

OWL & SPADE

SPIRITS RISING.

2018



A MAGAZINE FOR THE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF WARREN WILSON COLLEGE

SPIRITS RISING



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COVER ART

Mary Ellen Davis

Radim Schreiber

LEAD CONTRIBUTOR

Melissa Ray Davis '02

CONTRIBUTORS

Debra Allbery

Paul Clark

Mary Craig

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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, cross-cultural understanding, and the common good.

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Alumni and Friends,

In my first full summer in the Torrence House, the President’s home on campus, I’ve spent many an evening sitting and reflecting on my front porch. There, I’ve watched as fireflies (in my childhood in North Carolina, we called them “lightning bugs”) rest briefly on a leaf or blade of grass, spread their wings, and then immediately rise up in front of me. No matter how many summers I’ve seen fireflies glow over a field of green through the misty haze of dusk, the sight of them raises my spirits.

The fireflies are also a wonderful metaphor for the feeling I’ve had throughout my first year as President here at Warren Wilson College. There are so many points of light on our beautiful campus, from our passionate and hardworking students and staff to our loyal and dedicated alumni and supporters, who raise my spirits every day! I’ve said many times this year to every internal and external group that Warren Wilson is a special place—a place with unique ideals and programs that other institutions aspire to have. While part of my job is to look forward and strategically shape our future, it is also to ensure that we see Spirits Rising on campus and off as we work to tout our distinctive mission and integrated educational model. We intend to become a place where we can have civil conversations across difference and seek to understand one another. To that end, news stories in this issue explore our recent deliberative dialogue efforts and the launch of the Inside-Out program.

I love that the theme section of this magazine, Spirits Rising, extends to such a range of interesting stories. There’s a story about our vision to enhance a vibrant culture of student athletes and fans with a renewed focus on school spirit. The theme also connects to an inspiring story about how our collaborative Global Studies and Archaeology classes, our Carnegie classified Community Engagement program, and assorted work crews have helped restore an African American cemetery in our community. And Spirits Rising also refers to the beginnings of new alumni-owned distilleries in the Asheville area—where our community can go to raise a glass in celebration of an incredible year at Warren Wilson College.

And it has been quite a year! Most excitingly, we have a new freshman class that will have just arrived on campus when this magazine reaches you. The class is more than 50 percent bigger than last year, reflecting the enrollment growth we seek. We also increased the WWC Fund by 25 percent and had the highest total giving to the College in a decade. These are important indicators as we raise our profile—a result of our own rising spirits.

I look forward to continuing to engage with the incredible community that is Warren Wilson College, on campus, locally, regionally, and worldwide. May we all raise each other’s spirits with optimism, hope, and excitement for the future of this beautiful place I’m lucky to call my home.

With gratitude,

LYNN M. MORTON

President

RELEVANT
ROLE MODEL



PRACTICAL
IDEALIST



INTENTIONAL
ADVENTURER



CREATIVE
CRITICAL THINKER



ALL ARE
WARREN WILSON

RELEVANT ROLE MODEL

BUILDING CROSS-CULTURAL BRIDGES OF UNDERSTANDING.

For Johnelle Causwell '03, her time at Warren Wilson College was a study abroad trip. The native of Kingston, Jamaica, found “a different way of life and a different way of thinking” studying Economics and Political Science at Warren Wilson “that really made me more open-minded,” she says. The openness and curiosity she gained directly serve her in her career, forming cross-cultural relationships with aspiring international leaders.

As the Citizen Diplomacy Program Director for International House in Charlotte, North Carolina, Causwell administers a U.S. Department of State initiative to host delegations of young leaders from around the world so they can exchange ideas and perspectives with Americans. Her program hosts diverse groups, from Mexican law enforcement officers and Caribbean entrepreneurs to Kyrgyzstani human rights activists. Since the State Department started the program 80 years ago, more than 500 participants have gone on to become heads of state in their countries.

“Influential folks come through our program and meet real Americans. We facilitate professional networking sessions, as well as opportunities to sit down and have dinners with families. We try to spotlight our local communities, not just the American government,” Causwell says. “With the current administration trying to build walls, our program is more important than ever because it is designed to help build bridges of understanding.”

She often hosts visitors who harbor stereotypes of Americans as aloof and patronizing. Her favorite part of the job is helping break those perceptions. “I love to see the ‘aha light’ come on when they realize Americans are welcoming and friendly,” she says.

When not hosting delegations, Causwell sits on the Board of Directors for the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce and serves as the Vice Chair of the Charlotte International Cabinet, advising the mayor and city council on international issues.

Despite her busy schedule, Causwell stays in close touch with many of her friends and professors from college and drives up to the mountains to visit campus in a car that sports a WWC bumper sticker.

“I still am very connected to Warren Wilson,” she says. “It’s definitely a part of my life that I’m very proud of. It gave me a great foundation for this career path.”

PROFILE BY JAKE FRANKEL '02 • PORTRAIT BY REGGIE TIDWELL



JOHNELLE CAUSWELL '03

Johnelle Causwell '03 is the Citizen Diplomacy Program Director for International House, a nonprofit that promotes international understanding and helps immigrants integrate fully into the Charlotte-area community.



JAMIE DEMARCO '16

Jamie DeMarco '16 is the founder of the Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Initiative, which works to ensure that Maryland reaches 50 percent renewable electricity by 2030.

PRACTICAL IDEALIST LOBBYING FOR BETTER LIVES.

“What I learned at Warren Wilson College was an ethos of waking up every day and thinking: How can I make the place I live a little cleaner and a little better?” Jamie DeMarco '16 said. Whether in the United Nations General Assembly or the Maryland State Senate, he has succeeded in doing exactly that.

Working after graduation with the Friends Committee on National Legislation in Washington, D.C., DeMarco lobbied for the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons in the United Nations General Assembly. The landmark resolution—a legally-binding ban of nuclear weapons—passed, with two-thirds of the world’s nations voting in favor of it. The United Nations Coalition behind the ban won the Nobel Peace Prize.

After his time with the Friends Committee, DeMarco returned to his home state and founded the Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Initiative. As Campaign Manager, he lobbied to bring Maryland to 50 percent renewable electricity by 2030. They expect the legislation to pass in early 2019. With that trajectory set, DeMarco secured a job with the Citizens’ Climate Lobby, a national nonprofit, where he now lobbies for legislation at the state level to tax carbon emissions.

“My freshman year, I took Mallory McDuff’s course, Community Organizing for Sustainable Living. In that course, we had to design a campaign, design tactics, and then implement it on the ground. Getting that first taste of what it is like to work on a campaign whetted my appetite. I wanted to do advocacy work.”

DeMarco double majored in Chemistry and Environmental Studies with a concentration in Environmental Education. He was a freshman Student Governance Association Co-Convener, and he later led and won a campaign to change the College’s smoking policy. He worked in the Environmental Leadership Center and served as a student leader of the successful campaign to divest the College’s endowment from fossil fuels. “That was a long, thoughtful, student-led, and collaborative effort that taught me a lot about what running a long term campaign looks like,” he said. He also credits his Mountain True internship through Warren Wilson for giving him the professional experience and connections he needed.

“I use what I learned at Warren Wilson College every day in my work,” DeMarco said. “There’s a level of critical thinking and deep analysis that Warren Wilson really fosters, and I’m very grateful for what I took away from my education here. There’s also all the responsibilities that you juggle as a Warren Wilson student. Warren Wilson’s academics, work, and service can be very demanding, but you come out of that a more responsible person. I work hard at my job, but I worked harder as a student at Warren Wilson.”

PROFILE BY MELISSA RAY DAVIS '02 • PORTRAIT BY REGGIE TIDWELL

INTENTIONAL ADVENTURER

TRAVELING FOR TEAM USA.

While the athletes are the ones prominently featured on television at the Olympics, Christine Toriello Walshe '01 is an important part of Team USA's success.

As Vice President for Principal Gifts and Board Relations for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Foundation, Walshe and her colleagues raise approximately \$28 million each year to support the athletes to achieve competitive excellence, motivate young people, and inspire billions of people around the globe. To that end, she maintains an aggressive travel schedule, which included spending a month this winter at her sixth Olympic Games in PyeongChang, South Korea.

As she meets with many of our country's most sophisticated philanthropists, Walshe applies what she learned at Warren Wilson College. "Warren Wilson teaches you what it's like to work hard and live in a small community. And if you are building a career around a cause you'll be with your whole life, it's critical to be a good community member," she says. "After fifteen years of service, the Olympic Movement feels like a small community. Warren Wilson completely set me up for success."

When she wasn't throwing pots in the ceramic studio, hanging out on the decks of Schafer, running the campus trails, or working in the garden, Walshe studied Art History and Religion. Walshe's professional path started with a three-week internship during her senior year in the development office of the High Museum of Art in Atlanta. After a visit to the WWC Career Services center to write her first resume when she returned to campus, she leveraged that short stint into an entry-level development position with the Atlanta Symphony after graduating. There, she managed a \$30 million grant, which in turn helped her land a job with the Olympics.

"Before I knew it, I woke up one morning and realized, 'wow, I guess I'm a nonprofit development professional.' And it was all because I took that internship, thanks to Warren Wilson's help," she says. "It is very much a Warren Wilson story in that all the support I had was community-based. I look back with appreciation for being a member of Warren Wilson and all the people that helped me along the way."

PROFILE BY JAKE FRANKEL '02 • PORTRAIT BY KATIE FALKENBERG '03



CHRISTINE TORIELLO WALSHE '01

Christine Toriello Walshe '01 landed her first fundraising internship while studying at Warren Wilson College. Now, she's the Vice President for Principal Gifts and Board Relations for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Foundation.

CREATIVE CRITICAL THINKER

INVENTING WITH COMPASSION.

With three patent applications, 22 peer-reviewed publications, and four journal-published papers, it was no surprise that Rebecca Rudicell '05 won Warren Wilson College's esteemed Young Alumni Award in 2017. In fact, Rudicell's research has helped create potential HIV vaccines and an HIV antibody that has entered human clinical trials.

Rudicell graduated from Warren Wilson with a double major in Biology and Chemistry with a concentration in Biochemistry in 2005. "My close relationships with professors challenged and supported me," she said. "Biology was more than just memorizing names and disconnected factoids. In my junior year, Professor Jeff Holmes taught us how to puzzle through the molecular workings of the world. It intrigued me and fascinated me so much that it is still the field I work in today."

After her time at Warren Wilson, Rudicell earned her doctorate in Microbiology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, studying the origins of HIV from a virus in wild-living chimpanzees in sub-Saharan Africa. She transitioned to a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Institute of Health Vaccine Research Center studying HIV vaccines. There, she helped design potential vaccines and helped develop an anti-HIV antibody that has recently entered human clinical trials.

Rudicell was one of the founding scientists in the Breakthrough Lab, which takes high-risk, high-reward projects quickly through the early research phases and pushes projects toward human trials. There, she works on next-generation, universal influenza vaccines and immune-oncology projects. Through that work, she became a co-inventor on three patent applications related to HIV treatments and vaccines.

"I think my two years on the Autoshop Crew were the most impactful part of my time at WWC," Rudicell said. "Not only did I learn the mechanical side, and how to use tools, a very useful skill personally and professionally, but it was there that I really developed a strong sense of adventure—and learned that a sense of adventure combined with a strong work ethic can take you anywhere."

Even as she delved into this professional research, Rudicell maintained her commitment to supporting her community. One of her biggest non-scientific accomplishments in graduate school was helping to create an emergency medical fund for graduate students. It is this dedication to supporting the people leading scientific breakthroughs, in addition to the important innovations themselves, that separates Rudicell as more than a results-only scientist, but as a Warren Wilson scientist—working to improve the world around her through both scientific innovation and compassion.

PROFILE BY ZANNE GARLAND • PORTRAIT BY REGGIE TIDWELL



REBECCA RUDICELL '05

Rebecca Rudicell '05 puts her double WWC degree in Biology and Chemistry with a concentration in Biochemistry to work creating potential HIV vaccines and an HIV antibody that has entered human clinical trials.



INAUGURATION: OWL IN A DAY'S WORK

Warren Wilson College celebrated the inauguration of its eighth president, Dr. Lynn M. Morton, on Saturday, May 12, 2018. The community joined together for a picnic in the Formal Gardens prior to the ceremony on Sunderland Lawn, which featured musical performances by students, faculty, and the Warren Wilson College Choir as well as speeches by Warren Wilson community members and Dr. Pamela Davies, president of Queens University of Charlotte.

In her inaugural address, President Morton spoke about the importance of understanding: "As your president, I am deeply committed to this vision of Warren Wilson: that we lead in developing understanding on our campus and in our communities. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to lead you on this path, to walk with you in understanding, and to be the place where you know you are understood."

photography by Reggie Tidwell





Beverly Ohler, Warren Wilson College volunteer, staff, and faculty member of 60 years.

POWER OF PLACE

Love Above All: Sixty Years in the Theatre and Beyond

MELISSA RAY DAVIS '02 ■ photography by REGGIE TIDWELL

“Love Above All,” the banner on the Chapel proclaims as new students arrive at Warren Wilson College. The woman who designed and sewed that banner also helped design and build the chapel on which it hangs. Beverly Ohler’s influence is most known in the theatre costume shop, but her touch can be found in every corner of campus and on so many of the students who have passed through it. She retired this spring, after over 60 years at the College.

Both times Bev Ohler came to Warren Wilson, it was immediately following a major, life-changing event. The first time, she came with her new husband, Frederick Ohler, straight from their honeymoon. It was 1955. He had a year-long internship from Yale at Warren Wilson Junior College. She gave up a dream job at Bergdorf Goodman in New York City and her intention to design costumes for the NY Theater—what she had studied and had seen herself doing for life.

“It was amazing,” Bev Ohler said. “When we got here, it was like a family. It just clicked. You know how you come to a place and you think, ‘Why doesn’t this exist other places?’ They embraced us in such a loving way. We both had very good homes and very good parents, but this was something different.”

She taught her first class, The Principles of Art, that year as a volunteer before the College had an art department. She helped at the Church and on the campus in countless ways. When the year-long internship was over, she said they cried their way back to New Haven. Fred Ohler finished his degree at Yale Divinity School. Then they moved to California, to found a new church.

Bev Ohler was pregnant with their first child when they got a letter from President Arthur Bannerman. Warren Wilson Junior College needed a new minister, teacher, and chaplain. Would they please come back?

It was terrible timing, but she remembers saying, “If we don’t go now, probably never. They’ll forget us.” A few months later, with their two-week-old baby, they crossed the country.

For her first 20 years at Warren Wilson, all of Bev Ohler’s work was volunteer. She assisted in founding the Theatre Department which eventually became an academic program; chose the cast and designed costumes and sets for countless theatre productions in the Williams Chapel and even directed a few; organized many dances, events, and celebrations; taught costume design independent studies; advised the literary publication; coached the cheerleading team; created architectural drawings for new buildings on campus like Gladfelter and the President’s House; and served on countless committees.

As the minister’s wife, Bev Ohler did her share of student counseling. “We used to have a red light in our kitchen window where we lived on campus. [...] The door was always open. The coffee pot was always on. We knew they were there for a reason. I think we helped a lot of people that way—Fred especially, of course,” she said.

At the heart of it all, though, was the theatre. “Theatre is a real collaboration of working together. You work in your parts, you respect what the other person does, and it comes together in the end as this beautiful union,” she said.

She was the Director of Festivals for their duration from 1967 through the late 1980s—huge one- to two-week-long arts festivals that got the entire college community and even the Asheville community involved. Each would have a theme: “Harvest,” “Fine Arts,” “Heritage,” or “Renaissance.” They incorporated performances and classes in theatre, art, film, music, dance, cooking, craft, and more. She arranged all the performers and teachers, designed the costumes, and set the schedule.

“Of all the things that I’ve done here, I think [the festivals were] the most important, because it was such a unifying thing. It really brought the campus together!—every work crew, every class, everybody contributed to it,” Ohler said.

Of course, she also supported the Church in every way imaginable, everything from making banners and bulletins to helping design the new Chapel—meeting for hours with the architect. “We didn’t want a typical white steeple,” she said. “We wanted it to reflect the mountains.” Once construction started, she even helped haul stones for its walls from the Bee Tree quarry.

In 1978, Bev Ohler finally joined the College faculty and earned a salary, teaching two courses and running the Costume Shop. She loved supervising the crew. “That experience was wonderful because they worked 15 hours a week, and a lot of our work is talking and sitting and sewing and working together creating things, and we get to know each other,” she said. It was for her crew supervisor role that she earned the first Staff Teaching Excellence Award in 1998; the award was created to honor her that year. In 2011, she received the Distinguished Service Award from the Alumni Association as well.

“The life that I lived was not the life that I had planned to live. Somehow it evolved into something so much better, because it had so many other components. And most of the other components were students, working with them and teaching them,” Ohler said. “It has been wonderful.”

To purchase one of Bev Ohler’s books on the history of the College or the Theatre, or to donate to the Ohler Service Scholarship fund, please visit: www.warren-wilson.edu/2018owlandspade



Photo courtesy of Beverly Ohler

Beverly Ohler. Photo from the late 1980s



Fashion concept sketches by Beverly Ohler



WWC student and participant in the Inside-Out Program

EXCELLENCE BY DESIGN

Turning Education Inside-Out: WWC Students and Incarcerated Students Share Courses at the Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women

MELISSA RAY DAVIS '02 ■ photography by REGGIE TIDWELL

Dr. Lucy Lawrence has taught Warren Wilson College courses in Cuba, Latvia, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. But this past fall, Lawrence taught a course entirely in prison.

Lawrence held Introduction to Social Work in the Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women as part of the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program. Inside-Out is a national nonprofit that helps colleges bring courses into prisons. In these unconventional classrooms, incarcerated students and campus-based college students come together to engage in “dialogue across difference.” Thanks to a three-year grant from the Laughing Gull Foundation, Warren Wilson College is the first and only Inside-Out partner in North Carolina, offering eight credits per semester in the correctional center.

On a Monday evening in May, students in the Emergent Literacy for Children class finished their final projects: handmade children’s books. The “inside” students wore teal prison

uniforms. The “outside” students wore a different uniform—Warren Wilson t-shirts and jeans. Dr. Maura Davis asked students to show their work. For many of the inside students, an important talking point was who would receive their books—the project presented a rare opportunity to give something tangible to a loved-one.

One inside student showed the class the book she created, *Steven’s Big Move*, which she explained was meant to ease a child’s anxiety about a life-changing event. At first she said that the book was for her “little brother” who would be moving soon. But then she paused and revealed that the two-year-old she referenced is not actually her brother—he is her son. She explained that her parents adopted him, and they taught him to call her “sister” now.

Sociology / Anthropology major Anna Keeva ’18 said that classroom moments like that one gave her insight into the fundamental,

every-day sacrifices that imprisonment brings to families. She had not thought about these issues, previously. “I interacted with people whose experiences are so different from most of the people that I’ve interacted with in my life. It really gave me a different perspective,” she said. Experiences from two Inside-Out courses inspired her capstone project “Separation, Communication, and Devotion: An Exploration of Motherhood Behind Prison Walls.”

“We really want to establish deeply rigorous philosophical engagement in the classroom,” Dr. Rima Vesely-Flad said. “It’s not just an elite conversation amongst people who can afford to be there. It ripples outward, and then it matters in terms of how you engage the world.”

Vesely-Flad co-founded and directs the Inside-Out program at Warren Wilson. She started her teaching career at Sing Sing Correctional Facility in New York 14 years ago. “It was this really extraordinary experience of working with hungry, hungry, hungry students,” she said.



When she started teaching at Warren Wilson, with its integrative learning and strong community engagement commitment, she knew she wanted to start a prison partnership, one that did not simply bring college to the prison—it brought other college students, too.

Because the courses are designed to keep the inside and outside students on even footing, Warren Wilson students are restricted to the same technologies that the inmates are allowed. “Group projects were hard,” Art major Morgan Landis ’20 admitted. “The inmates couldn’t use email or phones. If we had to work together, we couldn’t share information except on paper. Communication and collaboration were very difficult.”

The College brings other student services into the prison as well. Inmates are given writing studio time and academic support. Professors hold office hours in the prison. “Students from the prison really wanted access to me for individual time to consider what they could

do with a social work education and career,” Lawrence said.

Everything must be approved all the way up to the state level, from allowing male-identified students into the women’s prison to lowering the participation age limit from 21 to 19. Dr. Julie Wilson directs the writing studios at both Warren Wilson and in the prison. She is working to bring limited internet access, such as library databases, to the inmates so that they can do research for papers. “We’ve opened this door,” Wilson said. “Now I feel a responsibility to walk through and see, ‘Okay, what’s next?’”

One inside student said that she had taken college courses in prison before, but in those earlier experiences, all of the students were prisoners. Inside-Out has been a strikingly different experience that made her feel like a real college student, equal. She stressed the word “real,” repeated it, and enthused that the experience has changed her life—she now has a goal to work toward.

Thank you to the Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women for allowing a camera in the prison classroom. The warden asked us not to name or directly quote the inside students, so names have been omitted or changed, and quotes are paraphrased.

The Inside-Out program at Warren Wilson would not have been possible without funding from the Laughing Gull foundation and a Davidson Grant. To learn more about the Inside-Out program or to donate to learning initiatives like this, please visit www.warren-wilson.edu/2018owlandspade





President Lynn M. Morton addresses community members at the Deliberative Dialogue held on the first day of the Spring 2018 semester.

LIBERATING DISCOURSE

Navigating the Metaphorical Dark: Dialogue Across Difference

MELISSA RAY DAVIS '02 ■ photography by ZANNE GARLAND

When conservative Republican Patrick McHenry visited campus last fall as the College’s elected U.S. representative, rumbles of dissent emanated from alumni and students alike. Then, when *Inside Higher Ed* published the provocative—if misleading—headline about Warren Wilson, “College with Liberal Reputation Wants to Recruit Conservative Students,” those rumbles became a roar, a catalyst for an important conversation.

Instead of the stones being thrown in the national spotlight, Warren Wilson President Lynn M. Morton wanted to give Warren Wilson students tools for crossing what seemed an impossible gap. “Warren Wilson, with its inclusive history and mission to be welcoming to all people, is the right institution to lead in this space—to become a leader in dialogue across difference,” she said.

A few months before, in her first speech as president, Morton expressed her

intent to face that very issue head on: “I believe that some answers can be found in acknowledging our shared humanity, in finding connection where it seems no connection can be found. When we learn the tools for dialogue that seeks to understand, while reserving a place for advocacy, we have found the sweet spot between necessary rebellion against tyranny, oppression, and inequality and acceptance that different views exist and are not only okay in a democracy, but necessary for its very existence.”

The Center for Community Engagement developed a plan. A North Carolina Campus Compact facilitator came to Warren Wilson to train 11 faculty, staff, and students in the art of deliberative dialogue. The Institute for Democracy & Higher Education from Tufts University had just developed an experimental guide for a dialogue on exactly the topic Morton requested: “Free Speech & Inclusion on Campus.” Warren Wilson became one of their pilot institutions.

On the first day of the Spring Semester, 325 community members and 38 trained campus facilitators gathered to engage in deliberative dialogue—a curriculum designed to ensure that all viewpoints are heard on a controversial topic. The purpose was not only discussion; facilitators gathered concrete suggestions for how free speech and inclusion could be improved on campus. Afterwards, those who could make the needed changes—Cabinet, faculty, students, and staff—received different lists of tangible steps.

“Students said, ‘Sometimes I feel like my voice isn’t welcome in the room, and this process allowed me to feel like it was.’ ‘I feel like I’ve been able to say things because this was structured in a way that, in my classes or in a group of people, I haven’t felt comfortable saying because I know my voice doesn’t represent a majority on campus,’” Vice President for Applied Learning Cathy Kramer said. The dialogue was working.

Campus-wide deliberative dialogues will start off future semesters, but the planning committee wants to expand and fully embed these skills in campus culture. A new center for diversity and inclusion will soon open—housing the Wilson Inclusion, Diversity & Equity (WIDE) and Spiritual Life offices to address matters of racial and interfaith dialogue. Residence Assistants and certain work crews will train to facilitate dialogue. Deliberative and sustained dialogue will be incorporated into first-year seminars this fall, and peer group leaders will train in compassionate listening, to introduce a more inclusive and thoughtful discussion culture to new students. Development of a certification program in dialogue facilitation is under consideration.

In her first speech, Morton insisted that the College must give its students “transformative experience[s] that will give them wings and an infallible ability to navigate, even in the metaphorical dark. Like... Well... Owls.” With experience in dialogue across difference, her hope is that Owls will have the tools to lead this country, and this world, through darkness.

Certain aspects of the dialogue expansion efforts were made possible through Davidson and Interfaith Youth Core grants.



(L-R) Mikey Hans-Barrientos '18, Bob Koplos '09



Workign on-site at a newly constructed home in Asheville.

MENTORS AND MENTEES

Local Learning Legacy: Alumni Lead in Green Building

JAY LIVELY '00 ■ photography by REGGIE TIDWELL

At the nexus of environmentalism, healthy living, and innovative business practices lives green building. Warren Wilson College graduates have been trailblazers in the green building movement for decades, and as a result, they’ve built a legacy of Warren Wilson mentors and mentees.

Alumnus Bob Koplos '09 had recently graduated when friend and fellow alumnus, Julian Kern '08 asked him if he’d be interested in joining Jade Mountain Builders, a green building business started and owned by another alum, Hans Doellgast '00. At that time, Jade Mountain was relatively small, but Koplos grew with the company and learned from a legacy of other alumni.

Eight years later, Koplos started his own business, Steel Root Builders, and finds himself as the mentor. This past June, he hired his ninth employee, Mikey Hans-Barrientos '18. “My experience at Wilson definitely helped me get my first job at Jade Mountain,” Koplos said. “There were transferable skills that I learned while at Wilson—plus the work ethic that was instilled and the willingness to do whatever

it takes to get the job done. The opportunity I had was similar to what Mikey has now.”

Koplos outlined his time at Warren Wilson learning under the mentorship of former Environmental Studies professor, Dr. John Brock, working on the Campus Support Crew with Doug Bradley, and then becoming a founding member of the College’s Fine Woodworking Crew during his senior year.

“That sustainability mindset at Warren Wilson helped cement the idea that this was something that was important, keeping things as localized and efficient as possible,” Koplos said. “In building, you can have a lot of freedom to learn and do different things, kind of like at Warren Wilson with your work crew.”

Hans-Barrientos had a similar experience as an underclassman, getting his start with the Renovations and Rentals Crew. He moved to the Farm Crew, and then started at Steel Root this past summer. “At Warren Wilson, everything is a teaching opportunity,” he said. “My supervisors were the kind of people who gave trust and responsibility and

then you showed them that you could handle it or you couldn’t. I immediately realized that I wanted that kind of responsibility.”

It was Hans-Barrientos’ supervisor on the Farm, Asher Wright '09, who first connected him with Koplos. “We really care about the students that move through the farm program, and that means beyond college as well,” said Wright, who has been the Farm Manager since 2015. “We take job placement seriously and do our best to help recent graduates get placed in jobs that they are interested in. Since I have returned to WWC, we are close to 100 percent job placement.”

As the College continues to instill in students a strong environmental ethos coupled with hands-on construction opportunities, a legacy of mentors and mentees will set the stage for Warren Wilson College alumni to be entrepreneurs and leaders in the high impact world of green building for years to come.





**ALUMNI ON CAMPUS
AND AROUND THE WORLD**

The Warren Wilson College Alumni Association would like to thank all of you for helping make 2017-18 an outstanding school year! From Homecoming 2017 to Commencement 2018, from alumni reunions in Raleigh, NC, all the way to Portland, OR, we love seeing you on campus as well as seeing your photos and updates from around the world and throughout the year. Whether you run into an old friend on a train in Bangkok or see your favorite professor while watching the sunset on Dogwood, we hope that your love of Warren Wilson and the friendships you made will last a lifetime.

Thanks for the memories that you have shared with us this past year. Here are just a few of them.



Spirit of Excellence: A New Vision for Athletics

*President Lynn M. Morton's initiative
to grow athletics programming*

MELISSA RAY DAVIS '02 ■ photography by REGGIE TIDWELL AND CASEY "RED" HERRING '21

President Lynn M. Morton announced this year that she will invest in and grow athletics at Warren Wilson. But her commitment goes further than just initiatives—she also attends the games.

"Athletics is so important for a college community," Morton said. "First, the games are just plain fun, and I truly enjoyed attending many of them last year and look forward to doing so this year. Athletic events bring us together in community as we support our teams.

Second, school spirit through athletics fosters a sense of pride in our College. I'm excited about growing our already excellent teams and focusing on athletics more intentionally going forward."

Morton's investment started with hiring Joni Williamson to serve as the new Director of Athletics and Adventure Sports. Williamson is excited to implement a new vision that will expand athletic programming by increasing student athlete enrollment.



President Morton and her husband, Ric on campus

“We have a tremendous opportunity to harness the unique culture and community here at Warren Wilson to increase enrollment and diversity through athletic recruitment,” Williamson said.

The College’s athletic program expansion has already begun. New men’s and women’s tennis teams will start practice in Fall 2018, to compete in the Spring 2019 season. Warren Wilson last had a tennis team from 1973-1981. The Rodney Lytle ’73 Pool renovation is also expected to be completed in the fall 2018 semester, hosting swimming meets once again. Williamson wants to increase the rosters for existing teams as well, recruiting more student athletes for basketball, soccer, cross country, swimming, and cycling, along with club sports like timbersports and paddling.

President Morton hopes to build on the momentum of the College’s recent national successes. The Warren Wilson College Cycling Team is nationally renowned—the mountain bike team won the 2016 USA Cycling Collegiate National Championships and finished in the top five nationally for the past 16 consecutive years. Both the men’s and women’s basketball teams competed in the 2018 USCAA DII National Tournament and are no strangers to the national playoffs—they competed multiple times in recent years, including a championship win in 2013.

Williamson is also eager to further solidify Warren Wilson’s current role as a hub for adventure sports nationally. “I started my career in outdoor pursuits, and it gave me a good understanding of adventure sports. I am looking forward to coming back around to the adventure sports aspect of athletics with Warren Wilson, which has strong adventure programming already,” Williamson said.



MOWING THE FIELD SHE PLAYS ON



“I think if I could rebrand Warren Wilson, it would say, ‘It’s not always the education you want, but it’s definitely the education you need.’ Because it’s hard. It’s challenging. It makes you think. It makes you grow. I experienced facing things that made me really uncomfortable. [...] And that’s all real life. I think the amount of vibrancy and passion in this community is really unique,” Maureen Grubb ’18 said.

Grubb played sweeper on the Varsity Women’s Soccer Team for four years, serving as one of two elected captains for her junior and senior years. She won the 2018 Kevin Omolo Student Athlete Award for Best Overall Academic & Athletic Contribution, the highest athletic award at the College. She was a member of the USCAA National All Academic Team all four years. A Creative Writing major, her capstone project explored the theme of empathy, especially concerning female experiences of body image.

As Tractor Crew Student Leader on the Landscaping Crew, Grubb was literally held accountable for her “home field advantage”: “In all of my athletic experiences, across the board, with any sport, I’ve never had this kind of responsibility and stewardship of the full, complete experience. It was really early in the morning before our home game, and the grass was longer than I wanted it to be. I had the support of a crew leader who was like, ‘Yeah, take responsibility. Take it on.’”

The Landscaping Crew came to all of the home games. “They’ll always really laugh if somebody slide-tackles and messes up the grass,” Grubb said, laughing.

Grubb earned an Education minor. “[I had] supervisors who respected me enough to say, ‘I’m invested in who you are and who you become as a leader and as a person.’ I think that is really powerful,” Grubb said. “With my future of becoming a teacher, and also just my life as a whole, people who are unafraid to invest in other people are a really beautiful part of our community at Warren Wilson.”

Grubb was also granted one of the Community Engagement Honor Roll awards for creating movement and dance lessons at Hinds Feet Farms, a community for individuals who have acquired traumatic brain injuries. She served as a creative writing tutor there as well.

“[This College] is pretty cutting edge, and it needs to continue to be,” Grubb said, “because the people who graduate from Warren Wilson are the kind of people who our society and nation need right now, and probably always.”



Williamson most recently served as the Assistant Director for Academic and Membership Affairs with the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Prior to that, she was the Associate Athletics Director at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio. Williams brings athletic administration experience at both the college and national level, along with coaching, marketing, event facilities operations, and outdoor pursuits experience. She is also quick to point out that she was a student athlete herself.

“The culmination of my diverse background has provided me with the experience and skill set to work in partnership with the campus and community to raise the profile of athletics and enhance the culture of excellence at Warren Wilson College,” Williamson said. “I will bring passion, inquisitiveness, and vision to Warren Wilson College and assist in developing student athletes to become curious, insightful, experienced, and extraordinary individuals.”

“Joni Williamson’s vision for the future of athletics at Warren Wilson aligns with my own,” said President Morton. “We want to grow our athletic programs, attract more student athletes, and build on the recent momentum of our teams. Joni’s excitement and energy are exactly what we need to meet these goals.”

Maureen Grubb ’18 mentioned how excited she was to run into President Morton at a basketball game last season: “To have somebody representing the highest level of our administration, and to see her out supporting our athletics programs, [...] I’m excited to see what that open support from a higher level brings to our community as a whole.” Grubb was the Varsity Women’s Soccer Team sweeper for four years and served as team captain for two years.

“Every single time we play a game, every single time we leave campus in our uniforms, we’re representing our school and we’re representing our community. [...] Because we have so many passions at play at Warren Wilson, we don’t often get an opportunity to all show up together to support one thing,” Grubb said. “I think that can be really powerful for a community, and that’s something sort of exclusive to athletics.”

O-ZONE: SPIRIT SQUAD



If Warren Wilson Athletics had rankings for fans, Alli Schneider ’19 would top the list. Leader of the O-Zone spirit squad, she cheers herself hoarse at every home competition for all sports and even travels for a few of the away events, too.

“A lot of people feel like you have to love a sport to go to one of the games,” Schneider said. “No, you’ve just got to have fun and have school pride.” O-Zone was founded by soccer player Maddie Harris ’18, but, as an athlete, also organizing everything to support athletes would have been hard. Schneider saw a need and stepped in to lead. She recruited students to the cause and hung a banner in DeVries Gymnasium over their section: “Welcome to the O-Zone.”

O-Zone was originally named to mean the section of the crowd where students yell “Oooh!!” but leading O-Zone involves far more than cheering. Schneider is organizing a tailgate party for basketball this fall with food trucks. She arranged to sell Athletics’ owl-branded merchandise in the campus store. “Saying that we support athletics is one thing, but showing it in other ways is also really important,” she insists. She created “Basketball Bingo” with prizes to encourage audience engagement at national championship watch parties. She produced halftime shows by borrowing drunk goggles to simulate intoxication from the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. The soccer or basketball players attempted to score free kicks or free throws wearing the goggles, and the audience fell out of the stands with laughter.

“We’re absolutely obnoxious out there, and it’s so fun to be able to go crazy and be obnoxious in a setting that it’s appropriate to do so. We take ourselves too seriously sometimes, and it’s just one of the ways to let it all out and not be serious,” she said.

O-Zone has taught Schneider important skills. “We give tours on the Admission Crew, and we have to be enthusiastic—otherwise that’s an unfortunate tour!” she said, laughing. She’s a Psychology major because she wants to work with kids when she gets older, and working with kids requires a lot of “encouragement, excitement, and enthusiasm.”

“The way I see it is, if you want people to show up and support you in any capacity, you need to do the same for them,” Schneider said. “Our student athletes work really hard and want to build up the program, but it’s hard to build up the program when there’s not a lot of support. [...] It’s hard to stay excited if the stands are empty.” And with Schneider’s help, they never are.

Spirits in the Absence of Stones:

Restoring Western North Carolina’s Oldest Public African American Cemetery

MELISSA RAY DAVIS '02 ■photography by REGGIE TIDWELL

There are 2,000 graves in the two-acre wooded lot, but only 98 have gravestones. Some stones, roughly hand-carved and without names, have only clues: “Mother.” Fieldstones or bricks or even trees mark some graves, but most burials are not marked at all. Thirty years ago, the South Asheville Cemetery could not be distinguished from the surrounding forest; its few gravestones were wholly consumed by undergrowth and brambles. Were it not for decades of persistent and painstaking efforts by hundreds of volunteers—many of them Warren Wilson College students, staff, faculty, and alumni—the rich history of the place may have been forever lost.

THE DEAD RAISE QUESTIONS

South Asheville Cemetery, tucked away in the woods behind St. John “A” Baptist Church in the Kenilworth neighborhood, is the oldest public African American cemetery in Western North Carolina. The cemetery and many of the first slaves buried in it were owned by Confederate Major William Wallace McDowell, one of the largest slave owners in the region. The McDowells collected fees for other slaves to be buried there as well.

George Avery, one of McDowell’s slaves, kept the cemetery and dug the graves. As the Civil War neared its end, McDowell urged Avery to join the Union Army. Despite his loyalties, McDowell could see that the Confederacy was losing the war, and he felt that Avery would need a pension once he was free. After the war, Avery came back to work for his former owners as the South Asheville Cemetery’s caretaker, digging graves for many fellow freed slaves and their children, born free. Avery himself was buried in the cemetery when he died at age 96 in 1942.

The cemetery closed shortly after Avery’s death. In the aftermath of the war, the McDowells lost their fortune and their land, and the cemetery was split into several deeds. No one maintained it. The church had no claim to it. Over the decades, the forest consumed it in a tangle of downed trees, blackberry brambles, and multi-floral rose. By 1980, the cemetery was



indistinguishable from the surrounding forest. George Avery’s headstone, one of very few, could not be seen in the chest-high undergrowth.

Avery’s former owner William Wallace McDowell’s grave, by contrast, still stood with an impressive marker, cataloged and carefully maintained in the manicured grounds of Montford’s Riverside Cemetery—resting place of Confederate generals and famous authors, with pristinely-kept rolling hills and impressive monuments and statues.

“The invisibility of African Americans in history is compounded by the invisibility of so many of these cemeteries, and how many of them are overgrown. There’s a real dimension of social justice in all of this work,” Global Studies professor

Dr. Jeffrey Keith said. “Who were these people? Why did this cemetery need such attention? How did it fall into such disrepair? What does it tell us about the history of racial inequality, economic disparity? When I take students to the South Asheville Cemetery, they naturally carry it from those simple, concrete questions to harder, giant questions about how society works and *doesn’t* work.”

The popular mythology of Appalachia falsely professes that there were not many slaves in the mountains. Over time, Appalachia has become demographically more white, which has only reinforced that myth.

“The history of Appalachia is actually a story of struggle and diversity that

requires us to carefully think about issues like colonialism, as well as racial subjugation and slavery,” Keith said. “Slavery existed in every county of Appalachia. That is at odds with the public imagination about Appalachia, which suggests that slavery did not exist here because people in the mountains were poorer. The cemetery is an important corrective to that false understanding of the mountains.”

OUT OF THE WOODS AND ONTO THE MAP

Dr. David Moore, professor of Archeology, remembers the day in 1982 when Lawyer Kimbrough of Asheville’s Arrows Project brought him to look at the wooded lot in Kenilworth, with undergrowth up to their necks and not a gravestone in sight. “He said, ‘What do I do?’” Moore recalls. “And I said, ‘I don’t have a clue.’” Moore worked at the time for the Office of State Archeology and researched what it would take to locate the graves. But with no funding, the project stagnated.

Years passed. Moore started teaching archaeology classes at Warren Wilson, where he had tools, resources, eager students, and a community engagement commitment built into everything they did. In the late 1990s, he got a call from Eula Shaw, who was determined to form a group to restore the South Asheville Cemetery. Shaw, Moore, community volunteers, and members of the St. John “A” Baptist Church formed the South Asheville Cemetery Association and committed to clearing the cemetery and locating the graves.

As the daunting task of clearing slowly progressed, Moore’s archeology classes and crew started the painstaking archeological work of locating and marking the graves. They carefully measured the cemetery into a grid and then meticulously measured out every grave and noted it on the map they created.

Because the people buried there were poor or enslaved, they were buried in simple pine boxes, wicker baskets, or even just blankets. “The depressions were obvious,” Moore said. “They were depressions in the ground that were anywhere from six inches deep to two feet deep.” They could not use ground-penetrating radar for the site, but used

“The invisibility of African Americans in history is compounded by the invisibility of so many of these cemeteries, and how many of them are overgrown. There’s a real dimension of social justice in all of this work,” Global Studies professor Dr. Jeffrey Keith said. “Who were these people? Why did this cemetery need such attention? How did it fall into such disrepair? What does it tell us about the history of racial inequality, economic disparity? When I take students to the South Asheville Cemetery, they naturally carry it from those simple, concrete questions to harder, giant questions about how society works and *doesn’t* work.”

various probing techniques with metal rods to test soil density. They located nearly 2,000 tightly-packed graves, and they knew there were likely even more.

Dr. Keith moved to Asheville in 2009 to teach Global Studies at Warren Wilson College. One afternoon that year, he followed the “Civil War Trail” signs through his neighborhood down Dalton Street to the Private George Avery historical marker behind St. John “A” Baptist Church. Keith immediately felt compelled to bring students to the cemetery for service work and a powerful lesson on the consequences of inequity. “What an incredible opportunity to make history come alive for students,” Keith thought. He quickly learned from David Quinn, friend of the College and member of the South Asheville Cemetery Association, that Warren Wilson was already deeply involved.

Keith believes the cemetery project is a great fit for the College’s unique strengths and resources: “a flexible administration, a robust work program, and a community engagement model that’s second to none.” Keith brought his courses to the cemetery for frequent service days, and he built its history into his curriculum—even creating the Appalachian Semester, which focused on the cemetery. He enlisted many other faculty, staff, students, and crews. Supervisors Tom LaMuraglia, John Odell, and Shawn Swartz brought the Landscaping, Tree, and Forestry crews out several times to help with clearing.

The Horse Crew came out with the draft horses to remove downed trees, since motorized vehicles cannot be used in the cemetery.

In 2014, Keith started what he calls “the big push.” Inspired by the indomitable spirit of his students and funded by Warren Wilson grants and donations, Keith bought tools, fencing supplies, and grass seed. Appalachian Semester students and an army of volunteers from both the College and other local organizations put in hundreds of hours every week to finish clearing the rest of the cemetery.

With the help of Doug Bradley and the Carpentry Crew, the students built a fence—the cemetery now had a clear perimeter of defense against the pernicious invasives that in earlier years had turned it back into impenetrable forest after previous clearing efforts. Students also planted creeping red fescue, a shade-tolerant grass that doesn’t need mowing and will keep the weeds at bay.

Dr. David Abernathy’s Global Information Systems (GIS) students and alumni helped as well. Keith hired alumnus Linden Blasius ’11 to modernize the map created by archaeology students in the 1990s. After a few visits to the cemetery to verify the geographic location of a few landmarks and gravestones, Blasius was able to use the grave locations that archeology students had precisely measured two

SPIRITS RISING.

decades before to create a modern, accurate, GIS map of all of the known graves. His project also cataloged information known about each grave: type of marker, if any, and inscriptions or known identities.

Just this past fall, current student Clarke Williams '20 took Blasius' data, cleaned it up, and put it all into a Google fusion table for a GIS final project. Using Google Earth, the map could now be used at the cemetery, on a phone, to walk amongst the graves and see just how densely they are packed, or pull further information about a grave.

Williams explained that, while being able to see the graves on screen was fascinating, what most excited him was how Google integration allows for community participation. Family members can do genealogical research or even upload photos or information about the deceased.

LIVING MEMORIES OF SLAVES

“We actually just uncovered some new graves a few weekends ago. That was my job, one of them,” Megan Carey '18 said. Carey just finished her final extended service project working with the South Asheville Cemetery. Unmarked graves located outside the property boundaries are still being discovered.

As newly discovered graves are added to the map, the South Asheville Cemetery Association works with the neighboring property owners. “So far, every one of them has agreed to give us an easement or move the fence, to accommodate,” Moore explained. The association is in the process of having the two current deeds for the cemetery property legally combined into one so that the future of the cemetery is more secure.

“What we hope to do is, for future generations, make it part of that collective memory, a community memory, that there were people in Asheville who helped build Asheville from the beginnings, from the very beginnings, who are rarely recognized,” Moore said.

For Carey, the cemetery has become exactly that. “I know people working



there who knew people who are buried there,” Carey said. “We’d like to think that slavery and the Civil War were so long ago, but then we have people who have living memories of people who were slaves. They built Asheville unwillingly, and we reap the benefits of their labor every day, so I think that making this space a place for the community to talk about education and organization, about community building and the history that we have and share, is a great opportunity to learn from the past, improve the future, and build community now.”

In his classroom, Keith assigns students to read the Slave Narrative of Sarah Gudger, who was a slave in Swannanoa. They go with him to Dalton Street to see the house where she lived at the end of her life after she was freed. They walk down the street to the church, where they meet George Gibson, a member of the South Asheville Cemetery Association, who, when he was young, knew both Gudger and Avery. The students slip behind the church, through the fence, and into the woods where they see George Avery’s gravestone among the few; but they do not see Sarah Gudger’s—she may be there, but if so, her grave is unmarked.

“That kind of lesson makes things real for Warren Wilson students in a way that really matches their inclination to do something about what they are learning,” Keith said. The lesson ends

with several hours of work clearing brush, hauling fallen branches, raking leaves, planting grass, or fixing the fence to keep the cemetery tidy.

“History is a discipline that is often thought of as existing mostly in books,” Keith said. “What I like about the cemetery is that it shows students how to get engaged in public history by making sure that the public has a place and a way to remember the more complicated narratives of the past. Working in the cemetery is an act of engaging with history through sweat and effort. It is very different from book learning. It can be even more profound in terms of how it connects the discipline of history with the community of Asheville and beyond.”



Warren Wilson College’s work at the South Asheville Cemetery was made possible in part through grants from Academic Affairs, the Center for Community Engagement, an Arthur Vining Davis Grant, a Davidson Grant, and a donation from alumnus and minister at Kenilworth Presbyterian Church Alan Smith ’92 and his wife, Mary.

To learn more about the South Asheville Cemetery, use the Google map, listen to the Slave Narrative of Sarah Gudger, or to donate to support more experiential learning like this, please visit: www.warren-wilson.edu/2018owlandspade



William Goldberg '09, founder of Oak and Grist Distilling Company

Innovating Spirits:
 Alumni Distilleries Capture Illusive Appalachian Flavors

Alumni delve into the spirit world at Oak and Grist and Eda Rhyne
 MELISSA RAY DAVIS '02 ■photography by REGGIE TIDWELL

OAK AND GRIST:
 “WHERE DOES YOUR SPIRIT TAKE YOU?”

“We’re trying to make a product that contains the flavor of this place, and more than that—the spirit of this place as well, the spirit of adventure,” William Goldberg '09 said. He is the founder of Oak and Grist Distilling Company, and he calls Western North Carolina home. “Our tagline is, ‘Where does your spirit take you?’ This spirit is a reflection of place for me. When I take a sip, that’s what I see, that’s where I get taken—to the rivers that I enjoy and to the mountain bike trails that I love.”

After earning his degree in Environmental Studies-Sustainable Agriculture from Warren Wilson, Goldberg traveled to Elgin, Scotland to study under his mentor Edwin Dodson, the father of his friend Russell Dodson and a retired master distiller. Touring distilleries, cooperages, and malt houses by day and sampling four or five different whiskeys each night, Goldberg learned the craft and developed his palate under Dodson’s tutelage. “I got very immersed in the spirit world,” Goldberg said.

Back in Western North Carolina, he returned to his job making artisanal cheese with Spinning Spider Creamery, where he had interned as a student. But as he worked, he planned how he could start a distillery and craft a “regionally-inspired single malt whiskey out of locally grown and malted barley.”

With Russell and Edwin Dodson, Goldberg wrote a business plan, found investors, renovated an old furniture warehouse right down Old US Highway 70 from Warren Wilson, and applied for licenses. Oak and Grist was born, the first distillery in Black Mountain.

Whiskey takes at least a year to age, however. The law in Scotland for scotch is at least three years, in fact. So he started to make gin to sell while the whiskey aged. From grain to glass, gin takes only a few weeks.

Goldberg expects the first release of whiskey to be ready by late summer or early fall 2018. He is also working on a secret liqueur recipe as well. His Dark Rhythm Gin is selling

well locally, and it was recently picked up by a distributor in Manhattan, a trend-setting market.

“Our gin is very different than your traditional gin. We make our whiskey first, then we steep our eight botanicals in the whiskey and redistill it into gin. Technically our gin is a single malt gin, which is sort of unheard of,” he explains. This process gives the gin a thicker feel and a whiskey-forward flavor, then you taste the botanicals—citrusy, earthy, and floral.

The principles of sustainable agriculture that Goldberg learned at Warren Wilson drive the sourcing for Oak and Grist’s grains and botanicals. 100 percent of their grains are from Riverbend Malthouse in Asheville, which sources locally, and the botanicals are grown as locally as possible—the chamomile, for instance, comes from a flower farm just down the road.

In a nod to Warren Wilson’s Community Engagement Commitment, Oak and Grist donates a portion of sales to local nonprofits. Dark Rhythm Gin benefits Our Voice to help end sexual violence in Buncombe County.

Goldberg explains that he first saw *The Vagina Monologues* at Warren Wilson. On stage, they asked victims of sexual harassment and assault in the audience to stand up. “I just remember very clearly, looking around the room and realizing that a lot of my friends were standing up, and I had no idea. I wasn’t okay with that,” he said. “There’s certainly a connection between sexual harassment and violence and alcohol. As an alcohol producer, it was really important to me to come out and make a statement that we just don’t stand for that and never will.”

Goldberg was recently able to give back to Warren Wilson directly as well. He contacted Dr. Langdon Martin and said, “Hey, I’ve got this distillery right down the road. It’s pure chemistry. Why don’t you bring a class?” Organic Chemistry took a field trip.

“William was able to talk about his time as a student and his interest in applying what he learned,” Martin said. The class explored the cracking process, fermentation, distillation, and aging—at every step connecting their studies to what was happening at the molecular level. Martin said that the students were still talking about the distillery weeks later.

Where does Goldberg’s spirit take him? Every weekend, he takes his flask on long mountain bike trail rides “to get out in the woods with my dog, clear my mind, sweat, and feel energized—connect with this place, with these mountains,” he said. These days, the flask holds Oak and

Grist whiskey—distilled mountain spirits. At the top, he makes a toast, takes a nip, and enjoys the view.

EDA RHYNE: APPALACHIAN MYSTERY AND ALLURE

“Distilling comes from the science of alchemy. Distilling is science and old-school magic at the same time. It is super weird what we do here,” Rett Murphy ’00 said. Enzymes in malted grains convert starches to sugars, he explained, and then yeast eat the sugar and make alcohol. “[It’s] magic that you can watch. I can imagine ancient cultures being totally astounded by this transformation that happens over just a few minutes. It’s essentially magic.”

“Then we’re making it taste good in the end,” Pierce Harmon ’05 added.

Murphy and Harmon are two of the four founding partners at Eda Rhyne Distilling Company in Asheville. They are sourcing unusual local heirloom grains—one of which was even thought to be extinct—to give their whiskey a distinct North Carolina flavor. While they wait for the whiskey to age, they are selling their exceptionally unique, Southern Appalachian take on three traditional Italian herbal liquors and fine spirits: Appalachian Fernet, Amaro Flora, and Rustic Nocino.

Each of their liquors has a complicated—and secret—recipe, with dozens of ingredients they say are sourced “as locally as possible,” combining wild-crafted ingredients gathered in mountain forests and botanicals that Murphy grew on Aardvark Farm, which he runs with his partner, Kathryn Skelley-Watts ’06. The Rustic Nocino uses walnuts from trees at the farm. Other ingredients that cannot grow locally, like myrrh, must be sourced further away. The Appalachian Fernet has well over 30 ingredients, each of which must be prepared in the proper way. They dry some of the ingredients, roast others, then use a vapor infusion and herbal macerations. “Essentially, it’s like making a damn complicated tincture,” Murphy said.

Though they are both Warren Wilson alumni, Murphy and Harmon’s years at the College did not overlap. They met afterwards through mutual friends.

Harmon said that the biggest things he took away from his time at Warren Wilson were vision, motivation, and drive. He saw many students and alumni take big risks in positive, creative ways, finding fulfillment in projects that made their community better. “It was a good influence, and it stuck with me,” he said.

“Community is everything to Warren Wilson,” Murphy added, “and that is a very crucial, critical part of this idea here. We felt confident that the community would support us, and we’ll try to reciprocate. I think Warren Wilson gives



Right to left: Rett Murphy '00 and Pierce Harmon '05, founders of Eda Rhyne Distilling Company

you the ability to think outside the box, think, ‘Maybe this isn’t freaking crazy.’”

“In Asheville, I knew there was a community of people that would at least give us a chance,” Murphy continued. “Nowhere else in the South would this ever happen. No way. Here people are not only like, ‘Okay,’ but they actually are celebrating it and really helping us out. We’re selling more of the Appalachian Fernet than Fernet-Branca, the major brand here in Asheville.”

Warren Wilson inspired Eda Rhyne’s environmental commitment as well, which goes beyond their commitment to local, sustainable agriculture. All of their malt comes from Riverbend Malthouse in Asheville. They use water at least twice, reclaiming and storing it for reuse, and heating it with energy-efficient, tankless water heaters. They recycle heat through the still, and any spent grains and botanicals are turned into compost, fertilizer for Aardvark Farms. They also buy second-hand equipment where possible and use salvaged wood.

Why ‘Eda Rhyne’? “We just wanted a classic old lady’s name, so we stole one,” Murphy said, laughing. The full name of the company is Pinnix Distillery and Eda

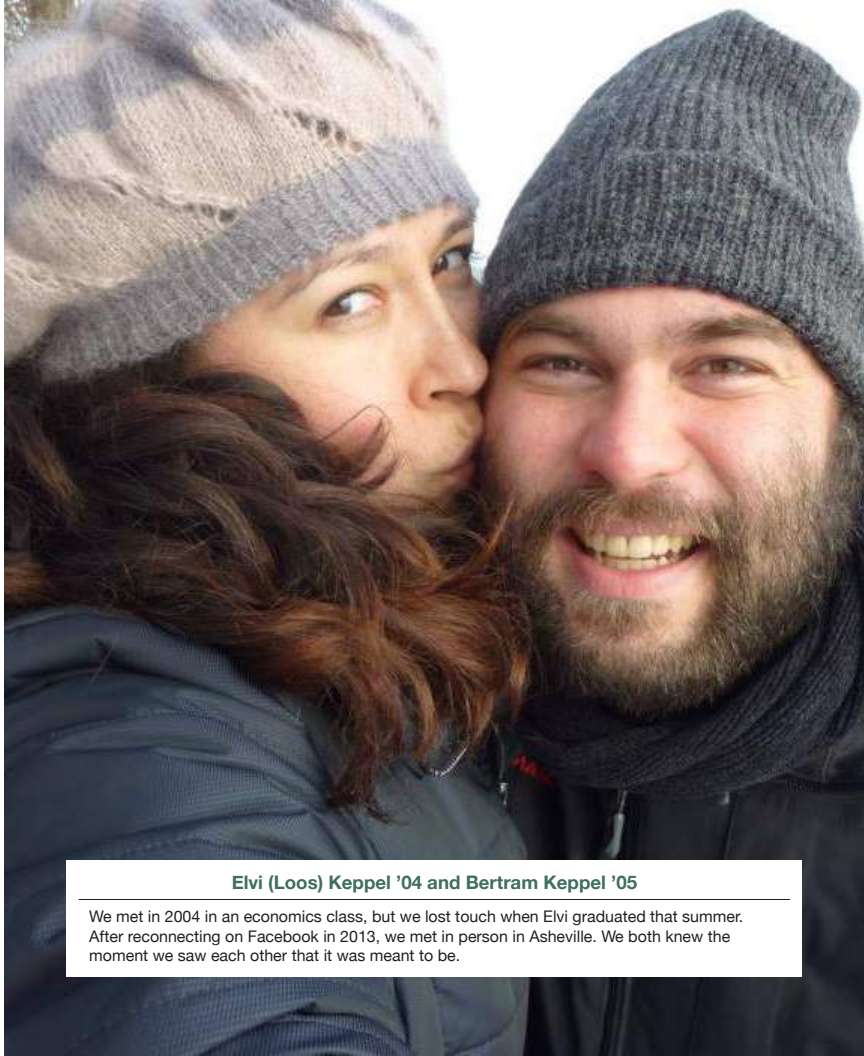
Rhyne Distilling Company, he said, named for his great-grandmother Alma Pinnix, who was the original guerilla gardener in his hometown of Greensboro, North Carolina, planting roadside gardens on public land without permission, back before that practice had a name. “She was a classy, old Southern lady who would drive around with a Cadillac full of horse manure,” he said.

“There’s a little Appalachian mystery and allure that goes with these things,” Harmon said. “I think we’re working with that to say, ‘This is mysterious.’ A lot of people are like, ‘I’m not sure what that is. What’s in it?’ Then I’m like, ‘Yeah... I’m not telling you that.’”

At Warren Wilson, Murphy read *Small is Beautiful: A Study of Economics As if People Mattered* by E. F. Schumacher, and it had a profound influence on his life and his work, both in farming and in distilling. His Integrative Studies major focused on “appropriate technologies,” a central philosophy of the book. Schumacher endorsed creating “communities where people have right livelihood and meaningful lives,” Murphy said. “You spend most of your awake time in your life working, so you might as well be fulfilled by it.”

**Andrew Mercurio '04
and Bonita Mercurio '02**

Our first date was a private karaoke party at the pavilion on campus. Currently Bonita is a fifth-grade science teacher at Old Fort Elementary, and Andrew is the director of Business Services at WWC. We also have two wonderful kids: Audrey, 8, and Cooper, 5.



Elvi (Loos) Keppel '04 and Bertram Keppel '05

We met in 2004 in an economics class, but we lost touch when Elvi graduated that summer. After reconnecting on Facebook in 2013, we met in person in Asheville. We both knew the moment we saw each other that it was meant to be.

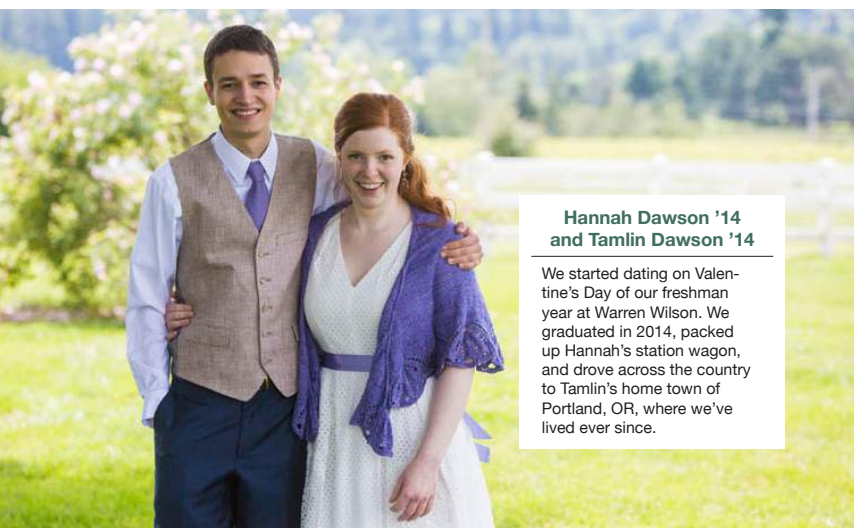
Bethany Hagberg '99 and Jesse Hagberg '00

We met while at WWC and have been together for 20 years. We have been married for 14 of those and have two wild and spunky children. We know it's love, because we lived on a sailboat for a year, and we still like each other.



**Hannah Dawson '14
and Tamlin Dawson '14**

We started dating on Valentine's Day of our freshman year at Warren Wilson. We graduated in 2014, packed up Hannah's station wagon, and drove across the country to Tamlin's home town of Portland, OR, where we've lived ever since.



Lalah (Payne) Kline '63 and Roger Kline '62

While we met at WWC, we never "went together" on campus. We got better acquainted while we were both graduate students at the University of Kentucky. In August 2017, we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary with our three children, their spouses, and two grandchildren.



Amanda Styles '00 and Megan Swett '00

We like to say that we met at the bank, just like Megan's parents did. In our case, it was the Warren Wilson bank, where Amanda was serving as teller when Megan started freshman orientation. We've been together for 18 years!



Bart Pfautz '05 and Jeannie Pfautz '04

We knew each other through most of our college careers, but we got together right before Bart took a semester off. We dated again after he came back, but then Jeannie headed to Uzbekistan with the Peace Corps. Our third attempt seems to have done the trick, and our adventures have taken on a new form as we've welcomed Barton, 5, and Amelia, 2, into our lives.



**John Gathu '86
and Marjolein Gathu-Ronday '83**

We met at WWC during new International Students' Orientation Week in Fall 1983. Marjolein was in the same peer group with John's roommate in Vining, Gich (now his brother-in-law!). When she came to see his room, he saw her and never looked away.



OWL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

Before Tinder or eHarmony, people found their soulmates the old fashioned way, on Sunderland lawn or sitting next to each other in biology class. Here is just a sampling of the many great love stories that started at Warren Wilson College—whether they met their sweetie on campus, or met years after graduation only to find out that they were both WWC Owls. All of these stories are unique, and all of them uniquely Warren Wilson.

Thanks to all who shared the story of meeting their partner because of Warren Wilson College. While there were many love stories submitted, we could only highlight a few here.

You can view them all at www.warren-wilson.edu/2018owlandspade.

**Chanelle Gallagher '11
and Kit Fordham '11**

We met the first week of our freshman year when we were placed on the same work crew: Student Activities! We got married in Minneapolis, MN in September of 2016. WWC Associate Dean of Work Paul Bobbitt officiated, and many WWC alumni came to celebrate with us.



**Karen Sutton Harris '79
and Greg Harris '76**

We met at WWC when Karen was a freshman and Greg a senior, fell in love when we both performed in the "76 Spectacular" musical held in the Chapel, and got married in 1977.



Scholarships

More than 75 percent of Warren Wilson students receive need-based financial aid to benefit from the College’s nationally-renowned program. Students graduate curious, confident, and capable because of their integrated academic endeavors and complimentary hands-on work and service opportunities. Consider being a part of the legacy that Warren Wilson College students build as they go on to create solutions to problems and inspire new generations to make a great impact on the world. If you are interested in establishing a scholarship, please contact Renée Danger-James.

The following scholarships were initiated or fully funded between July 2017 and June 2018.

Louis Eubanks Environmental Studies Honors Scholarship

Louis Eubanks established The Louis Eubanks Environmental Studies Honors Program Scholarship to provide recognition and financial assistance to outstanding undergraduate students. The scholarship was initiated to support undergraduate students with honors-level achievement in Environmental Studies with additional consideration for those students interested in pursuing advanced degrees. The Eubanks family has long been associated with The Asheville Farm School and Warren Wilson College, and Louis continues to admire and support Warren Wilson’s unique educational model with its emphasis on environmental sustainability.

Jamie Page Scholarship

David C. Page and Joy C. Charlton, parents of Jamie Page ’13, together with their family and friends, created the Jamie Page Scholarship in beloved memory and in tribute to Jamie’s life. Jamie passed away tragically in 2016 in a whitewater kayaking accident in Colorado. His passion for life, warm heart, and willingness to serve others were inspirations to all who knew him. Jamie was an Outdoor Leadership



major, and he was an avid paddler and keen competitor on the Warren Wilson Paddling Team. To recognize Jamie’s interests, this scholarship shall be given to students majoring in Outdoor Leadership and/or members of the Warren Wilson College Paddling Team.

The Unity Scholarship

Amanda Becker Mosko ’91, Frances E. Becker ’91, and John Edward Becker established this scholarship in beloved memory of Janet Willcox Becker, mother of Frances and Amanda and wife of John. The Unity Scholarship is named for Edgehill Farm, a Bicentennial Farm in Unity, MD, dating from the 1780s. Janet grew up at Edgehill and became a well-respected and highly admired Latin and English teacher to middle school children. As an example of her ever-present good sense of humor, she taught students “Willie Ille Pu” (Winnie the Pooh) in Latin. To honor Janet’s interests, this scholarship shall be given to deserving students who major in English, Foreign Languages, American History, Music, Art, or Craft Studies.

Appalachian Bootstrap Leadership Scholarship

With this endowment, the Fripp family honors the original mission of Warren Wilson College to provide mountain youth from low-income and/or disadvantaged homes with a high-caliber and rigorous academic and intellectual



underpinning that is grounded in the values of hard work and community service. Created by Jesse ’94 and Marga Fripp, along with family and friends, the scholarship offers motivation, recognition, and financial support toward enrollment in study at Warren Wilson College.

Donald G. and Russell D. Zumstein Endowed Scholarship

Established by Ronald C. and Cynthia S. Zumstein, this scholarship honors Ron’s father, Donald G. Zumstein ’51, and his uncle, Russell Zumstein ’47. Warren Wilson was the door to the world beyond rural Tennessee for the Zumstein brothers. Each had fond memories of his Warren Wilson studies, experiences, and valuable life lessons learned from working on the farm to playing sports. To this day, Russ recalls Warren Wilson days as some of the best in his life. This scholarship is given to deserving students who have a home of record in the southern Appalachian region.

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS INCREASE ACCESSIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT AT WWC

Warren Wilson College has expanded access to our distinctive integrated education experience with the addition of three new scholarship programs—the North Carolina Free Tuition Plan (NC Free), Milepost One, and Farming Access: Recruiting Multicultural Students (FARMS). As a result, admission applications from North Carolina residents and students from all over the world have increased significantly this year.

Through NC Free, we seek to serve our state by making a Warren Wilson education possible for more North Carolina students. NC Free guarantees a tuition-free college education to every incoming North Carolina undergraduate student eligible for federal or state need-based aid.

Milepost One is a competitive scholarship for families earning less than \$125,000 per year. The scholarship is named for the entrance to the Blue Ridge Parkway and provides another tuition-free avenue for low- and middle-income families, especially those who may not be eligible for state or federal aid, including international and DACA students. Students can apply by submitting a video.

The FARMS program addresses the financial barriers that often prevent underrepresented students from pursuing agriculture or pre-vet studies, beginning with a \$15,000 scholarship and culminating in research and internship opportunities. This program aims to increase the numbers of highly-trained, scientifically competent, multicultural graduates entering the food systems workforce.

WWC’s annual Accepted Students Day had record attendance this year, higher than any previous accepted student event in the College’s history. “Since its founding in 1894, this college has stood for educational access in this region,” College President Lynn M. Morton said. With these new scholarships, “we are remaining true to our roots.”

Alumni News

1950s

Phyllis Weddington Music ’55 has served on several boards in Portage, MI, including the City Planning Commission for nine years, Elections Board, and several state level children’s programs.

Jean Sluder ’55 lived and worked in Greensboro, NC, for four years before her marriage to **Odell Sluder ’54** at the Warren Wilson College Chapel in 1959 by Dr. Fred Ohler. They have one daughter, one son, three grandchildren, and celebrated 59 years of marriage in June 2018. They now live in south Asheville in the Avery’s Creek community.

1960s

Ace Aga’ese Tago ’60 died August 8, 2017. A native of Nuu’uli, American Samoa, Tago was the first Samoan student to attend Warren Wilson College. At his Celebration of Life service on August 21, 2017, he was honored with a “House Concurrent Resolution” from the American Samoa House of Representatives for his service to American Samoa.

Jack Allison ’63 traveled to Malawi, “The Warm Heart of Africa,” with the 2018 Fulbright Association Mission, working to improve water, sanitation and hygiene. In the 1960s, Jack served as a Peace Corps Volunteer there for three years. Jack has written eight public health songs for this project, both in the native language of Chichewa and English.

Bob Vinson ’64 has been working with the organization Happiness Is a Warm Quilt to send a quilt to every victim who lost a home in the Santa Rosa fires of California and also a pillowcase to every elementary student in the area. So far, Bob has made 166 pillow cases, donated 5 quilts, and is still working.

Clarence “Kam” Kammerer ’69 and his husband, W. P. “Bill” Dill, celebrated 30 years together and 10 years married. They love living in Tryon, NC, where Kam works in the gallery/gift shop of the nonprofit Tryon Painters & Sculptors, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2018. He invites all alumni to come visit his wonderful little town.

1970s

Glenn Ferrell ’71 is serving as pastor of First Orthodox Presbyterian Church in San Francisco. He is married to Susan Nye Ferrell, and together they have 18 grandchildren, with another on the way.

Ralph Warner ’71 and his wife Barbara have been very happily married for 25 years. After retiring from the Florida Dept. of Juvenile Justice, Ralph has been employed as the Teen Court Director in Marion County, FL. He and Barbara are looking forward to retirement together in 2019.

Patricia “Tricia” Hamilton ’71 is a parent to three amazing daughters who bring her lots of joy, as well as kindness and intelligence to the world.

Edwin Maier ’75 is retiring after 43 years of teaching and is hoping to return to aviation. A new grandson was born into his family in May 2018. Now that Edwin is retired, he plans to visit WWC more frequently.

Ryan ’75 and **Kim Kamchan ’79** met at WWC 43 years ago and have been married for 41 of those years. God has blessed them with two wonderful children: Kristin and John. They have a family owned-operated Thai restaurant in Daytona Beach, FL, called Zen Bistro.

Greg Harris ’76 and Karen Harris have been married 41 years, including 26 years in the U.S. Navy. Greg received a master’s degree in Biology from Appalachian State (’81), and a doctorate in Radiation Biology from Colorado State University (’97). They have two grown children and four beautiful grandchildren, and love living in Williamsburg, VA.

Herman Dale Fender ’78, Tom Sanders ’77, Drew Beisswenger ’79, and Leslie (Cowen) Shaidnagle ’79 got together last summer at Tom Sander’s house in Sewanee, TN, for a reunion. This is a group of friends who had a ’50s style singing group in the late ’70s at WWC and are lifelong friends. Leslie came from her home in Germany to put this event together. “Warren Wilson College changed my life with these friends, plus so many others,” said Dale Fender.

Sherry Lee ’78 now lives in Panama City, FL, where she loves working as a Diabetes Educator at Bay Medical Sacred Heart. She misses the coolness of the mountains, but said she will survive the heat.

Beth Williams Dail ’79 welcomed her first grandchild in February 2017. “There’s nothing like a grandchild!” she said.

1980s

Renee Hopkins ’81 started her coaching business, Use Your Words, specializing in coaching people through transitions and trauma through journaling, expressive writing, and creative writing.

Alumni News (continued)

Cindy Angell Keeling '82 is still playing the banjo and has been married for nearly 30 years to a wonderful man. They have two grown children, and live in the Chicago area.

Thomas Bowman '83 and Julie moved to Redondo Beach, CA, in 2017. Thomas is now Senior Scientist at Jarrow Formulas in Los Angeles.

Bob Graves '88 is an Environmental Specialist with the NC-DEQ-Division of Air Quality. He is a State Inspector and also operates air quality monitors, measuring the amount of ozone and particle pollution in the air. Bob has worked with the State of NC for 29 years.

The Rev. Beth (Mann) Woodard '89 and husband Mark celebrated 25 years of marriage on November 13, 2018. After almost 20 years as a newspaper copy editor, Beth was ordained into the ELCA Lutheran Church in 2011 and serves as a chaplain on the Trinity Elms senior-living campus in Clemmons, NC. She also is the interim pastor of St. Michael Lutheran Church in High Point. They have two children: George, 23, and F. Samuel, 19. The family lives in Greensboro with two rescue miniature dachshunds and Sam's cat.

1990s

Greg Wilkins '90 was selected from a pool of 267 applicants to receive the Ringholz Foundation Art Prize. Greg also received an Artists on Main Street grant via the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota in partnership with Springboard for the Arts, the Bush Foundation, and the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council. The grants will support an original art piece made of steel and glass with original poetry and American Indian symbols; it will be created in collaboration with the Dakota tribal community.

Sabrina Reisinger '95 is a Senior Specialist at the FSU College of Motion Picture Arts. She is still teaching yoga, still traveling to Cuba and South America annually, and is also the Executive Director at the Florida International Volunteer Corps.

Sarah Loughrey Caldora '97 graduated from Goddard College with a Master of Education in 2018. She is currently writing about parent cooperative schools with a focus on the issues of race, socioeconomic status, and educational equity within those institutions. She plans to publish her work within the next year and continue working toward a doctoral degree.

Christine Hamilton '98 started a new job at the California Department of Transportation as an environmental planner/biologist.

Emily Noonan '99 completed her doctorate in Cultural Anthropology at UNC-Chapel Hill after successfully defending her doctoral dissertation. Emily will continue working as research staff at the University of Louisville School of Medicine on LGBTQ health curriculum. Emily lives with her wife, Virginia, and two sons, Silas, ten, and Oliver, two, in Louisville, KY.

Betsy Archer '99 is proud to announce the opening of PlayFit AVL, a play-based fitness and wellness studio located in the heart of West Asheville. Betsy believes fitness should be accessible to ALL bodies and that exercise should be fun, not a punishment.

Gene Scerbo '99 and his wife, Katie, welcomed their son Johann James Scerbo on February 5, 2018. Gene currently resides in Park City, UT, and is a Nurse Practitioner Hospitalist at the University of Utah Hospital.

2000s

Annie Carnegie Seier '00 is married with two children and owns her own business in Davidson, NC.

Jessie Lehmann '00 was a featured artist in the 2018 Asheville Percussion Festival: Celebrating Women in Rhythm, which brought women to Asheville from around the globe.



Saleem Hue Penny '01 published his first poetry chapbook *The Attic, The Basement, The Barn* and a 10-song audio companion, *Blanket Weather*. The poems and songs span his Lowcountry, South Carolina childhood, Pisgah Forest, NC adolescence, and Chicago, IL future. He's honored to have been recently profiled by nonprofit Sixty Inches from Center for the new series "Beyond The Page."

Marie Graven '02 and **Noel Swinburne '02** are the proud parents of daughter Lumen Loretta Swinburne Graven.

Tucker Branham '02 welcomed a baby boy in December 2017, and is "completely in love with him." Tucker is currently working on his dissertation for his doctorate in Organizational Leadership from Northeastern University, with a focus on organizational change. He is currently a principal in a nonprofit consulting firm.

Shaun O'Conner '02 won Teacher of the Year in Guilford County Schools for his work at Christine Joyner Greene Education Center, working with special needs high school students.

Nate Jones '03 and his wife Ali Jones welcomed Grey McKenzie Jones into the world on January 19, 2018. Nate is a fellow with the New York-Presbyterian University Hospital of Columbia and Cornell in Gynecologic Oncology. He practices at the Mitchell Cancer Institute in Mobile, AL.

Laurie Adams '03 is launching a cultural immersion tour company called Colibri Journeys, bringing families to the Sacred Valley, Peru. Laurie lives on the Klamath River in Northern California.

Joey Honeycutt '04 graduated from Duke Divinity School with a Master of Divinity. Joey is now serving a one-year appointment as a chaplain resident on the pediatric unit of Duke University Hospital and pursuing ordination in the United Church of Christ. She is grateful to all the WWC professors who patiently read and commented on her undergraduate papers about "how all religion is nonsense."

Sara Huler '04 teaches third grade at Charles C. Bell Elementary and was awarded Teacher of the Year in Buncombe County Schools.

Anna (Flewelling) Watson '04 graduated from the University of Baltimore School of Law in 2013 and is now a county lawyer in Orange County, VA. Before law school, Anna graduated from Harvard with a Master of Divinity in 2007. She lives at Woodberry Forest School, where her husband, Tony, teaches history. They have three children: Ally, Gus, and Gwen.

David Brown '05 is playing music across the world with folk/activist band Rising Appalachia. Recently featured in Rolling Stone, the band was described as "protest music for the modern age." Following sold-out tours in Europe, Australia, and across the U.S., Brown is excited to release an EP of his own music this fall under the pseudonym CASTANEA. David says that his "approach to playing and touring is shaped as much by the traditional music I studied as it is by the values and sense of purpose



I gleaned in my time at Warren Wilson." In between tours, David tends a small piece of land in Barnardsville, NC.

Jessica Smigels '05 is working on a master's degree in Art Therapy at Wayne State University and has two boys, ages six and ten.

Saba Alemayehu '05 received her master's degree from Cornell University in International Development with a focus on gender and youth empowerment. During her Peace Corps service in Ethiopia, Saba worked with her community's agricultural bureau to provide food security and nutrition trainings to female heads of household and underprivileged female families. Saba also focused her master's research on menstrual hygiene management to enhance understanding and acceptance of female students' needs at the school district level. With the help of the NGO Water Charity, Saba was granted funds to construct spaces for hygienic menstruation practices at the high school to aide in the prevalent issue of female absenteeism due to menstruation.

Miriam McNamara '05 earned an MFA in writing from Vermont College of Fine Arts and her debut novel, a historical young adult work of fiction titled *The Unbinding of Mary Reade*, was released from Sky Pony Press in February 2018.

Rachel Virginia Briggs '05 completed her doctorate in Southeastern Archaeology at the University of Alabama in 2017, and is now a Teaching Assistant Professor at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Kandis Gilmore '05 recently completed her Master of Science in Biology at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, CA. Her research focused on pollinating insects of three endangered flower plants endemic to the Santa Rosa Plain vernal pools. She is currently employed as a science technician and volunteers regularly at nature education events.

April Nabholz '06 agreed to stoke a tandem bicycle from Washington to Maine back in 2010. She ended up marrying the pilot in 2011 and welcoming a baby boy in 2016. The three have enjoyed living on the old family homestead next

door to her brother, Joe Nabholz '08, and his wife and two children.

Kim Hall Sperry '06 started her master's degree in Nonprofit Management at Regis University in Denver, CO. In 2016, she married Nathan Sperry '15 who she met while attending WWC. They were happy that Kim's mother, Margie Hall, was able to attend as she passed away shortly after the wedding due to complications from cancer treatments. Margie loved Warren Wilson and always said she would have loved to attend had she known about it when she went to school.

Rachel Smith '06 runs a small food business and creates delicious pickles from local ingredients. She just launched DIY Pickle Kits for those that may want an easy entry into pickling using their own veggies.

Yael Griard '06 is now the Executive Director of Weeks Bay Foundation, a nationally accredited land trust that protects the habitat in coastal Alabama.



Susannah "Anna" Brannen Alexander '07 has a five-year-old daughter, Helen, and her son Benjamin was born March 10, 2018 at their home in Roswell, GA. She has been married to her husband Zachary Alexander for 11 years.

Betsy Kain '07 and Laura Simmons were married on June 30, 2018 in Marshall, NC. Betsy is a Physician Assistant at Asheville Orthopaedic Associates where she has worked since 2014.

Elizabeth Crenshaw Hammitt '07 serves on the Board of Trustees at the Tennessee Aquarium, and as an Ambassador for Sandbox, "a global community of young people, spanning five

continents, bound by our curiosity and creativity." Married to Chris for six years, they have one daughter, Sara (named for a WWC friend), who is eight months old.

Nicole Accordino '07 is the Programs Director at Transplanting Traditions Community Farm in Chapel Hill, NC.

Erin Johnson '08 is a visiting assistant professor at Bowdoin College in the two departments of Visual Arts and Digital and Computational Studies. Maine Campus Compact honored Johnson for excelling at incorporating community service into her teaching, and Johnson was one of three professors who received the organization's 2018 Donald Harward Faculty Award for Service-Learning Excellence.



Rev. Aaron Baughman '08 first felt the call to ministry while sitting on Dogwood Pasture—a call he was able to discern thanks to the environmental education department at WWC. Aaron pursued a Master of Divinity, and he now serves as a full-time pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Since ordination in 2015, Aaron's church has hosted two Women's Marches, A March for Climate, and has become a homeless shelter. The church has also become a trailhead for the city's trail system, and has installed solar panels. In March of 2018, Aaron and his wife, Patty, received the Human Rights Activists of the Year award for Orange County.

Kendra Marcus '08 has received her doctorate in Chemistry from Northeastern University and will start a post doctoral research position at UC Berkeley in the fall of 2018.

Ashley Conley '09 and her fiancé Scott Sawyer welcomed their baby boy Reef Sawyer to the world on February 4, 2018. Ashley lives in Asheville, NC, and is an active member of the soccer community and also serves as the Social Media Ambassador for the Asheville Alumni Chapter. Ashley is the owner of The Garden Girl, LLC, a landscape design and gardening company.

Julia Mead '09 is sad to leave North Carolina after completing her medical degree at Wake Forest University, but is excited to explore the mountains of New Hampshire and Vermont for the next four

Alumni News (continued)

years while completing her residency at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in OB-GYN. She’d love to hear from alumni in the area!

2010s

Andy Driscoll ’10 married in October 2016 and recently moved to Mount Airy, MD, where he lives with his wife and their three dogs.

Rachel Hoffman Jager ’10 published her first small book of poems by Five Oaks Press.

Amy Peddie ’10 owns and operates Fermentology Foods in Greensboro, NC.

Hannah Inglesby ’10 lives in State College, PA, where she works professionally as a landscaper/gardener with Jesse Wilberding, also her life partner. On her days off, she teaches yoga.

Elenore Vena ’10 and her husband Ryan Frank ’10 welcomed their first child, Atticus Levon Warren Frank, into the world on April 4, 2018.

Suzie Winquist ’11 spent four months conducting penguin research in Antarctica with the National Science Foundation. She is now Partner Biologist for Point Blue’s Rangeland Watershed Initiative at Point Blue Conservation Science.

Christopher Biddle ’11 lives in Colorado and is currently a morning show host and journalist at KBUT Community Radio. He has a little red heeler named Ethel and loves his job.

Emma Liles ’11 has a new job with the City of Raleigh as a park planner.

Carlos Lara ’11 married Irma Perez on July 8, 2017 and lives in Antigua, Guatemala.

Martha Skelley ’11 started a new job as Livestock Manager for Bois d’Arc Farm near Uniontown, AL.

Katelyn Deaton ’11 was hired as Senior Bird & Mammal Keeper at the St. Augustine Alligator Farm & Zoological Park in Saint Augustine, FL, in December 2017. Not only is this a promotion from her last zoological job, but she was part of the team that hatched a critically endangered hooded vulture chick.

Sea Gisondo ’11, whose performer/artist name is Samara Jade, recently released her third full-length album, called *Wave of Birdsong*. A full band of some of Asheville’s finest musicians accompanies Samara’s nuanced vocals and skillful guitar playing, and several special guests make appearances,

including another Warren Wilson alumnus and prestiged songwriter, David Wilcox ’85. Featuring themes of environmentalism and social justice, this album would not exist as it is without Samara’s experience at Warren Wilson as an Environmental Studies Major.

Eros Gautam ’11 married Simone Devkota in July 2017 and they relocated to Australia in March 2018.

Laura-Kate Steadman Green ’11 received her Master of Public Administration with a concentration in nonprofit management in December of 2017 from Georgia State University’s Andrew Young School of Policy Studies. She married her high school sweetheart, Justin, in 2014 and they purchased their first home in May of 2017. They celebrated the birth of their first child, Duncan Henry Green, in December of 2017 and currently reside in Atlanta, GA.

Rachel Jamieson ’11 received her Master of Science in Education, concentrating in early childhood general and special education from Bank Street College of Education in New York City.

Julie “Jay” Sorensen ’12 started graduate study in sociology at the University of Iowa. She intends to earn both her Master of Arts and doctorate in sociology in this graduate program.

Kayte Sabo Pritchard ’12 married Travis Pritchard at the Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church on October 21, 2017.

Madalyn Baldwin ’12 has enrolled in the Master of Landscape Architecture program at NC State University Graduate School.

Morgan Steele Dykeman ’13 married **Zach Dykeman ’14** in June 2018. Morgan manages political campaigns in the state of Washington to advance progressive issues and support progressive candidates. She would also love “to be connected to WWC students who want to live in Seattle after graduation or want to work in politics/government.”

Kat R Vann (Andberg) ’13 was featured in *Vice Magazine* during Pride month for the article “Five People on Their Favorite Things About Being Nonbinary.” She graduated in July from Solstice MFA with a master’s degree in Fiction.

Mariah Parker ’13 was sworn in as County Commissioner in Athens, GA, with her hand on the autobiography of Malcolm X on the steps of City Hall on Tuesday, June 5, 2018. She ran for office after working as field director and campaign manager for friend and fellow hip hop artist Tommy Valentine’s campaign for county commission in an adjacent district. She ultimately won by 13 votes. Mariah also tours nationally as a hip hop



artist under the name Linqua Franqa and received critical acclaim from NPR and *The New York Times* for her performances at South by Southwest. She is pursuing a doctorate in Language and Literacy Education at the University of Georgia. .



Ashlyn Neas ’13 and **John McCaul** (international student 2013-14) married in Parrottsville, TN, on St. Patrick’s Day 2018. “We will always be grateful to WWC for giving us the chance to meet and fall in love.” Pictured, back row: **Adam Bellows ’14**, **Taylor Rutstein ’16**, **Clarke Goodling ’15**, **Betsy Archer ’99**, and **Shuli Arieah Archer**; middle row: **Landon Dillingham ’16**, **Zachary Barber ’16**, **Hannah (McMerriman) Webber ’14**, **Samuel Webber ’15**, **Cathy Kramer**, **Curran Clarke ’16**, **Māra McLaughlin-Taylor**, **Patrick Albright ’14**, and **Dr. Susan Kask**; front row: **Anne Bradford ’16**, **Emily Sprouse ’14**, **Caroline Williford ’15**, **Andrea Menendez ’14**, **Grace Hatton ’14**, and **Patrick Downing ’16**. Not pictured: **Iliana Hernandez ’17** and Dallas McLaughlin-Taylor.

Emily Sprouse ’14 married Grant Harned on October 21, 2017 in Gatlinburg, TN. The ceremony was officiated by WWC faculty member **Lucy Lawrence** and members of the bridal party, **Grace Hatton ’14**, **Leyla Moavenzadeh ’14**, and **Jamie Burgess-Flowers ’14** all started at WWC in the fall of 2010. It was a fun filled weekend of love surrounded by close family and friends in the Great Smoky Mountains.

Gray Hales ’15 and **Francesca (Clifford) Downing ’15** co-founded HEX Asheville, a bi-monthly dance party that has raised many thousands of dollars for local nonprofits.

Thom Curtis ’15 is excited to announce his acceptance to graduate school at the School of Library and Information Science at the University of South Carolina for the fall of 2018.

Grace Hamlin ’16 and Brett Hodges married in August 2018 at St. James Episcopal Church in Black Mountain and their reception was at the WWC Morris’ Pavilion.

Courtney Wilber ’16 enrolled at the Vermont College of Fine Arts to start her MFA in the fall of 2018. Her poems were published in 2018 in *Prairie Margins*, *3Elements Review*, and *Gambling the Aisle*. Her poem “Convert” won the Paul Baker Newman Poetry Award in May 2018.

Savannah Stark ’16 completed her Master of Science in Food Security at the University of Glasgow in September 2018.

Reeves Singleton ’16 began a Master of Arts program in Humanities at the University of Chicago in the fall of 2018.

Andrew Gibbons ’17 lives in Asheville and is the Language Services Coordinator at Buncombe County Schools.

Meg McDonald ’18 began working for the Asheville Buncombe Food Policy Council and published the article “Something Stinks: Environmental Racism & the Deregulation of Agricultural Waste.”

Alumni Give Back



New York Times bestselling novelist Elizabeth Kostova ’86 returned to WWC in November 2017 to present her second Harwood-Cole Memorial Lecture, “The Moral of the Story: Research, Ethics, and Culture in The Shadow Land.” During the lecture, Kostova offered a unique fundraising opportunity: her next book will feature anecdotes from the first audience members who pledged \$5,000 for Scholarships through the Warren Wilson College Fund at the event, ultimately raising a total of \$15,000 that day. “I did my senior year [of high

school] at Warren Wilson as a freshman,” Kostova said. “I just learned so much there, and I loved the whole environment...Getting to come back as a speaker and a writer, you can imagine how much that means to me.”

Georgi Kostov ’94 also spoke at the Global Gathering in the fall. As a Bulgarian student who attended Warren Wilson in the ’90s, Kostov spoke to current international students and supporters of International Programs about the impact Warren Wilson had on his life and why he stays involved as an alum.

Art Alumni Accomplishments

From graduate programs to internships to employment in the arts, Warren Wilson College Art alumni are taking on new challenges and opportunities regionally, nationally, and internationally. Making meaningful connections is at the heart of what we do here at WWC, and graduation day is just the beginning. We want to take this opportunity to congratulate our alumni and share their accomplishments with the larger community. To our alumni, thank you for staying in touch, we love hearing from you!

Michael Myers ’07 is Project Manager for British sculptor Andy Goldsworthy.

Ryan Florey ’07 earned an MFA from Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in Ceramics in May 2017.

Madalyn Wofford ’11, **Kaylee Dunn ’12**, and **Brett Wyatt ’12** were selected to exhibit at the Black Mountain College Museum + Art Center’s reHappenning. **Ana Baranda ’12** completed an internship at Penland School of Crafts in the summer of 2018 in donor relations.

Mallory Nuckols ’13 is a visual design teacher at the Odyssey School in Asheville, NC, and is represented by ZaPow Art Gallery.

Jess Self ’14 started the MFA program at Georgia State University in the Fall 2018.

Tyler Kelly ’15 was accepted to the University of Chicago’s Urban Teacher Education Program.

Morgan Vessel ’15 was awarded a Make Room Artist Residency outside Twin Cities, MN.

Francesca (Clifford) Downing ’15 curated the group exhibition *Instant* at Asheville Area Arts Council.

Kyle Crowder ’15 completed a two-year apprenticeship with East Fork Pottery in Asheville, NC, and has now been promoted to glaze chemist.

Shannon Waldman ’16, who was an Integrative Studies major and Art History minor, has just completed the first year of a two-year dual master’s degree program in Modern and Contemporary Art History, Theory, and Criticism and Arts Administration and Policy at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Tess Bracher ’16 is attending the MFA program at Western Carolina University. **Emily Bader ’16** completed two nationwide tours with Red Herring Puppets and was a recipient for a full scholarship to attend the 2017 Puppeteers of America National Festival.

Kelsey Magnuson ’16 was awarded the Surface Design Association Outstanding Student Award and was the first Fiber Arts Studio Resident at StarWorks in Star, NC.

Charlie Hayes ’16 was the recipient of the Surface Design Association Creative Promise Award for Student Excellence and is now apprenticing at Daniel Johnston Pottery in Seagrove, NC.

Ann Bradford ’16 is employed at Lexington Glassworks in Asheville, NC.

Adam Grimes ’17 will begin pursuing a Master of Art at the University of Delaware in the fall, one of the premier programs in the country for American art. He recently finished a year-long fellowship at the Thomas Cole national historical site in Catskill, NY, where he has done original research and given curatorial support to three exhibitions.

Evan Lewis ’17 was hired as a consultant and Media Specialist at Blue Spiral 1 in downtown Asheville.

Iris Rountree ’17 received a work-study scholarship at Penland School of Crafts.

Julia Michael ’17 completed a Winter Fellowship at Penland School of Crafts after graduation.

Isabella Coppinger ’17 signed with Cole Pratt Gallery in New Orleans, LA.

Michael Thorpe ’17 is attending the Haywood Professional Crafts Program, two-year intensive courses of study in clay, and a summer internship with Brevard Pottery.

Hannah Berman ’18 completed an internship at the Penland School of Crafts Art Gallery upon graduation and then an internship at the Women’s Studio Workshop in NY.

Faculty & Staff News

Dr. Paul Bartels, Environmental Studies/Biology professor, traveled to Costa Rica through the Fulbright Specialist Program in February to work on a project at the University of Costa Rica’s Center for the Investigation of Marine and Limnological Science. Bartels was the keynote speaker for Illinois State Science Teachers Association, and he also published seven research papers. “Marine tardigrades from South Carolina, USA” appeared in the *Journal of the South Carolina Academy of Science* in 2017 and includes **Lilvia Bradbury ’16** as a co-author. In 2017, Bartels also co-authored “An illustrated dichotomous key to the genera of the marine heterotardigrades” in *Zootaxa*; and “A hypothesis for the composition of the tardigrade brain and its implications for panarthropod brain evolution” in *Integrative and Comparative Biology*. In 2018, Bartels co-authored “A revision of the genus *Paramacrobiotus* Guidetti et al., 2009 with the description of new species, re-descriptions, and a key” in *Annales Zoologici*; and “On the distribution of *Batillipes tubernatis* Pollock 1971 (Arthrotardigrada: Batillipedidae) in the Atlantic Basin” in *Marine Biodiversity*. He also co-authored two additional articles in *Zootaxa*: “A clarification for the subgenera of *Paramacrobiotus* Guidetti, Schill, Bertolani, Dandekar and Wolf, 2009, with respect to the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature” and “Marine tardigrades of the Bahamas with the description of two new species and updated keys to the species of *Anisonyches* and *Archechiniscus*.”

Dr. David J. Bradshaw, professor of English, has been requested to supply the lead-off article concerning Cardinal John Henry Newman’s writings for a special edition of *Studies in the Literary Imagination* (49.2) devoted to the controversial nineteenth-century theologian. You may enjoy reading “*Cor ad cor loquitur* : Emotion and the Communion of Believers in Newman’s Writings.”

During her year-long sabbatical, Art History professor **Dr. Julie Levin Caro** curated the exhibition “Between Form and Content: Perspectives on Jacob Lawrence and Black Mountain College,” which will be on view at the Black Mountain College Museum & Arts Center in Asheville from September 28, 2018 to January 12, 2019. The accompanying catalogue will be published by the museum and distributed by Duke University Press.

Anthropology professor **Dr. Ben Feinberg** published a book chapter in collaboration with **Sarah E. Edwards ’16**: “Are We (Still) the World? Service Learning and the Weird Slot in Student Narratives of Study Abroad” in *Cosmopolitanism and Tourism: Rethinking Theory and Practice*. In August 2018, Dr. Feinberg published the book chapter “Undiscovering the Pueblo Mágico: Lessons from Huautla for the Psychedelic Renaissance in *Plant Medicine, Healing, and Psychedelic Science: Cultural Perspectives*. Dr. Feinberg will take a sabbatical in Spring 2018 to research and write a book on cave exploration, intercultural dialogue, and cultural identity in Southern Mexico.

After 10 years at the college in the Work Program, **Ellen Graves** is leaving WWC to attend graduate school at the University of

Virginia’s Curry School of Education. In a departure email, Associate Dean of Work Paul Bobbitt said, “her work on supervisor development, student cognitive growth at work, and the Work Learning Task Force has propelled our program into a different tier of student learning and engagement at work.” Over her final year, she worked tirelessly on the implementation of the Jenzabar information system in the Work Program.

Dr. Gary Hawkins, Associate Dean for Faculty, contributed ten drawings to the forthcoming *A Literary Field Guide to Southern Appalachia* from University of Georgia Press. He also contributed three drawings, “Bear, Meadow,” “Bear, Trees,” and “Insomnians” to the forthcoming *Meaningful Grading: A Guide for Faculty Artists* from West Virginia University Press. Hawkins was a John Ciardi Fellow in Poetry at the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference in August 2017, and a visiting artist at East Carolina University School of Art in March 2017. In December 2017, he published “On Amiri Baraka’s ‘Preface to a Twenty Volume Suicide Note,’” through the Keats Letters Project. In November 2017, Hawkins co-facilitated three interactive sessions at the Professional and Organizational Development in Higher Education conference in Montréal entitled “Size Matters: Reframing Educational Development When Restructuring the Small College”; “Strategies for Supporting Faculty Teaching & Scholarship: A Speed-Dating Showcase”; and “Getting Started or Going Further in the Scholarship of Educational Development.”

Dr. Alisa Hove, professor and chair of the Biology Department, presented collaborative research on the effects of implementing research-infused experiences into biology classrooms on student learning and interest in STEM fields at the Association of College and University Biology Educators’ annual meeting in Columbia, SC and at the Association of Southeastern Biologists meeting in Myrtle Beach, SC. Hove also co-authored the article “Responses to artificial selection on flowering time and herkogamy in an annual plant: implications for trait evolution in a seasonally deteriorating environment” in the journal *Annals of Botany*, and joined *Madroño*, the peer reviewed journal of the California Botanical Society, as an assistant editor.

English professor **Dr. Carol Howard** now writes a monthly column, “The Literary Gardener,” for *The Laurel of Asheville* inspired by the students in her first-year seminar, Gardens and the Literary Imagination.



Dr. Annie Jonas, chair of the Education Department and Director of Faculty Community Engagement, received the 2018 North

Carolina Engaged Faculty Award from NC Campus Compact in February. The Compact recognized Jonas at its annual Presidents’ Forum, hosted by Meredith College in Raleigh. More than 30 presidents and chancellors attended the one-day event, along with other college and university administrators. She was also recognized at the network’s PACE Conference at Elon University on February 14. The conference convened 200 faculty, staff, students, and community partners from over 30 campuses across the Southeast. Jonas is the first faculty member from Warren Wilson College to receive the network’s faculty award.

In April 2017 and 2018, **Dr. Amy Knisley**, professor of Environmental Policy and Law, provided the keynote on the “State of the N.C. Environment” for LeadershipNC, a statewide leadership program for emerging and established state leaders in the public, corporate, educational and nonprofit sectors. In 2017, she served as external consultant to the Environmental Studies Department of the New College of Florida, facilitated a “Teaching Writing” workshop for WWC faculty, and coordinated a “Green Walkabout” of the WWC campus for the entire fall 2017 entering class. In June 2018, Knisley presented two talks at the national Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences meeting in Tucson, AZ, and also participated in the Association for Sustainability in Higher Education’s (AASHE) summer training and retreat for sustainability professionals in Philadelphia, PA. Throughout this time, she has also served on the leadership of the Swannanoa Superfund Community Advisory Group.

Jim Magill, director of The Swannanoa Gathering, received a PICA Award from the Printing Industry of the Carolinas for his design of the 2017 Swannanoa Gathering catalog cover. It is his thirteenth PICA Award.

Dr. Mallory McDuff, professor of Environmental Studies and outdoor leadership, published “My father’s final gift to us? He planned a natural burial” in *Catapult Magazine* on May 18, 2018. She also published two articles in the April 2018 issue of *Sojourners Magazine*: “Bill McKibben’s Radio Free Vermont: Joy as social change” and “Staying Vulnerable in the Dark.”

Counselor **Jil Meadows, MSW, LCSW**, was appointed to a three-year position on the National Examination Committee for the Association of Social Work Boards. She will travel four weekends a year for committee meetings to approve questions to be included in the Master’s Level Social Work Certification and Licensure Examination.

Music faculty adjunct **Natalya Weinstein Miller** completed her Master of Arts in Appalachian Studies at Appalachian State University this May, in the music and culture concentration. Her master’s thesis was entitled, “Jim Shumate and the Development of Bluegrass Fiddling.”

Christine Nugent, director of the Pew Learning Center & Ellison Library published an article on her sabbatical research project, “Remembering, Reflecting, Reckoning: German Women and the Long Shadow of National Socialism,” in the April 2018 publication of *The Oral History Review*. Nugent was also the invited speaker for a lunch and learn program co-sponsored by the Congregation Beth Israel and the Reform Temple Community (Congregation

Beth HaTephila) in Asheville to deliver a lecture about her research, which coincided with *Yom Ha’Shoah*, a yearly commemoration of the Holocaust.

Dr. Bob Swoap, professor of Psychology, presented his research, “Mindfulness, Health, & Performance,” at the Mindfulness in Education Conference in May 2018. Swoap also spoke on the panel for “Coaching and Parenting in Youth Sports” at Malaprops Bookstore in April 2018.

Candace Taylor, professor and artistic director of the Warren Wilson Theater, founded Burnished Collective, a Chicago movement to increase awareness and opportunity for women in the arts and in their fifties.

Director of International and Intercultural Opportunities, **Anna Welton**, and **Dr. Lucy Lawrence**, director of the Warren Wilson Social Work Program received the “Go Abroad Innovation Award” as the most innovative new study abroad program in the field of international education for the Warren Wilson Cuba Study Abroad program entitled “Appalachia to Cuba: Intercultural Approaches to Social Welfare and Education.” Additionally, Welton delivered a session at the NAFSA conference in Denver in November 2017 entitled “Harnessing the Power of Growth Mindset in Study Abroad: Tools for Student and Faculty Development” that was awarded the Regional Highlight Award.

Namita Gupta Wiggers, director of Warren Wilson College’s new MA in Critical and Historical Craft Studies, co-organized the first full day of sessions dedicated to craft discourse for the 9th Critical Craft Forum at the College Art Association Annual Conference in Los Angeles. Wiggers presented research on the MA in Critical and Historical Craft Studies program at Warren Wilson College in the Chipstone Foundation Session at the National Council on Education in the Ceramic Arts [NCECA] Annual Conference. She also created “undercurrent,” a visual/sound installation for SALT, a six-day performance inspired by Gandhi’s Salt March at Shaking the Tree Theatre in Portland, OR. In 2018, she published “Parian: Presence and Absence,” in *Flux: Parian Unpacked*; “Back-to-School,” in *Discursive*; and an interview with Joar Nango in *Kunsthandwerk Magazine*, Oslo, Norway.

Dr. Julie Wilson, Writing Studio Director, published “Not Alone in the Process: Designing Equitable Support for First-Year Writers in the Writing Center,” in *Praxis: A Writing Center Journal*. She also presented “Writing Centers in College-in-Prison Programs” at the Canadian Writing Centres Association Conference at the University of Saskatchewan in May 2018.



Billy Edd Wheeler ’53 (center) performs at his memoir release celebration with President Emeritus Doug Orr (left) and friends.

Celebration of Hotter Than a Pepper Sprout:

Warren Wilson Hosts the Memoir Release of Alumnus Billy Edd Wheeler ’53 Zanne Garland

Warren Wilson College proudly celebrated alumnus Billy Edd Wheeler ’53 on Saturday, April 7, hosting the release of his new memoir at a full-house event in Kittredge Theater. *Hotter Than a Pepper Sprout: A Hillbilly Poet’s Journey From Appalachia to Yale to Writing Hits for Elvis, Johnny Cash & More* is an intimate insight into the life and career of the award-winning songwriter, musician, author, playwright, poet, visual artist, folk singer, and Appalachian renaissance man. The event featured interviews with Wheeler by Doug Orr, President Emeritus of Warren Wilson College, and Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter Janis Ian. The pair contributed an Introduction and Foreword for the book, respectively.

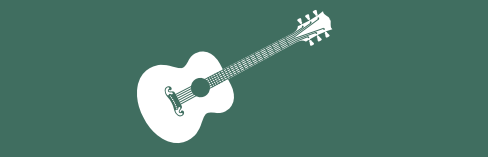
Wheeler received his high school and junior college degrees at Warren Wilson College in 1951 and 1953, and later received an honorary bachelor’s degree from the College. He also found love at Warren Wilson when he met his wife Mary, daughter of Dr. Arthur Bannerman, the first President of the College. The Swannanoa landscape, where he raised his children and now lives with Mary, influenced Wheeler’s art. “It was so inspiring,” he said.

Wheeler is best known for penning “Jackson,” the Grammy-winning single popularized by Johnny Cash and June Carter in 1967. His songs have been recorded by Country Music Hall of Fame members such as Chet Atkins, Elvis Presley, Kenny Rogers, Conway Twitty &

Loretta Lynn, and many more. He notched his own Top 5 country hit with “Ode to the Little Brown Shack Out Back” in 1964. In addition, Wheeler has released 20 albums, 14 plays and musicals, 9 books, and 2 collections of poetry. *Hotter Than a Pepper Sprout* is populated by the fascinating cast of characters Wheeler encountered on his journey from humble Appalachian beginnings to the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame.

“When I look at Billy Edd I see two people,” writes Janis Ian in the book’s foreword. “The scared little boy who walked a mile through an unlit train tunnel at the age of eleven, with only a sapling he rubbed along the rail to guide him in the dark. He’ll say he was running from his abusive stepfather, but he was really running from the life laid out for him, the assumption that it was the only life he could ever live. Then I look again, and I see that incredibly brave little boy from coal country, who left it for the bigger world beyond but kept the best of it alive in his heart. He kept it alive so he could write it and sing it and paint it—and teach people like me about it.”

A chair was given to Wheeler at the book release event, funded by members of the audience who contributed to purchase the Kittredge Theater seat in his honor. You, too, can name your own chair in the theater by contributing to the Take Your Seat campaign at www.warren-wilson.edu/giving/take-your-seat. *Hotter Than a Pepper Sprout* is available for purchase everywhere books are sold.



MFA BOOKSHELF

Awards and Works by
MFA Program
for Writers
Alumni
and Faculty

FACULTY AWARDS

GUGGENHEIM FELLOWSHIP

Lauren Groff
Monica Youn

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
FELLOWSHIP

Angela Flournoy

FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

Marianne Boruch

RADCLIFFE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED
STUDY

Lauren Groff

ROME PRIZE FROM THE AMERICAN
ACADEMY IN ROME

Kirstin Valdez Quade
Bennett Sims

NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS' CIRCLE
AWARD IN FICTION

Joan Silber

PEN/FAULKNER AWARD IN FICTION

Joan Silber

FELLOWSHIP OF SOUTHERN WRITERS
HANES AWARD FOR POETRY

C. Dale Young

ALUMNI AWARDS

GUGGENHEIM FELLOWSHIP

Reginald Dwayne Betts (poetry, 2010)

RONA JAFFE FOUNDATION
WRITERS' AWARD

Tiana Nobile (poetry, 2017)

HOLLIS SUMMERS POETRY PRIZE
AT OHIO UNIVERSITY PRESS

Joseph Capista (poetry, 2016)

ALUMNI PUBLICATIONS

Liam Callanan, *Paris by the Book* (Dutton, 2018)

Gabrielle Calvocoressi, *Rocket Fantastic* (Persea, 2017)

Maud Casey, *The Art of Mystery* (Graywolf, 2018)



Lauren Groff, *Florida* (Riverhead, 2018)

Tony Hoagland, *Recent Changes in the Vernacular* (Tres Chicas, 2017)

Tony Hoagland, *Priest Turned Therapist Treats Fear of God* (Graywolf, 2018)

Christine Kitano, *Sky Country* (BOA, 2017)

James Longenbach, *How Poems Get Made* (Norton, 2018)

Kevin McIlvoy, *57 Octaves below Middle C* (Four Way, 2017)

Alan Williamson, translator: *The Living Theater* by Bianca Tarozi (BOA, 2017)

C. Dale Young, *The Affliction* (Four Way, 2018)

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Idris Anderson (poetry, 2006) *Doubtful Harbor* (Ohio UP, 2018)

Ven Begamudre (fiction, 1999) *Extended Families: A Memoir of India* (Cocteau Books, 2017)

Justin Bigos (poetry, 2008) *Mad River* (Gold Wake, 2017)

Adrian Blevins (poetry, 2002) *Appalachians Run Amok* (Two Sylvias Press, 2018)

Diane Gilliam (poetry, 2001) *Dreadful Wind and Rain* (Red Hen, 2017)

Kate Greathead (fiction, 2011) *Laura & Emma* (Simon and Schuster, 2018)

Samantha Hunt (fiction, 1999) *The Dark Dark* (FSG, 2017)

Patricia Grace King (fiction, 2013) *Day of All Saints* (Miami UP, 2017)

Margaree Little (poetry, 2012) *Rest* (Four Way, 2018)

Achy Obejas (fiction, 1993) *The Tower of the Antilles* (Akashic Books, 2017)

Erin Stalcup (fiction, 2004) *Every Living Species* (Gold Wake Press, 2018)

Mary Jo Thompson (poetry, 2009) *Stunt Heart* (Backwaters Press, 2017)



OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP STUDIES TURNS 25

Jay Lively

In 1993, then President Doug Orr saw an opportunity to add a new and innovative major to the College and brought in Dr. Ed Raiola to start the Outdoor Leadership (ODL) Studies Degree. Raiola was nationally recognized for his leadership in the field and a perfect steward for the program. For 25 years, ODL has prepared leaders to analyze, plan, implement, administer, and supervise outdoor adventure education programs of all kinds.

Dr. Marty O’Keefe joined the ODL faculty in the fall of 1995 and brought expertise in Universal Adventure Programming and the “Women’s Voices” class to add to the curriculum. In 2000, Dr. Mallory McDuff joined the team, bringing her experience in environmental education to blend both ODL and Environmental Studies departments. Nettie Black taught in the department for ten years, bringing her experience working in the wilderness with at-risk youth. And, in 2013 when Raiola retired, Dr. Jill Overholt joined the team, adding “Natural Environments and Health” to the curriculum.

In 2018, the Outdoor Leadership Program will celebrate its 25th year. Please join the College at Homecoming to celebrate this milestone and the 250 graduates and current students who have helped make it what it is today.

*Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Outdoor Leadership
Friday, October 5th, 3-5 pm, Mitchell Porch
If you have pictures from your time at WWC, please send to Jill Overholt (joverholt@warren-wilson.edu) for a slideshow and compilation.*



A TRIBUTE TO
TOM SHOWALTER ON HIS
RETIREMENT AFTER 50 YEARS
AT WARREN WILSON COLLEGE

*Excerpt from retirement speech
by Philip Otterness*

Tom Showalter arrived on Warren Wilson campus in the fall of 1968. Throughout the following 50 years, he taught over 5,500 students in 322 courses. He oversaw at least 30 independent studies and participated in four study-away courses in Alaska and China. Averaging over 17 students a class, Tom taught more students, read more essays, and graded more exams than any other professor in the College’s history.

For 22 years, I was lucky to have an office next to Tom’s in Jensen. It was an oasis of calm where we discussed history, our families, and especially biking. Tom used to make almost weekly rides from the Folk Art Center up the grueling road to the top of Mount Mitchell. He’d eat breakfast there and then zoom back down—a 70-mile ride—in time for lunch. One glorious winter day, I decided to follow Tom’s route. As I rode up the quiet and beautifully empty Parkway, I understood what these kinds of rides meant to Tom. If you’re going to survive 50 years in the classroom, this is the kind of therapy you need. As I came around a curve near Craggy Gardens, there was Tom, leaning against a guardrail. Surprised to see me, Tom welcomed me to his other office, and for a few moments we were surrounded by quiet nature and awesome views on a Parkway that we had all to ourselves.

Though Tom has left his Warren Wilson office, he and his wife, Sandy, still live in the house on College View Drive that Tom helped build in 1972. Jensen will feel awfully empty without Tom in the fall, but all I have to do is head north on the Parkway—office hours start at five a.m., and are usually over by ten.

To read the full speech, please visit: www.warren-wilson.edu/2018owlandspade

In Memoriam

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



Mary “Mimi” Ryan Cecil
Mary “Mimi” Cecil, an influential Warren Wilson College trustee from 1981 to 2003 and chair from 1998 through 2003, died Nov. 17, 2017. Mimi Cecil and her late husband, William A.V. Cecil, owned The Biltmore Co., which owns and operates Biltmore Estate. While supporting her family’s endeavors at Biltmore, Mimi Cecil became an influential leader within the Asheville community and across Western North Carolina in many areas. Her son Bill said, “My mother spent much of her life working to make a difference in the areas of education, social inequities, the environment, and the arts.” Daughter Dini Pickering added, “My mother’s contributions to our family and this community are beyond measure. Her energy for giving was endless, and she has inspired all of us to follow in her footsteps. We will proudly carry on that legacy.” The family asked that memorial donations be given to support scholarships for students at Warren Wilson College. This thoughtful gesture directed nearly \$29,000 to the College, most of which was earmarked for student scholarships.

The Reverend Douglas E. Bartlett
The Reverend Douglas E. Bartlett, a Presbyterian minister known for his pro-peace stance and commitment to racial and social justice, died Nov. 25, 2017. Bartlett arrived at Warren Wilson in 1984 to teach peace studies. He founded the Peace and Social Justice department, skillfully teaching and mentoring students in the discipline for 16 years. Faculty member Jeff Holmes recalled, “News of his death re-awakened how much I miss him, but also reminded me of how his compassion and humor continue to reverberate here.” Three of his four children overlapped with him at Warren Wilson during his tenure—David ’86 and Andrew ’88 as students and Stephen as an international student advisor from 1988-91. All four of his children and many others have been inspired to non-violently fight for justice, drink in beauty, and make the world better—all with a sense of humor needed to go the distance. Bartlett went the distance, living a long and wonderful life.

Nancy V. Wrenn
Nancy Vestal Wrenn, cherished neighbor and avid fan of Warren Wilson College, died Dec. 21, 2017. Wrenn met her late partner, Ruth, in 1945 in Okinawa while working for the International Red Cross. The two were longtime teachers at nearby Owen High School. They built and operated a girls summer camp, Awaniko (Okinawa backwards), on their land nearly contiguous to campus for 25 years. A 1943 graduate of Duke University, Wrenn received numerous accolades throughout her life. In 1965, at the age of 43, she began taking flying lessons and ultimately earned her private license and Airplane Single Engine Land commercial certificate. She was a member of the Carolinas Chapter of the Ninety-Nines, Inc., an international organization of women pilots, where she served in all levels of the chapter offices and several Southeast Section committee chairs. Because of Nancy Wrenn’s generous and careful planning,

Warren Wilson College will benefit significantly from her estate.

Faris A. Ashkar ’72
Faris Ashkar ’72 died Feb. 28, 2018. Many will remember him as a loyal alumnus, longtime Alumni Board member and past president, and faithful Homecoming Reunion Weekend participant. A native of Lebanon, Ashkar excelled at woodcarving and donated many of his pieces to the College, including the tables and chairs in Sage Cafe. Ashkar also carved the recognition map of donors on wood from the College Forest, now located on the upper level of Orr Cottage. Ashkar was distinguished in handicrafts, known globally for his exquisitely carved furniture, building design, and decorative arts including Arabic calligraphy. He also found time to lecture on intercultural communication and Middle East and Arabic Art histories and volunteer as a Boy Scout Master. Ashkar will posthumously receive the Distinguished Service Award at the Alumni Awards Luncheon during Homecoming Weekend this fall.

Irwin “Ike” Belk
Irwin “Ike” Belk, North Carolina native, businessman, philanthropist, civic leader, elected official and public servant, died Feb. 24, 2018. Belk served most of his adult life (over 50 years) as an executive with Belk Stores. He also served four terms in the House of Representatives and Senate of the State of North Carolina legislature. Belk’s love of athletics and education led him to donate generously to create tracks and to procure acclaimed artists from around the world to sculpt mascots for college campuses, including giving Warren Wilson a beautiful Owl statue in 2012 in front of DeVries gym on our campus. Belk also established the Carol Belk Outdoor Leadership Chair in honor of his beloved wife (of 66 years) in 1996, helping establish Warren Wilson College’s renowned Outdoor Leadership program. Attributing his great philanthropic impact to his family, Belk said, “My father always taught us that those who were fortunate enough to possess or earn wealth had a special responsibility to both use it wisely and to share it with those less fortunate.”

Richard “Dick” Jennings
Former Trustee, Richard “Dick” Jennings, died Aug. 7, 2017. Jennings established Cashiers Valley Trout Farm, now Sunburst Trout, in 1948, and in 2001, he was inducted into the WNC Agriculture Hall of Fame in recognition of the success of his family business. Jennings served on numerous boards and was known for his advocacy when it came to issues in which he believed. He made a difference in whatever he pursued. He looked back fondly upon his years on the Warren Wilson Board of Trustees, where he served for twenty years. He was a generous supporter of a variety of College initiatives including scholarships, athletics, the library, and international studies.

ASHEVILLE FARM SCHOOL
Royce Daniel Boone ’43
September 14, 2017

William Claude Collins ’44
February 15, 2017

DORLAND BELL SCHOOL

Edith Edwards ’36
January 20, 2018

ASHEVILLE NORMAL AND TEACHERS COLLEGE

Sarah Carruth Patterson ’40
September 5, 2006

Lillian Holliday Roeder ’40
September 2, 2004

Margaret Hunt Russell ’40
March 8, 2006

Ruby Jane Pettit Smith ’40
March 27, 2008

Virginia Lee Ledford Trexler ’40
December 16, 2017

Cavell McKinney Wilder ’40
December 5, 2014

Geneva Spratt Craig ’41
September 24, 2017

Marietta Hollifield Crayton ’41
August 6, 2017

Madge Green Ezell ’41
May 1, 2013

Catherine Allison Roberts ’41
December 31, 2015

Ruby Wallin Roberts ’41
June 5, 2017

Catherine Ramsey Couch ’42
April 28, 2017

Mary Willingham Ford ’42
December 26, 2003

Mary Beam Mode ’42
December 16, 2017

Mary Kathleen Ball Sluder ’42
February 23, 2018

Mildred Gentry Thomas ’42
July 17, 2001

Agnes Duncan Guyton ’43
September 1, 2017

Ruth Roper Hendricks ’43
February 9, 2016

Annette Karlene Robinette Herther ’43
February 21, 2017

Annie Rose Carter Hobbs ’43
November 30, 2016

Marietta E. Ensley Ledbetter ’43
September 27, 2017

Virgie Mahaffey McIntyre ’43
July 22, 2017

Sarah Louise Clement Morris ’43
February 4, 2018

Asilee Capell Looper ’44
May 19, 2017

Lucy Holcombe Marette ’44
August 10, 2015

Ruby Mae Wells Upchurch ’44
November 22, 2016

WARREN WILSON HIGH SCHOOL

Frances Gary Ager ’49
July 15, 2018

Edward Hartley Howell ’49
September 29, 2017

Arthur “Bill” Taylor ’49
January 16, 2018

Herbert “Bill” Shadden ’50
September 29, 2017

Shirley Williamson Jarrell ’52
June 5, 2015

WARREN WILSON JUNIOR COLLEGE

Grover William Frisbee ’48
September 24, 2017

Adargelia “Kitty” Velez Hughes ’49
June 24, 2018

James M. Snead ’49
January 11, 2017

James London “JL” Treadway ’50January 22, 2018

Calvin Spencer Barksdale ’51
January 23, 2018

James Cecil Hunter ’51
June 16, 2017

Billy “Bill” J. Howington ’52
June 21, 2017

Daniel Shaffer Smith ’55
March 11, 2018

Pan Demetriades ’56
November 30, 2017

Shirley Dilley Saville ’56
May 4, 2017

Beulah Lee Owenby ’58
February 10, 2016

Charlotte Elizabeth Curtis ’59
November 20, 2017

Paul Nathaniel Lovin, Jr. ’64
June 28, 2018

Betty Ellen Ricker ’66
October 20, 2017

WARREN WILSON COLLEGE

Ace Aga’ese Tago ’60
August 8, 2017

Faris Abdullah Ashkar ’72
February 28, 2018

Mary Yoder Brown ’72
July 13, 2018

Phyllis Ann Cooper Moore ’73
August 17, 2016

Homer Dean Williams ’75
January 26, 2018

Cara L. Bonang ’92
January 26, 2018

Jessica Lea Buchholz ’08
November 1, 2017

Kathleen Lambert Ehret ’21
June 11, 2018

EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTEERS, TRUSTEES, AND FRIENDS

Douglas Bartlett
November 25, 2017

Irwin Belk
February 24, 2018

Mary “Mimi” Cecil
November 17, 2017

Jerry Godard

May 29, 2018

Richard Jennings
August 7, 2017

Denise Palas
April 17, 2018

Fred Perry
September 28, 2017

Nancy Vestal Wrenn
December 21, 2017

REMEMBERING ALMA SHIPPY ’54

New plaque memorializes historic event
Zanne Garland



On October 7, 2017 over Homecoming Weekend, on the Warner Commons patio of Sunderland Hall, members of the Warren Wilson College community gathered to memorialize one of our own.

Alma Joseph Lee Shippy was 17 years old when he crossed a historical threshold in 1952. The College memorialized Shippy after its 65th anniversary with a marker on the building he once called home. As reported in 2007 by the *LA Times*, “It’s an obscure vignette in civil rights history. Shippy was Warren Wilson’s first black student, and one of the few to attend any segregated college or junior college by invitation rather than court order and armed escort.”

“This is a momentous occasion for the Shippy family and all of you,” said Alma Shippy’s brother, Perry. “[This was] a life-changing event for the United States before the United States understood it.”

Speaking at the dedication, President Lynn Morton said, “I believe by recognizing his efforts to make Warren Wilson College the kind of place that it has been, should be, and will continue to be, we can continue to build on what he started 65 years ago.”

“Alma was truly a hero of mine, and I hope a hero of yours,” Warren Wilson College Alumni Ambassador Rodney Lytle said, serving as master of ceremonies.

For more information about the Alma Shippy Memorial Scholarship and how to contribute to it, contact Jay Lively, Warren Wilson College Alumni Manager, at jlively@warren-wilson.edu or visit <https://warren-wilson.edu/giving>. To watch the Alma Shippy Memorial Dedication, visit warren-wilson.edu/owl&spade2018.



NEW ACADEMIC BUILDING

Completed in July 2018, the College's new academic building is a focal point on campus, a place for faculty to lead students in discovery and a venue where students can gather informally with one another, with faculty members, and with staff to share ideas and to dream.

The 15,000 square-foot facility features 19 faculty offices and six flexible learning and meeting spaces—ranging from 15-person seminar rooms to a 40-person flex classroom—as well as a large multi-use common atrium. The building will receive its official name at a grand opening event in Fall 2018.



Warren Wilson COLLEGE

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ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
28815-9000

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