

# WILKES

SPRING 2017



## Bird Watcher

DANIEL KLEM '68 HAS  
DEVOTED A CAREER TO  
STUDYING AND SAVING BIRDS

## A Unique Course on Leadership at Wilkes

**D**uring my freshman year at Georgetown University, I received a tip from a friend. The president of the University, Timothy Healy, would be teaching a freshman poetry class, should I be interested in enrolling in it. Of course, I was interested. I have often shared how that experience changed the course of my academic career, prompting me to major in English Literature and ultimately to pursue a career in higher education administration.

Each spring I think of President Healy. Since becoming president of Wilkes, I've considered it one of the privileges of my position to teach a course for undergraduate students in our Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and Leadership. The time with students reminds me that the essential work of a university—the heart of the matter—is what happens in the classroom.

This spring finds me once again at the heart of the matter, teaching the President's Seminar in Leadership. I'm no authority on leadership, so I call on some of Wilkes' most successful alumni and corporate friends to pass on their wisdom to our students. This course is designed to be very conversational. I begin each discussion by asking our guest a series of questions. They discuss their experiences as leaders, managers, and strategists in a broad range of industries, from child care and insurance to engineering and finance. Students are invited to ask our guests their own questions. The course fosters dialogue, leading to introspection and self-discovery.

This semester my guests will include: Frank Joanlanne, President of Borton-Lawson; Dan Cardell '79, chairman of the Chicago Quantitative Alliance; Bill Miller '81, president of Galison/Mudpuppy; Bob Bruggeworth '83, CEO of Qorvo; Tara Mugford Wilson, CEO of Power Engineering Corporation; Carl Witkowski, COO of Guard Insurance; Bill Grant MBA '86, founder of Hildebrandt Learning Centers; and Jay Sidhu MBA '73, founder and CEO of Customers Bank.

These distinguished individuals have much to share with our students about leadership and success. The alumni bring the unique perspective of discussing how their Wilkes experiences prepared them for the roles they now fill. Interacting with our visitors is proving to be both educational and inspiring for our students. Students will write papers comparing the different leadership styles, reflecting on how their perspectives about leadership have changed as a result of the class. Please watch for an article in the summer issue of Wilkes magazine for highlights from this seminar.

President Healy once wrote: "The old teach, and the young dream, and in this mystery comes a tomorrow that we, who are older, may never know, but will have helped to shape in the minds and hearts of our students." It is a joy to collaborate with these successful alumni and friends in helping to shape the minds and hearts of our students here at Wilkes.



President Patrick F. Leahy, right, introduces Frank Joanlanne of Borton-Lawson at the President's Seminar in Leadership.

PHOTO BY BRIAN LEEMOON.

**Dr. Patrick F. Leahy**  
*Wilkes University President*

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Wilkes University is an independent institution of higher education dedicated to academic and intellectual excellence in the liberal arts, sciences and professional programs. The university provides its students with the experience and education necessary for career and intellectual development as well as for personal growth, engenders a sense of values and civic responsibility, and encourages its students to welcome the opportunities and challenges of a diverse and continually changing world. The university enhances the tradition of strong student-faculty interactions in all its programs, attracts and retains outstanding people in every segment of the university, and fosters a spirit of cooperation, community involvement, and individual respect within the entire university.



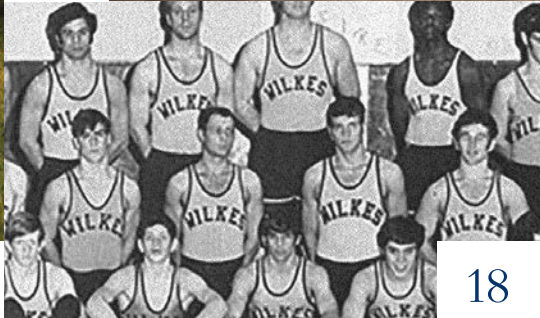
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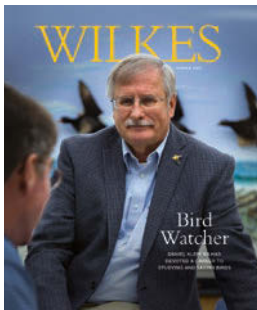


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Dan Klem '68 is an authority on preventing bird collisions with glass windows.  
PHOTO BY DAN Z. JOHNSON

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Have a story idea to share?

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# on campus

## Panama Partnership Grows With Arrival of First Undergraduate Students

The newest chapter in Wilkes' historic partnership with the Republic of Panama began in January with the arrival on campus of 16 undergraduate students. The students were selected from education centers throughout Panama to come to the University to complete bachelor's degrees.

The centers provide educational access for students from some of that country's most remote areas. The eight men and eight women who are continuing their educational journeys at Wilkes were selected based on academic merit and an interview process. They will spend their first year in a university preparatory program that includes the Intensive English Program, Wilkes' nationally accredited program that teaches language skills to non-English speakers. They also will take other academic courses deemed necessary to prepare the students for their undergraduate field of study. After that, they will enter a four-year course of study leading to a bachelor's degree. The students' study in the United States is funded by the Panamanian agency IFARHU.

In many cases, the students are the first in their families to attend college—a fact in keeping with Wilkes' commitment to educating first-generation college students. "This program aligns with our mission and our strategic goals," says Rosi Ponce Sanabria, executive director of international engagement.

The 2016–2017 academic year also has seen the continuation of Wilkes' participation in the MEDUCA-Bilingual Panama program. MEDUCA is the acronym for Panama's education ministry. The program brings cohorts of teachers to colleges and universities in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom to learn English and education best practices. The program is part of a national commitment to bring bilingualism to the country's public schools. The fourth cohort of teachers came to Wilkes in spring semester 2017 with a fifth group



Wilkes President Patrick F. Leahy, left, welcomes Panamanian Teachers of the Year who were honored with the Manuel Jose Hurtado Award. The contingent is pictured on their January visit to Wilkes. They include Onelia Guerra, Berta Llorente, Leticia Nunez, Zoila Castillero, Elizabeth Garcia, Xiomara Cortes, Jose Garcia, Ricardo Concepcion, Eulalia Rodriguez, Martina Marin and Nieves Bonilla. Also pictured are chaperones Marelisa Tribaldos, senior advisor to the minister of education, Miguel Bazan, director general of education, MEDUCA, and Melissa Wong, director general of the Organization of Ibero-American States. PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH CRISPELL

expected to arrive in March 2017, bringing the total number of participants to nearly 100 since the program's inception in January 2016.

Marcela Paredes de Vasquez, Panama's minister of education, honored Wilkes by selecting the University to be one of the institutions visited by teachers in the Order Manuel José Hurtado. The 11 teachers are recognized as the "teacher of the year" for their respective regions.

Other partnerships between Wilkes and Panama include a pilot program to train math teachers to deliver instruction in English and the delivery of language instruction to members of the diplomatic corps in Panama. In addition, exchanges for Wilkes faculty and students are expected to launch in the 2017–2018 academic year. These include joint exchange programs in special education, criminology and nursing with Universidad Especializada de las Américas and a faculty and student exchange program between the Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and Leadership at Wilkes and Universidad Latina. A grant application also has been made under the "100,000 Strong in the Americas" program, a public/private partnership supported by the U.S. State Department to encourage study abroad. It would fund exchanges between Wilkes' College of Science and Engineering and the Universidad Tecnológica de Panamá.



"This program aligns with our mission and our strategic goals."

— Rosi Ponce Sanabria,  
Executive Director of  
International Engagement

Panamanian undergraduate students starting their higher education journey at Wilkes display their national pride on a trip to New York City.

## WCLH CELEBRATES 45 YEARS

Alumni and staff gathered in February 2017 to mark 45 years of broadcasting at campus radio station WCLH. The day included a specially produced show that highlighted four decades of student-produced programming. Alumni who returned celebrated not only the broadcasting experience at the station, but also the rich friendships formed working there. The day also celebrated new developments at WCLH. They include online streaming of station programming and the introduction of the Spanish-language program “Receso Comunitario.”

During its history, the station has been ranked one of the Top 50 College Radio Stations by bestcolleges.com. It also has received awards of excellence in broadcast journalism from the Professional News Media Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

## Wilkes Offers Accelerated Path to Law Degree With Penn State Law, University Park

The path to law school will be shorter for some Wilkes students thanks to a new agreement. Wilkes has signed a memorandum of understanding with Penn State University—Penn State Law at University Park allowing exceptional students in their third year of study to apply for early acceptance into law school. The agreement allows students to complete both the bachelor’s and juris doctor degrees in six years. Students traditionally complete three years of law school after four years spent earning a bachelor’s degree.

“This agreement provides a great opportunity for our most capable and motivated students,” says Kyle Kreider, pre-law advisor and associate professor of political science. “It offers a head start for those committed to a law career with the added incentive of cost savings by reducing the number of years of study needed on the path to an advanced degree.”

To be eligible for the program, called a 3+3 accelerated bachelor’s/juris doctor degree program, students must complete all of Wilkes’ graduation, distribution, major and certification requirements by the time of application. Applicants must have completed 75 percent of the credits required to earn their Wilkes degree with a 3.5 or higher grade-point average. Students also must score in the top 30 percent nationally on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT).



## It’s On Us Week at Wilkes Focuses on Combating Sexual Violence

Wilkes University was to have hosted noted speaker Jackson Katz as part of It’s On Us Week, a campus-wide initiative designed to combat sexual violence. Katz’s appearance, as well as a week of training sessions and activities, was made possible by a grant from Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf and his It’s On Us PA campaign.



Katz, an educator, author, filmmaker and cultural theorist, holds a doctorate in cultural studies and education from UCLA. He is recognized internationally for his pioneering scholarship and activism on issues of gender, race and violence. He founded the Mentors in Violence Prevention program at Northeastern University’s

Center for the Study of Sport in Society. Since its inception in 1993, Katz’s program has been implemented by high schools, colleges, and professional sports organizations like the NFL, NBA, MLB and NASCAR. His TED talk, “Violence Against Women Is a Men’s Issue,” has been viewed more than three million times.

Katz’s evening presentation kicked off It’s On Us Week, held March 27 to 31. He also conducted a meeting and training session for student leaders and athletes. The week also featured a showing of *The Hunting Ground*, a documentary about sexual assault on college campuses.

The University invited local high schools for bystander intervention training conducted by Wilkes students. Samantha Hart, the University’s Title IX coordinator, conducted One Love Escalation Training for Wilkes students to help them recognize and stop relationship violence.

Hart’s goal is to bring greater awareness to issues surrounding sexual violence and prevention and to let students know they have trained peers and staff to help. “It’s okay to talk about these issues, and we’re here to listen.”

## Luzerne County SHINE at Wilkes University Marks First Anniversary

It might have looked like a pizza party, but the middle school students in the SHINE Program center at Wilkes-Barre Career and Technical Center knew it was all business. The middle-school students in the after-school program had completed a unit on entrepreneurship, learning the ins and outs of what it takes to operate a small business. Family Pizza Night showcased their efforts. The event included menus featuring pricing developed by the students. There were commercials for the restaurant, and family members tasted the pizza, salad and cookies prepared by the students. And those cookies? They were made with cookie cutters produced on a 3-D printer.

Such events reflect the successful experiences of students attending Luzerne County SHINE at Wilkes University in its first year. The program celebrated its first anniversary in December 2016. SHINE, which stands for Schools and Homes In Education, serves students in seven centers. The program, offered four days a week after school, uses a project-based STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) curriculum to kindle excitement about learning. School districts served by the program are Hanover Area, Hazleton Area, Greater Nanticoke Area, Wilkes-Barre Area and Wyoming Valley West. The program opened its eighth center at Lee Park Elementary in the Hanover Area district in January 2017. Nearly 400 students participate.

Wilkes President Patrick F. Leahy says serving as SHINE's higher education host continues Wilkes' commitment to providing academic opportunities for the community.

"Our partnership with SHINE underscores our tradition of being a private university with a public purpose. One day, we will count SHINE graduates among our student body. It is gratifying to know we will have helped them start on their path to higher education," Leahy says.

According to SHINE director Carol Nicholas, students in the program reflect its impact.

"They are excited, happy and engaged in active learning," Nicholas says.

"They are becoming critical thinkers, preparing to face the challenges of our future. If these children are a snapshot of our future, we will be in great hands."

Families of SHINE students sample the offerings at Family Pizza Night.

PHOTO BY GREG BOWSER



## Wilkes Political Scientist Thomas Baldino Draws National Media Attention for Presidential Campaign Analysis

Media from around the globe focused on Luzerne County, Pa., as a key area for Donald Trump in the presidential election. When reporters got there, Wilkes University was one of their stops, thanks to the expertise provided by political science Professor Thomas Baldino. Long recognized across the state for his insightful analysis of politics and elections, he soon became a go-to expert during the fall presidential campaign. Baldino completed more than 60 interviews with local, regional, state and national media. National media outlets featuring him included *The New York Times*, *Newsweek*, C-Span, NPR and CNN. International media crews and journalists from Finland, France, the Middle East and more also interviewed him.



Check out some of the stories featuring Thomas Baldino, Wilkes political science professor. Go to [www.wilkes.edu/baldino](http://www.wilkes.edu/baldino) to read his comments in *The New York Times*, *Newsweek* and to listen to his NPR interview



**WILKES RECEIVES GRANT TO IMPROVE SOUTH MAIN STREET**

Members of the campus community and their Wilkes-Barre neighbors will enjoy a more attractive walk on South Main Street thanks to a \$1 million grant awarded to the University. The grant from the Transportation Alternative Program administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation funds new sidewalks, street lighting and other infrastructure improvements along South Main Street between South and Northampton streets.

Wilkes will contribute \$300,000 to the project. The project also includes curb ramps, planting trees and other improvements that will not only enhance the University's campus but encourage future business development on South Main Street. The project extends work promoting pedestrian safety already undertaken by Wilkes on West South and South Franklin streets. Wilkes President Patrick F. Leahy says, "This project makes visible Wilkes' ongoing commitment to the community surrounding our campus. We are pleased to be in a position to pay the match required for a TAP grant, allowing Wilkes to make investments in our city and county where we can make the most impact."



**Nursing Professor Eugene Lucas Awarded American Association of Nurse Practitioners State Award**

Eugene Lucas, an assistant professor in the Passan School of Nursing '89, DNP '13, has been recognized with the 2017 American Association of Nurse Practitioners State Award for Excellence as Nurse Practitioner in Pennsylvania. The award recognizes Lucas for his demonstrated excellence in nurse practitioner clinical practice. He will receive the award in June

at the American Association of Nurse Practitioners national conference in Philadelphia.

Lucas is coordinator of the psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner program. In that role, he mentors students to clinical excellence, confirmed by their 100 percent pass rate on national board certification examinations.

He was recently awarded a grant for over \$250,000 from the AllOne Foundation to start an integrated behavioral health and wellness center at Volunteers in Medicine, Luzerne County.



**Safeguarding Biological Diversity is Focus of New Role for Klemow**

Kenneth Klemow, a professor of biology and environmental science, was recently named president-elect of the Pennsylvania Biological Survey.

Klemow hopes to improve public understanding of the importance of Pennsylvania's rich biological diversity. "That diversity is one of Pennsylvania's treasures, and helps to provide breathable air, clean water and recreational opportunities for all of its citizens," he says.

**MacArthur Genius Grant Winner Anna Deavere Smith to Deliver Rosenn Lecture on April 30**

Playwright, actor and professor Anna Deavere Smith will deliver the Rosenn Lecture in Law and Humanities on April 30. The event will be at 7 p.m. in the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Arts. Her presentation, "Snapshots: Portraits of a World in Transition," will explore the school to prison pipeline, our complex identities in America and the human capacity for compassion and resilience in the face of adversity.

Smith was honored by the MacArthur Foundation with its "Genius" Fellowship for creating a new form of theatre that blends theatrical art, social commentary,

journalism and intimate reverie. She is best known for crafting one-woman shows based on conversations with real people from all walks of life. She turns her interviews into scripts, transforming herself into an astonishing number of characters.

Smith's plays include *Fires in the Mirror* and the Tony Award-nominated *Twilight: Los Angeles*, which dramatized the Los Angeles riots in the wake of the Rodney King trial. Issues of race and social inequality are frequent subjects.

Her acting credits include *The West Wing*, *Nurse Jackie*, *Black-ish* and *Madame Secretary*. A professor in New York University Tisch School of the Arts, Smith has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, the National Humanities Medal and the 2013 Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize. Smith delivered the National Endowment for the Humanities Jefferson Lecture in 2015.



# Bird Watcher

Daniel Klem '68 Has Devoted a Career to Studying and Saving Birds

By Krista Weidner

If Daniel Klem '68 had a mantra, it might very well be "I'm not giving up."

Klem, who is the Sarkis Acopian Professor of Ornithology and Conservation Biology at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pa., is one of the world's foremost authorities on the problem of bird deaths and injuries caused by collisions with building glass. Since earning a doctorate in zoology at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Klem has been researching the bird/window issue and working tirelessly to raise awareness, both within the scientific community and among the general public.



## An Invisible Threat

Whenever birds and glass are in the same vicinity, Klem explains, birds become crash victims. "Clear and reflective sheet glass, as window panes in homes or entire walls of multistory commercial buildings, is a passive invisible killer of wild birds worldwide," he says. "The results are often invisible to us as well." Birds that are killed or injured striking glass often go unnoticed because landscaping around residential and commercial buildings can hide them. And usually, victims disappear quickly because of predators and scavengers or, in urban areas, street cleaning crews.

Bird-window collisions, though an everyday occurrence, don't tend to make the news. Klem points out, "When you hear about an environmental disaster in the media, it's an oil spill, a poisoning, a pesticide." But evidence shows that, when it comes to human-related factors, windows, along with domestic cats and habitat destruction, rank among the world's biggest bird killers. "Glass is an indiscriminate killer that takes the fit as well as the unfit of a species population," Klem says.

What can be done to protect wild bird populations? Klem emphasizes that preventing bird fatalities requires education about preventive techniques, regulations for preventive measures in remodeled or new buildings, and enforcing existing legislation to protect wild birds. He says that, although many solutions can help reduce or

eliminate bird strikes, as yet there's no universally applicable or easy, one-size-fits-all solution.

Short-term prevention techniques include soaping windows, covering windows with one-way external film, hanging strings or decals, and placing bird feeders within a meter of windows.

One promising possibility for a long-term solution is the manufacture of new varieties of sheet glass: panes that have external patterns that alert birds to the windows' presence but may or may not retain an unobstructed view from inside. These solutions include patterned glass that birds and humans see, and glass with ultraviolet patterns that birds see and humans do not. Through working with a company that creates window films, he has secured patents that document the effectiveness of ultraviolet patterning in preventing bird-window collisions. Though prototypes have been successful, no manufacturer has yet agreed to take on the product. "I'm still on the case," Klem says. "It's a viable option."

Although Klem continues to struggle to raise awareness of the bird-window issue, he is encouraged that younger researchers are attracted to the topic. "We need to create a critical mass so the public will take this seriously," he says, noting that about 25 percent of all birds have been documented striking windows. That includes 225 species of birds in the United States and Canada. One of his goals is to compile a complete world list of all the avian species documented





Opposite, A cedar waxwing is pictured from the Acopian Center for Ornithology at Muhlenberg College. This page, Dan Klem '68 holds a merlin, a bird of prey, that is a smaller version of the peregrine falcon. It was killed crashing into a glass window. Klem also holds a sample of glass with a dotted pattern applied as ceramic bonded to glass. It has been used successfully to decrease bird deaths from glass collisions at Swarthmore and Muhlenberg colleges. PHOTOS BY DAN Z. JOHNSON

to strike sheet glass. “When I did these studies in the 1970s,” he says, “I started in North America, tracking down any records that existed of birds being killed by glass. That’s what we have continued to do but on a worldwide basis. It’s an ongoing and growing search.”

## From Fish to Birds

After earning his bachelor’s degree in biology at Wilkes, Klem was headed for graduate school. But just as his plans firmed up to study marine science at Boston’s Northeastern University, President Lyndon B. Johnson cut all draft deferments for graduate studies. Klem served in Vietnam and returned with several combat medals, including the Bronze Star. Marriage brought him to New York, where he earned a master’s degree at Hofstra University.

“I was set on studying marine science, but there was a young ornithologist on the faculty at Hofstra who asked me if I’d be interested in working with him. If that hadn’t happened I probably would have spent my life studying fish. But he introduced me to birds and I was spellbound. I soaked up everything I could.”

Klem’s research interests were further defined at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, where a professor in his doctoral program introduced him to the issue of birds and glass. “One morning I sat outside the chemistry building that had an all-glass façade, and a bird came flying through the trees and crashed into the windows right in front of me. I was hooked.”

## Overdue Recognition

Throughout his career, Klem has struggled with his research gaining “only meager attention.” Sometimes, poor timing is to blame: “In 2010,” he says, “I was interviewed about my research on NPR’s *Morning Edition*. I thought, ‘Wow, now we’re going to gain some traction and get people’s interest.’ The very same day the story aired was the day that news broke about the West Virginia coal mine disaster. Well, who is going to care about birds amidst such a tragedy?”

Speaking of timing, Klem has experienced delayed recognition of his work. For example, the State Parks of New York have recently acknowledged and highlighted Klem’s design of the observation tower at Niagara Falls. The American falls are in our nation’s oldest state park and within the region internationally designated as an Important Bird Area. Klem was asked by the Department of New York State Parks and Recreation to consult and help design the tower in 2000, and the structure, incorporating his bird-safe designs, was completed in 2001. New signage at the base of the tower now credits Klem’s research, explaining the bird-window collision issue and why the tower’s windows feature a striped glass design that helps minimize bird collisions and resulting deaths.

While Klem acknowledges that it’s gratifying to receive credit for his design, he is more encouraged that the tower and signage will continue to raise awareness. “Niagara Falls is an iconic landmark that sees eight to nine million visitors annually,” he says. “The opportunity to teach and raise awareness at this geologic wonder is great.”

Klem’s research findings have also been published internationally and most recently were featured in an article that examines the topic of bird-window collisions in the German magazine *Der Spiegel*. Other publications that have featured his research include *Audubon* magazine, *Maclean’s* (Canada’s equivalent of *Time* in the United States) and *Bioscience*.



“One morning I sat outside the chemistry building that had an all-glass façade, and a bird came flying through the trees and crashed into the windows right in front of me. I was hooked.”

Klem examines specimens in the Acopian Center for Ornithology at Muhlenberg College, where he teaches. The birds in the trays are a mix of window-killed specimens. The bright blue one on the right is an indigo bunting. The bright red one is a male northern cardinal. The yellow birds near Klem’s left hand in this tray are a mix of wood warbler, small insectivorous birds. The tray near Klem’s right hand contains sparrows.

## Professional Consulting

Throughout his career, Klem has been sought out by industry as well as the scientific and academic communities as an adviser and consultant. He has worked with architecture firms interested in making their buildings bird safe by including window designs or bird-safe sheet glass. Glass manufacturers that offer bird-safe products consult him about transforming windows as retrofits to existing structures and evaluating new sheet-glass products for remodeling and new construction. He has consulted with the handful of manufacturers in the world that make sheet glass from scratch, as well as several secondary manufacturers that buy from them, including Walker Glass Company of Montreal—which offers a product line of bird-safe glass and features Klem’s research on its website.

Klem recommended bird-safe designs to Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., and Emory University in Atlanta, Ga., as part of initiatives to create a more environmentally sustainable campus. He also works with educators and administrators interested in environmentally friendly design in elementary and secondary schools,



Klem holds a house finch killed by flying into a window. The red finch is male and the two gray-streaked birds on the right are females.

and he contributes to environmental education programs such as those run by the National Audubon Society.

Currently, Klem advises a doctoral candidate at the University of Costa Rica who is studying bird mortality caused by windows, and other consulting opportunities have led to saving birds’ lives in Austria, Australia, China, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and Singapore. He has also served as a principal adviser and consultant to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in its efforts to enforce bird protection laws in the United States.

## The Wilkes Connection

Klem, who is a member of the Wilkes board of trustees and holds an honorary doctorate from Wilkes, came to what was then Wilkes College as an undergraduate to study field biology. “I was the first in my family to get a college education,” he says, “and I knew from the beginning that I wanted to be outside in the field. My undergraduate years were my foundation.”

From the very beginning of his research into saving wild bird populations, Klem also found unfailing support from his wife, Renee A. (Mucci) Klem ’70. “My wife of 45 years has been integral in all my work on behalf of birds,” he says. “She was involved from my earliest days of collecting the first systematic data on this topic to preparing the materials for my first controlled experiments to test fundamental hypotheses. I would not have completed my doctoral degree if it were not for her constant encouragement.”

Of his alma mater, Klem says, “Wilkes gave me a chance. It’s there that I learned to be persistent and use my abilities. I’ll never give up on a student—because Wilkes didn’t give up on me.”

**Daniel Klem ’68, Allentown, Pa.**

**Bachelor of Science, Biology, Wilkes**

**Master of Science, Biology, Hofstra University**

**Doctor of Philosophy, Zoology, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale**

**Career:** Sarkis Acopian Professor of Ornithology and Conservation Biology at Muhlenberg College

**Notable:** Internationally recognized expert on the subject of bird deaths from collisions with glass and the birds of the Republic of Armenia. Consultant to architects, businesses and other organizations about how to design buildings that reduce avian deaths.

**Favorite Wilkes memory:** Klem cites Dr. Charles B. Reif, professor of biology. “My relationship with this iconic mentor began with my awe and trepidation during my freshman year, 1964, and evolved into mutual admiration and friendship over a lifetime. He uniquely encouraged an interest for field work in me and my classmates when we mapped the bottom of lakes together.”



# Australian Adventure

ALLISON ROTH '11 LEFT HER JOB TO SPEND A YEAR  
EXPLORING THE LAND DOWN UNDER

By Vicki Mayk MFA '13



**IT STARTED WITH A CASUAL CONVERSATION WITH** a family friend at a party. Allison Roth '11 was chatting with an Australian woman who had backpacked across the United States in her 20s.

“She asked me why I didn’t do the same thing—in Australia,” Roth recalls. “I remember saying, ‘I can’t because I’m saving for retirement.’ As soon as the words were out of my mouth, I realized how ridiculous that sounded. And I couldn’t stop thinking about what she’d said.”

There was nothing dull about Roth’s life after she graduated from Wilkes. She was living the life 20-somethings dream of: A communication studies major, she had a job in her field working for Citibank in New York City. She lived in an apartment in nearby Hoboken, N.J., and had a lively social life with a great circle of friends.

All of that changed on Aug. 3, 2015, when Roth left her job, gave up her apartment, and took off to spend a year traveling across Australia, taking only a backpack and a large sense of adventure. For the next year, Roth and her friend Marrah Fry traversed the land down under in a red Toyota Corolla purchased for \$1,400 after finding it on Gumtree, Australia’s version of Craig’s List.

“Our plan was not to have a plan,” Roth says. The women lived in a different location every three or four months, staying in hostels, couch surfing (today’s

parlance for sleeping on someone’s couch), or answering ads for roommates. Along the way, they picked up jobs—13 in all—including selling cowboy hats at a rodeo, picking blueberries and cleaning houses.

“I told myself, ‘You only have a year to do this, so make this the best year of your life,’ ” Roth says.

Before they ended their trip on Aug. 3, 2016—when their travel visas expired—they had visited Perth, Melbourne and everywhere in between, including the Great Barrier Reef and Australia’s Gold Coast. Toward the end of their travels, they took side trips to Thailand and Bali.

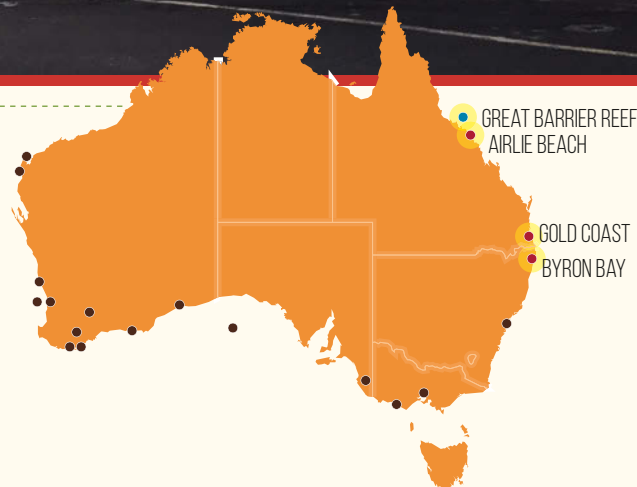
Roth’s favorite place was Byron Bay, where she worked for the hostel Accommodation and attended sunset parties on the beach almost every night. “Australia,” she says, “has the most beautiful sunsets in the world.”

After returning to the States, she landed a new job as an event planner at Hunter College in New York City. Now living in East Harlem, she looks back on a year that taught her life lessons. “The whole year was a compilation of experiences pushing boundaries. I jumped off cliffs and learned to ride a skateboard,” Roth says. “I became less of an introvert. I’d go to places by myself and talk to people I didn’t know. And I learned that minimalism is the key to a happy life. I lived simply and I was the happiest I’ve ever been.”



- 1** Picking blueberries was one of 13 jobs that Roth took to earn her way across Australia. It was also the tastiest—despite long days in the heat doing repetitive work.
- 2** Roth and friend, Canadian Ayan Salad, map out the next leg of their trip sitting on the red Toyota Corolla they purchased for traveling.
- 3** Young people gather to watch the sunset at Byron Bay, Roth’s favorite spot on her Australian travels.

Opposite page, A spectacular view in Noosa, Queensland, Australia, which was one of the many coastal areas visited by Allison Roth '11 on her year-long adventure. Inset, Roth snorkels to explore Australia’s Great Barrier Reef. ALL PHOTOS BY ALLISON ROTH '11





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**4** Roth learned that kangaroos—a critter synonymous with the land down under—are the Aussie equivalent of deer. They're just as plentiful and pose hazards after dark. **5** Skateboarding was a skill Roth acquired on her journey. She calls it "the ultimate in Aussie living." It took a lot of practice to master it, she recalls, but she eventually used it to travel to and from work.

**6** Roth takes in the view of the ocean at Noosa, a popular coastal destination and the site of one of her weekend jaunts. **7** Roth climbs a ladder up a tree in Lamington National Park to access a treetop walk providing a wonderful view above the branches. **8** A waterfall was part of the lush beauty of Springbrook National Park, which encompasses the Gondwana Rainforests.

“I told myself, ‘You only have a year to do this, so make this the best year of your life.’ ”



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9 As an employee at the Byron Bay Beach Resort, Roth and other staff received a balloon ride as a Christmas gift. It provided this unforgettable view. 10 Roth and friend Marrah Fry give a tongue-in-cheek demonstration of couch surfing, the term for the practice of sleeping on the sofas of friends and acquaintances while traveling. It was a frequent practice for the adventurers. 11 Roth pauses on the 16-hour drive up the east coast. “There are so many roads where you are the only one traveling on them for hours. They don’t wind or turn. They just go straight.” 12 Beautiful Whitsunday Island off the central coast of Queensland was part of another weekend trip.



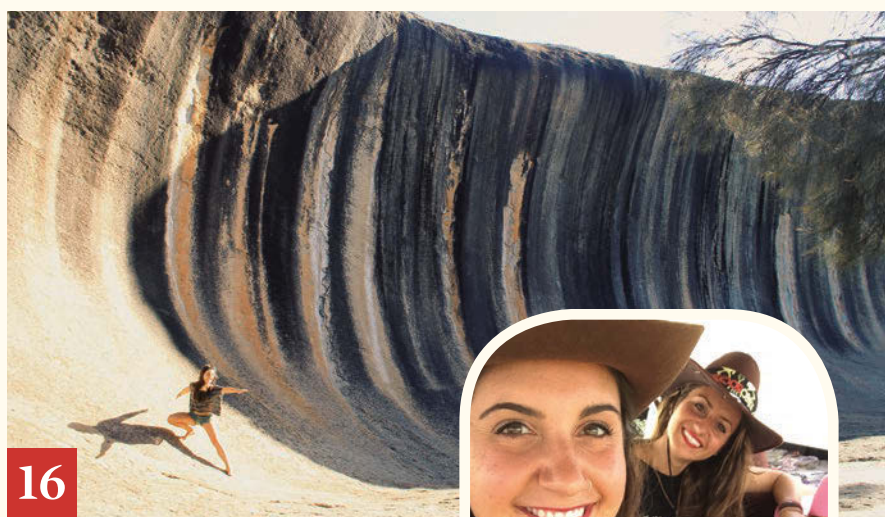


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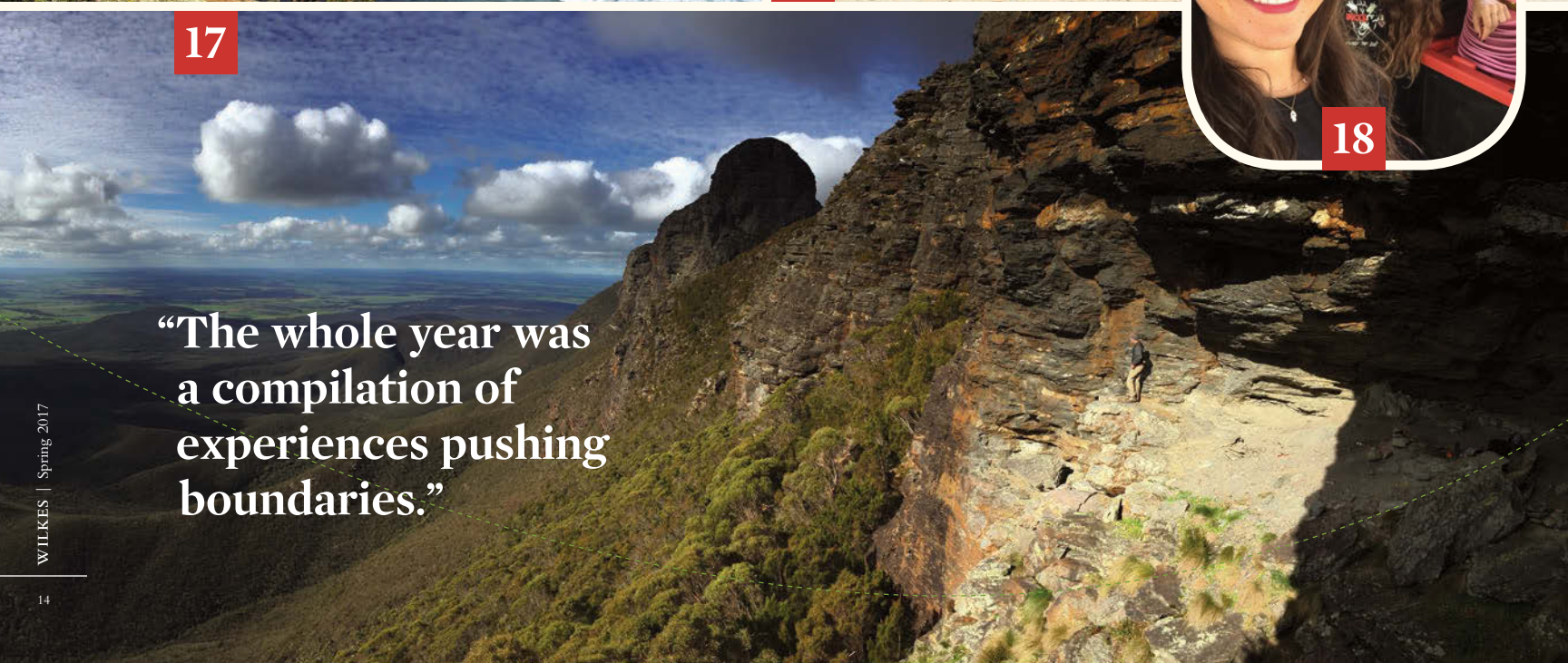
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“The whole year was a compilation of experiences pushing boundaries.”

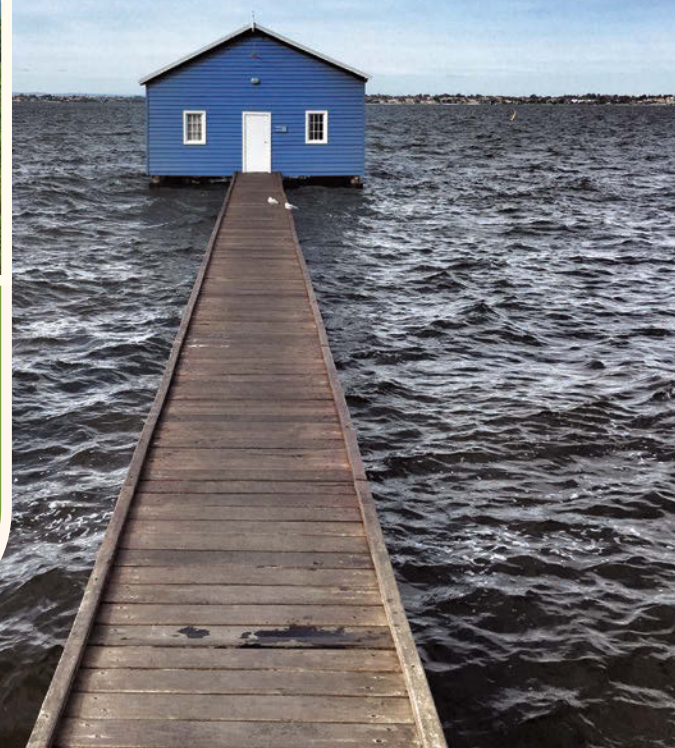




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ROTH AND HER FRIENDS TOOK a side trip to Thailand. Getting up close to elephants at a sanctuary near Chiang Mai was “the best day of my life,” Roth says. She took the 10-day trip in May 2016. The women also visited Bali for four days at the end of their Australian sojourn.

## MAP OF AUSTRALIAN DESTINATIONS



13 A stop in Melbourne brought the travelers to Flinders Street Station, one of the city's train stations. 14 Encounters with koalas were routine and welcome. 15 Driving on the Great Ocean Road from Melbourne to Adelaide, Roth passed the 12 Apostles, the name for 12 rock formations jutting out of the sea. 16 No, it's not water. It's Wave Rock in Hyden, a famous formation passed en route to Perth on the west coast. 17 Hiking Bluff Knoll in Stirling Range National Park was part of a two-day, 15-hour hiking adventure. 18 Roth, front, and Fry answered an ad to sell hats at a rodeo. 19 The travelers celebrate reaching the halfway point on their journey across the Nullarbor Plain, a flat, treeless, semiarid area of southern Australia, located on the Great Australian Bight coast. 20 Nullarbor Plain is the world's largest piece of limestone. Part of the drive has the "go-Mile Straight," which is the longest straight stretch of road in Australia. 21 A boat shed in Perth was a favorite image during the course of Roth's trip. 22 Roth and Fry ponder the end of their adventure seated on the trunk of their faithful red Toyota. When they left, they sold the car for parts.



# A FINE MADNESS

ALUMNI COUPLE  
HENRY AND TAMMY  
BISCO FIND SUCCESS  
WITH MADGIRL DESIGNS

By Geoff Gehman

## TEACHERS AT A NEW YORK

university pluck books from aluminum shelves framed by a wall of glass. Bartenders in a North Carolina restaurant pull bottles of liquor from illuminated acrylic shelves resembling glowing cocktails. Workers at a New Jersey company use lockers with wavy doors painted eye-popping green and orange.

These work stations were developed by Henry Bisco '95 and Tammy Cyprich Bisco '97, the passionate proprietors of MadGirl Designs, a firm specializing in designing and outfitting commercial interiors. They launched it two years ago after working a dozen years for a custom shelving-and-storing firm. The couple specializes in providing educational and medical institutions with sleek, snappy space solutions featuring everything from reception desks to coffee nooks, sage-tinted acoustical panels to espresso-hued countertops.

"Everyone deserves to be inspired in their work place," says Tammy from

the couple's home in Madison, N.J. "Everyone deserves to feel more at home on the job, especially when they spend more time on the job than at home."

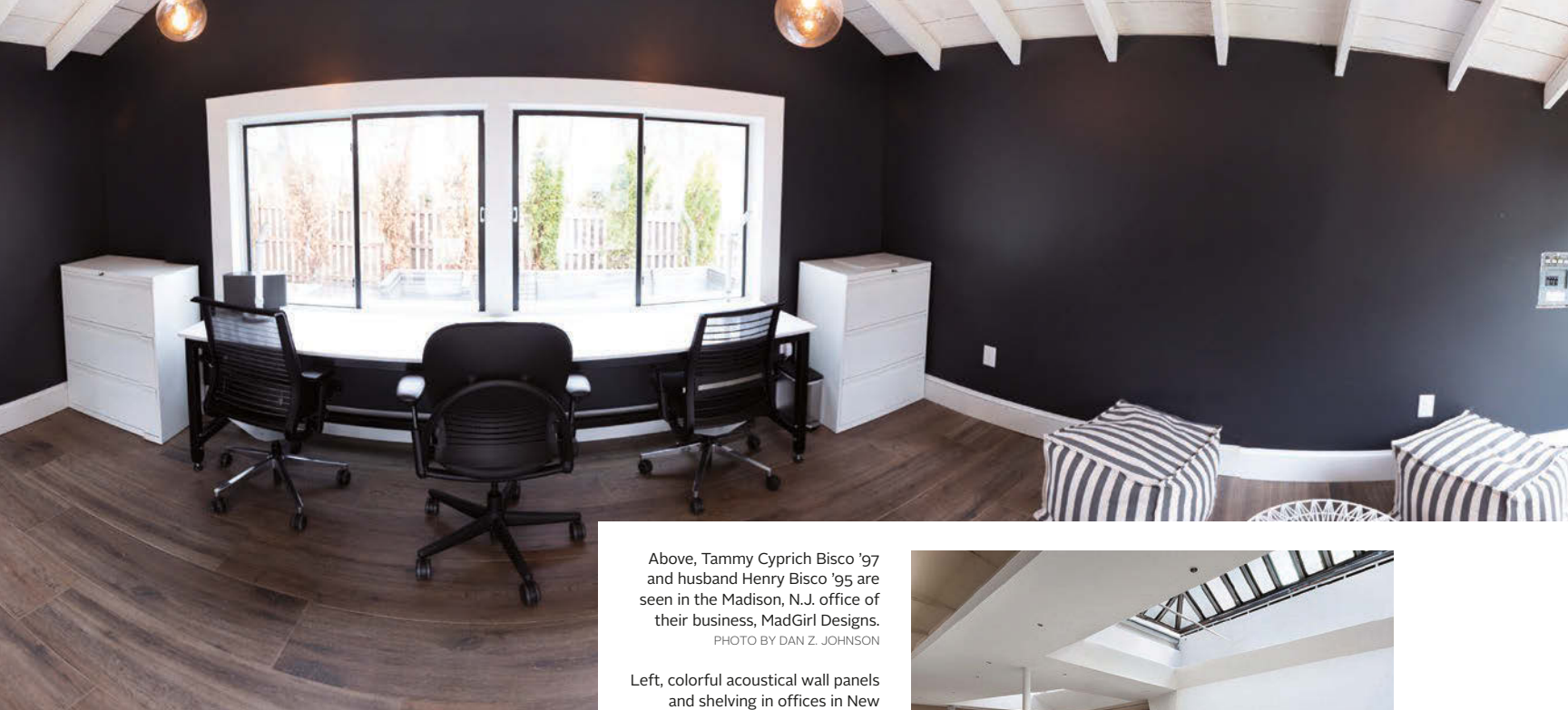
Tammy and Henry met, romantically enough, during a Wilkes class in Romantic literature. Both were English majors who grew up in river places: she's from Forty Fort, Pa., he's from Phillipsburg, N.J. Both came from business-oriented families; their parents worked in printing, excavating and selling business machines.

Both enjoyed attending classes in Kirby Hall, and a picture of the building is featured on their website. On campus, Henry relished conversations about pop culture and politics with the late Bob Stefanko, the longtime warehouse manager of the Wilkes bookstore, where he worked for four years. Tammy remembers Professor Helen Scott's course in socialist literature and Professor Lawrence Kuhar's seminar on Thomas Pynchon,

the wildly experimental novelist. "They gave me more confidence to question the status quo," she says, "to make plenty of mistakes and learn and be true to who I am, even if I was laughed at a bunch of times."

Henry's first job was at Geisinger Health System in Wilkes-Barre, where he eventually became marketing coordinator. Tammy first worked at Deemer's, a lively, funny office-supply company in Kingston she likens to the paper company of "The Office," the hit sitcom set in Scranton. In 2000 she began selling custom storage/shelving units for a firm in Manhattan. Henry joined her in 2003 after staying home to tend their daughter, Nina, now 14.

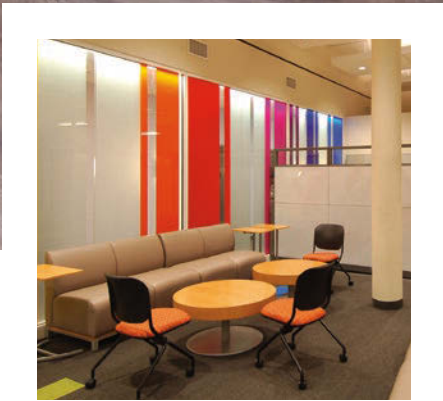
In 2008 the Biscos found the key to their business future in an unusually flexible system of durable aluminum shelves. Attending a trade show in Chicago, they met designer M.M. (Peggy) Reynolds, owner of 21C Systems. The three quickly became partners.



Above, Tammy Cyprich Bisco '97 and husband Henry Bisco '95 are seen in the Madison, N.J. office of their business, MadGirl Designs. PHOTO BY DAN Z. JOHNSON

Left, colorful acoustical wall panels and shelving in offices in New York University's Kimball Hall were supplied by MadGirl Designs. PHOTO BY GRAF AND LEWENT ARCHITECTS LLP.

The Biscos' firm provided library and office shelving and the lab work table for New York University's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development. PHOTO BY INTERIOR DESIGN MAGAZINE



Their success convinced the Biscos to launch their business. The couple took a leap of faith by giving their company a rather radical name, one perhaps better suited to a hip advertising firm run by turbocharged women. MadGirl refers to their New Jersey town of Madison; it also refers to Tammy's high-wattage intensity. "I've been told I can be a little insane sometimes," she says. "We refer to that as passion in our house."


Team Bisco opened their shop in 2015 with a bumper-sticker invitation: "What can MadGirl do for you?" During the renovation of the eight floors of New York University's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development, the answer to that question included library bookshelves adjusted for adult and child heights and bookshelves placed floor to

ceiling by a wall in a glass-box office. The dramatic interior/exterior effect was made possible by Reynolds' new off-wall-mounted system.

The Biscos admit they're not flashy designers. They favor crisp, cool, gently industrial combinations of white laminate desks and burnt-orange acoustical panels, stainless-steel table legs and butcher-block tops. "We tend to be minimalist," says Henry. "We're of the less-is-more school." Adds Tammy: "The spaces are small, so you have to be practical and concise. Concise and pragmatic—that's me."

Still, they can be splashy. They spiced up the headquarters of a body-care products company with rows of strikingly colored, slightly sculptural lockers that elevate storage from mundane to fun. They jazzed up a bar with Plexiglas shelves that, lit from behind by colored lamps, appear to be long, rectangular bottles filled with frosty, fizzy drinks.

Reynolds insists the Biscos have the right blend of right brain and left brain. "Henry is a tremendous manager; he makes sure the products work and jobs are finished on time. Tammy is extremely creative; she also has a great business mind. They have worked their tails off for us; they're the reason, quite honestly, that my company exists. They've taken us a long way, and I expect they'll take us to the next level."

For the Biscos, the next level means outfitting fitness centers and hotels. In the meantime, they're proud that their ambition has rubbed off on their daughter, who last year began commuting three hours a day from Madison to a private high school in Manhattan. They're happy that Nina wants to be an entrepreneur; perhaps one day she'll be a MadGirl too. 

# WINNERS CIRCLE

## Members of the 24th Athletics Hall of Fame Class Reflect on Lessons Learned in Sports

During their years at Wilkes, these Colonels represented the University on the mats, courts and playing fields. When they graduated, what did they take with them besides their degrees and memories? This year's inductees to the Athletics Hall of Fame reflect on the lessons from the playing fields that they have applied in life.

### MEGHAN HADDAD CONWAY '98

#### WOMEN'S SOCCER

**Colonels sports career:**

She was a four-year letter winner on the Wilkes women's soccer team, becoming one of the most decorated players in the program's history. Conway was named first team All-Freedom Conference in 1996 as a striker and stands fourth all-time in career goals (32) and sixth all-time in career points (73). She also holds several single-season records, including most goals in a season with 15 in 1994 and fourth with 33 points scored the same year.

**Where she is now:** Conway has been a teacher for 18 years and now teaches kindergarten for the Sharon Public Schools in Sharon, Mass.

**Lessons learned:** "As captain for three years, and in the sweeper position, I gained leadership skills, along with the ability to communicate effectively. When faced with challenges in games, my perseverance was also tested. In adulthood, I was able to rely on these lessons and skills."



### JAY REIMEL '71

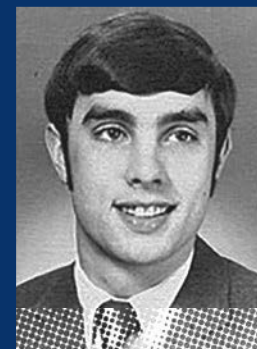
#### MEN'S BASKETBALL

**Colonels sports career:**

Reimel was the men's basketball team's engine and led the Wilkes offense as the point guard. He remains the program's all-time assist leader with 628—a hundred more than the Colonel behind him on the list. He set a single-season record with 216 assists in the 1969-70 season and led Wilkes to four straight winning seasons.

**Where he is now:** Reimel works in his family's business, Lee's Furniture, Montrose, Pa. He is a third-generation owner, working for the business for 46 years and serving as a partner for the last 38.

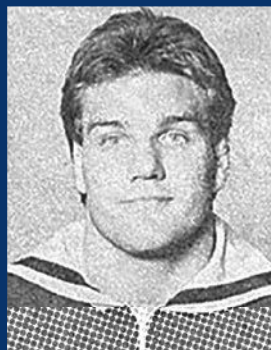
**Lessons learned:** "Most sports experts will tell you in athletic endeavors, the game is 75 percent desire and 25 percent talent. As one of the smallest, if not the smallest, college basketball teams in the country at the time, our teams had to overcome great odds of being successful. We were referred to as "Rainey Raiders" (our head coach was Ron Rainey), and we out-hustled, out-worked, out-thought and out-willed our opponents. Those attributes that made you successful in athletics also make you successful in life."



## STEVE SCHANNAUER '90

### WRESTLING

**Colonels sports career:** He was a four-year letter winner on the wrestling team, serving as co-captain during the 1989 season and a quad-captain for his senior season the next year. Schannauer wrestled at heavyweight, finishing fourth at the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association in 1988, fifth in 1989 and second in 1990. Legendary Wilkes wrestling coach John Reese also selected Schannauer to the Super Sixteen team.



**Where he is now:** Schannauer is a regional sales director for Rexnord Industries and resides in Whitehall, Pa.

**Lessons learned:** “The importance of teamwork. Wrestling is often thought of as an individual sport, but success cannot come without the support of your teammates working together to develop each other and overcome daily obstacles and challenges. Teamwork is applicable in everyday life, business and personal. Without understanding the importance of teamwork, the opportunity to achieve success is limited.”

## MARGO SERAFINI '92

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL/SOFTBALL/FIELD HOCKEY

#### Colonels sports career:

A three-sport star for Wilkes, Serafini was a goalie for the field hockey team and her eight career shutouts stand third of all-time in the program's history. She also holds the single season record for saves in a game with 38 stops against Bloomsburg University in 1985. Serafini also played softball for two years and basketball for one year for the Lady Colonels. She was named the Wilkes Female Athlete of the Year in 1986 and 1987.



**Where she is now:** After graduating with a physics degree, Serafini got her master's degree in educational leadership from Bloomsburg University. She is the principal of Dr. David W. Kistler Elementary School, Wilkes-Barre.

**Lessons learned:** “My Wilkes experience has taught me that being part of a family or a team, no matter how big or small, makes a difference. I strive to create the same environment at my workplace. I could not do everything I do without the support of my family/team at both home and work.”

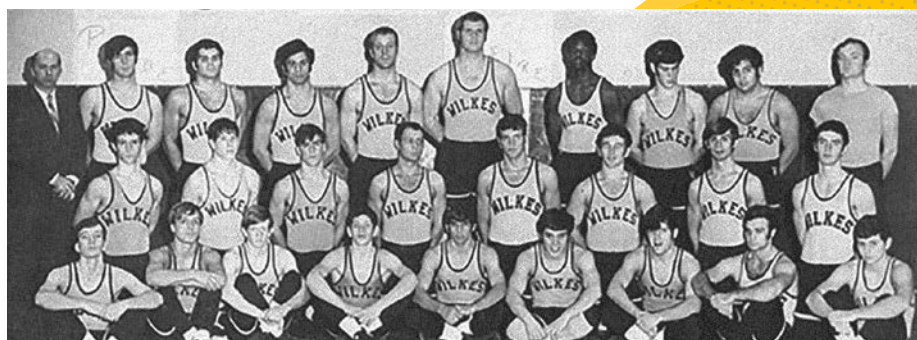
## 1970-71 WRESTLING TEAM

**Colonels sports career:** The 1970 wrestling team is one of five undefeated teams in Wilkes wrestling history. The squad finished a perfect 13-0 in dual-match play, including three shutouts and an average margin of victory of 23 points. The men won the Middle Atlantic Conference team championship with a tournament record of 116 points, and six wrestlers won individual titles. The team featured nine wrestlers with one MAC championship, two two-time MAC champions and four three-time MAC champions. They also boast six All-Americans, including two two-time winners. Wilkes finished second overall at the Wilkes Open and fifth at the NCAA College Division National Championship.

**Team members include:** Jay McGinley, Bob Roberts, Art Trovei, Dennis Verzera, Bob Matley, Jerry Alexander, Alan Zellner, Gerry Willetts, Rich Ceccoli, Ron Fritts, Alain Arnould, Mac Ahmad, Bob Darling, Dennis Gillespie, Bob Yanku, Al Brackleman, Jim DeSombre, Bill Kenney, John Martellucci, Tom Chabalko, Al Favata, Mike Lee, Tom Morris, Len Cholish, Ed Garabedian, Dick Mandigo and Jeff Walk.

**Team co-captains:** Dennis Verzera '72 and Gerry Willetts '72

**Where they are now:** Verzera is a decorated lieutenant colonel after serving 25 years in the United States Marine Corps. He lives in Pensacola, Fla. and is the president of KelTam Inc., a company that owns, manages and restores properties. Co-captain Willetts works as an engineer in health care and as a supply salesman in Byram Township, N.J.





## SAVE THE DATE FOR HOMECOMING 2017: OCT. 6-8!

Class years ending in 2s and 7s, get ready for your class reunion!

### Participate in Alumni Association Open Board Meeting on June 2

Are you interested in learning more about the alumni association? Participate in the open meeting on Friday, June 2, 2017, at 3 p.m. Join on campus or call in to the meeting to get a firsthand look at how the board of directors works with its campus partners to provide programs for the alumni community. At the meeting, we'll review goals and discuss opportunities for the upcoming fiscal year. If you are interested in participating, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at [alumni@wilkes.edu](mailto:alumni@wilkes.edu) or (570) 408-7787.

### Philanthropy: Another Way to Raise Wilkes' Profile

By contributing financially to Wilkes, alumni can do more good than they may realize. The number of contributions made to the University are one of the variables considered in awarding national rankings, such as *U.S. News and World Report Best Colleges*. The percentage of alumni giving financial support—not the size of their gifts—can make a big difference in Wilkes' ranking. For more information about the many ways contributions can be put to use, contact Margaret Steele, director of major gifts and college development at [margaret.steele@wilkes.edu](mailto:margaret.steele@wilkes.edu) or (570) 408-4302.

### Save the Date for Jane Elmes-Crahall's Retirement Party

Professor of communication studies Jane Elmes-Crahall, known simply as Jane to generations of Wilkes students, has inspired many to step out of their comfort zones and challenge themselves. In May, she will retire after more than 30 years of teaching at Wilkes. Save the date for her farewell gathering on Saturday, May 13, at 6 p.m. in the Henry Student Center Ballroom. To contribute to an alumni video or share photos or memories of Jane, please email [alumni@wilkes.edu](mailto:alumni@wilkes.edu). To register for the event, visit [www.community.wilkes.edu/jane](http://www.community.wilkes.edu/jane).



Jane Elmes-Crahall, professor of communication studies, meets with communication studies alumni during a 2015 Wilkes gathering in Philadelphia. Pictured from left are Michael Beachem '98, Jane Elmes-Crahall, Stacy (Heck) Smulowitz '93 and Vaughn Shinkus '91.

## Frank M. Henry's Philanthropy Transformed Wilkes' Campus Over Decades

Frank M. Henry's generosity impacts every Wilkes student every day.

Student-athletes and alumni feel pride when stepping into the Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Gymnasium. Each day, hundreds of students, community members, and faculty and staff members visit the Henry Student Center.

This June, Henry will join the ranks of some of Wilkes' most distinguished and influential supporters when he becomes the fourth recipient of the President's Medal, the University's highest honor. Henry will be formally thanked and honored at the Founders Gala 2017 on Saturday, June 3.

President Patrick F. Leahy counts it a personal privilege to present the President's Medal to Henry.

"There are few people in our history that have been more loyal to Wilkes than Frank. This goes back decades. His interest in Wilkes and his backing of Wilkes have been sustained over many years, which is very powerful given that he is not himself an alumnus," says Leahy. "This speaks to the fact that he sees in Wilkes a really important mission and one that he wants to support. He has been a steady, encouraging presence, to the University administration and to the Wilkes presidents for 40 years. That's why he's deserving of our President's Medal."

Henry appreciates that Wilkes was founded to provide a quality education to students who couldn't afford college or were the first in their families to pursue a bachelor's degree—a fact reflected in the University's mission.

"Wilkes [meets] a great need for local people and for people who are from out of the area who are looking for a small school that has a very personal interest in their students," says Henry. "I think that's very hard to find in today's world."

As a local businessman and philanthropist, Henry focuses on the greater Wilkes-Barre community. Since 1964 he has owned and operated the Martz Group, a Wilkes-Barre bus transportation company started by his grandfather in 1908.

"My allegiance is to Wilkes because it's local," says Henry. "I just hope I can do some good for Wilkes."

Leahy says Henry's loyalty to Wilkes underscores his community commitment.

"I think Mr. Henry appreciates what Wilkes University means to Wilkes-Barre, to northeastern Pennsylvania and, increasingly, to the country. He is not himself an alumnus, but because his business is here, he's appreciated what Wilkes means to its various communities," says Leahy. "He understands the community impact Wilkes has, and he has made Wilkes one of his top philanthropic priorities as a result."

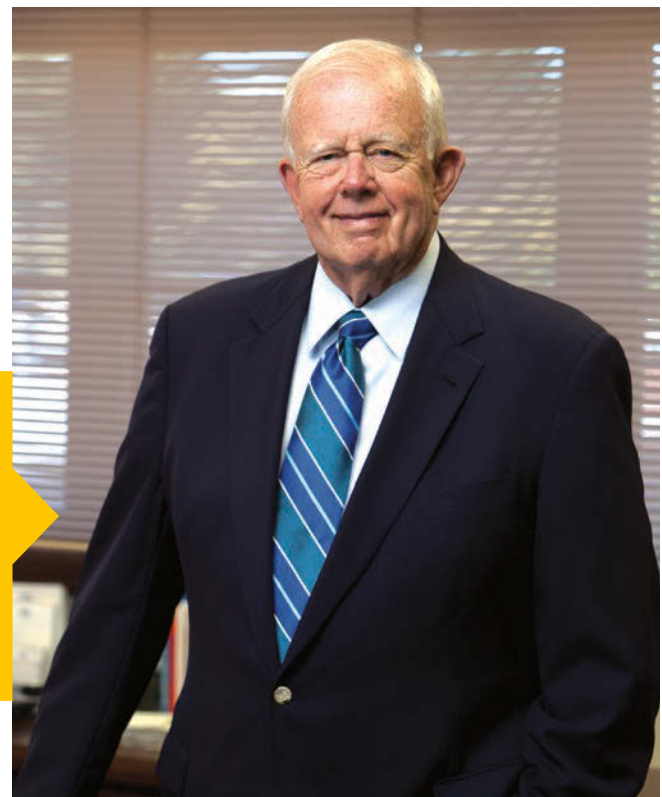
Henry's dedication to Wilkes is reflected in both his leadership and his philanthropic contributions. He is a member of the board of trustees and served as its chair for multiple years. The Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Gymnasium was named in May 1990 to honor Frank and his late wife. The Henry Student Center was dedicated in November 2001.

Henry takes pride in improving student life through his generous donations and looks forward to continuing to work with University leadership to meet future needs.

"I've known each president well. I take great faith in what they tell me they need and what they're planning on doing," says Henry. "I have a very close affinity to the administration and the direction that they're heading."

"He has been a steady, encouraging presence, to the University administration and to the Wilkes presidents for 40 years. That's why he's deserving of our President's Medal."

— President Patrick F. Leahy



## Brittany Dougherty '11 Combines Education and Entrepreneurship as Owner of Magic World Child Care

At 1 p.m. at Magic World Child Care in Nanticoke, Pa., it's naptime.

Serene music plays from a stereo speaker while children curl up in their blankets on mats in the main room, resting with their stuffed animals.

Co-owner Brittany Dougherty '11, has been here since 6 a.m., and has been teaching the pre-K kids since 8. Now that they're sleeping, she shifts her focus to the behind-the-scenes work that occupies the rest of her day; paperwork must be completed, schedules made and plans for the future must be discussed.

For her, the work rarely stops, but she wouldn't have it any other way.

"We don't just sit here and keep stagnant," she says. "We're always implementing new things and trying new approaches, trying to better ourselves...for our staff, for our children and for ourselves."

Dougherty graduated from Wilkes in January 2011 with a degree in elementary and special education. She had a job substitute teaching when she learned that a new child care center opening in August needed a director. When she accepted the job and realized she would need a partner, she knew just who to call—her twin sister, Brianne.

The two quickly got to work, putting in 65-hour weeks to give the new job the attention they knew it deserved. When

**"To see somebody grow up in this kind of setting and to know how much they've gained from our facility... you know your quality then."**



they started, the center had "eight kids, a few cubbies and a cart filled with toys." They have since grown the business significantly, buying sections of the building to convert into classrooms and taking in more than 40 kids, whose ages range from several weeks to 10 years old.

When Brittany and her sister officially purchased the center in June 2015, nobody was surprised; it was clear that they were both passionate about the business and dedicated to the well-being of the children.

"It's so rewarding to see the kids grow up in our program,"

Brittany says. "To see somebody grow up in this kind of setting and to know how much they've gained from our facility...you know your quality then."

While Brittany admits she enjoys being a business owner, teaching the kids is what she enjoys the most. She credits Wilkes' education program for developing her skills via classroom observations and student

teaching, and the education faculty—specifically, Suzanne Galella and Robert and Judith Gardner—for inspiring her passion.

"They're wonderful," she says. "They're all so kind and you can tell their hearts are in what they're doing."

Brittany's heart is in her job, too. Although she still works 55 hours a week, it's not the most challenging part of the job. That nod goes to something else: watching children graduate from the program.

"When they leave, it takes everything not to tear up," she says. "These kids are our success story."

— By James Jaskolka '16

Above right, Brittany Dougherty '11 learns a story about a giraffe from a student. Left, twins Brianne and Brittany '11 Dougherty are co-owners of Magic World Child Care. PHOTOS BY CURTIS SALONICK



## Undergraduate Degrees

**1954**

**Robert Bhaerman** is an educational consultant to the American Humanist Association, a position he's held for the past several years.

**1969**

**Nancy (Wanczyk) Stinger** was recently accepted into the Charleston Artist Guild. Her work has been juried into the Charleston Artists Gallery.

**1981**

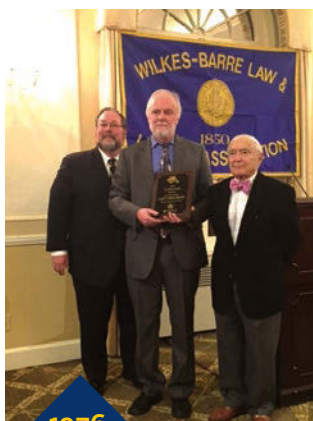
**Joseph Mina** was recently hired as head coach for the Genesee Rapids baseball team in the New York Collegiate Baseball League.

**1984**

**William Dodge** received his doctorate in biology from Wayne State University in May 2016, and earlier earned bachelor's and master's degrees in fisheries and wildlife from Michigan State University. His dissertation was "Ecology of Coyotes (*Canis latrans*) in Greater Detroit Area of Southeastern Michigan."

**1986**

**Paul Cummings** presented the talk "Annular Semigroup Conjugacy Diagrams" at a special session of the meeting of the American Mathematical Society hosted by the University of Denver in October 2016. The talk was based on an article he co-authored that appeared in the October issue of *Semigroup Forum*.



**1976**

**Garry Taroli** received a citation in January 2017 from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives thanking him for his pro bono work as an attorney on behalf of animals, children and various community organizations. Taroli also received the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Pro Bono Award for the hundreds of hours he donates to organizations. He is a pro bono assistant district attorney in Luzerne County where he handles most of the animal cruelty cases on behalf of non-profit animal rescue organizations. He is a member of the board of the Luzerne County SPCA and acts as the organization's pro bono solicitor. Other animal organizations receiving his assistance include Blue Chip Farms Animal Refuge, a no-kill shelter in Dallas, Pa., and Modified K-9, a non-profit that specializes in rehabilitating pit bulls and other powerful breeds.

**1988**

**Helen Brannon** was promoted to vice president at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. Earlier in her career, she served in the U.S. Marine Corps as an electrical engineer. After retiring from the Marines, she graduated



**1977**

**Richard A. Russo**, a partner in the firm Rosenn, Jenkins & Greenwald, LLP, has been selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2017. Russo was selected in the area of personal injury litigation—plaintiffs.

from nursing school and went on to earn an MBA with distinction in health care administration. She is completing a master's degree in nursing education. Brannon gratefully recalls Dean Jane Lampe Groh, who gave her a second chance after she failed during her first year at Wilkes, providing the basis for all she's achieved since. Brannon says, "I loved Wilkes and will never forget my time there."

**1994**

**Jonathan Perloff** has received his fourth patent with Globus Medical. It is a patent on an expandable interbody spacer implant to treat one or more damaged, diseased or traumatized portions of the spine.



**1984**

**Sharon Michener Gross** was given the 2016 Penn State Friend of Extension Award in Montgomery County. She was recognized for her service as a master gardener volunteer since 2005, a 4-H Club leader since 2009, and for 10 years serving on the 4-H development board, including four years as board president.

**1999**

**Maggie (Redmond) Lipperini** has been awarded a fellowship in the American College of Healthcare Executives. Lipperini is the executive director of orthopedics and neurosciences at Regional Hospital of Scranton.

**Lucia (Peregrin) Piccolino** of Scranton, Pa., is the owner of Wilkes-Barre Scranton Night Out. The parent company was based in Michigan since 2009 and was established in Wilkes-Barre in 2010. She is also the co-owner of Ricochets Rapid Detail LLC, also in Scranton.

**Corinna Sowers-Adler** was joined by Broadway arranger Lawrence Yurman on piano for the premier of a new show titled "Something Beautiful" at the Appel Room in Lincoln Center in November 2016.



2002

**Stefanie Henninger Taylor** and her husband Andrew Taylor welcomed a daughter, Ellyson Jo, on Aug. 21, 2016. Ellyson Jo weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces and measured 19.5 inches long.



2011

**Chris Horn** and **Theresa Scaramastro Horn PharmD '14** welcomed a baby boy, Neil, on Oct. 5, 2016, at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.



2006

**Amanda Lewis Rollins** married Andrew Rollins on August 16, 2015. The couple was married in Point Pleasant, N.J., and the reception was held at Clark's Landing Yacht Club. Three bridesmaids were friends from Wilkes **Natasha Suszko Schmeltz**, **Lara Judson Macumber '08** and **Rachel Moskal Gold '06**. In October 2016, Amanda and Andrew welcomed their daughter, Natalie Daniella. The couple resides in South Brunswick, N.J.



2006

**Gary Steich Jr.** and wife Michelle Steich are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Novaleigh Reagan. Novaleigh was born on Nov. 27, 2016, and weighed 4 pounds, 10 ounces.



2011

**Kathleen Edwards** married Dr. Paul Link on Oct. 28, 2016, in Apopka, Fla. Many Wilkes alumni were in attendance, including **Nicole Cairns '11**, **Lindsay Rowland Wise '12**, **Chelsea Horst Reppert '11**, **Samantha Zatsko Stack '11**, **Richelle Shertzer '11**, bridesmaid **Analicia Jost Roberts '11**, **Jake Roberts '11**, **Evan Soda '10**, bridesmaid **Shannon McDonald '11**, and maid of honor **Jennifer Powell '11**.

**2002 REUNION: OCT. 6-8**

Justin D. Lewis was recently promoted to principal quality assurance auditor for the airports operations and customer service division at Alaska Airlines.

**2004**  
**Stephen Robert Cheskiewicz EdD '13's** doctoral dissertation, "Megabit Learning in a GigabitWorld: Student Perceptions of Computer Science and Information and Technology Programs," was presented at the Tenth Annual Conference

on Technology, Knowledge and Society in Madrid, Spain. The presentation led to a collaboration with Miguel Colobran, a doctoral student at the Universitat de Barcelona. The pair worked together on a large-scale, multinational study of student perceptions of internet security. Their findings

have been presented at the University of California at Berkeley, the 2015 EDUCAUSE Conference and most recently at the Ninth Annual International Conference of Education, Research and Innovation held in November 2016 in Madrid, Spain. Cheskiewicz and Colobran have collaborated on a book, *Making An Expert Report Of A Computer Crime*, which has been published in Spain with publication in the United States slated for 2017. Cheskiewicz is an assistant professor of information technology at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, N.Y., and teaches as an adjunct professor in graduate teacher education and computer science at Wilkes and at King's College.

## 2010

**Christopher Gulla**, of Berlin, N.J., accepted a new position as an associate attorney at Mintzer Sarowitz Zeis Ledva & Meyers L.L.P. in Cherry Hill, N.J.



2013

**Robert Sebia** has joined the firm Hamburg, Rubin, Mullin, Maxwell & Lupin in Lansdale, Pa., as an associate in the firm's real estate, business and trusts and estates departments.

# Christine Lee '14 Testifies to Keep New Jersey Public Records Open

When New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie proposed legislation that would limit public access to government notices, Christine Lee '14 was one of the journalists lobbying against the change.

Lee edits the weekly newspaper, the *Florham Park Eagle*, and reports for another weekly, *The Madison Eagle*. She joined approximately 20 newspaper editors and staff from throughout New Jersey to testify in the state capital in December 2016. The journalists argued against a bill that would abolish the requirement that municipal governments must advertise public meetings, ordinances and other proceedings in the legal notices of local newspapers.

The bill was dubbed the governor's "Revenge Bill" because news media accused Christie of introducing it as a punitive measure against papers who published articles about "Bridgagate," the incident in which two former Christie allies were said to have conspired to cause a traffic jam on the George Washington Bridge in 2013 to punish a Democratic mayor who didn't endorse the governor for re-election. The bill was subsequently stalled.

"It was almost overwhelming," Lee says of the experience. "I was a reporter and editor from two small weeklies and I was sitting next to publishers and editors from some of the biggest newspapers in the state."

Lee's testimony highlighted not only the potentially large impact on the workforce of newspapers across her state, but also the issue of public transparency and how it is enhanced by publishing legal notices. Lee testified in December 2016 before the New Jersey State Assembly Appropriations Committee and the New Jersey State Senate Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee.

Lee was the youngest journalist to testify at the hearing, joining her co-publishers and other editors from New Jersey Hills Media, the company that owns the Madison and Florham Park newspapers, as well as 13 other weekly papers and two lifestyle publications.

Writing about her testimony in a commentary, Lee recalled, "With my heart pounding, I told the chairs of both committees that people in Florham Park and Madison want to know what their borough councils are doing. I added that there were people in Florham Park and Madison who get their news from the Madison Eagle and the Florham Park Eagle, and who can't figure out the internet. Public notices are what keep government transparent."

Lee has been working for New Jersey Hills Media since August 2015 after a reporting stint at the *Hunterdon (County) Democrat*, also in New Jersey. She says the variety of stories covered by community newspapers like the ones she works for is what she enjoys most about the job. "You never know what's going to happen."

Her beat includes covering two borough councils and three boards of education. But her most memorable stories are the human interest pieces she's been called upon to write. "One of my most powerful stories was one about a long-time Madison police captain's battle with cancer," she says.

– By Vicki Mayk



Christine Lee '14 edits and reports for two weekly newspapers in New Jersey.  
PHOTO BY DEBBIE WEISMAN



2007

**Jennifer Hameza Payne '07** and Matthew Payne were married on June 17, 2016, at the Inne of the Abingtons in North Abington Township, Pa. The bride is a case manager at Lackawanna Susquehanna Office of Drug and Alcohol Programs. The groom is a corrections officer at State Corrections Institute in Waymart, Pa. They reside in South Abington Township, Pa. The bridal party pictured from left to right are Janette Weister, Andrew Taylor, Courtney Kvaka, Brian Saam, Jennifer Hameza Payne, Matthew Payne, Emily Taylor, Keith Payne, Katie Seaman and Brian Seaman.



1985

**Margaret Bart MBA** was recognized by Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf for her work as chief executive officer of Blue Chip Farm Animal Refuge. The letter of recognition was presented by state representatives Karen Boback and Aaron Kaufer.

2012

REUNION: OCT. 6-8

**Kristen Stanchak** was promoted to senior manager at accounting and advisory firm Baker Tilly Virchow Krause LLP. Stanchak, a certified regulatory compliance manager, works at Baker Tilly's Wilkes-Barre, Pa., office.

2013

**Stephen Robert Cheskiewicz '04 EdD '13** – see undergraduate degrees 2004.

2014

**Theresa Scaramastro Horn PharmD '14** – See undergraduate degrees 2011.

**Jenny S. Collins EdD** hosted a book signing for her book, *Rock of Ages: On Being My Mother's Keeper*, at the Moravian Book Shop in Bethlehem, Pa. The book highlights her experience

serving as caregiver for her mother, a World War II Navy Wave. Proceeds from the sales went to Valor Clinic, a public charity that supports a shelter for veterans in Jonas, Pa.

2014

**Christopher J. Kemple** of Glen Rock, Pa., accepted a position as an environmental engineer with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

## Graduate Degrees

2008

**Amanda Sharry-Rogers PharmD** recently earned her board certified pharmacotherapy specialist accreditation. She works for Geisinger Health System as a clinical pharmacist in neurology concentrating on multiple sclerosis patients.



2011

**Erin Walter-Panko PharmD** and **Michael Panko PharmD** were married on Sept. 17, 2016, at St. Paul's Church in Bullville, N.Y. The bride is a district pharmacy supervisor at CVS. The groom is a pharmacy manager at CVS. They reside in Montgomery, N.Y.



2011

**Michelle Schmude EdD** will present her project "Portfolio for Professional Development Competency Assessment of Medical Students" to the Harvard Macy Institute's Program for Educators in Health Professions in May 2017. Schmude also presented "A Case Study in Appreciative Advising for Student Success" at the University of New Mexico's Ninth Annual Mentoring Conference in October 2016 and "Assessing and Implementing Change to a Third-Year Curriculum: Half LIC and Half Block Format" as a tabletop session at the AAMC National General Meeting in November 2016.

# In Memoriam

## 1947

**Dr. Joseph A. Schectman** of Scranton, Pa., died Oct. 18, 2016. Schectman was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He practiced medicine in Lackawanna County and at Montrose General Hospital until his retirement in 1998.

## 1948

**Vincent D. Roman** of Kingston, Pa., died Nov. 17, 2016. Roman served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He was an electrical engineer at E.I. DuPont De Nemours. He later was the chief of the electrical engineering division of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of General Services Bureau of Engineering and Architects. Some of the projects he worked on included Beaver Stadium at Penn State University, the Avoca Airport and the Dorothy Dixon Dart Center for the Performing Arts at Wilkes.

## 1952

**Daniel S. Dzury** of Macungie, Pa., died Aug. 17, 2016. Dzury worked as a chemist at Boyle Midway in Cranford, N.J., where he developed products such as Wizard Air Fresheners and Easy-Off Oven Cleaner.

**Walter Edward Elston** of Salt Lake City, Utah, died Aug. 11, 2016. He served in the U.S. Army in counterintelligence from 1954 to 1956. Elston worked in the explosives industry, with positions at

Hercules Powder Co. in Kenil, N.J., Bessemer, Ala., and Carthage, Mo., and at IRECO Inc., and Dyno-Nobel in Salt Lake City, Utah.

**John Carl Kirchman** of Media, Pa., died Dec. 10, 2015. Kirchman served in the U.S. Air Force in India and China during World War II. Kirchman worked in the clothing industry as a business analyst.

## 1954

**Robert T. Croucher** of New Milford, Pa., passed away on Jan. 29, 2016. Croucher worked at the Rosen Agency in Linden, N.J., before founding Linden Liquors in 1963 and then operating Croucher Realty. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force.

## 1955

**Russell R. Picton** died Jan. 6, 2016. Picton enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1947 and attained the rank of staff sergeant. Picton served as director of development at Wilkes College, Randolph Macon Women's College in Virginia, Wofford College in South Carolina and the University of Oregon in Eugene. He finished his career as a consultant for Marts and Lundy.

## 1956

**Glenn Carey** of Colorado Springs, Colo., died Nov. 11, 2016. Carey earned a master's degree in operations research in engineering from Syracuse University. He worked in the aerospace industry as a

manager of the GE Spacetrack Colorado Springs analysis office and later was manager of the Spacetrack Program.

**Richard Steinhauer** of Kingston, Pa., died Nov. 26, 2016. Steinhauer was a veteran of the U.S. Navy. He worked in the insurance industry and spent 42 years at Galland, Steinhauer and Repa Inc. He owned Steinhauer Real Estate.

## 1957

**Norma Davis Ball** of Jaffrey, N.H., died Nov. 8, 2015. Ball started her career as an English teacher but later entered the field of computer programming. She was part of a team that converted administrative and academic records from mainframe to minicomputer at Franklin Pierce University. Later she worked for Digital Equipment Corp. as a programmer and co-owned Computer Directions, a software company working with dental offices. She is survived by her siblings who are all Wilkes alumni: Robert E. Davis '59, Marylin Davis '65 and Patricia (Davis) Gaboric '67.

**Max B. Greenwald** died Sept. 24, 2016. Greenwald worked as a social worker for the Wilkes-Barre Jewish Community Center, the California Youth Authority and Department of Corrections and the Department of Veterans Affairs. He also served 38 years in the U.S. Army and National Guard, retiring as a colonel.

## 1959

**Jean L. Campbell McCreery** of Williamsport, died Oct. 14, 2015. McCreery worked at the Williamsport Hospital and at Danville State Hospital. She later worked at ManorCare South in Williamsport and volunteered for the Red Cross Bloodmobile and Community Arts Center.

## 1960

**Larry Chase** of the Bronx, N.Y., died Nov. 25, 2016. Chase was an actor, singer and business owner. He was also an avid stamp, coin and memorabilia collector.

**Doris Gademan Stephens** of Barrington, R.I., died June 20, 2016. Stephens served as a public health service nurse in Alaska, and a pediatric nursing instructor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing and Massachusetts General Hospital. She was a civilian nurse in Thailand during the Vietnam War and returned to Thailand to help Cambodian refugees come to America.

## 1961

**John L. Lehet** of Lambertville, N.J., died Oct. 22, 2016. Lehet earned a law degree from Seton Hall Law School. A naval aviator, Lehet was stationed at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He later practiced law in Trenton, N.J., until becoming owner and manager of John L. Lehet Properties for the last 44 years.

**Christopher Loesch** of Arlington, Va., died Aug. 25, 2016. Loesch earned an MBA from George Washington University. He was in the Army National Guard. Loesch worked as a certified public accountant for the U.S. General Accounting Office.

#### 1964

**Lee Carl Wasilewski** of Daytona Beach Shores, Fla., formerly of Duryea and Mountain Lake, Pa., died Oct. 13, 2016.

#### 1967

**Ellen Gallagher Zimich** of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., died Dec. 11, 2016. Zimich worked in Boston for Arthur D. Little before returning to Wilkes-Barre in 1975. She retired from Pennsylvania Bureau of the Aging in 2005.

#### 1969

**Rev. John A. Hamilton** of Leesburg, Fla., died Nov. 5, 2016. Hamilton was a Methodist pastor in several churches in Pennsylvania and New York. He served in the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War.

#### 1970

**John Guida MS '99** of Old Forge, Pa., died Jan. 1, 2015. He taught special education for 32 years and was employed by NEIU #19. Guida was a past member of the Old Forge School Board.

**Nancy (Baird) Moretta** of Preston, Pa., died Oct. 27, 2016. Moretta taught in Groton, Conn., at Claude Chester

Elementary School and in Yonkers, N.Y., at the Halsted Private Elementary School.

**Clyde R. Oster** of Swoyersville, Pa., died Dec. 2, 2016. Oster worked for Baron's Seafood and the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, the Kingston Rotary and a former director of the Irem Temple Clowns Unit.

**Deborah Baran Walk** of Glenwood, Md., died Sept. 15, 2016. She taught at Newton High School before moving to Maryland, where most recently she taught French at River Hill High School in Clarksville, Md.

#### 1971

**Harold E. Van Hise** of Milltown, Pa., died Jan. 28, 2015. Van Hise served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He was an assessment director of arts and languages at Educational Testing Services in Princeton, N.J.

#### 1972

**Shirley Shannon** of Colorado Springs, Colo., died Dec. 1, 2016.

#### 1975

**Cynthia A. Bradbury** of Boise, Idaho, died Oct. 22, 2016. She taught science in Norfolk, Va., San Jose, Calif., and several Department of Defense high schools. She worked with the U.S. Navy and at Micron before completing a master's degree in biological anthropology at Boise State University.

#### 1984

**Andrew B. Ulichney** of Mount Pocono, Pa., died Dec. 12, 2016. Ulichney is a World War II veteran with the U.S. Navy, where he served in the Asia Pacific Theater, the Philippine Theater and was part of the Navy occupation of Japan. He retired in 1983 after more than 40 years in government services.

#### 1985

**Richard J. Jenkins** of Chandler, Ariz., died Oct. 13, 2016. He was employed by NXP Semiconductors as the director of test engineering.

#### 1986

**Dr. Susan J. Silfee** of Jasper, Ala., died Feb. 14, 2016. Silfee was a board-certified internist, with practices in Atlanta Ga., Jasper, Ala., and Oakman, Ala. A talented artist, she also enjoyed painting and was awarded several prizes for her work.

#### 1987

**Donald Joseph Shaw Jr.** died Oct. 27, 2016. Shaw worked for Whiteman Tower as vice president of packaging, then for Lindenmeyr Munroe as general manager of packaging. He served as assistant coach for Wilkes University's men's soccer for 12 years. Shaw was a member of the Wilkes University Athletics Hall of Fame.

## Graduate Degrees

**John Guida MS '99** – Please see undergraduate memoriams 1970.

## Faculty

**James (Jim) E. Harrington Jr.**, of Wilkes-Barre, died Oct. 1, 2016. His long and distinguished career as professor of music at Wilkes began in 1985. He served as the interim chair of the department of music, theater and dance, as well as assistant to the dean and academic service coordinator. Harrington studied music, specializing in the organ, at the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music and received his master's degree at Yale University School of Music.

Harrington's students remember him as a role model and friend, encouraging them to work hard, to pursue their dreams and to stand up for their beliefs. He was actively involved in the local LGBT community and paved the way for the LGBT Reach Group, Pride of NEPA Social Group, Michael Pierson Memorial Project, NEPA Rainbow Alliance and the LGBT Center of NEPA. He hosted countless safe-space groups at Wilkes and founded the "Safe Zones" on campus program in the 1990s.

## Friends of Wilkes

**Dr. Stephen Wartella Jr.** of Bear Lake, Pa., and Cape Canaveral, Fla., died Dec. 16, 2016. A graduate of Bucknell University Junior College, Wartella attended Georgetown Medical School and the University of Pennsylvania. He was a flight surgeon in the U.S. Air Force. He was on the staff at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital and served as chief of radiology for 28 years.



- SAVE THE DATE -

6 p.m. • Saturday, June 3, 2017

*Westmoreland Club, Wilkes-Barre*

2017 PRESIDENT'S  
MEDAL RECIPIENT

Mr. Frank M. Henry,  
*Chairman Emeritus of Martz Group*



For sponsorships, advertisements, or ticket information, please  
contact Jennifer Ciarimboli at 570-408-4953 or [Jennifer.Ciarimboli@wilkes.edu](mailto:Jennifer.Ciarimboli@wilkes.edu)  
or visit [www.wilkes.edu/foundersgala](http://www.wilkes.edu/foundersgala).

## calendar of events



PHOTO BY JONATHAN MCBRIDE

### March

- 28 Law Day
- 23–May 21 Lyndon Barrios Jr.: “Of Color,” Sordani Art Gallery
- 27 “Men, Women, Sex and Violence,” lecture, Jackson Katz, Henry Student Center Ballroom, 7 p.m., Keynote address for It’s On Us Week
- 31 “Homegrown Music,” Civic Band Concert, 7:30 p.m., Henry Student Center lounge

### April

- 6–9 “We Shot JFK,” theatre event, Thursday – Saturday, 8 p.m., Sunday, 2 p.m., Dorothy Dickson Darte Center
- 7 Engineering Olympics, Competition for high schools, Arnaud C. Marts Sports and Conference Center
- 11 Allan Hamilton Dickson Spring Writers Series, featuring Valeria Luiselli, 3 p.m., Kirby Hall
- 13–18 Holiday Recess
- 22 Admissions Open House for prospective students
- 25 Family Business Alliance Personal and Professional Event, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Henry Student Center, Ballroom 2nd Floor
- 29 Softball Alumni Day
- 29 “Carmina Burana,” Civic Band Concert, 3:30 p.m., Kirby Center for the Performing Arts, Wyoming Seminary
- 30 Max Rosen Lecture Series in Law and Humanities, featuring Anna Deavere Smith, “Snapshots: Portraits of a World in Transition,” 7 p.m., Dorothy Dickson Darte Center

### May

- 6–7 Wrestling Reunion & Coach John Reese’s 90th Birthday Celebration
- 20 Commencement

### June

- 3 Founders Gala
- 16–23 Maslow Faculty Reading Series, 7 p.m., Dorothy Dickson Darte Center