

West Chester University

MAGAZINE



The Doctor's In!
Meet "Dr. Mike" aka
Michael Cirigliano '82



"Dr. Mike" aka Michael Cirigliano '82.

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This May's commencement speaker for the graduate student ceremony was Frances Hesselbein, the former CEO of the Girl Scouts of the USA and one of the most highly respected experts in the field of contemporary leadership development.

Today, the 96-year-old is president and CEO of the Frances Hesselbein Leadership Institute, formerly, the Peter F. Drucker Foundation for Nonprofit Management.

In her remarks to the graduates, Hesselbein talked about her vision of leadership for the future: a shared leadership that challenges the status quo and is committed to innovation and to providing "...access to opportunities for growth, learning, development and participation."

"We need to develop leaders of change," she said, "as this great university is called to do."

Later this May, the University in collaboration with the Universidad Nacional de Heredia hosted an international conference on campus in which scholars and senior administrators from colleges and universities around the world met to discuss issues and challenges facing higher education today.

At the same time, prominent university presidents and rectors and leaders of major national and international organizations, under the leadership of President Weisenstein, shared their perspectives and recommendations regarding higher education's role in promoting global peace, combating poverty, advancing health care and international cooperation – all visions of shared responsibility and leadership.

This issue of the magazine includes other examples of the leadership Hesselbein described – leaders of change, for example, like Michael Brune '93, who heads up the Sierra Club, and Michael Cirigliano '82, who has built a medical practice around the belief that all patients should receive the same level of care – a level of care that is very personal and immediate.

Pam Sheridan

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Director of Public Relations and Marketing



SUMMER 2012

A publication of West Chester University of Pennsylvania, a member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

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SPRING COMMENCEMENT 2012

RIGHT: President Weisenstein congratulating the Honorable Chief Judge J. Curtis Joyner of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, who was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

Michael Brune, the speaker who addressed West Chester's Class of 2012, is in a position to change the world, but he confessed to graduates that he had no idea what he wanted to do with his life almost twenty years ago when he sat where they were sitting.

Today, Brune, who earned degrees in economics and finance from West Chester in 1993, is executive director of the national Sierra Club, the nation's oldest environmental organization. A native of the New Jersey shore, he saw firsthand how industrial contamination and hospital-waste dumping impacted his beaches, closing them, and he learned that "grass-roots activism can make a positive difference in the world."

Just before taking the podium at commencement on May 12, Brune posted a message and photo on Twitter, solidifying his statement to graduates that "We are more connected and aware of each other than at any other time in our history."

Greeting the graduates as the "fabulous, magnificent, outstanding class of 2012," Brune, who also noted that he met his wife here, presented a three-pronged message that he adapted from the Sierra Club's motto, "Explore, Enjoy, Protect [the Planet]."



Not knowing what he wanted to do after college graduation, Brune took a cross-country trip with a friend, who tragically died in a rock-climbing accident at the end of the trip. But it was this exploration of the country and the understanding that life is precious and brief that steered Brune into his career.

He decided he "wanted to bring beauty and joy into the world, protecting the most inspiring places," some of which he'd seen. In exploring and enjoying the environment, he advised, don't just settle for the way things are; look to preserve their beauty and value for today and the future.

He also issued a direct appeal to the audience to follow the three directives and get involved in protecting the planet for themselves and the future.

"We need champions from every walk of life whether you aspire to be on Wall Street or to occupy it."

Commencement was not Brune's first visit to campus. In the spring of 2011, he was at West Chester to address the Energy Forum, an event co-sponsored by the University's Sustainability Advisory Council, Chester County Citizens for Climate Protection, and the Chester County Sierra Club.

Student speaker Samuel Ellis, a summa cum laude kinesiology graduate, echoed Brune's suggestion that even a small step can make a big difference, noting, "it only takes one step to begin a journey, one note to begin a symphony, one tree to start a forest."

1.



Farrell Stadium was packed on the clear, warm day, with overflow guests sitting on the hill between the stadium and Sturzebecker Health Sciences Building.

A total of 2,094 undergraduates were eligible to participate in commencement exercises: 1,790 students who completed the credits required by the end of the spring 2012 semester, and another 304 who will have completed their undergraduate requirements by August.

At the master's level, approximately 385 candidates signed up for May commencement exercises on May 14 in Hollinger Field House. Their speaker was Frances Hesselbein, president and CEO of the Leader to Leader Institute, formerly the Peter F. Drucker Foundation for Nonprofit Management. Peter Drucker personally chose her as the foundation's first president.

Three University benefactors were recognized at the undergraduate ceremony.

Martha Ford McIlvain '52 and Donald R. McIlvain were named honorary doctors of public service for their unprecedented contributions as dedicated volunteers, generous philanthropists, and valued friends of West Chester University. The McIlvains served as co-chairs of the University's first capital campaign, have established a scholarship in Martha's name, and continue to be staunch supporters of West Chester.

The Honorable Chief Judge J. Curtis Joyner of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania received an honorary doctor of laws for his esteemed legal career and his role as a valued friend. Judge Joyner advanced from assistant district attorney for Chester County in 1975 to become the first African American elected to serve as judge of the Court of Common Pleas Fifteenth Judicial District for Chester County in 1987. Five years later, President George H. W. Bush appointed him to the federal bench; he was named chief judge of the U.S. Eastern District Court of Pennsylvania.

1.) Undergraduate commencement speaker Michael Brune '93. 2.) Graduate student commencement speaker Frances Hesselbein. 3.) WCU Council of Trustees chair Thomas A. Fillippo awarding Donald R. and Martha Ford McIlvain '52 honorary doctors of public service.



WCCTV33 Is Now On the Air!

West Chester's campus and community have another venue for collaboration now that WCCTV Channel 33 is up and running as the newest community cable station on Verizon's lineup. And broadcasts are not limited to just the campus or West Chester Borough. The station went live on April 5.

"I am happy to report that the signal will be shared beyond West Chester's limits with a number of other municipalities agreeing to air our signal," notes Michael Boyle, station director and the communications studies professor who saw the project through from its inception. According to Boyle anyone in East Bradford, East Goshen, Thornbury, West Goshen, West Whiteland, and Westtown who has Verizon will be able to see Channel 33.

The broader demographic will support Boyle's goal for the station to "strengthen our community relationships and enhance the student experience."

As a nascent station, WCCTV33 has limited content for now, predominantly scrolling announcements, an RSS feed from the Communication Studies department and updates from athletics. But Boyle has a library of taped segments of "Good Day, West Chester" that students in the advanced video production class generated over the past two semesters. West Chester Borough wants to submit material from meetings, and both Chester County and Sen. Andy Dinniman's office have expressed interest in providing content. All programming will be prerecorded.

Boyle is also meeting with representatives of the West Chester Area School District and the WCU Athletics Department, suggesting that the latter air high-lights from various sports contests. "For students who want to be sportscasters, this is an ideal way for them to test the water."

This summer, Boyle is working with a student on an independent study focused on developing the station and he has a graduate assistant for the 2012-13 academic year. He plans to install software that will allow him to run the station remotely from a laptop. He expects to set a schedule this fall so that viewers will know when specific programs will air.

"This legitimizes the TV and video aspect of our major," he notes. "There's a real audience out there seeing our material. Quality matters – especially when it's not just your friends seeing what you've taped. They could even be eligible for state-level Emmy awards."

"How do we capture the potential right here on campus?" he asks. So far, the setup has been economical: well under \$5,000 to launch the channel. Boyle used funds he was awarded from the E. Riley Holman creative teaching award to purchase hardware and software. The equipment takes up minimal space.

And there is real potential for the station to generate revenue, for example, from sponsors of WCU sports who want additional exposure.

"This is a golden opportunity to run a TV station with very little expense."



Michael Boyle

WCU Art Majors on the Move...

A group of WCU art majors traveled to the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Van Gogh exhibit. The trip was made possible by the John Baker Museum Travel Endowment through the generosity of long-time WCU friends Kean Spencer and Mark Graver.



KNOWLEDGE CROSSING BORDERS



This May, the University, in collaboration with the Universidad Nacional de Heredia in Costa Rica, hosted an international conference in which scholars and senior administrators from colleges and universities around the world met to discuss issues and challenges facing higher education today.

Academicians took part in three days of individual and group presentations examining five areas of research: technology and science, sustainability, best practices, funding models and globalization in higher education.

An exclusive invitation was issued to a group of approximately 30 prominent university presidents and rectors, leaders of major national and international organizations and world leaders committed to higher education to meet privately during the conference in what was entitled, a Global Presidential Conclave. Under the leadership of President Weisenstein, the conclave discussed a number of worldwide issues.

Leading the first session was James Ptaszynski, Senior Director of World Wide Higher Education Strategy for Microsoft, who introduced the topic of technology's impact on higher education. Later that afternoon, Steinar Opstad, founder of the American College of Norway, opened the conclave's discussion on how to promote global peace through education. The group agreed that as challenging as achieving peace may seem, colleges and universities can contribute to that goal by promoting student mobility, values and ethical behavior, and tolerance.

The importance of access was revisited in a discussion on higher education's role in economic development and combating poverty. Led by Muriel Howard, president of the American Association of State

TOP: Universidad Nacional Rectora Sandra Leon Coto during the conference's opening ceremony. **MIDDLE:** Meeting of the Global Presidential Conclave. **BOTTOM:** Gary Hagen (left), president of Mayville State University in North Dakota with Roy Bodden, president of the University College of the Cayman Islands.

Colleges and Universities, the discussants declared that among universities' moral obligations is the responsibility "to convene, connect and empower all relevant stakeholders for the purposes of promoting economic development."

An equally important topic was the notion that colleges and universities should be promoting and identifying models of ethical behavior to their students. Introducing higher education's role in that regard was Betty Siegel, president emeritus and Distinguished Chair of Kennesaw State University where its institute of leadership, ethics and character and a second endowed chair are named in her honor. Conclave members noted that in addition to developing a sense of ethical leadership and citizenship by encouraging volunteerism, universities need to integrate ethical issues across their curricula, as well as in the use of technology.

John Cavanaugh, chancellor of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, headed the discussion on international cooperation across institutions of higher education. One of the several recommendations in this area was to develop international internships with business and government and increase the role of higher education in shaping national and global policy.

Following an overview and predictions on the state of world health by president and CEO of Endo Pharmaceuticals David Holveck, the conclave formulated several calls to action. Not the least of these was higher education's responsibility to advance health care globally. Specifically, the group declared that "Universities are responsible to convene all stakeholders to foster health care solutions, lead health care reforms that are shared responsibilities."

1.) Olman Segura Bonilla, executive president of the National Institute of Learning of Costa Rica. **2.)** During the Global Presidential Conclave, (l to r): James Ptaszynski, senior director of Microsoft Corporation's World Wide Higher Education Strategy; John Cavanaugh, chancellor of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education; and Muhammad Mukhtar, vice chancellor and professor at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Pakistan. **3.)** Ken Witmer, WCU dean of the College of Education and associate dean George Drake with Roy Bodden (center), president of the University College of the Cayman Islands during closing luncheon. **4.)** Tadeusz Truskolaski, mayor of the city of Bialystok, Poland, discussing the challenges of government, science and business cooperation.



5.) David Holveck '68, president, CEO and director of Endo Pharmaceuticals. **6.)** Steinar Opstad, founder of the American College of Norway. **7.)** "Knowledge Crossing Borders" registration. **8.)** (l to r): President Weisenstein; Joe Siegel; Kevin Dean, director of WCU's Honor College and professor of Communication Studies and Betty Siegel. **9.)** President Weisenstein with Roy Bodden.

EXPLORING FORM & NARRATIVE



LEFT TO RIGHT: Director of WCU's Poetry Center and conference organizer Kim Bridgford with poet, actor and executive editor of *The New Criterion*, David Yezzi; poet Terri Witek; Joe Sequenzia, an advertising executive and entrepreneur; and poet and screenwriter Kelly Coveny in a discussion on "Evolve the Conversation."

This spring's poetry conference again brought together hundreds of professional and amateur poetry enthusiasts for three days of workshops, panel discussions, and performances. Now in its 18th year, the conference is the largest all-poetry writing conference in the U.S.

"The WCU Poetry Conference sets itself apart by combining poetry workshops with scholarly seminars," notes Poetry Center director and conference organizer Kim Bridgford. "The emphasis on traditional craft is a cornerstone of the conference."

Highlights of the program included a workshop on hip hop "Poets and Pedagogy" by Michael Cirelli, executive director of Urban Word NYC and author of the poetry collection *Everyone Loves The Situation* in which he deconstructs MTV's hit reality show, "Jersey Shore." Joining him was hip hop artist Eagle Nebula and poet Tyehimba Jess.

Other workshops and master classes covered a range of topics, including rhyme, verse forms created by women, dramatic monologue, the lyric and poetry and visual. Dana Gioia, the former chair of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Judge Widney Professor of Poetry and Public Culture at the University of Southern California presented a workshop entitled, "The Poetic Line," while Jill Bialosky, a poet, book editor and novelist conducted a workshop on publishing. A.E. Stallings, recipient of the Poets' Prize, the Richard Wilbur Award, winner of the MacArthur Fellowship and author of two volumes of poetry was one of a number of writers who presented master classes.



TOP ROW (l to r): Ernst Reijseger; Poet Alexandra Oliver and Dana Gioia. BOTTOM ROW (l to r): Hip hop workshop presenter Michael Cirelli; Eagle Nebula and Jill Bialosky conducting a workshop on publishing.

This year's keynote reading was performed by American poet Christian Wiman, editor of *Poetry* magazine, America's oldest magazine of verse. Conference attendees were treated to a Friday night jam session and Saturday evening concert by world renowned cellist and composer, Ernst Reijseger.

Aspiring young poets were recognized again this year through the generosity of Kean W. Spencer, a successful businessman and benefactor of the arts, who established the Iris N. Spencer Poetry Awards in honor of his mother, Iris N. Spencer.

This year's Spencer award winner was Miranda Stinson from the University of Evansville, and Erin Jones from West Chester University was the runner-up. The winner and runner-up of the Myong Cha Son Haiku Award were Billy Lockhart from West Chester University and Kasey Erin Phifer, a student at Eastern University, respectively.

Joanne Pearson, author of *Oldest Mortal Myth* was awarded the Donald Justice Poetry Prize, which recognizes poets who submit unpublished, original book-length collections of poems that pay attention to form. In addition, Daphnee McMaster, this year's "Poetry Out Loud" Pennsylvania champion, performed at the awards presentations. A national recitation contest, "Poetry Out Loud" was created by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation.

Plans are already underway for next year's program, whose keynote speaker will be Dominican-American poet, novelist, and essayist Julia Alvarez.



2.



1.) (first row, l to r): Joanna Pearson, Kasey Erin Phifer, Erin Jones and Daphnee McMaster. (second row, l to r): Tim Graver (Mark Graver and Kean Spencer's son), Miranda Stinson, Billy Lockhart and Kean Spencer. 2.) Keynote speaker Christian Wiman. 3.) Poet Tyehimba Jess.



3.

ACROSS THE GLOBE



GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Presidential Scholarship Gala

On March 31, Hollinger Field House once again was transformed into a setting fit for a black tie affair whose theme this year celebrated the University's global connections. More than 380 guests who attended the Presidential Scholarship Community gala sampled foods found in Norway, Russia, China, and Cost Rica. Individual servings were provided at elaborately decorated food stations each depicting one of the four countries. Event co-chairs Karen DiVincenzo, vice president and manager of Retail Banking and Cash Management for Meridian Bank, and Sally Van Orden, a member of the University's art faculty, worked with countless volunteers overseeing arrangements which included a silent auction and dancing to the band, "City Rhythm."

The recipients of this year's prestigious Presidential Scholarships were Lukas Bernhardt (Westwood, NJ), Melissa Christie (Willow Street, PA), Stephanie Wanner (Blandon, PA), and James Wing (Havertown, PA)

RIGHT: "Across the Globe" steering committee.



WCU-CHEYNEY COLLABORATION

In the first formal academic collaboration between the two universities, Cheney and West Chester are undertaking joint offerings in both educational leadership certification and within a marine science concentration for biology majors.

West Chester University president Greg Weisenstein and Cheney University president Michelle Howard-Vital were joined by members of their respective faculties and academic officers in a signing ceremony on Cheney's campus in late April.

Dr. Ivan Banks, Cheney University Provost and West Chester University Provost Dr. Linda Lamwers acknowledged the important leadership provided by Dean Larnell Flannagan at Cheney and Dean Ken Witmer from West Chester who took the lead on bringing the principal's certification program initiative to a successful conclusion. Dr. Banks indicated that the joint venture "will increase opportunities for teachers to gain the training needed to assume important leadership positions, especially in Delaware and Chester counties."

Beginning this summer at Cheney, two courses will be offered on both universities' campuses in alternating sessions for teachers interested in acquiring grades K through 12 principal certification. Teachers enrolled in the joint Principal Certificate program will participate in three internships and complete eight courses covering the theory and practice of educational leadership, the principalship, curriculum development, school law, basic concepts in special education, managing school resources and supervision of instruction.

As part of the joint agreement three faculty members from each university are serving on an educational leadership faculty council which will recommend requirements for admission to the principal certification program, assess courses and evaluate applicants.

As a result of a second collaboration between the two universities, biology students at West Chester who wish to concentrate on marine science may take advantage of courses at Cheney that cover the study of invertebrates and ichthyology, a branch of zoology dedicated to studying fish.

West Chester University biologist Frank Fish, who helped put together the marine science concentration, says it is a leaping off point for an advance degree in marine science, as well as preparation for a wide range of job opportunities.

Fish, himself, studies aquatic animals and how their biological design may contribute to technological development. He cites numerous outlets for individuals with a biology degree and marine science concentration—from work in aquariums or zoos to drug companies attempting to isolate new compounds from organisms that live in marine environments; from botanists studying plants in salt water marshes to environmentalists or people involved in ecotourism.



FIRST ROW (seated, l to r): WCU Provost Linda Lamwers, Cheney President Michelle Howard-Vital; President Weisenstein; Cheney Provost Ivan Banks. SECOND ROW (standing, l to r): Heather Leaman, assistant professor and chair of the department of Early and Middle Grades Education; Lisa Lucas, assistant professor of Early and Middle Grades Education; Connie DiLucchio, associate professor of Early and Middle Grades Education; Lee Aniczek, assistant professor in Cheney's School of Education and Professional Studies; Kenneth Witmer, dean of WCU's College of Education; Wesley Pugh, professor of the School of Education and Professional Studies; and associate deans of WCU's College of Education George Drake and Joyce Munro.

DOG, CAT, HORSE, FISH:

The Therapeutic Value of Animals

Domestic animals can be much more than companions, as professionals both explained and demonstrated at West Chester University's 13th annual Integrative Health Conference in March.

With a focus on the bond between humans and animals and its impact on health, this year's conference included not only educational sessions for health care providers and the public, but also an afternoon of animal adoptions and demonstrations with therapy dogs from Therapy Dogs International. Rescue agencies present included Dog Training Club of Chester County; Chester County SPCA; New Jersey Schnauzer Rescue Network, Inc.; and Forgotten Cats.

The conference keynote speaker Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), discussed the ways animals influence our lives, and how we must preserve their dignity as living beings. He spoke of the moral responsibility humans have to not let animals suffer, echoing his book, *The Bond: Our Kinship with Animals, Our Call to Defend Them*, in which he describes the "honorable code that makes us care for creatures who are entirely at our mercy."

Pacelle has been the leading strategist for the HSUS for more than a score of successful ballot initiatives that outlawed cockfighting, cruel factory farming practices, bear baiting, negligent puppy mill operations and a host of other inhumane practices.

The conference program also included tracks for both professional health care providers and the general public, beginning with "Why We Love Animals: Understanding the Therapeutic Value of Pets in Our Lives and in Therapy," a second keynote by Dr. Aubrey Fine, a licensed psychologist who is also a professor in the College of Education and Integrative Studies at California State Polytechnic University-Pomona. Fine specializes in treating children with ADHD, learning disabilities, developmental disorders and parent/child relations.

During his remarks, he highlighted the physiological and psychological benefits animals can offer humans. Science has proved, for example, that within a half hour of being with an animal, humans' levels of the "stress hormone" cortisol are lowered, and there is an increase in their levels of serotonin, a chemical associated with well-being. The author of the *Handbook on Animal-Assisted Therapy*, Fine provided professionals with a clearer understanding of how animal-assisted interventions can become a powerful resource in their clinical work.

Other presenters included Darlene Sullivan, executive director and founder of Canine Partners for Life in Chester County; Phil Arkow, an instructor in animal-assisted therapy at Harcum College and Camden County College; as well as executives and instructors from The Gift of Sunshine, Inc., Therapy Dogs in Allentown, PA, and Thorncroft Equestrian Center in Malvern, PA.



Conference keynote speaker Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of the Humane Society of the United States.



CHALLENGING KIDS TO BELIEVE THEY CAN ACHIEVE



Memorial Day was full of sweat, stamina and achievement for a group of young athletes at the University during its annual Camp Abilities PA@WCU weekend. One of a number of such programs around the country organized by WCU kinesiology professor Monica Lepore, Camp

Camp Abilities PA@WCU triathlon, which challenged them to swim, bike and run based on an individualized intake assessment.

Perhaps it is ironic that Lepore realized her calling many years ago while working at a summer camp. "A long time ago, I had a kid at camp who had a disability. At that time, none of us taught kids with disabilities. I actually remember saying, 'I don't know what to do with those kind of kids.'

"After that summer, I wondered why most people have this kind of attitude," recalls Lepore. "We can teach kids in a different way or at a different level. My expectation became that they could do it. Quality physical education is deserving of all kids."

A professor of Adapted Physical Education, Adapted Aquatics and General Aquatics, Lepore is recognized nationally and has won numerous awards for her work with individuals with disabilities, particularly in her specialty of adapted aquatics.

Abilities PA @WCU is a developmental sports camp for children who are blind or have low vision. During the three-day program athletes are introduced to a variety of sports and physical activities.

"We started Camp Abilities as a way to empower children who have vision-impairment and develop their confidence and self esteem while also improving their overall health and wellness," says Lepore.

"Studies consistently show that children who are blind or have low vision have lower levels of physical fitness than their peers. Camp Abilities plays a vital role in reinforcing each child's self confidence to master sports and be physically active."

The motto at Camp Abilities is "Believe You Can Achieve." It not only inspires young athletes with visual impairments, but also challenges their personal coaches to discover their own capabilities. Before WCU students can volunteer at the camp, they must complete non-credit service learning hours working directly with children and young people with various disabilities.

"Our students are sensitive to the needs of people with disabilities already," explains Lepore. "By the time they get to this weekend, they already have at least a year of training."

Since starting in 2006, the camp has grown in size and scope over the years. Many of the athletes return year after year to participate in Goalball, swimming, beep baseball, track and field, tandem biking, dance and adventure-based activities. This year, the athletes completed the first



NORTHERN EXPOSURE



West Chester posted five runs in the bottom of the first inning to get on top of the Statesmen early and never looked back. Mike Raimo led off with a walk, and Jack Provine followed with a double down the left-field line. Joe Wendle then walked to load the bases with nobody out. Chris Pula singled in a run, and Justin Lamborn drew a bases loaded walk to score the first two runs of the contest. Matt Baer then singled in a pair of runs to double the lead to 4-0.

Delta State lifted starter Colton Mitchell, who did not retire a batter, following Baer's two-run single. After a strikeout, Josh Heyne singled in the fifth run of the game. The Golden Rams would tack on single tallies in the second and third and then add a pair of insurance runs in the fifth.

"It was good getting that five-spot," Prachniak continued. "It changed the course of the game and limited some of the things that (Delta State) likes to do."

"It takes a tremendous amount of pressure off," Gunkel re-affirmed. "All year long we've talked about shut-down innings after our team scores."

Heyne and Pula each finished 2-for-4 with a pair of RBI, while Wendle went 2-for-3 with a double and a pair of runs scored.

Gunkel scattered five hits over nine innings in the complete-game shutout. He becomes the eighth pitcher in school history to record double digits in victories in a single season.

"This year, we had a different mentality," Wendle said. "Just from being here in 2009 and seeing the teams we played, we left there with a bitter taste. We knew if we executed well and hit at the right time, that we had a good chance."



LEFT TO RIGHT: Junior Justin Lamborn rounds third base and heads home with one of West Chester's five runs in the bottom of the first inning. Senior Josh Heyne slides home after rounding the bases following an error by Delta State's right fielder. Senior LF Matt Baer retrieves a single by Delta State in left field. Senior Matt Kirchner slides home.

West Chester Becomes First Pennsylvania School With A Baseball National Title

Ninth-ranked West Chester University shut out second-ranked Delta State (Miss.), 9-0, to claim its first NCAA Division II college baseball national championship behind the right arm of sophomore hurler Joe Gunkel.

West Chester (46-10) completed its perfect run through the NCAA Tournament with a five-hit shutout from Gunkel (10-1). The 6-6 right-hander went 2-0 in the Division II National Finals and did not allow a run in 18 innings of work while only yielding six combined hits. He was named the tournament's most outstanding player for his efforts in the series opener against Chico State and in the finals against Delta State (49-18).

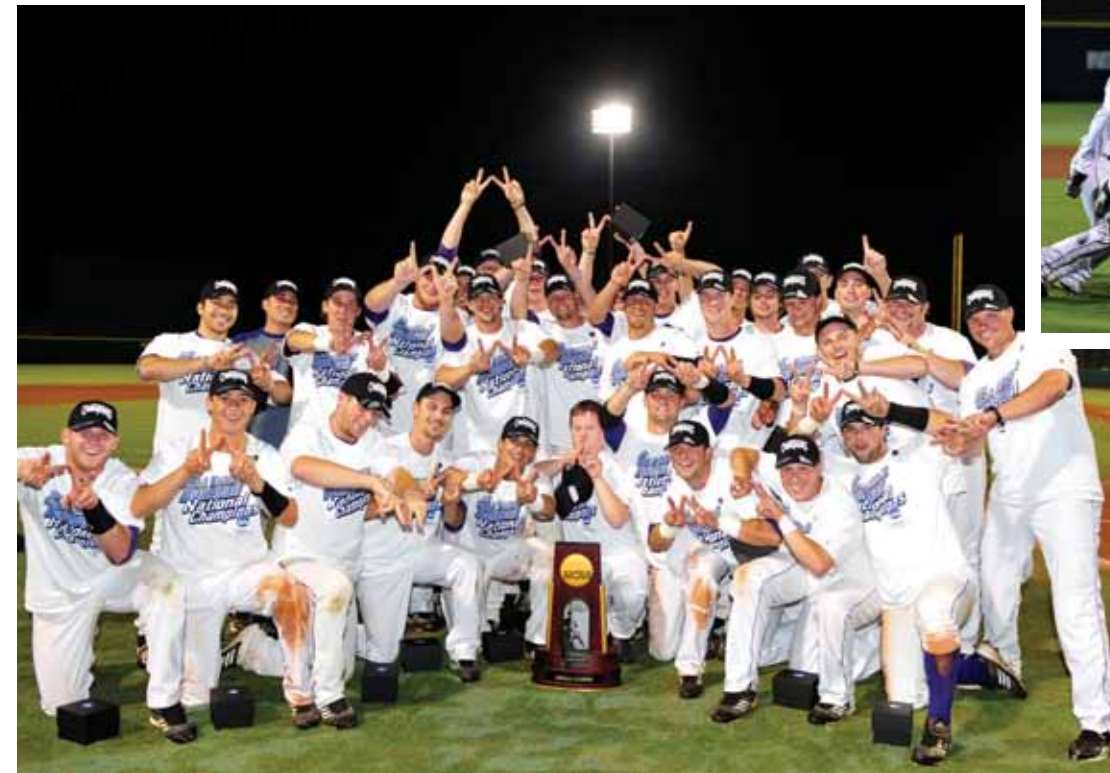
The Golden Rams went 4-0 in the Atlantic Regional and duplicated that performance in Cary, N.C. at the College World Series, knocking off Chico State, Southern New Hampshire, Catawba and Delta State, respectively. They end the 2012 season with a 12-game winning streak and tied the school record for most wins in a single season (46).

TOP RIGHT: Sophomore pitcher Joe Gunkel was named the tournament's most outstanding player after throwing 18 scoreless innings during his two starts in Cary, N.C. He tossed a complete-game, five-hitter in the championship game. **RIGHT:** WCU second baseman Joe Wendle tags out a Delta State runner in the NCAA Division II National Championship Game.



West Chester becomes the first team from the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) to win the national championship and just the third northern school to walk away with the title. West Chester is also the first baseball program from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to win an NCAA baseball championship at any level (Division I, II, III). Coupled with field hockey's national championship in the fall, West Chester University is the first PSAC institution to capture two NCAA titles in the same academic school year.

"When you see this spot on TV, there is that surreal feeling that hasn't sunk in yet," Golden Rams first-year head coach Jad Prachniak said. "That's how I feel right now. It's going to take a while to digest all of this. 'I came into a situation where we had some talented baseball players, who were unbelievable kids that followed through on everything.'"



"There is that surreal feeling that hasn't sunk in yet. That's how I feel right now. It's going to take a while to digest all of this."

— Jad Prachniak, Coach

WCUAA HOME FOOTBALL GAMES

Saturday August 30, 7:30 p.m.

vs. University of Delaware

Saturday, September 8, Noon

vs. Gannon

GOLD OUT GAME and HALL OF FAME DAY

Wear your gold!

Saturday, Sept. 15, 6 p.m.

vs. Millersville

PURPLE PRIDE and FAMILY NIGHT!

Wear your purple!

Saturday, October 13, 1 p.m.

vs. C.W. Post

Saturday, October 20, 2 p.m.

vs. Shippensburg

HOMECOMING

Saturday, October 27, 1 p.m.

vs. Cheyney

**2012 WCU Home Football Game
Tailgating* Competition**

When was the last time you saw a Rams football game? Here are six chances for you to come back and enjoy a game! The WCU Alumni Association's Best Tailgate Competition is back again this upcoming season. Each week we will choose the best tailgate from the many in the stadium parking lots. Winners will be awarded their prizes at halftime after their names are announced. This year winners will be chosen based on the games theme that week. So bring the family and friends for an inexpensive day out, tickets start as low as \$6 and \$4 for groups of 10 or more. Let's hear it!!!! R-A-M-S RAMS... RAMS... RAMS!

* See the WCU Athletic Dept. website for the Tailgating Policy

For other fall sports schedules go to: www.wcupagoldenrams.com.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

This year's Distinguished Alumni Award recipients (shown with WCUAA president Edward Monroe '89 and WCU president Greg Weisenstein) were Donna Brecker Maddux '92, J. Alan Butcher '88, M'92 and Jamie W. Goncharoff '82. Each spring during a special Alumni Weekend luncheon, these awards are presented to WCU graduates and friends of the Alumni Association who have provided great service to society, have received outstanding acknowledgements in their professions, and have positively affected large numbers of people.



"DR. MIKE" PRESCRIBES A HIGH DOSE OF GREAT PATIENT CARE

by: Maryanna S. Phinn

"Hello there! Are you OK? I'm on vacation this week, can't you tell?" says Dr. Michael Cirigliano '82, as he greets a patient at his University of Pennsylvania practice early on a Tuesday morning. It's the day after Memorial Day, and Cirigliano, better known to his patients and most Philadelphians as "Dr. Mike" of FOX 29 News Health Talk, is (technically) on vacation for the week. But that doesn't matter to him.



By lunchtime on his first day off, he has done several live health segments for FOX Philly and affiliates in Phoenix, AZ and Austin, TX on topics ranging from

Melanoma Awareness Month to Why Drinking Caffeinated Black Coffee Lowers the Risk of Alzheimer's. After the segments, he has given several West Chester University representatives a tour of the broadcast facilities, joked with a few of the reporters, and stopped for an in-studio photo shoot (which included a faux "live" interview on the FOX set with morning anchor, Mike Jerrick).

After finishing at the studio, he has hurried back to Penn to give his WCU visitors a quick tour of his internal medicine practice, posed for another photo shoot, spoke to a nurse calling from the surgical intensive care unit, greeted patients, fixed the office's flat screen TV (which loops calm and soothing videos), discussed his two memorable flights on an F-16 with pilots from the 177th Fighter Wing New Jersey Air National Guard (Jersey Devils!) and provided an in-depth interview of his life as a West Chester student, musician, doctor, broadcaster, teacher, dad, husband and medical entrepreneur. Whew!

Reinventing Good Old Fashioned Patient Care

In his professional life, Mike Cirigliano moves as fast as an F-16 but with the sole intention of providing his patients the opposite experience. In his internal medicine practice at 3701 Market Street in University City, every patient receives what Dr. Mike calls, "boutique care at beer budget prices."

Patients relax in a waiting area that provides complimentary coffee and tea service. The office décor creates a warm and inviting atmosphere. Soothing waterfalls, beautiful sunsets and other picturesque landscapes and scenes serenely play on the TV screen ("rather than CNN," quips Dr. Mike). A pleasant office staff welcomes patients and helps with their requests.

The five meticulous examination rooms are decorated with prints – all gifts from Dr. Mike's patients – that include Norman Rockwell, Charles Fazzino and even a framed 1941 edition of a *Collier's* magazine advertisement that states "More Doctors Smoke Camels than Any Other Cigarette!"

Each examining room is equipped with special dimmer lights to avoid the drab glare of overhead exam room lighting (or if someone is grieving a loss or suffering from a migraine headache, per Dr. Mike). Patients are given soft cloth dressing gowns as opposed to the uncomfortable stiff paper versions. Dr. Mike personally responds to texts and emails from his patients and often calls to follow up after a visit or during his "off" hours.

In just three short years, Dr. Mike has created a new model for a medical practice which he describes as "a field of dreams." After convincing his wealthier patients to invest in and share his vision, Dr. Mike turned the dream into a vibrant and productive reality. "It was really hard when this practice didn't exist," Cirigliano recalls. "It was just a dream."

Like many physicians in the United States, Cirigliano, 52, was growing exceedingly frustrated with health care's endless red tape, cost, inefficiencies and aloof approach to care. "When you call a doctor's office and you can't get through on the phone or you're told that you can't get an appointment for three months, that's unacceptable!" he exclaims.

"Disease knows no holiday," states Cirigliano, "that's my motto."

Cirigliano strongly considered leaving his practice. He also refused to pursue the "boutique medicine" approach designed for patients who agree to pay an annual fee to obtain immediate access to their physician and customized services.

But he had another idea for a model that he believed could work.

"I needed resources for what I wanted to do. That was to provide not only high quality medical care, but also make patients feel that they are well-cared for. So, I went to my patients with financial means and I said, 'look, I can't do this without your help.'"

Cirigliano managed to raise \$3 million from his own patients. Ed Snider, chairman of Comcast-Spectacor and Brian Roberts, chairman and chief executive officer of Comcast Corporation and his wife, Aileen Roberts, contributed to The Cirigliano Clinical Care Excellence Fund as well as numerous leaders in the region's business, sports and entertainment industries. His next goal is to raise an additional \$500,000 to establish an endowed chair, which will guarantee his practice in perpetuity.

"We set up a fund, a quasi-endowment, to use that money to pay the salaries for a nurse practitioner, a practice manager, a patient services manager and a nursing assistant," explains Cirigliano.

"When you call this office, you get a live person. If you need to be seen, you'll see the nurse practitioner or me. One way or another, you get service. You can ask anyone around here. I'm a tyrant about it. We are here for the patients. That's what this is all about. Period."

While Cirigliano cares for patients that could easily be included in a *Who's Who* of Philadelphia, he strongly emphasizes that all patients receive the same level of care.

"I also have indigent patients," he notes. "I have patients on the really low end of the socio-economic scale, but they get coffee, they get cloth gowns and they get the same amenities as the owners of teams or the owners of companies."

A plaque affixed to the wall near the complimentary coffee and tea acknowledges Dr. Mike's patients who helped him build his dream practice – and potentially create another model for providing 21st century family medicine the old fashioned way.

"Now, this model does not work everywhere," says Cirigliano, an associate professor of medicine who did his medical training at Penn and practiced internal medicine at Penn Medicine for more than 20 years.

"This model is not the key to health care reform in this country, but in this particular environment it can be replicated. For example," he adds, "at another large teaching institution you might be able to find doctors who have endeared their patients and who may be willing to give money and replicate this."



“DISEASE KNOWS NO HOLIDAY, THAT’S MY MOTTO.”

As Cirigliano gives his visitors a tour, he points to “Norman Rockwell Visits a Country Doctor” print hanging in an

exam room. “To me, that painting represents the epitome of what doctors used to be and what I’m trying to resurrect. It’s all love in that painting,” he points out, “not, ‘sir, you have to fill out this form first. You have to take care of your insurance.’ That doctor is not in a rush. Look at his expression, it’s all love. He is probably concerned about the baby in that picture.”

From Music Major to Medical Student to TV Health Reporter

So how did Michael Cirigliano, a music education major at WCU and part-time musician on the Philly-area club and social circuit become a beloved doctor and a popular television medical reporter?

“I played more weddings and bar mitzvahs than I care to admit to,” jokes Cirigliano, a longtime trumpet player with the Al Raymond Big Band and the City Rhythm Orchestra. Cirigliano grew up in Brookhaven, Delaware County and played in the band at his alma mater,

Sun Valley High School. He was accepted to Lebanon Valley College for music, “but it was out of the area and I wanted to be part of the action,” he recalls. He lived on WCU’s campus and commuted for awhile.

“At West Chester I got an education degree in music. Education taught me that you need to communicate. I tell my medical students at Penn, you can communicate or litigate. When I’m interacting with a patient I am literally educating them. You can speak to them using big words, or you can use plain language. As a medical educator or medical reporter I bring information to people so that everyone understands.”

As a full-time WCU undergraduate and a part-time musician, Cirigliano spent much of his spare time playing gigs – but had little time to meet women. “I was playing in the Al Raymond Big Band and it was all World War II veterans, so meeting women was rather sparse for me,” he recalls.

Cirigliano decided to volunteer at Riddle Memorial Hospital’s Emergency Room. “Hey, they might have Candy Stripers, you just never know,” he jokes. “One thing led to another that I fell in love with medicine. It was like the television show *ER*. So I took extra science courses for three years at West Chester and minored in biology and pre-med.” He applied at several Philadelphia medical schools and selected the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine to forge his new medical career.

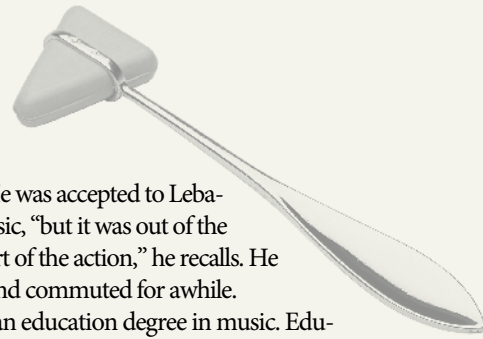
Cirigliano calls himself, “the underdog,” especially as a West Chester alumnus attending Penn while surrounded by other medical students who graduated from MIT, Harvard and many other Ivy League and “elite” colleges.

“I loved West Chester,” says Cirigliano. “I had the best time there and they gave me the opportunity to grow. It was the kind of place if you applied yourself and worked hard, you could make it.

“I had a close relationship with the late Phil Rudnick, who ran the pre-med program and instilled in me the belief that I could do it if I wanted to. I worked very hard in music school, but I wasn’t sure if I wanted to be a music teacher, so I figured if I got good grades it would give me flexibility. That’s what I love about WCU.”

He also gives credit for his success to his parents. “My dad was raised in an orphanage and was a barber. He worked really hard his whole life. My mother was a secretary. I feel like they gave me opportunity and I took it. To this day, I consider myself an opportunist.”

“AS A MEDICAL EDUCATOR OR MEDICAL REPORTER I BRING INFORMATION TO PEOPLE SO THAT EVERYONE UNDERSTANDS.”



Dr. Mike with Fox’s Karen Hepp and Mike Jerrick.

Cirigliano capitalized on an unusual opportunity five years ago at FOX 29.

“I started working for FOX because my specialty is natural products and complementary medicine. They needed a physician to come on the air and talk about certain products. I have 60 publications on natural products, herbal remedies and vitamins. So the reporters, such as Jenipher Frederick and at the time, Grover Silcox, would call and ask me to come on the air.

“I did it and I loved it because playing trumpet at bar mitzvahs and weddings is a similar experience. I was being creative and I was able to perform, which is something you can’t really do in medicine.

“There’s no room for creativity when someone comes to your office with pancreatitis. But, with medical reporting on television or the news, there’s always room for creativity.”

Dr. Mike is part of the FOX Medical Team with Dr. Oz and medical reporter Joyce Evans. Dr. Oz is the popular host of *The Dr. Oz Show* who became a household name after appearing on *Oprah* and other talk shows. Dr. Oz also attended Penn earning a medical degree and an MBA from Penn’s Wharton School.

“I learned from Dr. Oz that physically showing something, such as models of body parts, allows viewers to have a much better understanding. That is what Dr. Oz does so well. I emulate him and studied his methods. Not only do I use models in my medical TV appearances, but also in my practice to show patients.”

Unlike Dr. Oz’s longer formats, Cirigliano focuses primarily on health topics considered breaking news. “For example, if President Obama stubs his toe, it’s going to be in the news,” he jokes. “For instance when Cole Hamels had a sore shoulder, we covered that topic that day. I pick things to cover that are relevant and not esoteric.

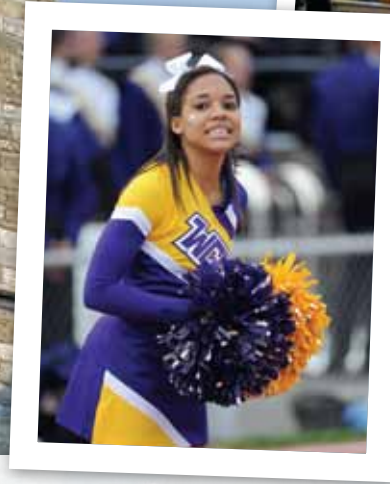
“Practicing medicine and doing medical reporting is like a wild ride in an F-16, just put on your seatbelt and hang on,” says Cirigliano with a smile.

“You never know who’s coming through that door. You might have someone with chest pains or someone whose wife is leaving him, you name it. The secret to all of this is that no matter what you do, if you love it and you’re passionate about it, do it. You know, I’ve never had a boring day!”

Mike Cirigliano lives in Glen Mills, Chester County with his wife, Elisabeth, and their two young children, Nicholas, age 4, and their new baby, Amy.

Catch Dr. Mike’s health segments on Tuesday and Friday mornings at 7:55 a.m. on FOX 29 or visit www.myfoxphilly.com.

Maryanna S. Phinn is a freelance writer from Washington Crossing, Bucks County.



HOMECOMING 2012 Royal Rams



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19

Wine and Cheese reception, 5:00-8:00 p.m.
Veterans Memorial Alumni House

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

Parade, 10:00 a.m.
Begins at Church St. and Rosedale Ave.
Football Game vs. Shippensburg, 2:00 p.m.
Post-Game Social, 3:00 p.m.
Food, music, activities for the kids!
R-lot of South Campus

Class of 1967 45th Reunion*
Communication Alumni Reunion
(Other reunion classes TBD)

Tours of the New Student Recreation Center

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19
4:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20
10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m.,
2:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m.,
6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

**Please note that the details for these celebrations are currently being planned.
Invitations and more information will be available in the coming weeks.*



1940s

Thomas Hickman '47 was inducted into the Legend's Stadium Ring of Honor at Cape Henlopen High School. Hickman served as a track coach at the high school, winning state titles in '71, '72, '73 and '75. While at West Chester, Hickman was a double All-American in track and soccer. He is also a war hero serving in World War II where he was awarded two Bronze Stars and a Silver Star.

1950s

A "new tradition" with the Class of '59 takes place when Donald "Don," "Duck," "Duke" Leisey '59 travels semi-annually from San Rafael, Cal., to West Chester to participate as a trustee of the West Chester University Foundation. The group called out to Don's classmates to meet for lunch during his visits to West Chester. The second meeting of the "Leisey Lunch Bunch" met May 24, 2012 at Timothy's of West Chester.

1960s

Patricia H Meiser '69 was honored by Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund. This award is for women making significant contributions to the advancement of women. Patricia is the Director of Athletics at the University of Hartford.

Peter Rohr '69 was recently recognized on the Barron's "America's Top 1,000 Advisors: State-by-State" list in the February 20 edition of Barron's magazine.

1970s

Dr. Eddie Coyle '73 was honored by the Delaware County Hall of Fame. An exhibit of Delaware County Olympians was held in April 2012 at the Mickey Vernon Sports History Museum in Chadds Ford. Coyle was one of the most decorated athletes in the history of Delaware County. He won four Pan American gold medals, three world championships, two Olympic gold medals and one silver. Between 1970 and 1980, he captured ten national championships and set 23 world records in weightlifting.

Bradley Gottfried '71 is the author of the upcoming title *The Maps of Antietam; An Atlas of the Antietam (Sharpsburg) Campaign, including the Battle of South mountain, September 2-20, 1862*. He is also the author of *Maps of the Gettysburg (Savas Beatie, 2007)* and *the Maps of the First Bull Run (Savas Beatie, 2009)*

Peter Greco '76 has co-authored a new book, *The Italian Journals: Where to Go, What to Eat, and Who to Leave at Home*. It is a hilarious look at what can happen when you go on a vacation to Italy with the wrong people, as well as a neat guide to the best places to visit and eat.

Donna DeHart '78 was recently hired as vice president of Salveson Stetson Group. Prior to joining Salveson Stetson Group, Donna led search efforts for Fortune 500 companies seeking human resources leaders.

1980s

Kevin J., Conner '88, a licensed CPA in the states of New York, Connecticut and Pennsylvania has been appointed CFO and principal accounting officer of MIMVI.

Jody L Kerchner '87, professor of music education at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Ohio has been named a recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award at Oberlin College. Kerchner is the co-editor and author of the book *Musical Experience in Our Lives, Things We Learn and Meanings We Make*.



Scott Aldinger '87 has been named partner of Hawaii's general office for New York Life Insurance Company with responsibilities for recruiting new agents, training and developing agents, achieving satisfactory

retention levels and assisting in overall operation of the office.

Robert D. Boyden '85 has been selected as chairman of the board of Registered Investigators, one of the Executive Advisory Boards for the American College of Forensic Examiners International. Boyden is the author of *Police in Small Town USA*, which explores some atypical stressors that are experienced by police officers in agencies with less than 100 uniformed officers.

Tim Sherry '86 and **Paul Isenberg '87** were honored with the 2012 Eagles Community Quarterback award for their work as co-founders of the Great Guys Group. Since 2008, Great Guys Group, has been able to pay bills for over 850 families battling cancer in our local community with over \$960,000 in grant money.

1990s

Ashley E Anders '97 recently joined Professional Women's Roundtable as a board member. Professional Women's Roundtable is a non-profit providing networking, leadership, educational and personal growth opportunities to a diverse group of emerging women business leaders in the Greater Philadelphia region. Anders, who is an organizational and leadership development consultant and executive coach, is president of Ashley Anders Consulting, Inc. Active in the community, she is on the executive board for

Need in Deed, which focuses on community service learning and on the Corporate Solutions Advisory Board for Philadelphia Community College.

Brian S McGowan '97 is the author of the book *Social QI-Simple Solutions-Improving Healthcare*.

Chris Snook '98 has a successful publishing company (nolimitpublishinggroup.com), which was instrumental in helping publish McGowan's book. Chris and Brian played football at WCU.



Todd Feldman '91 has joined Virginia Credit Union in Richmond, Va., as vice president of marketing with responsibility for marketing and member communication strategy through social media, digital

marketing, and traditional channels.

Erin Pasela '98 started her own multi-divisional sales company, Willow House, which offers a home décor and jewelry line.

2000s

Cynthia A Holland '00 successfully defended her doctoral dissertation on April 12th at Neumann University. She graduated from Neumann on May 12, 2012. Dr Holland is currently Asst. Principal at Bethel Springs elementary school in the Garnet Valley School District.

Thomas A. Bradley '00 has published, through Barren Hill Publishing, "Relic of the Damned" a two volume horror/thriller that will take the reader into the depths of Banderman Fall's hell – a small town nestled between Philadelphia and Conshohocken, PA. These books were originally released as a single edition ebook entitled: "Lucifer's Pommel." Due to the response, it has been expanded into a two volume set, and is now available in paperback format. Thomas has a soon to be released next novel, "PRIMORDIA," centers around a mutated cosaxkie B virus. (www.tabradley-derangedwriter.com)

Jessica Barth '01, who was a theatre major at WCU, appears in the recently released movie, *Ted*, starring Mark Wahlberg, in which she plays Tami-Lynn, the streetwise Bostonian girlfriend of the magically alive teddy bear.



Michael Thompson '01 was among the 2012 winners of the Philadelphia High School Teachers Lindback Award for their talents. The Christian R & Mary Lindback Foundation celebrate excellence in education and have been awarding the teaching prizes since 2008.

Jennifer Carboni '04 has published a collection of poems, entitled *No One Reads Poetry Anymore*. Currently the news director at WCHE 1520 AM, which is based in West Chester, Carboni earned a master's degree in Public Affairs Reporting at the University of Illinois in Springfield the year following her graduation from WCU. During her decade-long career, she has won a number of journalism awards at the local, state and national level.



Maureen Carey '05 was among the 2012 winners of the Philadelphia High School Teachers Lindback Award for their talents.

Michael Criscuolo '06 as of May 2012 is executive director of the Lakeland Regional Medical Center Foundation. Since 2005, Criscuolo has been on the development team of Lankenau Medical Center in Pennsylvania. His background includes five years of healthcare experience at Magee Rehabilitation Hospital and Jefferson Health System, where he organized and promoted fundraisers and researched and authored grant proposals.



Kristian Ali '08 was among the 2012 winners of the Philadelphia High School Teachers Lindback Award for their talents.

Ben Ford '09 (below far right) is a member of University of Illinois Jazz Trombone Ensemble, which won the National Jazz Trombone Ensemble Competition and Kai Winding Jazz Trombone Ensemble Competition. The Ensemble will be performing on July 5th at the Paris Conservatoire as part of the 2012 International Trombone Workshop.



Kyle Bechter '09 was recently hired by Allied Wired & Cable as sales representative at their headquarters in Collegeville, Pa. Kyle spent two years in the wire and cable industry employed by Omni Wire & Cable before joining Allied.

Volunteers on the Student Affairs Leadership Development fundraising dinner planning committee and the Legacy of Leadership silent auction planning committee (l to r): Ms. Anna Moronski '10, Mrs. Marion Carvalho McKinney '91, M'93, Ms. Rachel McClenning '11, Ms. Preeti Singh '95, M'93, Ms. Jacqueline Aliotta '09, M'11, Ms. Sabrina Rightmer '06, Mr. Nick Polcini '00, Ms. Alyssa Polakowski '09, M'11, and Ms. Alyssa Trytek, M'11.



The "Leisey Lunch Bunch" **FIRST ROW** (l to r): Jon Ford, John Rocco, Fran Tusak, Don Leisey, Ed Novak, Bill Gerstemeier, Howie Will, **SECOND ROW** (l to r): Chic Chiccino, Dick Yoder, Jim Williams, Jim Varrato, Bruce Shenk, Dick Cosgrave, Jim Reichert, Bob Warner, **THIRD ROW** Ken Leister, Jack Beeson, Chuck Kane, Jack Kuchinsky, Bob Miller, Terry German, Andy Kelly.

2013 Distinguished Alumni Nominees Sought

The Distinguished Alumni Awards have been presented by the West Chester University Alumni Association (WCUAA) since 1963. The WCUAA Awards Committee seeks candidates to be selected and recognized for this prestigious honor at the 2013 Distinguished Alumni Awards Luncheon to be held April 27, 2013 during Alumni Weekend.

The Committee is looking for potential recipients who have:

- Achieved outstanding recognition in their chosen professions,
- Rendered unusual service to a particular segment of society either vocationally or avocationally,
- Achieved outstanding recognition or rendered unusual service by volunteering in a non-profit organization, or
- Positively influenced large numbers of people throughout a career.

If you are interested in submitting a nomination, complete and mail the form below or fill out a nomination form online at www.wcualumni.org. All forms must be submitted to the Alumni Relations Office by September 17, 2012. A nomination package will then be sent to those who are nominating alumni. All nominators and nominees must be available to present/accept their awards on the WCU campus on **April 27, 2013**.

2013 Distinguished Alumni Award Nomination

Please mail the form below to: WCUAA Awards Committee,
c/o Alumni Relations, Veterans Memorial Alumni House,
West Chester University, West Chester, PA 19383.

Alumnus/Alumna _____ Class Year _____

Date of Birth _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Contact Phone _____

Contact Email _____

Nominated by _____ Class Year _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Contact Phone _____

Contact Email _____

You may also submit your registration online by visiting www.wcualumni.org. All forms must be received by **September 17, 2012**.



UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS!

Details, ticket prices and registration information are located at www.wcualumni.org.

- August 18 – Rams at the Rudder, Rusty Rudder, Rehoboth Bch, DE, 4-8 p.m.
- October 19-20 – Homecoming 2012 (including the Class of 1962 50th, the Class of 1957 Reunion & the Communication Alumni Reunion)
- April 26-28 – Alumni Weekend 2013

**All dates are subject to change. Please check www.wcualumni.org for the latest updates.*

IN MEMORIAM

1935	Florence Gehman Smith
1945	Evangeline Golamis Whealton
1950	Mary Jane Taylor
1951	James B. Pugh
1952	Mary A. Curley
1958	Robert Rago
1959	Janet Huyett Grant
1962	Charles Ferron, Jesse Lewis
1963	Robert W. Johnson
1965	William G. Rapp, Jr.
1967	John A. Stralkowski
1968	Rose Karkosak Milardo
1971	Harold Kistler
1972	Norman McConnell
1977	Esther R. Cohen
1979	John M. Fry
1985	Marjorie H. Ruiz

Faculty/Faculty Emeriti

Carol Belmain
Glenn Samuelson

MARRIAGES

Tara McGuigan '06 to Josh Klein on June 25, 2011

Jeffrey Malczan '93 to Laura Murphy on April 14, 2012

FORMER TEACHER'S DEBUT NOVEL UNMASKS BULLYING

Kate Becker Walton '91, lives by her motto – *if you want it, make it happen*.

As a self-described “dreamer,” Walton dreamed of becoming a teacher. She made that dream happen at WCU as an elementary education major and as a language arts middle school teacher for 12 years in Pennsylvania and Florida.

But, she had more dreams. Walton, also known by her pen name “K.M. Walton,” wanted to write a book.

Her Young Adult (YA) contemporary novel, *Cracked*, released by Simon Pulse – Simon & Schuster, debuted in early January 2012. “*Cracked* was the fifth novel I wrote,” she explains, “and, after more than two and one half years of trying to get an agent and 148 rejection letters, having it published was truly a dream come true!” (She also found her “dream agency,” Curtis Brown, Ltd. of New York City.)

While the book’s fictional characters, “Bull” (the bully) and “Victor” (the bullied) aren’t based on any of Walton’s real life students, she said her years spent in the classroom were her inspiration to tell Bull’s and Victor’s stories. *Cracked* quickly made Simon & Schuster’s “Must Reads” and “Top Ten” in its Teen List. Her next book, *Empty*, is scheduled for January 1, 2013 release. *Empty* also tackles the stark ramifications of online bullying, through its main character, “Dell,” an overweight 16-year old girl.

“As a teacher, I heard and saw tons of bullying and cruelty, but I never, ever let it slide,” she notes. She even encountered a fifth-grade student who attempted suicide after years of relentless bullying by fellow students. After promising the boy that she’d do something about it, she worked for months with the perpetrators to stop the destructive behavior.

“Injustice drives me crazy,” says Walton, a mom of two adolescent sons. “The only way I made bullying stop was to make the bullies see that the kid being bullied is a real person. You have to get bullies to understand the pain they are causing. It takes a long time to get them to see that there’s a person on the other side. Girls are really difficult to break.” Since being published, Walton now speaks at middle and high schools on the topic of “The Power of Human Kindness.”

Walton started her writing quest in the early 1990s, while student teaching second graders in Florida. She wrote three unpublished picture books and some short stories. “I got bit by the writing bug even back then,” recalls Walton, 44, of West Chester. After returning to Pennsylvania to teach at a Springfield, Delaware County middle school, Walton didn’t immediately pursue her dream of becoming a published author.

“I wrote a lot as a language arts teacher for professional purposes and continued my path to writing through The Pennsylvania Writing & Literature Project (PAWLP) at West Chester but I never really wrote for fun while I was teaching.” That changed when Walton was homebound for three months with some medical problems.

“The only way I made bullying stop was to make the bullies see that the kid being bullied is a real person. You have to get bullies to understand the pain they are causing.”

— Kate Becker Walton

“I couldn’t stand watching any more television and I was really bored. I complained to my good friend and former teaching partner. She sent me an email, which I still have, that read, ‘Write your book!’” That email inspired Walton to make it happen. She decided to become a full-time writer, and never looked back.

“I started to write that day. The story flew out of me. It was like an out of body experience. I called my husband and said, ‘I’m writing a book!’”

Kate and her husband, Todd Walton ‘89, met as undergraduates at West Chester while living at the former Sanderson Hall dormitories.

In addition to contemporary YA novels, Walton also co-authored a book for teachers with lead author, Margie Pearse, entitled, *TEACHING NUMERACY: 9 Critical Habits to Ignite Mathematical Thinking* (Corwin Press, 2011). She also has a ghost story called *Portal* in the pipeline and another middle grade novel entitled, *End of Normal* in the works. “That book is my baby because it’s the first novel I ever wrote,” Walton says. The novel tells the tale of a 12-year old girl who discovers that she’s half alien.

As Walton reflects on her success as an author and teacher, she offers some advice to others who would love to pursue the same dream and make it happen. “You must do two things,” notes Walton, “write your book and then carefully research literary agents and publishers. Everything you need can be found online these days!”

To learn more about Kate “K.M.” Walton’s books or follow her blog, visit www.kmwalton.com.



NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE 2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Nominating Committee of the West Chester University Alumni Association (WCUAA) is accepting recommendations for candidates who wish to serve on the Association's Board of Directors for the 2013-2016 term. Please review the following information prior to submitting the nomination:

- Nomination forms must be filled out and submitted by September 3, 2012. The form below will also be available online at www.wcualumni.org
- There are six elected seats on the WCUAA Board each year.
- Board members serve a three-year term.
- The terms of the newly elected members will begin on July 1, 2013.
- There will be a minimum of six (6) and a maximum of twelve (12) candidates on the election ballot.
- Board elections will begin in early 2013 on www.wcualumni.org and ballots will be available in the Winter/Spring issue of the WCU Alumni Magazine.
- You may nominate yourself to run for the Board of Directors.
- After all nominations are received, nominees will receive a biographical form to complete and a detailed description of the time commitment and duties of a WCUAA board member. This must be completed in full to finalize the nomination.
- The below nomination form must be filled out and received by the Office of the Alumni Relations no later than **September 3, 2012.**

2013 Board of Directors Nomination

Please mail the form below to:
 Nominating Committee
 c/o Office of Alumni Relations
 Veterans Memorial Alumni House
 West Chester University
 West Chester, PA 19383



Nominee _____ Class Year _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contact Phone _____

Contact Email _____

This form may also be submitted electronically at: www.wcualumni.org

ABBÉ SOCIETY

The Abbe Society Alumnae Chapter is getting active in your community! To be included in future emails and updates send your current information to abbealumni@gmail.com. Please include your current name, maiden name, address, phone number, and county where you live. This will ensure you are invited to local service projects and events like the annual Alumnae Tea.

ALUMNI DANCE CHAPTER

Currently, the ADC has 87 members, which is an increase of 7 members since last year. We hope to continue to increase our membership through our Facebook group and also encourage new graduates to join the chapter. The chapter has elected two new officers to its board for the 2012-13 season. Chris Perez '02 is our new VP for Advancement and Sara Pyfer '05 was elected as our new treasurer.

The board held four meetings during the 2011-12 season and most recently held a meeting in March to discuss new events for the upcoming year. Plans are presently in the making for our 5th year anniversary Winter Dance Festival which will be held on January 26 and 27, 2013.

This year's theme, "Turning Pointe," will reflect the past and celebrate our future as many of our alumni have reached a "turning point" in their lives. The festival will once again be held in Asplundh Concert Hall and will feature alumni choreographers and dancers as well as participants from the University and various studios in the community.

The chapter continues to feature a member of the month and hopes to once again participate in Homecoming with a tailgate gathering. Subcommittees of the chapter include the historian committee chaired by Lori Wood, a service committee chaired by Cynthia Chmielewski, and a new committee for advancement chaired by Chris Perez, which will focus on raising more money for chapter awards and the Barbara J. Lappano Dance Scholarship.

For further information on the chapter or interest in joining contact WCUADC@yahoo.com.

BALTIMORE-METRO ALUMNI CHAPTER

The Baltimore Metro Chapter of the WCUAA was formed this spring and had its first event on June 10th. Members, family, and friends



enjoyed the Orioles vs. Phillies game. It was difficult for some to choose sides, but most of us were glad the Orioles won!

The Chapter will also be co-sponsoring the "Rams at the Rudder" in Dewey Beach, DE, on August 18th and hope to see many more alumni enjoying themselves in the sun and sand.

The Baltimore Chapter would like to thank all who facilitated this chapter's development especially Tommye Grant and look forward to many collaborations with the D.C. Chapter.

Please contact alumni@wcupa.edu or nmetzger1018@comcast.net for more information and to join the chapter.

BLACK ALUMNI CHAPTER

In 1965, the Black Alumni Caucus (BAC) was established to keep black alumni connected with West Chester University. The chapter continues to do so by extending reconnection opportunities to current black students and alums by providing a variety of networking events.

Bereavement Notice: Courtney A. Bonds, '00, passed on October 10, 2011 and Jay A. Buchanan, '90, passed away on January 18, 2012. Nuptials: Ondre Hunt (Phi Beta Sigma), '92 and Erika Stewart-Hunt, '95 on April 4, 2012. Kudos to our BAC Vice President, Tyrone Patton for being selected to sit on the President's Taskforce for Minority Male Retention for the University.

Would you like to plan an event for your class, sorority/fraternity chapter or sport? Let the BAC assist you. We're here to help! Do you have program ideas to connect current students and alum? We'd love to hear it – send your ideas in TODAY.

Do you have news you want to share with fellow alum? Submit your news to the Black Alumni Caucus via email at bacwcupa@yahoo.com or on Facebook: WCU BAC.

BAND ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CHAPTER

Newly formed in March of 2012, the Band Alumni Association is currently seeking new members! The Band Alumni Association includes any WCU graduate who participated in Concert Band, Marching Band, Wind Ensemble, and/or Wind Symphony (previously known as Symphonic Band) for at least one semester. Please contact Andrea Hahn at andreaahn89@gmail.com if you are interested in becoming a member and/or an officer of the association.

Upcoming Events:

- **Third Annual Golden Rams Marching Band Golf Classic:** Monday, July 2, 2012 – 12:00 Registration, 1:00 Shotgun Start Penn Oaks Golf Club, West Chester, PA visit: <http://www.wcubands.org/marching-band> for more information
- **Summer Chapter Meeting/Elections:** Date/Time: TBA

CAPITAL AREA CHAPTER

Are you an alumnus who lives in Washington, DC, Maryland, or Virginia and would like to connect with other alumni in the area? If so, sign up for our list serve at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WCUCAPAREA>.

ALUMNI CHAPTER NEWS

Follow us on Facebook: West Chester University Capital Area Alumni Association; and on Twitter @WCUAA_CAP for all of the latest updates and events.

CHESTER COUNTY CHAPTER

The WCU Foundation mailed our spring newsletter to Chester County Alumni and posted the newsletter online at www.wcu-alumni.org. Please know you need not be a Chester County resident for membership in our Chapter. We welcome all alumni! If you did not receive the mailing or were unable to access the newsletter online, please contact the WCU Foundation at 610-436-2868, or the Alumni Office at 610-436-2813.

We continue to offer two \$1,500 scholarships for incoming Chester County High School graduates – with grateful thanks to the generous scholarship donations from our members! In addition, we also grant a \$1,500 scholarship, a bequest from the will of Johanna Havelik to the Chester County Chapter. Our three scholarship recipients for the coming year were selected at the Scholarship Meeting this spring.

Our tradition of reserved seating at the afternoon performance of the WCU Annual Winter Concert in Philips Memorial, followed with a reception and dinner in the Lower Level Conference Room, will continue this December. If you do not receive notification by October of this event via mail or online, please contact the Foundation or the Alumni Office (see above). We look forward to greeting you.

Officers and Committee Chairs:

- President – Toril Johannessen
- Past President – Jacqueline Sowa Colyer
- Vice President – Carmen Evans Culp
- Treasurer – Joseph Kienle
- Secretary/Newsletter – Angela Loud Morris
- Scholarship – Toril Johannessen and Carmen Evans Culp
- Programs/Events – Vincent Suppan
- Affinity Program – Joseph Kienle

COMMUNICATION ALUMNI NETWORK (CAN)

The CAN wants YOU to get involved! Check us out on LinkedIn – connect to *WCU Communication Alumni Network (CAN)* to get the latest on events and get in touch with fellow alumni. For further information

and to find out how you can become a part of this group, please e-mail WCUComAlumniNet@gmail.com.

DELAWARE COUNTY CHAPTER

The Delaware County Chapter will have a Happy Hour at Barnaby's on July 18 from 6 to 8 pm off West Chester Pike in Marple/Havertown. Our last Happy Hour included the Law Chapter. The chapter will be attending the Phillies game on August 5 in section 413 rows 6 & 7. We will wear our purple shirts instead of Phillies red. Tickets are still available at \$25. We ask other alums to wear purple shirts if attending the game. Interested alumni are welcome to join by accessing our Yahoo Group Page: groups.yahoo.com/group/wcu-delcoalumni. We are also on Facebook: **WCU Delaware County Alumni Chapter**. Our meetings are open to all alumni. The next one will take place in September. Date & location will be finalized soon.

FRIARS SOCIETY

You and a guest are invited to join fellow Friars' Society Alumni in celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Friars' Society of West Chester University on September 8, 2012 at the Chester County Historical Society.

- When: September 8, 2012
- Where: Chester County Historical Society, 225 N. High Street, West Chester, PA 19380
- Time: Cocktail hour starts at 6 pm; Dinner served at 7 PM
- Price: \$75 per ticket (includes dinner and soda/beer/wine)

Space is limited. Register online at: www.wcu-alumni.org. Please contact Director of Communication, Dean Gentekos, at dgentekos.fsaa@gmail.com for further information.

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY ALUMNI CHAPTER (IMAC)

IMAC is a proud member of the family of Alumni Chapters having completed its first year as the West Chester University International Military Alumni Chapter (IMAC). The mission of the IMAC is to promote leadership programs sponsored by the U.S. Armed Forces, to establish and maintain camaraderie and esprit de corps among the alumni who served in the U.S. Armed Forces, to promote patriotism and responsibility, and to establish and provide support for students.

In June of 2011 Col. Leonard C. Bieberbach USMC (Ret) Class of 62, Sgt. Dick Yoder USMC Class of 59, and LCol. James Williams USA (Ret) Class of 59 were elected as President, Vice President, and Secretary Treasurer.

At no cost, Chapter Membership is open to graduates, undergraduates, decedents, facility, staff, and deceased graduates who have served honorably in the US Armed Forces, the Armed forces of any Allies of the U.S.

Please contact the Alumni Office for further information .

LAW ALUMNI CHAPTER

If you are interested in learning more about this growing national group, please email alumni@wcupa.edu and/or join the WCU Law Alumni group on Linked In.

LGBTQA ALUMNI CHAPTER

This past spring our executive board penned a letter to the current WCU administration requesting that serious consideration be given to housing a permanent, on-campus LGBTQA Center as soon as possible. In addition to our own membership, overwhelming support for our cause was voiced by alumni leaders, alumni, WCU staff and students. I am happy to report that the President, Dr. Greg Weisenstein, agreed with our position and plans are moving forward. We are truly grateful.

In late April our group had a pizza party social event with the student members of the on-campus LGBTQA organization. The response was tremendous. Our alumni chapter plans to continue with these types of social interaction events as we move forward.

The WCU LGBTQA alumni chapter is eager to welcome new members. A great way to meet us will be at the upcoming annual family picnic, most likely in early fall. Please see details on our Facebook page West Chester University LGBTQA Alumni.

FLORIDA GULF COAST RAMS AND SNOWBIRDS

Thanks to efforts of Mark Stephenson and Alumni President Ed Monroe, three events were planned in the Sarasota this past year. There is a group of graduates who hope to meet on a regular basis during the winter season. Please email alumni@wcupa.edu if you'd like to be on the distribution list.

YORK COUNTY CHAPTER

You may join the chapter by visiting: www.groups.yahoo.com/group/wcu-york-countyalumni.

ALUMNA FEATURE

FLIP FLOPS IN THE SNOW

At 34, Atifa Basharmal has seen things no one of any age should see or endure. Now an American citizen, she was born in Afghanistan and lived with her family in Kabul city until age seven when her mother took her and her younger brother out of the country, an exodus that took several years and spanned a number of countries including Pakistan, Malaysia and Japan before they arrived in Hawaii. Homeschooled, she learned "about five languages" including several Indian and Iranian dialects. She earned her bachelor's degree in criminal justice from West Chester in 2011.

Recently, Atifa was working as a civilian with the U.S. Army and the International Security Assistance Force on their peace missions in Faryeb province, near Afghanistan's northwestern border with Turkmenistan. Since she first arrived last November as a cultural advisor and report analyst, part of her assignment is to find the best ways to help segments of Afghan society who most need assistance such as widows, orphans, or local hospitals. Her compassion for her native people is palpable.

"When I first went, I cried," Atifa admits. "I wasn't ready for the lives these people were leading."

"When I first went, I cried, I wasn't ready for the lives these people were leading."

— Atifa Basharmal

In America, she enjoys more comforts and freedoms than many of the Afghan people so the conditions shocked her. Faryeb is remote and mountainous; weather conditions can be harsh. It's difficult to bring in food and supplies such as fuel for generators and heat. Access is made even more difficult by poor dirt roads – and insurgents. Local warlords confiscate supplies and money for their personal use. Corruption can be anywhere, but there are many good people working on behalf of the Afghans.

Many buildings have windows that are open to the elements and in the mountains, it can get very cold. When Atifa saw children at an orphanage close to the base who were out in the snow in bare feet or flip flops, she pushed a humanitarian project for the Fayat orphanage to the fore.

The children would have shoes. She contacted WCU Criminal Justice department chair Jana Nesterode, who coordinated a collection for the children, organizing the packaging and sending of shoes, candy, school books and teddy bears.

Atifa, the only Afghan-American woman working in the region, gained the trust of those in charge of the Civil Affairs Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT), who are Norwegian. Because of the way things are arranged, staff can't just go outside their camp and give out blankets or food. She knew it was possible that officials at the orphanage might take whatever was donated for themselves, so she appealed to several soldiers who helped her. They arranged to bring the shoes to the



Atifa Basharmal

children and distribute them in person. Atifa later visited the children, whose feet were finally protected.

There is a YouTube video about the philanthropic effort; Atifa appears in two scenes (youtube.com/_lilypa).

"The children are the future," reads the on-screen title to the end of the video. But they are also the ones who suffer the most. They die from cold and starvation (in one village, Atifa wrote in one of her reports, eight children died that way); they go barefoot no matter the season; and girls could miss out on an education because the Taliban and gangs pose many threats to their safety both on the way to and from school and at school.

It is for them that Atifa returns to the land where she was born.

She was recently back in America and while it upsets her family, most of whom are in the United States, she returned to Afghanistan after a brief respite. She is driven to return by her knowledge of the 200 orphans in Faryeb province whose faces, lives and fates she cannot forget.

