

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY
DISTINGUISHED

Alumni
AWARDS 2021

THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2021

WCU  ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION

**WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS CELEBRATION**

VIRTUAL CEREMONY
THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2021 | 7:30 PM

HONOREES

EILEEN R. GLENN '69, M'99

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SPORTS AND ATHLETICS ADMINISTRATION

CHRISTOPHER KASKER '97

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

JAMES R. WELLS '54

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MUSIC EDUCATION

RICHARD G. WELLS '58

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MUSIC EDUCATION



LAURA M. KASPER '86

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

ZANE E. MOORE '92

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

ED T. RUSH '64

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN KINESIOLOGY

JOSEPH R. WALSH '72

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION



EMERGING STUDENT LEADER AWARD

MONTANA LEEKS '17, M'20

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

2020 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

EILEEN R. GLENN '69, M'99



Eileen R. Glenn is the retired athletic director for Academy of the New Church in Bryn Athyn, PA and current member of the school's Board of Trustees and Finance Committee. Previously, she taught elementary physical education in Massachusetts.

As an undergraduate student-athlete at West Chester University, Glenn competed in field hockey, basketball, and track; participated in student government; and served as an RA. She graduated first in 1969 with a bachelor of science degree in health education, then in 1999 with a master's degree in sports and athletic administration.

Helping others is what has given Glenn the most satisfaction in her life, including supporting veterans during their re-entry into society; her husband, Terry, served in the U.S. Army Reserves before his passing in 2007. Her legacy at the University includes a generous gift to the Greg and Sandra Weisenstein Veterans' Center from her family's Terry and Eileen Glenn Foundation, and the establishment of the Eileen Glenn Veterans' Support Fund in 2000 to endow the employment of a licensed professional counselor at the Center. She is an honorary graduate of the College of William & Mary, where she support student veterans and has established a scholarship named in memory of her late husband.

While she lived in many places, Glenn has called Bryn Athyn home for almost 25 years. Her daughter, Erin Busby, is a professor at University of Texas Law School and her daughter, Brooke Mullin, is a coach at Shady Side Academy, as well as a real estate developer.

2020 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

CHRISTOPHER KASKER '97



Christopher Kasker is the Chief Operating Officer of HEPSCO, Inc., an engineering staffing firm located in the greater New York City area. Chris is a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel and lives in Tuxedo Park, New York, where in 2020 he was elected to the village board of trustees. He is a volunteer firefighter and vice president of the Tuxedo Park Fire Department. Since 2019, Chris has served as an appointed member of the planning board for the Town of Tuxedo. In 2021 he was appointed to the advisory board for the Transformative Leadership in Disruptive Times Certificate Program at the

Seton Hall University Stillman School of Business.

Chris is a graduate of Phoenixville Area High School and was a criminal justice major and ROTC cadet at West Chester University of Pennsylvania. His graduate degrees include a master's in business and organizational security management from Webster University and a master's in communication sciences from the University of Connecticut.

Some of the positions Chris held in the Army include: military police platoon leader in Germany, Bosnia, Kosovo (1998-2001); operations officer then company commander at Fort Hood, Texas with two deployments to Iraq (2002-2006); instructor then assistant professor and acting director of Defense and Strategic Studies at West Point (2007-2010); public affairs officer to the secretary of the Army at the Pentagon (2012-2015); and director of public affairs at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point (2015-2017).

Chris is the recipient of numerous awards and decorations. In 2000, Chris was a recipient of the General Douglas MacArthur leadership award for U.S. Army-Europe. He was and the first-ever Major Megan McClung Award recipient for "excellence in leadership" in 2011. He led his public affairs team to win a New York City Big Apple award in crisis communication in 2016. Additionally, Chris presented award winning academic research in 2010. His highest military awards include two Legions of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, and two Meritorious Service Medals.

2020 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD **JAMES R. WELLS '54 AND RICHARD G. WELLS '58**



JAMES R. WELLS '54

Dr. James R. Wells majored in music education as an undergraduate at West Chester University. He returned to WCU becoming a full professor, directing the marching band, and teaching in music education and music history departments. He created the Marching Band and Band Front Conference in 1970.

In addition, he and his brother, Richard, started Festivals of Music, a school band clinic/conference in 1982. In 1983, the two started World Travel Inc. to facilitate travel to their National/International Music Festivals. World Travel Inc. evolved into specializing in corporate travel in the United States.

Dr. Wells is married to Joanne M. (Noble) Wells '55, who received a bachelor of science in music at West Chester State College, and is a former music teacher and organist who continues to share her musical forte as a church organist.

RICHARD G. WELLS '58

Richard Wells majored in music education as an undergraduate at West Chester University. He taught for 29 years at Kutztown University as an associate professor in the Department of Music and as director of bands.

In 1971, he created the Jazz Program as an accredited course at Kutztown University. Mr. Wells completed successful tenures at Kutztown Area and Owen J. Roberts School Systems. He partnered with his brother in the Festivals of Music and World Travel, Inc. enterprises.

Mr. Wells is married to Elizabeth J. (Noble) Wells '60, who graduated from West Chester State College in 1960 with a bachelor of science in education. She received her master of education degree in 1968, and, after 40 years, retired from teaching in 2000.

2021 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

LAURA M. KASPER '86



Laura Kasper is President and CEO of Monarch Staffing, the certified woman-owned boutique staffing, training, recruiting, and HR consulting firm she founded in Delaware County in 2001. Today, Monarch Staffing serves the entire Philadelphia Tri-State region from offices in four counties. Change was the inspiration for her company's name, and it remains a symbol for the positive impact Laura and her team have had on hundreds of individuals and organizations over the past two decades.

Just like the Monarch Butterfly, job seekers and employers experience a metamorphosis in their respective searches. Laura's passion for career development has led her to create strategies to help organizations and individuals navigate the ever-changing business landscape.

Laura's many achievements include being a Philadelphia Business Journal Brava Award-winner, receiving the Spirit of Excellence award from Friends of the Delaware County Women's Commission, and receiving the Distinguished Alumni award from Delaware County Community College. In 2020, Monarch Staffing was named Best in Staffing for both the Candidate and Client Experience—a distinction achieved by less than one percent of staffing firms in the United States.

In addition to running a successful business, being a wife, and mother of college-aged twins, Laura is a devoted volunteer, providing interviewing and resume writing help at local job centers, schools, and community organizations. She also sits on the Board of Girls Spark, a non-profit teen-centered support and empowerment group started by her daughter.

Laura lives by the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have done unto you. Today she is going to share tips for finding silver linings everywhere.

2021 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

ZANE E. MOORE '92



Zane Moore is President and Chief Executive Officer of YMCA of Bucks County. Under his leadership, the separate YMCAs from Lower, Central and Upper Bucks County in Pennsylvania were merged forming one countywide Y. This new association, comprised of five membership branches, six youth education centers and one outdoor camp facility, serves over 60,500 community members and provides more than \$5M in charitable community benefit annually.

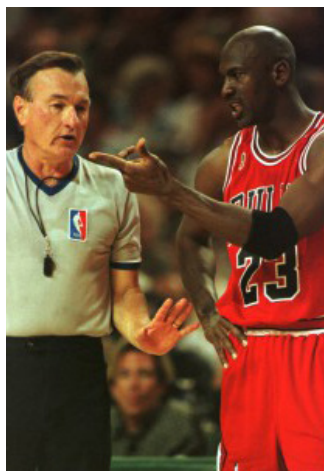
YMCA of Bucks County is in the final stages of a \$20 million comprehensive campaign to rebuild the aging YMCA in Fairless Hills, expand its Doylestown branch, and respond to growing community needs. In 2020, YMCA of Bucks County raised over \$3 million to support programs and services meeting critical community needs during the pandemic.

Moore serves in numerous roles within the Y Movement, including on the national Y-USA Strategic Planning Committee, Strategic Innovation Task Force, and Third Party Task Force as well as on the Y-USA National Board's Regional Committee on Membership Standards. He also serves as the Vice-Chair of the Pennsylvania State Alliance of YMCA's Executive Committee and has chaired the PA State Alliance's Public Policy Committee, Opioid Addiction/Substance Abuse Task Force, and 7th Grade Initiative Task Force.

Moore is a proud graduate of West Chester University. He resides in Newtown, PA with his wife, Amy (WCU 1992), and children, Madeline (WCU class of 2022, Volleyball Team) and Zane (Council Rock North High School Senior).

2021 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

ED T. RUSH '64



Ed T. Rush, began his career as an NBA official when he was hired in 1966 at 24 years of age. He was the youngest official to work in the NBA at age 24. Rush was responsible for the ongoing recruitment, training and career development of the officiating staff of the NBA, WNBA and NBA-D League.

Prior to joining the NBA league office as Director of Officiating in June of 1998, Rush spent 32 seasons on the court, officiating over 2000 regular season, 247 playoff and 32 NBA Finals games from 1966-67 through 1996-97. He also officiated the 1971, 1980, 1985, 1991 and 1996 NBA All-Star Games, the 1987 McDonald's Championship in Milwaukee, the 1991 McDon-

ald's Championship in Paris, France, as well as the 1996 Japan Opening Games in Tokyo.

Rush joined the NBA Basketball Operations department as the NBA/WNBA Director of Officiating on June 1, 1998. After his first eight seasons officiating in the NBA, Rush officiated three seasons in the ABA before returning to the NBA.

Prior to becoming an official, he worked as a teacher and football coach at Marple-Newtown High School in suburban Philadelphia from 1964-67, and coached former Sacramento Kings General Manager Geoff Petrie as a quarterback at Springfield High School in 1964.

A 1964 graduate of West Chester University, Rush played varsity football and was awarded the Milt Blitz Award for contributions to Men's basketball. He and his wife Trudy have funded an endowment for the Edward T. Rush Scholarship to provide need-based grants for West Chester's basketball program. Born in Philadelphia, PA, Rush currently resides in Doylestown Pa, with his wife, Trudy. They have three children – sons Ed Jr., Michael, and daughter Ashley and eight grandchildren. He is a former member of the Board of Directors for the Valley of the Sun YMCA, West Chester University's Rams Athletics Association, and the National Association of Sports Officials. He also works with college juniors and seniors in the area of career counseling.

In 2009, Rush was named by Referee Magazine as one of the 50 most influential people in sports officiating history. Rush authored the book, "And One", and founded Court Club, which is an ongoing online educational tool for basketball officials.

Ed and Trudy fund the Edward T. Rush scholarship at West Chester University as well as Faith and Football scholarship at Bloomsburg University.

2021 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

JOSEPH R. WALSH '72



Joe is a 1968 graduate of Woodrow Wilson H. S. in Levittown where he lettered in football, wrestling and track. He earned a B.S. in Health and Physical Education from West Chester University in 1972. While there, Joe played offensive line on two Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference championship teams.

He began his teaching and coaching career at West Chester Henderson H.S. where he taught Health and Physical Education from 1972-2008. He was assistant football coach from 1972-1987 and also coached wherever

he was needed – wrestling, boys and girls lacrosse, and tennis. From 1988-1991 Joe was head football coach at Sun Valley H. S., won the Del-Val league in 1990 and was named Del-Val coach of the year. Joe was head football coach at Henderson from 1992-2011. He coached the Warriors to three Ches-Mont league titles, several playoff wins, and was District I runner-up in 2007. He amassed an overall record of 148-117 as head coach. He was named Ches-Mont Coach of the Year in 2003, 2007, 2011 and Chester County Coach of the Year in 1992, 2003, 2007, 2011 and was inducted into the Ches-Mont League Hall of Fame in 2018. A PSFCA member from 1992-2011, Joe was an assistant coach for the East/West All Star game in 2009. He coached the Valor Bowl for thirteen years and was head coach five times.

He was inducted into the Pennsylvania Scholastic Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2014. Joe was also inducted into the WCU Killinger Football Hall of Fame in 2001, presently serves on the board of directors and is a past president of the foundation. Joe was the defensive line coach at WCU from 2013-2020.

Joe and his wife Pam live in West Chester and have three children; Joe and wife Nicci, Kelly and husband Bob, Jennifer and husband Todd, seven grandchildren; Emily, Seamus, Carter, Callie, Campbell, Robby and Rosie. Joe is thankful for the support of his wife, family and friends and for the many coaches he has worked with throughout his career.

2020 EMERGING LEADER AWARD

The Emerging Leader Award recognizes a graduating student who has had an impact on the University, the community, and/or a student organization by demonstrating outstanding leadership through dedication to community service, promotion of diversity, responsible citizenship, and academic excellence. Recipients are actively engaged in at least one recognized student group, organization, or campus-wide committee, and they have clearly demonstrated creativity, initiative, and a genuine interest in continuing their involvement in outstanding leadership and service to the University community after graduating.

MONTANA LEAKS '17, M'20



Montana Leaks is a native of Breinigsville PA, she earned her bachelor's degree in Political Science and Communications from West Chester in 2017 and has now completed her Master's in Public Administration as of May 2020. While earning her undergraduate degree she played a pivotal role in many organizations but was best seen serving as president of the Student Government Association. She also

served as the president of the Graduate Student Association for this past school term.

Montana is excited to continue her commitment to West Chester through her involvement in the Alumni Association as the new Chair of the GOLD X Chapter for recent alumni of WCU. She believes in laughter, humanity, and coffee; and plans to utilize her skills gained from WCU to continue serving her community through what she likes to call the "West Chester Way."

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**ON BEHALF OF WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY
AND THE WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, WE EXTEND OUR
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS
AND NEWEST EMERGING LEADER!**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND
SERVICE TO THE INSTITUTION AND THE
LEGACY THAT YOU HAVE CREATED.**