ON THE COVER
Tori Pogue, senior exercise science major from Glendale, AZ, graces the cover during the NCAA Division II World Series opener win against Molloy College. She was selected to the Collegiate Commissioners Association’s (CCA) All-American Honorable Mention Team. The outfielder was also named the CCA All-Atlantic Player of the Year as well as to the All-Atlantic First Team. She led the Mountain East Conference (MEC) in hitting and also led the conference in runs scored and stolen bases. Wesleyan ended the 2017 season with a 51-10 record and captured both the MEC’s regular season and tournament championships. WWC made its first-ever appearance in the College World Series after winning the Atlantic Regional Championship. You can learn more about the team’s record-setting third-place World Series finish and Coach Steve Warner’s 1,000th career win on page 12.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER GALARNEAU ’98

Contents

2 Sundial
2 Contents
3 SUMMER / FALL 2017
3 Sundial Editorial Staff
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14 Meriwether Named Head Basketball Coach
16 Class Notes
18 Alumni Profile
22 Why I Give Back
23 2017 Homecoming At -A -Glance
25 Moments from Commencement
27 Why I Give Back: Reger Society
28 2017 Alumni Award Winners
29 In Memoriam
33 1890 Challenge

2 Cross-Culture Studies: The Value of an International Experience
10 Title III Grant Offers Multiple Opportunities for Success
12 Bobcat Sports News

West Virginia Wesleyan College strongly supports affirmative action principles and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national or ethnic origin, creed, ancestry, marital/family status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, religion, age, blindness, or disability in the administration of its admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, educational programs, employment, athletic programs, co-curricular activities, or other College-administered programs.
To the Wesleyan family:

It is my privilege to introduce this edition of the Sundial. I am honored to have been selected as the nineteenth president of West Virginia Wesleyan College, and I am excited to share our latest endeavors that position the College as one of the most distinguished institutions in the world.

Our technology-driven world connects cultures, economies, and knowledge like never before. The wealth of information at our fingertips—now accessible through ubiquitous handheld devices—is staggering. For today’s undergraduate students, e-mail and Facebook are passé. There is a continuous evolution of services and mobile apps that constantly reshape the world we live in. In short, our global society is advancing at a rapidly increasing pace.

It is important for colleges to prepare students to lead this world of change. The American Association of Colleges and Universities describes the liberal arts education as “…an approach to learning that empowers individuals and prepares them to deal with complexity, diversity, and change.” It “…emphasizes broad knowledge of the wider world (e.g. science, culture, and society) as well as in-depth study in a specific area of interest.” Through our liberal arts education, we at Wesleyan teach students how to forge their own adaptability to change into valuable skills they carry throughout their careers. Our strong liberal arts-based curriculum promotes critical thinking and transforms our students into global problem solvers. They work individually and collaboratively to improve the quality of life in the community and around the world.

In this issue of the Sundial, you will read about our programs supported by the Title III grant, the history of our beloved Wesley Chapel and its 50th anniversary celebration, and our student study abroad opportunities. As always, a full array of sports rundowns and updates from members of the Wesleyan family can also be found within the pages. We hope you will find this issue to be an exciting one.

To our Wesleyan family, we are thankful that you carry on the legacy of the College through your own accomplishments and the lives you touch. We invite you to serve as a mentor for one of our current students, speak as a guest lecturer, or make a donation to help us shape the future of your college. I look forward to working with you as we create new learning experiences that will forever inspire our students at our home among the hills.

Sincerely,

Joel Thierstein, J.D., Ph.D.
President of the College
"Almighty God, whose eyes are ever toward the righteous, and whose ears are ever open unto their cry: Graciously accept, we pray thee, this building which we now consecrate for thy service, and to thy glory, that in it love and wisdom may unite to make plain the path of knowledge to those who gather here."

With these words by Bishop Fred Holloway, spoken to a capacity crowd during a service of consecration on Sunday, October 29, 1967, Wesley Chapel officially opened to the campus of West Virginia Wesleyan College. The unveiling of the chapel during that Homecoming weekend was the culmination of decades of dreaming and planning for an adequate space that could accommodate the whole Wesleyan community in worship and inspire faith among those who entered its doors.

The story of Wesley Chapel begins with another campus worship space: Atkinson Chapel. Built in 1906 and named for George Atkinson, West Virginia's tenth Governor and a Wesleyan trustee, Atkinson Chapel served as a sanctuary, a lecture hall, and a theatre space for the growing school. In an era of mandatory chapel services and assembly meetings, Atkinson's balcony was the
perfect vantage point for chapel monitors to take attendance. On the other hand, the expanding student population of the 1930s and post-war 40s meant that Atkinson was often filled to capacity, while events like the Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, which began meeting on campus in summer 1953, became harder to accommodate.

In 1938, a surprise bequest of $250,000 for scholarship funding arrived from the estate of the late Calvin A. West. The gift from the West Virginia-born shoe manufacturer put President Roy McCuskey (Seminary 1905, College 1908) in touch with his widow, Mary Lowe West. Mrs. West wanted to construct a memorial chapel on the campus and hoped that economic conditions would improve during her lifetime to contribute $100,000 toward the project. When this was not feasible because of the continuing difficulties of the Great Depression, she committed the money in her estate, which the College received upon her death in 1948. Recognizing that $100,000 would not be enough to complete the type of structure Mrs. West intended, construction of a new chapel was placed on hold again.

It was not until the arrival of President Stanley Martin in 1957 that the chapel project came front and center again. Martin’s long-range plan of 1958 clearly outlined a chapel and religious center as central components of his proposed campus expansion. In 1959, he asked that the Methodist Conference make the chapel a fundraising priority as part of their 1960-1964 quadrennium “Faith in Action” campaign. The work proved slow and frustrating. It took six long years to secure enough funding for a contract to be signed and for construction to begin.

As the iconic 60-year-old campus heating plant known as “Old Smokey” came down to make way for the construction, a groundbreaking ceremony took place on December 8, 1965 and a massive steel skeleton began to rise in its place. President Martin originally hoped to open the building in conjunction with the 75th anniversary of the College in 1966. Instead, the chapel cornerstone, containing a time capsule of planning, construction, financial documents, and photographs was laid in October of 1966. Another year of construction and interior finishing continued before a service of consecration took place with both Roy McCuskey and William J. Scarborough, the two living Wesleyan presidents who had paved the way for the eventual construction, in attendance.

In the 50 years that have followed, those who have worshiped, prayed, performed, spoken, listened, and learned in Wesley Chapel know that the majesty and...
inspiration of the space was worth the delays and hard work. Seating 1,800 people at capacity, Wesley Chapel is the largest worship space in West Virginia. Its steeple towers 206 feet above the Buckhannon skyline; the tallest building in Upshur County. Sunlight pours through pastel stained glass windows made by the Blenko Glass Company of Milton, WV, and the balcony windows depict phrases and images taken from Jesus's Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew. Religious artifacts from around the world were donated to the College for permanent display, including a pair of candlesticks sent from the Vatican by Pope Paul VI and the Von Boetticher crucifix, which dates from 1358.

When the Methodist Church merged with the Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1968 to create the United Methodist Church, Wesley Chapel was chosen as the site to host the first Northeast Jurisdictional Conference of the new denomination. It was there that Rev. Roy Nichols was elected as the first African American bishop. When the Jurisdictional Conference met at Wesleyan again in 1988, another historic election took place. The name of Rev. Susan Murch Morrison, who was neither a delegate to the conference nor an official or endorsed candidate for the episcopacy, emerged as a dark horse and broke an electoral stalemate after the eighteenth ballot. She was consecrated as only the fourth female bishop in Methodist history.

After its opening, Wesley Chapel and Martin Religious Center (named in honor of President Stanley Martin) quickly became a campus hub of religious, cultural, and intellectual activity. The Liberal Education Series of the 1970s and early 1980s introduced students to a variety of artists, musicians, lecturers, and theologians. College and community music ensembles, such as the concert band, jazz band, Buckhannon Choral Society, and Buckhannon Chamber Orchestra, enjoyed the favorable acoustics of the space, while traditions such as the Hanging of the Greens, the Festival of Lessons and Carols, and the lighting of the campus Christmas tree became indelibly connected to Wesley Chapel. The ever-popular tradition of Spring Sing, long held in the old gymnasium or on the library front steps, moved to Wesley Chapel in 1968 and continues to be held there each spring.

Numerous prominent national figures have also appeared in one capacity or another in Wesley Chapel, ranging from Nobel laureate and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Pearl S. Buck in 1970, to the comedic Looney Tunes voice actor Mel Blanc in 1980, to the prominent German theologian Jürgen Moltmann in 1989. The biographer of Malcolm X and future Roots author Alex Haley gave a lecture in
1971, while the late civil rights activist Julian Bond holds the distinction of speaking twice in Wesley Chapel. His first appearance was in 1979 as part of the College's Black Awareness Week Activities while he was a senator from Georgia. His second was as the keynote speaker for the American HEART Project/Teaching American History grant in 2007 while he was serving as the chairman of the NAACP. Noted jazz trumpeter Maynard Ferguson also appeared twice with his band and is especially remembered for ascending the pulpit in his 1974 performance to play his soulful rendition of Jeffrey Steinburg's hit “Gospel John.” Also making an appearance in the Chapel was singer-songwriter James Taylor.

In the 50 years since its consecration, Wesley Chapel has served as an inspirational community symbol for all who see it. Yet the work that goes on inside is what defines the building’s significance to Wesleyan’s history. Stanley Martin’s vision for the chapel intentionally placed it at both the highest point and at the physical center of the campus, a visible reminder of institution’s Christian heritage and its commitment to the infusion of those most noble aspects of religious life into the everyday lives of its students. As the words of John Wesley, inscribed on the entryway steps to Wesley Chapel, reflect: “Let us unite the two so long divided, knowledge and vital piety.”

To honor Mary Lowe West’s intent, the small chapel off Martin Religious Center was named West Meditation Chapel. The centerpiece of the space is a three-ton pink marble altar presented by King Hussein of Jordan. The floor needed to be reinforced, and fifteen men were needed to move the stone into place.
CROSS-CULTURE STUDIES:
The Value of an International Experience

“Nobody can discover the world for somebody else. Only when we discover it for ourselves does it become common ground and a common bond, and we cease to be alone.” –Wendell Berry

West Virginia Wesleyan College has long believed in the importance of cross-culture studies and has empowered students to study abroad for years. More recently, the College has worked to streamline the program and make it more effective for both American and international students to gain this much-needed experience.

Wesleyan Abroad is the umbrella program that was established to coordinate international opportunities for students. The program encompasses May Term, Spring Break, and Semester/Summer Abroad trips, as well as the Irish American Scholar Exchange, the Korean Exchange Program, and both Wesleyan-based and external travel scholarship programs. Tamara Bailey, assistant professor of history and international studies, heads up the effort and has seen numerous students successfully complete these programs. Moreover, Bailey has seen how the lives of these students have been transformed because of their experiences.
“There is so much you can learn about culture, history, and human connections if you just set your American customs aside,” explained Bailey. “Most students are very emotional about their experiences. Most think they can make a change wherever they end up, but most of the time, the students are the ones being changed.”

Bailey is inspired by the experience of placing students into campus scholarships such as the Bruhns, Bly, Creasman, Maier, or Saunders scholarships. A competitive interview process, as well as one-on-one inquiry, ensures students travel to an ideal location.

“The opportunity to experience the world is unsurpassed,” she said. “Students get to see how people are like them and different from them. Having these life-changing experiences make students incredible candidates for graduate school. Likewise, businesses will snatch up students who are able to acclimate to other cultures and succeed as global citizens.”

Global diversity is also evident on Wesleyan’s campus, with international students accounting for roughly five percent of the student population. For a campus Wesleyan’s size, that is a sizeable demographic.

“They are fairly diverse for schools of our size,” stated Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Boyd Creasman. “Our attempts to create a diverse campus culture demonstrate that we value students being able to interact with people unlike themselves.”

International student recruitment is yet another piece of the puzzle. A recent upgrade to the College’s virtual tour better reaches these students who cannot make a formal visit to campus. John Waltz ’01, vice president for enrollment management, works closely with Morganne Tenney ’12, coordinator of international recruitment in the Office of Admissions, to better identify potential students and handle recruitment and processing of these students. While athletic programs remain the leading recruiter of international students, Wesleyan also travels to the Sakae Institute in Japan for one week each year to work within an already-established program that helps send Japanese students to liberal arts colleges in the United States.

“One of the great barriers to students studying internationally is money, so we try to find partners that help us collaborate with students,” stated Waltz. “We are always working on ways for these students to better integrate within our culture or even just have the opportunity to study at Wesleyan.”

In terms of international effort for a small college, it really does take a village. A number of faculty and staff work with both inbound and outbound students, including Alice Creasman ’88, registrar and director of academic services, who completes the immigration process; Robert Quarles ’11, director of multicultural program and services and international student advisor, will serve as the on-campus liaison for international students; and Suzanne Warsinsky, English as a second language coordinator, conducts programs and creates opportunities for these students on campus.

“We want to make these students feel welcome on campus and help them acclimate to our culture,” said Waltz. “We can arrange transportation for these students, help them purchase common amenities, and accommodate their religious practices and customs.”

“It is important for Wesleyan to have an international student presence on campus,” continued Waltz. “For these students, studying at Wesleyan is an enriching experience. For our American students, living and studying with people from other cultures helps to broaden horizons and perspectives.”
“Wesleyan strives for its students to gain the experiences that shape their views. We want them to develop a comprehensive understanding of the world around them, and international travel is a key component of that understanding.” –Dr. Boyd Creasman

Whether our students are embarking on a month-long May Term trip or an international exchange program or competing for the prestigious Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship, Wesleyan offers a plethora of travel experiences for students eager to expand their world view. Studying abroad offers many opportunities outside the classroom, and these students all return with a strong sense of what it is like to be global citizens.

**MAY TERM**

Each May, Wesleyan faculty offer a variety of courses to international destinations. For three to four weeks, students travel overseas and take part in planned excursions and instruction. This past May, a total of 41 students traveled to Eastern Europe, London, Ireland, and Peru.

**SPRING BREAK EXPERIENCES**

Each year, students and faculty spend one week in the spring visiting an overseas location, quickly immersing themselves in the different culture. Some spring break experiences are open to all students, while some excursions are reserved for Honors students. This past spring, 14 students traveled to Costa Rica, while an Honors group of 12 spent time in Paris.

**SUMMER ABROAD/SEMESTER ABROAD**

Students can take advantage of many opportunities for international study through Wesleyan’s partnerships with various colleges or universities or other programs that offer custom study abroad opportunities and internships for students with destinations located on every habitable continent of the globe. While students can take advantage of language courses during their semester, summer, or year abroad, all other courses are offered in English. Many of these students earn international travel scholarships such as the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship, Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, or the Critical Language Scholarship Program. This past year, 10 students took advantage of summer or semester abroad programs to Ireland, Kenya, Australia, France, Ghana, Thailand, and Cuba.
IRISH AMERICAN SCHOLAR EXCHANGE

The Irish American Scholar Exchange is a competitive program offering Wesleyan students the opportunity to study in Ireland. By participating in the Irish American Scholar Exchange, students can spend either one semester or one academic year studying at one of six Irish institutions including the University of Ulster, Queen’s University, and the Belfast Metropolitan College.

KOREAN EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Korean Exchange Program began under former President Tom Courtice and partnered Wesleyan with three universities in South Korea: Duksun Women’s University, Ewha University, and Yonsei University. Each year, Wesleyan typically hosts four to six students for either a semester or year, depending on the student’s program with the College. When Wesleyan students travel to South Korea, a small group of 12-14 will travel for 12-15 days, living in the culture and experiencing the educational system. When Wesleyan students travel here, the three partnering universities assist with educational programming and housing.

“The hardest part of traveling abroad is not imposing your own culture. You must be a blank slate; you must be flexible and malleable.” –Tamara Bailey
In September 2014, Wesleyan was awarded a $10 million Title III grant by the U.S. Federal Government under the Department of Education’s Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP). The grant, awarded over a five-year period, has been utilized to improve strategies for student engagement and success, including enrollment, retention, persistence, and graduation rates for the College. Among the initiatives the grant supports are improving student services, academic instruction, enhancing faculty development, and classroom renovations. In addition, the grant has helped increase Wesleyan’s endowment.

“The grant essentially has four arms,” explained Alison Clausen, Title III and student success coordinator, “the endowment, classroom renovations, the Center for Teaching and Learning, and the Student Success Center.”

Through the Grant, the College has the opportunity to secure an additional $4 million toward the endowment through a federal match program. Wesleyan was charged with securing $2 million by September 30, 2019 which would then be matched dollar-for-dollar by the federal government. To date, the College has procured $1,077,365.57 toward the Endowment Challenge.

“The Endowment Challenge is a great opportunity for Wesleyan,” stated Bob Skinner ’75, vice president for advancement. “The College can invest the Title III Endowment in low-risk securities such as certificates of deposit, mutual funds, stocks, or bonds.”

Classroom and facilities renovations began in the summer of 2015 with some HVAC and electrical repairs and classroom updates in the David E. Reem-snyder Research Center, McCuskey Hall, Middleton Hall, and the English Annex. Renovations have continued each summer since, adding Haymond Hall, John D. Rockefeller Center, Christopher Hall of Science, and Loar Hall to the list. With two more summers of renovations to look toward, Clausen explained that requests are submitted and approved by the beginning of September.

“Although the list is not finalized yet, we have the ability to renovate up to ten more classrooms this summer,” stated Clausen. “It really just depends on where those requests lie when it is all said and done.”

The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), another facet of the Grant, was developed to provide support and resources to faculty and staff. Overseen by Coordinator Cynthia Brissey, the CTL holds workshops and programs that engage faculty, staff, and administration in pedagogical development while offering support in technology training for learning management and assessment systems, resources that explore best practices in teaching, travel opportunities focused on student learning, and a culture that cultivates student learning through innovative teaching across the curricular and co-curricular student experiences.

The fourth piece, and quite notably the largest, is the Student Success Center (SSC), an office whose focus is to assist in the academic development of Wesleyan students. The dedicated staff provides resources to assist in students’ journeys...
toward their educational goals, including services such as advising, academic skills seminars, support for first generation college students, and assistance in internship placement.

Programming began in the spring of 2015 with Restart, a program focused on first-year students who were on academic probation following their first semester at the College. Just completing its third cohort, the program has seen a steady decrease in participation with each semester.

“Although it seems a little backwards, the hope for Restart is to see the number of students decrease each year,” stated Clausen. “We want to see fewer students doing poorly.”

From there, the Center has implemented a new program each year. During the fall semester, a yearlong program called Launch began to help identify students that are at-risk on a number of factors as they are in the deposit stage of admissions. Students are automatically enrolled in the program and share a variety of resources including a freshman seminar class, study strategies course, and monthly teambuilding activities. These students also receive weekly advising through the Center. This program has seen a rise in numbers with both cohorts.

Outreach to first generation college students is also a focus of the Center. 1G-Link, a peer-mentoring program targeting these students, began in fall 2016.

“In 1G-Link, first generation upper-class students are paired as mentors with incoming first generation freshman students,” Clausen said. “These students have required communication, attend events together, and the upperclassmen provide support for students as they transition. We also have a learning community, which is a group of students in the mentoring program living in the same hallway of a residence hall. They receive additional programming and 24/7 support.”

Last year, 44 first-year students participated in the mentoring program and 18 in the learning community. Twenty-eight upperclassmen have already committed to the mentoring program for next year.

Another first-generation program, called 1GB, was also implemented in the fall.

“1GB mimics the ideas of the Launch program but only for first-gen students,” said Clausen. “We also provide general events for first-gen students such as game nights, support, and workshops dealing with time management, test-taking, and study skills.”

Aside from the specific programming that the SSC provides at-risk students, the Center also provides assistance with internship placement with both local and non-local opportunities through avenues such as the Internship Fair, Alumni Speed-Networking, and a sophomore shadow program.

As the Center enters its fourth year, Clausen and her team have learned something new each step of the way.

“It has reconfirmed that if we catch a student on the front end, before they even step foot here, and provide them support and services before day one, they are more likely to be successful,” said Clausen. “If they do not receive the support early-on and then perform poorly, it is harder for them to dig out of the hole later.”

Clausen says that the Center tries to be proactive and preventative instead of reactive. It really initiates a trend of improvement.

“Right now, we are seeing students who were predicted to do more poorly when coming in performing better than predicted while here,” Clausen stated. “We are also working on reaching the academic middle average of students as we move forward.”

Last year, the SSC started a program called Hug the Middle, where the Center focuses on students who fall between a 2.5-3.5 high school GPA by assigning them a staff advisor who performed regular outreach.

“We send them emails, have them stop by, and check in on them to see how they are doing,” commented Clausen. “We will always do the work for our most at-risk students, but we also need to be reaching the entire student population.”

Looking forward, Clausen says the goal for the SSC is to continue reaching as many students as possible.

“We begin placing students in programs in February, and a student’s first contact with us is during their summer registration day. We use the summertime to build relationships with these students,” Clausen stated.

The final academic year for the Title III grant will be 2018-2019.
West Virginia Wesleyan College’s veteran head softball coach Steve Warner ’90 hit the magic number in May and did so on the grandest of stages at the NCAA Division II College World Series.

After Wesleyan’s dramatic 1-0 win over West Florida secured the historic milestone for Warner, the Lady Bobcats closed the season with a 51-10 record and ranked third in the nation. Warner’s coaching record now stands at 1,000-351-1 over his 24 seasons at the helm of the Wesleyan program, and he has averaged an astounding 41.6 wins per season over his career.

For Warner, the fact that he reached 1,000 wins at the College World Series made it that much more special.

“That whole experience was great for our school, our program, and our community,” Warner said. “We had come so close so many times before, and to actually get there and perform well was very special. I cannot stop smiling, and I do not think my feet have touched the ground yet.”

Several former Bobcats were in attendance at the World Series in Salem, VA, as well as a large following of WWC friends and family. Warner gave the game ball from win number 1,000 to his dad.

Adding to the sense of community pride is the fact that Warner is a hometown product. A 1986 graduate of Buckhannon-Upshur High School and a 1990 WWC graduate, Warner still resides in Hodgesville with his wife Terry and his two boys, Thomas and Jonathan.

“I have always been thankful to Wesleyan for giving me this opportunity,” Warner said. “It has been nice to coach throughout my career around my family and friends. I have never taken that for granted. So many college coaches do not get that opportunity, but I have, and for that I am extremely thankful.”

Along the way, Warner has collected many accolades from the former West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Association (WVIAC) and the new Mountain East Conference (MEC). He has been named Coach of the Year 18 times, has led his teams to 17 league tournament titles, and has secured 18 regular season titles. His teams have made 17 trips to the NCAA Regionals, and five to the Super Regionals, while under his watch, WWC has also produced 18 Pitchers of the Year and 15 Players of the Year.

The Wesleyan team that finally broke through the wall to make it to the World Series was a special unit. They hit .322 as a team, including three players that blistered opponents for an average over .350; Tori Pogue (.421), Olivia Gore (.398), and Morgan Bruce (.355). The pitching staff posted a sterling 1.48 ERA as a team, with the combo of Hannah Vet (28-4) and Sayaka Foley (18-5) producing 46 of the 51 winning decisions and collecting 275 strikeouts in 352 total innings. The roster also included a past D-II All-American in second baseman Brooklyn Waddell of Buckhannon who hit a strong .314 this year.

Three other players in the regular lineup also hit over .300; Krista Waggoner (.348), Sara Scoone (.318) and Ailyn Gutierrez (.316). Scoone was pivotal in handling the pitching staff from her position as the team’s catcher, while the speedy Pogue was a key defensive asset in center field. Wesleyan produced a solid .966 team fielding percentage.

“This team taught me a lot,” Warner acknowledged. “They always had this air of confidence no matter what the situation. In the end, I think that is why this was the team that was able to advance past the Regionals; they just never seemed to get rattled.”
Junior Hannah Vet was especially invested in her coach’s milestone, as she had pitched the game to get Warner his 900th win and was in the circle again when he registered his 1,000th.

“A key aspect that has made Coach so successful is how genuinely he cares about each and every one of his players,” Vet remarked. “He has the nickname ‘Big Daddy,’ and that is so fitting for him because he always has his players best interest in mind, from academics to making sure we are getting enough sleep at night. He stresses about stuff that any parent would over their own kids except he does that for us, his players, and there is nothing more respectable than a coach truly and deeply caring for his team.”

Over his two decades, he often battled with local rival Alderson Broaddus University, a team coached by another legend, J. D. Long. Now an administrator at AB, Long accumulated over 600 wins as a head coach himself.

“It was a great rivalry, and Steve and I were able to remain good friends away from the softball field. It was a pleasure to compete against him, and I am proud to be associated with him as a contemporary,” Long said. “I will say this, whenever you played Wesleyan, you always knew you were going to be facing a team that was mentally tough—especially at the plate. No matter what the situation, Steve’s players would never lose that hard mental edge.”

Long elaborated on several other aspects of the storied rivalry and the toughness of the Bobcats.

“First off, he is a big-time recruiter. He puts in the time and is very aggressive with going after strong talent,” Long said. “And facing these athletes, it was very hard to prepare for them. I came to realize that when we were facing a Steve Warner-coached team, you had to expect the unexpected. He made some gutsy calls in some tight situations that were unconventional at times, but he has that kind of confidence in his players to execute when they are called upon.”

Warner was hired by former Wesleyan Athletic Director Dr. George Klebez in 1993. Klebez served as Wesleyan’s AD for over 20 years, including Warner’s first 16 years as head coach, and witnessed the rise of the program.

“You can reference the 1,000 wins,” Klebez said. “Steve believes in his players, and they believe in him. With that combination, success is sure to follow.”

Along the way, Warner also produced a number of Hall of Famers. Angela “Tex” Demel ‘98 was a dominant and overpowering pitcher, posting an 85-12 career record with 43 shutouts.

Demel made the trip to Salem, VA to witness Warner’s 1,000th win.

“We have remained close over the years, and it was important to for me to be there when the team was in the World Series,” Demel said. “It was also important to me to be there for him and for his 1,000th win. He remains an inspiration to me for the time and effort he puts into the program and into seeing his athletes be the best they can be in all aspects of life.”

Adrienne Mertz ‘02, another of Warner’s dynamic and imposing alumnae players, was named league Pitcher of the Year all four years and posted a 61-26 record.

WVWC Athletic Hall-of-Famer Nancy Stonestreet ‘98 was an electric five-tool player at shortstop. She closed her career with a .435 average, 27 home runs, 105 stolen bases, and was a human highlight reel on defense. She remains a Warner disciple and a true Bobcat.

“I was following all of their Regional and World Series games. It was very exciting to this success with the program,” Stonestreet said. “We have had so many great players over the years, but Coach Warner has been the constant over the last 20-plus years.”

“He puts in so much time throughout the year and is totally invested in the program,” Stonestreet said. “I am proud to have been a part of the team.”

For Warner, the success of he and his teams has been a major boon for recruitment, as his base has expanded from surrounding states to a true nationwide casting. Hall-of-Famer Demel was from Texas, while the current roster includes Pogue (Arizona), Vet (Florida), Foley (Arizona), Waggoner (Oklahoma), Scoone (Florida), Gutierrez (Arizona), and Jessica Rodriguez (Arizona).

“Success breeds success, and we have been able to use that over the years to keep getting solid players,” Warner said. “Kids want to be a part of a winning program, and they like to have the opportunity to compete nationally. And we never have to sell Wesleyan’s academics.”

Warner acknowledges that he is not the same coach that he was in 1993, but has evolved in several areas. Through it all, he has continued to win.

“My coaching style and basic philosophy are still the same, but I have had to adapt in many ways to today’s athlete,” Warner said. “I think I am able to relax more and be much more patient in a lot of situations. This year’s team certainly taught me a lot about trusting them and trusting the process.”

So what does the future hold for the man with 1,000 wins?

More wins.

“If I can keep my health, God willing, I think I could go another 10 years,” Warner said. “Whenever I am done, I still want to be around the game. I can see myself watching some of my former athletes that have chosen to go into the coaching ranks, but I also plan to spend a lot of time trout fishing when my coaching days are done.”

At an average with over 41 wins per year, ten more years would put him over 1,400. The current D-II record is 1,249, held by Wayne State’s Gary Bryce who has been the Head Coach there since 1982.

“We lost some good kids, but we have some solid kids coming back. I still enjoy recruiting good athletes,” Warner said. “There are still some big goals ahead for our program.”

That fishing pole is going to have to wait.
At the conclusion of the 2016-2017 basketball season, Interim Head Coach Jack Meriwether was tapped to fill the role permanently. Meriwether served an interim role as head coach of the basketball team during the final two months of the season, leading the team to an 8-7 record and tying for fifth place in the Mountain East Conference (MEC), which featured three nationally-ranked teams. This was Wesleyan’s fourth highest league finish in 20 years.

“I am excited for the opportunity to continue working with our administration, alumni, supporters—and most importantly our student-athletes—to build on the extraordinary history of West Virginia Wesleyan men’s basketball,” remarked Coach Meriwether. “This is a special group of players, and I am very fortunate to continue on as their coach. We will work to be better every day and live up to the high expectations, both on and off the court, that are the foundation of the Wesleyan experience.”

The basketball squad finished its season with a 13-16 record after advancing to the quarter-finals of this past year’s MEC Tournament.

Coach Meriwether arrived at Wesleyan in the summer of 2015 and served as an assistant coach for one and a half seasons.

His 2016 recruiting class was ranked among the top in the nation and included 2017 Mountain East Freshman of the Year Luke Layhew of Sandyville, WV.

In his first season as an assistant, Meriwether helped lead the team to a 17-13 overall record during the 2015-2016 season and a seventh place finish in the MEC. Meriwether worked extensively with Wesleyan’s post players, including Second Team All-American and the DLL national leader in rebounds, Tanner McGrew ’16 of Buckhannon.

Prior to his time at Wesleyan, Meriwether spent three years in central Virginia coaching some of the top players in the country as the assistant coach and recruiting coordinator for Boo Williams’ 17-Under Elite Youth Basketball League team.
West Virginia Wesleyan College Track and Field Head Coach Jesse Skiles ended his track and field coaching career the same way he started it — as a winner.

Wesleyan hosted the Mountain East Conference (MEC) Track and Field Championships the first weekend of May, and after the Bobcats and Lady Bobcats claimed MEC titles, Skiles announced his retirement as the track and field head coach.

Skiles remains the head coach of the cross country teams and had made the transition to his new role as assistant sports information director.

Skiles steps down after 25 years at the helm, having won 34 West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference/MEC track and field conference titles. Combined with cross country, he has been named Coach of the Year a record-setting 52 times.

On the track, West Virginia Wesleyan’s men rolled to their fourth consecutive MEC track title, joining the Bobcat women in their “four-peat” performance. Wesleyan won six individual events and tallied 212 points, outdistancing runner-up Charleston by 58 points.

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Junior Dylon Rippeto of Parkersburg, WV led the charge, earning his second consecutive MEC Field Athlete of the Year honor and taking the victory stand in both the shot put and the discus. Tavaris Anderson of Columbia, SC, 2016 MVP, added 17 points.

Other event winners included junior Matt Dearth of Bridgeport, WV in the 5000-meter run, senior Alan Crise of Natrona Heights, PA in the javelin, junior Nate Moore of Milton, WV in the 110-hurdles, and junior Chad Longanacre of Ripley, WV in the 3000-meter steeplechase. Dearth broke the 10,000 meter record during the season.

Wesleyan’s trio of hurdlers, including Moore, Niles Dailey of Ona, WV, and Daniel Plaugher of Salem, WV, were all nationally ranked throughout the year. The graduating class included several other former individual league champions: hammer thrower Isaac Johnson of Buckhannon, shot putter Nicholas Moorhead of Pasadena, MD, and pole vaulter Hunter LeMasters of Friendly, WV.

Sophomore Nicholas Molina of Huntington, WV broke the school record in the pole vault late in the season.

On the women’s side, the team rolled to its fourth consecutive MEC Track and Field Championship on May 7, being the only MEC institution to take home the big blue trophies.

A 2017 graduate Lauren Cvechko was named league MVP for the second consecutive year, winning the high jump, long jump, and 100-meter hurdles en route to 36 points. The Buckhannon native capped off a strong season with a 13th place finish at the D-II Nationals in the heptathlon.

Junior Sydney Pineault of Morgantown, WV scored 24 points, highlighted by her victory in the 3000-meter steeplechase. Sophomore Jordan Lynn of Meadville, PA was also dominant, securing 20 points for the team.

Three Bobcat javelin throwers also hit the NCAA Provisional Mark: sophomores Rachel Czulewicz of West Alexander, PA and Abby Buchan of Falls View, WV, and freshman Katie Demi of Claysville, PA. Czulewicz won the conference championship, while Buchan missed joining Cvechko at Nationals by just one spot.

Freshman Lauren Leaman of Parkersburg, WV also found the winner’s podium, taking top honors in the 400-hurdles.

Caysie Irving of Charles Town, WV, a 2017 Wesleyan graduate, broke the school record in the pole vault during the indoor season.

As Skiles stepped down, assistant Track and Field Coach Josh Lopitz was named the new head coach. Lopitz, a native of Leonardtown, MD, was a member of the Bobcat track team from 2013 through 2016, helping lead the program to league titles in 2014, 2015, and 2016. He also works in Wesleyan’s Admissions Office as an admission counselor.
ROBERT C. COLE, Buckhannon, WV, received the Harry Denman Evangelism Award at the June session of the West Virginia Annual Conference. This prestigious honor is given every year to a select few individuals in each Annual Conference to recognize exceptional ministry of evangelism as expressed in word, sign, and deed. Cole is pictured here with Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball (L) and Rev. Helen Oates ’78 (R).

EDWARD S. BAKER and his wife, BONNIE MARINO BAKER ’69, Ridgely, MD, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on January 14, 2017. Eddie is a retired college professor teaching two classes as an adjunct each semester. Bonnie owns Best Friends K-9 Academy and teaches dog training classes throughout the week. They are blessed to love life on their 21-acre farm on the eastern shore of Maryland called Baker’s Acres with their Rottweilers.

Wesleyan alumni RONALD D. LOCKHART ’66, MARY ANN KELLY LOCKHART ’66, JOHN R. LOVELL, JR. ’66, JOHANNA TERLAAK POOT LOVELL, ERIC H. RIEDELL ’66, and SHARON PRAGER RIEDELL spent Easter 2017 together. All are residents of the same street of Tellico Village in Loudon, TN.

ROBERT P. BEAKLEY, Ocean City, NJ, is a co-author of the National Business Institute’s publication *Mediation in New Jersey: Keys to Effective Settlement Negotiations*. He was also a presenter at NBI’s seminar in Cherry Hill, NJ.

JOHN F. (J.F.) LACARIA, Cross Lanes, WV, retired at the June session of the West Virginia Annual Conference after serving in various roles in the United Methodist Church starting in 1977. Since 2013, he has served as Director of Connectional Ministries as well as the Assistant to Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball.

J. LLOYD SPENCER, Huntersville, NC, recently retired from the United Methodist Church of Christ after 42 years as a member of the clergy.

FRANCIS “BILLY BYRON” WATLINGTON, Cambridge, MA, continues to inspire through his music. He won two finalist prizes in the 2016 USA Songs Contest and plays Christian songs to children in the 2nd Cong Church, Cohasset, MA.
His songs are played for patients in a local Woburn, MA hospital. He continues to perform in Bermuda and is also teaching piano and guitar.

WILLIAM B. GRANT, Oakland, MD, is the recipient of the 2017 Humanitarian Leadership Award from the Community Trust Foundation for his professional and philanthropic leadership.

| 1975 |

RODNEY L. BRAGG, Nashville, TN, retired as the Assistant Commissioner of Substance Abuse Services with the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services on April 17, 2017.

BRADLEY R. TEETS and his wife, MARYLIN FOY TEETS ’78, Punta Gorda, FL, have adopted a second retired racing Greyhound who last raced on April 20, 2017. She will join 5 ½ year old Leeza.

JEFFEREY W. CHILDERS, Durham, NC, has joined the law firm Michael Best as a partner in the Life Sciences practice group.

LESLIE COCHENOUR RENNINGER, Stow, OH, enjoyed a reunion with fellow 1980 graduates in Canton, OH in June 2017. They met freshman year on the 2nd floor of McCuskey. Pictured from left to right are SUSAN L. PETERSON, Jeffersonville, VT; AMY UHL AHLERS, Louisville, KY; ELIZABETH "LIBBY" HAMBLIN MOORE, Morganton, NC; LESLIE COCHENOUR RENNINGER, Stow, OH; RENEE BRADAC THOMAS, Canandaigua, NY; CATHY J. SHARP, Woodside, NY; and KAREN PETERSON GIBSON, Athens, IL.

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Brooks Koepka, son of ROBERT D. KOEPKA, Lake Worth, FL, and nephew of SCOTT G. KOEPKA ’78, Canonsburg, PA, won the 2017 Golf U.S. Open.

Ready for FOOTBALL SEASON? We’ve Got You Covered!

Show your Bobcat Pride and help Restore the Roar with West Virginia Wesleyan College Apparel and Merchandise from the Bobcat Den!

You can shop the Bobcat Den anytime at shop.wvwc.edu and check out our new Facebook and Twitter Pages for Discounts!

Phone: 304-473-8015
E-mail: shop@wvwc.edu
A drive for excellence, an ethic of hard work, a constant desire to improve, and an unwillingness to accept failure. These characteristics best describe 1981 Wesleyan graduate Henry Rischitelli, founder and owner of Next Marketing, one of the most successful marketing agencies in the country.
The Atlanta-based agency has enjoyed 24 consecutive highly profitable years, with annual revenues of $10-$15 million. The company’s portfolio includes an impressive array of clients, including the United States Air Force, CDW, HPI, HPE, Principal Financial Group, General Motors (Cadillac, Chevy, Buick, GMC), Ford, Continental Tire, General Tire, Cray Computer, Jack Daniels, Anheuser Busch, and Community Coffee, among others.

Rischitelli’s success today belies the humble route started during his days at Wesleyan. “Chip Ganassi, a lifelong friend, was an active race car driver, and as his career ascended the ranks of motorsports, I spent many college weekend attending races. I quickly developed a love for the sport, and as I gained a greater understanding of the teams, sponsors, and large-scale entertainment events, I began to appreciate and understand the enormity of the business.

“IndyCar team owners Pat Patrick, Roger Penske, and Chip regularly suggested I consider a career in motorsports, but I was living in Los Angeles enjoying a successful career in sales,” Rischitelli continued. “After much encouragement, I agreed to explore the business, and in 1988 joined Mark McCormick, the founder and chairman of International Management Group (IMG), to head up his motorsports division.” There he started as the Director of Motorsports and shortly thereafter become the division’s vice president. His clients included drivers, teams, and events spanning the NASCAR, IndyCar, F1, and IMSA racing series.

“Around the same time I joined IMG, Chip ended his professional driving career following a serious on-track accident and refocused his talents instead on team ownership,” he continued. “Representing Chip’s new IndyCar team. I secured a major partnership with Target, who was in the middle of a national expansion. The Target campaign was a new business model that redefined traditional sponsorships. Our program played a major role in assisting Target in creating a national brand. During that period, they dramatically increased their national footprint. I was proud to be a part of that success,” stated Rischitelli.

In 1993, Rischitelli and partner Ganassi launched what was the prelude to Next Marketing. However, no longer wanting to be bound to a single sports platform, the duo parted ways in 1994. It did not take long for Rischitelli to secure new clients. “We continued our motorsports practice but added event services and shortly thereafter, we were hired by our first non-motorsports client, Compaq Computer (now HP), to create a global portfolio of unique events and roundtables. This trend continued in 1999 when AOL hired us to build our first of many mobile marketing trailers,” added Rischitelli.

Rischitelli and Next Marketing both continually evolve and work to stay relevant in an ever-changing world. “We devote 100 percent to selling the brand, offering exclusive marketing strategies with outreach, engagement, and experience,” stated Rischitelli. “I am really proud of the fact that we retain so many of our clients for multiple year engagements.

“For example, we helped CDW secure the rights to an IndyCar team in 2006 and even after they ended their team sponsorship, CDW retained Next Marketing as their agency for experiential marketing,” he stated. “Our largest agency client is the U.S. Air Force, where we produce their live recruiting events. With our help, they have exceeded recruiting goals for six consecutive years.”

Today Next Marketing produces more than 25 unique productions on average each week, including golf tournaments, mobile tours and road shows, automotive ride and drives, trade shows, sponsorships activations, and on- and off-premise retail activations. “We handle all aspects of the campaign including creative, logistics, and production. We especially excel on the production side of things,” Rischitelli noted.

“I constantly try to out hustle and out-smart the competition,” said Rischitelli. “I strive to surround myself with great people and I am always willing to do whatever I asked of them. It is incredibly satisfying when everyone performs.”

Rischitelli has great memories of his Wesleyan days and is grateful for the College’s influence in his life. “I was a member of Theta Chi fraternity, where you could not get away with anything,” he recalled. “You could not be thin-skinned, and I correlate this tough love to many of our fraternity brothers’ successful careers. My professors were passionate. I especially remember Frank Bayard, who was engaging and emotional in every class. We were lucky to be so insulated in the Buckhannon community with people who were more than willing to pick you up when you fell.”

Rischitelli remains an avid skier, a sport he pursued passionately at Wesleyan. He is proud of the fact that he and others convinced the Wesleyan administration to endorse a rogue College ski team, which went on to capture the Mid-Atlantic Regional Championship.

For the past two years, Rischitelli has also volunteered extensively as the President of the Entrepreneurs Organization (EO) Atlanta chapter. While he has found that work very satisfying, he is genuinely excited about Next Marketing’s future and the prospect of adding new clients.

Rischitelli is passionate about every facet of his life. “I am the person who holds people accountable and who likes to get his hands dirty,” he concluded. “The desire to always win and improve drives me every day of my life.”
DAVID W. SCHENCK, Myrtle Beach, SC, has been a physical education teacher at Carolina Forest High School in Myrtle Beach for the past nine years. He was the assistant football coach from 2008-2014 and has been the assistant boys’ and girls’ track coach since 2015.

TAMAR AUBER, New York, NY, has been published in the current issue of Kaleidoscope: Exploring the Experience of Disability through Literature and the Fine Arts. Her personal essay, “Please Give Us a Call,” appears in issue number 74: The Evolution of Inclusion. Both her writing and photographs have been published in many notable venues, including the fiction anthology We’ve Been Trumped, published by Darkhouse Books (October 2016), and Media Global, a publication of the United Nations (September 2013).

Born: To LAURA TORAN GRAF, Islesboro, ME, and her husband, Matt, son William Edward on April 13, 2017. He joins big sister Emma.

LAURIE KIMBALL MONTGOMERY, Ijamsville, MD, recently became Director of the Mathematics & Science Division at Hagerstown Community College. She previously served on the faculty and as Science Coordinator for the Community College of Baltimore County.

STACY BROWN HARLAN, Uhrichsville, OH, has served as the Aquatic Director for Tuscarawas YMCA since 2003. She was instrumental in starting and coaching the very first Tuscarawas County Special Olympics Swim Team in 2016. She helped coach her own daughter, Cadence, to an Ohio State Special Olympic Gold Medal in the 25m Backstroke. Stacy was a former All-American backstroker for WVWC. Pictured are Stacy and the other three state placers. Cadence is to Stacy’s left with “Dory.”

KRISTI LAWRENCE WILKERSON, Buckhannon, WV, completed her first year as associate lay leader of the West Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. In May, she was also invited to join the board of the United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia.

EMILY BRINKER BARNES, Fairmont, WV, was awarded the 2017 Emerging Nurse Leader Award by the West Virginia Future of Nursing Action Coalition. She is one of 40 nurses who were recognized for empowering their communities, advancing nursing, and leading change.

MICHAEL C. MALFREGEOT, Clarksburg, WV, is Vice President Retail/Small Business at Premier Bank in Clarksburg. He is the cross country coach at Notre Dame High School and was selected this year as a member of the State Journal’s Generation Next 40 Under 40.

Born: To JASON R. ROBINSON, Charles Town, WV, and his wife, Morgan, daughter Augusta Kate on December 10, 2016.
NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR
WEST VIRGINIA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

The West Virginia Wesleyan Department of Athletics is seeking nominations for the Wesleyan Athletic Hall of Fame. To be eligible for membership, nominees must meet the following criteria:

1. A student-athlete must have completed his/her college eligibility in a minimum of 10 years prior to the election.

2. Any student-athlete, coach, team, or contributor can be submitted for consideration.

The 2017 class included: Jack Fraser ’59 (Track and Field, Cross Country), Susan Graham-Gray ’91 (Cross Country), Allison Griffith ’04 (Swimming), Chris Harrison ’85 (Basketball), Caroline Hornor Ramsey (Basketball) and the 1995 volleyball team.

To nominate an athlete, coach, team or contributor, please complete the online form on the Wesleyan Athletic website at http://wesleyanbobcats.com/athletics/New_Hall_of_Fame_Nomination_Page

Director of Sports Information Duane Carpenter
E-MAIL: carpenter_d@wvwc.edu PHONE: 304-473-8102
Kevin Bruny and Ellen Wyckoff set sail on their Wesleyan journey in the fall of 1980, never believing that those hot late August days would be the start of a relationship that would endure for 37 years and counting. Kevin was a first generation student from the northern panhandle of West Virginia, while Ellen was the first member of her Grafton, WV family to attend college.

Both found Wesleyan to be a place of challenge and support, with a particular emphasis on creating and nurturing relationships. Kevin pursued a degree in Psychology, while Ellen majored in nursing. Kevin joined Theta Xi; Ellen became a member of Alpha Gamma Delta.

The couple married after graduating from WVWC and have raised two children. Kevin has spent his entire career in human resources and is currently the Director and Chief Learning Officer for Chesterfield County Government in Virginia where he oversees the learning and development of county employees through the Learning & Performance Center. Ellen has over 30 years of experience as a registered nurse with Henrico Doctors’ Hospital, having worked in critical care areas, the catheterization lab, and currently in the post-anesthesia care unit. They have demonstrated their appreciation by faithfully supporting the College every year since 1991.

“We both had a great Wesleyan experience,” said the couple. “What we speak of most often are the inspirational faculty who were instrumental in shaping us as professionals. There are too many to name, but many continue to impact our lives. Connections to faculty are so important, and Wesleyan creates such great opportunities for lifelong relationships with faculty.”

Both Kevin and Ellen are strong advocates for the liberal arts. “We so appreciate our educational experience,” they continued. “The general studies program provided us with a solid foundation to think critically, write effectively, and communicate ideas. Both of us have tapped into the knowledge we gained from nursing, business, and psychology professors to succeed in our professions.”

Kevin and Ellen also had the opportunity to serve the College as volunteers after graduation. Kevin was the President of the Alumni Council and served on Wesleyan’s Board of Trustees. Both those opportunities provided the couple with unique insight. “We saw the importance of alumni giving and the direct impact it has on the overall operation of the College,” stated Kevin and Ellen. “This view is considerably different from the one we held as students and young alumni. We were both recipients of scholarships from the generosity of alumni, and while we may not be in a position to establish an endowed scholarship, we can provide support for the current scholarship program.”

The couple became annual members of the Wesleyan Society in 2001. “We currently make monthly donations. It is not the amount, but the consistent action that means the most for us and Wesleyan. As our life situation changes, we hope that our giving can change in ways that can have a more direct impact on future students. We both see and remember the impact our four years had on our lives and feel strongly that same opportunities need to be available for others. The Wesleyan experience is truly a gem in West Virginia, and to ensure that gem continues to shine is extremely important to us.”
ABBY E. FREELAND, Morgantown, WV, is the Acquisitions Editor of Vandalia Press and Marketing and Publicity Director for WVU Press. In 2016, she was presented with the Living the Dream Award from the West Virginia Martin Luther King Jr. State Holiday Commission. Abby was selected this year as a member of the State Journal’s Generation Next 40 Under 40.


Born: To LAURA ARMENTROUT HUBBARD and her husband, Everett, Winston-Salem, NC, son Lucas Ash on January 30, 2017. He joins older brother Jensen.

ANDREW S. DUNCAN, Lebanon, OH, started a new position as a Brand Manager at Procter & Gamble, the world’s largest consumer goods company, in March 2017. Andrew is currently pursuing the MBA and MS in Marketing at the Indiana University Kelley School of Business. He and wife Rachel Clair welcomed their second child, Joel Beckett, in September 2016.

Born: To JACQUELINE MURPHY HINTON, MBA ’08 and her husband, ROBERT R. HINTON, MBA ’11, Buckhannon, WV, daughter Madison on June 25, 2017. She joins older sisters Reagan & Kennedy.

JASON FOOTE, MBA ’08 and MARY ALICE BYRD FOOTE ’02, Fernandino Beach, FL, are avid scuba divers and active volunteers in a program to remove lionfish, native to the Pacific Ocean and who are devouring grouper, crabs, flounder, and anything that moves, from the Atlantic and inland rivers. Lionfish have venomous spikes.

2003

2004

Born: To BRETT M. COVERT, Aldie, VA, and wife Michele, son Landon Wyatt on April 17, 2017.

2005

2006

Born: To JACQUELINE MURPHY HINTON, MBA ’08 and her husband, ROBERT R. HINTON, MBA ’11, Buckhannon, WV, daughter Madison on June 25, 2017. She joins older sisters Reagan & Kennedy.
along their backs, and the sting is quite painful. On their diving expeditions, they spear the fish and place them in containers to sell to local food suppliers. Because the species reproduces so quickly, the Footes can collect as many as 200 pounds of meat one week and return to the same spot and secure 200 pounds the next. Jason owns his own web design and digital marketing business where he works primarily with small businesses. Mary Alice is a retail pharmacist.

Married: LAUREN REILAND GOTSSES, Canonsburg, PA, married Michael Gotses on October 15, 2016 at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Meadowlands, PA. SARAH ANDERSON TAYLOR and KELLEY RUSSELL MCCOY were in the wedding party. Other alumni in attendance were LASHAWN D. LEWIS, CARA E. CLARKE ’09, and ERIKA SHIFFLETT. The couple honeymooned in Ireland.

Homecoming Reunion 2017

Born: To KRISTIN SIENKOWSKI DORSEY and her husband, JORDAN T. DORSEY, MBA ’06, Virginia Beach, VA, daughter Sloane Elizabeth on May 17, 2017. She joins big sister Brooke.

2007

| 2008 |

Born: To KYLE P. BUGG and his wife, Bridget, Macungie, PA, daughter Cora Grace on May 31, 2017. Summer 2017 marks Kyle’s 10-year career anniversary in IT and cyber security.

Born: To DEIDRA CLICK CASTO and her husband, ISAAC B. CASTO ’06, MED ’13, Buckhannon, WV, daughter Sylvia Louise, on April 15, 2017.

2012

Homecoming Reunion 2017

| 2013 |

ANTHONY “TONY” S. PARKER, Terra Alta, WV, graduated from the West Virginia University School of Pharmacy in May 2017. He was the recipient of the bronze level President’s Volunteer Service Award for completing over 100 hours of service to the community. Tony will work in the hospital pharmacy practice at WVU Medicine J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown, WV.

Homecoming Reunion 2017

Thanks to the donation made by the Alumni Council, the campus community can enjoy another area of year round tables with seating and umbrellas in front of the Rockefeller Gym.

Additional sets donated by the class of 2016 are located in front of the Benedum Campus Center.
Born: To SHELBY PHILLIPS HUGHES and her husband, WESLEY A. HUGHES ’11, Greensburg, PA, daughter Avalyn Elizabeth on October 11, 2016. She joins big sister Emily. Shelby has also released an eBook entitled Conquering Change: A Seven Day Series. (https://www.shelbylhughes.com)

Married: FELICIA BECKETT TURNER married CODY M. TURNER ’17, both of Buckhannon, WV, on October 8, 2016. Included in the wedding party were CEIRRA J. COON ’15, NOTASHIA BAUGHMAN ’15, KELLI C. FARRELL ’15, SATOSHI SAIKI ’16, AVERY J. GOOKIN ’17, LANDON E. TODD ’17, RYAN T. HOLCOMB ’17, and current students CLAY TODD and ETHAN HULL.

All information for Class Notes was received by June 30, 2017.
MOMENTS FROM
COMMENCEMENT 2017
In the fall of 1989, Melinda Lapan was introduced to West Virginia Wesleyan College by Paul Willis ’88, who served as the school’s admission representative for the New England region. She had no idea that conversation would lead to a life-long relationship with WVWC.

Upon her arrival as a first-year student, Lapan quickly found herself surrounded not only by professors, but by friends who challenged her intellectually. “My roommate throughout my four years at Wesleyan was Elizabeth Sechler, who was a Wesleyan Scholar,” stated Lapan. “She made me want to apply myself, and we remain close friends today.”

“Professors Tony Gum, Rich Clemens and David McCauley pushed me to do my best and instilled confidence,” Lapan continued. “Dr. Kenneth Welliver remains the smartest and nicest person I have ever known. I also gained so much real-life experience working in campus and residence life while pursuing my MBA. Alisa Lively, director of campus life, remains both a mentor and a friend. I will always treasure many great friendships with my Alpha Xi Delta sorority sisters.”

Lapan is currently the Director of HR/Advantage Advisory, LLC, powered by Clark Hill.

“Although I had completed a Human Resources course in Wesleyan’s MBA program, I did not expect to pursue this profession,” she noted. “After receiving my MBA in 1996, I actually began my career by accident and it turned out to be perfect for me.”

Lapan has worked in human resources for over 20 years and now focuses on functioning as a fully outsources human resources solution for small to mid-sized companies or augmenting an existing Human Resources Department. “My Wesleyan experience prepared me in so many ways,” she said. “The education and experience afforded to me, both in and out of the classroom, helped mold me into the person I am today.”

Melinda made her first gift to the College shortly after graduating in 1994 and has never missed a year in her financial support. She has been a member of the Wesleyan Society since 2010 and became a member of the Reger Society this year by including the College in her estate plan.

“I give back to Wesleyan because I do not feel as though I can ever really repay the College for everything that it gave me, from the foundation needed to succeed in my career to the lifelong friendships I have made,” Lapan stated. “I have so many wonderful memories that I cherish of my ‘Home Among the Hills.’ I feel very strongly that I would not be where I am today were it not for the education I received here. Providing financial support is the least I can do to show my gratitude and to perpetuate the opportunity for others to enjoy the Wesleyan experience. My love affair with Wesleyan began 28 years ago, and it will continue throughout my life.”
SUNDIAL SUMMER / FALL 2017

2017 ALUMNI AWARDS

Congratulations on your achievements!

Recipients will be recognized at the Founders Day Convocation on October 13 at 3 p.m. in Wesley Chapel.

Alumni Service Award

Don Gardner is the director of music and church operations at First United Methodist Church in Clarksburg, WV. He was the music director at First United Methodist, and through the years also has led several children, youth, and adult ministries. He has served as the director of the Madrigal Singers of Clarksburg since 1982. Gardner was a member of the Larry Parsons Chorale and Camerata Appalachia while each was performing and has directed both the Harrison County Symphonic Chorus and West Virginia Symphonic Chorus. He was also the founder and director of Choral Arts of West Virginia. He has served as president of the Clarksburg-Harrison Cultural Foundation and was an active member of the Clarksburg Community Concert Association. He has been involved with the West Virginia chapter of the American Choral Directors Association, and has served as the choir director of the West Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. He received his master’s of music in choral conduction from Southern Methodist University, and a bachelor of music education from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1977. He resides in Clarksburg, WV.

Alumni Achievement Award

Dr. Sara Stankus will receive the Wesleyan Alumni Achievement Award. Dr. Stankus currently serves as the principal of Union Elementary, the first school in West Virginia to ever receive the distinction as a National School of Character. She has taught classes for Marshall and Fairmont State Universities and supervised clinical students from WVWC. She is also a Licensed Professional Counselor, a Nationally Certified Counselor, and a certified Ruby Payne “Understanding the Structure of Poverty” trainer. Her professional experiences include cadre work for WVDE and as a presenter for WV Center for Professional Development and the WV Department of Education and the Arts. Dr. Stankus was named as the WVWC Martin Luther King Community Partner of the Year. She also serves as co-chair on the WVPASS leadership board, President of the WV Elementary and Middle School Principal Association, the WWVC Community Engagement Board, the WWVC Advisory Board, and the FRN Board of Advisors. Dr. Stankas completed her doctorate degree in Educational Leadership at West Virginia University, her master’s in counseling at Marshall University, and her undergraduate degree in elementary education and special education from Wesleyan in 1985. She holds certifications as superintendent, principal, supervisor, and counselor. She and her husband reside on a small farm in Buckhannon with their three children.

Alumni Achievement Award

Dr. Darrel Tenney is director of the Aerospace Vehicle Systems Technology (AVST) Program Office at NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, VA. As the director of AVST, he is responsible for planning and advocating NASA’s basic research in airframe systems including advanced vehicle concepts, light weight structures and material, advanced aerodynamic design and analyses, among many other duties. Dr. Tenney served as chief of the Materials Division at the Research Center from 1987 to his appointment as AVST director in 1996. Joining NASA in 1974 as a senior researcher, he subsequently held positions as a group leader, head of the Environmental Effects Branch, head of the Applied Materials Branch, and assistant chief of the Materials Division. Prior to joining NASA, he was an assistant professor of Materials Engineering at Virginia Tech. He has co-authored more than 80 technical papers, given numerous technical presentations at national and international conference. He is active in national technical societies, including the Society for the Advancement of Material and Process Engineering (SAMPE) and the American Society of Materials (ASM). He is a fellow of the ASM and a past chairman of its Aerospace Technical Division. He served as a member of the Virginia Tech Committee and National Presidential Advisory Committee at WVWC. He is a past recipient of the Presidential Rank Award at NASA. A graduate from Virginia Tech with a doctorate degree in materials engineering, he graduated from the Harvard PMD Management Program, and West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1964. He and his wife, Linda, live in Pooquoson, VA.

For Alumni News, visit us online at wvwc.edu/alumni-and-friends
HAZEL HOOVER SNYDER ’40 of Williamsburg, VA died May 12, 2017. Harry received a bachelor of science in chemistry. He retired from Howes Leather Company after over 40 years of service where he was Superintendent and later General Manager.

Mary Teta Bennett ’49 of Cowen, WV died May 25, 2017. She was a 1945 graduate of Cowen High School. She was a former school teacher at the Mills Mountain School and retired as a mail carrier.

Dorothy Thomas Fox ’49 of Belle, WV died March 26, 2017. She was preceded in death by her husband of 59 years, Walter C. Fox ’48. Dottie worked as a secretary for Belle Elementary School for almost 25 years.

Yvonne Moore Hardenbrook ’49 of Columbus, OH died May 21, 2017. She is survived by sister Carolyn Moore Hess ’84 and her brother Raymond L. Moore II ’51. She graduated with a bachelor’s degree in biology. She was a teacher for 12 years before illness forced her to retire. Yvonne published poetry for 20 years, for which she won many prizes. Her work appeared widely in this country as well as Canada, England, New Zealand, Australia, and Japan.


Walter L. Pugh ’49 of Winchester, VA died May 29, 2017. He graduated from Gauley Bridge High School in WV. Walter also earned graduate degrees from the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Wyoming. He served in the South Pacific with a P.T. Squadron in WWII and as a Special Services Officer in the Korean Conflict. Walter taught high school math and coached athletics in several high schools. He was Dean of Students at Shenandoah College, now Shenandoah University, and later served as an associate professor of psychology and education. He is survived by his wife of six years, Barbara L. Pugh.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Marjorie Kunkle Pugh ’50.

Walter E. Wise ’49 of Ocala, FL died November 13, 2016. Walt served in the Navy prior to attending Wesleyan and moved to Florida after retiring from Nabisco. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

Brady A. Fortney ’50 of Louisville, KY died February 20, 2017. He received his bachelor of science in chemistry. He also was a veteran of the U.S. Army during WWII.

Robert C. Takacs ’50 of Midlothian, VA died April 21, 2017. Bob was a WWII Navy submarine veteran and was a chemist with U.S. Steel in their research division.

Charles B. Tunstall ’50 of Palm Bay, FL died January 1, 2017. He was a member of Theta Chi fraternity and graduated with a bachelor of science in biology. Charles retired from Chevron in 1988.

Barbara Chaffee Dunham ’51 of West Swanzey, NH died February 19, 2017. She earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry. Barbara worked as a clinical pathologist and a homemaker home health aide at Home Healthcare Hospice and Community Services from 1975 to 2006 when she retired. She also spent time on the Swanzey Police Department and was an extremely involved parishioner of the First Congregational Church of Swanzey. She also played the bells for the Westmoreland Town Band and participated in The Old Homestead play.

Elizabeth Snyder Tinney ’51 of Valley Bend, WV died December 30, 2016. She was married to Charles W. “Chuck” Tinney ’49, who preceded her in death August 20, 2002. Liz was a graduate of Tygarts Valley High School, attended Wesleyan, and later graduated from Davis & Elkins College. She taught in the Randolph County Schools for 39 years before retiring in 1999.

Franklyn F. Dezendorf ’52 of Toms River, NJ died March 6, 2016. He was employed in the sales field and retired in 1952.
He later worked part-time for Carquest in Toms River for over twenty years. He was a member of Theta Chi fraternity.

MICHAEL KARICKHOFF ’52 of Kokomo, IN died December 31, 2016. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Susan Given Karickhoff ’55. Mike graduated from Buckhannon-Upshur High School in 1948. He was a member of Kappa Alpha fraternity at Wesleyan. He received a master of science from the University of Maryland and a doctor of philosophy from Purdue University. He worked for E.I. DuPont as a polymer chemist in Circleville, OH until 1970 when he became a Research Chemist for the Sherwin-Williams Company in Chicago until his retirement in 1990. Mike was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Buckhannon, the Emeritus Club, the American Chemical Society, and the West Virginia Fossil Club.

EUGENE O. MALEY ’52 of Indianapolis, IN died January 29, 2017. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Eugene received his Juris Doctorate from the Maurer School of Law at Indiana University in 1963. Over the course of his legal practice, he was a member of many Indianapolis law associations. Eugene taught Business Law at the Kelly School of Business, IUPUI for over 40 years and was a partner at Smith, Maley & Douglas. He was a member and trustee of Old Bethel United Methodist Church as well as a 3rd Degree Mason, Scottish Rite member, and Gideon member.

CLAYTON E. WHETSEL ’52 of Culloden, WV died January 29, 2017. He served the Midland South District of the United Methodist Conference and was a member of Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church in Hurricane, WV.

WILMA JOHNSON LUFBURROW ’53 of Belton, TX died June 7, 2017. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority. Wilma is survived by her daughter, Dottie Lufburrow Brooks ’76.

J. STUART DEVLIN, JR. ’54 of Las Cruces, NM died January 23, 2017. He received his bachelor’s degree in economics and was a member of Theta Chi fraternity. He also met his wife, Margaret “Peggy” Wright Devlin ’56, while attending. After serving the U.S. Army, he earned his master’s degree in management at the University of South Carolina and began his academic career as an Assistant Professor of Economics & Business at Guilford College in Greensboro, NC. Stu earned his doctor of philosophy in higher education from Florida State University. He went on to serve at many colleges and universities, both domestic and abroad.

PHIL W. GREENSLET ’54 of Parkville, MD died April 1, 2017. He was a member of Theta Chi fraternity.

JEAN STONE SUROWIEC ’54 of Sanbornton, NH died January 22, 2017. She completed graduate work at Danbury (CT) State Teachers College, going on to teach in Sharon, CT and Newport, NH. She also opened the family-operated Surowiec Orchard in 1976 as a pick-your-own apple orchard.

BILLIE R. GATRELL ’55 of Buckhannon, WV died March 5, 2017. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. Mr. Gatrell was a retired construction worker, having built tunnels in New York and California. He also retired after 26 years as owner of Gatrell’s Grocery Store.

RONALD D. GEORGE ’55 of Fauquay-Varina, NC died June 8, 2017. Ronald served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict and was an instructor at the Aberdeen (MD) Proving Grounds where he won many awards. Dr. George opened his optometric practice in Buckhannon in 1960 and retired in 1999 after 40 years. He is survived by his wife, Joan, and two daughters, one of whom is Ronda George ’85.

CORENA SCOTT INGRAM ’55 of Tallahassee, FL died April 1, 2017. She was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority, the Honor Society, and Homecoming Court, and was crowned the May Queen in 1952. After a year of teaching in Maryland, she moved to Tallahassee to attend grad school at Florida State University. She taught music at schools in Tallahassee. She is survived by brother James F. Scott ’59.

IRENE CONE STREIBY ’56 of Cumberland, MD died March 21, 2017. She received her master’s degree in education from Frostburg State College and served as a teacher in Allegany County from 1966 to 1994. She was a member of the Allegany County Teachers Association, Maryland State Teachers Association, the National Education Association, and the Allegany County Teachers Federal Credit Union. She was active in the Democratic Party at the local, state, and federal levels.

NANCY GATHERUM MCLAUGHLIN ’57 of Roanoke, VA died February 15, 2017. She is survived by her husband of 58 years, James (Jim) R. McLaughlin ’59. Nancy was very active at Woodlawn United Methodist Church as a Sunday School teacher and member of the bell choir.

THOMAS C. MCLAUGHLIN ’57 of Landsdale, PA died March 10, 2017. He was a member of Theta Xi fraternity, earning his degree in mathematics and later a degree in electrical engineering from Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA. McLaughlin spent his professional career as a systems engineer with the former Leeds & Northrup in North Wales, retiring in 1994.

RONALD R. BROOKS ’58 of Huntington, WV died July 1, 2017. Rev. Brooks served the United Methodist Church for more than 40 years following graduation from Wesleyan and Wesley Theological Seminary. He pastored churches in Maryland and West Virginia before serving as District Superintendent in Wheeling from 1992-1998 and on various boards and agencies.

MICHAEL A. HALASZ ’59 of Santa Rosa, CA died June 17, 2016. He was a member of Theta Xi fraternity. After the birth of his youngest son, Jonathan, Mike started the handicap baseball program “Challenger” and monthly dances for all those with developmental delays. He was active in several Sonoma County organizations.

WESLEY D. SHAFFNER ’59 of Guilford, CT died March 3, 2017. He was a member of Theta Chi fraternity and earned a degree in mathematics. He retired after 31 years as a Senior Engineer at SNET. He later also retired from Quest Diagnostics as a courier.
DAVID H. YOUNG ’60 of Clarksburg, WV died March 12, 2017. Young was employed at Union National Bank, later retiring from its successor, Chase Bank. He was a longtime member of the First United Methodist Church in Clarksburg. He served on several banking organizations and also taught classes at both Salem College and Fairmont State College. He was a member of the Emeritus Club. He is survived by his son, David M. Young ’83.

JOY CRAYTON BENSON ’62 of Poughkeepsie, NY died January 26, 2017. She taught second grade at Marlboro Elementary School for many years until her retirement.

GWENDOLYN DUNBAR HALL ’62 of Belpre, OH died June 3, 2017. She earned a bachelor of science in biology and a master’s degree in education from Georgia State University. She spent several years teaching at Georgia State before moving full-time into the medical consulting field.

RALPH E. WILSON ’62 of Cairo, WV died May 8, 2017. He earned a master’s degree from West Virginia University. In 1953, he started The Ritchie Times newspaper in Cairo, WV, and in 1972, he began teaching as a professor in Maryland. After his career in teaching, Ralph started his own print shop.

ROBERT P. GRITZAN ’63 of Bethel Park, PA died April 11, 2017. After graduating high school, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps, serving from 1955-1959. He was a member of Theta Chi fraternity and graduated with a bachelor of science in business administration. He worked for Lederle Laboratories for his entire 31-year career as a sales representative and then district manager. He retired in August of 1994.

GARY W. GEORGE ’65 of Cresaptown, MD died February 14, 2017. He was a member of Theta Xi fraternity. He joined his father in business at the George Funeral Home. Gary was an avid tennis player, a big band enthusiast, and enjoyed playing the trumpet.

GEORGE E. HARRIS ’65 of Jensen Beach, FL died April 8, 2017. After serving the U.S. Army, he earned a bachelor’s degree in religion from Wesleyan and completed his graduate work at Yale University. He was ordained as a United Methodist minister. George continued to serve and joined the Army reserves in Connecticut where he was chaplain. He later returned to school and completed a master’s degree in social work at the University of Connecticut.

BETSY BROWN REGER ’66 of Vienna, WV died February 7, 2017. She is survived by her husband, Robert H. Reger Jr. ’64, and a son, Michael Brown Reger ’89. She is also survived by brother in-law John E. “Jack” Reger ’69. She was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority. She retired after 20 years of service as a sales associate from Stone & Thomas and Elder-Beerman. She was a member of several civic clubs, the Emeritus Club, and the Wayside United Methodist Church.

EDWARD E. BLAKE ’69 of Somerset, MA died January 29, 2017. He was a member of Theta Chi fraternity. He was employed with the special needs department at BMC Durfee High School for many years until his retirement and was always committed to working with underprivileged and troubled youth.

GERALD E. DOTSON ’69 of Summersville, WV died February 21, 2017. He earned a degree in sociology. Following college, he attended United Theological Seminary (M.Div. 1974) in Dayton, OH and spent one year at Asbury Seminary in Wilmore, KY. He retired with 37 years of full-time service in the United Methodist Church. Gerald participated in Rotary, Kiwanis (WV Lieutenant Governor), and Cub Scouts (Cub Master). He also served as Secretary of the WV Council of Churches.

TERRELL “TERRY” C. JONES ’71 of Vienna WV died March 19, 2017. He was an athlete and competitor to his core and was drafted out of high school by the Chicago Cubs. He was a member of Theta Chi fraternity. He then began a career in banking with United National Bank. He leaves behind his wife, Candace Dollman Jones ’71.

RAY M. CONRAD ’72 of Powell, TN died January 24, 2017. He was a faithful minister for the United Methodist Church.

AMY FEATHERER SIMONS ’72 of Cape May, NJ died March 19, 2017. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority and later earned a master’s degree in education from Glassboro State (Rowan University). After teaching in Carney’s Point and Pennsville for 10 years, Amy began her own business, Perfect Move, Inc.

MARY ANNA GEMMILL SUMMERS ’72 of Buckhannon, WV died February 4, 2017. She was preceded in death by one son, Jeffrey W. Summers ’96. On May 30, 1970, she married Gary W. Summers ’72, who survives. She was a homemaker and a member of the First United Methodist Church of Buckhannon.

THEODORE R. BROWN ’73 of Winchester, TN died May 20, 2017. He graduated with a degree in philosophy, later earning a master of divinity and doctor of philosophy in Higher Education Administration at Vanderbilt University. He also conducted post-doctoral work at Harvard University. Following Ted’s graduation from Wesleyan, he served as an admissions counselor then assistant director of admissions at the College. John D. “Jay” Rockefeller IV tapped Ted as Director of Volunteer Programs during his gubernatorial campaign in 1975-76 in West Virginia. Ted then served as Assistant Dean and Director of Development at Vanderbilt Divinity School and was ordained a Deacon in the United Methodist Church in 1979. He worked as the Director of Development at Centre College in Danville, KY, and later became Vice President for Development at Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC. He was named the 30th President of Martin
Methodist College in 1998 and retired on January 31, 2017. Shortly after retirement, he assumed the position as Interim Associate General Secretary for Higher Education of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry in Nashville. Ted offered his leadership skills to the South Central Tennessee Workforce Development Board. In 2014, he completed his three-year term as Chair of the Council of Presidents of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). He served on the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry Board of Directors as Vice President for the Division of Higher Education. He was voted as President of the International Association of Presidents of Colleges, Universities, and Universities (IAMSCU). He is survived by his wife, Cheryl Kiser Brown ’73.

DEBORAH PORCHERON BUTTON ’73 of Lyndeborough, ME died January 16, 2017. Her career as a pediatric nurse included work at St. Joseph’s Hospital and Monadnock Community Hospital. She was also the longtime School Nurse at the Mont Vernon Village School. She was a member of Trinity Evangelical Church, a coordinator of Operation Christmas Child shoebox ministry, a volunteer cook for Teen Bible Program, and various other personal ministries.

MARCIA MILLS UNRATH ’74 of Clairton, PA died April 4, 2017.

MISCHELLE R. FRY ’79 of Braddock, PA died March 9, 2017. She graduated with a degree in art education and became a portrait artist in Pittsburgh.

MICHAEL D. SALMONS ’79 of Culloden, WV died June 18, 2017. A graduate of Hamlin High School, he played football and earned a bachelor’s degree in education. He was a charter member, deacon, and leader on the church council at Open Door Bible Church.

LINDA SPEARS MORRISON ’80 of Conifer, CO died May 4, 2017. She was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority. She helped the Elk Creek Volunteer Fire Department, Winter Park Ski, and Littleton Hospital ED.

FLORENCE SISCO BOSS ’83 of Port Charlotte, FL died February 10, 2017. She worked for many years as a bookkeeper in the Newton area then retired from the Sussex County Clerk’s Office as Supervisor of Records after 20 years of service. She and her husband retired to their home in Port Charlotte in 1972.

SARA BAILEY HUNTZ ’91 of Lost Creek, WV died January 15, 2017. She earned a master’s degree in elementary education. She retired from the Lewis County Board of Education after 28 years of service and was once honored and recognized as Teacher of the Year.

LINDA G. EPP ’93 of Buckhannon, WV died May 14, 2017. Linda was one of few female coal miners in the late seventies. She graduated with a degree in nursing. After college, she was commissioned as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army Nurses Corp. After leaving the Army, she worked as a nurse at Sharpe Hospital in Weston, where she later retired.

TRICIA L. HOBBS ’97 of Charlotte, NC died January 26, 2017. She graduated with a degree in psychology. Tricia worked for Wachovia for eight years. She then attended Therapeutic Massage Training Institute and became a massage and body work therapist working for Charlotte Acupuncture for six years. During this time, she obtained her certification in fertility massage, integrative reflexology, and went on to obtain her National Certification in massage therapy.

CASEY COWAN DORAN ’04 of Peters Township, PA died January 29, 2017. She was an active member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority. She also completed her masters in special education at Duquesne University.

TINA DANKLEFSEN ENDICOTT ’04 of Buckhannon, WV died June 15, 2017. She received her bachelor of science in business administration.

RYAN M. MCCULLOUGH ’07 of DeLand, FL died January 22, 2017.

ARTHUR B. HOLMES of Buckhannon, WV died January 8, 2017. He is survived by his wife, Jolanda Stuber Holmes ’84. Dr. Holmes was the dean of the chapel from 1970-1978 and professor of religion until his retirement in 2010. He was an ordained minister of the Florida United Methodist Church. He was member and past President of the West Virginia Humanities Council.


HUGH A. LATIMER, HON. ’79 of Amelia Island, FL died June 14, 2017. He served as president of West Virginia Wesleyan College from 1981 to 1986 where he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. Hal and his wife were active in the churches they attended as well as the organization of the Amelia Island Club, where he served as its first president from 1995-97.

DEBORAH G. LEIGH of Buckhannon, WV died April 5, 2017. She worked in the Chapel Office at Wesleyan for over 10 years.

REGINALD D. OLSON of Monroe, OH died April 23, 2017. He was a professor and faculty advisor at Wesleyan where he initiated the West Virginia Wesleyan Peace Award. He is survived by his daughter, Elizabeth D. Olson ’85.

This is the memorial list as we know it as of June 30, 2017. We apologize for any omission and ask that you please notify the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@wvwc.edu or 304-473-8509.
Will you accept the 1890 challenge?

During the week of October 9, 2017, West Virginia Wesleyan College will observe the school’s 127th anniversary and commemorate the inauguration of our 19th President, Joel Thierstein, J.D., Ph.D.

In honor of these celebrations, we are asking you to help enhance the College’s great tradition and empower its future by making a gift to the Wesleyan Fund. This fund provides scholarship assistance to our most deserving students, allowing alumni and friends an opportunity to support students on their path to graduation.

Whether it’s $18.90, $189, $1,890, or $18,900, a contribution of any size allows Wesleyan to attract and retain a diverse student body and provides our students with access to a life-changing education.

Will you accept the 1890 challenge?
Join WVWC alumni and friends by investing in the College’s future.
October 9-15
The Annex Building was constructed in 1902 and opened in 1903 as the home for the Conservatory of Music, and was only the second academic building constructed on campus after the old Seminary Building. It was a modest structure, costing only $6,500 to construct, but included double-insulated walls for soundproofing inside. Despite the insulation, it was often called “The Music Box” because of the sounds of students practicing that could be heard outside the building. When the Seminary Building burned in 1905, the Annex Building provided a space for classes to continue meeting and helped keep Wesleyan open. After the Loar Hall of Music was opened in 1953, various departments took up residence, including the art department, the Office of Admissions, the Writing Center, and the English Department. During World War I, the Annex was converted into a temporary hospital facility to treat cadets of the Student Army Training Corps who had contracted the Spanish Influenza.

Today, the building is known as the English Annex, housing the English department and classrooms.