

# WITTENBERG

magazine

## From Graffiti to Tofu

Tofurky founder and CEO Seth Tibbott '74  
transforms American dietary habits





# WITTENBERG MAGAZINE SPRING 2021

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Cover photo by Beth Lily Redwood







PHOTO BY John Coffman

Admission tour guides Brysen Dykes '23 and Morgan White '23 take advantage of The Steemer's extensive space as they highlight COVID-19 health and safety protocols. The Steemer became an integral part of the University's COVID response with the facility's connector area serving as an occasional testing site in 2020. Follow Morgan and Brysen on Instagram @WittAdmission as well, where they connect with prospective students.





**EDITOR**  
Karen Saatkamp Gerboth '93

**ART DIRECTION**  
Helga G. Theodors

**ASSISTANT EDITOR/  
CLASS NOTES EDITOR**  
Debbie Ritter

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**  
Judith Merkle Fertig '72  
Cindy Holbrook  
Thomas T. Taylor  
Edward Weinman

**ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE  
AND LIFE UPDATES TO:**  
*Wittenberg Magazine*  
P.O. Box 720  
Springfield, OH 45501-0720  
Email: [wittmagazine@wittenberg.edu](mailto:wittmagazine@wittenberg.edu)

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**Mission** -- Wittenberg University provides a liberal arts education dedicated to intellectual inquiry and wholeness of person within a diverse residential community. Reflecting its Lutheran heritage, Wittenberg challenges students to become responsible global citizens, to discover their callings, and to lead personal, professional, and civic lives of creativity, service, compassion, and integrity.

# The Wittenberg Light

On March 11, 2021, we launched the largest comprehensive campaign in Wittenberg’s history and the first such effort in two decades. For those of you who joined us virtually for the kickoff event, you learned that the campaign theme was inspired by our motto, “Having Light We Pass It On To Others,” and that our goal is \$100 million, but what you might not know is that the campaign has inspired multiple alumni stories – #wittstories, if you will – that reaffirm just how bright the Witt light shines in the world.

I’ve read the profiles several times on the new campaign website, and each one inspires as it relays the distinct paths, memories, opportunities, and relationships Wittenberg made possible. I recently heard the journey students take here described as being in a zig-zag pattern as they move from one zone to another, at times out of their own comfort levels, only to find at the end that they grew and changed in the most unexpected of ways as they found their own light, their passion. I encourage you to read the stories online for yourself at [havinglight.wittenberg.edu](http://havinglight.wittenberg.edu), as well as all the remarkable alumni stories featured in this issue of the *Wittenberg Magazine*.

In the following pages, we see alumni who want a better, safer, healthier, and interconnected world for everyone, and who are willing to Tiger Up each day to make it happen. We see new initiatives led by faculty, the effects of excellence in teaching, leadership in diversity, equity, and inclusion, and a response to the COVID-19 pandemic that should make us all proud.

This past academic year will forever be one to remember, but what stands out most is how our entire community said “we care” and took action to show it. I cannot begin to thank our students, faculty, staff, and alumni for making in-person learning possible. A residential, liberal arts education is what our mission calls us to do, and together, we were able to deliver it safely for the last nine months.

It’s clear each day that the Wittenberg light guides for a lifetime, and when we pass our light, Wittenberg shines. I hope you’ll join me in keeping our light lit for generations.

Best regards,  
Michael L. Frandsen, Ph.D.  
President



## HAVING LIGHT: THE CAMPAIGN FOR WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES

On March 11, the day of Wittenberg's founding back in 1845, alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends joined together virtually for the University's annual Commit to Witt 24-hour day of giving, which resulted in a record-setting \$567,858 in contributions. That evening, Wittenberg also officially launched its \$100-million Having Light: The Campaign for Wittenberg University with a special online presentation.

The first comprehensive campaign in more than two decades, the bold initiative looks to support all that defines the institution, especially the people, who inquire, create, inspire, and compete

here; the place, where we come together as a community and welcome others to learn and grow; and the present, when the next generation of Wittenberg graduates learns to pass on its light. To date, the campaign has surpassed \$78 million and is well on its way to reaching its goal by 2023.

The campaign is being led by a steering committee headed by managing co-chair Janet E. Jackson '75, along with co-chairs Sarah Hagen McWilliams '88 and Wes Bates '70. To help pass the light with a gift, view the full committee list, or review the inspiring campaign pillars, visit [havinglight.wittenberg.edu](http://havinglight.wittenberg.edu).

# Multicultural Commitment

New Director of McClain Center for Diversity connects campus

WRITTEN BY Karen Gerboth and Cynthia Holbrook

Corrine “C.J.” Witherspoon has fond memories of accompanying her father, SG Carthell, currently the senior director of diversity initiatives at Murray State University, to work after school each week at Miami University. In those moments, she often saw him advocating for resources and assisting young people in every way possible. This experience of being on a college campus first sparked Witherspoon’s own interest in higher education, but her years as a student at Miami University solidified her passion for supporting multicultural students, first-generation students, women, and all those in need.

In September, Witherspoon brought her 15 years of experience in the areas of diversity, inclusion, gender, and social justice training, fiscal allocation and management, student advising and support, and personnel management to Wittenberg, where she serves as the University’s first-ever director of the William A. McClain Center for Diversity.

McClain ’34 blazed a trail for the African American community. In 1951, he became the first African American member of the Cincinnati Bar Association after being denied membership twice. He then became the first African American attorney named city solicitor of a major American city, serving the citizens of Cincinnati from 1963-72. McClain later became the first African American judge of the Hamilton County Common Pleas Court. In addition to the Wittenberg Medal of Honor, the University’s highest non-academic award, McClain also received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. He passed away in 2014 at age 101, overjoyed that his alma mater had renamed the former Concerned Black Students House in his name. His legacy is also what inspired Witherspoon to join Wittenberg in this newly created position.

“I’m confident that as a community we will continue to make William A. McClain proud of the Center for Diversity at Wittenberg University,” said Witherspoon, who was named an honorary member of the Class of 2021.

Witherspoon also brings considerable awareness and sensitivity to institutional challenges affecting multicultural student recruitment, retention, matriculation, and graduation.

“I am especially excited about building a program for underrepresented students that embraces an inclusive environment and enhances an appreciation for diversity,” Witherspoon said.

Along with launching Sister Circle talks and the Brotherhood Series, Witherspoon has already coordinated multiple virtual engagement opportunities, discussions, and events designed to empower and support. She is also contributing extensively to new program development, implementation, marketing, retention, and assessment. Additionally, Witherspoon sits on the President’s Council for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, a cross-campus advisory committee, which is leading the University in doing intentional work, according to the best practices in higher education, policy and procedures, and program design and implementation, as it relates to diversity and inclusion.

The recipient of numerous awards including Wittenberg’s 2021 Lillian C. Franklin Diversity Award, the 2013 Miryam Award, the 2016 Miriam Spencer Diversity Ambassador Award, the 2016 UC-Blue Ash Distinguished Service “Rising Star” Award, the 2016 YWCA Rising Star: Cincinnati YWCA, and the 2016 Distinguished Pearl: Sister to Sister Award AKA-Sigma Omega Chapter, Witherspoon is also a current member of the Phi Psi Omega chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. Prior to joining Wittenberg, she served as the assistant director of inclusive excellence and strategic retention at the University of Cincinnati’s College of Engineering and Applied Science.

“Corrine’s exceptional experience in the field of diversity, equity, and inclusion will be invaluable to our community,” said Casey Gill, vice president of student development and dean of students, “as will her collaborative approach to leadership and shared aim of advancing inclusive excellence at our University.”

Witherspoon earned her B.A. in Black world studies and English literature from Miami University in 2003; her master’s in education in college student personnel from Ohio University in 2005; and is currently working on her doctor of education in educational leadership at Northern Kentucky University.





PHOTOS BY John Coffman





PHOTO BY John Coffman



# Educating with Compassion

Associate Professor of Education Brian Yontz  
receives the 2020 Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching

WRITTEN BY Debbie Ritter and Cindy Holbrook

Many students experience first-day-of-school jitters. They might be surprised to learn that their teachers do, too.

Brian Yontz, associate professor of education, recalls his first day of teaching at Wittenberg. As he entered the classroom, he suddenly realized he had been so focused on preparing course content that he had forgotten “to think about how to do ‘first-day-of-class stuff.’”

Panicked – and thinking on the fly – he asked students to introduce themselves and then share a story about the shoes they were wearing that day. He has forgotten all of those stories but one.

“When the last student introduced themselves, they indicated they were wearing combat boots worn while stationed in Afghanistan and serving in the military,” Yontz said. “They had just returned to the States to begin their college career at Wittenberg. They said it was a great privilege to be enrolled at Wittenberg. This student went on to graduate from Wittenberg with both a bachelor’s and master’s degree and is now a leader in their school system. The commitment of that student and the story of their shoes have stayed with me, and they have been a reminder of the privilege of teaching and learning on this campus.”

Yontz was recognized last year for superior classroom teaching with the 2020 Alumni Association Award for Distinguished Teaching, the highest honor the University bestows on faculty members.

While pursuing his master’s degree at Wright State University, Yontz, who comes from a family of educators, worked in the Dayton Public Schools and “saw firsthand that good teaching is the catalyst for developing a wiser and more thoughtful public,” he said.

“Schooling is the only thing that every single citizen participates in, and it seems to me that if we are to progress as a society, schools play a critical role. My love for teaching is centered on the idea that I’m contributing to those that will spend the next 35 years in our nation’s educational institutions.”

Reflecting on what makes him a good teacher, Yontz said, “I am a better teacher than most anything else, so the time that I’m in front of my students is sacred. Teaching is my chance to play Carnegie

Hall or to start in the Super Bowl. Preparing for and teaching students is when I can function at my highest potential. I think students pick up on that.”

Given that Yontz has, in his words, “participated in students’ weddings, sat in the waiting room following surgeries, attended graduate school dissertation defenses, shared sentiments at funerals, published with students, and visited dozens of classrooms now occupied by Wittenberg teachers,” it should come as no surprise that current students and alumni alike described him as “caring,” “a wonderful educator,” and “passionate about education” in comments the Alumni Board received during the award nomination process.

A product of the Springfield City Schools, Yontz came to Wittenberg in 2006 and teaches courses in urban education, educational policy, foundations of education, and urban education at the graduate and undergraduate level. He earned his B.A. from Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky, his M.S. from Wright State University, and his Ph.D. from The Ohio State University.

Yontz has been recognized for his scholarly pursuits, too. In 2015, he won the National Scholar Award from the Association of Independent Liberal Arts Colleges for Teacher Education for research focused on alternative pathways of teacher credentialing.

Currently chair of the department of education, he is quick to praise the outstanding teaching of his colleagues in Blair Hall and across campus, including Wittenberg’s coaches, whom he has come to know while serving as an NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative for the last six years.

“Preparing educators requires three distinct populations: our colleagues in the arts, humanities, and sciences, our colleagues in the K-12 world, and those of us in teacher education,” he said. “I feel blessed to be around the great teachers found in every building on Wittenberg’s campus and in every K-12 school in the region, every single day.”

*Editor’s Note: The 2021 recipient Cynthia Richards, professor of English, will be featured in a future issue.*





## WITTENBERG LAUNCHES NEW INSTITUTE

Thanks to the innovative thinking of Nancy McHugh, professor of philosophy and department chair, the University is now home to the Wittenberg Institute for Public Humanities and Sciences (WIPHS), the first such institute of its kind among Ohio liberal arts colleges.

According to Provost Michelle Mattson, “the importance and growth of public humanities and sciences has been steadily increasing since the early 2000s.” Departments such as philosophy, environmental science, history, and sociology have been actively engaged in public-facing work. The new institute will “unite, support, and move this work forward in a way that benefits and challenges our students, faculty, and University,” Mattson said.

Launched last fall, WIPHS has three signature components. The Race, Place, and Healing Project is well underway as WIPHS collaborates with Dayton’s Public Broadcasting Station, ThinkTV, and several local colleges and libraries to create a one-hour documentary and multi-media project on racial segregation and its legacy in the Miami Valley, particularly redlining, a form of domestic economic-sanctioned discrimination created in the 1930s. The documentary, expected to air in early 2022, will be distributed to all PBS stations in Ohio and available nationally.

Wittenberg faculty, alumni, and staff are involved in the project, including McHugh, who is serving as inaugural WIPHS director, Assistant Professor of Art Elena Dahl, Assistant Professor of Religion Travis Proctor, retired Associate Dean of Multicultural Affairs John Young, Karlos Marshall ’13, and Jhiara Henderson, Kira Bhattarai, and Webby Burgess Applegate, all members of the class of 2021.

At a conference to be held in October at the Dayton Arcade, “Wittenberg students will have the chance to present work and conduct oral history interviews with people who have experienced redlining or who are working to make change in Dayton and Springfield housing,” McHugh said.

Two additional programs include Living Ohio Treasures and the Public Humanities and Science Innovation Lab. The first seeks to develop a digital archive of Ohio Treasures, including interviews and images or recordings of people and artifacts. The second program features members of the public and Wittenberg community bringing WIPHS their ideas for a public-facing project and working jointly to help shape, find funding, and implement the project.

“WIPHS is a mission-driven bright light that can help shape our path forward,” McHugh said. “Not only does it reflect the best of who and what Wittenberg is by combining the academic role and the public-facing role of the University’s mission, but it also creates opportunities for students and faculty through a range of collaborative activities.”

Adam Brown ’13, CEO of ClinArk; Lacey Davidson ’12, assistant professor of philosophy at California Lutheran University; Deacon Dan Jacob ’10, Wittenberg University ministry associate; and Alan Stewart ’69, Wittenberg University board member and physician for the Vincennes Community School Corporation, are serving on the Institute’s advisory board.

*For more information and to follow the Institute’s activities via social media, visit [www.wittenberg.edu/wiphs](http://www.wittenberg.edu/wiphs).*



” STUDENTS WILL ALSO DEVELOP THEIR OWN ‘CROSS-CAMPUS CONNECTION’ THAT WILL INTEGRATE THE CONTENT OF THREE ACADEMIC COURSES WITH THEIR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING REQUIREMENTS.

## NEW GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM EMBRACES EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Spearheaded by the General Education Advisory Committee and recently approved by Wittenberg faculty, a bold overhaul of the University’s general education curriculum is underway and set to launch this fall with the Class of 2025.

Providing a new way for students to engage in courses and the world beyond Wittenberg, yet still grounded in the liberal arts, the approach will require each student to complete three experiential learning components: civic engagement (the current community service requirement) plus two additional opportunities such as an internship, mentored research, a national or international study program, or a leadership experience. Students will also develop their own “cross-campus connection” that will integrate the content of three academic courses with their experiential learning requirements. A culminating reflection experience will then help students articulate and showcase how a liberal arts education has honed their skills and prepared them for graduate school or employment.

The new, outcomes-oriented curriculum will align well with what recent research considers most important to prospective Wittenberg students: job preparation; majors that lead to careers; internships and research opportunities; and job placement rates. It will also continue to emphasize skills that employers are looking for and that Wittenberg has long been known for, from written, verbal communication, problem-solving, and quantitative skills to teamwork, initiative, and leadership.



## ON THE BOOKSHELF



*Racism, Hypocrisy, and Bad Faith: A Moral Challenge to the America I Love*, by **Associate Professor of Philosophy Julius Bailey, Ph.D.**  
(Broadview Press, March 2020)

*Playful Wisdom: Reimagining the Sacred in American Literature, from Walden to Gilead*, by **Professor Emeritus of English Robert Leigh Davis, Ph.D.**  
(Lexington Books, October 2020)

*Sociocide: Reflections on Today’s Wars*, by **Professor Emeritus of Sociology Keith Doubt, Ph.D.**  
(Lexington Books, November 2020)

*Active Learning in Organic Chemistry: Implementation and Analysis*, edited by **Professor of Chemistry Justin B. Houseknecht, Ph.D.**, Alexey Leontyev, Vincent M. Malone, and Catherine O. Welder  
(American Chemical Society, August 2020)

*Medical-Surgical Nursing: Concepts for Interprofessional Collaborative Care, 10th edition*, by Donna D. Ignatavicius, F; M. Linda Workman, Ph.D.; **Professor of Nursing; Cherie R. Rebar, Ph.D., MBA, RN, COI;** and Nicole M. Heimgartner. Contributors include **Director of Nursing Marie Bashaw, DNP, RN, NEABC** and **Professor of Practice Carolyn Gersch, Ph.D.** (Elsevier, October 2020)

*Inward Baptism: The Theological Origins of Evangelicalism* by **former President Baird Tipson, Ph.D.** (Oxford University Press, August 2020)

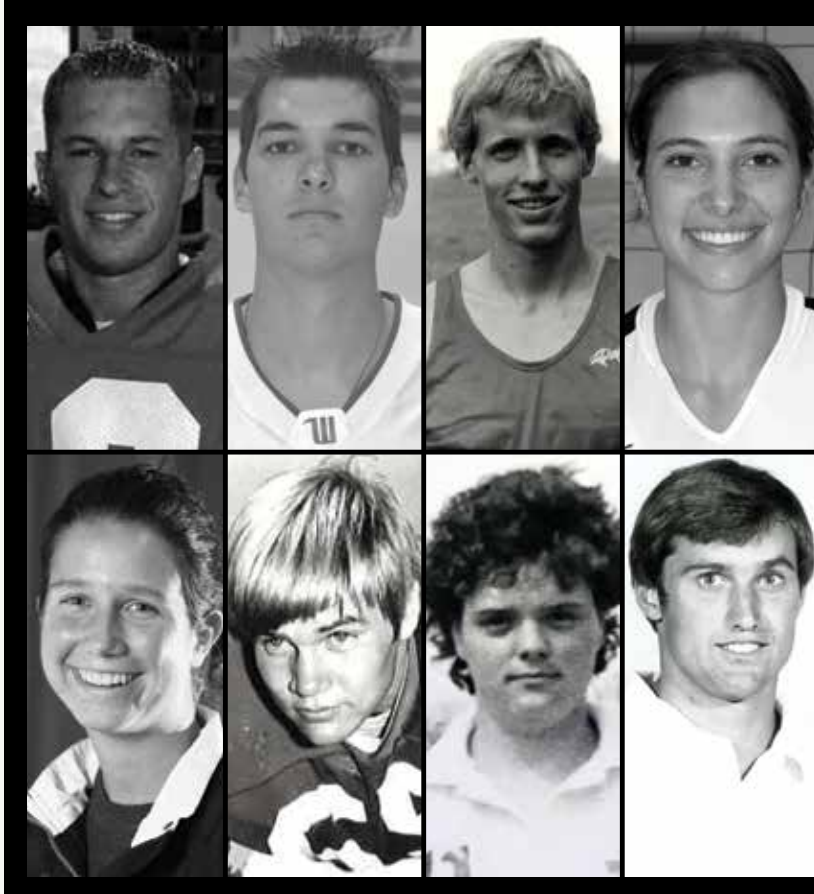


## NEW ATHLETICS LEADER NAMED

Forty-four years after he helped lead the men's basketball team to the 1977 NCAA Division III national championship as a freshman point guard, Brian Agler '80 has returned to Wittenberg as the new vice president and director of athletics and recreation.

After playing one year of professional basketball in Europe, Agler spent 15 years as a college coach, before spending the next 24 years in the professional ranks. A 1995 inductee into the Wittenberg Athletics Hall of Honor and a 2014 inductee into the Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame, Agler most recently spent two years as head coach of the Dallas Wings of the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA).

"An accomplished leader and winner, Brian shares our vision for providing a robust support system for our student-athletes to prepare them for life after college while also advancing Wittenberg's teams to the highest levels of competition within NCAA Division III," President Michael Frandsen said. "His extensive knowledge of all levels of athletics, vast network of connections, and heart for mentoring will also be invaluable as we move Tiger athletics to the next level of excellence, in the competition arenas and beyond."



## HALL OF HONOR

Seven Wittenberg University greats have been selected for induction into the school's Athletics Hall of Honor. Michael Aljancic '02, Dane Borchers '07, Dan Furry '86, Monica McDonald Wright '05, Suzanne Medwid Ambron '09, Dale Pittenger '72, and Jen Weiss '90 will officially join nearly 250 other Wittenberg greats who have previously been inducted. In addition, Steve Moore '74 will become the sixth recipient of the Athletics Hall of Honor Lifetime Achievement Award.

Plans are underway to celebrate the members of the Athletics Hall of Honor Class of 2020 this year with a formal induction ceremony and banquet, health and safety conditions permitting. Event details will be announced as soon as they are finalized.



## UNIVERSITY RESPONDS TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In true Tiger fashion, the Wittenberg community joined together to ensure the health and safety of the entire campus this past year, successfully navigating the global pandemic and reimagining educational delivery and engagement in the process.

Leveraging the medical expertise of Dr. Dave Hopper '63, Dr. Alan Stewart '69, and Dr. Laurice Bargas Moore '95, as well as the Clark County Combined Health District (CCCHD), Wittenberg's COVID Response Team (CRT), which also includes University representatives, played, and continues to play, a pivotal role in Wittenberg's success strategy to date. In total, the University has resolved more than 280 cases, the majority of which occurred during the first two weeks of in-person learning back in August 2020. At press time, the University has zero cases, which testifies to the successful mitigation strategies the CRT and the original campus-wide Health and Safety Working Group implemented. The University's comprehensive approach and the ongoing commitment of students, faculty, and staff to it resulted in Wittenberg's being able to offer an in-person educational experience for the duration of the 2020-2021 academic year.

Throughout the constantly evolving situation, President Frandsen and the CRT kept the campus informed, including providing a special online COVID dashboard and website. Temporary signage regarding expectations and protocols remain visible across campus, and alumni and friends provided much needed financial support through the COVID Crisis Fund the University established in spring 2020. With service at the core of Wittenberg's mission, multiple volunteers also stepped up, delivering more than 1,200 meals to those previously quarantined or in isolation throughout the year.

The pandemic also required reimagining student, faculty, and alumni engagement, along with all campus spaces. Among the 2020 events that shifted to a virtual experience were the traditional Commencement ceremony, Homecoming, Lessons & Carols, MLK and Honors Convocations, as well as New Student Orientation. Alumni were also offered options to stay connected through a successful Virtual Alumni College on the Road series. On campus, tents were set up for outdoor learning, weather

permitting, and classrooms, dining areas, and athletic facilities remain reconfigured for effective social distancing.

In addition, Wittenberg's growing nursing program has played a significant role since the pandemic started, first facilitating the collection and distribution of donated hand sanitizer, gowns, and masks to Mercy Health Springfield Regional Medical Center, and most recently helping with the on-campus vaccination clinic, clinics, April 8 and April 29, in administering the Pfizer vaccine.

While adjustments had to be made to the 2020-21 academic calendar, and the traditional spring break was replaced with three special Tiger Time respite days, the Wittenberg community continued to find ways to stay connected. Regular e-news updates were sent to students, and the Offices of the Pastor, Student Involvement, and Residence Life collaborated to host a range of fun functions such as "Art After Dark" and "Grab and Go" projects since students arrived on campus in August, among many other creative pursuits.

With fall and winter competition cancelled, Wittenberg's athletics program maintained practice schedules in accordance with COVID-19 safety standards. Coaches and athletics staff members also assisted with last year's mass-testing event and recent vaccination clinics, and took a lead with contact tracing. The Susan Hirt Hagen Center for Civic and Urban Engagement also partnered with the CCCHD to offer students the opportunity to make contact-tracing calls.

With the arrival of the second semester, Tiger athletics teams resumed safe competition, starting with basketball, track and field, and swimming and diving, each of which completed limited, non-traditional schedules without championship competition in January and February. Fall teams completed limited exhibition game schedules during the months of March and April, while spring teams resumed mostly traditional game and championship schedules after the cancellation of their 2020 seasons.

The University also hosted in-person Commencement Exercises for the Class of 2021 on May 15, and for the Class of 2020 on May 16.





PHOTO BY Beth Lily Redwood



# From Graffiti to Tofu

It took 40 years for Seth Tibbott '74 to become an overnight success, he jokes. However, the self-described naturalist, who never took a business class, has used his entrepreneurial skills to transform the dietary habits of Americans.

WRITTEN BY Edward Weinman

Klickitat County, in Washington State, has only one stoplight. For the most part, there isn't much to do in this sleepy county, located in the Columbia River Gorge.

This nothingness, says Seth Tibbott, turned out to be the key to his "stick-to-itiveness" – or stubbornness, as his wife says – which over the course of 40 years saw him cobble together a \$50-million business out of his company Tofurky (originally, Turtle Island Foods), which produces plant-based alternatives to meat that are derived from tofu and wheat protein.

"It took a long time, but I had no other option but to make my business succeed," Tibbott said.

The idiosyncratic naturalist whose wanderlust brought him from the campus of Wittenberg to the rain of the Pacific Northwest had no other career options once he settled in the town of Trout Lake, other than working for the forest service, logging, or laboring on one of the many orchards dotting rural Washington and Oregon, farmland divided by the mighty Columbia River.

"I made \$30,000 from my business," Tibbott said, which at the time was selling tempeh. Not bad for a new business, except for the fact this was his total income over 10 years.

"I was learning to live on very little money. My business worked because it had to work. I had to make it profitable because there was no other option for me.

"No way out except forward. On death's ground," he said, referencing Sun Tzu's *The Art of War*.

It wasn't a straight line from the days when Tibbott set up

shop in an old elementary school in Forest Grove, Oregon, creating what he calls the country's first five-grain tempeh to his multi-million-dollar Tofurky. He slept on the floor of his business. Drove a beat-up Datsun literally held together (the front door, at least) by bungee cord. And rented out rooms to two clowns named Ace and Space.

It was a period when Tibbott experienced long bouts of "existential nausea."

"That's my code word for being stuck in a place where you're trying to figure your way out. You've lost your bearings. Lost your vision and are just existing," Tibbott said about his life at the time he turned 40.

Oh, he also lived in a treehouse.

Living in a treehouse led Tibbott to write a few articles about, well, living in a treehouse, which led to him conducting research to write a book about treehouses, which led to him bunking with a bank robber.

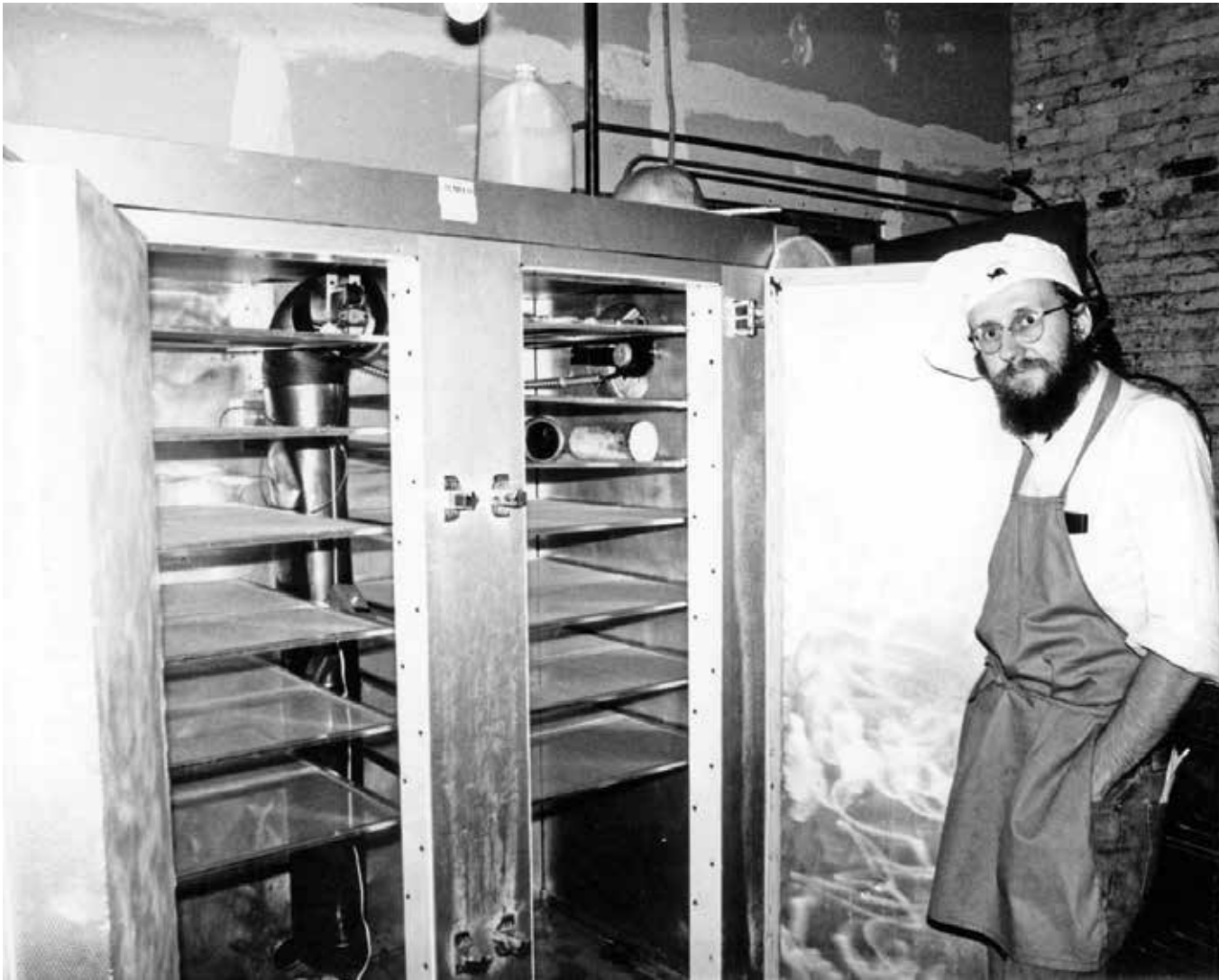
"I traveled all around to research this book. There was this one guy in Olympia [Washington] who always had this new stuff in his treehouse. I always wondered where he got his money. Where he got all this stuff. Turned out he was a bank robber. Robbed 40 banks in Seattle. He would rob banks, then go up into this tree until things calmed down, and rob again."

What happened to this bank robber? Tibbott said he died in a shootout. What happened to the book about treehouses?

"No publisher wanted it. I'm pretty good at failing," he said.

Tibbot wasn't a failure. He had the right idea—increase the





awareness of plant-based foods to wean people off of animal proteins in a sustainable way—but at the wrong time. This was the 1980s when few Americans thought about plant-based protein, but with no way out from his business, he had to move forward.

Tibbott started experimenting with tofu, which led to a Tofurky Holiday Roast—a tofu loaf with rice and bread crumb stuffing that a vegetarian would eat on Thanksgiving, rather than just sticking with side dishes. Tofurky hit in 1995.

“We sold 800 roasts for Thanksgiving that year and that pivot in business changed my life.”

From \$30,000 over 10 years to what’s estimated to be about \$50 million in annual revenue with products like vegan sausages, vegan burgers, and vegan turkey sold in 27,000 U.S. grocery stores is some pivot. In 2019, he had expected to sell more than 400,000 Tofurky Holiday Roasts, according to CNBC. Tibbott explained that his Tofurky took off at such a pace that once he

had to put *The Washington Post* on hold, because *The New York Times* was calling him.

He no longer needs to live in a treehouse.

Tibbott’s journey into vegetarianism began at Wittenberg when a fellow student cooked him lentils, rice, and onions for dinner. That was his “eureka moment,” he said, when he realized good food didn’t have to include meat. However, he wasn’t interested in business. He went to Wittenberg during the height of the Vietnam War. He saw business as a place where progressive ideas didn’t materialize.

“Business was the generals: General Motors, General Foods, General Electric. Business was not where I saw social change.”

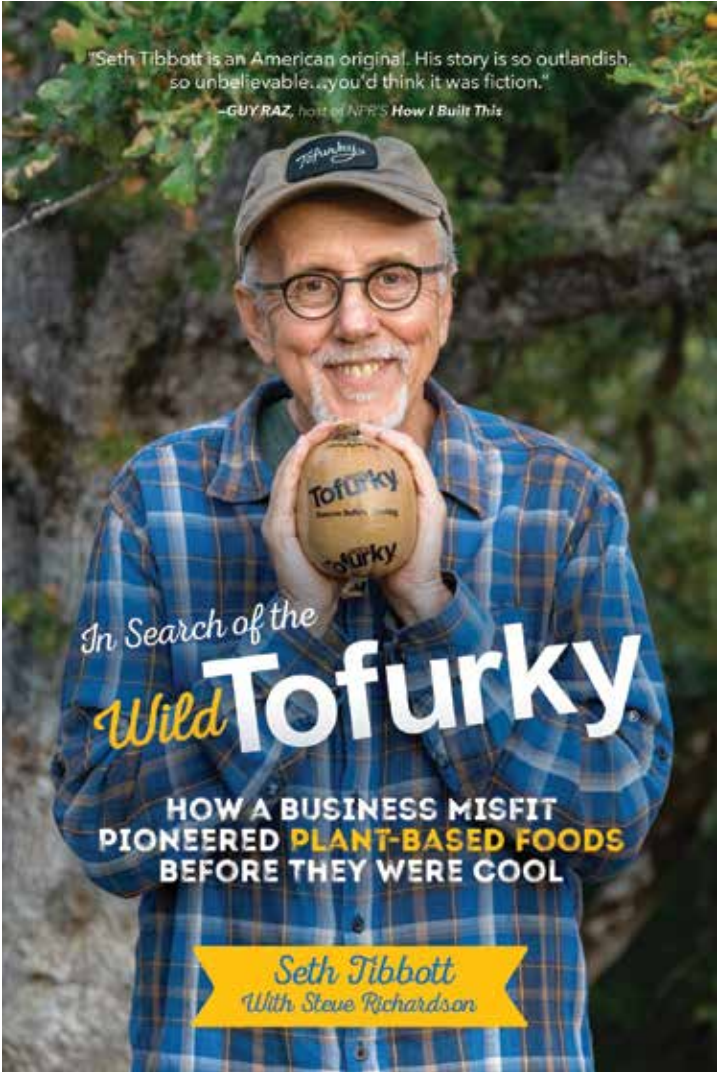
Despite not taking a business class (which he now regrets), Tibbot said his entrepreneurial skills were honed at Wittenberg because he had the freedom to take numerous independent-study classes, including one sociology class where he wrote a paper about graffiti.



PHOTO CAPTIONS

1. Tibbott's first tempeh production kitchen, 1981  
(Photo courtesy of The Tofurky Company)
2. Popular Tofurky products  
(Photo courtesy of The Tofurky Company)
3. Cherry Grove Center outdoor school, 1979  
(Photo by Jan Muir)
4. Tibbott's 2020 book cover  
(Photo courtesy of Beth Lily Redwood)
5. Roof of Tofurky Plant in Hood River, Oregon  
(Photo courtesy of The Tofurky Company)





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MY MISSION HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO OFFER AN ALTERNATIVE TO ANIMAL PROTEIN DIETS.

“I had the opportunity to travel around Ohio and compare graffiti in different neighborhoods. Those experiences taught me how to order off the menu, but also that I could create something, take life, and steer it,” Tibbott said.

Then an elementary education major, Tibbott was student-teaching at an elementary school in Springfield with a teacher who was part of the school’s “corporal punishment team.” Tibbott was opposed to corporal punishment, so he asked his advisor if he could switch classrooms, but that wasn’t possible so he quit the school, dropped out of Wittenberg, and migrated down to Glen Helen, Ohio, where he “lucked” into an internship at the Outdoor Education Center. After the internship, he helped to start a new outdoor school program in Adams County.

Creating a new school not only further developed his business skills, but he became a naturalist, “was turned onto birds, took long hikes and walked abandoned roads over to the Great Serpent Mounds,” along Ohio Brush Creek. This experience sparked his wanderlust.

“I worked at the outdoor school, making \$25 per week plus room and board, and then returned to Wittenberg to finish my elementary education degree, teaching first graders at an open classroom school in Fairborn near Dayton. They offered me a job after I got my degree, but I had a curiosity for the West Coast, so off I went with my college roommate to Oregon.”

This was in 1974 where, after a spell teaching at an outdoor school near Portland, Tibbott started the company that 20

years later would become The Tofurky Company, a story he documented in his book, *In Search of the Wild Tofurky: How a Business Misfit Pioneered Plant-Based Foods Before They Were Cool*.

Today, the agriculture sector is now recognized as one of the world’s biggest sources of climate-altering gases. If cows were their own country, they would be the third-biggest greenhouse gas emitter in the world. Plant-based proteins are ubiquitous. Beyond Meat has a product in McDonald’s. Burger King sells the Impossible Burger. Tibbott’s company is different. He doesn’t try to make his products taste like turkey or burgers. He wants them to taste like tofu.

Take granola. That was hippie food when Tibbott was in college that hit the mainstream, he said. He thought tempeh would do the same. He was wrong. Turned out to be tofu.

“My mission has always been to offer an alternative to animal protein diets. They always say in business, ‘Cut out the middleman and you can do well.’ I cut out the middle part of the protein machine. Rather than feeding grain to animals and then animals to people, we feed the grains right to people.”

Tibbott’s motto has always been: “Create something where there is a need. And try to be less stupid.”

“I’ve lived a meaningful life. It’s been a lot of fun to live. And still is.

“I’m definitely one of the pioneers of this modern era of plant-based foods. And it all comes back to that little lentils, rice, and onions meal I had at Wittenberg.”



# Color Therapy for Your Plate

An award-winning and best-selling author of more than 20 cookbooks, Judith Merkle Fertig '72, whose recipes have graced the covers of *Eating Well* magazine, creates dishes that nourish both body and spirit.

WRITTEN BY Judith Merkle Fertig '72

Amid gray days and cold weather - not to mention a pandemic - our thoughts turn to binge-watching Netflix in front of the fire.

But our thoughts really should turn to the kitchen.

As alumni of a wonderful liberal arts university, we've all experienced aha! moments when we listened to music, read a moving passage, got hands-on experience, or looked at something beautiful.

Now it's time our sense of taste got some continuing education.

Brightly flavored and colorful recipes, making use of seasonal vegetables and fruits, really can tempt the tastebuds and lift the spirit.

It's as easy as stocking up on pomegranates, Valencia and blood oranges, Meyer lemons, cauliflower, dark greens, and winter squash.

The aim is to get more color on the plate, more of the good stuff.

For cocktail hour, squeeze a fresh new juice, like blood orange or Meyer lemon. Even a tiny glass of fresh-squeezed citrus juice perks up the darkest day.

Try a new salad green like baby kale, mâche (also known as

lamb's lettuce or corn salad), or Belgian endive. Channel your inner chef and arrange a mix of baby greens on a rectangular plate like a necklace, dotted with tiny segments of orange, pomegranate arils, and pistachios. Drizzle over an easy vinaigrette: Boil ½ cup of pomegranate juice until it has reduced by half; let cool, then whisk with a few tablespoons of olive oil, a teaspoon of Dijon mustard, and salt and pepper. Then dig in.

Or cut a spaghetti squash in half lengthwise, remove seeds, and roast, cut-side down, in a 400-degree oven for about 40 minutes or until soft. When cooled, fork out the golden strands of squash—like spaghetti—and mix in a bowl with your favorite marinara sauce, warmed, and sprinkle with grated Parmesan for a full-flavored vegetarian main dish or a side dish. Compost the squash rind.

Add color with a vermilion-hued Romesco sauce, made with ground almonds, roasted red peppers, garlic, and olive oil; it tastes good on just about anything. Likewise, green salsa verde that you can just stir together.

And if you're in the mood to experiment, try my recipe for Grilled Cauliflower Paillards with Orange-Olive Pistou. A "paillard," as French majors know, is a thin slice of chicken



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DURING THE DOLDRUMS—AND ESPECIALLY DURING THE PANDEMIC—WE CAN GET IN A RUT WITH THE WAY WE EAT. THE WAY OUT IS THROUGH COLOR AND FLAVOR.





# Grilled Cauliflower Paillards with Orange-Olive Pistou

In *The Gardener and the Grill*, we grilled cauliflower slices then topped them with a tomatillo salsa, but when we saw Jason Neroni's vegan dish served at Superba Snack Bar in Los Angeles, we said "ooh-la-la!" and adapted it here. One large cauliflower will yield about six (1-inch/2.5-cm) paillards, with two of the slices being the end pieces. Only cut part of the core, because if you remove too much, the paillard will fall apart.

## SERVES 2 TO 3

¼ cup (50 ml) extra-virgin olive oil  
Juice of 1 lemon  
2 oranges (14 ounces/435 g), peeled, segmented, and coarsely chopped  
½ cup (90 g) green olives (such as Manzanilla or Picholine), pitted and coarsely chopped  
¼ cup (40 g) golden raisins  
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped  
2 tablespoons coarsely chopped flatleaf parsley  
Kosher or sea salt and freshly ground black pepper  
1 large head (2 ½ pounds/1.25 kg) cauliflower, part of core and green leaves removed  
Olive oil for brushing  
Kosher or sea salt

Prepare an indirect medium-hot fire in your grill. For the Orange-Olive Pistou, stir the olive oil, lemon juice, orange segments, olives, raisins, garlic, and parsley together in a bowl. Season with salt and pepper and set aside.

Cut the cauliflower from top to bottom into 1-inch-thick (2.5 cm) slices and place on a baking sheet. Brush the cauliflower with olive oil and salt to taste. Place the cauliflower slices over the hot fire and grill for 2 minutes per side to get good grill marks, and then move to the indirect or no-heat side of the grill. Close the lid and grill-roast for another 10 minutes, until the cauliflower slices still hold together but are tender when pierced with a fork.

To serve, shingle or overlap the cauliflower slices on a platter and spoon the Orange-Olive Pistou down the center.

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Excerpted from *BBQ Bistro: Simple, Sophisticated French Recipes for Your Grill* by Karen Adler and Judith Fertig. Copyright © 2015. Available from Running Press, an imprint of Hachette Book Group, Inc.



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Wittenberg Magazine invites alumni to share their recipe success photos @judithfertig and at @wittmagazine.

or salmon, usually served in Parisian bistros as “fast food.” My barbecue cookbook co-author Karen Adler and I used cauliflower, with delicious results.

First, whisk together an easy sauce of fresh orange, green olives, parsley, and olive oil. Then head out to the grill (indoors, put a grill pan on the stovetop over medium-high heat) and grill cauliflower until crisp-tender. Top with the pistou and enjoy.

*For more on recipes designed to delight, explore Fertig’s cookbooks at [judithfertig.com](http://judithfertig.com).*

#### EDUCATION

Wittenberg University, B.A. in English  
École de Cuisine La Varenne, Paris  
The Cordon Bleu, London  
The Iowa Writers’ Workshop

#### COOKBOOKS

Author or co-author of more than 20 cookbooks, including:  
*Prairie Home Cooking* (James Beard Award nominee)  
*All-American Desserts*  
*The Gardener and the Grill*  
*The Back in the Swing Cookbook: Recipes for Eating and Living Well Every Day After Breast Cancer*  
(2013 IACP Cookbook Award winner)  
*Patio Pizzeria*  
*Bake Happy*  
*BBQ Bistro*  
*Red, White, and 'Que*

#### NOVELS

*The Cake Therapist*  
*The Memory of Lemon*

#### PUBLICATIONS

Fertig’s food and lifestyle writing has appeared in:  
*Bon Appetit*  
*Eating Well*  
*Food & Wine*  
*Vegetarian Times*  
*Better Homes & Gardens*  
*Saveur*  
*Country Living*  
*Southern Living*  
*Cooking Light*  
*The New York Times*  
*The London Sunday Times*

#### MEMBERSHIPS

Les Dames d’Escoffier  
The International Association of Culinary Professionals (IACP)  
Kansas City Barbeque Society





A supporter of the theatre arts, Kessler serves as board chair for The Human Race Theatre Company in Dayton, Ohio.





# Coaching for Life

Selected by the *Dayton Business Journal* as one of the city's brightest young professionals, Andrew "AJ" Kessler '06 is working hard to make the world a better place for others. A manager in the health care industry, supporter of the theatre arts, and advocate for the LGBTQIA+ community, Kessler discussed his leadership philosophy and offered advice on how to adapt to the challenges of the pandemic.

WRITTEN BY Debbie Ritter



**Wittenberg Magazine:** Describe your role as the south region manager for CareSource Life Services® and JobConnect Ohio.

**AJ Kessler:** I lead seven life coaches who work directly with CareSource members to achieve life goals. The life coach assesses the member's current situation, including their aspirations and any existing barriers or challenges. Life coaching is non-clinical and non-prescriptive; the member leads the dialogue and must take action in order for it to be successful. Our life coaches must be adaptive in their approach and support, and all of them are well versed in the resources available in the communities they serve (of course, this is an ecosystem that is changing constantly, especially during the pandemic).

I am responsible for providing my team with the resources and guidance they need to do their jobs effectively. I create and drive strategy for my region and forge connections with local organizations, building relationships that are beneficial for all. I also serve as chair of the CareSource Equity Council, which assists and oversees employee resource groups that highlight the unique talents and challenges of historically marginalized communities.

**WM:** What new challenges are you facing as a manager during the pandemic? How do you keep your staff motivated and productive?

**AK:** I don't feel as though the pandemic has created new workplace issues so much as highlighted existing concerns.

Remaining engaged with team members and creating a productive environment are constant challenges for leaders, pandemic or not. The basics of teambuilding remain the same in any environment: emphasizing the person over the employee, maintaining regular contact and supporting authentic dialogue, listening and asking powerful questions, encouraging self-care, and establishing appropriate boundaries. Implementing these practices looks different in the "virtual world" and remaining flexible is key.

For CareSource Life Services, the ability to meet face-to-face has been suspended. There is no substitute for an in-person connection, and there is no doubt in my mind that relationships with internal and external clients have suffered because of the pandemic. Accepting this reality and trusting that it is temporary are the first steps to working through it. We make the most of the situation and utilize technology, meeting over the phone or via video conference. I try to lead with optimism rooted in reality, and I trust that we will be well poised to greet the post-pandemic world if we remain focused on what is truly important.

**WM:** Do CareSource Life Services coaches have skills that would be helpful for others to implement in their own lives?

**AK:** The crux of coaching is simple: one must believe that your client is an unbroken, talented individual with the ability to make good choices. Coaching is strength-based. That doesn't mean ignoring a person's shortcomings; rather, it takes all

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positive and negative attributes into account and focuses on the full utilization of assets in order to overcome obstacles and mitigate weaknesses. The fundamentals of coaching are empathy, active listening, effective questioning, and accountability. A person can implement these techniques in almost any situation.

**WM:** Has your staff had to come up with solutions to new problems, or even new solutions to old problems? How do you find innovative solutions during a pandemic?

**AK:** From my perspective, CareSource members aren't experiencing new challenges, but old struggles have been highlighted or exacerbated because of the circumstances created by the pandemic. Accessing resources has been harder for everyone this year, especially for those who had fewer resources already. A major divide that already existed but has certainly widened this year is the technology gap. When many workplaces and schools went virtual last year, it was easy for those of us with home computers, smartphones (and data plans to go with them), tablets, and internet access to adapt to the new circumstances. People who didn't (or still don't) have these items have been left further behind unless a conscious effort was made to equip all employees or students with them.

My team has been finding new solutions to old problems since the inception of CareSource Life Services in 2015. We focus on the social determinants of health: the life circumstances that affect your health but aren't typically considered "health care"

(e.g., access to healthy food, reliable transportation, safe and affordable housing, quality education, social supports, etc.). This hasn't changed due to the pandemic. Innovation boils down to building connections and collective impact; creating a vibrant, loving community is the key to finding sustainable solutions.

**WM:** How do we adapt what we normally do in our everyday lives to reach success or at least continue on the path toward our life goals?

**AK:** We all need to admit and accept that this year has been traumatic; many of us have lost loved ones, everyone has missed out on time with family and friends, things that should have been celebrated either lost their sheen or weren't noted at all. Because of this, none of us is working at full capacity, and that's okay. If you have a goal that has remained important to you throughout the pandemic, allow yourself the latitude to work on it slowly if you have the emotional or physical bandwidth to work on it at all. Break major tasks down into smaller, more reasonable pieces or milestones. Additionally, force yourself to exercise work/life balance when feasible. The important thing is to stay alive, to make smart decisions, and to understand that life will look different on the other side of COVID-19. Practice patience and embrace your resilience.



# Advocating for Equity

Public health researcher Marie Ojo '18 launches consulting business centered on evidence and equity

WRITTEN BY Debbie Ritter

Growing up in Nigeria, Marietta “Marie” Ojo '18 saw firsthand the health inequities that plagued the developing country. Then as a first-generation immigrant and Black woman in America, she struggled to navigate the U.S. health care system. But it wasn't until she took Professor of Philosophy Nancy McHugh's Global Health Justice course that she found “the language to describe or even address what I had been experiencing all this while,” she said.

“I learned about the history of racism in health care and its different manifestations 'til this day. I discovered grassroots movements and advocacy initiatives that help make health care more accessible, and I knew I wanted to be a part of that work.”

Ojo earned a Master of Public Health in epidemiology with a global health concentration from Columbia University last year. She now works as a research analyst at the Center for Home Care Policy & Research at the Visiting Nurse Service of New York.

“In this role, I work closely with a team of multidisciplinary researchers to conduct research that addresses key issues affecting the quality, cost, and outcomes of home- and community-based services in New York City,” Ojo said.

At Columbia, she found a group of women of color who share her concerns about equity and access, and together they have

launched Evidence & Equity, a public health research and consulting group.

“Our mission is to amplify the voices and leverage the strengths of our communities to shape public health research and dismantle systems that contribute to health inequities,” Ojo said. “We provide consultation services to organizations and community groups who are committed to elevating the voices of groups who have been historically excluded from the research process, to inform their work and practice. We're stepping into a space that is dominated by people who neither look like us nor share our backgrounds, and we are excited to leverage these strengths as we aim to empower our communities.”

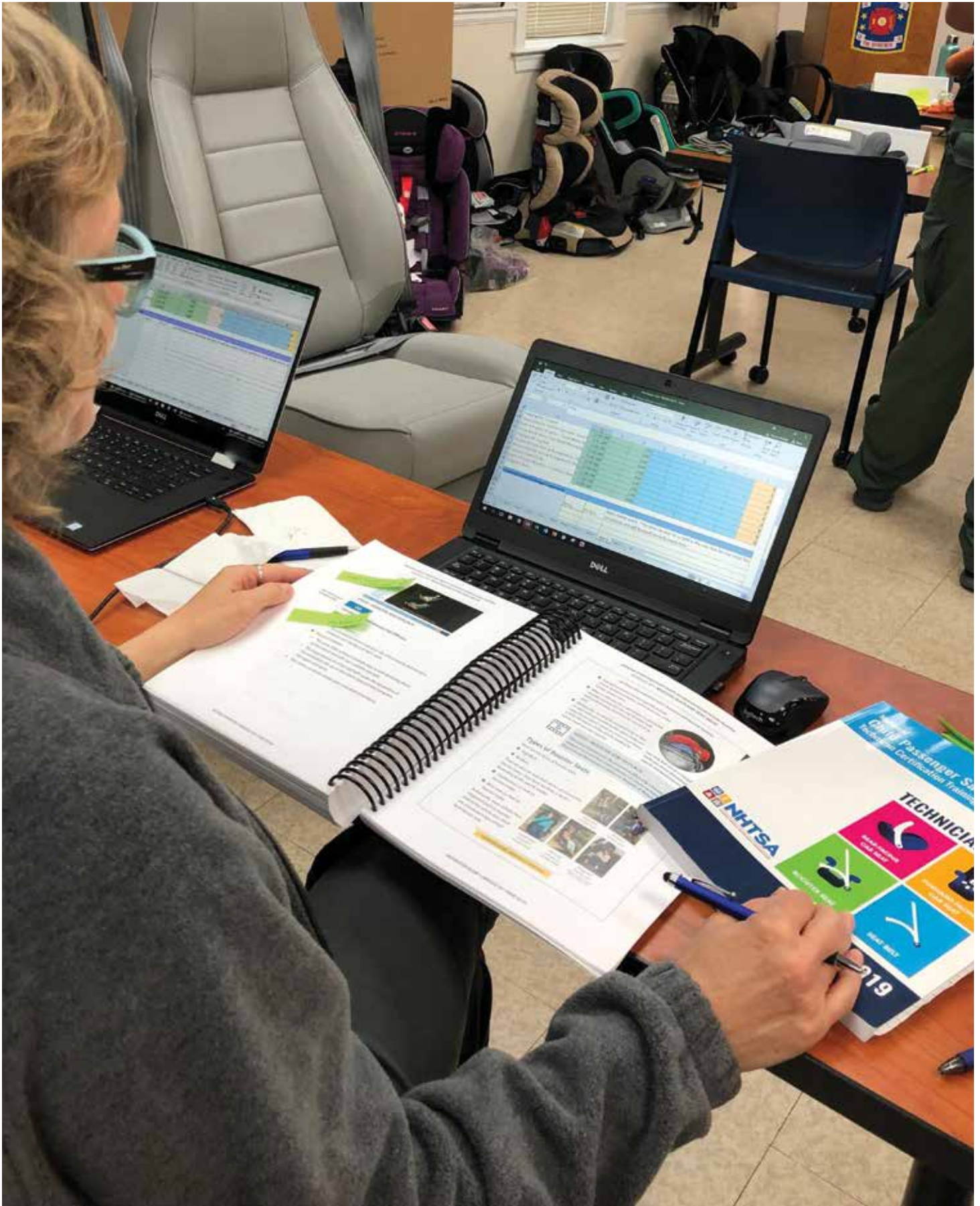
“I'm passionate about using my research to develop policies and interventions that improve health outcomes for disenfranchised communities,” said Ojo, who noted the disproportionate impact the coronavirus pandemic has had on minority populations.

“Wittenberg allowed me to explore my interests in a way that I had not anticipated,” she said. “I entered the university with an image of who I was and what my goals were, but through friendships and mentorships, I graduated with a completely different view of the world and my purpose.”



PHOTO BY FA Photography





# Keeping Kids Safe

From volunteer to child passenger safety expert, Tammy Franks '90 has forged a career path focused on this singular objective.

WRITTEN BY Debbie Ritter

In 1997 when her newborn son, Cameron, was six weeks old, first-time mother Tammy Franks '90 went to a community car seat checkup event to make sure she had installed her baby's car seat correctly.

She was alarmed to find she hadn't.

The plush insert she had received as a baby shower gift – not approved by the car seat manufacturer for use in her car seat – caused an improper harness fit.

Horrified that she had potentially put her son at risk for injury, Franks jumped at the opportunity a few months later to volunteer at a checkup event and help other families avoid making the same mistake. She discovered a passion for child passenger safety, and volunteering evolved into part-time work and then a full-time career.

More than two decades later, Franks is now a leading child passenger safety expert working for the National Safety Council (NSC) and serving as secretariat and past chairperson of the National Child Passenger Safety Board (NCPSB).

"I basically created my own career path," said Franks, who entered the field in its infancy and became certified as a Child Passenger Safety (CPS) technician and instructor in 1999.

Early on, she was invited to attend a national conference where she found a community of people with a shared passion

for keeping kids safe. She started volunteering to help with the transportation needs of premature infants at a hospital in Portland, Oregon, where she lived at the time.

"Babies were going home smaller and smaller, and we didn't have car seats to fit them, so they went home in car beds," she said. "I helped educate families on how to use the car beds."

Volunteering eventually turned to paid work. She was hired in 2007 by Randall Children's Hospital at Legacy Emanuel and worked to develop a system-wide, hospital-based child passenger safety program that included inpatient, outpatient, and community outreach programs designed to help families and caregivers select and properly install a car seat, as well as provide transportation resources to children with special needs.

"When I started at Legacy Health, we were only doing a few hours of community outreach a month," Franks said.

"With the support of the hospital administration, we grew it from an outreach program of a few community events a year to running a permanent checkup station with car seat checks daily and direct patient care," she continued. "We rounded every day in the NICU, and we were on call for all the other units. We did seating evaluations for children with special needs both in the hospital and receiving outpatient care and also as a community service."



Realizing that access to services was a major issue for some of the Portland-area communities, Franks helped create a traveling car seat station.

“We were going to the people rather than having the people come to us,” she said. “We were providing car seat checks for children throughout Oregon and southern Washington,” in addition to no-cost or low-cost car seat distribution programs.

Simply put, “it’s about the kids,” she said.

“I have a special place in my heart for children with special needs. Families are so desperate to find the services because they’re difficult to find and often there are so many pieces to the care of a child with special needs,” she explained.

A decade ago, when the field was relatively new, medical care teams often did not have information to pass along to families about how to safely transport their children or know about insurance coverage. Franks became an advocate for those children and their families, developing relationships with community funders to help out when insurance didn’t cover the specialized car seats needed.

“I got very creative finding funding sources and building those relationships,” she said. “I laugh, because one of the first things I told them when I hired on at Legacy Health was that I don’t ask for money. You can ask me to do pretty much anything, but I am not comfortable asking for money. By the end, that’s really a lot of what I was doing – asking for money to help cover the cost of specialized car seats when insurance didn’t.”

Franks also spearheaded a car safety seat recycling program at Legacy Health – only the second one in the country at that time – that “helped to divert about 10,000 car seats from the landfills and inspire recycling programs across the country,” she said. She brought the conversation to a national level by presenting at national conferences in conjunction with car seat manufacturers, encouraging them to put recycling information in their instruction manuals and recycling symbols on their car seats.

As a CPS instructor, Franks has travelled from Alaska to Maine, half the states in between, and Canada and Ireland to present at conferences, lead seminars, and provide training on how to transport “the smallest of babies discharging from the neonatal intensive care unit to the most medically-involved child to the escape artist,” she said.

“I flew across the country to teach because very few people had the expertise. I love educating, I thrive on the passion in the classroom and that energy.”

When Franks earned her certifications in the late 1990s, it was just a year after the national standardized curriculum had been released. She was instructor No. 534. Today, more than 160,000 people have been certified as CPS technicians, and Franks, a program manager for the NSC since 2018, leads transportation-related curriculum development in collaboration with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). The position appealed to her desire to address behavior change at the national level.



PHOTO COURTESY OF National Highway Traffic Safety Administration



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I WORKED DAILY WITH CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION NEEDS, FROM THE SMALLEST OF BABIES DISCHARGING FROM THE NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT TO THE MOST MEDICALLY INVOLVED CHILD TO THE ESCAPE ARTIST. WHEN I CONNECTED WITH FAMILIES AND WE FOUND A SOLUTION THAT WORKED, THIS BROUGHT ME GREAT JOY.

She recently helped launch a free introductory e-learning course for individuals interested in learning more about child passenger safety, in particular when and how to use rear-facing car seats, forward-facing car seats, booster seats, and seat belts. She’s planning more online modules for professionals in health care, law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services who are often required to complete training as part of their employment.

“That’s what I love about this job – finding ways to engage the learner and to find their passion and really encourage them so that they can apply it and help families and keep kids safe,” she said.

She praises Wittenberg for helping to develop her communication and critical thinking skills, as well as providing leadership opportunities.

“I am comfortable with asking ‘why’ and working to identify solutions to streamline and/or improve practices,” she said.

Deeply dedicated to her industry, Franks is a board member of KIDZ IN MOTION, a nonprofit that delivers the only national child passenger safety conference each year, and participates as an advocate on several car seat manufacturer advisor councils.

Originally from Burton, Ohio, and now relocated to

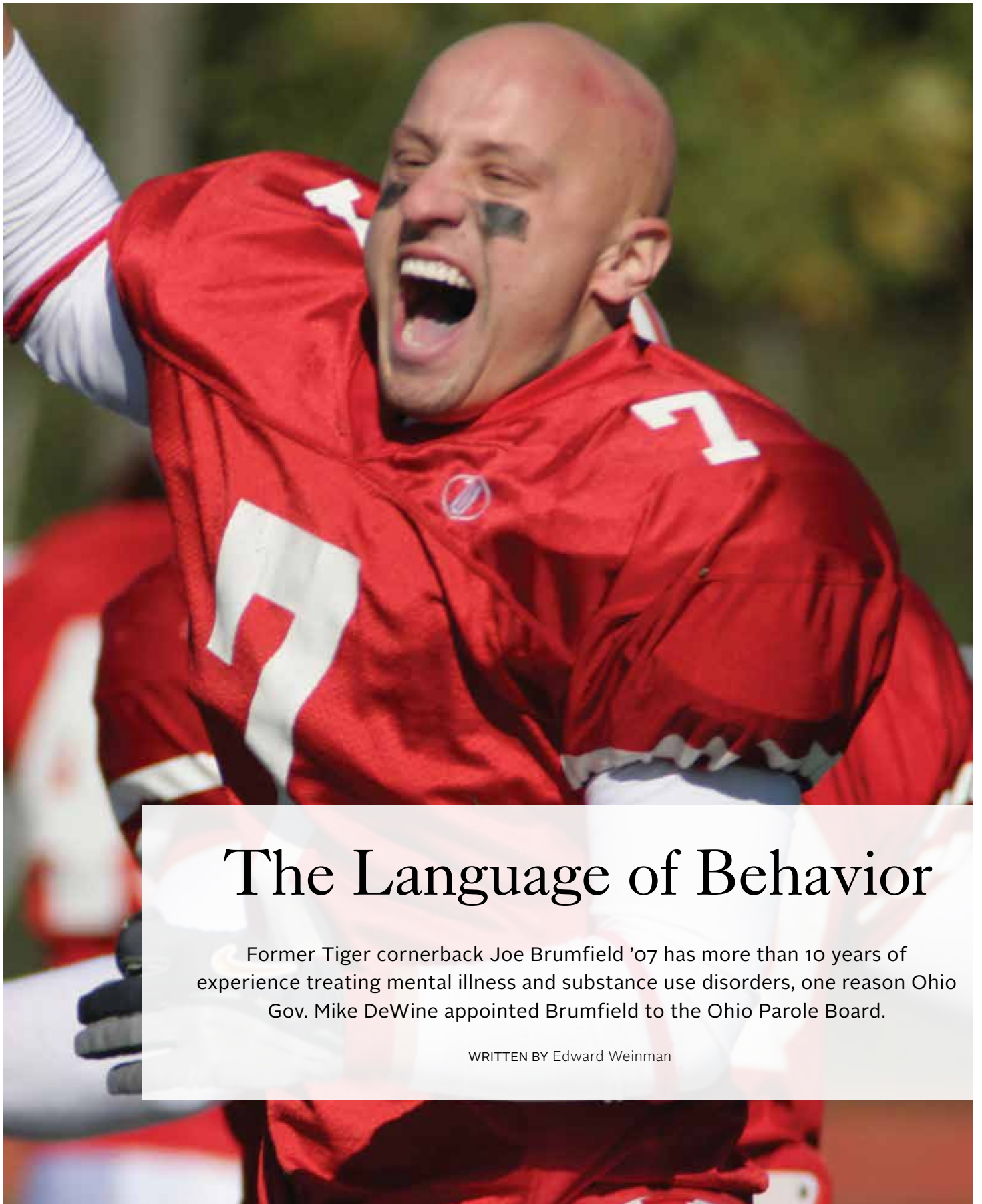
northeastern Ohio from Oregon, Franks was a political science and German double major with a minor in global studies at Wittenberg. Her daughter, Anya Bennett ’22, is following in her footsteps, pursuing the same majors and even being advised by the same faculty member.

“I was so honored and excited to have her choose to attend Wittenberg,” Franks said. “Her father [Steve Bennett ’91] and grandmother [Bonnie Beran Franks ’68] also attended Wittenberg. I knew the moment that I stepped onto campus that it was the place for me. I wanted Anya to have that same feeling, and she did.”

As for Cameron, the newborn son who proved to be the catalyst for her career? A recent graduate of Oregon State University, he’s a transportation engineering intern in Boise, Idaho.

Franks describes her career as “an amazing and fulfilling journey,” and one she has no intention of slowing down from any time soon.

“Our work is not done,” she emphasized. “Car crashes continue to be a leading cause of death for children between the ages of one and 14. Work needs to be done to make certain that education and resources are available and accessible to all families.”



# The Language of Behavior

Former Tiger cornerback Joe Brumfield '07 has more than 10 years of experience treating mental illness and substance use disorders, one reason Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine appointed Brumfield to the Ohio Parole Board.

WRITTEN BY Edward Weinman



“Behavior is like language,” said Joe Brumfield who, in addition to his private therapy practice, serves on the Ohio Parole Board.

“We learn it, and we can learn new ways of behaving if we are motivated enough.”

The former Wittenberg cornerback explains it this way: if it’s sunny and warm, we can walk outside in a T-shirt, but if it’s raining out, we put on a jacket. We learn to adjust.

“People can change behaviors when they are uncomfortable,” Brumfield said.

The power to moderate our behavior and choose a different path forward lies at the heart of Brumfield’s core belief that all of us can find redemption, or to use a phrase in tune with his department of corrections work — be rehabilitated.

“I believe in rehabilitation. I believe people can, do, and will get better,” Brumfield said. “Certain things have to happen, but people do change.”

The certain things that have to happen sometimes occur with maturity. Age can abate impulsivity when the brain’s frontal lobe, which controls impulses, fully develops. Brumfield calls them our “stop and think alerts.”

Brumfield has more than 10 years of experience assessing and treating mental illness and substance use disorders in children and adults, with a mental health counseling license. This work is one reason Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine appointed Brumfield to the Parole Board, a job he views as a service to his community.

“I have a job as a councilor to promote safety,” Brumfield said. “As a mental health professional, we ensure the health of our clients and those in our clients’ lives. We have a duty to protect

and identify risk factors of our clients coming into practice. So that’s not easy, but with my training, it was easier for me to relate to the purpose of a parole board member.”

Safeguarding Springfield (and the state of Ohio) is personal to Brumfield because Wittenberg was essentially in his neighborhood growing up.

“I grew up going to Wittenberg games, both basketball and football. It’s basically in my backyard,” he said.

“I was lucky to go there. It’s a community within itself. My family is in the area, my younger twin brothers also attended and played football with me at Wittenberg.”

It was his experience as an athlete that gave Brumfield a sense of direction, a purpose that was bigger than himself.

“Athletics kept me on track. It helped me remain focused. It was the line in the sand,” he said.

“It was a privilege to go to college and play football. I had a desire to be successful on the field and that made me grow up and kept me in line to be successful in the classroom.”

Football taught him another important lesson: “Things won’t always go your way, but with hard work you can overcome them.”

This informs his view of behavior, going back to change stemming from the need to move from discomfort to comfort. If on the field or in the classroom one is uncomfortable, one practices harder, or studies longer. One changes position.

Brumfield was actually recruited to Wittenberg to play running back, but that didn’t work out because running back Tristan Murray ’06 transferred from Brown University to become one

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AS A MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL, WE ENSURE THE HEALTH OF OUR CLIENTS AND THOSE IN OUR CLIENTS' LIVES. WE HAVE A DUTY TO PROTECT AND IDENTIFY RISK FACTORS OF OUR CLIENTS COMING INTO PRACTICE.

of the best players in Wittenberg's history. Therefore, Brumfield literally switched positions to cornerback and had to learn an entirely new way to play football.

“We can change our position in a positive way,” he said. “We have thousands of thoughts in a day but that doesn't mean we have to land on something negative.” As this relates to treating his clients, he says “therapy isn't about changing our feelings. We feel how we feel. It's about changing what we think. Positive thoughts lead to positive behaviors, and vice versa.”

Aside from his two day jobs, Brumfield evaluates potential hires for local police and fire departments, and is a deacon in his church. He's not only busy, but he's busy serving others.

This service to the community wasn't at the forefront of his mind when he was at Wittenberg. Like many first-year students, he was uncertain about his future. In fact, his sophomore year he hadn't yet declared his major. He was “chipping away” at the general education requirements until he sat down with Professor of Psychology Mary Jo Zembar.

“I remember telling her that I didn't have a major, and she looked at me as if I had four eyes,” Brumfield laughs.

“I had an interest in criminal justice and criminology. She helped to shape my understanding of what psychology could be. We got to know each other very well. After graduation, I even invited her to my wedding.”

Following his graduation from Wittenberg, Brumfield stayed local in Ohio, and earned his Master of Science at Wright State. His clinical skills have been tested during a pandemic that has driven people into isolation with lockdowns and social distancing.

After all, no person is an island. We all crave connections.

“Going through difficult experiences like the stress and trauma of a pandemic, challenge our direction in life. It can be scary. When bad things happen, and we don't know why, the more we ask ourselves, ‘Why? Why? Why?’ then the more we can go into a dark place.”

To fight against these negative thoughts or to stave off the rumination that can drive us to a blindhead, Brumfield suggests we allow ourselves to experience the moment.

“It's okay for us not to be okay,” he said.

“It's difficult to live through a bad moment. It's okay to acknowledge the things that are happening to us aren't positive, and learn to accept ourselves and look at how we react to trauma and see our strengths and weaknesses. And be okay with it.”

A key to finding a balance through trauma is opening ourselves up to change. If we're not changing, Brumfield doesn't think we're living.

“Change is part of life. Part of change is empathy. We have the ability to empathize, relate, and listen to other people's stories.”

Brumfield listens to his clients' stories. He does so unconditionally, not with judgment, because he understands that all of us come from a different set of experiences. We all have stories.

Brumfield's story is both complicated and simple.

“With the football team, I wasn't the strongest or the fastest. I understood my strengths and improved on my weaknesses. And in 2006, I got a ring,” a league title ring that he keeps on his dresser, and from time to time looks at “humbly and with humility.”



# Class Notes

SPRING 2021

## 1946

*The Destin Log* featured **Jim and Valerie Henneous Beall '44** in an article about the couple's 75th wedding anniversary, which they celebrated on Nov. 4, 2019. They met as students at Wittenberg after World War II and have lived in Destin, Florida, since 2007.

## 1958

**Karl Sarzen** has published his first novel, *Gilbert Island*, available on Kindle and Amazon.

## 1962

*The Daily Advocate* reported that **David Oliver** has established an annual \$1,500 scholarship for a Versailles (Ohio) High School senior to attend Wittenberg. The scholarship is administered by the Darke County Foundation and funded by a permanent endowment.

## 1968

**Mike Steiner** was added to the Wooster (Ohio) Area Chamber of Commerce's Wall of Fame in January 2020. In addition to having a successful career in the insurance industry, he was actively involved with the Wooster City Schools, served on the board of education, and currently serves on the board of the Wooster Growth Corporation and the Wooster Planning Commission.

## 1969

**Alan Stewart**, a member of Wittenberg's Board of Directors since 2016, was named 2020 Public Servant of the Year by the Knox County Chamber of Commerce in Vincennes, Indiana.

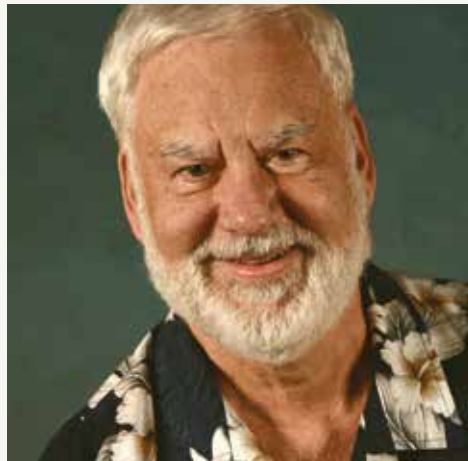


Diana DiFranco Everett '70 (lower left) and her family

## 1970

**Diana DiFranco Everett** is a watercolor artist who appears in area juried shows. She is retired from teaching at The Hathaway Brown School, a private girls' school in Shaker Heights, Ohio. She lives with her husband, Morris, in Hunting Valley, Ohio, and still enjoys communicating with her Wittenberg roommate, **Andrea Andersen Belizna**.

A new mystery novel by **Kate Merrill**, *Assault in Asheville*, was released in August 2020.



William Vollrath '71

## 1971

**William Vollrath** recently published *My Third Eye is Blurry*, which he describes as a collection of more than 55 humorous and thoughtful poems on life's journey. Contact the author at [wgvollrath@aol.com](mailto:wgvollrath@aol.com) to request a signed copy.



Debby Kobilak McClain '74, Sandy Kobilak Pykosz '74, Debbie Marker Ellis '74, and Maribeth Burton Taylor '73 held their annual reunion in July 2020 at Crystal Lake, Michigan.

## 1972

**Carlee Rader Drummer**, president of Columbia-Greene Community College, has joined the Columbia Memorial Health Board of Trustees.

Recipes created by **Judith Merkle Fertig** were featured in the December 2019 issue of *Eating Well* magazine. Her recipe for Winter Greens Salad with Pomegranate and Kumquats graced the cover of the holiday issue.

## 1973

**Kevin Orrock**, president of Summerlin for The Howard Hughes Corporation, was named the 2019 Alumnus of the Year by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) Lee School of Business. He is a member of the Lee Business School's Executive Advisory Board, the UNLV Foundation's Advisory Board, and the Benefactor Society.

## 1975

**Janet E. Jackson**, board member for Installed Building Products Inc. and Wittenberg's Board of Directors, was named one of *WomenInc. Magazine's* 2019 Most Influential Corporate Directors.



Stephana McClaran '75, Stuart Brody, Lynn Joachim Bell '75, and Wendell Bell

**Stephana "Steph" McClaran** and **Lynn Joachim Bell** reunited at McClaran's home in Petaluma, California, to celebrate 63 years of friendship. McClaran, retired from the San Francisco Fire Department, has two children, Hannah and Gabriel. Lynn and her husband, Wendell, enjoy their two children, Andrew and Becca, and two-year-old grandson, all in Austin, Texas. Lynn retired as associate director for material culture from the University of Texas' Briscoe Center for American History after 38 years of service.

## 1976

**Cathy Capelle**, a world champion diver, was selected to appear in the 2020 Dayton 60 Strong calendar that recognizes baby boomers who have "accomplished unimaginable feats." She re-entered the world of competitive diving at the age of 46 and won a gold medal and two bronze medals at the FINA World Masters 2019 held in South Korea.

*Choker*, by young adult novelist **Robert "Bob" Moseley**, was chosen as winner in the 2020 American Fiction Awards sports category.

## 1978

**Doug Kentfield**, member of Wittenberg's Board of Directors, has joined Steward Partners Global Advisory LLC as head of wealth management. He brings 30 years of experience in the financial services industry to Steward; most recently, he was a senior advisor for NextShares.

## 1979

SOSH Architects has hired **Carl Ballinger** as a project coordinator. He holds a Master of Science in interior design from Drexel University and has served as an adjunct professor and director of the interior design discipline in the fine arts department at Rosemont College, as well as an adjunct professor at Harcum College and Philadelphia University.

**Linda Schweitzer Bianco** married Peter Ricciardi on June 30, 2019, and moved to Florida.

**Tom Dann**, a four-year member of Wittenberg's cross country and track and field teams, reached a milestone of 50,000 career miles, having kept track since he started running in early 1972. He had a celebratory run with his college track team at St. Joseph's College in Maine, where he has been a professor and coach for more than 22 years.

*City and State New York* magazine has named **David Little**, the executive director of the Rural Schools Association of New York State and director of the Rural Schools Program at Cornell University, to its 2020 Education Power 100 list. He previously served for 17 years as legal counsel in the New York State Assembly and Senate, before serving 15 years as director of governmental relations for the New York State School Boards Association. Little is a former county legislator, served for 10 years as president of the Brittonkill Board of Education, and served as a regional planning commissioner and as chair of the national Conference of State Association Legislative Staff. He lives in Brunswick, New York.



Linda Schweitzer Bianco '79 and Peter Ricciardi

## 1981

**Christopher Adams**, athletic director at University of Northwestern Ohio, was inducted into the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association Hall of

Fame in August 2020. He has coached high school basketball at Catholic Central, Lexington, and Elida.

## 1982

**Jeff Kinney** has been hired as chief of staff and external relations for the president and CEO of Ascentria Care Alliance, based in Worcester, Massachusetts.

## 1983

**Penelope Chittendon-Flood** has retired to Florida.

## 1984

**Addie Luchetti Olander** was re-elected in November 2019 to her second term on the Rocky River (Ohio) City Schools District Board of Education. A communications consultant for more than 25 years, she reports that several Wittenberg alumni are among the excellent teachers that provide a top-ranked education to the district's students, including **Ann Brokaw '91**, **Laura Wheeler Brabant '91**, **Debbie Lenarz Jenkins '02**, **Erin Fox Voight '95**, and **Cathy Corpas Bitounis '81**.



Addie Luchetti Olander '84

## 1985

**Scott Pinkerton**, managing partner of FourThought Private Wealth, has been named to the list of 1,200 top U.S. financial advisors by Barrons.com and *Barron's Magazine* for the 12th time.

**Linda McCabe Silich** was interviewed for an article in *The East Hampton Star*. She is the owner of SilichCore+, a TRX-based fitness studio, and a partner and founder of Groundworks Landscaping in East Hampton, New York.

**Martin J. Uhle** has been named president and CEO of the Community West Foundation in Cleveland, Ohio. Serving on the company's board of directors since 2009, he was the superintendent and CEO of Cleveland Lutheran High School Association from 2016-2019.

## 1986

**Kristin Chapin Schlegel**, sixth-grade social studies teacher, was named the 2020-2021 Teacher of the Year for Milford Central Academy in Milford, Delaware.

## 1987

**Jeffrey Knapp** has been appointed as chief executive officer and to the Board of Directors for DNAtrix, a leader in the development of oncolytic viruses for cancer therapy, according to a press



Paul Kosling '78 and his daughter Sarah completed an eight-day, 40-mile trek on the Annapurna Circuit in the Himalayas, including the Thorung La pass, the highest mountain pass in the world.





Fritz Wiese '89, LuAnne Root Wiese '88, Amy Bok McGuffey '95, and Jamie McGuffey reunited at Camp Luther near Conneaut, Ohio, during the summer of 2019.

release. He has more than 30 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry.

## 1988

**Scott Collins** has been appointed chief revenue officer for HireRight, a leading provider of global employment background checks, drug testing, education verification, and electronic Form I-9 and E-Verify solutions. Previously, he served as senior vice president and general manager of banking and lending and corporate chief client officer for Equifax.

**Kimberly J. Lawless** is an assistant professor of social work at Bethany College.

## 1989

**Brenda Shaw** has been promoted to chief development officer at the Lowcountry Food Bank in Charleston, South Carolina. Previously, she was director of fundraising and corporate relations.

## 1990

Venture Underwriters Inc., a division of Allstar Financial Group, has hired **Christopher Barrow** as vice president specializing in commercial general liability. With more than 30 years of experience in the casualty insurance industry, he previously served as vice president and Chicago branch manager at Vela Insurance Services.

**Eric Vendel** was selected by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) to serve as chief of the Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management. He oversees ODNR's regulation of oil and natural gas industry for the protection of the public and the environment while ensuring the state's abundant natural resources are managed and developed responsibly. He had served as the division's lead attorney since 2012.

## 1991

A short story collection by **Shuly X. Cawood**, *A Small Thing to Want: Stories*, has been published by Press 53. Cawood discussed her book May 3, 2020, on WYSO's *Book Nook* with Vick Mickunas.

**Quint Gage** has been hired by Grandview Heights (Ohio) Schools as principal of Edison Intermediate & Larson Middle School. Formerly, he served as director of personalized learning for Bexley City Schools.

**Dave Huml**, chief operating officer of Tennant Company, will become chief executive officer on

March 1, 2021, and will join the company's board of directors.

**Cathy Pederson**, who has published eight papers on postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (POTS)/ chronic illness and quality of life issues since 2016, was recognized as the POTS Patient Leader by the WEGO Health Awards.

**Peter R. Tyksinski**, a foreign attorney with Momo-o, Matsuo & Namba in Tokyo, Japan, has co-authored the Japan chapter of "LexisNexis Company and Foreign Investment Law Guide 2020," published by LexisNexis, and the article "COVID-19 and the Japanese Workplace" in Taylor Vinters' annual "International Employment Law Update" published on July 28, 2020.

## 1992

**Jim Bridge** has been named offensive line coach for the University of Memphis football program. He previously served in the same role at Duke University.

**Steve Dabney** has been hired as an equipment sales specialist by R.W. Martin Company in Kent, Ohio. In this role, he will promote and represent the company's new and pre-owned commercial laundry machinery, parts, and supplies for the textile care industry.

**Frank Sanders** has been appointed president of Zealand Pharma U.S. Prior to joining the company, he served as general manager of the U.S. Commercial team at Sage Therapeutics.

## 1993

As of September 30, 2020, **Rhonda Grizzell** is deputy chief of police for the Reynoldsburg, Ohio Police Department. She previously served as a community-response bureau commander with the Columbus Division of Police.

**Amy Taylor** has been promoted to chief of community engagement for Truth Initiative, a nonprofit public health organization dedicated to inspiring tobacco-free lives. She previously served as senior vice president of community and youth engagement.



Wittenberg wrestling alumni held a reunion in Springfield in June 2019. Alumni from Atlanta, New Hampshire, Michigan, and throughout the Midwest attended the event. Photo submitted by Dan Stroppe '89

## 1994

**Melissa Duckwall Clark, M.D.**, was appointed chief medical officer for CCI Health & Wellness Services, located in Silver Spring, Maryland, in September 2020. Board certified in family medicine, she joined CCI in 2010.

After serving as interim Ohio Department of Health director, **Lance Himes** was appointed senior deputy of the department in November 2020.

The Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce and its Women's Council affiliate announced that **Julie Marsiglio**, director of major gifts for United Way of Greater Rochester, New York, was chosen as a finalist for the 2020 ATHENA International Award.

**David A. Woolenberg** has been promoted from president and chief operating officer to chief executive officer for Duetto. He joined Duetto in 2018 as chief revenue officer.

## 1995

**Patrice Rakel Croci** began as vice president of marketing for Columbus Crew SC in September 2020. Previously, she had her own consulting practice and worked for global brands Express and Victoria's Secret PINK.

**Michael "Mickey" Graham**, general manager of the Traverse City Pit Spitters, was named the 2019 Northwoods League Executive of the Year. He was recognized by team officials for the accomplishments of the team's inaugural year in the Northwoods League, as well as the fan experience they created.



Jason J. Dimaculangan '96

## 1996

**Jason J. Dimaculangan**, insurance agent at Energy Insurance Agency, received the 2019 Volunteer of the Year Award from the Clermont County (Ohio) Chamber of Commerce. The award, which was presented during the February 2020 Small Business Excellence Awards and Clermont Chamber Annual Luncheon, recognizes "valuable and selfless commitment to innovation, dedication, building awareness, and enhancement of the efficiency" of the Chamber, according to a press release.

## 1997

**Jeremy Glazier** is the recipient of an Ohio Arts Council (OAC) Award in Criticism for his essays and reviews of avant-garde music in *La Tempestad*, an arts and culture magazine published in Mexico City. An associate professor of English at Ohio Dominican University in Columbus, he has written for *La Tempestad* for more than a decade. This is the third time he has received the OAC's Individual Excellence Award.



Sigma Kappa members of the class of 2003, including Santina Onorini Vanzant, Sara Tawil Hermanson, Kelsey McMillan, Sarah Lisey Forman, Jessica Villalta Byrne, Jayne Gerber Barnes, Sarah Spaid, Molly Root, Sara George Seybold, and Lauren Ebling Brister, gathered at Hocking Hills, Ohio, in November 2019.

## 1998

**Carla Sarratt** is the director of libraries for the University of Mount Union. Previously, she served as library director for Lincoln University in Pennsylvania.

## 1999

**Vanessa Crossgrove Fry**, research director of the Idaho Policy Institute, has been named interim director of the institute.

**Bryan Magoteaux** was inducted into the Piqua, Ohio Athletic Hall of Fame on Jan. 31, 2020.

## 2000

**Luke Dennis** has been promoted to general manager of 91.3 WYSO and president of Miami Valley Public Media. In November 2019, he received the Outstanding Fundraising Professional Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals Greater Dayton Region Chapter.

**Lauren Schmidt Hissrich** discussed her role as showrunner for the popular Netflix show *The Witcher* in a *Columbus Dispatch* article on Jan. 19, 2020.

## 2002

**Erin Moore Henshaw**, associate professor of clinical psychology at Denison University and licensed clinical psychologist, was featured in the *Newark Advocate* on Nov. 27, 2019, as part of the newspaper's ongoing Business Advocate series about women in STEM careers.

**Leslie Loop Martin** began a new position as executive director of Delta Gamma Foundation on Sept. 1, 2020. Previously, she served as a director of development at The Ohio State University College of Arts and Sciences, Arts and Humanities division.

## 2003

**Christopher B. Baker** joined the Delaware County Foundation in Delaware, Ohio, as president and CEO in January 2020. Previously, he was executive director of the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation.

**Eric Cusick** was awarded the 2019 Howard L. Post Excellence in Teaching Award from Beaver Creek City Schools. Honoring one of the most influential teachers at the school, the award is given by the valedictorian and salutatorian of each graduating class.

In February 2020, **Sean Mulryan** was inducted into the Brown County High School Athletic Hall of Fame in Indiana for his accomplishments in track and field from 1987-1991.

## 2004



Christina Bolduc and Anthony Falzone Jr. '04

**Anthony Falzone Jr. and Christina Bolduc** were married on June 14, 2019, in South Windsor, Connecticut, where they reside.

**Leah Krotine Gradl** has been promoted to vice president of support operations for Kent Companies, the nation's ninth largest commercial concrete contractor. She is the first female vice president in the 60-year history of the firm, headquartered in Grand Rapids, Michigan.



Leah Krotine Gradl '04

**Jenifer Warner Locke**, assistant professor of materials science at The Ohio State University, received a National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER award, one of the most prestigious awards given by NSF in support of early-career faculty. Locke will use the award funds to conduct research on aluminum-based alloys.

**Scott Phillips** has been elected as a partner at Plante Moran, one of the nation's largest



accounting, tax, and consulting firms. He leads the firm's Ohio-based financial institutions practice.



Scott Phillips '04

**Doug Schantz** is the associate vice president of business affairs at Clark State Community College in Springfield, Ohio. Previously, he served as director of business operations for Wittenberg.

**2005**

The **Rev. Andrea Cheeseman Curry** is a featured author in *Speaking Truth: Women Raising Their Voices in Prayer* (Abingdon Press, 2020). She serves Trinity United Methodist Church in Bowling Green, Ohio, as the senior pastor of a growing congregation in a college town, where she lives with her husband, William.

**Miriam Ryman Vines** announces the birth of Piper Quinn on Sept. 27, 2018. She joins older sister and future Tiger, Juliet Grayson, who was born on Aug. 26, 2011.



Piper Quinn Vines

**Dana Wilkinson** is a storm water specialist with the University of Michigan's Environment, Health & Safety Department. She resides in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**2006**

**Isaac Y. Ligocki** is an assistant professor of animal behavior in the department of biology at Millersville University of Pennsylvania.



Professor of Geology John Ritter (right) met up with Matt McDonald '09 during a research trip to southern California in February 2020. McDonald is a Naval Aviator in Air Test and Evolution Squadron Nine (VX-9 The Vampires) at Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, California.

**2007**

**Christopher Horrell** is general manager of Farm Direct Supply, a Fort Lauderdale, Florida-based produce company. The former sales director for Love Beets, he was a recipient of the *Produce Business* 2019 40-Under-Forty Award.

**Andy Karcher** has been named head football coach at E.E. Smith High School in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

**Megan Shroy**, founder and president of Approach Marketing, was named to *Columbus CEO's* inaugural group of Future 50 leaders.

**2008**

**Daniel L. Bey** has been admitted as a partner in the Martin, Browne, Hull & Harper law firm, which has offices in Urbana and Springfield, Ohio. His local practice areas include real property transactions, utility right-of-way negotiations, estate planning and probate, corporate and business transactions, and litigation.

**Emily Heidrich** married Matthew Uebel in East Lansing, Michigan, on Aug. 10, 2019, with a number of Wittenberg friends in attendance. Both work at Michigan State University, Emily as a project manager on the Less Commonly Taught Languages Partnership and Matthew as a purchasing agent.

**Sarah Matesich Schwab** is president and chief operating officer for Matesich Distributing Company in Newark, Ohio.



Isaac Ligocki '06 and wife, Heather



Emily Heidrich '08 and Matthew Uebel (center)

**2010**

**Kelly E. Clark** married **Michael C. Maxey** on Aug. 1, 2020 in a small backyard ceremony with their families in Roanoke, Virginia. The couple resides in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where Kelly is an account director at the advertising agency The Variable, and Michael runs his own sales and distribution business.

**Mark King** has joined the Chicago market of The Siegfried Group LLP as a manager. He previously was employed as a manager at PwC.

**2011**

**David L. Rome** married Clare E. Karlovec on Aug. 31, 2019 in Shaker Heights, Ohio.



Michael '10 and Kelly Clark Maxey '10

**Christopher Sullivan** has been promoted to head coach of the Denison University men's basketball team. Previously, he served as associate head coach.

### 2013

**Evan C. Cochran** has joined Isaac Wiles Burkholder & Teetor LLC, a full-service law firm in Columbus, Ohio. As an associate in the firm's business and real estate group, he handles matters involving business, real estate, tax planning, estate planning, and probate. A member of the Columbus Bar Association and the Ohio State Bar Association, he earned his law degree from Capital University Law School. He is also a certified public accountant licensed in Ohio.

**Annie C. Reynolds** married Alexander Lovendahl in July 2020. She completed an M.S. in school psychology at Miami University in 2015 and is employed in enrollment management and operations support in academic affairs at Vanderbilt University. The couple resides in Nashville, Tennessee.

**Karlos L. Marshall** has been hired by the University of Dayton as manager of the Greater West Dayton Incubator, according to a press release. The project will provide resources, such as training, education, and consulting services, to startups and underrepresented firms.

### 2014

In June 2019, **Ben Imlay**, a social studies teacher at Teach for America's Collegiate Hall charter school, was named one of the 20 top novice teachers in the state by the Teaching and Leading Initiative of Oklahoma.

### 2015

**Allison L. Perry** married **Samuel J. Klarer '16** on Sept. 22, 2019.

### 2016

**Elizabeth Arentz** graduated magna cum laude from the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law in May 2019 and works as an associate attorney at



Samuel '16 and Allison Perry Klarer '15

Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur LLP in Columbus, Ohio. Her practice focuses on estate planning, wealth preservation, and commercial real estate. One of Porter Wright's founding partners was Earl F. Morris, class of 1930.

As of January 2020, **Sean McMorrow** is the head coach for men's and women's volleyball at The Calumet College of St. Joseph in Whiting, Indiana.

*The Yellow Springs News* published an article in January 2020 about **Elaina Vimmerstedt** and her experiences as a Younger Group teacher at The Antioch School in Yellow Springs, Ohio.

### 2017

**Courtney Huck** and her sister Lexie won the championship match at a sand volleyball tournament held in June 2020 at Miami Valley Sand in Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Payton Marshall** is a morning reporter for Dayton 24/7 Now.

### 2019

**Jake Kennedy** signed with the Braunschweig New Yorker Lions for the 2020 season. He was the second-leading passer in the Austrian Football League in 2019.

**Cassie M. McLean** has received an Omicron Delta Kappa scholarship in recognition of exceptional academic performance and leadership abilities. She is pursuing a clinical doctorate in occupational therapy at The Ohio State University.

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# In Memoriam

SPRING 2021

## 1935

**Edward D. Lamb**, Murdock, Florida, died Jan. 4, 2018. He served in the Pacific aboard the USS Chester during World War II. A member of Phi Gamma Delta and a Shriner, he worked in advertising for Carpenter, Lamb and Herrick in Cleveland, Ohio.

## 1940

**Mary Shatzer Jaeger**, Auburn, Alabama, passed away Oct. 3, 2019. A member of Alpha Xi Delta, she was active in the alumnae groups in Ohio and Florida and with OLLI, the Auburn Women's Club, Tulip Garden Club, and Study Club.

## 1941

**Paul E. Starkey** of Coos Bay, Oregon, and formerly of Indianapolis, Indiana, passed away Dec. 3, 2019. An expert in pediatric dentistry, he first served as a U.S. Navy dental officer during World War II. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps at Great Lakes, in the South Pacific, and in China from 1944-1946. He then had private practices in Ohio and taught at The Ohio State University College of Dentistry. From 1959-1984, he was a member of the Indiana University School of Dentistry faculty, where he received the university's highest distinguished teaching award. He was a charter member of King of Glory Lutheran Church in Carmel, Indiana, a member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Coos Bay, and a member of Phi Mu Delta.

## 1942

**Wilma Asplin Kimberly**, Hudson, Florida, passed away April 7, 2018.

## 1946

**Frances Baumlisberger Alvin**, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, passed away Nov. 18, 2019. She was a homemaker, substitute teacher, and worked in chemical laboratories. She was a member of the Door County Medical Center Auxiliary and Sturgeon Bay United Methodist Church.

## 1947

Rev. **Carl F. Kaltreider** '50S, of Venice, Florida, and formerly of Rotonda West, Florida, died Nov. 6, 2019. Ordained into the United Lutheran Church in America in 1950, he served as pastor in Michigan for Hope Lutheran Church, Dearborn; Our Savior, Saginaw; and Antioch, Farmington Hills, and developed two religious news shows for television in Detroit. In Rotonda West, he organized and served Faith Lutheran Church for 19 years, served as chaplain to the ABC sports television show

*Superstars*, and created a religious news program for radio. He was a member of the Rotonda Men's Golf Association, archivist for Rotonda West, and board member for The Village on the Isle.

**Gladene Baughman Keister**, Caldwell, Idaho, died Dec. 13, 2019. In 1944, she joined the Navy Waves and taught gunnery school in Brunswick, Maine. She then taught at Pocatello High School in Idaho, worked as a secretary in Rexburg, and worked as a counselor at South Middle School in Nampa, where she retired. She was active in the Order of the Eastern Star, serving as Worthy Grand Matron of Idaho in 1972, Daughters of the Nile, and the United Methodist and Presbyterian Churches.

**Stanley W. Schmucker**, Melbourne, Florida, died Aug. 31, 2109.

## 1948

**Martha Schmunk Gallagher**, Findlay, Ohio, passed away April 6, 2020. She was a homemaker and member of Chi Omega sorority.

**Audrey Esping Hannum**, Lititz, Pennsylvania, passed away Dec. 2, 2019. She was a member of Chi Omega sorority and a choir member and elder at Highland Presbyterian Church. She served on the boards of Lancaster Day Care Center and Friends of the Library, co-chaired the Library Book Sale, and was a member of Lancaster Country Club.

**Betty Simmons Stroup**, Shelby, Ohio, died Dec. 19, 2019. She taught at Shelby St. Mary's, served as a substitute teacher in the public schools, and tutored. A member of First Lutheran Church, Shelby Country Club, and Alpha Delta Pi, she also served as a Girl Scout leader and committee member for the Red Cross and Shelby YMCA.

## 1949

**Marcia "Marcy" Kraemer Bishop**, Richfield, Minnesota, died Nov. 24, 2019. A member of Delta Zeta sorority, she was a retired Girl Scouts of America executive and worked in the cosmetics and fashion retail industry.

**Howard C. Gongwer**, Richmond, Indiana, died Aug. 8, 2020. He served with the 14th Air Force in China during World War II. He taught courses in speech and theatre at the Eastern Indiana Center at Earlham College and at Earlham. He was a founding member of Leadership Wayne County, Union Education, state board member of the National M.S. Society, an advisor for the Dayton Education Council, and a member of the Elks Club and First Presbyterian Church.

**Mary Lou Harmon Good**, Brookville, Ohio, passed away Jan. 8, 2017. She worked for more than 45 years as executive assistant at Stanhope Products. She was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority and Community United Methodist Church, and was a founding member of Ladies Auxiliary VFW #3288, Brookville.

**Janis Fessler Kinsley**, Daytona Beach, Florida, died Sept. 20, 2019. A member of Gamma Phi Beta, she worked as an English teacher and athletic coach for 35 years, retiring from Cloverleaf Junior High School in Medina County, Ohio, in 1984.

**Earl W. Mautz**, Cincinnati, Ohio, died Nov. 26, 2019. He was a U.S. Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, a scientist by profession, and a member of Lambda Chi Alpha.

**Thelma Ross McCann** of Mentor, Ohio, and formerly of Springfield, Ohio, and Naples, Florida, passed away March 31, 2020. In the early 1950s and early 1970s, she worked as a telephone operator, first for Ohio Bell and later for the corporate headquarters of Top Value Enterprises.

**Dolores O'Donnell Minnich**, Covington, Ohio, passed away Oct. 28, 2019. She was an elementary school teacher for 18 years at Nicklin School in Piqua and three years at Covington Elementary. She was a 76-year member of Covington Presbyterian Church, charter member of the Covington Spitfyers, interpreter for Ohio Historical Society at Johnston Farm, and played in the Covington Alumni Band.

**Henry G. Portz**, Arroyo Grande, California, died March 13, 2018. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army Air Force as an airplane instrument mechanic and instructor, and worked as a draftsman, machinist, tool designer, and mechanical engineer. He was an award-winning member of the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Club.

**Frank O. Webster**, Lewis Center, Ohio, died Oct. 18, 2019. A member of Phi Gamma Delta, he taught with Columbus City Schools, Linden McKinley High School, and Brookhaven, where he announced football games, assisted with fall plays, and ran the Outdoor Education Program. He also managed several swim clubs.

## 1950

Rev. **Charles R. Anders** '54S of Venice, Florida, and formerly of Minneapolis, Minnesota, died April 1, 2020. Ordained into the Lutheran Church of America (LCA), he served Redeemer Lutheran Church, Atlanta, Georgia; a mission congregation in Greenwood, Indiana; Trinity Lutheran Church in Richmond, Indiana, as music director; Tamarac

Lutheran Church, Tamarac, Florida; and Diamond Lake Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota. He also served on the LCA's Commission on Worship, as well as the music faculty at Thiel Lutheran College and St. Olaf College. He was a member of Dorm League.

**Jean Belknap Fuller**, Mariemont, Ohio, died Nov. 17, 2019. She was a member of the Marielers, Mariemont Preservation Foundation, and Twentieth Century Club. A Master Gardener, she was a charter member of the Blanchester Garden Club, member of the Mariemont Garden Club, and an award-winning floral arranger.

**Elizabeth Kaltreider Hoisington**, Escondido, California, passed away July 24, 2019. She was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

**Judith Grube Portz**, Arroyo Grande, California, died Feb. 27, 2018. She worked for the *Springfield News-Sun* before enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps Women's Reserve during World War II. She was president of the Garden Grove Republican Women's Club.

**Donald J. Rosicka**, Santa Rosa Beach, Florida, died Sept. 30, 2019. He served two years in the Army and was employed in civil service for 32 years at Wright-Patterson and Eglin Air Force Bases. He also worked for Decision Sciences Inc. as contracts manager. He played saxophone in local bands.

**Dorothy Weaver Wallace**, Urbana, Ohio, passed away Feb. 22, 2020. She taught art and physical education at Miami East Schools before working at Uhlman's Department Store in Piqua. She volunteered at Mercy Memorial Hospital and was a member of Messiah Lutheran Church.

## 1951

**William K. "Bill" Freshney**, Huntsville, Alabama, passed away Sept. 12, 2019. He was in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserves for 20 years, on active duty in New Orleans, and retired as a commander. He served in a variety of sales, management, and executive positions for Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Ohio and Louisiana, where he retired after 33 years. A member of Phi Gamma Delta, he was active in Kiwanis Club, Rotary Club, Optimist's Club, Broadmoor Presbyterian Church, Masons, Shriners, and Meals on Wheels.

**Susan Young Palik**, Williamsburg, Virginia, passed away May 11, 2020. She was a member of Delta Zeta sorority.

**Donald R. Ward**, Louisville, Kentucky, died March 7, 2020. A member of Beta Theta Pi, he earned a master's degree from Teachers College, Columbia University.

## 1952

**Jacqueline "Jackie" Jones Bettick**, Bath, Ohio, passed away Jan. 23, 2020. She taught English language at the International Institute for 29 years and volunteered at Hospice at Ridgewood for 20 years. She was active with Bath Church-United Church of Christ, teaching confirmation classes and serving as church historian, and served as a member of the Bath Park Board.

**Mary Pearson Kolb**, Erie, Pennsylvania, died Aug. 2, 2020. She taught at John Hay High School, was a buyer for the Higbee Company, and later served as director of admissions and academics at Erie Business Center, until her retirement in 1995. She was a member of the Hamot Aid Society, Philanthropic Educational Organization (P.E.O.), Vasa Order, and Wayside Presbyterian Church.

**Rolland D. Saltz**, North Fort Myers, Florida, passed away Jan. 19, 2020.

**Victor G. Vely**, West Goshen, Pennsylvania, died Dec. 21, 2019. A member of Dorm League, he served in the U.S. Army and was employed as a research chemist in industrial and consumer products development, earning nine patents as co-inventor.

**Esther Weiford Wengenroth**, of Cairo and New York City, New York, passed away Nov. 9, 2019. She studied modern dance with Sue Cary, Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham, Alwin Nikolai, and Hanya Holm and taught dance as an instructor at Ohio Wesleyan University and privately. In New York City, she was involved in arts education and developed an arts apprenticeship program for students in the Midwest. She volunteered with the Red Cross, Gay Men's Health Crisis, ASPCA, and the Greene County Department of the Aging.

## 1953

**Charles E. Hayes**, Palatine, Illinois, died in February 2020. An award-winning journalist, he rose from reporter to editor-in-chief for Paddock Publications before joining the *Chicago Tribune* as an editor, retiring in 1994. In retirement, he was a columnist for the Copley suburban daily newspapers. He was active with the Chicago Headline Club, Suburban Press Club, and was a member of many professional organizations. He volunteered with the Salvation Army and was a member of Palatine Senior Center, Christ Lutheran Church, and Phi Kappa Psi.

**Claudia Benges Novitzsky**, Berkley, Michigan, passed away Nov. 11, 2019. She was a music teacher at McIntyre Elementary in Southfield, Michigan, for 30 years. She served as choir and organ director at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Troy,

Michigan, from 1957-1967, and was a member of Delta Zeta sorority.

**Margery Brubaker Prakel**, Versailles, Ohio, died Aug. 6, 2020. She taught at Versailles Exempted Village Schools for 22 years, receiving Teacher of the Year in Darke County in 1990. After retiring in 1992, she tutored and taught piano lessons. She was a member of Gamma Phi Beta, Trinity Lutheran Church, Coterie Club, Versailles Garden Club, Kinder Korner Preschool board, and Versailles Scholarship Fund board.

## 1954

**William I. "Bill" Goettman**, Pittsboro, North Carolina, died Oct. 21, 2019. He served in the Air Force as a flight surgeon from 1960-1963. He co-founded Surgical Associates of Springfield, Ohio, where he practiced for 30 years before retiring in 1993, served as team physician for the Wittenberg Tigers, and was a member of Alpha Tau Omega.

**Alan H. Griffith**, Terrace Park, Ohio, passed away April 11, 2020. He began his career at the Kissell Company in Springfield before co-founding Community Builders (later American Tectonics). In retirement, he worked with Habitat for Humanity. He was a member of Alpha Tau Omega and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, where he served on the church council.

**JoAnn Meyer Livingston**, Fox Chapel, Pennsylvania, passed away Oct. 26, 2019. A published author, she wrote the history of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Fox Chapel, where she was a member. She volunteered with Glade Run Lutheran Home for Girls, Meals on Wheels, and All of Us Care in Sharpsburg. She was a member of Chi Omega, Sea Pines Country Club, the Duquesne Club, and Oakmont Country Club, serving as president of the Women's Golf Association.

**Miriam Spring Stahl**, Vancouver, Washington, died Sept. 5, 2020. She was a physical education teacher at Lutheran High School in Cleveland, Ohio, from 1956-1959. She worked for the YWCA of Greater Cleveland and Metro Cleveland from 1973-1989 and served as executive director of the Richie McFarland Children's Center in Stratham, New Hampshire, from 1989-1996. She was a member and volunteer with the League of Women Voters and the Interfaith Council of Cleveland.

**Doris Heller Wiegand**, Stanley, Indiana, passed away Nov. 1, 2019. She was a member of Kappa Delta sorority.



## 1955

**H. Richard Ogle**, Medina, Ohio, passed away May 1, 2018. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and the Air Force during the Korean War. A teacher and principal in the Parma City school system, he later taught at a private school in Florida before retiring. He was a member of Phi Kappa Psi.

**Emmalou Ackerman Weidner**, Springfield, Ohio, passed away Feb. 24, 2020. She spent most of her 30-year career teaching eighth-grade language arts and social studies at Husted Middle School. She was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, Springfield Country Club, and was a past president of Woman's Town Club of Springfield.

## 1956

**Carol Rogers Beers**, Gig Harbor, Washington, passed away March 19, 2020. She was a member of Chi Omega.

**Charles R. Beight**, Lake Milton, Ohio, passed away Nov. 3, 2019. He served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. He was self-employed as a manufacturer sales representative for more than 40 years.

**Mary Lou Reames Kerns**, Belle Center, Ohio, passed away April 30, 2020. She worked as a teacher for 30 years, retiring from Benjamin Logan School District.

**Thomas M. Lutz**, De Queen, Arkansas, died Oct. 21, 2019. After a 30-year teaching career, he started a consulting business in Bonn, Germany, where he focused on creating business, education, and art connections between the U.S. and Germany. He later became the representative of Lutherstadt Wittenberg in the U.S. He was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha.

**Frances Susan Adams Miller**, Marietta, Georgia, died April 27, 2019.

## 1957

**Barbara Madara Hazen**, Morgantown, West Virginia, passed away Nov. 29, 2019. She was a teacher in Ohio, Colorado, and Michigan. While living in Troy, Michigan, she was active in the Presbyterian Church and with Beaumont Hospital. In Fair Play, South Carolina, she volunteered at the Fair Play Town Crier, Townville Elementary School, and Fair Play Presbyterian Church.

**John R. "Dick" Hunt '60S**, Fishers, Indiana, died March 31, 2020. Ordained in 1960, he served Grace Lutheran Church, Dayton Ohio; Christ Lutheran Church, West Boylston, Massachusetts; Norwich State Hospital, Norwich, Connecticut; Trinity English Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana; and St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Speedway, Indiana, from which he retired as pastor emeritus in 1997. Named Distinguished Alumnus by Hamma Trinity Seminary in 1989, he was a member of Christ the Savior Lutheran Church.

**Theodore S. "Ted" Marty**, Cincinnati, Ohio, died Feb. 13, 2020. His career with Ted Marty and Associates, an independent insurance agency, spanned five decades. He was president of the Cincinnati Insurance Board, chairman of the Ohio

Agents Political Action Committee, member of Phi Gamma Delta, and was awarded Wyoming Citizen of the Year in 1994.

**David L. Miller**, Marietta, Georgia, died July 12, 2019. He served as mission developer and first pastor of All Saints Lutheran Church, Mt. Carmel, Ohio, and All Saints Lutheran Church, Olmsted Falls, Ohio. He then went on to Christ the King Lutheran Church in Temple Terrace, Florida. He was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha.

**S. Joan Wigger Penn**, Fitchburg, Wisconsin, passed away Sept. 8, 2019. A member of Kappa Delta sorority, she was a teacher for more than three decades and later served as the president of the senior learning group PLATO.

## 1958

**James E. Pearce**, Bratenahl, Ohio, died Nov. 12, 2019. He had a career with United Way and also served in the U.S. Army Reserve, retiring in 1995 at the rank of master sergeant. He served two terms on the New London, Connecticut school board and was a member of Phi Gamma Delta, the Cleveland Grays, and Trinity Cathedral Episcopal Church.

## 1959

**Rodney O. Borcherdig**, Decatur, Illinois, passed away March 2, 2020. He taught high school in Columbus, Ohio, before moving to Decatur in 1965 to work with his father at LASCO Incorporated. He took over the company in 1980 and retired in 2005. He was a member of Glad Tidings Church and Phi Gamma Delta.

**Linda Mowrey Everhart**, Springfield, Ohio, died Aug. 12, 2020. She taught school in Springfield and Mechanicsburg and retired in 1993 from teaching students with learning disabilities in Franklin, Ohio. She was past president of Young Women's Mission, president of the alumni association of Wittenberg's Alpha Delta Pi sorority, and sang in the Springfield Chorale and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church choir.

**Joseph W. Ingle**, Springfield, Ohio, passed away Nov. 11, 2019. A veteran of the U.S. Army, he was director of operations at Steel Products and Champion Company for many years. He was a member of Enon United Methodist Church, the Elks, and Phi Kappa Psi.

**Janet Saylor Ousley**, formerly of Centerville, Ohio, passed away Dec. 8, 2019. She was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

**Howard Pospel**, Grand Island, Florida, passed away Sept. 21, 2019. A member of Delta Sigma Phi fraternity, he held an M.A. in philosophy from the University of Florida and a doctorate in philosophy from the University of North Carolina.

**Charles K. "Chuck" Stroh**, Fort Myers, Florida, died March 14, 2020. He worked at newspapers in Indiana, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and Port Clinton, Ohio. In 1969, he began at *The Blade* in Toledo, working as a production assistant, production manager, and operations director. He was a member of Phi Kappa Psi.

**Willard D. Thomas**, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, passed away Jan. 1, 2020. He spent his career with Tallmadge Local School District, retiring as director

of guidance counseling after 33 years, and was a Martha Holden Jennings Scholar. In retirement, he worked at several golf courses. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi and St. Luke's Lutheran Church.

## 1960

**Thomas A. Brown**, Elizabeth Township, Pennsylvania, passed away Sept. 28, 2019. During the Korean War, he served in the U.S. Army Security Agency. He retired in 1992 from a distinguished career in federal government, where he worked as a contract analyst for 32 years. He was named a Public Affairs Fellow in 1969, designated a Fellow of the National Contract Management Association in 1974 and Certified Professional Contract Manager in 1976, and received the Meritorious Civilian Service Award in 1986. He was a member of Toastmasters International, Rotary Club, and Delta Sigma Phi.

**Richard E. Goldner**, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, died Oct. 12, 2019. From 1963-1969, he served in the Army Reserve. He had a career in quality assurance that took him from Canton, Ohio, to Michigan, California, and finally Oklahoma, where he retired. He volunteered at Reaching Out City Food Pantry and sang in several choirs.

**Walter "Walt" Madsen**, Southport, North Carolina, died in December 2019. He served in the U.S. Army for two years. He spent much of his career working for YMCAs in Springfield, Ohio, and Neenah, Wisconsin. In 1988, he joined the national YMCA of the USA staff as director of property management services and southeast regional consultant, retiring in 2000 after 40 years of service. He was active in the Southport and St. James communities.

**Joyce Peck Rhinehart**, Chillicothe, Ohio, died Nov. 23, 2019. She worked for Mead Research, then became a dental office manager, juvenile probation officer, credit union loan officer, and owner of Simply Organized. She was president of the local DAR Chapter and past president of the Scioto Society, directed and acted in plays at the Majestic Theatre, and was a member of the Garden Club, Calvary Lutheran Church, and Alpha Delta Pi.

**Marilyn Miller Rhyne**, Claremont, California, passed away Feb. 27, 2020. She was a member of Delta Gamma.

**Penny Rader Sweeterman**, Strongsville, Ohio, passed away July 28, 2020. She briefly worked as a dental assistant.

## 1961

**Patricia J. Deihl**, New Haven, Indiana, passed away Aug. 5, 2020. She taught vocal music for 34 years at East Allen County Schools until retiring in 1995. She also served as church choir director and music director at Unity Christ Church in Fort Wayne from 1985-1993, and then directed the Celebration Singers and Festival Choir. She was a past president of Northeast Indiana NOW.

**James E. Leierzapf**, Port Saint Lucie, Florida, passed away March 24, 2020. He began his career by teaching history at Miami-Dade College before changing to sales and marketing in Lilburn, Georgia, and Akron, Ohio. After retiring, he and his wife opened a Nationwide Insurance Agency in Cary,

North Carolina. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

**Betty Woody Lockwood**, Broomfield, Colorado, passed away Oct. 6, 2018.

**Mary Ann Bogardus Rice**, Springfield, Ohio, passed away May 13, 2020. She taught pre-kindergarten in the Springfield City Schools for 28 years, retiring in 1994. She was a member of Alpha Delta Pi, First Baptist Church, and Clark County Retired Teachers Association.

Rev. **Kenneth A. Stoyer** '61S, Groveland, Florida, passed away Dec. 28, 2019. Ordained a Lutheran minister in 1961, he served as pastor or interim pastor in Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Florida. After retiring in 2000, he worked several years as a cast member at Walt Disney World. He was a member of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Clermont and Zion Lutheran Church in Groveland and sang with Voices of Trilog of Groveland.

## 1962

**Robert L. "Bob" Hastings** '62MA, Bowling Green, Ohio, passed away Sept. 10, 2019. He spent two years in the U.S. Army before working as a high school teacher and coach. After working in sales and marketing with Jostens and Taylor Publishing Company, he served as recreation coordinator for the City of Bowling Green, retiring in 1997, and taught at Owens Community College until 2014. He was active with the Black Swamp Players Community Theatre, Bowling Green Optimist Club, First United Methodist Church, and Business Networking International.

**Margaret Zimmerman Morris**, Grand Rapids, Minnesota, died Dec. 27, 2019. An ordained minister, she worked in campus ministry at the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) and in religion and health for the UMD Medical School, as well as interim pastor at Hammond Avenue Presbyterian Church in Superior, Wisconsin. She was the first female president of the Program Agency of the United Presbyterian Church (USA) and served on the first General Assembly Council. After retiring in 2000, she taught classes and served on the board at MacRostie Art Center. She was a member of Alpha Delta Pi.

**William L. Reynolds**, Louisville, Kentucky, died July 30, 2020. He was a business owner, volunteer with The Metro United Way of Louisville, and member of St. John's United Methodist Church in Prospect. He served as past president of the Oldham County Board of Education and on the Kentucky Retirement Systems Board.

**Edwin T. Smith**, Cincinnati, Ohio, died Nov. 21, 2019. He was a member of Lambda Chi fraternity.

**Andrea "Ann" Lau Westby**, Arlington Heights, Illinois, passed away Dec. 20, 2019. In 1976, she coordinated a project involving seven churches for the settlement of a Laotian refugee family. She worked as an elementary teacher in suburban Chicago for more than 15 years, paving the way for job sharing in the Illinois public school system. She was a 50-year member of Alpha Xi Delta, P.E.O. Sisterhood, and Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, where she served as a Stephen Minister.

## 1963

**Nancy Schnur Griggs**, Sherman, Texas, died May 13, 2020. She served as a Lutheran deaconess, taught school in Ohio, and was active in New Beginning Fellowship Church.

**John C. Iversen**, Tampa Bay, Florida, passed away Dec. 14, 2019. He served in the U.S. Navy for four years, then worked for McGraw Hill for 25 years.

**Ernest A. Lantz** '65S, San Antonio, Texas, passed away May 8, 2020. He served parishes in Spencer, Grand Island, and Bemus Point, New York, as well as Grace Lutheran Church in San Antonio. He also worked with the Lutheran Association of Southwest Camping and held several interim ministry positions in retirement. He served on the boards of San Antonio Metropolitan Ministry, Rotary Club, and Torch Club.

**Jan F. Lindberg**, Stonington, Connecticut, died Jan. 6, 2020. He worked as a physicist at the Naval Underwater Sound Laboratory in New London and most recently with Marine Acoustics Inc. and Mandex Inc., retiring in 2011. He received the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Decibel Award in 2011, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers USA Award in 2002, and the Navy's Meritorious Civilian Service Award. He was a fellow of the Acoustical Society of America, a council representative for the Rail Passengers Association, and served on the Stonington Borough Planning and Zoning committee.

**Virginia Hegyi Mattimore**, Springfield, Ohio, died Sept. 9, 2020. She worked as a home-economics teacher in the Northwestern Local Schools and a reading specialist and first-grade teacher in the Springfield City Schools. In retirement, she worked as a realtor with Link-Hellmuth Realty. She also was a fabric artist, painter, weaver, and Clark County Master Gardener.

**David E. Moeller**, Sebring, Florida, passed away March 22, 2020. He worked in the insurance industry, first in casualty claims at the Etna Company, and then later representing physicians as a medical malpractice claims representative for the Medical Insurance Exchange of California. A member of Phi Gamma Delta, he retired to Florida in 2002.

**Margo Mclver Reichert** of Ottawa Hills, Ohio, and formerly of St. Louis, Missouri, Marion, Indiana, and Springfield, Ohio, died Jan. 3, 2020. She was involved with Hope Lutheran Church, Hospice of Northwest Ohio, Pi Beta Phi sorority, Ottawa Hills Schools, Toledo Day Nursery, and Christ Child Society.

**Alfred "Bud" Snyder**, Muncy, Pennsylvania, passed away April 29, 2018. A part-time farmer, he worked in the Muncy School District for nearly 40 years.

**Rosemary Miller Twilley**, Dover, Delaware, passed away Feb. 24, 2020. She worked for the Department of the Treasury in Washington, D.C., before settling in Dover, where she was a social worker for the Division of Social Services. She then became an agent and trustee for the Potter

Charitable Trust and the Mary Rawlins Charitable Trust.

**Dorothy Gerhardt Northup Weinert**, Beavercreek, Ohio, passed away March 21, 2020. She taught for 30 years in Yellow Springs, Xenia, and Springfield, Ohio, as well as New Hampshire schools.

## 1964

**Anne Stevenson Benninghoff**, Ann Arbor, Michigan, passed away April 2, 2020.

**Patricia "Pat" Winter Dally**, Lima, Ohio, died Oct. 26, 2019. She retired from the Elida Local School System after teaching for more than 30 years. She was a member of the South Side Christian Church and Phi Beta Psi Sorority, Chapter Iota Sigma.

**Joanne Seiberling Knudsen** of Copley, Ohio, and formerly of Sharon Center, Ohio, passed away May 11, 2020. She taught in the Norton elementary schools for 32 years, retiring in 1996, and was active with the Sharing Center food pantry at St. Paul Lutheran and the Medina County SPCA.

**H. Eugene "Gene" Templar** '66S, Lexington, Kentucky, passed away April 11, 2020. He served four Lutheran parishes: St. Paul's, Connersville, Indiana; Trinity, Louisville, Kentucky; Faith, Lexington, Kentucky; and Calvary, Louisville, Kentucky. He served on the Wittenberg Board of Directors from 1972-1978.

**Wayne Wiseman** '64MEd, Springfield Ohio, passed away Sept. 27, 2019. He briefly played professional basketball for Abe Saperstein's Boston Whirlwinds and his Harlem Globetrotters. After serving as a sergeant in the U.S. Army, he entered the teaching profession and had a career as a high school head basketball coach at Oak Hill High School, Northwestern High School, and Springfield South High School. He was inducted into the Ohio Coaches Basketball Hall of Fame, Rio Grande University Hall of Fame, and Springfield South Hall of Fame, and was voted Ohio Coach of the Year in 1984. He was active with the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association and Asbury Methodist Church.

## 1965

**George D. Berndt**, Moneta, Virginia, passed away Feb. 17, 2020. He served in the Army, had a career with the Department of Interior as a national park historian, and was stationed at several national parks around the country.

**Margaret Mautz Chadwell**, Indialantic, Florida, passed away Nov. 8, 2019. She was a medical social worker from 1968-1990 at Children's Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Ira "Jay" Eben**, Springfield, Ohio, passed away April 24, 2020. After 46 years of teaching physics at Shawnee High School, he retired in 2014 and was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame in 2016. His interest in history, particularly horse dragoons, led to writing the *Dragoon Sketchbook 1776-1798* and appearing in several historical films and documentaries, including the 2000 Hollywood production *The Patriot*. He was a member of Delta Sigma Phi.



**Cheryl Dankert Porter Garofalo**, Ridgefield Park, New Jersey, passed away Dec. 21, 2019. A national champion bridge player, she was an instructor and longtime director at Glen Rock Bridge Center in Maywood. She also served as president of the board of Bergenfield Free Public Library, former president of the Bergenfield Junior Woman's Club, and member of Chi Omega sorority.

**David C. Halley**, Wilmington, Ohio, died Dec. 22, 2019. He served in the Air Force.

**Earl T. Newell**, Huber Heights, Ohio, passed away Jan. 21, 2020. He was a retired pastor who served numerous churches.

**Susan "Sue" Roth Coton Opperman**, Vermilion, Ohio, died Oct. 1, 2019. An artist, she worked at American Greetings Corporation and the Cedar Point art department. She was an art teacher at St. Mary School, Amherst Schools, and Vermilion's Lake, Valleyview, and Middle School, and retired from McCormick Intermediate School in Wellington. She served as past president of Vermilion College Club and was a member of the Harbourtown Doll Club, Vermilion Historic Design and Review Board, Chi Omega, and attended Vermilion United Church of Christ Congregational.

**John W. Sixt**, San Jose, California, passed away July 9, 2020. A member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity, he retired from Sodexo Inc. after 33 years.

## 1966

**Linda Korzuck Davis**, Gastonia, North Carolina, died Jan. 28, 2020. Listed twice in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*, she taught for more than 35 years in Sarasota, Florida, and North Carolina. She was a member of the education sorority Alpha Delta Kappa, Delta Zeta sorority, and Trinity United Methodist Church. She volunteered with Crisis Assistance Ministries.

**Robert A. Geisler**, Madison, Ohio, died March 22, 2020. He retired as associate superintendent of Perry Schools in Perry, Ohio, in 1998. In retirement, he worked security for the Cleveland Indians Baseball Co. for 23 years. He was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha.

**Alice Gillam**, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, died April 10, 2020. A member of Kappa Delta sorority, she joined the English faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1986.

Rev. Dr. **Larry J. Houff**, Vermilion, Ohio, died Nov. 23, 2019. He served at First Lutheran Church in Springfield, Ohio; Augsburg Lutheran Church in Toledo, Ohio; as assistant pastor and then associate pastor to Wittenberg University; Martin Luther Lutheran Church in Canton, Ohio; and as village pastor at Holden Village retreat center in Washington state. At Wittenberg, he directed Schola Cantorum, formed and directed Candlemas and a series of Baroque solo cantata evenings, and accompanied the Wittenberg Choir tours. During retirement, he served as director of the early service choir at Trinity Lutheran Church in Vermilion. He also was a founding member of Shore Thing at Main Street Beach.

**James D. Jensen**, Toledo, Ohio, died Aug. 6, 2020. He was a lawyer and partner with Spengler, Nathanson, assistant U.S. attorney, and for 20 years a judge of the Lucas County Common Pleas Court and then the Ohio 6th District Court of Appeals. He served on the Ohio State Bar Association council of delegates and the Wittenberg Board of Directors.

**Thomas M. Meadows**, Red Bud, Illinois, passed away Nov. 26, 2019. He taught business at Bellefontaine High School in Ohio before working for the Rodefeld Company in Indianapolis, Indiana, and for more than 30 years for Zenith Electronics in Salt Lake City, Utah, and Chicago, Illinois. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta.

## 1967

**Carol Martin Breig**, Dalton, Pennsylvania, died Sept. 24, 2018. She was the vice president of development for the Northeast Philharmonic and had been actively involved with the Scranton Cultural Center, Wilkes University, and the Employment Opportunity Training Center. She was a member of Gamma Phi Beta.

**David E. Cary '67MS**, Columbus, Ohio, passed away Dec. 19, 2019. He was an educator and administrator in the Columbus Public School System. He was a member of Worthington United Methodist Church.

**Richard A. Cramer**, Springfield, Ohio, passed away April 6, 2020. He worked as a logistics agent with the Department of Defense in South Bend, Indiana, and Columbus and Dayton, Ohio. He was a member of Covenant Presbyterian Church where he served as church treasurer.

**Kathleen Moore Dorn**, Ashtabula, Ohio, died Feb. 3, 2020. She taught at Snowhill Elementary School.

## 1968

Rev. **Gordon D. Scullion '68S**, Defiance, Ohio, passed away Dec. 7, 2019. Ordained in 1968, he first served at First Lutheran Church, Tiffin, Ohio, before helping to start Galilee Lutheran Church in Russells Point, Ohio. In 1979, he became pastoral associate at Zion's Lutheran Church. He then opened his own practice in pastoral counseling in Defiance and served as part-time pastor at Christ Lutheran Church in Continental, Ohio.

## 1969

**James H. Casey**, Port Angeles, Washington, died Aug. 9, 2019. A skilled writer, he worked in newsrooms in Dayton, Ohio; Everett, Olympia, Port Angeles, and Sequim, Washington; and Corpus Christi, Texas, where he also taught English to Hispanic nursing students. He was a member of the Olympic Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Olympic Climate Action, Compassion of Clallam County, and Phi Gamma Delta.

**John L. Gland**, Saline, Michigan, died March 2, 2019. He led research and development groups at General Motors and Exxon Research before becoming a full professor at the University of Michigan with appointments in chemistry, applied physics, and chemical engineering.

**Donald Hinkle '69MSM**, formerly of Shillington, Pennsylvania, passed away April 3, 2020. He

served as a U.S. Air Force chaplain's assistant in Washington, D.C. From 1969-1996, he was director of music and Christian education at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Reading, Pennsylvania. In retirement, he worked with the Berks Classical Children's Chorus and served as organist at Reformation Lutheran Church in Reiffton. He was involved with local school productions and taught private voice, piano, and organ lessons.

**John J. Leshinski**, Scottsdale, Arizona, passed away Sept. 8, 2019. A member of Alpha Tau Omega, he began the pursuit of his law degree at the University of Cincinnati before being drafted into the Army.

**Dianne Manniko Young**, Conneaut, Ohio, died April 9, 2020. She spent most of her career as a teacher. A member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, she was active with the choir, bells ensemble, and quilting club, and served as a pastoral assistant. A member of Kappa Delta sorority, she also was active in Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Crystal River, Florida, where she spent winters.

## 1970

**Trell H. Yocum**, Wapakoneta, Ohio, passed away Feb. 8, 2020. He was an owner and partner of Northwestern Ohio Security Systems in Lima and a member of First English Lutheran Church and Beta Theta Pi.

## 1971

**Darryl L. Herring**, Springfield, Ohio, died Jan. 3, 2020. He began his career working for the City of Springfield, holding positions as assistant recreation director, recreation director, administrative manager, development director, and assistant city manager, retiring in 2001 after 30 years of service. He served on the boards of Wittenberg University, Springfield Frontiers Club, International City-County Management Association, American Society for Public Administration, National Forum for Black Public Administrators, and Clark County Community Leadership Committee. A member of Phi Mu Delta, he was inducted into the East Liverpool High School Hall of Fame in 1995 and the Wittenberg Athletics Hall of Honor in 1989.

**John A. Levering**, Springfield, Ohio, passed away Jan. 26, 2020. He spent his career working with the Clark County Juvenile Court system, including the Children's Home and Juvenile Court as a probation officer before retiring in 2004.

**William R. Loeffler** of Laguna Hills, California, and formerly of Perrysburg, Ohio, passed away March 25, 2020.

**Anne H. Wright**, Nashport, Ohio, passed away March 4, 2020. She spent most of her career at Maysville Elementary School inspiring the students in the gifted program. She was a member of the Authors Club, Beaux-Arts Club, and Gamma Phi Beta sorority, and served as a docent at the Zanesville Museum of Art.

## 1972

**Kirk F. Loxterman**, Painesville Township, Ohio, passed away Sept. 3, 2019. Prior to his law career,

he owned and operated Convenient Food Mart. He was a partner with McNamara & Loxterman Law Firm and a member of Painesville Elks Lodge #549, Moose Lodge #490, and past member of Temple Lodge #28 and Al Koran Shrine. He served as past president of the Board of Neighboring and the Zion Lutheran Church Council in Fairport Harbor.

## 1973

**Katherine "Kit" Hoyt Price Blount**, Commerce, Texas, died Feb. 5, 2020. She was a planetary geologist and geomorphologist who served on the inaugural NASA Mars Mapping program throughout the 1990s. For 45 years, she taught in higher education, holding positions at DePauw University, the Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science, Texas A&M University, and Angelo State University.

**Jill M. Elliott**, Santa Ana, California, passed away Feb. 3, 2020. She worked for Dartmouth University Mental Health before returning to California where she worked with youth and the underprivileged, volunteering through her church and community. A member of Delta Gamma, she also traveled to China and Russia to teach English to high school students.

**Christine C. Loehrke**, Ottawa, Ohio, passed away Jan. 13, 2020. She was executive director of the Cleveland Epilepsy Foundation.

**David M. Myers**, Roswell, Georgia, passed away Nov. 18, 2019. A member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity, he had a long career in the printing industry with DuPont and Pitman Company.

## 1974

**Randall A. Neff**, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, died Feb. 1, 2020. A psychiatric social worker, he spent several decades with the Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division before working as a training coordinator at Pathfinders for Runaways. He also had a private practice, Kano Psychotherapy.

**Roger E. Thomas**, Xenia, Ohio, passed away Oct. 31, 2019. He retired as sergeant first class from the U.S. Army, 101st Airborne Division, where he served in Desert Shield and Desert Storm. A member of Christ Episcopal Church, he also had been a manager at Lowe's.

## 1975

**Robin Williams Critchell**, Milford, Ohio, passed away Dec. 26, 2019. She was a member of Delta Gamma.

## 1976

**Janice Lee Green**, Colorado Springs, Colorado, passed away Jan. 19, 2020. She taught special education at the elementary level, retiring in 2009, and volunteered with Silver Key of Colorado Springs.

**Peggy Muncie Hamilton**, Medway, Ohio, passed away Dec. 12, 2019. She began her 30-year teaching career in a one-room schoolhouse and retired from Tecumseh Local Schools.

**William C. Hawes**, Houston, Texas, died July 5, 2020. Employed by INEOS Olefins & Polymers USA, he worked in the petro-chemical industry for more

than 30 years. Earlier in his career, he worked for Sohio, Standard Oil, and BP plc.

**William D. Jaquays**, Fairview Park, Ohio, died March 2, 2020. He worked for MTD in the sales service department for 40 years.

## 1977

**Patricia "Patty" Harter Bernhard**, Greenville, Ohio, passed away Oct. 21, 2019. She was a longtime teacher at Greenville City Schools and the gifted coordinator for Darke County Education Service Center. She was a member of Chi Omega sorority and Oakland Church of the Brethren, where she served as a deacon and Sunday school teacher.

**David C. Wade**, Worthington, Ohio, passed away Aug. 22, 2020. He was former vice president and chief financial officer for Ruscilli Construction Company, member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity and United Methodist Church, and a founding board member of the Worthington Resource Pantry.

## 1978

**Anne Peters Cannarozzi**, Springfield, Ohio, passed away Jan. 4, 2020.

**Rebecca "Becca" Wills Eiffler**, Urbana, Ohio, passed away Nov. 18, 2019. A special education teacher, she retired from Mac-A-Cheek Learning Center and then worked part-time at the Urbana YMCA. She was a member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church of the Deaf.

**Pamela H. Willis**, New Richmond, Ohio, died July 15, 2020. She was a medical social worker before working as a financial counselor and loan officer in greater Cincinnati and Kentucky. She was honored by the Greater Cincinnati Urban League and the African American Chamber of Commerce for her contributions.

## 1979

**James Hercik**, Twinsburg, Ohio, passed away in April 2019.

## 1980

**Ruth Barnhart Booster**, Republic, Ohio, died June 22, 2020. She was a former case worker for Sandusky County Board of MRDD and a member of St. Jacob's United Church of Christ.

Rev. **Carol A. Hertler**, Chillicothe, Ohio, passed away Jan. 30, 2020. An ordained Lutheran minister, she served in parishes in West Virginia, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, and also served as Lutheran campus pastor at Minnesota State University Moorhead. She was a member of Calvary Lutheran Church and Church Women United.

## 1981

**Scott A. "Bo" Barthelmas**, Circleville, Ohio, died Dec. 24, 2019.

**Therese Pauloski Mayfield**, Parma, Ohio, died Aug. 4, 2020. She worked at Darice Wholesale Arts and Crafts Supplies in Strongsville.

## 1985

**Frank S. Engel**, Indianapolis, Indiana, died Jan. 7, 2020.

## 1986

**J. Tyler Carlson**, Mt. Laurel, New Jersey, passed away May 3, 2017. He was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

## 1989

**Scott Z. Reath**, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, passed away Feb. 22, 2020. He worked for U.S. Chrome Corporation, initially in Stratford, Connecticut, and later in Fond du Lac.

## 1992

**Glen F. Gadiano**, Naperville, Illinois, passed away Aug. 6, 2019. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

## 1993

**Christine E. Spooner**, London, England, died Feb. 5, 2020. She worked for 10 years as a writer and assistant to the executive producer for the TV sitcom *The King of Queens*. In 2007, she moved to London, where she worked with several charities as a celebrity liaison, events coordinator, and office director. She was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

## 2014

**Jessica Coggins Westmoreland**, Mentor, Ohio, passed away Sept. 3, 2019. After graduating from Wittenberg with a bachelor's degree in biochemistry and molecular biology, she earned a Doctor of Pharmacy from The Ohio State University in 2018.

## 2018

**Mark D. "JR" Menifee**, Cincinnati, Ohio, passed away Nov. 21, 2019.

## 2023

**Jack R. Benak**, Twinsburg, Ohio, passed away March 13, 2020. He was a member of the men's soccer team.

## FACULTY & STAFF

**Victor Garcia**, adjunct faculty member in Spanish, d. Nov. 20, 2019

**Robert G. Hartje**, professor emeritus of history, d. April 21, 2020

**Albert A. Hayden**, professor emeritus of history, d. July 21, 2020

**Iris T. Howe**, retired executive secretary to the vice president for academic affairs, d. Jan. 4, 2020

**Raymond J. Kovach**, former director of development, d. June 28, 2020

**Louis J. Laux**, professor emeritus of biology, d. April 10, 2020

**Velma Layman**, retired library staff member, d. June 27, 2019

**Sean E. Ross**, former defensive coordinator and associate director of leadership giving, d. Aug. 4, 2020

**Debra "Debi" Adkins Shaffer**, retired Office of Admission staff assistant, d. Feb. 25, 2020



# Wittenberg's Most Famous Author

WRITTEN BY Thomas T. Taylor

“It was probably a mistake to pursue happiness; much better to create happiness; still better to create happiness for others. The more happiness you created for others the more would be yours – a solid satisfaction that no one could ever take away from you.”

Quick – what author had a book on the annual Publishers Weekly bestseller lists more years than any other writer in the 1930s and 1940s?

- a) Ernest Hemingway
- b) F. Scott Fitzgerald
- c) Louis Bromfield
- d) Margaret Ayer Barnes

If you guessed Hemingway or Fitzgerald – forget it, this is not your high school English class. And if you guessed Louis Bromfield – congratulations. Wrong, but you are a loyal Ohioan who remembers a native son who won the Pulitzer. And if you guessed Margaret Ayer Barnes – well done for remembering her. But, again, wrong.

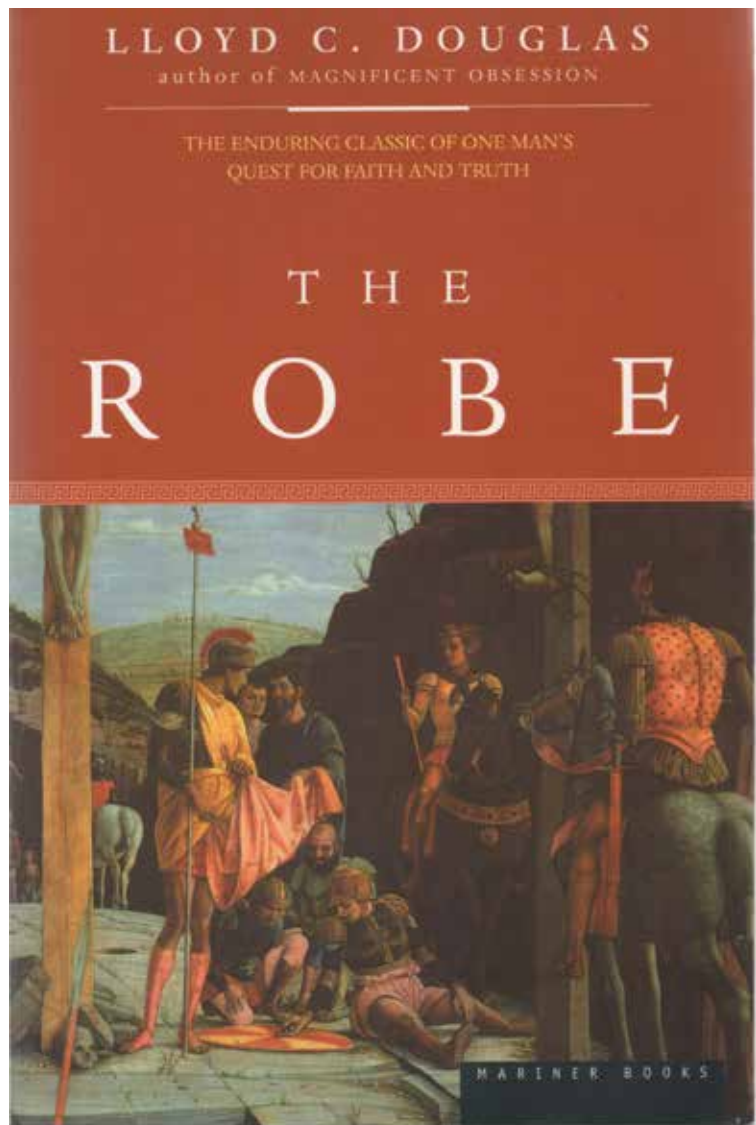
The correct answer is Wittenberg's most famous alumnus, Lloyd C. Douglas, class of 1900.

Born in Indiana in 1877, Lloyd was raised in a Lutheran minister's household in Indiana and Kentucky. At the turn of the century, he earned his B.A. and M.A. at Wittenberg before entering the ministry himself. While in Springfield, he also worked as a local church organist.

Douglas served Lutheran parishes in Indiana, Ohio, and Washington, D.C., before becoming pastor of First Congregationalist Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Subsequent parishes took him to Los Angeles and Montreal. He wrote several books on ministry during these years, and in the late 1920s retired from the ministry to also write novels.

The success of his first novel, *Magnificent Obsession* (1929), shocked critics and Douglas himself, launching a string of best-sellers that extended through the 1940s. The book was turned into two movies, one in 1935 (starring Irene Dunne and Robert Taylor) and another in 1952 (starring Jane Wyman and Rock Hudson). The book made No. 8 on the bestsellers list for 1932 and No. 4 for 1934, when Douglas' second novel, *Forgive Us Our Trespasses*, made No. 6. *Green Light* was No. 1 in 1935, *White Banners* was No. 6 in 1936, and *Disputed Passage* was No. 9 in 1939. Douglas liked writing about wealthy, young men or women, self-absorbed but with other good qualities, who turn their lives around to serve others.

Douglas was already quite famous when his best-known work, *The Robe*, reached No. 7 in 1942 and No. 1 in 1943,



spending nearly a full year at No. 1. The title refers to Christ's cloak, over which soldiers gambled at the foot of the cross, in a post-crucifixion drama set among persecuted Christians under the Roman Empire. It remained on *The New York Times* list for three years and returned periodically thereafter. After his death, the book was turned into the first major CinemaScope (a widescreen format) movie, under the same name and starring Richard Burton, Jean Simmons, and Victor Mature. The movie was nominated for several Academy Awards and won two; and the book returned to the No. 1 spot.

His last novel, *The Big Fisherman*, made No. 1 in 1948, with Douglas promising it would never be filmed. Douglas died in Los Angeles in February 1951, after completing the first volume of his memoir; the second volume was completed by his family.

*Professor of History Thomas T. Taylor has compiled over the years a series of pieces on Wittenberg's history, including the one printed here. To read more, visit [www.wittenberg.edu/celebrating-175-years-witthistory](http://www.wittenberg.edu/celebrating-175-years-witthistory).*



## PULLING TOGETHER

Zori Parker '21, an accounting and finance double major from Pickerington, Ohio, credits alumni support – in the form of donor-supported scholarships as well as the mentorship of those “who have taken [her] under their wings” – with making her educational endeavors possible.

“I know that sounds cliché, but it is so very true,” she said. “I would not trade my Wittenberg education for anything. I have grown to love this institution more and more each day.”

A dean's list student and Omicron Delta Award recipient, Parker is a campus leader, serving as treasurer for Concerned Black Students (CBS) and IMANI Gospel Choir, Resident Advisor, and member of the Diversity Advisory Board, Witt Invest, and Accounting Club.

“There are struggles that this school faces, but it is always amazing to see how each person on campus pulls together to solve a problem. I thank you because without the Wittenberg Opportunity Scholarship, I would have never been able to see wonderful people solving large problems firsthand.”



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