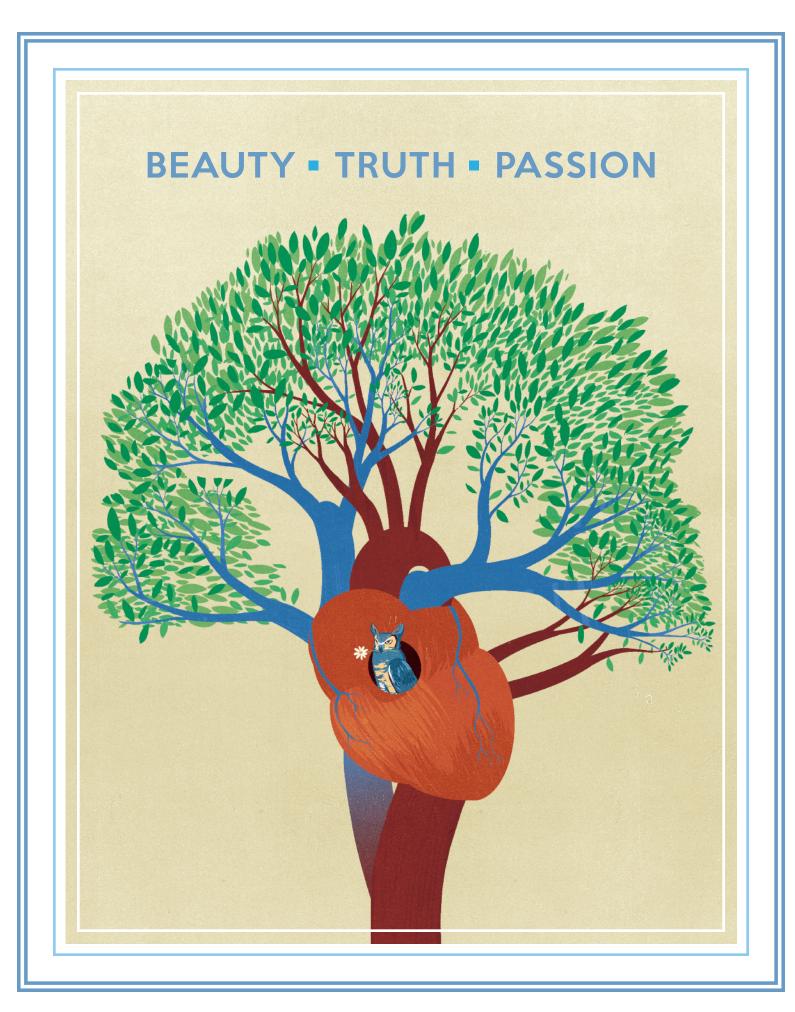
OWL&SPADE





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WARREN WILSON COLLEGE MISSION

The mission of Warren Wilson College is to provide a distinctive undergraduate and graduate liberal arts education. Our undergraduate education combines academics, work and service in a learning community committed to environmental responsibility, crosscultural understanding and the common good.

Dennis Thompson '77, Alumni Board President VOLUME 92 NUMBER I • 2016



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SUSTAINABILITY

This publication is printed on recycled stocks containing 100% post-consumer waste.





When a publication as celebrated as the Owl & Spade is redesigned, the response from alumni, friends, faculty, staff and students guides the creation of subsequent issues. Many have taken the time to express their thoughts on the new look and approach to Warren Wilson College's magazine. Thank you for helping us effectively tell the story of this amazing institution.

his magazine's content is inspired by a theme — "Beauty. Truth. Passion." K. Johnson Bowles, co-managing editor, defines the theme: "What is beauty? Is beauty only visual, or can it be more overarching? Can beauty refer to honesty, truth, justice and passion? Can it mean purity of heart or the seeking of knowledge?

"Beauty is more than external. It is of the mind, heart, soul and body. It is powerful. It is cathartic. It is profound. It is unmistakable. It is revelatory. It moves us to sigh, to cry, to laugh, to love and to connect. We are made better by beauty in our lives."

This edition delves into the College's successes in music, creative writing and culinary arts with sojourns into alumni and student achievement, progressive policy changes and the retirements of three College legends. A pictorial explores the craft initiative past and present, and Warren Wilson College's style is captured for all to see.

Found within these pages is confirmation of shared values and achievement made possible by the people who embody the College's dedication to excellence.

The cover is illustrated by Alessandro Gottardo, a Society of Illustrators gold medal winner, who lists The New York Times, National Geographic and Smithsonian magazine among his many clients.

KYLE MCCURRY

Co-managing Editor

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Alumni and Friends,

In this endless election season, we have grown used to pundits saying that polling is "more art than science," and therefore inherently subjective and somewhat unreliable. Educators discuss the relative merits of hardcore STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) schools, as distinct from fuzzier liberal arts institutions. A classic business school text is titled "The Art and Science of Negotiation."

Why do we always treat "art" as the opposite of "science?"

This issue of the Owl and Spade explores that big shaded area of the Venn diagram where art and science intersect. Where the finest musicians combine the gift of melody and painstakingly honed technical expertise to perfect their craft. Where biologists use the most complex tools to uncover a simplicity to the structure of life's building blocks that takes our breath away. Where intangible inspiration and practical chemistry intersect to create a gastronomic feast.

Why is this a particular passion for us at Warren Wilson College? We are at our core a "liberal arts" college. But this doesn't mean that our students are liberal artists (though we've got our share of them). It means that our students are committed to a broad education that includes a range of disciplines – humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. It also means that our scientists, who routinely win more awards for undergraduate research than students from any other college or university in North Carolina, are also accomplished writers and filmmakers.

Our students and faculty are also committed to civic engagement and social transformation. At Warren Wilson, that means our students are problem solvers who understand the importance of both a finely crafted poem and an elegantly designed experiment. At Wilson, art and science aren't in tension but in harmony. Beauty and truth – inextricably linked.

I hope you enjoy visiting with the scientists, artists, poets and practitioners of craft across multiple disciplines who populate the pages of this issue. They include students, faculty, staff and alumni. Some of them only spent a few years in our valley; others have spent decades. All of them are part of the Warren Wilson family, sharing a mysterious connection to each other that began when they set foot on this campus. I hope you feel that same mysterious connection, and that it continues to draw you back to Swannanoa for Homecoming. In the words of Albert Einstein: "The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science."

STEVEN L. SOLNICK

President

RELEVANT ROLE MODEL

PRACTICAL IDEALIST

INTENTIONAL ADVENTURER

CREATIVE CRITICAL THINKER

ALL ARE
WARREN WILSON

PROFILES BY JOHN BOWERS AND KYLE McCURRY
PORTRAITS BY KEN BLAZE, JOSEPH KACZMAREK,
CHRIS POLYDOROFF AND MARK RIGHTMIRE

RELEVANT ROLE MODEL

BEAUTIFULLY PUBLIC. TRULY AGORAPHOBIC.

"My religion is 'thank you,'" Sara Benincasa, a 2005 Warren Wilson College creative writing alumna, said as she discussed her postgraduate popularity. Her debut book, "Agorafabulous! Dispatches From My Bedroom," is a soul-baring memoir that provides a window into her life as an agoraphobic who suffers from panic attacks. She uses her dithyramb talks, one-woman shows and essays to discuss living as a college student in Boston and slowly recoiling from society — only finding solace in the safety of her bed.

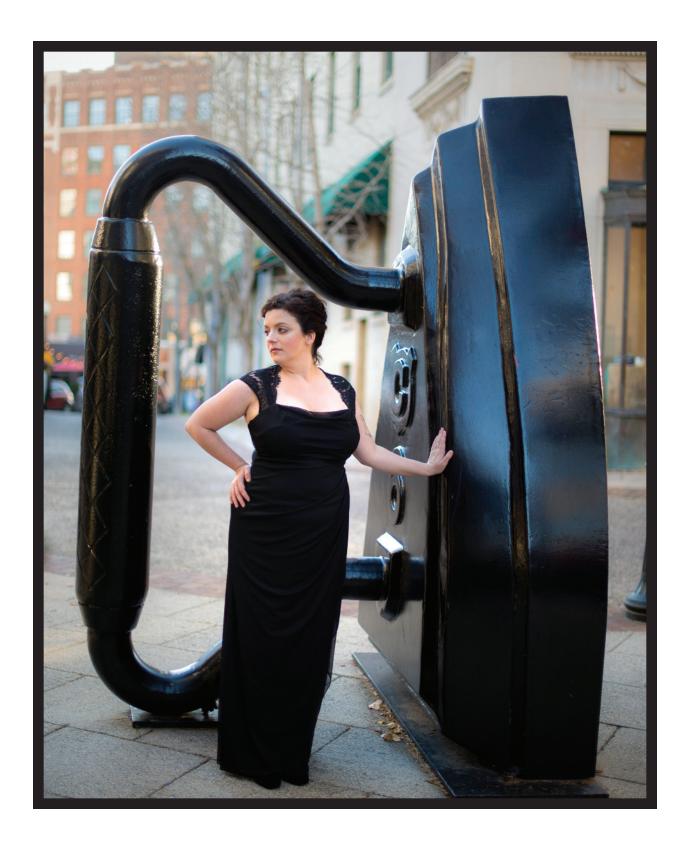
An intervention by close friends and her family led to the care she needed to regain her health and eventually enroll at Warren Wilson College. "If I remember correctly, there is a brick outside the Work Program office that reads, 'You saved me,'" she said. "Warren Wilson College has been such a huge influence on my life as an emotional creature, as an intellectual creature and as a spiritual creature."

Benincasa's seriously funny work made her an influential author, comedian and television writer. She has co-hosted a SiriusXM satellite radio show for Cosmopolitan magazine, blogged on Nerve.com, created and hosted the YouTube web series "Gettin' Wet with Sara Benincasa," and vlogged for Huffington Post, among others. Despite the varied platforms for her work, an important theme has remained constant: love yourself for who you are.

She's taken her mission to the next level with the recent project "D.C. Trip," which has been optioned for a movie, and the crowd-funded short film "The Focus Group" that "has to do with how people feel about their own bodies." In her short film, Benincasa submits her body for review by a focus group. As she told Yahoo Health in October 2015, "What if you took all the voices in your head telling you that you are too fat or too light or too dark and made them into characters, into people."

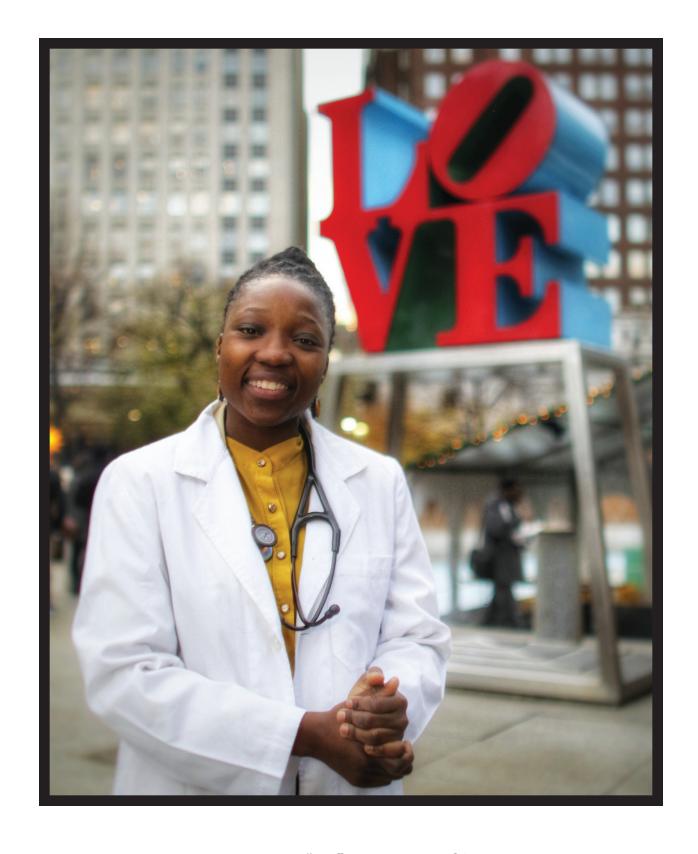
As her star rises, she continues to talk about topics many people avoid. It's this beautifully truthful and meaningfully honest mission that allows her to say funny things and "pull in an audience that might not necessarily expect or want to hear an educational message. They are there to be entertained and, along the way, if I can get some of my messages in there, maybe I'll affect somebody positively."

PROFILE BY KYLE McCURRY · PORTRAIT BY CHRIS POLYDOROFF



SARA BENINCASA '05

Sara Benincasa '05 poses with the flat iron sculpture, which was created by artist Reed Todd in 1997 and installed at the intersection of Asheville's Battery Park Avenue and Wall Street.



KOPANO "KP" MMALANE '09

Dr. Kopano "KP" Mmalane '09 at John F. Kennedy Plaza in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in front of Robert Indiana's "LOVE" sculpture.

PRACTICAL IDEALIST

IMPACTING THE WORLD: A JOURNEY OF LOVE.

Stories recounting how each of us were first drawn to Warren Wilson College are often magical and profound-kismet: a meaningful journey inspiring the best of who we were meant to be in the world. It is also often a journey inspired by the love, generosity and passion of those who have come before us - a graduate, a friend, a family member who said, "Warren Wilson is incredible. It will change your life. It will help you be the best you can be." For Kopano "KP" Mmalane '09, the journey from a small village in Botswana has its roots in a 1996 Rotary Club foreign exchange program between her father and Joel Adams, former chair and current member of the Warren Wilson College Board of Trustees, and his wife, Marla.

As a child, Mmalane got to know the Adams through visits in the United States and Botswana, and she eventually set her sights on attending Warren Wilson College. Her father is a successful doctor, and Mmalane followed in his footsteps by focusing on health care with a major in biochemistry and serving on the Health Center Crew. While her education was important, there was another aspect of the College that defines her time on campus.

"Everyone was so welcoming," Mmalane said. "Warren Wilson encourages you to be different; your uniqueness is exactly what makes you special." She thrived and was involved in everything she could find time to do. In addition to community engagement, she played basketball, worked in residential life and was instrumental in starting the College's step team.

She graduated in three and a half years and enrolled at St. George's University School of Medicine in Grenada, West Indies, eventually spending her residency in Norwich, England. In a joyous moment, two sets of parents-her birth parents and her American parents, Joel and Marla Adams-attended her graduation from medical school in June 2014. Mmalane began her work in Botswana the following August as a general practitioner handling minor surgeries and delivering babies.

For a country with 25 percent of the population aged 15 to 49 infected with HIV, according to The World Bank, Mmalane's skill set is in high demand. And the desire to help is rooted in her experiences at Warren Wilson College. "Warren Wilson was always emphasizing how best people can give back or make an impact," she recalls. "The students all want to make a difference. We all want to impact the world. That was groomed into me, and I focused that thought on my country through medicine."

PROFILE BY KYLE McCURRY · PORTRAIT BY JOSEPH KACZMAREK

INTENTIONAL ADVENTURER

A MONUMENTAL VISION.

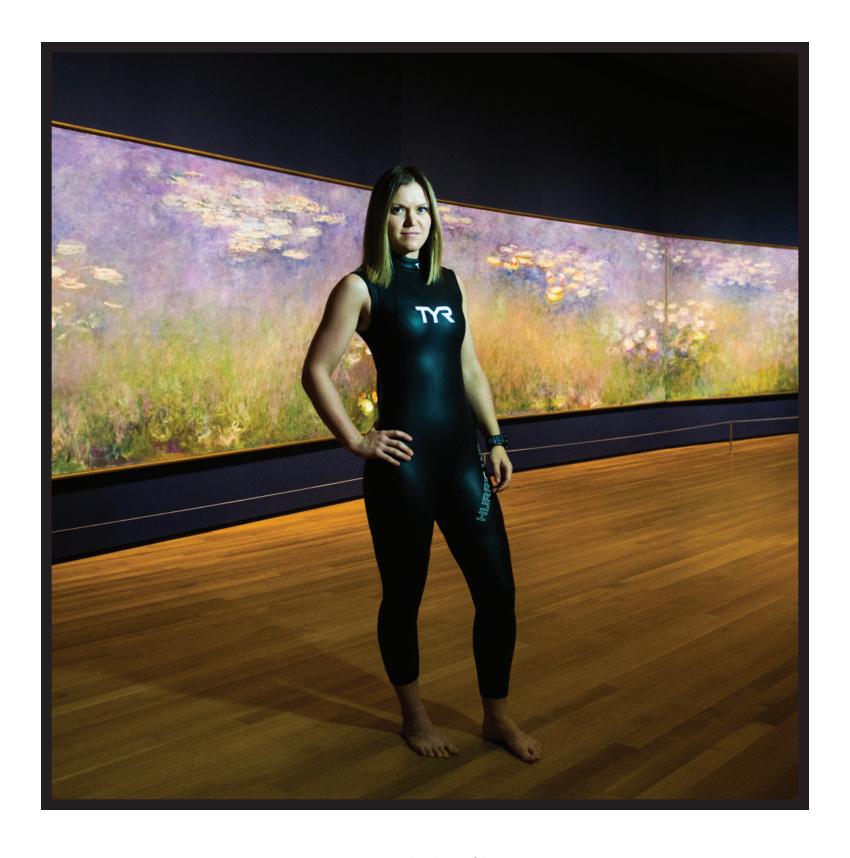
Impressionist painter Claude Monet once reflected, "No one is an artist unless he carries his picture in his head before painting it, and is sure of his method and composition." The same can be said of anyone who achieves a monumental feat—first, it must be imagined. Katie Spotz '08 is emblematic of this concept. As a 22-year-old in 2010, Spotz became the youngest person to row an ocean solo when she completed her trans-Atlantic journey from Africa to South America to raise awareness and funding for clean water.

Spotz now has coauthored the book "Just Keep Rowing," which features life lessons paralleling her 70 days rowing across the Atlantic. In conjunction with the book, Spotz works with H2O for Life, a nonprofit that helps schools in the Majority World access clean water by connecting with schools in the United States. She tells her inspiring story to over 30,000 students to engage them in service learning opportunities just like she had as a Warren Wilson student.

Spotz's vision was sparked at the College. "Everyone at Warren Wilson is so passionate," she said. "It is contagious, and doing things to help the greater good becomes the norm. My experience there really shaped me." She was mentored by former business professor Janice Jackson, Ph.D., (2006-11) and outdoor leadership professor Marty O'Keefe, Ph.D., as she created a successful proposal for her rowing campaign. Dale Roberts (2001-11), former Career Development Center director, guided her in developing a strategy to seek sponsors. All the while, she honed her rowing skills as a member of the College's rowing team.

"Something I've seen in many adventures is that if you have a why and can really connect with that bigger purpose, you overcome obstacles," Spotz said. "Making an impact greater than myself helped me continue on when I felt like quitting. And of course, I felt like quitting because rowing across the Atlantic was ridiculously hard." Her inspired discipline and deep motivation fueled her passion to complete the 3,000-mile row. Now, Katie Spotz continues to make her mark of hope in the world and inspires others to do the same.

PROFILE BY JOHN BOWERS · PORTRAIT BY KEN BLAZE



KATIE SPOTZ '08

Katie Spotz '08 at the Cleveland Museum of Art in front of Water Lilies (Agapanthus), c.1915-1926 by Claude Monet (French, 1840-1926). Oil on canvas, Framed: 204.94 x 430.30 x 6.03 cm (80 5/8 x 169 3/8 x 2 5/16 inches); Unframed: 201.30 x 425.60 cm (79 1/4 x 167 1/2 inches). By permission.



MARK ADAMS '84, PH.D.

Mark Adams '84, Ph.D., in front of artist Barbara Kruger's "Another" at the Price Center East on the University of California, San Diego campus.

CREATIVE CRITICAL THINKER

FROM HERE TO THERE: MAPPING THE **HUMAN GENOME.**

The beauty of a liberal arts education is its ability to demonstrate the interconnectedness of knowledge and how the application of knowledge can take one on a far-reaching life journey. This belief is magnificently illustrated by Mark Adams '84, Ph.D.

His journey began when he enrolled in a biochemistry course taught by Sydney Craig, Ph.D., (biology professor 1983-86) and when Vicki Collins, Ph.D., (chemistry professor 1976-2013) supervised his research. Adams' Warren Wilson College liberal arts education has compelled him to be a world leader in one of the most influential scientific discoveries - sequencing the human genome.

"The biochemistry class struck a chord with me in pulling together chemistry and biology," Adams said. "For me, that intersection is the sweet spot of science." His research project with Collins created an oligonucleotide, a short piece of DNA, from chemical components and inspired him to design a project, answer a scientific question and prove his hypothesized answer. "It was a wonderful experience of hands-on research using science to explain the unknown. The opportunity was invaluable," he said.

Adams is now scientific director at J. Craig Venter Institute, a global innovator in genomic research with more than 250 scientists and staff. He is known for creating the expressed sequence tag methodology and for his work as one of the founding scientists at The Institute for Genomic Research, where he established and managed the DNA sequencing facility.

"The uniqueness in the sequenced genome is its completeness," Adams explains. "When it's done, it's whole. Everything can be understood from the context of genes, and the research has infused every aspect of human biology." His ability to synthesize knowledge and imagine profoundly significant connections continues to make a great impact on the world. As a trailblazing researcher, Adams perfectly manifests the College's hopes for his success and faith in him as a person and intellectual.

PROFILE BY JOHN BOWERS · PORTRAIT BY MARK RIGHTMIRE

LIBERATING DISCOURSE

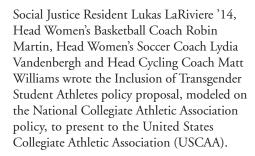
Seeing and believing

Recognizing the truths of individual experience and sexual identity is an important national conversation. As an institution steeped in the tradition of welcoming everyone as well as valuing self-actualization, Warren Wilson College has established itself as a leader celebrating truth and ensuring the expression of self can be fully realized.

Warren Wilson students, faculty and staff have worked to consider more realities of those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning (LGBTQ+). "We have created a community as an accepting, safe place for

or university in North Carolina. "What makes Warren Wilson unique is its inclusiveness, which addresses the spectrum of [LGBTQ+], while other colleges may still be caught up trying to accept lesbian and gay students," said eCollegeFinder's Mike Simmons.

The College's CGR efforts support recent provisions in Title IX that seek to combat gender-based harassment against transgender students. Title IX, a comprehensive federal law enacted in 1972, prohibits discrimination based upon sex in any federally funded education activity or program. Through its work, the



In June 2015, Coach Martin presented the proposal at the USCAA convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. "I expected and had prepared for controversy around this proposal," Martin said. "We really didn't have any non-supporters. Immediately after I presented the policy, USCAA Chief Operating Officer Matthew Simms said the conference was 100 percent behind the transgender-inclusion policy."

The USCAA legal team is reviewing the proposal before it is published as USCAA policy. "We are setting the bar because transgender inclusion soon will be a topic in high school sports," Martin said. "We feel comfortable knowing we have potential for transgender students to participate and have a policy to guide us and teams in our conference."

While the notion of accepting the experiences of all people may be challenging for some, the College, with an educational mission to seek truth in all forms, believes there is great benefit in seeing others the way they want to be recognized. There is also great freedom and possibilities for learning when everyone is encouraged to be wholly one's self. Deep inside everyone is a truth, and its value is worthy of acknowledgment. The College's faculty, students and staff will continue to consider all experiences that reveal the complexities and beauty of the human spirit.

"As diverse gender identities become more prevalent and visible in society, we have continued to create advocacy models, programs, spaces and policies to ensure equal access to resources on campus."

- Bass Wolf '12

LGBTQ+ students," said Bass Wolf '12, spiritual life program coordinator and former interim director of the Center for Gender and Relationships (CGR). "As diverse gender identities become more prevalent and visible in society, we have continued to create advocacy models, programs, spaces and policies to ensure equal access to resources on campus."

The College's commitment has been lauded with national recognition. The 2016 edition of The Princeton Review's "Best 380 Colleges" ranks Warren Wilson as the second most "LGBTQ-Friendly" in the country. Reinforcing the College's well-known value of acceptance, the website eCollegeFinder identifies the College as the most LGBTQ-friendly college

CGR considers the experiences of transgender students and seeks to create spaces that are not labeled as specifically male or female. In one example, students and the CGR worked in unison with faculty and staff through community governance to recommend a campus policy on gender-neutral restrooms to President Solnick. The All-Gender Restroom Conversion Policy, which President Solnick approved and enacted immediately, establishes a plan to convert existing gendered, single occupancy to all-gender restrooms.

Leadership on issues relating to sexual identity extends to the College's athletics division. Director of Athletics Stacey Enos, former CGR Director Jeannine Heynes (2013-15), Tzedek

POWER OF PLACE

Above all, preserving the beauty of the Swannanoa Valley and the world

Anyone who has ever rounded the bend on Warren Wilson Road near the red barn and gasped at the breathtaking scenery won't be surprised by the College's Board of Trustees action to preserve this environment and others like it. Warren Wilson College holds fast to its position as a pioneer and principled leader in environmental sustainability by divesting its nearly \$55 million endowment from fossil fuels over five years. While campus activists led the crusade for years, the effort gained momentum in November 2014 with a petition that read, in part, "We, the student body, call upon President Steven Solnick and the Warren Wilson College Board of Trustees to divest our endowment from fossil fuels by immediately freezing all assets invested in fossil fuels and committing to full divestment of all investments in fossil fuels over the next five years."

Faculty and staff members drafted a resolution endorsing the action, and a student group met with the Board of Trustee's Investment Committee to advocate for divestment. On Oct. 10, 2015, the Board, noting the students' veracity and the plan's virtues, accepted the campus' call to separate the College's endowment from corporations listed among the Carbon Underground 200, which contains the world's top coal, oil and gas companies. In a move seen as furthering the College's mission to remain "committed to environmental responsibility," the Board further adopted a Responsible Investment Policy that includes environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) considerations and management strategies.

"It is so great to see this come to fruition while I am still a student," proclaimed Ben Linthicum '16, prior to graduation in May. "Like all colleges or universities," he later wrote in an article for the Asheville Citizen-Times, "Warren Wilson College has a moral obligation to ensure that its operations do not support or profit from fossil

fuel industries — which are at the root of the climate crisis we are facing today."

In mid-September 2015, a research firm, Arabella Advisors, announced that "436 institutions and 2.040 individuals across 43 countries and representing \$2.6 trillion in assets have committed to divest from fossil fuel companies." At the time, Warren Wilson College was one of roughly 25 U.S. colleges and universities, including Georgetown University, Stanford University and Syracuse University, pledging, in full or in part, to divest.

In an opinion piece for The Charlotte Observer, Trustee Jessica Culpepper '04 took the opportunity to encourage other private colleges and universities in North Carolina to make a similar commitment. "Warren Wilson is not the only private college or university to join this national and international movement infusing mission, culture and values into a naturally evolving policy," she wrote. "To continue this trend, our fellow private colleges and universities must stop profiting from climate destruction. It's not a choice; it's an obligation."

Praise for the College's action poured in from across the nation, including acknowledgment from divestment campaigns at institutions such as Harvard University. Renowned environmentalist

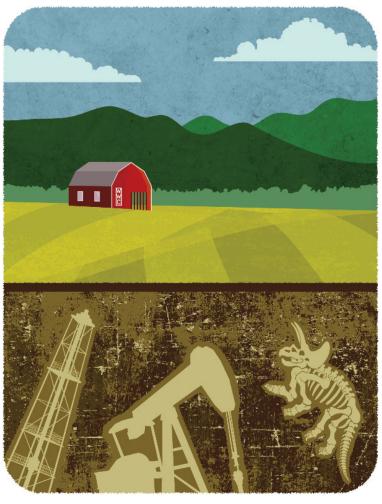


Illustration by Reggie Tidwell

"Warren Wilson College has a moral obligation to ensure that its operations do not support or profit from fossil fuel industries — which are at the root of the climate crisis we are facing today."

BEN LINTHICUM '16

Bill McKibben said, "Warren Wilson may be known, above all, as a place that works hard at whatever it does. Their diligence in studying the question of divestment, and the forthrightness of their conclusion, is a big boost to a global movement."

Through divestment and responsible investment, Warren Wilson College is just beginning another chapter in a distinguished history comprised of people who seek to make the world a better place. More initiatives are forthcoming; there is much work to be accomplished.



MFA Program for Writers founder and 2015 MacArthur Foundation Fellow Ellen Bryant Voigt. By permission. Courtesy of John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

EXCELLENCE BY DESIGN

Genius flourishes

The McArthur Foundation Fellowship, known by some as the "genius grant," recognizes individuals who are "exception[ally] creative" and have the capacity to contribute even more to their craft. It is an exquisite tribute, complemented by a substantial financial reward, to those who have made and will likely continue to make a significant impact in their field.

To date, Warren Wilson College has four MFA Program for Writers faculty members who have received this honor. Adding her name to the list in 2015 is poet Ellen Bryant Voigt, who not only teaches in the MFA program but also created the low-residency concept in 1976.

Having her life's work recognized in this way is something Voigt, an author of eight books of poetry, humbly calls "great." In acknowledging the other 2015 award winners, which includes an inorganic chemist, economist, neuroscientist, playwright, set designer and journalist, she added, "When you look at

the list of the 24 of us this year and see people who are doing important medical research and making contributions to humankind, for the Foundation to believe the arts are just as important is extremely gratifying."

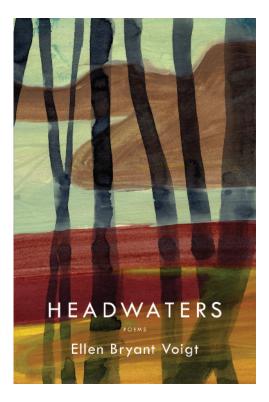
The MacArthur Fellowship gives each 2015 winner \$625,000 over five years with no reporting requirements. This unique attribute gives Voigt and other geniuses the "flexibility to pursue their own artistic, intellectual and professional activities," according to the MacArthur Foundation.

"I hope to make the most of [the award]. It helps not to feel pressured to do so," Voigt said. "To receive this as the truly extraordinary, miraculous gift that it is and to have the giver say there are no strings attached ... that kind of faith is very buoying."

The Foundation sums up Voigt's contribution to the literary world: "A poet of sustained excellence and emotional depth, Voigt continues to advance American literary culture through her ongoing experimentation with form and technique."

As the MFA Program for Writers hits its 35th anniversary at Warren Wilson College, Voigt said congratulatory messages are accompanied by another important acknowledgment. "People have written to congratulate me on the prize, but then tell me how important the [MFA Program for Writers] was to them and how it's changed their lives," Voigt said. "That's been very moving to me."

For many, the MacArthur Fellowship is the ultimate recognition of the people who dedicate their lives to enriching the world. It just so happens that Voigt along with 1991 recipient Eleanor Wilner, 2001 winner Andrea Barrett and 2014 fellow Heather McHugh channel their inspiration through Warren Wilson College. The College and its graduates are thankful and proud.



"Owl" from Headwaters: Poems by Ellen Bryant Voigt. Copyright © 2013 by Ellen Bryant Voigt. With permission of the publisher, W. W. Norton & Company, Inc. All rights reserved.

OWL

BY ELLEN BRYANT VOIGT

the sign for making the most of what you have on the human hand is a thumb at full right angle to the palm for the owl it's two talons forward two back a flexible foot that crushes the prey and lifts it to the beak to the eyes which are legally blind this is why the owl

hunts in the dark in the dusk when nothing is clearly seen and why the owl's eyes are fixed facing ahead to better focus so its whole face swivels in each direction like the turret on a tank the round plates of feathers surrounding the eyes collect the least sound when it turns the owl is computing by geometry the exact

location of the mouse or snake or songbird that moves imperceptibly in its nest toward which the owl sets out from the hole in the tree the burrow the eave of the barn and crosses the field in utter silence wing-feathers overlapped to make no sound poor mouse poor rabbit

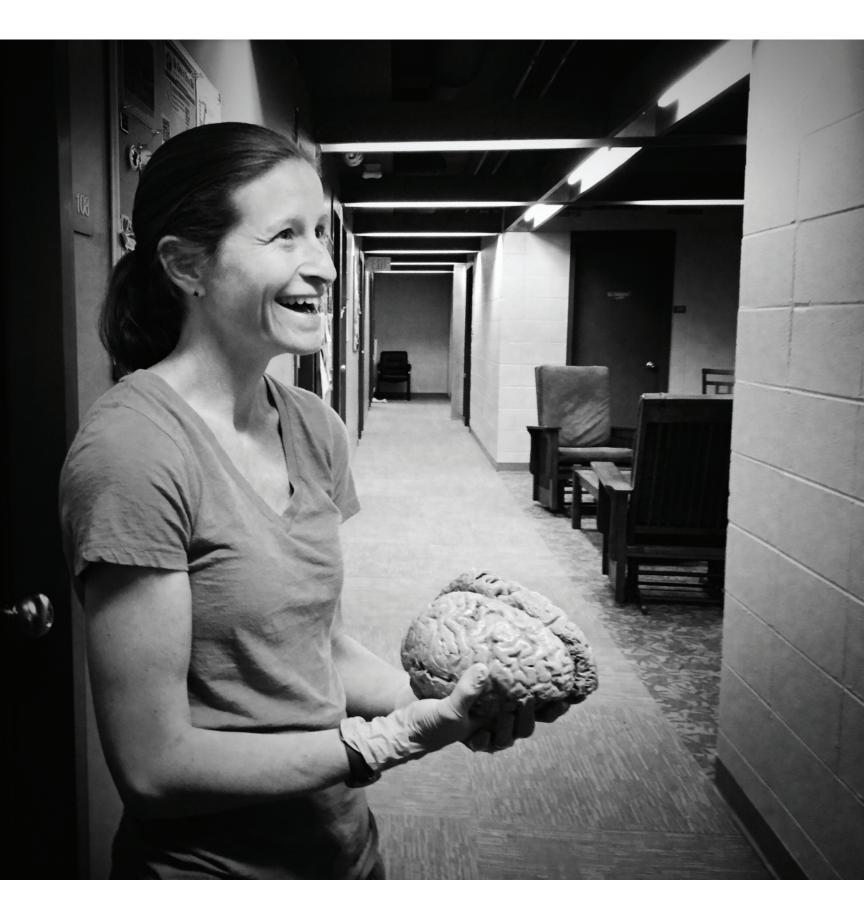
last night

from the porch obbligato to the brook and the snuffling deer intent on the gnarled worm-bitten apples we leave on the tree I heard what must have been a Barred Owl or a Barn Owl or a Lesser Horned Owl close by not deep in the woods what I heard was less a call than a cry

a fragment repeating repeating a kind of shudder which may be why the country people I come from thought an owl was prescient ill-omen meant to unspool the threads they'd gathered and wound I was a grown woman when my father took the key from under the eave

and unlocked the door to the darkened house he had grown up in and stepped across the threshold and said as he entered the empty room hello Miss Sally as though his stepmother dead for weeks were still in her usual chair

in the Medicine Wheel the emblem for wisdom is the same for gratitude at dusk at dark the farsighted owl strikes in utter silence when we hear it from the tree or the barn what it announces is already finished



MENTORS AND MENTEES

A masterpiece made from love and skill

Victorian-era art critic John Ruskin once described a masterpiece as the perfect melding of love and skill. Such a description is apt for Warren Wilson College's community partnerships. The adroit art of joining meaningful experiences with superior knowledge is the foundation of student opportunities at the College. A shining example has been crafted by the brilliance of psychology professor Jen Mozolic, Ph.D.

"I love connecting students to the basics of neuroanatomy and neurophysiology by providing them opportunities to experience things firsthand," said Mozolic, who was recognized as one of the nation's most inspiring young professors in Nerdscholar's "40 Under 40: Professors Who Inspire."

In partnership with Hinds Feet Farm (HFF) Day Program Director Erica Rawls '03, who is also a Warren Wilson College Alumni Board member, Mozolic created an innovative educational model that integrates service learning into the biopsychology curriculum. "It's a perfect fit," said Mozolic of the synergistic partnership between her biopsychology class and HFF, a post-rehabilitation day program in Asheville for people with brain injuries.

The designated service-learning course provides students with the foundational understanding of brain injuries and how they impact people's health. Students then develop creative themebased projects and activities, which are for HFF members' participation during their bi-monthly campus visits.

"In the classroom you can get caught up in the content," Mozolic said. "It's ideal to use service learning as a way to take the content I teach and make it a tool for learning life skills, like relationship building, teamwork and problem solving." At the same time students are developing these skills, they are involved in meaningful community engagement with a local nonprofit organization.

By initiating rehabilitation activities for HFF members, the students are the innovators and leaders. "They bring their expertise and skills from academics and the work program to create unique, fulfilling projects and open the doors so HFF members can participate," Mozolic said. "The students make this class a success for everyone involved."

For HFF members, feeling fulfilled and having meaning in their lives after a brain injury is a vital outcome. "It has been really positive for our members to feel comfortable and welcome on campus," said Rawls, who earned master's degrees in social work and special education from the University of Louisville after graduating from Warren Wilson. "Many people with a brain injury remember how they were treated before their injury, and it's apparent when someone is talking differently to them,"Rawls said. "That's never been an

issue with Warren Wilson students. The members often talk about how the students accept them and treat them as peers."

HFF members see themselves as co-educators and talk to students about their brain injuries. "Our members are passionate about spreading brain trauma awareness," Rawls said. The audience is particularly fitting because "many members had their injuries in high school or college, which are high-risk times for brain trauma," she continued.

Because of the partnership, students in the biopsychology class can put theory into practice in a symbiotic relationship with HFF members. "It's a real-world context they wouldn't otherwise have," said Rawls. "The relationships they build are truly two-way, mutually beneficial exchanges. It's ultimately about them having a chance to learn from each other, get to know each other and build connections and experiences."

Rawls' thoughts are echoed in student reflections: "Life is therapy. You cannot get any more holistic than that," wrote biopsychology student Brenna Boyd '16. "I loved Erica's explanation of how everything they are doing is a learning opportunity. It is so simple, yet profound. Every day is a learning opportunity, not only for those with brain injuries, but also for everyone involved. There is always a chance for growth."

Left: Professor of Psychology Jennifer Mozolic, Ph.D., created an innovative educational model integrating service learning into the biopsychology curriculum.



THE CRAFT INITIATIVE

For an institution uniquely situated in the southern Appalachian Mountains, it's hard not to find traditional artistic connections to the region throughout the campus. In 1942, Warren Wilson College began to take shape as the result of a merger between the Asheville Farm School, which also occupied the College's current geographic location, and Dorland-Bell School in Hot Springs, North Carolina. The latter began in the home of Luke Dorland in 1887. By 1893, the northern Presbyterian Church, which opened Asheville Farm School a year later, was involved in the school's operation.

"One of Dorland-Bell's greatest contributions to society was preservation and enrichment of Appalachian folk arts," writes Jacqueline Burgin Painter '52 in her book, "The Season of Dorland-Bell." Weaving, which Painter calls "the strongest feature" of the Dorland-Bell folk arts program, was part of the academic curriculum by 1928. Helen Hickman, who later worked at Warren Wilson College from 1942 to 1953, and other instructors brought in local craftswomen to demonstrate their weaving techniques. Hickman also helped transition the weaving program into "a money-making industry for [Dorland-Bell]," according to Painter.

Upon Dorland-Bell's union with Asheville Farm School, the traditional mountain techniques became part of Warren Wilson College's legacy. The weaving program combined with the woodworking program to form "Warren Wilson Crafts." Warren Wilson Crafts lasted through the '50s and '60s, and students worked 15 hours per week to produce fine quality woven goods to sell. They made guest towels, luncheon mats, needle cases, napkins, baby bibs, table runners, bookmarks, pillowcases, stoles and aprons.

While craft continued to have a presence in various forms on the Asheville campus, the College saw a decline in student interest until a renaissance in 2009. Three work crews were created — Fiber Arts Crew, Wood Joinery Crew and Blacksmithing Crew — and revived the tradition.

In 2013, with funding from a foundation that wishes to remain anonymous, the art department added studio craft and material arts along with a full-time teaching position in sculpture and greater support for woodworking, fiber arts and blacksmithing. One-year Fine Art and Craft Fellows bolstered opportunities for students to research, learn and expand their artistic skills and provide both leadership and support for the College's art program and craft initiative.

Through this enhanced programming, the College hosts many craft-related exhibitions in the Elizabeth Holden Art Gallery. Larger-scale showings have been presented in Asheville, including "Gee's Bend: From Quilts to Prints" that examined the work of four, well-known Gee's Bend, Alabama, quiltmakers: Mary Lee Bendolph, Loretta Pettway, Louisiana P. Bendolph and Loretta Bennett. Made by multiple generations of African-American women from the isolated, rural community of Gee's Bend (now Boykin), Alabama, the guilts have been compared to the likes of high modernist paintings as well as improvisational jazz.

The craft initiative has proven to be an effective link between Warren Wilson College and its foundation in Appalachian folk arts. Students are learning new skills, keeping traditions alive and helping make western North Carolina a recognized center for craft study.





In 1942, Warren Wilson College began to take shape as the result of a merger between the Asheville Farm School and Dorland-Bell School. With the union, Dorland-Bell's weaving program combined with the woodworking program to become "Warren Wilson Crafts."

Opposite: Students on the Blacksmith Crew hand-forge decorative pieces and functional items, including tools, hooks and made-to-order parts for use around campus.



In her book, "The Season of Dorland-Bell," Jacqueline Burgin Painter said Dorland-Bell's "greatest contribution to society was preservation and enrichment of Appalachian folk arts," which included weaving.

Above: Charlie Hayes '16, left, and Kelsey Magnuson '16 used spinning wheels as part of their work on the Fiber Arts Crew.







The Fiber Arts Crew launched in 2009. Student members create handbags along with woven scarves, runners and rugs, among other items.

After Asheville Farm School and Dorland-Bell merged, weaving continued under the name "Warren Wilson Crafts."

THE MIND'S EYE



The woodworking program is part of the histories of the Dorland-Bell School and the Asheville Farm School. Through its modern form, the Fine Woodworking Crew, students create a variety of items, including furniture, instruments and household pieces like bowls and utensils. Above, right: Jake Garner '19 tackles a project on the lathe in the College's Fine Woodworking Shop. Right: A student works in the woodworking shop during the 1950s as a participant in the "Warren Wilson Crafts" program.







The craft initiative has proven to be an effective link between Warren Wilson College and its foundation in Appalachian folk arts.





















WARREN WILSON COLLEGE STYLE

Is there a typical Warren Wilson College student, staff member or professor? The Owl & Spade editorial team set out to answer this question in the fall of 2015 through various photoshoots. With inspiration from the late Bill Cunningham, longtime fashion photographer for The New York Times, the team captured Warren Wilson's style – creative hairstyles, hair colors, beautiful tattoos, distinctive body art and clothing that all exude: "I'm proud of who I am and what I think. Take notice now because we are going to be changing the world tomorrow."

As anticipated, the images prove the College is not one style; it is a plethora of individuality. This is Warren Wilson, a celebration of distinctiveness.

Photos by Chris Polydoroff



















The tie that binds us



BY KYLE McCURRY

All around the horizon towered the mountains, below us lay a lovely valley through which wound the Swannanoa River," wrote Elizabeth Williams, Asheville Farm School English teacher (1895-1927), during her first year in Asheville. "In the midst of such scenes, about 40 boys are spending some of the best days of their lives, and when we see what a home the kindness of friends has provided for them ... we are more grateful than we can say."

Williams was a beloved figure that captured campus life through her many letters, often commenting about "well-written" student essays. She would also document the number of books students read in the library — 660 by 64 boys in 1897-98. In 1903, she gushed to her Presbyterian counterparts about campus literary societies, which created community through a love for the written word. Calling them "one of the most interesting features of the Farm School," she credits the biweekly group with helping students "learn to read, recite, debate, tell stories and write essays."

Over the years, writing expertise continued to weave itself into the fabric of Warren Wilson College. Alumni such as Carolyn Poplett '49, George Baker '54, Matthew Whong '56, Anwar Accawi '69 and Mark Banker '73, among others, went on to become published authors. David Weber '77 wrote the "Honor Harrington" series, and according to his biography, he "has had over 13 of his titles on The New York Times Best-Seller List." And Tony Earley '83 penned multiple best-sellers, including "Jim the Boy," which The New York Times called a novel that "returns to basics, back to modernness in the old sense of the word.

It's not a big book, just a good one – and in this instance 'good' is higher praise than 'great.'"

As Earley was in the midst of his undergraduate education in 1981, then-President Reuben "Ben" Holden (1971-86) made a move that would forever change the writing landscape at Warren Wilson College. The country's first low-residency Master of Fine Arts (MFA) program in writing needed a new home.

"Ben Holden said, 'Come here and do what you do,'" said Ellen Bryant Voigt, founder of the Warren Wilson College MFA Program for Writers. With that request, the College became home to one of the most impressive alumni and faculty bibliographies in the world.

Writers mastering a fine art in the Swannanoa Valley

Four decades ago, Ellen Bryant Voigt — a 2015 MacArthur Foundation Fellow (read about the award on page 14) — created the MFA Program for Writers at Goddard College in Vermont. Heather McHugh, a fellow instructor in the

MFA program who also won a MacArthur Fellowship, notes Voigt's genius takes many forms. "She invented a mode of education," McHugh said. "It's a pedagogical accomplishment, and that's a rare thing."

Voigt saw the need for a program that did not require full-time students to relocate to a college campus, as was true for all other graduate study in writing at that time. The low-residency model takes place over two years and combines four 10-day residency periods with nonresident semesters under close faculty supervision.

"My best skill, though, was not design,"
Voigt said, "but recognizing passion, ability
and commitment in those who might join
our experiment."

In 1981, Voigt and her counterparts moved the program from Vermont to North Carolina. "We came to Warren Wilson because of Ben and Betty Holden," she said. "As we began to talk to folks here, we felt a natural compatibility with the mission of the College, its visionary leadership and genuine support for the arts."



The art of writing is deeply rooted at Warren Wilson

Above: Elizabeth Williams, Asheville Farm School English teacher from 1895 to 1927, often captured campus life and discussed her students' "well-written" essays in circular letters, which were required monthly updates for her supervisors and colleagues in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

BEAUTY, TRUTH, PASSION.

Charles Baxter — former John Simon Guggenheim Fellow, National Book Award finalist and longtime professor in the MFA program — said the key to any MFA program for writers is to give "novelists, short story writers and poets a way of understanding what the tools are for writing the kind of work that they want to write."

An accomplished novelist and poet who also teaches at the University of Minnesota, Baxter credits the Warren Wilson College MFA Program

and genuine support for the arts."

being in a classroom, taking notes, taking tests and doing your research. All of those elements are a part of [the Warren Wilson College MFA Program for Writers], but you have to be a bit more disciplined in the interim while doing the work. With guidance, we learn how to stand on our own as writers. It's designed to replicate the lifestyle of and to teach us how to live as a writer, not a student."

As a student, Jordan was awarded a Friends of Writers' Holden Scholarship, which is named for

'As we began to talk to folks here, we felt a natural compatibility with the mission of the College, its visionary leadership

ELLEN BRYANT VOIGT

for Writers with helping him as a professor. "In some ways, I learned how to teach creative writing there myself, just by being a faculty member there," Baxter said. "I love the sense of a common goal. I love the lack of egotism. I love the sense of a communal effort to honor literature and to help young and middle-aged writers do the best work they possibly can. It's a remarkable community, and I'm not the only person who thinks so."

Poet A. Van Jordan MFA '98, a professor at Rutgers University who also teaches in the Warren Wilson College MFA program, said he found the program after realizing he was not the right fit for a traditional residential program. "The students came for themselves because they wanted to learn," Jordan said. "They weren't trying to be careerists. [Writing] was something they cared about." He refers to the program as an "oasis in Swannanoa that gives [writers] permission to explore."

Since graduating with his MFA in poetry, Jordan won the Whiting Writers Award, an Anisfield-Wolf Book Award, a Pushcart Prize, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a United States Artists Fellowship and the 2015 Lannan Literary Award in Poetry.

"It's not the kind of experience we normally think about when we talk about going to a graduate program," he said. "You normally think about former President Holden. This endowed scholarship for a student of color provides full tuition and residency fees for an entire four-semester degree program. Since the scholarship's initiation in 1995, 16 students have received the honor, including Fred Arroyo MFA '97, Vyvyane Loh MFA '01, R. Dwayne Betts MFA '10 and Natalie Baszile MFA '07.

Baszile came to the MFA program with a 550-page manuscript titled "The Land Where I'm Bound." She had been working on the idea for roughly four years. "It was a mess. It was a big sloppy manuscript. I had a sense of the story's essence but no knowledge of structure or any of the craft elements you learn about when you go back to school," said Baszile.

She first heard about the program at a writer's workshop in the early 1990s. Then-program director Peter Turchi talked about Warren Wilson College's devotion to the study of craft and its commitment to diversity. "After hearing about the program's commitment to finding and supporting writers of color and their devotion to teaching craft, I decided to apply," she said.

"After working on the novel by myself for four years, I had maxed out on what I knew. I began to suspect that there was a way of talking and thinking about fiction, and that while I might be able to cobble together that information, it would

take forever. I needed something more intense. That's what Warren Wilson offered to me."

After earning her MFA and spending a few more years polishing the manuscript, Baszile published the book under a new title, "Queen Sugar," in 2014. O, The Oprah Magazine called the book "a sensory experience, a tableau vivant that Baszile skillfully paints in a palette simultaneously subtle and bold. 'Queen Sugar' is a bright and enticing reminder that, sometimes, you can go home."

While the review was a splendid endorsement of Baszile's first novel, the accolades kept coming. In February 2016, Oprah Winfrey announced a new collaboration with "Selma" director Ava DuVernay to create a series based on "Queen Sugar" for OWN, the Oprah Winfrey Network . The series stars Rutina Wesley of HBO's "True Blood" and premiered in September.

Low-residency on a campus all about place

Much like Elizabeth Williams did in her letters, community members often reference the sense of place felt at Warren Wilson College. There is a connection to the land among alumni, faculty and staff in the undergraduate programs, but does the same hold true for their counterparts in the MFA program?

"When you hit that campus, something happens to you. It's like a physical experience that we have when we're in that place. It's very special," said Baszile. "It gets to you. It seeps in. No question."

As Jordan began applying to the MFA program from his home in Washington, D.C., the setting became part of the program's appeal. "The Swannanoa Valley is a stark contrast to the world I was coming from," said Jordan. "It was attractive to spend 10 days in this beautiful space."

Another aspect often associated with Warren Wilson College's undergraduate experience transcends the feeling of place, according to Voigt. 'One of the things coming out of the program that has surprised me is the sense of community and affection," said Voigt. "It fosters the opportunity for a collective endeavor through the literary arts."

Voigt's colleagues claim she is the reason for this sense of community among writers.





The genius of visionary leadership

Top: Former President Ben Holden and former Dean Joan Beebe helped the MFA Program for Writers transition from Goddard College to Warren Wilson College. Below: from left to right: Betty Holden, wife of former Warren Wilson College President Ben Holden, founder Ellen Bryant Voigt, and retired Dean of the College Virginia McKinley reconnect at the MFA Program for Writers 40th anniversary celebration.

"The person who founded the program sets the tone, and we all learn that, in certain respects, from Ellen Bryant Voigt," said Baxter. "Students, once they're there, figure out what it's like to be there. They learn that the goals are best achieved through a kind of communal practice in which everybody is trying to help everybody else."

While no single person operates the MFA program, Debra Allbery, the program's director, is quick to cite the founder's original vision.

"One of the great strengths of it is the fact that it is run by its academic board, but Ellen is the chair. We're all working to perpetuate her vision," said Allbery, who joined the program faculty in 1995 and became director in 2009. "What astonishes me to this day is how much she saw from day one. She had the blueprint in place from the very beginning. It is amazing how prescient she was."

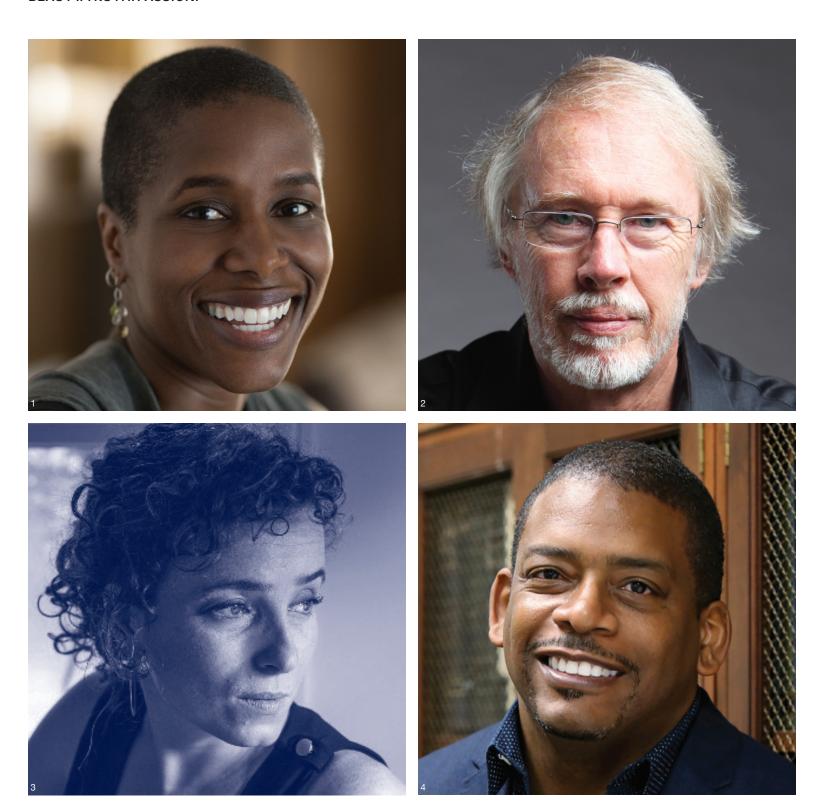
The move to Asheville and a living legacy

To move an entire graduate program from one institution to another is no small task. It not only took the visionary leadership of the MFA program to pull it off, but specific members of the Warren Wilson College community played vital roles in the transition. While the credit for inviting the program to the College goes to former President Holden, Joan Beebe (professor, dean 1961-1986) helped make the shift plausible.

In 1997, Voigt and Interim Director Joan Aleshire (1983-84) recognized Beebe's efforts through the creation of the Joan Beebe Graduate Teaching Fellowship, which is granted to a graduate of the MFA program. The one-year fellowship affords graduates the opportunity to teach the equivalent of five, four-credit undergraduate courses in composition and creative writing, and to supervise the undergraduate literary journal. Since 1997, the fellowship has been granted to 19 alumni, including Alain Park MFA '13 for the 2016-17 academic year.

The fellowship is one of three major aspects that connect the MFA Program for Writers with the undergraduate creative writing program.

BEAUTY, TRUTH, PASSION.



Unmistakable and inspirational talent

1. Natalie Baszile MFA '07, author of "Queen Sugar," is one of 16 students awarded the Friends of Writers' Holden Scholarship, which is named for former Warren Wilson College President Ben Holden. Photo by Jonathan Sprague. 2. Novelist Charles Baxter, longtime faculty member in the MFA Program for Writers, released "There's Something I Want You To Do" in 2015. Photo by Keri Pickett. 3. In addition to receiving undergraduate and graduate degrees, Rose McLarney '03 MFA '10 was also a professor in Warren Wilson College's creative writing program through the Joan Beebe Fellowship. Her latest book of poetry, "Its Day Being Gone," won the National Poetry Series Award. Photo by Travis Hall. 4. Poet A. Van Jordan MFA '98 is a professor at Rutgers University who continues to teach in the Warren Wilson College MFA program. His latest collection, "The Cineaste: Poems," was released in 2013.

In 2010, Rose McLarney '03 MFA '10, who earned her undergraduate degree in humanities at Warren Wilson College, scored a hat-trick when she received the fellowship.

"I knew what the student body was like," said McLarney, assistant professor of creative writing at Auburn University. "Everybody at Warren Wilson is a unique person, and I could tailor my teaching to those interests. But, anybody who is a Joan Beebe Fellow does important work as an ambassador for the MFA program. Having a Fellow who is the interface between the MFA

Rachel Himmelheber '98, who teaches in the undergraduate creative writing program, originally came to Warren Wilson College because of the MFA program. While earning her bachelor's degree, she went to the MFA's public readings but was also a student in the first MFA residency class for undergraduate students in the mid-1990s. The experience set her on a path to work with MFA faculty members. After graduation, Himmelheber enrolled in the MFA program at New Mexico State University, which is where Warren Wilson College MFA professor Kevin McIlvoy also taught at the time.

One of Warren Wilson College's strengths is the multiple ways its MFA Program for Writers overlaps with the undergraduate creative program. The creative writing undergraduate degree is one of the top five majors at the College, and many faculty members feel the popularity is influenced by the renowned MFA program.

program and the undergraduate program helps students take advantage of the MFA through the residency course. That's one really significant aspect of the fellowship."

As part of their course load, each Beebe Fellow teaches an MFA residency class for undergraduate creative writing students. Students get the opportunity to experience a rigorous and immersive class that takes them through a portion of the curriculum of the MFA Winter Residency, engaging them in graduate-level discourse and offering them some sense of the graduate school experience. By attending the 10-day January residency, students participate in readings, lectures and courses offered by MFA faculty and graduating students. The Beebe Fellow also leads a seminar discussion of topics raised in the residency and teaches the readings in greater detail.

McLarney, author of "Its Day Being Gone," winner of the National Poetry Series award, adds, "The MFA talks are intellectual discussions. We would go to them and then immediately go to a separate location and try to unpack what we just heard. It's daunting to go to graduate-level talks as an undergraduate, but being able to do it as a part of a group makes it a little more approachable. It certainly gives undergraduate students a taste of what graduate school in its best form is like."

"I remember seeing Kevin McIlvoy read this amazing piece [at Warren Wilson] that just kind of floored me. I got the opportunity to meet with him, and he read some of my work. Then, I just got very single-minded that I wanted to work with this person," said Himmelheber, who later worked with another MFA program faculty member while earning her Ph.D. in English from the University of Wisconsin.

The MFA program and the undergraduate creative writing program also form a bond through the writer-in-residence program. The creative writing program invites MFA program faculty members — poets and writers of fiction and creative nonfiction — for a week's stay on campus.

Students working on their capstone projects "have individual conferences with this writer about their work," according to Himmelheber. "The writer gives a reading and a community workshop, which is a laidback opportunity for students to get to know this writer."

One of Warren Wilson College's strengths is the multiple ways its MFA Program for Writers overlaps with the undergraduate creative program. The creative writing undergraduate degree is one of the top five majors at the college, and many faculty members feel the popularity is influenced by the renowned MFA program. Perhaps one of

the greatest takeaways is the shared respect for academics.

McLarney, who also released a book of poetry titled "The Always Broken Plates of Mountains," says the MFA and undergraduate programs are better because of each other. "The MFA offers so much to the undergraduate program by bringing the great writers to campus," she said. "But, at the same time, the undergraduate program offers a lot to the graduate program as well, certainly by providing the beautiful campus and the lively, special place that is Warren Wilson College."

Celebrating four decades of innovation

Numerous graduates returned to the College this summer to celebrate 40 years of a pedagogical model that changed the way writers learn. Much like the 10-day winter and summer residencies, the celebration was a physical realization of Voigr's vision, which is a boon to Warren Wilson College. "The MFA Program for Writers is the most respected of its kind in the country," said Paula Garrett, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the College. "It is the program that gains us a reputation the rest of the College benefits from."

Garrett's commentary proves true considering the immense success MFA program writers enjoy. Faculty members have won virtually every prize and fellowship available, including Pulitzer Prizes and National Book Awards, and have served as state and national poets laureate. In addition to publishing over 1,000 books, alumni have been awarded National Endowment for the Arts; Guggenheim, Radcliffe, Stegner and Hodder fellowships; the Rome Prize from the Academy of American Letters; Whiting Awards; the NAACP Image Award; the Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Awards; and the Kate Tufts Discovery Award.

"It's hard even to keep the list updated, in terms of awards," said Voigt. "However, we're focused not on prizes but on the quality of the work and preparing students to have a life of writing."

Indeed, the "life of writing" began early in the College's history and, now, 40 years into the MFA program, it is a life well-lived. ■

Like a thousand stars by night ... Music as a beacon

BY KYLE McCURRY

Warren Wilson College's picturesque locale — sidled along the Swannanoa River and nestled in a breathtaking little valley — has long been a beacon for those who herald the poetic beauty of music. Like the echo of song in the hills, the traditions held dear continue to resonate for generations who have found their musical voice and passion at the College. It started with the inspiration of a few people drawn to the institution's mission more than 90 years ago and has grown to a crescendo as The Swannanoa Gathering celebrates 25 years and the Swannanoa Chamber Music Festival inches closer to 50.

"So many amazing musical achievements can be attributed to our students, graduates, faculty and staff and the countless people who venture here year after year to participate in [our programs]," said music professor Kevin Kehrberg, Ph.D.

For many, the music culture at Warren Wilson is celebrated through the success of alumni such as Billy Edd Wheeler '53, David Wilcox '85, Rayna Gellert '98, Laura Boosinger '80 and the bands Toubab Krewe (Drew Heller '03, Luke Quaranta '01 and former member Teal Brown '01) and Underhill Rose (Eleanor Underhill '03 and Molly Rose Reed '04). It was made great by numerous faculty and staff leaders like Louis and Blanche Burch, Henry Jensen, David Holt, Phil Jamison, Joan Moser, Doug and Darcy Orr, Jim Magill, Bob Keener and others.

The first light ignites the passion

Hundreds have played a role in strengthening Warren Wilson College's reputation as a musical beacon, but the first were known simply as "Pop" and "Ma." When Louis "Pop" Burch (1924-32, 45) arrived at the Asheville Farm School (AFS) in 1924, he aimed to rest and volunteer at the school for the next year. After roughly seven months, the Columbia University-educated teacher fell in love with the place.

Pop was the print and shop instructor and even acting superintendent, but creating the music department and leading the AFS orchestra built his reputation.

"I shall always remember Pop for his ability as a music instructor and able director of our Farm School band and orchestra," wrote Spencer Horner '39 in the April 1939 Owl & Spade. "Boys who were eager to learn to play yet could not afford instruments were given the opportunity because Pop was interested in them and was able to secure instruments for them."

At the same time, Blanche "Ma" Burch (1924-39), a former high school teacher from the northeast who attended college in Syracuse and Chicago, led the English department and instructed Latin and geometry. Her musical talents added depth to AFS as she taught piano and played for chapel services and various choral groups. The couple would also host students at their home each Sunday to "listen to the opera in English ... and to the New York Philharmonic Concerts" on the radio, according to the Owl & Spade from February 1935.

Listening to classical music in the valley continues to this day through the Swannanoa Chamber Music Festival (SCMF). Since its inception, SCMF has played host to world-renowned artists, including Itamar Zorman, winner of the Tchaikovsky violin competition, and Vadim Kholodenko, gold-medal winner of the 2013 Van Cliburn Competition. In addition, the Grammy Award-winning Parker String Quartet, Grammy Award-nominated Enso String Quartet and the Jasper String Quartet, which won the Chamber Music America Cleveland Quartet Award, have all graced its stage.



"Gold medal winners of international competitions, Grammy Awardnominated and -winning string quartets and renowned wind soloists join forces to bring their talents to these audiences," said Inessa Zaretsky, SCMF's artistic director. "It's beautiful music from artists who live, rehearse and perform some of the greatest chamber music ever written."

What tomorrow needs of you

During the Burch tenure, Henry "Doc" Jensen, Ph.D., (professor, dean 1933-75) arrived on campus. He would often be seen carrying a guitar and regularly writing songs about campus events.

"I remember Doc picking up his guitar and playing a couple of songs in my early days at Warren Wilson College," said Billy Edd Wheeler '53, an accomplished songwriter known for co-writing "Jackson" made famous by Johnny Cash and June Carter Cash.

One of Jensen's most recognizable compositions is the College "Alma Mater." David Wilcox '85 sees the song as a beautiful representation of Warren Wilson College. "There is this phrase, 'Take your place and do with us what tomorrow needs of you,'" Wilcox said. "That line and that lyric are saying, 'There are lots of places that will try to shape you to who they think you should be. Here's a place that will help you find who you want to be."

In 2008, Wheeler released an album of Jensen's songs titled, "Songs

of Doc Jensen: Like a thousand stars by night." Upon its release, Wheeler wrote, "Dr. Henry W. Jensen was the first and greatest influence on my life and career. Every time I start to write a poem or a song, I imagine myself listening to Doc, asking myself if this is the way Doc would have done it."

For many, Jensen is the music of the College, but he was not the first and will not be the last musician to leave an enduring impact on the campus. David Holt (professor 1974-82) initially moved to western North Carolina to meet and connect with old-time mountain musicians. English professor Sam Scoville, a banjo player himself, invited Holt to Warren Wilson to coordinate a program of mountain music.

With a grant from the Appalachian Consortium, Holt created Warren Wilson College's Appalachian Music Program, now the Traditional Music Program, which focuses on mountain music and dances.

"When I got here ... there was a movement in the southern mountains to start Appalachian music programs, and the students were ready for it. It was like tinder waiting to be lit," Holt said. Throughout his tenure, Holt focused on connecting students with musicians from the surrounding area. He would bring them to campus to teach or perform because he "wanted to put money in the hands of the old mountain folks, and I wanted students to meet these very wise, old people."

BEAUTY, TRUTH, PASSION.

The students on the program's work crew would also visit musicians and interview them. "They needed to meet these people, and the more information we had the better. They were going to be gaining something from it. The historical culture was going to be gaining something from it," Holt added.

"Warren Wilson brings to mind the folk music traditions of the 1960s, where open music jams were a community event and a way to share ideas."

MOLLY ROSE REED '04

The Music Maker

Tim Duffy '82 arrived at Warren Wilson College at Holt's invitation. "There were a lot of musicians there at the time," said Duffy. "At least 10 or 12 of us are still in the music business. The College tapped into something – music – that had been there since people first came to the area."

His time on the Appalachian Music Crew afforded him the chance, in working with fellow student Jeff Robbins '82, to connect with legendary mountain musicians such as Walter Davis.

"This is a guy who made music before there was radio," said Duffy.

Duffy credits Joan Moser (professor 1977-2009) with giving him real insight into the politics of culture. Duffy said Moser asked him, "Are you just going to take from the community, or are you going to respect the musicians and treat them with dignity?"

"He wanted to meet the local musicians and find out why they continued to play music," said Moser in a recent interview. "At that point, [Appalachian musicians] just played for each other, and they were not recorded by anyone. [Tim] thought it was important that they be recorded so other people could learn from them about their music."

The lessons from Moser helped Duffy, along with his partner and wife, Denise, create the nonprofit Music Maker Relief Foundation. Since its 1994 founding in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Music Maker has helped hundreds of underprivileged musicians with everything from basic assistance to the tools to help them re-establish their careers. The organization lives by the guiding principle "to preserve the musical traditions of the South by directly supporting the musicians who make it, ensuring their voices will not be silenced by poverty and time."

Moser, an ethnomusicologist, said the work is "important because there's a way to acknowledge the beautiful music that everybody, if given the opportunity, can do." Moser also introduced Duffy to the variety of music that existed in the region.

"I tried to encourage him to think about traditional musicians in North Carolina who had other traditions than the white Appalachian traditions," she said.

Despite Music Maker's primary focus on Southern blues, gospel, string band and Native American music, Duffy said he is returning to his roots.

"Recently, I've been going back to southwest Virginia to meet elderly Appalachian musicians," Duffy said. "I am very excited."

Reconnecting with Appalachia also helps him reminisce about the lessons and the knowledge gained from people like Moser. "[Warren Wilson College] knew what to do with me," he said. "It was a very nurturing community, and Joan taught me how to treat others with dignity."

Time-honored traditions

Old-time music — the music the Traditional Music Program champions — is credited with igniting passion in countless students. "Here's the kind of music that has survived so long because it has always kept itself from being exploited so it isn't used up," said Wilcox. "[The music represents] a community that spans time. … When I was at Wilson, it felt like [old-time music] was growing through the cracks in the pavement."

Time-honored traditions, like the Old Farmers Ball, a weekly dance held in Bryson Gym, and more recent customs continue to use old-time music as a backdrop. The Old-time Jam, which was launched by Doug (president 1991-2006) and Darcy Orr in the early 1990s, continues to showcase traditional music every week in front of the Katherine Gladfelter Student Center.

"The old-time jam was transformative," said Eleanor Underhill '03, one-third of the Asheville-based Americana trio Underhill Rose. "I was able to watch students, professors and even the College president and his wife try their hands at picking and singing old-time music. I learned by doing; just trying to keep up with the rest of them."

Underhill's musical counterpart, Molly Rose Reed '04, shares the sentiment. "Warren Wilson brings to mind the folk music traditions of the 1960s, where open music jams were a community event and a way to share ideas."

Recent graduate Maddy Mullany '16 grew up the child of old-time musicians and began playing the fiddle at 9-years old.

[&]quot;Those introductions to the community were great."



"You can't do anything with traditional Appalachian music at a lot of other colleges," she said. "Old-time music is pretty specifically American. ... The African and African-American influence with banjo rhythms changed the sound of [old-time music] to make it much more of a danceable kind of music. By looking at gender and race in relation to old-time music, I now think more critically about the music that I play."

Phil Jamison, Mullany's professor who occupies the position Holt once held, said the stories behind the music are not the first thing students look for in the program. "There are a lot of students who come in and just want to play," he said. "Then they learn about the history of it. ... They get exposed to the classics and the masters of the genre."

More than 30 years since Holt left Warren Wilson College, the Appalachian Music Program has evolved to include a minor in traditional music, which allows students to take individual lessons and courses in music history, music theory and music literature. Along with Kehrberg and longtime instructor Wayne Erbsen, Jamison has created three student bands — two old-time and one bluegrass.

Holt says the modern program is something he anticipated. "We had some great students who went out to get a career in music and others who may not be professional musicians now but still play," he said. "That would have been my hope, and I never really doubted that it would work. It laid the foundation and sort of led to The Swannanoa Gathering."

Kindred spirits and musical soul

Much like Ma and Pop Burch, President Emeritus Doug Orr came to the Warren Wilson College campus ready to ignite a musical firestorm. Upon accepting the presidency in 1991, he contacted his longtime friend Jim Magill.

"I had been to the [Augusta Heritage Arts Workshop at Davis & Elkins College] in West Virginia several times, and I brought that idea with me," Orr said. "When I first set foot on the campus, I realized that it would be a perfect setting for musical creativity, one of the best I'd ever seen. So, my plan was to launch The Swannanoa Gathering in the summer of 1992 [with Jim Magill heading it up]."

The Swannanoa Gathering was to be a literal gathering of people participating in a series of weeklong music workshops in various folk genres. "I told Doug that I wasn't interested in copying what someone else was doing," said Magill. "I saw this as a new way of transmitting folk culture."

The first summer program was funded through a Presidential Leadership Grant from the Knight Foundation. In total, 93 people came to the Warren Wilson College campus for a three-week program consisting of "Scottish and Bluegrass Week," "Old-Time Week" and a songwriters workshop.





1. Music Maker Relief Foundation founder Tim Duffy '82, left, with legendary blues musician John Dee Holeman. Photo by Aaron Greenhood.
2. Acclaimed fiddler Rayne Gellert '98 has toured the world performing with acts like the old-time band Uncle Earl. Gellert is also a veteran instructor with The Swannanoa Gathering. Photo by John Estes. 3. Four-time Grammy Award winner and North Carolina Music Hall of Famer David Holt created Warren Wilson College's Appalachian Music Program in 1974.

Over the last 25 years, it has expanded to include "Traditional Song Week," "Celtic Week," "Guitar Week," "Contemporary Folk Week," "Mando and Banjo Week" and "Fiddle Week." The program grew, and more than 1,200 people attend the conference each summer. For all 25 years combined, over 18,000 musicians from the United States, Canada and several European, Asian and South American countries have participated in the program.

"If there is one element people leave The Swannanoa Gathering with, it's that sense of community, and they've met kindred spirits in reaching for their musical soul."

DOUG ORR

Jon Elion, a former member of the Warren Wilson College Board of Trustees and a "gatherer" since 1997, said The Swannanoa Gathering provides a space for budding musicians to grow and be nurtured. "On my first night, Doug told the group, 'This is a very safe place.

This is where you take a chance." And Elion acknowledges this truth, "People can't wait to support you, to help you."

The Swannanoa Gathering also attracts world-renowned musicians from Grammy Award winner Kathy Mattea to former Led Zeppelin bassist John Paul Jones.

"Yes, there are internationally known people, but they're mingling with people who have been playing for six months," Elion said. "When you read the bios, these people are just at the top of the top of their field. The Swannanoa Gathering brings international visibility to Warren Wilson College."

Over the summer, The Swannanoa Gathering celebrated 25 years and welcomed back longtime supporters. "If there is one element people leave The Swannanoa Gathering with, it's that sense of community, and they've met kindred spirits in reaching for their musical soul," said Orr. "They have found that others are on that same path. That's pretty powerful, and I think it's something that society needs."

Inspiring the next generation

Warren Wilson College has long been known for its musical prowess through The Swannanoa Gathering, the Swannanoa Chamber Music Festival and the Traditional Music Program. Music is part of the community's foundation, according to Underhill.



"Music is celebratory, meaningful and it brings people together. There is an atmosphere of joy and independence at Warren Wilson," she said.

Music is abstract and "has a purpose, a function of healing for people," said Holt. "There is a sense of wisdom within the music itself. When you play music with somebody, that is a very powerful community builder."

The baton of the Warren Wilson College music community is being passed on to the next generation every day. Mary Fields '16 recently visited Robert "Bob" Keener, retired Warren Wilson College professor and choral director (1964-95). As she approached his home, she noticed a piece of embroidery hanging from his door. On it was stitched, "Music is love in search of words." To her, it spoke of "the ability to weave together many things and, in doing so, bring something new and beautiful into the lives of others."

It's a sentiment shared by the countless people who have slung a guitar or banjo over their back and headed to the Swannanoa Valley. The musical craftsmen of Warren Wilson College have used the campus to honor mountain traditions and create new ones. To them, this campus is their muse made up of beautiful surroundings and a legacy of creativity.



Warren Gaughan

Warren Gaughan retires

BY MARISA ROMEO '15

After 42 years at Warren Wilson College, Warren Gaughan, former chair of the music department, retired. "Part of me is really sad about leaving, but I know it's time, in my heart of hearts," said Gaughan.

Gaughan first heard about the College when he was at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro finishing up his master's degree. He knew a fellow graduate student who had attended Wilson for two years.

"We were talking, and he told me about Wilson," Gaughan said. "I went to bed that night and woke up to the phone ringing in my dorm."

The call changed his life. He learned a position had opened at Warren Wilson College. Gaughan interviewed the same day and began teaching the next week. He fell in love with the College and never left.

"When I drove to Warren Wilson for the first time, I came over the hill and saw the red barn, and I remember thinking to myself, this is so beautiful. If I get a job here, I'll always appreciate the beauty that this place has to offer," Gaughan said.

Gaughan originally taught piano classes in the log cabin, which now houses the Work Program office. In 1978, he moved offices and stayed there until retiring.

"I stayed at this school so long because of the students. They have always been great, interesting, challenging and inspiring. You learn to never pigeonhole anyone because of them," he said.

More than anything else, he said he will miss the Warren Wilson community and the interactions with students. Now that he has an abundance of extra time, he plans to play piano, perform and, perhaps, share his knowledge with a few more students in the future.

Gaughan's legacy was on full display at a May 10, 2016, celebration, and a fund has been established in his honor to pay for music equipment upkeep.



A beautiful bounty feeding the body, mind and soul

BY KYLE McCURRY

In his 1894 Thanksgiving address, President Grover Cleveland asked the nation to "give thanks" for, among many things, "the harvests that have rewarded our husbandry, for a renewal of national prosperity and for every advance in virtue and intelligence that has marked our growth as a people." Little did he know a town known as Denmark, now Swannanoa, was ahead of the President's charge with 420 acres of land and a \$20,000 facility at the ready.

The week before Thanksgiving, the Asheville Daily Citizen reported the school had "almost 100 applications for admission beyond the capacity," and a former Cornell University farm manager was preparing a substantive curriculum. "The pupils will receive practical instruction in the reclaiming of land, raising grains and grasses, culture of fruits, raising cattle and dairying — such branches as will beget a thorough knowledge of the most progressive methods of farming."

The school was called Asheville Farm School (AFS). It would later become Warren Wilson College. More than 120 years since the first graduation, the College's alumni are playing a significant role in bringing the best food to North Carolina through progressive methods in farming and restauranteering.

Home-grown passion

During the more than a century that followed the school's founding, much changed nationally and locally. In 1933, the city of Asheville "had the

highest per capita debt of any city in the country," writes Marilyn Ball in her book, "The Rise of Asheville: An Exceptional History of Community Building." In the 1980s, buildings in downtown were empty because of a new shopping mall. Efforts to "tear down 11 acres in the heart of the city — including 125 business and two apartment buildings" were thwarted, according to Ball, and the path to the city's economic recovery began.

A big part of the recovery was Asheville making a name for itself as a hub for the farm-to-table movement, which is a catchphrase for selling locally grown food to people living in the community. Of course, Warren Wilson College was once again ahead of the curve with its heritage as a farm school and its role as environmental champion. In fact, during the last 15 years, two Warren Wilson College alumni-owned businesses — Hickory Nut Gap Farm and Table — have been a big part of the Asheville farm-to-table scene.

Hickory Nut Gap Farm started in 1916 after Jim and Elizabeth McClure moved to the area to restore

Sherill's Inn, which the National Park Service says served as a "way-station for stagecoach travelers and cattle drivers" in the last half of the 1800s. Mountain farming became a skill passed down through five generations of the family, which now includes Jamie '00 and Amy Ager '00. Since meeting each other in a Warren Wilson College chemistry course, the Agers have longed to achieve greater prominence for the farm.

"Even though I grew up on a farm, I gained a lot of my agriculture base of information at the College," said Jamie Ager, who double majored in history and environmental studies. "It's inspiring to be in college and still be connected to the land. That experience in college sort of molds you into a way that you're always connected to the land. My history degree helps give me perspective on where we fit on a historical level, which, as an entrepreneur, really helps me see how things were done and how they could be improved."

As members of the Farm Crew, the Agers completed a business plan for Hickory Nut Gap



during their senior year. "Warren Wilson attracts a lot of students with idealistic mindsets," said Amy Ager, who also earned a degree in environmental studies with a concentration in sustainable agriculture. "While farming necessarily wasn't my passion, the excitement I got from creating my own business and Jamie's opportunity with his family's farm was a nice coupling."

Upon graduation, the pair started the business and married the next year. Today, Hickory Nut Gap Farm has an impressive grass-fed beef, pastured pork and poultry product wholesale business. Their products are sold in more than 25 grocery stores and markets and are also on the menu at more than 60 regional eateries.

Amy Ager believes their success is complemented and mutually supportive of Asheville's growth. The presence in Asheville is a wonderful thing, but "what really makes it work is that customers can come to this place," she said. "You have to have that to supply a city like Asheville. It has really driven a lot of our business choices. We have brought in partner farmers and created a wholesale

model to supply for the needs of Asheville."

One of Hickory Nut Gap's restaurant partners is Table, a farm-to-table restaurant in downtown Asheville. The popular eatery is owned and operated by another Warren Wilson College graduate team—Jacob '98 and Alicia Sessoms '00. Spending time on the Academic Affairs Crew and the Work Program Crew, Alicia Sessoms gained considerable human resources experience as she worked toward a career as a high school teacher. At the same time, Jacob Sessoms spent substantial time on the Electrical Crew, Heavy Duty Crew and Automotive Crew.

While the idea of owning a restaurant was not at the forefront when the pair attended Warren Wilson College, a joy of cooking was born. Jacob Sessoms would be found making dinners in the Schafer Residence Halls with Matt Dawes '98, former Table chef who now owns Bull and Beggar in the Asheville River Arts District. Monster burritos, spaghetti and Triscuits with cream cheese and salsa were often on the menu.

Despite being a favorite at the time, the dorm room culinary treats never made it on the menu of the Sessoms' current restaurant, which is known for its sophisticated and savvy take on Southern favorites.

Table opened in 2005. Jacob Sessoms, fresh out of culinary school, said the restaurant directly benefited from his Warren Wilson College work crew experience. "I have my hands on all the construction," he said. "I do all the plumbing. I do all the electric work. I do some of the carpentry. We opened this restaurant for 50 percent less than someone else could have because of that capability."

In addition to Table, the Sessoms now own Imperial Life, a bar, and Tod's Tasties, a café, in downtown Asheville. "The longer we're in [the restaurant business], it gives us the opportunity to start pushing things," said Alicia Sessoms. "Jacob and I feel like there are programs to help high schoolers and the underprivileged through food. There is lot to be said for school lunch programs to offer meals with better nutrition. The more







established we are gives us better opportunities to do those kind of things. We feel very involved in this community because we started so early."

Much like the Sessoms, the Work Program had a major impact on the Agers' success. "People that seek out Warren Wilson seek out a different experience," said Jamie Ager. "It's a complement to the Work Program. It helps you figure out what you want to do and how to strike out on your own. The revitalization of Asheville can be traced, in part, to that local environmentally based ethic."

Jacob Sessoms goes a step further. "Why did I choose to go Warren Wilson?" he said. "Why was Warren Wilson the best choice for me to become a young adult? Maybe the genesis doesn't happen within the campus, but maybe it's the kind of person Warren Wilson attracts. Maybe Alicia and I had the entrepreneurial spirit, and Warren Wilson provided the structure to further that innate capability."

Regardless of the way it came together for each successful alumni, the Warren Wilson spirit of

entrepreneurship is the link. "Entrepreneurs are more inclined to be part of a place like Warren Wilson College," said Alicia Sessoms. "Being there, we sort of came to the realization that we should work for ourselves. Warren Wilson engendered the drive and the self-worth required to be an entrepreneur."

Rooted in teamwork, entrepreneurial spirit and community

Much like the success of Hickory Nut Gap Farm and Table, Stanbury is a restaurant grounded in a partnership with Warren Wilson College ties. Made up of four partners, three of whom are graduates — Drew Maykuth '03, Joseph Jeffers '08 and Will Jeffers '04 — Stanbury comes from an ability to recognize opportunities to enact a vision.

"It all started with Drew's visit to Raleigh," said Will Jeffers, who holds a biology degree and worked on the Farm Crew and Tree Crew. "The first idea was to open a food truck, but I went and ate brunch at a restaurant that was closing. I asked who was taking over the space, got the name of

the landlord and talked with the restaurant owner. A deal was made in two days."

The work on the restaurant can be attributed to the ingenuity of the three Warren Wilson graduates along with approximately 10 other alums who offered their skills in a spirit of camaraderie and support during the construction process.

"That helped us remodel the restaurant for super cheap," said Joseph Jeffers, an art major who spent time on the Dining Crew and Tree Crew. "We had lots of work parties in the restaurant where we would cook dinner, drink a few beers, sand boards and scrape concrete floors."

The combined efforts, not to mention other alumni who are food vendors for the restaurant, keep the Warren Wilson College work ethic alive in Raleigh. "Through jobs on farms and at Wilson, I learned how to work in general," said Joseph Jeffers. "We all have similar mindsets because we come from the same background rooted in the Wilson Work Program."



The atmosphere mixed with Maykuth's reputation, built largely during his tenure at The Admiral, a west Asheville eatery, has helped make Stanbury a favorite among locals.

"I was trying to find the right balance between rough and refined," Maykuth told Walter magazine in 2014. "Where people could feel comfortable, yet get a great meal. I always thought this concept was solid, but still, when we opened the door, we wondered if we would get a customer."

The appeal of Stanbury lies deep within the marrow of the place. Community is important to the owners, and community is what is being built. "You can be comfortable in cut off jean shorts or a tuxedo," said Joseph Jeffers. "My favorite restaurants and bars don't always have a certain genre of people, but rather a diverse and eclectic following of regulars, and I think we got what we were looking for."

Innovators in the field

Much like the student-led creation of Cow Pie Café — offering an all vegetarian, but mostly vegan and gluten-free menu — in 2000, the College continues to innovate and expand its food contributions. In 2015-16, roughly 34 percent of the food served in the College cafeterias came from local sources. The farm and garden continue to contribute to the number, which gives the campus community the chance to eat the freshest food money can buy.

New Farm Manager Asher Wright '08 plans to complete the Warren Wilson College Farm Craft Kitchen to begin processing value-added meat products — bacon, ham and dry-cured meats such as salami and pepperoni. He is also focused on expanding vendor relationships to offer more of the College's meat products for sale to the general public.

"There are many college farms in the U.S. but only a handful that are spending time refining and studying ecological agriculture systems with a production focus — producing and marketing of products," said Wright. "Warren Wilson has this type of farm, which is rare in a college setting. Ecological agriculture systems are in dire need around the world. The College is a part of this dialogue, a dialogue that is happening at a critical time in history. We need to make sure we stay in the conversation and continue to be leaders and innovators in this field."

As the College expands its food-producing capabilities, alumni are taking notice. Entrepreneurship continues to be a common theme throughout the campus community, and students are being presented with opportunities to apply what they learn through work and community engagement.



Todd Boera '08 ensures his beers are made with local ingredients.

A cross-pollination ahead of its time

BY KYLE McCURRY

A 45-minute drive east on I-40 from the College intersects with an alumni culinary establishment — Fonta Flora, self-dubbed the "unique and quaint water'n hole in western North Carolina." It's operated by Todd Boera '08, who ensures his beers are made with local ingredients, a technique he began perfecting at the College.

"I heard about Warren Wilson College through a friend in an AmeriCorps program," he said. "The College's service-learning requirement was a pretty gnarly aspect." With every second of every day filled with an interesting task, Boera calls the College challenging—focusing on the cross-pollination between rigorous academics and applied learning. Majoring in environmental science with a focus in sustainable agriculture and working predominantly on the Garden Crew, Boera said it helped him move his focus to home brewing.

"That's all I was doing every single weekend in my dorm room was brewing beer," Boera said. "Everybody hated me because I would take over the place. I lived in EcoDorm, and I would have everything sanitary in the kitchen with a turkey burner in the backyard. Plus, I had fermenting beer and bottles all over my dorm room."

Boera convinced the garden manager to start growing hops and started growing a barley crop on an acre of land.

"Having that opportunity to grow hops and barley and then brew beer with those materials, that's a really transformative thing. What other College can you do that at? Even more so, I received six independent study credits in brewing. I worked with [archaeology professor] David Moore on the history of brewing. I looked at the chemical makeup of brewing with [chemistry laboratory manager] Joe Young. I did another independent study on the biology of brewing with [biology professor] Jeff Holmes," he said.

With the ability to brew on what is now the Ian Robertson Garden Cabin (see page 46 for a story about the naming) porch, the blueprint to focus on a large crop of local components took shape. He has followed the idea all the way to opening Fonta Flora in downtown Morganton, North Carolina.

Now, Boera says he is expanding on the idea in order to create brews with a sense of place. "We have been buying from local farms. It's what you should do, but this is also how you build a local economy. I don't live in California, so I don't need to put money in the pockets of farmers there. I live in Morganton, and that's where I am going to spend my money," he said.

"My business partners and I have purchased a property ... It's 8 acres of land adorned with historic stone barns that used to house an old dairy." This move returns Boera to his brewing roots. The new facility will have a garden and a perennial hop yard and orchards.

"We will plant harder-to-find fruit trees such as paw paw fruit, persimmons, figs and elderberries to help us craft beers with a true sense of place," Boera said. "In addition, brewing adjuncts such as carrots, beets, fennel and bloody butcher corn will all come from the property."

It's a "full circle" moment for Boera, who adds, "We're all driven by the need to do it ourselves, and I happen to make beer." ■

The privilege of work: the legacy of Ian Robertson

t was 36 years ago when a 34-year-old Ian Robertson first visited Warren Wilson College. Little did he know the initial visit would lead to a calling—a métier of teaching more than 9,000 students the value and meaning of work. As Robertson places the capstone on his distinguished career, roughly 79 percent of all living Warren Wilson College alumni are carrying his passion for the beauty and dignity of labor forward.

could "pick up on things very quickly that might be threatening to another party and would stop us moving forward. I was always adept at finding the avenues to 'yes.'" The skill set proved invaluable upon meeting long-term farm manager Ernst Laursen (1957-96), who Robertson says needed to see that "I knew what I was doing, and I would work hard."

He would pull from that same bag of tricks time and again, particularly in his beloved

His lessons on life, work and human decency are remembered and redistributed by the people he taught, supervised and befriended.

"Ian embodied the Work Program every year when he gave us the charge to do 'work that is real' —words he spoke sincerely in his unique cadence and intonation," said Ryan Morra '08. "I looked forward to hearing Marge Piercey's 'To Be of Use' every year, and to this day I always hear his voice whenever I share it with others."

Robertson accepted an invitation from Jean MacGregor, environmental studies and biology professor (1979-82), to journey to the Swannanoa Valley in 1980. "When I first came into the valley, it opens up, and you're just enchanted by the sense of the place," Robertson said. "Looking on both sides and seeing fields that were river bottomland, as an agriculturist and a horticulturist, it screamed 'best lands ever."

Not only did Robertson help MacGregor evaluate the campus to see if there was a possibility to grow food, he also suggested the creation of a horticulture class, greenhouse and areas for storage. In the end, Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation and Mary Whaley Residuary Trust provided funding "to create a program integrating small-scale horticulture with the liberal arts." Robertson took the job and moved to campus with his wife, Victoria, and a newborn daughter, Hannah, in 1981. The couple would soon welcome a son, Callum, to the family.

Armed with an ability to listen well, he says he

horticulture class, where he embedded his knowledge, through a graceful knack for instruction, into the minds of eager students. "Sitting in horticulture class while his son napped ... learning to love my time in the dirt, being challenged to think in new ways and always being greeted with a smile, are just a few memories of Ian," said Corrine Marks '90. "His positivity has entered my thoughts many times as I encourage students and think where I might see them one day in the future. Then instead of thinking it, I let my students know their potential. Just like Ian inspired me, I hope I will inspire students."

In 1981, the only garden on campus, located near the present-day facilities office, was filled with sunflowers and strawberries and tended by former College Pastor (1942-46) and English instructor (1962-82) Rev. G. Gordon Mahy. Robertson asked for a new acre plot near Warren Wilson Road, and upon gaining approval, Laursen offered to plow the area for planting. Robertson replied, "No thanks; I am going to dig it by hand." He did, along with countless students, faculty and staff members—all who Robertson remembers by name—and the College Garden came alive. That same garden continues to help feed the campus population with roughly 4,200 lbs. of produce being used in

the cafeteria each year.

Marge Porter '84 was one of the first students to work with Robertson on the Garden Crew, and she would later become his academic advisee. "Ian taught me so much during my time at Warren Wilson College," she said. "He has helped me in so many ways ... so many things I didn't really deserve; he gave willingly without any expectations."

With the initiative funded for a short time, Robertson remembers assuming his term would end in 1984. Nevertheless, after three years, a campus passion had been ignited. He stayed and the fourth year in the garden put him on a path to a three and a half decade tenure at Warren Wilson College.

The longevity at the College is interesting because Robertson spent the first 30 years of his life traveling, which started because of his father's work as a Morse code radio operator for the British government. Robertson moved to Hong Kong as a child after starting life in Devon and Somerset, England. He spent two years in the Philippines with Voluntary Service Overseas, the British equivalent of Peace Corps, and another year on the island of Malta. Along the way, Robertson found the time to earn a national certificate in agriculture from Staffordshire College of Agriculture.

By 1989—after eight years of successful garden operation while also becoming the first official coach of the women's soccer program, which played against renowned teams, including UNC Chapel Hill—Robertson became Warren Wilson College Dean of Work. "I look at the deanship the same way I looked at coaching soccer," Robertson said. "The coach is not on the field, and your coaching is finished when the whistle blows. It's all player instinct at that point. As dean of work, I could have centralized everything, but the power of the program is the fact that it is decentralized. People don't work for the Work Program; they work for a supervisor because those are the most important relationships."

Over the next 27 years, Robertson helped build the garden cabins and stable, plant the orchard and create the craft crews. The number of work crews also increased throughout his tenure, rising from 58 in 1985-86 to 95 in 2015-16. "Our work wasn't just work. ... Ian showed us, without telling us, that we were also doing so much more," said Sky Stephens '01.

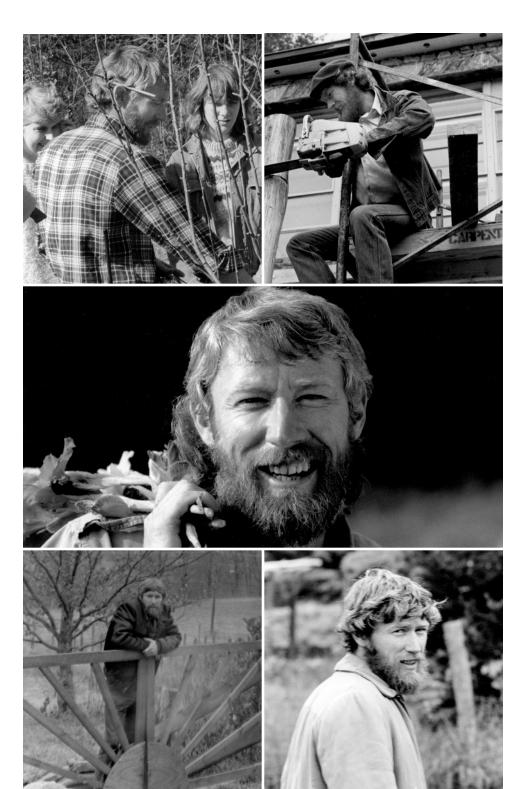
While his tangible contributions are many, Ellen Graves '06, director of work learning and programs, says his legacy goes beyond what you can see. "Ian challenged and provided leadership and stability to the Work Program," she said. "He looked within and beyond the College for best practices and good examples. He was able to pull from not only the practical but the philosophical to build a program that is, at its heart, true to our Presbyterian roots but also provides space and growth for a changing world."

It's obvious Robertson's impact will be felt for generations to come, but it won't happen solely through the connections he built with students. "So many of us try and use [his] leadership qualities as ours," said Lisa Woodall, former assistant dean of work and Work Program office manager (1990-2000). "[He is] full of grace, a good listener and problem-solver, a man who cares, loves and gives of himself."

Robertson never met the legendary dean and first leader of the Work Program, Henry Jensen, Ph.D., (1933-75) but they are connected through their value of and for work. In 1974, Jensen wrote, "Work is a privilege because only through his works does man contribute to his society and thus express his uniqueness."

Many things demonstrate Robertson's "uniqueness," but perhaps the real legacy—the way he contributed to society—is how his lessons on life, work and human decency are remembered and redistributed by the people he taught, supervised and befriended.

Robertson's contributions to Warren Wilson College were recognized at an April 7, 2016, event where trustees announced a resolution to rename the garden cabin. The newly christened Ian Robertson Garden Cabin is complemented by an endowed campus speaker series centered on the topic of inspired work.



INITIATIVES

Scholarships: Cornerstones of achievement

With approximately 95 percent of Warren Wilson College students receiving some form of financial aid, scholarships are the key to accessing and affording an education. All types of scholarships are essential to attracting and retaining students of high academic caliber and personal merit, regardless of monetary situations. The following scholarships were initiated or fully funded between July 2015 and June 2016 to support students with financial need.

Classes of 1986 & 1963 International Student Scholarship

The Warren Wilson College classes of 1986 and 1963 came together through this scholarship to recognize outstanding undergraduate international students.



Sarah Edwards '16, second from right; with her mother, Mary; father Mark, second from left; and brother, Thomas.

Edwards Family Scholarship in honor of Sarah E. Edwards '16

Acknowledging the role sociology and anthropology department professors played in their daughter's Warren Wilson education, Mark and Mary Edwards created a scholarship for students within the major. According to her parents, Sarah Edwards '16 forged "very close relationships with faculty who have acted as mentors supporting and encouraging her." The Edwards believe a named scholarship "will help [Sarah] 'pay it forward' to future students of Warren Wilson."



The faces behind the Emily W. '48 and Walter S. '49 Smith Scholarship.

Emily W. '48 and Walter S. '49 Smith Scholarship

By establishing this scholarship, Emily and Walt Smith share their admiration for the College's educational model — academics, work and service. The Smiths say the chance to attend Warren Wilson College is "an opportunity of a lifetime. ... The Work Program has been as important as the academic program throughout our careers. It taught us work ethics and changed the 'me' to 'we' in working with our co-workers."



Ernst R. Laursen '49

Ernst R. Laursen Scholarship

Roger D.'62 and Lalah Payne Kline '63 established this scholarship in honor of Ernst Laursen's '49 friendship and his commitment and service to the College. Laursen was named a distinguished alumnus in 1985 and was inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame in 2012. He became the College's assistant farm manager in 1956 and, a year later, succeeded his father as farm manager. Laursen retired from the College in 1996.

Joseph Loring Leavell Scholarship

Joseph Leavell learned about Warren Wilson College as a student in The Swannanoa Gathering (see a story about the program's 25th anniversary on page 37). He said the College is "highly regarded for cultivating personal integrity, responsibility and accountability in its students," and those are values I want to support."

Osborne Learning Legacy Scholarship

This scholarship honors Carolyn Osborne Poplett's '49 family, including her sisters Virginia Osborne Weaver '39 and Sarah Louise Osborne Gaughan '42, who both attended Dorland-Bell School, and her son, James Sumner Poplett '81, who graduated from Warren Wilson College. It also seeks to recognize the important role staff members play in educating, mentoring and inspiring students.



From left: Pat '78 and Ron Wilson celebrate the newly endowed Ron C. Wilson Scholarship with former students and friends, Lalah Payne '63 and Roger Kline '62 and President Steve Solnick

Ron C. Wilson Scholarship

Roger D. and Lalah Payne Kline also established a scholarship to honor Ron Wilson's commitment and service to the College. Wilson was a history professor from 1961-96 and tennis coach from 1974-78. Wilson was inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame in 2015 for his impact on scholar-athletes and for establishing a tennis team at the College.



Above: Ruth Clay Moore '43, left, Margaret Stamey Royster '40, center, and Miriam Clark Plexico '42 reconnect at the ANTC Alumnae Reunion. Right: ANTC's Pease House once stood where Mission Hospital is now located.

INITIATIVES

Asheville college reunion brings memories of Eleanor Roosevelt

In early August, a gathering at Ransom Fellowship Hall brought seven women together. They are among the last graduates of an institution that now only exists in their memories and through the legacy-preservation efforts of Warren Wilson College.

On July 20, 1942, Eleanor Roosevelt visited Asheville to get a closer look at a summer program housed at Asheville College. Asheville College was the latest iteration of a school started by the Pease family in 1887 and funded by the Presbyterian Church until 1940. Thousands of students passed through its doors, obtaining two-year teaching certificates or going through a four-year program that also included a bachelor's degree in education. To this day, the school is remembered as the Asheville Normal and Teachers College (ANTC).

Miriam Plexico, a 1942 graduate of ANTC, recalls Roosevelt's trip. Despite graduating, Plexico continued working at the campus post office that summer. "Every day she would get a letter from the White House, and I would take it over to her," Plexico said.

The final night of the trip, Plexico and others joined Roosevelt in the living room of Pease House. "I'll never forget it. She got down on the floor with us, and we sat around talking. She was terrific, absolutely terrific," she said.

The Asheville Citizen notes the topics were "everything from colleges to politics to gardenias." Roosevelt left the next morning with ANTC students leaning out the dormitory windows yelling, "Goodbye, Eleanor. Come back and see us," according to Plexico.

The summer of 1942 was different for Asheville, and Roosevelt's visit was a bright spot in an uncertain time. It was less than a year since the U.S. joined World War II, and some locals were fighting overseas or related to someone who was deployed. All the while, ANTC was inching closer to its end despite attempts to survive without primary funding from the church.

Roosevelt took notice of the college's financial problems. After her trip, she penned a newspaper column for United Feature Syndicate in which she discusses ANTC's history, educational model and struggles. At one point, she makes an indirect appeal for "new support" to fund building repairs and the hiring of additional teachers. She believed help could come from those who wanted "young people [to] get a more liberal education."

By the time the first lady traveled to Warren Wilson Junior College in March 1945, ANTC had been closed for seven months.



With each passing year, the number of living ANTC graduates drops, but the ANTC Alumnae Association continues to hold annual meetings at Warren Wilson College. Aug. 5, 2016, marked the 95th consecutive gathering. The seven attending graduates were Margaret Stamey Royster, class of 1940; Sarah Robinson Lowery and Frances Tomblin Mann, class of 1941; Helen Anest Hampton and Miriam Clark Plexico, class of 1942; and Marie Enskey Ledbetter and Ruth Clay Moore, class of 1943.

"It was such a wonderful school," said Frances Mann, who is celebrating the 75th anniversary of her graduation. "It was a wonderful place to be."

ANTC's former students, who Roosevelt called "pure American stock," spent the last 72 years preserving the school's memory. The alumnae association endowed a scholarship and built a memorial residence hall, with an endowed fund for maintenance, at Warren Wilson College. In the last year, two students have received more than \$30,000 through the ANTC Scholarship.

As Plexico once said in a 2011 interview with Owl & Spade, "I think [ANTC] had a real spot in everyone's heart, and it had to for us to still be doing this."

MEMORANDA

Alumni News

1940s

James M. Snead '49 spent 54 years in clinical social work and plans to retire this year. He works in family and parent-child counseling in Ft. Myers, Florida.

1960s

Jim Dedman '65 resumed pro bono teaching of law to government attorneys.

1970s

Amanda Becker '71 married Robert Mosko, of Hanover, Pennsylvania, in September 2014.

Mary Beth (Brandjord) Evers '77 retired after 34 years of teaching elementary school.

1980s

Paula (Closson) Buck '81, who teaches at Bucknell University, published "Summer on the Cold War Planet: A Novel" in September 2015. The story is set 25 years ago, just before the fall of the Berlin Wall.



J. Kim (Zapata) Wright '81 completed her eighth year as a location independent nomad, traveling around the world on a mission to transform law. In India, she reunited with classmate Raju Makhijani. After spending three years in South Africa, she was a speaker and organizer of the Lawyers as Peacemakers conference hosted by the National University of South Africa Institute for Dispute Resolution in Africa. The American Bar Association published her 2016 book, "Lawyers as Changemakers, the Emerging International Integrative Law Movement."



Julia Nunnally Duncan '82 MFA'84 retired from McDowell Technical Community College in Marion, North Carolina, after 30 years.

Kathy (Robinson) White '82 bought a vintage motorhome and plans to see a bit of the country while working for Amazon.com. She started her journey in Campbellsville, Kentucky, and then headed to Florida and South Dakota.

Donna Southwood-Smith '86 earned her Master of Arts in Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) from American University. A member of the U.S. Air Force for 25 years, she previously taught college-level English to speakers of other languages.

Susannah Chewning '87 published "Intersections of Courtly Romance and the Anchoritic Tradition: Chevelere Assigne and Ancrene Wisse" in the Journal of Medieval Religious Cultures.

1990s

Gregory T. Wilkins '90 received a McKnight Fellowship from the State of Minnesota's Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council to document Bangladesh's fast fashion and the sweatshop industry. He will also complete global service in the Southern Hemisphere — Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, Borneo and Bangladesh.

2000s

Rosa (Sprinkle) Sleigh '01 and husband, David, welcomed twin baby girls, Lucy Sprinkle and Eloise Elizabeth, Dec. 12, 2015. They join their brothers, Sam and Oscar.

Sky Stephens '01 welcomed twin girls, Avery and Fiona, Oct. 22, 2015. They join their sister, Hannah.

Elizabeth "Blair" Larcen '03 works as a beer ranger at New Belgium Brewing in Richmond, Virginia.

Joey Honeycutt '04 earned a master's degree in social work and is enrolled in divinity school at Duke University.

Natascia Boeri '05, a doctoral candidate in sociology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, received a Dissertation Writing Fellowship from the American Association of University Women. She spent 12 months conducting research on nome-based workers in the informal economy in Ahmedabad, India, which led to a doctoral dissertation research grant from the National Science Foundation in 2013.



Sarah Bourne Rafferty '05 married John Rafferty in May 2015 and moved to West Chester, Pennsylvania. She is a high school photography teacher at a private school near Philadelphia.

Adam Fajardo '05 completed his doctorate in English at Indiana University and is an assistant professor of English at Georgia Gwinnett College.

Matthew George '05 earned his doctorate in physical therapy from Western Carolina University. He and his wife, Chelsea Peterson '08, moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma. They welcomed a son in July 2014.

Bertram Keppel '05 married Elvi Loos '04 in October 2015.



Shiras Manning '05' received a master's degree in Mexican-American studies with a concentration in health from the University of Arizona. After working as a researcher at a Nogales, Mexico, migrant shelter and volunteering as an EMT with the fire department on the Pascua Yaqui reservation, she moved to Pennsylvania to earn a physician's assistant degree.

Heather Wilson '06 works as the acquisitions and electronic resources librarian at the California Institute of Technology.

Pat Addabbo '08 is a program director with Oregon Adaptive Sports in Bend, Oregon.

Curry Anton '08 and her sister, Georgia Anton '09, founded the nonprofit Ohana Amani, which means "peace between those who breathe together," in Tanzania.

Amanda Bilyk '08 is now a doctor of Oriental medicine in Stuart, Florida.

Ryan Morra '08 works at Shelburne Farms in Education for Sustainability in Vermont and shared sustainability practices with students and teachers in China's Yunnan Province.

Dustin "Dimitri" Schemel '08 works at Dwell Home Rewards

2010s



Adrianne Webb-Mitchell Anderson '10 married Scott Anderson '13 in October 2014.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 44



Lewis Pullman '15, right, worked with Candace Taylor, second from right, chair of the Department of Theatre, during rehearsals for "The Philadelphia Story" to create his audition tape, which ultimately led to a starring role in the new Amazon series "Highston." Also pictured, "The Philadelphia Story" castmates Stephen Fenstermacher '16, left, and Conor Donohue '17. Photo by Rodney Smith.

Alumnus stars in Amazon series

Lewis Pullman '15 stars in the new Amazon Studios series "Highston," which begins filming in 2017. The Sacha Baron Cohen executive-produced comedy also stars Chris Parnell of "Saturday Night Live," Mary Lynn Rajskub of "24" and Curtis Armstrong of "American Dad."

As the title character, Pullman plays "a 19-year-old with a wide circle of celebrity friends — that only he can see," according to Amazon Studios. Pullman, who names his father, Bill Pullman, along with Philip Seymour Hoffman, Christian Bale and Jimmy Stewart as his acting influences, adds that the character is "a bottomless pit of empathy" who is "constantly trying to be this balance beam between his imagination and these friends and family members that he loves so dearly."

The role hearkens back to April 2015 during rehearsal for the Warren Wilson College performance of "The Philadelphia Story." Pullman was tapped to submit an audition for the series, and Candace Taylor, chair of the Department of Theatre, helped him prepare despite the busy schedule.

"She took the time and helped me rehearse it a bunch of times and self-tape it," he said. "I don't think I would have gotten this part without Candace. Needless to say, when I showed up at Wilson, I knew I wanted to act, but I was scared ... and it was the most terrifying thing ever. Candace worked with me just endlessly."

With Taylor's help, Pullman channeled his nervousness into acting, which was similar to the way he viewed his idol Jimmy Stewart's performances.

"[Lewis] may be giving me too much credit," Taylor said. "He came [to Warren Wilson] with a great deal of talent, just not a lot of confidence. So that's what we worked on. We met for two years on Saturdays to work on audition techniques."

For Pullman, Warren Wilson College is never too far away. "I know I have completely, without a doubt, long-lasting friends ... from Warren Wilson that I am going to be in touch with for the rest of my life," he said. "Everyone was just so loving and congratulatory. Even though I am across the country, it was good to re-remember that I am still right there on campus with everybody."



Rodney Lytle '73

Alumni director Rodney Lytle retires

At the end of June 2016, alumni director Rodney Lytle '73 retired from Warren Wilson College. The decision came after 46 years, which includes four as a student, of dedicated service to the College.

"I promised myself and my family that I would dedicate my life to the place that gave me the opportunity to learn, build a career, make many friends and become a servant leader," Lytle wrote in a letter to campus. "I feel fortunate that I have accomplished these goals, and I am now ready to announce my retirement."

While he may be retired, Lytle's service to the College will not end. He will continue to work part-time in the newly created role of alumni ambassador, which will give him the opportunity to support ongoing fundraising initiatives and continue to interact with his favorite people — alumni.

Throughout his tenure, Lytle worked for and with all seven Warren Wilson presidents and calls some of the College's legendary figures "surrogate parents" — never forgetting the impact they had at this institution. He was presented the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award by former President Canon in 1990 and the Distinguished Community Service Award by former President Orr in 2005.

As a student, he preferred science and math, but he was also a star basketball player — capturing MVP honors in the 1970-71 season and all-conference accolades twice — and he went on to serve as head coach from 1985-89. Athletic prowess led to his induction with the first class into the Warren Wilson College Athletic Hall of Fame.

In addition to marrying the "love of [his] life" Sharon '78, Lytle raised three children and impacted the lives of countless students, staff and faculty members during his distinguished career.

A celebration of Lytle's contribution to the College was part of the 2016 Homecoming and Family Weekend this year. For more, visit www.warren-wilson.edu/alumni/homecoming.

MEMORANDA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 42

Christian Diaz '12 is the executive director of Chicago Votes Action Fund, a 501(c)(4) organization focused on "volunteer-driven democracy." His efforts have caught the attention of NBC News, which featured him in the story "Humanizing America: Young



Catie Eichberg '12 married Jessie Read '10 in February 2016.

Lia Kaz '15 works at CooperRiis Healing Community.



Share it with your fellow alumni. Be sure to include dates and places, and send along a related photo (identifying everyone in the picture) if you have one. We're looking for significant life events and updates.

Please email all the details to alumni@warren-wilson.edu.

Alumni Awards and Athletics Hall of Fame

Each year during Homecoming Weekend, the Warren Wilson College Alumni Association celebrates the accomplishments of graduates and community members with awards for professional achievement and service to the College and society. Outstanding athletes, coaches, teams and contributors are also inducted into the Warren Wilson College Athletics Hall of Fame. Alumni, friends and families were invited to the alumni awards and induction ceremonies to honor these community members who have made a difference at the College and beyond. If you would like to nominate someone for the Athletics Hall of Fame or for an alumni award, email alumni@warren-wilson.edu.

2015 ALUMNI AWARDS

Distinguished Alumni Award: **Christine Walshe '01**

Distinguished Community Service Award: **Sherle Stevenson Edwards '65**

Distinguished Service Award: Jim and Kay Layman

Young Alumni Award: Katie Falkenberg '03

2016 ALUMNI AWARDS

Distinguished Alumni Award: Lee Self '57

Distinguished Community Service Award: Amy '00 and Jamie Ager '00

Distinguished Service Award: **Joel Adams**

Young Alumni Award: Katie Maloney '04 and Omar Barnaby '05

2015-16 ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME **INDUCTEES**

Al Mack '76

Harry Mills '83 (basketball)

Audrey (Lowney) Sloan '78 (cheerleading coach)

Ron Wilson (tennis coach)

Loci Zsuppan '02 (swimming)

1975 Men's Soccer Team

Faculty & Staff News



Michael Crosa, left, assistant director for public safety, took a group of students - Juanita Falice '18, Rita Gunter and Amanda Bates '17 - to the annual NASPA conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. The conference is for student affairs administrators in higher education.

Brian Ammons, chaplain and director of spiritual life, Courtney Gauthier, director of career advising, and Wendy Seligm associate dean of advising and the Career Development Center, secured a two-year Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE) grant. The funding will be used "to deepen the intellectual and theological exploration of vocation among undergraduate students," according to NetVUE.

JJ Apodaca, Ph.D., received salamander research-related grants from the Global Wildlife Conservation and Wild South.

Anthony Barringer '14, who was part of the men's basketball team that won the USCAA national championship in 2013, took over as the Owls' head coach in 2015. He led the team, which included some of his former teammates, to another semifinals championship appearance.

Biology professors Amy Boyd, Ph.D., and Alisa Hove, Ph.D., partnered with colleagues at three other institutions to secure a three-year National Science Foundation Division of Undergraduate Education grant to investigate Southern Appalachian ecosystems' responses to global change. Through the partnership, four colleges will create native plant gardens in their various locations to monitor the timing of flowering, pollinator visitation and seed production.

Mary Ellen Davis, enrollment graphic designer, designed an invitation suite for the College's Accepted Students Day. The creation is a Merit winner in the HOW Promotion and Marketing Design Awards. Sponsored by HOW magazine, the international competition spotlights individual and agency produced creative work. Out of nearly 1,000 entries, 101 winning designs demonstrating a fusion of concept, strategy and execution were selected.

Chemistry and physics professor Dana Emmert's, Ph.D., article "Reversible dimers of the atypical antipsychotic quetiapine inhibit p-glycoprotein-mediated efflux in vitro with increased binding affinity and in situ at the blood-brain barrier" was published by the National Center for Biotechnology Information.

Classes taught by conservation biology professors Liesl Erb, Ph.D., and JJ Apodaca, Ph.D., are working with two community partners, Wild South and Mountain True, to survey, summarize and communicate the value of the Big Ivy, an area of the Pisgah National Forest that is proposed for wilderness designation.

Geoffrey Habron, Ph.D., director of electronic portfolios, published "Integrating ePortfolios into sustainability education" in the International Journal of ePortfolio. He was also among teams published in the Journal of Experiential Education, the Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences, and Environmental Modelling & Software.

"Worker," a debut collection of poetry by associate dean for faculty and undergraduate writing professor Gary Hawkins, Ph.D., was published by Main Street Rag. Hawkins also had a set of sketchbooks selected in a juried art exhibition, "The 2016 Sketchbook Show" at the Nave Gallery Annex in Somerville, Massachusetts.

"Winning in style: longer styles receive more pollen but do not intensify gametophytic competition in wild Clarkia populations" was an invited article co-written by biology professor Alisa Hove, Ph.D., and published in the American Journal of Botany's special issue on pollen tube growth.

Lorrie Jayne, Ph.D., languages professor, earned her doctorate in interdisciplinary studies with concentrations in humanities and culture. Lorrie conducts her research in the northern estuary region of the Brazilian Amazon among plant researchers and traditional plant healers. Jayne has participated in two seminars this year: "Place, Identity, Culture, Home: Meanings of Place in Our Lives" held in Jemez Springs, New Mexico, and "Culture Internalized, Culture Embodied: What We Rarely Talk About when We Talk about Intercultural Communication," held in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Annie Jonas, Ed.D., professor and chair of the education department, is an inaugural Engaged Faculty Scholar with the North Carolina Campus Compact, which supports outstanding faculty and encourages them to share their service-learning expertise with fellow educators. Jonas is one of only two selected for this distinguished one-year program from a competitive field of highly qualified applicants from private and public universities across the state.

Global studies professor Jeff Keith, Ph.D., was on sabbatical during the 2015-16 academic year, having received the Jean Ritchie and Wilma Dykeman-Stokely Faculty Research Fellowship from the Appalachian College Association as well as a project grant from the Kentucky Oral History Commission. During his time away, Keith published two articles. "Producing Miss Saigon: Imaginings, Realities and the Sensual Geography of Saigon" appeared in a special issue of the Journal of American-East Asian Relations and focused on gender and the Vietnam War. With Jeremy Press Taylor '15, Keith co-wrote "Unraveling Industrial Nostalgia" for the Center for Craft, Creativity and Design's "Made in WNC" exhibition catalogue.

Professors Kevin Kehrberg, Ph.D., and Philip Otterness, Ph.D., are two of only 16 Appalachian College Association (ACA) Faculty Fellows to expand the College's semester-long sabbatical to a full year in 2016-17. Warren Wilson is the only college in North Carolina to have two awardees in this class of the Faculty Fellowships Program, which provides \$3,000 to \$30,000 for pre- or post-doctoral study.

Vice President for Applied Learning Cathy Kramer is the 2016 Civic Engagement "Sustainer" Professional of the Year, which is awarded by the North Carolina Campus Compact, a coalition of 35 public and private colleges and universities. The award recognizes one staff member at a college or university in the state for efforts to institutionalize a campus-wide vision of service, support the engagement of faculty and students, and form innovative campus-community partnerships.

History & political science professor Chris Kypriotis, Ph.D., was a featured expert for WLOS-TV in Asheville during the presidential primaries.

Landscaping Crew supervisors Tom LaMuraglia and John Odell spearheaded the effort to earn the College's "Tree Campus USA" designation from The Arbor Day Foundation. "Tree Campus USA" recognizes the College for its commitment to effective urban forest management on central campus while engaging staff and students in conservation goals.

Cristina Lawson, director of internships, presented at the national conference of American College Personnel Association (ACPA), which was held in Montreal, Canada, in March. She also completed her first year of three on the directorate of ACPA's Commission for Career Services.

Paul Magnarella, Ph.D., former director of Peace and Justice Studies and adjunct professor of history & political science, reviewed "Governments and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa" and "International Trials and Reconciliation: Assessing the Impact of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia" for the International Journal of World Peace and "Examining Human Rights Issues and the Democracy Project in Sub-Saharan Africa" for the Journal of Third World Studies. He continues to serve on the editorial boards of a number of journals, including The Indonesian

Journal of International & Comparative Law, Journal of Peace Studies and The Oriental Anthropologist.

Owl & Spade "Giants of the Mind" edition team members Director of Media Relations Kyle McCurry, John Bowers, K. Johnson Bowles, and David Whaley won three Hermes Creative Awards, including platinum for writing in publication overall and two gold for design in publication overall and magazine in publications. The international competition for creative professionals is administered and judged by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals (AMCP), which is comprised of thousands of industry professionals.

The second edition of outdoor leadership and environmental studies professor Mallory McDuff's, Ph.D., co-written book, "Conservation and Education Outreach Techniques," was published by Oxford University Press. Additionally, her essay, "Why I'm committed to Lent," was included in the anthology All Shall be Well, published by Orbis Books (2015). McDuff's essays exploring the connection between people and places were published in Full Grown People, U.S. Catholic, Vanderbilt Magazine, The Manifest-Station, Oxford University Press blog, Club Mid and Role Reboot.

Erin Montero, Ph.D., languages professor, published "Love and Perversion: Representations of Womanhood in the Honduran Poesía Negra Movement" in the journal L'Érudit Franco-Espagnol. Montero also chaired a panel on Latin American literature and presented a paper at the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

David Moore, Ph.D., archeology professor and senior archaeologist for the Exploring Joara Foundation, presented "The Burning of Fort San Juan" lecture, telling the story of the "first" Lost Colony, the Spanish settlement of Fort San Juan and Cuenca at the Native American town of Joara.

Chris Nugent, director of the Pew Learning Center and Ellison Library, presented sabbatical research at the 39th Annual Conference of the German Studies Association in Washington, D.C. The paper was part of a panel on feminism in German history.

History and political science professor Philip Otterness, Ph.D., contributed to the catalog for an exhibition at the German Emigration Center, the first migration museum in Germany. In the catalog, he compares the experiences of the Germans who came to America in 1710 and the Turks who came to Germany in the 1970s. Otterness also made his third appearance on the television show "Who Do You Think You Are?" He helped actor Katey Sagal, known for her roles in "Married with Children" and "Sons of Anarchy," learn about her family's Amish roots (see story in next column).

Angela Phillips, Ph.D., organized a Warren Wilson College student panel entitled "Revaluing Feminist Communities" for the 2016 Southeastern Women's Studies Association Conference on Intersectionality in the New Millennium: An Assessment of Culture, Power and Society at Winthrop University. She also presented the paper "Discovering Feminist narratives in private spaces: Homes, Hamams and Armoires."

Wendy Seligmann, associate dean of advising and the Career Development Center, served on the North Carolina Association of Colleges and Employers conference planning committee as the local arrangements chair for the May conference in Asheville. She was also on the steering committee of the association's newly implemented Leadership Institute where she facilitated a segment on building strategic partnerships.

Sociology and anthropology professor Laura Vance, Ph.D., completed research on the decision of the largest religion ever founded by a woman not to ordain women and partnered with Asheville's Manna Food Bank to create a poverty simulation focused around food insecurity. Her book "Women in New Religions" was selected as "New and Noteworthy" by the editors of Sojourners magazine.

Bass Wolf, spiritual life program coordinator, and Brian Ammons, chaplain and director of spiritual life, traveled to Raleigh in March with a group of students to stand against North Carolina's "Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act" (House Bill 2), which the governor signed into law. Ammons also penned an opinion piece on the bill for the Asheville Citizen-Times.

The graduate research conducted by farm manager Asher Wright '08 at Clemson University was published in the Journal of Animal Science. His research explored qualities of grass-finished beef as that consumer market continues to grow.

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS



Professor Philip Otterness talks with actor Katey Sagal about her family's Amish roots. Photo provided by TLC. Used with permission.

Otterness returns to TLC's "Who Do You Think You Are?"

Two months before starting a yearlong sabbatical, Warren Wilson College Professor of History & Political Science Philip Otterness, Ph.D., was exploring family trees. While the research is important to his scholarship at the College, his recent focus on celebrity lineage is in the limelight.

Otterness was tapped by TLC's "Who Do You Think You Are?" to help actor Katey Sagal, known for her roles in "Married with Children" and "Sons of Anarchy," learn about her family's Amish roots. The episode premiered in April on TLC.

"I think the show presents some of the best history programming on television right now," said Otterness. "It starts with celebrities, but it focuses on their ancestors — mostly unassuming, relatively unknown people trying to do the best they could in the period in which they lived. In this way, the show presents some wonderful social history of people and events that are often overlooked in our national historical narrative."

In late 2015, Otterness began researching Sagal's family. By early January 2016, he was alongside the Golden Globe-winner to film the episode.

"For me, it is more about the history than the genealogy," he said. "I believe much of what makes genealogy meaningful for people is when their ancestors are put into their historical context. For celebrities on the show, the fun is in finding out about the world that those ancestors lived in."

Otterness, author of "Becoming German" from Cornell University Press, has worked with the show since 2010. In addition to Sagal, Otterness appeared in episodes with country music stars Tim McGraw and Reba McEntire.

MFA BOOKSHELF

Awards and works by MFA Program for Writers alumni and faculty

AWARDS

Professor Andrea Barrett won the Rea Award for the Short Story— the winner receives \$30,000 for an honor designed "to encourage the writing of short fiction," according the Dungannon Foundation, which sponsors the award.

Brian Blanchfield '99 (poetry) won the 2016 Whiting Award for nonfiction.

Poetry faculty member Marianne Boruch won the \$10,000 Indiana Authors Award, given to a writer with Indiana ties, but whose work is known and read throughout the country.

Fiction faculty member Maud Casey won the \$50,000 St. Francis College Literary Prize for "The Man who Walked Away" (Bloomsbury, 2014) as well as a 2015 Guggenheim Fellowship.

Joan Frank MFA '96 (fiction) won the 2016 Juniper Prize for Fiction, a literary prize series coordinated by the University of Massachusetts Press, for her book "All the News I Need."

Fiction faculty member Lauren Groff was a finalist for the National Book Award in fiction for "Fates and Furies."

Poetry faculty member Jennifer Grotz received a 2016 Literary Translation Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Jenny Johnson '11 (poetry) received a Hodder Fellowship at Princeton University for 2016-17.

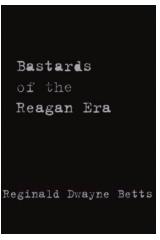
Poetry faculty member A. Van Jordan MFA '10 (poetry) won the 2015 Lannan Literary Award for Poetry.

Margaree Little '12 (poetry) received a Kenyon Review Fellowship for 2016-18.

Rose McLarney '03 MFA '10 (poetry) was named the 2016 Dartmouth Poet in Residence at the Frost Place.

Bob Oldshue MFA '05 (fiction) won the Iowa Short Fiction Award for his story collection, "November Storm."

Robert Thomas MFA '02 (poetry) won the 2015 PEN Center USA Literary Award for Fiction for his novel "Bridge."



The third book by Reginald Dwayne Betts '10 (poetry), "Bastards of the Reagan Era," is the winner of the 2016 PEN New England Award in Poetry. The "fierce, lyrical and unsparing" poems "bear witness to the author's difficult journey from prison to law school," according to The New York Times. Photo by Rachel Eliza Griffiths, and cover courtesy of Four Way Books

Fiction faculty member Laura van den Berg was awarded the 2015 Jeannette Haien Ballard Writers' Prize, a \$25,000 annual prize given to "a young writer of proven excellence in poetry or prose."

See page 14 for the story on MFA Program for Writers founder Ellen Bryant Voigt's 2015 MacArthur Fellowship.

Fran Wilde MFA '96 (poetry) won the Andre Norton Award for Young Adult Science Fiction and Fantasy for her novel, "Updraft."

Jude Whelchel '13 (fiction) won the 2016 Howard Frank Mosher Short Fiction Prize, which was judged by Janet Burroway.

ALUMNI PUBLICATIONS

Reginald Dwayne Betts '10 (poetry) – "Bastards of the Reagan Era" (Four Way, October 2015)

Robin Black '05 (fiction) – "Crash Course: Essays from Where Writing and Life Collide" (Engine Books, April 2016)

Brian Blanchfield '99 (poetry) – "Proxies: Essays Near Knowing" (Nightboat, April 2016)

Beverly Bie Brahic '06 (poetry) – "Hunting the Boar" (CB Editions, May 2016)

Patricia Corbus '96 (poetry) – "Finestra's Window" (Off the Grid Press, 2015)

Chiyuma Elliott '10 (poetry) – "California Winter League" (Unicorn Press, April 2016)

Gary Hawkins '95 (poetry) – "Worker" (Main Street Rag Press, January 2016)



Samantha Hunt '99 (fiction) – "Mr. Splitfoot" (Houghton Mifflin, January 2016)

Jamaal May '11 (poetry) – "The Big Book of Exit Strategies" (Alice James, April 2016)

Ginger Murchison '11 (poetry) – "a scrap of linen, a bone" (Press 53, January 2016)

Karen Olsson '05 (fiction) – "All the Houses" (FSG, November 2015)

Leslie Contreras Schwartz '11 (poetry) – "Fuego" (St. Julian Press, March 2016)

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Christopher Castellani – "The Art of Perspective" (Graywolf, January 2016)

Jennifer Grotz – "Window Left Open" (Graywolf, February 2016)

Jane Hamilton – "The Excellent Lombards" (Grand Central Pub, April 2016)

Dominic Smith – "The Lost Painting of Sarah de Vos" (FSG, April 2016)

Daniel Tobin – "From Nothing" (Four Way Books, March 2016)

Connie Voisine – "Calle Florista" (U of Chicago, October 2015)

C. Dale Young – "The Halo" (Four Way Books, April 2016)

In Memoriam

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

Selma Burns



Selma R. Burns, longtime friend of the College, died Thursday, May 12, 2016. She and her husband, Melvin "Mel" Burns, established the Melvin and Selma Burns Scholarship for International Students in 1987 after connecting with

the College 12 years earlier. Selma would often open her home to international students during College breaks, and she maintained special relationships and corresponded with many of them. She attended Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church and enjoyed traveling around the United States.

Phillip C. Broughton



Phillip C. Broughton, former member of the College's Board of Visitors, died Friday, April 1, 2016. Learning about Warren Wilson College through his Presbyterian Church in Basking Ridge, New Jersey, he became an avid supporter

and funded the R. W. Weatherhead Asian Students Scholarship through his foundation. During College breaks, Broughton often hosted international students from across the country in his home. Broughton is remembered for his thoughtfulness and generosity in helping enhance the multicultural educational experience at the College.

George Donnell "Don" Davidson Jr.



George Donnell "Don"
Davidson Jr., a longtime
friend of the College, died
Thursday, Oct. 1, 2015.
Spurred by his father's
connection to the College
as a 1902 graduate of
Asheville Farm School,
Davidson and his wife,

Anne, endowed the G.D. Davidson Roundtable in 1987. Now known as the Davidson Life Planning Program, the fund supports educational initiatives at the College. The projects and activities are designed to give students an opportunity to explore a vocation or calling that leads them to a life of meaningful work.

Kenneth B. Orr



Kenneth "Ken" B. Orr, former chair of the College's Board of Trustees, died Monday, July 18, 2016. He joined the board in 1998, served as chair from 2001-10, and took prominent roles on the education and investment committees. Orr was part of the College's Nontraditional Revenue Task Force, and he presided over the Strategic Financial Planning Task Force. After 18 years as president of Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina, he retired to Montreat, North Carolina, in 1997 and immediately engaged with Warren Wilson College. Orr's wife, Ruth Currie, was a professor in the College's history and political science department. Image provided by Presbyterian College.

Julia Richards



Julia Richards, longtime volunteer at and friend of the College, died Friday, July 15, 2016. Arriving at the College in 1987, she spent her retirement volunteering in the Work Program office, Career

Development Center and the Warren Wilson College Archives. During this time, she met another volunteer, Richard "Dick" Richards, who would become her husband. The couple often hosted international students in their home during College breaks, and they established the Dick and Julia Richards Scholarship for International Students in 1995. She was also an active member of Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church and the College Chapel.

asheViLLe FarM sChOOL

William Neil Black '42 July 17, 2015 Hugh E. Sprinkle '43 April 4, 2015 Thomas W. Patton Sr. '38 March 31, 2016

asheViLLe nOrMaL and teaChers COLLeGe

Mary Louise Carruth Bagwell '41 July 14, 2015

Faye Wheeler Boone '43 Aug. 12, 2015

Wilma Rose Wallin Buckner '42 Nov. 6, 2015

Betty E. Rogers Duckett '44 Dec. 20, 2015

Vera Mae Ponder Evilsizor '43 May 17, 2016

Louise Morrison Garrison '37 July 28, 2015

Katherine Beatrice Yow Hampton '42 April 13, 2016

Josephine Manick Haney '40 Nov. 5, 2015

Nancy "Carolyn" Greene Hart '35 Nov. 15, 2014

Ola Mae Johnson '40 June 6, 2015 Ruth Edgerton Jones '42 Oct. 19, 2014

Catherine Haynes Rhea '32 Feb. 7, 2016

Sybil Spratt '39 May 31, 2016

Gracie McGinnis Willingham '38 March 14, 2015

Ina Caldwell Wyman '44 Nov. 30, 2014

dOrLand-BeLL sChOOL

Myrtle Renner Croker '31 April 25, 2015

Willa Dean Effler Hughes '43 April 23, 2015

Eva Shelton Kozel '27 Feb. 24, 2007

Marietta Kiser Watson '53 March 24, 2015

Mavis Shelton Williams '38 Sept. 18, 2014

Warren WiLsOn hiGh sChOOL

Harold Dean Anderson '45 July 2, 2015

Delmas E. Barker '51 Feb. 10, 2014 John C. Chadler '45 March 6, 2012

Emily Alice Dalton Gouge '52 Jan. 4, 2016

Janice Carriker Ivy '56 '58 April 10, 2014

John P. Rayburn '53 Sept. 23, 2011

Helen Wallin Shelton '49 April 4, 2016

Marietta Kiser Watson '53 '55 March 24, 2015

Warren WiLsOn JuniOr COLLeGe

Laura G. Worley Barnhill '54 Dec. 7, 2015

Christine Bullman Combs '60 March 15, 2016

Margaret Ann MacCluney Darden '55 Oct. 15, 2014

Barbara Roper Dauterman '52 Oct. 20, 2015

Lillian McDevitt Hattley '52 April 16, 2015 Evelyn Berry Henderson '48

Aug. 25, 2015

James Collins Joyce '45

April 5, 2015 Mary Julia Holesapple Martin '51

Jan. 28, 2016 Minnie Fisher McCormick '45

March 27, 2016 Jonathan C. Ramteke '66

July 24, 2015 Yan Pui Samuel To '66

Yan Pui Samuel To '66 April 12, 2015

Catherine Waldo Steger '64 Jan. 25, 2016

Mae Compton Stewart '50 June 23, 2015

Harry Ray Waldrop '58 May 14, 2016

Billy M. Wright '52 Dec. 2, 2015

Warren WiLsOn COLLeGe

Peggy Ann Kyle '71 Sept. 18, 2015

Emiko Sakaguchi '70 Jan. 18, 2015

Hadley Stuart Scott '96 May 2, 2015

Mark A. Stokes '76 Oct. 13, 2015

John E. Yates '95 Feb. 17, 2016

MFa PrOGraM FOr Writers

Michelle Gillett '82 Feb. 11, 2016

Lori Storie-Pahlitzsch '94 Feb. 15, 2016

eMPLOyees, VOLunteers, and Friends

Phillip Broughton April 1, 2016

Selma R. Burns Mary 12, 2016

Nancy Owen Cecil July 9, 2016

George Donnell Davidson Jr. Oct. 18, 2015

Frederick W. Hanna Jr. Oct. 8, 2015

Leslie Jenkins Nov. 1, 2015

Robert E. "Buzz" Lee March 7, 2016

Frank Marvin June 8, 2016

Ann McAnear April 27, 2015

Kenneth "Ken" B. Orr July 18, 2016

Alfred M. Pfaff Feb. 14, 2016

Julia Richards July 15, 2016





David Hoffman, left, discusses global issues with President Steve Solnick.

Global Impact Forum hosts Pulitzer Prize-winning author

For the second year, Warren Wilson College presented the Global Impact Forum, a compelling and in-depth conversation about world politics. President Steve Solnick spent a May evening interviewing David E. Hoffman in front of an audience gathered at Asheville's YMI Cultural Center.

The Cold War, Russian oligarchs and a spy sound like the makings of a great movie, but those are the topics of Hoffman's bestselling books and underscore the longtime Washington Post newsman's accomplishments. His in-depth knowledge of the former Soviet Union, complemented by Solnick's expertise in Russian politics and experiences in the country during his time with Ford Foundation, fueled a conversation focused primarily on current global issues.

Traveling the world throughout his storied journalism career, Hoffman was front and center for the Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush presidencies, while also covering Israel and Russia as bureau chief. Hoffman's "The Dead Hand:

The Untold Story of the Cold War Arms Race and Its Dangerous Legacy" earned the 2010 Pulitzer for general nonfiction. The New York Times calls his latest work — "The Billion Dollar Spy: A True Story of Cold War Espionage and Betrayal" — "an engrossing tale."

Launched in 2014, the Global Impact Forum features a tête-à-tête rich with candid insights and pointed humor grounded by a detailed understanding of the issues that change the world. Previous speakers include Peter Baker, chief White House correspondent for The New York Times, and Peter Finn, national security editor for The Washington Post.

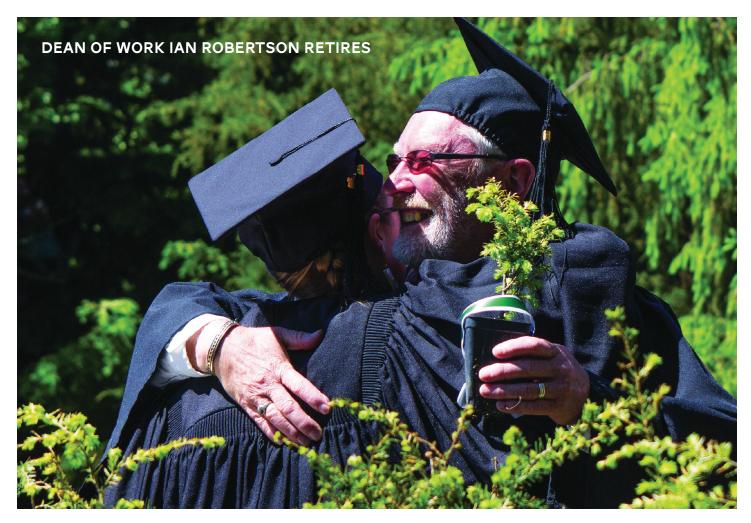
Warren Wilson College's Global Impact Forum's "An Evening with David Hoffman" was sponsored by Merrill Lynch/Himan Group, Roberts and Stevens, and Clark Nexsen. The slate of speakers for the 2016-17 academic year will be announced this fall.



OWL&SPADE

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Before retiring in June 2016, Dean of Work lan Robertson presented graduating students with a hemlock sapling for the final time. Just as they leave the College to go lay down roots and grow, newly minted alumni are encouraged to plant this tree seedling away from campus to represent their time as a Warren Wilson graduate in the greater world.