

# WIDENER UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

Springfield Country Club October 14, 2022

# Widener University Fifth Athletic Hall of Fame Induction

Friday, October 14, 2022

Welcome Jack Shafer, Director of Athletics

Remarks Dr. Stacey M. Robertson, *President* 

Master of

Ceremonies Miguel Peña '99, '14, Trustee

### Inductions

#### Rich Grzeszkowiak '80

Introduced by Vince Touey, Men's Track & Field/Cross Country Head Coach

## Tony Caia '50

Accepted by son, Matt Caia

## Annette Angelotti Reiter '83

Presented by daughter, Kristina Reiter Sorg '15

## Gibson Ivery '77

Presented by Billy "White Shoes" Johnson '75, 2014 Hall of Fame inductee, and Ron Hodge '78, 2018 Hall of Fame inductee

## Laurie Barbour Eriksen '82

Presented by Jim Mack '85, Widener Swimming

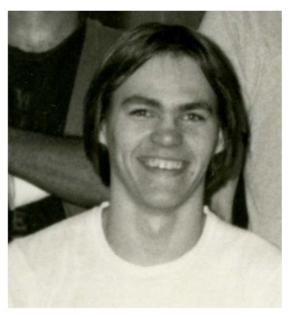
## Lou Stevens '88

Presented by Greg Olenski '85, Widener Men's Basketball

# The 1981 National Champion Football Team

Presented by Bill Manlove, Head Coach, 2014 and 2017 Hall of Fame inductee

## Widener Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2022



Rich Grzeszkowiak '80 was one of the top performers in Widener men's track & field history from 1976-80. Grzeszkowiak won the NCAA title in the decathlon in 1980 and was Widener's first three-time All-American in any sport. In his victory in the decathlon as a senior, Grzeszkowiak set the school record with 7,160 points, which still stands today. Grzeszkowiak also won four MAC championships in the triple jump and two in the long jump. For his efforts, Grzeszkowiak was named to the MAC 100 Century team in 2013. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in accounting, Grzeszkowiak moved to Georgia, where he works in the Cobb County School District as a bus driver. Grzeszkowiak is married to Janet Monkman, who

also graduated from Widener in 1980 and played on the women's basketball team. They have two children, Stephanie and Lauren, and two grandchildren.



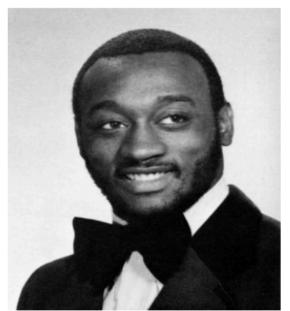
Tony Caia '50 was one of PMC's finest football players from 1946-50. After serving as a medic in World War II, he came to PMC as a running back and set a school record of five touchdowns in one game against Swarthmore in 1948. That record helped him win the Maxwell Club Award for the top performance in the East that week and it stood until 1972, when Billy "White Shoes" Johnson broke the record with six touchdowns against St. John's. Caia finished the 1948 season by leading PMC to an 8-1 record — its best season in program history since 1934 when the Cadets went 7-0-2 — and becoming the program's second All-American. After graduating from PMC with a bachelor's degree

in business administration, Caia was offered to try out for the New York Giants as a punt and kick return specialist, but turned it down to teach and coach football. Caia coached at various schools across the Philadelphia area for 55 years and taught special education after earning a master's degree in the field from Trenton State College. Born in 1923 in Milmont Park, Caia passed away in 2012. Caia was a father to two sons, Pasquale and Matt. Caia enjoyed teaching scores of young men and children, attending mass, reading scriptures, and watching football, basketball, and baseball.



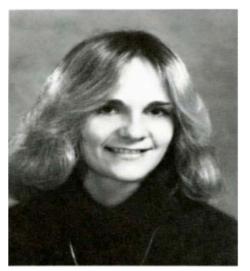
Annette Angelotti Reiter '83 will forever be remembered as one of the most prolific scorers in Widener women's basketball history. Angelotti graduated as the program's second leading scorer after amassing 1,568 career points for the Pioneers from 1979-83. In doing so, she led the team to three consecutive Middle Atlantic Conference Southern Division titles from 1980-83. In 1981-82, Angelotti guided the Pioneers to a school-record 19 wins and a spot in the first NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Championship tournament. Angelotti was selected to the MAC Southern Division First Team three times and was named the division's Most Valuable Player in 1983. Angelotti currently ranks fourth on the all-time scoring list and still ranks in the top 10 in Widener history in field goals made in

a season (seventh with 170 in 1981-82) and scoring in a season (10th with 432 points in 1981-82). Angelotti graduated with a bachelor's degree in nursing. Since then, Angelotti has worked as a home care nurse and served as the head coach at the high school and college levels for the past 30 years, including the last nine seasons as Rutgers-Camden's head coach. She has also had three children, including daughter Kristina Reiter, who was a member of Widener's women's basketball team that advanced to the Elite Eight in 2012-13.



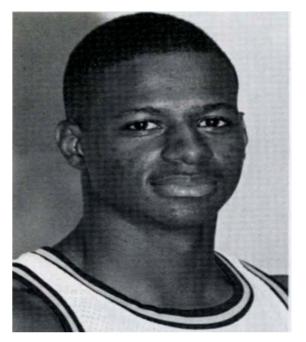
Gibson Ivery '77 showcased his incredible athletic abilities on both the football field and the track from 1974-77. On the football field, Ivery was the leading receiver for the Pioneers in all three seasons, making 69 catches for 1,246 yards and 16 touchdowns. In 1976, Ivery earned All-American honors after hauling in 29 receptions for 527 yards and seven TDs while also returning 13 punts for 153 yards and one score. In track and field, Ivery was a two-time All-American as a member of the 4x100 outdoor relay team (1976, 1977), the MAC champion in the indoor 300-yard run in 1976, and the MAC champion in the indoor 60-yard dash in 1977. Ivery and the 4x100 outdoor relay team in 1977 still hold the record in that event with a time of 41.29 seconds.

For his efforts, Ivery was named to the MAC 100 Century team in 2013. Ivery went on to sign with the Philadelphia Eagles in 1977 as a wide receiver.



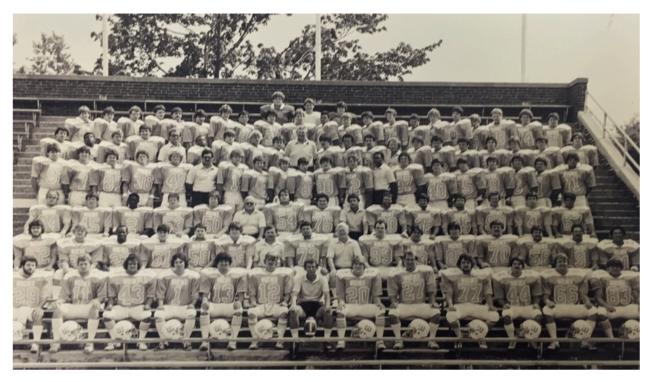
Laurie Barbour Eriksen '82 was a standout in the pool for the Pioneers. A two-year captain, Barbour became the Pioneers' first All-American swimmer under the NCAA in 1982 after earning that status in two events by placing second in the 50 butterfly and fifth in the 100 butterfly. Barbour's 50 fly time of 27.51 seconds and her 100 fly time of 1:01.91 were school records that stood for 20 years until 2002. For her efforts, Barbour was named to the MAC 100 Century team in 2013. Barbour graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration and went on to have a long career in manufacturing management and engineering for both General Motors and DuPont. During this time, Barbour also coached for 15 years at a

year-round youth USA Swimming organization in Delaware, where she was selected as an All-Star coach for the Middle Atlantic area in the Eastern Zone Championships and developed many nationally ranked swimmers. Barbour is a mother to two sons, Kyle and Kevin, who excelled on the soccer travel circuit.



Lou Stevens '88 made his mark as one of the most dynamic players in the history of Widener men's basketball. Stevens was the first player in school history to surpass 2,000 points as he graduated with 2,140 points, which still ranks No. 1 in program history. Stevens finished as the school's all-time leader in field goals made (821), free throws made (492), free throws attempted (673), and points in a season (661). He was tabbed an All-American in 1987 and 1988 as well as the NCAA Division III Player of the Year in 1988. He was a two-time MVP of the NCAA Division III Mid-Atlantic Regional in 1987 and 1985. He was voted to the 1985 NCAA Division III All-Tournament Team after leading Widener to the Final Four. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in business management, Stevens traveled with the Harlem Globetrotters before attending

Widener's Delaware Law School, where he graduated in 1995. Since then, Stevens has worked as an attorney, coached basketball at Montgomery Township, and participated in a pro bono program with the Philadelphia Bar Association. Stevens is a member of the Middle Atlantic Conference Hall of Fame and the Philadelphia Small College Basketball Hall of Fame. He is a father to three children, including his youngest son Lamar Stevens, who currently plays professional basketball for the Cleveland Cavaliers.



The 1981 National Champion Football Team built its legacy because it had a group of players who were all motivated to right a couple of wrongs that happened in the 1979 and 1980 seasons. The Pioneers had advanced through perfect regular seasons and won their quarterfinal games in the national tournament, only to see their ultimate goal dashed with losses in the semifinals. The Pioneers lost to Wittenberg, 17-14, in 1979 and fell to Dayton, 28-24, in 1980, with both teams going on to win the Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl and claim the national title in those respective years. With this inspiration in mind, the 1981 team rolled to a third straight MAC Championship and a third consecutive 10-0 start. Widener steamrolled its opposition during the regular season, winning by an average of 18 points per game. Led by its defense, the Pioneers allowed just 8.1 points per contest throughout the course of the year, highlighted by back-to-back shutouts of Dickinson and Moravian. In the playoffs, Widener downed West Georgia, 10-3, on the road in its opening game to advance to a third straight national semifinal. Playing in front of an excited home crowd, the Pioneers rallied from 6-0 down in the third quarter to beat Montclair State, 23-12, and advance to the national title game, setting up a revenge game with the Dayton Flyers. Much like its previous appearance in the Stagg Bowl in 1977, Widener had to dig itself out of a halftime hole, trailing 10-0 at intermission. Starting with three-time All-American Tom Deery's 76-yard punt return for a touchdown, the Pioneers completed the rally, taking advantage of six Dayton turnovers in the game and holding the Flyers to just 72 yards of offense in the second half to come away with a 17-10 victory. The win gave Widener its second national title, joining Wittenberg as the only other Division III program at the time with two NCAA football championships. The team also featured three All-Americans in Deery, Tom Kincade, and Mark Stephan, legendary coach Bill Manlove, and team captains Jim Hirschmann, Tony Britton, Tim Keyser and Robert Cole.

## Past Widener Athletics Hall of Fame Inductees

**2014:** F. Eugene Dixon, George Hansel, Billy "White Shoes" Johnson, Bill Manlove, 1977 Women's Swimming All-America Relay Team

**2016:** Tom Deery, Joe Fields, Wally Rice, C. Alan Rowe, Debbie Smuda Williams, Richie Weaver

**2017:** Gina Gonzales Johnson, Dennis James, Ken O'Brien, Nick Trainer, Mike Williams, 1977 National Champion Football Team

**2018:** Walker Carter, Ron Hodge, Kate L'Armand, Lauren Lucci, Pete Morrison, William "Reds" Pollack, 1977-78 Men's Basketball Team

## About the Hall of Fame

The Widener University Athletic Hall of Fame shines the spotlight on some of the exceptional athletes, coaches, and administrators who have brought honor and distinction to our institution.

It showcases outstanding individual athletes and powerhouse teams that are such a vital part of the long and glorious history of Widener and its predecessor institution, Pennsylvania Military College.

The Hall of Fame also pays tribute to the athletes and leaders who have gone on to notable achievement in the business world and in the community.

### Thank You

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