

# The Hill

McDANIEL COLLEGE | Spring 2024



**DIANNE BRIGGS MARTIN'S  
NEXT GREAT MISSION**

The Hill is published three times yearly by:  
McDaniel College  
2 College Hill  
Westminster, MD 21157-4390  
www.mcdaniel.edu

Editor: Lindsay Sherman

Staff Writers:  
Cheryl Knauer,  
Caitlin Wilson

Design: Samantha Arellano,  
Katie Grim,  
Jamie Reams Leinauer

Sensitivity Reader:  
Kenrya Rankin

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

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

McDaniel College, in compliance with federal and state laws and regulations governing affirmative action and nondiscrimination, does not discriminate in the recruitment, admission, and employment of students, faculty, and staff in the operation of any of its educational programs and activities as defined by law.

The diverse views presented in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors or official policies of the college.

©2024 McDaniel College

On the cover:  
C. Dianne Briggs Martin '65 has opened doors for women around the world in computer science for nearly six decades. Photo by Natalia Weedy.



The McDaniel men's wrestling team retained possession of The Crab Cup in its second season, beating Johns Hopkins 33-17. The team also finished second in the 2024 Centennial Conference Wrestling Championship hosted on the Hill in Gill Gym.

## FEATURES

### 10 From Apollo to Zayed

Dianne Briggs Martin '65 opens doors for other women in computer science

### 18 60-Second Syllabus: Gender Politics

Inside Assistant Professor of Political Science Matthew Mongiello's most popular class

### 20 Representation Matters

How Jasmin Chavez Cruz '19 is helping immigrants like her see themselves in places of power

## DEPARTMENTS

**3 Carpe Diem**  
*News around campus and beyond*

**6 Double Take**  
*Sights worth a second look*

**8 Insights**  
*Celebrating the "aha" in learning*

**28 Invested**  
*Advancing the vision*

**36 Alumni Updates**  
*Life after college*

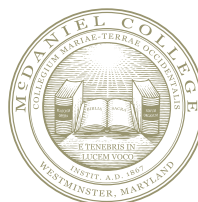
**56 Keep Climbing**  
*Lessons I took from the Hill*

Don't forget to check out the online edition for digital content at [mcdaniel.edu/magazine/](http://mcdaniel.edu/magazine/)





**“As the second woman to serve as McDaniel College’s president, I have benefited greatly throughout my life from the support of people who believed in the value of mentorship and the power of a liberal arts education.”**



Dear McDaniel Community,

Although we are only a few months into 2024, women have already reached some pretty impressive new heights — Taylor Swift became the first woman to earn four Grammy Awards for Album of the Year, Rear Admiral Yvette Davids is the first woman to be named superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy, and Jenny Cavnar became the first woman play-by-play announcer in Major League Baseball history.

Before the year ends, we will see even more firsts by women including the election of Mexico’s first woman president (either Claudia Sheinbaum or Xóchitl Gálvez) and the first woman astronaut to travel to the moon (Christina Koch).

Given this year’s trajectory of women making history, it makes sense that this issue is dedicated to the women who have made — and will continue to make — history here on the Hill. In the features section, you’ll read about two McDaniel alumni who have broken down barriers and opened doors for others to follow in their footsteps: Jasmin Chavez Cruz ’19, Young Alumni Award winner and presidential appointee at the White House Hispanic Initiative, and former trustee C. Dianne Briggs Martin ’65, who not only worked on the Apollo space program but also toured Russia as a computer education contributor, mentored Emirati women in Dubai, and is still teaching at two universities today.

Additionally, you’ll read about President Emeritus Joan Develin Coley’s recent Icon Award, the newly reinvigorated McDaniel Women’s Leadership Network, and plans for McDaniel’s first ever women’s wrestling team.

As the second woman to serve as McDaniel College’s president, I have benefited greatly throughout my life from the support of people who believed in the value of mentorship and the power of a liberal arts education. Indeed, this kind of support is critical to our mission and is enshrined in our very founding as the first coeducational college south of the Mason-Dixon Line and one of the first coeducational colleges in the nation. This tradition of equality carries on even now, with a continued commitment to being an inclusive and welcoming community for all.

Wishing you a wonderful spring!

Sincerely,

President Julia Jasken



## McDaniel launches women’s wrestling program

McDaniel College has announced the addition of women’s wrestling to the intercollegiate athletics program. The team is slated to start competition in the fall of 2024 and increase the total number of athletic teams at McDaniel to 25.

One of the fastest-growing sports in high school, women’s wrestling is rapidly expanding at the collegiate level. According to the National Wrestling Coaches Association, the number of female high school wrestlers has exploded from just 804 in 1994 to more than 50,000 in 2023. In addition, the National Federation of State High School Associations reports that the number of high school girls participating in wrestling has increased 55% since 2021-22. Today, 44 states offer separate state wrestling championships for girls.

At the collegiate level, women’s wrestling is currently offered at 169 institutions and became an NCAA emerging sport in 2020-21. Based on the most recent participation rate, women’s wrestling is on track to become the NCAA’s 91st championship and is the highlighted sport among the six existing NCAA Emerging Sports for Women.

McDaniel’s women’s wrestling program will become the 61st Division III program, the third Centennial Conference program, and the first Division III collegiate program in Maryland.

carpe  
diem



### President Emerita Joan Develin Coley receives 2023 Icon Honors award

In 2023, President Emerita Joan Develin Coley was honored alongside 26 other Maryland leaders as a recipient of the seventh annual The Daily Record Icon Honors awards. The Icon Honors awards recognize Maryland business leaders over the age of 60 for their notable success and demonstration of strong leadership both within and outside of their chosen field.

Coley is a leader forever entwined with the over 150-year-old story of McDaniel College. Her legacy lives on as the first woman president and first to be promoted from the faculty ranks, along with leading the college's name change and the largest fundraising campaign in McDaniel history.

According to Thomas Baden Jr., the editor of The Daily Record, all of the Icon Honors award recipients "have left an indelible mark on their chosen fields; have displayed sustained leadership and integrity; have withstood the whims and caprices of the moment to build what is lasting and durable; have the vision to see what is meaningful and the drive and determination to achieve those goals; and have lifted up their colleagues and displayed selfless community service."

Congratulations, President Emerita Joan Develin Coley, and thank you for your continued commitment to McDaniel College!



### Former parent visitor elected to Board of Trustees

Walter Olson has been elected to the McDaniel College Board of Trustees. A former parent visitor to the board, Olson is a senior fellow at the Cato Institute's Robert A. Levy Center for Constitutional Studies. His son, Tim, graduated from McDaniel in May 2023 with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies.

# YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL ACADEMIC SYMPOSIUM

MONDAY | APRIL 29  
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](https://mcdaniel.edu/academic-symposium) for the full schedule and complete details.



# double take

Sights worth a second look

## "A Woman's Guide to WMC"

In March of 1978, students at then-Western Maryland College founded the Feminist Alliance to "provide the college community with services and support in response to the needs and concerns of women in today's society." Welcoming men and women, the group hosted speakers and organized "consciousness raising groups" to discuss gender issues.

By May, they had published "A Woman's Guide to WMC," a handbook now preserved in the college archives as a snapshot of what students were thinking about in 1978. It lists resources like on-campus gynecological and counseling services and a selection of further reading on feminism.

It also includes student viewpoints for "a brief sketch of some of the different people at WMC and their attitudes concerning the campus and the women here."

Some anonymous and some controversial, the viewpoints created quite a stir among students, as reported in the campus newspaper. The views ran the gamut of college living: Greek life, dating, academics, friendship, and speculation on how the new Decker Student Center (now the Roj Student Center) would bring students together.

After a vigorous first semester, the Feminist Alliance falls out of the record by 1979, but its surviving handbook represents the passion of the campus community for a moment in time.

Do you remember the Feminist Alliance's handbook? Share your memories in a letter to the editor at [ocm@mcdaniel.edu](mailto:ocm@mcdaniel.edu).

Opposite, top: The introduction to "A Woman's Guide to WMC" shares that the inspiration behind the handbook was to support the diverse women at the college.  
Opposite, bottom: Cartoon featured in the handbook by Mark Bayer '78.

Students, particularly new students, on any campus receive huge quantities of information about the college, its instructional program, the extra-curricular activities, the facilities available . . . . the list is endless. All of the information does not, could not possibly, apply to everyone.

The same is true of this booklet. It is written by us, a group of Western Maryland women involved with the Feminist Alliance, for you, the women of Western Maryland College. And everything contained in this booklet will not be significant to every reader. But some of it is certain to apply to you.

"The women of WMC are a diverse group. We are poets and mathematicians. We are commuters, and we live on campus. We are acting students and Econ majors. We are black and white, short and tall, Jewish and Catholic, gay and straight. As individuals we have many distinct and separate needs. However, as women, and simply as people, we also have certain similarities and share certain common needs."

This booklet, hopefully, is a step towards meeting some of your needs as an individual female student on this campus and also some of the needs of WMC women as a group. It should give you some idea of where to go with the various types of problems which may arise. And it will also supply you with a brief sketch of some of the different people at WMC and their attitudes concerning the campus and the women here.





## THREE WEEKS OF “AHA” MOMENTS

JAN TERM INTERNSHIP BRINGS EDUCATION MAJOR BACK HOME, HELPS HIM SOLIDIFY CAREER PLANS

Junior Elementary Education major Paul Steinert knew he wanted to complete his Teaching in a Diverse Setting internship at his own alma mater, Norwood Elementary School. What he didn't anticipate was a full-circle moment sharing a classroom with one of the teachers who inspired him on his educational and teaching journey. Steinert shares how during three weeks of all-day teaching and assisting, his Jan Term internship helped him learn more about himself, diverse populations of students, and the teaching profession.

### WHY DO YOU WANT TO BE A TEACHER?

When I was in elementary school, I had a lot of energy — even now, I can't stay still. When I was younger, my teachers did an amazing job at leveraging my energy into my learning instead of pushing it down. My dedication, grit, and passion for learning came in elementary school from my teachers, and I want to be able to do that for students. I want to help the students of this next generation like I was helped.

### WHEN YOU REALIZED THAT YOUR MENTOR TEACHER FOR JAN TERM WAS YOUR OWN THIRD GRADE TEACHER, WHAT WAS YOUR REACTION?

At first, I thought that I was going to be placed with another mentor teacher, but I was happy that at least I would still be in the same building and grade so I could run into Ms. Tarbell. When I found out that she was my mentor teacher, I was ecstatic. She was one of the teachers who made me fall in love with learning and got me interested in gaining mathematical skills. I was over the moon that I got placed with her, and I am very appreciative of the experience.

“My dedication, grit, and passion for learning came in elementary school from my teachers, and I want to be able to do that for students.”

### DID YOU HAVE AN “AHA” MOMENT DURING THIS INTERNSHIP?

I had so many “aha” moments during the internship. Whether it was regarding classroom management and lesson planning, content instruction and teaching practices, or methods of inclusivity and diversity, I was taking an immense amount of notes to carry with me as I move on in teaching. I asked a million questions, both for myself and as a part of an interview assignment for the January Term class, and the answers opened my eyes to a lot of the intricacies of teaching. It felt like every single second of this internship was an “aha” moment.

### WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM THIS INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE?

A main takeaway I have is the importance and beauty of diversity in the classroom, and how a teacher can help it flourish and make all students feel safe and supported. Whether it's through the language/vocabulary used in the classroom, the models and posters on the wall showcasing different cultures and backgrounds, or teaching to all demographics and abilities, diversity can be adequately cherished and showcased in the classroom.

### WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF OVER JAN TERM?

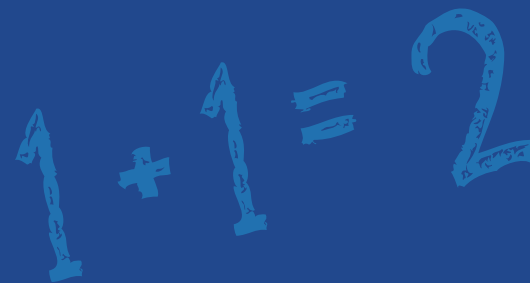
For wanting to be a teacher, I am not much of a morning person, but waking up each day was exhilarating, and it was fun to go to school. Whether it was the memories of my old elementary school, the students and teachers at the school currently, or a combination of both, I was so excited each day to go to school. I became a lot more confident in myself during January Term, and I was happy each school day. I have learned that second grade teaching is something I work well with, what subjects I felt more comfortable with instructing, and I got to learn a lot about who I am as a future teacher.

### WHY IS EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING SO IMPORTANT TO A WELL-ROUNDED EDUCATION?

It gives you so much experience and opportunity. Teaching is controlled chaos. You can have lesson plans set up perfectly, but school days can change so rapidly. Learning about teaching styles and teaching practices only goes so far. Whether you participate in a full-semester internship or a January Term, in-classroom experiences give you the opportunity to dive in and experience it hands on. It really helps you develop your teaching skills, confidence, and comfort in a classroom.



Left: Steinert (front left) with another student and their third grade teacher, Valerie Tarbell, during a field trip to Fort McHenry. Right: Steinert and Tarbell reunited during Jan Term as intern and mentor teacher.



# From Apollo to Zayed

How a six-decade career in teaching and computing has led C. Dianne Briggs Martin '65 to open doors for women around the world in computer science

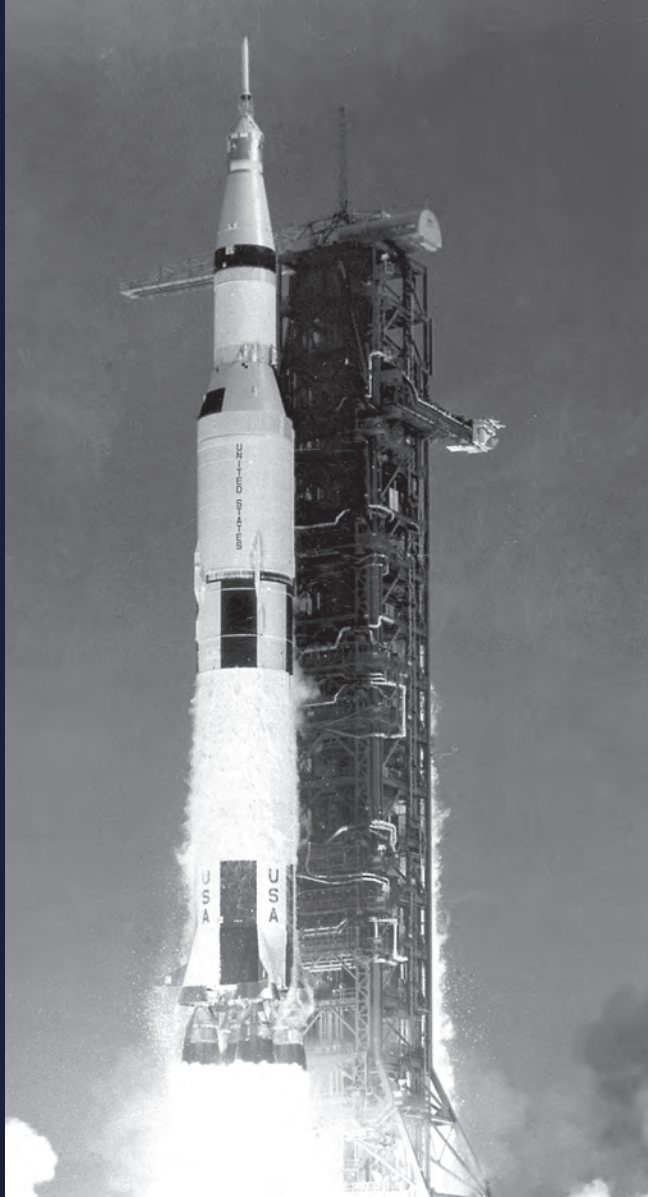
BY LINDSAY SHERMAN

At the age of 80, C. Dianne Briggs Martin '65 still has an insatiable passion for teaching, which was instilled in her during her time as an Economics and Mathematics major at McDaniel College, formerly Western Maryland College (WMC). "In terms of a great liberal arts education, WMC couldn't be beat. I ended up with a great education, which certainly helped propel me forward in the things that I ended up doing in my life," Martin says.

While she never could have predicted a career in computer science back in 1965, it was the foundation in philosophy and critical thinking she got on the Hill that led her to a role at IBM working on the Apollo missions, breaking gender barriers in the industry, and a teaching career that she just can't seem to give up quite yet.

Currently teaching Computer Ethics at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) and Information Policy online for The George Washington University (GW), Martin can trace her love for teaching all the way back to a ninth-grade mathematics classroom in Prince George's County, Maryland, in 1965.

In her own words, we learn about the former McDaniel trustee's career journey, the challenges of being a woman in programming in the 1960s, how computer science has changed over the decades, and what her next mission is.



Top: The Saturn V launch vehicle for the Apollo 11 mission liftoff on July 16, 1969, which placed the first humans on the surface of the moon. (Photo courtesy of NASA.)  
Bottom: Martin spent two years in Dubai as the dean of a woman's college at Zayed University, helping women become computer professionals who would go on to build their nation's cybersecurity infrastructure.

## FROM THE HILL TO THE MOON

### WHAT DID YOU PURSUE AFTER GRADUATING FROM McDANIEL COLLEGE WITH YOUR BACHELOR'S DEGREE?

I had two graduate offers in Economics — one from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and one from the University of North Carolina — but I ended up accepting neither one because I got married right after graduation to my husband, Dave Martin '62, who had been serving in Korea. I started my career teaching ninth grade math for a year before I was recruited to become a programmer. I loved teaching and I loved my students, but I sort of realized I was at a crossroads. Either I would end up being a math teacher for the rest of my life or, if I was going to do something different, that was the time to pursue it because I didn't have children yet. So, I kind of tossed my resume out there and a lot of the computer companies were looking for math majors. I was called in for an interview and got a great offer from IBM, where I learned computer programming.



Top: In her 1965 senior yearbook, Dianne Briggs Martin was photographed surrounded by economics and mathematics textbooks along with a framed photo of her future husband, Dave Martin '62. She says: "Who knew the freshman math nerd was going to land the captain of the basketball team?!" Bottom: Dianne accompanied Dave to a military ball in 1961. Opposite: Mission Control celebrated the conclusion of the Apollo 11 mission. (Photo courtesy of NASA.)



### MARTIN IN THE ROOM WHERE APOLLO 11 HAPPENED

"I don't like to make a big deal out of it, but I do sort of sneak it in when I teach the history of computing. As I'm going through the generations of computing, I mention the generation when the Apollo project took place. I'll show them a picture of a computer room and say, 'This is what a computer room looked like when we sent men to the moon. How do I know? Because I was there.' And then I show them this picture of the plaque I have acknowledging my role in the Apollo 11 mission."

### WHAT WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR TIME AT IBM?

I was with IBM for three years in its federal systems division. For my first year, I was working on a classified Air Force project. But IBM had also won the contract to do the programming for the Apollo project, so I moved over to that. I worked on Apollo 8, which was the first mission around the moon, and then Apollo 11, which is when they actually landed on the moon. I just happened to be in the right place at the right time. I have to say that I did not develop the math — that was developed by those wonderful women from "Hidden Figures" — but I did get the opportunity to program some of that math for the mission.

### HOW DID YOU MAKE THE TRANSITION FROM PROGRAMMING TO TEACHING?

When I first started at IBM, the first several months were me learning programming. I was in classes and trainings all the time, and I immediately thought, "Gosh, I would love to be one of these teachers." I was *learning* programming and simultaneously thinking what fun it would be to *teach* programming. IBM did have educational benefits when I was working for them, so I was able to get my master's degree in Computer Science from the University of Maryland, and then I taught there for seven years. After that, GW recruited me to come be an instructor there. I worked up the ranks, joined the administration, and ultimately retired as vice provost for faculty affairs, but I'm still teaching today at both GW and UNC.





## BREAKING BARRIERS FOR WOMEN IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

### WHAT WAS IT LIKE AS A WOMAN WORKING AS A PROGRAMMER IN THE 1960S?

On my first assignment with IBM, I believe I was the only woman in that environment on the Air Force project. On the Apollo project, I only remember one other young woman; it was otherwise all men. Interestingly, I had to watch the moon landing on television like everybody else. I was 8½ months pregnant at the time, and they wouldn't allow women — especially pregnant women — in Mission Control. I wanted to go back and work for IBM after having my first child, but they wouldn't allow women to work part time at that point. They lost a lot of good talent that way.

### WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT SYSTEM DID YOU HAVE NAVIGATING YOUR CAREER?

I met a dear friend, Shelly Heller, in my master's degree program. She had also worked for IBM in a different division and went through the same thing as me when she got pregnant and had a child. So, we did our master's degrees together, we raised our children together, and both of us delayed getting our doctoral degrees because we were raising children. We both ended up at GW in the School of Engineering as assistant professors, but we were like 10 years behind our colleagues in terms of the timing of our degrees. At that time, I think there were two other women, and we were there as these two women in Computer Science, 10 years older than where we "should" have been, with people younger than us outranking us. Something that's funny and kind of an indicator of the value of women in the field at that time: Shelly has dark hair; I was blonde. We couldn't have looked more different. But the men never paid enough attention to us to tell us apart. We were just always "Shelly and Dianne." We had to make our way together and we partnered together on a lot of research, grants, and community initiatives.



Above: Martin (left) and Shelly Heller (right) were featured in *The Washington Post* in 1982 upon the release of their first book, "Bits 'n' Bytes About Computing," a computer literacy primer for teachers. Opposite: Martin is thrilled to see the diversity and increasing number of young women in her Computer Science classrooms at UNC. (Photo by Natalia Weedy.)

### WHAT WORK HAVE YOU DONE TO HELP BREAK BARRIERS FOR WOMEN IN COMPUTER SCIENCE?

In the past, Shelly and I worked to put together cyber camps in the summer for girls and were really invested in bringing computers into the classroom and increasing access for girls. One of the first grants we had together was bringing young women of color to the threshold of science. I also spent two years in Dubai as the dean of a woman's college at Zayed University. My goal was to impart in those women a sense that they could be computer professionals. By the time I left, they had started a master's certificate in cybersecurity that many of my students were signing up for. They were going to be part of their nation's security infrastructure after they finished their studies.

### HOW IS COMPUTER SCIENCE DIFFERENT FOR WOMEN NOW THAN WHEN YOU STARTED OUT?

It's a much more diverse field than when I was sitting as one of the few women in the room. The key is recruiting woman faculty members; if you want to have woman students, they must see themselves in the faculty. It's about representation. I think girls and women are feeling like they can go into computing these days. That wasn't always the case.



### FOND MEMORIES ON THE HILL

I always think of my time at Western Maryland as the best four years of my life. I was not a party animal; I've always been a nerd! I loved learning and I had wonderful professors and deep conversations with other students, and formed great friendships. There's a group of about a dozen of us — we call ourselves "The Divas" — who get together on Zoom every couple of weeks.

And, of course, I met my husband, Dave Martin '62. He was a senior when I came in as a freshman. I mean, who knew the freshman math nerd was going to land the captain of the basketball team?!"





---

## COMPUTER SCIENCE THEN AND NOW

### WHAT IS YOUR AREA OF EXPERTISE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE?

I've been teaching computer ethics for 40 years now, and it's something I've become known for because very few people teach it. It's where my good ol' Western Maryland liberal arts education comes in because you just start out with a good philosophical background and ethical frameworks. We look at professional ethics, professional codes, privacy, intellectual property, free speech, bullying, cybercrime, and lately, artificial intelligence. Every Computer Science major must take this course if they're going to be a professional. They need ethics training so that they will make the right decisions when they are developing systems in the future.

### WHAT HAVE BEEN SOME MAJOR PARADIGM SHIFTS THAT YOU'VE SEEN OVER THE COURSE OF YOUR CAREER?

Well, when I was in undergrad, computers were barely on the horizon and were just starting to go commercial. I never could have predicted then where we would be now. But when we crossed over into the 21st century is when the explosion of the World Wide Web and the internet really happened. Connecting the whole world together — the good, the bad, and the ugly — was made possible because of the rapid increase in the capacity of computing both in terms of speed and memory capacity. Back when we were doing the Apollo projects, we had very limited memory and had to keep shuffling programs back in and out of memory. Now, there's essentially unlimited memory.

### WHAT ARE KEY ISSUES IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AND COMPUTER ETHICS TODAY?

The whole artificial intelligence issue is looming so big. Everybody who does any thinking about social implications is very concerned. We tend to get a little bit behind the eight ball when it comes to regulation here in the United States. Europe is already ahead of us in passing laws attempting to regulate AI and its uses, whereas we tend to let things go kind of wild and then try to rein it in. But with something like AI, reining it in after the fact is going to be very, very difficult. Then again, it's also possible that we figure out AI can't really be regulated.



*Martin says the reason she is still so passionate about teaching after nearly six decades is the excitement of opening students' minds to nuances about technology as it relates to ethics and policy — topics they don't think about as much in their more technical classes but will make them more effective and ethical professionals. (Photos by Natalia Weedy.)*

---

## MOVING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

### HOW DO YOU STILL HAVE SUCH A PASSION FOR TEACHING AFTER NEARLY SIX DECADES?

The courses I teach are so interesting. I've done a lot of work on the ethical implications and social consequences of computing. That goes back to my liberal arts undergraduate education, thinking from that wider perspective. I also teach Information Policy, and a lot of students come into it dreading it because they don't want to be in a class that is so philosophical and less hands-on. They want to be in their technical classes. But by the end, they think it's the best course they ever took. It's the excitement of opening students' minds to these very interesting and subtle nuances about technology that they would never think about in just being good programmers or systems or software engineers.

### HOW HAS YOUR BACKGROUND IN COMPUTER ETHICS FOUND ITS WAY INTO OTHER AREAS OF YOUR LIFE?

Because I have this strong sense of ethics and social impact, I have become very much involved in social justice issues in my community here in Chapel Hill. I'm working with Black activists in my community on some pretty intense social justice issues, particularly in the area of equity and education. That's kind of what my passion is now in addition to teaching. I am still teaching, and I ask myself every year, "OK, is this going to be the last year I'm going to teach?" And then every year, I sign up again and I do it. So, I have no idea if this is the last year I'm going to teach, because I continue to enjoy it, and the online courses are so easy for me to teach that it's almost a shame not to do it. But where I see myself with however many years I happen to have left is doing more of that social justice work in my community.

# PSI-1118: GENDER POLITICS

Taught by *Matthew Mongiello, assistant professor of Political Science*



Like a lightning bolt, a course on feminist theory galvanized Matthew Mongiello when he was an undergraduate. It's the reason he went to graduate school and is now an assistant professor of Political Science at McDaniel.

He knows well that a single class can change the course of a life.

It may happen with a subject that's eye-opening, or a professor who speaks with irresistible enthusiasm. You may even remember the class that transformed you.

But which classes are changing lives today? What are students learning and doing in them, and why does it matter?

Mongiello has noticed in his years of teaching that his students are especially engaged when discussing gender. That may be why the seats in his new course, Gender Politics, filled faster than anything else he's teaching this spring.

Get a crash course on Gender Politics and why it matters with this 60-second syllabus.

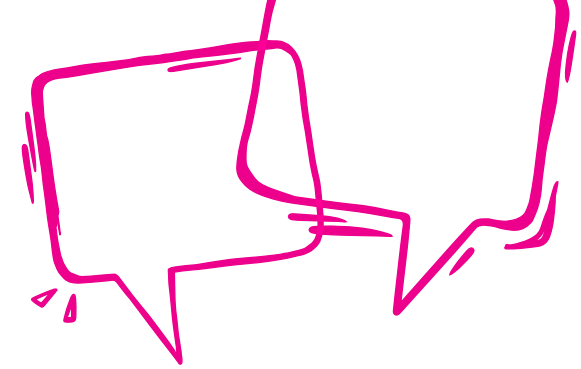
## Assigned Texts

"Of Boys and Men: Why the Modern Male Is Struggling, Why It Matters, and What to Do About It" by Richard Reeves

"The Right to Sex: Feminism in the Twenty-First Century" by Srinivasan Amia

"Barbie" directed by Greta Gerwig

## Debate, Debate, Debate



Mongiello, who also instructs and leads the Maryland Student Legislature delegation from McDaniel, has the students take on a time-honored tradition in politics: debate. They propose resolutions for hot-button topics, do rigorous research for empirical evidence, and then argue for or against — often learning the most when their assigned stance differs from their personal opinion.

"I love for them to disagree with each other and with me, but they need to back it up with facts," Mongiello says. By the end of the course, the students will be thoroughly prepared to speak productively about challenging subjects in any situation.

Proposed resolutions:

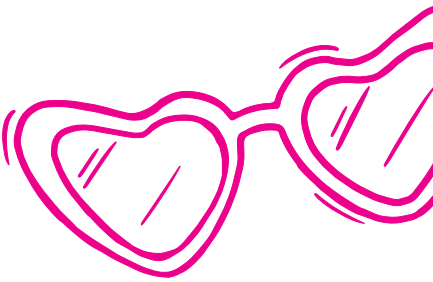
- Granting equal access to parental leave
- Should there be a national abortion law?
- Access to gender-affirming care and transgender access to traditionally single-sex spaces
- Whether the concept of a male/female gender binary benefits society and how

## Why Gender Politics Matter

Gender has been center stage in politics historically, and "taking an outsized role in national politics right now," Mongiello says. He notes that some of the most active and recurrent forms of state legislation are around transgender inclusion in institutions, gender-affirming care, sex, gender, and sexuality in schools and libraries.

"There's also a significant and growing partisan gap between men and women," he says, which is an important and growing divide to consider in electoral politics today.

## Final Project



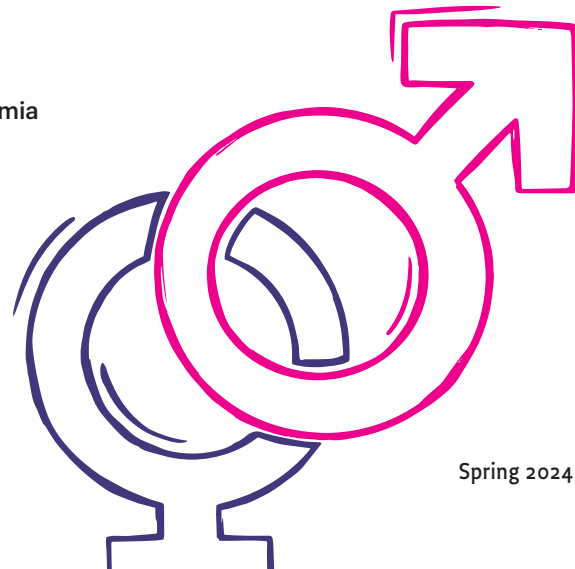
Pop culture presents a window into how gender is portrayed in a society. So, students will analyze "Barbie," a blockbuster film that became a cultural event and focused worldwide attention on issues of gender and feminism. Students will rely on the research and rhetorical skills they've learned in the course, plus readings and discussions of "Barbie," to complete their final paper.

## Lasting Impact

Mongiello hopes that every student leaves the course understanding that difficult and controversial political issues are that way because they're complex and nuanced.

"If it were easy to solve social problems with public policy, we would've done it already. It's not impossible, but they should be aware of the difficulty in designing, passing, and implementing public policies," he says.

One last thing he hopes to share is the idea that the diverse forms feminism can take is "a good thing, a relevant thing" that is always worth discussing.





# REPRESENTATION MATTERS

HOW JASMIN CHAVEZ CRUZ '19 IS HELPING IMMIGRANTS LIKE HER SEE THEMSELVES IN PLACES OF POWER

BY LINDSAY SHERMAN



“

IN HIGH SCHOOL, I REMEMBER HAVING A COUNSELOR WHO ALWAYS TOLD ME THAT I WASN'T GOING TO GO TO COLLEGE. I ALWAYS HAD PEOPLE WHO SAID 'NO.' OUR GENERATION NEEDS TO HEAR MORE 'YES.' THEY NEED TO HEAR AND BELIEVE THAT IT'S POSSIBLE. THEY NEED TO HEAR THAT THE SKY IS THE LIMIT. THEY NEED TO SEE PEOPLE WHO LOOK LIKE THEM IN ROLES LIKE MINE, IN ROOMS I AM HONORED TO BE IN, SO THAT THEY KNOW IT'S POSSIBLE FOR THEM, TOO.”

WHEN HER FAMILY IMMIGRATED TO THE UNITED STATES, JASMIN CHAVEZ CRUZ '19 WAS JUST 3 YEARS OLD. BORN IN EL SALVADOR, SHE AND HER FAMILY HAD A LONG ROAD AHEAD OF THEM. “I BECAME A PERMANENT RESIDENT WHEN I WAS 7 OR SO, AND THEN A U.S. CITIZEN THROUGH MY DAD,” SHE SAYS.

Since then, she has made every effort to leverage the power that comes with that designation and, once of legal age, her right to vote — and to help others find and live into their power, too. “I didn't have that privilege to vote right away, so I don't take it for granted today,” says Chavez Cruz, who is now a confidential assistant for the White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics (“The White House Hispanic Initiative”) and the Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, appointed by the Biden-Harris administration.

“In high school, I remember having a counselor who always told me that I wasn't going to go to college,” Chavez Cruz says. “I always had people who said ‘no.’ Our generation needs to hear more ‘yes.’ They need to hear and believe that it's possible. They need to hear that the sky is the limit. They need to see people who look like them in roles like mine, in rooms I am honored to be in, so that they know it's possible for them, too.”

Since joining the administration in September 2022, Chavez Cruz has been working to open doors for other young people with backgrounds like her own, with a special emphasis on fellow Latinas — including several from McDaniel College.

*Below: Jasmin Chavez Cruz '19 was honored and humbled to be in the same room as Vice President Kamala Harris during an event hosted in May 2023 by the White House Hispanic Initiative.*



## AN EARLY INTEREST IN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Though she's only been out of college for five years, Chavez Cruz began forging her path in civic engagement and public service before she even set foot on the Hill — the one in Westminster or the one in Washington, D.C.

Her passion for lobbying began more than a decade ago: "I was in high school in 2014, and I was advocating for positive policies that impact the immigrant community in Virginia," she says. "I realized that as a young person, it was vital for me to use my voice and share our stories with our elected officials. I was surprised that they took the time to listen to our stories. They appreciated knowing about different issues that impact our community directly."

Once she enrolled at McDaniel, she found new ways to get involved in the community, including leading a new League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) collegiate council on campus, holding voter registration drives, hosting election debate watch parties, and more. In 2018, while still a student, Chavez Cruz was named Woman of the Year by LULAC.

She never could have predicted it at the time, but Chavez Cruz is continuing to work on projects and initiatives that she's passionate about — and getting paid for it. "Sometimes, I have to pinch myself because I'm still just in disbelief that this is happening, that I get to be in these important spaces, meet incredible public servants, and collaborate with stakeholders who are on the ground doing the work that I have been doing since I was in high school," she says.

It wasn't a perfectly linear path to get there, but Chavez Cruz has always found a way to her next great opportunity with a clear vision of her passion and her goals.

## CHASING DREAMS, CHANGING DREAMS

After graduating in 2019, Chavez Cruz spent about a year and a half at a law firm as an immigration paralegal. Like many other people, the onset of the pandemic in 2020 made Chavez Cruz think about her priorities. She ended up leaving her job as a paralegal and going to work for AARP as a legal administrative associate.

"AARP introduced me to a new space — a space focused on advocating for the elderly," she says. "In my portfolio specifically, I connected Latino seniors to resources at the height of the pandemic and worked with the outreach committee to collaborate on ways we could reach out to even more seniors. I had the best colleagues and best Latina boss I've had so far in my career."

After a year and a half there, Chavez Cruz realized she wanted to move away from the legal side and toward public policy work instead. She ended up at what was always a dream employer for her: Dewey Square Group, which helps "businesses, nonprofits, campaigns, and causes achieve their public affairs goals — whether they be favorable legislative or policy outcomes, successful advocacy efforts, community-based consumer marketing, or high-profile awareness campaigns."

As a technology and telecommunications policy associate, Chavez Cruz managed the multicultural portfolio for the firm's technology clients, some of which were Fortune 500 companies.

"Honestly, it was my dream job," Chavez Cruz says, which made leaving after only six months a little bittersweet. But when she was attending the LULAC convention in Puerto Rico in 2022, she ran into Melody Gonzales, a Latina leader she had worked with during the Biden campaign in 2020. She had an offer she simply couldn't turn down.

"Melody had just been appointed executive director of the White House Hispanic Initiative and she approached me to ask if I'd be interested in working under her leadership," Chavez Cruz says. "I had always wanted to work for that office, especially after interning there in college during my freshman year. I decided to go for it and was onboarded within a month. I started during Hispanic Heritage Month in September 2022."

No day is ever the same for Chavez Cruz, but that means she's never bored. In her role, she works to organize President's Advisory Commission for Hispanics meetings; assists with planning and executing national events; manages the communications strategy; develops talking points for speaker memos and slide decks; serves as the speaker liaison for national events; conducts research; and

leads scheduling for two directors. Additionally, she staffs her directors, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona when needed, and briefings hosted by the White House's Office of Public Engagement.

Her role also means she staffs the Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, work that has become increasingly important since the conflict in Palestine intensified. "Staffing two such important offices is a balancing act, but it's important work," she says. "That's what keeps me going."

While she had served as Virginia state director for LULAC starting in 2020, Chavez Cruz found herself having to step down from that position this past fall as the crisis in the Middle East ramped up and her professional priorities needed to shift.

"At the center, we work to combat antisemitism and islamophobia in K-12 and higher education, so we're really taking the lead on that issue right now," Chavez Cruz says. "My partner, Eli Jaffe '19, is Jewish, and I know that someday when we have our Jewish-Latino kids, I'm going to be telling them about the work I did in this office during this critical time."

## HISTORY IN THE MAKING

"The White House Hispanic Initiative is a very public-facing office, and we really focus on our public engagement strategy," Chavez Cruz says. "Along with our directors going into the community, I also get to go into the community and speak."

So far in her role, she's served as a keynote speaker for graduations, the Virginia Latino Higher Education Network, the College Advising Corps, the Hispanic Leadership Alliance, and the Virginia College Access Network, among others. Chavez Cruz is such a compelling speaker that her bosses often joke with her about one of her speaking engagements a few months into her role. "It was for the Virginia Latino Higher Education Network, and they always say, 'We came and we staffed Jasmin, the daughter of Virginia. She had a whole line of students who wanted to talk to her and take pictures with her after her address,'" Chavez Cruz says.

"My boss loves sending me out into the field because she says that there's no one else that really connects with the students more than a young person, someone who has the same background and has been in their shoes fairly recently," she says.

After all, Chavez Cruz knows what it is like to have to assist your parents in a variety of ways when you grow up in an immigrant household.

"I know that if I use my voice, I'm not just representing myself but I'm representing a whole community of people and immigrants whose voices are typically not heard," Chavez Cruz says. "I don't want to see my community suffer anymore. I don't want to see any more pain."

Having been told "no" so often while growing up about what opportunities were available to her, Chavez Cruz knows that she wants to serve as a mentor to other young Latinas to show them that they can be a part of history, too.

The White House's Office of Public Engagement hosted a first-generation student event. They brought in "First Gen" author Alejandra Campoverdi as well as a panel of first-gen speakers.

“ I KNOW THAT IF I USE MY VOICE, I'M NOT JUST REPRESENTING MYSELF BUT I'M REPRESENTING A WHOLE COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE AND IMMIGRANTS WHOSE VOICES ARE TYPICALLY NOT HEARD.”

Below: In 2018, Chavez Cruz was named LULAC's National Woman of the Year and accepted the organization's Community Service Project of the Year Award for McDaniel's first LULAC student organization.



## McDANIEL COLLEGE'S 2023 YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD WINNER

In 2023, Chavez Cruz was named the recipient of the McDaniel College Alumni Association's Young Alumni Award, an honor she calls "a full-circle moment."

"The awards dinner was one of the best days of my life because it was a night that recognized me for doing what I do best, what I love to do, and for doing it in service of my community," says Chavez Cruz, a member of the Alumni Association's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee.

"I'm so grateful that I had such a good network at McDaniel that was so supportive from the beginning," Chavez Cruz says. "If I didn't have that network, I don't know where I would be today. I attribute a lot of my leadership and professional development and success to faculty and staff members who have supported me since day one and never stopped believing in me."



“

I WAS NEVER INVITED TO A WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING AS A STUDENT. MORE STUDENTS SHOULD HAVE THESE OPPORTUNITIES. I WOULD'VE PUT ALL THE FIRST-GEN STUDENTS FROM MCDANIEL IN THAT ROOM IF I COULD HAVE. IF STUDENTS CAN ENVISION THEMSELVES IN CERTAIN SPACES, THEY START TO BELIEVE THEY CAN GET THERE, TOO.”

# THE ULTIMATE GOAL?

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ RUNNING FOR PUBLIC OFFICE SOMEDAY.

Several White House Initiatives were represented on the panel, including the Hispanic Initiative, the Black Americans Initiative, the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Initiative, and the Asian American, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders Initiative.

Bringing in current college students was an opportunity to provide empowerment and share more about what the administration is doing to support students. When Chavez Cruz was asked to help identify five students from Maryland to attend the November event, she knew immediately that she wanted the names on that list to be McDaniel students.

For about a year prior, she had been serving as a mentor to Alondra Labastida Campos, a junior Political Science and Spanish major at McDaniel — the same course of study Chavez Cruz completed on the Hill.

“Being a first-generation student, it is very difficult to find spaces in which I feel welcomed and included, as well as finding a good fit for a mentor that will also be able to connect with me on a deeper level,” Labastida Campos says. “Jasmin has stepped up as a mentor not only for me but also the growing Latinx community on our campus by making sure to open doors to experiences that will benefit us in the long run. The Hispano-Latinx community is grateful to be guided by such an amazing and trailblazing mentor like her.”

Labastida Campos helped Chavez Cruz identify others to invite to the event and the McDaniel contingent showed up strong, represented by senior Estefania Garcia-Torres, junior Cindy Gabriela Rivera, and senior Anna Elizabeth Durda.

“The students left really inspired. I never had that experience. I was never invited to a White House briefing as a student,” Chavez Cruz says. “More students should have these opportunities. I

would've put all the first-gen students from McDaniel in that room if I could have. If students can envision themselves in certain spaces, they start to believe they can get there, too.”

## LOOKING AHEAD TO A BRIGHT FUTURE — WHEREVER IT MAY BE

While she can't predict where she will be after this year's presidential election, Chavez Cruz knows one thing: “I am eternally grateful to have been part of this administration that has been so diverse and so focused on equity, and with the faith-based work, I'm always going to remember the role I played in supporting our students in K-12 and higher ed institutions. A lot of history has been made in the time that I've been here.”

Whether it's due to an administration change in January or in another four years, Chavez Cruz is pretty sure her next move is getting her master's degree in public policy. “Even though I'm not a fan of economics, we're going to make it happen. We're going to do it.”

The ultimate goal? Running for public office someday.

Time will tell if Chavez Cruz ends up in public office or even back in the White House down the line, but she has one very supportive fellow Green Terror by her side to cheer her on along the way: “My boyfriend, Eli, always says to me, ‘If you ever want to remember how powerful you are, just look at yourself in that red suit next to Vice President Kamala Harris.’”

“I'm really happy because I just feel like my life has purpose every day,” she says. “I'm doing exactly what I've always wanted to do.”

“

I'M REALLY HAPPY BECAUSE I JUST FEEL LIKE MY LIFE HAS PURPOSE EVERY DAY. I'M DOING EXACTLY WHAT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO DO.”



Top: Current McDaniel students Alondra Labastida Campos, Estefania Garcia Torres, Cindy Gabriela Rivera, and Anna Elizabeth Durda joined Jasmin Chavez Cruz at a White House briefing in November 2023.

Bottom: Chavez Cruz's partner, Eli Jaffe '19, is her biggest supporter, helping her remember the power she has as an advocate for the Latino community.

## REIMAGINED McDANIEL WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP NETWORK SETS ITS SIGHTS ON THE NEXT GENERATION

How the network meets at the intersection of philanthropy, mentorship, career, and community

BY LINDSAY SHERMAN

**In the early 2000s, under the leadership of McDaniel's first woman president, Joan Develin Coley, the college launched the McDaniel Women's Leadership Network (MWLN). Founding members were motivated by the fact that when they were starting out in their careers, they had very little mentorship by women and they wanted to fill that gap for future generations.**

The most significant initiative of those early days of MWLN was the McDaniel Women's Leadership Network Endowed Scholarship, which now awards more than \$16,000 annually to a current student.

When she was named the 10th president of the college, President Julia Jasken knew she wanted to carry on what was started under President Coley's leadership by reimagining and reinvigorating the McDaniel Women's Leadership Network.

In February 2023, President Jasken convened the inaugural advisory council, the 15-woman leadership body of the MWLN that meets regularly to guide the direction of the network, including annual events and activities. Barbara Payne Shelton '70 and Barbara Thomas '70 became involved as former supporters who wanted to continue the program's legacy, and Lisa Turner '85 and Faith Walker '97 joined as new members of the council and the network.

"The intention was always to be a network created by women for women," Jasken says. "We are thankful to have Barb Shelton

and Barb Thomas still involved, and excited about the future under a new generation of McDaniel women leaders.

"We are eager to provide personal and professional development for both alumni and current students as well as building a pipeline of new women donors and trustees."

Associate Vice President of Development Carolyn Hojnowski has noticed that women are making more financial decisions, especially when it comes to philanthropy. "Over the past 20 years or so, a lot of the wealth is resting in the hands of women," Hojnowski says. "Nonprofits have been looking at ways to better engage them. One thing about women as philanthropists is that they want to be engaged, they want to become emotionally invested, and they want to see the impact of their giving."

That is exactly what has made MWLN the perfect opportunity to get more alums, community members, and students reconnected with the college. Women are craving the kind of relationships this network can bring to their lives because across generations, women continue to face many of the same issues.

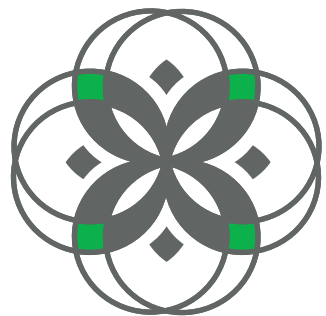


“

The intention was always to be a network created by women for women.

*In February 2023, President Jasken convened the inaugural McDaniel Women's Leadership Network Advisory Council. The leadership body guides the direction of the network, including annual events and programming.*





## McDaniel Women's Leadership Network mission:

To cultivate an exclusive group of leaders who have a desire to support young women at McDaniel while enriching their own personal and professional network.

### SHARED STRUGGLES LEAD TO SHARED PASSIONS TO PAY IT FORWARD

In the first year of the reimagined MWLN, Turner and Walker see the value of this type of community — and echo the sentiments founding members shared that spurred the creation of the network almost two decades ago.

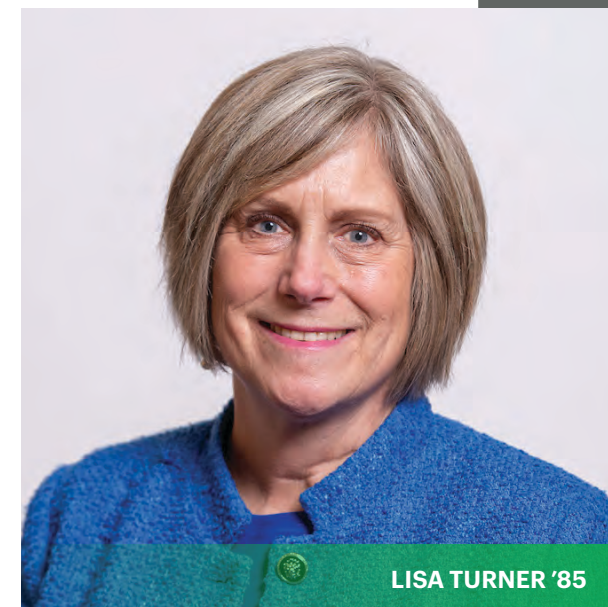
Acknowledging the double standards women have faced in the workforce over their careers — where “involved, interested dads” are praised for leaving work early to take a child somewhere versus women who are perceived as “shirking their responsibilities” by doing the same — Turner and Walker see opportunities to create a better working world for the next generation.

“In 2018, my career as a recruiter with an agency was fulfilling, but it slowly started taking its toll on me,” Walker says. “I was on the road all the time, and I had kids. I felt guilty when I wasn’t at work, and I felt guilty when I wasn’t at home. That’s when I decided to leave to reset myself and see what really aligned with my goals and life. During that time, I had the opportunity to work with a small startup to grow their teams and learned that I could work in this niche market without the competition and pressures of the agency world.”

Walker eventually joined forces with Meredith Bowen ’98 — another inaugural MWLN advisory council member — and opened Walker Bowen Talent Partners. The male-dominated staffing industry was geared toward a 24/7 on-call mentality, and made work-life balance near impossible for Walker and Bowen, so they sought an opportunity to reframe the industry.

Turner recalls feeling the same way when she was raising her kids, especially as a woman in male-dominated industries, first as a criminal prosecutor and then moving into the National Security Agency, where she currently serves as the deputy chief of security and counterintelligence.

“Throughout my career, I’ve noticed women are more easily able to acknowledge the stress of feeling guilty if you’re at work missing out on time with your kids and feeling guilty if you’re at home not giving your full attention to your job,” Turner says. “It’s always been a challenge, but I hope it’s getting better as time goes on.”



LISA TURNER '85



FAITH WALKER '97

## DIVERSITY BENEATH THE SURFACE

In a group created by and for women, diversity takes a new meaning that goes far beneath the surface. The members of the advisory council of the McDaniel Women's Leadership Network were insistent that diversity of perspective and experience was important in forming this group to benefit as many women as possible.

“In an organization like this, we want diversity in terms of career paths, age, and experience in addition to the more traditional indicators of diversity,” says Turner. “For example, I think I’m the only one on the advisory council who has been a government employee my entire career, which helps me bring a unique perspective to the table. People like me who’ve been in the workforce for a long time have something different to offer than someone who is still amid the rat race or still climbing in their career. And it’s all valuable insight.”

Walker, who grew up in Howard County, Maryland, is excited about the different kinds of diversity the network provides. “I’m biracial and grew up in a very culturally rich area, but diversity goes beyond nationality and race these days,” she says. “At our event in November, I was sitting at this table with a bunch of other Enneagram Ones, but we were all so different: there was one current student, a couple who had graduated in the 2000s, one my age, and a couple my mom’s age. That diversity of life experience helps us all have better conversations, and really left me feeling charged up after the event.”

## INVESTING IN WOMEN

MWLN members and the advisory council support the college at the Founders Society level with annual gifts of \$1,867 or more. The group primarily focuses on its two funds:

The annual and endowed scholarship is awarded to an entering first-year female student who has exhibited leadership potential through academic, athletic, and/or community service. It can be awarded to the same person for a total of four years.

The newly established MWLN Experiential and Emergency Use Fund, which was established with a gift from Campus Works CEO Liz Murphy, provides grants to current McDaniel students whose financial circumstances may prevent them from pursuing undergraduate research, internships, study abroad, or licensure or certification in their chosen field. The fund may also be used for emergency needs, including textbooks, laptops, housing, student accessibility support services, and health and wellness support.



## AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE THE NEXT GENERATION

Now in phases of their lives when their kids are less dependent on them, Turner and Walker each found themselves with a bit of time that they could devote to a new cause.

“Since my kids are now grown, I have more time to mentor people, so when this opportunity came up, it very much interested me,” Turner says. “The path to success depends on how connected you are to your environment. The college has always set up an environment where meaningful connections can be established, and the McDaniel Women’s Leadership Network is one more place women can turn for guidance.”

An extra perk for Walker? The members of the advisory council had the opportunity to truly build the network into what they wanted it to be.

“What I liked about this idea was that, yes, there was a mission and a vision in place already, but there was an opportunity to refine it and work out the details of how we achieve that mission and vision,” Walker says. “I was attracted to being part of building it into what we all wanted it to be, which includes those pillars of philanthropy, mentorship, career, and community.”

In addition to offering financial support, the advisory council is working on programming and ways to engage students on the Hill. Hearing about successful alumni is one thing; bringing those alumni straight to students on campus to engage with them and learn from them in person unlocks a new level of commitment. Many alumni recall that they had no idea their current career was even an option based on what they studied at school. The connections MWLN will facilitate between alumni and current students aim to break down those barriers for the next generation of leaders.

“I think back to when I was a student on the Hill, and I didn’t know what I didn’t know. A lot of women in college don’t get the support they need when they’re first starting out,” Walker says. “If I’d had something like the McDaniel Women’s Leadership Network in the 1990s, would things have been different? I don’t know, but I hope that we can make a difference for the current students, and that they’ll then be inspired to invest right back into the college in the future the way the advisory council members have been compelled to.”

## A LEGACY OF EMPOWERING WOMEN

In 2023, McDaniel College was chosen as a recipient of the inaugural Empowering Women Award by The Daily Record and was honored at The Daily Record’s Women’s Leadership Summit in October, where President Julia Jasken spoke as part of a panel discussion and several members of the McDaniel Women’s Leadership Network were in attendance.

“The 2023 Empowering Women honorees demonstrate a consistent commitment to recruiting, hiring, and promoting women in their organizations. They also know the benefit of mentoring programs for women and understand the value of women in leadership positions,” said Suzanne Fischer-Huettner, managing director of BridgeTower Media/The Daily Record.



To learn more about the McDaniel Women’s Leadership Network, go to [mcdaniel.edu/mwln](https://mcdaniel.edu/mwln) or contact Carolyn Hojnowski at [carolyn.hojnowski@mcdaniel.edu](mailto:carolyn.hojnowski@mcdaniel.edu).

# GIFT HIGHLIGHTS

The success of many of the initiatives outlined in McDaniel College's strategic plan are dependent upon the generosity of our donors.

Thank you to the following donors for their recent gifts to the college. Together with your support, we can help our students Reach New Heights. To make your gift today, go to [mcdaniel.edu/alumni/giving](https://mcdaniel.edu/alumni/giving).

## \$2 MILLION

President Emeritus Roger N. Casey and Robyn C. Allers bequest to support The Dr. Roger Casey and Robyn Allers Strategic Initiative Fund.

## \$100,000

from Donald Makosky '52 and Vivian Makosky to support capital unrestricted.

## \$68,572

from Randolph Blazer '72 to support renovations in Lewis Recitation Hall.

## \$50,000

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

## \$40,000

Barbara Payne Shelton '70 and Gordon Shelton '68 to support The Gordon B. Shelton '68 Award for Excellence in the Life Sciences, The McDaniel College Women's Leadership Network Endowed Scholarship Fund, The Shelton Adjunct Faculty Recognition Endowed Fund, and The Fund for McDaniel.

## \$25,000

from Jason '00 and Erin '00 Valentine to support The R. H. and M. K. Smith Science Research Fund.

## \$25,000

from Norman Armstrong Jr., parent of the late Norman "Trey" Armstrong III '23, to establish The Norman Alva "Trey" Armstrong III Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund.

## \$25,000

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

## \$25,000

Norman G. Snyder '72 and Linda Snyder to support the Norman Snyder '72 and Linda Snyder Endowed fund to honor College Historian Dr. Jim Lightner '59.

## \$25,000

David Stout '76 and Martine Lamoureux to support The Fund for McDaniel and the President's Designation.

Join us  
FOR

ALUMNI WEEKEND

2024

SAVE THE DATE!  
MAY 31 - JUNE 2, 2024

We can't wait to welcome you back to the Hill for our 2nd Annual Alumni Weekend!

For more details, including a full schedule of events, information on lodging options, and registration, go to [mcdaniel.edu/AlumniWeekend2024](https://mcdaniel.edu/AlumniWeekend2024).

# alumni updates

Association news & class notes



## 1943

**Winifred Wareheim Conner** enjoys working sudoku and jigsaw puzzles. She watches home decorating and building TV programs. There's quite a contrast from what they learned in home economics classes in the 1940s!

**Virginia Phillips** and **Sara Belle Veale Walker** send best wishes to all. Sara lives in a retirement facility, and Virginia lives in her own apartment. Neither are physically very active, but they still talk to each other to report on their lives at age 100. They continue to read and keep up with daily and college news.

## 1944

**Alberta Cross Decker** turned 100 on July 17, 2023. Eighty people attended her birthday party, including 50 family members from Maryland, California, Texas, Louisiana, Washington, and Japan! Alberta lived in McDaniel Hall from September 1940 until September 1941, when she transferred to the University of Maryland (UMD). One of her fondest memories on the Hill is the kicking post at the bottom of the hill. Everyone walked down the hill after dinner, kicked the post, and walked back up the hill. She graduated from UMD with a degree in Home Economics on March 25, 1944. Along the way, she met an engineering student named Joseph M. Decker and fell in love. They were married on May 5, 1944. He finished his degree after returning from WWII as an Air Force officer. Alberta was working in downtown Washington, D.C., and when leaving a theater the night the war ended she observed the celebratory chaos we see in the movies! Alberta and Joe traveled extensively, worked together, played together, prayed together, and raised four kids who are still best friends. Joe left her July 7, 2017, just short of his 97th birthday. Alberta is still going strong and lives in the family home they bought in 1953. She attends her church, exercises daily, eats good food, and watches UMD football, Phoenix Suns basketball, Arizona Cardinals football, and Arizona Diamondbacks baseball.

## 1945

**Rev. Carroll A. Doggett** writes that after seminary, he served 43 years as a United Methodist Pastor. He married **Nan Austin Doggett '47** on May 30, 1945. They were married for 71 years and had three children.

**“Out of Darkness: A Celebration of Light” combined beloved college traditions with new experiences. The evening was filled with light, education, food, and the sharing of cultural traditions, including a recorded history of the college from Jim Lightner '59, which guests heard while taking a ride on our own Western Maryland Railway.**

**To hear Lightner's history, scan the QR code below.**



*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.*

**Helen Lavin Bell '49** is still in the art business, still in galleries, playing bridge, and doing lots of yard work.

Nan died at the age of 95. Rev. Doggett lives at Homewood assisted living in Frederick, Maryland. He is 100 years young.

## 1948

**Don Brohawn**, 95, sends greetings to classmates and friends. He still plays the organ at his country church and paints watercolor daily. He has a new heart valve and pacemaker. He enjoys watching the Nanticoke River. Don resides in Tyaskin, Maryland.

**Mary Ruth O'Kelly Elseroad** sends greetings to all her friends from her home in Parkton, Maryland. She is blessed to be able to enjoy going to water aerobics at least once a week. She enjoyed celebrating her 97th birthday with family and friends in September, including five great-grandchildren — three boys and two girls.

## 1949

**Helen Lavin Bell** is very proud of the street named after her. She is still in the art business, still in galleries, playing bridge, and doing lots of yard work. She's so grateful that she can do it all. Her children are very helpful and solicitous.

**Gladys Turner Bodnar** recently celebrated her 96th birthday. She resides in an assisted living facility in Bettendorf, Iowa, near her eldest son's home. She has two married sons, five grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. She enjoys crossword puzzles, reading, and visiting with family.

**Donald Egner** remains active at his church, Orem United Methodist Church of Middle River, Maryland, which recently celebrated its 350th anniversary. In addition, he has been active in the Rotary Club of Middle River for over 60 years. He is still blessed with a great family — three children and their mates, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. He is hoping his classmates are blessed as well.

## 1954

**John Haslip** sends greetings from Needham, Massachusetts. He's in his 90s and is looking for a continuing care retirement community in the Boston area, but availability is tight.

## 1955

**Albert Barnes** is still residing in Naples, Florida, and looking down on the grass. There's not much else to report, and he would love to see or hear from old friends from WMC.

**Marilyn Goldring Rigterink**, shares that her husband of almost 69 years, Walt Rigterink, died suddenly in January 2023. She met him on a blind date at the Naval Academy during spring break in 1953. He would sometimes visit her at WMC and stay with **Ed Smith**, **Barry Winkelman**, and **Gus LaMar** in their "spacious guest suite" on the top floor of Old Main Hall. Lots of good memories. She's still in Oregon trying to figure out what's next.

**Jeannette "Jan" Spatz James** has lived in Arizona for 11 years and she loves it. She has three children, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Her 15-year-old granddaughter lives there and is a cheerleader. So, she spends a lot of time going to her activities. She celebrated her 90th birthday in March 2023. She's involved in several study groups at church. Jan has a son and a daughter who live in California, so she spends a good bit of time there. She is still driving to stay busy.

## 1956

**John Batista** has lived in Ohio for more than 50 years, so he considers himself a "Buckeye." His wife, **Suzanne Dorsey Batista '55**, passed away in 2021. Since then, he's been living in a senior living community close to his children in Columbus, Ohio. He's still driving, and he gets a chance to go to Starbucks for coffee a couple of times a week. He texts some of his classmates and occasionally calls them. Each year, they have a family reunion at Bethany Beach, Delaware. While there, he goes to lunch with **Betsy Bowen Rogan '55**, Suzanne's roommate, who lives in Berlin, Maryland. He also stays in touch with **Priscilla McCoy LaMar '56** and **Patty Hamersly Church '55**. He still does pen and ink drawings and enjoys Zooming with friends around the country.

**Robert Green Jr.**, and **Marilyn "Lyn" Hazelip Green '59** continue to reside in a retirement community in Williamsburg, Virginia. The past four years have passed quickly, largely attributable to friendly neighbors, efficient staff, myriad activities, no major ailments, and being close to family members in Richmond, Virginia. Notwithstanding their advanced ages and being averse to driving long distances, Robert and Lyn are looking forward to family get-togethers. He's been assured that at the age of 89, he will not be asked to drive.

## 1957

**Virginia "Ginnie" Tull Phipps** and **Charlie Phipps '55** send greetings to all of their WMC classmates and friends. They are alive and well and aging gracefully in Baltimore.

## 1960

**Bev Hill, M.Ed. '68** shares that she is proud to be part of the Class of 1960. Some of her classmates may find it interesting to learn that she changed careers along the way and pursued a career as a military PA. She had the opportunity to live and work on many Indian reservations, including the Apache and the Sioux reservations, as well as U.S. military posts. It was a life-changing opportunity that she dearly loved and valued. It involved working at the U.S. Naval Academy and at Fort Bragg, home of the 82nd Airborne. Serving U.S. troops was interesting and fulfilling on many levels. She had a wonderful career that she loved and retired as a ranking officer, which she is proud of. Bev fondly recalls the friendships she made at WMC. The friendships were very special and a valued part of her college experience. They are also a part of the history of the school never to be forgotten.

## 1964

**Donald Hinrichs** writes that he and his husband continue to live happily and well in Montreal. He has lived in Montreal since 2004 when he retired from teaching at Gettysburg College. Several years ago, they moved from a house on the east end of the city to a downtown apartment where the car can have a home off the street and out of the snow and Donald has access to an elevator. When he goes outside in the city, he uses a mobility scooter. It is only a 20-minute ride to the arts/theatre center, the major city park, two hospitals, the old city area, and the St. Lawrence River. Five minutes gets him to Gay Village and a host of stores. What more could he ask for? His children, their spouses, and grandchildren live in Morristown, New Jersey, and Ogden, Utah. They are all thriving, and they see each other as much as possible.

**Rita Anne Jones** is doing the same things, only slower, it seems. She went on a road trip to Baltimore this summer and saw her sisters and family, and collected 10 more states in an attempt to Volksmarch in all 50 states a second time. She may not reach her goal, but it keeps her going. She tries to do a Volksmarch or two every week, which gets her out of the house and moving. She still goes to Knit & Chat at church

## [Class Noted]

# Coach Ron Jones returns to the Hill

At Homecoming 2023, Coach Ron Jones '55 returned to the Hill to reunite with several of his former players. Pictured below, left to right: Mark Gole '74, Bob Kehler '76, Coach Jones '55, Bill Thomas '74, Bob Watson '73, and Tom Brown '72.



and would be working in the church library, but a pipe broke there last spring and it hasn't reopened yet.

**Doris Miller Nickoles** and **Ken Nickoles '60** will be married 59 years in 2024. They have both spent most of their lives in the education field. Doris spent 30 years teaching eighth graders and subbed for 15 years. Ken worked for the Washington, D.C., school system, ending as the director of labor relations. They stay active with their church, the retired federal employees' group NARFE (Montgomery County), Boumi Temple activities, and Daughters of the American Revolution meetings. Doris enjoys reading, doing genealogy research, watching sports, and playing with the granddaughters. Ken has had five

# alumni updates

**Don Linzey '61** continues to be on the faculty of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia.

left hip replacements, so his outside activities are very limited now. They have lived there since 1975, and their two children and two granddaughters live nearby. They are involved in the Association of School Business Officials International, which includes people in the education field who are not teachers or principals but business managers, bus drivers, architects, etc. They attended the October meeting at Gaylord Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland. Ken is a past president of the association and of the Maryland group. Representatives from England, South Africa, Chile, and many other countries were among the 800 attendees at the convention.

**Sandy Riggan** retired in 2010 and has been finding new meaning in her senior years. In 2011, she and her partner, Helen, were married in Raquette Lake, New York, three months after New York declared gay marriage legal. They had lived together in Hayes, Virginia, since 1994. Helen worked at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science as a health educator for the Virginia Department of Health for 15 years, making good use of her past work as a schoolteacher and a nonprofit community organizer for the American Heart Association. Sandy cherishes her sister Bobbie, who lives in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, with her husband, Tom. Her two dear nephews live in Dundalk, Maryland, and Clarksville, Maryland, with their wives, and have two daughters each. For fun, she is now a “wannabe” landscaper/gardener, after their wonderful days of sailing on the Chesapeake came to an end. For many years, the “Forever Wild” Adirondack State Park had been their summer/fall vacation “go-to” place. They have always rented a house on Raquette Lake. Canoeing, kayaking, sunfish sailing, and fishing have been an enjoyable mainstay. At age 81, Sandy is spending more time than she wishes with eye drops, heart pills, hearing aids, and Tylenol. She is most grateful for an initiative called the Great Society back in 1965, which included Medicare and Medicaid. She still watches “Jeopardy!”, and she is happy to say that her favorite Beatle, Paul McCartney, is a living testimony for her generation.

**Diane Simpson Krell** writes that life is good next to Solomons Island on the Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River in Southern Maryland. Her recent wildlife sightings include a pelican and seagulls by the boardwalk on the island and a heron caught in the act of catching and eating a fish. She keeps in touch with **Kay Wilson Groninger '65** and **Bob Kruhm**. She enjoyed her 63rd high school reunion in 2023 and looks forward to the WMC 60th Reunion this year!

**Trudy Jo Hahn Snader** was married to Richard Snader, who died at an early age. Trudy has two sons, Philip and Joey, and four grandchildren. She lives in New Windsor,

Maryland, and has been in a wheelchair for several years. She previously lived on a farm in her husband's family home. She resided on West Green Street in Westminster, Maryland, when she attended Western Maryland. She still loves her alma mater.

**Joe Wenderoth** and Cassie are doing fine in Baldwin, Maryland, and travel when they can.

**Carol Wilkinson Coffeen** of Parkton, Maryland, writes that her last trip overseas was to Iceland. They were able to get through COVID-19 well with family close by, but 2022 was a bad year: she had two operations and lost her husband of 57 years, Tom. She misses him very much, but fortunately has two daughters' families within a mile of her who have been extremely helpful and kind. In 2023, she attended four grandchildren's graduations. Fortunately, the triplets graduated on three different days.

Rhonda J. Myers '88

Honor Class Reporter

3925 Sybil Road

Randallstown, MD 21133

rhondaj\_myers@hotmail.com

## 1961

**Don Linzey** and his wife, Nita, spent two weeks on Sanibel Island, Florida, just five months before the entire western coast of Florida was ravaged by Hurricane Ian. They also attended the Mechanical Bank Collectors Association convention in Philadelphia, where they visited Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, and other historic sites. Don's collection of old iron mechanical banks continues to grow. He would be happy to talk with any alum who might be interested in becoming a collector. They are planning a Puget Sound cruise during the Tulip Festival in April 2024. Don continues to be on the faculty of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia. Although semi-retired, he is actively engaged in research on least weasels, cougars, and coyotes. His textbook “Vertebrate Biology, 2nd Edition,” which was published in 2020 by Johns Hopkins University Press, has already been reprinted. It is used throughout the United States as well as in many other countries. Don speaks to various groups such as Rotary, Virginia Tech Lifelong Learning Institute, and others about his other recent book “RESCUED! Tales of a Wildlife Biologist and His Sons.” He was recognized at Virginia Tech's Authors Recognition Event, which had his three most recent books on display. The second edition of his book “Natural History of Great Smoky Mountains National Park” is due to be published by the University of Tennessee Press in March 2024. Don has served as a board member of the Humane Society of Montgomery County for many years. In addition, he is a member of the Animal

Rescue Team for the Humane Society of the United States. In this capacity, he has volunteered for three tours of duty at their major facility in Maryland. Don and Nita reside on their 35-acre property outside Blacksburg, Virginia. Some years ago, Don and his sons discovered a white millipede in a previously unknown cave on their property. It was identified by a millipede expert as a species that had been declared extinct. It is currently under consideration to be officially classified as a federal endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Due to the presence of this species, their property is currently under consideration to be designated as a Natural Area Preserve by the state of Virginia. They also spend time at their home in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, with almost daily visits by black bears, turkeys, deer, and other wildlife.

**Jerry DeFlora** keeps busy doing Meals on Wheels three mornings a week. The rest of the time is spent in yard work and counting the deer in her woods. There has been a brown-and-white doe hanging around for the past four years. Occasionally, she has lunch with **Jackie Cook Sanders**, **Joyce Lee Edington**, and **Joan Zajac Silex**.

**Mernette Houk LeFew** and **Chuck LeFew** say they are getting old and just hanging in there. Chuck is still playing golf, and Mernette is walking and exercising to keep the body limber and in shape.

**Ken Gill** and **Karen** live most of the time in Captiva, Florida, with the Gulf in their front yard and the Roosevelt Channel in the back. They refer to it as paradise, and the property is named Dolphins Crossing. Ken continues to be a serial entrepreneur with two operating businesses, and he just made a major investment in a lithium company. This year, Ken and Karen have really jumped into the thoroughbred horse breeding and racing business. They have five broodmares in foal, one colt, and six fillies racing. They won a major stakes race in Saratoga, Florida, last summer. They have their horses in Midway, Kentucky, and they spend time on the 350-acre farm. They enjoyed Homecoming, and they had the opportunity to have dinner with President Julia Jasken and her husband, Dave. Ken and Karen are enjoying life and all it has to offer. In May, right after the Kentucky Derby, they are heading for the Amalfi Coast for two weeks.

**Beth Sansbury** is still traveling. With a cruise to West Africa, her count will be 89 countries. “Don't know if I'll make 100, but I'll try,” she says. She and her husband, Dave, take shorter trips (Massachusetts to Georgia) in their motorhome to visit friends and family. Dave and Beth stay busy with their volunteer activities — he in traveler's aid at Dulles Airport and she as a docent at Sully Historic House in Fairfax County, Virginia. They've published a book on travel in the area: “52 Perfect Day Trips for Fit Adults in the Greater Washington Area.”

**Chuck Bernstein** says, “The best part of my life is spending time with **Jackie Cook Sanders**.” In addition, he is still an Orphans Court (probate) judge. When not sitting, he has been doing some traveling: six weeks in Europe in fall 2022; the United Arab Emirates in spring 2023, with lawyers to study their legal system; and then about eight days in Ireland (Republic and the North) to study “The Troubles” and their peaceful resolution, which, thankfully is still holding.

**Joan Zajac Silex** and **Karl Silex '60** are still in their house after 42 years and wondering when and if they should move. Because Joan is immune-compromised, she mostly stays home and spends lots of time reading. Happily, she is able to do some volunteer activities through their church. She's also been lucky to get together with **Jackie Cook Sanders**, **Jerry DeFlora**, and **Joyce Lee Edington** occasionally. Their oldest grandson, **Ben Fireman '26** is in his second year at McDaniel while their other grandsons are in 11th grade.

**Ozzie Stewart** is still snowbirding to Palm Beach, where the “BKLYN BOYS” get together often. They welcome guests! They spend quality time with their family traveling to Europe and within the United States with 14 of them creating memories together.

**Joseph Stielper** and **Carol Carson Stielper** are doing well. They try to stay active by hiking along the Patuxent River near their home or near their cabin in Fort Valley, Virginia, which is surrounded by the Massanutten Mountains. They usually go to Florida in the winter to hike in pleasant weather.

**Pat Lakin Lemkuhl, M.Ed. '71** says life on the farm is lonely without Taylor, but her wonderful daughters are always there to fill in. Her grandson, Will, got married last year, and it seems the boys are all following in their parents' footsteps to be engineers. Pat's daughter, Yvette, lives in Boonsboro, Maryland, and works for Pat. Yvette's son, Hunter, decided to come back to Boonsboro and lives at the farm in the tenant house. He can work from home and is such a delight and comfort to have around. Hadley also decided to come home from Alabama after four years and lives in her great-grandparents' home. Pat has been busy trying to help redo the houses and keep up with the farm.

**Alan Katz** reports that he and his family are doing well, except that the state of the world is very disturbing. They worry incessantly about what kind of world their grandchildren will inherit. They continue to travel between Baltimore and Nashville to be with grandchildren. Foolishly, he agreed to be on the condo board in Nashville

in addition to being the president of the HOA board in Owings Mills, Maryland. For retired people, they are remarkably busy, although nowadays too much of that busyness tends to be dealing with medical issues. As the youngest one in our class, Alan still marvels that he is over 80 and cannot help but think about how old the rest of you are. But Alan tells people that as long as he is vertical and breathing, he guesses it is not too bad.

**Mike Bird** is staying active with walking, biking, table tennis, swimming, and trying to get his tennis game back after a three-year layoff due to injury. Three of seven grandchildren are in college this fall. Mike recommends reading Pauline Boss' “Loving Someone Who Has Dementia.”

**Barbara Horst Fringer** and **Jack Fringer '60** celebrated 63 years of marital bliss in December. Remember, Barbara had to receive permission from Dean Howerly to return to Blanche Ward after they married on Dec. 30, 1960. They are satisfyingly retired at Rainbow Chase, their house on Mill Creek in Calvert County. This is where Jack fished crab pots for a good many years, and Barbara concluded her teaching time at Patuxent High School. The grandchildren are their reasons to travel to Columbia, South Carolina; Charlotte, North Carolina; and McLean, Virginia, where their first great-grandson, Edmund James, arrived on June 6, 2023. Great-grandchild No. 2 may be “on the scene” even as *The Hill* goes to press.

Old age came too soon. Doug and I, **Carolyn Powell Walking**, had a life of beauty in adventure, travel, hiking, and friendships. But Doug's Parkinson's disease began to progress. He fell a lot. There were too many visits to the emergency room. Doug and I made the decision with Sarah and Rich to move Doug into a board-and-care home nearby on Sept. 13, 2022. I go to care for Doug six days per week. On my day off, I hike and lead hikes in San Francisco. I love the city. It is full of beauty and diversity. I am also lucky to be in Rossmoor, the 55-plus community in the hills here in Walnut Creek. There are 200 clubs here. I enjoy book clubs, hiking with the Trails Club, concerts, plays, lectures, and friends. I'm hoping that you are all aging well. Come to see me. I will show you lots of beauty.

Carolyn Powell Walking

1961 Class Reporter

cpwalking@gmail.com

## 1967

**Donna Hann Fogle** is the winner of the non-prize prize, being the first to respond to this year's call for news. She relates that like many of us, this past year was marked by her 60th high school reunion. She writes that it was quite the event, and it was such a pleasure to visit with several classmates.

She is finally doing a bit of traveling, with a trip to the District of Columbia in December 2022 with two of her daughters and her great-granddaughter. They especially liked the Smithsonian museums. Her great-granddaughter was hoping for snow, which she had never seen. In June, she took a family cruise on the new Disney Wish, which was so much fun. Then in September, she visited her brother in Pennsylvania and her daughter in Tennessee. It was nice to get away from the heat of the summer in Florida.

Continuing their globetrotting, **Jim Gibson** and Nancy took a Viking Greek islands cruise last spring. This was a return visit with lots of goat paths. In August, they did a NCL Baltic Sea cruise. They missed a trip to Lithuania, but it was replaced with a trip to Estonia, Latvia, and Poland. He observes that cobblestone streets are getting a bit much for an old guy with a cane.

**Bert Horton** and his wife, Faye, had a great “bucket list” 2023. In February, a trip to visit relatives in Chennai, India, allowed some additional travel: dune buggy driving in the desert sand dunes outside Dubai, riding on elephants and seeing rhinos (not the political kind) in the jungle in Nepal, and a two-day trip to the Taj Mahal in Agra, India. In July, they went north — way north at 80-degrees north latitude — to the pack ice in the Arctic. There, they saw a variety of Artic animals and birds. On the way back, this voyage was followed by several days in Iceland. There, they snowmobiled on a glacier in the clouds. What great fun! One point of reality interrupted their good times: Bert had to bail out on the hike up to another glacier in Iceland, as the climb was too steep, the path too narrow, and the drop off too far down. During this trip, they also visited Talin, Estonia, and Helsinki, Finland, which was the starting point for their trip to the Arctic. They flew north to Svalbard, Norway, where they boarded the ship going farther north. **Jim Hvidding** and **Jeanne France Hvidding '69** visited the Hortons at their home in Miami Beach, Florida. They had good times, catching up and enjoying a trip to the Everglades, a speedboat tour, breakfasts on the porch, and great evenings at local South Beach restaurants. Bert says that old friends are the best friends.

Giving us the latest from his world, **Dave Fisher** and his wife, Terry, continue to travel when they can. Their favorite is a February cruise to the Caribbean. They call it their “get the hell out of Baltimore” cruise. In the summer, they like to go to the Outer Banks of North Carolina for a couple of weeks. He enjoys seeing the Crab Guys and likes to remember **George Gebelein '64** with a toast. He enjoys staying connected with such notables as **Doug MacEwan '65**, **Dan Pearson '65**, **Mike Schlee '65**, and **George Fulton '65**. And he states that since the annual Homecoming parade has now morphed into the Westminster Fallfest parade, and

# family

## WE DID!

**Wedding vows exchanged this season:**

**Jackie Kahler '09** to **Fermin Chevez** on July 16, 2022. They reside in Hanover, Maryland.

**Stephanie Banik '09** to **Michael Staruh** on March 17, 2023. They reside in Yellow Spring, West Virginia.

**Caroline Davis '17** to **Colby Snodgrass** on Nov. 11, 2023. They reside in Cockeysville, Maryland.

**Carrie Kaufmann '18** to **Harper Gibson '18** on June 6, 2023. They reside in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

**Taylor Bauman '19** to **Josh McWilliams '18** on Sept. 30, 2023. They reside in Clifton Heights, Pennsylvania.

**Erin Pogue '20** to **Matthew Scott '19** on April 22, 2023. They reside in Berlin, Maryland.

**Lara Jensen '22** to **Jake Stapleton '20** on June 17, 2023. They reside in Fairfax, Virginia.

# Alma mater rings true on the Rhine River



**Twelve members of the Classes of 1987-90 proved that the college's alma mater rings true: "College ties can ne'er be broken." In fall 2023, 14 friends (12 alumni and two spouses) headed to Europe for a trip down the Rhine River. They made sure to pack their Western Maryland and McDaniel College gear, and even brought along the summer 2023 issue of *The Hill*!**

*Pictured left to right: Bill Butz '89, John Fitzsimmons '87, Kim Weir Butz '89, Richie Wheatley '87, Martha Wheatley, Maria Filshie Douglas '89, David Douglas '87, Daryl Guyton '87, Becky Barlow Fitzsimmons '90, Kris Twiford Guyton '88, Lisa Fairfield, Eric Fairfield '89, Tracy Buckman Dunne '88, and Matt Dunne '87.*

McDaniel is participating, the much-beloved, dearly missed, and never-duplicated Crab Guys float may make an encore appearance.

Corresponding that it is "deja vu all over again," **Gordon Diggory** celebrated 50 years of married bliss with his wife, Susie. A "Praise on the Porch" service with the Spanish congregation sharing our Terrill Road Bible Chapel building. A '60s flashback of the O's ascending and the Yanks' descent. Gordon keeps up his golf Wednesday with buddies from Pennsylvania, with rounds about the Delaware River/"Joisy" border. He has even hooked his grandson on golf, and his grandson has made his school golf team, and involves Gordon at local courses or hangin' with the "old guys" by the river.

**Paul Mazeroff** is celebrating his 25th year of teaching Psychology at McDaniel. He stopped doing clinical work in 2017 and enjoys being around people much younger than he is.

Retired Marine **Lee Asadoorian** reports that all is going well in Raleigh, North Carolina. Chugging along on four cylinders, which he says isn't bad when you started with an eight-cylinder body. He and his wife are being run ragged by his daughter Carol's cats while she is in the Far East in the Army. Recently, Lee started trying to learn Japanese at North Carolina State. He was stationed in Japan and would like to get better at the language. His wife, Jane, continues to paint and take classes. He is sorry to hear of **Richard Burris**' passing; they were once roommates.

**Bobbie Vonderheide Eierman** reports that after a long hiatus, she and her husband, Fred, have started traveling again. Last November, during a 10-day trip to South Africa, they spent five days living in a luxurious tent on a lake with hippos and five days in Cape Town. In May, they spent 12 days in Germany. In between their trips, they spend time with their daughter **Elaine Eierman Jahn '97, M.S. '04** and her husband, **Drew Jahn '97**. They spend a lot of time watching their grandson's sporting activities. Their granddaughter, Molly, is a sophomore at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. They have also made several trips to New York to spend time with their other daughter, Laura, and her family, including their 6-year-old grandson, Will, and 3-year-old granddaughter, Lilyanne. They continue to take day trips to favorite photography areas in North and South Carolina.

After her shoulder "rebuild" in January and long recuperative time, **Janet Bauer Carter Flora, M.L.A. '97** and her husband, David, decided to go to Iceland in "balmy" October. They were greeted with sideways rain, snow, ice, and incredible wind. Their small group tour powered through and saw the Northern Lights, whales, vast stretches of beautiful scenery, geothermal plants, and ended with the warm, soothing water of the Blue Lagoon. She and her husband spend time volunteering with their church and community, which continues to play a big part in both of their lives. Her kids and their families are thriving and busy. As 80 comes within reach, gratitude is very present for all life sends.

**Dorene Carl Pease** shared that a great-granddaughter was born on April 21, 2023, and a second great-grandson was born on Sept. 1. Both live in the Illinois 'burbs of St. Louis. Sadly, she says that both her husband and son died in a close period of time. She says that in late October, she was giving the impression of being a functioning human being, but didn't really feel like she was with so much on her plate.

**Ron Gunderson** and his wife, Cindy, are still enjoying themselves in Ellicott City, Maryland, by keeping busy with church and community activities. They now have 13 perfect grandchildren that are a never-ending source of joy! Fortunately, most live close by and they enjoy their many activities.

This summer started with a cross-country trip again for **Darlene Justice Claypoole**. She started at her daughter's in Spring Hill, Florida, and drove to Carlsbad, California. Her granddaughter graduated from high school and started college in the fall. She spent the summer there with her daughter and family having fun at the beach, going out to dinner, and visiting the county fair. At the end of August, she started back across the country to Maryland. She did some sightseeing on the way, passing through places she had lived. In Maryland, she visited friends and her grandson and his fiancée. She did the advertising for her church's annual fall fest. Later, she headed back down to her daughter's home in Spring Hill, Florida. And to top it off she had surgery for her torn meniscus. She is in rehab now and all is going great.

**Bruce Conway** and his wife, Judy, retired and relocated 14 years ago to northeastern

Illinois to be near their daughter and two grandsons. It has been a wonderful experience to share their lives. He and Judy are enjoying good health and staying active each day. They both volunteer in their community. He is the president of the board of trustees for the Kankakee Public Library and the treasurer of the area Agency on Aging. Judy volunteers at the local food pantry and at their church. They finally got to take their COVID-delayed land/cruise trip in Alaska in June, and spent three days at Graceland in Memphis in July.

After 40 years, **Kris Michelsen Lakenan** and her husband, Bob, are still living in Ellicott City, Maryland. Bob is still working, but Kris sold her CPA practice in 2017 and is enjoying not working — especially at tax time. Their oldest son and his family live close by and they get to see them often. Her other two sons both live in Asheville, North Carolina, now and they get to see them frequently. Luckily, they have vacations with the whole family in the Outer Banks of North Carolina every year. She has many hobbies including crocheting and card making, sometimes with a cutting machine and using Photoshop. They lunch a few times a year with a group of friends who are members of the Classes of 1960-62.

**Pat Foltz Moler, M.L.A. '78** and **Charles Moler, M.L.A. '78** have tried to catch up on their international travel. In the spring of 2023, they visited Japan, and in the summer started out in Oslo, Norway, on their way to the way north — cruising around Svalbard. Charley has had knee surgery for a torn meniscus and is much less prone to falling. In between these overseas trips, they have also explored Puerto Rico, Colorado, Maine, and many other U.S. spots. Charley plays golf regularly, and they both play some bridge. Daily trips to the gym help keep them moving. Charley is president of the board of Good Shepard Housing, a nonprofit organization providing housing for low-income people and those with mental disabilities.

**Carolyn Seaman Scott, M.L.A. '76** has settled into Carroll Lutheran Village in Westminster for the third year. Her apartment is spacious, and she can see the McDaniel water tower from her balcony. And, of course, there are many Western Marylanders there: **James Lightner '59**, **Ray Albert '62**, **Jim Cole '59**, and many others. Her former neighbor, **Nini Sloan Gibson '68**, has moved to the only house in Uniontown, Maryland, that is on the National Historic Register. She has done a beautiful job restoring it. They stay connected almost daily by comparing Jeopardy! scores. Nini runs away with the French and horse categories, and Carolyn limps in with the literature and biblical ones. Carolyn says that her eight grandchildren are a joy, and she is excited to hear of the Nursing program being introduced at McDaniel.

**Charles Miller** reminds us on the East Coast that Arizona continues its

20-something years of drought and record-breaking heat. But it's desert, so what else should you expect? This year, he and his spouse, Michael, celebrated their 40th anniversary. In May, to celebrate they took a six-day car trip into Utah to visit Zion National Park and five national monuments. What a beautiful trip. To continue their yearlong anniversary celebration, in September, they took a great 15-day trip to the Czech Republic. Having been to Prague before, they explored six smaller cities in Czechia. Charles now walks with a cane, so it slowed Michael down to quarter speed. He continues to lead a Friday morning adult Bible study on Zoom.

**John Greenleaf** and his wife, Linda, finally moved from their home of 32 years to a 55-plus condo community in the same zip code in Central Pennsylvania. John says that it was a hard decision, but the right one for them, and they are enjoying the changes in the environment and social life immensely! He stays connected regularly with Brother Preachers from the Class of 1967, including **John McCann**, **Jack Gage**, **Bob Bricker**, **Ed Kasemeyer**, **Jim Hvidding**, **Bill Chasey**, **Bill Rees**, **Bert Horton**, **Jim Gibson**, and **Joe Giardina**. Most of them met up in the spring of 2022 at McDaniel and did a lot of catching up. Just this past August, he and **Jack Gage** attended the big Corvette show in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and swapped stories while browsing the high-priced sheet metal. He is still trying to play tennis (and now some pickleball), although the orthopedic issues that come with age prevent him from acting like a 39-year-old anymore.

While missing living in Arizona for 11 years, **David Doss** and his wife, Gail, are glad to be closer to their East Coast families after living in Fort Myers, Florida, for seven years. In September of 2022, Gail had a redo open-heart surgery to replace her aortic valve. Less than a week after Gail's operation, Hurricane Ian made landfall in their front yard. Dave says that they considered evacuating but were restricted due to his wife's surgery. Most of their neighbors also stayed; but no one was anticipating what turned out to be just short of a Category 5 storm. Fortunately, their home was built to the newer codes, and they had a whole-house generator. He says that they were very lucky, as they were just on the fringes of Ian and had "only" 115 mph or so winds. However, they unexpectedly had to go without running water for over a week. The storm's aftermath prevented Gail's visiting nurse follow-up visits for almost two weeks. At any rate, Gail is pretty much up to full speed, and they have resumed retirement routines with golf, biking, gym, etc. The Doss family has continued to use its convenient location to hop on cruise ships. A highlight was a Thanksgiving cruise out of Fort Lauderdale with all 11 family members. They particularly enjoyed everyone dining around one big table, sharing jokes/stories, and

hearing the youngest say "for my starter, I will have ... and for dessert, I will have two!"

My wife, Anna, and I feel a little younger when we are around our grandson Ben, 6, and granddaughter Helen, 2. We are continuing to cruise on Holland American and Viking River Cruises. Our travels have taken us to 55 countries. Like others, I have become very friendly with my cane on these jaunts. We enjoy going to the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and have the pleasure of often taking Professor and Mrs. Darcy who live near us. Con at 95 is sharp as ever. We also enjoy getting together with the Crab Guys, **Alice Hunycutt Stiner** and husband **Fred Stiner**, **Chris Connelly Resau** and **Jim Resau '68**, **Charles Turnbaugh '66** and **Pat Naruta Turnbaugh '66**, and Pam and **Bill Minor '72**. Boy, were there a lot of old people at my 60th high school reunion in October! It was great to see old friends again. This year, I retired as secretary of my Masonic Lodge and received my 50-year pin. I enjoy being vice president of the Masonic Charities of Maryland. Last year, the charity gave over 90 scholarships throughout Maryland and helped train teachers on how to identify and aid students with problems.

*Miles Cole  
1967 Class Reporter  
wmilesc@hotm.com*

## 1973

**Barb Stephens-Rich** said 2023 did not start well for her, as she was recovering from knee replacement surgery that went amiss. Doctor, physical therapy, and wound clinic appointments filled her weeks for five months. "So, it was terrific to spend a week with my daughter in Great Smoky National Park in late May. Hiking three to four miles a day together was a great personal victory for me!" Barb did not attend the formal college events celebrating our 50th Reunion, but later in June, she had three wonderful days at the Westminster, Maryland, home of **Nita Conley Korn '74** with **Kathleen Grist Schwartz**, **Susie Squires Cioni '74**, and **Nora Waugh Jones '74**. "Group FaceTime calls to **Donna Carter Morris '72** in Georgia and **Rich Blucher '74** in Oslo, Norway, brought them into our midst as well. Kathleen and I had fun reposing our graduation day photos on campus at the Ward Memorial Arch, our celebration of 50-plus years of friendship." Barb traveled in Italy for 19 days in September: a week in Florence, two days in Rome, then eight days in the hill country of Umbria (Assisi, Spoleto, Perugia, and other beautiful towns), soaking in as much of Michelangelo and St. Francis as she possibly could. She says seeing Michelangelo's "David" in Florence fulfilled a lifelong dream of hers.

A special thanks to **Bill McCormick** and **Monika van der Berg McCormick**, both

# family

## ARRIVED Family additions this season:

Oliver Lane Cummings in November 2023 to Kelly Friedman Cummings '06 and Andy Cummings '07.

Josephine Claire Zenner in February 2023 to Anastasia Zenner '09.

Carolyn Marie Wilson on Oct. 27, 2023, to Annie McShea Wilson '13 and Steve Wilson '09.

Luna Rose Zega in July 2023 to Sarah Sackett Zega '15 and John Zega.

# alumni updates

**Jim “JD” Douglas ’79** enjoys meeting the first-year students during McDaniel orientation each fall and encourages more alumni to participate.

of whom did so much to make the 50th Reunion a success. “We loved catching up with so many classmates and walking around the campus remembering special times on the Hill,” says Monika. They also enjoyed two cruises in 2023: a river cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest in the spring and an ocean cruise from Rome to Athens in the fall, getting to see a lot of Italy, Croatia, Montenegro, and Greece, along with **Karen Georg Sirian ’74** and her husband Bob.

**Diane Smith Cikanovich** said that after attending the 50th Reunion, “several of us vowed to rekindle our relationships. To that end, we spent a beautiful Oct. 25 sailing on the Chesapeake Bay! **Monika van der Berg McCormick** and **Bill McCormick** own a 36-foot Catalina sailboat berthed in Annapolis, Maryland, and invited **Sarah Snodgrass Morris** and **Jim Morris** along with me and husband Chris for a day sail. We started with lunch at their marina restaurant, sailed for three hours taking the WhiMsiCal (Get it? WMC!) under the Bay Bridge and back. We finished off the lovely day with dinner in Annapolis. What a fabulous time reconnecting! My husband, Chris, was a sailing instructor at the U.S. Naval Academy and enjoyed being at the helm. Chris and Bill were able to get WhiMsiCal to 7.4 knots, her fastest time to date.”

**Brenda “BK” Noble Gorman, M.Ed. ’81** and her husband have taken no major trips since COVID, “unless you count our drive to and from Florida every November and May.” They head to the warmth after enjoying the Pennsylvania fall foliage and usually before the first snowstorm, returning to Pennsylvania in time for Memorial Day and the opening of the outdoor pools. They enjoy friends in both locations and are happy their son is able to spend at least a month in Florida with them (and their aging Siamese cat). “I count on the many sunrise walks on our beach and the daily bike rides and lap swimming to keep me fit and healthy. Photographing the wildlife just adds joy.” In the summer of 2022, BK was able to spend a day with former roommates **Catherine Wheatley Cunningham** and **Caroline Warfield Winchester ’72**. She is hoping to see high school and college classmate **Patricia Gellner Bright** at their high school class reunion in 2024.

From Kentucky, **Bob Buchanan** let us know how he and wife **Rhonda Dahl Buchanan ’76** are doing. Bob is getting close to retiring at the University of Louisville, after more than 40 years as a professor of Chemistry. “Maybe in a couple of years,” he says. Rhonda retired from teaching at the same institution last year and has been busy translating (Spanish to English) fiction from Latin America and Spain. Bob is still active in research, recently receiving three U.S. patents, and is trying to usher through his last set of graduate students. They plan on downsizing and will be building a new

home soon. Louisville, the River City on the Bourbon Trail, continues to be a great place to live and visit, and they are planning on finally enjoying its park systems and numerous great restaurants.

**Cathy Campbell Whitehouse** and Peter have spent much of their time traveling, taking two of their bucket list trips: a trans-Canada train trip and a Venice-to-Athens small boat cruise. They also retired from tent camping and became RVers with a small RV. “We have explored from Maine to Florida and as far west as Missouri (love the Ozark National Scenic Riverways!). We are recently back from a nostalgic trip to the U.K., where we revisited favorite places and reconnected with family there.” At home, they enjoy spending time with their two granddaughters. “Our youngest daughter, Kirsten, lives in San Diego and has our two grandsons, so we try to visit them during Cleveland’s cold and gray winter months.” One recent trip took Cathy to the Baltimore area where she was able to visit with **Pam Norton Bennett**, **Peggy Jones Demedis**, and **Linda Plowman Getz**. “I celebrated my 70th birthday two years ago with a completely unexpected heart attack, but thanks to excellent care and a stent, I am fully recovered. Now to work on staying healthy as we ‘age’ in place.”

**Carol Whitmer Empie** retired from her role as partner/financial advisor with Kairos Wealth Advisors of Raymond James in Westminster, Maryland, on Jan. 1, 2020, just in time to travel the world. We all know how that turned out. However, Carol and her husband were blessed with three granddaughters in 21 months! She also had successful bilateral knee replacements. “Since the world reopened, we have resumed our planned travel in earnest, doubling up to make up for lost time. Trips included the Caribbean, Antarctica, Australia, New Zealand, and cruises that got us to Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, the Falkland Islands, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, India, France, Italy, Corsica, Sardinia, Spain, Gibraltar, and Morocco.” Family beach vacations have been to Lake Tahoe as their daughter Meredith and family live in Reno. Daughter Lauren and family are still in Columbia, Maryland. “We also celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in May on the same beach on Paradise Island, Bahamas, where we exchanged wedding vows. The little beach motel from 1973 has morphed into the Atlantis Resort.”

**Chip Snyder** says his family is doing well — two more grandchildren on the way in 2024. “Up to 15, whewee!” Maggie is enjoying her plant whisperer projects, and Chip is still active in the national security clearance arena.

**David Petrucci** retired in 2014 and lives in Frederick, Maryland, near his five grandchildren. “Last year, Paulette and I made our sixth trip to Spain to walk the

Camino de Santiago. To date, I have walked over 1,500 miles on the Camino. This is a very fun and different experience. In 2019, I decided to train and qualify for the Boston Marathon. The race was canceled in 2020. In 2021, I ran a race in Erie, Pennsylvania, which qualified me for the 2022 and 2023 races. I ran and finished both races, this year cutting 17 minutes off last year’s race.”

**Debbie Byron Carswell** says she and Bud love being retired. “Our nine grandchildren live nearby — six within a mile or so and the other three 30 minutes away. They keep us very busy with various sporting events, band concerts, and parades. Plus, our three children include us in camping trips to the beach (Hatteras, North Carolina) and the mountains of Maryland and West Virginia.” They also enjoy keeping in touch with **Pam Norton Bennett**, **Mark Gole ’74**, and **Penny Parsons Gole ’74**.

**Diane Zeller’s** note echoes the sentiments of many about retirement for all of us:

“So, ‘retirement’ has been busier than my working days. Without a lot of talent or experience, I find myself writing a musical play inspired by the controversial urban dirt bikers. Long story. Anyone bored out there and wants to help me, let me know. One of the songs is ‘If I Were President.’ One of the characters, struggling with injustice, daydreams about being president and sings a rap-style song about what he would do as president. I’m waiting for my contact at B360 to get back to me about meeting some of the riders involved with the organization to get more of the kids’ thoughts.”

**Dinah Sunday** wrote, “As our 50th Reunion was looming, I decided to put trepidation aside and commit to going. Why? I didn’t want to have regrets. And I don’t. There is nothing like the flash of recognition and the realization that a college classmate is as tickled to see you as you are to see him or her. What a gift.” In the fall, she reconnected with **Bruce Lippy** and **Martha “Marci” Hardisky Lippy ’72, M.Ed. ’79** for another milestone celebration: their 50th wedding anniversary! Other college characters on hand included **Kathy Carpenter Smyth**, **John Landon** and **Jo Ann**, **Carol Wells Bailey ’72**, and **Mark Vidor ’72**.

**Fred Rudman** retired from the practice of dentistry in 2021. After practicing in Middletown, Maryland, for 36 years, he had retired in 2016 for about two weeks before he was contacted by a practice in Hagerstown, Maryland, and asked if he could cover for a dentist who was doing missionary work for 12 to 18 months. “Almost five years later, I did, in fact, retire.” He and Wanda have traveled quite a bit, this year alone managing to touch ground in Saint Petersburg, Florida; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; France; Aruba; New York; Palm Beach, Florida; and Topsail Island, North Carolina. “We even managed to move from our home of 31 years — across the street and down six houses.

Family is close and we enjoy our time with our five kids and 11 grandkids. God has blessed us. Wanda and I are active in various ministries at the Church of the Brethren and will serve as delegates to the annual conference this coming July in Grand Rapids.”

From Florida, **Jack Wilhelm, M.L.A. ’82** has been retired now for six years from “a long and wonderful career in local government planning work.” He and his wife, Sue, love to travel and enjoy the beautiful world around them. They are active in animal rights activities and volunteer at several local animal shelters and sanctuaries in the Sarasota, Florida, area. They love walking and exercising rescue dogs at a local shelter, and love their Papillon, Cocoa, and take her with them everywhere they go.

**Jeff Jones** went back to work full time in January as a senior pastor at Mill Creek Parish UMC in Derwood, Maryland, where he has been the part-time associate pastor for the past year. “I am enjoying retirement, but I still feel like I can contribute and share what I have with others, and this will give me a chance to do that.”

**John “Slug” Armstrong, M.Ed. ’75** and **Barb Vose Armstrong ’76** have been married for 47 years and still reside in Frostburg, Maryland. They live in a renovated firehouse in town. “Barb and my cousin, **David Llewellyn ’87**, are partners in owning and operating the Armstrong Insurance Agency in Frostburg that employs six other people. Barb is very involved with community and city projects.” John retired in 2007 from 31 years of teaching high school math and coaching. “Now, I’m the ‘go-fer’ for the Armstrong Insurance Agency. I do mail and supply runs while also taking pictures of properties. But mostly, I spend my time playing golf ... a ton of golf. Throughout the year, I play in a lot of senior amateur tournaments around the country. I enjoy the camaraderie and the competition. Last summer, my son and I traveled to Scotland, where we played 16 rounds in 10 days. My daughter flew over from the Netherlands to surprise me and join us for several days of golf there. The trip of a lifetime for me. Since Barb has taken up the game, and since the Frostburg weather isn’t conducive to playing golf in the winter, we recently purchased a condo in a community called Verandah in Fort Myers, Florida. We plan to “snowbird” for a while and take advantage of some nice golfing weather. I should also mention that my sister, **Robin Armstrong Townsend ’75, M.S. ’98** works in the Education Department at McDaniel.”

**John Crooms** still lives 16 miles outside of San Francisco in Berkeley, California, and has been retired for 11½ years. “My wife is a professional pianist, so, we will probably go to Vienna next spring to hear one of her students sing. Then on to

Leipzig, Germany, for the Bach Festival, which we went to last year. Six concerts in three days. I go to Baltimore every other month for a month to take care of my parents, who are in their late 90s.”

Since our last column, **Kathy West Bowden Larson** met a man on eHarmony and got married. “He is truly a gift from God. Life revolves my three adult children (two living in Nashville) and four grandchildren.” She is happily active in her Baptist Church in Annandale, Virginia. They have traveled out West to Yellowstone Park, South Dakota, and North Dakota. “Christmas found us in Marco Island, Florida. In September, we traveled to Austria, Switzerland, Prague, and ended with a weeklong Rhine River cruise.”

**Libby Eife-Johnson** and her husband, Bruce, really enjoyed the 50th Reunion. “It was worth the long trip! We sold our home of 42 years in Alexandria, Virginia, last May. It was very difficult to leave so many friends and neighbors, and the city of Alexandria where we raised our family. We now live in Portland, Oregon, from May through October, and New Albany, Indiana, from November through April. (New Albany is just across the river from Louisville, Kentucky). Our eldest son, Nat, lives in New Albany with his partner Cisa and two of our three granddogs. Our son Bryce and daughter Christy live in Portland, and our third granddog keeps Christy company. We’ve traveled across the U.S. by car twice since we left Virginia. It is quite a trip! Our dog, Sirius, was very good in the car but very happy to get out each time we stopped! So, we are finding our way to new grocers, libraries, swimming pools, churches, etc., but making new friends will be the tough part.”

After 35 years in their Mount Airy, Maryland, home, **Randy Draper** and his wife, Denise, moved to West Grove, Pennsylvania, in 2021 to be closer to their daughter Lauren, her husband, and their two granddaughters. Randy retired from a long career as a corporate training manager in 2021. He now keeps busy with woodworking and volunteer work, when not spending time spoiling his granddaughters. “We recently visited our daughter Lindsey and her husband in San Francisco. Lindsey is a medical oncology fellow at the University of California San Francisco. Lauren is a physical therapist, so we are the very proud parents of two health care professionals.”

**Wilson Bowers** is in his 50th year of marriage, and they are healthy and well. He says retirement is a wonderful endeavor, but they are always busy with maintaining and upgrading their 115-year-old home. “We travel a lot and spend time with children, grandchildren, and family and friends, including our eldest son, who lives in Innsbruck, Austria, with his wife and three

daughters; our second son, his wife, and two boys who live in Virginia Beach; and our daughter who lives in Chicago. We also spend several weeks in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, with my sister.” They continue to enjoy Michigan and all it has to offer. Wilson keeps in touch with **Andy Mitchell**, and met him for lunch this past summer in Bethany Beach, Delaware.

*Kent Gompert  
1973 Class Reporter  
kentgomperti@gmail.com*

## 1979

This year marks my 20th year as your class reporter. It seems like I have been doing this forever, but I still have four more years to go before I equal the record of **Pat Blades Chapman**, who was our class reporter before I took over in 2003. Let me start this column by thanking Pat for all her years of service to the class and for always replying to my request for an update. Thank you, Pat!

This year, I asked the members of the Class of 1979 if the COVID-19 pandemic changed their lives for the better in any way. Some people said they gained a new perspective and have a newfound appreciation for some of the little things in their lives. For others, it appears that nothing positive came out of the ordeal that we all endured.

Carl and **Pat Blades Chapman** are enjoying their downsized home in Easton, Maryland, which they say is one of the best decisions they have made because all of their living space is now on one floor. They are still watching their two grandchildren (ages 6 and 3), who keep Pat and Carl young. The Chapmans have done some traveling during the past year, visiting the Florida Keys, the mountains of Pennsylvania, the Crystal Coast of North Carolina (around Cape Lookout), and, of course, Ocean City, Maryland. Their children and grandchildren are close by, so they have a tradition of getting together for dinner each Sunday night.

**Christine Albert Sarigianis** wrote that she’s amazed that so many years have flown by since we graduated almost 45 years ago. Chris reports that the pandemic was, indeed, a difficult time for her because she was working as a critical care nurse at St. Agnes Hospital in Baltimore: “It was scary, stressful, and often sad. What a relief that it’s over. We still have COVID patients from time to time, but the patients that I have had usually don’t realize they have COVID because another medical condition brought them to the hospital. The COVID infection seems to now cause flu-like symptoms rather than the respiratory distress the previous strains caused.” Chris completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) in 2021. Chris reflects that the greatest gifts bestowed upon her by WMC/McDaniel College are the cherished friendships. She

# family

## DEPARTED

**Those who will be missed:**

**Dorothy “Dottie” Brown Womble ’40** of Tampa, Florida, on Dec. 31, 2023.

**Margaret “Peggy” Wilson Ruppberger ’43** of Towson, Maryland, on Sept. 23, 2023.

**Eleanor Healy Taylor ’43** of Glyndon, Maryland, on Dec. 11, 2023.

**Martha Witter Hawkins ’48** of Gainesville, Florida, on Nov. 16, 2023.

**Dr. Robert Dubel ’48** of Glen Arm, Maryland, on Nov. 29, 2023.

**Mary Taylor Tracey ’48** of New Oxford, Pennsylvania, on Dec. 24, 2023.

**Paul Schaefer ’50** of West Palm Beach, Florida, on Feb. 21, 2023.

**June Graf Hale ’50, M.Ed. ’67** of Hanover, Pennsylvania, on Sept. 28, 2023.

**George Seymour Jr. ’50** of Saint Michaels, Maryland, on Oct. 2, 2023.

**Clara Hatton Meyer ’50** of Westminster, Maryland, on Oct. 6, 2023.

**Theodore “Ted” Samakouris ’53** of Damascus, Maryland, on Sept. 20, 2023.

**Charles Wheatley III ’54** of Westminster, Maryland, on Dec. 2, 2023.

**Thomas Englar Jr. ’55** of Riva, Maryland, on June 16, 2023.

**Yvonne “Mike” Webb Wahlers ’55** of Franklin, Massachusetts, on July 18, 2023.

**Barbetta Goeb Miller ’55** of Verona, Pennsylvania, on Sept. 15, 2023.

*(Continued)*





# [Departed]

**Associate Professor Emeritus of Spanish Daniel A. Williams, age 81**

**Associate Professor Emeritus of Spanish Daniel A. Williams, a respected and cherished member of our academic family, passed away on Dec. 27, 2023, at the age of 81.**

**Williams retired as an associate professor of Spanish in 2003 after 31 years of service to the college, during which he also served as the chair of the world languages department.**

**He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Jenny Elizabeth Haifley Williams, his son, Christopher Williams '87, and daughter, Casida O'Neill.**

continues to see her dearest friend and Social Work classmate, **Debi Eriksen-Boyd**, at least once a month. Until I read Chris' input for this year's column, I didn't realize how deeply her WMC/McDaniel roots ran. Chris' mother, **Suzanne Chambers Albert M.S. '87**, resides with Chris, and at age 92, is an inspiration as she continues to use her nursing license at her volunteer job. She also rides her tractor to help Chris on her property. In her father's and sister's memories, **Charles Albert '52** and **Becky Albert '77**, Suzanne is enthusiastically supporting the development of a kitchen on campus for Mohamed Esa's culture classes and food study program. Sadly, Becky, who attended WMC in 1973 and 1974, was killed in the middle of her sophomore year. Chris' grandfather, **Roy Chambers '29**, was the president of the Class of 1929 and, through his efforts, the class donated the flagpole on campus. The Alberts and the Chamberses certainly have rich history on the Hill!

It took 50 years, but **Myra Birchard Wagner, M.Ed. '80** finally returned to her home state of Virginia in 2022. She didn't go back to her hometown of Richmond. Instead, she moved with her mother and now lives in her mother's childhood home in the small town of Urbanna, fulfilling the retirement dream she and her husband had planned. Her husband, James, passed in 2017, and his ashes were spread around the yard and creek shore in Urbanna. Unfortunately, two months after Myra moved in, her mom passed away. Despite this huge setback, Myra has adapted quickly to country living, even though she has been a self-proclaimed "city girl" all her life. Of course, it helps to have several extended family members close by who have eased the burden of maintaining a 120-year-old farmhouse and three-acre yard, located near a creek right off the Rappahannock

River. Myra spends a lot of time just sitting outside or kayaking and enjoying the view. Regarding the pandemic, being sheltered from people didn't bother her too much. She chalks that up to the fact that she was an only child. She was very grateful for technology, though, and the ability to watch live-streamed church services, attend meetings via Zoom, perform most of her church secretary work from home, and visit friends and family via FaceTime. She wrote, "I will admit that I am glad I retired from teaching before the pandemic. I don't think I would have handled it well."

**Wayne Birely** is looking forward to retirement in late spring and hoping to see a lot of his teammates from the 1978 and 1979 championship lacrosse teams at a gathering in the spring. Wayne notes that it's been 45 years and those are still the only two teams to have won a conference championship.

**Gail Bowman Mathes** wrote, "As we get older, our health comes front and center, right? My husband and I are fortunate enough to enjoy good health and a good life. Our children are both working and happy, and we can't ask for much more than that. We are spending winter months in Florida with all the other old people and have decided there's no other way to live. If anyone is in the Port St. Lucie area, look us up. We'd love it! We are also very much enjoying **Pete Clark '77, M.Ed. '80** and **Korby Bowman Clark's '78** nine grandchildren. Last year we did our second European river cruise, the only way to go! We are looking forward to a tour of Calgary, Banff, Glacier Falls, etc., with **Robbie Bowman '81, Connie Thompson Bowman '81**, Pete, and Korby next summer." Gail wrote that the pandemic taught them that simplification is good, and that it's OK to enjoy what's right in front of us.

**John Cochran** sends greetings from Virginia Beach. In December 2021, at age 30,

his daughter, Brittany, was diagnosed with breast cancer. From February 2022 through July 2023, she endured chemo, surgery, radiation, and more chemo treatments. John reports that he is thankful that she is now cancer-free. Brittany lives with her husband in Charlotte, North Carolina, which meant many trips by John's wife, Ann-Marie, to help Brittany through the rough times—and there were many. That left John at home with his mother-in-law, whose dementia has finally forced them to place her in a senior memory care facility. John and Ann-Marie cared for her for the past four years in their home, but that was no longer the best option for any of them. In November 2022, John's 96-year-old mother, who was living independently, had a fall. She bounced back well but decided to move from Florida to Virginia Beach into an assisted living facility to be closer to family. She has settled in, and having her close to where John lives is a blessing for all of them. John's mother-in-law is in the same facility, which is very convenient. Although consumed with family matters, John continues to play golf, and he has stayed active with the Knights of Columbus. John is entering his ninth year with the organization, having spent the past four years as president at KOVAR Corp., a Virginia Knights of Columbus 501(c)(3) tax exempt charity that provides over \$500,000 annually to assist persons with intellectual disabilities. The Cochrans finally made it to San Diego, California, in May 2022 and Hawaii in December 2022. They hope to travel more now that their nest is empty again. John wrote that he is looking forward to attending Alumni Weekend at the end of May.

**Cheryl Collins Reinecker** wrote to tell me that she's doing well and that "retirement is awesome," though she's busier than she ever expected to be. She and her husband, **David Reinecker '77**, have four grandchildren, ranging in age from 3 to 10 years old. All of the grandkids live within a few minutes of Cheryl and David. Cheryl says that she is blessed that her parents, Doris and **Ashby Collins '53**, are still with us and living close by. She enjoys spending as much time as possible with all three generations of the Collins/Reinecker Clan. Cheryl is actively involved in her church, volunteering in various ways, and she continues to keep the books for the family farm. David and Cheryl's son **Andrew "Drew" Reinecker '04** now has the majority ownership of the farm and manages most of the operations. David still works part time, but he and Cheryl try to travel regularly, including going to St. Kitts twice a year. Cheryl gets to see her WMC roommate, **Nancy Swisher Rueter**, occasionally and Cheryl is happy to report that Nancy is a proud grandmother and engaged to a wonderful man she met years ago at Johns Hopkins, where she works as a clinical nurse.

**Alison Crispell** wrote that life for her and her husband, David, wasn't as impacted by COVID-19 as many others because

David's job was considered essential, so he never stopped working. They decided to give growing a veggie garden a shot in 2020 and became quite the canners as a result. In addition to putting up several varieties of tomatoes, peppers, and pickles, they also took advantage of the pear tree in their backyard, putting up pear butter and pear jam. Canning was something they had talked about doing for several years, and it has now become part of their late summer/fall schedule. David continues to work for CBRE, and Alison spends her time riding her horse, gardening, and traveling. Since the world opened up after the pandemic, she has been to Croatia, Southern Italy and Sicily, and Morocco.

**Jim "JD" Douglas** and his wife, Tracey, are still living in Olney, Maryland. JD continues to inch toward true retirement, and Tracey still works as a senior infusion nurse for MedStar Georgetown. JD has enjoyed recent Montgomery County and Howard County alumni events. He also enjoys meeting the first-year students during McDaniel orientation each fall and encourages more alumni to participate. Tracey and JD celebrated the marriage of their younger daughter, Dr. Taylor Marie Douglas, to Raul Contreras on Jan. 28, 2023, in New York City, and they have pictures of the happy couple in Central Park.

**Beth Dunn** is still enjoying living in Rock Hall, Maryland. "Life in the little town is very quiet in the winter, but very busy with boaters and second homeowners in town during the summer. Rock Hall has more boat slips than full-time residents," she says. Beth is now officially the past commodore of the Rock Hall Yacht Club after serving five years as the commodore. She wrote that it was a fun position that allowed her to get more involved with the community and to meet many members.

**Tony Sager '77** and **Susan Fairchild Sager, M.Ed. '85** have had a very busy year. The lights of their lives are Caroline and Annie Sager, ages 5 and 3. Susan's mom continues to spend her life sharing theirs and "loving on the great-granddaughters." Susan and Tony have done a LOT of biking. They toured Portugal by e-bike, leading Susan to write that they could not have biked these hills, one after another, without the electric assist! They rode the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa, the longest, largest, and oldest recreational bicycle touring event in the world, in July 2023 during the hottest time of the hottest year on record. They rode 502 miles in seven days to honor a friend. They also biked through Japan while on a 13-day cruise for cyclists. The cruise, which began just as Japan was reopening after the pandemic, started in Osaka, went to Kobe, and then took them around the three major southern islands. They have one more fabulous trip planned for 2025. Susan wrote, "We see

clearly now what is meant by tomorrow isn't promised." Susan feels lucky that she gets to see **Sally McCarl Moore; Linda Sorrentino Glaeser; Dori Babyak Chappell; Mary Gately Bodley; Mary-Louise Jones York, M.Ed. '80; Julie Vaughan Donovan, M.S. '12**; and, sometimes, **Pat Blades Chapman** and **Mary Anna Rice Pavlos. Kate Shirey Luette '80** is part of her daily life.

**Betsy Fogle Morrow** and her husband, Ken, are enjoying retirement. They're adjusting to being at home more and spending more time together. She wrote that it's good—for the most part. They love spending quality time with family. Their two grandsons are growing up before their eyes—one is 9 and the other is 2½. Having them live close by and being part of their daily lives, sports, and holidays is a blessing and something they treasure. They also enjoy getting together with Bill and **Terry Mott Potterton** and Chris and **Susan Speed Tuley Routson** as often as possible. The Morrows have branched out with traveling to some new places, and they enjoyed a group trip to Bilbao, Spain, and Bordeaux, France, with some of Betsy's former colleagues. They also enjoyed a sailing adventure in St. Thomas and St. John with the Pottertons and Routsons in the spring of 2023, and a week along the Central Coast of California. Betsy notes, "Many adventures lately seem to involve wine! But wine not?"

**Jay Gardiner** recently retired after spending 34 years in college athletics. He plans to continue as a consultant and travel frequently with his wife, Cindy. The pandemic was very hard on Jay. He wrote, "I suspect that, looking back, the COVID crisis expedited my decision to retire early. Retiring now also gives me time to spend with my family (four stepchildren, three sons, and six granddaughters). Life is good here in north Georgia."

**Jean Hamilton Jewell** is the co-founder and executive director of Green Oaks Education and Support Inc., in Arlington, Texas. The program serves children and adults with intellectual disabilities. The organization started a college program in 2020, right in the middle of the pandemic. Her daughter, who has Down syndrome, graduated from the program in May 2023 and is now living in her own home and working at a pie shop. Jean and her husband have been married for 37 years and raised two other children, as well. Jean wrote, "No grandchildren yet, but hope springs eternal!"

The post-COVID years have brought retirement and two grandkids to **Chris Holmes** and his wife, Margaret. Chris has a studio at the Arts Lab of Southern Anne Arundel County, where he paints watercolors. A solo show of his work was held in December. Chris and Margaret spend their time biking and hiking with their sights set on climbing several "14ers" in Colorado, and possibly Mount Kilimanjaro;

visiting the river home they built in Berkeley Springs, West Virginia, two years ago; checking in on Chris' parents, who are in their mid-90s; and spending time with family and friends, like **Kurt Glaeser '78** and **Linda Sorrentino Glaeser**.

**Bill Jenkins** was one of only two alums from our class to attend the 2023 Alumni Weekend. "Where was everyone? I hope we can put in a better showing this year," he says. He remains active in victim rights and has presented workshops at both the Parents of Murdered Children and National Organization of Victim Assistance conferences this past summer. He is still working at Dominican University in Chicago where he teaches a course in the new Trauma Informed Leadership graduate program. All this is in addition to his duties in the Theatre Arts department, where he continues to teach and design. Bill noted that one thing the pandemic did was provide universities more robust distance learning options, which have enabled him to teach online classes much of the school year, while he and his wife enjoy their new home with 10 acres of woods, just west of Richmond, Virginia. Since they have moved back to the East Coast, they are closer to their children and family, giving them the perfect place to live, but it means that retirement will come more gradually.

**Dianne Jenkins** retired in the summer of 2020 from her position of executive policy advisor for the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. In February 2021, shortly after she retired, her husband of 36 years passed away. "While it's been a tough couple of years, I also welcomed my first grandchild a few months ago, and that's been pretty special," she says. Dianne wrote that she was a recipe tester for a cookbook that was published October 2021. She is now exploring new endeavors like weaving and piano, and she started hiking the 1,200-mile Ice Age Trail in Wisconsin.

**Patrice John Baugher** wrote that the combination of the pandemic ending and **Tom Baugher '80** retiring from Raytheon opened the door to much traveling for them. On May 25, 2023, they celebrated their 43rd wedding anniversary and the two finally had a honeymoon! They headed to Garmisch-Partenkirchen in Germany for 10 days and spent time exploring Salzburg and Innsbruck, Austria; Lindau, Germany; Italy, and the Bavarian castles Linderhof and Neuschwanstein. She wrote, "One of us loved all the history and one of us struggled to find a good IPA." In July, they traveled to Emerald Isle, North Carolina, for a week at the beach with family. October 2023 found them back in Westminster, Maryland, for their niece's wedding and a fabulous crab cake at RockSalt Grille: "Until you have left Maryland you will never know how lucky you are to have a real Maryland crab cake!" Closer to home, they spent the

# family

## DEPARTED

(Continued)

**Joan Walter Winkelman '55** of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, on Nov. 5, 2023.

**The Honorable Anthony "Andy" Tafuri '56** of Jupiter, Florida, on March 29, 2023.

**Doris Burkert Galvin '57** of Manassas, Virginia, on Feb. 11, 2023.

**Larry Hare '58** of Gainesville, Florida, on Sept. 18, 2023.

**Marsha Reifsnnyder McCormick '59** of Santa Fe, New Mexico, on Oct. 23, 2023.

**Dr. Charles Myers '60** of Mckinleyville, California, on Sept. 14, 2023.

**Dorothy "Dot" Glotfelty Quaintance '60** of Liberty, New York, on Oct. 1, 2023.

**Rhea Ireland Wiles '61** of Sarasota, Florida, on Dec. 21, 2023.

**Carole Gordon Smith '62** of Bountiful, Utah, on Sept. 19, 2023.

**Helen Goebel Marriner '64** of Severna Park, Maryland, on Aug. 1, 2023.

**Lawrence Denton '65** of Easton, Maryland, on Sept. 22, 2023.

**Barbara Petschke Broadbent '65** of Reisterstown, Maryland, on Sept. 26, 2023.

**Richard Szlasa M.Ed. '66** of Westminster, Maryland, on Dec. 16, 2023.

**Henry Lichtfuss M.Ed. '66** of Westminster, Maryland, on Dec. 17, 2023.

**Victor Gavin '67** of Warfordsburg, Pennsylvania, on June 27, 2023.

(Continued)

# alumni updates

**Ray Via '79** has completed building a home in Daniel Island, South Carolina.

summer at Lake Wawasee and Lake Webster on their boats. One boat is for fishing, and one is for pleasure. Patrice wrote, "It's a big change from the ocean but the closest one gets in Indiana."

**Pete Clarke '78** and **Jane Johnson Clarke** had an awesome trip during the summer of 2023. They bicycled along the Danube River from its source in Bregquelle, Germany (in the Black Forest) to Budapest, Hungary. They had been thinking about this trip for a while, but, of course, COVID-19 got in the way. They traveled with two other couples, including **David Fick** and **Lee-Ann Hunewill Fick**. (The Ficks attended WMC for two years before transferring and graduating from Towson University). David handled the arrangements and mapped out their route on Ride with GPS. Jane wrote that the biggest challenge was disassembling and packing their tandem bicycle for the flight. They toured myriad castles and cathedrals, ate lots of schnitzel, and drank lots of beer. "We never lose weight on bike tours, that's for sure! If you've ever considered a trip like this, our advice is: do it!"

In 2019, **Karen Laue McGhee** was laid off from her job as a sub-contractor to FEMA. She wasn't idle long because, shortly after the layoff, she became her father's full-time caregiver. He passed away at age 95 in January 2023 after being in hospice for a week. Karen wrote that she treasured the time she got to spend with him although it was mentally and physically exhausting at times. The staff and residents at the community where he was living were great. So great, in fact, that Karen decided to go to work part time at her father's community as a security guard. Her new position means she is a first responder on evenings and weekends, and she wrote that she learns something new every shift. Karen's husband, Ken, got a new job working for Montgomery County as a building inspector. Their son, Michael, also got a new job working at Cartridges Galore, a company co-owned by **Garrett Eagan '09**. Karen and Ken have started considering where they want to live when they retire, but Karen believes it will be a few years before they make that move.

**Keith Lawson's** plan to retire from the Investment Company Institute (ICI) in November 2023, after 35 years, was postponed for a few months. At the request of his boss, his retirement from ICI was changed to early February 2024. Once retired, he plans on spending more time with **Robin Lee Lawson '80** at their primary residence in Bethesda, Maryland, and at their beach house in Bethany Beach, Delaware. Keith and Robin have season tickets to both the Capitals and the Nationals. Combine their fandom of those two teams with their allegiance to the Washington Commanders and you'll understand why they are in a state of near constant disappointment. Their family

continues to grow with the November 2023 birth of their fourth grandchild, Logan Rose Lawson, giving the Lawsons three granddaughters and a grandson. Robin and Keith celebrated his 66th birthday in 2023 by traveling to London where they watched Keith's favorite "futbol" team, Tottenham Hotspur, play in their new stadium—which contains its own microbrewery. Easing his way into retirement, Robin and Keith took a trip to Little Rock, Arkansas, and Memphis and Nashville, Tennessee, in October 2023, where the history was fascinating, and the food and music were excellent! Keith hopes to see everyone at Alumni Weekend in May 2024. As an aside, Keith was too modest to mention that 2023 also saw him elected to the McDaniel College Board of Trustees. Congratulations, Keith!

**Mike** and **Missy Bain Lewis** are enjoying their retirement as much as anyone. In March 2023, they drove to Key West, Florida, to spend a month with **Helene Riser Rapsas '81** and her husband. On both the way down and the way back, they overnighted in the Cocoa Beach, Florida, area, where they found a condo on the Indian River. It was love at first sight, so they decided to settle in for a longer stay than originally planned. As Mike wrote, "We'll be here for a while." No word on whether this is a temporary love affair or a lifelong commitment. Mike didn't say if they're renting or if they bought the condo.

**Dave Meyer** and his wife, Cindy, weathered the pandemic reasonably well. They still managed to do some traveling. They visited New Zealand, Iceland, and Vancouver and Ontario, Canada. They were finally caught by COVID-19 on the return from Belfast, Northern Ireland, in May 2023. Dave and Cindy remain actively involved in refugee resettlement. Some of Dave's current tasks are teaching a young Afghan woman to drive and helping a Honduran couple convert from Medicaid to private health insurance.

"I was fortunate enough to connect with many WMC friends this past year," is how **Mike Modica** opened his message to me. He recently was treated to wonderful hospitality by Claudia and **Ray Via** at their breathtaking new residence on Daniel Island, just outside Charleston, South Carolina. In April 2023, **Keith Lawson** and **Robin Lee Lawson '80** were wonderful hosts for a mini reunion of Betes and Phi Alphas at their home in Bethesda, Maryland. In attendance were **Ray Via**, **Scott Wheeler '80**, **Ron Bowen**, **Leslie McDade Bowen '80**, and **Mark "Manny" Rosenberg** and his wife, Carolyn. Scott's wife, **Martha Hooper Wheeler**, who was enjoying grandchild babysitting duty in Chicago, briefly joined in through FaceTime. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Keith's appointment to the McDaniel College Board of Trustees. In April, via Zoom, Mike attended an evening with

**Steve Spinelli '77**, **Hon. D.B.A. '09** hosted by McDaniel PIE (Program in Innovation and Entrepreneurship). Mike wrote, "I'm trying to remember what I learned ... I'll get back to you later." At various golf outings during the past couple of years, Mike shared laughs and bad golf with Gamma Beta Chi fraternity brothers **Bob Irvin '77**, **Mike Cottingham '78**, **Gary Walters '77**, **Chuck Boehlke '78**, **Judd Miller '78**, **Jay Cooke '78**, **Dick Love '78**, **Frank Dooley '78**, **Wayne Birely**, **Rick Morani '81**, **Dale Sillyman '80**, **Terry Koenig '78**, **Randy Cole '79**, **Eric Brown**, **Tom Wiederseim**, **Mike Goldstein '81**, **Mike Spath '78**, **Jere Lynch '78**, and **Bob Le Sueur**. Mike wrote, "Sadly, the May outing was the last time we got to see Jere Lynch before he passed away in May 2023." Mike reports that he has four wonderful grandchildren who keep him laughing and filled with joy.

**Barb Parsons Davis, M.Ed. '80** still works as a speech therapist, but she has cut her time to three days per week. After five years in the middle school, she's now adjusting to life at the high school level. She wrote, "It's different for sure. I have a Deaf student, so I'm getting to use my American Sign Language again, but I'm a little rusty." She and her husband continue to sing in the church choir as well as a community choral group. They had a wonderful summer 2023 vacation in Montreal and Quebec, which Barb highly recommends.

**Rick Powell** retired on Oct. 1, 2022, after 40 years of ministry, 27 of which were at Christian Temple, in Catonsville, Maryland. He and his wife, Jayna, both retired on the same weekend. Post-retirement activities have included helping with their youngest son's wedding, playing tennis and pickleball, and traveling to Pacific Grove, California, to serve a small congregation there as interim ministers. They'll be back in Catonsville by the time this is published and intend to help with the 45th Reunion this spring, hoping to see some of you there.

Also doing God's work, **David Range** continues to serve as pastor at the Miramar United Methodist Church in Florida, now in his 19th year. He is pleased with the church's ability to feed many who are hungry by providing alternate Thursday and Saturday food distributions. The church is part of the 24-congregation Broward Organized Leaders Doing Justice, and they recently celebrated a victory in their advocating for issuing civil citations to individuals, rather than arrests, for minor, non-violent offenses. His wife, **CJ Walter**, now formally retired as a pastor, happily contributes time to the church. You can see her helping lead the singing on X or YouTube most Sundays at 8:30 a.m., and she loves the people of the 11 a.m. congregation as well. Their son Ben lives with them and keeps busy as a librarian at Aventura Library, part of the Miami-Dade system. Their other son, Micah, lives in

North Carolina with his wife and their son and daughter, so David and CJ highly value any time that they can spend with them.

**Bill Roelke** is still engaged in the practice of law in Jacksonville, Florida. With an 18-year-old son and a 16-year-old daughter, Bill figures he'll be able to retire by age 90. Post-COVID, the quality of Bill's life has decreased due to his having to live with teenagers who know everything and who call him a "bald old man."

**Maryam Rostami** continues to work as a family physician in Canada. She worked for five years in Virginia and then moved back to Canada in 2012. She would like to retire but, she reports, it is very hard to find a replacement for the practice. She hopes that will change soon. Maryam has been in touch with **Sharon Lotz**, and the two went on a cruise together. Maryam wrote that it was wonderful to see her.

After 25 years of teaching in Maryland and New Jersey, **Mary Ellen Thornton Deitrick** retired last year. She and her husband left Mount Lakes, New Jersey, after living there almost 32 years, and they now live in Egg Harbor Township in the southern part of the state. The move puts them closer to one of their daughters and her family. Mary Ellen and her husband have been blessed with seven grandchildren: three are in New Jersey, three are in California, and one is in Maryland. The Deitricks try to see the grandkids when they can. They have been busy settling into their new home and adjusting to life in South Jersey, where Mary Ellen has begun subbing in a local school. They see Beth and **Dave Deitrick '78** and their family as often as possible.

Reporting in for herself and **Scott Trenner**, **Robin Seiland Trenner, M.Ed. '79** wrote, "Wow, how has life changed since COVID? Scott and I now have four grandchildren and are enjoying the heck out of being grandparents. Scott is still involved in Jiffy Lube, which remained open throughout the pandemic. We have some terrific employees! Our son, Chris, has been our general manager for over 10 years now." Robin is still director of music at her church and spends her time there or with the grandchildren. The Trenners have traveled to France on a river cruise, went on the Soul Train Cruise several times, traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada, several times, and went on vacations with the family at a variety of beaches. They kept their "COVID bubble" as healthy as possible. Scott still tailgates with alumni from different years; **Rob Bowman '81** and **Mike Barry** are two of the regulars. They were blessed to be able to attend **Larry Matthew's '75** wedding during the summer of 2023. Robin wrote that there were quite a few Jiffy Lube peeps, like **Pete Blauvelt '77** and other WMC alumni from years prior to ours. They are looking forward to seeing as many as possible at our 45th Reunion in the spring.

**Ray Via**, and his wife, Claudia, are happy to report that they have completed building a home in Daniel Island, South Carolina, outside of Charleston. Their son, Matt, liked visiting so much that he and his girlfriend moved to Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, about 15 minutes away. **Mark "Manny" Rosenberg** and **Mike Modica** have visited. Ray and Claudia are looking forward to more visitors in the future. Ray, as a long-suffering Washington Redskins/Commanders fan, is also happy that 2023 brought an end to the Daniel Snyder ownership debacle, and he is cautiously optimistic about the team's future. Ray hopes to be back on the golf course in the spring after his second hip replacement surgery. Recovery has been slow, but steady.

**Vince Wesley** and his wife, Valerie, are happily retired in Catonsville, Maryland. Vince retired after 34 years at SunTrust Bank (now Truist). "At this writing, it's been just over 5½ years (2,086 days) since my retirement began — but who's counting?" Vince missed all the "fun" of the merger of the bank and BB&T and managing the work environment through the COVID years. Vince and Valerie will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary in March 2024. These days, they spend a great deal of time with their four wonderful grandchildren (ages 1 through 4), traveling, attending family gatherings, and keeping up with their 105-year-old home in Catonsville. Two of their three daughters live in Catonsville, and their oldest daughter lives in Lynchburg, Virginia. Vince is playing more golf since retirement. During a recent visit to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, he enjoyed hanging out and playing golf with **Mark "Manny" Rosenberg**. Vince frequently sees **Doug Barnes** (his dentist); **Ronnie Rhodes; Scott Trenner; Robin Seiland Trenner, M.Ed. '79;** and **Mike Margiotta**. Ronnie and Vince get in a few rounds of golf each year. Vince also sees **Mike** and **April Daniels Walter** on a regular basis. They hang out together on the Eastern Shore or in Annapolis. Prior to the pandemic, they joined Mike and April, **Tim Daniels '82** and his wife Deb, and **Anita Brown Carty** and her husband Gene, for the annual oyster roast in Chesapeake, Virginia. They were able to restart the get-together after the pandemic.

**Scott Beam** had the dubious honor of "ringing the bell" for a second time. For those of you not familiar with the term, "ringing the bell" means an end to a long and difficult series of cancer treatments. The first time he rang the bell was in October 2020 after treatment for Stage 4 oral cancer. Scott endured 2½ years of recovery from multiple surgeries, radiation, and chemotherapy after he was diagnosed in May 2020. The second time was in April 2023 to celebrate his victory over prostate cancer, diagnosed in July 2022. Scott is now cancer-free and wrote that he is blessed to

have found two incredible teams of doctors and surgeons who saved his life — twice! As Scott put it, "They are 'precious jewels' that God sent to me to save my life." Scott also reported that his mother recently moved to Carroll Lutheran Village. While visiting his mother, Scott was surprised to run into **Dr. Jim Lightner '59** and Dr. Darcy, both of whom are residents at the same facility. They are both doing well. Small world!

**Kimberly Smith-Charette** is still working as the executive partner for the academic medicine practice of WittKieffer, an executive search firm. She has not set a retirement date ... yet. Golf remains the passion of the Charette family. In 2023, the family attended the British Open at Royal Liverpool (England), followed by golf in Scotland and England. Kim's son and daughter were both getting married in early 2024. The weddings were only four weeks apart, with one in January and the other in February. Kim wrote, "And best of all, Bill and I are new grandparents to Jackson."

Meanwhile, here in Sunset Beach, North Carolina, Carolyn and I (**Mark "Manny" Rosenberg**) are now enjoying life as retirees, but it was a tough couple of years getting to this point. To make a very long story short, what I thought was a severe cough caused by "Long COVID" turned out to be Stage 4 lung cancer, which was a shock to everyone since I have never smoked. But, thanks to some incredible doctors at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, I am now symptom-free. I must send out a special "thank you" to one of my college roommates, **Jim Lamont '80**, who, through his connections at the UNC hospital system, put me in touch with my oncologist and his team. The prognosis is excellent, and I expect to hang around as your class reporter for many years to come.

My diagnosis in May 2022 prompted me and my brother, **Eric "Schwartz" Rosenberg '77**, to accelerate the search for a buyer for our company, Seaside Golf Vacations. As Eric reported in a previous issue of *The Hill*, we sold Seaside Golf in September 2022 and the three of us — Eric, Carolyn, and I — have settled into retirement. Carolyn and I have taken advantage of our newfound freedom by traveling quite a bit in the last year, with trips to the U.S. Virgin Islands, Rome and Tuscany, Ireland, and Northern Ireland.

By the time this issue is published, we will have completed a 12-day photo-safari to Tanzania, and we have more trips on the horizon. Having a free schedule has allowed me to spend more time with some of our classmates, including **Wayne Birely**, **Vince Wesley**, and **Steve Dyer**, with whom I have played golf, and, during my quarterly trips to Chapel Hill for tests and treatment, I have had the pleasure of having dinner with **Jim Lamont '80** and **Karen Bellamy Lamont '81** on several occasions.

I also arranged and attended a mini-Bete/Phi Alph reunion in April 2022, which

# family

## DEPARTED

(Continued)

**Reese "Rick" Diggs Jr. '70** of Severna Park, Maryland, on Dec. 10, 2023.

**Thomas Shelor '71** of Virginia Beach, Virginia, on Nov. 7, 2023.

**Judith Torrey-Carter M.Ed. '75** of LaBelle, Florida, on Jan. 3, 2023.

**Eric Edie '75** of White Hall, Maryland, on Oct. 1, 2023.

**Kenneth Brown M.L.A. '80** of Arnold, Maryland, on Oct. 3, 2023.

**Jean Boxler Sullivan M.Ed. '81** of The Villages, Florida, on Sept. 24, 2023.

**James "Jamie" Spivey Jr. '82** of Agana Heights, Guam, on Oct. 18, 2023.

**Karen Davis M.S. '88** of Williamsport, Maryland, on Oct. 11, 2023.

**Eleanor Rearick Stepanic M.S. '90** of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, on Oct. 4, 2023.

**Teri Brittingham '96, M.S. '99** of Maitland, Florida, on March 28, 2023.

**Christopher McDonald '03** of Parkersburg, West Virginia, on July 22, 2023.

**Joshua Yosuiico '04** of Honeoye Falls, New York, on Aug. 9, 2023.

## Andrew “Andy” Mehl ’85 has retired after 30 years at Knox College.

was attended by **Mike Modica, Ray Via, Ron Bowen, Leslie McDade Bowen ’80, Scott Wheeler ’80, Keith Lawson, and Robin Lee Lawson’80.** Keith and Robin graciously opened their home to the group when our initial plans changed due to an unexpected thunderstorm. **Martha Hooper Wheeler, Sue Sullivan Matthews, Jan Claypoole Neel, and Sue Bornemann ’78** surprised me by sending a video of the four of them singing Rod Stewart’s “The Balltrap.” I suspect more than a little wine went into the production of that number! At the reunion, we celebrated **Keith Lawson’s** election to the McDaniel College Board of Trustees (congrats again, Keith!) and my remarkable recovery from cancer. That evening was, by far, the highlight of the year.

Mark “Manny” Rosenberg  
1979 Class Reporter  
mark@the-rosenbergs.com  
910-279-5138

## 1985

**Clifton “Clif” Martin** writes that he can’t believe how fast 60 came along. He retired at the end of 2023 as the chief executive officer and president of the Housing Commission and Corporation of Anne Arundel County. He had been with the agency for 32 years and decided to do some part-time traveling around the country to teach, facilitate, and present nationally affordable housing programs and concepts with the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO). He recently became a NAHRO fellow, which was quite an honor, and he plans to be a spokesperson in retirement. Clif and his husband also plan to do a great deal more personal travel this year to see our amazing world.

**Jeff Hayman** and his wife, Jeane, continue to enjoy rural living in Reedville, Virginia. They bought the waterfront lot next door, so they now extend an invitation to all their WMC friends to come visit by boat! Jeff remains active as the chief information officer of the local college, while Jeane stays busy with their cattle dogs, Rustle and Auggie. Jeff’s parents have been having some health issues, and it is fortunate that they live next door. The Haymans celebrated their 30th anniversary in Paris, and their 31st by attending their niece’s wedding in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in October 2022. In the spring of 2023, they drove to Arlington to attend the Army retirement ceremony of **Melissa “Missy” Ridgely Covolesky ’90.** They remain in contact with many Westminster and college friends, including **John Haker ’69** and **Chris Ginther ’87.** Jeff and Jeane continue to go to all Train and Kathleen Madigan concerts, but regret that they have attended their last Buffett event. They extend their best wishes to all their family on the Hill.

**Elizabeth “Liz” Gates Haslbeck** celebrated 35 years of marriage to the love of her life, Leo, in October 2023. Between rounds of golf, Scottsdale, Arizona, featured some amazing sights for them including saguaros (of course!), but also a boat ride on Saguaro Lake. It’s hard to keep them off the water. Liz and Leo are fortunate to have their two daughters and their husbands living nearby (no grandkids yet!), and Liz is lucky to still have both of her parents living nearby as well. Liz hopes to run into friends from ’85 (plus or minus) between now and the next update.

**Jennifer Macleae Arrogancia** is still the mathematics department chair at the Bryn Mawr School. Last fall, she coached the varsity field hockey team, which she said was super fun! One of her highlights of 2023 was a weekend getaway to Bethany Beach, Delaware, with **Gail Sadler Jones, Cindy Rasberry Minnich ’86, Nairy Ohanian ’86, and Vicky Turner Roden.**

**Vicky Eliades** worked for Quest Diagnostics for 21 years before they restructured and downsized. She was able to remarket herself and landed a job as an Optum HouseCalls scheduling coordinator with United Health Group. Vicky’s goal is to retire at 65. In addition to working full time, she gives back to her community by doing volunteer work. She is proud of her lifetime accomplishments and achievements as well as being a proud graduate of Western Maryland College.

**Jeff Rickett and Val Wieder Rickett** have taken on new roles as grandparents. Their grandson Malaki was born in August 2022, and they enjoy spending lots of time with him. “He is a true delight!” wrote Jeff (spoken like a true grandparent). Jeff forwarded a few pictures to me, and I can agree he is adorable! Jeff and Val regularly get together with **Barb Bailey Collins ’81, M.Ed. ’84; Carol Francies Carrico ’83; and Paul Paulette ’83 and Nancy Turner Paulette ’82.** Jeff still enjoys pastoring at Neelsville Presbyterian Church in Germantown, Maryland, and Val is enjoying teaching preschool at Glenelg United Methodist Church Preschool. Last summer, they traveled to Yellowstone with Val’s sisters and husbands and were awed by God’s creation.

**Beth Chapman Zimmer** retired last June, although she is working part time from home with an extremely flexible schedule that allows her to be available to help with her six grandchildren, ages 1-8. She commented to me, “You know how people say that after they retire, they don’t know how they ever found time to work? I believe it! Truly, I am busier now than I ever was!” Her husband, **Tom Zimmer ’84,** is set to retire in June 2024 after 40 years in education. They are both looking forward to traveling and spending some time relaxing.

Sending in greetings from Port St. Lucie, Florida, is **Jon Ferber,** who says retirement is great. He and Steph are

learning how to function without a schedule or knowing what day it is; he says every day seems like Saturday. They spend their days cycling, hiking, gardening, or sitting at the pool. The weather is great, and they are 40 minutes from the beach and two minutes from the resort pool and clubhouse. Living in a 55-plus community, Jon has learned bocce (hand and foot) and that people there eat dinner really early! He hopes everyone is doing well and he’s looking forward to seeing everyone at our 40th Reunion!

**Taraneh “Terri” Tahari Tuckey** also wrote in saying how much she’s enjoying retirement from the school system. She spends time playing pickleball, attending yoga classes, and getting together with family and friends (especially her friends and sorority sisters from WMC). Many of those get-togethers include **Jeannie White Kane, Polly Goethe Shoemaker, Barbara Lawson Foreman, Joanne Hogan Frazier, and Mary Ellen Miskelly Kelley.** Her husband, Brian, continues to work full time at his physical therapy practice and is teaching his Fascial Counterstrain technique around the world. They recently built a house in Estero, Florida, on the Gulf Coast and enjoy relaxing there with friends and family.

**Andrew “Andy” Mehl’s** big news is he has retired after 30 years at Knox College. He and his wife are eventually planning to move to the Florida Panhandle where they can enjoy the warmer weather.

**Ed Ripley and Elizabeth Hedges Ripley** are still living in Wasilla, Alaska, which has been their home for 31 years. They’re navigating the crossroads of aging parents on the East Coast while they spend as much time as possible with their 2-year-old grandson in Anchorage. He’s the light of their lives, and they’re blessed to support his parents as they navigate working full time and parenting. Ed and Elizabeth travel and play as much as possible whenever Elizabeth can break away from her job at the Mat-Su Health Foundation. They relish all Alaska has to offer in terms of adventure.

Adjusting to their newly empty nest is **Tom Heil** and his wife, Jessica, as their children, Xander and Olivia, are well on their way with their own lives — Xander is a doctor of pharmacy and Olivia is a cardio-thoracic physician assistant. Tom and Jessica are very proud of them both and tell them all the time how honored they are to be their parents. About five years ago, Tom stepped out of his management role in the fastener business and chose a more relaxed role within the same company. He was tired of the 70-plus hour weeks and the endless travel and now loves the freedom of making his own schedule with no nights, no weekends, no airports, and no hotels. In Tom’s spare time, he enjoys quiet moments with his wife at the beach, watching movies together, thrifting, tending to their yard and

# [Departed]

## Richard Brett, professor of Communication and Cinema

**Richard Brett, professor of Communication and Cinema, passed away on Jan. 24, 2024. He came to McDaniel in 2010 to teach and help co-create the college’s new Cinema program. Already an accomplished professor, he taught cinema and film at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and St. Andrews Presbyterian College in North Carolina after earning a master’s degree in Production from the University of Iowa and M.F.A. in Broadcasting and Cinema from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He previously worked as a videographer, producer, editor, script consultant, and production assistant, and ran a local broadcast channel.**

At McDaniel, he taught 10 courses for the Cinema major, including classes on scriptwriting, film production, and how to analyze great works of cinema. He was an instructor for the First Year Seminar, College Life in Cinema, and the Cinema capstone course, which culminates with the McDaniel Cinema Showcase where Cinema majors premiere their original films as their final capstone project. About the course, he said, “My goal isn’t to have them make films I would have made. It’s to lend my expertise and push them harder as a director.”

However, he was best known for his Introduction to Cinema, which engaged and energized hundreds of students over the years and drew many of them into the field. He also taught two popular film analysis courses that were almost always waitlisted and a junior level scriptwriting course, which was a favorite class for many Cinema majors.

Outside of class, he supported students in roles like the faculty sponsor for the Uncinema Club. He was promoted to full professor in August 2022.

A screenwriter, he wrote five feature-length screenplays during his time at McDaniel. He received dozens of national and international accolades, including a Cine Eagle Award and a regional Emmy.

Professor Brett, who said, “To create a film you must be a combination of artist, leader, psychologist, writer, technician, motivational coach, and all-around troubleshooter ... just to name a few,” also had a lifelong love for painting with particular interest in photo-realistic miniatures and paintings used in visual effects. During his sabbatical in fall 2023, he was working to complete his second horror novel.

He is survived by his wife, Bonnie Coffman, and stepdaughter, Kara Coffman ’20.



Left: Richard Brett was dedicated to his students and their work in their Cinema capstones.

Right: Members of the Communication & Cinema Department faculty, Robert Lemieux, Erin Watley, Richard Brett, and Jonathan Slade.

# alumni updates

**Lisa Wyble Arens '85** has been working at Northrop Grumman for 39 years and is still going strong.

numerous houseplants, and playing with their two goldendoodles, Obi and Isaac. After collecting vintage watches most of his life, three years ago Tom finally took the next step and studied horology. So now, to relax, he buys and repairs vintage watches dating all the way back to the early 1900s. Last year he was able to repair his great-grandfather's pocket watch, from when he was an engineer on the Lackawanna Railroad. The watch is well over 100 years old and is a very important piece of family history. Tom says, "While my wife and I were simplifying our lives, I came across photographs from my time at WMC. Those young faces of friends and relationships long past brought back many memories both good and some unfortunately not so good. The bittersweet emotions I felt reviewing these moments in time helped me realize how important each and every interaction I had helped form who I have become. This life has been a fast one that seems to get faster every day. I appreciate and miss everyone I ever laughed with, cried with, and even cried over, more than they will ever know. I hope each of them are well and I hope they too have found their peace as I have through this rollercoaster called life."

2023 was a year of travel for **Sandra "Sandy" Carlson Alexis** and her husband, Lans. They went on a cruise to Alaska for their 35th wedding anniversary and then a month later, they headed to Europe. Their first stop was Sweden to celebrate Midsommar with some Swedish relatives. Then, they went to Germany where Sandra served as pastor-in-residence for the Wittenberg English Ministry for two weeks. They also got to visit friends in Bavaria and a niece who lives in Paris. Ever since Sandra's mother died in 2022, she's been trying to do those "someday" goals, and she hopes other classmates are seizing the day and enjoying every drop of life. Sandra continues to serve First English Lutheran Church in Baltimore and her children (Lara, Abby, Sara, and Erik) are all healthy and looking for jobs or for better jobs. The only alum Sandra keeps in touch with is her wonderful roomie, **Julie High Sawyers '86, M.S. '87**.

**Diane Culver Borucki** is on the move! After selling their Columbia, Maryland, home of 30 years and moving to Bethany Beach, Delaware, in 2020, Diane and her husband, Dave, have been on the go. They've been to Atlanta, Georgia; Key West and Delray Beach, Florida; Playa Del Carmen, Mexico; Italy; Ireland; and London to cheer the Ravens to victory! Di still works in Columbia from Monday morning through Wednesday evening and then heads across the bridge for the remainder of the week. The bonus part of her commute is that she still gets to see her 1985 Purple Cow besties on a regular basis. Last spring, she enjoyed a long weekend trip to Savannah, Georgia, with **Laurie Chance**, **Lisa Wyble Arens**, **Lisa**

**Turner Horn**, **Susan Cooke Meurer**, **Kristin Lathroum Lister**, **Debbie Reda Brown**, and **Karen Gallagher Ames**. The trip was to commemorate their 60th birthdays and make even more memories together. Diane says, "The words to our alma mater are certainly true because the friendships we made at WMC will not be broken. Friends come and go, but my college girlfriends stay connected and we love sharing our lives together long after those wonderful days spent on the campus of WMC."

**Alan Alvey** and his wife, **Sandra Brant Alvey '87**, have spent the past couple of years immersed in spending time with family and friends. Sandra's mother passed away in May 2022, and fortunately the family was able to be with her during her last hours. The COVID-19 pandemic lessened the time family was able to be with her at the nursing home, but they are grateful for the time spent prior to mandated COVID-19 restrictions. In October 2022, Alan's daughter Samantha was married in an outdoor mountain wedding ceremony in northwest Georgia. The weather was picture perfect and everything went smoothly for the happy couple and especially the parents! Alan had a chance to travel to the Netherlands and Belgium, while Sandy traveled to Chile, Argentina, Antarctica, and Columbia. The Alveys sold their 46-acre home in Forest Hill, Maryland, and now only have one house, 21 acres, and two cats to manage.

**Caroline Benson Tringali** and her husband, Brian, are officially empty nesters enjoying condo life in Alexandria, Virginia, and Marco Island, Florida. She loves walking everywhere and has learned to grocery shop like a city dweller, buying only what they will eat or cook in the next few days. Happy memories of living in London during her junior year of college keep flooding back. Volunteer work on the church vestry and condo board keep Caroline busy, along with singing in the choir, attending Washington Nationals games with Brian, and knitting with friends.

Last year, yet another group of college girlfriends celebrated their 60th birthdays. **Sandra Michener Lazar** wrote that a weekend in Bethany Beach, Delaware, and a weekend in Front Royal, Virginia, for wine and good times was how she celebrated with **Dee Kennedy**, **Fran Ward '86**, **Amy Barnes-Elliott '84**, **Susan Wallace '86**, **Carrie Miller Parker**, **Mary Ellen Miskelly Kelley**, and **Deirdre O'Neill**. Sandra is still working at JPMorgan Private Bank and hoping to join **Amy Barnes-Elliott '84** in retirement. Her daughter moved from NYC to Charleston, South Carolina, so when she goes to visit her, she gets to enjoy the nice warm weather.

I received a quick note from **Lucrezia "Lu" Di Fiore Krolikowski** because she and **Dan Krolikowski '84** were getting ready to head to Florida for a few weeks. They are now grandparents, and Lu said her 1-year-old grandson is the light of their lives. He

is their only grandchild, but they have a granddog from their daughter. Their son and daughter-in-law moved near Princeton, New Jersey, about a year ago and are about 20 minutes away from Lu's daughter and her boyfriend. Lu and Dan are getting ready to downsize and move closer to both of their kids. Recently, they had dinner with **Ola Monastyskyj-Colon** and her husband; they all try to get together every few weeks. Also, Lu mentioned they went to an alumni gathering in Haddonfield, New Jersey, at a brewery where they saw **Debbie Dale Seidel '84** and Ethan Seidel. They also did some traveling last year to Memphis, Tennessee; Bethany, Delaware; Ocean City, New Jersey; and Cape May, New Jersey.

**Kathy Goldsborough** is still living in Silver Spring, Maryland, and still working at DRB Homes. Most of her time is spent visiting family and friends — places like Chicago; Asheville, North Carolina; Fair Haven, New Jersey; Lake Wawasee, Indiana; Sandestin, Pennsylvania; and Lexington, Kentucky — and going to graduations, weddings, and celebrations of life (due to many of our parents now passing). Kathy attended a mini Delt reunion at the McDaniel alumni event at Lone Oak not too long ago. Those attending were **Terri Davis Milne**; **Wendy Bartko Libert '86**; **Terri Taheri Tuckey**; **Jeannie White Kane**; **Lynn Fangmeyer Lang '87**; **Leslie Stinchcomb Dolan '86, M.S. '88**; and **Maureen "Mo" Martin Carroll '86**, who planned the event. They all had so much fun catching up with one another and they're looking forward to a big Delt/Phi Mu gathering at Homecoming.

Hitting the big 60th milestone had **John Douglas** wishing to get back to the Hill to remember what it was like to be 20, while trying to forget how foolish he was in his early years. He and his wife, Kathy, still work and live near Philadelphia, but they bought a Queen Anne Victorian fixer-upper in Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania, for an additional challenge. John saw his roommate, **John Palmer**, in Florida last year and commented to me that he's as clever as ever!

**Lisa Wyble Arens** has been working at Northrop Grumman for 39 years and is still going strong. Lisa and her husband, Jeff, spend lots of time visiting their daughters. Brittany is a physician assistant in Charlotte, North Carolina, and Lexi is in physical therapy school in Louisville, Kentucky. Last May, they finally made it to the Kentucky Derby, and her advice is if you get the chance, do it! Lisa said time is flying by and it's hard to believe we are 60! She had a great time celebrating a group 60th trip to Savannah last April (see **Diane Culver Borucki's** paragraph for the '85 Phi Alphas that were part of the trip).

It's been a busy two years for **Lee Ann Ware Peck** and her husband **George Peck '86** as both of their children have gotten married in that time. First, their son Kevin got

married in September 2022, and then their daughter Lauren was married in October 2023. Lee Ann said they are delighted to add their spouses to their family, and that each couple lives about an hour from them so they still get plenty of family time! Aside from all the wedding excitement, George is still working in banking full time at Farmers and Merchants Bank and Lee Ann is working two days a week at her "retirement job" with Weight Watchers. They see friends like **Michele Everett Seibel** whenever possible, and travel as often as they can.

**Chris Gray Aiello** and her husband, Scott, recently celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary. They remain in Ohio where Chris works in accounting part time at a local Catholic high school and church. Scott works in Columbus for Mettler Toledo Scales as the industrial division manager. They visit Boston more often now since their daughter works for the Boston Beer Co. Last summer, they visited with **Amy Farrell Stern '86** and her husband, Steve, who live just south of Boston. Then in August, Chris had a little WMC reunion with **Amy Farrell Stern '86**, **Eve Al-Arnasi Angers '86**, and **Jessica Freedman Chapman '84**. It had been almost 20 years since they all had been together because Eve lives in England and raising kids keeps them busy! Chris said it was like they were still back in college — such great ladies and friendships. Chris' oldest son graduated from OSU as a doctor of veterinary medicine and is now a specialty surgeon. Her youngest son just graduated in December from Denison University, where he played wide receiver in his fifth year for the Big Red football team. In the email Chris sent to me, she mentioned how much Denison University reminded her of WMC. Though it is slightly bigger than our alma mater, it sits on a hill in an adorable city where everyone lives on campus all four years. The setting is beautiful; it has red brick buildings and is a liberal arts school. And on top of it, their alumni magazine is called The Hill!

**Kathy Eichelberger Barna** and **Doug Barna '86** are still living in Mount Airy, Maryland. Doug works for Lily Pharmaceutical and plays a lot of golf in between knee and hip joint replacements! Kathy works as the volunteer coordinator for BridgingLife Hospice, but her favorite job is selling Scout & Cellar Clean Crafted™ wines and coffee! With three grandchildren and six granddogs, life is full! They occasionally run into and get together with other WMC alumni, and they consider themselves blessed beyond measure.

After 31 years at Novartis, **Sue Stevenson** has finally retired and is planning her next chapter. Sue is looking forward to spending more time at home and getting involved in her community. When I received her email with the latest news, she had just returned from an extended vacation for most of the month of

October. She hiked 205 miles on the Camino Santiago Trail in Portugal and Spain for several weeks. Her children are now 16 years old, juniors in high school, learning how to drive, and researching colleges. Sue continues to be involved on the Board of Trustees for McDaniel and has enjoyed becoming more involved with the college.

**Kim Groover Hughes** is in her third year as office administrator for The Keyes Co., a Florida-based real estate company and looking forward to retirement in a few years. Her husband, Brian, is still golf program director for Keiser University College of Golf. No grandkids yet, but they added a new dog to the family in 2023. Kim made a trip up to Maryland to visit with her mom, sister, and sister's family, so a few of us were able to meet up with her for lunch. It was nice to see her since it had been about four years since her last visit back home.

**Tracy McHale Kerns** was excited to kick off last summer spending time with **Lisa Wasshausen**; **Gretchen Fesche Walter**; **Robin Sullivan Sharp, M.S. '08**; **Beth Conlon Staley**; and **Carrie Miller Parker** at Lisa's beautiful home in Florida. The group spent a few days lounging, boating, kayaking, and laughing. They definitely missed **Anne Guenther Zimmermann** and **Charlotte Barber Letourneau**. Last October, Tracy and **Sam Kerns** celebrated the marriage of their son Brett and his beautiful bride, Emily. In addition, they were able to cross off a bucket list item of theirs: a trip to Italy. The two of them spent three weeks wining, dining, and touring many regions of Italy.

Yours truly is still in the mortgage business and working in Annapolis, Maryland, for Shore United Bank. Currently, it's not the greatest time to be in the mortgage industry (I'm typing this in November), but hopefully when you read this in the spring interest rates will be much lower. I still get together frequently with "the girls" and as **Diane Culver Borucki** and **Lisa Wyble Arens** mentioned we had a great 60th trip to Savannah, Georgia, which included lots of laughing (and involved our new friend Alice), tons of memories (the number of jumpsuits purchased), and endless smiles (especially when a young bachelorette party thought we were pretty cool; somehow, we didn't feel 60 then). So many classmates made lasting, lifelong friends while we were at WMC. I constantly read about these friendships in the emails you send to me: getting together with roommates, sorority sisters or fraternity brothers, former teammates, ROTC members, etc. We are all incredibly fortunate to have formed these everlasting connections with one another which all happened in a little town called Westminster.

*Laurie Chance*  
1985 Class Reporter  
lauriedchance@hotmail.com  
1738 Tarrytown Ave.  
Crofton, MD 21114

## 1991

**David Kleb, M.S. '95** is still living in Eldersburg, Maryland, with his wife of 30 years, Julie. Julie is an educator and David has been with the same company in alcohol distribution for the past 27 years. He can see retirement on the distant horizon! They visit their two children fairly frequently in Washington, D.C., where they coincidentally live about a mile apart. Since they have been empty nesters for a few years Dave and Julie decided to adopt a 4-month-old hound puppy from a kill shelter in southern Virginia. "Are we crazy or what?! Her name is Maggie, and she's named for Maggie's Pub in Westminster, Maryland, where we had our first date 32 years ago. We hope to give her a long, happy life." Dave goes to Charlotte, North Carolina, every spring to spend a week of eating, drinking, and catching up with **Jim Secker**. Dave also spends time with **Dave Weaver** and **Sue Parker Weaver '92** a few times a year to keep current on their lives.

*Elise Rosen Woods*  
1991 Class Reporter  
woods1491@yahoo.com

## 1997

Based in Philadelphia, **Michael D'Antonio** is relishing his life as the founder of Bongo Consulting, a marketing consultancy firm. He maintains strong connections with his close friends, including **Chip Dickey**; **Dwight Smith**; **Ross Hollebon**; **Matt Roff**; **Mike Caldwell, M.S.'05**; and **Brian Wyant**.

**Susanna Kuespert Aldridge** is still working a lot as the owner of a veterinary practice while her lucky husband is retired. She wishes her family lived closer to Maryland for her daughter to consider McDaniel! Her son is a junior at Indiana University and her daughter is a high school senior going through the admissions process. After not really traveling since opening her practice in 2008, she traveled a bit recently with an incredible trip to Hawaii in 2022 and two trips in 2023: a Mediterranean cruise and chaperoning her daughter's trip with the Indianapolis Children's Choir, where they performed in Canterbury Cathedral as well as cathedrals in Edinburgh and London. She now has an insatiable desire to travel more and has started using Duolingo, where she is attempting to learn conversational Hawaiian and Italian. So far, she has mastered such Duolingo classics as, "I eat sugar," "Kaleo does not want the blue ones," and her favorite, "He's an awa-loving grandpa!"

Life has been good for **Brett Edwards** as he just celebrated his 23rd wedding anniversary with his wife, Tracy, and his 26th work anniversary with TEKsystems, where he is the director of delivery

**After 31 years at Novartis, Sue Stevenson '85 has finally retired and is planning her next chapter.**

# alumni updates

**Billy Deavers '03 opened Liquidity Aleworks in November 2022, which was named Carroll County's best brewery in 2023.**

operations for a regional recruiting team. Brett and Tracy's children are now in college; his daughter is a junior at the University of Tampa and his son is a freshman at Penn State University. Brett still keeps up with a ton of people from WMC, and last May, a handful of friends hung out in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, including **Dan "Duke" DeLuca, Kevin Koretzki, Jay DeVito '96, Chris Kintzel '96, and Kevin Bernhardt.** They had a blast picking up right where they left off the last time they were all together and got in a round of golf and disc golf while hopping from brewery to brewery for good measure! Brett also connected with **Rick Estes '98** during the 2023 Baltimore Orioles opening day and recently reconnected with **Steve West '96** and **Nick Feracci '99** as well.

**Laura Staub Steakin** continues to practice as a nurse in the Baltimore area. She recently presented her work at the Sigma Theta Tau International Biennial Convention in San Antonio, Texas. She is pleased to hear there will be a nursing program on the Hill.

**John Green** has been working as a civil servant since February 2018, and he most recently has been working for the Air Force Medical Agency (Logistics). Having served almost 25 years in the Army, John reports that it is nice to be back on a military installation working in a building with the medical logistics elements of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Defense Health Agency. After 20 years as an officer in the Army Medical Department, he sees some of his former soldiers and supervisors frequently. When he is not working, he works even more taking care of what is left of his family horse farm in Carroll County. John and his sister recently celebrated 50 years of their family living on the farm. In his free time, John shared that he is a uniformed volunteer with the Maryland National Guard (MDNG) serving in the Maryland Defense Force (MDDF) as a modern-day citizen soldier. He works with the MDNG Joint Staff supporting the needs of the Army, Air, and MDDF as well as when called upon by the state. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, John led his unit of volunteers, the 10th Medical Regiment, supporting the MDNG State Surgeon and the COVID-19 response, and later in 2021 organized MDDF volunteers to support the mass immunizations at the Baltimore Veterans Hospital for six months.

**Amy Rice Mirra** works at an elementary school doing reading intervention, and she loves being back teaching again. Her oldest son is a freshman in college this year. Thinking about all of the good times and lifelong friendships made at WMC makes her excited for him and not so sad. Amy's daughter is a sophomore in high school and keeps her husband busy as she plays field hockey, soccer, basketball, and lacrosse!

Writing from Monkton, Maryland, where I reside with my husband and three children, I am continuing in my human resources leadership role at Alera Group. I oversee an HR team that includes benefits, organizational development, recruiting, and HR generalist functions, which keeps me quite busy. In my role, I also get to travel a bit. My children are in 11th, sixth, and second grade, and they are playing several sports. So, our weekends are filled with cheering from the sidelines and seeing family. As she considers her college career ahead of her, my daughter and I recently toured McDaniel College's campus, which was so fun. Memories rushed back! I sincerely hope everyone is doing well. Please stay in touch in the months ahead and cheers to a productive 2024 for all.

*Sarah Sheckels*  
1997 Class Reporter  
sarahshecks@gmail.com

## 2003

**Billy Deavers** opened a brewery called Liquidity Aleworks in November 2022. In September 2023, Liquidity was voted Carroll County's best brewery in the Carroll County Times' readers' best issue. Six days before Liquidity's first anniversary, they won the Maryland Craft Beer Competition cup, beating out 222 other entries to take Best in Show for Three Minutes Later, a cream ale. Billy has been supported in this by his wife, **Amy Huffer Deavers '04, M.S. '12; Brandi Livesay Tignall, M.S. '06,** whose husband Ray is his business partner; **Matt Hurff; Jen Pohl Hurff, M.S.'09;** and **John Burghardt,** who have all made the brewery a place to catch up. **Tom Fogarty '04** has even come down and played a few acoustic shows to entertain the crowds in the taproom.

**Matt Mauriello** is currently in his 21st year as an educator in Washington County Public Schools and his 17th year as an administrator. Matt is now the longest tenured principal in the 47-year history of Western Heights Middle School, where he is celebrating his ninth anniversary. In his spare time, Matt continues to play live music with his band, Staff Infection, and he also coaches a high-level travel baseball team in the Renegades organization. Matt's children — Amelya, 20; Sofie, 17; and Kameron, 15 — are growing up quickly! Matt is excited to watch and support his children as they mature into young adults, and work hard in school, their jobs, and in their athletic activities.

For over a year now, **Christina Walter Wingert** has been on the board of directors for the Rainbow Rose Center, York County, Pennsylvania's LGBTQ+ resource and support center. She is currently the events chair, and her role is to provide York County's LGBTQ+ community with

exciting and important social events like Pride. When not organizing events for the state of Maryland, specifically as the chief of the criminal division in the Office of the Attorney General.

**Anja Jones** is now an attending physician in Massachusetts and is working as a full-time forensic pathologist/medical examiner for the state of Massachusetts. She also just rescued a puppy!

**Kristin Mele Hines** and her husband, **Chris Hines '05,** continue to live in Virginia Beach, Virginia, with their two sons, Jackson and Nash. Kristin started a new job last year as the lead financial analyst for a company called Computershare. On the weekends, they enjoy chasing their kids around their respective sports fields and spend a lot of time on the water boating and fishing. Most recently, they celebrated their 10-year wedding anniversary in the Florida Keys.

**Laura Kurrle** works as a senior compliance specialist for Harford Mutual Insurance Group and was a 2023 winner of the Rising Insurance Star Executives 35 under 35 award, which recognizes young professionals who are making an impact in their company, community, and the insurance industry.

**Anastasia Zenner** decided to make her lifelong dream of motherhood come true, and is now a single mother by choice, welcoming the birth of her daughter, Josephine Claire, in February 2023.

**Stephanie Banik** had her dream wedding earlier this year on the same beach she grew up on in Hawaii. **Christopher Ferrick-Manley** and **Joe Guida** were in attendance. After 10 years of co-founding and running a small home improvement business in the Washington, D.C., area, Stephanie has transitioned to an education and outreach coordinator for an environmental nonprofit, where she can use her environmental degree. She and her husband live in a cabin in the mountains of West Virginia.

**Jackie Kahler** got married in July 2022 to her husband, who she met in El Salvador. She now has two beautiful stepchildren, ages 9 and 13. She works for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) in the International and Refugee Affairs Division. Jackie is the Latin America desk officer and helps manage refugee processing in the region and sends out teams to conduct interviews. She is always open to being a career resource if any McDaniel students are interested in working for U.S. CIS.

**Jacob McCurry, M.S. '13** recently passed the National Counselor Exam and is accruing hours toward being a licensed professional counselor in Pennsylvania. In his free time, Jacob enjoys traveling, spending time with friends, and connecting with friends at McDaniel College. Most important, he enjoys being a tenor in the Masterworks Chorale of Carroll County.

As for me, I recently moved to the suburbs of Philadelphia and took a new position at West Chester University. I'm enjoying the life up north; however, I am still getting accustomed to the Philly food and sports.

In the prior edition of *The Hill*, I noted that I would be passing along my post as class reporter, but I have stayed on this year to continue supporting the college. The work continues to be an honor; however, if someone has an interest in writing for our class in the future, please feel free to reach out to me and we can connect.

*Jamin Bartolomeo*  
2003 Class Reporter  
jkbarto@gmail.com

## 2009

**Bianca Reiti-Weishaar** won the Excellence in Education award at her school and is currently one of the volunteer directors of Fann Cup, a charity lacrosse tournament that will take place in Philadelphia this summer.

**James W. Eaton Jr., M.S. '12** is currently in his 12th year teaching World History at Old Mill Middle North (an IB/MYP school) in Anne Arundel County. He and his wife, Meghan, welcomed baby Abby into their lives in July 2023, bringing the Eaton clan to a party of four. They enjoy kayaking, skiing, and watching baseball throughout the year. They reside in Annapolis, Maryland, and spend time with fellow 2009 graduates **Ryan Barnett, Zach Croft, Brad Eyler, Jordan Barton,** and **James Isaminger.**

**Kimberly Pavlovsky** has stepped away from work in the early childhood private school sector and is now working in higher education at Howard Community College. She traded teaching the youngest (infants to fifth graders) for helping and assisting college students.

**Kristen Simmler Trom** misses the Hill! She was a Biology major at McDaniel with minors in Chemistry and Sociology. Nowadays, she is a mom to three kids ages 5, 7, and 10. Now a family medical doctor, Kristen met her husband, an ER doctor, in medical school in Kansas City, Missouri. They live in Kristen's hometown of Mullica, New Jersey, where they both work. Their kids participate in tons of activities, and they are all avid Phillies fans!

**Katie Dorian** is living in Baltimore and working as an attorney for the state of Maryland, specifically as the chief of the criminal division in the Office of the Attorney General.

**Kristin Mele Hines** and her husband, **Chris Hines '05,** continue to live in Virginia Beach, Virginia, with their two sons, Jackson and Nash. Kristin started a new job last year as the lead financial analyst for a company called Computershare. On the weekends, they enjoy chasing their kids around their respective sports fields and spend a lot of time on the water boating and fishing. Most recently, they celebrated their 10-year wedding anniversary in the Florida Keys.

**Laura Kurrle** works as a senior compliance specialist for Harford Mutual Insurance Group and was a 2023 winner of the Rising Insurance Star Executives 35 under 35 award, which recognizes young professionals who are making an impact in their company, community, and the insurance industry.

**Anastasia Zenner** decided to make her lifelong dream of motherhood come true, and is now a single mother by choice, welcoming the birth of her daughter, Josephine Claire, in February 2023.

**Stephanie Banik** had her dream wedding earlier this year on the same beach she grew up on in Hawaii. **Christopher Ferrick-Manley** and **Joe Guida** were in attendance. After 10 years of co-founding and running a small home improvement business in the Washington, D.C., area, Stephanie has transitioned to an education and outreach coordinator for an environmental nonprofit, where she can use her environmental degree. She and her husband live in a cabin in the mountains of West Virginia.

**Jackie Kahler** got married in July 2022 to her husband, who she met in El Salvador. She now has two beautiful stepchildren, ages 9 and 13. She works for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) in the International and Refugee Affairs Division. Jackie is the Latin America desk officer and helps manage refugee processing in the region and sends out teams to conduct interviews. She is always open to being a career resource if any McDaniel students are interested in working for U.S. CIS.

**Jacob McCurry, M.S. '13** recently passed the National Counselor Exam and is accruing hours toward being a licensed professional counselor in Pennsylvania. In his free time, Jacob enjoys traveling, spending time with friends, and connecting with friends at McDaniel College. Most important, he enjoys being a tenor in the Masterworks Chorale of Carroll County.

**Rachel Pyles Rodriguez** is the director of the writing center at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland. She lives in the countryside of Centreville, Maryland, with her husband and 3-year-old son. Their most recent adventure is the raising of a flock of chickens and quails, that keep them steadily supplied with eggs.

*Rachel Pyles Rodriguez*  
2009 Class Reporter  
Sendzrachelrodriguez@gmail.com

## 2015

**Calvin Benevento** and **Erin Giles Benevento** are still happy to call Westminster "home." Calvin is the accounting manager at StepStone Group in Owings Mills, Maryland. Outside of work, he mentors current McDaniel students through the Phi Delta Theta Chapter Advisory Board and pitches for the Littlestown Dodgers men's league baseball team. In summer 2022, Erin was promoted to chief of staff to McDaniel College President Julia Jasken. Erin is still active on the board of directors for Carroll County Habitat for Humanity and the Boys and Girls Club of Carroll County.

Last spring, **Antonia "Toni" Francis** adopted Tsarina, a big white dog with beautiful blue eyes and a name fit for a queen. In September, the two of them moved from Charleston, South Carolina, to Charleston, West Virginia, where they both enjoy spectacular mountain views and Toni continues to advance her law career.

**William Kealey** still works with computers and was recently promoted to systems administrator at his workplace. He and his wife bought a house in Aberdeen, Maryland, where they live with their two cats. Will is on the steering committee of Progressives of Harford County, an advocacy group that promotes racial, social, economic, and environmental justice. He's still an EMT and continues to volunteer occasionally.

**Steph Perez** and **Kyle Dunn** moved to Crofton, Maryland, in January 2023. In August, Kyle proposed to Steph during a trip to Williamsburg, Virginia. Steph continues to keep a busy schedule. She recently celebrated her ninth year working at Higher Information Group, where she is the creative manager. She also says her freelance work — which includes graphic and web design, photography, and illustration — is at an "all-time high." Steph has also started competing in bikini bodybuilding. In 2022 and 2023, she competed in five contests sanctioned by the National Physique Committee (NPC), the largest amateur bodybuilding and physique organization in the United States. Kyle competed in his first NPC event last year, participating in the men's physique division.

Google still thinks **Zach Royal** is sending me suspicious emails when he sends me updates for this column, but at least his

latest message didn't go to my spam folder. Zach is finishing up his M.B.A. with a concentration in data analytics this spring. He's been published twice in connection with his work with the Food and Drug Administration to help establish a new global pharmaceutical initiative. (He also tells me that he anticipates publishing an erotic novel this year, but I think he's probably just been writing "Twilight" fanfiction.) In his free time, Zach enjoys painting and sculpting. And as a newly minted Maryland Master Gardener, he's very proud of his tomatoes.

**Sarah Sackett Zega** welcomed her first child, a girl, in July 2023.

As for me, the world of federal contracting continues to keep me on my toes. In fall 2022, I returned to the Defense Health Agency to support communications for the TRICARE health benefit, which is how I'd started my contracting career six years ago. Outside of work, I still dabble in activities in Washington, D.C.'s LGBTQ+ community, and I continue to learn how to maintain the home I purchased in Hyattsville, Maryland, in November 2020. I've also really enjoyed writing our class column for the past seven years, but I'm ready to hand over the reins to someone new. If you're interested in being our class reporter, please call or email the Alumni Engagement Office. And regardless of whether I'm your class reporter, I'm always happy to hear from you. Feel free to email me or message me on Facebook if you ever want to say hi!

*Annie Brown*  
2015 Class Reporter  
anniebrown225@gmail.com

## 2021

**Moire DiGiacomantonio** has been working as a high school math teacher since graduating. She has also worked the past two semesters as an adjunct lecturer at McDaniel in the Mathematics department.

*Amara Foster*  
2021 Class Reporter  
Amaranajah99@gmail.com

**Katie Dorian '09 is the chief of the criminal division in the Office of the Attorney General in Maryland.**

# keep climbing

Lessons I took from the Hill



**Christina Walter Wingert '03** earned a B.A. in Social Work and Sociology with a minor in Religious Studies. She also holds a Master of Social Work from Widener University. She is the community coordinator for Reach Cyber Charter School and vice president of the Rainbow Rose Center.

## Bringing joy to the LGBTQ+ community, one event at a time

BY CHRISTINA WALTER WINGERT '03

I have always been interested in helping marginalized communities, and my time at McDaniel College as a Social Work major played a significant role in fostering that passion. During my studies, I learned about the importance of inclusivity and social justice, particularly for marginalized communities, and that has greatly influenced my role at the Rainbow Rose Center, the only nonprofit LGBTQ+ center in York County, Pennsylvania.

My time in Phi Mu on the Hill was a truly transformative experience. I met and bonded with sisters who were part of the LGBTQ+ community, and through their stories and experiences, I gained a deeper understanding and empathy for the struggles and discrimination they faced. They inspired me to use my skills and passion for event planning to make a positive impact.

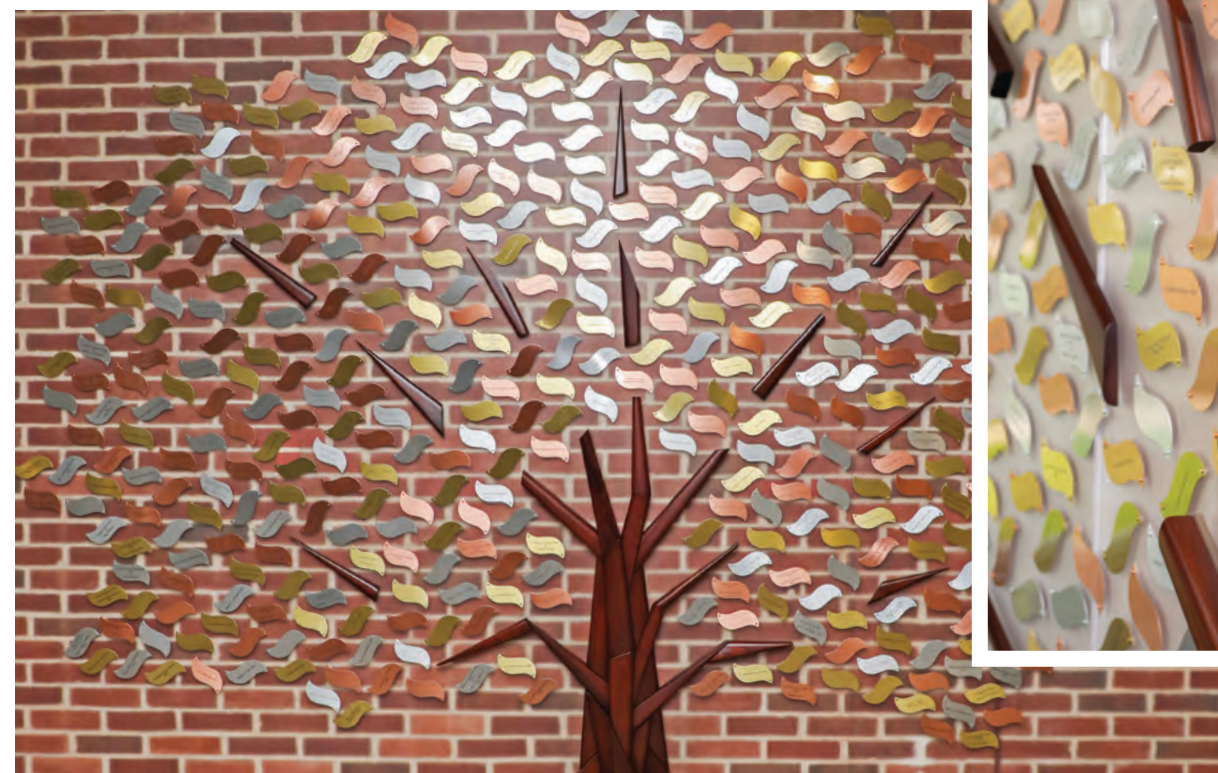
Of course, 2020 changed a lot of us, and what it did for me was it helped me realize that people had lost their joy. With so much negativity in the world and seeing how scared so many people were to leave their homes, I just couldn't stay in my own safe bubble when so many were struggling.

I got the opportunity to be a part of the group Free Mom Hugs and participated in Hanover's Pride in 2021. In 2022, I became part of the board for Hanover Pride and organized all the vendors for that year's Pride celebration. Around that time, I was introduced to the Rainbow Rose Center, and there happened to be a place on their board for an events chair. In February 2024, I was elected vice president of the Rainbow Rose Center.

At the center, I am responsible for planning events for the LGBTQ+ communities. With my background of looking at things from a perspective of inclusion, I can create events that not only provide a safe and welcoming space for the LGBTQ+ community but also educate and raise awareness about important social issues. My McDaniel education also provided me with a solid foundation in communication and teamwork, which are essential skills in event planning. In June 2023, I organized York County Pride, which showcased 150 vendors and provided all-day entertainment and activities for 3,000 attendees. It was the most attendees York County Pride has ever had, and I'm anticipating a larger turnout this year.

My time in Phi Mu and at McDaniel taught me the value of sisterhood and instilled in me a deep commitment to promoting inclusivity and equality, which I am able to continue through my work at the Rainbow Rose Center. It has been incredibly fulfilling to see the impact these events have on individuals, fostering a sense of belonging and acceptance. Ultimately, I want to be an effective and compassionate advocate and help create a community where everyone feels included and loved.

# Campus Landmark Challenge



The Legacy Tree honors members of the college community who include the college in their long-term charitable plans. Currently, more than 300 loyal McDaniel supporters are members of the Legacy Society, making a commitment to the future of the college and creating lasting, meaningful legacies for themselves.

Do you know where on campus the Legacy Tree is located?

### Prize:

Everyone who answers correctly will be entered into a drawing for a McDaniel College sweatshirt.

### Submit:

Please send submissions via email to [ocm@mcDaniel.edu](mailto:ocm@mcDaniel.edu) with "Campus Landmark Challenge" as the subject line or via mail to:

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

### Deadline:

Friday, April 26, 2024



To learn more about the Legacy Society, scan the QR code or contact Lawrence "Chip" Junkin M.S. '15 at [cjunkin@mcDaniel.edu](mailto:cjunkin@mcDaniel.edu) or 410-857-2256.



**“IF I DIDN’T HAVE THAT NETWORK, I DON’T KNOW WHERE I WOULD BE TODAY. I ATTRIBUTE A LOT OF MY LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUCCESS TO FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS WHO HAVE SEEN ME FROM DAY ONE AND NEVER STOPPED BELIEVING IN ME.”**

**— JASMIN CHAVEZ CRUZ '19**



*Read more about how Chavez Cruz is giving back to current McDaniel students through her role as a presidential appointee for the White House Hispanic Initiative on page 20.*