

ENROLLMENT UP 11 PERCENT

Wilson's total enrollment for fall 2017 stands at 1,216 students in all programs, up nearly 11 percent from last year, when the College saw the largest enrollment in its history at 1,098.

Wilson's enrollment has grown steadily over the past four years, up nearly 84 percent since fall 2013, when total enrollment was 662. "Our efforts to make Wilson College affordable, give students academic programs that are attractive, raise visibility and prioritize the student experience continue to help us increase enrollment," said President Barbara K. Mistick.

The largest enrollment gain is in the traditional undergraduate program, with a nearly 21 percent increase from 458 students last fall to 553 this year. This group, which represents more than 45 percent of total enrollment, includes 321 students who live on campus and 232 commuters. Fifteen percent, or 85, of traditional undergraduates are men, who represent approximately 17.6 percent of total enrollment.



Graduate programs grew by more than 11 percent to 390 students among 10 programs, compared to 350 students in fall 2016. The Master of Education program has the largest enrollment in the category at 167, followed by the Master of Science in Nursing at 46.

The number of students in the Adult Degree Program—for those who have been out of high school at least four years—decreased by almost 6 percent, from 290 last year to 273 this fall.

Wilson students—who come from as far away as California, Texas and Arizona—represent 21 states, including Pennsylvania. The College has 31 international students from the following 17 foreign nations or territories: Albania, Armenia, Australia, China, Ecuador, the Gaza Strip, Ghana, Guatemala, Nepal, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Spain, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Kingdom and Vietnam. A total of 13 students are enrolled in the Single Parent Scholar Program. —CM

WILSON INITIATES LEAP PROGRAM

This summer, 14 first-year students participated in Wilson's inaugural session of the Rowland LEAP (Learning, Exploring, Achieving and Participating) program. The free, two-week residential program is designed to give incoming students extra academic support—this year focused on mathematics—as well as helping them successfully transition to college life.

In addition to taking math classes, students had a chance to hone their study and research skills and brush up on time management and note-taking techniques. Their two weeks here included off-campus trips to Gettysburg, Washington, D.C., and Caledonia State Park. The program also marked the beginning of the students' orientation into the Wilson community, as topics such as the Honor Principle, gender relations, leadership opportunities and community development were discussed each day.

For participants, the LEAP program takes the place of the First-Year Seminar, giving them one less course to take in the fall semester and allowing them to focus on their remaining courses, put study habits into practice and achieve in the classroom right from the start.

As part of the first LEAP program, students spent time in the Hankey Center archives, researching the impact of the "Freedom Summer" of 1964 on the civil rights movement and then giving a presentation on their research at the end of the two weeks. Part of that research included reading the letters and papers of Patricia Vail '63, a civil rights volunteer who went to Mississippi that summer to help register black voters.

The LEAP students had a chance to connect with Vail when she came to campus on Sept. 29 to speak about her civil rights experiences. —Coleen Dee Berry



Patricia Vail '63, center, surrounded by LEAP students after discussing her civil rights work during the "Freedom Summer" of 1964.