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WITTENBERG MAGAZINE WINTER 2020

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From The President

What amazing accomplishments! In the pages of this magazine you will see just some of the fantastic stories of the lives of Wittenberg alumni. Those featured here, and all of you, are living examples of the power of your life-changing experiences here.

Our students, and the ways in which I get to see them learn, grow, and change, are the highlight of serving as president of Wittenberg. I am energized when I see them lead and serve with compassion and confidence, hear them present their research, listen to them celebrating their accomplishments, and watch them sharing the experience with their peers. What I feel every day from them reinforces that what we do at Wittenberg makes a difference, for individuals and in the world.

In this moment, the narrative around a college education, particularly at a residential liberal arts and sciences institution like ours, continues to be a challenging one. College enrollment has declined in the United States for eight straight years. We are among those institutions struggling with resource constraints as we seek new ways to fulfill our mission that are both respectful of our history and embrace an uncertain future. We do this work as we hear of institutions closing, merging, or working urgently to develop new, innovative programs and forward-thinking methods of educational delivery. We know we must evolve in response to our environment and the times.

That we must change in the face of these challenges simply fuels our resolve to continue our efforts to be the institution that helps students find their light so they can pass it on to others. We have been engaged in this critical work since 1845, and this year will mark our 175th anniversary on March 11 of accomplishing what founder Ezra Keller set out to do. I believe it is essential to use this milestone to reflect on our journey. I also believe this milestone must serve as a bridge to change as we examine fully and completely the role we, as an institution of higher learning, are called to play in shaping people to lead lives of integrity and purpose.

As the new year begins, I ask that you continue to preserve our mission and advance our future as Wittenberg ambassadors. You represent us to the world, and you remind each of us that our work as educators and change-agents is never done. While the narrative affecting all of higher education, sadly, will likely continue, we must do our part to keep shining our light, both institutionally and as individuals, and be the beacon we have been for 175 years. I’m confident that together, we can inspire generations.

Happy New Year as we build on the foundation that began in 1845 and move forward on multiple fronts in 2020 and in the years that follow.

Best regards,
Michael L. Frandsen, Ph.D.
President
CAMPAIGN STEERING COMMITTEE SELECTED

As Wittenberg looks to embark on its first comprehensive campaign in nearly two decades, several alumni and campus representatives have agreed to assist the University in this bold effort.

Leading the committee will be managing co-chair Janet E. Jackson ’75, retired CEO and president of United Way of Central Ohio; co-chair Wesley Bates ’70, CEO and Chair of the Board of Stanley Steemer; and co-chair Sarah Hagen McWilliams ’88, community leader and philanthropist.

Joining the co-chairs will be Derrick Braziel ’09, co-founder of MORTAR Cincinnati; Bill Edwards ’89, partner, Ulmer & Berne LLP; Alicia Sweet Hupp ’82, president and CEO of Sweet Manufacturing Company; Bob Merzweiler ’76, CEO of Landmark Plastic Corp.; Steve Neely ’75, president/owner of Armoloy of Ohio; and Gina Schaefer ’93, owner, Logan Hardware. The committee will also include Wittenberg representatives Rebecca Kocher, vice president for advancement and alumni engagement, and Andrew Steele, assistant vice president for advancement and director of campaigns. Melanie Norton, founder, Norton Philanthropic Counsel, will help advise the campaign.

“The opportunity to work so closely with our alumni in moving a campaign forward is an honor,” Kocher said. “I am confident that their passion and commitment to serving in this capacity will lead to exceptional outcomes as we proceed with the planning and implementation.”

The committee has already been meeting and will provide updates as appropriate. For more information on the committee or to learn more, contact the Office of Advancement at 937-327-7430 or alumni@wittenberg.edu.
Concerned Black Students (CBS) 1968-1969 through Ron Woods ’69, one of the founders of CBS, earned the Servant Leader Award, bestowed upon alumni who have distinguished themselves through outstanding service.

Elizabeth George, professor of physics, received the 2019 Alumni Association Award for Distinguished Teaching, the highest award a member of Wittenberg University’s faculty can receive.

HALL OF HONOR
Seven Wittenberg University greats will be inducted into the school’s Athletics Hall of Honor during Wittenberg’s first-ever Athletics Reunion Weekend, April 23-25, 2020, in addition to an alumnus who will be honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Tim Altman ’96, Steve Dawson, Jeff Pfister ’67, Daniel Russ ’06, Rebecca Russ Spencer ’03, Geri Woessner ’04, and Caroline Zimmerman will join 235 other Wittenberg greats who have previously been inducted into the university’s Athletics Hall of Honor, while Jim Render ’64 becomes the fifth recipient of the Athletics Hall of Honor Lifetime Achievement Award.

The honorees will be formally inducted into the Athletics Hall of Honor at a banquet on Friday, April 24, 2020. The Class of 2019 was selected by the Athletics Hall of Honor committee in September 2019.
Fifty years ago, Concerned Black Students (CBS) settled upon a collective undertaking that was unique among the wave of campus activism in the 1960s—the walkout of 44 African American students to compel change in diversity and inclusion at Wittenberg. For the campus at the time, the regular rhythm of the semester gave way to learning beyond the classroom moments for the entire community.

The same powerful learning moments were again experienced during Homecoming & Reunion Weekend, Oct. 24-27, when Wittenberg commemorated the 50th anniversary of the walkout with a reenactment, special video, panel discussion, and reception.

Visit to www.wittenberg.edu/CBSwalkout to hear their story.
Karlos L. Marshall ’13 and Moses B. Mbeseha ’13, co-founders of The Conscious Connect Inc., were named to Forbes 30 Under 30 2019 list for their work in education. The graduates are fighting to end illiteracy by providing children in low-to-moderate income neighborhoods with access to free books through 70 national literacy access points, such as barbershops and hair salons, as well as “Little Libraries.”

Founded in 2015, Conscious Connect is dedicated to ending “urban book deserts” or areas with diminished access to children’s reading materials. Marshall and Mbeseha are reimagining and redeveloping underutilized spaces for the purpose of education, culture, and peace. The Conscious Connect also serves as a cultural renaissance and street revitalization organization.

“Our mission is to end urban book deserts in the state of Ohio by 2021,” said Mbeseha, a resident of Dayton. “That will continue to be the main objective until we accomplish it. But growth is also a natural part of the process, and we really want to create an ecosystem to sustain the literary oasis we are building.”

Championing literacy as a human right has become a staple of the organization for closing opportunity gaps. Further, the organization has been working with government agencies to remove blighted structures, acquire vacant lots, and return them back to productive status in the form of neighborhood “pocket parks.”

“Short term, our mission is to end book deserts, but our vision is growing along with expectations from the community, so we will continue to take this as long as access to literature remains an issue for people living in urban book deserts,” Mbeseha said.

In addition to being designated in June 2019 as Luminaries by the Board of Clark County Commissioners in recognition of their efforts to make a difference in their community, the pair was honored by the Library of Congress in September 2019.

Mbeseha, originally from Buea, Cameroon, grew up in Dallas, Texas, and State College, Pennsylvania. He majored in political science and minored in African and diaspora studies at Wittenberg and is currently pursuing his M.B.A. at the University of Dayton. Marshall, originally from Springfield, was a philosophy major at Wittenberg with a minor in African and diaspora studies, a three-year letter winner as a football player, and a member of Concerned Black Students. He went on to achieve his master’s degree in higher education administration from the University of Dayton and is currently pursuing his Ph.D.

“The Conscious Connect was born from a vision to create something that was at the intersections of cultural life and social conditions,” said Marshall, a Springfield High graduate.

“We fundamentally believe that common thoughts must meet uncommon actions. The collective power of people has the capacity to do brilliant things. The mission is to establish southwest Ohio as the model and mecca for an urban literary oasis. More critically, we’re seeking to eradicate urban book deserts through neighborhood co-op systems—by using current assets and creating new spatial literacy access points.”

Committed to mobilizing neighborhoods around urban education and literacy, The Conscious Connect has already received awards from the African American Community Fund in Springfield and
from the United Way of Clark, Champaign and Madison Counties.

“Karlos and I got to know each other toward the end of our time at Wittenberg, but we both had the same ideals and calling to serve,” said Mbeseha, who was involved with Concerned Black Students, the Security Council, and the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), as well as ran track for three years and played soccer during his time at Wittenberg.

“It was actually Karlos’ idea, and he brought folks to the table,” Mbeseha continued. “We had conversations and went on to design the platform we’re using now. As a Springfield native, he really wanted to impact his community in every way possible and tapped me to help out. With the tremendous support we’ve received, we’ve been able to grow our vision much more than I think we anticipated.”

For more information, www.theconsciousconnectinc.org
Wittenberg Opens Health, Wellness & Athletics Complex
With excitement and energy in every corner, Wittenberg formally dedicated its new 265,000-square-foot fully renovated and expanded Health, Wellness & Athletics (HWA) Complex, along with its centerpiece, The Steemer indoor practice facility, during a special celebration October 25, 2019, as part of Homecoming & Reunion Weekend.

Lead donors for the project, Wes ’70 and Ann Sammel Bates ’70, were thanked by all those present for their generosity and vision, which has produced a best-in-class experience for students and an unmatched facility in Division III. President Mike Frandsen joined in giving thanks, along with state and federal officials who presented proclamations in honor of the historic unveiling, as well as students, faculty, and staff. Fine arts major Kimmey Mugford ’21 also presented the Bates with a watercolor painting, designed by her, of the new HWA as a treasured keepsake.

Student-led tours showed off the unique features of the complex, which now includes the Kremchek Sports Medicine Facility, the Ness Lounge for gathering and conversation, the Baines Conference Room, classrooms, a new pressbox with plenty of space to accommodate media members and game management personnel, a concession stand, the 6,000-square-foot Wes Bates Strength Center, a new entertainment suite, Ron Duncan Hall of Honor, and an innovative exercise science lab to support Wittenberg’s academic programming, among other distinctive elements.

To see more photos, view a tour video or support the project, visit www.wittenberg.edu/hwa
Justin and Janet Thomas Henry have two homes, but it’s not what you might think. For the past several years, the Henrys have split their time between Mount Juliet, Tennessee, and Cochabamba, Bolivia. Cochabamba is no tourist destination. Located in the Andes Mountains, the city is home to about 700,000 people, and every day three children under the age of 6 are abandoned on the streets.

In 2007, Justin went to Bolivia for the first time on a 10-day trip to construct a playground for the Bolivian Hope Center, a home for children whose mothers are in jail. When women go to prison in Bolivia, their children go with them. As if that is not bad enough, prisoners don’t get a cell phone, or blankets, or even food in a Bolivian prison, unless they pay for it. So, the prisons are full of children who often go to sleep on cold, hard concrete floors with empty bellies because there is no place for them to live. And just when it seems the situation can’t get any worse, some children are randomly removed from the prison due to overcrowding and kicked out onto the streets to fend for themselves.

Justin witnessed this firsthand in 2007 and could not forget what he saw. A police officer at the time, he was no stranger to witnessing dark and dire situations, but there was something different about those kids; they had no hope without the Hope Center he helped create. At the time, the Hope Center was under construction but not yet completed. As funds came in, more building would take place.

Over the next several years, Justin took more than 20 trips to Cochabamba to work on the Hope Center. Construction was finally completed, and the doors were opened to receive children in 2009. The next year, he convinced Janet to come down to experience Christmas with the kids in the Hope Center. For most of them, it was the first time they had ever celebrated Christmas, not because they didn’t know what it was, but because their families never had money to buy presents. It was a most humbling experience that forever changed the Henrys.

“It’s been a long time since I’ve graduated from Witt, but I’ll never forget what it says on the Seal, ‘Having Light We Pass It On To Others.’ At first I thought it was a bit arrogant; now I see it as a daily charge,” Justin Henry said.

“There are many around the world who simply lack what we would consider basic knowledge—hygiene, nutrition, etc.
Home of Hope

The Home of Hope will house up to 36 children who would otherwise have to live in a prison with their mothers or on the streets. Here, they have their own beds and will be raised in a Godly environment with plenty of food, medical and dental care, and a whole lot of love and support while their parent is in prison. There are currently 20 kids living in just one prison in Cochabamba, awaiting a place to live. The House of Life, a second project, is nearly complete and will not only give the Henrys the ability to get these kids out of the prison, but will serve as a multi-purpose building as well.
There is a pastor of a large Hispanic church in Chicago, Pastor Choco de Jesus, whom I heard speak once. He said that ‘With revelation comes responsibility.’ Once we see something that we should act on, it is our responsibility to do so. I left Wittenberg with a lot more light than when I entered. It’s now my responsibility to share that light with others. I would love nothing more than for every graduate to do the same.”

In 2013, circumstances changed, sending the Henrys back to Bolivia. One of the founders of the Hope Center was diagnosed with a debilitating disease and had to seek treatment in the United States. The entire Henry family traveled to Bolivia for three months to work at the Hope Center. Much of Bolivia consists of unreached Indigenous People living in hard to reach, remote areas ranging from steep, treacherous mountains to steamy, humid jungles. Aside from health concerns of things like typhoid fever and malaria, many of these areas lack basic needs of clean water and proper sanitation. So it was during this time that the Henrys knew they had to make sure that their work never ceased.

By the end of 2015, the Henrys left their jobs in the United States to begin working at the Hope Center year-round.

The Hope Center can house up to 40 boys and girls, and it’s a rarity when the beds are not full. Still, when new kids arrive for the first time, they are surprised that they don’t have to share a bed with other kids.

The Henrys are excited to be back in the States for a few months to raise awareness about kids who are forced to live in Bolivia’s prisons, as well as to share more about the work being done at the Hope Center, and their other projects, which include a Home of Hope, a House of Life, a First Steps program, along with programs to battle food insecurity in Bolivia.

To learn more, visit their website at www.travelingcoch.com.
Melanie Barrett ’21 relies on her “Happy Planner” to balance her busy schedule. Barrett, a double major in voice performance and business management, not only carries a full load of classes, but she’s currently running a successful startup, a business so personal it’s named after her late sister, Bailey.

“At first I did not balance my responsibilities. I felt that prioritizing Bailey Bug was important,” said the newly minted entrepreneur, whose company, Bailey Bug LLC, develops specialized apparel and accessories for warmth, style, and safety for those who use wheelchairs.

“Soon I realized that I needed my Wittenberg education for Bailey Bug to excel.”

The spark for Barrett’s company came from her sister, Bailey, who was born with Lennox-Gestaut Syndrome, a rare form of epilepsy that confined her to a wheelchair. Barrett’s family had a difficult time finding a jacket that would fit over Bailey and not tangle in the wheels of the chair.

“It started as a homemade coat for my older sister. Bailey passed away in 2017 while I was in high school and was the inspiration for a movement I did not think was possible.”

The movement has been growing since Barrett first presented her specially designed cape, which fits around a wheelchair to keep occupants warm and comfortable, at Wittenberg’s annual Tiger Tank event in 2018. The event, hosted by the department of business, is Wittenberg’s version of the popular Shark Tank program and features alumni judges.

One of the judges, Wittenberg Board member Scott “Muddy” Watters ’87, owner and president of Flippin Water LLC, loved Barrett’s idea and helped her set the groundwork for Bailey Bug.

“Melanie had great passion for her product, and it showed in her presentation,” said Watters, whose company assists with fundraising, equity, and debt solutions, as well as capital and finance restructuring.

“Bailey Bug is very personal to her. I was impressed by how well she presented in front of a large group. I already had some contacts in mind that I felt would be a good fit to help Melanie get her product launched. We talked about her goals and what she wanted to gain from this experience.”

Barrett was so passionate about Bailey Bug that Watters reached out to a longtime friend, Mike Billman, who works for D-Terra Solutions in Columbus, Ohio. D-Terra helps individuals or companies take product ideas and make them a reality. They gave Barrett a paid summer internship, helped her create a business plan, and created product specifications, prototypes, and stage-gate launch plans. They also connected her with lawyers to help set up her LLC and trademarks for Bailey Bug.
“Bailey Bug helps make people’s lives in wheelchairs more comfortable. It not only helps the disabled, but also caregivers. Melanie also wanted to keep Bailey Bug local. This is a great thing for Melanie, for Wittenberg University, and the Springfield community,” Watters said.

This past academic year, Barrett and Watters were able to build her company and product through even more Wittenberg connections after making a presentation to 80 members of the Springfield Rotary Club where a member of The Abilities Connection (TAC) was present. TAC employs, connects, and cares for people with developmental or physical disabilities. Upon learning more, TAC agreed to be Bailey Bug’s production company, and this summer all manufacturing of the product was moved to Springfield.

“Not only do we add to the community with our warmth, style, and safety, but now we get to be a part of providing jobs to people with disabilities as well,” Barrett said.

Barrett’s entrepreneurial idea has unbridled potential to make an impact on the 2.7 million people in wheelchairs across the United States.

“Starting a business takes passion, dedication, organization, and a ‘I will never give up’ attitude. The love that I have for my sister pushes me everyday. I believe that with my sister’s story and our wheelchair capes, that Bailey Bug can make a difference in adaptability through safety, utilization, awareness, and heart.”

Going to school and running a growing company isn’t easy. Despite the success of Bailey Bug, and despite her hectic schedule, Barrett still finds time to enjoy her life on campus. Recently, Barrett even kissed her boyfriend on Wittenberg’s famous “kissing bridge.”

“You know what that means,” Barrett said in a moment of fun. While the kissing bridge is a Tiger tradition, marriage is not in Barrett’s short-term plans.

“In my short-term future, I plan to help other students see that if they have a dream they can turn it into a reality.”

Passing the light is another Tiger tradition, and Barrett plans to continue giving back, not only to Springfield, but to Wittenberg. In the future, “I will graduate and come back as an alumna to make a difference for the school that helped me get my start.”

As of today, the pages in Barrett’s “Happy Planner” continue to be filled with appointments, weekly goals, and monthly goals, but everything returns to her sister.

“Bailey Bug has allowed my family to keep Bailey’s name and story alive, share her story, and pass along her love and memory to others. Bailey means the world to me, and I will not stop until the warmth she gave to me is spread.”

For more information, visit www.baileybug.org.
“LOVE HAS NO DISABILITY

Photo by Trent Spreanec
Style by Design

Recently featured in *The New York Times*, interior designer Scott Sanders ’86 brings comfort and elegance to houses nationwide. Sanders discussed his time as a Wittenberg English major, becoming Ralph Lauren’s first-ever lead interior designer, and building his own firm around his trademark “New American” style.

WRITTEN BY Daniel F. Le Ray

**Wittenberg Magazine**: Your family worked in residential development for a long time. Did that fuel your interest in design?

**Scott Sanders**: My father and grandfather were always building houses and, from a very early age, I was on site looking at the process. My grandfather was the one who noticed that I had an affinity for how things were put together. He began taking me to the different showrooms to specify the materials for the houses. By the time I was 12 or 14, I was picking out all the finishes for all of their spec houses: interior and exterior, stone, tile, carpeting, wood color, vanity color, the lights—it was pretty funny that there was this little kid picking out everything, but I guess I was quite good at it. And the houses did sell.

**WM**: At Wittenberg, you ended up being an English literature major. How has that contributed to your career?

**SS**: Wittenberg allowed me to open up the other side of my brain. We not only read these incredible books, but we would talk about them in class, and so it gave me the opportunity to be able to speak and to listen. With what I do now, I have to listen to my clients; I have to be able to speak with them, to be able to analyze [their different needs].

**WM**: Then, after becoming Lord & Taylor’s youngest-ever branch store divisional manager in your mid-20s, you joined Ralph Lauren. Is that when interior design came back into the picture?

**SS**: I was a store manager for five years at Ralph Lauren, and at that point, I decided that I missed interior design, so I applied to Parsons. I was just planning to take a couple of courses, but about halfway through my first course, the professor took me aside and said, “I think you’re overqualified for this course. Have you thought about actually applying to the school for a degree?”

**WM**: And what happened when you were accepted?

**SS**: Ralph Lauren is an incredible company and they said, we don’t want you to leave. What about if you do something else and you can go to school at the same time? So I transferred from my branch store to the New York Madison Avenue store, and I worked in home collections while I went to Parsons. Very early on, I started acquiring clients that were looking for design services, and it ultimately got to the point where I had a huge design business. And the day that I graduated from Parsons, Ralph Lauren named me their first in-house interior designer.
WM: What ethos do you bring to your own company, which you founded in 2000?
SS: Our aesthetic is really driven by what our client is looking for. We have done adobe houses in Tucson, ski houses in Aspen, beach houses in the Hamptons, and estates in Palm Beach. I think it’s really important that the interior of a house work harmoniously with the exterior and the architecture.

WM: You call your trademark style “New American.” What does that involve?
SS: We create rooms that are very approachable, that are elegant. It’s like when you walk into a room, and it feels very comfortable—I don’t like the idea of a room that has a velvet rope on it. And when we talk about New American style, it’s really about mixing new things with old things—things that the client might already have. And if they don’t have them, we’ll go out and buy vintage pieces.

WM: And what do your clients say?
SS: What we generally hear is that they love their houses because they just feel so comfortable and the rooms feel so inviting. And I think most people would describe Americans that way: warm, inviting, open.

WM: You’ve also taken on hotel projects. How is that different from working in private homes?
SS: Hospitality was fun, but my heart is really in residential. A hotel has to open and guests have to arrive, and a lot of times you don’t revisit. Whereas, in residential, I have a client that’s been with me for 19 years; we have clients who’ve been with us for 10 years. You move from house to house, you go back and revisit them, and so you develop a relationship and a friendship, and it just evolves over time.

WM: What’s the next big thing in interior design?
SS: There is definitely a trend toward sustainability and “reusing,” whether it’s artists creating handmade things or fabrics being recycled. It used to have a sort of an architectural connotation to it—you know, is your house sustainable?—but now, the design world is gradually starting to tiptoe into this, but doing it in a way that makes it very creative and organic. Everything else is fluid.
THERE IS DEFINITELY A TREND TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY AND “REUSING,” WHETHER IT’S ARTISTS CREATING HANDMADE THINGS OR FABRICS BEING RECYCLED.
1. HOME OFFICE, COMPLETE WITH SCOTT’S PET DACHSHUND, BAILEY
2. LIVING ROOM WITH VIEW OVER THE EAST RIVER
3. LIBRARY WITH FLOOR TO CEILING BOOKCASES, NICKEL DETAILING, AND AN ANTIQUE DESK
4. GUEST MASTER BEDROOM WITH BEAUTIFUL, WATERFRONT VIEWS
5. LIVING ROOM WITH LIGHT AND AIRY SHADES OF BEIGE AND WHITE
6. STAIR HALL IN CRISP GREYS AND WHITES
Albert Bryan Jr. ’89 tells the story about asking one of his daughters if she knew how to climb a tree. Her response was that she did not climb trees. He then asked how she’d be able to get fruit to which she replied, at the supermarket.

This story explains Bryan’s attitudes toward conservation. “Conservation is something I grew up with,” says Bryan, who was elected Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands (U.S.V.I.) in 2019.

“On an island, garbage is a problem, so I grew up with one garbage bag a week. We recycled. Bread went to the chickens. Bones to the dogs. We drank out of jars. “Now, just in water bottles alone you can fill a landfill,” says Bryan, who grew up on St. Thomas and now lives in St. Croix. “And as a kid, if you wanted fruit you picked it from a tree. “The islands are surrounded by natural beauty with a lot of natural wealth—everything is there to eat and drink. Fruit hangs on trees. We catch water in our cisterns. But we have to conserve what we use.

“It’s like living in a garden,” he adds. “I grew up living close to the ground. If something broke, we fixed it rather than buying something new. We need to go back to living close to the ground.”

Because over 30 percent of the population is on public assistance, Bryan ran on a platform of changing the course of the U.S.V.I., which meant not just focusing on conservation, but also reducing poverty over the four islands he presides—St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. John, and Water Island, a population of 110,000.

“Education fixes poverty.”

To this end, Bryan makes sure to visit schools because he wants the kids to understand that education is the key to a better life, an important message because only 17 percent of Virgin Islanders have a college degree, which is why his government now offers free tuition to the University of the Virgin Islands (U.V.I.) to anyone who graduates from Virgin Islands High School. “I go to schools all the time because I want the kids to feel important. I’m not that important, but the office is. The ability of me to carry the office wherever I go so the kids think, ‘Wow, the governor wants me to succeed and is interested in us.’

“My goal is to help people get a better life through education, which will help them earn more and bring more money into the community,” says Bryan, who graduated from Wittenberg with a degree in economics and earned his MBA from the U.V.I. in 2003.

Bryan put a lot of stock in Wittenberg, moving almost 2,000 miles away from home to pursue his liberal arts education. One of his first lessons took place during his first winter at Wittenberg—a lesson one can only understand if one grows up on a tropical island.

“Wittenberg was a challenge in terms of the weather. I figured out why ‘they’ have heat in cars. That’s what that’s for. I grew up wondering why ‘you’ would put heat in a car.”

In terms of academics and preparing for his future, Wittenberg was the perfect laboratory for the future governor. His career track has reflected Wittenberg’s success in producing problem-
solvers, critical thinkers, and creative graduates who can adapt and succeed wherever they land. He has pursued such diverse paths as an oil refinery worker, business office manager of a multi-million-dollar Virgin Islands corporation, commissioner of the Virgin Islands Department of Labor, and an entrepreneur focused on strategies to create business opportunities and career paths for others. He also inspired future generations in financial literacy and leadership as executive director of the Virgin Islands branch of Junior Achievement USA.

“The academic and life lessons I experienced at Wittenberg (which included a change to economics from political science as my major) presented me a broader perspective for achieving a successful career path when I returned home,” Bryan says.

“Political science didn’t offer me the excitement that I thought it would. The lure to the economy and its constant movement seemed practical, and it all made tremendous sense to me. I continue to use that education every day, and economic development is the cornerstone of our platform.”

Bryan assumed office on Jan. 7, 2019, but before he really had a chance to champion his new platform, Hurricane Dorian blasted the Caribbean. Sparing the U.S.V.I., the Category 5 hurricane left a wake of death and destruction in the Bahamas, specifically Grand Bahama, to the score of 65 deaths, another 282 people left missing, and damages estimated to run over $7 billion.

Virgin Islanders need no reminder about the danger of hurricanes. They have been in recovery mode for the past two years after being hit by two Category 5 hurricanes, Irma and Maria, which struck within weeks of each other in September 2017. The devastation led Bryan and his team to work on three main issues in addition to education: stabilizing the government and restoring trust and transparency; ensuring the recovery process is smooth and efficient and moves at the fastest speed possible to bring comfort to residents and prosperity to business owners; and building a sustainable economy.

“The community has been through this a few times. We know what to do. The day after a storm we clean our house. All the water and debris. And then you go out to the road, and people start clearing the road. You then work your way from your house down to the main road. You set up communications. You report to work. See who is not there. And then people go out checking on those who didn’t report.

“And then you just keep going,” Bryan says.

Bryan says that the islands have spent years working on the response to these natural disasters, and there are territorial emergency operations plans in place for future storms, but what many politicians in Washington, D.C. fail to recognize is that if there’s a hurricane in Florida, residents can drive away to other economic centers that are out of the storm’s reach, and therefore still functioning.

“On our island, it all stops,” he says.

In the aftermath of hurricanes, images of death and destruction beam across the country (and world), leaving many to wonder why residents continue to live in the well-travelled hurricane path.

“I lived for 21 years before I saw my first major hurricane,” Bryan says. “Then I saw another and another. The reality of global climate change is that we have to build our homes differently and facilities differently. That’s the reality in which we live today.”

Bryan also recognizes that wherever people live the realities of global climate change affect everyone—from wildfires in California, to flooding rivers in the Midwest to droughts in the Western plains to bitter cold New England winters to Caribbean hurricanes with tornadoes living inside them.

“We in the islands are just the first people to feel climate change,” he notes, explaining that meteorologists were perplexed by Hurricane Hugo in 1989 because the storm struck with the added strength of a tornado, thought to be a rare phenomenon.

“Scientists thought this was impossible. Now it’s the norm.”

No one can obviously control the weather, but to combat climate change Bryan returns to the story he told about his daughter’s inability to climb trees.

“We have to adjust our living to be more sustainable. We need to go back to living close to the ground.”
Mind & Body

As head of pediatric neurology at Nationwide Children's Hospital, Dr. Anup Patel '95 spends his days improving the lives of the country's youngest patients.

WRITTEN BY Daniel F. Le Ray
For Dr. Anup Patel ’95, serving sick children and their families is a mission—for one simple reason. “As an adult, I’ve been able to make my own health decisions. A sick child is really not given that opportunity,” Patel said.

While working with pediatric patients during medical school at Wright State University, he remembered, “I felt compelled to try to help them have better outcomes—or at least have better health care. I really wanted these kids to have a normal life.”

Patel’s drive to help young patients continues to guide his work. Today, he is back in Columbus, Ohio, at Nationwide Children’s Hospital, where he’s section chief of pediatric neurology. This clinical specialty first emerged during a pediatric residency at the University of South Florida. “A neurological disease is almost like a puzzle, and I like being able to use my mind and the skills I’ve learned to help figure out that puzzle,” said Patel, who developed a kinship for patients suffering from brain and nerve disorders. “[These cases] were very challenging, but also very rewarding if you could figure them out.”

At Nationwide Children’s, Patel’s day-to-day is “completely different—that’s one of the things I like most about my job.”

One day, he may be in his clinic—“I see very hard-to-treat kids with epilepsy who have failed multiple medications, aren’t candidates for epilepsy surgery and have ongoing seizures,” he explained. Another, he might be in the operating room, monitoring pediatric patients’ brain waves as they undergo complex neurosurgeries. Other times, Patel can be found mentoring junior colleagues, conducting drug trials, or overseeing quality improvement projects.

This October, Patel returned to campus to receive the 2019 Alumnus of the Year Award, the highest accolade the university presents to its alumni. The award recognizes the breadth of clinical work Patel has been involved in, and also honors a dedication to his community and philanthropic work with nonprofit organizations such as the Make-a-Wish America Foundation, where he served on the medical advisory council. He still remains active with the Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana chapters of Make-a-Wish.

He enjoyed the visit immensely. “It was awesome to be able to share my story, but more importantly, really share why I felt that the award wasn’t my award—it was really a culmination of all those who helped me get to where I am, whether it was professors, parents, or friends,” Patel said.

“These are the folks that brought me up and allowed me to become who I am today, so I really felt like it was an opportunity for me to be able to say thanks to them.”

Treating children with rare neurological conditions can mean tough decisions and even harder conversations. As director of the Complex Epilepsy Clinic—a sub-clinic of the hospital’s comprehensive Epilepsy Center—Patel focuses on patients who have failed to become seizure-free after using at least two different medications and are not candidates for epilepsy surgery.

“The idea is really to see if there’s any other possible treatment option: is there a research trial that they may qualify for? Is there testing that needs to be done to help clarify what’s going on with them? That could be gene testing, it could be imaging, it could be work of different kinds,” he explained.

Many of Patel’s patients are seeking a second or even third opinion after having exhausted options elsewhere. The Complex Epilepsy Clinic has become a model for similar institutions around the country in part because it takes a multidisciplinary approach to these toughest of cases, bringing social workers, pharmacologists, genetic counselors, neuropsychologists in on the treatment plans.

This is especially important given that the likelihood that a patient will become seizure-free after two unsuccessful drug treatments is only 1 to 3 percent. In spite of this, Patel has had more good experiences than bad.

He recalled one family who inspired him as much as he did them.
“Even though I would recommend treatments that kept failing them, they never gave up hope in me, and they never gave up the faith that I would help their child,” he said. Finally, Patel was able to involve the patient in a research trial. This patient has now been seizure-free for several years.

“He is living a different life than he did, and the family’s faith in me did pay off. They’re obviously very grateful, but I’m grateful to them because they never gave up on me, and they never gave up on my potential ability. That’s always stuck with me.”

Nationwide Children’s is also a teaching hospital for The Ohio State University College of Medicine. Patel—who has won several teaching awards—serves as an associate professor of clinical pediatrics and neurology.

“I feel like teaching is a very important aspect of what we do in academic medicine, and it’s really very rewarding,” he said, adding: “In the summer, I’ve been able to offer a couple of students a research opportunity, and hopefully that leads to a publication that they can help write and be a part of,” contributing to their career advancement.

But Patel also works with recent graduates and with junior residents at the hospital.

“I just love it because they’re so energized to learn.”

The connection between Patel, his hospital, and his hometown of Columbus has also been key to his success. Though he grew up north of the city in Ashland, Ohio, he has always considered the state capital a second home.

“As far as Columbus goes, you won’t find very many bigger cheerleaders than myself,” Patel said. “I’ve been here for about 10 years and genuinely feel like part of the community that I live in, and [I believe in the] hospital and the mission it’s trying to achieve. I really love it here.”

Patel found this same type of community when he first visited Wittenberg as a prospective student.

“I fell in love with the campus; I fell in love with what the biology program had to offer; I fell in love with the potential for mentoring that you’d receive through faculty,” he recalled. He enrolled with medicine in mind, recognizing that Witt’s “strong biology program was just as advantageous as a good pre-med program. Their curriculum had all the classes I needed to prepare myself for medical school.”

Patel’s first faculty mentor was former Professor of Biology Timothy Lewis, whose bio 101 and 102 courses were foundational for the major.

“He was always there for me and always a great role model,” Patel recalled. “I try to emulate a lot of what he taught me—the idea of mentoring and being available to your students or residents.”

Another key figure was Professor Emeritus of Chemistry Nelson Sartoris.

“His [organic chemistry] classes were probably the two most challenging I took at Wittenberg, but also the most rewarding,” Patel said. A “passionate teacher, he did such an amazing job with us. And he helped me learn to love a subject that I honestly didn’t think I was going to love at all.”

In both his clinical and research work, as well as in his dedication to the community, Patel focuses on giving back. Having the light, he strives to pass it on to others.

“I hopefully get to help a subset of patients in my clinical work, but with my research and quality improvement work, with my teaching and the other aspects of my job, I’m hopeful I can impact the field of child neurology as a whole,” he said.

And his work with the hospital’s Complex Epilepsy Clinic continues to impact both patients and their families around the country.

“Parents and caregivers are sometimes a forgotten portion of the medical side of it. We focus so much on the patient and the child, who obviously deserves our full attention, but this disease can really impact families,” Patel said.

“I really wanted to be able to make a difference for the field because it is underserved.”
Class Notes
WINTER 2020

1962
Gary Tranquill was inducted into the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League's (WPIAL) Hall of Fame in June 2019 in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments in football and baseball at Avella High School in Pennsylvania, and at Wittenberg, where he was named Little All-America quarterback in his junior year and served as an assistant football coach from 1962-1969.

1963

1964
Jim Render was inducted into the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) Hall of Fame in June 2019 in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments as a high school football coach. In his 49 years of coaching—most of which were spent at Upper Saint Clair High School—he achieved a record of 406-141-6, making him the winningest head coach in the WPIAL. According to the Mansfield News Journal, Marilou Hunter was inducted into the Paulding (Ohio) Athletic Hall of Fame on Aug. 30, 2019.

1965
Bob Johnson, Jim Render ’64 and Gary Tranquill

1966
According to the Mansfield News Journal, Marilou Brook has retired as pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Lexington, Ohio.

1967
Robert Perry, former U.S. Ambassador and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, returned to campus in October 2018 to present the political science colloquium “U.S.-African Engagement 2000-2018.” In his 34-year career as a public servant, Perry served at U.S. embassies in the Central African Republic, Mexico, Ethiopia, and Chile.

1969
Dennis Everleigh, retired Connecticut Supreme Court associate justice, was honored in November 2018 by the Stamford Old Timers Association in Stamford, Connecticut.

Susan Leigh Wright Furlong announces the publication of her first novel by Wild Rose Press, a historical romance set during the tumultuous reign of James V of Scotland entitled Steadfast Will I Be. She previously published two nonfiction books about her town of Tipp City, Ohio.

Tim Hunter was inducted into the Paulding (Ohio) Athletic Hall of Fame on Aug. 30, 2019.

1971

Larry Baker was inducted in May 2019 into the Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame in recognition of his achievements in basketball. As a member of the Wittenberg men's basketball team, he was the highest scoring collegiate player in Ohio in 1970-1971 and was named Little All-America in basketball in 1971.

1972
Carlee Rader Drummer has been appointed as president of Columbia-Greene Community College in Hudson, New York.

1974
Dr. Kim C. Byas Sr. has been appointed to lead Union Institute & University’s Master of Science in Health Care Leadership (MS-HCL) program.

Bob Johnson, Jim Render ’64 and Gary Tranquill

1969
Charles V. Painter was inducted into the Ohio Tennis Coaches Hall of Fame in February 2019. He is the head tennis coach at Archbishop Alter High School, where his girls’ team went undefeated during the regular season in the fall of 2018. He lives in Centerville, Ohio, with his wife of 43 years, Karen.

1970
Charles Brookhart has retired after 16 years as Episcopal Bishop of Montana and is now living in Los Angeles. His fourth book, Language of Love: A Basic Christian Vocabulary, was published in 2018.

Pamela Phillips has retired from the Society for Vascular Surgery and moved to New Smyrna Beach, Florida.

J.D. Titzel's paintings and drawings were on display in September 2019 at Penn State New Kensington’s Art Gallery. According to a press release, he has worked as a fulltime artist for more than 20 years.

1971
In October 2018, David S. Johnson received the E. Harvey Estes Physician Community Service Award from the North Carolina Medical Society. A pediatrician with Burlington Pediatrics for 38 years, he is active with the Alamance Chamber of Commerce and the Alamance County Economic Development Foundation.

Steve Moore, head coach for the College of Wooster men's basketball program, was inducted into the Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame in May 2019. He has a career coaching record of 846-245 in 38 seasons at Muhlenberg College and Wooster and ranks 12th all-time among NCAA men's coaches in wins and second within NCAA Division III.

David S. Johnson ’74 (right)
1975
Susan Palo Cherwien received the Faithful Servant Award from the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians at its national conference in June 2019 in Portland, Oregon. The award recognizes extraordinary contributions to the worship life of the church. In addition to performing oratorio and lieder concerts throughout the United States and Europe, she is the author of three hymn text collections and three volumes of reflections from hymn festivals she has presented. Several other Wittenberg alumni attended the conference, including Susan Knop Gobien ’68, Joanna Pretz-Anderson ’77, Jeff ’74 and Linda Haines Pannbeaker ’72, Brian ’78 and Barbara Kauffman Larson ’78, Wayne Wold ’79, and Paul Otte ’75 MSM.

The Rev. Dan Powell retired in June 2019 after 32 years as pastor of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Springfield, Ohio.

Stephen Schumaker was sworn into his position as a Clark County (Ohio) Municipal Court judge in December 2018. His previous position was deputy attorney general for law enforcement for the Ohio Attorney General’s Office.

Ingrid Sponberg Stafford has been appointed to the Board of Directors for USA Technologies Inc.

1976
John Harris’ book Redemption in ’64: The Champion Cleveland Browns was published by Kent State University Press. He is an associate professor of journalism at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington.

Robert L. Moseley has published his second young adult sports novel, Choker (BQB Publishing, May 2019), a story of perseverance and summoning the courage to be different. The novel is a followup to his national award winner, Out of Bounds (Outskirts Press, 2012).

Jennifer S. Vanica, former president and CEO of the Jacobs Family Foundation in San Diego, California, has published Courageous Philanthropy: Going Public in a Closely Held World, described as “an up-close look at power, risk-taking, and shared decision-making in community change.”

1977
Ellie Gillespie Elmore, Sue Dando Weed, Leslie Sherman Cooke, Virginia Macali, Cheryl Davis, Jan Ebsary Fairhurst, Barb Braun Bafundo, Jean Sherman Sabean, Laura Johe Grodrian, Cindy Reynolds Overly, Linda Cappelino Donohue, Jan Defenbaugh Dailey, Nancy Netschke Werbach, Tina Viohl Minehart, Janet Brown Bush, Jean Jenkins Peck, and Nancy Winters Botti, all members of Delta Gamma, have met approximately every other year for the past 20 years. They have visited Skaneateles, New York; Anna Marie Island, Florida; The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia; Hocking Hills, Ohio; North Scottsdale, Arizona; Boston, Massachusetts; and most recently, Asheville, North Carolina, to tour the Biltmore Estate.

1978
Gary Garfield has joined the Nashville School of Law’s Board of Trust. He retired as CEO and president in 2016 from Bridgestone Americas.

Ann Rudi has retired after 40 years working as the CT scan manager in the imaging department at Baptist Hospital in Pensacola, Florida. She has returned to her hometown outside of Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania.

1979
Jeffery Orner retired from the federal government in 2018 after 35 years of service, including senior executive service positions in the Department of Homeland Security, the Coast Guard, and the Navy. He received Presidential Rank Awards from two U.S. presidents. He is now president of Arlington Ridge Consulting LLC and helped plan the class of 1979 40th reunion.

1980
Elizabeth Schultz Ayers, executive director of gift planning at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, served on the national board of the National Association of Charitable Gift Planners from 2015-17, chaired the national conference in 2017, and presented at the 2018 national conference. Active in charitable presentations at the national and state level, she was the keynote speaker for the Crescendo Practical Planned Giving Conference in September 2018.

Joseph Beckett, director of the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) at Marshall University, was inducted in May 2019 into the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Trainers’ Association (MAATA) Hall of Fame.

1982
Columbus CEO magazine featured Chris Boscia, CEO of Boscia, a high-end leather company based in Springfield, Ohio, in its January 2019 issue.

1983
Crescent Electric Supply Company announced in June 2019 the appointment of Jeff Buxton to the position of vice president of supply chain.

Jeff Rudolph, a founding partner of the CFO Advisory Group, has joined the Board of Directors for Leafbuyer Technologies Inc.

1984
Michelle Bores Cook, a realtor in Santa Barbara, California, since 2004, has been recognized for the third straight year for being in the top one percent of all Berkshire Hathaway agents worldwide. She is married to Mark Kraus and has one son, Ryan Cook, and a stepson, Dillon Kraus. She has resided in Santa Barbara since 1985.

Lew Klatt, professor of English at Calvin College, received the Presidential Award for Exemplary Teaching, the highest honor given to a faculty member by the college. The author of several poetry collections, he is a past recipient of the Iowa
Poetry Prize and the Juniper Prize and served as the poet laureate for Grand Rapids, Michigan, from 2014-2017.

1986
Mary Jo Kehl Barkasz has been appointed to lead the Offshore Wind and Ocean Energy unit of CSA Ocean Sciences (CSA), a marine environmental consulting firm in Stuart, Florida.
Brian Henderson has joined Harris Products Group as national sales manager – wholesale and will work to execute the company’s expansion in the North American plumbing wholesale market. Previously, he served as director of managed inventory solutions for Winsupply.
Loralynn Kadel, farm operations director at Learning Tree Farm located in Dayton, Ohio, was named Daytonian of the Week by dayton.com in October 2014-2017.

The American Pet Products Association (APPA) has elected Alice Tillett, CEO of Doskocil Manufacturing, to serve as chair of its board of directors.

1989
Albert Bryan Jr. was elected governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands in November 2018.

George Doorley has been appointed controller-treasurer for the County of Santa Clara, California. Often referred to as Silicon Valley, Santa Clara County has 1.8 million residents, a $7 billion budget, and a AAA rating.

Tim Jebsen, executive director of Midland Community Theatre (MCT) in Midland, Texas, received the Art Cole Lifetime of Leadership Award at the American Association of Community Theatre Festival in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in June 2019. The award recognizes leadership at the local, regional, and national levels. Under his leadership, MCT was the first community theatre in the United States to produce The Producers, Rent, and Les Misérables, among others.

Liz Shute Odmark received a Fulbright-Hays Summer Seminar Grant that allowed her to travel to India with a group of educators in the summer of 2019. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis appointed Rhonda Watkins, principal environmental specialist with Collier County Pollution Control, to the state’s task force that will investigate how to combat red tide.

George Doorley

1990
Lt. Col. Gregory Reck has contributed a chapter on the Malay Emergency to A Global History of Relocation in Counterinsurgency Warfare by Edward J. Erickson. The book will be published in December 2019 by Bloomsbury Academic. After 25 years with the U.S. Army, he is retiring as a lieutenant colonel, Special Forces. An avid snowboarder and runner, he has completed several ultramarathons and has qualified to the Boston Marathon.

1991
Shuly X. Cawood’s second book, 52 Things I Wish I Could Have Told Myself When I was 17, was published in November 2018.
Leigh Pawling’s artwork was on display in September 2019 in an exhibit entitled Create-Maintain-Destroy at the Art E Fekts Gallery in Pittston, Pennsylvania. Pawling owns her own studio and business and also paints outdoor murals.
Cathy Pederson, Wittenberg professor of biology, was honored with the Warrior Award at the NeuroConnect Summit held in May 2019 in Washington, D.C. Pederson and her daughters, Lily and Kate, have raised more than $100,000 for research related to postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (POTS) through their foundation, Standing Up To POTS.

1992
Amy Ray co-owns a mobile spa business in Springfield, Ohio, that offers homemade bath & body products, essential oil and herbal blends, CBD products, and an oxygen bar for rent.
for more than 16 years and has practiced law for more than 20 years.

1998

Lt. Col. Valentina Dimitrova-Grajzl, associate professor of economics and business at Virginia Military Institute, has received a 2019 Outstanding Faculty Award from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

Kevin Lydy was recognized as a 2018 recipient of the Yale Educator Award, an annual honor bestowed upon outstanding educators by the Yale Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

Stephanie Ricca has been promoted to editorial director of Hotel News Now (HNN), a division of STR. She previously served as HNN’s editor-in-chief since 2015.

1999

Kara Denny Czanik has joined Dinsmore & Shohl LLP in Cincinnati, Ohio, as a commercial litigation partner. Previously, she had practiced for 13 years with Graydon Head & Ritchey LLP.

Rachel Lillie Johnson has been hired as admissions coordinator for Friendly Home, a senior living community in Rochester, New York. She has 15 years of short-term and long-term care experience.

Kelly Klopfner Rager, who has nearly 20 years of experience in financial and business management, was hired as a business development assistant vice president by Century National Bank.

Francoise Labrique Walusis, founder of Madame Dellic Artisan Chocolatier in Oakwood, Ohio, opened a second shop in the 900 North Michigan Shops in Chicago in December 2018, which was included in a Forbes.com Mother’s Day Gift Guide on “The Best Dark Chocolates” in April 2019.

2000

Aaron Shaffer has been named athletic director for Greenville High School in Greenville, Ohio.

2001

Jennifer Powell Gifford has joined Fluvanna Schools in Palmyra, Virginia, as a librarian and media center specialist. She holds a master’s degree in education with a concentration in library science from Longwood University.

2003

Myra Pierce Smith was married on July 13, 2017. Her family includes three children.

2004

After 10 years in banking, Harold “Skip” Ivery, an insurance agent for Allstate, opened his first insurance agency in 2016 in Worthington, Ohio, which has been ranked in the top 10 percent for both customer service and sales performance each year. In 2018, they ranked in the top one percent in the company. He opened his second location in 2019 in Hilliard, Ohio.

In March 2019, Sharon Koster Safley was one of four recipients of the 2019 Excellence in Teaching Award sponsored by the Springfield Rotary Club, Ohio Edison, the Springfield Foundation, and the Chamber of Greater Springfield. She is a music teacher at Lincoln Elementary School in Springfield, Ohio, and a piano teacher for Wittenberg’s Center of Music Development.

Doug Schantz, director of Wittenberg’s Office of Student Financial Services, received the 2019 Student Financial Services Award from the Student Financial Services Council of the National Association of College and University Business officers (NACUBO) in March 2019. Founder of CheapScholar.org, Schantz is a nationally recognized expert in financing a college education.

Lauren Snider Thompson of Dexter, Michigan, is an assistant principal and graduation coach with Dexter Community Schools. She recently completed a Master of Applied Positive Psychology from the University of Pennsylvania and currently serves as an assistant instructor in the program.

Haley Warden is the new director of membership and communications for the Indian Hill Winter Club in Cincinnati, Ohio.

2005

Melissa Barrett’s first collection of poetry, Moon on Roam, was published in August 2019 by Gold Wake Press.

Kenny Molz has been hired as varsity boys’ basketball coach at Kettering Fairmont High School in Ohio. Previously, he was head coach for boys’ basketball at Monroe High School in Monroe, Ohio.

Colleen Herzog Walters was named vice president of mission and ethics for BayCare Health System, a not-for-profit organization comprised of 15 hospitals and hundreds of other locations throughout Tampa Bay and central Florida regions, in May 2019. Previously, she was chief mission integration officer at MercyOne in Iowa.

2006

Kristina McFarland Brannon, human resources coordinator at Summit Orthopaedic Home Care, was chosen as the Human Resources Excellence 2019 Future Leader Winner by Columbus CEO.

Bryan Heck began serving as Springfield, Ohio’s city manager in January 2019. He previously served as deputy city manager.

Alexander Kass and his wife, Courtney, announce the birth of their son Frederick “Freddie” Kass on May 4, 2019.
school and community programs, in Namibia. A fourth-grade math and science teacher at Mason Elementary School, she is a graduate student in Miami University’s Advanced Inquiry Program and lives in Lebanon, Ohio.

Karl Schmitt was a recipient of the 2018 Faculty Mentor Award of the Council on Undergraduate Research’s Mathematics and Computer Sciences Division. An assistant professor and director of data sciences at Valparaiso University, he was recognized for outstanding mentoring of undergraduate researchers in math and computer science.

2007

Loren Breen has joined the sales team of Crain’s Cleveland Business. He has print and digital media sales experience, having previously worked for The Plain Dealer, Cleveland.com, and Grand View Media.

Ronnie Ross ‘09

Nathan and Maureen Zink Delaney ’05 announce the birth of their son, Charles Steven, in June 2018. Nathan is a metal trader for Ferrous Processing & Trading, while Maureen recently made partner at her law firm Carlisle, McNellie & Co. They reside in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

Jamie Daugherty-Weaver has joined Sweet Manufacturing Company in Springfield, Ohio, as its marketing specialist. Previously, she worked for six years at Nexstep Commercial Products as director of marketing.

Jocelin Baker Dean, membership director at The Dayton Club, was named to Dayton Business Journal’s 2019 Forty Under 40 list.

Zachary Karl and his wife, Erica, announce the birth of Connor James Karl. Zach earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry/molecular biology from Purdue University in 2013. He is currently a lead scientist in biochemistry/molecular biology from Purdue University in 2013. He is currently a lead scientist.

Lindsey Rusch and Lisa Rusch opened the Brekkie Shack in Grandview, Ohio, October 2018. Located in Grandview Yard, the restaurant and bakery serves breakfast, lunch, and brunch and sells baked goods.

2008

Andrew Steele is Wittenberg University’s new assistant vice president for advancement and director of campaigns.

2009

Derrick Braziel, co-founder of MORTAR, was recently selected as a 2019 Obama Foundation Fellow. He is among 20 social entrepreneurs from around the world selected in recognition of their commitment to addressing pervasive social and societal issues.

Karlos L. Marshall and Moses B. Mbeseha, co-founders of The Conscious Connect Inc., were named to the Forbes 30 Under 30 2019 for their work in education. Dedicated to ending urban book deserts, the pair provides children in low-to-moderate income neighborhoods with access to free books through 70 national literacy access points, such as barbershops and hair salons, as well as “Little Libraries.” In addition to being designated in June 2019 as Luminaries by the Board of Clark County Commissioners in recognition of their efforts to make a difference in their community, the pair was honored by the Library of Congress in September 2019.


Chase and Jamie Mack Bryson announce the birth of Conley Monroe on March 10, 2019.

Kathryn Hupp Chadeayne, a seventh-grade social studies and science teacher at Hayward Middle School in Springfield, Ohio, received a 2019 Excellence in Teaching Award, an award sponsored by the Springfield Rotary Club, Ohio Edison, the Springfield Foundation, and the Chamber of Greater Springfield.

Allison Reed has been promoted to associate head coach of the men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams at the University of Kentucky.

Ronnie Ross, a teacher at Highland School in Warrenton, Virginia, was a candidate for the Virginia Senate 27th District seat.

Katherine N. Kiedaisch married Joseph M. Poff ’15 on July 14, 2018, at Dock580 in Columbus, Ohio.

2010

Andrew Steele is Wittenberg University’s new assistant vice president for advancement and director of campaigns.

2011

Benjamin Noble earned a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (WVSOM) in May 2019. While at WVSOM, he received a Translating Osteopathic Understanding Into Community Health Gold Award and participated in the Rural Health Initiative program.

2012

Ashley Weber completed an M.A. in counseling and art therapy from Edinboro University in August 2019.

2013

Brittany Brake earned a master’s degree in political science in 2016 and is working toward a doctorate. An instructor of political science at Western Michigan University (WMU), she is the recipient of WMU’s All-University Graduate Teaching Effectiveness Award.


Katherine N. Kiedaisch married Joseph M. Poff ’15 on July 14, 2018, at Dock580 in Columbus, Ohio.
2014

Bryce Agler was named director of player development for the WNBA’s Dallas Wings in February 2019. Previously, he served as a player development coach for the Los Angeles Sparks.

During the summer of 2019, Cady Gannon Breslin studied Borneo’s primate denizens, including the orangutan, and developed new ways to engage communities worldwide in primate conservation in Borneo through Miami University’s Earth Expeditions global field course. A program leader and naturalist at California Woods Nature Preserve, she lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, and is a graduate student in Miami University’s Global Field Program.

Brian Ringholz studied desert and marine landscapes through ecological and social field methods in Baja in the summer of 2019. A science teacher at Lake High School, he lives in Perrysburg, Ohio, and is a graduate student in Miami University’s Global Field Program.

2015

Autumn Smith presented “Kami wo Sawanaide: An Exploration of Blackness and ‘Othering’ in Japan” at the “Speak Your Truth, Sis!” Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality Symposium hosted by the Wittenberg student organization Shades of Pearls in March 2019. She works as a freelance translator and English team manager called ON THE TRIP, a Japanese cultural audio guide.

Ria A. Tignor and Noah W. Kerns ’17 were united in marriage on June 9, 2018, in Wittenberg’s Weaver Chapel.

2016

Madelyn H. “Maddy” Miller and Brian J. Kissane ’17 were married in August 2019 by Joseph Freeman.

2017

Addison Coldren had her first solo art show in a gallery space in March 2019 at The Artisan Shoppe, Studio and Gallery in Gallipolis, Ohio. Titled Mordant, her show featured pieces that used an alternative darkroom photography process called Mordancage. She works at The Karat Patch Diamonds-N-Gold, where she makes custom jewelry.

Becca Joseph has been named an assistant coach for the Ohio Northern University women’s lacrosse program. Previously, she was an assistant coach with women’s lacrosse at Earlham College.

2018

Libby Bauman spent the summer of 2019 biking from Seattle, Washington, to Washington, D.C., to raise awareness and funds for the Fuller Center for Housing, which she first became involved with at Wittenberg. Her trip included a stop in Springfield, where she helped the local chapter with a build project.

Ben Knochel is a data standard analyst for Medpace, a contract research organization located in the Cincinnati area.

In summer 2019, Taylor Owens, a graduate student in Miami University’s Global Field Program, studied coral reefs, manatees, howler monkeys, jaguars, and other wildlife while learning the methods communities are using to sustain them in Belize.

Deanna Volz’s illustrations from her Wittenberg senior thesis, a children’s story called Let’s Find the Yokai, were displayed in March 2019 at the Bowlby Library in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania. A literacy specialist and organizer at the library, Volz also offers art classes and tutors elementary students in literacy. She is pursuing a children’s book illustration certificate from Hollins University.

Carlie Weir was awarded a scholarship from the Tipp City (Ohio) American Legion Post 586 in support of her graduate studies at Wittenberg.

Megan L. Zeidler married Blake W. Nelson on Aug. 3, 2019, in Cleveland, Ohio. Megan is a CPA and accountant at CareSource, while Blake is a third-year medical student at Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine.
1938

Bertha Elnor Spencer White of Sun City, Florida, and formerly of Springfield, Ohio, passed away Dec. 2, 2018. She taught at Olive Branch School and then Possum Elementary School until her retirement in the mid-1970s. She served as choir director at Emery Chapel Methodist Church for many years.

1940

Ruth Eggert Wiseman, Washington Township, Ohio, passed away March 15, 2014. She was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority, Penbrooke Garden Club, Centerville Civic Women’s Club, and attended Our Savior Lutheran Church.

1941

Richard R. Kettering, Sebring, Florida, passed away April 13, 2019. He served in the Air Force during World War II. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite, Highlands Shrine Club, Blue Heron, Cracker Trail Camp, First United Methodist Church, and Lambda Chi Alpha.

1942

Dawn Malson Full, Vermilion, Ohio, died Dec. 9, 2018. After working as an air traffic controller in Cleveland, she worked as finance office manager for Wakefield Brass and then as manager of Full Realty Investments. She was a member of Vermilion United Church of Christ Congregation, Vermilion Boat Club, Vermilion College Club, and Alpha Delta Pi. She was a past trustee of Lorain Community Hospital and served on the boards of the Vermilion Family YMCA and the Cleveland Orchestra, among many others.

Charles A. Wilcox 42, Dublin, Ohio, passed away Sept. 9, 2019. After graduating from Wittenberg, he earned a chemical engineering degree from the University of Michigan and worked at Corning Glass, Westinghouse Corporation in Mansfield and Columbus, Ohio, and with General Electric in Louisville, Kentucky. He and his wife, Mary Smith Wilcox 42, enjoyed traveling and spending time with family in Lake Burton, Georgia. Memorial contributions may be made to the Wittenberg University Wilcox Family Scholarship Fund, which was established by Charles’ mother, Ada Wilcox, in memory of her son and Charles’ brother, Robert Wilcox. For more information, please contact the Office of Advancement at 937-327-7414.

1943

Dorrit Weil Molony, Concord, Massachusetts, passed away Dec. 26, 2018. From the 1950s to the 1970s, she worked as a teacher and studied in graduate programs at Rutgers University and the University of Vienna.

1944

The Rev. John S. Queen, Wellston, Ohio, died July 16, 2019. A graduate of Chicago Theological Seminary, he served as pastor of Pleasant Hill Church and Polk Grove Church in Ohio, where he was named Rural Pastor of the Year. He then served as an associate superintendent on the conference staff of the Congregational Christian Church in Illinois before working as a coin auctioneer for Paramount in Ohio. He also was a pilot, Peace Corps agriculturist in Ecuador, private detective, author, and owner of Royal Enterprises in West Milton, Ohio. He was a member of the American Numismatic Association, Oh-Kan Coin Club, Chillicothe Coin Club, and Phil Mu Delta.

1945

Betty Gwen Ellis Grove, Sidney Ohio, died July 16, 2019. She taught school in Warren, Ohio, Princeton and Kewanee, Illinois, and Newton High School in Pleasant Hill, Ohio, where she taught social studies and other subjects for 17 years before retiring in 1986. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Troy.

1947

Mary Schellin Bauer of The Woodlands, Texas, and formerly of Springfield, Ohio, died Oct. 29, 2019. She taught English and elementary school science at Ridgewood School and co-pioneered a program for teenage unwed mothers for the Springfield Board of Education. She was active at First Lutheran Church in Springfield and Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Texas and was a member of the Young Women’s Junior Service League, Young Womans Mission, and Kappa Delta sorority.

Charles A. Endter 52S, Mission Viejo, California, died April 9, 2019. He served in the U.S. Navy as a commissioned officer on the USS Chicago. As an ordained Lutheran minister, he started mission congregations in Santa Cruz and Garden Grove, California, serving Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Garden Grove for 34 years. In retirement, he served as an interim pastor. He was a member of Alpha Tau Omega.

1948

William B. Asken Jr., Dayton, Ohio, passed away April 17, 2018. He served 20 years in the U.S. Navy and was in uniform for World War II, the Korean War, and the Cuban Missile Crisis. He retired as a lieutenant commander in 1971. A psychologist, he published more than 80 technical reports and journal articles and served as a manuscript editor for two professional psychology publications. He volunteered with Greene and Montgomery Counties, Ohio Suicide Prevention Program, and the Ohio Probation Department, and performed with The Beavercreek Strummers.

Edwina Stewart Cox, Mission, Texas, passed away Aug. 3, 2019. She taught elementary music in Fairborn, Ohio; music and English in three Coshocton County Schools including a one-room school in Canal Lewisville, Ohio; home economics at Hillsdale Local Schools; and early childhood education at Ashland County Joint Vocational School, where she retired in 1988. She was a member of Kappa Delta sorority.


Eileen Conkle Smith, Oxford, Ohio, died Feb. 28, 2019. She taught at Mansfield Senior High and was a member of Park Avenue Baptist Church before moving to Oxford, where she and her husband owned and operated a Baskin Robbins Ice Cream store for 15 years before retiring. She was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority, Oxford United Methodist Church, Oxford Current Events Club, Oxford Country Club, and P.E.O. Sisterhood. She also served as president of the Oxford United Way and helped establish the Oxford Tourism Commission.

1949

Dorothy “Kitty” Foulke Adam, Dayton, Ohio, died Feb. 11, 2019. As a pioneer for the rights of the disabled, she was founder and first president of The Sightless Children’s Club in Dayton and helped to institute mainstreaming in the public school system. She worked in customer service for DP&L and the Dayton Daily News.

Donald A. “Don” Clinton 52S, Gig Harbor, Washington, passed away Aug. 9, 2019. He served in the U.S. Navy for two years and was a member of Dorm League.

Grant L. Landfried, Pinellas Park, Florida, passed away Nov. 23, 2018. He was a U.S. Army Air Corps veteran of World War II.

Betty Jean Schillinger Ritchie of Yellow Springs, Ohio, and formerly of Tipp City and Fairborn, Ohio, passed away May 17, 2019. A member of Chi Omega
sorority, she taught elementary school children with learning disabilities in Fairborn and Huber Heights, Ohio, until her retirement in the late 1980s.

**Relda “Skip” Roth**, Massillon, Ohio, passed away Sept. 28, 2018. She taught for 32 years in Massillon City Schools, retiring in 1989. She was a lifelong member of Faith Lutheran Church and a member of the Massillon Woman’s Club, Order of the Eastern Star Chapter 108, and the Washington High School Alumni Association.


**1950**

**Fannie Jane Otter Bush**, Palm Desert, California, died Feb. 5, 2019. She worked as an executive assistant and secretary, owner of Jane’s Secretarial Service, real estate agent, and music teacher. A member of Alpha Delta Pi, she played with three jazz bands and was hostess of the Musicians of the Desert lunch bunch gathering.

**Peter K. Fanning**, Carey, Ohio, passed away Aug. 30, 2019. He joined the U.S. Navy and served on the USS Atlantis during World War II. His career as a teacher and coach started at Galion City Schools and culminated at Carey High School, where he was principal before retiring in 1985. In retirement, he coached football at Oberlin College and Heidelberg College. He was a member of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Retired Teachers Association, Carey Kiwanis Club, and Phi Mu Delta.

**Lester E. Fox**, Erie, Pennsylvania, passed away Dec. 22, 2018. A U.S. Marine Corps veteran of World War II, he was a division manager for Erie Malleable Iron for 31 years. He was a member of Crossroads Community Baptist Church and Delta Sigma Pi fraternity.

**Arlene Rhodes Hall**, Wadsworth, Ohio, passed away Oct. 31, 2018. She taught elementary school in Wadsworth and was a member of Rawiga Country Club, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, and Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

**Jean Faux Huddins**, Stoughton, Wisconsin, passed away Nov 27, 2018. She taught at Burritt, East, Kegonsa, and Yahar Schools and was named Stoughton’s Teacher of the Year.

**Martha “Mickey” Michelfelder Scott**, Peterborough, New Hampshire, passed away Nov. 16, 2018. She was an admission counselor and later a director of development at Franklin Pierce College. A 50-year member of Peterborough Unitarian Church, she was president of the Peterborough League of Women Voters, treasurer of Mansfield Public Library, and co-president of the Friends of the Temple Town Hall. A member of the Wittenberg Alumni Board, she received the Class of 1914 Award in 2000.

**Robert L. Shannon**, Columbia, South Carolina, passed away Dec. 5, 2018. A member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, he served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He taught at Wittenberg before becoming a professor of education and assistant dean for undergraduate programs at the University of South Florida, where he received the 1972 Mortar Board Award for Teaching Excellence. In addition to serving as a consultant for teacher education facilities and directing study-abroad programs, he was a U.S. Professional Tennis Association certified teaching pro.

**Alice Barcus Snyder**, South Bend, Indiana, died Dec 4, 2018. She was a homemaker and pastor’s wife, serving women’s groups, teaching Sunday School, and serving as a youth advisor for three parishes and several intercongregations. She was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

**George E. Taylor**, Wilton, Connecticut, passed away June 15, 2018. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

**1951**

**Richard L. Clingman**, Springfield, Ohio, died July 10, 1919. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. A member of Phi Mu Delta, he owned and operated Clingman Insurance Agency for 70 years.

**Marjorie Wendell Go**, Whitinsville, Massachusetts, died April 28, 2019. Prior to working as a self-employed seamstress, she was employed at Bernat Mills in Uxbridge, as an art teacher in the Millbury Public School System, and at Baker’s Department Store in Northbridge. She was a member of the Red Hat Society in the Greater Blackstone Valley and church organist at the East Douglas Methodist Church.

**Darlene Broeske Gray-Kamp**, Waynesfield, Ohio, passed away Aug. 9, 2019. She taught fifth and sixth grades and started the girls’ physical education program in the early 1950s at Waynesfield-Goshen School, where she retired in 1995. She was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

**Juanita “Johnnie” Harter Hart**, Wethersfield, Connecticut, passed away Oct. 4, 2018. A member of First Church, she was an administrative assistant of Caring Ministries, retiring at the age of 80. She was president of the League of Women Voters, the Junior Women’s Club of Wethersfield, and the Griswoldville Chapel Ladies Aide Society. She was a member of Delta Zeta.

**David C. McEvers**, Fort Myers, Florida, died Aug. 23, 2019. He served in the U.S. Army where he was assigned to Special Services as athletic director in Vienna, Austria, and was a player and coach for numerous teams. He taught biology and physical education and coached football, track and field, and cross country at Mt. Clemens High School in Michigan, and also coached cross country at Grosse Pointe North High School. He was twice named Michigan High School Coach of the Year and was elected to the Macomb County Coaches Hall of Fame in 1955 and the Michigan High School Coaches Hall of Fame in 1997. He was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha.

**Juliana “Julie” Miller McEvers**, Fort Myers, Florida, passed away Sept. 5, 2019. She was a physical education and health teacher in the Michigan public schools for 20 years before earning a master’s degree from Wayne State University and serving as a faculty member there until her retirement. She conducted the Devilbiss High School Hall of Fame in 1994 and the Wittenberg Athletic Hall of Honor in 1988, she earned numerous awards for running and gold medals for swimming in the Senior Olympics. She was an active participant in the Girl Scout movement and a member of Christ Lutheran Church.

**Roselia Noile Miller**, Hilton Head, South Carolina, passed away June 30, 2019. She volunteered with the Cincinnati Art Museum and was a member of the Cincinnati Women’s Club, First Presbyterian Church of Hilton Head, and Chi Omega sorority.

**Darlene Lyons Osborn**, Pembroke Pines, Florida, passed away Oct. 8, 2018. She was an elementary school teacher for Broward Public Schools and the Columbus, South Carolina school system, as well as a pastor’s wife, song leader, Sunday school teacher, and vacation bible school director.

**Richard D. “Ozzie” Osborne**, Indianapolis, Indiana, died April 1, 2019. A pianist, he taught music theory at Butler University. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta.

**Jean Ferriot Shaffer**, Hudson, Ohio, passed away July 30, 2018.

**1952**

**Mary Walsh Ballentine**, Springfield, Ohio, passed away Feb. 7, 2019. She taught in the Troy City Schools and Springfield City Schools and was a member of the National Education Association, Ohio Education Association, and Clark County Teachers Association, as well as Linden Avenue Baptist Church in Dayton and Alpha Delta Pi.


**Martha J. Fettermly** of Zelienople, Pennsylvania, and formerly of New Brighton, Pennsylvania, passed away May 27, 2019. She retired as an elementary school teacher in Rochester, Pennsylvania, and
was a tutor. She was an organist at the New Haven Court of the Seaman Memorial Chapel, where she was a member, and former choir director of Trinity Lutheran Church in New Brighton.

George Gianopulos, Vandalia, Ohio, died Jan. 6, 2019. He served as a Marine fighter pilot during the Korean War, then began a career at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. He eventually became an independent aerospace consultant and began his own company, Gianopulos & Associates. He served as director of development for Wright Image Group and was a member of The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church and Phi Kappa Psi.

Paul S. Grimm, Conway, South Carolina, passed away Oct. 20, 2018. He was stationed in Washington, D.C., for four years while serving in the U.S. Army. He had a career in education as a counselor, teacher, and principal before retiring to Myrtle Beach. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi and volunteered with the Horry County Republican Party, receiving the Republican of the Year Award.

Frederick G. Haman Jr. of Denver, Colorado, and formerly of Houston, Texas, died June 29, 2019. Ordained in 1957, he served as pastor and associate pastor for congregations in Ohio, Texas, Tennessee, and Illinois. From 1958-1961, he worked with Chinese evangelists in Malaysia, and then from 1971-1986, he was on staff of the Ecumenical Institute/Institute of Cultural Affairs based in Chicago, Illinois. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Phillip C. Hanes, Springfield, Ohio, died Sept. 3, 2019. He had a 30-year career in secondary education before becoming a registered nurse at Mercy Medical Center and a pharmacy technician at Whittacre’s Pharmacy. He volunteered at local medical centers and was a member of First Lutheran Church, Clark Lodge #101, F & A M, Clark County Retired Teachers Association, Ohio Retired Teachers Association, and Beta Theta Pi.

Marilyn Mitchell Jones, Louisville, Kentucky, passed away Nov. 24, 2018. She was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

Leila “Lee” Lowenstein McKeen, Orleans, Massachusetts, passed away July 2, 2019. She taught first grade in Mahopac, New York, for one year and was a Cub Scout Den mother and member of Delta Zeta sorority.

Elizabeth “Tootie” Corbet McLaughlin, Huger Heights, Ohio, died Jan. 22, 2019. Her teaching career included positions at Bethel High School; Military Dependent School at Misawa Air Force Base; Japan; Stoco High School in Coal City, West Virginia; and Wayne High School. She was a member of St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church.

1953

Joanne Frease Rhrig of Cincinnati, Ohio, and formerly of Phoenix, Arizona, died April 16, 2019. She taught and substituted in elementary schools in Indiana and Kentucky and also taught piano and pipe organ lessons. She was active in Lutheran Church Women organizations in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod.

1954

Carolyn Schwartz Conover of Venice, Florida, and formerly of Springfield, Ohio, passed away June 23, 2019. She retired as an art teacher at Possum School in Springfield. She was a member of Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Young Womans Mission, and Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

Janet Walz Glasser of Columbus, Ohio, and formerly of Ashland, Ohio, passed away April 4, 2019. She was an elementary school teacher who spent the majority of her career with Ashland City Schools teaching fifth grade at Edison Elementary until her retirement in 1990. She was a member of Gamma Phi Beta and Alpha Delta Kappa and a volunteer at Samaritan Hospital.

1955

E.A. Marvin Belden, Staunton, Virginia, passed away on Dec. 17, 2018. A member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, he served in the U.S. Army before working for American Airlines. He then worked for the U.S. Department of Commerce for 37 years, serving as an international marketing executive overseas and in Washington, D.C.

Janet Simecek Carothers, Sugar Land, Texas, passed away April 29, 2019. She had a long career in speech pathology with the Pasadena Independent School District. A member of Delta Zeta sorority, she was active at Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, where she served on the council and taught catechism classes.

Robert C. Gobelman, Jacksonville Beach, Florida, died June 4, 2019. He served in the Navy and Army Reserve before earning a law degree. He practiced general civil litigation in Florida, where he was the first chairman of a federal bankruptcy court in Galveston. He was a member of the Duval County Legal Aid Association, a member of the Jacksonville Association of Defense Counsel and the Florida Defense Lawyers Association, and a founding member of the Jacksonville Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

John R. Kenworthy, Grand Rapids, Michigan, died Dec. 14, 2018. He worked in the insurance and financial products industry in Fort Wayne and Indianapolis, Indiana; Springfield, Illinois; and Grand Rapids. He was a member of the Congregational Church and Beta Theta Pi.

The Rev. John F. “Jack” Seibert II, Lexington, Kentucky, passed away Sept. 4, 2019. He was a 30-year veteran of the U.S. Navy where he was a chaplain and earned a Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart for his service in Vietnam. He was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha.

1956

Theodore J. Budach, Walnut Creek, California, died June 19, 2019. He served in the Navy before working as an IBM sales manager for 32 years. In retirement, he was the first stewardship officer for the Episcopal Diocese of California and board president of Shelter Inc. In addition to holding leadership roles in his local church and diocese, he served as president of the Round Hill tennis and golf associations. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta.

Daniel F. Grieb, Findlay, Ohio, died Nov. 7, 2018. After serving five years in the U.S. Army, he worked for Lazarus and then as a sales manager for the Cutler Corporation. He was active at St. John’s Lutheran Church and was a member of the Elks Club, American Legion, and Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

Gail Gulleson Hancock, Indianapolis, Indiana, passed away April 29, 2018. She worked at her father’s business, Colors Inc., and was a member of New Palestine United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women, and Common Threads Quilt Club.

Robert I. Koirn, Wilmington, North Carolina, passed away Feb. 28, 2019. His career in head and neck surgery and academic medicine included positions at the University of Florida, the School of Medicine at the University of California Irvine, and the Bowman Gray School of Medicine at Wake Forest University, where he retired in 1999. An expert on vertigo, he was a consultant to NASA and served on the American Board of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. He was a member of Phi Kappa Psi.

Richard E. “Dick” Lehman, Punta Gorda, Florida, died May 31, 2019. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and Korea as an air traffic controller. A member of Alpha Tau Omega, he was superintendent of South Charleston Schools and the American School of Kinshasa in Africa from 1976-1977.

Suzanne Stiver Lie, Olso, Norway, passed away Sept. 28, 2018. A professor at the Institute of Education at the University of Oslo, she published eight books on topics such as women in higher education and women immigrants in Norway. A member of Gamma Phi Beta, she received the Wittenberg Alumni Citation in 2007.

David A. Schilling, of Mary Esther, Florida, and formerly of Galion, Ohio, died March 20, 2019. He taught art in the Ada and Colonel Crawford school systems until 1968 and was founder of Schilling Graphics, retiring in 1993. A member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Crestline, he served as church council president at First Lutheran Church in Galion. He served various organizations, including Galion City School Board, Fairview Cemetery Association Board, Specialty Graphic Imaging Association, Galion Kiwanis Club, and the Wittenberg Board of Directors.

Gregory A. Speros, Bellbrook, Ohio, passed away Feb. 28, 2019. During the Korean War, he served in the U.S. Army. He retired from Wyeth/Pfizer Pharmaceutical Company after 28 years of service and was a member of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church.

William P. Trimble, Columbus, Ohio, died Feb. 22, 2019. A veteran of the U.S. Army, he served during the Korean War. A member of the Masons’ Community Lodge #684 in Upper Arlington, he retired from Nationwide after 34 years.

1957

Cheryl Huff Backstrom, Orrville, Ohio, passed away April 30, 2019. She taught in the Orrville City school system from 1957 until her retirement in 1993. She was a Life Master in bridge and a member of Kappa Delta sorority.

Roderick A. Carnarius, Lewittown, Pennsylvania, passed away Oct. 23, 2018. He served in the U.S. Army, worked in systems engineering and management for John Wanamaker Retail, among others, and retired from Princeton Nurseries. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta.

Betty Lannert Fay, Columbus, Ohio, passed away Aug. 28, 2017.

Lois Kerrick Skamfer, Columbus, Ohio, passed away Feb. 12, 2019. She was a member of the Child Conservation League and New Creation Lutheran Church in Lima, served as a 4-H club advisor, volunteered with the Elida Band Boosters, and published the newsletter for the Sues ‘n Ques square dance club.

1958

Allan C. Doctor ’61S ’65S, Richmond, Virginia, passed away Feb. 27, 2019. A member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, he was an associate pastor
at Zion Lutheran Church in Defiance before working for the Richmond Public Schools for 30 years.

Helene Vonsteuben Erhart, Castle Rock, Colorado, passed away Aug 4, 2019. She was a member of Kappa Delta sorority.

Dellora “Dee” Olson Andrich Kelly, Lombard, Illinois, died June 21, 2019. She taught second grade and was active in P.E.O., CW5, and Alpha Xi Delta.

Burton M. Levin, Naples, Florida, died Jan. 17, 2019. He was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

Sandra S. “Sandy” Sears, Petaluma, California, died March 27, 2015. She worked as an education director at a church in Los Angeles before working as a full-time artist. As a sculptor, she created themed chess sets, and her work was represented in a Beverly Hills gallery. She was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

1959


Elizabeth “Liz” Sprang Marxen, Brunswick, Ohio, passed away Dec. 6, 2018. She worked as a substitute teacher in the Brunswick City Schools from 1970-2002. She was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

Delores “Dee” Ours Peters, Lake Wales, Florida, died Nov. 30, 2018. She taught elementary school in Clark County, Ohio, and Lakes Wales through her retirement in 1998. She worked as a paraprofessional at Polk Avenue Elementary School until 2011 and continued volunteering there until 2018.

Irmgard “Irma” Lahm Simon, Harsens Island, Michigan, died July 20, 2017. She was a member of the St. Clair County Hymn Singers, the Harsens Island Garden Club, and St. Paul’s Protestant Church.

1960

Herbert M. Schlotterbeck Jr., 65S of Kokomo, Indiana, and formerly of Indianapolis, died Aug. 18, 2019. An ordained minister, he served Grace Lutheran Church, Dover, Ohio; St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Vincennes, Indiana; and St John’s Lutheran Church, Kokomo. He was a member of Episcopal Church of All Saints in Indianapolis and Lambda Chi Alpha, served on the Franklin Trails Homeowners Association board, participated in community performing arts at Old Town Players in Vincennes and Kokomo Civic Theater, sang with the Indianapolis Men’s Chorus, and volunteered at the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

1961

Jerry H. Hoffman, Victor, Idaho, passed away Oct. 31, 2018. He was a history professor at Creighton University.

Russel W. Hunt, Rirard, Illinois, passed away Jan. 3, 2019. He was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha.

Robert A. Jackson, Beavercreek, Ohio, passed away March 16, 2019.

1962

Donald K. Dolbeer of Springfield, Ohio, and formerly of Miramar Beach, Florida, passed away April 19, 2019. A member of Phi Mu Delta fraternity, he served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. He worked in finance and public relations at SPECO, William F. Alley, and Modern Technologies for more than 30 years.

Alexander J. Dolhancyk, Peachtree City, Georgia, died Dec. 11, 2018. A member of Alpha Omega fraternity, he worked for 30 years for the General Electric Company in human resources and recruiting.

Richard L. “Dick” Henderson, Gilbert, Arizona, passed away May 28, 2018. He earned master’s degrees in biochemistry and business from the University of Toledo. After moving to Arizona in 1979, he opened the Drug Emporium retail chain. He was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, and he is survived by his wife, Barbara ERF Henderson ’61. One of his daughters, Lynn Henderson Peterson ’87, and a granddaughter, Kailey A. Boyer ’17, are also Wittenberg graduates.

Judith Hough Lammers, Dayton, Ohio, passed away May 18, 2019. A member of Delta Zeta sorority, she wrote romance novels and served as an editor for an international online writers club.

Roger E. McLean, Safety Harbor, Florida, passed away Jan. 26, 2018. He was a teacher and coach for eight years at Tecumseh High School in Ohio and Dunedin High School in Florida for 29 years. A member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, he is survived by his wife of 55 years, Alice Olson McLean ’62.

William J. Reedy, Boardman, Ohio, passed away Feb. 13, 2019. Upon retiring from IBM after 30 years of service, he worked as the office manager for Northeastern Ohio Medical Specialists in Akron. He was a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church and its choir; Tippecanoe Country Club; DeMolay, where he served as master councilor and received the Chevalier Award; Sharon Social University Fishing Club; Boardman Rotary, which awarded him the Paul Harris Fellow award; and Cameron Club of Youngstown.

Joan Stoeckle Ryan, Niantic, Connecticut, died March 14, 2019. She taught elementary vocal music and English in Urbana and Springfield, Ohio. From 1969 until her retirement in 2000, she taught in Jefferson County public schools. She was a certified GIA Graduate Gemologist, sang with the First Congregational Church of Old Lyme Senior Choir, volunteered with the Idaho Springs Historical Society and Lyme Tree Woman’s Exchange, and a member of the Lyme-Old Lyme Chamber of Commerce.

1963

W. Winthrop Nuesse, Matthews, North Carolina, died July 10, 2019. He served as a captain in the U.S. Air Force and retired in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He was a member of Delta Sigma Phi fraternity.

William R. Radford, Miami, Florida, passed away Dec. 11, 2018. He served in the U.S. Air Force and retired as a commander in the U.S. Navy. He practiced traditional labor and employment law for more than 40 years, earning recognition from Best Lawyers® as “Lawyer of the Year” for Labor and Employment in 2014 and induction as a Fellow in the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers.

Joseph R. Suter, Greenville, Ohio, passed away Dec. 3, 2018. A member of Phi Mu Delta, he worked as a teacher, incentive travel director, and nurse anesthetist, settling in New Orleans where he worked in various hospitals and taught in a community college.

1964

Douglas M. Brown, Bowling Green, Ohio, died June 6, 2019. He spent 35 years on the economics faculty of Georgetown University and was inducted into the Warren G. Harding High School Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. A member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, he was a former member of the Wittenberg Board of Directors.

James A. Dawson, Troy, Ohio, passed away Oct. 3, 2018. He was a teacher, coach, and administrator at several Ohio schools including Bethel Local and Huber Heights City districts. He worked for Arbor Gate/Knights Inn in retirement. He was a member of Troy Church of the Brethren, served Troy Housing Opportunities United (THOU), and volunteered with Brunken Nature Center and local cross country and track meets.

Mary Pflaumer Dillon of Urbana, Ohio, and formerly of West Milton, Ohio, passed away July 7, 2019. She taught elementary school for 35 years at Graham, Urbana, and Milton-Union Schools and was a member of Delta Theta Tau sorority, Alpha Theta chapter.

Katharine “Cassie” Lundvall Dreier of Hilton Head, South Carolina, and Brevard, North Carolina, passed away March 5, 2019. She taught classes at the River Arts Academy and private lessons. As an artist, she worked in oil painting, silk screen, jewelry, block printing, and colored pencil. She was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

Robert C. Fisher, Fairborn, Ohio, passed away Oct. 6, 2018. He was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity.

Michael H. Holz, Dayton, Ohio, passed away Feb. 15, 2019. He was a member of Phi Mu Delta.

Sanford C. Mitchell 67S, Ashland, Ohio, died March 23, 2019. He served as pastor at First Lutheran Church, Findlay, Ohio; Zion’s Lutheran Church, Defiance, Ohio; and for 37 years at Trinity Lutheran Church in Ashland, Ohio, and as pastor evangelist of the national Lutheran Church for 14 years. The former editor of Homiletics, he also was an adjunct professor of homiletics at Ashland Theological Seminary and professor of homiletics for the doctoral program at Methesco Seminary in Delaware, Ohio. A member of Delta Sigma Phi fraternity, he served on Wittenberg’s Board of Directors.

Janette “Jan” Printz Snyder, of Charlotte, North Carolina, and formerly of Uniontown, Ohio, passed away Feb. 17, 2019. A music teacher, she taught kindergartners through sixth grade at North Canton City Schools and private piano lessons. She was a member of Delta Zeta sorority, she was choir director and bell choir director at Zion United Church of Christ in North Canton, Ohio.

1965

Gertrude Sharon Ulmer Gruebemeyer, Pflugerville, Texas, died Jan. 6, 2019. She taught business education in Maryland and Pennsylvania. She enjoyed being a Lutheran pastor’s wife in Ohio before supporting her husband as a U.S. Army chaplain’s wife for 22 years in Texas, South Korea, and Germany as a Department of Defense civilian worker. She also served as executive assistant to the president of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary before retiring to Texas.

Carol Collins Hoffman, Channahon, Illinois, passed away Dec. 1, 2018. She taught art at Shabbanow Junior High School in Morris and was a part-time substitute teacher at Minooka High School. A member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority and Daughters of the American Revolution, she was an elected official of the Channahon Park District for 25 years.
David A. Mann ’68S, Traverse City, Michigan, passed away Sept. 21, 2018. He worked as a cost accountant at General Motors and served in the U.S. Army from 1957-1959 before becoming a pastor and serving Lutheran congregations in Dearborn, Norton Shores, and Jackson.

Delta Jean Bowman Vines, Blacksburg, Virginia, died July 12, 2019. She worked at Carousel Learning Center in Blacksburg and Waynesboro High School. For 30 years, she played the organ and piano at Northside Presbyterian Church in Blacksburg and Smyrna Presbyterian Church near Waynesboro.

Latricia Ann Faust Vossuehler, Springfield, Ohio, passed away Jan. 23, 2019. For nearly 40 years, she worked as a school nurse for the Northeastern Local School District. She was a member of the Lutheran Church, Young Womans Mission, P.E.O., and Pageturners Book Club.

1966

Paul R. Armor, Tallahassee, Florida, passed away April 1, 2019. An avid sportsman, he was named NCAA Track Coach of the Year in 1974 after leading Ashland College to a national championship. In Tallahassee, where he owned Armor Realty for many years, he coached the Leon High School soccer team to a state championship in 1987. He was a member of Phi Mu Delta fraternity.

Fonda Lou Allen Eaton ’66Med, St. Paris, Ohio, died Dec. 8, 2018. She had a 35-year teaching career at Troy City Schools, which named her a Teacher of the Year. A Martha Holden Jennings Scholar, she was a member of numerous professional education associations, Eastern Star Urbana Chapter 530, Champaign County Preservation Society, Friends of St. Paris Public Library, and St. Paris United Methodist Church, among many others.


Stanley L. Moreland, Lexington, Kentucky, passed away Oct 26, 2018. From 1955-1957, he was stationed in Germany while serving in the U.S. Army. His career in education included positions as teacher and principal at Upper Arlington Schools, Columbus, Ohio; director of curriculum at Centerville Schools in Ohio; superintendent of schools in Waynesville and Beavercreek, Ohio; director of physical support services for Fayette County Schools in Lexington; and finally as a consultant for the Kentucky Center for School Safety.

Margaret Warwick Urquhart, Tallahassee, Florida, passed away Sept. 30, 2018. She worked at Marion General Hospital and was an instructor of nursing at Marion Technical College before retiring to Tallahassee in 1992. She was active in the St. Andrews Society.

1967

Susan L. Dunbar, Colfax, California, died May 29, 2019. She traveled to Mexico and worked in Los Angeles as a Spanish-speaking social worker prior to working for a service that produced tapes for the blind. She owned a bookstore before beginning work at the Placer County Election Board in Auburn, California. She pursued acting at Golden Chain Theater in Oakhurst, sang in numerous choirs, and was a member of Delta Zeta.

William A. “Bill” Hendrickson, lifelong resident of West Yarmouth, Massachusetts, died July 21, 2019. He served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam. He worked for many years at the Cape Dairy in Hyannis and was an active member of West Yarmouth Congregational Church, where he served as treasurer.

John R. Hoffmeister, Canyon Lake, Texas, passed away Nov. 2, 2018. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Charles A. “Chuck” Lang, Carmel, Indiana, passed away Nov. 6, 2018. He was chief financial officer of Tripp Lite Manufacturing in Chicago, Illinois. A member of Beta Theta Pi, he served on the boards of Riverview Hospital, Nyhart Corporation, and Heartland Institute in Chicago, and volunteered at the YMCA, the Indiana Sports Corporation, and the Indiana University Natatorium.

1968

Robert L. “Bob” Harvey, Mooresville, North Carolina, passed away May 6, 2019. He worked primarily in manufacturing management and was one of the first employees to open the Fleetwood Mobile Homes in the early 1980s. A member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, he volunteered as a scout and assistant coach with the Mooresville Blue Devil football program.

Beverly Mumford Little of Wapakoneta, Ohio, and formerly of Zanesville and Lima, Ohio, passed away Nov. 6, 2018. She taught at Blume High School and then Shawnee Local Schools, where she coached girls’ gymnastics. In addition to helping to develop local high school swim teams in Lima, she was admitted in 2012 to the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) Hall of Fame for swimming and diving and gymnastics officiating. She was involved with the Western Ohio Aquatic Swim League and Orchard Hill Swim Club.

Stephen P. Smeltzer, Cincinnati, Ohio, passed away Sept. 12, 2018. He served in the Army and in Vietnam, received an MBA from Babson College, and had a 40-year career in the box industry serving in national sales, marketing, and specialty graphic design. A member of Beta Theta Pi, he enjoyed researching his family’s ancestry in retirement.


1969

Gregory A. Groener, Enon, Ohio, passed away March 12, 2019. A U.S. Air Force veteran, he was an industrial engineer for International Harvester and later a program analyst for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. He was a member of St. Bernard Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus #3724, Wright Brothers Packard Region, the Buckeye Packard Club, the Studebaker Club, and former president and vice president of the American Institute of Industrial Engineers Dayton Chapter.

H. Terrill “Terry” Harvey, New Castle, Indiana, passed away Aug. 29, 2019. He practiced at the law firm Millikan, Hodson and Harvey, served as judge of Henry Superior Court II, and briefly practiced law in Indianapolis. He coached youth sports and was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity and the Blue River Valley High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

Anne F. McCleary, Woodbury, Vermont, died Aug. 20, 2019. She was an early childhood educator in Hartford, Connecticut, for 14 years and also taught preschool in Montpelier and Woodbury, Vermont. She founded both Purple Coneflower Herbs and Wisdom of the Herbs School. She was a founding member of Transition Town Montpelier.

1970

The Rev. Barry E. Click, Roseville, California, died Sept. 18, 2018. For more than 25 years, he was a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, serving churches in California and Arizona.

Barbara A. Clouse, Apple Creek, Ohio, passed away April 20, 2019. She retired after 30 years as a third-grade teacher at Fredericksburg Elementary in the Southeast Local Schools, then worked as a substitute teacher for Wayne County Schools. She was a member of East Union Lutheran Church, Ruritan Club, Ohio Education Association, National Education Association, Southeast Local Education Association, Apple Creek Genealogy Club, Johnny Apple Seed Committee, and Apple Creek Historical Society.

Robert S. Lantz, Mansfield, Ohio, died July 26, 2019. He was a veteran who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

Patricia K. McCubbin, Richmond Heights, Ohio, passed away Dec. 8, 2018. She worked as a journalist and copy editor for The Plain Dealer and was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority and Bethany Covenant Church, where she was involved with Emmaus, Chrysalis, Kairos, and the Bill Glass Prison Ministry.

J. Randall “Randy” Potter, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, passed away Jan. 30, 2019. He worked as a psychotherapist for 40 years and as an in-home therapist for Shorehaven Behavioral Health for 20 years.

Van R. Reiner, Bel Air, Maryland, passed away June 5, 2019. For 30 years, he worked with Bethlehem Steel Corporation, where he served as president at Bethlehem Lukens Plate Division and Sparrow’s Point Division. He then was named president and CEO of the Maryland Science Center, retiring in 2017. He served on the boards of many organizations, including The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, Baltimore Waterfront Partnership, and the Maryland State Department of Education, and as a trustee at Bel Air Presbyterian Church.

1971

Roger M. Clary, Lewis Center, Ohio, passed away March 6, 2019. A veteran of the Ohio National Guard, he worked for Graham Local Schools, Northeastern Local Schools, Cleveland Heights Local Schools, and University Heights Local Schools. Donald Dupler, Frazer, Pennsylvania, died Aug. 31, 2019.

Wilbur N. Ischie, Painesville, Ohio, passed away Sept. 19, 2018. He practiced law in Painesville, Cleveland, and Florida, and later was a Realtor and developer in Columbus, Ohio. A member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity, he was an owner of Union Café and Axis in Columbus.

Charleyse Smith Pratt, Cleveland, Ohio, died March 10, 2017.

Gary F. Walter, Missoula, Montana, passed away Nov. 13, 2018. Elected a Fellow of the American College of Physicians in 1994, he began his medical practice at Missoula General Hospital in 1983 before joining the Western Montana Clinic in 1987, where he worked until 2003. He was a board member and
chairman for Valley Christian School and served as an elder at Missoula Alliance Church.

1972
Linda Calvert Erikson, Phillipsburg, New Jersey, passed away March 14, 2019. She was a member of Delta Zeta.

Gary W. Heiman, of Charleston, South Carolina, and formerly of Buffalo, New York, passed away Nov. 17, 2018. After a 34-year career, he retired as professor emeritus of psychology from Buffalo State College in 2010. He authored 17 textbooks in statistics and research methods and also served in Division 3 Flotilla 5 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Swiftwater Power Squadron in North Tonawanda, New York.

1973
Shirley J. O’Rourke, Salem, Ohio, died Dec. 2, 2018. She taught kindergarten at Salem City Schools and Youngstown State University for 16 years before teaching for 24 years at Canfield Local Schools, retiring in 2010. She was a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church and Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

James M. Sheets, of Connelly Springs, North Carolina, and formerly of Lorain, Ohio, passed away Dec. 6, 2018. He taught history at Southview High School and served as principal of South Amherst High School, superintendent of South Amherst Schools, and later as assistant superintendent for Lorain County Schools. He was a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Plover, Wisconsin, and an associate member of Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Sun City West, Arizona.

Ronald Spangler, Marlborough, New Hampshire, passed away Jan. 10, 2019. Upon receiving his M.A. from Kent State University, he was hired to head the university’s newly formed musical theatre program. He then taught acting and directing at California State University, Northridge and eventually at Keene State College, where he retired in 2014. While at Kent, he acted, choreographed, and directed at Porthouse Summer Theatre at Blossom Music Center in Cuyahoga Falls.

Larry Williams, Shaker Heights, Ohio, died Aug. 14, 2019. Upon graduation, he worked for Arthur Andersen and earned an MBA from Baldwin Wallace in 1983. He then worked at Ohio Bell, LiTel Communications, and at David N. Myers University and Cuyahoga Community College as a professor, and also as a real estate agent, tax preparer, Certified Financial Planner, and disc jockey.

1974
Linda E. Christenson, Rehoboth, Delaware, passed away Feb. 25, 2019. An environmental attorney, she was executive director for her own consultancy, Landfill Solutions Group, as well as the International Association of Environmental Testing Labs (IAETL) and International Cemetery & Funeral Association (ICFA). She was a member of Kappa Delta sorority and served as executive director of the Pride of Baltimore Inc. from 2002 until her retirement in 2012.

David L. Lady, Huntsville, Alabama, died Sept. 11, 2018. He served in the U.S. Army for 33 years, including as command sergeant major for the U.S. Army Armor Center, U.S. Army Europe, and the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command. Upon retirement, he served the U.S. Department of the Army at Redstone Arsenal.

1976
Mark C. Ausenheimer, Columbus, Ohio, died Jan. 24, 2019. He worked in sales and was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.


1977
James S. Crawford, Savannah, Georgia, died April 26, 2019. For 38 years, he traded chemical fertilizer around the world. A member of Phi Kappa Psi, he served on the Wittenberg Alumni Board.

Janet Nagy Page, Silver Spring, Maryland, died Oct. 28, 2018. She is survived by her daughters, Caroline Page Richardson ’04 of Silver Spring, Maryland, and Elizabeth G. Page of Jacksonville, Florida. Her son, William H. “Tripper” Page III, passed away Feb. 8, 2019. She was a member of Chi Omega and the East Asian Club.

1978
Barry J. Brocker, Canfield, Ohio, died Nov. 8, 2018. He retired from Truck World Inc. as chief financial officer. An Eagle Scout, he was treasurer of the Canfield Sportsman’s Conservation Club and a member of the Canfield Lions Club, where he was a Melvin E. Jones recipient.

1979

Catherine E. Truce, Brownsville, Ohio, passed away Nov. 1, 2018.

1980
Allison Dyer Patterson, Fleming Island, Florida, died Jan. 23, 2019. She worked as a graphic artist for The Florida Times-Union, and Tree of Life health foods in St. Augustine. An avid equestrian, she was a member of the United States Equestrian Federation, United States Dressage Federation, and the Northeast Florida Dressage Association, as well as Sigma Kappa.

1982
T. Scott “Willy” Wilson, Northfield, Illinois, passed away Aug. 13, 2019. A member of Delta Sigma Phi fraternity, he was a sports enthusiast and outdoorsman.

1983
Jeffrey E. Dusseau, Chillicothe, Ohio, passed away Feb. 11, 2019. He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War and retired from the Ohio Army National Guard in 1994. He was a member of the Leesburg Masonic Lodge #78 and Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and an assistant leader of Boy Scout Troop 35.


1987
Mary E. Feindt, Walworth, New York, passed away Oct. 29, 2018. In her 25-year career as a lawyer, she was a prosecutor who focused on domestic violence and child abuse cases. She was the continuing legal education manager at the Monroe County Bar Association and most recently served as a deputy courtroom clerk for U.S. District Court Judge Frank Geraci. She was active with the Russian American Rule of Law Consortium.

1997
Andrew G. Womack, Flemingsburg, Kentucky, passed away Oct. 18, 2018. He taught English in Japan, worked for the Kentucky Governor’s Office, and worked in sales.

2000

2001
Kunal Balkani, New York, New York, died in April of 2019. He was a member of Delta Tau Delta.

2013
Joshua E. Criss, Wilmington, Ohio, died Nov. 19, 2018. He had worked with Applebee’s Restaurants.

2021
Cosmas “Cossey” Catanzaro, Springfield, Ohio, passed away Dec. 28, 2018. He was a graduate of Catholic Central High School and a member of the Wittenberg Tigers football team.

FACULTY & STAFF
Erno J. Dahl, former vice president for academic affairs, d. March 12, 2019.


Jacob B. Miller, professor emeritus and chair of foreign languages, d. Dec. 29, 2018.


FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY
Carl W. Klemme, former member of the Wittenberg Board of Directors, d. May 15, 2019.
In the nearly two decades since his retirement in 2000, Professor Emeritus of Religion Gene Swanger has continued to educate students with his expert knowledge of East Asia. His classroom, however, has not been filled with recent high school graduates as one might expect. Instead, his students have been colonels, Navy captains, and one-star generals.

Since 2003, Swanger has presented several times a year on East Asian history, culture, and ethics at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, through the Medical Strategic Leadership Program (MSLP), a continuing education program that prepares both American and foreign-national military medical officers for the leadership challenges of combined health service support operations.

“The foreign military doctors are all selected by our embassies overseas, and I’ve had a broad range of military doctors from all over the world in my class,” said Swanger, including from the Middle East, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Australia, Taiwan, Japan, Russia, and Europe.

The course offers a significant section on China, including Chinese economic issues, Chinese and international relations, and Chinese and internal political matters. Swanger has presented primarily on how ethical issues have developed historically in China.

“When [the military doctors] get to the rank of full colonel or Navy captain, they’re having to work with their counterparts in other branches of the service, many of whom have master’s degrees in international affairs, and a few of those people have Ph.D.s in international relations,” he said. “This course is devoted to bringing [the medical officers] up to speed on international and strategic issues around the world.”

Described by students as “the best and most memorable presenter in the entire MSLP” and “a walking encyclopedia,” Swanger, who founded Wittenberg’s East Asian Studies program in 1970, received nothing but the very highest ratings in recent course evaluations.

“He fostered learning and student interactions with his insightful, gentle, and humble teaching style,” wrote one student. “He never lost sight of the experiences of his veteran students and our unique challenges in the fields of security and healthcare.”

Swanger retired this year from the MSLP. In recognition of his service and outstanding contributions to the program, he received an honor he never would have imagined. On Sept. 9, 2019, he was commissioned an honorary admiral in the Texas Navy by Texas Governor Greg Abbot. His wife, Carolyn, was awarded an honorary Yellow Rose of Texas.

Maj. Gen. Patrick D. Sargent, commanding officer of the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence, wrote in a letter to Swanger, “The MSLP serves as one of the cornerstones of the Army Medical Center of Excellence, and it is because of your efforts the course is so highly regarded. Your presence in the classroom will be deeply missed.”

In addition to teaching at the Defense Institute of Security Cooperation Studies at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Swanger also served as a guest lecturer from 1983-2016 at the U.S. State Department’s Foreign Service Institute.
ON THE RIGHT PATH

LENA PIRT ’20 credits her professors and the community of artists at Wittenberg for helping her find her path as a theatre major with an arts administration focus. Lena’s summer internship at The Glimmerglass Festival in Cooperstown, New York, helped refine her skills and crystalize her future plans.

The Wittenberg Fund supports every facet of Wittenberg’s mission-driven, student-centered education, giving students like Lena the tools and support they need.

Read more of Lena’s story—and those of other Witt students—at www.wittenberg.edu and #LifeAfterWitt, and make your gift today.

“At Wittenberg, I have grown overall as a person and become more of a go-getter.”
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