

Owl & Spade

A Thousand Stars by Night

Fall 2021



A Magazine for
the Alumni &
Friends of
Warren
Wilson
College

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OWL & SPADE

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A class of students stands in front of the Swannanoa Tunnel in 2012. That class trip led to nine years of research into racism, injustice, and tragedy in a local folk song by two Warren Wilson professors. See full story on page 31. Photo by Jeffrey A. Keith, Ph.D.



A Letter From the President

Dear Alumni and Friends,

It seems so fitting that the theme for last year's *Owl & Spade* was "Exploring Uncharted Territory," in the midst of our response to a global pandemic, and this year's theme is "A Thousand Stars By Night," a poetic reference from our College Alma Mater lyrics to the guiding lights of stars in an unimaginably vast sky. Navigators throughout the ages have looked to the stars for direction in their journeys through uncharted territories, and humans across the world often raise their eyes to the heavens looking for light, hope, and meaning. The stars may not always provide answers or the clear direction we seek, but they can provide comfort and a sense of being part of something bigger than ourselves.

It can be difficult to find "silver linings" in the past 18 months as we look both backward to the past and forward to the future while navigating the present, but there *is* light. Let's be honest; it was, and it still is, really hard to see. And at the same time, we changed in important ways that we are just now beginning to understand. Countless families discovered joy in being together in unexpected contexts, and work lives transformed dramatically for many of us, giving us new expectations and experiences. Many of us are now newly appreciative of social interactions that had vanished for a long time, and some of us will be more selective in those interactions with our newfound sense of priorities. The long-overdue reckoning for racial injustice brought important and hopeful changes as the inequities of the past and present were laid bare. Our physical isolation had us looking both inward and outward, and we are changed.

This moment and these musings are especially meaningful to me as I write this letter, since my beloved husband Ric passed away on June 4, 2021, after a tough year-long battle with cancer. The loss of someone who has been a part of my life for 44 years (42 of them married) is unfathomable. But I am so grateful that we spent that year living together here in the mountains, appreciating each other in new ways while we were socially isolated due to both the pandemic and his need for health precautions while in treatment. I am grateful that, near the end, pandemic restrictions were eased, and I was able to invite family and friends into our lives again. We were both so humbled and touched by the ways in which the Warren Wilson community supported us, and I have become closer to so many of those good folks after Ric's death as they have reached out in love and kindness. I changed during this hard year in some positive ways. Looking to the stars for their hopeful sparkle, I feel both gratitude and a sense of expectation alongside the everpresent grief.

The articles in this edition seek to provide a bit of that sparkle and hope—the thousand stars by night that shine especially bright in our mountain home in the Swannanoa Valley, as well as in the stories we're sharing about our community. May you find it easier to navigate the future that awaits when guided by their light, wherever you are.

In Community,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynn M. Morton".

Lynn M. Morton, President

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Can't Stop, Won't Stop

Profile by Mary Bates, portrait by Serena Fick '24

For Monte Cosby '24, cycling is more than a hobby—it changed his life. Now, on the Cycling Team at Warren Wilson and on track to becoming a pro cyclist by his junior year, he's on a mission to use the sport to help others too.

His dream after college is to give back to his community by getting more kids on bikes. He also seeks to break down racial barriers within the sport.

"You don't see a lot of Black people on bikes," Cosby said. "The sport is not diverse in a lot of ways, which I'm trying to make a change of. I'm trying to be a role model, trying to be a leader for all those young Black folks out there who want to become pro cyclists one day."

Cosby grew up in Fairfield Court, a public housing community in Richmond, Virginia.

"I started from nowhere. I started from the bottom, the worst projects in Virginia, where homicide rate is the highest, drug rate is the highest, drop-out rate is the highest. That's the neighborhood I grew up in," Cosby said. "These people are really dedicated to being something great; it's just hard for them to be great when there's nothing around them that's great."

Last year, Cosby starred in a PBS documentary about his community called *HEARD*. The film won an Emmy this year for outstanding documentary in the historical/cultural category. It is streaming at vpm.org/heard at time of publication.

In an emotional scene at the end of the documentary, Cosby finds out he has been admitted to Warren Wilson College and also offered the full-tuition, room, and board Earth Steward Scholarship.

Once he arrived on campus, the transition wasn't easy at first. He said the College's environment was very different from his life experiences up to that point. He had to get used to the academic standards, new terminology, different foods, a different way of talking, and the rigor of training with the Cycling Team.

Since he grew up surrounded primarily by other Black people, he said he was also worried at first to find himself as the only Black person on the Cycling Team.

"For me to be the only Black person on the team was very abnormal," Cosby said. "When I first joined it, I was

not as confident as I am now. I thought I was going to be left out or thought I was going to be looked at different or treated different, but that was not the case."

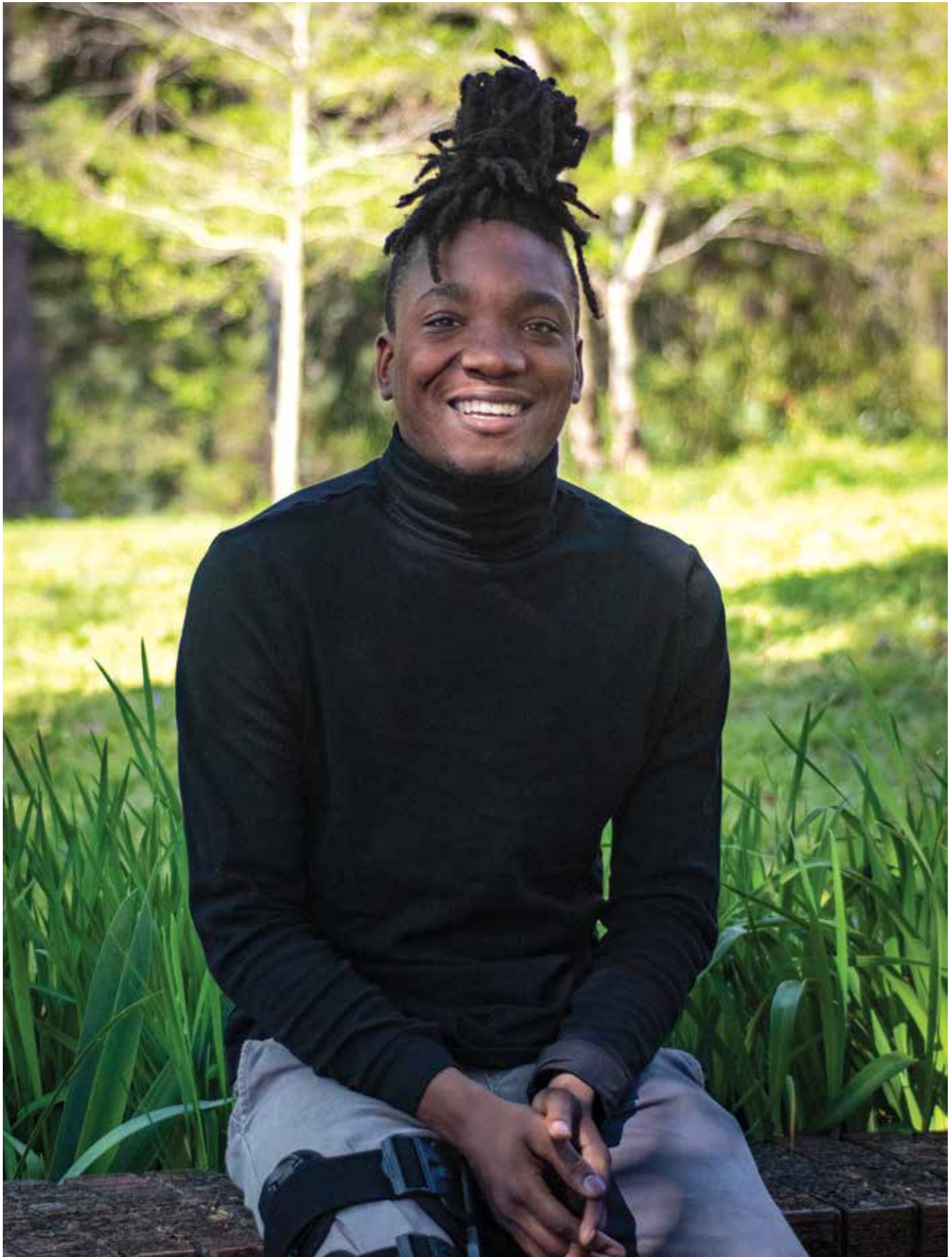
With the help of teammates, advisors, coaches, and professors, Cosby adjusted to college and found a community. He now calls his teammates "family," and he ended his first year with a 3.5 GPA.

"For me to come from nothing, anyone can do anything. Don't give up," Cosby said. "One quote I always say is 'can't stop, won't stop.' No matter where you at, no matter how hard it is, keep pushing."

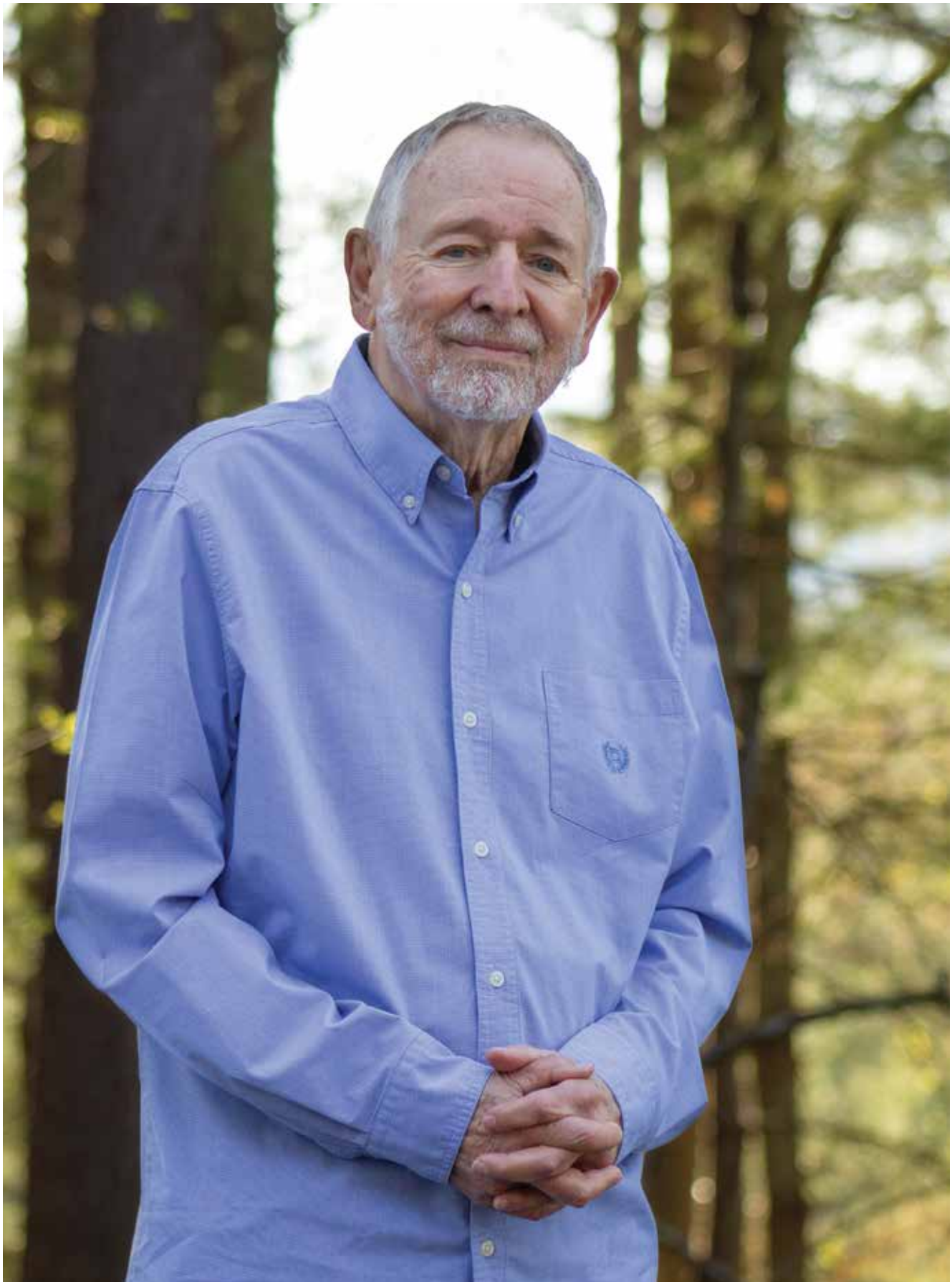
Cosby bikes 50 miles per day and already has offers from pro teams.

"Something I'm trying to do is set a goal to show that kids from the projects can be great," Cosby said. "We got the courage, we got the talent, we got the knowledge to do anything anyone else can do. We got the heart, we got the mindset. We got the self-control. We have as much as any other person, it's just harder for us to do because we don't have as many opportunities." ■

Monte Cosby '24, a current student at Warren Wilson College, is on track to becoming a pro cyclist by his junior year. He seeks to be a role model as a Black pro cyclist and to give back to the public housing community where he grew up. Last year he starred in a PBS documentary called *HEARD*, which won an Emmy this year.



Monte Cosby '24 | Relevant Role Model



Lee Self '57, Ph.D. | Practical Idealist

His Nets Saved Millions of Lives

Profile by Jake Frankel '02, portrait by Casey "Red" Herring '21

By putting two simple ideas together, Dr. Lee Self '57 has saved millions of lives from malaria. While serving as the Regional Advisor for the World Health Organization (WHO) in China and Southeast Asia decades ago, Self invented permethrin-treated nets, which are still a key antimalarial strategy today.

When he first arrived with a single suitcase in tow at the steps of Sunderland dormitory at Warren Wilson Vocational Junior College, Self—a Kentucky native—was mesmerized by the beauty of the Swannanoa Valley. “It was one of the happiest times of my life,” he said.

Working on the College Farm fixing fences, baling hay, and cutting timber “provided valuable lessons on appreciating hard work and teamwork,” Self said. But not all lessons came easily—while having fun raising cattle, playing on the baseball and basketball teams, and tramping around the surrounding hills, he initially failed his introductory English and Chemistry classes.

Self overcame his first-year grades and passed Chemistry on his second attempt. “Chemistry ended up being one of my favorite classes. I benefited from those early classroom experiences, and I was able to complete advanced Chemistry courses in later studies,” he said. Warren Wilson was his springboard to the University of Georgia and then to North Carolina State University, where he earned a Ph.D. in Entomology in 1964.

Self’s determination served him well in a long career with the WHO, where he spent decades deeply involved in anti-malaria efforts and other disease-control activities across the globe.

He worked in Myanmar on filariasis, South Korea on Japanese encephalitis, Indonesia on dengue hemorrhagic fever, and in Nigeria on malaria. While on duty in China in 1979, Self noticed that many of the villagers’ mosquito nets were torn, providing little help. Around the same time, he learned that U.S. soldiers were protected from bloodsucking insects because their uniforms were treated with pyrethroid insecticides.

Self subsequently proved that treating mosquito nets with permethrin insecticide offered protection, even if they were torn. He developed cost-effective training sessions to increase the use of these treated nets across China and Southeast Asia. This innovation involving village treatment

would eventually save millions of lives, and it became a bedrock of the global malaria-control strategy.

With global funding, more than a billion commercially treated insecticide nets have been distributed across Africa since 2000, resulting in momentous declines in malaria, particularly among children. The dramatic improvement “was one of the great public health stories of the past 15 years,” Dr. Margaret Chan said when she was the Director-General of the WHO in 2015.

“I had no idea this idea was going to have such a big impact. I didn’t realize how far it was going to go,” Self said. “It’s good to know that I was part of something that prevented innumerable deaths and sickness from malaria infection.”

Now 84 years old, Self lives in rural Lyons, Georgia, where the love of nature he cultivated at the College hasn’t faded. “I will always feel grateful for my time at Warren Wilson, and to have played a role in the worldwide effort to control malaria,” he reflected. ■

The World Health Organization (WHO) credits Dr. Lee Self '57 for saving millions of lives from malaria by inventing a permethrin-treated mosquito net in his role as Regional Advisor for the WHO in China and Southeast Asia.

Of Pelicans and Opossums

Profile by Melissa Ray Davis '02, portrait by Tom Parker

Rhett Small '14 is living their dream nursing birds, wildlife, and other exotic animals back to health, but their path to that dream followed an unexpected route.

A Biology major, Small worked as the Poultry Crew Manager on the Farm Crew at Warren Wilson and volunteered with various animal rescue and wildlife rehabilitation organizations. They started on the pre-veterinary medicine track but began to have doubts—pre-vet students at other schools insisted that wildlife rescue and rehabilitation was not a viable veterinary career.

“I had assumed that I wanted to be a veterinarian, working with wildlife,” Small said, explaining that they had been very attached to the concept of becoming a doctor. Thankfully, after a tear-filled career advising session with Wendy Seligmann, MBA, the Associate Dean of Career Development, Small realized that the aspects of working with wildlife that they loved were rehabilitation or nursing skills—not doctor skills.

Seligmann suggested reaching out to people doing what Small wanted to do to find out how they got there. It turned out that many wildlife center directors started as certified veterinary technicians.

That route proved fruitful. After Warren Wilson, Small earned their Associates in Assisted Sciences, Veterinary Technology. Then they landed their dream job as a certified veterinary technician at the South Florida Wildlife Center (SFWC), a robust wildlife hospital treating over 13,000 animals a year.

One memorable day, “someone brought in this giant dog crate with what sounded like a tiger in it,” Small said. It turned out to be a bobcat with a bad carpal fracture. Other days, it was a pocket full of baby opossums, an armadillo hit by a car that they sewed up with a tapestry needle, or shell repairs on a turtle, which are “practically carpentry, with all of the drills, screws, and hardware involved,” Small said. Hook removals on pelicans meant reaching an entire arm into the anesthetized bird to scoop out its stomach contents. “One time someone found a flip flop!” Small said.

Some of Small’s favorite patients were frigate birds. “Those birds are never really supposed to touch the ground,” Small said. “They have these teeny tiny little legs,

and they mostly coast through the air their entire lives—they sleep in the air, do everything in the air. They come down only to mate on little cliffsides once a year, and the rest of their lives are spent soaring. So to see them on the ground in the clinic is, medically, like dealing with an alien.”

Small said people frequently ask, “Why intervene when a wild animal is dying? Isn’t that just interrupting the cycle of life?” But about 90 percent of the animals treated at the center had ailments caused by humans, whether direct or indirect. “The harm has already been caused and is never going to go away,” Small said, “but if I can make it a little bit better, I would like to try.”

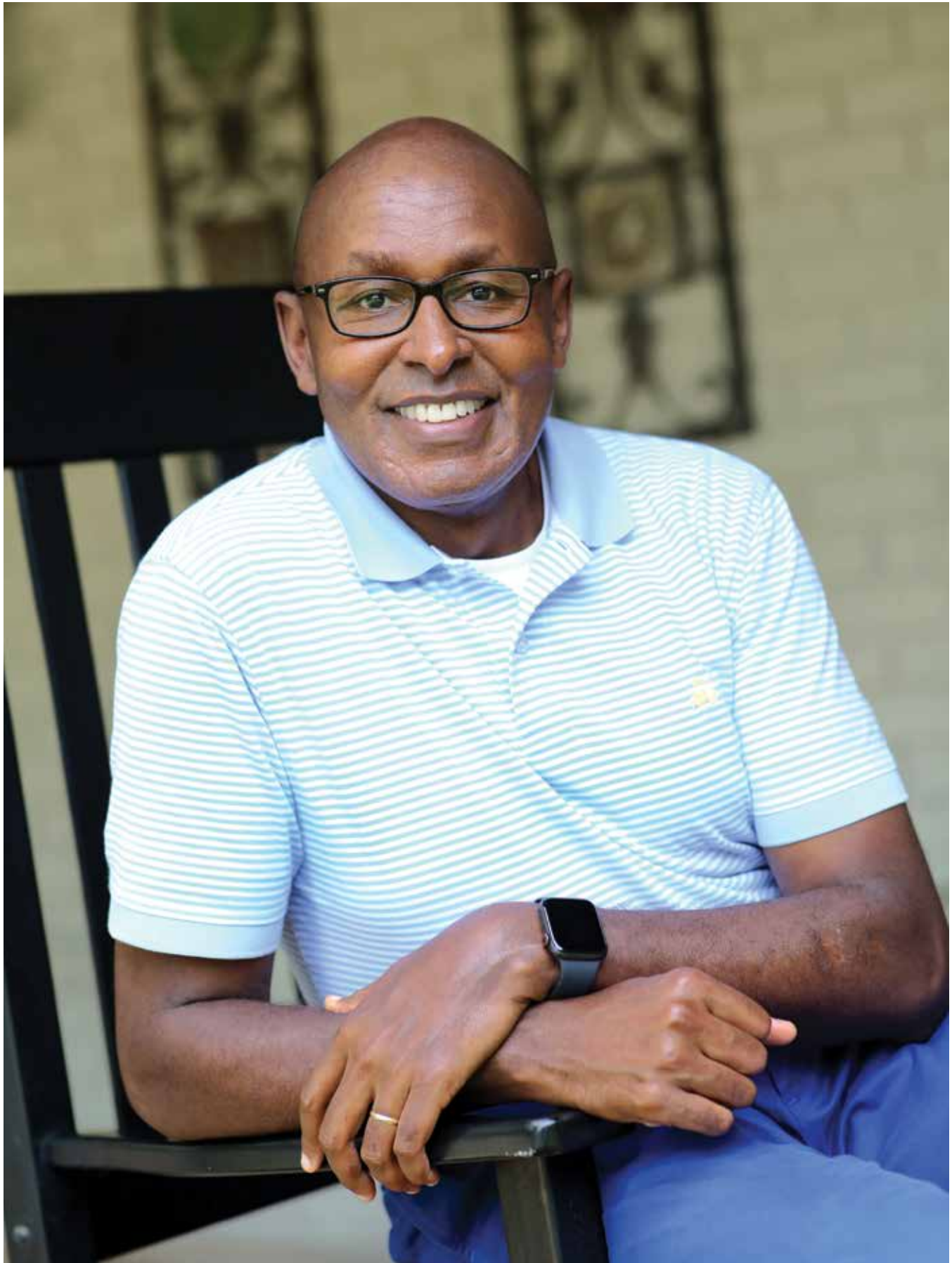
Small spent three years working for the SFWC, but its funding was abruptly reduced in 2020. In the resulting layoffs, Small suddenly lost their dream job. Though leaving the center broke Small’s heart, veterinary work was plentiful during the COVID-19 pandemic. After a short stint at a veterinary neurology practice, Small landed a new job in Seattle at the Center for Bird and Exotic Animal Medicine, the only 24-hour emergency exotic animal veterinary clinic in Washington.

“I wasn’t sure how I would feel, not doing wildlife in particular,” Small said, “but I’m really happy to work with birds again. I have a lot to learn. I have a lot to give. And I have a lot of animals to help, which is what I do.” ■

Rhett Small '14 is a veterinary technician and wildlife rehabilitator who nurses wildlife, birds, and other exotic animals back to health. Previously with the South Florida Wildlife Center in Fort Lauderdale, Small now works for the Center for Bird and Exotic Animal Medicine in Seattle, Washington.



Rhett Small '14 | Intentional Adventurer



Mur Muchane '87 | Creative Critical Thinker

No Constraints

Profile by Jake Frankel '02, portrait by Monica Galloway

As COVID-19 upended higher education institutions across the country, Mur Muchane '87 led a university in its pivot to new mediums for course delivery, online learning for students, and remote work for employees.

As the Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer at Wake Forest University, Muchane had to quickly equip the campus with the new digital tools they needed to thrive remotely.

“We had to make a very dramatic shift,” he said of the changes at Wake Forest. “It really took a village, all of us working in partnership—something that Warren Wilson College helps prepare students for very well.”

Back on his family’s small dairy farm outside of Nairobi, Kenya, where he grew up, Muchane could not have conceived of the computing challenges he now faces each day. Postcards from his older brother David Muchane '83 had lured him to Warren Wilson College. Both brothers heard about the school from their father, who saw an advertisement for a scholarship in their local newspaper.

“It was the only school I applied to. I always dreamed of studying overseas,” said Muchane, who had never left Kenya or flown on a plane until he embarked for campus. “It helped that my parents strongly believed in the importance of education. They were committed to the idea that good education would help build a productive, just, and equitable society.”

Muchane found the liberal arts model at Warren Wilson—with its freedom to take classes outside of a narrowly focused major—to be a pleasant surprise. He had previously attended an international high school based on the British School system of early specialization, and he had thought he would become a lawyer. “At Warren Wilson, I realized there are no constraints. I could study whatever I wanted,” he said.

With this freeing realization, Muchane majored in Economics and Business Administration. He also explored his growing interest in computer technology. He was among the first students on campus with a personal computer, which he hooked together with a tape recorder and a TV monitor.

Muchane remembers long days working in the Accounting Office balancing the monthly accounts on printing calculators. He thought, “There’s got to be a better way.”

That better way came when the College bought its first mainframe computer. Muchane was able to nurture his passion as a member of the newly formed Computer Center Crew.

He fondly remembers former Professor and Director of Administrative Computing Ray Stock, who supervised the crew. Stock, Muchane said, “forced us to learn, making us figure out things on our own. I give Ray a lot of credit for teaching me to be a lifelong learner, which is really the purpose of education. At Warren Wilson, in some way or another within the community, we are taught to be leaders.”

Muchane continued his learning with a Master of Science in Planning (Spatial Information Systems) from the University of Tennessee. He worked in various information technology roles before landing at Wake Forest.

“My sense is that at Warren Wilson we are called to serve a purpose larger than ourselves,” Muchane said of his time as a student. “We’re challenged to look beyond ourselves and to serve as a force for a better world.” Now working in higher education, he feels that he is fulfilling that larger purpose. ■

Mur Muchane '87 led Wake Forest University through the technological overhaul needed to provide educational access during the COVID-19 pandemic. He got his start in technology on the Computer Center Crew at Warren Wilson College.



“Team Hank” Rallies Athletics Support

After More Than 45 Years, Hank Steinbrecher Continues to Motivate Those He Influenced at Warren Wilson College and Throughout His Legendary Career

By Mark Newman, photos courtesy of Warren Wilson College Archives



Upon arriving at Warren Wilson in 1973, Coach Hank Steinbrecher’s charismatic influence left an immeasurable impact upon the College, the Men’s Soccer program, and the student athletes he coached. Steinbrecher led his teams through passion and determination, racking up an impressive 45-22-6 record and being named the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Coach of the Year in 1975. In addition, he established the Women’s Soccer Team, which became an official varsity sport in 1979.

Steinbrecher continued his career coaching at Appalachian State University and Boston University before joining the Gatorade team at Quaker Oats Company as Director of Sports Marketing, and, finally, serving U.S. Soccer as CEO and

Secretary General. There he oversaw the staging of two of the most successful men’s and women’s World Cups, held in the United States in 1994 and 1999. Steinbrecher was selected into seven soccer halls of fame, including the National Soccer Hall of Fame, the North Carolina Hall of Fame, and our own Warren Wilson College Hall of Fame in 2013.

Last year, a group of former Warren Wilson College soccer players and friends, led by alumnus and Board of Trustees member Andy Scott ’75, Ed.D., came together to discuss ways to honor their former coach. They knew this effort would draw a supportive crowd around cementing his legacy, and they ultimately decided to name the soccer complex.

“Team Hank” kicked off by contacting fellow players, collegiate and professional

coaches, and key corporate leaders who admired Steinbrecher’s many contributions to the sport. After many Zoom meetings, phone calls, and emails, within a few months they had raised over \$60,000 of the needed \$85,000 to name the soccer complex, with nearly 100 individual donors contributing.

At the end of July 2020, “Team Hank” celebrated this work with a virtual “Toast to Hank.” Guests came together from around the country to honor Steinbrecher’s life and career. Each speaker spoke eloquently about his impact—not only to the sport, but also to the people connected to the game of soccer.

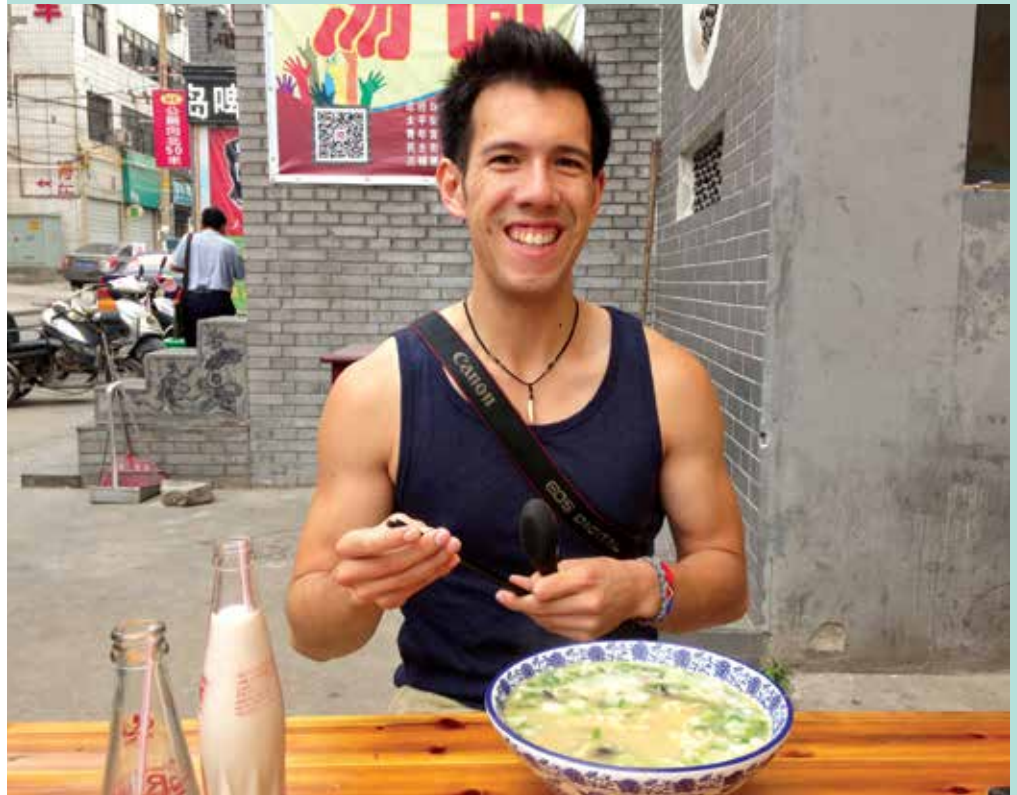
“I am grateful for all of Hank’s contributions to the sport,” said Will Wilson, the current CEO of U.S. Soccer. “Inspiration is a theme when it comes to

Hank. It is because of people like Hank whose shoulders we are standing on that we will bring a third FIFA World Cup to America in 2026.”

By the end of 2020, the group reached its initial \$85,000 goal to name the Hank Steinbrecher Sports Complex. A new scoreboard was installed, and improvements to the fields are underway. Moreover, the group decided to continue to fundraise in order to create an endowed, need-based scholarship for students. After a few short months, an additional \$25,000 was raised to endow the scholarship, which will remain in perpetuity as a testament to the value Steinbrecher placed on education.

“Warren Wilson College served as the foundation of my long career in soccer,” Steinbrecher said. “The lessons that I learned from the Warren Wilson College community were fundamental to my success in the sport. I will always carry in my heart the thoughts of our teams and our College.” ■

To view a recording of the Toast to Hank virtual event from Summer 2020, visit: warren-wilson.edu/owlandspade2021



Writing on Identity

MFA Graduate Received Fulbright to Explore Nationality, Intersectionality, and Race Through Fiction

By Mary Bates, photo courtesy of Daniel Tam-Claiborne

Daniel Tam-Claiborne MFA '20, whose father is American and mother is an immigrant from China, grew up grappling with an identity he could not easily classify. That sense only intensified when he graduated college in the U.S. and began teaching English in rural China.

Upon graduating from the MFA Program for Writers in 2020, Tam-Claiborne received a Fulbright Scholarship to pursue ethnographic research and write a novel inspired by his grandparents' migration story and his own experience growing up half-Chinese in the U.S. The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is one of the most widely recognized and prestigious international exchange programs in the world.

The novel he is writing, *Transplants*, will address questions about culture, identity, and belonging.

“This story connects to larger ideas that are being faced by people all over the world—of migration, of belonging, of being turned away because of certain aspects of

their identity that are immutable, that they are born with, that they can't change,” Tam-Claiborne said. “I don't imagine that this will speak to or answer all of those questions, but I hope it will provide a little bit of light, some kind of respite for people feeling stretched between places or not having a sense of home.”

His project was delayed for almost a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and an Executive Order issued by former President Trump to suspend the Fulbright program in China and Hong Kong. Tam-Claiborne applied for a transfer of his Fulbright project to Taiwan, and he arrived in Taiwan in February 2021.

“While it varies from my initial project with its focus on Taiwanese identity instead of Chinese, I'm hoping that some of the core themes and experiences will continue to resonate,” Tam-Claiborne said. “I am very much still planning to complete a final draft of my novel manuscript by the end of the fellowship.” ■

Anyone wishing to make a gift to grow the Hank Steinbrecher scholarship endowment can contact Mark Newman, Director of Development, at 828-771-3756 or by email at mnewman@warren-wilson.edu.



Major Strategic Changes to Senior Leadership

Introducing Dr. Kortet Mensah, Warren Wilson College's First Vice President for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Strategy

Story and portrait by Mary Bates

Following an extensive national search of more than 100 applicants, Warren Wilson College welcomed Dr. Kortet Mensah as the inaugural Vice President for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI), and Strategy in June 2021.

The newly created position is responsible for guiding efforts to conceptualize, design, assess, nurture, and cultivate inclusive and equitable diversity as an institutional and educational resource. It is a senior-level position reporting directly to the President of the College and sitting on the Cabinet leadership team.

"Throughout the interview process, Dr. Mensah impressed us with her deep knowledge of DEI and extensive background in the work, as well as her warmth and ability to connect with everyone on campus," said President Lynn Morton, Ph.D. "I truly enjoyed and learned from her thoughtful conversations with me throughout the search process, and the Cabinet appreciated her depth of insight, candor, and collegiality. We are very excited to welcome her to the team."

The position falls under Imperative #3 of Warren Wilson's 2022 Strategic Plan. That imperative commits to a culture of educational access and ensuring that students and employees from a diverse range of identities and experiences will thrive in the Warren Wilson College community. In addition, the creation of a Cabinet-level DEI position was one of the 16 demands put forward in 2020 by the College's Black Student Union.

Mensah is responsible for leading the development of a unifying strategy for diversity, equity, and inclusion at the College in addition to playing a major role at the administrative level with strategic planning, implementation, reporting, and evaluation as the 2019–2022 Strategic Plan closes and the 2022–2025 Strategic Plan launches.

Mensah came to Warren Wilson from Bastyr University in Washington state, where she served as the Associate Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion/Chief Diversity Officer. There, she was the inaugural person in the role as well—establishing the DEI department and infusing that work into all aspects of the institution.

Mensah has spent more than 20 years in higher education and nearly a decade as a leader in DEI work. She earned her B.A. in Business Administration from Stephens College, her M.Ed. in Educational and Counseling Psychology, and her Ph.D. in Human



Development and Family Studies at the University of Missouri.

Mensah will work with every academic and administrative department across campus, including with the faculty Director of DEI Initiatives, the Wilson Inclusion Diversity and Equity (WIDE) Director, the DEI Advisory Committee, the Office of Human Resources, and the Director of Institutional Effectiveness at a strategic level to advance the College's goals and objectives. She will also support students, faculty, and staff and work with them towards addressing the 2020 demands of the Black Student Union as well as the demands of the Indigenous Student Association.

"I'm honored to be joining Warren Wilson's effort to strategically infuse DEI into its operations and community climate," Mensah said. "Often, organizations express DEI desires with limited emphasis on strategy, intentionality, and racial justice, which are the bedrocks of DEI/social justice work. Warren Wilson bypasses these downfalls as evidenced by the title of the position, the College's emphasis on racial equity as the core of its DEI work, and the focus of the campus community (including senior leaders) on hiring a leader who can help them engage in substantive organizational and individual work rooted in social justice." ■

With Restructure to Provost Model, College More Deeply Integrates Academics, Work, and Community Engagement

Story and portrait by Mary Bates

Warren Wilson College has long been known for its curriculum of academics, work, and community engagement. Now the College is taking the next step to hone those distinctive strengths and further integrate the student experience.

Over the summer of 2021, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Jay Roberts stepped into a new role as Provost and Dean of the Faculty. He assumed responsibility for all elements within Warren Wilson's educational program and the student experience, including Academics, Experiential Learning, and Student Life.

"With these changes, we are focusing on breaking down silos across campus and deepening the intentional integration, as articulated in our new mission statement, of strong Experiential Learning programs, quality academics, and support systems for students," said Dr. Lynn Morton, College President.

Roberts arrived at Warren Wilson College in the summer of 2020 as the Vice President for Academic Affairs with an extensive background and expertise in place-based experiential education. He is the author of two books, *Experiential Education in the College Context: What It Is, How It Works, and Why It Matters* (Routledge 2016), and *Risky Teaching: Harnessing the Power of Uncertainty in Higher Education* (Taylor & Francis 2021).

The restructure to a provost model came following the retirement of Cathy Kramer, Vice President for Applied Learning, and the departure of Paul Perrine, Vice President for Student Life. (To see a tribute to Kramer, see page 40.)

Roberts worked closely with Kramer to develop a transition plan and work out details of the reorganization. Changes include the implementation of a Provost Leadership Team and formation of the Center for Experiential Learning.

The Center for Experiential Learning will be led by two Associate Deans: Paul Bobbitt, Associate Dean of Work, and Anna Welton, Associate Dean of Community and Global Engagement. Roberts said the team will work closely with the new Vice President for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) & Strategy, Dr. Kortet Mensah, to improve how DEI best practices are reflected within the curriculum, the Work Program, and Community Engagement.

The Center, housed in the historic Log Cabin on campus, will become a hub for academic and

co-curricular experiential learning. With all experiential learning departments in one location, it will allow students, faculty, and staff to connect and collaborate on a range of exciting initiatives and efforts both on- and off-campus.

"Rather than separate and siloed, all elements of the Warren Wilson College student experience will be integrated together," Roberts said. "All the folks involved will have a seat at the table for planning and strategizing."

For the Student Life area, Associate Dean for Student Engagement Tacci Smith has stepped into the role of Interim Dean of Student Life and will serve as the College's Title IX Coordinator. Smith joined Warren Wilson in 2016 as Director of Student Activities. In her new role, she will serve on both the Provost Leadership Team and Cabinet to ensure careful coordination, collaboration, and representation of Student Life issues within the senior leadership of the College.

"With these strong leaders and teams in place, Warren Wilson is poised to take the work of the past four years to the next level," President Morton said. "It's an incredibly exciting moment in the history of the College." ■



\$1 Million Gifts to Transform Craft & Music Programs

Windgate Foundation Grant Elevates Warren Wilson as National Leader in Craft

By Mary Bates, photo by Matt Haugh



Warren Wilson College has received a grant of \$948,750 from the Windgate Foundation to strengthen the Craft program. The grant will help position Warren Wilson College as a national leader in liberal arts craft education.

“After many years of building both our academic and experiential Craft programming at Warren Wilson, we are ready to take our undergraduate Craft program to the next level,” said Dr. Lynn Morton, President of Warren Wilson College. “This vision and plan will elevate Warren Wilson as one of the strongest liberal arts colleges in the country with this distinctive focus on Craft.”

With the grant, the College will be able to substantially increase the number of undergraduate students taking craft-related courses each semester and provide more scholarships for students in the Art and Craft programs over the course of three years. The grant also enables Warren Wilson to support Craft instruction, complete facility enhancements, procure new equipment, and host visiting artists.

The College’s plan going forward is to align the complementary yet separate areas of undergraduate Craft—scholarship, making, and programming—under the direction of a more formalized Craft program within the Arts at Warren Wilson. It will also help connect the existing undergraduate and graduate programs with craft communities in the rest of the world.

Warren Wilson has designed and developed a distinctive strength and focus in Craft as an academic field over the past several years. The College currently offers an undergraduate minor in Craft, and the low-residency Master of Arts in Critical Craft Studies, founded in 2018, is the first program of its kind in the world. The College also

provides experiential programming through its craft work crews, including Fiber Arts, Blacksmithing, and Fine Woodworking.

The grant will allow the College to enhance the opportunities that already exist for students through the new Craft Studios program, so students can take academic courses for credit and have integrated work-learning opportunities. In addition, the College is working with internal and external partners to create “The Craftscape at Warren Wilson College,” an experiential opportunity for students to further connect Craft to the land and provide academic and research opportunities unlike any found across the nation.

Warren Wilson Provost and Dean of the Faculty Jay Roberts, Ph.D., has a background in aligning program enhancements with institutional strategy. Upon beginning his position at Warren Wilson last summer, he saw the Art Department and Craft programming as a compelling opportunity to pursue further integration.

“The Arts at Warren Wilson have a high demand for studio courses, and there are always waiting lists,” Roberts said. “Our students are eager to participate, make, and learn, and with this new funding and structure we will be able to significantly expand our capacity to teach Craft and meet this need.”

Warren Wilson’s partnership with the Windgate Foundation began in 2013. The last grant that Warren Wilson College received from the Windgate Foundation was \$2.1 million to launch both the undergraduate minor in Craft and the Master of Arts in Critical Craft Studies, and to continue to foster a partnership between Warren Wilson and the Center for Craft in Asheville. ■

“Jazz Past – Jazz Future Scholarship” to Support Students of Color, Honor College’s History of Music

By Renée Danger-James, photo by Corey Nolen

Two anonymous Asheville donors have established the “Jazz Past - Jazz Future Scholarship.” The scholarship will provide recognition and financial assistance to outstanding individuals studying Music at the College, with a preference for Students of Color. Beginning with already-received gifts of \$500,000, combined with additional gifts that will total \$1 million over the next several years, these donors are excited to “pay it forward” and share their deep passion and love for jazz.

Music has a meaningful legacy at Warren Wilson College. In the earliest days of the College’s precursor—the Asheville Farm School—Dr. Henry “Doc” Jensen and Louis “Pa” and Blanch “Ma” Burch established the Music program and its integral role in the educational ethos of the school. Jazz Studies began in the 1970s through the early efforts of Dr. Warren Gaughan. When very few higher education institutions in the nation were offering a degree in Jazz Studies, Gaughan added Jazz History and then Appreciation and Theory Improvisation to the curriculum. He created the Jazz Ensemble in 1994.

Gaughan, as Chair of the department, helped bring jazz musician and composer Dr. Jason DeCristofaro to the faculty of the College in 2016.

“It is Jason’s commitment to his craft and his students that truly impressed us the most,” remarked the two anonymous Asheville donors. “We grew to know Jason over a period of time, attending his performances, appreciating his artistry, and ultimately becoming friends.

“We were particularly impressed with Jason’s commitment to his students’ learning,” the donors noted, recalling an instance when Jason turned down the opportunity to attend a premiere performance in Germany of one of his music compositions due to a prior teaching commitment.

DeCristofaro said the gift will be transformational for supporting Music students at the College.

“In the years I have known both donors as a musical performer, their love of jazz and passion for live music have elevated the Western North Carolina music scene,” said DeCristofaro. “As a music educator, particularly in the field of jazz, I am excited to see how this generous gift will provide financial support to those students who wish to grow not only as jazz musicians, but as well-rounded, creative, and culturally conscious musicians for the 21st century.”

Today’s Music program at Warren Wilson College is designed for students with career ambitions in music and is also popular with students incorporating music into their broader educational experience. Through cross-curricular study, the program stresses regional and cultural contexts through a hybrid of music theory

and performance, Appalachian Studies, Cultural Studies, Musicology, and Ethnomusicology.

“This incredible gift is a game-changer for the Music program,” current Chair of the Music Department Dr. Kevin Kehrberg said. “First and foremost, it provides critical resources for enrollment and recruiting with a particular emphasis on supporting BIPOC [Black, Indigenous, People of Color] students. We’re also very excited about the huge potential for expanded music curriculum, programming, and partnerships that this gift brings.” ■





From left: Lara Nguyen MFA, Steven Horton Jr. '17, Sather Robinson-Waters '18, Jess Self '14, MFA. Illustration by Lara Nguyen.

Lara Nguyen: Exploring Mentorship as a Mirror

One Professor's Impact on a Generation of Warren Wilson Artists

By Philip Bassani

Whether admiring one of her student-painted Work Day murals on campus, driving past her mural at the Refinery Creator Space in downtown Asheville, or simply appreciating this magazine's cover for the past three years, most Warren Wilson community members have seen the work of Art Professor Lara Nguyen MFA. And like her massive murals, her impact is larger than life.

A prolific artist, Nguyen has honed her talents across a diverse array of media including painting, drawing, installation, performance, fiber arts, origami, poetry, and photography. She is co-owner of Stone Cloud Studio with her husband, sculptor Todd Frahm, she is a mother of two, and she has been an educator for almost 20 years.

Joining Warren Wilson College in 2012 as a Professor of Art, Nguyen embraced the community as much as it embraced her.

"There is a pace to life here that allows for better integration," Nguyen said. "Something about this place cradles me when I need it. It pushes me when I need it." She attributes this balance to the relationships she developed over the past nine years. "The support I get from my colleagues allows me to be a better mentor, because I feel like I have so many sounding boards. I'm not in it by myself," Nguyen said.

The Warren Wilson educational model has also influenced her creative process. "The integration of curriculum, civic engagement, service, and work has impacted my own studio work as an artist and lifelong student," she said.

In 2018, Lara Nguyen was diagnosed with a rare cancer—uterine leiomyosarcoma—resulting in a full hysterectomy to try to stop the cancer in its early stages. In early 2020, Nguyen's cancer returned,

and despite chemotherapy, her diagnosis had progressed to stage IV cancer. Throughout this journey, Nguyen has continued to teach and create art.

Nguyen's most recent art exhibition, *Mirror/Mentor*, was displayed at the Center for Craft in Asheville in early 2021. Curated by Art Department Chair Julie Caro, Ph.D., *Mirror/Mentor* showcased Nguyen's recent work alongside works by three of her former students. "All three of them have enhanced my life in very different ways," Nguyen said.

The diversity of work among the four artists reflects Nguyen's philosophy of teaching and mentoring. As a mentor, Nguyen serves as a teacher, a friend, and a mirror—a human example—of how to live fully in this world.

Nguyen's discipline and love of art has seemed to rub off on those around her. "Lara's work ethic is out of this world. How she balances her time is super inspiring," said Steven Horton Jr. '17, a former Graphic Designer for Nike who now works for Apple's design team. During his senior year, Horton set his sights on pursuing a career in art and design. His dream job was to become a designer at Nike—a perfect union of his passions for basketball and art. Nguyen's openness to Horton's ideas and her belief in his artistic ability gave Horton the confidence he needed. "She never put boundaries around me. She let me fly," he said.

Reflecting on Nguyen's presence in the classroom, artist Sather Robinson-Waters '18 described Nguyen as an "attentive fountain of energy" who strikes a balance between being a "master pedagogue" and an accessible instructor who gives students the individual attention they need. Within this energy cycle, the inspiration Nguyen imparts to her students replenishes the energy needed in her own artistic practice and life. "As a practice," Robinson-Waters said, "inspiration is the gift that keeps on giving. Giving will make you richer."

Although Nguyen's friendships and mentorships with her students begin in the classroom, they have a tendency to extend well beyond her students' years at Warren Wilson.

This is especially true for contemporary artist Jess Self '14, MFA, who learned from Nguyen as a student and then as a colleague when hired as Warren Wilson's Fine Arts Craft Fellow after graduating. "I learned to create a web between all of the aspects of my life that revolved around my goal of having an art career, and I learned from the best," Self said. "Lara inspired me in many ways, but the one that blew me away first was how she is able to work on so many different things at a time and make it look so effortless."

Nguyen and Self solidified their bond over a long car ride to an exhibition of Nguyen's work. Nguyen's youngest

of two children, Moon, accompanied them on the trip. Nguyen said of Self, "I think our relationship will be forever. She's left such an impact on me that it's just never going to go away. And my daughter absolutely loves her."

Reflecting on all of the relationships she's developed thus far at Warren Wilson, Nguyen said, "It's a privilege to work with all these curious, excited, and hungry minds. My students are my mentors. You have to have mentors who are younger than you."

Even at this stage of her cancer journey, Nguyen will be the first to tell you how lucky she is. "The connections you make go beyond your own comprehension, and possibly your existence," she said. "I just feel so lucky in that way." ■

To find the websites for each of the artists mentioned in this article, visit: warren-wilson.edu/owlandspade2021

Art professor Lara Nguyen, MFA, paints a mural of American novelist, short story writer, poet, and social activist Alice Walker in Sunderland Hall on Work Day 2018. The mural was part of a series on social justice leaders. Photo by Red Herring '21.



The *Mirror/Mentor* exhibition

featured Warren Wilson College Art Professor Lara Nguyen's recent work alongside three of her former students: Steven Horton Jr. '17, Sather Robinson-Waters '18, and Jess Self '14.

Displayed at the Center for Craft in Asheville in 2021 and curated by Art Department Chair Julie Caro, *Mirror/Mentor* explored Nguyen's philosophy of mentoring: she serves as a teacher, a friend, and a mirror—a human example of how to live fully in this world.

Photos by Black Box Photography, courtesy of the Center for Craft.

Artist: Lara Nguyen
Title: *Brushes with Death*
Note: *Nguyen's works in this exhibition explored her terminal cancer diagnosis. In this piece, she created functional brushes from the hair she lost due to her chemotherapy treatment.*





Artist: Sather Robinson-Waters

Title: *Flask, Re-assembled*

Artist: Jess Self

Title: *Just Another Tuesday*



Artist: Steven Horton Jr.

Title: *Black Justice Flag*



A THOUSAND STARS BY NIGHT

*The Process & People
Behind the Alma Mater
Lyric Changes*

**By Zanne Garland
with Melissa Ray Davis '02**

As Confederate statues topple across the United States, it is clear that symbols hold tremendous power. While Warren Wilson College prioritizes making concrete changes to its structures, systems, policies, and practices in order to address institutional racism, our community must also confront the symbols that inspire us, that define us, and that profess who we want to be. In June of 2021, the lyrics to the Alma Mater were officially changed to better reflect the inclusive community we aspire to be.

In December 2020, President Lynn Morton acknowledged that the Warren Wilson College Alma Mater contained colonizing language. She asked the Advancement Office—the office tasked with preserving and honoring institutional history—to form a committee that would work with the broader Warren Wilson community to propose changes to the song.

As a result, members of the 2021 Alma Mater Committee convened in January and met regularly over the next four months. Our charge was to listen to the viewpoints of one another and of the broader community, to research the song and its context, and finally, to consider new lyrics that would make the symbolic song more representative of the inclusive community that Warren Wilson aspires to be.



Photo by Derek DiLuzio.

This article is adapted from the Alma Mater Committee Lyric Change Proposal delivered to President Morton in May 2021.

Alma Mater

Warren Wilson College

Henry Jensen
& The 2021
Alma Mater Committee



Where the ri - ver carves the stone of our val-ley home,
When the sha - dows sweep the light from the face of day,



still our col - lege press - es near fu-tures yet un known.
songs of free - dom break the night; This - is - what they say:



Gold of sun a-cross a sky, cast of moun - tain blue,
God/You* who raised our hills of home, guide our hearts and will,



glo - rious ban - ner, heaven high, calls us to be true.
walk with us a - long the way, teach us wis - dom 'til



Take your place and do with us, what tomorrow needs of you.
Like a thousand stars by night, we shall faithfully lead the way.

**Singer may choose word preference*

Dr. Henry “Doc” Jensen wrote the original Alma Mater in 1942 when the Asheville Farm School and other predecessor schools were consolidated into Warren Wilson Vocational Junior College. Jensen wrote the lyrics and music, and Dr. Robert “Doc” Keener later wrote the choral arrangement. The current change will not be the first revision to the original lyrics of the Alma Mater. In the 1990s, the song was altered to replace gendered language.

Students and faculty members prompted this most recent change by bringing attention to the colonizing language in the song and demanding a more accessible and inclusive campus for the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) community. Formally, a demand for inclusive changes to be made to campus traditions was included

within a larger set of student demands in 2016, and the language of the Alma Mater was specifically examined in a public webinar in 2020.

In her November 2020 webinar titled “Decolonization in the Era of Black Lives Matter,” Warren Wilson Professor Dr. Rima Veseley-Flad used the College’s Alma Mater as an example of the symbolic power of rituals. She indicated that the first two lines celebrated colonialism with the use of words like “pioneers” and “frontiers,” and she said that changing the lyrics of the song would be “one way the Warren Wilson community can address, you could say, a myopic view of who we are as a community...”

While the initial interest in creating this change came from current faculty and students, more than 70 percent of alumni

who responded to the announcement of the process to address this issue voiced their support of the changes, and more than 700 members of the campus community and alumni weighed in on lyric choices via a survey from the Alma Mater Committee. We anticipated that there would be understandable emotional responses and frustrations in response to changing such a long-standing tradition from the College's history. However, this widely positive response and engagement in making change indicated to the committee that our broader community's shared commitment to inclusion outweighs the notion that we must strictly adhere to preserving in perpetuity the most traditionalist versions of our past rituals.

The 2021 Alma Mater Committee was composed of current students, alumni spanning seven decades, Trustees, Alumni Board members, and faculty and staff representatives. The committee watched Veseley-Flad's webinar in advance of their series of conversations together to better understand and acknowledge the problematic language in the lyrics

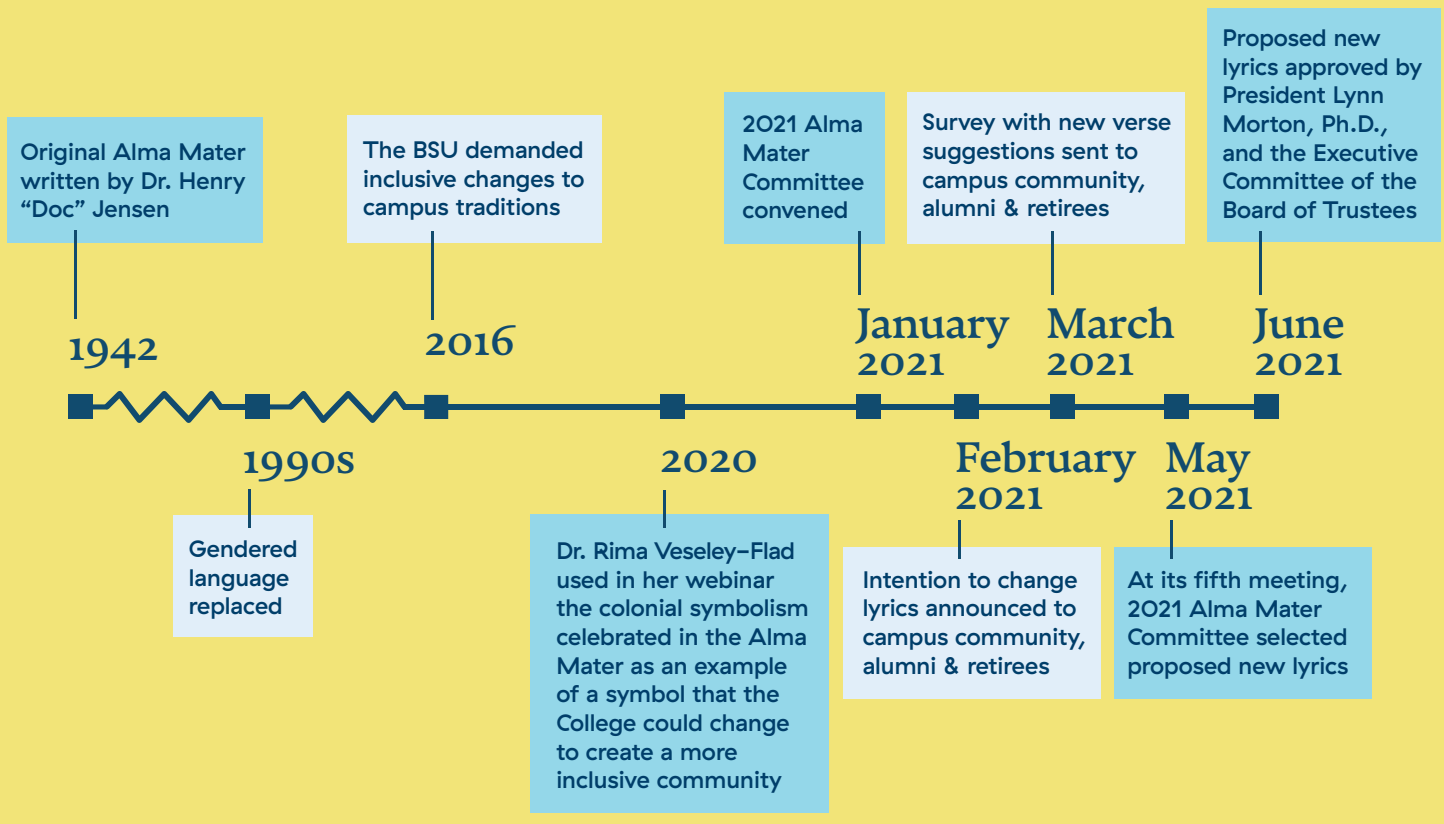
and to inform their process together. They also discussed the greater international context of confronting songs and symbols—such as the national anthem change in New Zealand and the lack of change to the alma mater at the University of Texas. After four months of working together and considering input, the committee created a proposal.

In its unified proposal to President Morton in May 2021, the committee collectively acknowledged that this revision is just one change to one symbol of white supremacy culture and institutionalized racism at Warren Wilson College and should not, therefore, be overstated as a transformational component of the systemic change still needed at the College. At the same time, because the song is sung at most major events—notably Convocation, Homecoming, and Commencement—they feel it is an important signal to our student, faculty, staff, and alumni communities that Warren Wilson is committed to taking intentional steps forward with visible changes like this one.



Dr. Henry "Doc" Jensen with Billy Edd Wheeler '53.

Alma Mater Lyric Change Timeline:



Original verses:

Where the stalwart pioneers
built their highland homes,
 Still our college presses near
frontiers yet unknown.

- and -

God who raised our hills of home
guard our fortress still
 Walk with us along the way
 teach us wisdom 'til

Revised verses:

Where the river carves the stone
of our valley home,
 Still our college presses near
futures yet unknown.

- and -

God/You* who raised our hills of home
guide our hearts and will,
 Walk with us along the way
 teach us wisdom 'til

**Singer may choose word preference*

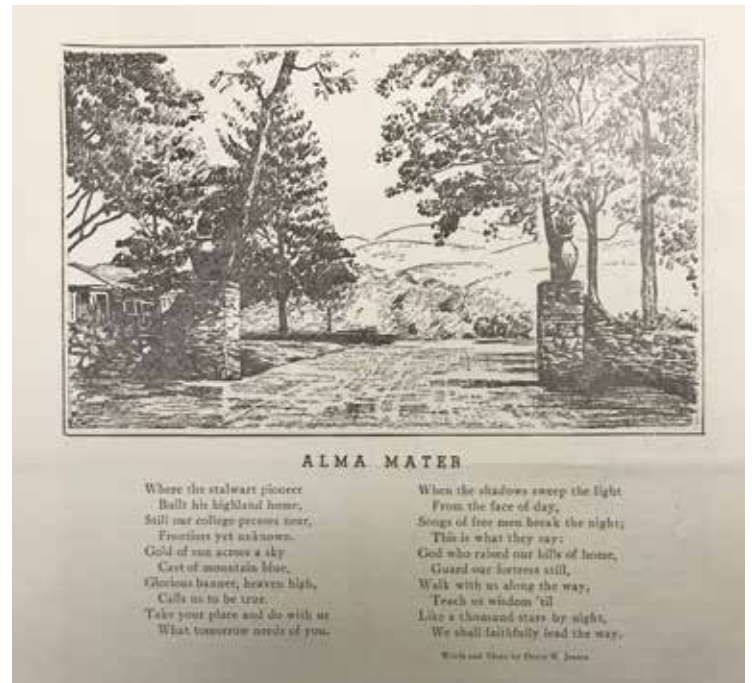
The 2021 Alma Mater Committee



The 2021 Alma Mater Committee convenes for a virtual meeting.

- Saba Alemayehu '05**
Alumni Board
- Philip Bassani**
Alumni Relations Manager
- Melissa Ray Davis '02**
College Writer
- MaggieMae Farthing '14**
Alumni Board
- Susan Leading Fox '84**
Alum
- Rev. Dr. Kevin Frederick '77**
Trustee
- Zanne Garland**
Vice President for Advancement
- Mary Hay**
Director of the WWC Fund
- Rev. Matt Hoffman**
Associate Director of Interfaith Initiatives
- Dr. Stephen Keener**
Trustee

- Dr. Ben Krakauer**
Professor of Music
- Rodney Lytle '73**
Alumni Ambassador
- Anna Marie Mackey '69**
Alum
- Claudia Nix '69**
Alum
- Bridget Palmer '21**
Student Trustee
- Rowena Pomeroy**
Executive Assistant to the President
- Diana Sanderson**
Former College Archivist
- Madison Sings '22**
Current Student
- Adam "Pinky" Stegall '07**
Alumni Board President
- Lucy Wheeler '92**
Trustee



Top: Asheville Farm School Alma Mater sheet music. Bottom: Alma Mater featured in the Owl & Spade, March 1943.

Reflections From the Committee:

“We can do great things when we work together for the good.” — **Anna Marie Mackey '69, Alum**

“Like a river carving stone, the creation of lasting change takes incredible time and energy. This revision of our Alma Mater is a very small, symbolic step in a much larger journey. Our community must take more ambitious steps toward equity and inclusion, steps far more active and tangible than this one. May these new words call us to keep walking, keep pressing near more liberating futures.” — **Melissa Ray Davis '02, College Writer, Alum**

“I believe the updated lyrics embody a greater sense of community, while preserving the spirit of Dr. Jensen’s original poem.” — **Dr. Stephen Keener, Trustee and son of former music faculty member, Doc Keener**

“I was honored to be part of this process. It was not an easy one, but I feel the words we chose are inclusive to all of us and honor the meaning that Dr. Jensen would have wanted. They also are in line with the core values of Warren Wilson College.” — **Claudia Nix '69, Alum**

“Working with this group, it was really energizing to have so many perspectives not only from Warren Wilson but also our professions and lived

experiences. We tried to look at this project from a wide variety of angles to make sure that this song could be representative of any and all Warren Wilson alumni. The Alma Mater says, ‘take your place and do with us what tomorrow needs of you.’ Knowing what tomorrow needs of you means change and evolution from today. I believe this is one small step on that journey to learning from yesterday and today to brighten tomorrow.” — **MaggieMae Farthing '14, Alumni Board**

“Working on decolonizing the Alma Mater has been a learning experience to me as a young activist. Recognizing and changing outdated language that has been traumatic to some community members is important for our College. While this work is a great first step to fixing our institution’s racial issues, it certainly cannot be the last.” — **Madison Sings '22, Current Student**

“I appreciate the opportunity and respect in which my input was requested and hope the diligent work by the committee is seen in the end result where homage is paid to the indigenous peoples who initially called the valley home. We also wish to honor the College and the Alma Mater composer, Mr. Jensen. While the revision of the Alma Mater is only one small step, we feel it’s an important one. There will certainly be mixed feelings about the change, as there is with any change. However, as I’ve always said, ‘There’s nothing constant, but change.’ Thank you for the honor of requesting my input, and I look forward to the next steps.” — **Susan Leading Fox '84, Alum and member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee** ■

Original sheet music composed by Dr. Henry “Doc” Jensen.





I am a badass

I'm gonna cry

One PC + one Mac (Firefox meets Google Meet meets Chrome meets HDMI meets Lightning meets...)

Hair quietly on fire

Couple kinds of VGA adaptor (argh)

Mask (duh)

Alcohol wipes (if that doorknob could talk...)

Random HDMI cord (never know)

Laptop charger (remote instruction flattens batteries)

Wide angle external camera

Conference mic (for the folks 'at home')

Tripod (camera ain't gonna stand on its own)

Illustration adapted from photo graphic created by Professor Amy Knisley, Ph.D.

LEARNING TOGETHER FROM AFAR

Story and quotes compiled by Mary Hay & Heather Wingert

How the Global Pandemic Reset Teaching & Learning: *Experiences From Educators & Students*

UNEXPECTED SILVER LININGS FROM THE 2020–2021 ACADEMIC YEAR

Remembering how March 2020 unfolded is like reimagining the worst possibilities—a story told now, but a bleak reality from a year past of intense uncertainty and swift transitions. COVID-19 challenged teachers and students alike to continue learning in an upended world. Perspectives from Warren Wilson College faculty, staff, students, and alumni elucidate the many facets of learning together from afar.

Amy Knisley, Ph.D., Professor of Environmental Policy and Law

“In a well-functioning democracy, personal *rights* and personal *responsibilities* are truly twinned, never separated, and thrive in community! Quite honestly, amidst all the challenges, teaching on the Warren Wilson campus this year has renewed my hopes for humanity. Not kidding.”

Paul Bobbitt, Associate Dean of Work

“My hope and belief is that folks will be more intentional moving forward and will not forget the loss of humanity we had this year.”

Kittrece Cade '21

“An unexpected silver lining from this year was the strong connections that I made with other people. Before having to live through a pandemic, I took the bonds that I had with others for granted. But now, with COVID and social distancing and masks and limited everything, any and all chances that I had to spend time with and communicate with others was a blessing. Just being able to wake up healthy was a blessing. You never truly know how grateful and appreciative you can become of even the smallest things until you have to live without them.”

Cade graduated in May 2021 with a degree in Biochemistry on a pre-veterinary track. She played on both the Soccer and Basketball teams, was a Student Government Association Co-President, and helped keep the campus safe as a Student Health Ambassador.

Leo Borges '22

“Since no one could leave their homes during COVID-19, my friends and I set up online meetings just to chat every weekend. That was awesome! It’s always nice to keep in touch with the people you love even when you’re far apart.”

Borges is majoring in Economics and Business and is minoring in Data Science. He is a member of the Soccer Team and studied remotely at home in Brazil during spring semester 2021 after studying away in Japan in 2020.

Teshale Byan '08

“I gained an appreciation for the little things and now have many recorded teaching videos, which can also be used in the future.”

Byan has been teaching for 13 years and currently teaches Math III and AP Calculus to juniors and seniors at the Franklin School of Innovation in Asheville, North Carolina.

Sam Beasley '19

“The silver lining this year was being in-person since the beginning of the school year. I was able to make connections with my students in-person instead of virtually. We still had struggles. Our sprinkler system busted, flooding multiple rooms upstairs and the entirety of the elementary downstairs. We closed after Thanksgiving to prevent an outbreak of COVID. Our new gym construction was pushed back many times; however, God was with us, and all of those setbacks were conquered. I am so grateful to be part of a community where we turn to God for our problems and support our students in all aspects of their lives, including spiritually.”

Beasley teaches middle school science, Bible, and high school math to 6th–12th graders at Haywood Christian Academy in Waynesville, North Carolina, where she is also a volleyball and basketball coach.



Paul Bobbitt working with Matthew Tkach '23.



Teshale Byan '08



Sam Beasley '19



Professor Mallory McDuff, Ph.D., teaches her class in an outdoor setting. Photo by Harvest Browder '22.

BEYOND THE CORONAVIRUS, MY STUDENTS SEE A BETTER WORLD

By Mallory McDuff, Ph.D.

“Next week, classes will be online, but we’ve got an hour to brainstorm ideas for our Environmental Education class,” I told my students.

That was March 12th, 2020. After a week of monitoring the news, the surreal had happened: the threat of the coronavirus consumed the small campus where I’d taught for 20 years. Seated at a picnic table near the College Garden, I looked at my nine students knowing most would soon leave these mountains of North Carolina.

I didn’t mention the deep pit of dread in my stomach: how would I transform a course in which we taught nature awareness, gardening, and cooking in schools in our rural valley into one delivered online? After a half-semester developing lessons on topics such as food security and the climate crisis, we faced another kind of emergency—a global pandemic—and we’d have to continue learning through a split screen on Zoom.

But my students are resourceful and accustomed to MacGyvering whatever it takes to respond to environmental puzzles. Ours is a work college, one of eight in the country where each student logs eight to 16 hours a week—on crews such as Farm, Blacksmith, Genetics Lab, and Library. This model of education is often messy, but it’s always real. In my courses, students use skills from their work on campus—such as growing food and managing forests—to address local and regional needs. In short, they are used to digging their hands into whatever needs doing—even if they have to do it virtually.

“We could learn skills in sustainable living and then teach each other,” one student named Lucy said as we sat by the Garden—the day everything changed. Her response sounded so practical. We’d been preparing to facilitate lessons such as learning about the life cycle of chickens with teenagers and first graders. But public schools would be closed in a matter of hours: we’d have to cancel our community projects.

On a piece of paper, the students made a list of skills they already had—from weaving fiber to making herbal remedies—and then another column of what they wanted to learn.

After an anxious weekend of rewriting the course schedule, I greeted them from my laptop in the bedroom of my 900-square-foot house on campus. This was the only place where I could close the door to the sounds of my own children home from school.

During class time, I peered from behind my screen into their kitchens and living rooms—from California to Maine. My 21-year-old daughter—who hadn't lived at home in three years—was sequestered in her top bunk in a room shared with her 14-year-old sister. She'd left a similar work college in Berea, Kentucky, where student labor maintains the school. When she stayed awake after midnight doing homework online, it was like she was studying abroad at home—living several time zones away in our tiny rental. And so I empathized with how my students navigated their own dislocation while learning about sustainable living: I was trying to live with that dissonance too, a metaphor for the anxious months ahead.

Together, but apart, we dove into our “Virtual Skills Share,” my attempt at rebranding a hands-on course. One student learned to preserve vegetables and fruit and taught us from her parents' kitchen. A senior named Cayce, who had stayed to work on the College Farm, learned how to make sourdough bread in his dorm and promised to bring me a loaf before graduation.

Their faces looked years younger in the childhood spaces and dislocated places: the cobalt-blue paint color on the wall, the stuffed animals on a shelf, the interruption from a sibling: “Mom said to put the meat in the freezer!”

I felt like an interloper absorbing the entirety of their lives and the uncertainty of our future together. At the closing of one class, I showed drone footage of campus: soaring images over the White Barn and a descent above a rushing stream. The students were silent after the video ended until one piped up, “It's like Minecraft meets nature!” Somehow, we were young and old at the same time, reminding me of writer Rebecca Solnit's line, “Many disasters unfold like revolutions.”¹

The coronavirus may foreshadow how climate change will disrupt our communities. The devastation might also unveil a counterrevolution already brewing, especially among young people. Warren Wilson students protested at City Hall months before the pandemic as part of the Sunrise Movement to ask local officials in Asheville, North Carolina, to declare a climate emergency, which they ultimately did.

The week before virtual graduation in 2020, my student Cayce brought that sourdough bread to my doorstep, and we visited from the new normal of six feet. He described admiring farmers who understood in-depth agricultural issues but could do the practical work, like assisting a

cow giving birth and then putting up a fence to protect the mother and calf.

“I think a better world will include people with sustainable skills and knowledge they can use throughout their lives,” Cayce later wrote to me. “That's why I love understanding sourdough bread making. I can share the scientific biochemical process, but I can also relish the kneading, folding, and baking a beautiful meal for others.”

One year later, during the spring of 2021, my Environmental Education students were able to meet in-person with masks, and they facilitated outdoor workshops for their peers with the theme “Sharing Skills from the Land.” The workshop on how to butcher a chicken had a waitlist of students within 10 minutes.

After a year of teaching and learning both online and in-person, we have spent the pandemic in an institutional pivot without a COVID-19 outbreak on campus, due to the work of many, many people, whose exhaustion is only matched by their loyalty to this place. To envision a new world, beyond the pandemic and our climate crisis, my students are working toward just and healthy communities for all. While a loaf of bread or a can of preserves won't solve our problems, it's a step toward a community of right intention.

I am not a farmer, but at the end of each semester, a call goes out for campus residents to line the road and ensure the yearling cattle don't escape during the move from one pasture to another. During these pandemic springs, I joined a motley crowd including the Admissions Director, the Physics Professor, and a core crew of students. With cows running toward us, I saw a scrappy but vibrant community—learning together, even when we don't know how the story will end. ■

This article was adapted from an essay published by YES! Magazine in 2020.

To see the drone footage of campus that Dr. McDuff showed her students, visit: warren-wilson.edu/owlandspade2021



Students participate in a “Sharing Skills from the Land” workshop in Spring 2021. Photo by Red Herring '21.

1. Quotation source:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/29/opinion/coronavirus-revolution.html>

Asheville Junction, Swannanoa
Tunnel. All caved in, babe, all
caved in. Last December, I
remember, Wind blowed cold, babe,
the wind blowed cold. When you hear
my watchdog howlin', Somebody's
'round, babe, somebody's 'round.
When you hear that hoot owl
squall. I hooted hooted

Hearing History's

Echo: Racism, Injustice, and Tragedy in a Local Folk Song

By Kevin Kehrberg, Ph.D.
& Jeffrey A. Keith, Ph.D.

Hammer fallin', from my
shoulder, All day long, babe, all
day long.



"Swannanoa Tunnel, Ridgecrest, N.C., 1820 feet long, 123 feet under ground" in Durwood Barbour Collection of North Carolina Postcards (P077), North Carolina Collection Photographic Archives, Wilson Library, UNC-Chapel Hill.

Two Warren Wilson College professors spent the past nine years researching a popular regional folk song that points to the unmarked graves of hundreds of wrongfully convicted Black people who died building the Swannanoa Tunnel. As our nation reckons with systemic racial violence, their research takes on new resonance.

The best kind of learning experiences at Warren Wilson College involve professors and students working alongside one another as they puzzle over

a question. Our primary research question—while unconventional—has kept us moving for more than nine years of work so far:

How much can we learn about the past by studying a song as though it were an agent of history, one carrying the same authority as an official document or the testimony of a person?

This question has illuminated many topics related to the local folk song “Swannanoa Tunnel,” but the most salient one involves a relationship between white supremacy, the role of the state in Western North Carolina’s industrialization, and the prominent role of music in Appalachian culture.

The work of finding answers to our question has taken the two of us to an array of places over the last nine years. We’ve searched for documents in archives. We’ve conducted interviews with people connected to the story. And we’ve shared this story from the stage during countless musical performances.

In these places and others, we’ve spoken to scholars, community groups, storytellers, musicians, and politicians about what we’ve learned. More

importantly, we have tried our best to listen to everyone we've met along the way. Were it not for a hike with our students back in 2012, however, none of these ideas may have taken shape in our minds.

Where the Song Was Born

On an unusually warm February day in 2012, our question led the two of us on a trek down a kudzu-covered trail. Alongside us were 21 Warren Wilson College students enrolled in our team-taught, interdisciplinary class called *Traditions of Work and Music in the Southern Mountains*. The trailhead started at a bronze historical marker that the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources had placed on a roadside near the Swannanoa Gap. It notes the nearby location of the Swannanoa Tunnel. The state deemed this tunnel historically significant on the grounds that it constituted a marvel of engineering in 1879, the year of its completion. By piercing through the gap, the Swannanoa Tunnel provided railroad access to the Blue Ridge, which quickly transformed Asheville from a small mountain town into a bustling hub of economic activity.

With our students in tow, we approached the tunnel's eastern portal, where we gathered together and listened to an early 20th-century recording of a folk song called "Swannanoa Tunnel." Then we circled up, sat on the ground, and got down to the business of learning together. We wanted to consider the different meanings that listeners might perceive depending on the context in which they heard the song.

"Asheville Junction" ("Swannanoa Tunnel")

As sung by Will Love, 1939

Asheville Junction, Swannanoa Tunnel,
All caved in, babe, all caved in.

Last December, I remember,
Wind blowed cold, babe, the wind blowed cold.

When you hear my watchdog howlin',
Somebody's 'round, babe, somebody's 'round.

When you hear that hoot owl squalling,
Somebody's died, babe, somebody's dead.

I've gone back to Swannanoa Tunnel,
That's my home, babe, that's my home.

Hammer fallin', from my shoulder,
All day long, babe, all day long.

We passed around printed lyrics of the version we had just played for the students. "What might this song be about?" we asked. Some suggested it was about a train wreck because several lines noted that people had died, and one lyric lamented that the tunnel had "all caved in."

Truthfully, when the two of us first learned to sing "Swannanoa Tunnel," we also had assumed that it chronicled a train accident. So-called disaster songs are common in American folk music. But there were other details that made this interpretation feel incomplete. Our students picked up on those details: two lyrics referenced a hammer, another suggested there was a place near the tunnel where people lived, and—most significantly—a line mentioned John Henry.

We had studied John Henry in class, detangling the song and legend from what historians had learned about his true life. Yes, it seems Henry had raced a steam drill. Yes, he had died in the context of that work. Yes, he was a Black man. The rest of the story, however, was news to our students: John Henry had fought for the Union Army, and he had been arrested under trumped-up charges in the post-Civil War South. A victim of punitive laws known as the "Black Codes," John Henry died as an incarcerated laborer whose unpaid work benefited private railroad corporations that partnered with southern political leaders during the Jim Crow era. The students recounted these facts and wondered how that history pertained to the place where they were sitting.

Next, we passed around documents that clearly showed how the state of North Carolina imprisoned an unknown number of Black people and forced them to build the Western North Carolina Railroad (WNCR). One document was a letter written to Governor Zebulon Vance, and it spelled out the economics of the situation to the Confederate-officer-turned-post-Civil War governor: "The actual cost of supporting the convicts up here is a little under 80c. Per day: feeding 7c., guarding 10c., and the remainder for clothing, medical attention, &c."

The letter's author was the railroad corporation's director, James W. Wilson. He was also a former Confederate officer and an old friend of Governor Vance. Wilson made clear to Vance that although the work was deadly, it would prove to be a windfall for North Carolina: "The State is amply repaid in the quadrupled value of land and other property."

In a callous pursuit of economic efficiency, these White leaders forced incarcerated workers—almost all of whom were Black—to suffer their way through life, eating a meager diet and sleeping in drafty stockades near the Swannanoa Gap. Working with

little more than hammers, nitroglycerine (a recent invention), and their bare hands, thousands of Black men and women lived near the tunnel, and they built the WNCR at gunpoint and for no profit of their own. Hundreds died as a result of accidents, sickness, and gunfire. The song, understood in context, documented this tragedy from the perspective of those who did the work.

The Song as an Agent of History

The story of the tunnel's construction is part of a much broader phenomenon of racist policing, white supremacist judicial practices, and forced labor that the Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Douglas Blackmon frankly describes as an era of industrial slavery in U.S. history. In the post-Reconstruction South, many aspects of Black people's lives were criminalized, and contrary to what many may wish to be true, this was the case in the mountain South as well.

The corrupt status quo was described with impunity in the local press. "On the line of the Western North Carolina [Railroad], towards Asheville from the tunnel, three stockades are to be built for convicts, and seven hundred are to be sent immediately," reported the *Asheville Weekly Citizen* in May 1878. "The supply of convicts at the penitentiary is not sufficient, and word will be sent out to the prosecuting officers to bring before the courts a larger number of offenders."

While the harrowing experiences of Black incarcerated laborers on the WNCR mirrored those of other Black people across the Jim Crow South, the legacy of the song "Swannanoa Tunnel"—also known as "Asheville Junction"—has another story to tell about the power and complexity of folk music. Its life cycle weaves through the folk music history of Western North Carolina, but it began as a work song sung by the imprisoned Black laborers who built the tunnel. Such origins challenge the widespread association of this region's musical heritage—as well as

that of Southern Appalachia in general—with English traditions.

In the *Asheville Citizen*, a WNCR guard discussed activities at the stockades outside of work hours and how the labor force included musicians who "could play the violin or pick the banjo and guitar" and engaged freely in music and singing on the weekends. He continued, "Visitors often came in from the community around and listened appreciatively to the prisoners' performances." Such interactions spread "Swannanoa Tunnel" and similar songs and tunes among local musicians.

In 1916, Englishman Cecil Sharp came to Southern Appalachia to collect folk songs, and he transcribed a version of "Swannanoa Tunnel" sung by two White women in Black Mountain. A year later, he published the version in his influential collection *English Folk Songs from the Southern Appalachians* (1917). In short, Sharp claimed the song as English in origin.

"Swannanoa Tunnel" also became a signature song of Bascom Lamar Lunsford and Artus Moser, two local White luminaries of Western North Carolina folklore who—inspired by Sharp's work—both collected and widely performed the song from the 1920s through the 1950s. (Artus Moser's daughter, Dr. Joan Moser, was a fixture of the Appalachian Studies program at Warren Wilson College from the 1970s to the 1990s.)

As a result of Sharp, Lunsford, and Moser's efforts, "Swannanoa Tunnel" entered into the canon of the mid-century folk revival in the U.S., with several White revival performers recording versions in the late 1950s and 1960s.

As we began to study and chronicle these numerous versions, we were struck by the absence



"Convict Labor Lunch Break," reproduced in the *Asheville Citizen*, 17 December 1958. Photo courtesy of Pack Memorial Library.



Dr. Kevin Kehrberg and Dr. Jeffrey A. Keith, the authors of this piece, have spent the last nine years researching the tragic story behind the popular folk song "Swannanoa Tunnel." Photo by Mary Bates.

of a single recorded performance of the song by a Black musician, either commercial or not. This was unusual considering its work-song origins among the Black laborers who built the tunnel. We kept looking.

The Sound of Love

Our search finally bore fruit in 2014, when we found a mention of an unissued 1939 recording of “Asheville Junction” in a discography of early recordings by Black musicians. (“Asheville Junction” is an alternate title for “Swannanoa Tunnel.”) Listed as Will “Shorty” Love, the singer was described as a janitor at Duke University.

It took two years, but we tracked down a copy of Love’s recording in 2016. The result represented a huge breakthrough in our work. Unlike so many other versions, Love’s rendering bears all the hallmarks of a classic hammer song, and hammer songs are a subcategory of work songs associated with the building of railroads. Love sings unaccompanied, and he pounds on something nearby to mimic the hammer blows of hard labor.

After a few more years and the help of an archivist at Duke, we made contact with one of Love’s living descendants, his 87-year-old granddaughter Clarice Thorpe. In early 2020, just weeks before COVID-19 shut down life as we had known it, we visited Thorpe at her home in Durham, joined by a handful of her relatives. We listened as she shared fond memories of her “Grandpapa” Will—no one, she told us, called him “Shorty.” She also noted that Love was a mail carrier rather than a janitor; he had begun taking on some janitorial duties late in life, but Love’s employment history had been mischaracterized by the White folklorist who had recorded him. Thorpe had never heard her grandfather’s recording of “Asheville Junction,” and it was thrilling to share it with her and her family.

Among other things, we also learned that Love’s history with the police was shrouded in general disdain. Thorpe recalled that her grandfather kept a loaded shotgun behind his bed in case he needed it, but mostly for protection from the police and White people. “He didn’t like the police because he knew the police would lock up Black folks,” she said.

A Work Song with Work Left to Do

The reckoning over white supremacy in America has led many to an enhanced awareness of the disturbing realities inherent to U.S. history. In that

spirit, the song “Swannanoa Tunnel” has proven to be a work song with work left to do. Our intellectual curiosity about this song emerged in the classroom and blossomed on a field trip, but our research fits within a broader local movement that has national resonance.

We published an article detailing our findings in *The Bitter Southerner* during the summer of 2020. Its release happened to coincide with the Buncombe County Commissioners’ vote to establish a “Community Reparations Commission” that would make recommendations for providing reparations for Black citizens of the county. Since then, a different pair of local historians have cobbled together a coalition of officials to build a McDowell County monument dedicated to the workers who built the railroad. The 123-year-old monument to Governor Vance in downtown Asheville has been removed. In an *Asheville Citizen-Times* op-ed, North Carolina Assemblyman John Ager—whose family circle includes several Warren Wilson College alumni—advocated for a monument to these workers as a replacement for the monument to Vance. In this context, the two of us are designing a multimedia book project on the Swannanoa Tunnel, consulting with regional documentary filmmakers, and offering presentations on this topic to an array of educational institutions and audiences, both locally and out-of-state.

The field trip we took back in 2012 started us on a journey now nine years long. This research continues to grow into ever larger contexts that pertain to much needed social change in this country. As we work to show students the true nature of this song and its history, we’re striving to inspire future leaders to come to terms with the reality that white supremacy has been a strong vein in all of American history, and that it has poisoned even seemingly benign dimensions of our national culture, including the folk music of Appalachia.

As we tell our students, there is a lot of good work left to do; now, we have to do it. ■

To read the Bitter Southerner article or to listen to recordings of “Swannanoa Tunnel” such as Will Love’s rendition, visit: warren-wilson.edu/owlandspade2021



Will Love c. 1960.
Photo courtesy
of Thorpe family
private collection.

ENDOWED FUNDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

More than 85 percent of Warren Wilson students receive need-based financial aid to attend Warren Wilson College. Earnings from donor-initiated funds provide additional support as the College works to provide students with this distinctive undergraduate education.

Consider becoming a part of the legacy that Warren Wilson College students build as they go on to create solutions to problems and inspire new generations. If you are interested in establishing a scholarship, please contact Renée Danger-James: **828-771-4066**, rdangerjames@warren-wilson.edu.

The following named scholarship, endowed, and expendable funds were initiated or fully funded between June 2020 and June 2021.

Charlie Goh Miri '63 Memorial Scholarship



As a student in Malaysia, Charlie Goh Miri '63 received a scholarship offer that made it possible for him to attend Warren Wilson College. It was a life-changing opportunity for Miri, and he wished to help make the same possibility available to those needing financial aid to study at Warren Wilson. Created through his estate, this quasi-endowed scholarship provides recognition and financial assistance to deserving undergraduates, with a preference for international students.

George Floyd Memorial Scholarship

Initiated by the Warren Wilson College Black Student Union demands in the summer of 2020, the Board of Trustees approved the creation of this scholarship from the general endowment in the Fall of 2020. Consideration for this scholarship shall be given to all undergraduate, full-time, self-identified Black students, with preference given to students who demonstrate leadership qualities.

Hank Steinbrecher Honorary Scholarship

Created by Andy Scott '75, CheChe Vidal, and other generous donors, the Hank Steinbrecher Honorary Scholarship will benefit an undergraduate student and honor Hank's legacy as a legendary Soccer Coach and Director of Athletics at Warren Wilson College. Steinbrecher remains a strong voice for the growth of soccer in the U.S. and around the world. Consideration for this scholarship shall be given to all full-time deserving undergraduate students.

Hayes L. Mont Endowment Fund

Established through the Estate of Eurie Loughridge, this scholarship is named after her family farm, Hayes L. Mont, and provides unrestricted support to the College and its students. Loughridge served as a Teacher and Registrar at the Asheville Farm School and Teacher at Dorland Bell from 1930–1937.

Jazz Past - Jazz Future Scholarship

The Jazz Past - Jazz Future Scholarship was funded by anonymous donors who recognize that Jazz education plays a critical role in the music curriculum at Warren Wilson College. This scholarship provides financial assistance to students majoring in or studying Music at WWC, with priority for a demonstrated interest and skill in jazz performance, and a preference for Students of Color.

MA in Critical Craft Studies BIPOC Scholarship

Students in the MA in Critical Craft Studies program initiated a scholarship to support Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) students enrolled in that program. Each purchase of the MA student publication "Mapping Craft: This is how we meet" will benefit this scholarship fund. The MA in Critical Craft Studies is a low-residency graduate program in craft history and theory and the first MA program of its kind in the U.S.

Ray K. Stock Memorial Scholarship

Ray Stock was a beloved member of the Warren Wilson community and served on both the staff and faculty from 1968 – 2007. He came to Warren Wilson as a Professor of Math and Physics and then transitioned to serve as the Director of Administrative Computing in 1985. Even in retirement, he continued to serve the College in a variety of volunteer roles. Established through Stock's annuity upon his passing, as well as gifts from family, friends, and alumni, this scholarship shall be given to full-time deserving undergraduate students.



Stuart Ryman Memorial Conservation Research Fund

Established with gifts from Restoration Systems and AnchorQEA, this fund supports Warren Wilson College undergraduate research focused on the stream mitigation project completed in 2020. Named in memory of Stuart Ryman, former partner and principal geologist at AnchorQEA, as well as a positive and generous visionary and farmer at heart, this expendable fund is open to all full-time undergraduate students for research projects related to or directly affected by the mitigation process.

Sue Tsang Worthen '66 Scholarship

Originally a student from Hong Kong, Sue Tsang Worthen '66 had the opportunity to attend Warren Wilson College through the international student program and, after finishing her higher education, went on to work in the pharmaceutical industry for over 40 years. She created this scholarship for full-time undergraduate students who have achieved above average academic records and who have a demonstrated financial need, with first preference to Biology majors and second preference to international students.

Thomas H. Hertner '71 Scholarship

Thomas Hertner '71 created this scholarship to provide recognition and financial assistance to deserving undergraduate students who plan to major in or are currently majoring in the Sciences, Business, or Economics. Hertner fondly remembers his time on the Forestry Crew and his relationships with Dr. Ben Holden, Sam DeVries, Harry Gray, and his independent study with John Showalter during his time at the College.

Loring/Johnston '72 Scholarship

Sheila Johnston '72 credits Warren Wilson College with expanding her worldview. She grew up in rural North Carolina and would not have been able to attend Warren Wilson without scholarship support. She established this scholarship to give back to support other students in attaining opportunities like she had as a result of her time at the College. With this scholarship, she wants to honor the memory of her husband, Joe Loring, as well as those who made her time at Warren Wilson possible, and to create opportunities for future Owls.

Ric Morton Scholarship

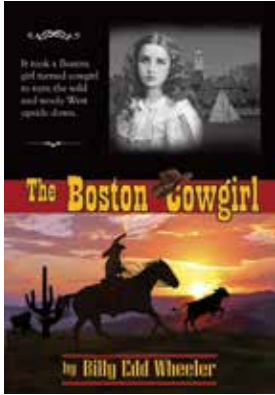


Richard "Ric" Edwin Morton, J.D., was the husband of 42 years of Warren Wilson College President Lynn Morton, Ph.D. He passed away from cancer in June 2021. Ric was a dedicated supporter of Warren Wilson College and his wife Lynn's presidency, and he enjoyed attending campus events and interacting with faculty, staff, students, and College supporters. An avid cyclist and nationally ranked adventure racer, he would have been pleased to help fund the education of a student with financial need, particularly those with an interest in his passions of cycling and adventure racing/outdoor sports. Friends of the College established this scholarship in his memory.

ALUMNI NEWS

1950s

Billy Edd Wheeler '53—award-winning country music legend—has just released his first novel,



The Boston Cowgirl. It follows the adventures (and misadventures) of obnoxious, beautiful, stubborn, and spoiled teen Alexandra Benton of Boston. Set mostly in the 1880s West, it's a mix of tragedy, humor, and music done with historical authenticity.

Mike Yamin '55 is retired and living with his wife in Corona Del Mar, California.

Peggy Stevens Burke '56 recently moved to Hendersonville, North Carolina, to be near family after 47 years in New Jersey and a career in education.

1960s

David A. Wilson '61 is in Huntsville, Alabama, experiencing retirement from a writing career. Oops! An idea just came through. Cancel that retirement. He would be glad to hear from fellow WWCers. Write: 808 Demasters Ave. NW, Huntsville, Alabama 35801.

Dave Cleaver '63 and Margie (Russell) Cleaver '64 moved to Martinsburg, West Virginia. This is following Dave's career at the Veterans Affairs headquarters in Washington, D.C., and two previous moves, to Louisiana and then Tennessee. "Y'all come visit!" dmcif@outlook.com.

Gloria Ables-Ditmore '63 recently lost her husband, father, and niece, and has herself been struggling with the aftereffects of COVID-19 since January 2021. She is still the leisure manager of a travel agency in Farragut, Tennessee, and would love to hear from some of her classmates.

Judy Hensley Hulvey '64 lives in Mars Hill, North Carolina, where she is very involved in volunteering with her Mars Hill United Methodist Church, Senior Citizens Organization, and projects helping the homeless and families affected by abuse. She has five grandchildren who live in South Georgia and Massachusetts, and she would enjoy hearing from her classmates.

Bob Vinson '64 and Kathy (Timmerman) Vinson '65 will be celebrating 55 years of marriage in August 2021. Bob has been a quilter since his retirement in 2008, and Kathy volunteers at their church. They have two sons and four grandsons, and they live in Union City, California.

Clarence "Kam" Kammerer '69 and his husband Bill Dill are celebrating 32 years together and 12 years married. Kam works at Tryon Painters

& Sculptors as Gallery Manager and welcomes all alumni to visit. 78 N. Trade St., Tryon, North Carolina.



▲ Kam & Bill

Ann Scruggs '69 is a retired teacher who needs a partner for traveling. She welcomes anyone from WWC to stay in her spare bedroom in Gainesville, Florida. 352-359-8020.

1970s

Jacksie Chatlas '70 and her standard poodle live in Smyrna, Delaware. She moved to be near her daughter, who is now a prosecutor in Abington, Virginia. Jacksie is a Deacon at the Dover Presbyterian Church where her classmates, **Debbie (Watson) McCallum '70** and **Emily (Tuthill) Best '70**, attended. Jacksie one day plans to return to Western North Carolina.

Beth (Evans) Leslie '71 and **Cecil Leslie '71** sadly report the death of their youngest child, Thomas, who died unexpectedly of a massive heart attack at the age of 39, with no history of cardiac trouble. Tom was the family's outdoorsman. His death was an enormous shock and sorrow to the entire family. John, 45, and Caroline, 42, are the remaining Leslie children. Beth and Cecil also have one treasured 6-year-old grandchild, Aria.



▲ **Clark Corwin '72** retired from DaVita and is working part-time from home doing telehealth. He's enjoying spending time with his grandson, age 1, and granddaughter, age 4, in Knoxville periodically. He has plans for a windjammer schooner cruise in Maine, and welcomes all former classmates to Cullowhee, North Carolina. corwin.clark@gmail.com.

Dr. David L. Briscoe '74 was conferred the distinguished title of University Professor by the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas. This is the highest honor bestowed on a faculty member and the first ever awarded at UA-Little Rock.

Susan Kovalesky-Zichy '74 and her husband Andy welcomed their first grandchild, Connor Thomas Aiken, on April 9, 2021. The blessed parents are Michele and Dustin Aiken. These grandparents are over the moon!

Rev. Dr. Kathryn Johnson Cameron '75 retired April 1 from her work as a Teaching Elder/ Minister of Word and Sacrament. A teacher, poet, and pastor for over 40 years, Kathryn continues to lead workshops and mentor students. Her work, recognized nationally and internationally, continues on a local level—particularly in support of artistic expression for adults on the autism spectrum. Kathryn shares a home and garden with her spouse, David, and their son, Will. Daughter Katie Irene and her spouse Andrew Loyd bring homemade bread when they visit.

Steve Pendleton '75 retired from SUNY Buffalo State after 42 years on the faculty. He chaired the Political Science Department for nine years and also taught in the Economics Department. He was President of the Buffalo State Chapter of United University Professions for six years. In 2018, he received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for University Service.

George Kubanda '76 and his wife Ann live in Sugar Land, Texas. George is retired. They welcomed the birth of their grandson, Isaac, who was born last November.

Wanda Corwin '78 retired in 2020 from Vaya Health just in time for COVID-19. She enjoys visits with her grandchildren.

Lee Dugger '79 owns a landscape company, Earthscapes Collaborative, which offers design, consulting, installation, and gardening services in Western North Carolina. They are striving to be sustainable and working primarily with native plants and locally sourced materials. They welcome WWC students to apply for seasonal work opportunities.

Martin Jones '79 and his girlfriend have been living the retired life in New Mexico for a year and would love to hear from classmates. "Visit us if you can. We are both fully vaccinated." jonesm@cofc.edu.

Joan Solomon '79 retired from Hillsborough County Public School System in Brandon, Florida, after 41 years. Having taught from Second Grade to Ninth Grade, it has been fantastic watching the students mature; some of them are still in touch with her.

1980s

Elizabeth (Leedham) Bero '80 was honored by the American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics "for lifetime service in sharing a passion for space with youth" in March 2020. In October, the Alabama Association for Gifted Children awarded her their Lifetime Achievement Award. Elizabeth and husband Carl live in Madison, Alabama.

Paula Krinke Campbell '81 and her family moved into their new home! Since the fire that

took their home and studio in 2019, they have been busy building a new home. They would love to have visitors, if ever in the Nicholson, Pennsylvania area. Call at 570-445-1061.

Wayne Kozak '81 retired at age 50 and is doing well overall. He just turned 63 years old and writes reviews to keep active for ShopRite, Amazon, Walmart, EBay, BJ's, etc. He is trying to reconnect with **Dave Rackley '81**.

Pat Bohin '82 is proud to announce that he recently retired from his position as City Forester for the city of Boulder, Colorado, and started an urban forestry consulting business. He also recently bought a two-acre farm in North Boulder and is planting an apple orchard, keeping honeybees, and milling logs for furniture making. "I'm still doing a lot of rock climbing and kayaking and skiing, and my 18-year-old son keeps me young. Come visit!" 303-746-7654 or patbohin@gmail.com.

Emmanuel Desire '82 retired as a nephrology nurse, after years of taking care of many dialysis patients. His wife will retire in four more years, and they are proud grandparents of five grandkids with two more on the way. He now lives in north central Florida, an hour and half north of Orlando, Florida. He is giving thanks to God for his beautiful family. His son, Alain, is in his 11th year with the Coast Guard and doing very well. His daughter, Midorie, got her MSW and works for the city of Atlanta as a Clinical Social Worker. He would love to get in touch with **Donna Cabel '81**, **Lancaster Allen '81**, **Robin Tolleson '84**, and many others.

Kathy Robinson White '82 has been a full-time RVer for almost six years. She works seasonally in areas she wants to explore. Some of these places include Florida, Charleston, Virginia Beach, Mount Rushmore, New Mexico, Arkansas, and South Texas. She headed to Cody, Wyoming, for the summer.

Mark Azel '85 graduated with his Doctorate of Medical Science Degree specializing in Healthcare Professions Education from Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions in Provo, Utah, in April 2021. He, his wife Elizabeth, son Matthew, and daughter Sarah are all well in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. His oldest daughter, Kelleigh, is also well and is living in Asheville.

Chet Mottershead '87 is still with the North Carolina Department of Commerce. He has been named Assistant Secretary for Workforce Development.

David "Ziggy" Patterson '89 lives with his wife Mary McArthur in Edgewood, New Mexico, where he keeps busy remodeling homes with his company, Harvest Sun Construction, LLC. He would love to hear from friends from the mid-to-late 1980s. Contact him at dnpatt@hubwest.com.

1990s

Genevieve Austin '90 has published her memoir, *This is the Book I Buried...The Toy Box*. When her WWC senior seminar asked her, "Who am I?" the

seed of self-reflection was planted. Exploring family drama, its burial, COVID, and its resurrection, Genevieve details a musical, creative family chasing America's show business dreams amidst the storms and adventures of life.

Gregory T. Wilkins '90 received a Creative Support for Individuals grant through the Minnesota State Arts Board, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. His exhibition *Black Lives Matter: Teach Your Children Well* is hosted at Minnesota State University, Mankato, from June – August 2021. His series *Color of Water* is on view at Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport through December 2021.

Joshua Prentice '94 was elected President of the Board of Directors at the Berea Arts Council in January 2021. Also, March 2021 marked five years of no cancer, a huge milestone in the world of melanoma.

Rebecca (Woodhouse) Allard '95 is living in Seattle with her husband Ed and two boys, Jasper and Owen. Rebecca is an abstract artist. Gallery shows have been rough during the Coronapocalypse, but Ed just released the indie game he's been working on for three years called *Space Otter Charlie*.

Ted Hobart '96 celebrated his 15th year anniversary as a frontline healthcare worker with Whitman-Walker Health in Washington, D.C. In December 2020, he completed his 91st marathon and has only nine marathons left in his 100 marathon quest. The 100th marathon will be in the small town of Killybegs, Ireland, in July 2022. He was elected for a third term as a Board of Directors member with the Finlandia Foundation National Capital Chapter. He also organized a local neighborhood food drive and fundraiser with the Arlington Food Assistance Center, collecting about 400 pounds of food and over \$5,000 in donations for needy families in his hometown of Arlington, Virginia. He still maintains the Warren Wilson College Alumni page called "Whatzabubba" and recently became a Class Agent for the Class of 1996. His class is celebrating their 25th college reunion this year. "Hopefully we can all be together in person to remember all the good memories."

Erich Day '96 and **Sarah Hargrove '97**



are opening up a new local business in Asheville. Daily Cycle is a mobile bike repair service, offering on-site bike tune ups out of their work van/bike shop. Erich has been in the biking world since before

WWC, worked on starting the WWC mountain bike team with **Matt Prest '97**, and is a certified mechanic. He has worked at local WNC bike shops, Cane Creek, and REI, and is looking forward to running his own bike shop! Their daughter Natalie will be the unofficial bike cleaner. Feel free to give them a call if you're too busy to take your bike into a shop or want to spend your free time on dirt, gravel or pavement, and they can come to your house or workplace. Sarah is still working as a veterinarian at Cedar Ridge Animal Hospital and with Appalachian Wildlife Refuge, while learning a lot about running a small business on the side.

David MacLean '97 published a novel, *How I Learned to Hate in Ohio*, in January 2021 by the Overlook Press. He lives with his family in Chicago, Illinois.

Rebecca (Cole) Kadel '98 completed her Master of Science degree in Nursing Education in February 2020 (finally!) and was promoted to the position of Nursing Professional Development Specialist at Yale New Haven Hospital. She is also teaching Quinnipiac University nursing students at a COVID vaccine clinic as part of their Community Health course. Rebecca lives on the Connecticut shoreline with her husband, two kids, and two dogs, and always loves to reconnect with WWC friends! "Sending peace and love to all—stay safe!!!!"

2000s

Gabe Zoerheide '02 lives in Vermont with his wife, four kids, 12 cows, 30 sheep (until lambing season), 12 chickens, three dogs, and three cats. He is the Executive Director of Willing Hands, a gardening, gleaning, and food recovery nonprofit.

Jhonnelle Causwell '03 has received the prestigious Rosa Parks Award from The Mecklenburg County Democratic Party at the 2021 County Convention on April 17. This award is given each year to a Democrat who has overcome significant obstacles to achieve breakthroughs in social justice.

Rachel Horn '03 married Stephen Nerlick on 2/22/2020 at 2:22pm. They managed to sneak in a honeymoon to Peru before total lockdown, bringing back some toilet paper just in case. They have a farm in Sandy Mush, North Carolina, with a spice and CBD company. Their Baby Hooter arrived in June 2021.

Joey Honeycutt '04 and **Rebecca (Pierson) Honeycutt '04** bought a new home in Durham, North Carolina, and promptly adopted a second rescue dog. Joey also started a new job as a bereavement counselor with a local hospice organization and now spends weekends trying to get plants to grow under pine trees in very dense North Carolina clay soil. There's definitely a pandemic metaphor in there somewhere.

Laura Kemmerer '06 and **David Nelson '06** have relocated to upstate New York with their two kids, two dogs, and four cats. They are delighted to be living in a cooler climate with real seasons!

Allison (Long) Campbell '07 and her husband, Pat, welcomed their first child, Fiona Marie, on November 30, 2020, in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Anna Chollet '07, Shumon, and Sarabi welcomed new baby Hakeem to the family in February 2020. Anna and Shumon have weathered a challenging year as family doctors in Memphis treating patients during a pandemic and chasing their busy kids around. They remain constantly grateful for good health and an abundant support system, both local and remote. They are anticipating a move to Colorado in late 2021 — come visit!



Katie Kuehl '07 has been on the frontline of research looking at COVID transmission to pets in Washington State as a partnership with the University of Washington Center for One Health Research and Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine throughout the pandemic. Her One Health Clinic team has also been finalizing a toolkit to make available for other organizations to pilot an innovative integrated care model to improve health equity and outcomes for humans and their animal family members.

Tom Romanoff '07 and his wife Rashi welcomed their daughter Ariya Romanoff on August 19, 2020. Everyone is enjoying the time at home with the baby and looking forward to bringing her to Asheville to meet her extended WWC family. He also started a new job as Director of Technology Policy for the Bipartisan Policy Center, a think tank in Washington, D.C.

Brooke Usrey '07 and **Casey Gish '07** were married in September 2018 and welcomed Skylar Wren Gish into the world on July 13, 2021. The family currently resides in Seattle where Brooke works as a mental health counselor and Casey as a civil engineer.

Clay Gibson '08 earned the Armed Forces Civilian Service Medal for his actions in support of the Department of the Air Force's Acquisition COVID-19 Task Force. He was awarded a contract for and managed a multi-million dollar effort to expand production capacity of COVID-19 rapid tests.

2010s

Gideon Burdick '10 sauntered over to the county courthouse in October 2020 to marry the amazing Krissy Scommegna. The two had moved to Northern California in 2019 to start the Boonville Barn Collective, a farm, landscaping, and vineyard management company with over 40 employees in the Anderson Valley. Visitors welcome!

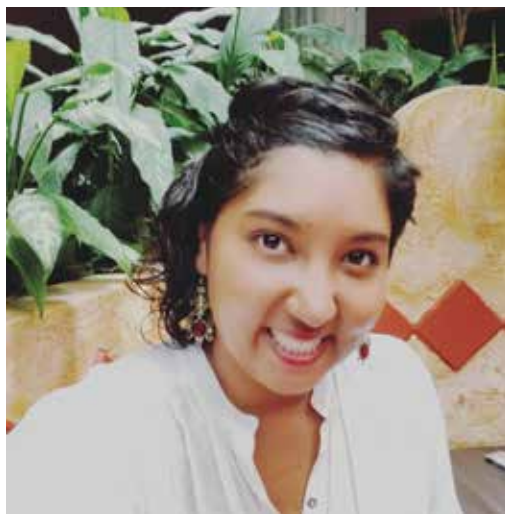


◀ **Adrian Smith '11**, married **Kelsey Brown '12** on September 26, 2020 in a small ceremony in their backyard. They have a cute dog named Harper and two precocious chickens.

Madeline Wadley '12 completed her Master of Education in Community

Engagement at Merrimack College in May 2021, focusing on nonprofit management and community engaged learning in higher education. She was the Volunteer and Business Engagement Specialist for Homeward Bound of WNC until recently, when she started a new position at WWC as Associate Director of Community Engagement.

Emma (Topor) Haydocy '13 took on the role of Executive Director of Florida Bay Forever, a nonprofit in the Florida Keys in 2019. In 2020, she launched an oral history project using the skills she learned in a course entitled *Community Connections in the Swannanoa Valley* in 2011. In 2021, she premiered a feature-length film recounting the history of the ecosystem-wide decline with local fishing guides.



▲ **Ana Lara Lopez '15** is in her second year at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, pursuing a Master of Divinity, where she focuses on Spiritual Care and Social Transformation. She is an intern for Kairos: The Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice along with the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival (PPC).

De'Andrea (Lottier) Ross '15 and **Julia Ross '15** welcomed baby Worthy on March 23, 2021.

Will Major '15 and **Christina Brown '15** decided not to wait another year when they realized they couldn't have the wedding they planned. They loaded up the car with the suit, the dress, their toddler, and their dog. They drove 16 hours to Warren Wilson, hiked out to Dogwood Pasture, and made it official in the place where it all started. Their small ceremony was officiated by their Rentals and Renovations crew boss and friend, Paul Bobbitt, Associate Dean of Work. On September 26, 2020, Will and Christina got married in the mountains where they fell in love.

Austen Brooks Casey '16 earned a Ph.D. in Medicinal Chemistry from Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts, under the mentorship of Dr. Raymond G. Booth. Now Austen is a postdoctoral scholar at Stanford University in the lab of Dr. Boris Heifets, where he researches neurocircuits activated by entactogenic and psychedelic drugs.

Grace (Hamlin) Hodges '16 and her husband Brett welcomed their daughter Georgia Hodges on March 23, 2021. Grace lives in Nashua, New Hampshire, and works in Human Resources for a Boston-area tech company.

Joscelyn Gradstein '18, also known as Vitakari, opened up a creative studio/venue called "VITAWOOD" this past January in Los Angeles, California. She built the space and curated it with her own art/paintings. Joscelyn started her brand "Vitakari" in her senior year at WWC.

Fonda Heenehan '18 and **Sam Morkal-Williams '18** affirmed their life partnership at their wedding in June 2021. Fonda graduated from the University of Vermont with her M.Ed. in Higher Education in 2020, and Sam will begin a Ph.D. program in applied philosophy at Bowling Green State University in Fall 2021.

Michael Nowak '19 completed his M.Sc. in Political Economy at the University of Amsterdam this past summer and has just started a new position as a Risk and Governance Consultant while he applies for Ph.D. programs.

Bobby Trice '19 recently earned a second promotion in less than a year at the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) in Washington, D.C. He will continue organizing communities to lobby Congress on issues of peace and justice as the inaugural Quaker Outreach Coordinator. To reconnect, drop a note to bobbyburnstrice@gmail.com.

2020s

Andrew Huffman '20, Chandler Scott-Smith '20, and their dog, Leroy, are hitting the road to St. Louis, Missouri, after a year on Chandler's family farm. Chandler will be pursuing a Master of Public Health at Washington University, while Andrew will be pursuing an MFA in Creative Writing at Arcadia University.

RETIREMENTS

Omega Hodges

By JT Wagner, MBA

Often, the hardest working people don't spend much time telling you about what they are doing, they just do it. That's what I see in Omega: a lot of real good, hard work, and patience. After over 30 years at the College, Omega worked in areas such as Purchasing, Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, and Financial Aid, took over Admin Computing when Ray Stock retired, and then finally worked alongside us in Information Technology. She has been, in a word, invaluable. She has, through her direct work, helped successfully usher in countless cohorts of students. She played a major role in facilitating the College's recent transition to a new content management system. Omega's steady, all-knowing presence has quietly helped this place keep running over the years, and the entire College owes her a debt of gratitude. When Omega's retirement was announced, we received several dozens of notes, letters, and videos of congratulations, gratitude, and—more often than not—bittersweet sadness. I know I'm not alone when I thank Omega for her years of service and wish her all the best in retirement.

for people and their needs and who is always aware of the human impact of decisions. But don't misunderstand that heart and soft spot—she is also a fierce advocate who stands up for what she believes is right. While we will miss Cathy's presence on the leadership team, we will always hear her "heart and soul" voice at the table.



^ Cathy Kramer

By Dr. Lynn M. Morton

Cathy retired after 16 years of service to the College. Cathy joined Warren Wilson in 2005 as Dean of Students and then shifted to the Dean of Service position in 2010. In 2016, she became the Vice President for Applied Learning and led her team to reconceptualize Applied Learning from the ground up. As our educational model began to evolve in 2015–2016, Cathy reimagined the Work Program while maintaining its core essence, putting even greater emphasis on student learning outcomes. She also helped launch the Center for Integrated Advising and Careers to better serve our students.

Actions are important, but I also want to note Cathy's kind and empathetic nature. Cathy is often described as a leader who has a soft spot

^ Mei Mah '84

By Christine Nugent

Mei has fulfilled many roles at the College over 35 years; first as an international student, then as a paraprofessional library staff member, and finally as Library faculty and Catalog Librarian from 1990–2021. Mei introduced computers to Library work and carefully curated our print collections over decades. She has also brought impactful programming to the Library, including the Dean's List celebrations and end-of-semester stress-busting activities for students. Most recently, Mei has produced two films highlighting important parts of the College's history, one about the building of the Asheville Farm School Library and the other one about Kuni and Sally, two Japanese-American students from the Poston, Arizona, concentration camp, who enrolled at Warren H. Wilson Vocational Junior College during World War II. We will miss Mei as a colleague, teacher, mentor, librarian, scholar, and friend and are grateful for all the things she did for the Library and for the College!

Susan McCracken

By Rowena Pomeroy

Susan first started working at Warren Wilson College in 2010 when she was hired to teach weekly Zumba Fitness classes on campus, which she continued teaching through February 2020. In July 2011, Susan was hired as the Administrative Assistant to the Vice President for Administration and Finance. Susan noted having wanted to work at Warren Wilson for many reasons, including strong family ties to the College. Her father was on the Board of Advisors from 1982–1994 and both of her parents were friends of Ben and Betty Holden and Doug and Darcy Orr.

Susan is one of those people on whom you can always depend. She always had the answers to all my questions, and she was quick to step in whenever needed (like that time she bravely performed a Filipino dance with me during International Week after learning the steps in just one day!). She was always there, behind the scenes, ready to assist whenever and however she could. I have been so lucky to know Susan—an awesome Zumba instructor; a dependable, dedicated colleague; a supportive, caring, wise, and thoughtful friend.



^ Dr. David Mycoff

By Dr. Paula Garrett

David has done far more than mark time during his lengthy 35-year tenure at the College. Dr. Mycoff made significant scholarly contributions at the intersection of literature and religion. He also thrived in the classroom. He is beloved by students and alumni of all backgrounds and majors, and it seems he has always been so. For years, he took on independent research projects with students, and he is ever-willing to go with students wherever their imaginations take them. David also assumed countless, far-ranging roles on the College's stage, including almost any Shakespeare lead, several parts in drag, and many in the most contemporary and experimental of plays. Most importantly, he has served the College diligently and effectively. He has served on the Extended Contracts Committee, on the Scholastic Standards Committee, and on numerous search committees. His positive outlook is often contagious; he has been a needed voice of reason and hope through so many of the College's challenges. The College is so much the better for having had him on faculty for more than three decades.

Dr. Marty O'Keefe

By Dr. Jill Overholt

Marty was employed by the College for an incredible 26 years. At the College and in the broader Outdoor Leadership field, Marty has been at the forefront of the movement for



▲ **Dr. Marty O'Keefe**

diversity, equity, and inclusion her entire career. Whether developing courses such as *Women's Voices in Adventure Education* and *Universal Adventure Programming*, or championing employee rights on this campus, she has been an advocate for fairness and justice since long before those became buzzwords. Marty's sphere of influence extends to organizations and programs nationwide. But arguably her greatest influence has been on countless students who can still recite "Marty-isms" and regale us with tales of meaningful fun and adventure under Marty's tutelage. I count myself fortunate to have begun my own career here, under the mentorship and guidance of Marty, who at the time had just assumed the role of Department Chair. I learned so much from her in those early years, and I certainly would not be the teacher I am today without her influence. Thank you, Marty!



▲ **Dr. Philip Otterness**

By Dr. Michael Matin

During his 25 years as a member of the faculty, Philip Otterness has distinguished himself in many ways. As a historian, he is the author of the multi-award-winning book *Becoming German: The 1709 Palatine Migration to New York* (Cornell University Press, 2004), which has been characterized as "a narrative of unmatched texture and depth" and "a major contribution in

its field." Further, his talent as a scholar is inseparable from his virtuosity as a teacher, and his achievements in both roles have been recognized by the College in the form of the Magnarella Family Faculty Scholarship Award and the Faculty Teaching Excellence Award. Among other honors, he has been a recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship and has delivered keynote addresses at scholarly conferences in the U.S. and Germany. His expertise and eloquence also enabled him to bring the Warren Wilson College name to the attention of millions of television viewers when he was invited to appear, in his capacity as a historian, in multiple episodes of the NBC television show *Who Do You Think You Are?* Yet while Phil's professional accomplishments on the national and international stages are extraordinary, as one reflects on his career, what emerges as another central theme is something more local: his unwavering dedication to serving the common good by cheerfully and energetically embracing the day-to-day tasks that come with the terrain of classroom teaching, academic leadership, and campus citizenship.



▲ **Art Shuster '88**

By Paul C. Perrine

A proud alum, Art Shuster served the College with excellence for 22 years. Over this time, he shaped and developed the Counseling Center to be a great resource for students and our community. In his first nine years at the College, in addition to counseling, Art coached the Mountain Biking Team. An early pioneer of the sport, his reputation as a former professional cyclist coupled with his skill as a coach led to multiple podium finishes at collegiate national championships. Art's ability to support and care for our students was always unwavering. Because of the obvious privacy reasons, much of Art's accomplishments in the lives of hundreds of students will be known only to him. Like the countless miles Art has ridden, the impact of his work has extended—and will extend—into generations. Like the skill of a gifted cyclist, finding the right line around or over obstacles, Art's gift was always finding the right balance between challenge and support, whether as a coach, counselor, mentor, or colleague.

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

Dr. Christine Bricker, Professor of Political Science, was asked to serve on the program committee for PolNet, the Political Networks Conference. PolNet, a section of the American Political Science Association, features one week of four political network analysis workshops, followed by five weeks of panels, with each week including approximately three 1.5-hour panels.

Dr. Patrick Ciccotto, Biology Instructor, published the articles "Revision of the genus *Henicorhynchus*, with a revised diagnosis of *Gymnostomus* (Cyprinidae: Labeoninae)" in the journal *Copeia* and "Taxonomic revisions of *Altigena laticeps* and *A. lippa* (Cyprinidae: Labeoninae) from the Mekong River basin" in the journal *Zootaxa*.

Dr. Jason DeCristofaro, Music Instructor, published his musical composition "Zodiacal Cloud" for solo glockenspiel with *C. Alan Publications* and his vibraphone and piano arrangement of Tchaikovsky's "Miniature Overture" from the *Nutcracker Suite* with *Per-Mus Publications* in Spring 2021. DeCristofaro contributed to the humanities e-book *Exploring Cultures: Adapting in a Global World*, published by *Soomo Learning* in October 2020. In November 2020, DeCristofaro gave a masterclass on jazz piano performance for the Asheville Area Piano Forum. In August of 2020, DeCristofaro's musical composition "Trio for Flute, Marimba and Piano" was performed by students at Hong Kong University, and, in early April 2021, his composition "Trio for Bassoon, Vibraphone, and Marimba" was performed in Guimarães, Portugal, by bassoonist José Martinho (Orquestra Filarmonia das Beiras) and his chamber ensemble. In October 2020, DeCristofaro's composition "Children's Sonatina" received a positive review in *Percussive Notes*. DeCristofaro also became the host of *Western NC Jazz Hour* on WGJC (the official radio station for the Greenville Jazz Collective) and the host of *Sounds of the Carolinas* on WPVM 103.7 FM (Asheville), a radio show featuring original music in all genres by composers based in the Carolinas.

Dr. Mandy Gallagher, Head Cycling Coach, achieved the highest level of coaching certification from USA Cycling. Her Level 1 certification required substantial in-person classwork, the development and execution of a case study, and a lengthy presentation of results to top experts in the fields of athletic performance and cycling. She is certified to coach at the national and international levels for cycling athletes, including Olympic athletes.

Dr. Paula Garrett, Chair of the English Department, was invited to teach at Harvard's graduate school in Henry Louis Gates Jr.'s class on African American literature. She has also been invited to review queer literature that might be useful in therapy for queer, and especially trans, youth for the *Journal of Clinical Child & Adolescent Psychology*.

Dr. Dongping Han, Professor of History and Political Science, was published extensively in a number of publications, including the articles “BRICS has more potential in an uncertain world” and “Cost to Delink with China will be More Than the U.S. Can Bear” in the publication *Chinadaily*. In addition, he published over a dozen articles in the e-magazine *ThinkChina* and several pieces for the Taiwan-based *Critique and Re-Creation*.

Dr. Gary Hawkins MFA '95, Director of the Center for Faculty Innovation and Excellence, was awarded a NC Arts Council 2020 Artist Support Grant for *After the Extinctions*, a project in which he is creating image and text intaglio prints.

Dr. Alisa Hove, Professor of Biology, was awarded a \$25,000 grant from the ASIANetwork to bring students to Nanjing Agricultural University in China to study *Plantago virginica*, a species native to the U.S. that is highly invasive in southern China. She also co-authored two articles: “Assessing the Effect Pathogen-Mediated of Eastern Hemlock Decline on Ectomycorrhizal Fungal Communities,” in the journal *American Midland Naturalist*; and “Temporal Analysis of Fecal Glucocorticoid Metabolites to Explore Variation within and among Territories of a Climate-Sensitive Small Mammal,” in the journal *Conservation Physiology*.

Dr. Annie Jonas, Chair of the Education Department, co-edited a special issue of the *Journal of Experiential Education* with colleagues from UNC-Chapel Hill. The special issue along with their opening editorial, “Grounding Stillness: Shifting the Landscape in K-12 and Teacher Education,” was published in February 2021.

Dr. Paul Magnarella, Professor Emeritus of Peace and Justice Studies, has won the silver medal in the General Nonfiction category of the 2020 Florida Book Awards for his most recent book *Black Panther in Exile: The Pete O'Neal Story*.

Dr. Langdon J. Martin, Professor of Chemistry, published the chapter “Impress your Supervisor and Outsmart Your Rival: Rhetorical Contexts in Post-Laboratory Writing Prompts” in the American Chemical Society Symposium Series book *Engaging Students in Organic Chemistry*.

Dr. Tom Martin, MA in Critical Craft Studies Faculty Member, published his first monograph this spring, titled *Craft Learning as Perceptual Transformation* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2021). The book presents findings from his first-person fieldwork as a boat builder's apprentice, during which Martin recorded his changing sensory experience as he learned the basics of the trade. Through his writing, Martin reveals how experience in the workshop allows craftspeople to draw new meaning from their senses, constituting meaningful objects through perception that are invisible to the casual observer.



Louise Glück
pictured front
row, far right.

At the Tops of Their Fields

Former instructors honored with Nobel Prize in Literature and TIME's 100 Most Influential People in 2020

Louise Glück, founding faculty member of the College's MFA Program for Writers, won the 2020 Nobel Prize in Literature in recognition of her remarkable poetry career. She has authored 13 books of poetry and two collections of essays, and she previously won the Pulitzer Prize, National Book Award, and National Humanities Medal for her work. She was selected as the national U.S. Poet Laureate in 2003–2004. Glück was instrumental in the early years of the MFA Program and its transition from Goddard College to Warren Wilson College, and she taught intermittently during its first decade at the College. She has continued to give back to Warren Wilson in recent years by promoting events and fundraisers for the MFA program and returning as a featured speaker at the MFA's 30th anniversary gala in 2006.

Anais Mitchell, former Swannanoa Gathering instructor at Warren Wilson College, was named one of the “TIME 100: The Most Influential People of 2020.” Mitchell wrote and composed the breakout hit musical *Hadestown*, which debuted on Broadway in 2019. A tale that reimagines two Greek myths—Orpheus and Eurydice, and Hades and Persephone—Mitchell's production captured the hearts of theater-goers and critics alike. *Hadestown* won the 2019 Tony Award for Best Musical and the 2020 Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album. Mitchell made an impact during her time at the Gathering due to her “superb teaching,” former Warren Wilson College President Dr. Doug Orr remembered.



Ian Robertson Distinguished Lecture in Inspired Work

The first in the newly launched endowed lecture series took place virtually on Friday, February 26 to an online audience of hundreds and featured Asheville resident and Warren Wilson's own Diplomat and Journalist in Residence, Elizabeth O. Colton, Ph.D., with the topic, "Mountains to Maldives: Leading a Life of Adventure through Work."

In the lecture, Dr. Colton shared her experiences from growing up in Asheville, North Carolina, to working in 120 countries throughout her compelling, multi-faceted career as an award-winning diplomat; as a Fulbright Scholar and professor; and as an Emmy-winning journalist and editor.

And it is difficult to overstate the impact that Ian Robertson, Dean of Work Emeritus, had on Warren Wilson College. During his 36-year tenure, he established the College Garden (where the Cabin is named in his honor), served as the first Women's Soccer Coach, and grew the Work Program as Dean of Work. Beyond the programs he developed, Robertson's lasting influence is defined by the life lessons he imparted on students and staff. With the support of generous donors, the *Ian Robertson Distinguished Lecture in Inspired Work* series was created to celebrate Robertson's legacy and spark dialogue around the relevance of meaningful work.

To watch a recording of this webinar, go to warren-wilson.edu/owlandspade2021

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS CONTINUED

Dr. Mallory McDuff, Professor of Environmental Studies and Outdoor Leadership, has written a book that features her yearlong journey to revise her final wishes with climate and community in mind, in the wake of her parents' sudden deaths. The book chronicles her visits to conservation cemeteries, crematories, a body farm, and the Warren Wilson Cemetery, where she explored the option for natural burial close to home. *Our Last Best Act: Planning for the End of Our Lives to Protect the People and Places We Love* (Broadleaf Books) is available for preorder at the time of publication.

Dr. Olya Milenkaya '03, Professor of Conservation Biology, presented an invited research seminar at Eastern Washington University entitled "Conservation in the Context of Novel Communities." Additionally, she co-authored a peer-reviewed article entitled "The Asian House Gecko (*Hemidactylus frenatus*) established in natural vegetation of Oaxaca, Mexico" in the journal *Reptiles & Amphibians*.

Dr. Jay Miller, Professor of Philosophy, published a book, *The Politics of Perception and the Aesthetics of Social Change*, with Columbia University Press.

Dr. Philip Otterness, Professor Emeritus of History and Political Science, presented "The 1710 Palatine Migration and German Identity in New York and North Carolina" at the Annual Conference of the German History Society in September 2020. The conference, which was to be held in London, was, to his great disappointment, rescheduled in an online format. He continues his research for his book on the German and Swiss migrants who helped found the settlement of New Bern, North Carolina, in 1710.

Dr. Jill Overholt, Chair of the Outdoor Leadership Studies Department, is currently serving on the editorial board of the *Journal of Experiential Education* and as guest co-editor of a special issue in the journal *Forests*, focused on health and natural landscapes. During her fall 2020 sabbatical, she and her co-authors completed and submitted the final manuscript for their forthcoming book, *Health and Natural Landscapes: Concepts and Applications*.

Dr. Jamieson Ridenhour, English Instructor, facilitated live-streamed author talks with Susan Power and Chuck Klosterman for Humanities North Dakota, and performed live-streamed ghost stories with London-based theater group Uncanny Collective in December and April. He also launched the fourth season of his audio drama, *Palimpsest*. Dr. Ridenhour is the writer and producer of the audio drama, which is nearing half a million downloads.

Dr. Jay Roberts, Provost and Dean of the Faculty, wrote a book entitled *Risky Teaching: Harnessing the Power of Uncertainty in Higher Education*, published by Routledge Press in summer 2021.

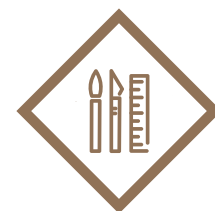
Dr. Bob Swoap, Professor of Psychology, is working as a Sport Psychologist with the U.S. national table tennis team. Additionally, he has completed a study with the Asheville Fire Department examining the impact of mindfulness training on resilience. He presented this research at the annual Art & Science of Health Promotion conference in September 2021.

Candace Taylor, MFA, Chair and Artistic Director of the Warren Wilson Theatre, was elected by unanimous vote to the Board of Directors of the Asheville Symphony.

Dr. Gretchen W. Whipple, Professor of Mathematics, published the chapter, "A Civil Right: Math Anxiety to Math Literacy" in *Mathematical Themes in a First-Year-Seminar* by the Mathematical Association of America Press.

Namita Gupta Wiggers, MA, Director of the MA in Critical Craft Studies program, was selected to serve on the Creative Time Think Tank, and had artwork featured in *The New York Times*, currently on view at The Wing Luke Museum of Asian American Experience. She published articles in *Metropolis* and *CRAFTS* (UK) magazines; contributed an interview to "Each/Other: Marie Watt and Cannupa Hanska Luger," Denver Art Museum; wrote a collaborative essay in *The New Politics of the Handmade: Craft, Art, and Design*; "Viscous Time" for Portland State University; and participated in the Center for Art Research, University of Oregon's recently published "Catalytic Conversation: Craft and the Hyperobject" and "Papers on Power." She curated *ROLODEX: Craft a Conversation* through the program through partnership with the Center for Craft. Wiggers received a Craft Futures Fund grant to support releasing podcasts of 10 years of Critical Craft Forum panels at the College Art Association.

Nathaniel Wyrick '10, MFA, Director of Admissions, was published in Volume 9 of *Emergency Index*. His performance and installation work *What a Life I Lead in the Spring*, performed at Warren Wilson College for the Annual Spring Arts Festival, was published in the book, which features 310 works from 55 countries performed during 2019, documented in the words of their creators. Additionally, he was selected as one of 32 artists from Western North Carolina who were awarded an Artist Support Grant through the North Carolina Arts Council for the 2020-2021 cycle.



AWARDS & WORKS BY MFA PROGRAM FOR WRITERS ALUMNI & FACULTY

FACULTY AWARDS

Sandra Lim, Laura van den Berg, and Connie Voisine each won a 2021 Guggenheim Fellowship.

Matthew Olzmann MFA '09 (poetry) and **Nicole Sealey** were each granted a 2021 National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship.

Laura van den Berg was honored with a 2021 Harold and Mildred Strauss Livings Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

ALUMNI AWARDS

Tommye Blount MFA '13 (poetry) won the National Book Award Finalist in Poetry for *Fantasia for the Man in Blue* (Four Way).

Victoria Chang MFA '05 (poetry) won the PEN America/Voelcker Award for Poetry for *Obit* (Copper Canyon Press).

Tommy Hays MFA '88 (fiction) won the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

Lindsay Knowlton MFA '82 (poetry) won the 2021 Vermont Writers' Prize for her poem "Death of a Barn" (*Vermont Magazine*).

Laura Otis MFA '17 (fiction) won a 2021 Guggenheim Fellowship.

Margaret Ray MFA '20 (poetry) won a Poetry Society of America Chapbook Fellowship for *Superstitions of the Mid-Atlantic* (chapbook).

PUBLICATIONS

FACULTY

Charles Baxter *The Sun Collective* (Pantheon, 2020)

Reginald Gibbons *Renditions* (Four Way Books, 2021)

Brooks Haxton *Mister Toebones* (Knopf, 2021)

Caitlin Horrocks *Life Among the Terranauts* (Little Brown and Company, 2021)

Joan Silber *Secrets to Happiness* (Counterpoint Press, 2021)

Marisa Silver MFA '96 (fiction) *The Mysteris* (Bloomsbury, 2021)

Lysley Tenorio *The Son of Good Fortune* (Ecco, 2020)

C. Dale Young *Prometeo* (Four Way Books, 2021)

ALUMNI

Natalie Baszile MFA '07 (fiction), editor: *We Are Each Other's Harvest* (Amistad, 2021)

Michaela Carter MFA '95 (poetry) *Leonora in the Morning Light* (Simon & Schuster, 2021)

Robin Rosen Chang MFA '18 (poetry) *The Curator's Notes* (Terrapin Books, 2021)

Lara Egger MFA '16 (poetry) *How to Love Everyone and Almost Get Away with It* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2021)

Scott Gould MFA '06 (fiction) *Whereabouts* (novel, Koehler Books, 2020) and *Things That Crash, Things That Fly* (memoir, Vine Leaves Press, 2021)

Kim Hamilton MFA '16 (poetry) *Calling through Water* (Tebot Bach, 2020)

Chloe Martinez MFA '09 (poetry) *Corner Shrine* (chapbook, Backbone Press, 2020)

David Mills MFA '16 (poetry) *Boneyarn* (Ashland Poetry Press, 2021)

Tiana Nobile MFA '17 (poetry) *Cleave* (Hub City Press, 2021)

Mike Puican MFA '09 (poetry) *Central Air* (Northwestern University Press, 2020)

Jennifer Sperry Steinorth MFA '15 (poetry) *Her Read* (Texas A&M University Press, 2021)

Angela Narciso Torres MFA '09 (poetry) *What Happens is Neither* (Four Way Books, 2021)

Lara Tupper MFA '01 (fiction) *Amphibians* (Leapfrog Press, 2021)

Laura Van Prooyen MFA '10 (poetry) *Frances of the Wider Field* (Lily Poetry Review Books, 2021)

Abigail Wender MFA '08 (poetry) *Reliquary* (Four Way Books, 2021)

Katie Bowler Young MFA '07 (poetry) *Enrique Alferes: Sculptor* (Historic New Orleans Collection, 2020)

IN MEMORIAM

We remember the following individuals for their service and dedication to Warren Wilson College.



Alice Isbell Ager Behrer of Fairview, North Carolina, former Warren Wilson Council of Visitors member, died November 23, 2020. Her family has held a web of leadership roles and connections to Warren Wilson over the decades. Behrer's relationship with the Presbyterian Church, love of learning, and commitment to environmental protection connected her deeply to the College's mission as she attended many events on campus over the years.

Herbert "Herb" Lowery Davis '69 passed away in February 2021. He attended Warren Wilson on a basketball scholarship, and graduated in 1969 with a degree in History and Political Science/Education. The College is also where he met his wife, Mary Richardson, whom he married in 1970. Davis taught in the Charlotte Mecklenburg School system for 30 years, starting at Quail

Hollow Junior High. He returned to his alma mater, South Mecklenburg, in 1977, where he taught U.S. History and coached boy's basketball before becoming Athletic Director. He was inducted into the Warren Wilson Athletic Hall of Fame in 2014.

Dr. John Paul Frelick died October 31, 2020, at the age of 95. Frelick's life was one of service. Some highlights include squadron Chaplain for the Navy; Director of the John Knox Ecumenical Conference/Student Center in Geneva, Switzerland; Director of the World Affairs Center and member of the faculty for Beloit College in Wisconsin; Associate Pastor at Highland Presbyterian Church in Louisville, Kentucky; Mission Co-Worker for the Presbyterian Church of the USA as Professor of Theology, first in Yaoundé, Cameroon, and then in Morija, Lesotho. In 1999 while in Morija, a group of Warren Wilson students spending their semester abroad introduced Frelick and his wife Ellenor to the College. The couple later moved to the Asheville area, and Frelick volunteered and worked for the College until retiring in 2015.

Sarah Walkup Belk Gambrell

died at the age of 102 on July 30, 2020. A former College Trustee (1982–2002), "Mrs. G." was born in Charlotte, North Carolina, on April 12, 1918, to Mary Irwin Belk and William Henry



Belk, Sr., founder of Belk department stores. Ahead of her time in many ways, Gambrell began her business career in 1947 at Belk where she coordinated the women's wear and cosmetics divisions. She maintained long-standing relationships with employees and was a tireless advocate for women. In 2015, Gambrell focused her efforts on the modernization of the Gambrell Foundation. A passionate lifelong learner, Gambrell was a person of independent thought who defined herself by her own standards and defied the labels others tried to place on her.

William Richard McClure Hamilton '99 died on June 26, 2021. William lived in Fairview, North Carolina most of his life. He graduated from Warren Wilson College with an Environmental Science degree and received a Master of Science in Forestry from North Carolina State University. William worked tirelessly to conserve land in Western North Carolina, and he worked as an advocate for small family farms and the soil and water on which they depend. Through his work at the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, North Carolina State University, and with the Buncombe County Soil and Water District, William served the community and place that he loved. A devoted father to four children, he coached many sports teams, supported his



Pat and Ernst Laursen '49.

She Always Said Yes: Remembering Pat Laursen

By Karen Marberger '74

My lifelong friendship with Pat Laursen began when I was 13, and my father, Wil Watson '51, took me to Warren Wilson College. As was her habit with those she met, Pat asked us to the house for coffee. Generous to a fault, she opened her home as most of us

open our closets every morning. Her son, Mark, used to say that when he went to sleep at night, he never knew how many people would be at the breakfast table the next morning. It was true.

During my four years at Warren Wilson, I worked for Pat doing anything and everything she asked of me. When former staff member Elena Law had a heart attack, Pat took over the duties of the first floor of the Ogg Administration Building in addition to her work in the Alumni Office. Pat oversaw the College switchboard, official publications, and printshop, and she was first to greet visitors. In truth, her tasks and work ethic were endless. She trained her student workers to meet the many and varied needs of the President's Office. She taught skills that I used throughout my career.

Pat knew I was often short of funds, so she and Ernst Laursen '49—her husband and fellow longtime Warren Wilson staff member—hired me to babysit their two children, Mark and Denise. I was the last in a long line of babysitters. Pat called me their referee because they were on the cusp of adolescence. I developed a lifelong relationship with them both, due mostly to their mother's inclusion of me in their family life.

Pat loved to play gentle pranks. I think her favorite was icing a Styrofoam "birthday cake," topping it with candles, and then leading us in laughter when the birthday person couldn't cut it into pieces. The foam "cake" made many appearances.

The Warren Wilson community wasn't the only beneficiary of Pat's time and talent. She served numerous roles at Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church, Room in the Inn, and on the boards of various organizations, all with the same goal of helping others. Nothing was ever too much for her to tackle.

On campus, women students seemed to find her when they needed someone most. I was one of those, and there were many others. I am certain we all found her at the right time in our lives. She never turned us away.

Pat's mother died when she was young. She and her two brothers lived with relatives for most of their formative years. I believe this helped develop her desire and keen ability to share what she had. In her eyes, it was to share her blessings. These early experiences led her to study social work and theology—helping and believing. These two practices formed the structure of her life.

Pat and I didn't always agree on everything, but it didn't matter. In her later years as her health began to deteriorate, her sometimes blunt manner became a little gruff. In the last couple of weeks before her death when she didn't always know who I was, in a lucid moment she said to me, "We've had a good time, haven't we?" On a different day when I was helping her dress, she expressed her care for her husband: "Take care of Ernst for me—well, as much as he'll let you." I said I would, and she laughed and said, "I know you will."

"Am I my brother's keeper?" is a question many of us are asking at this time when we're trying to figure out how to manage our country and its people. There was never a doubt for Pat. She always said yes. ■

children's musical abilities, and took his children fishing, camping, and horseback riding. He will be remembered for his charming personality and generous spirit.

Rebecca (Powell) Hargrove '55, an alumna of Warren Wilson Junior College, passed away on April 30, 2021. Hargrove, better known to friends and family as "Georgia," was the first African American woman to graduate from Warren Wilson. She went on to complete her bachelor's degree at Barber-Scotia College and later earned a master's degree. A lifelong teacher, Hargrove cherished spending time with her family and was deeply engaged with her church community.

Dr. Hugh Kenneth Himan passed away peacefully at the age of 82 on May 23, 2021. Dr. Himan spent his childhood in Danville, Illinois, and was an avid year-round athlete. He attended Miami University of Ohio, where he earned a bachelor's and then a master's degree in Economics. From there, he completed his education with a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in 1965. Dr. Himan was a professor of Economics at Wake Forest University and then moved to Asheville to teach at Warren Wilson College in 1974. While at Warren Wilson, he started the Baseball program and was the Head Coach from 1975–1984. In 2012, he was inducted into the inaugural Warren Wilson Athletic Hall of Fame. Dr. Himan retired from the College in 2011, but he remained in service to the Asheville community until 2013, delivering Meals on Wheels and volunteering for Hospice.

Leah Karpen, celebrated philanthropist and Asheville native, died at the age of 100 on September 1, 2020. Karpen and her family are longtime friends of the College, where Karpen taught Economics (1980–82), her husband Morris served as Trustee (1992–1997), son Joseph served as a Trustee (2011–2013), and grandson Joshua was a student. Leah and Morris Karpen established the Esther and Samuel Robinson International Student Scholarship Endowment Fund 1984 in honor of Leah's parents. Karpen earned an M.S. in Industrial Management and became one of the first two women to obtain a Master of Liberal Arts from UNC Asheville in 1991, later teaching at UNCA and Warren Wilson College. Karpen volunteered for numerous organizations, both local and national, and was a community leader whose dedication and passion for justice knew no bounds.

Charlie Goh Miri '63 died on March 25, 2020. Miri attended Warren Wilson Junior College with the support of a scholarship made possible by the Presbyterian Church. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in New Mexico and master's degree from Texas A&M University. He spent his life working as an educator and retired as Chair of the Computing and Information Science Department at Delaware Technical Community College. He credited his success to the foundation he acquired at Warren Wilson College. He remembered his time with fondness and gratitude, especially for his

professors and soccer teammates. Thanks to a gift from his estate, the College has established an endowed scholarship for international and/or deserving students in his honor.



Richard "Ric" Edwin Morton, J.D., beloved husband of President Lynn Morton, Ph.D., passed away on June 4, 2021 after a year-long battle with cancer. Ric earned his B.A. in Geology at Guilford College in Greensboro and his J.D. at the University of South Carolina-Columbia. He practiced environmental law in Charlotte, North Carolina, for 30 years and was recognized many times for legal excellence, most recently as Environmental Lawyer of the Year 2021 in Charlotte. He was an avid cyclist and nationally ranked adventure racer who was drawn not only to the challenge of outdoor sports but also to the close relationships built by racing teams. Morton loved the outdoors and was happiest when hiking with the family dogs, mountain biking at the Charlotte Whitewater Center, or camping during long adventure races or with his family.

Audrey (Lowney) Sloan '78, Warren Wilson alumna and former staff member, died December 6, 2020. She served as the Student Activities Director from 1977–1990. Not only did she work with students to plan dances, outings, and other activities, but she was a tireless supporter of the Athletics program. She was inducted to the Athletic Hall of Fame as a Athletic Program Contributor in 2016. Her impact is summed up by a former student athlete: "Audrey, for me, was the heart and soul of the College. She was like a momma bear with her cubs when it came to Warren Wilson College—fiercely loyal and protective." She is survived by her husband and several daughters, including Warren Wilson alumna Cindy Smith '84.

Margie Whipple, mother-in-law of Warren Wilson Mathematics Professor Dr. Gretchen W. Whipple, passed away in November 2020. Whipple had an itinerant childhood, as her mother spent time in various places around the country as a labor union organizer. After years of sporadic and scattered college credits, she received a B.A. in history at Connecticut College at the age of 48. Upon arriving in Asheville, she worked as a volunteer in the College's Admissions Office. Whipple was a lifelong learner and a voracious reader of fiction, nonfiction, biography, and history. She was very politically engaged, and her strong support of racial equality was always evident. Whipple found joy in traveling, especially in trips to Mexico, Portugal, Spain, France, and Colombia.

As of July 7, 2021

ASHEVILLE FARM SCHOOL

Lewis R. Higdon '40
January 28, 2021

Carl "CB" Stewart '41
March 20, 2021

ASHEVILLE NORMAL AND TEACHERS COLLEGE

Sarah Robinson Lowery '41
January 21, 2021

Helen Anest Hampton '42
December 8, 2020

DORLAND BELL SCHOOL

Verna Minch '35
September 12, 2020

Mattie Plott Cayce '36
January 7, 2021

Edith J. Glass '36
November 21, 2020

WARREN WILSON HIGH SCHOOL

Ransom V. Bennett '45
September 30, 2020

Virgil Avery Gray '48
September 17, 2020

Verna Wood '49
May 28, 2020

Barbara Zoochi Pinchback '49
August 20, 2020

Donald K. "Don" Kincaid '50
January 9, 2021

Barbara "Bobbie" Barker Miller '52
July 11, 2020

WARREN WILSON JUNIOR COLLEGE

Richard E. McKinney '49
January 4, 2021

Richard Stamey '50
September 19, 2020

Philip F. Thornton '52
July 31, 2020

James T. "Jim" Greene '54
August 19, 2020

Rebecca (Powell) Hargrove '55
April 30, 2021

Carolyn Owenby Middleton '55
March 20, 2021

Esther "Geraldine" Moretz '56
November 13, 2020

Thomas M. L. Wade '56
February 2, 2021

Gay F. Angel '57
June 8, 2021

Eva Butler Shelton '57
May 8, 2021

Bonnie Lou Burrow Moyer '58
October 1, 2020

Clyde W. Weaver, Jr. '58
May 5, 2021

Joseph F. "Joe" Karpati '59
November 20, 2020

Ann Plemmons Ramsey '59
November 4, 2020

John "J.C." Wallin '59
March 10, 2021

Linda Ray Donaldson '60
January 26, 2021

Baxter A. McPherson, Jr. '60
November 16, 2020

Kermit R. "Bob" Mullins '62
March 9, 2021

Leo Scott Arnold '63
May 1, 2021

Charlie Goh Miri '63
March 25, 2020

Aydin Gonulsen '65
July 6, 2021

WARREN WILSON COLLEGE

Herbert "Herb" Lowery Davis '69
February 11, 2021

Benjamin "Ben" Ridgeway '71
April 27, 2021

Audrey (Lowney) Sloan '78
December 6, 2020

Vanessa M. Wiggins Olson '81
November 25, 2020

Larry F. Rohan '81
January 23, 2021

Lee M. Grue '82
April 3, 2021

Sandy G. Piercy '83
September 14, 2020

Stephen A. "Steve" Sabia '83
April 4, 2021

Lee Sharkey '91
October 18, 2020

Scott W. Latimore '92
July 10, 2020

Cynthia R. "Cindy" Grindstaff '93
September 2, 2020

William Richard McClure Hamilton '99
June 26, 2021

MILESTONES

IN MEMORIAM CONTINUED

Bliss Morehead-Zisser '04
July 20, 2020

Andrew W. Jubera III '05
June 24, 2020

Elizabeth Sue "Eli" Sherfey '17
February 17, 2021

EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTEERS, TRUSTEES, AND FRIENDS

Nancy C. Rouzer Alexander
July 3, 2020

Martha L. Alvis
June 24, 2021

Robert L. Avinger
June 23, 2021

Alice Isbell Ager Behrer
November 23, 2021

Morris T. Bell
March 11, 2021

Curtis B. Bitner
August 29, 2020

James A. Bryan
January 8, 2021

Donna Lisle Burton
November 20, 2020

Boyd C. Campbell, Jr.
December 12, 2020

George H. V. Cecil
October 19, 2020

Thomas O. Coppedge
November 12, 2020

Jane J. Coxe
June 8, 2020

John E. Cram
October 26, 2020

James C. Elliott
July 16, 2020

William W. "Bill" Fore
January 23, 2021

John Paul Frelick
October 31, 2020

Gaetana Friedman
June 16, 2020

Sarah Walkup Belk Gambrell
July 30, 2020

Freda A. Gardner
May 9, 2020

Herbert C. Garrett
December 24, 2020

Alan E. Geer
November 27, 2020
Jane Lohr Golden
August 12, 2020

Barbara Hempleman
August 15, 2020

Anthony "Tony" Burnette Higgins
March 31, 2021

Hugh Kenneth Himan
May 23, 2021

William "Bill" Hollins
October 13, 2020

Robert Copeland Hunter
August 27, 2020

John Crawford Jackson
January 23, 2021

Joseph S. "Joe" Johnston
November 14, 2020

Johnnie R. Jones
September 18, 2020

June M. Kimmel
May 25, 2021

Leah Karpen
September 1, 2020

Robert T. Kimzey
May 27, 2021

Jack D. Kriel, Jr.
October 24, 2020

Steven Kropelnicki, Jr.
December 6, 2020

Ron Lambe
June 14, 2021

Patricia "Pat" Laursen
August 6, 2020

Devere C. Lentz, Jr.
June 15, 2020

Carl W. Loftin
January 16, 2021

David Lewis Mashburn
May 16, 2020

Alexander M. McGeachy
September 17, 2020

Celeste Millen
July 23, 2020

Richard "Ric" Morton
June 4, 2021

Kathe E. Mosher
May 6, 2021

Lawrence "Larry" Mueller, Jr.
February 17, 2021

Sue G. Nicholson
December 26, 2020

Douglas W. Oldenburg
July 21, 2020

Wade B. Otey
December 2, 2020

Charles Dexter Owen
June 21, 2021

Leonard G. "Len" Pardue
October 1, 2020

John R. Payne
September 13, 2020

Rosetta H. Penny
October 30, 2020

Walker Pettyjohn
April 7, 2021

Harry Phillips
October 5, 2020

Evelyn Coker Posey
January 18, 2021

Charles R. Price
August 27, 2020

Frank L. Reynolds
December 5, 2020

James "Larry" Roof
December 1, 2020

Otha L. Sherrill
June 1, 2021

Alice W. Sluder
November 15, 2020

Arthur T. "Art" Streppa
January 7, 2021

Gladys Underwood Swanger
March 24, 2021

O'Neil Tate
October 19, 2020

George Thatcher
June 8, 2020

Margie "Marge" Whipple
November 26, 2020

Juanita M. Wilkerson
October 29, 2020

Lamar Williamson, Jr.
July 11, 2020



Left: Michael, Madeleine, and Walter Cox circa 2007.

Above: Madeleine and parents at her high school graduation.

Photos courtesy of the Cox family.

The Legacy Continues

Three generations of the Cox family celebrate their shared passion for Warren Wilson College

By Iman Amini '23

Walter Cox '59 wanted to be the first of eight siblings in his family to attend college. He heard about Warren Wilson Vocational Junior College from his high school friends and enrolled in the fall of 1957. Coming from generational poverty post-World War II, he broke through the barriers facing him to seek a college education. Walter went on to lead his family in building a multi-generational Warren Wilson College legacy: his son Michael Cox graduated from Warren Wilson in 1984, and Michael's daughter Madeleine Cox '22 is a current student at the College.

Attending Warren Wilson over three separate and distinct periods has been a life-changing journey for Walter, Michael, and Madeleine, a journey on which they all explored and experienced beyond their comfort zones.

"Coming to [Warren] Wilson opened my eyes and allowed me to meet people with diverse backgrounds," Walter said, explaining that he met international students and Students of Color for the first time in his life while attending the College. Over his two-year course of study at the Junior College, Walter learned important skills working on the Farm Crew, built strong relationships, and strengthened his sense of civic responsibility as he helped the community fight mountain fires.

Having visited campus over the years during Homecoming with his family, Michael followed in his father's footsteps and became a Warren Wilson College student. Michael, who studied Biology, remains fond of his work experiences in the Accounting Office and as a lab technician. Michael's memorable adventures at Warren Wilson gave him the opportunity to gain "lifelong experiences and make good friends and social connections." Grateful for his own undergraduate journey at Warren Wilson, Michael loves the College and its commitment to educating young people and empowering them to serve their communities.

As this multi-generational Warren Wilson legacy continues through the Cox family, Madeleine is set to graduate in 2022 with her degree in Sociology and Anthropology. "Working on campus helped me shape my civic identity by involving me in projects that transcended my own position in the world," Madeleine said. She described having experienced a political awakening during her time at Warren Wilson, through activism with the Black Lives Matter movement and community engagement projects like helping with her First Year Seminar course to restore the gravesites of local enslaved people in the South Asheville Cemetery.

"Working within Asheville, somewhere I've lived my whole life," Madeleine said, "took on a whole different meaning as I began to expand my understanding of community work and the importance of maintaining local history that falls outside of the mainstream, White-dominated narrative—which always favors the privileged."

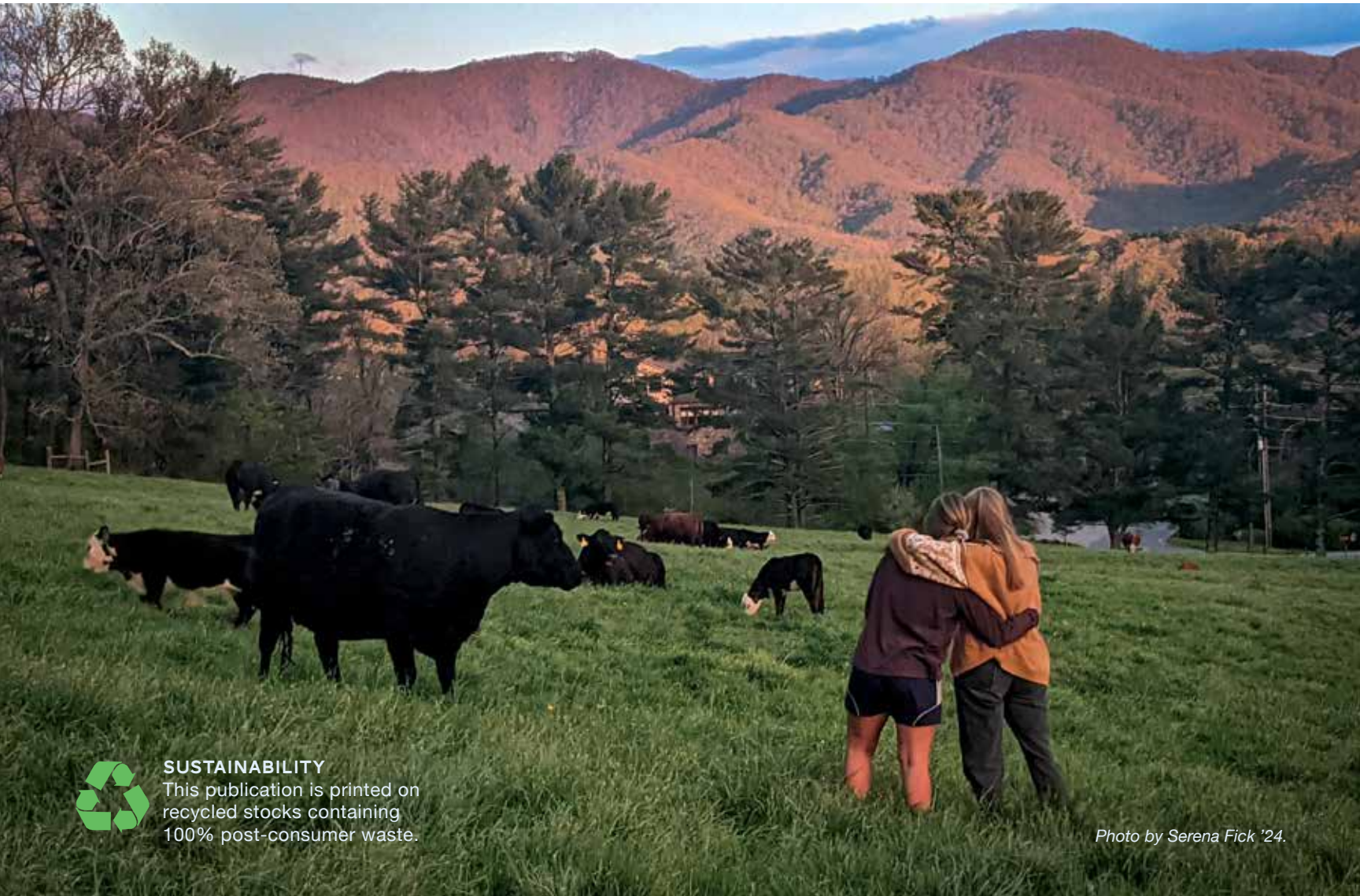
Across three generations of Cox family members from 1957 to the present, Warren Wilson College has undergone major changes: from a junior college in the 1950s and '60s, Warren Wilson evolved into the four-year undergraduate and graduate institution that it is today. But for Walter and his Warren Wilson Owl family, their passion for the College remains unchanged. Attending Warren Wilson College helped Walter, Michael, and Madeleine each discover a sense of self and community to be carried beyond college and throughout their lives. ■



Warren Wilson COLLEGE

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