



PHOTO BY RYAN SMITH

2015-16 REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT



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When I ask people about the College nowadays, they often say something like “Wilson is really on the move,” but they are often hard-pressed to explain how. Change in higher education is often unseen or gradual, making it hard to always understand and embrace efforts as they happen. Wilson is perpetually evolving and moving toward what’s next, but in 2015-16, we were fortunate to see the College change in some very perceptible ways, allowing our community to both celebrate today and build toward tomorrow.

Before I look back, I want to share a bit of history. When we welcomed the Class of 2020

this fall, we also welcomed the largest total enrollment in the history of Wilson College. Between the traditional undergraduate, graduate and Adult Degree programs, our enrollment stands at 1,098, with our largest growth occurring in graduate studies. As you read the rest of this report, you will see how all the efforts of many people helped us achieve this mark.

The 2015-16 year began on a high note as the College received recognition for the Wilson Today value plan. *U.S. News* ranked Wilson fifth on its Best Value list for colleges in the North (we have since moved up to fourth on the list) and the College was named a Tuition Hero for holding tuition without an increase for six years—including the tuition reduction of fall 2014. This was tremendous affirmation of Wilson’s commitment to value and affordability.

Last fall, we also received word that the Fulton Farm had been ranked among the best college farms in the country. *CollegeRanker*.

com listed the farm 24th on its list of 40 Best College Farms—ahead of both Penn State and Ohio State—and *CollegeValuesOnline.com* published its list of the Top 30 Sustainable College-Run Farms, rating Wilson’s farm 19th.

The evolution of the farm and the Fulton Center for Sustainable Living in the life of the College continued this year. The center recently announced a name change to the Fulton Center for Sustainability Studies (FCSS) as activities are integrated more closely with the academic program. The internship program has changed and a new minor in food systems is under review.

Kudos go to Wilson’s child care center, which was awarded a three-star rating by the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning’s Keystone Stars program. The staff’s hard work has made the program the only child care center in the area to achieve a rating above two stars.

Nursing has quickly become a signature program at the College and the National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (CNEA) recently granted the program pre-accreditation status. As faculty and staff, led by Associate Professor of Nursing Carolyn Hart, prepared for a fall 2016 site visit by the CNEA, we received word that the online master of nursing had been named to the list of Top 25 Most Affordable Online Master’s of Nursing Degrees by *AffordableSchools.net*. Nursing received one more point of recognition when Hart was named the Top Nurse in Chambersburg by the International Nurses Association.

The FCSS and nursing program also led the way in helping build partnerships that have an impact on the College and our regional community. Wilson entered into an agreement with Widener University for graduates of Wilson’s Master of Nursing program to gain advanced



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Clockwise, from left: student volunteers at Fulton Farm, nursing student, new main entrance, Family Weekend visitors explore *A Walk on the Wild Side* sculpture.

entry into Widener's online nurse practitioner program. Nurse practitioners are in high demand and online programs are limited, so Wilson graduates will have a real advantage.

The FCSS connected with Volvo Construction Equipment to accept Volvo's pre-kitchen waste, which will be composted and used on our farm fields. This agreement between a college and private industry appears to be the first of its kind in Pennsylvania. FCSS Director Chris Mayer estimates that between the Wilson dining hall waste and Volvo, the farm will produce approximately 7.8 tons of compost annually.

Last fall, the Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation reaffirmed its partnership with Wilson by contributing \$530,000 toward scholarships. Scholarships are so vital to Wilson students and partners like Stabler, who have provided more than \$3.45 million in scholarships since 2009, are critical in supporting the institution's commitment to value and affordability. While Stabler has been with us for a while, organizations like the Thoroughbred Education and Research Foundation (TERF) are welcome new partners. TERF contributed \$10,000 to provide scholarships to four students with equine-related majors.

One of Wilson's most important partners is our alumnae/alumni. Whether through volunteer work or contributions to the Wilson Fund, the College's road to financial stability cannot be navigated without the support we receive from them. This year, we saw the impact alumnae and alumni can have when Marguerite Brooks Lenfest '55 provided a \$500,000 matching challenge for the Wilson Fund. Over a three-day period, 578 donors gave a total of \$382,777, which—when matched—brought in a total of \$882,777 and led to the Wilson Fund surpassing its goal with a total of \$1.35 million. Wilson Fund donations have the most direct impact on our students and the institution, from adding

to scholarships to increasing the alumnae/i donor participation rate, which in turn improves our rankings.

The physical shape of campus changed this year as well, which provided opportunities to step back and celebrate some significant achievements with our community. There was no better way to kick it off than the Celebrate Wilson Weekend, held in October 2015. The weekend embodied much of the spirit and vitality that the Wilson community exhibits when we work together. Fundraising for the John Stewart Memorial Library produced largest single project effort ever at Wilson, raising \$12.2 million from 766 donors. The renovated library and new learning commons, which was honored with the Greater Chambersburg Chamber of Commerce "Best Renovation of the Year" award, is magnificent. Students, faculty and staff love the new facility and it has quickly become the center of life at Wilson.

The rededication brought more than 200 students, alumnae and alumni, trustees, staff, faculty, local officials and friends of the College to campus. That same weekend, we celebrated the completion of internationally acclaimed artist Patrick Dougherty's *Stickworks* sculpture—aptly named "A Walk on the Wild Side"—and the return of fall Family Weekend. It was an amazing event that brought people from all corners of the Wilson community together.

While that felt like an end to many, it was really just a midpoint. Much campus work was still underway or in planning stages. Over the next 11 months, we would see a number of construction/renovation projects come to fruition: the library plaza, academic quad, renovations to Rosenkrans Hall, completion of the streetscape and pedestrian safety initiative, upgrades to Jensen Dining Hall and the reconfiguration and improvement of parking lots at the College.

But, perhaps the most significant and symbolic project—at least to



PHOTO BY CATHY MENTZER



PHOTO BY FRED FIELD

From left: Common Hour lecture, the rededication of the John Stewart Memorial Library. Opposite page: Kyla Martin '17 in front of the Capitol Building.

me—was the completion of the College’s new main entrance at Park Avenue. This project ties together much of the physical change we have seen on campus and addresses many of the early projects identified in the Campus Enhancement Plan, providing a sense of closure to this phase of work.

Visitors to campus now arrive at a spacious, attractive entrance with flanking stone walls emblazoned with “Wilson College.” They pass through the entrance with a view of the academic quad; then curl left between Alumnae House and Warfield Hall to drive around the green, where they are able to view many of the College’s historic structures. The project has already received rave reviews from visitors and I must admit, there have been times in the evening when I have driven over to see the entrance walls lit up at night.

I think it’s important to share a number of other changes, as well. As the Women with Children program prepared to celebrate its 20th anniversary this fall, the program expanded its opportunities to include single fathers and adopted the name Single Parent Scholar Program to reflect the change.

A new lecture series called the Common Hour began in fall 2015—a result of the work of Associate Professor of Religion David True, who sought initially to expand the offerings of the Orr Forum and partnered with Professor of Environmental Studies Edward Wells to bring about the first Common Hour lecture series addressing two topics: climate

change and notions of the apocalypse. The series featured an exhibition of the work of artist Alejandro Durán in the library’s new Cooley Gallery and lectures by Nobel Prize winner Richard B. Alley and Orr Scholar Matthew Avery Sutton of Washington State University.


During the past academic year, faculty completed the considerable work of putting a new governance structure in place. The creation of a faculty senate streamlines administrative processes and frees some faculty members to focus even more on teaching. The process was thoughtful and considered, requiring a tremendous amount of work by Elissa Heil, vice president for academic affairs, and faculty members.

Service to the community has long been a tradition at Wilson. This year, Brie Burdge ’16 transitioned from Wilson student to staff member via a new AmeriCorps/Vista position at the College, helping to run the migrant tutoring program. This is the first step in a plan to expand community service opportunities for students. It will be exciting to see this program take root and grow.

We know how amazing our students can be, but this year the rest of the world got to witness it firsthand. Wilson got its first Newman Civic Fellow when Michael Martin ’19 received the award given by Campus Compact to recognize community-involved student leaders. His work advocating for LGBT issues and gay youth—including involvement with Wilson’s Student Athlete Mentor (SAM) program—earned him the honor.


WILSON BY THE NUMBERS

FALL 2016 ENROLLMENT




1098

19% INCREASE



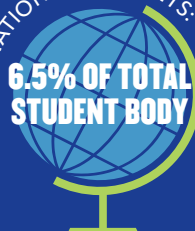
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**U.S. NEWS
BEST
VALUE**



1397

total applications
5%
increase



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS:
**6.5% OF TOTAL
STUDENT BODY**

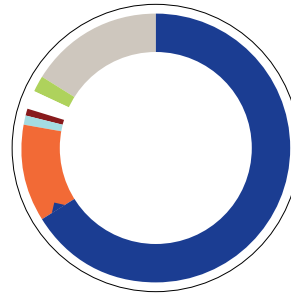
+7% INCREASE IN NEW STUDENTS
176 IN TOTAL

WILSON COLLEGE

2015-16 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

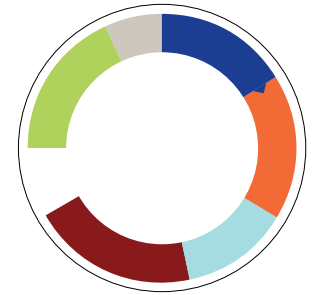


REVENUE



- STUDENT TUITION/FEES66.3%
- PRIVATE GIFTS 11.7%
- GOVERNMENT GRANTS 0.9%
- INTEREST & DIVIDENDS..... 1.1%
- INTEREST RECEIVED FROM TRUSTS HELD BY OTHERS2.2%
- OTHER SOURCES.....1.9%
- AUXILIARY REVENUE..... 15.9%

EXPENSES

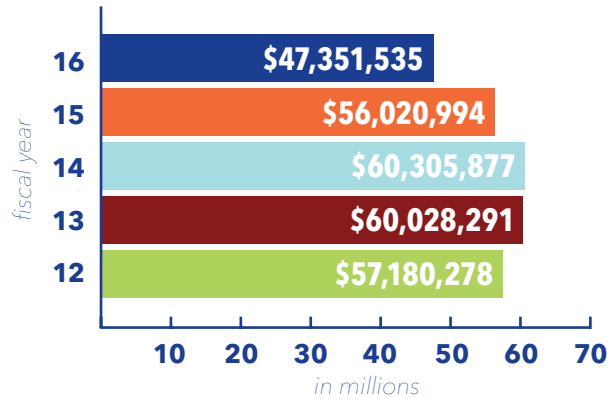


- INSTRUCTIONAL 16.3%
- ACADEMIC SUPPORT 17.5%
- STUDENT SERVICES..... 13.1%
- INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT 20.0%
- AUXILIARY ENTERPRISES 8.2%
- FINANCIAL AID 18.1%
- INFRASTRUCTURE/ DEFERRED MAINTENANCE 6.8%

Kyla Martin '17 was recently awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest award for young people given by Congress to recognize dedicated service to community. Martin (no relation to Michael) co-founded Angels at Work, a charity in her hometown of Paxinos, Pa., that organizes food and clothing drives for needy people. She also started an equine therapy program called Hooves Helping Hearts. Before being awarded the gold medal, Martin had received the silver and bronze medals from Congress, as well.

So many people help make Wilson a great small college, and that work isn't always readily seen. This past year gave everyone a rare opportunity to see the tangible fruits of our labor and to celebrate. It may not always be so evident, but Wilson College is constantly moving toward tomorrow. **W**

ENDOWMENT VALUE




This fall,
36%
of traditional
students
are first
generation

34
MAJORS 

11:1
STUDENT:
FACULTY RATIO 

NUMBER OF DONORS TO THE
2015-16 WILSON FUND
1176

WILSON FUND TOTAL GIVING \$1,351,068
INCREASE OF MORE THAN 24%

