

# Westminster

SPRING/SUMMER 2019  
VOLUME XXXVII, ISSUE 2

COLLEGE MAGAZINE

WHERE THERE'S  
WESTMINSTER,  
THERE'S A WAY



INSIDE>>SPRING COMMENCEMENT 2019



# SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Almost overnight, Mother Fair exploded in a colorful array of green leaves, yellow daffodils and red tulips. But Frisbees, flipflops and fresh air quad studying are the *real* signs of spring's arrival at Westminster College.

Westminster  
COLLEGE MAGAZINE

SPRING/SUMMER 2019

Volume XXXVII, Issue 2

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**On the cover:** Hannah McMichael '19 with the Rev. Jim Mohr (Photo: Brian Bornes)

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WESTMINSTER COLLEGE





*Conductor Manfred Honeck and the members of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (PSO) stand to receive applause following the PSO's spring performance at Westminster College.*

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STAY CONNECTED



# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



**F**orty years ago this spring, I graduated from college, where I was blessed to have been led and taught by outstanding faculty advisors in communication, religion and philosophy, and honors. Their high expectations and strong support challenged me to offer my best thinking and work, and even today, their influence inspires me from the way I began the courses I taught each term to my method for research and writing. Ms. Morris, Dr. Baskin and Dr. Morris: Great mentors plant seeds that grow for a lifetime.

Many of you have shared with me similar stories of your Westminister mentors. Titans love to tell stories about the faculty or staff members who shaped their growth here—the professor who devoted hours of tutoring right before a final exam so you could pass a course; the staff member who found a job for a student when financial pressures otherwise would have led to the student withdrawing from the College; the advisor who willingly proofread grad school application essays multiple times; the chaplain who challenged easy assumptions about life’s choices with serious questions; or the coach who encouraged excellence in sports and academics. Faculty, coaches, work supervisors, chaplains, counselors, advisors: At Westminister, the list of mentors is deep and long. We intentionally seek and nurture the relationships that lead to growth.


Our students continue to benefit from such relationships. All students have a faculty advisor within their majors. Many students work with faculty on research, with advisors of student organizations, with coaches on athletic teams or conductors of music groups. The Titan Network provides mentors, too, as alumni “pay it forward” by helping current students. A pilot program this year called WE-Connect offered seniors the opportunity to connect with an alumnus or alumna for support and advice as they prepared to graduate and transition to a first job or graduate study. Students involved in the Westminister Entrepreneurial Center have been linked with entrepreneurs who provide real-world wisdom and encouragement.

In turn, some of our students are busy mentoring others. A few examples: For several years, as part of two donor-supported programs, select groups of students have mentored high school students from Youngstown and New Castle to help them envision and prepare for college. In another program supported by an NSF grant, upper-level STEM majors link with incoming STEM students from rural areas to provide support as they begin their on-campus coursework. Next year staff in the Academic Success Center, the First-Year Program, and Student Affairs will partner to pilot a Peer Success Coach program that will support our incoming students. From one generation to another, Titan mentors continue to plant seeds for a lifetime of growth and success.

I am deeply grateful for the mentors who helped shape my growth and for all those who serve as mentors for our students here. Planting seeds for a lifetime of growth is work worthy of a Titan. Thank you to all those who participate in such important work.

*Dr. Kathy Brittain Richardson*  
President





The Rev. Jim Mohr, campus chaplain, strolls along campus with senior Hannah McMichael.

# *Where there's* **WESTMINSTER,** *there's a way*

By ELIZABETH FONTAINE HILDEBRAND '92

**J**ust as she was preparing to return for her junior year at Westminster, **Hannah McMichael** received some devastating news: her mother had been diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma, an extremely rare and aggressive form of cancer.

The molecular biology major's world suddenly shifted. While her studies and plans to become a genetic counselor were still important, she found her thoughts often straying to her mother's illness. Needing someone to talk with, she sought counsel from Campus Chaplain Rev. **Jim Mohr**,

one of her trusted first-year Inquiry instructors. As the first semester progressed, her mother's health worsened and impacted Hannah's ability to pay her second semester tuition. Ewing's sarcoma wasn't just ravaging her mother's body, it was aiming to steal Hannah's future, too.



Mohr recognized Hannah faced a terrible choice of taking on additional, insurmountable debt or dropping out and abandoning her dreams. But he knew there was another way. A Westminster way. With Mohr's recommendation, the College offered to cover Hannah's costs through the Student Emergency Fund, which provides immediate financial assistance to students to who have no other options.

Hannah's story, unfortunately, is not unique. College students are not immune to hardships and tragedy. But what is unique is Westminster's level of commitment to make college affordable and attainable.

"If it weren't for Westminster and the Student Emergency Fund, I would not have been able to come back to school. I would not have my degree. I would not be where I am right now," she said.

While the Student Emergency Fund is an extreme example, it illustrates the lengths that the College will go to help its students achieve a Westminster education. Scholarships, institutional need- and merit-based aid, grants, loans, work-study opportunities and other incentives are all implements in the institution's toolbox that make it possible for students and their families to afford what could be the most important investment of their lives.

While the sticker price at Westminster and other small, private colleges may seem high in comparison to the cost of a public institution, it's not an apples-to-apples situation. Large public institutions simply can't match the focused, individualized attention that Westminster affords.

Since its inception, Westminster College has made it its mission to offer its students an exceptional education. Mother Fair waves that flag as proudly today as she did more than a century ago. Whether you went here in the '50s, the '80s or are a recent graduate, your Westminster liberal arts degree means something special, something unique. It stands for quality, but it also means accessibility, affordability, forward-thinking and preparedness—foundational pillars that have shaped thousands of lives.

But it comes at a cost—one that has been rising steadily, not just at Westminster, but across the industry. Earning a college degree today—whether you're at a public or private institution—is three to five times as expensive as it was 30 years ago.

To the graduates of those earlier eras—now parents and grandparents of today's students—the thought that a four-year degree could run into the six figures is daunting. Yet Westminster's tuition costs remain competitive and affordable.

Students and their families can bring their savings and outside scholarships to the table and Westminster will meet them with aid in any form they can, according to **Cheryl Gerber**, director of financial aid.

"At Westminster, 98 percent of students—that's almost the entire student body—receive some form of aid," Gerber said. "We will do all that we can to make sure that qualified, deserving students can benefit from the unique value proposition that Westminster offers."

Gerber says the value proposition that Westminster offers is attractive to many prospective students.

Westminster prides itself on being a nationally recognized "Best Value" college by various outlets such as *Money* magazine, *USA Today*, College Factual and *Washington Monthly*. Most recently, College Factual named Westminster a Best College for the Money, ranking it among the top 5% of schools across the country, and it is listed seventh among 112 colleges in Pennsylvania for value.



George Huncik

Incoming first-year students—and their parents—find added value in aspects such as four-year degree completion, the quality of education, small class sizes, individualized attention, small faculty-to-student ratio, collaborative research with faculty and greater opportunities for student participation, said Gerber.

Through endowed scholarships, annual gifts to the Westminster Fund Scholarship and tuition-funded grants, Westminster helps ensure a Westminster education is affordable and attainable.

Currently Westminster offers more than 300 endowed scholarships, prizes and awards, such as the Lemmon Family Scholarship.



**G**eorge Huncik, a mathematics and physics double major from Lowellville, Ohio, remembers the pressure he felt applying to colleges. And like millions of students, he was concerned how he and his family would be able to fund a college education.

“Money has always been tight for my family,” said George, a first-generation college student with a passion for mathematics and an interest in attending medical school. He didn’t think Westminster would be a possibility.

But not only was it a possibility, it was a probability. George was offered the Lemmon Family Scholarship, a renewable full-tuition scholarship for students interested in pre-health programming.

George, now a junior, still remembers the joy he felt when he learned of the scholarship offer.

“I had just gotten home from work and my mom had tears in her eyes and she told me I got the scholarship,” George recalls. “You can go to Westminster now,” she told me, and I started tearing up, too.”

“The scholarship changed my life. I never would have been able to attend here if it weren’t for that moment. It changed my family’s life, too, since neither of my parents had the opportunity to attend college themselves,” he said, adding that he was even more appreciative of the scholarship this year after suffering some serious health issues and a major car accident.

“The Lemmon Family Scholarship has allowed me to continue to attend Westminster,” he said. “I appreciate it every single day.”

And as for Hannah, her dream continues to evolve. She accepted a job with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and plans to start applying to graduate schools. At Spring Commencement, she proudly marched across Weisel Senior Terrace, intent on clutching the dream that almost escaped her grasp.

“Because of Westminster, I’m happy to say that my tuition has been paid for, I’ve graduated, I’ve landed a job with the FDA, and most importantly, my mom is in remission,” said Hannah. “I can’t be more thankful or grateful.” ➤

Watch Hannah’s story online at [www.westminster.edu/hannah](http://www.westminster.edu/hannah).



Hannah celebrates her graduation with Rev. Mohr and her mother, Patty.

# WESTMINSTER FUND SCHOLARSHIP

The Westminster Fund Scholarship powers the following\*:

## ACADEMIC AWARDS

**Presidential Award**  
Full tuition

**Tower Award**  
Currently worth \$22,000

**Titan Award**  
Currently worth \$20,000

**Trustee Award**  
Currently worth \$17,000

## NOMINATED SCHOLARSHIPS

**Jerb Miller Scholarship**  
Currently worth \$19,000

**Young Presbyterian Scholarship**  
Currently worth \$19,000

**Presbyterian Heritage Scholarship**  
Currently worth \$18,000

**Legacy Scholarship**  
Currently worth \$18,500

(Alumni, do you know about the Legacy Scholarship? Children and grandchildren of alumni—Westminster legacies—may qualify for this!)

\* These figures are based on awards presented to incoming students for the 2019-2020 year. Opportunities and values are subject to change from year to year.

If you would like to help make a Westminster education affordable for deserving students, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 724-946-7008 or visit [www.westminster.edu/titanstrong](http://www.westminster.edu/titanstrong).

And stay tuned for our upcoming President’s Report, which will feature our annual scholarship listing and Honor Roll of Giving.



## College Factual grades WC on value, academics

**W**estminster College has been named a Best College for the Money by College Factual, ranking among the top 5% of schools across the country.

Of the 1,510 colleges included across the nation for undergraduates, Westminster was ranked 24<sup>th</sup> for value. In addition, Westminster placed fourth among 290 schools in the Middle Atlantic region and

was listed seventh among 112 colleges in Pennsylvania for value.

Several academic programs at Westminster received honors in the report for providing a high-quality education at an affordable price. Westminster's English, English literature, biology, accounting, sociology and psychology programs ranked in the top 5% for best value.

College Factual's Best for the Money ranking considers the average yearly cost of the school, the average time it takes students to graduate and the quality the school provides.

All colleges in the Best College for the Money ranking have been judged on their ability to deliver "quality education and economic value."

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## SPRING BREAK VOLUNTOURISM

Westminster students **Parker Redmond**, a sophomore from Hermitage, and **Lauren Lindemuth**, a first-year student from Anchorage, Ala., spend their spring break tackling a roofing project as part of their Habitat for Humanity trip to Georgetown, S.C. Westminster's Office of Faith and Spirituality, through the Spring Break with a Purpose program, sponsored two Habitat trips this year—the other group worked in Athens, Ga. Thirty-seven students participated, choosing service over sandy beaches.



## [ Distinguished Faculty Award ]

# Amy Camardese



A true Westminster leader, **Dr. Amy Camardese**—this year’s Distinguished Faculty Award recipient—is known for her visionary and collaborative efforts, as well as being a careful and caring mentor to her students and an inspiration to her colleagues.

Presented with the 2019 prestigious Westminster honor, the professor of education and chair of the School of Education is often noted for her diligent approach to developing new partnerships and her commitment to research and technology in the classroom. Her students often remark on her nurturing nature as an educator.

Camardese, who joined the faculty in 2001, has spearheaded many educational initiatives at Westminster, perhaps most notably the partnership created with Western Galilee College in Akko, Israel, 10 years ago. Through this effort, Westminster administrators, faculty and students have traveled to Israel to collaborate on research, teaching and institutional advancement. This effort also led to the College hosting its first Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Yehuda Peled, who spent a year at Westminster enriching the experiences of our students, faculty and community and bringing a global perspective to the campus.

In 2014, Camardese and colleague Dr. Karen Resendes secured a \$1 million grant to establish the National Science Foundation (NSF) Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program. Through this IQ STEM project, Westminster STEM faculty and students receive support. She is also the director of the Marion G. Resch Foundation Bright Futures Program, which brings Campbell (Ohio) High School students to campus during the summer to enhance their academic skills through performing and fine arts experiences.

Camardese earned an undergraduate degree at Ohio University, a master’s at the University of Pittsburgh and a Ph.D. at Kent State University.

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*The Distinguished Faculty Award is Westminster’s highest teaching award. It is presented to a tenured faculty member who has, over a sustained period of time, demonstrated characteristics of the most outstanding faculty—intellectual vitality, effective communication skills, the ability to motivate or inspire compassion and concern for student success, collegiality and leadership.*



# WHY I GIVE



## ADAM STAHON '15 HISTORY

### Home:

Cranberry Township

### Profession:

Staffing consultant, Beacon Hill Staffing

### Accomplishment:

Adam has been a consistent donor to Westminster College since he was a senior. As a former phonathon caller, he is a strong advocate for giving back to the College.

### Why Adam Gives:

"I think it is important to continue to support the College financially because Westminster gave me some of the best experiences of my life. Along with getting a solid education that has prepared well me for life after college, I was also able to supplement my education with incredible experiences, leadership training and travel opportunities. My ultimate goal is that each person who attends Westminster has the same life-changing experiences that I was able to have."

# MBA program begins this fall

## Bachelor's and MBA attainable in five years

The Westminster College Graduate School is now offering an online Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree program, which will be open to working professionals and current Westminster undergraduates interested in fast-tracking their way to an MBA.

Beginning in fall 2019, Westminster will begin offering MBA concentrations in general management, healthcare management and business analytics.

Through the Westminster 4+1 MBA program, undergraduate students in any discipline have the opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree and an MBA in as little as five years. The 4+1 MBA program will offer the existing bachelor's degree requirements for a four-year graduation timeline followed by a seamless transition into the graduate program.

Senior students during the 2019-2020 academic interested in pursuing an MBA have the option to take one three-credit MBA course in the last semester of their senior year.

Full-time professionals can earn a Westminster MBA in as few as 12 months by taking four summer courses, three fall courses and three spring courses, or over the course of two years, with classes broken out into eight-week courses.

Enrollment to the MBA program is now open for the fall 2019 semester. For more information, please contact **Dr. Robert Badowski**, chair of Westminster's School of Business and assistant professor of business administration, at [badowsr@westminster.edu](mailto:badowsr@westminster.edu) or **Dr. Alison DuBois**, director of the Graduate School and associate professor of education, at [duboisal@westminster.edu](mailto:duboisal@westminster.edu).

# Trustees elect new board members

The Westminster College Board of Trustees elected two new members at its spring meeting in May.

**Mark DeWitt** and **Christian Heilmann '72**, who will each serve four-year terms, are both from the finance industry.

DeWitt is a retired first vice president of BNY Mellon in Pittsburgh, where he handled private capital management, wealth management, endowments and foundations. He has served on the alumni board at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business and is a corporate trustee representative for the Arthur Vining Davis Foundation.

The son of the late **Dr. H. Dewey DeWitt**, longtime professor and chair of the Department of Chemistry at Westminster, DeWitt was raised in New Wilmington. He currently resides in Pittsburgh.

DeWitt earned his undergraduate degree from Bucknell University and his MBA from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business.

Heilmann is a recently retired vice chairman of U.S. Trust and past chief fiduciary executive. He previously served as managing director at Bank of America NA, where he was chairman of the Fiduciary Risk Oversight Committee. He is past chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Merrill Lynch Trust Company.

A past member of the Board of Trustees and the Board of Distinguished Visitors, he earned Certified Trust and Financial Advisor and Certified Financial Services Counselor designations from the Graduate Trust School at Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill. He and his wife, **Cheryl Reed Heilmann '72**, reside in New Hartford, N.Y.

Additionally, **Wayne Miller, M.D. '61** was named trustee *emeritus*. First elected to the board in 1992, he served five terms.





## THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Members of the Westminster Choir rehearse in the new Beels Music Gallery, located in the School of Music in Patterson Hall. The donor-funded \$200,000 project was made possible through an estate gift from Kenneth Beels in memory of his daughter, **Sarah Beels Dunikoski '69**, who earned her degree in music education from Westminster, and additional contributions. The space features acoustical wall and ceiling panels, movable chairs and a newly-refurbished 7-foot Steinway grand piano. The gallery, which was dedicated on April 26, can be used for ensemble rehearsals and small recitals, as well as a high-quality recording space for small- to medium-sized ensembles.



## WHY I GIVE



### ELOISE LOWRY MORAN '44 ENGLISH

**Home:**

Williamsville, New York

**Accomplishment:**

Eloise is one of Westminster's most loyal lifetime donors. In addition to making one-time gifts to specific campaigns over the years, Eloise has been graciously and consistently making modest monthly contributions for the past several decades.

**Why Eloise Gives:**

"My family has a history of attending Westminster—my mother attended, as did several cousins and other relatives, so there is a strong connection. I truly enjoyed my time at Westminster. I was a student during World War II when all of the soldiers were stationed there—and that's how I met my husband, Norman. I haven't been back to campus in a few years, but I used to return often for Homecoming and reunions. I think giving back to your alma mater is really a way you can show your appreciation for the education you received, and I'd like to encourage other people to do the same. Small monthly gifts like mine are easy to make and really a drop in the bucket. I'm happy to give back to Westminster."

## Environmental studies major approved

Students may now major in environmental studies, an interdisciplinary combined major program that will prepare students for jobs outside of science-related careers such as environmental policy, environmental law and corporate sustainability.

The new major, which will be offered beginning in fall 2019, will appeal to students who desire an integrated understanding of the social, political and historical facets of the environmental challenges facing our planet.

The environmental studies major will require a minor, or another major, in a second discipline of focus which will provide students with an additional skill set.

The combined major approach for environmental studies is the first of its kind in our region, according to **Dr. Helen Boylan '95**, director of the Center for the Environment at Westminster and professor of chemistry.

The major will include many of the effective facets of environmental science, said Boylan, including an interdisciplinary approach, a required internship and a hands-on capstone experience in which students will apply their knowledge and skills to address real-world environmental problems.

For more information about the environmental studies major, please contact Boylan at [boylanhm@westminster.edu](mailto:boylanhm@westminster.edu).





From left, Vanessa Restifo, Michelle YaSenka, Hannah Youngworth and Megan Simpson

# Leaving on a jet plane

*Four seniors share their study abroad experiences*

By DANIELLE GRADY '20

If you ask anyone who's had the opportunity to study abroad, you will likely hear, "It changed my life."

The same holds true for four Westminster seniors who spent their fall 2018 semesters living and learning overseas.

Spanish majors **Vanessa Restifo**, **Michelle YaSenka** and **Hannah Youngworth** all studied in Spain, while **Megan Simpson** spent her time in Northern Ireland.

Restifo, a double public relations major from Lisbon, Ohio, studied in Sevilla, Spain, and described her experience as "simply a dream."

While abroad, Restifo rode a camel in Morocco, swam in the waters off the coast of Portugal, ate strudel in Austria and completed a wine tour in Tuscany.

"Every day was a new adventure, and in a matter of months, my worldview was expanded exponentially," Restifo said. "The best part was living in the vibrant city of Sevilla, speaking Spanish, eating tapas, making new friends and exploring the wonders at every cobblestone corner."

YaSenka, who had never traveled overseas and spent her semester in Madrid, Spain, said her favorite part of the whole experience was how eye-opening it was.

"It really gave me a sense of just how big the world is and how easy it is to get caught up in our own little bubble here in the middle of the woods in Pennsylvania," said YaSenka, who grew up

in Franklin, Pa. "Now I feel like I am able to look at things with a more global perspective and understanding."

Youngworth, of Coraopolis, Pa., studied in Salamanca, Spain, while abroad. Aside from having a host mother who was an "amazing cook," Youngworth met many other people, including classmates and other exchange students from Europe.

In addition to attending classes at the Universidad de Salamanca, Youngworth volunteered her time teaching English to a group of children at the Hello!! English School. Specifically, she led activities and lessons about verbs and vocabulary, among other things.

"Being able to teach children another language was so neat and rewarding," Youngworth said. "I learned so much inside and outside of the classroom and I am so thankful for my time abroad."

A lover of the outdoors, Simpson was delighted with the rugged landscape of Jordanstown, Northern Ireland, and said her adventure overseas was "the kind of learning that you can't read about, but only experience."

"Not only was I able to immerse myself in the Northern Irish culture and learn all of their fun colloquialisms, but I was also in a community of many other European students on exchange like myself," said Simpson, who hails from Washington, Pa. "My time abroad gave me an amazing sampling of the world's cultures and left me with friends sprinkled throughout the entire world." ➦

# A Legacy of Love

## DIETZ-SULLIVAN LECTURE HALL DEDICATED



**W**estminster students are enjoying a new teaching and learning space in Hoyt Science Center thanks to a generous gift from **Fred Sullivan** to honor his late wife of 54 years, **Carol Dietz Sullivan '59**.

The Fred and Carol (Dietz) '59 Sullivan Lecture Hall, dedicated April 13, was made possible by a \$1 million gift from Sullivan to preserve his wife's memory. Dietz Sullivan, who earned her undergraduate degree in biology, passed away in 2013.

The 112-seat lecture hall addition is part of an ongoing \$20 million renovation taking place in the Hoyt Science Center and features state-of-the-art technology, comfortable seating and a contemporary style. Each seat is equipped with power ports and the room features a sound system with microphone capabilities, as well as laser quality dual screen projection with a confidence monitor

so presenters can view displayed content. The hall is accessible from the first floor of Hoyt and provides a seamless integration between the lecture hall, the planetarium and an engagement space.

Sullivan, who now resides in Lone Tree, Colo., attended the dedication ceremony with his children, grandchildren and other friends and family from across the country. Sullivan, who spent more than 40 years with the Dow Chemical Company, spoke of the importance of giving back to the college that meant so much to his wife.

"I felt like I owed something to the people here and owed something to the students to allow them to get an education," said Sullivan, who also established the Carol Dietz Sullivan Biology Research Scholarship which provides funding opportunities for biology students to travel abroad and study in the field. 🌿



*Clockwise from top left: The Sullivans; Fred Sullivan spends a moment admiring the signage outside the lecture hall; Carol's senior portrait, 1959; President Richardson thanks Sullivan for his generous gift during the lecture hall's dedication ceremony.*



# TITAN STRONG



## 2018-19 SWORD MOMENTS

#EARNYOURWORD



### Let's win

The **women's lacrosse team**, in only their third year of existence, defeated Washington & Jefferson to claim the Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) Championship and won their NCAA Tournament-opening game in their first-ever post-season run. Seven



Titans earned All-PAC honors, highlighted by PAC Offensive Player and Newcomer of the Year junior **Margo Mason** and junior PAC Defensive Player of the Year **Bria Braddock**, who were both named First



Team. In Westminster's victory over visiting Saint Vincent on March 19, Mason totaled 17 points on 13 goals, both school records and both tied for the most in a single Division III game this season. Mason also tied a NCAA Division III Tournament record with a game-high 10 goals in Westminster's 16-8 NCAA First Round win over Notre Dame of Maryland University. Check out a video of their historic season at [www.westminster.edu/PAClacrosse](http://www.westminster.edu/PAClacrosse).



### ONE FOR THE THUMB

The **women's swimming & diving team** claimed their fifth PAC Championship, rallying from being behind PAC favorite and powerhouse



Grove City on the final day. Third-year head coach **Pat Smith '07** was named the PAC Women's Coach of the Year and fifth-year diving coach **Heath Calhoun** was named the PAC Men's and Women's Diving Coach of the Year. Five Titans earned All-PAC First team accolades, led by junior **Maggie Manolis** who won a team-best two events. View a special video of their conference win at [www.westminster.edu/PACswimdiv](http://www.westminster.edu/PACswimdiv).



### A SWING AND A WIN

The **women's golf team**, under second-year head coach **Matt Torrence '93**, won the PAC Championship after being down six strokes entering the final day of competition. The conference championship was Westminster's fourth overall and first since 2012. Torrence, who was named the PAC Coach of the Year, led the Titans to the second-best championship score in program history. Three Titans earned All-PAC First Team honors, led by sophomore third place finisher **Mariah Hoff**.



### Getting to goal

Under veteran head coach and PAC Coach of the Year **Girish Thakar**, the **men's soccer team** won its fifth PAC Championship and qualified for the NCAA Championship Tournament. Sophomore forward **Nick Iregui** broke the school records for most goals (17) and points (42) in a season, earning him PAC Player of the Year, All-PAC First Team and All-Region. A total of five Westminster players earned All-PAC First Team honors.



## Diving in

Two Titan **divers** competed at NCAA Nationals for the first time in program history. Sophomore **Connor May**, who earned the PAC Men's Diver of the Year for the second-straight year, concluded his second trip with an All-American Honorable Mention finish in the 1-meter. Junior **Kaitlyn Fast** also competed, becoming the first female diver to qualify for Nationals in school history.



## Strong Finish

The **women's indoor track & field** team won the PAC Indoor Track & Field Championship. The title marked Westminster's second PAC Championship in school history. **Tim McNeil '96**, 12<sup>th</sup>-year head coach, was voted the PAC Women's Indoor Track & Field Coach of the Year. Sophomore **Selena Thomas** won three events and was one of three Titans to earn All-PAC First Team recognition.

## NATIONAL QUALIFIERS



Senior sprinter **Jaevon Hardy** and first-year pole vaulter **Morgan Gossard** both qualified for the NCAA **Indoor Track & Field** Championships. Hardy placed 18<sup>th</sup> in the 60 preliminaries with a time of 6.94, marking the fastest time in the event at Nationals in his career. In

her first trip to Nationals, Gossard finished 10<sup>th</sup> with a vault of 12'01.50" (3.70m.).

## RECORD BREAKERS

The **volleyball** team went 30-4 overall and finished runner-up at the PAC Tournament for the second consecutive year. Westminster also qualified for the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Tournament for the second season. The 30-win season was the fourth in school history. During the season, the Titans broke the single-season school record for consecutive wins with 19.

## On the gridiron

The Titan **football** team finished 7-4 overall and tied for second in the PAC with a 7-2 record. The season was highlighted by Westminster knocking off PAC foe and No. 7 nationally ranked Washington & Jefferson at home on Oct. 20. The Titans earned their third ECAC Bowl bid in four years as they hosted the ECAC Clayton Chapman Bowl for its first home post-season game since 1994.

## Court action

The Westminster **men's basketball team** finished 9-7 in the PAC for the third-straight season with a winning record in conference play. The Titans finished runner-up in the PAC Championship Tournament, marking their second trip to the PAC title game in school history.



**NOTE:** The 2018-19 Sword Moments was finalized in early May due to magazine printing deadlines. For recent news and updates, please visit [athletics.westminster.edu](http://athletics.westminster.edu).





Earning this year's David B. Fawcett Award and the Marjorie A. Walker Award were Jaevon Hardy and Keely Birsic, center. The WESPY Awards for the top athletic performances by female and male student-athletes went to Margo Mason, left, and Dalton Anderson, right.

## Student-athletes honored at WESPYS

Football/men's track & field senior **Jaevon Hardy** (*sociology*) of Waldorf, Md., and women's soccer senior **Keely Birsic** (*biology*) of North Ridgeville, Ohio, earned the coveted David B. Fawcett and Marjorie A. Walker awards, respectively, at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual WESPY (Westminster Exceptional Sports Performances of the Year) Awards in May.

The Fawcett and Walker awards are given annually to honor and acknowledge student-athletes who best exemplify

the qualities of fairness, sportsmanship, leadership, determination and competitiveness.

The 2018-19 WESPY Award, given to the top athletic performance by a Titan female and male, went to women's tennis/lacrosse junior **Margo Mason** (*neuroscience*) of Pittsburgh, and football/men's track & field sophomore **Dalton Anderson** (*business administration*) of Butler.

The WESPY Awards event honors team MVPs for all 22 varsity sports. Several annual awards and recognition of top athletic achievements throughout the academic year are also presented. The WESPYS are hosted annually by the Department of Athletics and the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).

To view the complete list of this year's award winners, please visit our athletics page at [athletics.westminster.edu](http://athletics.westminster.edu).

## TITAN SPORTS HALL OF FAME NOMINATION FORM

Please note that completion of the nomination form below is NOT required for submission. A nominator can submit similar information to Jim Dafler, Director of Athletics, via email at [daflerje@westminster.edu](mailto:daflerje@westminster.edu) or by mailing content to him at Westminister College, 319 S. Market St., New Wilmington, PA 16172. Deadline for nominations each year is **March 1**. Nominees not selected remain on the ballot for one additional year.

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Justification (attach supporting data if necessary):

Sport(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Letters earned \_\_\_\_\_

Awards, honors, accomplishments, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Nominees may include athletes, coaches, or anyone else who has made outstanding contributions to varsity athletics at Westminister. Nominations may be made by Westminister alumni and current and former Titan coaches. Athletes who are nominated must: 1) be a Westminister College graduate; 2) have been out of school a minimum of eight years; 3) have earned at least two letters in the same sport; and 4) receive nominations from at least two people. Non-athletes must also be nominated by at least two people. All nominations should include supporting documentation.

# ALL-AMERICAN NINJA



## TITAN TRAINING HELPS ALUMNA FULFILL LONGTIME DREAM

By NATHAN LARICCIA

Ever since she was a middle schooler, **Cassidy Shepherd '17** had dreams of becoming a ninja. Well, an American Ninja Warrior (ANW), that is.

After spending much of her life in some form of competition, the four-time All American and eight-time NCAA Nationals qualifying pole vaulter realized that after college, she needed to keep training for something and work towards a goal. And that goal: NBC's hit obstacle course competition show.

"I could not let that part of my character go. My success as a Titan led to me wanting to compete on ANW because I was not ready to be done competing," said Cassidy, one of the most decorated student-athletes in Westminster's history. "It made me hungry for more."

Since ANW was always in the back of her mind, Cassidy made the decision to give it shot and started training. She wound up competing in two ANW's City Qualifiers: Season 10 in Miami (2018) and most recently on Season 11 in Atlanta (2019), which will air in June.

Since last year's contest, Cassidy has been competing in various ninja leagues, gaining more obstacle experience. Training hard is something that comes naturally to her, especially when competing on a national level.

For every season she was at Westminster, she competed on the biggest stage possible as an NCAA Division III pole vaulter. That's kind of a big deal, because she's only the second Titan track & field athlete—*male or female*—ever to do that. Each track & field athlete has eight chances in their college career to qualify for Nationals. Cassidy was a perfect 8-for-8.

Even though pole vaulting at Nationals and being a ninja warrior on national television are entirely different, Cassidy found similarities.

"I was competing with some of the best competitors around and I had to be on top of my game. They are different experiences, but there was still an element of pressure in both," she said.

Cassidy said Westminster is where she learned how to focus and deal with those moments of pressure—and she has applied that same mental toughness in her ANW competitions.

"In college, you had three attempts at each height for pole vaulting and you had to make every jump count," she said. "When you got to your last attempt, you had to give it everything and leave it all out there on that runway. Now when I step up to ANW course, I have one shot. I have to make it count and have to leave it all there. I have to give it my all." ➤







DANIEL PERTTU



A LIFE IN  
COMPOSITION

BY MEGAN SIMPSON '19

# *Music is an experience.*

It is to be performed, felt and created throughout every stage of the process.

Music bridges gaps as we interpret on individual levels while also experiencing it with others, enabling us to integrate it into our lives.

For **Dr. Daniel Perttu** the essence of what music is composes the lines of his life.

**P**erttu, associate professor of composition and music and chair of the School of Music, always had the desire to create his own music. Growing up, he performed with different ensembles as a bassoonist and pianist, but the idea of creating his own compositions never faded.

“There was always this impulse to come up with something new,” Perttu said.

Throughout college, composing still compelled him and drove his career decision to not stray from music. He focused on composition and refined his voice as a classical music composer throughout his graduate and doctorate programs.

Now as a classical music composer for mainly orchestras and bands, Perttu’s pieces have been performed in Europe, Asia and South America as well as across nearly 40 different states in America. In 2017, he released an album on which the Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra performs his overture “To Spring,” which was also performed by the Falcon Symphony in Venezuela, the Firelands Symphony Orchestra in Sandusky, Ohio, and several different orchestras both nationwide and worldwide.

“You get to experience what performers, who you’ve never met, do with the notes you give them,” he said. “They will interpret it a certain way and convey their musical interpretations and often discover things about my music that I hadn’t put in there consciously.”

As a professor, Perttu creates his own compositions regularly and includes his students in his process, enabling them to play his pieces in concert and learn as musicians through the eyes of a composer.

“I love to involve my students in my music,” he said. “I’ve written a number of pieces that have involved Westminster students, so it’s really exciting to be able to blend all these aspects of what I do.”

In this way, Perttu has made his music appealing to a range of audiences, which is something that he strives to do as an artist.

“I try to write it with the idea of keeping the music accessible to people,” he said. “I like my music to have broad appeal. Sometimes I think ‘classical’ music has a stigma of snobbishness associated with it, and one of my causes in life is to try to destigmatize it and to help people to get to know how wonderful it is without all of the baggage. That’s one of the reasons I’m a professor—to expose students to this wonderful world of music.” 🏹



# TEN THINGS TITAN

10 THINGS MAKING US PRETTY TITAN PROUD RIGHT NOW

## GRAY & GITTIS

1. Even in retirement, two psychology *emeriti* professors—**Dr. David Gray '56** and **Dr. Alan Gittis**—are ensuring that Westminster students are exposed to cutting-edge research and scientific breakthroughs. A gift from the pair was used to establish the Psychology & Neuroscience Colloquium, which will bring scholars and experts to campus each spring to discuss the best emerging research being done on a national level. David retired in 2003 and Alan retired in 2011.



## 2. Human beings at their best

“We simply want to provide people with a safe place to sleep at night, while resting their body and their mind.”

**Rachel Eliser '18** is a Presbyterian Church (USA) Young Adult Volunteer working with the homeless through Safe Parking LA, a non-profit organization in Los Angeles committed to providing a safe and secure spaces—private or publicly owned parking lots—for vehicle dwellers to sleep. Rachel handles applicant intake, works on the website and social media and serves as a lot coordinator. Rachel is pictured above with one of her Safe Parking colleagues, right, and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti.

## 10/10

4. Getting into medical school is no easy feat. With a growing interest in health care careers and a high demand for medical education, the number of med school applications has spiked over the years and students are facing even stiffer competition. So, you can imagine our Titan pride upon learning that of the 10 students from the 2018 graduating class who applied to medical schools—**all 10 were accepted**. *Proud alma mater moment*. Today, our recent alumni are studying medicine at LECOM, University of Cincinnati, Drexel and Ohio University.

# \$550,000

3. The amount raised during a month-long Facebook campaign throughout November, culminating on **Giving Tuesday**, the nationally recognized day of giving, on Nov. 27. A total of 477 generous participants participated. Gifts like these help more students attend Westminster College—and stay at Westminster College through graduation.



# 320

5. The number of students—such as senior biology major **Elizabeth Temple**, above—who presented research, delivered oral presentations or offered performances at this year’s Undergraduate Research and Arts Celebration on April 24.



## Positive reaction

6. **Dr. Pete Smith**, professor of chemistry, earned the Louis J. Sacco Award for Distinguished Service to the American Chemical Society Division of Professional Relations during the Spring 2019 National Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Orlando. Pete was nominated by former Westminster biochemistry professor **Dr. Sarah Huffman Kennedy '02**.

## MAKING A COMMITMENT

7. **Alina Clough '18** was one of only 30 in the nation to be awarded the prestigious Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship, which will financially support her studies in the Master in Public Policy program at Harvard Kennedy School. After successfully completing the Pickering program, which includes an internship with the U.S. State Department and overseas skills training, Alina will work at least five years as a U.S. Foreign Services Officer.



## Kickin' it

8. Head soccer coach **Girish Thakar** won his 200<sup>th</sup> game as the Titan men’s head coach and now has reached that milestone as the head coach for *both* the men’s and women’s Westminster soccer programs.



# \$10,712 (and 75 cents)

9. The total amount fraternities and sororities raised for Cystic Fibrosis during Greek Week’s Penny Wars. The two winning chapters were **Alpha Gamma Delta** and **Theta Chi**.



## LITERARY DEVICES

10. Inspired by *The New Yorker* magazine, **Dr. David Swerdlow**, professor of English, and members of his creative writing class established a new online literary publication, *The New Wilmingtonian*. The site will showcase Westminster’s English majors and writing minors and provide commentary on various subjects relating to campus life and the community of New Wilmington.



Log on to [thenewwilmingtonian.wordpress.com](http://thenewwilmingtonian.wordpress.com). And if you’re looking for a place to start, grab a donut and a cup of coffee and try “Saturday Fix” by **Megan Simpson '19**.

Oh, and speaking of David Swerdlow, one of his latest poems, “Weight and Demeanor,” was published in the spring 2019 issue of *American Literary Review*.





# A perfect day.

Those were the words heard uttered again and again on Saturday, May 11, as Mother Fair celebrated her 165<sup>th</sup> commencement. The skies were clear, the temperature was neither too hot nor too cold, the grounds were lush and green and smiles radiated from students, faculty and family members. A perfect day for a Titan graduation.

College President **Dr. Kathy Brittain Richardson** asked the members of the Class of 2019 to remember the mission of Westminster: to help students development characteristics that have distinguished human beings at their best.

# 2019 Commencement





The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush provides the Baccalaureate sermon.



Senior class orator Ian Ollila



Board Chair Robin W. Gooch '75, left, and President Richardson with honorary degree recipient Timothy Kaiser '85.

"You stand as testimony to that mission. Your coursework, involvements, relationships, service, worship—and your challenges here—have helped you develop competencies in communication, critical thinking and collaboration and characteristics of curiosity, compassion, coachability and diligence all based on a commitment to integrity and respect for others," she said.

"As you move forward, your mission as a graduate of Westminster College is to represent the best of humankind in the communities, businesses and organizations where you will live, work and serve," she said. "Stand out as a Titan wherever you are."

In his speech "Two Words," senior class speaker **Ian Ollila**, a religion major from Mercer, Pa., who graduated *magna cum laude*, encouraged his classmates to go through life fueled by critical thinking and compassion.

"Westminster has shown us these two worlds, the world of critical thought and of human emotional reality, together. And not always in perfect harmony. But this is the great human journey," Ollila said.

"We live in a world that is too dangerous for anything but truth, and too small for anything but love. So, never lose the spark of critical thought or the care for others that has been instilled in you and shown to you at Westminster College," he said.

A total of 281 degrees were conferred on 277 students—four receiving dual degrees. Degrees awarded included 108 Bachelor of Arts degrees; 122 Bachelor of Science degrees; and 17 Bachelor of Music degrees. An additional 34 students earned Master of Education degrees.

An honorary degree, doctor of letters *honoris causa*, was presented to two-time Emmy Award-winning television producer **Timothy Kaiser '85** of Pittsburgh. Kaiser's work on the long-running popular NBC sitcoms "Seinfeld" and "Will & Grace" has earned him two Emmys, as well as 10 Emmy nominations. Kaiser's son, **Joshua Kaiser '19**, also earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology during the ceremony.

A baccalaureate service earlier in the day featured the **Rev. Dr. Randy Bush**, senior pastor of the East Liberty Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, who shared "Timeless Classics in a Changing World."



Legacy graduate Michael Douds '19, with parents Lynn Lazenby Douds '91 and Michael Douds '91 and grandmother Ginny Frazier Douds '64. View other Legacy photos online at [www.westminster.edu/legacypics](http://www.westminster.edu/legacypics).



What will our graduates' verses be?





# At last Viimeinkin.

By ELIZABETH FONTAINE HILDEBRAND '92



## WESTMINSTER MENTORS

*"My teachers at Westminster were among the best. **Dr. Paul Brown** was an outstanding mathematics professor who helped me grow further from my strong math background. **Dr. Joseph Hopkins'** religious courses and presentations were memorable and gave me a strong ethical and spiritual foundation for my life. **Dr. Will Orr**, Presbyterian minister and President at the College, was instrumental in building programs on the campus which led to the completion of the Memorial Field and Memorial Field House, named in honor of the men from Westminster who died in World Wars I & II."*

**R**aised in a bilingual Finnish home, the word "viimeinkin" may have crossed the mind of **Dr. Paul J. Suorsa** this spring. And this sentiment, which translates as "finally" or "at last," would be completely appropriate.

At 90, Suorsa returned to Westminster for commencement to claim his bachelor's degree, an achievement 70 years in the making.

The nonagenarian's long path to a Westminster degree began in 1949 when he enrolled as a chemistry major after spending three years as a Naval Aviation Electronics Technician with the U.S. Navy. In 1952 Suorsa was accepted into the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine and left New Wilmington for Philadelphia before he was able to complete the German credit hours that were required for him to complete his Westminster degree.

He planned to take the language courses, which were common for science and medicine students at the time, at Penn and transfer the credits to Westminster to secure his bachelor's degree.

Unfortunately, not all the Penn credits transferred, leaving Suorsa just two credit hours short. Despite that, he earned his Veterinariae Medicinae Doctoris (VMD) degree from Penn in 1956 and went on to have a successful veterinary career in Slippery Rock, retiring in 2003.

In September 2018, Suorsa's children—in search of a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday gift for his father—reached out to Westminster in hopes of securing his father's unrealized dream of earning a Westminster degree. His family wondered: Couldn't decades of life experience under his belt and a near-native tongue in Finnish account for something?

**Dr. Jeffrey Coker**, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the College, approved the request after conferring with chemistry and modern language faculty members.

"We all agreed that the degree should be conferred because German is no longer a modern requirement of a chemistry degree and Paul also has an extensive background in Finnish, thereby fulfilling the spirit of our current language requirement," said Coker.

"I feel a sense of satisfaction knowing my education is at last complete," said Suorsa, who was accompanied to commencement by his family, including his daughter, **Katherine Suorsa Super '81**.

"My advice to everyone," Suorsa said, "is to find your purpose, pursue it with passion, remain humble and whenever possible, 'Finnish' strong!" 🌿

ANNOUNCING THE 2019-2020

# CELEBRITY SERIES *Season*



**Saturday, September 21, 2019**  
**AN EVENING WITH JOHN LLOYD YOUNG**

**ORIGINAL "FRANKIE VALLI" ON BROADWAY AND STAR OF WARNER BROS. JERSEY BOYS MOVIE**  
Spend an unforgettable evening with the Tony and Grammy® winning Young, who will sing not only the Four Seasons but also other giants of the '50s, '60s and '70s as well as spine-tingling, soul-bearing showstoppers that shaped his earliest Broadway aspirations.

Sponsored by



**Wednesday, October 9, 2019**  
**CIRQUE MEI**

**ELITE CIRCUS ARTISTS AND ACROBATS FROM THE HEBEI PROVINCE, CHINA**  
From People's Republic of China, Hebei Province, Cirque Mei will feature traditional and contemporary Chinese circus acts in a colorful and lively celebration of the internationally renowned Chinese circus arts.

**Saturday, November 23, 2019**  
**LIVE in Central Park [REVISITED]:**  
**SIMON & GARFUNKEL**

**STARRING AWARD WINNING RECORDING ARTISTS LEE LESSACK AND JOHNNY RODGERS**  
A celebration of the historical, iconic concert of 9.19.81 when more than 500K music fans gathered in Central Park to witness the now legendary reunion of Simon & Garfunkel. Magically recreated by award-winning recording artists Lee Lessack and Johnny Rodgers using bona fide set-lists.

Sponsored by **Shenango on the Green**  
A Presbyterian SeniorCare Network Community

**Tuesday, December 17, 2019**  
**THE TEXAS TENORS**

**DEEP IN THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS**  
The number one vocal group in the history of "America's Got Talent," The Texas Tenors return to Celebrity Series for the holidays in a fun-filled show of contemporary and traditional Christmas favorites guaranteed to fill your heart with the holiday spirit!

Sponsored by

**UPMC Horizon UPMC Jameson**

**Wednesday, April 29, 2020**  
**MICHAEL BOLTON**

Multiple Grammy award winning singer songwriter Michael Bolton brings his Symphony Series Tour to Westminster College. Known for classics such as "How Am I Supposed To Live Without You," "When A Man Loves A Woman," "Georgia On My Mind," "Said I Loved You...But I Lied." and so many more!

Sponsored by **Huntington**  
CELEBRITY SERIES STAR SPONSOR

**SPECIAL SHOW: NOT PART OF SEASON PACKAGE**

**Saturday, April 4, 2020**  
**"I AM, HE SAID"**

**A Celebration of the Music of Neil Diamond**  
Starring Matt Vee, nephew of '60s pop star Bobby Vee Join Matt, Jeff and Tommy Vee, nephew and sons of the legendary Bobby Vee, for a celebration of the music of Neil Diamond with songs like "Cracklin' Rosie," "Song Sung Blue," and "Sweet Caroline," and more!

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE

[www.westminster.edu/celebrity](http://www.westminster.edu/celebrity) • 724-946-7354



# Teacher's Song

BY VALENTINE BRKICH '97

## 'ME SEARCH' REVEALS THE POWER OF MUSIC

In early 1975, just days before the end of the Vietnam War, **Kính T. Vũ**—who was then a greatly malnourished infant—was removed from an orphanage in Saigon (today Ho Chi Minh City) and airlifted to Orange County, Calif., where he was nursed back to health at the UCLA Medical Center.



Today, the 1997 Westminister alumnus is an assistant professor of music education for Boston University's (BU) School of Music, where he focuses much of his research on the relationship between music and human displacement, something with which Vu is all too familiar.

"All of my research, to some extent, is me-search," says Vũ, who uses his own life experiences and knowledge of music as tools for addressing the global problem of structural

violence—the act of some social or political undercurrent or institution that might prevent people from living to their fullest potential as human beings.

"Addressing issues of structural violence creates a space for arts making," says Vũ, who has focused his human displacement research on prisoners in Massachusetts, women in Cambodia, refugees living in Sweden, and, of course, orphans in Vietnam.

"If we think deeply about, say, the forced human displacement we're seeing in Syria's Civil War, for example...people are being killed. They're literally fleeing for their lives," said Vũ. "I surmise that music can have a certain positive power for people who have been displaced. It can give them hope where there is none."

Vũ started out at Westminister College studying religion and philosophy before switching to music education, with a focus on instrumental and choral pedagogy. He took part in marching band, concert band, concert choir, chamber choir, and other small ensembles.

But one of the best lessons Vũ ever received about teaching came—from all people—a football coach. His very first PE class at Westminister was racquetball, taught by former Head Football Coach **Joe Fusco**.

"He didn't care that I wasn't coordinated," says Vũ. "Here I was, this scrawny 18-year-old kid from rural PA. Coach Fusco was always encouraging, helpful, patient. If any music teacher could observe this, they would see an awesome way to teach: meet the learner where he is and teach him. Fusco a big reason why I teach the way I do today."

Another professor who had a lasting impact on Vũ was **Dr. R. Tad Greig**, director of instrumental activities and professor of music. "I remember coming back for my sophomore year and Tad gave me a leadership position in the marching band. That changed me. We developed a close relationship that continues to this day."

"What has been consistent over the 22 years of our relationship as a student, and now esteemed colleague and friend, has been Kình's desire to learn and enrich his own intellect," says Greig. "The light of his life is only beginning to rise above the horizon, and I look forward, with great anticipation, to where this light will crest."

Following Westminister, Vũ taught high school music for six years then earned a Master of Music in wind conducting from Penn State University in 2005. He taught high school band for another five years before earning a Ph.D. in music education from the University of Minnesota in 2013. As a doctoral student, he focused his dissertation on spoken-word poetry, rap and song of the Hmong people of Southeast Asia.

# DRESS the BAND

The Titan Marching Band is due for an upgrade!

Well, not the band.  
They're fantastic.  
But those uniforms  
have seen better days.

While the current marching band uniforms have served our musicians well for more than 20 years, the time has come to replace them. The quality of the uniforms should match the impressive performances of our students.

The opportunities to make an impact are wide ranging. From \$20 plumes to funding an entire uniform for \$500, each dollar will go directly toward outfitting our musicians.

We need your help reaching our goal of **120** new uniforms by **June 30** so that we can **#DressTheBand** this fall!



“Between 2010-13, the Hmong, like other people of color—Somalis, Latinos, Black/African Americans—were suffering police brutality in the Twin Cities,” says Vū. “Hip-hop has long been used as a form of storytelling, restoration, resistance and resilience. One of my assignments as a first-semester doctoral student was to investigate the kinds of music happening among the cities’ young people.”

Vū soon discovered a group of Hmong rappers on YouTube and was instantly accepted into their community. That’s when he first realized that music might have another function aside from purely entertainment or education. “I dedicated myself to learning the art of spoken-word poetry and, while I was there, got thrown under the bus at an open-mic event. And thus began my journey of social and political justice through teaching and learning music.”

Today Vū takes what he learned from the Hmong and applies it to his own teaching, encouraging his students to get out into the community and share their art off campus. One of his students, for example, offers music classes to elementary school children. Others are partnering with people in the Boston Metro and “doing things that matter.”

Says Vū, “For children and youth today, this type of experiential learning is vital. Whether they’re at BU or Westminster, students today must have practical experiences before they enter our schools and community centers as arts leaders.”

Currently Vū is serving as a Faculty-In-Residence at Boston University’s Kilachand Hall, where he coordinates the Writers Corridor program that honors the life and works of American playwright Eugene O’Neill.



*Kinh Vu playing his recorder in the cardiology ward at Children’s Hospital Number 2 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam*

“My door is always open,” says Vū, who hosts open hours for students looking for guidance, conversation or even just to hang out and enjoy some of his famous baked goods. “We hang out and talk about things like the election, Brexit, religion or even professors who give too much homework. These students are from all over the world. It’s a very diverse group spanning many disciplines. It’s a way for students to develop relationships with faculty members outside of the classroom; to see faculty not just as professors but as human beings.”

In addition to his on-campus work, Vū also travels outside the U.S. frequently to give musical workshops and conduct research. This summer, for example, he will return to Cambodia to investigate how women in one Phnom Penh neighborhood are resisting music education in order to protect their community from further forced displacement.

Vū, along with BU colleague André de Quadros, is co-editing a collection of stories about people from around the world who have been displaced and are using music as a form of resilience and restoration. Titled *My Body Was Left on the Street: Music Education and Displacement*, the book is due to be published in late 2019.

As for the many social issues and problems our world is facing today, Vū thinks that music has a real potential to gather humans together to “make a joyful noise.”

“Maybe the world’s people, in engaging their hearts, hands, minds and bodies around arts-making, can inspire others to join in our songs; to speak and to sing and to play messages of hope, joy, sadness, resistance, and resilience; to create an unbounded bliss that will draw the attention of others who never thought that what we are doing—whoever we are—is important.”

To provide your support  
or for more information, please visit  
[westminster.edu/DressTheBand](http://westminster.edu/DressTheBand).



# We Meet Again



## From Westminster to Vietnam and Back Again

By VALENTINE BRKICH '97



*Jim Church (top) and Rik Wilkinson (bottom) while stationed in Vietnam. At top right: Church, left, and Wilkinson reunite during Homecoming 2018.*

In the spring of 1971, **Jim Church '68** was in Vietnam serving as a pilot in the Navy's Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron 3 (HA(L)-3), aka the "Seawolves," when the call came in. A small Naval Special Warfare Group had been involved in a firefight somewhere in the swampy Mekong Delta. One of them had been shot and was in need of urgent medical attention.

**Rik Wilkinson '68**, D.M.D., was one of those men. After making the call, he and the two other men with him used dead reckoning to head toward the rendezvous point. Not long afterward they saw the low-flying Bell UH-1 Iroquois (or "Huey") appear over the horizon. As the chopper came in for a landing, the three men climbed aboard. Wilkinson thought there was something familiar about the pilot's name—"CHURCH"—which was stamped on the back of his helmet.

Safely back at Binh Thuy Air Base, Wilkinson was exiting the helicopter when he noticed the pilot had taken his helmet off. "There was just something about that name and his familiar face," says Wilkinson, now 72. "So I said to him, 'Hey! You didn't happen to go to Westminster by chance?'"

Turning around to look at Wilkinson, Church replied, "Yeah!"

Church, now 73, says he remembers turning back to look at Wilkinson and thinking, "Holy cow, this guy looks scared out of his mind. You could tell he'd been through a lot."

That brief encounter was the last time the two would see each other until 48 years later at Homecoming 2018 during the Class of 1968 50<sup>th</sup> reunion.

**D**uring the class reunion dinner, someone came over to Church, pointed at Rik, and said, "That guy over there wants to talk to you."

"Of course," says Church, "I didn't recognize him from Adam."

But Wilkinson sure remembered Church. "I walked up to him, put out my hand and said, 'Do you remember giving someone a lift over there in Vietnam? I just wanted to thank you.'"

"So it was you!" I replied," says Church. "'You were the guy!' I'd been trying to remember who it was for years. That moment—it kinda filled in the gap for me."

Church first came to Westminster College from Tenafly, N.J., a small commuter town outside of New York City. His father was a professor at Columbia University and had taught nearby at Allegheny. Back in 1964 the two of them were visiting a few schools in the area when Church's dad said, "There's a school around here called Westminster. But I don't think your grades are good enough to get in."

"That really motivated me to prove him wrong," says Church. "We visited campus and I really liked it. Fortunately, I got accepted."

Church majored in history at Westminster, while minoring in speech and drama. "My first role was in a play called 'The Fantasticks,' which took place in Little Theater in Old Main. I also had a part in 'MacBeth,' which was the opening play in the new Beeghly Theater. I really enjoyed it."

Wilkinson came to Westminster from West Deer Township, a little community just northeast of Pittsburgh. His minister, the late Rev. **Richard K. Kennedy '41**, was a big supporter of the College and would bring him to campus for youth group.

"I always thought it was a beautiful place," says Wilkinson, who ended up majoring in economics and math while taking pre-med courses. "I knew I wanted to get into medicine, but I also wanted to study something a little more practical, just in case."

By the time the both of them were seniors, the Vietnam War was raging.

"We were definitely aware of the war," says Church. "If you flunked out of school, three months later you could end up in Vietnam. It was always hanging over you."

In the fall of 1967, Church was walking through the student union when he came across some Navy recruiters looking for men who wanted to become pilots. "I took a couple Navy brochures back to my apartment," says Church. "As it turned out, five of my roommates and I all became Navy pilots."

Two months after graduating, Church was in Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Fla., where he learned to fly both airplanes and helicopters. By April of 1970 he was with HA(L)-3 in Vietnam, flying attack helicopters in support of the "Brown Water Navy," providing cover and support, mostly during the night, for river boats and SEALs working in the Mekong Delta.

Wilkinson signed up for the Navy during his sophomore year at Westminster through the Reserve Officer Candidate program. "I knew as soon as I graduated I was going in," says Wilkinson, who came from a proud military family. "I just thought it was the right thing to do."

By 1969 he was involved with counterinsurgency as a part of the Navy's Special Warfare Command in the swamps of Vietnam. "Our primary goal was to suppress and disrupt enemy operations through small, low-profile units."

After a year tour, Church returned to the States and began flying both helicopters and airplanes for the VFR 32 Aircraft Ferry Squadron in San Diego. In 1972, he left the Navy and joined a Navy Reserve squadron in Imperial Beach. Eventually he took a job with Bristow Helicopters in Aberdeen, Scotland, flying helicopters out to oil rigs in the North Sea. By 1978 he was back in the U.S., where he met and married Greta, with whom he has two grown daughters, Kristine and Kendall.

In 1983 Church joined United Technologies, serving as their chief pilot. He was also a founding member of the Eastern Region Helicopter Council, as well as chairman of the Helicopter Association International. He remained in the Reserves for over 20 years, before retiring as a commander in 1996.

Wilkinson also came back in 1971, and began taking graduate courses at Pitt while waiting to get into dental school. After graduating from the Fairleigh Dickinson School of Dentistry in 1976, through the Navy he went on to study maxillofacial surgery at both the University of Chicago and the University of Miami.

Wilkinson retired from the Navy in 1996 and went into private practice. He served as assistant professor at Marshall University's J.C. Edwards School of Medicine in West Virginia for about four years before being recruited to his current practice with Marshfield Clinic in Chippewa Falls, Wis. He and his wife, Judy, have been married for 41 years and have two grown children, Courtney and Richard.

During Westminster's 50<sup>th</sup> reunion ceremony in 2018, Church got up in front of the group and told his and Wilkinson's shared story. In doing so he asked if all the veterans in the room would stand and be recognized. "I was shocked and amazed at how many stood up," he says. "I think it says a lot about a small school like Westminster that so many of us served."

In the fall of 2017, Church did a bicycle trip with his oldest daughter Kristine in Vietnam around the area where he'd done his duty. "It was a fabulous, fabulous journey," he says. "For the first two weeks I just went around apologizing to everyone for what I'd done back during the war. They're really wonderful people. It was so nice to see that they are doing so great. It's really a beautiful country."

As for being able to finally reunite with Church at Westminster after almost 50 years, says Wilkinson, "It was pretty much like that day back in Vietnam. I didn't know he'd be there. It was another nice surprise." 🌿



## CLASS NOTES | *Titans doing incredible things.*



# PASS ALONG YOUR NOTES

*Do you have news  
you'd like to share with  
your fellow Titans?  
Send your class note to  
us and we'll publish it  
in an upcoming issue of  
the magazine.*

### ONLINE

[westminster.edu/alumni](http://westminster.edu/alumni)

### EMAIL

[alumni@westminster.edu](mailto:alumni@westminster.edu)

### MAIL

Westminster College  
Office of Alumni Engagement  
319 S. Market St.  
New Wilmington, PA 16172

### 1955

**The Rev. Dr. James Bigley Sr.**, a 1959 graduate of the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, was recently honored by the institution for his 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Jim served Presbyterian churches in Espyville Station, Pittsburgh, Grove City and Maple Heights, Ohio. He retired in 1996 from St. Andrew Church in Sun City Center, Fla. Following retirement, he served as interim pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Lakeland, Fla. He continued active ministry in the Presbytery of Tampa Bay, Florida Presbyterian homes and the Lakeland community until moving to Tarpon Springs, Fla., in 2018 with his wife, Shirley.

### 1959

**The Rev. Bob Palisin** is serving as interim pastor at the historic New Gilead Reformed Church in Concord, N.C., where George Washington worshiped on a Sunday when he was touring the southern states at the end of his second term. Bob continues to serve as visitation minister at Poplar Tent Presbyterian Church in Concord and recently completed his third term on the executive board of the Cabarrus County Republican Party. Bob and his wife, Joan, live in Concord.

### 1960

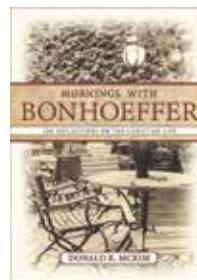
**Paul Boyce** recently published his sixth book since retiring from a career in aerospace. *Moon Shot* is a first-hand account of the Apollo lunar landing program, of which Paul was a member of the Apollo launch team. His other books are *The Hook Files*, a fictional mystery series, and *The Call*, a biographical account of his uncle's naval service in the Pacific theater during World War II.



### 1964

**Dr. Robert Coles** of Mauldin, S.C., was honored with the Frank DiPlacido Humanitarian Award. He is in private practice and is on staff in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery of the Greenville Hospital System and the facial trauma service of the Greenville Memorial Hospital System.

### 1971



**Dr. Don McKim** has published *Mornings with Bonhoeffer: 100 Reflections on the Christian Life*. He and his wife, Dr. Linda Jo McKim, live in Germantown, Tenn.

## Representing Ridl

**Betsy Ridl Baun '70** (left) and **Cathy Close Choma '70**, accompanied by Westminster senior director of major gifts, **Rob Klamut**, attended the 2018 Pittsburgh Basketball Hall of Fame enshrinement ceremony. Betsy's father, **Charles "Buzz" Ridl '42**, legendary Westminster basketball coach and athletic director, was among the inductees.



## 1973

**The Rev. John Hopkins** was re-ordained by Trinity Presbytery (PCUSA) to pastor Duncan Creek Presbyterian Church in Clinton, S.C., a congregation first organized in 1752. He also serves as a chaplain resident at Spartanburg (S.C.) Regional Hospital. John and his wife, Glenda, live in Spartanburg.

## 1979

**Dr. Carol Watson**, associate professor of elementary education at Kutztown University, was honored as the 2018 Teacher Educator of the Year by the Pennsylvania Association of Teacher Education. Featured on the university's website as part of its Difference Makers series, she is the first winner of the award from Kutztown University.

## 1984

**Laura McDonough**, who received the Governor's Teacher's Recognition Award in 2007, has retired after 33 years teaching in New Jersey.

## 2004

**Alicia Richie Quinn** was recently named vice president of marketing and strategic alliances at Discover Lehigh Valley, a marketing organization that promotes tourism in Pennsylvania's Lehigh and Northampton counties.



**Devayani Wintrode** is director of sustainability and accountability for the LeBron James Family Foundation.

Her office is located at the I PROMISE School, opened by the Foundation in partnership with Akron Public Schools to serve the lowest performing students in the city. She is involved in grant writing, organizing community service opportunities and supporting all aspects of the Foundation's work with youth and families in Akron.

## 2006



**Jessica Kilgore** was recently named chief financial officer for Aristotle, a political technology and data firm. Jessica is the first female

CFO in the company's 36-year history.

## 2007



**Amy Hanrahan**, a human resources business partner at TrueSense Marketing in Pittsburgh's North Hills, was recently elected to the Pittsburgh

Human Resources Association board of directors.

## 2014



**Evan Harville** was named an assistant coach on the staff of the Greensboro (N.C.) Swarm, the NBA G League affiliate of the Charlotte Hornets. Evan,

who arrived at Greensboro with extensive work in player development, most recently was an assistant coach at Wingate University and had served as an assistant coach at Westminster under **Kevin Siroki**.



## Titans in Texas

A group of Westminster alumni recently reconnected in Dallas while attending the wedding of **Steven Fawcett '12** in Dallas. Left to right are **Alex Scull '12**, **James Beaudry '12**, **Peggy Fawcett '81**, **Fawcett** and **Lexie Elliott '12**.



# Bound for Carnegie Hall

*Matthew McCright '99 to play storied venue*

**T**he notice on the Carnegie Hall website is understated, yet sophisticated: “Matthew McCright, Piano. Friday, November 22, 2019. 8 p.m. Weill Recital Hall.”

But the page’s austere design belies the excitement that **McCright '96**, an accomplished contemporary pianist, feels about his upcoming performance at the fabled music venue in New York City.

“It’s truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” said McCright, who studied under Westminster’s **Dr. Nancy Zipay DeSalvo**, associate professor of music and Steinway Artist, since he was a teenager.



For many musicians, that opportunity would be the pinnacle to one’s career, but it’s usually a thought that usually lies somewhere in the periphery of ambition.

“For most, the idea of playing at Carnegie Hall is certainly in your head as something you would love to do,” says McCright. But it’s not something you can plan for, you simply wait until that time comes—if it ever comes.

That time has come for McCright, who will be seated center stage at Carnegie Hall this November. McCright will perform eight pieces—including four premieres—by eight composers from Vox Novus, a New York City-based organization of composers and musicians.

The invitation to perform came nearly two years ago when McCright received a random email from one of the Vox Novus composers, someone he had performed with years ago.

“They asked I would be interested in playing their music at Carnegie Hall,” McCright said. “Then I read the email again more carefully and realized they were asking me to be a soloist.”

With all of the music now in hand, McCright is now familiarizing himself with each piece, carefully examining the

intricacies of each and determining if any adjustments to suit his performance techniques are necessary.

“Not every composer is a pianist. The strengths and weaknesses are different with each musician,” he said. After collaborating with composers and finalizing the music, McCright will meet with them over the summer, record an album and begin intense practice in preparation for November.

But despite the hours of rehearsals, those moments walking out on stage—whether it’s Orr Auditorium or Carnegie Hall—still give even the most seasoned professionals such as McCright a case of nerves.

“The fear of flaw and failure is good, especially if we take our jobs seriously and if the art is worth it.”

*- Elizabeth Fontaine Hildebrand '92*

## WEDDINGS | *Love always.*



Froelich-Aulizio



Judge-Cervantes



Kieffer-Bunnell



Shaffer-Rehacek

### 2005

▲ **Scott Froelich** and Simone Aulizio, Oct. 6, 2018, in Poland, Ohio. The wedding party included **Mike McKee '04** and **Ryan Mitchell '04**. The couple resides in Poland.

### 2007

▲ **Charlie Judge** and Juan Cervantes, July 13, 2018, in The Mohicans Treehouses in Glenmont, Ohio. The wedding party included **Kevin Shields '09** and **Brittany**

**Mente**. The couple resides in Pittsburgh.

### 2009

▲ **Alyson Kieffer** and Eric Bunnell, July 14, 2018, at Western Reserve Village Church in Canfield, Ohio. The wedding party included maid of honor **Kassie Gustafson** and groomsman **Andrew Kieffer '13**. Guests included **Summer Simmes Wolcott '08**, **Tina Takash Seidelson '11**, **Jacob Kieffer '11**, **Joshua Kieffer '11**, **Toby**

**Bonitz '13**, **Aaron Vannatter '14**, **Brittany Colosimo '14** and **Kyle Gelesky '14**. The couple resides in Rensselaer, Ind., where Alyson is special education teacher in the Rensselaer Central School Corporation.

### 2013

▲ **Kasey Shaffer** and Jakub Rehacek, Oct. 12, 2018, in Pittsburgh. Guests included **Jordan Drolet** and **Erica Hillwig Gaughan '14**. The couple lives in Bradford.

## NEW ADDITIONS | *Welcome, Tiny Titans.*



Ruby Corbett



Preston Dray



Amelia, Clark and Ryan Brown



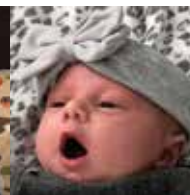
Brennan and Brooklyn Heath



Emerson Bilski



Wyatt Donolo



Everly Brown



JP Ziegler

### 1998

▲ **Mandy Snyder Corbett** and her husband, Jeff: a daughter, Ruby Jane, on Oct. 25, 2018. She joins siblings Annie, Austin, Samuel, Caeden, Justus, Daniel, Jackson and Maelie at home in Ellettsville, Ind.

### 2005

▲ **Jaime Carter Dray** and her husband, Steven: a son, Preston Tyler, on Oct. 12, 2018. He joins siblings Brooklynne and Carter at home in Coraopolis.

▲ **Kristin Kronstain Brown** and her husband, Kyle: triplets, Amelia Mary, Clark

Nicholas and Ryan Alexander, on Aug. 1, 2018. Kristin is a team lead for a group of technical writers at IBM. The family lives in Cary, N.C.

### 2007

▲ **Michele Fenske Heath** and her husband, **Thomas Heath '06**: twins, Brennan and Brooklyn, on Aug. 6, 2018.

### 2008

▲ **Heather Pate Bilski** and her wife, Erica: a son, Emerson, on Sept. 13, 2017. The family lives in Jefferson Hills, where Heather is a senior consultant with Point Management Group.

### 2012

▲ **Abby Bishop Donolo** and her husband, **Nathan Donolo '11**: a son, Wyatt Blaise, on Sept. 10, 2018. The family lives in Carnegie.

▲ **Emily Saulsbery Brown** and her husband, Jason: a daughter, Everly Adeline, on Oct. 23, 2018. The family lives in Oakdale.

### 2013

▲ **Christina Erceg Ziegler** and her husband, **Andrew Ziegler '14**: a son, Jeffrey Philip "JP," on Feb. 13, 2019. The family lives in Hermitage.



# NATIONAL CONNECTIONS & ALUMNI EVENTS

Alumni events are open to all alumni and friends of Westminster College. The Office of Alumni Engagement works with volunteers to plan events in cities and regions across the country. *Get connected with alumni in your area!*



▲ **COOKING UP SOME ALUMNI FUN** — A group of 20 alumni joined together for a night of cooking Spanish fare at Thyme in Your Kitchen in Hermitage on Feb. 12. Westminster's **Dr. Jeff Bersett**, professor of Spanish, and **Dr. Joel Postema**, associate professor of Spanish, joined the group to share updates about students and their learning opportunities in their disciplines. This event was coordinated by **Karen Campman Emmett '75** and the Local-Youngstown-Clarion Regional Alumni Committee.



▲ **SWEET TREATS** — Before Westminster students prepared for finals, members of the **Student Alumni Association** wanted to recognize some of their favorite professors by decorating Christmas cookies and delivering them throughout campus.



◀ **HOLIDAY SMILES** — **Erin Remai Palko '98**, husband Tom, and children Ben and Lucy were among the 143 alumni and friends of Westminster who attended the VIP viewing of Kraynak's Holiday Display in Hermitage on Saturday, Dec. 15. Owners **Penny Rice Kraynak '75** and her husband, George Kraynak, opened the display early just for our alumni, family and friends.



▲ **'BURGH TIME** — The Office of Alumni Engagement held monthly casual gatherings in all the heavily-alumni populated areas around Pittsburgh. This year, stops have been made in the South Side, North Shore, South Hills, Murrysville, Cranberry and the East End.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**JUNE 23**

Westminster Day at the Pittsburgh Zoo

**AUGUST 17**

Little League World Series Alumni Gathering

**AUGUST 17**

Zone 28 Pittsburgh Alumni Event

**SEPTEMBER 20**

Fall Alumni Council Meeting (members only)

**OCTOBER 11-13**

Homecoming & Reunion Weekend

**JANUARY 1, 2020**

Rose Bowl Parade Alumni Seating & Event Options

**JANUARY 18, 2020**

Winter Alumni Council Meeting (members only)

Go online for upcoming national & regional events!  
[www.westminster.edu/alumni/events](http://www.westminster.edu/alumni/events)



▲ **PROST!** — Pittsburgh area alumni gather on April 11 at Hofbräuhaus for the Titan2Titan National Networking Day. Events were held in Hermitage, Wexford, Harrisburg, New York City, Cleveland, Chicago, Boston and Washington, D.C. and gave alumni and friends a chance to enhance their professional and social networks.

## TitanTalks: Mindful living



**A**iming to tap into how we can all be human beings at our best, the Office of Alumni Engagement created the Titan Talks speaker series featuring Westminister scholars and alumni. Each session held throughout the academic year offered two 30-minute talks, which ranged from mindful living, financial literacy, unleashing creativity, public speaking, leadership, building chemistry and relationships, history and discovery.

Above, **Dr. Pete Smith**, professor of chemistry, discusses the chemistry and science behind brewing beer. The event was held at the Hop Asylum brewery in New Wilmington where Smith serves as a guest/assistant brewer. Also sharing their wisdom this year included **Dr. Alison DuBois**, **Dr. Deanne Buffalari**, **Brian Petrus '10**, **Todd Cole '83**, **Lisa Hickman**, **Dr. Dar Huey '74**, **Dr. Randy Richardson**, **Daniel Miller '95**, **Dr. Sherri Pataki**, **Dr. Angela Lahr** and **Dr. Thomas Oberst**.

# HOMECOMING *and* REUNION WEEKEND

OCTOBER 11, 12 & 13

### 15<sup>TH</sup> CLUSTER REUNION

*Classes of 2003, 2004  
& 2005*

### 25<sup>TH</sup> REUNION

*Class of 1994*

### 35<sup>TH</sup> CLUSTER REUNION

*Classes of 1983, 1984 & 1985*

### 50<sup>TH</sup> REUNION

*Class of 1969*

### 55<sup>TH</sup> REUNION

*Class of 1964*

### 60<sup>TH</sup> REUNION

*Class of 1959*

### 65<sup>TH</sup> REUNION

*Class of 1954*

### 70<sup>TH</sup> REUNION

*Class of 1949*

Interested in helping to plan reunion festivities?

Please contact the Office of Alumni Engagement at 724-946-7364.





## IN MEMORIAM | *Titans we will miss.*

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Word has reached us of the passing of the following alumni and friends of Westminster College. To submit information for the In Memoriam section, please provide a complete obituary notice (if available) to the Office of Alumni Engagement.

**William Shira Jr. '37** of Beavercreek, Ohio, Nov. 22, 2016.  
**Gene Carol Schwing Cook '39** of St. Petersburg, Fla., Jan. 11, 2019.  
**Doris "Valjean" Gestner Armor '42** of Greenville, Sept. 15, 2017.  
**George Hawbaker '43** of Sun City Center, Fla., Jan. 7, 2019.  
**Donna Pound Sheridan '44** of Clearwater, Fla., April 1, 2017.  
**Phyllis Howell Dierken '45** of Silver Springs, Ariz., Dec. 17, 2018.  
**Dorothy "Cindy Gams" Judd Hill '46** of South Fayette, March 2, 2019.  
**Ellen Stewart Alter '47** of Wooster, Ohio, Aug. 23, 2018.  
**Margaret Minter Craft '47 M'75** of Spartanburg, S.C., Nov. 9, 2018.  
**Arlyne Roemer Russell '47** of Millville, N.J., March 24, 2019.  
**Marietta Anderson Eklund '48** of Cranberry Township, Nov. 13, 2017.  
**David Lloyd '48** of Butler, Dec. 11, 2018.  
**William "Bill" McLhinney '48** of Hermitage, Feb. 19, 2019.  
**Robert "Chavey" Chavenson '49** of Fall River, Mass., Jan. 1, 2019.  
**Adele Johnston Fleming '49** of Peoria, Ill., Dec. 17, 2018.  
**Dr. Mary Ellen Cipolla Grasso '49** of Gainesville, Fla., Oct. 6, 2018.  
**Paul Rossi Sr. '49** of Cromwell, Conn., Dec. 20, 2017.  
**Helen Hays Shaffer '49** of Rochester, Feb. 20, 2019.  
**Ruth Vogan Carr '50** of Hardwick, Vt., Sept. 16, 2016.  
**Carolyn Davis Lincoln '50** of Akron, Ohio, Sept. 29, 2018.  
**Frank Ruth '50** of Mansfield, Ohio, Feb. 5, 2019.  
**Ira Gates '52** of Batavia, N.Y., Jan. 10, 2019.  
**Mary Ann Wright Norris '52** of New Wilmington, Feb. 15, 2019.  
**William "Dyke" Dykins M'53** of Sebring, Ohio, Oct. 27, 2018.  
**Cornelia "Connie" Mabon Halttunen '54** of New Wilmington, Oct. 20, 2018.  
**James "Jim" Higinbotham III '54** of New Oxford, Dec. 12, 2018.  
**Patricia Goodlett Mahoney '54** of Elyria, Ohio, Nov. 29, 2016.  
**Tykie Theofilos '54** of Venice, Fla., Dec. 24, 2017.  
**Barbara Smith White '54** of Rockville, Md., Sept. 29, 2019.  
**The Rev. Charlotte Hull Whiting '54** of Lancaster, Nov. 27, 2018.  
**Nona Coble Koller '55** of Titusville, Feb. 20, 2019.  
**Dr. Alfred "Al" Hart '55** of Bay Village, Ohio, Feb. 15, 2019.  
**Samuel Work '55** of LaPlace, La., Oct. 2, 2017.  
**Herbert Gorby M'57** of North Benton, Ohio, Feb. 5, 2018.  
**Ronald Rothermund '57** of Upper St. Clair, Aug. 16, 2018.  
**Helene Snyder Smith '57** of Greensburg, Feb. 24, 2019.  
**Lois Reed Leuba '58** of Towson, Md., Jan. 29, 2019.  
**William "Bill" Storey '58** of Kingwood, Texas, Jan. 9, 2019.  
**Marcie Barrett DeSieno '59** of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., Aug. 29, 2018.  
**Charles Garrett '59** of New Wilmington, Aug. 4, 2018.  
**Scott Carter '60** of Leet Township, Dec. 11, 2017.  
**Ruth Walker Massey '60** of Cleveland, Ohio, April 23, 2018.  
**Carl Rashid M'60** of New Castle, March 9, 2018.  
**John Cairns '61** of Sarasota, Fla., Dec. 5, 2018.  
**Wallace Growney '61** of Tamoia, Fla., Feb. 1, 2019.  
**Walter "Walt" Bugno '63** of Tampa Bay, Fla., Aug. 19, 2017.  
**Lillian Jacobs M'63** of Boardman, Ohio, Nov. 16, 2018.  
**Lee Logan Jr. '63** of Oviedo, Fla., Dec. 13, 2016.  
**Robert Sexton '65** of Fredericksburg, Va., Nov. 8, 2018.



**Edward Schade '63** of Danvers, Mass., Jan. 19, 2019.  
**Daniel "Dan" Fink M'66** of Southport, N.C., April 6, 2018.  
**Martin "Marty" Sanden '66** of Fredonia, N.Y., June 17, 2018.  
**H. Alfred Lopez M'67** of Champion, Ohio, Jan. 23, 2019.  
**Dr. Kenneth Phillips '67** of New Wilmington, Oct. 19, 2018.  
**Jean Tickner '68** of Spring Hill, Fla., Nov. 22, 2018.  
**Nancy Enslin Mathewson '69** of Weaverville, N.C., Oct. 9, 2018.  
**Doris "Nicky" Nikhazy '69** of Penn Hills, July 19, 2018.  
**Gretchen Uber Stevens '69** of Hartland, Wis., March 13, 2019.  
**Dr. Edwin Tobin M'69** of St. Petersburg, Fla., Oct. 1, 2018.  
**Beverly Antis '70** of Butler, Jan. 7, 2018.  
**Sen. Gerald LaValle M'70** of Rochester Township, Sept. 12, 2018.  
**Marsha Haug '71** of Exton, April 16, 2019.  
**Janette Cossetti Crowley M'72** of Columbus, Ohio, Oct. 6, 2018.  
**Charles "Chuck" Garland '74** of Reston, Va., June 24, 2015.  
**Barbara Kahl Shutes M'74** of Sharpsville, Jan. 23, 2018.  
**Kathryn Papai Spillman M'74** of New Waterford, Ohio, Feb. 21, 2019.  
**Jeffrey Johns '77** of Hermitage, Dec. 20, 2018.  
**Marguerite Thompson McCullough M'77** of The Villages, Fla., Dec. 13, 2016.  
**Karen Lipphardt Milewski '79** of Fairview, Feb. 1, 2019.  
**David Phillips '79** of Fayetteville, Ga., Dec. 3, 2018.  
**Daniel Herchenroether '80** of St. Louis, Nov. 26, 2018.  
**Bridget Gazzo '81** of Alexandria, Va., Nov. 3, 2018.  
**Robert "Bob" Keaton '84** of Etters, N.Y., Feb. 26, 2019.  
**Michael McCutcheon '85** of North Beaver Township, March 30, 2018.  
**Emily Thomas Glaser '00** of North Ridgeville, Ohio, Jan. 27, 2019.  
**Jarrett Zilko '12** of North Braddock, Nov. 17, 2018.

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## CAMPUS FAMILY



### DR. WALTER E. "WALLY" SCHEID | NOV. 11, 2018

**Dr. Walter E. "Wally" Scheid**, professor of speech *emeritus* and a member of the Westminster faculty from 1965-2000, died at the Rouse Home in Youngsville. Upon his retirement, Wally earned the Distinguished Faculty Award, Westminster's highest teaching honor. He is survived by a son, **Eric Scheid '84**, and his wife, **Cindy Van Ord Scheid '85**; a son-in-law, Dean Kind; two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Karen, in 2016; and a daughter, **Jody Scheid Kind '87**, in 2017. A Homecoming Weekend memorial service is being planned for 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 13, the Wallace Memorial Chapel.

### SUSAN FLYNN | SEPT. 5, 2017

**Susan Flynn**, a lifelong resident of New Wilmington, was a barista at Westminster's Starbucks and previously had worked as a secretary at Union High School in New Castle.

### JAMES REEHER III | DEC. 26, 2018

**James Reeher III** of New Wilmington was a custodian in Westminster's Memorial Field House.

### FREDERICK MUDER '63 M'65 | FEB. 19, 2019

**Fred Muder** was a teacher in several area schools and was on the faculty at Westminster before changing careers in 1970, becoming co-founder of Fred's Imported Car Service Center. He was part of a team that built and flew experimental aircraft.



WC MEMORIES

# MCKELVEY CAMPUS CENTER



A \$3 million challenge gift in 1999 from **Andrew McKelvey '57**, billionaire business mogul and philanthropist, jump-started a project that would result in the most expensive and ambitious building on campus.

Completed in 2003 at a cost of \$13 million, the **McKelvey Campus Center**—a three-story brick and sandstone building—joined the former Charles Freeman Hall and the Walton-Mayne Student Union, adding over 42,000 square feet of new construction.

Today, McKelvey is the hub of campus activity. The 77,000 square foot building features a sky-lighted atrium and glass picture windows overlooking the south end of campus. The Witherspoon Room with a view of Brittain Lake is used almost daily for catered dining, banquets and special events. McKelvey houses the TUB, a non-alcoholic pub, a student lounge, the Professional Development Center, the College Bookstore and Gift Shop, the offices of Faith & Spirituality and Student Affairs, campus mail room, campus radio and TV broadcasting facilities, faculty lounge, 85-seat Mueller Theater, meeting rooms and offices for student organizations and public safety.

## What's with the **TUB** name?

Not all of today's students know the significance of the TUB name. When McKelvey was completed in 2003 (see *groundbreaking photo above*), the lower level featured the Orchard Street Café, a quick-dining alternative to the traditional campus cafeteria. But the name didn't resonate with students. In March 2005, Titan Radio promoted changing its name to the TUB, an affectionate nod to the name of the snack bar in Walton-Mayne—which, in the 1940s, was called the Titan Union Building (TUB). Students embraced the idea and a circulated petition gathered 1,200 names in favor of the name change. On March 29, 2005, the beloved TUB name rose again and lives on today.

- Compiled by Dorothy Pollock '46

# #TITANSTRONG

PARTICIPATION MAKES A  
**BIG** difference.



## ALUMNI GIVING PARTICIPATION

- ✓ Contributes to Westminster's national and regional rankings
- ✓ Influences support from lead donors and foundations for larger gifts
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