53rd anniversary in 2023, they took a Viking cruise along the Danube and Rhine rivers. This past summer, his whole family created their own "Puffin Patrol" to explore Iceland, where his oldest son, Scott, and his family live.

Continuing with a tradition started 20 years ago, **Bill Dudley** and wife, Lois, celebrated their 53rd anniversary at the Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe, Vermont. This time, Lois' twin sister and her husband joined them. In June 2024, Bill, Lois, their son, daughter-in-law, and three granddaughters did a stint at the Flathead Lake Lodge dude ranch in Montana. "It was a hoot" herding cattle. In August, Bill and his wife were at Covewood Lodge Cabins on Big Moose Lake in the Adirondack Mountains with their daughter's family. He said that they also go to Colorado twice a year to visit their two sons' families in Louisville and Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Last fall, before Hurricane Helene, they took a road trip to the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina. To avoid some of New England's cold, they take trips to Florida in February and March. In October 2023, Bill did a VBT bike tour, visiting small towns like St. Michaels, Oxford, and Chestertown on the Eastern Shore. On another VBT excursion, he started in Charleston, South Carolina, and ended in Savannah, Georgia. At home in Victorian Cape May, New Jersey, a block from the beach, Bill belongs to the county chapter of Habitat for Humanity. He says it's similar to "an old WMC frat without Hell Week!" The Dudleys host **Pete Kinner** and **Betsey Horton Kinner** plus **John "Omar" Heritage '68** and **Sue Mawby Heritage** every year.

Life in the relaxed lane is enjoyed by **Jim Nickol** and **Anne Rogers Nickol '70**. He fully retired in 2021 from his optometric practice in Pocomoke, Maryland. Jim walks 3.5 miles at least three times a week and kayaks two to three hours at least two to three times a month. Anne's roommate for three years **Bertha Reese Durben '70** and her husband recently visited.

Ann Schwartzman Rader "dipped a few toes back in the workforce" by teaching high school Spanish for the last seven weeks of the school year in 2024. The students were fine, but she found the use of computers "mind boggling." The foreign language department was very helpful, especially **Brandon Morfoot '15** and **Greg Dubicki '09**. In March 2024, Anne and her husband went on their annual trip to Orioles spring training in Sarasota, Florida. They caught up with **Carol Armacost Carter** at one of the games. Anne does a summer/fall vegetable garden, enjoys the grandchildren, and engages in fiber arts. Her year as president of a large weaving guild ended, but she still does weaving demonstrations at fairs and runs an online information exchange for the guild. When her favorite dance studio closed, she took this "as a sign it was time to have foot surgery." She told the orthopedist her "feet needed to retain their flexibility for class."

Since 2019, **Naomi Scharf Benzil, M.L.A. '77** has been living at Charleston Senior Community in Catonsville, Maryland "after being a snowbird for almost 20 years." Her schedule is so filled, but her favorite activities are gardening and sculpting in the hand-fashioned clay studio. Traveling is limited to visiting her children who are retiring in Panama and New York.

"Still chugging along" in Annapolis, Maryland, **Patrick Fleeheart** and Lisa are active in the Unitarian Universalist Church. Lisa is a worship leader, choir singer, and the music librarian, while Pat is in the worship ensemble. He had "bad luck" with knee replacement surgery requiring over six months of rehab. They both do taiji. The Fleeheartys enjoy annual gatherings with their sons and grandchildren for Thanksgiving, solstice, and summer vacation. They also recently celebrated the completion of their beautiful new kitchen.

From Missouri, **Jim Godown** continues helping people with Medicare insurance in order to pay for his travel habit. In 2024, he and his wife enjoyed six weeks in Mexico, took a Viking cruise to Southern France, and spent two weeks on a cruise to Alaska. They also made a trip back to Maryland for a wedding.

Gary Shapiro and **Jane Butterbaugh Shapiro '70** are up in the Monadnock region of New Hampshire. They've been there since 1976 and are still active in the community. The Shapiros see **Mike Ward '68** and **Anne Read Ward** regularly, as they live nearby. Gary had his second hip replacement and rehab went "impatiently well."

After 46 years in the same Arlington, Virginia, home, **Doug Smarte** and **Lynn Coleman Smarte '70, M.Ed. '73** moved 10 minutes away to Falls Church, Virginia. They eliminated stairs, maintenance, and yard work, but kept neighborhood friends. They're excited about the more urban lifestyle. At Foundry United Methodist Church in D.C., they have made many friends. The Smartes celebrated their 50th anniversary with a trip to England in spring 2024. Lynn's roommate for three years, **Debbie Clark '70** joined them for a week in London. They have had beach house and Arlington visits with Debbie, **Barbara Thomas '70, Linda Sullivan Schulte '68, Dave Hilder**, and **Stacey Evans Hilder**. Going to their son's home in Charlottesville, Virginia, according to Doug, is going to "grandparents' heaven."

Carol Armacost Carter and husband Bob moved from Anna Maria Island, Florida, and bought a farm in southeastern Sarasota County, Florida. It has a three-stall barn, and they have ordered two miniature donkeys. She asserted that as seniors this is a "bit crazed." They survived Hurricane Milton, which landed 15 miles from them. Some big trees in the pasture fell, and they had to use a propane house generator for 72 hours for power. Carol got her Master Gardener certificate from Sarasota County Extension Service in May 2024. She's active in that organization as well as the Food Bank of Manatee, the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast, and Sarasota's Episcopal Church of the Redeemer.

The last few years have been tough for **Howard Bond** and **June Oliveri Bond**. She was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive cancer, bile duct cancer. It was discovered when it was still asymptomatic, small, and operable. June said she had a year of challenging treatments, but her PET scans show no cancer. She says

Howard filled the caregiver role with sacrifice and dedication. She added that she has "signed up for an extended warranty on the miracle."

In April 2020, **Marcia Swanson** moved to Riderwood Village, an Erickson retirement community, in Silver Spring, Maryland. Two emergencies in 2019 prompted the move. First, she had a pulmonary embolism requiring an emergency hospital stay. Marcia is now on blood thinners for life. The second emergency occurred in the parking lot of her townhome where she was mugged. She was "knocked out." Her hearing aids were stolen but not her cellphone or keys. Via ambulance, she had another emergency visit to the hospital where she received stitches for her head. She also chose Riderwood because it was only a short move. It's closer to her church where she rings handbells, serves as the financial secretary, and participates in Dancing Needles, a group that creates crafts and needlework for the household. She also belongs to a local hiking group that does a monthly three-mile hike. She's been president of a local National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association chapter. She travels with a group she likes. In fall 2024, she did a Viking cruise in Eastern Europe. At Riderwood, Marcia enjoys the music events, especially the opera movies that are shown. She also joined the community's Sustainable Environment group.

In 2023, the small congregation where **Chris Geis Kraus** was spiritual leader dissolved. They voted to give her financing for the first year of ministerial school that she is now attending online. Otherwise, she has been caring for her husband, Andy, who was diagnosed with cancer in November 2023. He was hospitalized three times and had four surgeries due to the chemo. Andy has recovered enough and is again teaching piano and giving concerts.

Dick and **Nancy Higdon Morgan** along with **Hugh Dawkins, M.Ed. '71** and wife Kathy; **Carol Berger Bricker**; **Bob Bricker '67**; **Linda "Robbie" Robbins, M.L.A. '76**; and **Dave Buller** constituted the 55th Reunion attendees. They sat at a special table at the Alumni Association Awards after Memorial Day weekend in 2024. It was held in Big Baker Chapel, which is now a multipurpose building with event spaces. In Severna Park, Maryland, Nancy and Dick enjoy traveling, boating, and especially, their eight grandchildren. They get together regularly with **Jim King**, **Amy Lewis King**, **Earl Dietrich**, **Carol Harris Dietrich '70**, **Rick Coburn** and wife Mary, **Jeff Willis** and wife Linda, and **Pete Markey**. Pete's wife, Carol, passed away in August 2024. She wasn't a WMC alum, but she was a dear friend to many alumni. Carol, even though in hospice, celebrated her last birthday by cruising with the group across the Chesapeake Bay to lunch and back to the Morgans' house to continue the get-together.

Howard Russock and Christine retired to scenic New Milford, Connecticut. He stopped part-time teaching during COVID-19. Howard still serves on the town's conservation commission and the local synagogue's board of trustees. Since he last wrote, they've been to Israel and Iceland. When they went to Eastern Europe, they visited Prague, Krakow, Budapest, and Auschwitz. Howard had both hips replaced in 2024. He added that his mother died at age 102. With his older brother gone, he is the "last man standing" in his birth family.

Cynthia Groves Miles says she has "traveled, loved, learned, and lost and still finds life wondrous." She has a studio, The Painting Room, and home in Cambridge, Maryland.

Harry Collins emailed from Hawaii, where he was on their annual "Pilgrimage to Paradise" celebrating their 38th anniversary and Linda's retirement as head of operations for a major midstream energy company. He's still in Houston "working and fighting in the international energy and commodities arena." He will continue "as long as the game remains fun." Harry lets the younger folks in the firm do the traveling since he believes "125 countries and 5 million-plus air miles is enough for one lifetime." Their five children and spouses plus 17 grandchildren keep him busy. Linda and Harry enjoy '60s and '70s rock-and-roll cruising.

On Super Bowl Sunday in 2022, Bill and I, **Brenda Chayet Morstein**, drove to a car dealership in Northern Virginia and bought a 20-plus-year-old hardtop convertible. There was a complication. The top stopped working. The dealership did offer to take the car back and reimburse us for a modest fee. Instead, Bill spent a month sourcing a part that is no longer made and finding mechanics who would do the job. The top now works. We take joy in driving it on warm days in March through October. Quoting **Pat Wilkinson Vandry**, Bill and I have "turned into old folks." No longer traveling due to physical issues, instead, we putter about. I supplemented our grandchildren's Hebrew lessons by tutoring them in 2023. Now, I'm tasked with taking our granddaughter to the synagogue's cantor, the director of liturgical prayer and song, for tutoring as her bas mitzvah is coming up. For our 56th anniversary, we tried something slightly different. We had A5 Wagyu ribeye at a local Korean barbecue restaurant.

I wanted to thank the Reunion committee — **Hugh Dawkins, M.Ed. '71**; **Dick Morgan**; **Linda "Robbie" Robbins, M.L.A. '76**; **Steve Davis**; **Linda Pritchard Greene**; **Lin Lin Chen Herbert**; **Carol Berger Bricker**; and **Phil Riffin** — for trying to get us together for our 55th. It was interesting sharing our outreach efforts. I wish all of us better luck for our 60th!

*Brenda Chayet Morstein
1969 Class Reporter*

1975

Mike and **Debbie Melvin Farrell** have been living in Pawleys Island, South Carolina, since retirement in 2018. As avid golfers, they are surrounded by over 25 courses within an hour's drive, which has been a dream. They have met some wonderful friends down there, while continuing friendships in Annapolis, Maryland. Mike and Debbie get many visitors from back home, including **Page Thompson Anderson** and her husband, Eric. Debbie had a stroke in 2021, which was caused by her migraine medication. It was a scary time, as Mike couldn't come to the hospital with her. She was extremely fortunate to recover quickly with minimal physical therapy and was back out playing golf within a month. In November 2023, she finally bit the bullet and had her right knee replaced. She says it's the best

decision she ever made, as she went to Europe for 12 days with her girls in May 2024, and "boy, did we do some walking!"

Felix Licefi and **Sherri Sheckler Licefi '78** finally made time to visit Yellowstone National Park and should have done that trip a lot sooner. It was an incredible experience. In 2024, Felix spent some sessions in **Richard Tucker's** Houston, Texas, area recording studio, laying down a number of songs. "It's been a lot of fun playing guitar and singing. Just wish **Hank Mills** was here to join in the band." Sherri and Felix are seriously thinking about moving permanently back to Fenwick, Delaware, where they just spent another wonderful Delaware summer seaside. In August, he was fortunate to have lunch with Bachelor bro, **Joe Carrico**, who spends a considerable amount of time down at the ocean. He also got to play golf by the sea with some Phi Delt boys: **Randy Dove '74**, **Mark Higdon**, **John Barnes '77**, **Mark Anderson**, and the inimitable **Larry "Hondo" Schmidt**.

Mark Metzger's wife, Janine, retired from teaching art and music in June, spending more time contributing her gorgeous voice to our church, and she is keeping a closer eye on her husband, who continues to need adult supervision. Not to be confused with the patriarch of the family, their yellow Lab, Pearl, is the show stealer, swimming an average of five hours a day and is the leading rebounder in pool basketball. Mark continues to work because, he says, "I love what I do" as director of on-premise sales and education of New Jersey's leading wine distributor, the Opici Wine Group. However, he's finding more time to write, both fiction and political satire, which he is imagining will be his last endeavor.

Mike Deener '74 and **Annette Marie Witt Deener** are still on the farm in Sharpsburg, Maryland, with a small farm business selling flowers and produce. They are blessed to have their children, Matthew and Megan, living in the area. They get to spend lots of quality time with their three grandchildren, Naomi, Quinn, and Chloe. The kids love coming to the farm to play and swim, as well as creating fond family memories at their beach house in Corolla, North Carolina. While happily maintaining the farm and beach house, as well as watching the grandchildren when needed, Annette has taken some continuing education classes at the community college, one of which has gotten her interested in creating photo books. She also regularly attends an exercise class. Annette and Mike enjoyed reconnecting with WMC pals for the Class of '74 Reunion and are looking forward to the Class of '75 Reunion in June.

Thomas Trezise and **Kathy Hamilton Trezise '76** are in their third year in Florida, living just north of St. Augustine and loving it. As they hoped, they had a number of visitors from the north, including **Lynne Hulse Javier '74, M.Ed. '75**, and Vinnie. Thomas is theoretically retired, but released his first novel, "Former Things Forgotten," earlier this year and has been heavily involved in marketing it. With two more novels underway, he also serves as an expert witness in insurance matters. In recognition of retirement, he finds time for golf, including the annual Phi Delt and Friends golf extravaganza in Scottsdale, Arizona, in March. He has been involved in helping launch the new Global Methodist Church. Despite occasionally toying with the

idea of retirement, Kathy still has her professional organizing business, although she now limits her service to financial records management.

Karen Arndt Fisher wrote that she was in Denver, Colorado, at a conference with her husband, Dennis. They spent a week in Ocean City, Maryland, before that, though they don't usually travel that often. Dennis is on the fifth year of his six-year term as township supervisor, and that precludes much opportunity to travel. Karen spends her time volunteering at a food bank in Philly. She has become proficient in using Google Translate, as they have had an influx of Ukrainians to that area.

Johan van der Jagt, M.Ed. '78 has the continued joyful privilege of playing the pipe organ for three different church congregations. In addition to the hours spent getting ready to play and playing for the church services, he has also now been able to compose a few of his own pipe organ compositions as well as improvisations on already composed hymns.

Nancy Morel Strohming is now retired and living in Baltimore. Her husband, **Mel Strohming '65**, died of cancer in 2023. These days, her family and loved ones are scattered between Philadelphia; Montreal, Canada; and Melbourne, Australia. Lots of traveling and the circle of life goes on. Nancy's stepson has a 1-year-old son, and her youngest daughter has a newborn daughter.

Bruce Walz informs us he is enjoying retirement from the faculty of University of Maryland, Baltimore County as an emeritus professor. Although traveling to various locations, including Wyoming and Alaska, for wildlife photography, Bruce still resides in the central Maryland area. He remains involved with his town and its fire department.

Summerville, South Carolina, is still home for **Linda Spence Guess**, and it suits her fine. Linda retired from teaching kindergarten right before COVID-19 hit, and now spends time with church activities, handbells, family, travel, and gathering used golf balls to raise money for various charities. She is appreciative of all the golfers who lose balls in the ponds! Linda was in Pennsylvania for a great visit with **Karen Gilbert Korbonits** and her husband, Dave.

Jackie Andrews Grace and **Jerry Grace** continue to enjoy their retirement at The Keep near Littlestown, Pennsylvania. They enjoy watching all the wildlife and have worked to make their property a Homegrown National Park, which is an organization that promotes native plant and wildlife habitat. They love this area and all the fun festivals in close proximity, and they're not far from Westminster, Maryland. After 30-plus years in the ministry, it's nice to have a peaceful existence. Jerry recently decided he wanted to learn wood turning as a hobby, so he set up a workshop space in their garage. He's already produced some beautiful pieces using wood sourced from their property. Jackie still enjoys gardening, rubber stamping, and painting. She's working on a primitive painting of The Keep right now, which will occupy a patiently waiting blank wall above the piano when it's finished.

Life has been very good as **Bruce Anderson** and Gail live between West Ocean City, Maryland, and St. Petersburg, Florida. He says it's nice to be warm in the winter and enjoy golf all year while still sitting part time as a U.S. magistrate judge. His grandchildren, Duncan and Winnie, are

growing up in Nashville, Tennessee, and Bruce gets to see them several times a year. Duncan came for a long weekend this winter to St. Pete, and they had a ball at the beach. Duncan even took Bruce's little Miata for a spin in the parking lot. Bruce and Gail have traveled to Europe in the past two years with trips to Italy and down the Danube River. They still see **Mark Higdon** and his wife, Patti, and **Linda Loock Schmidt** and **Larry Schmidt** often. The Scottsdale group of former classmates still head to Arizona each year to compete for the Walker Cup, named after Phi Delt brother **Chet Walker '74**.

Sam Tressler and **Beth McWilliams Tressler** closed down their dairy operation in March 2024. After 48 years in a 24/7 family business, it has been a difficult adjustment for everyone. One of their daughters was married in Ireland in July. Many alumni from the McWilliams family attended, including: **Gary McWilliams '71**, **Linda McWilliams Broderick '72**, **Wayne McWilliams '74**, **Ross McWilliams '77**, **Brent McWilliams '79**. They continue to enjoy frequent trips to visit grandchildren in Dallas, Texas, and Berlin, Maryland.

Robert Cullison, M.S. '97 is looking forward to the Reunion and seeing everyone. He is still enjoying retirement, having time to travel and do all those other things that working interferes with doing! He took a 10-day trip to New Hampshire and Maine to view and appreciate the fall colors. What a beautiful place to be in October, in the White Mountains and along the Maine coast. They've been living in Fayetteville, Pennsylvania, for the past 4½ years, which gets them closer to their children and grandchildren. Also, this places them closer to WMC — so he's been able to participate in a couple of GBX get-togethers. It's always a pleasure to see old friends and classmates.

Julie Mullen Johnson, M.Ed. '76 is still working at MiraCosta College and directing the Gear Up Partnership, and she is also now serving as a board member on the local water district as an elected official. The big and wonderful news is that in 2024 both of her sons got married — one in February and the other in August.

Ray Sweetman has been married to his wife, Colleen, for 36 years and has lived in Montgomery, New York, for the past 30 years. Unlike many people his age, Ray is still working. He works for Marsh McLennan Insurance as a senior data program manager and has been there for 30 years. He says he will retire at some point, but since he can work from home and enjoys what he does, he wants to stay working for as long as it feels right. "Guess I need that sense of purpose," he says. It seems ironic that a French major at college could find a career in IT, but that shows what a good liberal arts education can do.

Debi Lanius Cameron's family is growing, with three grandchildren that keep them busy. They have also done some traveling over the past year. Their bucket list trip was to beautiful Alaska. They were lucky enough to travel with **Larry "Hondo" Schmidt** and **Linda Loock Schmidt**; **Chip Graber '73** and **Norma Hamilton Graber '73**; and **Randy Dove '74** and his wife, Nan. Mike and Debi also joined the Schmidts and the Grabers in a road trip from St. Louis to Branson, Missouri. The golf in Branson is made for mountain goats, but the scenery on the courses is wonderful. "In addition to our travels, we continue to spend time by the sea in Ocean City, Maryland."

Larry "Hondo" Schmidt and **Linda Loock Schmidt** try to spend as much time as possible with their three daughters and families, who are spread out over Maryland, Virginia, and South Carolina. They're now up to seven grandchildren (four boys and three girls), ranging in age from 1 to 15. Although Linda retired from teaching, Larry continues to practice law (albeit on a reduced time basis as senior counsel in a law firm he co-founded years ago), but continuing to work hasn't impacted their pursuit of travel. In 2024, international trips included Australia, Ireland, and an Alaskan/Canadian cruise as well as trips in the continental U.S. They enjoy playing golf. Linda is in a couple of ladies leagues and Hondo continues meeting up with fellow Phi Deltas in the annual golf pilgrimage to Arizona. It is their 36th year in 2025 and participants include **Chip Graber '73**, **Randy Dove '74**, **Don "Krash" Dulaney '74**, **Tom Trezise**, **Mark Higdon**, **Bruce Anderson**, **Steven Vaughan '76**, **John Barnes '77**, and **Dave Dietrich '77**. The golf is still lousy, but the laughs are nonstop. They are both on the committee planning for the big 50th Reunion and recently made a gift in honor of the Reunion.

Denise and **Bill Powell** have been retired for seven years. They have lived on China Lake in Maine for 43 years now. Maine can get pretty cold and snowy in the winter, but it is a great place to live with almost no hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, wildfires, or earthquakes. They now spend their time babysitting for their six grandchildren, who all live within an hour's drive. Bill is active in the China Lake Association. His specialty is monitoring the loon population on the lake and working to improve the lake's quality. Bill also spends time helping the kids with their home projects.

Bob Wolfing and **Janet "Zimmie" Zimmerman Wolfing** have lived in Ocean Pines, Maryland, full time for five years. They have seven grandchildren, and the two youngest are local, so they see them most often. Zimmie spends quite a bit of time volunteering in the community. She and Bob are members of the local Kiwanis Club and help run blood drives, food pantry pick-ups, concessions sales, and community support for local organizations. She also volunteers for the National Aquarium Seal Steward program that monitors and assists wildlife that comes ashore on the beaches. Bob and Zimmie have also joined a pickleball club and try to play two to three times a week.

Stephen Mosberg is still retired, still in West Virginia, and still a chicken farmer. He had to give up caving and teaching cave rescue after 30 years. They'll take an occasional RV trip when the wife gets time off and they find someone to watch the farm. They took a cruise with his brother and sister, **Leslie Mosberg Heubeck '81**.

Alec Wilson and **Joan Bailey-Wilson** have both retired from the National Institutes of Health, although they still help the younger scientists with some projects, as volunteers. They still live in Phoenix, Maryland. They are enjoying retirement and spending lots of time with their children, Lauren and Alex, and having mega fun with grandson Nate, who is 3 years old. Joan is also traveling a lot for the pure joy of it, with her sister and friends. Recent trips include Florida, Scotland, Tuscany, and Alaska.

Jay Markanich still lives in the same Bristow, Virginia, house and now has nine grandchildren. He still has his business and hopes to never retire, but that possible day is getting more and more attractive with time!

Jean Campbell DiBlasio '76 and **Fred DiBlasio** have been married for 45 years and have three kids that are each over or near 40 years old. Fred has also spent 43 years and counting teaching (with 38 of those at University of Maryland). He is thinking about retiring when he hits 40 years there. He is mostly teaching courses asynchronously online, which is a benefit of having tenure and seniority — in other words, being "old." He's still publishing and doing a few in-person national presentations each year on the clinical use of forgiveness and therapy with personality disorders. Jean and Fred are blessed to see their nine grandchildren, ages 4 to 13, regularly. Fortunately, they love to visit them to go boating (they often sit in the front of their bow rider and chant "faster, Granddad, faster"), and they enjoy fishing and crabbing from the pier, as well as their other camp-like activities.

Joe Carrico completed his 46th tax season and is ready for at least one more, and **Becky Horsey Carrico** continues to love being grandmother to their local grandkids. Time is split between their long-time home in Easton, Maryland, and their condo in North Ocean City, Maryland. Their son, Kevin, traveled from Australia with his son and wife for a monthlong visit this summer, which included a weeklong family vacation in Ocean City. They continue to see fellow college classmates and fraternity members in the Eastern Shore and Annapolis vicinity at various events and saw **Larry Matthews** at a Ravens game. It was great to see AGT fraternity brothers from the Classes of 1973-76 at the biennial get-together in Annapolis, Maryland. In the summer of 2023, they traveled to Savannah, Georgia, and Charleston, South Carolina, on a golf and leisure trip and encountered renowned Southern Artist **Jack Tracey** in Charleston.

Donna and **Bruce Moler** continue living the good life in their "sort of" new house of seven years in the beautiful wine country of Loudoun County, Virginia. Last September, Bruce (finally) gave up his final part-time employment gig: teaching Homeland Security project and program managers how to be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars. Of course, real taxpayers could certainly argue whether Bruce did an adequate job of teaching, but as they say, "you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make 'em drink ... properly!" Donna continues to enjoy finding DIY projects around the house to keep Bruce out of mischief. Therein lies what keeps Bruce engaged in his own homeland security — after 40-plus years of government and private industry service to national security. Bruce and Donna enjoyed a two-week cruise in Croatia and the Greek isles onboard the Star Clipper sailing ship with former WMC classmates **Gretchen Godsey Brownley '77, M.Ed. '87** and **Steve Brownley**, and Laurie and **Larry Matthews**. Bruce attended the Alpha Gamma Tau reunion at the Matthews' house in Annapolis, Maryland, reliving days of glory with Brothers ranging from year groups 1973 to 1976. Sadly, we toasted the passing of several AGT Brothers, as we all are coming into that phase of life when such evils like cancer rob us of past friends and family.

Rebecca "Becki" Bloyer Masters retired from the practice of internal medicine in December 2023, so she now has a bit more free time, but as many do, she has filled it up with volunteer work and travel. She and **Phil Masters '78** have

been able to travel to Europe several times, as their son and his fiancée are enjoying living in London. They did the Cotswolds and Bath one summer, Normandy and Northern France last year, and this year they had a reunion with two of the young people who were their au pairs when Ben was a baby. They each now have families of their own in Sweden and Denmark. Their former exchange student got married in Germany, so they ended up there, too! Becki was also fortunate enough to join a friend for a bike/barge trip though the tulips in The Netherlands. They continue to do a lot of work on their house in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. They enjoy living in a walkable community with great neighbors, yet are still an easy train ride into the city.

Jeffrey Landis and his wife, Daphne, still live in Bel Air, Maryland, and have both been retired now for five years. Jeff retired from the Department of the Army at Aberdeen Proving Ground and Daphne from her office manager job for an obstetrics-gynecology office. They've been enjoying retirement, while spending most of their time watching or transporting four grandchildren. In 2023, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a Viking River Cruise from Paris to Normandy. This past June, they spent two weeks hitting national parks across Utah with their daughters and families, ending with a stay in Park City. They make yearly trips to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and Florida, enjoying the sun while visiting other families, and catching up with **Mark Miller** and his wife, Alice, near Orlando, Florida.

Karin Beam settled into retirement and golden years, relishing the days when her only obligations were self-imposed. The first stretch entailed recovery from seven broken bones — not the choice she would have made to start her leisure time! But she was back in business sufficiently to make baseball spring training in Arizona. Then she went hiking with kindergarten/high school friends in Colorado and her beloved Utah parks.

Richard Loper still lives in the Westminster, Maryland, area enjoying the magic of life, hanging out with his kids and his 11 grandchildren, riding bikes every week on various trails, writing books, and camping at Assateague for a month every summer in his old Volkswagen bus.

Although **Roberta Tall Morton** and her husband moved to a new house in Columbus, Ohio, not much has changed for them. She spends time trying to stay active and helpful in local and citywide community activities, as well as gardening and reading. Their children are living in California, Pennsylvania, and New York. They have all made trips to see Roberta and her husband, and they hope to visit their homes as well. They now have four grandchildren and two grand-dogs! They have hosted lots of guests in their new home and would invite anyone who is passing through the Midwest to stop and visit!

Back in January of 2023, **Bob Ramsdell** had open-heart surgery to replace his ascending aortic artery with a Dacron graft, due to an aneurysm the doctors had been tracking for several years. He was blessed with what the surgeon described as "an exceptional recovery," which means Bob gets to keep mowing the grass each summer. He reopened the law practice to wrap things up, then retired at the end of June 2023. **Leslie Williams Ramsdell '78** and he made a 23-day, 3,130-mile trek through Michigan's

WE DID!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLYWEDS!

Cindy Sordo '11 to Joey Waring on April 3, 2022. They reside in North Hollywood, California.

Colin Miller '11 to Taylor Mountain on Aug. 21, 2024. They reside in Alexandria, Virginia.

Allison Farrell '17 to **Eric McIntyre '17** on May 13, 2023. They reside in Baltimore.

Aaron Rocco '17 to **Connor Klotzbach '18** on Oct. 7, 2023. They reside in Omaha, Nebraska.

Haley Jacobs '17 to Chris Thommen on Sept. 14, 2024. They reside in Abingdon, Maryland.

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



Upper Peninsula. They had a great time, and the Dacron graft passed with flying colors, as they cycled the circumference of Mackinac Island and kayaked on Lake Superior, along the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. In August 2024, they spent 2½ weeks in Ireland, accompanied by their daughter, Erin. Closer to home, Bob still teaches seminars on estate planning at the Senior Resource Center. He enjoys shooting at the range, but is totally outclassed by his son, Stephen, a sniper on the police crisis response team.

I recently heard from Laura Levin that her beloved husband, and our fine classmate **Bruce Levin** passed away in September 2021. Those of us who knew Bruce will immediately recall what a good guy he always was, and we send sincere condolences to his wife.

My friend **Steve Brownley** had a rough start to the past year when his older brother, **Jack Brownley '73**, AGT and outstanding guy, died of cancer in March 2024. Steve and I became acquainted sometime in early 1969. I was a cast member in the school play, a high school musical with a ton of pizzazz, and Jack was the handsome leading man, star of the show, with the beautiful baritone voice. Steve would sit in the back of the gym and watch rehearsals after he had track practice. I started hanging out with him there and from then on ... luckily, I became his other brother Jack. We went to WMC because that's where Jack went, which was fine for us both. And now Jack's gone. It sure is rugged being so grown up that friends start dying, and the people who were most important are no longer here sharing this odd space and time.

Anyway, Steve Brownley's family lives in Westminster, Maryland, and are lucky to have a big, happy family to take on a trek with all 15 of them off to Aruba in July. Steve and **Gretchen Godsey Brownley '77, M.Ed. '87** celebrated their 45th anniversary with a weeklong bike ride along the Danube River followed by a 10-day sailing cruise from Venice to Athens with **Bruce Moler, Larry Matthews**, and their spouses. Steve remains addicted to jazz, enjoying grandchildren, shutterbugging, traveling all over, and breathlessly rooting for the Washington Wizards.

As for me, **Jack Tracey**, I'm fine. Hanging in there with the help of **Janis Thompson Tracey '77**. The kids and grandkids dwell in posh suburbs above The City of Angels, each thriving. Meanwhile, every day on this gorgeous island in this fab little spot we've carved out by the sea in South Carolina is a blessing beyond belief. Lucky. Charmed. Sure, thick and thin, no doubt, but it's a smooth ride these days. It's all been a ball y'all.

Jack Tracey
1975 Class Reporter
jtracer100@bellsouth.net

1981

Barb Forrey Wahlbrink is happy to report that they have baby grandsons, Griffin and Henry, born six weeks apart — both live locally so they are having lots of fun with them! Barb and **Jeff Wahlbrink '80** have been traveling a good bit, in and out of the country.

After 39 years of teaching physical education, **Jane Garrity Plantholt, M.Ed. '82** retired at the end of the 2022 school year.

While she loved every minute of her career, retirement is wonderful. Jane keeps active by playing pickleball and doing some CrossFit. She also spends as much time with her three grandchildren as possible. Her son's family with two grandsons lives in Syracuse, New York, and her daughter's family with her granddaughter lives near Jane in Harford County. Jane and her husband just celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary by spending some time at their beach home in Bethany Beach, Delaware. Her mom is doing great, and at 97 years old, has only recently started slowing down.

Hunter Steadley says no retirement in sight, but he and **Katy O'Dwyer Steadley '82** have been making the most of it. With their travel buddies **Scott Kallins, Jane Burch Friddell '82**, and their significant others, they had a chance to explore Germany and Austria by train, and the Danube by river boat for a two-week trip. Hunter spent New Year's Eve 2023 in the Andes with the same crew, hiking and eating their way through Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay. Their summer adventures took them on a trip through Greece and Türkiye. He states it was a beautiful and humbling experience. They got a chance to spend down time in Ocean City, Maryland, for a little R&R over the weekends. He is trying to see the grandkids as much as possible. Always a joy and exhausting to see his eldest son and wife with twin 4-year-olds and a 2-year-old — all girls. Hunter and Katie traveled in the fall for an extended weekend and a four-day hike in the White Mountains in New Hampshire.

Regan Smith got to spend a quality weekend with **Bernie Merritt, Carl McWilliams, Seth Prager**, and about 50 other Phi Deltas from Classes of 1980-85. **Greg Shockley '83** hosted everyone at Shenanigans. It was great fun to catch up and enjoy the group of knuckleheads. He is still practicing law in Ocean City, Maryland, and his daughter Meegan Jayne is working there now as well. Meegan and her husband live around the creek from Regan with their two boys, and RJ is still shooting off rockets at Wallops Island and lives in Berlin, Maryland, with his wife and son, Regan III. Regan gets to see them all the time, and Julie gets to babysit several days a week. Regan also had a nice dinner out with his brother **Kevin Smith '80** and **Rob Bowman**.

Nancy Casey lives in western Wyoming. It is an outdoor life even with 400-500 inches of annual snowfall. She reports that you must own a combo snow blower/lawn mower machine here. Skiing, snowmobiling, hiking, fishing, golfing, and biking dominate seasonal activities. Wildlife is plentiful with regular sightings of moose, bears, elk, and eagles. Sadly, Nancy lost her husband to cancer. Fortunately, her children are doing well, with one in law school and the other applying. She connected with **Jill Kortvelesy Mennicken, Jhan Shilling Tangires '83**, her children, McDaniel graduates, and supporters to honor **Anthony "Tony" Tangires**, who passed away. Please consider joining Jhan, Jill, Nancy, and other classmates/donors in supporting The Anthony James Tangires '81 Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Mary Morningstar and her husband, Wilder Leavitt, continue to enjoy life in Bethesda, Maryland. Mary retired in November 2023 after 33 years as an in-house environmental attorney for Lockheed Martin Corporation. She is loving retirement and traveling with Wilder and, often,

their 10-year-old Airedale terrier, Juno. Mary cycled off the National Board of Directors of the Appleseed Foundation in 2023 and joined one of its centers' boards (D.C. Appleseed) in January 2024. D.C. Appleseed is a social justice and advocacy organization working on a variety of important issues. Mary is specifically involved in the environmental justice aspects of the Anacostia River cleanup project. Mary and Wilder love hiking and mountain climbing, and Mary has joined Wilder on his quest to complete all 50 high points in the United States. Wilder has 46 peaks under his belt, and Mary is close to accomplishing 30 hikes. They especially enjoy staying in touch with WMC friends, including **Jane Cavanaugh** and her husband, Mike; **Della Butler Hager; Laura Angel-Hanratty** and **Dennis Hanratty '80; Berit Killingstad '82, M.Ed. '84; Linda MacKenzie Verhoeff**; and **Linda Garcia Grogan** and her husband, Tim. They all mourned the death of **Bill Coolahan '80**.

After 36 years of living and working in Columbia, Maryland, **Nancy Heinbaugh Cummins** and her husband, Steve, decided to move to South Central Pennsylvania to live on a golf course. They are located between the third hole and the fourth tee of Penn National's beautiful Iron Forge course. They purchased a home with a spectacular view, but that needed a little work, and that's exactly what they've been doing for the past two years. Nancy still has some more improvements to make, but they are really enjoying it and love having visitors. They are both still working but only commuting about two times a week. Nancy enjoys the annual Phi Alph get-togethers at Hershey Spa with **Lyn Keener Totty, Helen Wroe Kline, Betsy Walsh Geiger, Barb Forrey Wahlbrink, Laura McGinty Kobola, Connie Thompson Bowman**, and the occasional others.

Doug Otte and his wife, Stephanie, both retired in 2023, and they have been enjoying relaxing and traveling. They still live in Hyattsville, Maryland.

After completing seminary at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, **Connie Thompson Bowman** was ordained a priest in the Diocese of Maryland in June. She's grateful to family and friends like **Barbara Forrey Wahlbrink** for their support and encouragement. She started her work as a curate ("curate" means "care of souls" and is another name for a new priest) at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Highland, Maryland, where **Bill Brazis '78** and **Pam Noll Brazis '80** are also members. **Rob Bowman** has officially retired from the Jiffy Lube business and is enjoying hobbies like golf, off-roading, and going to more church services than he ever expected to. Connie and Rob traveled over the summer with **Korby Bowman Clark '78** and **Gail Bowman Mathes '79** and were looking forward to visiting **Kevin Smith '80** at his new digs in Costa Rica in December with **Jim Selfridge** and **Christina Mirecki Selfridge '82**.

Although **Ginni Brown Morani** has been retired for a couple years, **Rick Morani** joined the ranks of fully retired in 2024. They took a 10-day trip to Scotland to celebrate their 40th anniversary. It was a great trip but, believe it or not, they did not play golf. They did get to walk the Old Course at St. Andrews, where golf originated, so it was fun anyway. Ginni is playing golf whenever possible and volunteering at a local food pantry. Rick has more hobbies than he can count (fishing, crabbing, hunting, golf),

and he is enjoying all of them in retirement. They see **John Patrick '80** and **Nancy Paulsen Patrick '78** as well as **George Boinis** and his wife, Cindy, who recently moved to Cambridge, Maryland. Ginni still gets together with **Fontelle "Fon" Bennett McLaughlin, Molly McLaughlin Quinn, Debbie Bessman Funk, Debbie Ambrose**, and **Dottie Freeman**. They attended a WMC lacrosse reunion in April 2024 and got to catch up with **Connie Thompson Bowman; Rob Bowman; Scott Kallins; Regan Smith; Sue Tuley Routson '79, M.S. '88; and Jeff Vinson**.

Ann Sowers Zimmerman's husband passed away in September 2023. Ann's boys all got married this past year as well. She sold their family home/business and downsized to a townhome. Ann is still in the York, Pennsylvania, area working part time as a parish receptionist.

Donna Regner Tamburelli still lives in Denver, Colorado, and she recently retired and loves it. She overbooked her schedule the first year with golf leagues that covered Monday through Friday. She is looking forward to ski season! Donna has been in touch with **Susan Dean Asroff** and **Steve Asroff** since the last Reunion. They both had a tough end of year in 2023. Donna broke her wrist playing pickleball, and Susan burned her arm badly the month after. They are now both healed and getting together soon to celebrate their recoveries, they hope! Donna and her husband went to Africa last May and will be returning to see more of the continent in April.

Jeff Vinson and his wife are enjoying retirement in Ocean City, Maryland, still going to Ravens games and traveling a bit. They took a fall 2024 trip to London and Munich, where they spent a couple of days at Oktoberfest. Jeff also saw **Scott Nichols** and **Donna Butler Nichols '82** over the summer.

Steve Awalt is now retired after 40 years of law practice, as is his wife, Debbie. They split their time between Baltimore and New Hampshire. They are expecting their first grandchild in March. Steve is happy to report that he still sees a good deal of **Regan Smith**.

Carla Fifer Staub is almost 84! She has been living at Cross Keys Village for six years. Carla is three years into surviving a heart attack and a couple of strokes. She is recovering well, especially this year.

Deanna "Dee" Taylor, M.S. '91 continues to work as a postsecondary transition specialist at the Utah State Board of Education, supporting school districts and teachers to implement practices to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, Dee continues to maintain a home office while traveling as needed for her work around the state, as well as throughout the country as a presenter at professional conferences. She reports that her career has been very rich and rewarding, and working to support teachers is the perfect finale. She maintains contact with dozens of students from over the years and all over the country, and she can't believe that many of them are now grandparents! Dee plans to officially retire by the end of 2026. Dee and her husband, Tom, still reside in Salt Lake City, Utah. Tom also works for the State of Utah and in their spare time, Dee and Tom are active with their nonprofit that mainly focuses on educational initiatives around food sovereignty. Dee and Tom enjoy hiking, camping, and spending time with their children and seven grandchildren, ages 1 to

18. They also travel to Maryland at least once a year to visit family. Dee enjoys keeping up with everyone on social media.

Owen Rouse works at MacKenzie Commercial Real Estate representing investors, both buyers and sellers, of commercial real estate. Owen's career in commercial real estate transactions, mentoring those new to the business, and advising clients large and small was recognized in 2024 with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties. Owen and Anne reside in Baltimore County and have been fortunate to enjoy some local, coastal, and global travels, bumping into **Nancy Marlowe Merritt, M.S. '02** and **Bernie Merritt** in Fenwick Island, Delaware; **George Kleb '82** on stage at various venues (both real estate and music); and **Katie O'Dwyer Steadley '82** and **Hunter Steadley**, often in Wegmans. Owen continues allocating time for board work with Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake, Stevenson University Advisory Board, St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation, and the Federal Reserve Fifth District Roundtable.

Anita Smith Mason and her husband, Pat, continue to teach tennis and now pickleball. She loves the commute: 100 pedal strokes on the bike! Their summer break from the Florida heat includes visiting friends and family — **Mary Schiller, Shellie Rosso M.S. '13** and **Jennifer Mitchell M.S. '11** — as they drive to the Adirondack Mountains in upstate New York. Anita enjoys hiking and kayaking along with performances at the Caroga Lake Music Festival. Locally, she calls for contra dances while Pat leads the band.

Fran McCullin is enjoying retired life. He keeps active playing tennis on the Hill, golfing, and skiing. Along with his wife, Peg, they bought a retirement home in a lakeside community outside of Charlotte, North Carolina, near their three daughters and their families. They keep busy with seven grandchildren under the age of 9. Fran had the opportunity to do some traveling around Europe.

Todd Sarubin recently opened and bought a second dental practice at The Rotunda in Hampden, Maryland, because his older son, Koby, joined the family practice. He is the third generation and fifth Sarubin to become a dentist. His other practice is in Pikesville, Maryland, where he has been practicing with his first cousin, Dr. Danny Sarubin, who went to WMC for one year in 1987. Todd still practices full time and loves every minute of it! He still plays guitar and is an avid woodworker. He tries to keep in touch with all the Betes from his years at WMC. Todd does see **Chip Steel '80** and **Paul Kinsey** from time to time. They all went to dental school together.

Janet Trainor Byrne and **Bill Byrne '82** welcomed a granddaughter last year and were anticipating added a daughter-in-law in the spring. They are seeing out their sunset years toward retirement in 2026 and looking forward to the ever-changing chapters and evolving stages of life.

Colleen Kelly retired from MedStar Health and is enjoying every aspect of retirement life! She married Jim Schickner in 2016 and is living in Marriottsville, Maryland. Together they share five children, and they often joke that they almost have their very own "Brady Bunch." Life is filled with good health, family, grandchildren, travel, golf, volunteering, etc. Colleen occasionally runs into WMC friends in Ocean City, Maryland, and keeps in touch with some of her dear Phi Alpha Mu sorority sisters.

ARRIVED

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY, FUTURE GREEN TERRORS!

Caden Byron Thomas on June 4, 2024, to **Sarah Byron Thomas '11** and **William Thomas '06**.

Theodore Edler in August 2022 to **Rachel Baumgarten Edler '11** and Nicholas Edler.

Raven Brown in May 2024, to **Omar Brown '11** and Rakiya Brown.

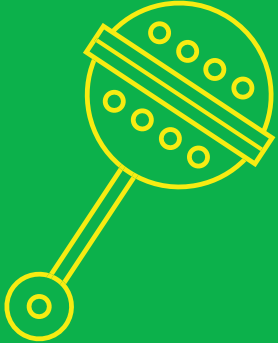
Madilyn Grace on June 7, 2024, to **Rachel Smiroldo York '11** and Brian York.

Genevieve Edler in September 2024, to **Rachel Baumgarten Edler '11** and Nicholas Edler.

Luca Jarosinski in May 2024, to **Adrienne Nichols Jarosinski '17** and **Timothy Jarosinski '16**.

Shiloh Cummins in June 2024, to **Cecil Cummins '17** and Nicole Yapur.

Avery Bryan McWilliams on Sept. 23, 2024, to **Taylor Bauman McWilliams '19** and **Josh McWilliams '18**.



Jill Kortvelesy Mennicken and her husband, Chip, are retired and still living on eastern Long Island most of the year. They spend winters down south, living and traveling on their boat, visiting with friends and family along the way. They dock the boat in Southport, North Carolina, for a month to visit family and friends. They love to stop in Charleston, South Carolina; Savannah, Georgia; St Augustine, Florida; and Amelia Island, Florida; and other coastal towns to join up with friends. Jill wants you to reach out if you are living on the southern East Coast or on the West Coast of Florida — she would love to reconnect! Jill gets to McDaniel at least two or three times a year for McDaniel Board of Trustees meetings and social events, but she would like to get to campus more often. So many exciting updates are taking place on campus with the conversion of Baker Memorial Chapel to an event space and the renovation of the first floor of Hoover Library to a state-of-the-art learning center. Jill is thrilled that McDaniel now offers a B.S. in Nursing with other new programming in the works. She looks forward to the upcoming campus sporting events under the leadership of Athletics Director Jeremy Shepherd. Go Green Terror!

Eileen Flynn Toohey loved hanging out with her WMC roommate **Jane Burch Friddell '82**; **Nancy Marlowe Merritt, M.S. '02** and **Bernie Merritt**; **Katie O'Dwyer Steadley '82** and **Hunter Steadley**; and **Carl McWilliams** and his wife, Becka, this past summer.

Susan Dean Asroff and **Steve Asroff** were in the midst of Hurricane Milton when she wrote that they came out with only minor damage to their home with roof shingles blown off, lanai screening torn, and magnolia trees downed. Their home with hurricane windows and doors is affectionately known as “The Bunker.” The power went out after the eye of the hurricane passed over them (yes, they walked the dogs in the eye), and the backside of the hurricane came through. They were prepared and remained at home for a few days for first responders, power company trucks, and cleanup crews to clear the roads. They were incredibly lucky. Sue and Steve have both had surgeries in the last year. He had serious complications from his back surgery, but that didn't keep him from skiing with **Scott Kallins**. Steve's surgeon said that Steve is the most determined patient he's ever had. He was skiing a mere seven months post-surgery. They spent three weeks in Argentina in August. While Steve skis, Sue is playing pickleball. She organizes weekly round robins for eight, 12, or 16 women. It's been her obsession for exercise and fun during the last four years. They are the grandparents of six wonderful children and have two amazing dogs. They have been married for 42 years and enjoy residing in sunny Florida, so the hurricanes won't scare them away.

Sherry McClurg Bukowski and her husband, Al, have done a lot of traveling in the past year. Sherry hasn't retired yet but has a very flexible remote job, and Al retired in June 2023, so they have decided to travel while they're still healthy and mobile! They have been to Rome and Florence, Italy, and took a Viking Ocean Cruise with seven port stops in Italy, three in Croatia, two in Montenegro, and two in Greece. They took their annual northeast road trip from their home in Port St. Lucie, Florida, all the way up to Connecticut, stopping along the way to visit friends and family. One of their stops was in Maryland to see **Kim Cooper Remsberg**. Kim

looks great, has a beautiful life in the country, and is planning to retire next year from the school system. Al and Sherry also spent a few days in the beautiful city of Vancouver, Canada, before taking a cruise and land tour of Alaska. The natural beauty of Alaska is stunning, and they had a great time. The highlights were seeing a humpback whale bubble-net feeding, watching moose from afar, and enjoying the mountains and history of Alaska. When they are home, they live in a wonderful active community where they have been fortunate to make nice friends and keep busy. Sherry plays pickleball regularly; Al plays card games, uses the pool and fitness facilities daily. They both enjoy going to happy hours, dinners, the theatre, and the beach.

Bernie Merritt and I, **Nancy Marlowe Merritt, M.S. '02**, continue to love living in Fenwick Island, Delaware. Bernie is still working, and we travel back to Old Town, Virginia, occasionally as we have an apartment there. This past spring, Bernie and over 50 Phi Delta Theta brothers from the Classes of 1980-85 got together for a weekend in Ocean City, Maryland. **Scott Lohmann '83** and **Gary Harris '83** were the gracious organizers of the weekend. I keep in touch with many classmates including **Debbie Bessman Funk**; **Molly McLaughlin Quinn**; **Eileen Flynn Toohey**; **Lori Frock Bucacink, M.S. '87**; **Katy O'Dwyer Steadley '82**; **Jane Burch Friddell '82**; **Laurie Slasman Long '82**; and **Barb White Murphy '82**. Jane hosted a bunch of us from BWI (Blanche/ Ward) at her beautiful condo in Baltimore and we had a blast reminiscing about our college days.

*Nancy Marlowe Merritt, M.S. '02
1981 Class Reporter
njmerritt@gmail.com*

1987

Jennifer “Ginger” Mahle Gauert, M.S. '93 retired from teaching elementary school in Howard County, Maryland, in 2017 after 30 years at the same school. She worked with **Karen Buttling Donegan '86** and **Laureen Pearl Anagnos '86, M.S. '93**. In 2019, just before the pandemic, she and her husband and two children moved to the Lancaster area of Pennsylvania. She is now self-employed and loves her work. Her son joined the Air National Guard and is awaiting his next step, hopefully ending up as a flight engineer on a C5 Galaxy. Her daughter is in college studying to be a teacher. Ginger got to spend time with **Linda Ashburn**, her college roommate, at her daughter's wedding. She also spent time that weekend with **Craig Sarsony '85** and **Cindy Ebert Russo '86**. She sends big hellos to **Jeff Stebbins '85**, **Lori Stratmann Zentgraf '83**, and Professor Emeritus Skip Fennell.

Elizabeth “Beth” James Simmons is still working as a mental health counselor at Parkland Hospital's psychiatric clinic, where she has been since 2015.

Nicolle Gaines Surratte, M.S. '88 is a speaker and health coach. As owner of NspireD and A Health Coach for Me, she approaches health holistically and promotes well-being as a lifestyle. In addition to being a stress expert, Nicolle is a 13-plus-year breast cancer “thrivor” and advocate, locally in Delaware and nationally. Nicolle's the “mum” of entrepreneurial children who live

abroad. Nicolle keeps in touch with her best friend from WMC, **Rev. Dr. Gilbert M. Mack Jr. '87**.

Susan Pinto Keen has been staying busy helping care for her mom and at her job with PKS CPA firm, where she's been for almost 37 years! She saw Phi Alphas **Tracy Kennard Imm, Kim Baker '88**, and **Ann Kangas '90** in Ocean City, Maryland, to catch up over breakfast. Sue also happened to run into **Diane Culver Borucki '85** and **Karen Gallagher Ames '85** at Bayside Resort for a concert at the Freeman Stage in Selbyville, Delaware. She also caught up with a big group of Phi Alphas over the summer for a beautiful lunch by **Laura Gill Pastrana '89** where they had a great time! Rick and Sue are enjoying this stage of life and are fortunate to live not too far from the beach, where they have lots of time to go out on their boat. They are also traveling, including cruises to Greece and Alaska — very fortunate to be checking off those bucket list trips! Their three kids are all doing great, with **Lindsey Keene '18** just being promoted to manager at PKS CPA firm (she is an auditor while Susan is in taxes, so they don't work together), **Abby Keene '18** lives in Federal Hill in Baltimore and works as a physician assistant in vascular surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital, and Bradley is in a management position at a local sod farm in Salisbury. They feel fortunate enough their kids are close by and get to see them regularly.

During the pandemic, **Rick Conner '84** and **Liz Goodnow Conner** built their forever home on the outskirts of Mount Airy, Maryland, just a couple of miles from where they lived for over 26 years. It's been an exciting journey! They also started My 3 Sons Farm, where they're now caretakers of four goats, a barn cat, two house cats, and a dog — definitely an adventure! Rick continues to teach and coach at Linganore High School, celebrating 39 years with Frederick County Public Schools, while Liz is in her 30th year at the National Cancer Institute as the facility head of a sequencing and genomics core. Rick and Liz always enjoy running into old WMC friends around the Maryland area.

Amy Ratcliffe is now living in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, an area she loves. She still works from home as an editor/project manager for the International Journal of Central Banking. She's recently taken up painting again (at WMC she was an Art/Art History major) and is enjoying that and several other creative endeavors. Her mother, who is in her late 80s and still healthy and mentally sharp, lives with her. She feels fortunate to still have her in her life.

Michele Lawyer Gribben just completed 25 years as a professor in the Math department at McDaniel. She enjoys teaching a first-year seminar for freshmen called The Math in Puzzles and Games. Michele and her husband, Scott, still live in Manchester, Maryland, and are very active at their church in children's and youth ministries. They welcomed their first grandchild, Finley James, on June 1, 2024.

Todd Mitchell is still living in Hampstead, Maryland, and enjoying his first grandson, now 2½. He had the pleasure of catching up with **Mike Hogan, Larry Hammond '91**, and **Shawn Larson '86**.

As for me, **Laura Russell, M.S. '99**, it's been a whirlwind eight years since I left working full time. I took care of my mom who died in November 2023 from Alzheimer's disease. I know many of us are in this part of our lives. I live with

my 94-year-old father in Westminster, Maryland, about a mile from the Hill. It would take me a page to list all the alumni I see regularly on campus and in town. I work with the local alumni chapter and as an alumni volunteer. I also participate in an arts program at McDaniel. I work part-time jobs for the United Church of Christ, am the director of education at the local church, and work on the faith and democracy campaign for the wider church. I'm still active in many community groups. I see **Lynn Habicht, M.S. '91**, as we volunteer together. Via social media, I have reconnected with **Susan Scharf '86**, **TraceyAnn Tokar Smith '88**, and **Charlene Ballard VanDusen '86, M.S. '95**. We all lived on the top, back floor of Blanche Ward Hall.

*Laura Russell, M.S. '99
1987 Class Reporter
owmmom@hotmail.com*

1993

Michael Razze is still living in his beloved Pitman, New Jersey, where he is serving his second term as mayor and his 17th year as a volunteer elected official. In 2020, Michael left the commercial insurance industry after 27 years to serve as president and CEO of the Independent Insurance Agents of NJ, a nonprofit trade association providing support and legislative advocacy for over 3,000 independent agents across New Jersey. Last year, Michael and his wife, Tammy, celebrated the graduation of their sons, **Nicholas Razze '23** and **Anthony Razze '23**, from McDaniel College, where the boys served as officers of Phi Delta Theta, including Anthony following in his dad's footsteps as president. The Razze family spent a lot of time following the McDaniel men's track team watching Nicholas set several school records and reach the Division III National Championships two years in a row. Michael is hoping to see at least one of his two high school juniors, Carly and Lucas, continue the WMC/ McDaniel tradition. Michael still stays in contact with his WMC roommate, **Chris Betz**, and his wife, Dawn, and takes advantage of Homecoming to reconnect with the “old Phi Deltas.”

Jeremy Kenney lives in Alexandria, Virginia, with his wife, Megan, and daughter, Piper. They went to the Grand Canyon on a summer trip. He's in close touch with **Brett Young '94**, **Ray Pickersgill '94**, **John Hampton '94**, **Marc Gettemy '94**, **John “Jay” Black '94**, **Ed Buzzi, Chuck McLean**, and **Brian Gallizzo '95**.

Tracy Baynard spent 16 years in Illinois, with the last 11 years at the University of Illinois at Chicago. An opportunity at University of Massachusetts Boston arose that allowed her and her husband to get closer to an area of the world they really enjoy. Recent leadership changes at UMass Boston created an exciting opportunity to utilize their strengths to help grow aspects of UMass Boston's campus. She started as professor in their Exercise & Health Sciences Department in fall 2022, and then moved into a new role in 2023 in graduate education and has recently been promoted to vice provost for graduate education. It's a challenging role but brings much joy in keeping her focus on what can be done to improve the lives of graduate students, and the impact they will have on our future world. She hopes she is making **Sam Case '63, M.Ed. '66** proud!

IN MEMORIAM

REMEMBERING THESE DEARLY DEPARTED MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY

Alfred Goldberg '38 of Falls Church, Virginia, on Sept. 3, 2024.

The Rev. Carroll Doggett Jr. '45 of Frederick, Maryland, on Nov. 1, 2024.

Louise Hess Grier '45 of Forest Hill, Maryland, on Aug. 29, 2024.

Mary “Gene” Torsch Feicht '46 of Annandale, Virginia, on April 6, 2024.

Kathryn “Casey” Wheeler Wiley '47 of Whiteford, Maryland, on May 22, 2024.

June Hall '48 of Staunton, Virginia, on July 31, 2023.

Anna Hess McLean '48 of Oxon Hill, Maryland, on Oct. 21, 2024.

Luther Shepherd Jr. '49 of Salisbury, Maryland, on July 12, 2024.

Dr. Stanley Abrams '49 of Marlton, New Jersey, on Sept. 4, 2024.

Anna Englar Martin '49 of Westminster, Maryland, on Oct. 29, 2024.

Olga “Susie” Bruning '50 of Arnold, Maryland, on Nov. 21, 2023.

Eleanor Nettleship Bowersox '51 of Walkersville, Maryland, on June 30, 2024.

Beth Witzke Barnes '53 of Towson, Maryland, on Sept. 13, 2024.

Gordon Eldredge '54 of Billings, Montana, on Dec. 22, 2023.

Elizabeth “Betty” Walz Dalhoff '54 of Tyler, Texas, on June 7, 2024.

Judge Merrill Trader '54 of Dover, Delaware, on Oct. 10, 2024.

J. Paul Lambertson Jr. '54 of Frederick, Maryland, on Oct. 21, 2024.

Shelley Myers Willen '55 of Broomfield, Colorado, on May 31, 2024.

John Batista '56 of Westerville, Ohio, on July 11, 2024.

Claire Gates Hedgcock '56 of Fruitland Park, Florida, on Sept. 16, 2024.

Carol Bingham Prendergast '57 of Panama City, Florida, on July 22, 2023.

The Rev. David Bailey '57 of Alloway, New Jersey, on Feb. 8, 2024.

Dr. John “Jack” Goettee Jr. '57 of New Windsor, Maryland, on July 20, 2024.

Carey Rickabaugh '58 of Staunton, Virginia, on Dec. 31, 2023.

LeRoy Murkey Jr. '59 of Westminster, Maryland, on Oct. 24, 2024.

Melvin Stiffler '60 of Dallastown, Pennsylvania, on Dec. 4, 2023.

Ruth Weer Hutchins '60 of Fredericksburg, Virginia, on Aug. 3, 2024.

Marcus “Bill” Bruce '60, M.S. '64 of Westminster, Maryland, on Oct. 1, 2024.

Dr. Stanley Einhorn '62 of Jupiter, Florida, on May 22, 2024.

Raymond Albert Jr. '62 of Westminster, Maryland, on Aug. 7, 2024.

Peggy Reynolds '63 of Silver Spring, Maryland, on March 22, 2023.

Wayne Harman M.Ed. '63 of Lutherville, Maryland, on June 18, 2024.

Carolyn Emmel Sharkey '63 of Birmingham, Alabama, on Sept. 22, 2024.

David Selikowitz '63 of Paris, France, on Nov. 27, 2024.

Dorothy “Dottie” Rhea Kline '64 of Schenectady, New York, on April 7, 2024.

Betty Franklin Fowler M.Ed. '64 of Mount Airy, Maryland, on July 16, 2024.

Dr. Michael Sherwood '64 of Earlysville, Virginia, on Oct. 6, 2024.

Dr. Barry Friedman '65 of Baltimore on June 13, 2024.

Martha “Marty” Matthews Fisher '65 of Manchester, Maryland, on July 25, 2024.

Barbara Smith Law '66 of Clarksville, Maryland, on Oct. 27, 2023.

Robert Creighton '66 of Cambridge, Maryland, on Feb. 29, 2024.

Edward Schumacher M.Ed. '67 of Seattle, Washington, on May 8, 2024.

Melady Kehm '67 of Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, on May 20, 2024.

Roger Volrath '68 of Sykesville, Maryland, on June 13, 2024.

Dr. Earl “Ron” Wilkins '69 of Anderson, South Carolina, on July 15, 2024.

Joseph Kerner '69 of New Market, Maryland, on Aug. 2, 2023.

Anne Zahn Newell '70 of Beaverton, Oregon, on Oct. 13, 2024.

William “Bill” Westervelt Jr. '71 of Arnold, Maryland, on Dec. 9, 2024.

Rebecca “Becca” Jones '72 of Westport, Massachusetts, on March 5, 2024.

Frank Fields '73 of Salisbury, Maryland, on May 6, 2024.

Bruce Simpers '73 of Ellicott City, Maryland, on June 12, 2024.

Bruce Levin '75 of Easton, Maryland, on Sept. 20, 2021.

Lynn Clippinger M.Ed. '75 of Baltimore on Sept. 19, 2023.

Leila Bagdoyan Wiles M.Ed. '75 of Ellicott City, Maryland, on Nov. 8, 2023.

Marilyn Boston Bandel M.Ed. '75 of Ellicott City, Maryland, on Sept. 24, 2024.

Kenneth Gochal M.Ed. '75 of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, on Oct. 5, 2024.

Richard Heritage '76 of Cheshire, Connecticut, on May 29, 2024.

Rev. Herbert Watson Jr. '76 of Catonsville, Maryland, on July 31, 2024.

Robert Marciszewski '76 of Glen Arm, Maryland, on Aug. 9, 2024.

Bonnie Foor Day '77 of Westminster, Maryland, on June 10, 2024.

Patricia Morrison Porter M.Ed. '77 of Frederick, Maryland, on July 24, 2024.

Barbara Clinton '78, M.L.A. '05 of Baltimore on July 4, 2024.

Charlotte Northcraft M.Ed. '77 of Frederick, Maryland, on April 5, 2024.

Paul Jacobs '83 of Medford, New Jersey, on Aug. 10, 2024.

Alan Alvey '85 of Gordonsville, Virginia, on Aug. 1, 2024.

Jennifer Combs Wolfe M.S. '88 of Anderson, Indiana, on Sept. 16, 2024.

Adam Plummer '91 of Ellenboro, North Carolina, on July 8, 2024.

Dr. Glenn Ford M.S. '98 of New Oxford, Pennsylvania, on Aug. 8, 2024.

Ryan Bowles '00 of Northfield, Minnesota, on June 19, 2024.

Andrew “AJ” Barchetto '00 of Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey, on Sept. 22, 2024.

Tracy Johnston Bozzonetti M.S. '01 of Frederick, Maryland, on May 10, 2024.

Patrice “Patti” Huwalt Bennett M.S. '09 of West Mifflin, Pennsylvania, on Oct. 24, 2023.

Chelsea Cook '12 of Lakeside, Texas, on Oct. 27, 2024.

Ed Buzzi lives in McLean, Virginia, and actively runs his business Buzzi 3 Construction, which he started in college in 1990 as Odds-n-Ed's. His family just launched their oldest daughter off to college in Southern California and face the dreaded empty nest next fall with his second daughter finishing her senior year of high school. He is lucky to spend his summers in the bucolic seaside community of Matunuck, Rhode Island. He is equally lucky to still see **Brett Young '94** regularly and enjoys ridiculous banter with other Sig Eps **Chuck McLean '94, Ray Pickersgill '94, John "Jay" Black '94, Jeremy Kenney, John Hampton '94, and Marc Gettemy '94.**

Trisha Darmstead Montgomery has been working as a sign language interpreter for the past 30 years, and in the federal government for the past 14 years. In 2018, Trisha earned a master's degree from St. Catherine University. Trisha and her husband, Brian, have lived in Ellicott City, Maryland, for the past 27 years. Their daughter, Sarah, was married in 2023, and their son, Logan, graduated from University of Maryland, Baltimore County in December. Trisha keeps in touch with her sorority sister **Kendra Harbaugh Sampson**. Thoughts and prayers go out to the family of **Barbara Petschke Broadbent '65** on her passing in 2023.

Alex Batson and his family are doing well, living in Ellicott City, Maryland. His mother, **Susan Rushton Batson '63** lives nearby, and is also doing well. Daughter **Lyndsay Batson '19** has been employed at a patent law firm for the past two years as a clerk with some paralegal duties.

Christine Keiner appeared in the 2023 documentary film "A Passion for Oysters," which is available on the YouTube channel of the Chesapeake Bay Journal.

Coleen Klasmeier lives in the Woodley Park neighborhood in Washington, D.C., with her 10-year-old daughter, Isabel, and continues to practice law. She is currently serving as the head of legal for regulatory affairs and patient safety at Roche Diagnostics, a Swiss biotechnology company. She is also a professor at Georgetown Law Center. She maintains contact with **Tricia Duffy Murray, Valerie Funk McAuley '92, and Kim Bergen Sullivan '92.**

Mary McGuirk Drawbaugh still resides in Lovettsville, Virginia, with her husband, Travis. In April, she was appointed a magistrate for the Circuit Court for Frederick County, Maryland, and is enjoying her new position. She spends her free time visiting her college-age children and traveling to softball tournaments with her youngest daughter.

Mary McGuirk Drawbaugh
fiveterps@icloud.com

Wendy Gayo Pardoe
wbmpar4@gmail.com

1993 Class Reporters

1999

Greetings Class of '99! Can you believe that 2024 brought us our 25th anniversary? Some of you were able to connect at the Reunion over Alumni Weekend, but ICYMI, here are the updates I received from you!

Jumping right in, **Brad Bennett** shares that as a member of the first group of students to study

abroad in Budapest, Hungary, in fall 1998, he's thrilled to report how WMC and that inaugural experience broadened his horizons, promoted growth, and helped shape his life path. Soon after graduation, he served in the Army for eight honorable years where his academic achievements complemented and allowed him to excel in rigorous environments around the globe. Along the way, he married a nurse, Denise, and made a home in Bristow, Virginia. They have three kids — Andrew, 18; Sydney, 16; and tie-breaker Madelyn, 13. He has a rewarding career at the National Reconnaissance Office that fuels his passion for exploration and innovation. He often travels with his golf clubs, and he enjoyed playing at Torrey Pines and the Kapalua Plantation courses. Family memories often involve beach trips and Orlando theme parks.

Jessica Boehman lives in Brooklyn, New York, where she owns a sweet little historic apartment. She is a full professor at The City University of New York's LaGuardia Community College, where she teaches Art History and Illustration, which were her two majors/concentrations at WMC. Her second illustrated book for children, "Café Au Lait: A Story of NF1 and My Special Spots," was published by The Children's Tumor Foundation in 2023.

Mike Cushwa and **Christy-Ann Brown Cushwa** celebrated 25 years of marriage with a two-week trip to Europe in May 2024. They live in West Virginia near Mike's family with their three kids. Mike still works for Sierra Nevada Corporation in Hagerstown, Maryland, and joined the board of Family Renewal Initiative, a family preservation ministry. Christy-Ann continues to homeschool their three kids, Sam, Sadie, and Nate. They've also become involved in foster care. In 2024, they saw **Pete Bushnell** and **Liz Valuet Bushnell '98, Shane Toothaker** and **Tracie Browning Toothaker, Ryan Bowman '00, Cindy West Crown, Kerrie Wille Schulz, and Suzanne Weatherby Berner '00.**

Former fifth grade teacher **Nick Gough** continues to pay it forward on the Hill, working with our wonderful students in elementary, middle, and high schools across Carroll County. Although no longer active in his college major, Theatre Arts, Nick has climbed back on stage locally by taking up stand-up comedy!

Brian Hayes has served as an Army officer since graduating and receiving his commission through the Green Terror Battalion. Now a lieutenant colonel, Brian is the professor of military science for Cameron University's Army ROTC program, the Comanche Battalion. He lives in Lawton, Oklahoma, with his wife, **Missi Mangold Hayes '98,** and their son, Timothy, who is a junior in high school.

Nathan Hummel is excited to share that he's now working for Modern Comfort, a division of Tevis Energy, in the Westminster area. Both companies have been serving the community for decades, and he's glad to be back in the area. He oversees the service department, which provides HVAC, plumbing, propane, and commercial fueling services for residential and commercial clients in Maryland and Pennsylvania. On the personal side, things are going well. He recently celebrated five years of marriage with his wife, Erin. His oldest child, Bella, is attending Millersville University; his second child, Blaire, is in high school; and his youngest, Emarie, is in middle school.

Ryan Keough continues to enjoy being the resident stage manager at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The theatre recently did an excellent production of "Jersey Boys," and in 2025 they'll be doing "Waitress," "We Will Rock You," and "Fiddler on the Roof," among others, so plan to come see a show! In 2023, Ryan bought a house in Columbia, Pennsylvania. He still enjoys visiting his sister, **Julie Keough-Mishler '02,** and her husband, Jacob. They now live in Williamsburg, Virginia, since she's in the Air Force and sings with the U.S. Air Force Band.

Janet Keymetian-McBride was delighted to participate in our 25th Reunion. She continues to work at Chase Bank as a lawyer supporting business banking. Janet also spent the past six years as the primary caregiver for her elderly parents.

Sara Gruber Long just celebrated her fifth year at the Decorative Arts Trust and got to travel to Portugal with them last spring. She lives in Media, Pennsylvania, with her husband, Jason, and son, Tom, who finally got to visit Paris and the Normandy beaches this summer. Sara stayed in a campus apartment during Alumni Weekend in June 2024, and enjoyed laughing with alumni **Kelly Dunnavant, Dan Franko '97, Francesca Saylor Gibbs, Faye Ingram Hillman '00, Ryan Keough, Elton Keith Knupp '00, Cassie Domser Lammers '01, Hendrik Lammers '03, Jacqueline Smith Lavitt, Dallas Munger '05, Kim Bloch-Rincan, Lynn Turner Rosas '95, Tony Rosas '93, Joy Thomas, Roxy Ingram Todt,** and many more!

Paul Luse and **Jaime Walker Luse** experienced the beauty of Costa Rica for the first time with their two teenage sons in June. They enjoyed white water rafting, zip lining, surf lessons, hiking, and interacting with the capuchin monkeys. Jaime also introduced her sons to their first Broadway experience, as the family saw "Wicked" at the Gershwin Theatre for Jaime's birthday. Jaime and Paul also had the opportunity to catch up with **Rob Newman** and his family while they were in town over the summer, along with **Jodi Davidson Bennett, M.S. '06** and her husband.

Since 2001, **Debra Winslow Mitchell, M.S. '99** has lived in St. Mary's County in southern Maryland, where she taught at George Washington Carver Elementary School. She also taught literacy assessment in the MAT program at St. Mary's College of Maryland for 12 years. Debra retired from full-time teaching in 2022. Currently, she supervises student-teaching interns for St. Mary's College of Maryland. She and her husband enjoy traveling, checking out antique stores, gardening, reading, working on family genealogy, scanning old family photos to share with their extended families, and spending time with their daughters and their families. They have six grandchildren who live relatively close by.

Matt Moscato met **Kristi Simon '00** through **Laurel Monroe Enoch '00** about eight years ago. Today, he and Kristi are enjoying life together on the Magothy River in Lake Shore, Maryland, in Anne Arundel County. Kristi is president and CEO of the Howard County Chamber of Commerce, and Matt is the national sales manager for a LED display wall manufacturer called Neoti. Still loving lacrosse, he plays in an over-40 club league, and he recently attended a concert with **Keith Reitenbach,** the lacrosse coach from that era!

Rob Newman and his wife, Heather, are enjoying life in Greensboro, North Carolina, with their two girls. Eyla, 14, is in high school at The

Early College at Guilford, and Keira, 10, is a fifth grader in the Spanish immersion program at Jones Elementary. Rob and Heather are active in their church, where they volunteer at the mobile food pantry and help lead a small group bible study. Rob is currently the Nathan F. Simms Distinguished Professor in the Department of Biology at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. He was honored to be awarded the University of North Carolina Board of Governors' Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2022, the Provost's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research Mentorship in 2023, and the Elizabeth W. Jones Award for Excellence in Education from the Genetics Society of America in 2024 (the latter as member of the Build-a-Genome Synthetic Genomics team). Rob, Heather, and the girls enjoyed spending time last summer with **Paul Luse; Jaime Walker Luse; Jodi Davidson Bennett, M.S. '06;** and Jodi's husband, Jason, at Paul and Jaime's house in Glenelg, Maryland. Of course, Rob also talks often with **Mark Newman '97** and **Carrie Newman Jenkins '01, M.S. '07** at family gatherings.

Grant Rice and his wife, Katharine Vandergriff, welcomed their third child, Thomas Mark, to their family in 2022. Grant recently celebrated 11 years at DR Theatrical Management where he oversees Broadway, off-Broadway, and touring productions around the globe.

Mark Ruby and his wife, **Sandra Geiman Ruby,** still live in Westminster, Maryland. Mark continues to work full time in real estate helping clients buy and sell homes with RE/MAX Advantage Realty while Sandra works as a doctor of neurology and stroke director at Carroll Health Group-Neurology. They enjoy spending time with their four kids Blake, Anna, Carter, and Mae; their daughter-in-law, Kayla; extended family; and granddaughter, Jane.

Kathi Snyder Shambaugh loved catching up with her roommates **Stacey McIntyre, Amy Sheridan Donathan, and Mandy Hofstetter Ferringer, M.S. '01** and enjoyed reconnecting with all of our other Green Terrors on the Hill at our 25th Reunion. Kathi has been married to her high school sweetheart, Jamie, for 24 years. She is still enjoying work as a sole proprietor offering personalized branding solutions through graphic design and garment customization. With her son, Greyson, a junior at Penn State, and her youngest, Corbin, a sophomore in high school, it allows her to get back to competing and doing things she loves in her spare time! In fact, she recently ran her first marathon in Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania.

Artem "Art" Vinokour and **Julia Motorina Vinokour** continue to enjoy life with their two daughters and two rescue dogs in suburban Connecticut. They enjoy making occasional trips to their Maryland stomping grounds to visit old friends and to Massachusetts to visit Cape Cod. The kids are growing up; the oldest has her driver's license and is busy applying to colleges. Art hit his 20-year anniversary at the same company, and Julia is busy with balancing work, kids, and planning over-the-top parties for family and friends' special events and birthdays.

Jason West and his wife of 13 years, Sara, and their youngest son, Will, moved into a 140-year-old row home in historic downtown Frederick, Maryland, in the spring of 2022 and now enjoy walking to all the restaurants, breweries, and activities the city of Frederick has to offer.

As for me, **Crystal Zagorny Terhune,** I've

worked for the State of Maryland since 2000 as a social worker, and as tenure-track faculty for University of Maryland Extension. As the mid-shore's family and consumer sciences agent, I provide community-based life skills and financial wellness classes for all ages (e.g., #(Almost) Adulting!01 life skills for teens, identity theft and scam awareness for vulnerable adults, and financial caregiving for folks helping loved ones). Joe Jarboe and I are noticing a drastic increase in gray hairs as we're teaching Abry, 16, to drive and helping our identical 6-year-old twins "Bo" (Joseph) and Colton navigate the world. Meanwhile, I'm fitting in some self-care though outdoor adventures in the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program (waterfowling, blacksmithing, and more), and loosely following recipes.

Best,
Crystal Zagorny Terhune
1999 Class Reporter
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2005

Wes Bedsworth and **Kaelynn Miller Bedsworth '07** recently moved from Annapolis to a new home in Crownsville, Maryland. Wes was just promoted to engineering manager at Cardinal Engineering and supports the Columbia-class submarine program for the U.S. Navy. Kaelynn is now the development outreach director at Historic Annapolis. Last year, they adopted a new puppy, Penny, who does her best to keep both of them on their toes.

Jannine Lewis Hayes lives in Lutherville-Timonium, Maryland, with her husband, **Pat Hayes '06,** and their two daughters. She works at Knott Realty.

Angie Schmidt Damaska is living in Mount Airy, Maryland, with her husband, pup, and two children, ages 7 and 5.

Laura Cook Diller received a promotion and became a librarian 2 at the Connecticut State Library. **James Diller '04** is finishing his last year of chairing the Department of Psychological Science at Eastern Connecticut State University. They currently live in Connecticut with their two parrots Moxie and Juniper. They traveled a lot in 2024, visiting 13 states and Canada. Laura especially enjoyed visiting her college roommates **Racheal Campbell** and **Heather Cook '06.**

Jennifer Kraeer Eames lives in Easton, Maryland, with her husband, Phil, and son, Luke. She teaches German and social studies in Dorchester County and started the German program there in 2010. She enjoys visiting **Emily Donaldson Martin '06, M.S. '15** and her family at least once a month.

Joe Figola continues to teach and work for Baltimore County Public Schools with his wife who is also a teacher. They reside in Fallston, Maryland, and have three amazing kids. Joe fills his free time coaching lacrosse for his two boys and for Fallston High School.

Holly Armacost Grothe co-wrote and published a children's book, "Barfday," which celebrates milestones of one of the most unpleasant parts of being human. "A barfday reset isn't much fun, but a one-year celebration

certainly is! Meet fun-loving Cyrus, a boy with a family tradition of celebrating barfdays! He has a rough go of it but learns the lessons and keeps trying. ... Join us as we adventure through some of life's inevitable sick days together and celebrate one another's health!"

Erin Shinholt Kleopa finally has all four kids in school after 12 years of at least one kid at home. Her eldest is a new middle schooler and her youngest is in kindergarten. After 14 years of marriage, she and Costas have discovered "day dates" are amazing! More time is now devoted to supporting clients with healthier living and improving the family homestead. A few more momentous notches in her belt of fitness endeavors include a half marathon obstacle course race, a shattered wrist, and her newest passion — bouldering.

Leon Mach's main position remains associate professor at School for Field Studies in Panama. Still, he added a new affiliation as a research associate with the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute – Adrienne Arsht Community-Based Resilience Solutions Initiative.

Sean Miller left T. Rowe Price in 2022 after 16 years and took on a new Agile role as release train engineer at Allegis Group. He is enjoying the new challenge and making great connections there. He celebrated his 10th wedding anniversary in September and lives in Timonium, Maryland, with his wife, Amy; 8-year-old daughter, Sloane; and 6-year-old son, Graham. Over the past year, he has picked up the sport of disc golf and has been playing at courses in Maryland with fellow alumni **Todd Peters '02, Thad Gruss '04, Ed Gruss '04,** and **Justin Strong '07.**

Tyler Reese is living in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Heidi, and five children: Wilcox, 12; Wyatt, 10; Hattie, 7; Weston, 5; and Sadie, 1. He is also president of operations of Overly Door Company headquartered in Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

Jessica Watson is celebrating 14 thriving years at the helm of her creative studio, Points North, based in the heart of downtown Baltimore. The last couple of years have been a whirlwind of global adventures. She chased waterfalls along the coast of Iceland, sipped her way through the vineyards of Mendoza, Argentina, and lost herself in the winding cobblestone streets of Lisbon, Portugal. When she's not traveling the world, you'll find her digging in — literally — by volunteering at her local community garden. It's been a journey of creativity, growth, and exploration.

Jessica Watson
2005 Class Reporter
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2011

It's always nice to see McDaniel alumni still connected to the school in some way! One alum who recently made the move back to Maryland is **Skyler Fultz,** who became McDaniel's head football coach in February 2024. His wife, Megan, is the associate athletic director at nearby Goucher College, and their 2-year-old Yorkie, named Riggins, made the move from Pennsylvania to Maryland with them as well!

Will Yeo '10, M.S. '13, husband of **Sarah Kass-Yeo,** also found his way back to McDaniel over

IN MEMORIAM

PROFESSOR EMERITUS J. RICHARD “RICK” CARPENTER JR. M.ED. ’72, AGE 78

Professor Emeritus of Kinesiology James Richard “Rick” Carpenter Jr. M.Ed. ’72 of Westminster, Maryland, died on Jan. 3 at the age of 78. He taught at the college for 50 years.

He came to the Hill in 1969 to teach Exercise Science and Physical Education and became a tenured faculty member in 1973. He retired with emeritus status in 2019.

In addition to his teaching, he was head coach of track and field for 19 years, doubling as coach for cross country for six seasons, and coached football for nine years. In 1970, he became the first head coach for the newly founded swim team, which he coached for seven years.

He firmly believed in the student-athlete philosophy, where the role of student comes first. More than winning, he wanted to see his students cross the stage at Commencement.

Carpenter was director of athletics from 1984 to 1999. In his 15-year tenure as director, he made sure each coach and team had what they needed to thrive competitively. Most notably, he transitioned the college from the Middle Atlantic Conference into the Centennial Conference in 1992.

After stepping down from his role as athletic director, he coordinated the college’s graduate Kinesiology program for four years and continued to teach undergraduate students until his retirement.

He served on the McDaniel College Athletics Hall of Fame Committee for many years and was inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame in 2017 for his numerous contributions to the college’s athletics programs.

He was predeceased by his wife Alice Carpenter and is survived by his children, David Carpenter ’93, Scott Carpenter, and Elizabeth Carpenter-Song, six grandchildren, and one sister.



the past year to become the assistant coach for the wrestling team. Sarah currently serves as director of a large logistics company in Baltimore, and the couple reside in Anne Arundel County with their two children, Noah, 5, and Eleanor, 2.

Victoria Pickett Strosnider, M.S. ’17 is still enjoying her job working as a middle school physical education teacher in Carroll County and has also started working as a cabi fashion stylist. She lives in New Windsor, Maryland, with her husband, 4-year-old son, and 3-year-old daughter.

Having graduated with her master’s in Library and Information Science in 2023 from the University of Maryland, **Julia Williams** is now working for Anne Arundel County Public Schools as the media center specialist at Brooklyn Park Elementary School. She has also continued pursuing her passion of performing with recent performances in “The Lady Was a Gentleman” and “Little Women” at The Strand in Baltimore, and “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time” at Colonial Players in Annapolis, Maryland. Julia is currently an understudy for the Nu Sass production of “A Bright Room Called Day” at The DC Arts Center in Washington, D.C. Living in Crownsville, Maryland, has come in handy, as Julia has also recently completed her eighth season as a member of the acting company at the Maryland Renaissance Festival!

Kate Zimmer Coates is currently in her 13th year of teaching fifth grade at Berlin Intermediate School near Ocean City, Maryland. She, her husband Chris, and their three sons Carter, Tucker, and Tanner continue to love life at the beach!

Omar Brown is still residing in Portola Valley, California — on the “best” coast, as he calls it — which is in the San Francisco Bay Area. Omar teaches high school history and loves hosting guests in the Bay Area during the summertime, including family and, recently, fellow alum **Ashley Day Gibbs ’12**.

Also enjoying the sun and surf of California is **Cindy Sordo**, who is loving life living in Los Angeles and working as the clinical director of a non-public school. She additionally works in private practice with adult clients and couples and as a part-time lead game night host for Cal’s Game Night. Cindy ran her first 5K in 2024 and plans to participate in more in the future! She and her husband, Joey, have three cats and one dog. They enjoyed a honeymoon in 2022 to beautiful Bali, Singapore, and Thailand.

Stephanie Kurtyka is in her fourth year of owning her own mental health private practice, Sunflower Healing Art Therapy, LLC, in Frederick, Maryland. She is both a licensed art therapist and professional counselor working primarily with teens and young adults. The past year, Stephanie created her own fine art business, Stephanie Kurtyka Art, to start sharing her acrylic and watercolor paintings of the world. Like Cindy, Stephanie took in the sites and wonders of Southeast Asia in early 2024, enjoying painting and sharing the lyrical and contemplative landscapes of Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

Also working in the field of therapy is **Alison Rose**, who works as a traveling occupational therapist in tropical Hawaii. She and her boyfriend bought a condo in Waikiki, Hawaii, a couple years ago and are living the island dream with their dog, Kona! Alison still keeps in close contact with **Kelly Scheler Bragg**, who visited Oahu with her whole family, and **Amelia Reiniger Markosian ’10** and **Ellen Larson ’10**, who also ventured out to Hawaii, and **Kirstie Menzies Miller ’10, M.S. ’14**.

Kayla Vondy decided to make the move to Liverpool, England, permanently! She has been enjoying work as a senior lead scientist at Booz Allen Hamilton.

After living in the U.K. for 3½ years, **Leslie Higgins Garbutt, M.S. ’19** and **Brian Garbutt** have returned to live in Maryland! They fit in as much traveling as they could during their time abroad, but they are glad to be back home in Sykesville, Maryland, with sons Asher, 5, and Landon, 1. Brian is working in business while Leslie is teaching for Howard County Public Schools.

Venturing just south of Maryland, we have **Colin Miller** who just celebrated his seventh year working as a presidential stenographer at the White House — which just sounds like the coolest job ever!

Also down that way is **Kathleen Levendusky McDonough**, who was recently promoted to be a supervisor of historic interpretation at Colonial Williamsburg. She says that it’s nice to be “back home” educating the public about history — especially as we approach the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and other milestones in early American history! Kathleen and her husband live in Tidewater, Virginia, with their two boys, kitty cats Sirius and Regulus (love the Harry Potter reference).

Diane Monaco has been spending most of her time and energy organizing with one of the more diverse unions in the world: the Industrial Workers of the World.

I, **Annie Armiger**, recently started working at the Fire Safety Research Institute — part of the UL Research Institutes — as a multimedia design specialist. My job entails both producing and editing content for our organization and for the further education of industry professionals and members of the public. I get to travel a good deal with this job, and so far, have visited Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, Florida, and Illinois! I adopted a sweet long-haired/silky-wire-haired dachshund named Luna and am currently living in Columbia, Maryland.

*Annie Armiger
2011 Class Reporter
aearmiger@gmail.com*

2017

Allison Farrell McIntyre and Eric McIntyre got married in 2023.

Aaron Rocco married **Connor Klotzbach ’18** on Oct. 7, 2023, and then moved to Omaha, Nebraska.

Katelyn Wolf is currently a Bloomberg fellow at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She started in May 2023 and graduated in December 2024! Katelyn also works as an environmental health specialist for the Baltimore County Department of Health. She still resides in Maryland on her hobby farm in Northern Harford County.

Recently, **Haley Jacobs Thommen** married Chris Thommen. She is currently working at the University of Maryland Medical Center in pediatric orthopedics.

Tyler O’Shea got engaged in the spring of 2024, started a new full-time role as a SEO manager at Raptive, and recently surpassed 15,000 subscribers on his passion project, The Underdog Newsletter.

Timothy Jarosinski ’16 and **Adrienne Nichols Jarosinski** welcomed their son, Luca, in May 2024.

Cecil Cummins has been married for three years, and they welcomed their first child, a boy named Shiloh, in June 2024. Cecil is now working with two McDaniel alumni, **Gabrielle Titow ’19** and **Eric Pinkett ’19**, at Hyatt Commercial. Cecil is senior vice president of the company and was also just named commissioner of the Historic Preservation Commission in Annapolis, Maryland.

2023

Randy Hammond is a nursing (registered nurse) student at Montgomery College.

Heather Shockley, M.S. ’24 is in her second year teaching at Taneytown Elementary School and is engaged to be married.

Since receiving a degree in Kinesiology from McDaniel, **Astrid Jensen** moved to Florida to earn her Doctor of Chiropractic. She is studying at Palmer College of Chiropractic and learning tons every day! When Astrid is not studying or practicing her adjusting skills, she loves to check in on the Green Terror women’s lacrosse program and cheer them on!

Marcus Richardson is currently working as an associate specialist at AstraZeneca in downstream purification and pursuing a master’s in Biotechnology at University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Brooke Boyland is currently attending graduate school at Notre Dame of Maryland University earning a doctorate in Occupational Therapy.

Frieda Mbom Anong is currently attending The University of Maryland Baltimore School of Pharmacy. Frieda occasionally works at a pharmacy to learn more about community pharmacy and improve her skills.

Kobe Morrison recently returned home to Baltimore after completing a six-month U.S. tour of “Charlotte’s Web,” starring as Wilbur the Pig. Now that he’s back and just got cast in a production of a Civil Rights-inspired play called “Soul Force,” he’ll be playing civil rights activist Bayard Rustin. In the meantime, he’s working on more original music. Kobe released a new single “Candles” in 2024 (available on Spotify, Apple Music, YouTube, etc.) and now he’s working on an album, aiming for a 2025 release. As for his puppeteering, he is creating more content for his TCG Puppets YouTube channel and social media accounts and planning more surprises in the future regarding the brand.

Kierra Scott is finally in her field working as a behavioral support specialist on a mobile crisis response team in Baltimore City for youth in schools, homes, and the community. She is also starting graduate school in January to earn a master’s degree in social work with plans of becoming a therapist! Kierra has also volunteered to be the 2023 class reporter. Next time your column is due, expect to receive an email from her.

*Kierra Scott
2023 Class Reporter
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FRANCISCO ROMERO graduated in 2019 with a bachelor’s degree in Spanish and a minor in Education. He is a Spanish teacher at Liberty High School who enjoys sharing the language and culture with his students. He currently lives in Carroll County, Maryland, with his wife, Rebecca Debinski Romero ’19, and their son.

NURTURE COMMUNITY, FIND HOME

BY FRANCISCO ROMERO ’19

It’s no easy task to feel at home while being across the country. This was the dilemma I faced when deciding whether to move from California to attend McDaniel College. Looking back, taking that leap was one of the best decisions I have made in my life. At McDaniel, I formed lifelong friendships with peers, McDaniel employees, and community members. I made Carroll County my home, entered the education profession, and have been teaching new generations of students for over six years. The question then is: What makes one feel at home in a new, distant place? Perhaps it is not the place itself, but the meaningful ways of interacting and engaging with those around you.

While at McDaniel, like many other students, I had outstanding professors that explained the basics and complexities of their content areas. In my case, professors in Merritt Hall explained methodology, classroom management skills, and best practices for teaching high school students. Once I was in my own classroom, these pedagogical concepts were quickly proven; I felt equipped to become an effective educator. It was certainly not an easy task, but I had confidence in myself, and I knew education was the place that I needed to be.

An important lesson that I learned from my many interactions with professors, advisors, internship coordinators, and practicum liaisons at McDaniel was not taught directly in the classroom; on the contrary, it was a lesson I observed. This lesson was to create a career filled with passion, encouragement, and faith. Throughout my undergraduate studies, I met individuals that supported me and encouraged me to continue on my educational journey. In addition, I felt like I was part of a new generation of educators that cared and believed in making a positive change in the world.

I believe change starts with the meaningful relationships you form along the way; in other words, it begins with a community. I vividly remember learning this lesson in an Education lecture. The class was explicitly instructed to treat everyone with kindness, respect, and professionalism. In the school system, this included secretaries, custodians, mentor teachers, colleagues, and — most importantly — students. Every student wants to be part of an environment that is supportive, respectful, and engaging. Now, as an educator, I strive to create a community built on positive, meaningful relationships, common goals, and strong support. McDaniel has taught me to lean into a community.

In addition to establishing a new community in my classroom and school, I have continued to nurture the community I formed while an undergraduate student. One of my best friends today was my first-year roommate, I had the honor of being in another friend’s wedding, and I am always happy to run into former professors.

I encourage you, reader, to Keep Climbing by making meaningful relationships, developing positive influences, and leaning into your community. Doing so is a step toward making the place you’re in feel like home.

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Pop Quiz

How closely did you read this issue of The Hill?
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- 1
- How much money was donated to the McDaniel College Nursing program by The Kahlert Foundation?
- 2
- What is the name of the new one-stop shop for academic and student success that will be located on the first floor of Hoover Library?
- 3
- How many Carroll County teachers achieved National Board Certification with McDaniel’s assistance?
- 4
- When did the McDaniel women’s wrestling squad host its first home match?
- 5
- Which college award did President Emeritus Joan Develin Coley and Trustee Emeritus M. Lee Rice ’48 receive in 2024?

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The highlight of my entire life is to know that you've mattered enough to somebody for them to stick around. That's my measure of success. But a few more championships wouldn't hurt either.

— John Lowe,
Wrestling Assistant Head Coach

First-year wrestler Iyana Robinson

Read more about Lowe's history on the Hill and the future of women's wrestling on page 10.

