

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF WINGATE UNIVERSITY

WINGATE TODAY

SPRING 2016 | VOL.73 | NO.1

A woman with dark hair, wearing a white lab coat over a blue collared shirt, is holding a small, clear vial with a blue cap. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a blurred laboratory setting.

DR. KRISTA WILSON
**HELPS PREVENT
ADDICTION**

WU ATHLETES
HIT THE BOOKS

ADMISSIONS JOINS
THE DATA REVOLUTION

THE PLIGHT OF
THE UNDOCUMENTED



QUITE A PRODUCTION

It takes more than a glass-shattering soprano to put on an opera. Besides giving excellent performances on stage, students took care of nearly every aspect of the Wingate University Opera performance of Gilbert & Sullivan's "H.M.S. Pinafore" Nov. 5-7 in the Batte Center's McGee Theatre. Students performed as cast and orchestra members, served as ushers and stage managers, and took care of costuming, lighting, set building and choreography. "Because so many different students participated in all aspects of the production, they felt a great sense of ownership and accomplishment," says Jessie Wright Martin, who directed the production. Sailors Matthew Reese, Corbin Duncan, Jacob Smith, Justin Traxler, Devontae Cash, Lamar Davis and Jacob Edmonson were especially animated as they helped Ralph and Josephine run off together. On April 15, Wingate Opera will join forces with the University Singers, the Chamber Singers and the North Carolina Baroque Orchestra to present "An Evening of Baroque Music" in McGee Theatre. ▴





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>> FOR EVENT DETAILS, VISIT: WINGATE.EDU

WINGATE TODAY

SPRING 2016 | Vol.73, No.1

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Wingate Today magazine is a magazine for alumni and friends of Wingate University. The magazine's editorial staff strives to inform, engage and inspire readers through stories about the University's contributions to the world. We encourage you to send your story ideas.

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>>
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BY SPOON
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LETTER
TO
THE
EDITOR



Lasting Memories

Memories came rushing back to my mind as I read your article “Victim of Progress” [Winter 2015]. The old Sanders-Sikes (relatively new in 1966 when I arrived on campus) houses memories of moments when Howie Gottschalk outmaneuvered Gardner Webb in 1968, and yes, I can see both Dean Haskins and Harry Sherwood (red-faced as ever) cheering Wingate on! They both loved that school in a way many of us now do!

Those men and the many faculty who poured their life into younger men like myself, then hardly college material, are owed every debt of gratitude possible. Per their investment, I went on to complete my B.S. degree at ASU in '70, a Masters in '83, and an Ed.S. in '89. Mrs. Vick and Dr. Budd would have been pleased! I have even served three terms as a local mayor!

Wingate will always be a part of my life, even at the ripe old age of 67!

Forever indebted,

John Bost

John Bost '68

WRITE US!

LIKE SOMETHING YOU'VE READ IN WINGATE TODAY? HAVE SOMETHING TO ADD ABOUT ONE OF THE ARTICLES?

PLEASE CONTACT ME AT
C.GORDON@WINGATE.EDU

OR

P.O. BOX 159, CAMPUS BOX 3071
WINGATE, N.C. 28174

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU AND GET YOUR FEEDBACK.

Last fall, during a soccer doubleheader, Wingate University honored Jerry Sutton, the school's first men's soccer coach after the program was revived in the late '70s. Players reminisced about marching up and down the practice field like a search party, clearing the field of rocks, and of pushing an out-of-gas team bus down the highway. Those early teams did not win, but the players felt a bond. They have good memories 30-some-odd years later.

And many of them came to Wingate because it gave them a chance to continue to compete on the athletic field.

A couple of years later, when I was deciding what to do after high school graduation, I felt a similar tug of competition. My high school tennis teams were strong – my senior year marked the team's 10th consecutive season without a conference loss – and I was all-conference. But the odds were short that I'd play Division I.

Wingate was there for me, and I was there for Wingate. I never got a ton of scholarship money, and the team never rose much above the middle of the Carolinas Conference pack. Riding in the van to Boiling Springs or Pembroke for an afternoon match didn't exactly feel like I'd hit the big time. And sports wasn't quite the University focus it is now (many head coaches were faculty members teaching full loads). But I had fun on those road trips with my ready-made peer group, I got to continue playing competitively and I learned how to balance a college-level course load with training and matches. In return, Wingate College got a halfway decent, tuition-paying student.

That symbiosis remains alive today. A quarter of Wingate's undergrads compete on sports teams, with few getting full rides. Many are excellent students (see pages 22-25) who might have gone elsewhere had WU not given them a chance to compete (athletics draws them in; academics gets them to stay).

What has changed is the level of play – at least for some teams. As I'm writing this, the men's tennis season is just starting. The pre-season outlook sent out by WU Sports Information informs me that the Bulldogs have won 61 of their last 65 league matches.

A quarter century from now, their memories might differ a little from mine – NCAA tournament matches and conference trophies are hard to forget – but at heart things are much the same as they were 25 years ago. They're *student-athletes* too.

Chuck Gordon

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CHUCK WITH FELLOW TEAMMATES FROM THE 1988 WINGATE TENNIS TEAM



QUESTION

WHAT WAS
YOUR FAVORITE

*Wingate
moment*

AS AN UNDERGRAD?

- MORAG MCLACHLAN '01

THE PRESIDENT ANSWERS

For me, two stories encapsulate my Wingate experience.

Friendships with professors

In my first semester as a transfer to Wingate, I was taking a literature class with Bob Doak to meet my general education requirement. At the time, I thought I was going to be a math major, but David Rowe would later gently guide me to a major that actually matched up with my talents and interests.

After our first essay assignment, Dr. Doak asked me to stay after class. He said he liked my paper and asked me where I was from and how I got to Wingate (he knew I was a transfer football player). That conversation started a relationship, a mentorship, and a friendship that changed my life.

But he was just one of the faculty members who invested in me personally. In the classroom and out of the classroom, the faculty (Coleman, Thomas, Bagley, Little-Sweat, Surratt and many others) encouraged me, pushed me when I needed it, challenged me to think critically, and demonstrated to me what decency and citizenship looked like. As I meet alumni, I hear the same story repeated again and again. The faculty at Wingate take such a sincere and personal interest in our students. For that I'm personally grateful, and I hope we never change.

W'International trip to Finland

I went on W'International with Bob Billinger to Helsinki, Finland, and what was Leningrad in the Soviet Union at the time. It was my first time out of the country, and I loved every minute of it. From Dr. Billinger's class to my classmates and to the travel itself, it was all fantastic. I learned as much about my own country (and how it was perceived by others) as I did about the places we visited. Since then I've traveled abroad many times, and I'm always richer for the experience. But it all started with my W'International trip. Again, just very grateful for it all.

Rhett Brown

DR. RHETT BROWN
PRESIDENT OF WINGATE UNIVERSITY



||
DR. BROWN AS A WINGATE
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT IN 1987.

GOT A QUESTION YOU WANT TO ASK DR. BROWN?

SEND IT TO CHUCK GORDON AT C.GORDON@WINGATE.EDU OR P.O. BOX 159, CAMPUS BOX 3071, WINGATE, N.C. 28174.

R

achel Carson, the mid-century author and conservationist, was a key piece of Dr. Cathy Wright's doctorate. Not long after Wright arrived on the Wingate University campus two years ago to take a position as an assistant professor of religion, she found out that the Rachel Carson Reserve was located near Beaufort, North Carolina.

"I said, 'We have to go. We have to,'" Wright says.

So she arranged a trip with a group of honors-seminar students. Little did she know that she was essentially laying the groundwork for W'Engage, a new sophomore experience that will kick off this fall.

For W'Engage, as with the junior-year travel experience W'International, interested instructors submit detailed proposals of student excursions – with W'Engage being service-oriented, rather than culture-oriented. Proposals for the inaugural semester of W'Engage were due in February, with at least two of them chosen in March. Two more proposals will be accepted in the fall for the spring semester, and more sessions will be added in later years.

Dr. Mark Roncace, a professor of religion who is also in charge of the Quality Enhancement Program (QEP) at Wingate University, is spearheading W'Engage as part of the QEP. The QEP is a component of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) accreditation process.

The idea behind W'Engage is to provide service-oriented learning opportunities for students during their sophomore year, a year that has lacked a major drawing card. Freshmen attend Gateway 101, and juniors have

ENGAGING EXPERIENCES

Beyond student retention, W'Engage is designed to provide another opportunity for hands-on learning.

"A university education should be more than books in a classroom," Roncace says. "We want to create good, civic-minded citizens."

Over Labor Day weekend in 2015, Wright and two other professors – Dr. Allison Lenhardt, assistant professor of English, and Christy Carter, associate professor of biology – took students to the Outer Banks on what was essentially a pilot program for W'Engage.

The students were studying ecology, theology and eco-justice in their honors seminar, and the trip to the coast enabled them to see the physical manifestation of what they were reading, specifically about Rachel Carson.

"Walking where she walked and talking to people who knew her – I mean, that just makes a difference," Wright says. "And Mark kind of went, 'Yeah, that's what W'Engage is all about.'"

To Wright, W'Engage is perfect for Wingate, because it encompasses all three tranches of the University's underlying philosophy: faith, knowledge and service.

"The W'Engage program is a way of civic engagement, where they [students] help build a better society," Wright says. "And they do that through

faith, knowledge and service. The faith is the connection that they believe in it, in who they are, their ideas, their principles, their values. And then the knowledge part: They needed to know what exactly was happening. So, we learned about the degradation that's happening, the rising sea levels. We learned

about some of the things we're trying to do to offset climate change.

"Then they put it into service: We're going back."

Last September, the Wingate students spent one day with scientists at the Rachel Carson Reserve and one day at the Trinity Retreat Center. They spent most of their time observing and getting to know the researchers, scientists and program directors who run the two centers – as well as a little early-morning yoga on the beach. But a return trip this fall, either as an official W'Engage experience or as a special field trip, will be much more hands-on. Wright is taking a group back to the Outer Banks to remove marine debris and help dig up a whale that died on the beach and was buried to enable it to decompose.

The students who accompanied her last year feel like they got a good chance to put into practice what they were learning in the classroom.

"What I've learned is that I'm not the center of the world," says Austin Greason, a junior religious-studies major. "Humans are not the center of the world, but we are simply part of the world. That has really hit home with me, because I've realized that we shouldn't take everything that we have here on this Earth for granted."

Examples of other potential W'Engage excursions include serving homeless populations in New York, working with conservationists in Yellowstone National Park, and helping bolster education opportunities for low-income people in Miami.

Roncace is looking for interest not only from professors but from students as well. "I hope the first time around that we have way more students apply than we can accommodate," he says. ▀

"HUMANS ARE NOT THE CENTER OF THE WORLD, BUT WE ARE SIMPLY PART OF THE WORLD."

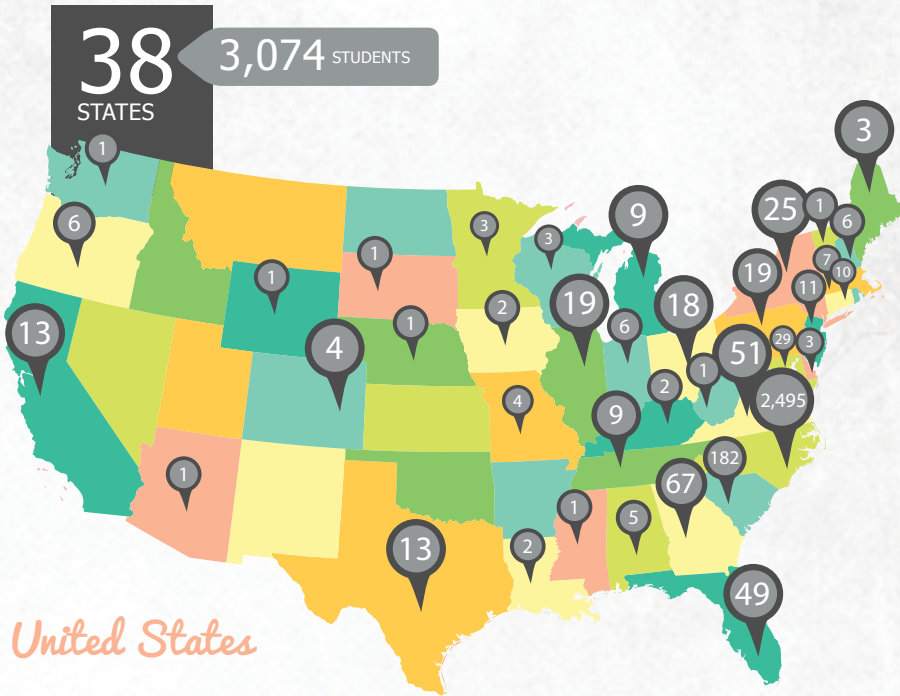
– AUSTIN GREASON

the option of going on a W'International trip, but sophomores have had no special programs available only to them. Roncace says W'Engage will fill that gap and might serve to sway the minds of students thinking of transferring.



W'Engage trip to the Rachel Carson Reserve in the Outer Banks

WHERE WINGATE STUDENTS COME FROM



United States

STATES	COUNTRIES
Alabama	5
Arizona	1
California	13
Colorado	4
Connecticut	10
Delaware	3
Florida	49
Georgia	67
Iowa	2
Illinois	10
Indiana	6
Kentucky	2
Louisiana	7
Massachusetts	7
Maryland	29
Maine	3
Michigan	9
Minnesota	2
Missouri	4
Mississippi	1
North Carolina	2,495
Nebraska	1
New Hampshire	6
New Jersey	11
New York	25
Ohio	18
Oregon	1
Pennsylvania	19
South Carolina	182
South Dakota	1
Tennessee	9
Texas	13
Virginia	51
Vermont	1
Washington	6
Wisconsin	3
West Virginia	1
Wyoming	1
Bangladesh	1
Belgium	3
Brazil	5
Bahamas	1
Cameroon	1
Canada	6
Cayman Islands	1
Chile	5
Peru	1
Colombia	1
Czech Republic	1
Dominican Republic	1
Germany	10
Nepal	1
Ghana	2
Denmark	1
Spain	3
India	4
France	2
United Kingdom	17
Jamaica	1
Haiti	1
Guam	1
Ireland	1
Israel	1
Italy	1
Kenya	1
South Korea	1
North Korea	1
Latvia	1
Macedonia	1
Marshall Islands	1
Mexico	8
Nepal	1
Nigeria	1
Netherlands	2
Norway	1
Russia	2
Rwanda	2
Slovenia	2
Sweden	3
Taiwan	1
Turkey	1
Turkmenistan	1
Uganda	1
Ukraine	1
Venezuela	1
Vietnam	6
Zimbabwe	2



The World

W'INTERNATIONAL

TRIPS TAKEN OVER WINTER BREAK. ALL PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY STUDENTS AND ADVISORS FROM EACH TRIP.

COSTA RICA



CAMBODIA



BRAZIL





SOME MAY MARVEL AT THE STUNNING STACKED-STONE FIREPLACE.

Or the serenity garden. Or the floor-to-ceiling windows, which provide breathtaking views of the mountains. But for Wingate University employees anticipating this summer's opening of the Health Sciences Center in Hendersonville, the new building's best feature is its opportunities.

"It's going to look amazing," Wingate University Regional Dean Kurt Wargo says of the building. "But that's looks. What we're actually going to do in the building, that's what matters."

Wingate's Cameron Jackson sees the Health Sciences Center as a way to expand educational opportunities, enhance economic development and enrich community partnerships in Hendersonville. "Education is the mission of Wingate University, and the new building will help us continue to live out that mission," Jackson says. "It will help us to keep attracting excellent faculty and staff who live and work in the Hendersonville area, making a positive economic impact. And our highly educated graduates, many of whom stay in the area, will help meet the needs of doctors, hospitals and businesses in western North Carolina."

Jackson, Wingate's assistant vice president for graduate and professional programs, has served as the University's project manager through the planning and construction phases of the new building, and oversaw the lease negotiations. He's also actively involved in developing plans for Wingate's long-range presence in Hendersonville.

The three-story, 100,000-square-foot Health Sciences Center is on Highway 64 just west of downtown. The \$32 million facility is the result of a unique public-private partnership involving the city of Hendersonville, Henderson County, Pardee Hospital, Blue Ridge Community College and Wingate University.

Pardee Hospital will open a comprehensive cancer center on the first floor. Wingate University has signed a long-term lease for the entire second floor. The third floor of the building will house health-related classes offered by Blue Ridge Community College.

NEW
BUILDING OPENS
GREAT OPPORTUNITIES AT WU'S

HENDERSONVILLE



NVILLE

CAMPUS



The three tenants will do more together than just share the building. “I think the new building will bond our partnership with Pardee and Blue Ridge Community College,” says Nicole Drake, clinical coordinator for Wingate’s physician assistant studies program in Hendersonville.

Students enrolled in the community college’s two-year associate’s degree programs will sometimes collaborate with Wingate students who are earning master’s or doctoral degrees in health-related fields. And students from both Wingate and Blue Ridge will have opportunities to get clinical experience working with doctors and patients at Pardee’s cancer center on the building’s ground floor.

A building specifically designed for both medical treatment and medical education will benefit residents and students alike, according to Henderson County Business and Community Director John Mitchell. “There will be a state-of-the-art cancer center for the citizens of western North Carolina,” Mitchell says. “There will be the opportunity there for surgical consultations, oncology and pharmacy. There will be an opportunity for folks who are studying nursing [at Blue Ridge Community College] to see how their field is impacted by pharmacy.”

Mitchell describes the building as “monumental” and the five-way partnership as “transformative.” “It brings Hendersonville into a university town,” Mitchell says. “Especially with a university the caliber of Wingate. And that’s what the vision of this partnership is. It’s not just the building. There’s a great amount of pride to have Wingate in this community.”

Wingate’s space in the Health Sciences Center includes five classrooms, separate laboratories for pharmacy and physician assistant studies, exam rooms and assessment rooms, as well as informal areas with comfy couches where students can study and collaborate.



“It’s going to look amazing, but that’s looks. What we’re actually going to do in the building, that’s what matters.”

— Kurt Wargo



"There's a great amount of pride to have Wingate in this community."

— John Mitchell

Wargo, the regional dean, thinks the building and the opportunities it provides will attract more students to Wingate University in Hendersonville. "I think having this new building, new state-of-the-art facility is just going to absolutely bring more people in who want to be here at this Hendersonville campus," he says.

Wingate's Hendersonville campus offers a doctorate in pharmacy and two master's degree programs: physician assistant studies and business administration. All will move to the new building for the start of the fall semester.

Relocating to the new, larger space may lead to more changes for Wingate in Hendersonville. "I think you're going to see us grow a little bit," Wargo says. "We'll start to see the potential for new programs, especially health/science-related programs."

Jackson, the Wingate assistant vice president, says a market analysis is underway to study other higher-education programs that might be needed in the Hendersonville area. Although he says it's too early to give specifics, Jackson says decisions on possible new programs at Wingate's Hendersonville campus might be made in a year or two, with any new programs launched within three to five years.

What started with a rain-soaked, mud-caked groundbreaking in the spring of 2015 will end with a celebratory ribbon cutting this summer. Wingate's Hendersonville students will begin classes in the new building in August. But the end of construction of the Health Sciences Center will actually be the beginning. The building's completion signifies the start of extensive new opportunities for Wingate University to live out its mission of higher education, progress and service. ▴



When Stacy Dyer was writing copy for Wingate University's website, he had one person in mind: his niece, 17-year-old Austin Wham, a senior at Hillcrest High School in Simpsonville, South Carolina.

"At the beginning I had a hard time getting into the mindset of writing to a teenager," Dyer jokes. "I guess it's because I'm not around teenagers much."

So he got an idea to put Austin's picture on his computer screen to remind him who he was talking to. Writing for the website then came much easier. Once he had Austin in mind, Dyer was able to write just the way he would talk to her.

Why is that important? A college website's target audience is the teenager looking to go to college and the adult student pursuing a graduate or professional degree.

About a year ago, Wingate hired EnVeritas Group (EVG), a worldwide content marketing firm based in Greenville, South Carolina, to redesign www.wingate.edu. The old site looked tired. It was more than five years old, which is an eternity in the web world, and was due for a facelift. EVG's specialty is writing web content for companies, mainly in the tourism and hospitality industries, in more than 70 countries.

It so happened that EVG's interest in branching off into the higher education space coincided with Wingate's need for a new website. Dyer was assigned to the project as lead writer, and Kathleen Gossman was the project manager.

"Most websites for most colleges are awful," Gossman says. "They have to have a website. And they're pandering to their internal populations or they're saying the exact same thing."

Wingate's website is different, she says. It was custom built, and it has several features the old one didn't:

It's mobile friendly, which the old site wasn't. Eight out of 10 students have a cell phone. One-quarter of them use their smartphone as the primary way to get to the Internet.



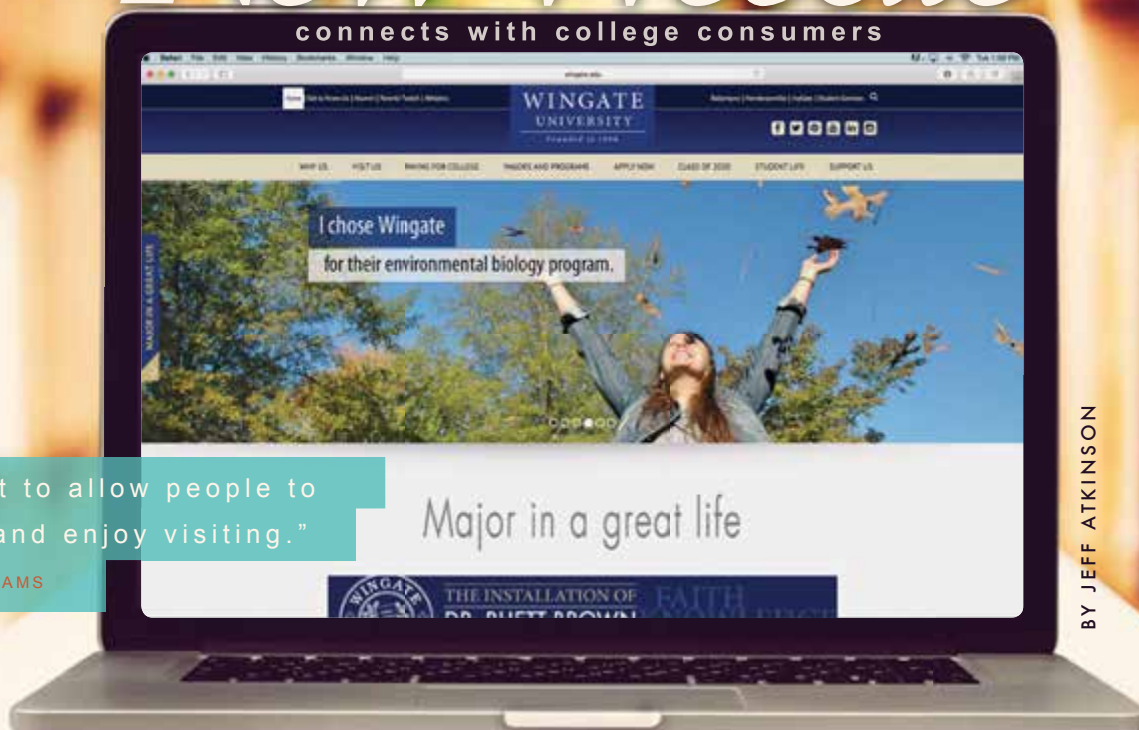
EVG and WU team members craft some of the 1,100 web pages



Stacy Dyer's niece, Austin Wham, provided him with inspiration while writing web copy.

New Website

connects with college consumers



"It's built to allow people to explore and enjoy visiting."

-BRADY WILLIAMS

BY JEFF ATKINSON

It has more photos and videos showing off Wingate's attractive campuses and programs.

It has better-organized content that focuses on the student. Text on the new site is tailored toward students, tells the Wingate story and describes the benefits of a WU education.

Before being hired, EVG conducted an audit of the old website and produced a 495-page report – the size of the Washington, D.C., phone book. The old site comprised 1,965 pages, 600 PDFs (portable document format) and some pages containing more than 1,000 words. EVG concluded that it was not friendly to the college consumer.

The new Wingate.edu has 1,100 pages, 50 PDFs and fewer than 250 words per page. Fewer words means there's more room for pretty pictures. "I'm a firm believer that the Internet is a visual medium and that we as humans are hardwired to understand our world in visual terms," Gossman said. "This website puts a higher value or premium on being visually literate. As a result, it tells the unique Wingate story in a more compelling way."

Early returns seem to validate the new approach. Site visitors are staying longer than they used to. The average

time spent on a webpage is up 34 percent from a year ago. And the bounce rate – the rate at which a visitor enters and leaves the website – is down 28 percent.

For Wingate, the redesign had to answer four key questions all prospective students have: Do you have my major? What is the cost? Will I fit in? And can I get a job with this degree? EVG says the new Wingate.edu answers those questions succinctly and clearly.

The project is by far EVG's biggest for a higher-ed client, and it took a village to pull it off. Working with Gossman and Dyer, the team consisted of several supervisors, a dozen writers, 17 editors and the staff of the University's marketing and communication office, which was responsible for coordinating with Wingate's faculty and staff and taking photos and producing videos.

Brady Williams, the website's senior designer, says the work's not done. "Websites are fluid and they evolve," he says. This one will as well. Williams adds, "It's built to allow people to explore and enjoy visiting."

And that's what Wingate University hopes the website does: drive visits to its three campuses and turn those visits into admissions. ▲

THE NEW *wingate.edu*

CUSTOM BUILT •
TAILORED TOWARD STUDENTS •
TELLS THE WINGATE STORY •
VISUALLY SHOWS OFF WINGATE •

SITE VISITORS
IN THE FIRST MONTH

46,009

TOTAL NUMBER
OF WEBPAGES

1,100

HOURS SPENT
WRITING/PRODUCING
CONTENT

7,000

TOTAL NUMBER OF
PHOTOS & VIDEOS

2,404

MOST VISITED PAGE *homepage*

MOST VISITED PROGRAM *physician assistant studies*

DEPARTMENT WITH MOST PAGES *pharmacy (101)*

ADA COMPLIANT THE NEW WEBSITE PASSES THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. WHEN AN E-READER SCROLLS OVER A PHOTO, THE E-READER WILL DESCRIBE WHAT THE PICTURE IS.

ELIMINATING ADDICTION

CHEMISTRY PROFESSOR SEARCHING FOR 'BACK DOOR' TO PAIN RELIEF

BY CHUCK GORDON



For centuries, the Matsigenka of Peru and other tribes in the Amazon have captured giant monkey frogs, tied their legs to stakes and “milked” the frogs to collect their waxy sweat. By burning the secretions into their skin, the men get sick and pass out. When they wake up, they feel superenergized and ready to hunt. They feel less pain and can therefore hunt for an extended period of time.

The secret ingredient in the frogs’ secretion is a “deltorphin” – a short protein, or peptide, that serves as an opioid painkiller. Its value is not so much in the pain killing – we already have opioids that do that, such as morphine – as in the lack of subsequent addiction.

At Wingate University, Dr. Krista Wilson, assistant professor of chemistry, is working with students to figure out how to produce a peptide that can mimic the secretion of the tree frogs of the Amazon, relieving pain without leading to drug dependency.

“It’ll give patients some pain relief, but when they don’t need it any more, they don’t crave it,” she says.

That craving is a huge problem in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), on average 44 people in the US die each day from an overdose of prescription painkillers. The CDC says prescription

opioids are being used more and more to treat chronic, noncancer pain, such as back pain and osteoarthritis. In fact, in 2012 doctors wrote 259 million prescriptions for opioids – more than enough for every adult in the US to have their own bottle of pills. That leads to more opportunities for patients to become dependent on the drugs.

And from prescription-opioid abuse, it’s a short step to heroin addiction. Heroin is often cheaper and easier to obtain than prescription opioids, leading people who have gotten hooked on prescription drugs to seek it out instead.

According to Drugabuse.gov, heroin abuse – and the number of deaths linked to it – is on the rise in the US. And heroin and opioid abuse both come with a high risk of overdosing, not to mention the criminal activity that often goes along with the addiction.

How opioids work

In various parts of the body, including the spinal cord and the brain, are found opioid receptors. If you’re in severe pain – say, you’ve been in a bad car wreck, or you’re fighting cancer – and are given morphine, Vicodin or Percocet, it’s these receptors that the pain killer binds to in order to provide relief.

Of the four types of opioid receptors, morphine binds only to mu receptors. But mu receptors bring with them a host of bad side effects, including addiction.

Wilson’s alternative is to develop a peptide that will bond heavily to a friendlier receptor, the delta receptor.

“The delta also causes pain relief, but it’s like a back-door method, so it doesn’t cause as many bad side effects,” Wilson says. For one thing, it’s not addictive.

Her collaborator, Dr. Susruta Majumdar of the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, says they are developing “the next generation of opioid peptides.”

Grueling process

As with much scientific research, Wilson’s is slow and painstaking. It entails completing work in Wingate, alongside her students, and then having the results tested in New York. If the results are positive, she can move on to the next step. If not, it’s back to the drawing board.

After obtaining her Ph.D. at the University of Florida and eventually landing at Wingate University, Wilson was looking to continue conducting research into peptides, something she had been involved in during graduate school.

Wingate University’s research capabilities have grown substantially in the past decade, but the school is still much more of a teaching institution than a research one. She had the capability to create peptides but no way to test them, using “assays” – tests that determine a compound’s potency.

She could set the pins up but had no way of knocking them down.

“I knew that I could get the peptide synthesis set up,” she says, “but I didn’t have any way to do any biological assays, because you need tissue-culture rooms, you

IN THE US

44 PEOPLE
DIE
EVERY DAY

FROM AN OVERDOSE OF
PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLERS.

need a lot of money, there’s a lot of consumables, you have to have a lot of cells. We just don’t have that kind of capability. So I could make the peptides, but then they would just sit around. ‘Oh yay, we made something! But we can’t do anything with it.’”

She needed the resources of a much larger organization. Enter Majumdar, a friend of hers from graduate school. Wilson and Majumdar had stayed in touch via Facebook, and after some digital back-and-forth on the social-networking platform, they decided to work together.

“I was asking him about his research, and he said if you make these peptides I’ll test them for you,” Wilson says. “He already had all the cell assays and animal assays, and he had money.”

She and her students create peptides by adding or removing amino acids – “playing games with the chemical structures,” Wilson says – and then send them to Majumdar, who tests them to see whether they retain their pain-killing properties.

The process is slow and methodical – which makes it typical science.

"IT'LL GIVE PATIENTS SOME PAIN RELIEF,
BUT WHEN THEY DON'T NEED IT ANYMORE,

THEY DON'T CRAVE IT.

— KRISTA WILSON



"Unfortunately, there is nothing like instant gratification in this field," Majumdar says.

Majumdar says he is "optimistic about our approaches" but adds that "we will have a better idea in a couple of years."

One compound that seems promising has an iodine atom attached to it. To test it, Majumdar does "tail flick tests" with mice. He injects the compound into the mouse's brain and places the animal's tail on a burner. The longer it takes for the mouse to flick its tail off the hot burner, the better the compound is working as a pain killer.

In mice, that compound has shown potencies up to six times as great as morphine, Wilson says.

That research has been published already – with Wilson, Majumdar and then-Wingate University students Robyn Pescatore, Seth Sedberry and Daniel Vinton listed as co-authors. The next step is to get the peptide to pass through the body without breaking down so that it can reach the delta receptor in one piece.

Finding her niche

Wilson took a practical path to becoming a professor of chemistry. To save money, she lived at home her first two years out of high school, while studying at Central Florida Community College (now the four-year College of Central Florida). At the time, she intended to become a veterinarian, but her general-chemistry class, taught by Dr. Lowell B. Sanders, sparked her interest in chemistry.

She compares the education she got at CFCC to the one she's providing at Wingate University.

"I lucked out and had some really good professors who really enjoyed teaching," she says. "My general-chemistry professor at the time was awesome. He continually pushed us to be our best and celebrated with us as we learned. He made me really love chemistry."

She went on to the University of Florida, where she completed her undergraduate degree and then earned a Ph.D. She had decided by this time not to be a vet, but she wasn't sure

she wanted to treat people either. Medicinal chemistry seemed to be a good fit.

"I did some research and started talking to some people who were in pharmacy, because I was interested in health science but I didn't really want to work with patients, because I didn't do sick people very well," she says, laughing. "But I still am very interested in the health sciences. So this is a way I can work in the lab and still benefit it but stay away from things I'm uncomfortable with."

Wilson found her way to Union County when her husband, Brandon, who has a Ph.D. in materials science and engineering, was hired by Allvac. She became a visiting professor of biology at Wingate before being hired full-time in the chemistry department six years ago.

Now she hopes to spark an interest in chemistry among her students, the way Sanders did with her back in Ocala, Florida. One way is to make it as hands-on as possible, and for some students, at least, she's able to do that through her research.

She says the ability to do the type of research she's doing with Majumdar is unusual for a school the size of Wingate.

"Our students are able to get a lot of research experience that they wouldn't be able to get at a lot of other universities," Wilson says. "I've got undergraduates doing graduate research, basically. So when they come out of the program, they're starting a level above."

Seth Sedberry '14 worked on peptide research with Wilson, creating and analyzing peptides. He is co-author of one piece of research that is published and is co-author of another that is in the revision stage.

Sedberry is pursuing a master's in chemistry from Western Carolina University, where he is researching the synthesis of fluorescent tags for the detection and improved study of melanoma skin cancer. He says that one of the most important things he learned from Wilson was the ability to improvise, "because in the field of chemistry half of everything goes wrong."

Then he sounds much like Wilson herself, describing her college chemistry professor back in Florida.

"More importantly," Sedberry says, "our research together taught me the joy of science, the excitement of learning and teaching others, and the purpose found in creating better healing through chemistry."

"She is enthusiastic about what she is doing," Majumdar says. "Her work and her students are very important to her. She is extremely dedicated to teaching and her students. The students in turn respect her for that."

It helps that she's so comfortable in her environment. Wilson lives in Monroe with Brandon and their three children, and she says she's enjoying life in North Carolina.

"We like that the seasons change," she says. "In Florida you have summer, then a few days of winter and then summer again. We used to turn our air conditioner on at Christmas so that we could have a fire on Christmas morning."

Wingate University also appeals to her.

"I like the size of the school," she says. "I like the students. I like the small classes. I like how the faculty feels like family. I like how it's very laid-back. 'Publish or perish' is not such a big deal as long as you have some sort of professional development. If you're a great teacher, that's what they care about. But I'm still able to do research."

Putting Wingate on the map Sedberry says the research Wilson is conducting is "the quality of programs that are larger and better funded."

"This experience alone convinced me to pursue the life of a research scientist," he says. "If she continues at her current trajectory, Dr. Wilson and her line of research could very well put Wingate University on the map at a national level as a place for premier chemical research."

Several hurdles must be surmounted first. For one thing, there's the matter of getting the peptide to pass through the body undetected before binding to the delta receptor.

"Your stomach doesn't know the difference between a steak and a peptide drug; they're both proteins," Wilson says. "In your stomach and your small intestine, you have acids and you have enzymes, and it's their job to break it down."

As a result, the peptides disintegrate fairly quickly, which makes it harder to get enough of them to the delta receptor to ease the patient's pain.

"So you have to give them either directly to the site of action or sometimes they'll work in the blood if you give them intravenously," Wilson says. "But it's hard to get enough to the site of action orally, because it gets broken down along the way."

Wilson and her team are in the process of "cyclizing" peptides – forming a ring in the compound – so they can pass by enzymes without being broken down. "Basically, we take the side chains and bind them together, and now we have a circle," she says. "And the enzymes in your small intestine won't recognize it as readily."

When Wilson first started her research, she says, her method of cyclization was all wrong. "I didn't have as much information as I needed at the time," she says. "I was doing some kind of cyclization that killed the process."

But the core sequence was sound, so she and Majumdar have been building on that, working via trial-and-error to refine the sequence. Once that part is figured out, the peptide can be radioiodinated, which means it can be more easily tracked in the body through radioactivity. It can then be used as a pharmacological

"It could be big for Wingate if we come up with a good drug compound," Wilson says. "We could be in on some licensing possibly in the future. That's kind of what we're going for: develop something that a drug company wants to put into clinical trials."

In the immediate future, Wilson is hoping in 2016 to have optimized a new cyclization method and synthesize a batch of opioid drugs that already contain a cyclized element, in the hope that they will retain their activity, thus proving that the new cyclization method works.

"It could be BIG FOR WINGATE if we come up with a good drug compound. We could be in on some licensing possibly in the future. That's kind of what we're going for: develop something that a drug company wants to put into clinical trials."

– KRISTA WILSON

tool to do advanced research into deltorphins, eventually leading to a new drug on the market.

At least, that's the hope. Wilson says the most likely outcome is for a pharmaceutical company to license any successful compound that comes out of her research, with proceeds coming back to the University.

"That could be a significant paper, something like the *Journal of Organic Chemistry*," she says. "If it doesn't work, it's kind of back to square one. But that's research: some things work, some things don't."

That's just one of many lessons Wilson's students are learning. ▀



THE GIANT MONKEY FROG's waxy sweat is being researched not just for the pain-killing benefit, but also for the lack of subsequent addiction.

GOING

'MONEYBALL'

WITH

ENROLLMENT

*Two-time grad ushers
Wingate into the
data age*

BY CHUCK GORDON



34% IN 6 YEARS



Sam Petoskey's sophisticated algorithms – calculated by a computer program he built and christened “HAL” – have helped Wingate's undergraduate enrollment grow 34% percent in the past six years.

Seeing Sam Petoskey '06, '08 riding a skateboard, glancing at a laptop and sporting a smart business-casual look is much like unearthing a transitional fossil. It's Petoskey past, present and future.

First, there's the skateboard. As a Wingate University student, Petoskey – now 31 and the data guru driving the University's enrollment surge – was once ticketed by campus security for riding his wheels on campus. At the time, skateboards were prohibited, for fear that they would damage the sidewalk. Knowing that longboards wouldn't hurt the concrete, Petoskey questioned the rule, eventually leading to its repeal.

"Sam questions," says **Dr. Rhett Brown '89, '01**, Wingate University's president. "That's been his real value."

Which brings us to the business-y outfit and laptop. Petoskey would perhaps be more comfortable in a T-shirt and soccer shorts, but his questioning nature has him in a position these days that dictates more-traditional dress.

Petoskey and Brown are responsible for a sea change in the way Wingate University fills its residence halls and classrooms. Petoskey's data modeling determines who WU's admissions team targets and how much to offer potential students in scholarships. His sophisticated algorithms – calculated by a computer program he built and christened "HAL," after the lifelike computer from the Stanley Kubrick film *2001: A Space Odyssey* – have helped Wingate's undergraduate enrollment grow 34% percent in the past six years.

The models will also play an integral role as the University charts its course for the future.

MONEYBALL

The story of how Brown and Petoskey nearly doubled the size of Wingate University's freshman class in just five years has a clear parallel: *Moneyball*, a bestselling nonfiction book that spawned an Oscar-nominated movie.

Moneyball chronicles the 2002 Oakland Athletics, who used a statistics-driven approach to building a Major League baseball roster, as opposed to the old-school "I'll know it when I see it" method so entrenched in the pros up to that time.

Several teams have copied the *Moneyball* approach, which leans more heavily on on-base percentage than home runs, and it has spawned the use of stats such as "wins above replacement" in lieu of the standard runs batted in and slugging percentage. It has revolutionized the game, and even the A's have struggled to maintain their success as big-money teams have

copied their tactics over the past decade.

Back in 2010, Petoskey and Brown saw themselves as the A's, doing business in a world of 1950s scouting protocols.

"The [higher education] industry has existed forever and changed very little," Petoskey says.

In the film, Hollywood idol Brad Pitt plays Billy Beane, the general manager of the small-market A's, who aims to compete with the deep-pocketed Yankees, Red Sox, et al. A dumpy, nerdy Jonah Hill plays stats man Peter Brand, who provides Beane with a new model for building a roster.

Petoskey isn't entirely comfortable with the analogy.

"Once I finally convinced him to see the movie, he came in and said, 'Really? I'm Jonah Hill?'" Brown says. "I was like, 'You're the smart one!'"

Petoskey, who is hesitant to embrace his inner nerdiness, was always good with numbers and excelled in his math courses but didn't see a career in it.

"I was always good at doing math and liked logical thought processes, but I wanted to be a PE teacher," he says. "It just seemed like a lot more fun than doing numbers."

At Wingate he played on the soccer team and cruised campus on his skateboard, denying his inner geek. "Sports gave me the delusion that I wasn't a nerd long enough that I convinced myself that I wasn't a nerd," says Petoskey, a sport management major. "Then you look back: *Harry Potter*, *Lord of the Rings*, *Chronicles of Narnia* – yeah, it's not terribly shocking that this is what I ended up doing, in retrospect."

Upon graduation in 2006, Petoskey took a job as a residence director at Wingate so he could get free grad-school tuition (he got his MBA from WU in 2008). When an admissions-counselor job opened up in 2007, he jumped at it, because then the free tuition came with a salary.

He soon became the athletic-department liaison for the admissions office, and suddenly his interest and ability in math could be used in a real-world setting. He started using predictive analysis – much of which he learned in Dr. Barry Cuffe's quantitative-analysis classes – to help teams with their recruiting.

For instance, Petoskey figured out that, on average, 64 percent of the WU football team will still be on the roster the following year (because of graduation, transfers, eligibility fulfillment and attrition). He could tell head coach Joe Reich exactly how many players to recruit in order to wind up with a 130-man roster each fall.

**"Sam questions.
That's been his
real value."**

- DR. RHETT BROWN

THE BIG GAMBLE

Extrapolating that to the wider undergraduate population was another matter.

In 2009, Wingate's undergraduate freshman enrollment was a scant 375, about 50 fewer students than anticipated. At the time, Wingate was a couple of years into a risky experiment: Keeping admissions counselors at home. Until 2007, the University employed a typical recruitment strategy: buy names of high school students from a supplier, send out cards in the mail (hoping potential students would respond), and send admissions counselors out on the road to recruit.

Brown had already decided that buying more names was a better use of the school's money than paying for admissions counselors' travel. But then the recession hit, and the enrollment numbers dropped. University officials weren't sure whether the dip in enrollment was a consequence of the economy or Wingate's recruitment process, but either way it was disconcerting.

With many private schools sporting huge endowments, and with public institutions getting state money, schools like Wingate were at a disadvantage.

"We knew that if we kept playing the game the same way as everybody else, we were going to lose," Petoskey said. "So we had to play it differently."

Brown, then the University's vice president for enrollment, had been toying with the idea of employing a more data-driven approach to recruitment. The recession provided an incentive to change tack.

"We didn't know if this was a challenge that was unique to us or if it was higher-ed-wide," Brown says. "And so that's when we said, 'Well, what we're doing isn't working. Let's try something else, and if it doesn't work, we can always go into a different line of work.'"

Brown liked some of the predictive data analysis Petoskey had been doing for the athletic department, so the two started talking.

The result was the first iteration of HAL.

In a nutshell, the computer program places potential students into one of 49 categories according to demographic data such as SAT scores and GPA. Petoskey finds out from Brown and admissions director Gabe Hollingsworth what they want the freshman class to look like – number of students, academic profile, etc. – and Petoskey keys in the data. HAL tells him how many students in each category to target, and what to charge them. Price is a key factor: In general, if you charge students less, you'll get more of them.

Petoskey relished the opportunity to create HAL.

"I think it just kind of captivated his interest and lit a little bit of a fire," Cuffe says. "Once he got a chance to get his hands dirty with that, he took it and ran."

HAL is so good that, if Wingate wanted to have a freshman class of 1,000 or 2,000 next year, HAL could get them. Of course, there

would be nowhere to house them or feed them, but HAL could bring in the numbers.

In the film *2001*, HAL takes over the ship. "That's why I named it HAL," Petoskey says, "because if you let it run wild it will kill you."

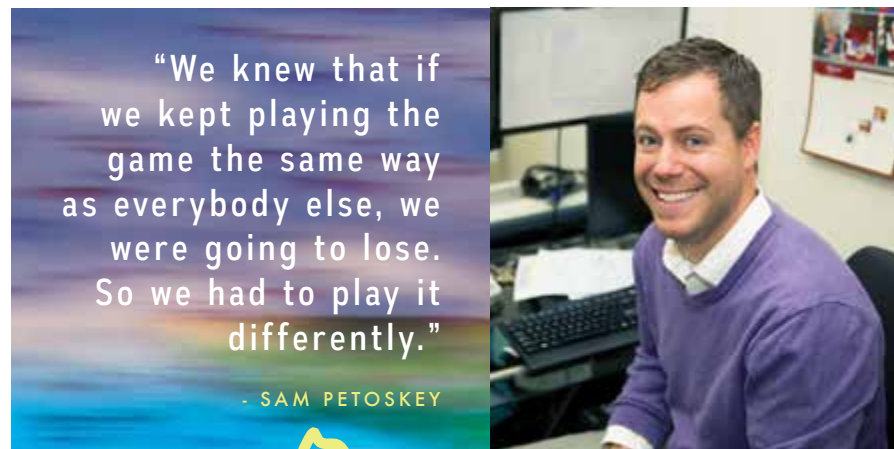
THE BIG REVEAL ... EARLY

HAL is just one part of the equation. Wingate also flipped the script for awarding aid. Most schools sell the student on the school first, hooking them on the amenities, campus life and career potential, before revealing the sticker price. After the student has filled out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) forms, the school reveals how much the out-of-pocket cost will be sometime in the spring.

Wingate gives the estimated total cost of admission up front. The theory is that price is the major factor in a student's decision-making process.

"You're able to get the family the best offer as early as possible, so that they can start weighing their options much earlier than other schools, who'll make them do the FAFSA and then you don't get a complete aid package until March or April," Brown says. "We're giving you our best offer in October."

Also, Wingate, like most colleges and universities, accepts more students than it denies. Petoskey says that the idea is to not waste resources on students who would be denied or who wind up at another school anyway. Once students are accepted, the admissions office then establishes a relationship with them to

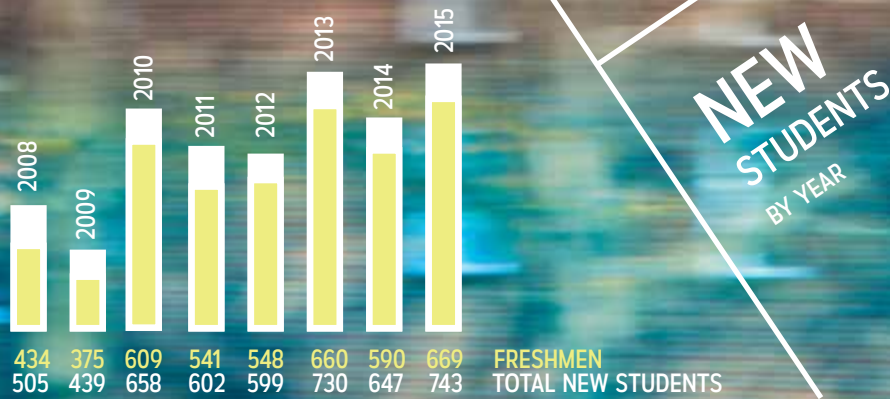


determine whether Wingate is a good fit for them.

Too many people view a low acceptance rate as more prestigious. Petoskey looks at it from a more practical standpoint.

"I see the denial rate as wasted resources," he says. "Those are students' names I've bought, I've communicated with, we've sent mailings to. We've spent students' tuition dollars to market ourselves to people we then go around and deny because they weren't going to be a good fit for us to begin with. Every student we deny is just resources we've wasted."

The radical makeover carried plenty of risk. The University lowered the average out-of-pocket cost for new students by about \$4,000, meaning that if Wingate



brought in what used to be an average-sized class – about 400 students – it would have faced a shortfall of about \$2 million.

“You just made a \$2 million gamble on what some 25-year-old nerd in the basement said was a good idea,” Petoskey says.

UNCERTAIN OUTCOME

In February and early March of 2010, it looked like the house might win. The number of students sending in deposits – which pretty much commits the student to the University – was not looking good.

“We were tracking the exact same way as we had been the previous year [2009],” Brown says. “I mean, there was no uptick. At this point I’m like, ‘My career is over.’”

“And then about mid-March, they’re starting to get other schools’ aid packages, and they’re realizing that ours is a better offer. ... About mid-March, deposits started coming in. We had a week where normally we would have gotten 30, and we got 50. And we had a week where we normally would get 60, and we got 100.”

By mid-April, Wingate already had more deposits than it had total new students the previous September. Wingate wound up with 609 freshmen in 2010.

Says Brown: “All of a sudden we’re saying, ‘We don’t have enough room!’”

The University had to contract with Hill-top Inn in Monroe to house students.

“He gambled a lot,” Petoskey says of Brown. “I was still 25 at the time and

didn’t fully appreciate what the stakes really were – until after we had done it.”

SELECTIVE SKATEBOARDING

Enrollment has continued on an upward trajectory since the big gamble. Since the jump from 375 to 609 in 2010, Wingate’s freshman enrollment has come in somewhere between 540 and 670. In the fall of 2015, Wingate had 743 new undergraduate students, including transfers. Total enrollment has grown from 2,280 in the fall of 2008 to just over 3,100 last September.

Petoskey has grown too. He’s no longer the budding mad scientist plotting schemes in the basement of the Stegall Administration Building. He’s a family man now, with a wife and two kids, including a newborn, and he no longer wants to be a PE teacher.

He also has a realistic view of what the reliance on data can mean for real people. Figuring out how and where to allocate – or reallocate – resources can have an effect on people’s careers. He understands that, and worries about it.

“I fret about the results of this daily,” he says. “Also, the strategy is only as good as it is well executed. In this regard, we have been very fortunate with the level of work from our enrollment-management team.”

Petoskey has moved out of his basement lair, taking up residence on the third floor of Stegall, where the trustees meet, and where Brown’s office is located. That means a slight change in lifestyle.

“My father-in-law tells me, ‘You know that means you can’t ride your skateboard

to meetings anymore,’” Petoskey says. “I say, ‘I can. I just have to be selective as to which meetings I’m riding it to.’”

“Being 31 and having kids and the position, it’s very, very interesting to think about it that I’m not the crazy kid in the basement making ridiculous ideas for the fun of it. But we were so good at doing it because we were trying things that other people wouldn’t try.”

Petoskey hasn’t lost that spirit. He continues to tinker with HAL and take on projects for other departments on campus. He admits that HAL will most likely have to be rebuilt at some point, so that it can do more for the University, such as refine the academic profile of the average student and more easily determine who will be successful at Wingate.

It was in Cuffe’s class that real-world math started to click for him, and now his eyes light up at the prospect of digging further into the data. Especially since he created HAL in the first place.

“The most fun part of it is that it is something new that we built,” he says. “I don’t think it would have been nearly as much fun if Wingate were already doing a lot of these things. A lot of it was figuring out what we should be doing. It was brand new. We created it ourselves, and trying it out and getting it wrong a lot of times, and adjusting it and figuring out how to get it right – that was way more fun than, ‘OK. This is the formula. Plug it in.’”

To keep the job fun and interesting, Petoskey simply asks more questions – about the future of HAL, the admissions office and the University itself.

“How can we use it [HAL] to change the fundamentals of the higher-education model?” he asks. “Does a university education have to cost as much as it does? Can we deliver a better product? Can we take students that have the national-average profile and deliver better-than-national-average results? Which, so far, we’ve been able to do. Can we make it sustainable?”

The kid on the skateboard is just glad to be an integral part of the team finding those answers. ▀

BY CHUCK GORDON

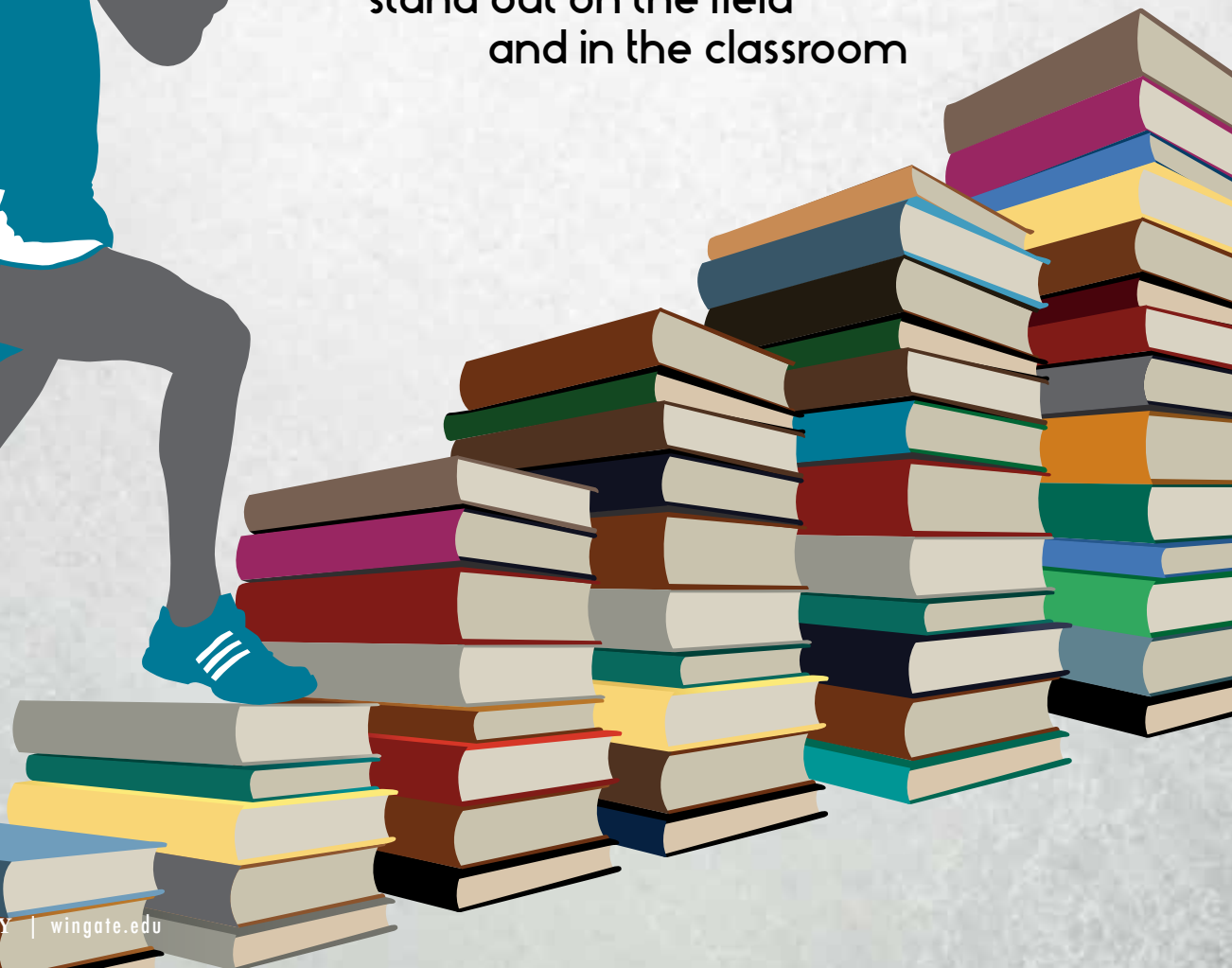
best of both worlds

>>

wingate athletes
stand out on the field
and in the classroom



>>
WU coaches
believe in the
philosophy
"student first,
athlete second"



It's no secret that major-college athletics is big business. According to *USA Today*, in the 2013-2014 academic year the University of Oregon's athletic department brought in nearly \$200 million in revenue.

To reap the financial rewards of bowl trips and NCAA Tournament play, schools have to keep their athletes eligible. And to do that, some athletic departments have been known to occasionally color outside the lines a little: tutors writing papers for players, "independent study" classes that have no real coursework, outright cheating (or "impermissible academic assistance," in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's legalese).

Those situations can tarnish the "collegiate athletics" brand – and that perception can even filter down to schools that are scandal-free.

"We might get stained a little bit, tarnished a little bit because of some of the bad press," says Dr. Nancy Randall, Wingate University psychology professor.

Any residual staining on the Blue and Gold, however, is unwarranted. At Wingate, often the best students are athletes.

Consider the following: In the new millennium, Wingate has produced 82 Academic All-Americans, as chosen by the country's sports information directors. That's No. 1 in North Carolina, ahead of both UNC and Duke, and No. 1 overall in NCAA Division II.

This spring, **Grace Krauser '13**, a standout volleyball player during her time at Wingate, left for Brazil on a Fulbright scholarship (after being a well-decorated academic standout at WU). And Wingate has the most South Atlantic Conference Scholar-Athletes ever (65).

There are several reasons for the Bulldogs' impressive collective performance in the classroom. As the academic profile of the average Wingate University

student has risen over the years, naturally the academic profile of the University's athletes has too. The University also provides free tutoring to all students, and many athletes take advantage of resources such as the Writing Center and the Academic Resource Center. The open-door policy employed by most professors also doesn't hurt.

Finally, the coaches buy into the "student first, athlete second" philosophy, while maintaining the SAC's top overall athletic department.

But coaches now have an incentive to bring in even better students. A rule instituted by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), the largest collegiate-athletics governing body in North America, encourages coaches to go after much brighter players.

Here's how it works: The NCAA limits each athletic team to a certain number of total equivalent scholarships – the combination of athletic and institutional money given to a student. If a football signee gets \$4,000 in athletic aid and \$16,000 in academic money, then \$20,000 counts against the football program's total aid allotment. But if that student has a 3.5 grade point average (GPA), has an 1140 on the two-part Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or is in the top 20 percent of his graduating class, only the athletic aid is counted. The rest goes back in the pot and can be used to bring in more players.

"That encourages our coaches to recruit better students," says **Liz Biggerstaff '02**, WU's assistant athletic director for compliance and business operations, and a recent inductee into the Wingate University Sports Hall of Fame.

Biggerstaff and Dr. Barry Cuffe, who teaches statistics and is the faculty athletic advisor, work together to ensure that no scandals engulf the WU athletic department.

Not that they have much to

worry about on that score. Wingate student-athletes regularly feature at or near the top of the SAC's best-GPA lists for each sport.

>>
No hand-holding
In 2014, the Bulldog football team finished 3-4 in the South Atlantic Conference but led the league in team GPA. Also, an astounding five Bulldogs were named Academic All-Americans that season. This year, two Bulldog football players were named Academic All-American.

For head coach Joe Reich, it makes sense to recruit a team full of classroom achievers.

"I don't want to spend 90 percent of my time holding a kid's hand academically," he says. "I'd rather have a guy I know is reliable and can make it academically, and then we can spend time on developing him as a football player."



One such player is Eric Mapoles, a senior linebacker from Snellville, Georgia, who walked on at

Wingate after getting little attention from Division I schools. Mapoles' dedication on the field and off was rewarded last fall when he was named first team All-SAC and, for the second consecutive year, Academic All-America.

Mapoles, a business-management major who is planning to apply to graduate school, says the discipline it takes to succeed on the field has helped him in the classroom.

"The truth is there are days when you don't want to go out to that second two-a-day. You just want to sleep," Mapoles says. "It makes it a lot easier in the middle of the semester when you've got a test. You can



Often the best Wingate students are athletes.

>>

82 Academic All-Americans since 2000

No. 1 in North Carolina (ahead of both UNC and Duke)

No. 1 overall in NCAA Division II

just stay up and study. It builds up your work ethic."

That will also translate to the workplace, Mapoles says.

"The past four years I feel like I've been working a 9-to-5 already," he says. "I think that balancing class and then balancing sports means it's not going to be as much of a real-world shock when I have to balance a job."

Athletes' competitiveness often drives them to succeed in the classroom. Mapoles' teammate Mathu Gibson, another all-SAC performer last fall, graduated in December with a 3.3 GPA. In high school, he says, he "did what was necessary" to get decent grades without putting in the extra effort. But after a sophomore year at Wingate when, he admitted, he slacked off – "I'm not going to lie: I didn't really study," he says – his competitive nature kicked in. His last couple of years he worked hard to raise his GPA.



"I want to be the best student regardless," he says. "I sit in front of the class, raise my hand, participate. The teacher's going to know me."

Of course, not every player

is self-motivated. Nor do they all come to Wingate with even a B average (Reich says that the minimum for high-school recruits is a 3.2 GPA and 1000 on the two-part SAT but that he'll make exceptions on occasion). In those cases, sports serves as both a carrot and a stick.

If Bulldog football players don't perform well in the classroom, Reich makes them attend 6 a.m. study hall. He implemented the crack-of-dawn sessions in 2014, and he says he had a lot fewer attendees in 2015 than a year earlier.



"They hate it," Reich says. "And that's the whole purpose."

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Two-way street

The United States is virtually alone in connecting athletics and academics at the higher-ed level. It's an oddity to many. There are always naysayers who contend that too many resources are devoted to college sports, where a wide receiver or power forward can be a star even if he's failing in the classroom.

But at Wingate, the relationship between athletics and academics is symbiotic. While students get an education and the thrill of competition, the University benefits by bringing in a ton of students who might have gone elsewhere – many with impeccable academic credentials.

"Some of the students in our program could go anywhere, academically," says

Steve Poston, Wingate vice president and director of athletics. "They're very strong academic students, ranked at the top of their class, great test scores, everything. They can do that. They couldn't go anywhere and play their sport. They're not an elite, Division I athlete. But they want to continue to compete. So they look at Division II as that place."

At Wingate, a quarter of the undergraduate student body participates on an athletics team, a situation that helps bring in tuition revenue. And many of those players are exceptional students who most likely would have wound up at a larger institution were it not for a desire to continue competing on the field – or on the running trails.



In the early 70s, Barry Cuffe was a backup catcher on the baseball team at the University of Miami. "They had me in there in case three other guys got hurt or something," he says. "I played two innings in my whole career."

Even though he enjoyed his time at The U, and even got to go to the College World Series, he understood when his daughter, **Stacy Cuffe '05**, considered spurning academic scholarship offers at major Division I schools. Stacy ultimately ran cross country for four years at Wingate, where she majored in mathematics. She went on to earn a master's in

>>

5

WU Football Players

were Academic All-America in 2014

operations research at the University of Maryland.

"She could have gone anywhere," Barry Cuffe says. "A lot of people said, 'Why would you let her go to Wingate?' Kind of like me, she was a good athlete but not a great athlete. She would not have been able to be an athletic factor at most of those other places. She wanted to run cross country."

"If I didn't believe in not only the athletic experience but also the academic experience, I would have been silly to not make her go to some of these other places. I did not hesitate to have her come here."



In 2013, Alyssa Johnson was all set to take her 3.99 high-school GPA to Santa Clara University, an NCAA Division I school 15 minutes from her hometown of San Jose, California. Then she got an e-mail from Joe Soehnlen, Wingate's cross country coach at the time, and she decided to check out the school. She liked what she saw.

"I liked the brick," she says. "I liked the trails. That was a big thing for me, having the trails on campus. Not many universities have that privilege."

Beyond that, she was impressed with Wingate as an academic institution.



thought was important, and the small class sizes."

>>

Just another student

Class size, Johnson says, is a major plus. The elementary-education major, who has a 4.0 GPA, says she is happy with her choice of school, especially when talking to friends who went to state-supported schools in California.

"They go to a lecture and there's like 200 people there," she says.

Johnson has a cousin who plays baseball at a school in a Power 5 conference. He lives off campus, with the rest of his team, and tells her he takes all of his classes online.

"I don't know if I could do that," she says. "It sounds like you're not even part of the university."

There is no "athletic" housing at Wingate or other Division II schools. Student-athletes must complete their requisite number of lyceums and must complete their coursework on time, just like any other student.



"I think that's one of the great things about playing sports at the Division II level," Biggerstaff, the assistant athletic director, says. "I really do feel like these kids are student-athletes – they're



» Wingate is No. 1 among all SAC schools with



91

lifetime Academic All-Americas

students first and they're athletes second. There's not all that money involved at this level."

Biggerstaff fully understands the difference between Divisions I and II. She began her playing career at Wake Forest University, a highly regarded school that is fairly small by Division I standards. She transferred to Wingate after two years, playing basketball and soccer for the Bulldogs.

"At Wake Forest, basketball consumed me," she says. "Part of that was me. I let it consume me. But here, it was the opposite. I wasn't here just to play basketball. I was here to get my psychology degree.

"At the Division II level they don't have as much ownership over you, because some of the kids aren't even on athletic scholarship."

>> **Developing leaders**

Biggerstaff, Johnson, Krauser and Stacy Cuffe represent another facet of athletics at Wingate that shouldn't be overlooked: Molding female leaders.

Randall says that, because women historically have been offered fewer leadership opportunities in their formative years, sports can help bring out such traits.



"So, you take women and you put them on sports teams – and sororities do

the same thing, by the way – they really grow leaders," says Randall, who teaches a course on gender roles in society. "The team-sport phenomenon – you have to work together in a group, right? Certain people will develop leadership skills."

According to research conducted by the professional-services firm Ernst & Young (EY), participation in athletics can help women work their way up the corporate ladder. EY surveyed 400 female executives, 94 percent of whom had participated in sports at some point. The firm found that 52 percent of C-suite women (CEOs, CFOs, COOs) had played sports at the university level.

The women surveyed believed that many of the attributes of the successful athlete could be found in the successful corporate executive.

"You're motivated, you're on a real time commitment, you follow through, you complete your work or you get benched or you don't play or you're no longer a member of the team," Randall says. "You have a competitive spirit about you. It's not always good to be competitive. But in a lot of situations – industry settings, business settings, organizational settings – for people to be competitive is generally considered a positive trait."

>>> **Setting priorities**

At times it seems that the drive to win has gotten out of hand. In a

bid to earn more and more wins, many Division I schools pay top dollar to hire the best coaches. That often means that the highest-paid public employee in many states is a football or basketball coach. And with millions of dollars on the line, the athletic side of the equation often takes precedence over the academic side.

At Wingate, the entire athletic budget – including scholarships – is \$8 million. It's just not a big business. But that doesn't mean athletics is an afterthought. As a whole, Wingate University sports teams have an enviable conference record, winning the SAC Echols Award for top overall athletic program nine years in a row.

That nearly decade-long run is doubly impressive considering that Wingate's graduation rates (for athletes receiving athletic aid) and academic success rates (which includes data for athletes who are not receiving athletic aid) are well above the conference average.

"I can't speak for other schools, but here at Wingate I'm sure our coaches understand the philosophy of Division II," Randall says. "I think we live the D-II mission – in trying to create the student first and a strong athletic program second."

"I think it's generally a true statement that our coaches care more about the academic well-being of our students than the faculty care about the athletic success of our students," Barry Cuffe says.

That said, there is plenty of athletic success to be found (and many faculty members are ardent supporters of Bulldog sports teams). Poston, the director of athletics, says the ideal for Wingate is to be something of a Stanford University of Division II. Every year for over two decades, Stanford, a highly regarded academic institution, has won the Division

I Learfield Sports Director's Cup, given to the top overall athletic program in the NCAA. Wingate finished sixth in the Division II competition last year.

So far, Wingate's athletic teams are dominant in conference play. The next step is to become a national power. Wingate's Learfield total of 603.2 points last year was solid, but no school finished anywhere near the winner, Grand Valley State, in Michigan, which amassed a whopping 965.5 points. (Grand Valley also has an enrollment of 25,000 students.)



"To win we will need to get more of our teams in the NCAA playoffs and advance further in the tournaments," Poston says.

Poston says that the academic side will help.



» Wingate is No. 1 all-time with 65 SAC Scholar-Athlete Award winners

"I do believe that the importance our coaches place on academics translates to success on the field," he says. "I have always felt that a student-athlete who is unwilling to work hard in the classroom will also let you down on the field of play. Very few of our student-athletes will make a living playing their sport. The quicker they realize that fact the better student they become. In almost every case, our best players are also successful students in the classroom." ▴

Sonia Nazario's visit to Wingate University couldn't have come at a more opportune time. Donald Trump's statements vilifying undocumented immigrants were reverberating across the nation. The Court of Appeals was weighing President Obama's attempts to prevent the deportation of 5 million people. And North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory was preparing to sign a law banning the creation of "sanctuary" cities.

It was against this backdrop that the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Enrique's Journey* shared not only the story of a Honduran teen who risked life and limb on a train-top quest to find his family, but her own experiences in researching and reporting the plight of thousands like him, for whom she has become a mouthpiece.

"This is a story that still calls me. Like it or not, I have become a voice for these children," Nazario told guests at the Ethel K. Smith Friends of the Library luncheon Oct. 27.

Students and faculty who took part in the Wingate Reading Experience (WiRE) had already learned from Nazario's book about the wave of immigration that brought nearly 11 million people into the country illegally between 1990 and 2008 and the fact that 48,000 children enter the United States from Central America and Mexico each year, without either parent, many of them searching for their mothers.

BY LUANNE WILLIAMS

UNDOCUMENTED CHILDREN

RISK
IT

ALL

TO REACH U.S.

"I LIKE STORIES
THAT TAKE
PEOPLE INSIDE
A WORLD THEY
HAVE NEVER
EXPERIENCED."

-Sonia Nazario

Some wind up at Wingate University, aiming for a better life

Because Nazario was willing to retrace Enrique's steps, traveling 1,600 miles – half of that on top of freight trains – through Mexico to the U.S. border, and was willing to interview hundreds of people along the way, her readers already had an extremely detailed picture of what children are willing to endure to pursue their dream of reuniting with family.

During her time at the university, Nazario filled in the blanks before and since the book's publication, first explaining her passion for immersion reporting and later updating audiences about how the immigration situation has changed in the 15 years since Enrique made his trip.

"I like stories that take people inside a world they have never experienced," Nazario says. "In following in Enrique's footsteps, I was trying to find the turning points, the highs and lows, and connecting the most powerful scenes using all five senses. ... I knew if I were there with the migrants, I could write with authority and passion."

She remains passionate as she describes the plight that many immigrant families face. First, there's the struggle of parents, often single mothers, who feel forced to choose between staying with their children in what Nazario calls "grinding poverty" or leaving them on a risky attempt to enter the U.S., find work and send money back until they can save enough to return. Then, there are the desperate attempts of the children to be reunited with those parents.

"In most cases the separation lasts much longer than the women believe it will and the children ultimately resent their mothers for leaving them," Nazario says, adding that even if they do find their families, as Enrique did, the outcome isn't what they expect.

In the updated afterword of *Enrique's Journey*, Nazario reports that experts believe "only one in 10 immigrant students ultimately accepts his or her par-

ent and puts the rancor behind them." Most often, the family upheaval continues, which is one reason that nearly half of all Central American children who arrive in the U.S. after age 10 fail to graduate from high school.

But Nazario says the ones who do find a foothold often prove to be diligent and persistent in their studies.

"These immigrant children are incredibly resilient and determined," Nazario says. "And that is the good part we get of immigrants – that incredible resiliency and determination. And you see that in the schools here in North Carolina; the teachers talk about that."

She says that at colleges across the country students approach her to share their own immigration stories.

"Some of them say, 'I came up on top of the freight trains.' Many of them say, 'I was separated from my mother in the process of coming here, and I didn't see her for 10 years,'" Nazario says.

Sylvia Ramirez (not her real name), 21, who graduated from Wingate University in May 2015, was separated from her father for three years before she, her mother and sister came from Colombia into the United States on a temporary visa and stayed.

"He came here to work because at Christmas he couldn't buy us presents, clothes or toys. He wanted a better life," Ramirez says. Although her journey didn't involve harrowing train rides or being smuggled in by a *coyote*, it was not without fear and loss.

"It has been really hard for me," she says. "I miss my grandpa and grandma, aunts and uncles. Here it's only immediate family."

She now has some protections under the U.S. immigration policy known as DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), but from the beginning she has feared her family would be caught and deported, especially since her parents cannot get a driver's license.

"We always worry about if either of our parents were caught driving without a license, we would all be in trouble," she says, remembering her first year in the U.S. as a sixth-grade student. "At school I had ESL (English as a second language) classes, so I was with a lot of Hispanics, and some of the guys would joke that they were going to call 'la migra.' As an undocumented person I would never joke about this. I didn't ask anyone if they were here legally, because I didn't want them to ask me."

Ramirez says that after high school she had a hard time finding colleges that would offer help to undocumented students. According to the College Board, of the 65,000 or so undocumented children who graduate from U.S. high schools each year, only 5 to 10 percent make it to college.

"Some states don't allow undocumented students to apply, and some do but don't give financial aid, so you have to look for a private school," Ramirez says, adding, "You can't really get far in life without education."

With her degree in biology, Ramirez is working in the medical field, logging the hours and saving the money she will need to apply to a physician assistant program, if she can find one that will admit undocumented students. Her ultimate goal is to help the children of Haiti, where she would like to build a Christian school.

ACCORDING TO THE COLLEGE BOARD,
OF THE 65,000 OR SO UNDOCUMENTED CHILDREN
WHO GRADUATE FROM U.S. HIGH SCHOOLS EACH YEAR,
ONLY 5-10 PERCENT MAKE IT TO COLLEGE.

“Many of these students have overcome many obstacles and ... I think these students have enormous potential,” Nazario says.

Steven Hyland, Wingate University assistant professor of history, says the undocumented students he knows understand how they are fulfilling the hopes and dreams their parents have for them.

“They understand the sacrifices their parents have made to put them in a position that would be very difficult to replicate were they in their country of origin,” he says. “They also know that they live precarious lives.”

Hyland says the DACA program, which allows those who arrived as children and meet certain requirements to get a Social Security number and driver’s license and enter the labor force legally, is based on an executive order by President Obama and could go away in 2017, depending on who is president.

“Simply by performing at a high level in the classroom while not knowing whether or not in 13 months’ time you will be able to actually pursue your dreams of being a nurse or an attorney or attending PA school is a daily act of resilience, and, frankly, an act of deep faith,” Hyland says.

He said the issue for universities is not whether to admit undocumented students but how to make an education affordable to them.

“As a private institution, Wingate has

flexibility where the public universities do not. And, Wingate has worked diligently to make education accessible for the undocumented,” Hyland says. “As an institution predicated on the idea of fostering knowledge for the public good, we have a moral obligation to serve these young men and women interested in bettering their lives and

“AS AN INSTITUTION PREDICATED ON THE IDEA OF FOSTERING KNOWLEDGE FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD, WE HAVE A **MORAL OBLIGATION** TO SERVE THESE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN INTERESTED IN BETTERING THEIR LIVES AND THAT OF THEIR FAMILIES.”

Steven Hyland

that of their families.”

One of Nazario’s roles is helping communities, both in the U.S. and, perhaps even more important, in their home countries, to foster these students’ potential. A first step, the author says, is to understand what drives immigrants to leave to begin with, the evolving “push factors” that she says must be addressed.

Nazario has long been an advocate for micro-loans to help women start businesses, trade policies that give preference to goods from Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, and programs that help educate girls – all aimed at bringing families out of poverty right where they are. She also wants the U.S. to acknowledge that many Central Americans are literally fleeing for their lives as the result of warring drug cartels.

“When Enrique came more than a decade ago, he was largely motivated

by wanting to reunify and be with his mother again,” Nazario says. “Today, the circumstances for Central American children are completely different. The number-one driver is violence. These are some of the most violent countries on earth and really have homicide rates second only to Syria, which has had a raging civil war for six years.”

She says the narco-cartels are recruiting children “to be their foot soldiers to sell drugs, to serve as lookouts, to extort money from local businesses and ultimately to work as ‘sicarios,’” or hit-men.

“A lot of these children face one choice when the gangs and narcos approach them:

Join, or we’ll kill you,” Nazario says. “I draw a clear distinction between someone who comes here for a better life and someone who is running for their very life, and that’s what’s happening now in Central America.”

While calling for the U.S. to step up to the plate and do a better job of offering a safe harbor to the oppressed, Nazario admits that throwing open the borders is not a viable option. Instead, she says, migration must be dealt with from an international development viewpoint, and she says it is not a black-and-white issue but one that requires a deeper understanding – one reason she is so glad to have universities such as Wingate choose *Enrique’s Journey* for a group read.

“I think people change their perceptions by knowing someone who is that ‘other,’” she says. “By forcing students to read it, they’ve taken them into the life of one family.”



HIGHER EDUCATION IN NORTH CAROLINA

>>

WU holds first Leaders Summit

Getting a

glimpse

of the future

In an age of text messaging, Instagram and interactive voice response, it can be refreshing to meet someone face-to-face for a chat. That's one reason Wingate University held its first Leaders Summit this year.

The event, held Jan. 27-28, brought together 120 friends of the University – board members, alumni, faculty/staff, parents and donors – in the same room together to get to know each other and get a glimpse of what awaits the University in the years ahead.

The event was a first for the University and was the brainchild of new University President Rhett Brown, who has attended similar events as a member of the advisory board at Carolinas Health-Care System Union, the hospital in Monroe.

“Each year they have a leadership event at Ballantyne with doctors, administrators and board members throughout their organization to discuss the state of the entire healthcare system,” Brown says. “Each year they have a keynote address and then breakout sessions. I’ve always found the event to be valuable and thought-provoking. So we decided to do something similar this year, because we didn’t have an occasion for

members of our various boards, faculty, students, staff and parents to get together and talk about the future of Wingate.”

To get a clearer picture of the state of higher education and where Wingate fits in, the event featured three breakout sessions held in various parts of the Batten Center. Hope Williams, president of North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, spoke about the state of higher education in North Carolina. Joretta Nelson and Dean Rodeheaver of Credo, a higher-education consulting firm, told attendees about Credo’s involvement with WU, specifically regarding the strategic plan and the campus master plan. And Brice Bay of EnVeritas Group, which redesigned Wingate’s recently re-launched website (pages 26-27), talked about meeting consumer expectations.

The two-day event was essentially an expansion of the Board of Trustees meeting held every January. In addition to the breakout sessions and the board meeting, new trustees and committee chairs had orientation meetings and individual trustee committees met.

In the evening on the first day, Matthew Pellish, of the Education Advisory Board, was the guest

speaker at a Leaders Summit dinner at Rolling Hills Country Club in Monroe. Pellish shed some light on the new generation of students Wingate University serves.

“We learned a lot from Matt Pellish at the dinner about these millennials – you know, what they want and what they need in a college,” says **Stacey Harris ’00**, Wingate University’s director of special events.

“We decided to do something for members of our various boards, faculty, students, staff and parents to get together and talk about the future of Wingate.”

– RHETT BROWN

Brown says that from the feedback he received immediately afterward, the event achieved its goals.

“I’ve had a number of participants comment on how informative it was and express their appreciation for the opportunity to meet other stakeholders,” he says. “All in all, I’m really pleased with how it turned out.” ▽

THE
REAL
DEAL

BY CHUCK GORDON

WINGATE GRAD A FIXTURE IN MLS TEAM'S MIDFIELD



G O A L posts and national-team members beware: In his drive to reach the upper echelon of soccer, **Luke Mulholland '11** doesn't really care if you're in his way.

Mulholland has fought his way from overlooked, asthmatic soccer obsessive in England to all-American at Wingate University to a starting spot in Major League Soccer, and he's done it with a slightly goofy flair that endears him to hometown fans and teammates alike.

Mulholland's playful side was on full display on June 21, 2015, as his MLS team, Real Salt Lake (RSL), scored in stoppage time to up-end Sporting Kansas City 2-1. At one point, Mulholland, defending in a packed goal box, leapt to keep a high-bouncing ball out of goal. As the ball ricocheted harmlessly off the top of the goal, Mulholland appeared to head-butt the goal post.

Videos of the incident wound up on websites around the world, including that of the BBC in Mulholland's native England. On close inspection, it only *appears* as if Mulholland head-butted the post. He mostly just drove his shoulder into it. It's possible that Mulholland did it just to be, as the Brits say, "cheeky."



"Was that his 15 seconds of glory?" Wingate University men's soccer coach Gary Hamill asks. "He claims he didn't mean to do it. But who knows? That's just the sort of character he is."

Mulholland the court jester wasn't done. After Jimmy Plata put RSL up 2-1 in that game, the team performed a choreographed jazz-hands celebration, after which Mulholland sneakily pulled down the shorts of teammate Sebastian Jaime.

Such antics only work if you're pulling your weight on the field. And after being somewhat overlooked as a youth player, Mulholland more than shoulders his share of the load these days.

DECEPTIVE FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Hamill first laid eyes on Mulholland in late summer 2007, when he picked up the Englishman at Charlotte Douglas International Airport. Hamill had never met Mulholland or seen him play, even

on video, but he'd been assured that the teenager was worth a full scholarship.

Suffice it to say, Hamill was underwhelmed.

"That night I went and picked him up at the airport and I thought, 'That's a scrawny little guy,'" Hamill says.

It didn't take long for the "scrawny little guy" from Preston, Lancashire, to make an impression. Hamill soon found out that the 5-foot-8 Brit had a work ethic that few could match. He also had a nose for the goal, an ability to lift his teammates and a motor that ran nonstop.

"After two or three days of preseason, it was like, 'We need to make sure this fellow goes nowhere,'" Hamill says.

Mulholland stayed put and had a decorated career: Four times he was named first-team all-South Atlantic Conference; three times he was named all-American. He could do it all: score goals, set up his teammates, inspire his fellow Bulldogs and, perhaps most important, make them laugh.

Now Mulholland is doing all of that at the highest level of soccer in the United States, roaming the midfield in Utah for Real Salt Lake, having displaced a promising young star in the process. Mulholland, 27, is one of a highly regarded midfield trio, and probably the least likely of them all.

As a child, Mulholland loved soccer, but he didn't exactly get local scouts excited. He was small for his age, and he was asthmatic. Every winter – the heart of the soccer season in England – he had to sit out weeks at a time because the cold, damp air restricted his breathing. He was also born in August, the tail end of the school year, which meant he often had to compete against boys nearly a year older than he was.

"On top of that, maybe I was just a little bit of a late bloomer," he says. "I was always a football fanatic, but I don't think I started controlling and dictating games until my late teenage years."

By then he was faced with a choice: Sign with a regional pro team in the northwest of England and try to work his way up the Football Association ladder, while working part time; or come to the United States, where colleges and universities would pay for his education while he matured as a player.

"I decided to take the trip over the pond," Mulholland says, "and it's worked out for me so far."

TRUST

Mulholland might have been late in his football development, but when he finally did bloom, he was impressive.

David Bell, an old friend of Hamill's, was coaching Manchester United's women's team in the mid-2000s, and he also helped out with a local high-school team, which is where he ran across Mulholland. Bell called Hamill and told him he ought to sign him. "He says, 'You need to take a look at this fellow. He's very, very special,'" Hamill says.

Hamill put his trust in Bell, and it paid dividends. Mulholland

led Wingate to a 56-21-4 record during his four years, leading the Bulldogs to the NCAA Division II playoffs three times and to a SAC regular-season title once. Mulholland's 100 points (37 goals, 26 assists) place him 15th all-time in SAC history.

Hamill in turn entrusted Mulholland with the captain's armband – and Mulholland says that responsibility was ultimately good for him.

“He put a lot of, not pressure, but a lot of trust into me as a sophomore, when there were still juniors and seniors on the team, to captain a team,” Mulholland says. “I think that made me focus a lot on my football, made me stay on the straight and narrow, stay out of trouble, make sure I’m trying to lead by example, on the field and off the field.”

He did it quietly, letting his work ethic speak for itself.

“Playing-wise? He was a leader on the field. Non-stop,” Hamill says. “You know, he captained the team. But it certainly wasn’t verbally. It was all what he did and how he did it, on and off the field. He was different.”

Mulholland was about as feted as you can be at the collegiate level, but that carries no guarantees in the professional ranks. His first try-out, with the Charleston (S.C.) Battery of the United Soccer League, went nowhere. Hamill then got in touch with David Irving, an Englishman who at the time was the longtime coach of the Wilmington (N.C.) Hammerheads of the USL (formerly known as USL Pro). He gave Mulholland a shot.

It’s a familiar theme with Mulholland. Somewhat overlooked, impresses someone with connections, that person implores a contact to put his trust in the young player. And maybe one final item in that series: that trust pays off. Just as Hamill’s trust in Bell paid dividends, Irving was repaid quickly for trusting Hamill. While still a Wingate University student, Mulholland made his professional debut in April 2011 and scored a goal. He went on to be named the USL Pro rookie of the year and was named to the league’s Team of the Year.

He pulled double duty – student and pro soccer player – for several weeks toward the end of his collegiate life. He admits that his grades slipped a little as he managed the juggling act, but he still graduated on time with a sport management degree.

“It was kind of a cool thing to sign a professional contract before I graduated,” Mulholland says.

He even had a game – in Wilmington – the day he graduated. “We did the graduation, the whole walk, and then had a three-hour drive to Wilmington and then had a game in the evening,” he says. “It was a long, emotional day.”

Mulholland played just one season in Wilmington, but he’s still tied for ninth all-time in the USL with six game-winning goals.

Mulholland’s success was a double-edged sword for the Hammerheads. With their young midfielder performing at such a high level so early, he was bound to be noticed by a bigger club eventually.

CLIMBING THE LADDER

As a spectator sport in the United States, soccer has grown tremendously in the past 20 years. To wit, last summer NBC signed a six-year deal worth \$1 billion to broadcast English Premier League

games in the U.S. Domestic professional soccer has grown steadily over the years, but the structure of the various divisions is hardly as solidified as it is in Europe and Latin America, with leagues and teams coming and going over the past couple of decades.

Still, the 20-year-old Major League Soccer (MLS) sits firmly atop the pyramid (ahead of the NASL and the USL), and Mulholland knew that’s where he belonged.

“I wasn’t settled just playing at Wilmington,” he says. “I wanted to play at the highest level possible.”

Mulholland wasn’t long into his Wilmington career before he was noticed by teams with ambitions that matched his. When his Hammerheads season ended in August of 2011, Mulholland was quickly snapped up by Minnesota of the NASL on a short-term contract to finish out the season.

Again, Mulholland paid quick dividends. He started all seven games for the team, scoring two goals, including the game-winner in the first leg of the Soccer Bowl finals. The team went on to win the 2011 Soccer Bowl, and Mulholland was named MVP.

A free agent, he then signed with the Tampa Bay Rowdies, another NASL team, and one with a Wingate connection. Former Bulldogs star David Hayes was an assistant coach/player for the Rowdies, and he helped the team land Mulholland.

Mulholland stood out once more, making the NASL’s Best XI team two years running. All the while, Real Salt Lake was watching, the team’s eyes being assistant coach Jeff Cassar. They liked what they saw, and RSL signed Mulholland in January 2014. In two seasons he has become a fixture for the club, with nine goals and nine assists in 60 games.

He was even at least partly the reason midfielder Luis Gil, a former captain of the Under-23 U.S. national team, left RSL at the end of last season.

“At the end of the day, Luke is a competitor,” says Cassar, now RSL’s head coach. “When he sees somebody in front of him or competing with him, he’s going to do anything he can to win the competition.”

HARD - WORKING JOKER

That competitive drive was also evident when Mulholland was steering the Wingate Bulldogs to the NCAA playoffs on a regular basis. Hamill compared his Mulholland-led Bulldogs teams to a Mercedes-Benz.

“It looks nice, and it’s nice outside, and it’s nice inside,” Hamill says. “But if you don’t put an engine in it, it doesn’t go anywhere. So Luke provided that bottom-line engine to our team over the years.”

“LUKE WAS A LEADER. BUT IT CERTAINLY WASN'T VERBALLY. IT WAS ALL WHAT HE DID AND HOW HE DID IT, ON AND OFF THE FIELD. HE WAS DIFFERENT.”
- COACH HAMILL

LUKE MULHOLLAND'S CAREER STATS

		Games	Goals	Assists
2011	Wilmington Hammerheads (USL)	23	9	5
2011	Minnesota Stars (NASL)	7	2	0
2012	Tampa Bay Rowdies (NASL)	26	6	6
2013	Tampa Bay Rowdies (NASL)	25	11	7
2014	Real Salt Lake (MLS)	31	6	7
2015	Real Salt Lake (MLS)	29	3	2

ACCOLADES



- ↳ Four-time All-South Atlantic Conference, three-time All-American, 2009 SAC player of the year
- ↳ USL Pro rookie of the year (2011)
- ↳ Named to USL Pro Team of the Year (2011)
- ↳ Tied for ninth all-time in USL history with six game-winning goals, despite playing just one league season
- ↳ First player named to NASL Best XI team in back-to-back seasons
- ↳ Scored game-winning goals in semifinals of NASL Soccer Bowl playoffs in back-to-back seasons, once for Minnesota and once for Tampa Bay
- ↳ Named MVP of 2011 NASL Soccer Bowl after scoring Game 1-winning goal

It was an engine that never sputtered or ran out of fuel, during games or on the practice field.

"I don't think there's ever, ever going to be another player who has worked as hard," Hamill says.

"I'm never going to be the best player in the world," Mulholland says. "I know that. Or the best player on the team. But you can always control being the hardest working."

But just because you're doing the heavy lifting doesn't mean you can't lighten the mood. Hamill describes his former star as "a 27-year-old joker."

His specialty was post-goal celebrations – some that went overboard.

"One season we had a lot of celebrations planned out," Mulholland says. "We had the whole 10-pin bowling and the players falling over. We had the grenade. I think after a while the coach told us to pack it in because we were wasting too much time celebrating."

Then there was the time he spontaneously wound up in the arms of a linesman. After scoring a goal, he took off toward the corner flag, ostensibly for another team celebration. Instead, he tried to leapfrog the linesman. The linesman still mentions it whenever he sees Hamill.

"How could you forget that?" Hamill says. "Out of all the things you could remember out of a four-year career, I'll remember that more than anything."

Cassar likes the full package: competitor, leader, jokester.

"Whatever he's doing, he gives his all," Cassar says. "I think that radiates out on the field, radiates through our fan base. He's just a player our fans like to see because he's so passionate about the game."

"One thing we try to do at RSL is have everyone play with passion and fight. With Luke in particular, it's passion, it's personality, it's production. Backing it up with his passion but also with his play."

THE FUTURE

He seems to have found the perfect fit: a starting job on a family-friendly team in the continent's top league. As a bonus, he gets to go shoulder-to-shoulder with some of the world football stars of his youth: Robbie Keane, Thierry Henry, Kaka, David Villa.

Tops among them is Steven Gerrard, a longtime midfield star of Mulholland's favorite English team, Liverpool, who now plays for the L.A. Galaxy of the MLS. Mulholland battled Gerrard twice last season, with RSL winning both. "It was breathtaking, to be honest," Mulholland says.

In the first matchup, Mulholland assisted on the game's only goal. He also brought his boyhood idol down with a tackle and got whistled for a foul. "It was a good tackle in my book," Mulholland says with a laugh.

For the second match against Gerrard's Galaxy – a 3-0 RSL victory – Mulholland flew his family over from England. The night was special for his mother, who teared up seeing her son talking with Gerrard on the pitch. But it wasn't fully satisfying for Mulholland.

"Both times I asked for his jersey, but he had the hump because we beat them both times, so he didn't give it to me," Mulholland says. "But that's OK. We'll see him again. I might have to wait until they beat us to ask him, when he's in a better mood."

Is fitting in well on the team and playing against the legends of his childhood enough to keep Mulholland from trying to take his game to an even higher level – playing back home in soccer-obsessed England? So far, it's not much of a consideration for him.

"I think the MLS is a good fit for me," he says. "To go back to England I feel like I'd have to start from scratch, and before you know it you can be a forgotten man."

At the lower rungs – say, the third tier of the English game – the style of play is more rough-and-tumble and less technical. That's not a perfect fit for Mulholland's more precise game.

And RSL loves him. In the offseason, Mulholland was negotiating with the club for a pay increase. "I don't think they're in any position to let him go anywhere," Hamill says. "It's very rare that you find somebody like that, who has managed to keep the under-23 national-team captain on the bench."

Says Cassar: "I'm not the general manager, but he's doing everything right to take care of himself in the future."

The present isn't looking too bad either for the playful English Bulldog who is overlooked no more. ▀



MULHOLLAND AND HAMILL



Finding his NICHE

<<
Wingate experience eventually led two-time alum to a career in higher education

BY DUSTIN ETHERIDGE

Sam Spencer '92, '96 is rather unconventional. He started his teaching career in a prison, and the car the busy marketing and economics instructor drives is one of the biggest marketing disasters of all time.

But whereas Ford's Edsel is now a cautionary tale, things have worked out pretty well for Spencer. The two-time Wingate University alum has found his niche, at the place that has been interwoven into the fabric of his life since the late '80s, when a coworker told him about "this great little school" she'd attended. He's now back at Wingate – on two campuses – teaching in the same classrooms he once sat in as a student.

It's Spencer's fourth stop at Wingate. He earned his bachelor's degree in business management in 1992, returned two years later to begin working on his MBA, and came back to work in resource development during his circuitous route to education. After trying his hand at a number of careers, the two-time Bulldog has settled in as an educator. "I still never felt fulfilled, because I always knew deep down I wanted to teach," he says.

But to completely understand how Spencer's Wingate love affair has come full circle,

you've got to go back to the beginning.

Humble beginnings – the stock boy

Spencer's journey to Wingate University started with a passing comment from a coworker during his senior year at Myers Park High in Charlotte. He was working part-time as a stock boy when one of his coworkers asked him about his postgraduation plans. He said he wasn't sure yet.

"She said, 'I want to talk to you about this great little school that's not far from here that I went to, and I really think it would be good for you,'" Spencer says.

That school turned out to be Wingate College. Spencer made arrangements to visit the campus, and once he got here he knew he was hooked. "The first time I stepped on campus, I absolutely fell in love with it," he says. "It's like I had come home, when I didn't know what home was."

Ever humble about his roots, the first-generation college graduate says his University education has had a huge influence on his life. "It truly did change my life, and in a lot of ways it saved my life, because I came from not the best background as far as family situations," he says. "I really needed some place

to connect with." Little did Spencer know at the time how deep his connections to Wingate would eventually run.

After graduation – businessman and grad student

Spencer graduated in 1992, and like most of the people he crossed the stage with that year, he entered the work force. "I started in retail management, and that just wasn't the thing for me," he says. "Then I went into the insurance business. And I thought, Well, this is OK. I made decent money."

But Spencer wanted more for himself, and he had motivation to make a progressive change. "At the time, my mom was sick, and I knew that her time was limited," he says. "I really wanted to prove to her while I had time with her that I was going to try to do more even than I had before with my life."

Spencer decided to continue his education, and like an old friend Wingate University was there to help him along. "I thought, You know what? I had such a wonderful experience with Wingate, and it seems like nowadays an advanced degree is the direction to go in, why not look back to Wingate?" he says.

Spencer graduated in 1996 with his MBA, but that hardly signposted the road to a

teaching career. He zigzagged from insurance to higher education – returning to Wingate University as the planned-giving coordinator – and then back to insurance, helping launch and run a new agency.

But the yearning for something deeper continued to gnaw at him.

Class is in session – the prison professor

Spencer felt a desire to teach and empower people, just as his instructors had when he was a student. He specifically recalls with fondness the classes of Dr. Beverly Christopher, a now-retired English professor. “She was such an amazing instructor, and she always stood out to me,” he says. “I was mesmerized in her classes. And I thought even then, if I could be even a small percentage influential one day as she was to me, that maybe teaching was something I wanted to do.”

While continuing his work as an insurance agent, an opportunity eventually presented itself to teach. He opened the paper one day and “there was an ad to teach a marketing class at the Brown Creek medium-security prison in Polkton.”

Everyone has to start somewhere, and Spencer was no exception. But a prison?

“They gave me a tour of the prison, and of course I’m nervous. I mean, I’m in a prison! I had never been in a prison before,” Spencer says. “The guy over that program said, ‘Oh, don’t worry. I’ll be here the first day with you.’”

The first day, he was ushered into the classroom by the program director. “And so I’m standing there in front of about 17 inmates, and they’re all staring at me,” Spencer says. “And then he says, ‘OK. Well, have fun! I’ll see you later.’ And he’s out the door.”

It was daunting, to say the least.

“The first day I ever taught in my life was in front of inmates,” he says. “I stood there and I looked at these 17 inmates. They’re staring at me. I’m staring at them. I took a deep breath, and that’s where my teaching career started.”

Spencer was hooked. He says he found teaching in the prison environment to be especially fulfilling. “I felt like that was what I was meant to do,” he says.

Teaching with grace – the mentor

Spencer taught at Brown Creek for a couple of years, eventually making the transi-

tion to a more-traditional educational environment. Even then, he continued to leave a mark on his students there – one in particular. “It was a couple of years after I left my prison teaching job that I received a letter from that student asking if I would be interested in being his prison-sponsored mentor,” Spencer says.

Spencer accepted the task. He received his mentorship certification and soon was taking the student beyond the prison walls at Polkton once or twice a month, mostly for a meal or a short outing.

Spencer recalls the raw emotion of their first bimonthly meeting. “The first time I took him out for church and lunch was the first time he had been out of prison in 17 years,” he says. “At first, he was scared and I was nervous, but we continued for three successful years until his release.”

For his mentoring efforts, the stock-boy-turned-prison-professor gained a lifelong friend. “I did my best to help him re-assimilate into society, and I am happy to say he has and we are friends to this day,” Spencer says.

Lesson plans – the classic-car enthusiast

Fast forward several years and several teaching positions later, and Spencer is now teaching up to 12 classes a semester, on three different campuses. He’s a full-time instructor at South Piedmont Community College, teaching early-college and undergraduate students. He’s also an adjunct at Wingate University, teaching undergraduates on the main campus and adult and graduate students at Wingate University’s Ballantyne campus at night.

Spencer has also found a way to weave his love for classic automobiles into the fabric of his teaching. It’s an idea that was born out of a moment during his time as an undergraduate at Wingate.

Afflicted with affection for the Ford Edsel, a car widely considered the greatest failure of any modern carmaker, Spencer drove an Edsel to campus during his years as an undergrad. “I remember the day I was in marketing class and the textbook mentioned the Edsel marketing debacle,” Spencer says. “Mr. Scott Kirkwood was my instructor, and he said a few words about what a mess the Edsel business was. I raised my hand and stated that I had one. Professor Kirkwood was amazed any still existed, let alone ran.”

And even though it isn’t the same Edsel he drove across the tracks that lead into

“Wingate truly did change my life, and in a lot of ways it saved my life.”

—Sam Spencer

Wingate back in the 1990s, Spencer still drives an Edsel today – a 1958 model.

He brings it to his classes on days when he is discussing how poorly the Edsel was received. “Often students glare at textbooks and PowerPoints and listen to lectures not actually realizing that real objects, places and people have created the reality that we live in,” he says. “Since the Edsel is such a powerful, iconic American symbol of a marketing failure, it is a perfect item to present to a business class to cement the concepts being presented.”

It’s become a pillar of his teaching method. “To me, education is about introducing theoretical concepts, associating current realities, and then reinforcing it all with historical events,” Spencer says. “What better historical event than the introduction of the Edsel?”

Returning ‘home’ – Professor Sam Spencer

Now, it appears, Spencer is doing exactly what he was meant to do: teaching and educating the next generation, though with a few nostalgic moments. “Most of the classes I have over in the Neu building are in the one big lecture hall, which I did have classes in,” he says. “It’s surreal.”

It’s the culmination of a love story that began in 1987 with a stock boy from Myers Park High who didn’t know what we wanted to do when he graduated, and a University that was there to help him figure it out. “It was like part of my life was always going to be with Wingate in some fashion,” he says.

And in true Wingate University fashion, Spencer will continue to teach as long as there are students who need to learn. “I really want to leave that desire to learn and to be excited,” he says. “If the students can be as excited about Wingate as I still am excited about Wingate after all these years, then that’s the goal, both academically and about the institution in general.” ▀

WINGATE
MBA
STUDENTS
THRIVE
ON



'RELATIVE' SUCCESS

BY SHARON FOOTE

For many students, grad school is a grind. If you type “How hard is graduate school?” into the search engine Google, you’ll get more than 119 million results.

But four students in Wingate University’s Master of Business Administration program at Ballantyne may have found a way to replace some of grad school’s stress with success. The four work full time, attend class at night and spend nearly every spare moment doing homework and writing papers. Their magic formula: going to school with a close family member.

Dan Wallach and Kristy Wallach are husband and wife. Ken Long and Kent Long are father and son. All four say their MBA school experience at Wingate is better and might be easier because they are sharing the load with someone they love.

“I think it would be harder if only one of us was going to MBA school,” Dan says. Kristy adds: “We understand what the other is going through. We

know how much time is required for studying, working on a project or writing a paper.”

But Kristy admits that some people

might be skeptical. “We are married, work for the same employer and go to school together,” she says. “It’s a little crazy. We’re insane, aren’t we?!”

Kent Long and his father, Ken, have a similar story.

They attend Wingate MBA classes together and often study and commute together. “That’s been meaningful,” Kent says. “It’s been a good opportunity for us to spend some time together.”

Mark Bryant, director of Wingate’s MBA program, says family members attending grad school together is rare.

“Going back to school as an adult presents many challenges, especially balancing work and life issues. So family support is critical,” Bryant says. “But the Wallachs and the Longs are taking that to a new level. Their success requires an entirely different form of family support.”

STUDY BUDDIES

The Wallachs and the Longs say one big benefit is studying together. “His strengths are my weaknesses and my weaknesses are his strengths,” Kristy says of her husband. “Dan’s a very quantitative person. I’m more qualitative. In classes like Operations Management, it’s amazing to have a study partner who works with you.”

Meanwhile, Dan depends on his wife’s knowledge in other subjects. “I didn’t take any marketing classes in undergrad,” he says. “So she’s definitely helped me in the qualitative classes.”

Having a study partner has also helped the Longs. Ken says his son is better in math, maybe because of his engineering degree. “Kent’s my tutor,” Ken says with fatherly pride. “His strengths are that he’s very analytical, so he can explain those kinds of things.”

Kent says he’s inspired by his father’s dedication and hard work. “He puts in the time on the job, with the family and then with the school work,” Kent says. “Being able to see that has motivated me.”

MAKING THEMSELVES MARKETABLE

Kristy and Dan have been in Wingate’s MBA program together for their entire married life. They met in 2011 while working for Liberty Mutual in Charlotte’s Ballantyne area. They got engaged in 2013, started attending MBA classes together that summer and got married on Oct. 5, 2013. Both manage teams that process disability insurance claims at Liberty Mutual.

Kristy grew up in Tryon, North Carolina, and majored in business at the University of South Carolina with the intention of going to grad school. “Getting an MBA has always



MARRIED COUPLE
Dan and Kristy Wallach

been a dream of mine," she says. When she and Dan were dating, she told him, "I'm going to do this and you're going to do this with me!"

Dan wasn't convinced at first. "After four years of college and playing college football [at the University of Pennsylvania], I was not enthused about going back to school," he says. "But she talked me into it. And it's been good. I think we'll see the benefits in our careers."

According to Kristy, getting an MBA is more than learning new skills. "You put MBA on your résumé and people know you're dedicated and committed," Kristy says. "Getting an MBA makes you more marketable."

Dan is originally from West Palm Beach, Florida, and majored in economics. He says MBA classes have improved his decision-making abilities and will increase his chances of being promoted. "My father worked for the same company his entire career," he says. "I see myself doing the same thing. I want to use my MBA to further my long career at Liberty Mutual."

"YOU'RE GOING TO DO THIS *with* ME!"

—KRISTY WALLACH

The Wallachs have found it works best if they don't take the same MBA classes at the same time.

And Dan takes each fall semester off to coach football at Indian Land High School. They say Wingate's MBA program is flexible, accommodating their schedules and preferences.

FATHER-AND-SON QUALITY TIME

Ken and Kent Long have always been close, from Ken coaching his son's pee-pee soccer team to serving as best man at Kent's wedding in 2014. They sit side by side in MBA class and often study together. "He's a good built-in tutor to help me get through the program," Ken says, laughing.

Ken and Kent both live in the Charlotte suburb of Harrisburg, and both work uptown for Duke Energy. Attending the MBA program together means spending time together in the car.

"On school days, we commute to work together so we have that time to share," Ken says. "And then on the commute to Wingate (in Bal-

lantyne), we can discuss what we're going to be talking about in class. It's a good time to just relax and talk about things, share things."

Kent realizes that most men his age aren't able to spend much quality time with their fathers. "We're both at a place in life where our busyness can sometimes get in the way," Kent says. "You've got work and families, and your life starts to speed up." Kent says attending MBA classes, commuting and studying with his father all provide "good opportunities for us to catch up."

Ken, an information-technology manager for Duke Energy, says he's already using what he's learned in MBA classes, especially writing papers and doing public speaking. "It's really prepared me for my management role and doing presentations in front of executive staff and just overcoming that fear of writing," he says.

After 30 years at Duke Energy, Ken hopes getting his MBA will help him launch a second career. "I want to teach college," he says. "I taught computer science years ago and I enjoy teaching."

Kent is a project manager at Duke Energy. He's getting his MBA to improve his productivity at work and maybe boost his career options. "I think in today's society, a lot of people are coming out with undergrad degrees," Kent says. "An MBA is a feather in your cap if you're looking for job opportunities or promotions."

FRIENDLY COMPETITION ABOUT GRADES

Both the Wallachs and the Longs admit to being a bit competitive.

"I got a test back and got a 94," Kristy says. "I took a picture of it, sent it to Dan and said, 'This is going on the fridge.'" She admits she's "clearly bragging" but claims that Dan got a B in that same class when he took it.

"No, I got an A," Dan replies. "Whatever," Kristy says. "But I am getting higher test scores than you." Dan shakes his head and says, "I don't know about that."

They laugh, then Kristy acknowledges that she and Dan are both getting good grades because they encourage each other. "I'm thankful to have him with me," she says. "To have him help me is amazing."

Ken and Kent also thrive on a little rivalry. At first, Ken denies competing with his son in class. "A lot of his grades, I don't know what

he gets and he doesn't know what I get," Ken says.

His son politely disagrees. "He gave you the diplomatic answer," Kent says. "My dad is competitive. He does like to compare grades. But if I do get a point or two higher, he's always pleased that I've done well."

BENEFITS OF WINGATE'S MBA PROGRAM

Kristy, Dan, Ken and Kent went to large universities for their undergraduate degrees. All four say bigger is not better than Wingate's personal, face-to-face learning environment. "I think the Wingate MBA is a very good program," Kent says. "I enjoy coming into a classroom as opposed to going online."

"I love the one-on-one attention," Kristy says. "Every professor has been excellent. It's good to go somewhere small where the MBA director knows you by name and the professors remember your maiden name from two years ago."

Ken and Dan also praise Wingate for making it easier to complete required business classes they did not take as undergraduates. "The MBA program at Wingate provides what's called Business 500 that allows you to get all of the pre-reqs in one semester," Kent says. "That really helped me, as opposed to taking four, five or six business pre-reqs over a year or two." Dan agrees, saying, "Because time and money are so important, Wingate's Business 500 option was big for me."

Ken Long completed his MBA coursework last December. Kent Long and Kristy Wallach will finish in the next few months. Dan Wallach hopes to finish this fall or maybe in the spring of 2017.

Earning an MBA degree is extremely important to all four of them. But even more important is how the time spent earning that degree has deepened their relationships as father and son, or husband and wife. "We work together, we go to school together, we see a lot of each other," Dan says. "In the process, Kristy and I have redefined what it means to have a successful marriage." ▀



FATHER AND SON
Ken Long (left) and
Kent Long (right)

ONE
GRAND

Piano

STEINWAY & SONS

PHOTO: PIANO PLAYED BY FAMED CLASSICAL PIANIST VLADIMIR HOROWITZ.



On Oct. 1, 2015,
Wingate University
hosted a night at
the Duke Mansion

in Charlotte for the Charlotte arts community. Members of the Charlotte Opera Guild, key community leaders, local music and arts enthusiasts and members of Wingate University's Planned Giving Council were treated to music by David Brooks, Wingate assistant professor of music, and the Wingate University Singers. The star of the show was the piano Brooks played – which also happens to be the final piano played by famed classical pianist Vladimir Horowitz. The nine-foot concert grand, which accompanied Horowitz throughout much of his performing life, was on tour around the Charlotte area via Steinway Piano Gallery-Charlotte. ▲



NO LONGER TRAPPED

LOCAL AUTHOR GIVES STUDENTS FOOD FOR THOUGHT ABOUT RADICALISM

In Sam Wazan's childhood, bombs and sniper fire were a daily menace.

He described the environment in Beirut, Lebanon, in the mid-1970s to Wingate University students in the Batte Center in November.

The scenes were grisly and tough for a Westerner to envision.

"The roads, major roads, would be filled with debris, with bomb craters, rubble. And major intersections would be shut down by sniper fire," Wazan said at the Lyceum event. "There would be carcass-feeding dogs that develop the taste for human flesh. ... There would be charred cars sitting there for years. ... There would be no power. The supply of water would be intermittent. There would be no phones."

Wazan eventually found a way out, and he's now a longtime Charlotte, North Carolina, resident and author of the semiautobiographical novel *Trapped in Four Square Miles*.

But at the time he was slowly being radicalized. At a regional office of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, and at his local mosque, he absorbed the words of divisive leaders and began to hate the enemy.

"I would say that radicalization is the norm in that entire region," he told *Wingate Today*. "And I'm not just talking about Muslims. That includes Christians, Jews, Assyrians, Kurds. It's just the region. You get this stop-or-fast mentality. Hit or cry. Victim or perpetrator. That's radical. You're radical. You are. You don't know moderation."

In speaking to the Wingate stu-

dents, Wazan outlined five ways people are radicalized: venomous rhetoric, biased narrative, virtual and geopolitical context, slogans, and emblematic patriotism. He sees a lot of that in the United States today, specifically anti-Muslim talk from politicians.

So, how did Wazan escape without fully buying into the notion of us-against-them? "I always believed there was something better," he says. "I always believed that this is not right somehow."

He got much of that idea from books. Wazan had a friend whose father was a publisher, and he read biographies of "Western, non-Arab, non-Muslim achievers," such as Leonardo da Vinci, Beethoven, Thomas Edison, Helen Keller and Marie Curie.

"I think what happened, especially with Thomas Edison, is it just clicked for me," he says. "I don't think my parents would have thought to buy me those biographies. We were not a reading family. You see, in the Arab world, we don't read for the personal quest for growth. We read for grades. ... Nobody reads novels. They distract you from worship."

"Growing up, for a while I subscribed to that whole rhetoric, that narrative. I went to join a militia."

His family, however, stepped in, and with the help of their insistent persuasion, and Wazan's biography-fueled doubt, he turned his back on radicalization. He secured a visa to immigrate to the United States, eventually landing on his feet after "wandering around O'Hare Airport for two days." He moved to Charlotte 20 years ago with SeaLand, the freight company, and now he is a business consultant, author, inspirational speaker and entrepreneur.

He's trying to help others shun radicalism – and to keep it from taking hold in the United States. Wazan has formed Parenting for Humanity, what he refers to as "a fledgling social enterprise"

that he hopes to use to teach parents how to raise children who are respectful of all viewpoints and cultures.

"People are not thinking about the root cause," he says. "They just want to go and make somebody pay the price. The general sentiment is, 'Tell us you're going to go get them.' Because everything else is what? Weakness. If you talk peace, you're a hippy. If you say, 'Let's solve our problems peacefully,' you're a liberal, you're a hippy. And guess what. You're weak."

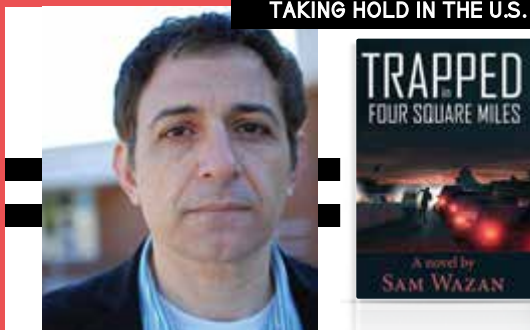
That, he says, is the prevailing thought. He also says that all Muslims tend to get lumped in with the terrorists. Wazan thinks Westerners would do well to realize that, just as there is a wide spectrum of Christian belief – from the Westboro Baptist Church funeral picketers on one side to Unitarian tree huggers on the other – so is the range of Muslims expansive.

"Muslims in the world are of varying degrees of virtue and compliance with the faith," he says. "But how do Westerners know that? The stereotypes are comprehensive and massive. The campaign is not against those Muslims who attack. It is about Islam."

He says he thinks he at least gave the Wingate students something to ponder after they left the Batte Center that day.

"I do feel that I'm making a difference, but I don't know to what extent," he says. "One [student] in particular, she almost broke into tears after the talk talking to me about how she's on board with me about what I was saying, and it just put words on everything she was feeling. I think that was very touching." ▴

WAZAN IS TRYING TO HELP OTHERS SHUN RADICALISM AND KEEP IT FROM TAKING HOLD IN THE U.S.



WUSOP STUDENTS PLACE IN TOP 10

Fourth-year Wingate University School of Pharmacy (WUSOP) students Katelyn Palmer and Brittany Logston placed in the top 10 in a prestigious clinical-skills competition in December.

Palmer and Logston paired up to compete against 129 other teams during the midyear Clinical Meeting and Exhibition of the American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists (ASHP) in New Orleans Dec. 6-10, 2015. In a poster competition, they presented results of their research evaluating health literacy in the inpatient setting. The two were among more than 1,500 students who presented research related to clinical skills.

Teams are not ranked, so placing in the top 10 is the highest honor achievable. Wingate has placed teams in the top 10 three times in the past decade. ▴

WU A BIG SUPPORTER OF LOCAL SCHOOLS DURING BizEd WEEK

East Union Middle School is only four miles from the Wingate University campus, but Jason Stewart believes that in a lot of ways it's not nearly close enough.

"The opportunity is there to have a much larger collaborative effort with that school," says Stewart, the technical director of Wingate University's George A. Batte Jr. Fine Arts Center.

Stewart had his eyes opened somewhat in November when he served as "principal for a day" at East Union. His stint at the school, which sits on U.S. 74 in Marshville, was part of BizEd Week, a program implemented by the Union County Education Foundation (UCEF) that serves as a fundraiser for the foundation but also connects members of the community with the Union County Public Schools (UCPS).

•••• M A J O R
I N A



great LIFE

Wingate University played a big role in BizEd Week (Nov. 16-19) this year. On Monday, Nov. 16, WU employees Jeff Atkinson, Gabe Hollingsworth and **Kayla Osterhus '14** joined WU freshman Will Legrand at Porter Ridge High School, where they talked to the junior class about college admissions and choosing a career. On Tuesday, WU employees **Candice Sturdivant '09** and Masoy Henry were "teachers for a day" at Forest Hills High School. Stewart spent Wednesday morning shadowing East Union Middle principal Ann Radke. And the WU softball team helped set up the fundraising breakfast on Thursday.

The University's involvement with the UCEF doesn't stop there. Sturdivant and Ed Davis, a former UCPS superintendent and now a faculty member at Wingate, are on the foundation's board. And three groups from the University bought tables at Thursday's Breakfast.

University President Rhett Brown was at one of the tables.

"Your president said my favorite comment of the whole day on Thursday," UCEF Executive Director Amy Sperry says. "He told Ed Davis, 'I think your organization just hit a tipping point.'"

BizEd started in 2011 with one program day and a lunch. Now it's three days of programs and a 30-table breakfast. Twenty-two schools are involved each year.

The money raised enables the UCEF to give LIFT grants, which help teachers implement special projects they wouldn't otherwise be able to, and to provide scholarships. ▲

PETER FRANK NAMED DEAN OF WU'S SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Dr. Peter Frank, an associate professor of economics and a 2012 Fulbright scholar, has been named dean of Wingate University's Porter B. Byrum School of Business. Frank has taught at Wingate since 2002 and recently has been serving as interim dean of the School of Business.

"It's an honor," Frank says of being named dean. "I am excited about the direction we are headed in the School of Business and as a university. I believe we are well positioned to provide our students an excellent opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to make a positive contribution in the global marketplace."

A native of Mansfield, Ohio, Frank earned degrees from Grove City College, UNC Charlotte and George Mason University. He has published research on topics such as business incubation in the Charlotte region, the institutionalization of venture capital, and functions of government in social entrepreneurship. He teaches courses at Wingate University in microeconomics, macroeconomics, business statistics, capitalism in U.S. economic history, and managerial economics. He has also led students on study-abroad opportunities to analyze commerce and culture in the Rhine River region of Europe.

In 2012, Frank was a Fulbright scholar, teaching economics at a university in the former Soviet republic of Moldova. His focus was the economic and political systems of Eastern Europe. ▲

PA HOODING CEREMONY A NIGHT OF FIRSTS

After 27 challenging months of coursework and clinical rotations, 52 physician assistant (PA) studies students were awarded master's degrees from Wingate University late last year. The graduates received diplomas and ceremonial hoods at a graduation event on Dec. 4.

In his keynote address, University President Rhett Brown referred to Wingate's slogan, "Major in a Great Life." "Your actual major begins tonight with this hooding ceremony," Brown told the PA graduates. "This is what your study has prepared you for: to major in a great life. Thank you all for embarking on lives that will matter."

The graduation included two "firsts." Brown, in his new role as the University's president, presented his first diploma to a Wingate graduate. The recipient was Allen Justin Baheri of Charlotte. And the new graduates include the first students to enroll in Wingate University's PA program in Hendersonville.

Wingate's Harris Department of Physician Assistant Studies opened in 2008 on the campus in Wingate, North Carolina. The PA program was expanded to Hendersonville in August 2013. Nine students who enrolled in that inaugural Hendersonville PA class graduated in December, along with 43 PA students enrolled at the campus in Wingate, North Carolina.

Wingate University's 52 new PA graduates hailed from 19 states. And many said they were planning to stay in North Carolina. Jasmin Salas of Abilene, Texas, attended Wingate's PA program in Hendersonville and has accepted a one-year fellowship with Carolinas Healthcare System to work in rural family medicine. Salas describes PA school as "an amazing experience." She says that although the first year of classroom work was fast paced and even stressful at times, the year of clinical rotations was rewarding. "When it came to the clinical year, it was the best," she says. "I enjoyed every clinical rotation I had."

Bobby Moore is another proud member of the inaugural Hendersonville PA class. "It's a smaller setting and we got hands-on attention," he says. Moore says he also benefited from being pushed beyond his comfort zone, such as a clinical rotation in an emergency room. "I actually had to suture patients and do other hands-on procedures," he says. "I was nervous going in. But doing things I'd never done before helped me to grow."

Moore, from Johnson City, Tennessee, is also not returning to his hometown. Instead, he has accepted a position with a urology clinic in Asheville.

Wingate's PA program started with 18 students in 2008. The campuses in both Wingate and Hendersonville are now both at full capacity, with far more applicants than available seats. ▲

"THIS IS WHAT YOUR STUDY HAS PREPARED YOU FOR: TO MAJOR IN A GREAT LIFE. THANK YOU ALL FOR EMBARKING ON LIVES THAT WILL MATTER."

- RHETT BROWN



WINGATE IS SAC WINNER OF THE NCAA DIVISION II AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

The NCAA has recognized Wingate University for granting a big wish last fall.

At halftime of the Bulldogs' home football game on Oct. 31, the WU Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), in conjunction with the Make-A-Wish Foundation, presented Reagan Thomas with a Caribbean cruise.

As if that weren't thrilling enough, WU Vice President and Director of Athletics Steve Poston made Reagan's day by presenting her with a four-year, cost-of-attendance scholarship to attend Wingate University.

"This was a unique opportunity for us to make a special young lady's day," Poston says. "One cannot hear Reagan Thomas' story and not be inspired."

Reagan, a senior at Forest Hills High School in Marshville, North Carolina, has maintained a high grade point average despite suffering from a painful disease that attacks her pancreas.

When she was 5 years old, Reagan came into her parents' room one night complaining of stomach pains. Her mother immediately scooped her up and took her to the hospital. Dana Thomas suffers from pancreatitis attacks, and she feared that Reagan's attacks would only worsen.

Her instincts were correct. Reagan was diagnosed with chronic hereditary pancreatitis, and for the past dozen years she's been battling crippling pain.

"The disease runs in my family," Dana Thomas said. "Dad had it, my grandpa had it. We would get breaks from our attacks, but she never did. She was just constantly in pain."

After having a rare surgery last year, Reagan's quality of life has improved. But even when the disease was at its worst, Reagan maintained a remarkably positive outlook.

"I know it could be a lot worse," Reagan said. "I've met kids who have it a lot worse than me. At least for the most part, I guess, I'm OK. I'm a normal functioning human being."

Wingate University's Make-A-Wish Day is one of 25 conference and independent winners of the 2016 Division II Award of Excellence, an accolade recognizing positive initiatives taken on in 2015.

"Our SAAC is a tremendous group of young men and women who are committed to the six attributes of Division II," says Michelle Caddigan, WU's associate athletic director for internal operations and its SAAC advisor. "They spend a great deal of time each year serving others in various ways, so it is very rewarding to see them recognized for this particular initiative.

"The Make-A-Wish reveal was special in many ways. I am so proud of our SAAC and our University for exemplifying a genuine spirit of service and generosity. ▀

+ 5

WITH FIVE MORE ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAS, WU IS CLOSING IN ON 100

Wingate University's Academic All-America list just keeps growing – and the century mark is in sight.

With five honorees in the fall, WU now has 91 Academic All-Americans all-time, the most in the South Atlantic Conference.

In the fall, Wingate added five selections, in a variety of sports. Men's soccer player Cameron Burrows and football player Eric Mapoles were each selected for the second time. Joining them were three first-time honorees: women's soccer player Kaitlyn Brunworth, football player Christopher Birozes and volleyball player Shelly Stumpf.

With 82 selections, Wingate is first in the 2000s in NCAA Division II – and first in North Carolina in all divisions – in the institution's number of Academic All-Americans. In the state, it is ahead of No. 2 Duke and No. 3 UNC-Chapel Hill. ▀

BULLDOG TEAMS REACH NCAA'S IN THE FALL

The volleyball team continued its run of dominance in the South Atlantic Conference, but it wasn't the only Wingate University athletic team to advance to NCAA play last fall.

The volleyball team went 28-5 in 2015, winning its 10th consecutive regular-season SAC title while going 20-2 in league play. The Bulldogs advanced to the NCAA tournament for the 11th consecutive year, led by SAC player of the year Shelly Stumpff.

Both soccer teams made it to their respective NCAA tournaments as well, with the men's team doing the double – winning both the SAC regular-season and tournament titles – for the first time since 1994. For their efforts, the Bulldogs landed three players on all-America teams, led by second-team selection (and SAC player of the year) Jon Ander. Shaun Gadsby and Pablo Jara earned third-team accolades.

The women's soccer team, led by second-team all-American Kaitlyn Brunworth, made its fifth consecutive trip to the NCAA tournament. The Bulldogs went 15-3-2 overall and 8-1-2 in the conference.

The WU women's cross country team finished first in three of its five meets and placed 29th in the NCAA Division II national meet. ▲

**“GRAHAM
BROUGHT OUT THE
VERY BEST IN US,
HIS BROTHERS AND
FRIENDS.”**

- JONATHAN COFER '04



LACROSSE FIELD NAMED FOR FORMER PLAYER GILL

According to his teammates, **Graham Gill '07** was the rising tide that lifted all boats.

“I was one of the lucky ones that got to experience the Graham Gill effect in all facets of my college career,” says **Josh Hatchell '08**. “You couldn't help but be a better person when you were around Graham.”

Gill, a Wingate University student and lacrosse player from 2003 to 2007, died in 2010. On Oct. 23, WU held a ceremony dedicating the University's lacrosse field in his honor.

Gill came to Wingate to play lacrosse and study, but he did much more than that. The first person he met when he arrived on campus was **Jonathan Cofer '04**, a senior at the time. Cofer, a Texan, was in the Kappa Alpha fraternity.

“I met Graham and asked, “You're from Texas? You play lacrosse? Then you need to be a KA,” Cofer says.

Gill joined and ultimately became president of the Zeta Zeta chapter of the fraternity, expanding the chapter's membership and philanthropic efforts.

In high school, he started the first club lacrosse team in his hometown, San Antonio, and the Graham Gill Leadership Award is presented to a team member each year.

“He was so well liked by everyone at Wingate it was hard to pinpoint him to a specific group,” Cofer says. “Graham had a demeanor and attitude that was contagious to everyone around him. He brought out the very best in us, his brothers and friends.” ▲



**BULLDOG
NATION**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1960s

The Rev. Mike Hammond '66 is the author of the recently published book *Two Hundred Years of Missions and Ministries: A Partial History of the Moriah Baptist Association*. Hammond, pastor of Jones Crossroads Baptist Church in Lancaster, South Carolina, and an adjunct professor in the Mathematics Department at Wingate University, wrote the book for Moriah's bicentennial celebration in the fall of 2015. Hammond held a book signing in late February at the Moriah Mission Center in Lancaster.

Carolyn Matthews '69 began her two-year tenure as chair of Wingate's Board of Visitors in January. She has been a member of the board since 2010 and was the recipient of the Alumni Excellence in Service Award in 2014.

1970s

Tom Rogers '71 has been re-elected to his fourth term as an alderman for the town of Madison. He is serving as mayor pro tem for the second time.

William Miller '81 is retiring as superintendent of Polk County (N.C.) Schools on Aug. 1. Miller will have served more than 12 years as superintendent and more than 30 years in the district as a teacher, coach and principal.

1980s

Ben Bailey '85 is spending a year on the Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team, part of the National Counterterrorism Center in Washington, D.C. Bailey has been chief deputy of the Union County Sheriff's Office for 13 years.

Frank Pait '85 is a guidance counselor at Hickory High School.

Marc Wyatt '86 and **Kim Wyatt '86** are the coordinators of international ministries for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina. The Wyatts spent 15 years with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in Canada.

1990s

In October, **Tony James '93** received a volunteer service award from the Union County Violence Protection Task Force. James is director of the James Recreational Camp.

Katie Graves '94 received the Ralph Meekins Christian Emphasis Award from the Cleveland County (N.C.) Family YMCA. Graves, a writer and speaker, was honored for her work in putting together the "Becoming One" marriage conference in February 2015.

2000s

Dr. Jonathan Tyson '01, '12, '13 was a finalist for 2015-2016 Union County Principal of the Year. Tyson, an all-conference basketball player at Wingate University, is principal of Piedmont High School in Monroe, North Carolina.

Nathan Street '02 was recently named chair of Music Program Leaders by the North Carolina Music Educators Association. Street is the arts-education coordinator for the Guilford County Schools.

Ron Stafford '02 is a graduate student in the University of South Carolina's Master of Library and Information Science program. He is working toward his MLIS with a concentration in Digital Photography Management.

Jesse Watson '05 and his wife, Mandy, have bought the Medical Pharmacy of Locust, North Carolina. Jesse runs the store front and does all the office work, and Mandy is one of the store's pharmacists.

Anna Atkinson Caparaso '09 was inducted into the McDowell High School Athletic Hall of Fame on Jan. 29. Caparaso was a two-time Academic All-America and SAC Presidents' Award winner as a point guard for the Wingate women's basketball team, which advanced to the NCAA Division II Elite Eight in 2008. That same year, she was named MVP for both the conference and regional tournaments, each of which the Bulldogs won.



JAMES '93



CAPARASO '09



NALLENWEG '14

2010s

Travis LeFlore '14 has been featured in the 2016 America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities calendar, alongside such notables as Serena Williams and Stephen Curry. LeFlore was named head coach of the men's and women's track and field teams at Wingate University in June. LeFlore, 27, is the youngest track and field head coach in NCAA Division II and the first African-American head coach at Wingate.

Robbie Nallenweg '14 was inducted into the Clyde A. Erwin High School Athletic Hall of Fame on Dec. 11. Nallenweg, a quarterback on the WU football team, won the SAC Presidents' Award following his senior year at Wingate and was one of 28 candidates for the 2013 Harlon Hill Trophy as the NCAA Division II college football Player of the Year.

Bill Cook Jr. '14, '15 was named executive director of secondary education for Rock Hill (S.C.) Schools. He most recently served as assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction for Gaston County Schools.

MARRIAGES & ENGAGEMENTS

Anna Lee Croom '11 and **Drew Clark '11** were married on May 2, 2015.

Christina Kinlaw '14 and Gabe Hollingsworth were married on Oct. 23, 2015. Kinlaw is an administrative assistant in the Wingate University Doctor of Physical Therapy department. Hollingsworth is head of admissions for the University.

Bonnie Leed '87 and David Mickey Smith were married on Oct. 5, 2013. Bonnie works in the Forsyth County Tax Office in Winston-Salem.

Stephanie Nagele '12 is engaged to Kellan Heatley. Their wedding is set for summer 2016.



SUZANNE BOSTIC PHILEMON '09, '14

Except for her freshman year of college, **Suzanne Bostic Philemon '09, '14** has spent her entire life within shouting distance of Wingate University. But in February she left after a decade as a student and/or employee of the University to take a position with the Cannon Foundation, a nonprofit that serves the fields of higher education, health care

and human services. She is now the foundation's higher-education program officer.

Philemon has been a fixture on campus and in the town of Wingate all her life. The daughter of retired music-department chair Dr. Ron Bostic and music instructor and University accompanist Polly Bostic, Philemon was practically raised on the campus in Wingate.

"This place is my home," she says. "I grew up on this campus, graduated from Wingate twice and began my professional career here. I have loved every minute and I am sad to be leaving my wonderful co-workers and friends."

Philemon started her career in the Office of Marketing and Communications, eventually becoming the web and new-media marketing coordinator. In 2012 she began serving WU alumni as director of alumni and parent relations. She started as higher-education program officer with the Cannon Foundation in February 2016.

BIRTHS

Carey Fike Williams '99 and Cornell Williams, a boy, Emmett Thomas, on Oct. 22, 2015.

Jessica D'Amelio Parsons '08 and Patrick Parsons, a boy, Kace Thomas, on Sept. 7, 2015. He joins big brother Blake.

Brett Stewart '02 and Ashley Stewart, a girl, Tinsley Katherine, on Aug. 1, 2015.



CROOM '11 & CLARK '11



PARSONS '08



STEWART '02





TYSON WEBBER '00

Tyson Webber '00 loves many aspects of his job, but one of the best perks is going to huge events: the Olympics, the Final Four, the Super Bowl.

“You don’t always get to see the event,” he says.

“Though you’re working, the passion that goes along with those events is remarkable. Getting to do a number of those things is pretty amazing.”

Webber has excelled at marketing products around events large and small. He was recently named president of GMR, a global firm that specializes in experiential marketing for corporations, such as Visa, HP and Comcast – hands-on experiences in malls and at concerts and sporting events.

“We’re firmly at the intersection of the consumer, the brand and their passion point,” Webber says. “That passion point is usually doing something: attending a sporting event, going to the mall, attending a concert, going to a fair. It could be gaming. We have to be ready to meet the consumer in those areas.”

Early in his career, Webber’s specialty was sports marketing. He distinguished himself with his work with clients such as Lowe’s (and its motorsports arm) and Humana (a big sponsor of golf). Webber played on the golf team at Wingate University, so the sports connection was a natural one.

He landed at Wingate after attending Penn State University, where he was a member of the golf team. He didn’t feel like Penn State was a good fit, and when he was scouting around for a school to transfer to, he came across Wingate, which had a tuition-exchange agreement with Syracuse University, where Webber’s father was the director of auxiliary services. Webber came to visit and was impressed by the campus – which he calls “absolutely beautiful” – and the golf coach, Ralph Hargett.

“He was the type of person I wanted to be around,” Webber says of Hargett, who died suddenly during Webber’s senior year.

Webber says that Hargett was gifted at providing perspective. “I didn’t need or want golf to be my life. I wanted it to be part of it,” says Webber, who delivered the eulogy at Hargett’s funeral in 2000. “He had this really innate ability to help people see what’s important.”

Webber also praises Dr. Jerry McGee, now Wingate University’s president emeritus, for having the vision to expand the University.

“He made that school a force to be reckoned with,” Webber says. “It’s one of the pre-eminent liberal-arts schools. I’m not saying it wasn’t then, but I might not be able to get in now.”

Transferring to Wingate wasn’t an easy decision, he says, but it turned out for the best.

“All decisions are very difficult, but the route and where it’s taken me, the people I’ve met, the opportunities it’s afforded me are great,” he says. “A lot of it’s the journey, and I wouldn’t trade it for anything.”

After earning a marketing degree from Wingate, Webber went on to get his MBA at the University of Georgia, and he joined GMR soon after, in 2002. He and his wife, Lori, and their two daughters lived in Charlotte until GMR transferred him to Milwaukee in 2013 to take on an expanded role.

Now he has the opportunity to help lead the company as its president. He says the company’s big challenges include having more of a global presence – he points out that after this year’s Olympics in Brazil, there are no other major global sporting events in the Western Hemisphere until at least 2024 – and better using technology as a marketing tool.

“It’s absolutely an opportunity to implement a vision, a plan, sort of my own thinking,” he says, “but it fits with the overall vision of the agency, which our CEO has laid out.

“It’s less about the vision than the influence you have. The next step of getting to be president allows for additional influence.”



WHAT'S
NEW
WITH YOU?

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

EMAIL CHUCK GORDON AT
C.GORDON@WINGATE.EDU
BY APRIL 25 TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT
ISSUE OF WINGATE TODAY.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

THOSE WE'VE LOST

ALUMS

Davie McSwain '57
Oct. 29, 2015

Joan Turner McSwain '57
Oct. 29, 2015

Darrell Userry '64
Jan. 14, 2016

John Vogler '66
Nov. 3, 2015

Frampton Edward Wyndham '66
Feb. 16, 2016

Phillip Gordon Trainor, Jr., '72
Nov. 1, 2015

William Wells '74
Oct. 29, 2015

Sean Jones '11
Feb. 16, 2016

FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY

Jeff Koontz
(son of **Tom Koontz '60**, member of the Board of Trustees)
Oct. 24, 2015

Elsie Tilson
(mother of Vint Tilson, vice president for resource development)
Nov. 4, 2015

Bill Bagley
(husband of Marie Bagley, former longtime administrative assistant at Wingate University)
Nov. 26, 2015

DR. DAVID ROWE

Dr. David Rowe's influence at Wingate University went well beyond numbers. The longtime mathematics professor connected with students on a personal level that left a lasting impression.

"What really set him apart was the fact that he was one of four professors who showed up to support me at the visitation of my brother, who passed away my junior year," **Amy Gordon Yermack '02** says. "Dr. Rowe always took time to get to know his students, and I was no exception. I am sure that every student who had him felt just as important to him as I did."

Rowe, a WU mathematics professor for nearly 40 years, died on Tuesday, Jan. 19, at his home in Wingate. He was 71.

Rowe, born Sept. 30, 1944, in Weldon, North Carolina, spent his entire career at Wingate University, spanning the school's growth from junior college to four-year institution to university status. He retired in 2008, when he became professor emeritus.

Rowe served on several committees throughout the years, was chair of the mathematics department and was a mentor to many.

"David Rowe was the best math teacher I ever had and was a great inspiration to me when I became a teacher," Wingate University math professor **Greg Bell '82** says. "He was a wise, kind and good man and a great friend."

Yermack echoes Bell's sentiments about Rowe's abilities to inspire in the classroom.

"I was fortunate enough to have him as a freshman in Calculus I," she says. "After learning so much from him and listening to so much of his wit, I decided to take many more classes with him. I would set my schedule around Dr. Rowe and Dr. Greg Bell."

Candy Long, an administrative assistant in the mathematics department, shared an office with Rowe for five



"He was a wise, kind and good man and a great friend."

— Greg Bell '82

years. "He made every single day a joy here at work, a true joy," Long says. "Our friendship remained after he retired. I consider Dr. Rowe my hero."

Rowe and his wife, Ruth Thomas Rowe, were also uber-fans of Wingate's volleyball team, traveling to many away matches, including the national tournament. They even made the long trip to Lincoln Memorial in Tennessee while David Rowe was ill.

He served as an inspiration for the team for years.

"Some players may not have been aware of his Wingate teaching history, but all were delighted each time the Rowes arrived at a match," senior volleyball player Shelly Stumpff says. "He may not have been the loudest in the gym, but our team was inspired by his perseverance and commitment. We have lost a member of the Wingate volleyball family, and we will forever miss the inspiration of Dr. Rowe."

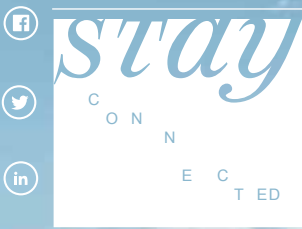
Rowe is survived by his wife of 49 years, Ruth, and three sons.

Memorials in his honor can be made to Wingate United Methodist Church or the Wingate University volleyball team.

Also, Dr. James Hall, chair of the Department of Chemistry and Physics, has initiated a scholarship in Rowe's name to be awarded to a junior or senior mathematics major.

"We hope that the new math faculty will be able to carry on the tradition and legacy of David Rowe," Hall says. "He did set a high bar."

IN MEMORIAM



- FACEBOOK • facebook.com/WingateUniv | facebook.com/WingateAlumni
- TWITTER • @WingateUniv | @WingateAlumni
- LINKEDIN • Wingate University Alumni Association
- PINTEREST • @wingateuniv
- INSTAGRAM • @wingateuniv | @wingatealumni
- ? • Has your information changed? Update it. | www.wingate.edu/alumni

It's almost as much fun to watch people looking at Spoon's artwork as it is to view the pieces themselves. If the viewer stands too close, the subject of the piece isn't clear. Even from a distance it can take some time to work out what you're looking at.

"I would love for there to be a gap between people first seeing my paintings and then recognizing the compositions," the Atlanta-based artist Spoon says. "I personally enjoy seeing that moment when someone finally realizes the composition behind a particular piece. You see all these micro-expressions flit across their face throughout the process."

Spoon – yep, just the one word – loves "watching people's brains work." Her minimalist pieces are on display through May 10 in the Hinson Art Museum, in an exhibition titled "Perception."

Wingate University owns one Spoon piece already – "Four Days," which shows Orville and Wilbur Wright getting a plane off the ground at Kitty Hawk.

As with "Four Days," many of Spoon's works take a trip back in time. There are penny farthings, turn-of-the-century baseball players, bare-knuckle boxers sporting handlebar mustaches, the 1903 Tour de France.

"I love history, and the idea of incorporating it into this modern, almost digital-looking style was exactly the type of balance I'm always looking for in design," says Spoon, whose professional name is a lifelong nickname that is a truncated version of her maiden name. "I find I'm drawn to anything that begins to blur the threshold between styles."

The subject matter juxtaposes neatly with Spoon's minimalist style. That style features hand-painted dots of varying sizes, arranged on a grid. From a distance, the dots appear to be computer-generated, but Spoon spends weeks getting the finished product ready.

Spoon's aim is to paint the minimum number of dots necessary for the viewer to be able to perceive the subject.

Spoon comes from the design world, rather than from a traditional art background. She graduated from the University of Florida's College of Design, Construction and Planning and worked as an urban designer in Seattle for a decade.

Her current style grew out of experiments in which she placed parameters on herself artistically and tried to see what would grow out of them.

"It was just an idea," she says. "For me it almost wasn't even artistic. It was more of a cause-and-effect experiment through art – If I put these cer-

tain parameters in place, what would the end result be? The dots and the limitations in their sizes and structure were just a few of those initial governors that I put in place. I didn't know if it would work or what it would make in the end exactly, but I was curious and followed that to the style you see now."

Spoon starts with an idea for a subject and begins working on a scaled-down surface area. She starts with one dot, then another and another, and gradually the work rounds into shape. The hard part, she says, is that initial process, before she transfers it to a larger canvas. At the beginning, Spoon doesn't have an image of the final painting in her head.

"I don't see the end product in the beginning. I see the steps," she says. "It's like seeing a table of puzzle pieces, but without peeking at the box. You don't know what it's going to be, but you start assembling."

The end result is paintings that from a distance appear to have been created on a PC. Up close, however, it's easy to see swirls of paint on each dot, almost like the point of a Hershey's Kiss, giving each painting a more organic feel.

The style could be termed "minimalist," but Spoon eschews labels. She prefers for viewers to just think of her art as interesting and thought-provoking.

And she likes a certain amount of minimalism in her own life.

"I am happiest when things are in a state that I would consider to be streamlined and simplified, but still interesting," she says.

Spoon sees art in many facets of life that most people don't think of as artistic: industrial design, architecture, even marketing and business.

And she loves the idea of newcomers trying their hand at art, which she says is a varied field and open to interpretation.

"I would just encourage people to keep an open mind about what art is and about what being an artist entails," she says. "This isn't a profession with a bottom rung that you have to start on. There is the possibility to jump on the ladder at any level, so don't limit yourself with linear thinking."

Spoon certainly hasn't, and the end result is worth checking out. ▀

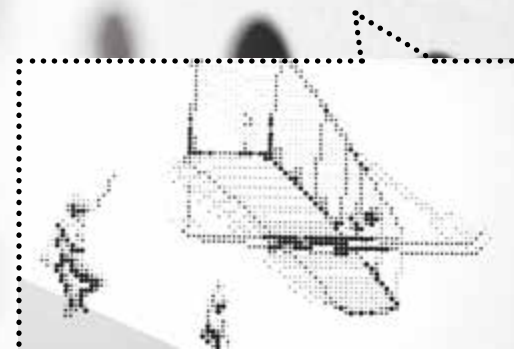
connecting the dots

...Artist tests
brain's faculties with
minimalist paintings

**"I'm drawn to
anything that begins
to blur the threshold
between styles."**

– SPOON

"FOUR DAYS"
CREATED BY SPOON





INAUGURATION

APRIL 6 - 8

PRESIDENTIAL REGALIA

THE HISTORY

The installation of a new University president is serious business – and the academic regalia is an important part of the occasion. At his installation on April 7, Dr. Rhett Brown will wear regalia custom-made for him by Herff Jones, makers of class rings, yearbooks and other educational paraphernalia.

Gowns have been a part of academia since the 12th century, when a long gown or robe was normal everyday wear. Styles have changed over the centuries, but they've remained fairly consistent in the United States since 1895, when the Academic Costume Code (ACC) was created by university officials in the Northeast to govern dress at official collegiate ceremonies. Wingate hews very closely to the Code.

The Code enshrines guidelines for tassels, hoods, sleeves and headwear. Different faculty members wear different-colored tassels, gowns and edgings depending on their degree and field of study.

Faculty members take their gowns with them if they move on to another institution, but the presidential regalia is retained by the school and worn only while the president is in office.

The regalia worn by Brown during his installation is similar to that of faculty members, with a few exceptions.

THE MACE

Maces have been used in legal and religious settings for centuries. They have their roots in Roman courts, where they were used to restore order and mete out punishment. They were initially carried in the 12th century Roman Catholic Church to protect bishops, cardinals and the pope, and eventually they came to be known as a symbol of authority. In a University setting, this implies the authority to grant degrees.

The mace should always lead the ceremony and procession. At Wingate University, it is carried by the longest-serving faculty member. Since 2012, that person has been Dr. Sylvia Little-Sweat. ▴



WOOD & BRONZE

Brown's mace is made of solid dark walnut with two bronze university seals and is 42 inches in length.

THE TAM

is an alternative to the mortarboard that is more comfortable and has become popular in recent times. Brown's is an eight-corner tam made of navy velvet.

THE TASSEL

comes in two lengths (Brown's is the shorter of the two) and is worn on the left side for graduates. According to the ACC, the tassel should be "black or the color appropriate to the subject," except for the doctor's cap, which may have a gold tassel.

THE CHAIN

Brown's Chain of Office is the Wingate University seal. The seal, designed in 1995 by **David Storey '90**, is also featured on the gown. It features the Latin terms "Fides, Scientia, Pietas," which roughly translate as "Faith, Knowledge, Service," which is the University motto.

CHEVRONS

Presidents are the only academics entitled to wear a fourth velvet sleeve chevron.

THE COLOR

For faculty, the ACC recommends black as the color for the gown and hood. The presidential regalia is often different. Brown's is dark blue with gold edging to represent Wingate University's colors, and light blue trim to represent his doctoral degree (in education).



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PIG CHASE
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