



WILEY

UNIVERSITY

The President's Impact Report
2024 - 2025

HOME OF SCHOLARS, DEBATERS, LEADERS, ACTIVISTS, ATHLETES, VOCALISTS...



Dear Community,

It is with deep pride and purpose that I present this year's President's Report—an overview of the remarkable strides made as an institution committed to academic excellence, student empowerment, and community transformation. This year, we have witnessed tremendous momentum across every corner of our campus. From a renewed spirit of scholarship and service to a bold vision for the future, Wildcats everywhere are answering the call to lead, to innovate, and to uplift.

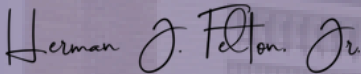
University enrollment has seen promising growth, signaling the strength and relevance of our programs. We continue to attract students from diverse backgrounds who are not only academically driven but deeply passionate about making a difference. Their presence strengthens our community and energizes our mission. Student success is more than a goal—it's our standard. This year, we've celebrated improved retention and graduation rates, expanded internship placements, and increased access to academic support services. We are ensuring that every Wildcat has the tools to succeed—not just in the classroom, but in life.

Our faculty remain the backbone of our academic excellence, earning national recognition for research, innovation, and teaching. Their dedication continues to shape the minds of future leaders and inspire a culture of critical thinking and lifelong learning.

A significant milestone this year came through the extraordinary efforts of our Division of Institutional Advancement, which secured a transformational major gift—one of the largest in recent years. This generous contribution will directly support strategic initiatives that propel Wiley University forward. As we celebrate these accomplishments, we are also laying the foundation for future success—investing in technology, infrastructure, and inclusive excellence to ensure that our beloved institution not only meets the moment, but defines it.

I remain humbled by the resolve of our students, the talent of our faculty, and the tireless support of our alumni and partners. Together, we are writing the next great chapter in the Wildcat legacy.

Inspirata Procedunt,



Herman J. Felton, Jr., Ph.D., J.D.
President & CEO

A BOLD AND AUDACIOUS VISION

THE INTELLECTUAL ENTERPRISE IS THE PLACE WHERE BIG IDEAS ARE OFTEN GENERATED. IT IS HERE AT WILEY UNIVERSITY THAT WE INVITE ALL WHO EXPERIENCE US TO DREAM AND GO FORTH INSPIRED!

In 2021, we launched our strategic plan, *Wiley Inspires: Going Forth as a Beacon of Light*, which continues to guide our pursuit of a *Bold and Audacious Vision*. As the world evolves around us, we are intentionally shaping a future for Wiley University—one that is inclusive, visionary, and transformative. In the face of challenges, we remain undeterred. We continue to “punch above our weight” as a proud and vital member of the HBCU legacy.

As one of the first Historically Black Colleges and Universities established west of the Mississippi River, Wiley University carries a distinguished tradition of academic excellence and social impact. It is no accident that we are the academic home to some of the nation’s most prolific change agents. Ours is a story worthy of the screen—a legacy of leadership, resilience, and purpose.

Rooted in the liberal arts tradition, Wiley University provides a holistic learning environment—one that fosters critical thinking, champions social justice, cultivates leadership, and celebrates academic rigor.

This year has been marked by an overwhelming sense of urgency—an urgency that propels us into the next phase of our *Bold and Audacious Vision*. In 2025 and beyond, we know the time to act is now. And at Wiley University, we are ready to enter the next chapter.



“WE INVITE STUDENTS TO JOIN US FOR THEIR ACADEMIC JOURNEY. WE WANT TO MAKE THEIR DREAMS COME TRUE. BUT FIRST, THEY HAVE TO COMPLETE. HOW COULD WE IMPROVE THOSE ODDS? WILEY UNIVERSITY EXPERIMENTED AND SEEMS TO BE WINNING.”



THE UNIVERSITY MODEL FOR ENROLLMENT AND ITS IMPACTING RESULTS...

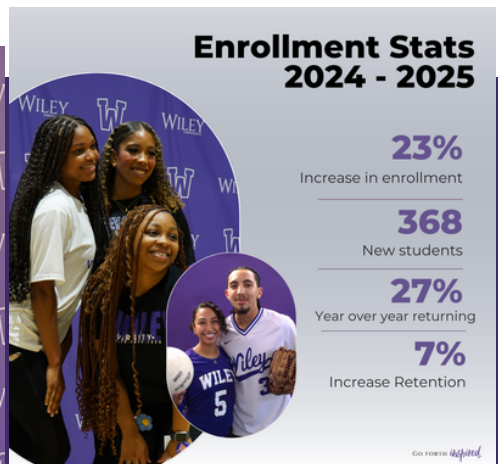
Wiley University reported a significant 23% increase in enrollment for Fall 2024, welcoming 368 new students—marking one of the largest growth periods in its recent history. This expansion also included a 7% rise in returning students, reflecting the University's strong focus on recruitment, retention, and student support. Key initiatives contributing to this success included the addition of student success coaches, a streamlined enrollment process, and proactive strategies to address post-pandemic learning challenges. New academic and extracurricular offerings—such as women's softball, graduate programs, and the honors program—further fueled interest and enrollment.

University leaders attributed the growth to Wiley University's *Bold and Audacious Vision* of delivering high-quality, accessible education. President & CEO Herman J. Felton, Jr., along with other administrators, emphasized the importance of supporting students from enrollment through graduation and into employment. As Wiley University continues to expand, it remains committed to providing exceptional academic experiences and fostering a supportive campus community for both new and returning students.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, the University had begun to observe concerning trends in enrollment. The traditional approach—focused on recruitment and retention—was not yielding the completion outcomes the institution aspired to achieve. Multiple factors contributed to these challenges, including poor academic preparation, student performance issues, and a disconnect between institutional practices and the needs of a new generation of learners. These factors had a profound impact on student persistence through college. This led to a bold idea: to reimagine student success by implementing a new student success model, beginning at the point of enrollment.

The launch of the student success coach program—designed to guide and respond to students throughout their college journey—may have seemed like an overly simple solution. Could something so straightforward really work? Two years later, the results speak for themselves. Wiley University is seeing record improvements in its overall enrollment experience. The program not only prioritizes coaching and individualized support, but it has also sparked a campus-wide cultural shift: a collective commitment to the belief that enrollment and student success are everyone's responsibility.

We have seen incredible results with the reimagined model. And perhaps even beyond the metrics of retention, persistence, and completion, we are witnessing a return to our historical legacy—what HBCUs have long been known for, and what Wiley has always embodied: the ability to take students from diverse academic backgrounds and socioeconomic circumstances and help them become scholars, leaders, activists, debaters, vocalists, and athletes.



OUR TRANSFORMATIVE IDEAS ARE BOLD AND AUDACIOUS

HONORS AT WILEY UNIVERSITY IS OUR LEGACY AND NOW WE HAVE ENTERED A NEW CHAPTER

The Heman Sweatt Center for Social Good and Leadership launched its Scholars Program in 2020, thanks to the generous support of the Strada Foundation. This foundation gift supports students with a GPA of 3.75 or higher who have a demonstrated interest in social good and leadership.

Senior Jayden MacDonald is a current Heman Sweatt Scholar. “As a Heman Sweatt Scholar, I have been able to experiment with my interests in social good and leadership by focusing on educational access. As a high school student, I saw others trying to figure out their next steps and realized they hadn’t been prepared for life after graduation. I also learned about the disparities that decrease the likelihood of college attendance. This led me to want to design opportunities for elementary and middle school students to have greater exposure to college-going strategies,” shared Jayden.

As part of the program, Scholars are required to create and implement a social change and leadership initiative within the community—and to sustain that initiative for at least three of their four academic years. Students meet regularly with the program adviser in intensive sessions to design, refine, and monitor their progress. The program also provides opportunities for students to work alongside individuals who are true change-makers in their communities. The Heman Sweatt Center’s Activist-in-Residence brings campus-wide engagement through a series of activities and workshops focused on practical approaches to creating change. This year, the Center was honored to host Dr. Robert “Biko” Baker—an influential digital strategist, educator, and activist. During his residency, Heman Sweatt Scholars mentored students in civic storytelling, digital organizing, and advocacy. As a result of these efforts, Wiley University hosted the Social Good and Leadership Institute on April 15, 2025, featuring JyCorri “Spitty Will” Robinson and Steve da Stoner. The event offered a unique lens on social change through creativity and collaboration.

“It was really interesting to hear from our speakers—especially on how digital technology and storytelling can be used to inform and create,” said Junior James Calhoun, a Heman Sweatt Scholar. “I thought it was powerful how we merged traditional and transformative methods to generate real ideas and actions. Hearing how JyCorri and Steve bring their ideas to life was inspiring—especially Steve da Stoner, who created a revenue stream through music that supports both individuals and his community through collective responsibility.”

The goal of the Heman Sweatt Scholars Program is to inspire student-led change. Each year, we explore bold and creative ways for students to learn and lead through partnership. From collaborations with organizations like the Carver Community Center to launching events that debut student-created music, the program challenges students to reimagine their roles in the world—as thinkers, as builders, and as leaders.





“The Thelma Dewitty Honors Program is named after trailblazing educator and 1941 alumna Thelma Dewitty, who was the first Black teacher to desegregate the Seattle Public School District. We are looking forward to the success of this program and the opportunity to honor Dewitty’s legacy of excellence.”

- Program Director and Professor Dana M. Fergins



OUR INSTITUTION IS USING TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION TO INCREASE ACCESS

In Fall 2024, Wiley University unveiled the iWiley Digital Learning Initiative, a transformative program aimed at bridging the digital divide and enhancing the student learning experience. When the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the world, higher education was forced to adapt rapidly. Institutions across the country incorporated technology into the academic enterprise. During that time, we discovered the transformative power of technology—especially when every student has a device in their hands. The digital divide became starkly apparent when the institution had to shift to a virtual environment. Thanks to government grants, every Wiley University student received a device, enabling us to sustain student engagement during remote learning.

Fast-forward to 2023: students had been back on campus for two full years, and new questions emerged. “We needed to understand what could improve learning outcomes for our most vulnerable students,” shared AVP for Student Success Erinne Weber. Upon examination, it became clear that students struggling academically often shared a common barrier: limited access to technology. In response, the institution spent the year assessing which technologies could best align with Wiley University’s academic goals. Investing in Wiley University students became the driving force behind this initiative.

The iWiley Digital Learning Initiative was designed not only to ensure that every student has a device but also to provide opportunities for students to earn certifications that demonstrate their proficiency in using Apple technology. The iWiley Digital Learning Initiative included a comprehensive technology bundle for each student—Apple iPad, Magic Keyboard Folio, Apple Pencil, and accessories. Importantly, faculty and staff were also included in the rollout to support a fully integrated digital learning environment.

Closing the digital divide remains a top priority for Wiley University’s leadership. This means not only providing access to devices but also empowering students to increase their fluency with educational apps and digital tools. Faculty underwent extensive training to enhance their teaching strategies and classroom performance. Together, students and faculty are advancing their digital literacy. This investment in digital access has provided students and faculty with the essential tools to increase engagement, reduce financial barriers, and foster more equitable learning environments.

The initiative is a commitment to both equity and innovation: “We are transforming our campus environment to increase connection to learning.” As an HBCU, Wiley University’s focus on digital equity reinforces its mission to prepare graduates for success in a tech-driven world. Junior business management major Walkterrius Nelson expressed enthusiasm for the program, noting how it has supported both his academic growth and leadership development.

iWiley
Digital Learning Initiative





THE INSTITUTIONAL SAGA: WILEY LIFE THEN

Scholars, Debaters, Leaders, Activists, Athletes, Vocalists...

NETVUE: AN AWARD FROM COUNCIL OF INDEPENDENT COLLEGES WILL SHAPE A NEW STORY OF DREAMS

The concept of calling and vocation is integral to Wiley University's initiative under the NETVUE Grant for Reframing the Institutional Saga. This project invites a profound exploration of how each individual's journey through education can be aligned with a greater purpose. In a world where career paths often overshadow personal growth, this initiative seeks to reframe the institutional saga as a formative experience that connects students to their unique callings.

At its core, the question "What are we called to be?" serves as the foundation for discussions unfolding across campus. This inquiry encourages students, faculty, and staff to reflect deeply on their values, passions, and aspirations. By linking personal dreams with the University's mission, the initiative promotes a holistic understanding of vocation—one that recognizes true fulfillment as stemming from contributing to the common good, rather than merely attaining job readiness.

Wiley University's historical relationship with the Methodist Church enriches this exploration of vocation. The Church's teachings emphasize service, community, and the moral obligation to uplift others—values that align perfectly with the University's commitment to social good and leadership. Through storytelling and the lived experiences of alumni who have embodied these principles, the initiative will highlight diverse paths of service and leadership that have emerged from the Wiley experience.

Dr. Tashia Bradley, Wiley University COO, emphasizes that this initiative is not just about academic preparation; it's about cultivating a mindset of inquiry and empathy—one that empowers students to consider their impact on the world. By fostering conversations around vocation, the University seeks to guide students in recognizing their potential to contribute meaningfully to society, nurturing a generation of leaders who are not only skilled but also deeply aware of their responsibilities to others.

Over the next two years, the committee's work will be pivotal in unearthing narratives and crafting experiences that reflect this calling. The results will culminate in curated moments that place the institutional saga front and center—infusing chapel services, first-year experiences, and the institutional reader with themes of vocation and purpose. This effort will ensure that Wiley University not only celebrates its legacy but also actively shapes the future of its community members as they pursue their dreams in alignment with their callings.

GOING FORTH INSPIRED ... EMBARKING ON BUILDING NEW LEGACIES

ANGUILLA: A CARIBBEAN ISLAND OF STRENGTH AND ENDURANCE



Anguilla, a British Overseas Territory in the Atlantic Ocean, spans about 35 square miles—roughly the size of Washington, D.C.—and has a population of approximately 15,753. This small island marks the next endeavor in Wiley University's plan for institutional partnerships and international exchanges. Building on the foundation laid by the Bahamian Scholarship Program, this new initiative begins with Anguilla Community College (ACC), founded in 2009.

A remarkable island known for its sandy beaches and vibrant boat races, Anguilla is also a destination for biology research. In November 2024, President & CEO Herman J. Felton, Jr. visited Anguilla to establish a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with ACC. During a formal ceremony on the island, Wiley University welcomed the new partnership and awarded five full scholarships to incoming students from Anguilla.

During the visit, both institutions officially signed the Anguilla Community College and Wiley University MOU, marking a significant step in expanding Wiley's global reach and commitment to international education. The partnership establishes a pathway for student exchange, credit transfer, and scholarship opportunities—fostering academic collaboration between Marshall, Texas, and Anguilla.

"This partnership builds new bridges for students seeking academic excellence and global experiences," said President Felton. "We are proud to welcome students from Anguilla into the Wiley University family as scholars, debaters, leaders, activists, athletes, vocalists, and more."

The MOU expands access to Wiley University's affordable, high-quality academic programs—including undergraduate, graduate, and adult degree-completion tracks—and supports faculty and cultural exchange initiatives that enrich both campuses. As an HBCU with a legacy of excellence, Wiley University continues to advance its mission of inclusive education and global engagement through strategic partnerships like this one.



A DREAM COME TRUE: THE HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION AT WILEY UNIVERSITY



**HIGHER EDUCATION
LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION**

Almost two years ago, the Higher Education Leadership Foundation (H.E.L.F.) became part of the Wiley University landscape under the Heman Sweatt Center for Social Good and Leadership. President Herman J. Felton, Jr. strategically positioned the Foundation at one of the first Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) west of the Mississippi, aiming to fuse practical and experiential approaches to leadership development.

A CONTINUOUS FLOW OF INTELLECTUAL CAPACITY

The arrival of H.E.L.F. at Wiley University has served as a catalyst for ongoing intellectual engagement, with the University now acting as the biannual host for its leadership institutes. Founded a decade ago, H.E.L.F. was established with the vision of enhancing leadership at HBCUs—recognizing that developing future leaders is essential to the sustainability and continued relevance of these institutions.

Dr. Martha López Coleman, Special Assistant to the President for Strategic Initiatives, remarked: “With over 460 H.E.L.F. Fellows, H.E.L.F. has been a champion for the space. It offers a chance for individuals who want the hyper success of HBCUs to have a collective experience and community.”

KEY MOMENTS OF EXPLORATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The past year has been marked by significant milestones in exploration and collaboration. It began with a pivotal gathering of HBCU presidents and the leadership of SeaChange Capital Partners, resulting in the impact paper *With Extraordinary Purpose: Leading for the Future of HBCUs*. “At our gathering of these brilliant HBCU leaders, they did not lament... This group gathered to look beyond... to create,” shared convener President & CEO Herman J. Felton, Jr. This convening examined HBCUs as entrepreneurial enterprises and advocated for reduced reliance on tuition and traditional fundraising models.

THE IDEATION, INNOVATION, AND COLLABORATION CONVENING

Summer 2025 marked the second iteration of the Ideation, Innovation, and Collaboration Convening (IIC2), celebrating a decade of HBCU leadership development. The event, themed *Creating the Blueprint for Sustainability and Self-Agency for HBCUs*, attracted over 100 participants and sparked deep discussions about autonomy, innovation, and sustainability in higher education. Hosted at Clafflin University, the invitation-only convening brought together more than 100 thought leaders—including 30 HBCU presidents and 70 newly inducted H.E.L.F. Architects. The event quickly evolved from a traditional leadership meeting into a dynamic, solutions-focused experience that addressed the rapidly shifting higher education landscape.

A NEW BLUEPRINT FOR A NEW ERA

Participants engaged in a series of immersive activities aimed at uncovering innovative strategies for institutional sustainability. A highlight of the event was the keynote address by Mignon Francois, founder of The Cupcake Collection, who inspired attendees with her story of growing a \$5 investment into a multimillion-dollar business. Her mantra—“We speak what we seek until we see what we spoke”—resonated deeply throughout the convening. Another standout moment was the Sankofa Honoring Ceremony, where H.E.L.F. celebrated excellence in media and research. Honorees included Ashlei Stevens, Jamal Watson, and Jahiel Thurman, who were recipients of the Ida B. Wells Media Excellence Award, and Dr. Ivory Toldson, who received the W.E.B. Du Bois Award for Excellence in Research.



DESIGN THINKING FOR INSTITUTIONAL TRANSFORMATION

Central to IIC2's impact was the innovative use of PODs—nine interdisciplinary working groups tasked with developing strategic blueprints for fictional HBCUs. Led by experienced facilitators, these groups employed design thinking, systems analysis, and collaborative visioning to generate actionable strategies.

The integration of AI-powered tools from Plaud enhanced the experience by capturing discussions in real time, while graphic facilitator Brandon Black illustrated the dialogue live—bringing ideas to life visually and interactively. The convening culminated in a high-energy Blueprint Reveal, where each POD presented its strategic vision.

One standout concept, “Financial Literacy for Campus Leadership,” demonstrated bold, out-of-the-box thinking grounded in practical application. The proposal included training leadership in budget interpretation, grant compliance, and the basics of donor stewardship—ensuring a unified ethos around both generating and managing institutional resources.

LEADING THE SHIFT: FROM DEVELOPMENT TO TRANSFORMATION

“The question now is not what we built, but how we implement it... The future of HBCUs depends on our willingness to trust the blueprint and advocate for the change we envision,” said Wiley University President & CEO Herman J. Felton, Jr., co-founder of H.E.L.F. For university presidents and higher education leaders, IIC2 represents more than a convening—it offers a replicable model for institutional transformation, rooted in self-agency, innovation, and collective leadership.

As Wiley University continues its legacy of impact, the H.E.L.F. IIC2 experience stands as a powerful testament to what can be achieved when vision aligns with strategy, and leadership merges with purpose. Through these efforts, the Foundation is paving the way toward a more sustainable and empowered future for HBCUs.



CENTERING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE...DREAMS IN THE MAKING

MILKEN INSTITUTE

Cortez Collins, a junior accounting major and men's basketball student-athlete at Wiley University, was selected for the prestigious Milken Institute HBCU Strategic Initiative and Fellowship Program. This program connects top HBCU students with influential leaders in finance, business, and policy to foster economic opportunity and financial equity.

A native of Shreveport, Louisiana, Collins has maintained a 3.8 GPA while excelling on the basketball court—exemplifying the discipline and perseverance that define the Wiley University Wildcat spirit. He expressed his gratitude for the fellowship, calling it an incredible honor and an opportunity to apply the skills he gained at Wiley University toward his future career. The program offers mentorship, professional development, and access to global finance leaders—supporting Collins's continued growth as a scholar and future changemaker. His achievement underscores Wiley University's commitment to developing well-rounded leaders. "We are extremely proud of Mr. Collins," said Coach Joseph Flegler. "He is an example of the very best of Wiley University—both scholar and athlete."

Wiley University celebrates his accomplishment and remains committed to providing students with life-changing experiences that prepare them for success long after graduation.

WHITE HOUSE HBCU SCHOLARS 2024-25

Wiley University proudly announced that two of its outstanding students, Wayne Curtis II and Jean-Marie Farinha, were selected as White House HBCU Scholars for the 2024–2025 academic year. This prestigious national recognition places them among an elite group of students chosen through the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

As part of this honor, Wayne and Jean-Marie participated in exclusive leadership development programming, including workshops and events in partnership with NASA. These opportunities were designed to expand their professional skills, networks, and readiness for high-impact careers.

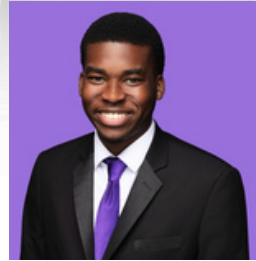
Wayne, a sophomore majoring in computer information systems, attributed his success to his faith and preparation, stating: "Our talents and positive work ethic opened doors when we were ready to embrace the possibilities."

Jean-Marie, a junior biology major, reflected on the influence of Wiley University's mission in her journey: "I live up to the slogan, 'Go Forth Inspired.' I believe it's instilled in me to go into the world and make an impact with purpose."

As White House Scholars, both students served as ambassadors for Wiley University, their communities, and the broader HBCU initiative—bringing back valuable knowledge and resources to share with peers.



Ms. Jean-Marie
Farinha



Mr. Wayne
Curtis, II

INAUGURAL PROGRAM CELEBRATES NEW GRADUATES

The inaugural classes of Wiley University's new master's degree programs officially graduated in May 2025. The launch of these graduate programs marked a significant return to our roots, coinciding with the institution's name change back to Wiley University. Along with the name change came several new initiatives—most notably, the introduction of advanced academic offerings.

The graduating class included students from all three new degree programs: Business Administration, Criminal Justice Administration, and Higher Education Administration. Nearly 50 individuals earned their graduate degrees, including a remarkable mother-daughter duo who completed their programs and graduated together on the same day.



CENTERING FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENT...DREAM MAKERS



DR. DANIELLE SIMS BROOKS NAMED TO NATIONAL HBCU CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Wiley University proudly announced the appointment of Dr. Danielle Sims Brooks, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Strategic Retention, to the planning committee for the College Board's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Conference. This prestigious three-day annual event brought together education professionals from across the nation to advance strategies aimed at improving student outcomes and enrollment practices at HBCUs.

As a committee member, Dr. Brooks helped shape sessions that addressed critical topics such as student development, retention, and operational excellence. Her leadership at Wiley University—where she oversaw areas including admissions, student engagement, residence life, and wellness—uniquely positioned her to contribute insights grounded in experience and innovation.

The HBCU Conference served as a vital platform for collaboration and shared learning among leaders dedicated to ensuring access, equity, and academic success for African American students. Dr. Brooks's selection reflected both her professional excellence and Wiley University's continued leadership in student-centered higher education.



ELIZABETH BRADSHAW EXPLORES AFRO-FUTURISM IN ACCLAIMED ACADEMIC PUBLICATION

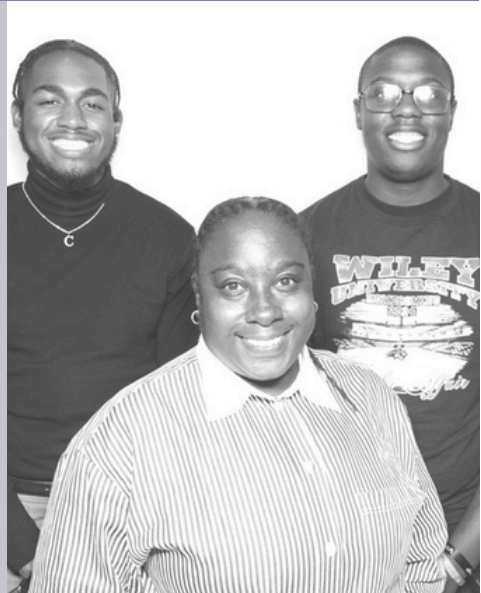
Ms. Elizabeth Bradshaw, Director of University Libraries, recently published an article in *The Griot: Journal of the Southern Conference on African American Studies, Inc. (SCAASI)*. Ms. Bradshaw's article, "Interpellation and the Ideological State Apparatus in Octavia Butler's Dawn," offered a glimpse into the exploration of Afrofuturism and expressions of power.

WILEY STUDENTS AND FACULTY RETURNED EMPOWERED FROM AFROTECH 2024

The AfroTech Conference, one of the nation's leading events celebrating Black excellence in technology, entrepreneurship, and innovation, provided students with a unique opportunity to engage with top companies—including Amazon, Apple, Google, and Netflix—while learning about the power of networking, representation, and emerging tech trends.

Dr. Natalie Hill was selected to attend on behalf of the University. The experience provided Dr. Hill with inspiration as she was able to engage in hands-on conversations with industry leaders and explore career pathways in AI, software development, and more. She also found great value in the experience, acquiring tools to better mentor students preparing for careers in technology.

The event reinforced Wiley University's commitment to delivering transformative experiences that connect students to opportunity, innovation, and the broader industry community.



CENTERING FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENT...DREAM MAKERS



Wiley University proudly launched its inaugural Residency Program—a bold, forward-thinking initiative designed to bridge classroom learning with real-world expertise and leadership. Officially beginning in the 2024–2025 academic year, this transformative program reflects the University’s strategic commitment to delivering immersive, high-impact educational experiences that extend beyond traditional academic instruction.

The inaugural cohort featured three nationally acclaimed professionals who served as the University’s first-ever Residents in their respective fields:

- Board of Trustees Chairwoman Kelley Cornish – Executive in Residence
- Dr. Robert “Biko” Baker – Activist in Residence
- The Honorable Brandon L. Simmons – Entrepreneur in Residence

Each Resident brought decades of experience and national recognition in their fields, offering Wiley University students invaluable mentorship, inspiration, and practical knowledge aligned with their academic journeys and professional aspirations.

Throughout the academic year, the Residents engaged directly with students across disciplines through interactive lectures, one-on-one mentoring sessions, student panels, workshops, and cocurricular collaborations. Their involvement deepened students’ understanding of entrepreneurship, executive leadership, and civic engagement—three pillars central to Wiley University’s mission of developing socially conscious, career-ready graduates.

Trustee Kelley Cornish, a nationally recognized leader in corporate leadership and philanthropy, provided strategic insights into navigating both corporate and nonprofit sectors. As a seasoned C-suite executive, her leadership sessions empowered students to understand organizational culture, equity practices, pathways to leadership in complex institutions, and the importance of community-building for social good.

The Honorable Brandon L. Simmons, a respected business leader and public servant, inspired students to explore entrepreneurship, innovation, and economic empowerment. Drawing from his extensive experience in legal affairs, business development, and philanthropy, Simmons helped students cultivate a mindset of enterprise, resilience, and community impact.

Dr. Robert “Biko” Baker, an influential digital strategist, educator, and activist, mentored students in civic storytelling, digital organizing, and advocacy. Through his residency, he worked closely with the Heman Sweatt Center for Social Good and Leadership, equipping students with tools to amplify social justice issues and lead initiatives that create meaningful change in their communities.

This dynamic Residency Program represents far more than a speaker series—it serves as a model of applied learning, leadership development, and values-driven mentorship. By embedding nationally respected leaders directly into the student experience, Wiley University provided new pathways for students to explore their passions, sharpen their skills, and build confidence in their ability to lead in a complex world.

The initiative aligns with Wiley University’s broader *Bold and Audacious Vision* to cultivate academic excellence, community engagement, and lifelong impact for every student. It also signals the institution’s growing investment in expanding partnerships and creating opportunities that elevate its educational offerings.

As the University celebrated the success of its inaugural Residency Program, it looked ahead with enthusiasm to continuing the model in future academic years—ensuring that Wiley University students continue to learn from and alongside individuals who embody excellence, innovation, and social responsibility.

ATHLETICS: FIELDS OF DREAM

Athletic programs boasted an average GPA of 3.27, with 70 percent of student-athletes earning a 3.0 or higher in 2024–25. Volleyball led the way with an average GPA of 3.69.



Javoun Goldsby won the 2024 HBCUAC Men's Cross Country individual title. In the spring, he won the 5,000-meter run and ran the anchor leg on the HBCUAC champion 4x800-meter relay team.



Ronald Garrett qualified for the NAIA National Championship in the 110-meter hurdles.

As the No. 6 seed, the women's basketball team advanced to the HBCUAC Championship game. It's the program's furthest advancement since 2013.



The baseball team won 34 games, the most since 2007. It finished as regular season runners-up with a 24-6 conference record.



ATHLETICS: FIELDS OF DREAM

The women's soccer team was one of 10 teams to hold a team GPA of 3.0 or higher during 2024–25.



Keyon Guillory repeated as HBCUAC Pitcher of the Year. He went 9-3 with a 3.05 ERA and struck out 97.



The men's cross country team finished runner-up at the 2024 HBCUAC Championship. Three runners finished in the top 10.

Wiley University brought back softball as a club team. It was elevated to varsity status for the 2025–26 academic year.



INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY... THE WILEY ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT ZONE

What happens when a love for community and a bold idea collide? We embrace an opportunity to revitalize key areas through a transformative design for collective growth. That idea became the Wiley Economic Improvement Zone (WEI). But this is not a typical renewal project—it is a vision that connects the past to the future.

A few years ago, as institutions grappled with the COVID-19 pandemic, we envisioned a community renewal initiative. It began with the campus itself: every building was renewed, renovated, or updated. As the campus received this attention, a deeper question emerged—what about the community that surrounds us?

Wiley University is located in the storied Newtown neighborhood of Marshall, Texas. Once home to one of the city's first air-conditioned houses, Newtown was the center of a vibrant Black academic and economic community. It housed Black-owned banks, hospitals, the historic Pemberton High School, and residences for Wiley's faculty and staff. This thriving community eventually experienced a sharp decline following shifts in the segregation landscape, which altered access, opportunity, and economic infrastructure. The result: a community forgotten—and forgotten communities often face economic, social, and digital distress.

Given Wiley University's historic ties to Newtown, the institution is now returning to a long-held truth: the community is the college, and the college is the community. The legacy is clear—Wiley was not only a hub for academic life, but also a center for the intellectual, social, and economic vitality of the area. As time passed and demographics shifted, the surrounding neighborhood changed drastically, losing the essential elements needed for a thriving community.

The WEI Zone represents Wiley University's renewed commitment to serve as a catalyst for revitalization. The plan includes bringing essential resources to the Newtown community:

- A grocery distribution experience
- Workforce development programs
- An entrepreneurship lab
- A health access space
- Enhanced retail and small business opportunities

The area is ready for investment—and the first to believe in the vision was the T.D. Jakes Foundation. In 2024, the Foundation began a bold journey to invest in communities across Texas and beyond. Their support helped launch the WEI Zone, enabling Wiley University to further invest in serving the Newtown community. The Foundation's mission aligns with the University's: to stabilize, uplift, and bring opportunity to under-resourced areas through transformative investments. Currently in its foundational phase, the WEI Zone is expected to be completed by July 2026. This \$3–5 million project is now actively moving through its fundraising and design phases.

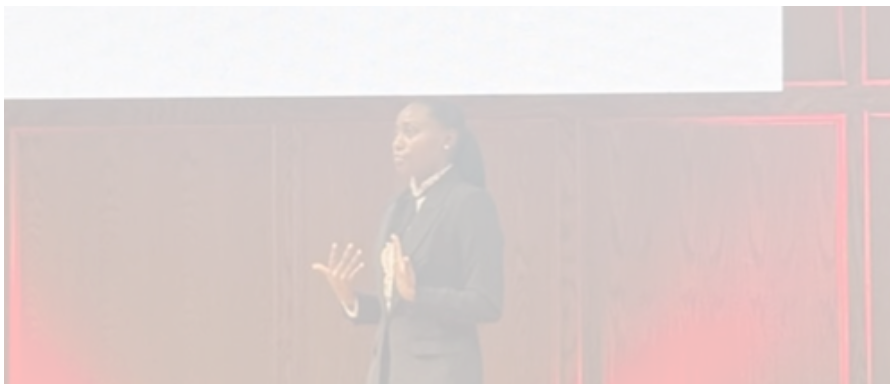
"The WEI Zone will truly be a remarkable effort in community investment. Centering Wiley University as an access point for our community, we are excited about how we can collaborate to see the area return to its fullest potential. We love our community and the people in it, and we believe it deserves to be invested in—to have all the amenities and amazement of our most resourced communities." — President & CEO Herman J. Felton, Jr.

CENTERING FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENT...DREAM MAKERS

TEDxWILEY UNIVERSITY 2025 WE MATTER: TRANSCENDENT LEADERSHIP

Wiley University proudly welcomed the return of TEDxWiley University on January 21, 2025, as part of its annual MLK Day Celebration. Held in the historic Julius S. Scott, Sr. Chapel, the event centered on the theme “We Matter: Transcendent Leadership,” honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. while amplifying the voices of faculty, staff, students, and community members.

The dynamic evening featured a series of impactful talks, each under 10 minutes, exploring themes of leadership, purpose, and transformation. This marked the first TEDxWiley University program since 2019, reigniting a powerful platform dedicated to innovation, storytelling, and community connection.



COMPLETE COLLEGE AMERICA: A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO STUDENT SUCCESS

Wiley University joined the Complete College Accelerator, a national initiative led by Complete College America, aimed at improving student success and closing gaps in college access and completion. As one of more than 80 institutions across 11 states participating in this four-year program, Wiley University collaborated with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to implement research-based strategies designed to significantly increase college completion rates statewide.

This partnership involved assessing institutional performance, building data capacity, and developing targeted approaches to enhance student outcomes. By joining this network, Wiley University gained access to innovative practices and shared expertise from other member institutions, fostering a collective commitment to advancing higher education attainment nationwide.



GIVING AT WILEY UNIVERSITY

THE CENTER FOR FINANCIAL LITERACY AND WELLNESS- POWERED BY THE T.D. JAKES FOUNDATION AND WELLS FARGO

Wiley University received a transformative \$150,000 donation from the T.D. Jakes Foundation, in collaboration with Wells Fargo—an initiative created to promote economic empowerment through financial education, homeownership readiness, and entrepreneurial development.

WILEY ON THE ROAD

The 'Wiley on the Road' tour with President Herman J. Felton, Jr., visited Los Angeles, San Antonio, Dallas, and Atlanta to engage alumni and friends. This year's giving supported the establishment of the Dr. Truby Clayton Endowed Chair. Attendees heard powerful testimonials and learned about initiatives that reflected the University's unwavering commitment to social good, innovation, and opportunity.

TEXAS MUTUAL INSURANCE

On November 25, 2024, Wiley University announced it had received a \$100,000 Workforce Development Grant from Texas Mutual Insurance Company. The grant was part of a \$4.5 million statewide investment in nearly 70 nonprofits focused on workforce readiness and safety.

The funding supports Wiley University's efforts to expand training for in-demand, middle-skill jobs and improve workplace safety programming. This initiative advances the University's commitment to preparing students for high-demand careers and contributing to economic growth in Texas.

Texas Mutual Insurance's investment also highlights the power of partnerships between higher education and industry leaders in building a skilled, job-ready workforce. Wiley University's selection underscores its dedication to innovation, opportunity, and community impact.

TEXAS METHODIST FOUNDATION

A commitment to improving outcomes at Wiley University led to the institution being selected to receive a \$50,000 grant from the Texas Methodist Foundation for the WEI Zone Initiative. The grant will support the programmatic functions of the Wiley Economic Improvement Zone.

MAJOR GIFTS:

PLANNED GIVING-JOHNNA FAYE PETYON TRUST

GBHEM

UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND

HOPE PIERCE TARTT SCHOLARSHIP

STRADA HBCU INITIATIVE

T.D. JAKES FOUNDATION

PLANNED GIVING-TRUSTEE EMERITUS DR. WARREN SCOTT '65 TRUST



100 YEARS OLD CLASS OF '45



BLANCHE INGRAM DAY PROCLAIMED DURING CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Wiley University honored distinguished alumna Blanche Ingram '45 at her centennial celebration by officially proclaiming March 15, 2025, as Blanche Ingram Day. Having recently turned 100, Ms. Ingram was celebrated for her groundbreaking accomplishments in science, education, and public service. A proud graduate of Wiley College, she earned an advanced degree in chemistry from Cornell University—paving the way for future generations of African American women in the sciences. Her career included notable service with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), where she made significant contributions to scientific research. She was the widow of Wiley University alumnus Attorney J. Jack Ingram '42.

Wiley University described Ms. Ingram as “brilliant, bold, and impactful,” noting that it is fitting to honor her legacy with a dedicated day. Beyond her professional achievements, Ingram remained a committed community leader in Washington, D.C., and Gaithersburg, Maryland. Her life stands as a powerful example of perseverance, intellectual curiosity, and dedication to service. She holds the distinction of being one of Wiley University’s oldest alumni.



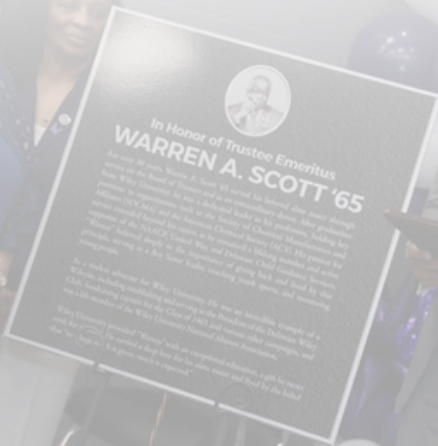
REMEMBERING A DREAMMAKER: DR. WARREN A. SCOTT '65

In 1965, the late Trustee Emeritus Dr. Warren A. Scott graduated from Wiley University. He went on to become one of the institution's most devoted advocates and supporters. This year, Wiley University mourned his passing. "Words cannot describe how much Dr. Scott meant to me. He was a man who always offered a smile, a kind word, and incredible generosity. I will miss him greatly," said Mr. George Stiell, CFO, Trustee Emeritus Dr. Warren Scott passed away on Thursday, July 18, 2024.

Dr. Scott was a dedicated alumnus, servant, and advocate of Wiley University, serving on the Board of Trustees for over three decades. Throughout his tenure, he held various officer roles and made many significant contributions, including establishing and serving as President of the Delaware Wiley Club. He was also a consistent major donor and served as a fundraising captain for the Class of 1965 as well as other campaigns. Additionally, he was a life member of the Wiley University National Alumni Association.

To honor his legacy, Wiley University named the auditorium inside the Aaron Baker Science Building the Trustee Emeritus Dr. Warren Scott Auditorium. This state-of-the-art space offers a large teaching area and a central gathering place for learning. The naming ceremony took place during the 2025 Founders Day weekend and was attended by over 100 guests, including family, friends, and trustees. Trustee Emeritus Dr. Warren Scott's life will be remembered at Wiley University as a "Beacon of Light."

Dr. Scott is survived by his first wife, Laurice Mosley, with whom he had a daughter, Hellena Scott-Okafor, and her husband, Fidelis. In 2004, Dr. Scott married Dr. Valerie Jean Gilliam and became stepfather to three daughters: Heather Henderson; Holly Henderson-Smith and her husband, Damon; and Hali Anderson and her husband, Brian. In Wilmington, Delaware, he also welcomed his daughter Cheryl R. Petty and son Luke Paul Scott and his wife, Kelsey. He is also survived by his sister, Bertina Duncan. Dr. Scott leaves behind beloved grandchildren: Ebony, Chinyere, Lauren, Emeka, Re'Ann-Alyce, Sutton, Weston, Zoey, Zaden, Ziggy, Jalen, and Jackson. His godsons include Dr. Jason Calhoun, Jarvis Scott, and Jamie Duncan.









Undergraduate Degrees

School of Business & Social Sciences

- BS Accounting
- BS Computer Information Systems
- BS Management (HR/Org. Mgmt.)
- BA Criminal Justice
- BA Criminal Justice Administration
- BA Mass Communications
- BA Sociology
- BA English
- BA Religion

School of Education & Sciences

- BS Biology
- BS Early Childhood Education
- BS Interdisciplinary Studies
- BS Music Education
- BS Physical Education & Health

Graduate Degrees

- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Criminal Justice
- Master of Education in Higher Education Administration (HBCU Focus)

Adult Education Completion Program

For students age 25+ with 60 or more transferable credits (grade C or better). Remedial courses are not accepted. General Education requirements must be completed if missing. Official transcripts are required.

Thelma Dewitty Honors Program

Applicants must have a 3.5 GPA, submit a completed application, two recommendations, and a one-page essay on using personal passion for social change. Continuing students are evaluated based on GPA and involvement.



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WILEY UNIVERSITY

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