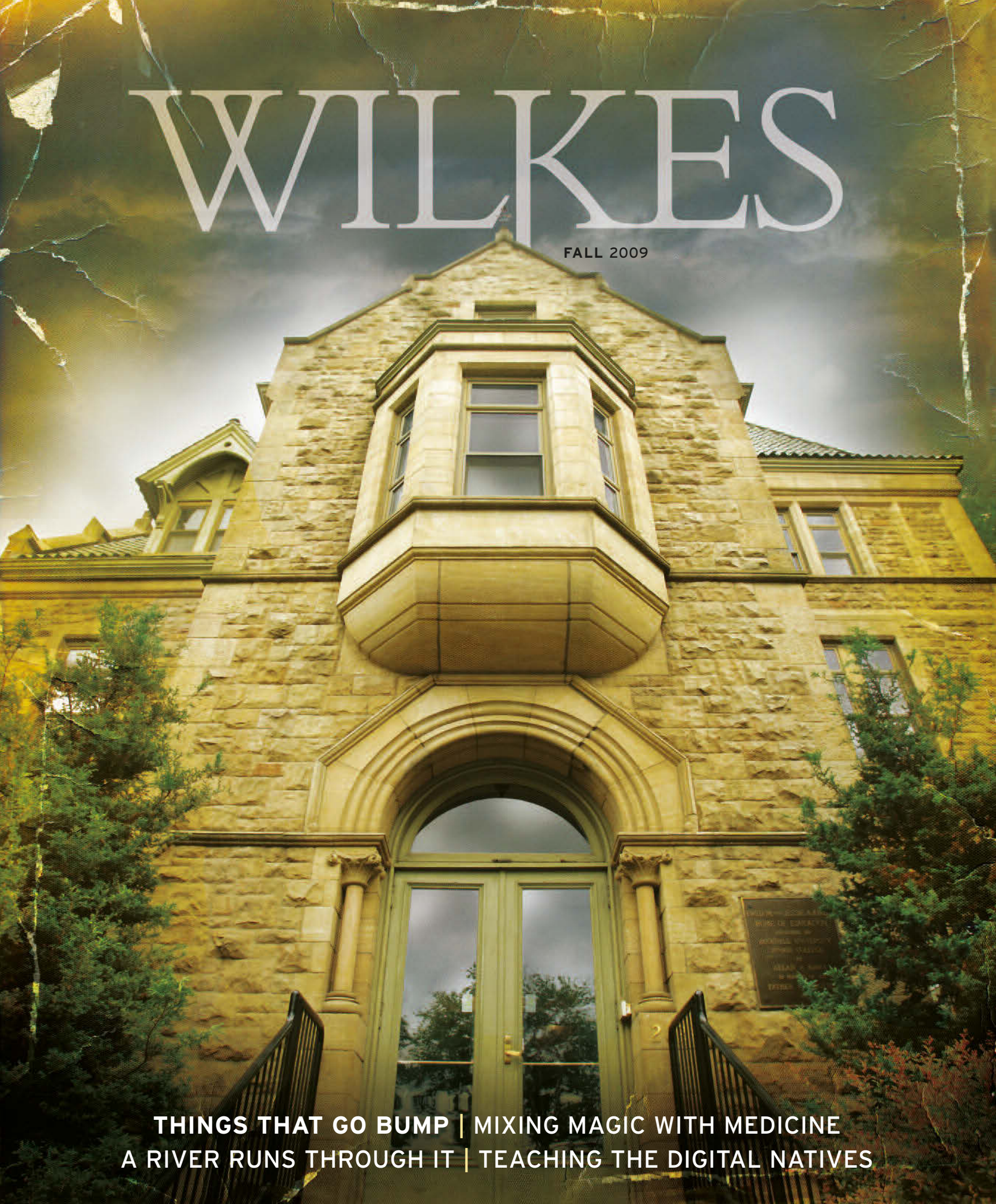


WILKES

FALL 2009



**THINGS THAT GO BUMP | MIXING MAGIC WITH MEDICINE
A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT | TEACHING THE DIGITAL NATIVES**

Vision for a College Town Continues With Law School Project

The Wilkes University Board of Trustees' approval of the next stage of our law school planning initiative in June was a critical milestone on a journey that is likely to lead to the creation of northeast Pennsylvania's next professional school. The action recalls another event in Wilkes history that, at the time, carried both risks and rewards. In 1996, the University launched its School of Pharmacy with a vision for what it could mean for the region and for Wilkes. A decade has passed since we graduated the first group of pharmacists in 2000, and we are marking the program's 10th anniversary.



Daniel Breznak takes the pharmacist's oath as part of the annual white coat ceremony for Wilkes pharmacy students. The program celebrates its 10th anniversary this year.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL P. TOUEY

The pharmacy program has been a resounding success, surpassing expectations for enrollment. The quality of students competing for the 70 seats in each year's entering class remains high. Over 95 percent of our doctor of pharmacy graduates pass the pharmacy boards—the exams required to become registered pharmacists—on the first try. Our pass rate on these exams is higher than the state and national averages. Our pharmacy graduates uniformly receive multiple job offers at good salaries.

Seeing this success makes it easy to forget that many concerns were voiced about whether there was a need for another pharmacy school when we launched our program. We proceeded with plans at that time because the only pharmacy programs available in Pennsylvania were in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. University leaders believed that starting a school of

pharmacy would be a service to northeast Pennsylvania residents, a boon to the region's economy and an asset to Wilkes University. We were right.

Fast forward to 2009 and the recent decision to proceed with plans for a law school. Once again, we are in position to establish a professional school in northeast Pennsylvania where none currently exists. Our market research tells us that interest in a law degree, the juris doctor, is high.

Founding a law school at Wilkes is still another important step to revitalize the region, make Wilkes-Barre a major college town, and increase the competitiveness and diversity of the region's economy. And we fully believe this will be another significant step toward making Wilkes University a premier university in the Mid-Atlantic region.

I invite you to read more about plans for the law school initiative on page 3. As this new chapter in Wilkes history unfolds, alumni and friends of the University can follow its progress on the pages of this magazine and on our Web site.

Dr. Tim Gilmour
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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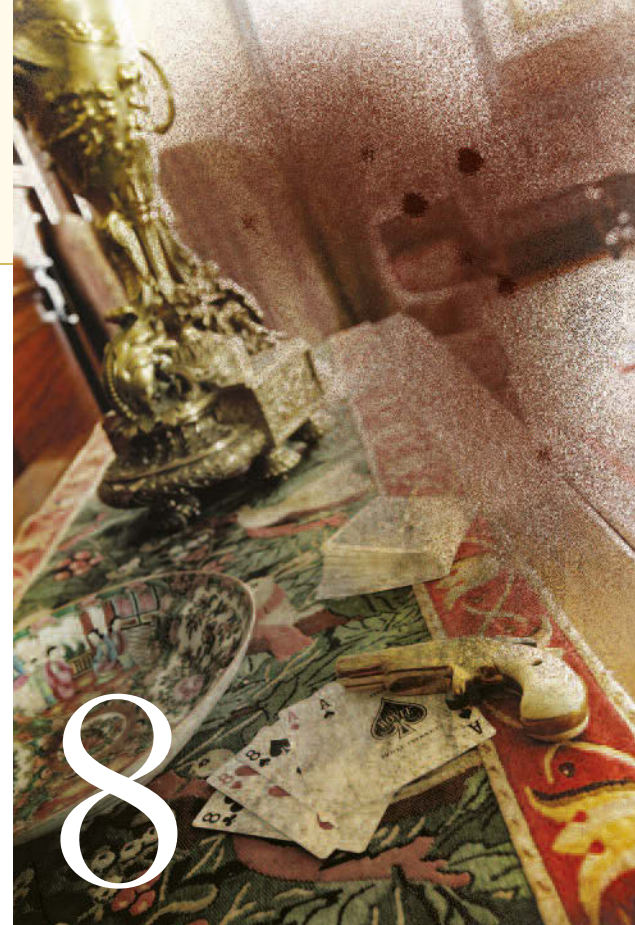
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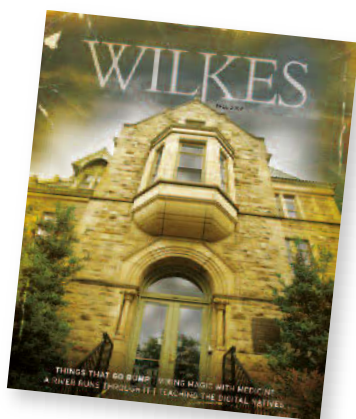
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Kirby Hall, one of Wilkes' historic locales, is one of several University buildings where a ghostly presence is said to be felt.

PHOTO EARL & SEDOR PHOTOGRAPHY

Have a story idea to share?

Contact us at wilkesmagazine@wilkes.edu or *Wilkes Magazine*, 84 W. South St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18766.



Spring Commencement 2009

Wilkes University held its annual spring commencement on May 16 at Wachovia Arena. It was a day to celebrate for more than 700 undergraduate and graduate students. John Brooks Slaughter, president and CEO of the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering, delivered the commencement address “Building Your Future.”



Top right: Commencement is a reason to smile for Caitlin Dukas and Wayland Davis, who graduated with degrees in psychology.

Inset: Tricia Stefanick receives her doctor of pharmacy degree from President Tim Gilmour.
PHOTOS BY MICHAEL P. TOUEY



“ A commitment to EXCELLENCE is unquestionably important. You who graduate today, in particular, must recognize that the FUTURE is what you will make it to be. It depends upon what you do today and every day and tomorrow thereafter. Your DESTINATION IN LIFE will be determined by your acts and not by your intentions. ”

– John Brooks Slaughter,
president and CEO, National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering,
Spring 2009 Commencement Speaker

Leadership Program for Youth Highlights Outstanding Leaders Forum

When Elie Wiesel was a teenager, he and his family endured the horrors of the Nazi concentration camps Auschwitz and Buchenwald. Years later, Wiesel chronicled his experiences in the memoir *Night*. His story comes to Wilkes University when Wiesel—now a Nobel Laureate—is the guest speaker for the annual Outstanding Leaders Forum on Nov. 17.

Night has been translated into more than 30 languages and has sold millions of copies since its original publication in 1956. It is required reading for many of today’s high school and college students.

High school students in northeast Pennsylvania will have a special opportunity in conjunction with Wiesel’s visit to Wilkes. He will interact in a question-and-answer session with about 120 students from area high schools

who will participate in a Leadership Day sponsored by the Sidhu School of Business and Leadership. The program, now in its third year, brings students from about 10 high schools in the region for a day of leadership training.

In order to allow as many students and community members as possible to hear Wiesel speak, tickets to the public lecture on Nov. 17 are \$10. The lecture is at 8 p.m. in the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts.

For more information, please contact the Wilkes University Special Events Office at (570) 408-4306 or 4330.

Lawrence Reed of the Foundation for Free Enterprise to Deliver Kirby Lecture

The Foundation for Economic Education is one of the oldest and most respected economics institutes in the United States. Its president, Lawrence Reed, will deliver the Allan P. Kirby Lecture in Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship on Oct. 8, 2009. He will speak at 7:30 p.m. in the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts. The Kirby Lecture kicks off Homecoming Weekend activities at Wilkes.

The foundation, based in Irvington, N.Y., promotes and researches free-market, classic liberal, and libertarian ideas. The foundation publishes the journal *The Freeman*, for which Reed writes the column "Ideas and Consequences." In 1998, he was elected chairman of the foundation's board of trustees and re-elected chairman in 1999 and 2000.

Before assuming this role, Reed served as president of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy for its first two decades and remains president emeritus of the center. Under his leadership, the Mackinac Center emerged as the largest of over 40 state-based free-market think tanks in America.

As a freelance journalist, Reed's interests in political and economic affairs have taken him to 69 countries on six continents since 1985. From firsthand experience, he has reported on hyperinflation in South America, voodoo in Haiti, black markets behind the Iron Curtain, reforms and repression in China and Cambodia, recent developments in Eastern Europe, and civil war inside Nicaragua and Mozambique.

Reed holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Grove City College and a master's degree in history from Slippery Rock University, both in Pennsylvania.



Lawrence Reed of the Foundation for Free Enterprise will deliver the Kirby Lecture on Oct. 8.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVES NEXT PHASE OF LAW SCHOOL PLANNING INITIATIVE

Wilkes University's Board of Trustees approved the proposal for a new law school on June 5, setting the stage for the next phase of planning for the professional school. The board's action clears the way for the administration to develop a business plan to secure the necessary financial resources, identify a suitable building for the new school and seek final board approval. The proposal was approved contingent on the University being able to raise the necessary funds without taxing the university's other schools, programs or priorities.

Tim Gilmour, Wilkes president, said he hopes to seat the inaugural class of 60 full-time students and 25 part-time students in 2011. "Creating a law school for northeastern Pennsylvania is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that will have a significant impact on Wilkes University and the surrounding communities by increasing graduate-level educational opportunities, creating jobs, and speeding the region's economic recovery," says Gilmour.

The new law school curriculum will incorporate Wilkes' emphasis on building close relationships between students and mentors. It will also stimulate the region's economy by creating new jobs and bringing hundreds of students to downtown Wilkes-Barre and will supply talented lawyers to lead the region's law firms, businesses and government entities.

Initial work on the project began in 2004 with discussions that led to the formation of a preliminary feasibility committee. In May 2008, Loren D. Prescott Jr. was appointed dean of the Wilkes Law School Planning Initiative (proposed).

For more information about the law school initiative, contact Prescott at law@wilkes.edu or visit www.law.wilkes.edu.



Wilkes pharmacy students Kevin Brittain, left, and his brother, Alex, work at Triangle Pharmacy, in Mountain Top, Pa., their hometown. PHOTO BY VICKI MAYK

attended the Wilkes School of Pharmacy. Two other families have had three siblings attend Wilkes School of Pharmacy. The Breznak family includes Valarie, Pharm.D. '08; Daniel, Pharm.D. candidate class of 2010; and Christina, Pharm.D. candidate class of 2013. The Graver family includes Kristen (Graver) Rudelitch, Pharm.D. '03; Kimberly Graver, Pharm.D. '07; and David Graver, Pharm.D. candidate class of 2011.

In the case of the Brittain brothers, the Wilkes connection extends to their father, attorney Robert R. Brittain Jr. '70, and Jeff's wife, Kristy (Hulings) Brittain, Pharm.D. '05.

Jeff says he chose the career after working at Triangle Pharmacy. "I liked the job, saw the relationship that the owners had with their customers and thought I'd give it a whirl," he says.

Kevin followed in his brother's footsteps working there and soon found himself choosing the same career path. "Seeing the impact that pharmacists can have on patient care convinced me," he says.

Their younger brother Alex says he "looked at pharmacy schools all over the east coast," but found the best choice was close to home at Wilkes. "I like that the classes are not large. You can get to know people and your professors on a more

personal level," Alex says, echoing a sentiment voiced by his siblings.

After graduating from Wilkes, Jeff served three years as a captain in the U.S. Air Force. He now works as a clinical pharmacist at Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, S.C. His wife, Kristy, is teaching at the university. He says attending Wilkes—a relatively new School of Pharmacy—had advantages. "Everything was current and based on the latest practice in the field."

Family Legacies Mark First Decade of Wilkes School of Pharmacy

At Triangle Pharmacy in Mountain Top, Pa., customers know what to expect: personal service, a friendly staff—and, for the last decade, one of the Brittain brothers working behind the counter.

Jeff Brittain, Pharm.D. '05, and his brothers Kevin, Pharm.D. candidate class of 2010, and Alex, Pharm.D. candidate class of 2012, have all worked at the pharmacy in their hometown. And all three have gone on to study pharmacy at Wilkes.



Jeff Brittain, Pharm.D. '05 and wife Kristy (Hulings) Brittain, Pharm.D. '05 are part of the Brittain family legacy at Wilkes. PHOTO COURTESY JEFF BRITTAIN

As the School of Pharmacy prepares to celebrate its 10th anniversary, marking a decade since graduating the first class, legacy families already abound in the professional school. According to Bernard Graham, dean of the Nesbitt College of Pharmacy and Nursing, about 25 pairs of siblings have graduated or enrolled in the professional program.

"Almost 10 percent of our graduates are related to each other, not counting marriages," Graham states. The statistic is surprising for a program that accepts only 70 students annually.

The Brittain family is among three legacy families in the pharmacy program with a special distinction: three siblings in the same family

“Almost 10 PERCENT of our graduates are RELATED to each other, not counting marriages.”

— Bernard Graham, dean of the Nesbitt College of Pharmacy and Nursing

Attend the Pharmacy Reunion during Homecoming Weekend, Oct. 9-11. See page 19 for details!



A Visit From The Colonel

In the spirit of TV shows like “Candid Camera” and MTV’s “Punk’d,” Wilkes University surprised high school seniors accepted to Wilkes with an unexpected visit from the University’s Colonel mascot.

As the May 1 College Decision Day approached, Wilkes reached out to undecided students by showing up at after-school jobs, the local gym, and even during class. The students’ everyday routines were filled with the Colonel’s unique antics as students were recognized for their positive accomplishments such as merit scholarship earnings and their acceptance to Wilkes.

At Valley View High School in Archbald, Pa., the Colonel entered fourth-period calculus with music and a bull horn to present merit scholarship earnings. The Colonel also made stops at Gerrie’s Fitness Center in Conyngham, Pa., Fino’s Pharmacy in Dallas, Pa., and Holy Redeemer High

School in Wilkes-Barre, congratulating students in unique and fun ways while providing them with a glimpse into the Wilkes University community.

“When selecting a college, students want to feel like they are more than just a number,” says Jack Chielli, executive director of marketing communications at Wilkes. “Approaching undecided seniors in this way allows Wilkes to not only reach out to these particular students, but to also let their friends, classmates and co-workers see the type of attention that Wilkes offers. It’s the type of interaction you simply can’t provide at an open house or a campus tour.”



Left: Dallas Senior High School senior Mary Ketchner gets a visit from The Colonel.

Below: The Colonel works out with Ryan Rinehimer, a senior at Hazleton Area High School, at Gerrie’s Fitness Center in Conyngham, Pa.

PHOTOS BY 160over90

Semper Fi

RETIRED MARINE COL.
JOEL KANE '80 IS
FAITHFUL TO LESSONS
LEARNED AT WILKES

“ You have to build a team that understands the consequences of what you’re doing.... You learn things like teamwork, never quitting.... Those basic fundamentals were formed on the football field at Ralston Field. ”

By Christopher Barrows



In the Marine Corps, says retired Col. Joel Kane '80, everything translates to life and death—even in peacetime.

“You have to build a team that understands the consequences of what you’re doing,” reasons the veteran Marine pilot who transported men, food and supplies in the Middle East during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. “You learn things like



Above: Kane was number 53 and team captain on the Wilkes football team.
PHOTO FROM WILKES ARCHIVES.

Opposite Page: Joel Kane '80 with members of the football team at White Oak High school in Jacksonville, N.C. PHOTO COURTESY OF JOEL KANE

teamwork, never quitting.... Those basic fundamentals were formed on the football field at Ralston Field.”

An offensive lineman under Coach Rollie Schmidt, Kane now shares those lessons training young pilots and high school football players. He likens flight training to coaching.

“When I walk in there, it’s like coaching football,” he says. “The minute I get in the simulator with these young lieutenants, I just want to give back. I share all my experience with them: I don’t sugarcoat it. I try to prepare them physically and mentally for what they’re going to experience in Afghanistan or Iraq.”

His military career began in 1975 when he enlisted in the U. S. Army and attended the West Point Prep School at Fort Monmouth, N. J. He came to Wilkes and joined the Marine Corps Platoon Leaders Class Program. Kane graduated with a bachelor’s degree in accounting. He was then commissioned as a second lieutenant of Marines.

As a pilot, he has traveled the globe, from Japan to Saudi Arabia to Djibouti, Africa. He had responsibility for hundreds of men and millions of dollars worth of aircraft. Kane commanded both the largest CH-53E squadron in the Department of

the Navy and the largest MV-22 squadron in the Department of Defense. The now retired full bird colonel logged over 3,200 flight hours in 10 different types of fixed wing, helicopter and tilt-rotor aircraft.

Kane’s service earned him multiple citations and campaign medals, including the Legion of Merit, Joint Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with 3 Gold Stars, Single Mission Air Medal and the Strike Flight Air Medal with numeral 2.

Kane also earned three master’s degrees: a master of business administration from National University in San Diego, Calif.; a master of military science from Marine Corps University, Command and Staff College; and a master’s degree in National Resource Strategy from the National Defense University, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C.

The subject of his last master’s thesis earned him a permanent place in military aviation history. Drawing on the accounting and writing skills he learned at Wilkes, Kane argued that the Marines should purchase new CH-53 helicopters instead of revamping the existing 20-year-old model. The new model now under development is called the CH-53K—a name coined in Kane’s thesis.

“They (the Marine Corps) brought in consultants that came up with the same [recommendation],” Kane says.

“The K model—I gave it that name in my paper for my name, Kane. They actually kept it. It’s a great honor.”

It was athletics that first drew Kane to Wilkes. Growing up in Wilkes-Barre, he was aware of the school’s strong football tradition as well as Wilkes’ reputation for academic success.

Kane wore number 53 during his Wilkes football career. A four-year starter and letterman, he was a team captain as a senior. Joe Moran, former offensive line coach, recalls Kane’s leadership abilities. “He was an outstanding individual,” says Moran, “He was the kind of guy who led by example. He knew everyone’s assignment on the field. When practice was tough, he could interject humor and make the guys laugh, lighten things up. He had that quality.”

Football continued to be part of Kane’s life. He played or coached on the football teams at every military base where he worked, from Quantico, Va., to Japan.

Kane retired from the Marines in 2006, ending a 31-year military career. He now works as a contract flight instructor. Today, he also serves as the varsity offensive line coach at White Oak High School, near his home in Jacksonville, N.C.

Kane has been married to his wife, Sharon, for 28 years. They have two children: Daniel, a college student, and Joeline, a high school student.

One of his key messages to both players and flight trainees is: “Never quit. You may not win every game, but you have to keep getting back up and continue to fight.”



Retired Col. Joel Kane '80 had a 31-year career as a Marine aviator.

things that go bump

LEGENDS OF
HAUNTED
BUILDINGS AND
GHOSTLY VISITORS
ABOUND IN WILKES'
HISTORIC BUILDINGS

By Andrew Seaman



The third floor of Doane Hall
is said to be haunted by the
ghost of a young woman.
PHOTOS BY EARL & SEDOR
PHOTOGRAPHY

THE CLASSIFIED AD IN THE VALENTINE'S DAY edition of *The Beacon* read: "WANTED: One ghost exterminator. References necessary. Contact Pat Hill or Bonnie Gellas at Sturdevant Hall."

The year was 1969—and Wilkes co-eds claimed that a ghost walked in the residence hall.

In March of that year, ghostly happenings were so much the talk of campus that *The Beacon* ran an editorial about the ghost stories, stating, "...students on this campus take these stories seriously—if not the tales behind them, at least the fact that there are strange unexplainable goings-on. Some talk of starting ghost-hunting parties, or holding séances or going back to the good ol' Ouija board. Whether they are serious or not, even the skeptical agree that the tales add a bit of flavor and mystery to the old buildings on campus."

University archives, back issues of *The Beacon*, and conversations with members of the Wilkes community all show that ghost stories and haunted happenings have been part of campus lore throughout its history. It's part of the collective memory of generations of alumni. Today, students, faculty and staff still relish stories about unexplained events in the stately mansions used for classrooms, offices and residence halls.

Most buildings on campus have a story to tell. According to William Lewis Jr. '80, a vice president at Merrill Lynch Global Wealth Management and guide for the Luzerne County Historical Society annual ghost tours, it's no surprise that such tales abound at Wilkes and in the surrounding community.

"Why did so many frightening things happen here? Well, if you walked around any city in the world that had dwellers like the Native Americans, who lived in the area for thousands of years, as well as a modern settlement dating back well over 200 years you would be sure to find all kinds of amazing stories," says Lewis.

The histories of the University's oldest buildings blend with ghostly tales, yielding stories that have become legends with the passing of time.



Chase-ing a Ghost

As the home of the University's admissions office, **Chase Hall** is the first building prospective students see at Wilkes. Built in 1917, it was the home of Frederick Merrill Chase and his family. Chase came to Wilkes-Barre at the age of 14 and worked his way up the coal industry ladder. Four years after construction

The staircase of Chase Hall, where ghostly footsteps can be heard.

was completed on his mansion, he died. A decade passed before the building was given to Wilkes, then Bucknell University Junior College, by the brother of Mrs. Chase.

There is evidence that Mr. Chase may still be "living" in his old home.

Al Espada, a former Wilkes admissions counselor, would work in the building late at night after coming back from college fairs in New Jersey. One night around 11 p.m., he was playing a CD while he worked when it suddenly stopped playing. He heard three distinct steps coming towards his office doorway. No one was there.

"I was prepared to work for another hour, but the incident made me quit for the night," says Espada.

The Cold Room

Sturdevant Hall has been used for many functions since it was acquired by Wilkes in 1951. These include serving as a women's dorm, the registrar's office, the office of residence life, the education department and several other uses.

Through all of its incarnations, there's been one permanent resident: a ghost.

Back in 1969, girls living in Sturdevant were convinced that their residence was possessed. Often, they would wake to the rapping of a fist on their door, only to discover that there was no one there. It was that kind of activity that led them to run the ad in *The Beacon* for a "ghost exterminator."

Sturdevant, now a co-ed residence hall, continues to be plagued by the elusive apparition.

Elizabeth Roveda '05, MBA'07, director of residence life, says a resident assistant was in the building alone when locked doors started to open. Public safety officers were summoned and conducted hourly checks.



After that event, Michele Sabol-Jones, a Wilkes public safety officer, remembers hearing that other officers found vacuum cleaners—previously stored away—returned to rooms. And, in a hall without air conditioning, one room was freezing cold during the dog days of summer.



Dealing a Dead Man's Hand

Kirby Hall sits on the “number one” plot of

Wilkes-Barre's original town plan. Stephen Leonard Thurlow, a coal baron, purchased the lot in 1872, and commissioned Frederick Clarke Withers to design what is now known as Kirby Hall. The building changed hands twice before Fred Morgan Kirby acquired it in 1905. However, along the way the house seems to have picked up an unwanted caretaker.

According to a 1981 edition of *Wilkes College Quarterly*, around the turn of the century, while the home was owned by Reuben Jay Flick, a colorful character named Poker Pan was allegedly killed in the house during a gambling dispute. The murder occurred in what was then the music room.

Poker Pan may not have taken kindly to having his card game suddenly interrupted.

Often people hear footsteps on the stairs. Sabol-Jones says that public safety officers have claimed they feel a presence on the third floor. Some even claim to feel a hand on their backs.

According to *The Beacon* archives, people have reported seeing a strange mist by the windows. One report talks about a professor doing late-night research on the second floor. As he exited the building, he saw a white mist in front of him. As he approached it, the mist retreated up the stairs.

“NO ONE WAS EVER FOUND, nor did anyone leave the locked building—except for the guards, who REFUSED TO GO BACK in for a long time...”

Ghostly Laughter

Conyngham Center was built in 1897 by William Hillard Conyngham. He hoped that this home would serve his family for many years. To cement that hope, Conyngham had family photographs placed in the building's cornerstone.

Today, the Conynghams' presence may extend beyond those photographs. Lewis has heard of some interesting activity taking place there.

“Several years ago, security guards had locked the building up for the night only to hear the sound of a young woman's laugh echoing near the elevator on the side of the building. One guard headed upstairs and one headed to the basement to find the woman. No one was ever found, nor did anyone leave the locked building—except for the guards, who refused to go back in for a long time,” says Lewis.

The Lady in Red

Weckesser Hall is one of Wilkes' most iconic buildings, and one of the most storied when it comes to ghosts.

The home was built by Frederick J. Weckesser, a hardworking business man and former director of the F.W. Woolworth Company, between 1914 and 1916. The home still features a working elevator, surround shower, giant chandelier and indoor rain gutters. The home may also feature some of its original owners.

Lewis says, “People claim to see a shadow descending the stairs

The parlor of Kirby Hall, where a poker game turned deadly.



The "speakeasy" in the basement of Waller Hall dates back to the original owner.

and turn toward the front of the structure. Maybe it's Mr. Weckesser's spirit. He was known for his hard work habits: Perhaps he is returning to finish his evening work. Or perhaps it is Dr. Eugene Farley, the founding president of Wilkes."

Another tale involves a University staff member. As she was setting up for an early morning meeting, she noticed an older woman in a red dress standing on the stairs. The staff member smiled and went about her business, but when she went back to check on the woman, she had disappeared. As the staff member turned to resume her duties, she noticed a picture of a woman hanging in the entranceway. The picture looked exactly like the woman she had seen on the stairs, and under it was a small plaque with Mrs. Weckesser's name engraved on it. The staff member reportedly tendered her resignation later that day.

The Girl on the Third Floor

Doane Hall was Wilkes University's only residence hall where quiet hours were observed 24/7. But one former resident broke the rules at the South River Street mansion, as sounds from another world could be heard coming from the third floor.

Residents have often complained about the strange occurrences in Doane, but they always know who to blame: the girl on the third floor. Campus legend says that a girl hanged herself there decades before Wilkes acquired the building in 1973. What adds to the mystery and fuels the stories is the single white, steel door with no knob that blocks people from using the staircase to the third floor.



The Ghosts of Prohibition?

Waller Hall was originally built as the home of Julius Long Stern in 1925. The home is known for being one of the most elaborate residence halls that Wilkes owns. Waller is also one of the strangest. The building is divided into two sides—north and south. Wilkes even acquired the building in two parts.



An unusual feature of Waller is the mysterious passageways on the second floor. If students wanted, they could circle the entire floor without ever stepping into a hallway. The second strange feature is the bar—or speakeasy—in the basement. The presence of the speakeasy has become a popular piece of Wilkes lore. It's a place few have seen, adding to its mystique. Any self-respecting ghost would certainly want to gather there.

During prohibition, prominent members of the Wilkes-Barre community could relax in the spacious downstairs bar, sit near a brick fireplace, and order libations from the bartender. Perhaps some of these partygoers have stayed around waiting for their next drink.

Andrew Seaman is a Wilkes University senior and served as editor of *The Beacon* in spring 2009.

More on the web: Share your Wilkes ghost stories at The Colonel Connection message boards at community.wilkes.edu.



MIXING

MAGIC Medicine

ALUMNUS' VOLUNTEERISM TRANSFORMS
THE LIVES OF DIABETIC YOUNGSTERS

By Helen Kaiser



Michael S. Anger, MD, FASN, FACP, Denver, Colo.
B.S., Biology, Wilkes 1977

M.D., Hahnemann Medical College, Philadelphia 1981

Career: President of Western Nephrology Group, a medical practice with 12 physicians, 70 employees and a partnership with five dialysis clinics throughout Denver.

Notable: Has combined diverse interests such as his medical practice, magic, biking, ice hockey and skiing, blending fundraising with fun-raising to give back to his family and community.

Favorite Wilkes Memory: Skiing with the Polar Bear Club and working as a disk jockey for the school radio station, WCLH-FM.

AS A 12-YEAR-OLD WITH earnings from his Brooklyn, N.Y., paper route, Dr. Michael Anger '77 was able to fund his fascinating hobby: magic tricks. On visits to the renowned Tannen's Magic Store in Manhattan, he was captivated by the store clerks' sleight of hand—card tricks, coin effects, disappearing silks and the like.

"Soon I was making my own tricks and performing them at birthday parties," Anger recalls.

Who could predict that, as a grown-up physician in Denver, Colo., he would resurrect his box of tricks to bring magic to the lives of children with diabetes?

Making insulin syringes appear to float in the air—"just stuff to make kids smile"—is one of the talents Anger uses annually as a volunteer at the week long Camp Colorado, sponsored by the American Diabetes Association. Anger has been involved with the camp for the past eight years, pulling nearly round-the-clock duty over six days as senior physician to ensure the 260 participants, ages 8 to 17, are having a healthy good time.

This means supervising the infirmary, dosing insulin at the dining hall and making 2:30 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. bed checks to ensure campers' blood sugar levels haven't spiked or dropped dangerously because of their physically active days and new meal regimens at the pristine Colorado mountain lake retreat.

The camp, with about 75 medical and ADA-trained volunteers, blends the fun of regular summer camp with education about diabetes management tailored to each camper's stage of development.

"It's exhausting, but it's special," says Anger, who was named 2009 Father of the Year by the Denver office of the ADA.

He and Rachel, his wife of 26 years, have four children: Matthew, 23, a student at the University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine; Eric, 21, at Northwestern University; Emily, 19, at the University of Oregon, and Max, 17, a high school senior.

Max was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at the age of four.

"Naturally, this impacted the whole family," Anger says. "Emotionally it's very stressful, but we were lucky to be close and work through it. There's a lot to learn about diet changes and medication, but the philosophy we used to raise our son was: 'Don't let diabetes control you; you control the diabetes.'"

Max's disease sparked his dad's involvement with the ADA, which reaches out to 23.6 million Americans with diabetes.



“We were honored to recognize someone who is a **LEADER** in his own profession and who truly embraces **FAMILY VALUES**.”

– Suehila Glass,
executive director of
ADA's Denver office

Suehila Glass, executive director of ADA's Denver office, said Anger was a natural choice for Father of the Year because of his personal and professional connections with diabetes, his belief in the ADA's mission and his passionate interest in helping patients.

"We were honored to recognize someone who is a leader in his own profession and who truly embraces family values. Because he has given of his personal time, finances and expertise, we have been able to fund research and continue programs for persons with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes," Glass says.

Board certified in nephrology—a specialty related to kidney function and diseases—Anger has also served as president of the National Kidney Foundation of Colorado and president of the Colorado Society of Nephrology. He serves on the clinical faculty advisory board for the University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine and has been teaching and volunteering as an attending physician at Denver Health Hospital for the past 22 years. Anger recently was honored with the university's community service award.

In the community, Anger has been president and board member of his homeowners association and president of the municipal water board. He enjoys roundtable discussions with the Mile High Magicians group to share techniques in the magic world. He would not, however, reveal how he can levitate a syringe. "It's magic," he says.

Family time includes biking with his wife on the 100-kilometer division of Tour de Cure to raise money for the ADA, playing ice hockey with his eldest son on "The Fighting Kidneys" team, and skiing.

Anger fondly recalls his biology coursework at Wilkes and wonderful experiences with Professor Charles Reif and Les Turocszi: "They were both favorite professors of mine, and ones I will never forget."

Opposite page: Dr. Michael Anger '77 teaches diabetes management strategies against the backdrop of Camp Colorado.

Above: Dr. Michael Anger '77, center, works his medical magic to bring smiles to the faces of children at an American Diabetes Association camp.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY TIM RYAN PICTURES

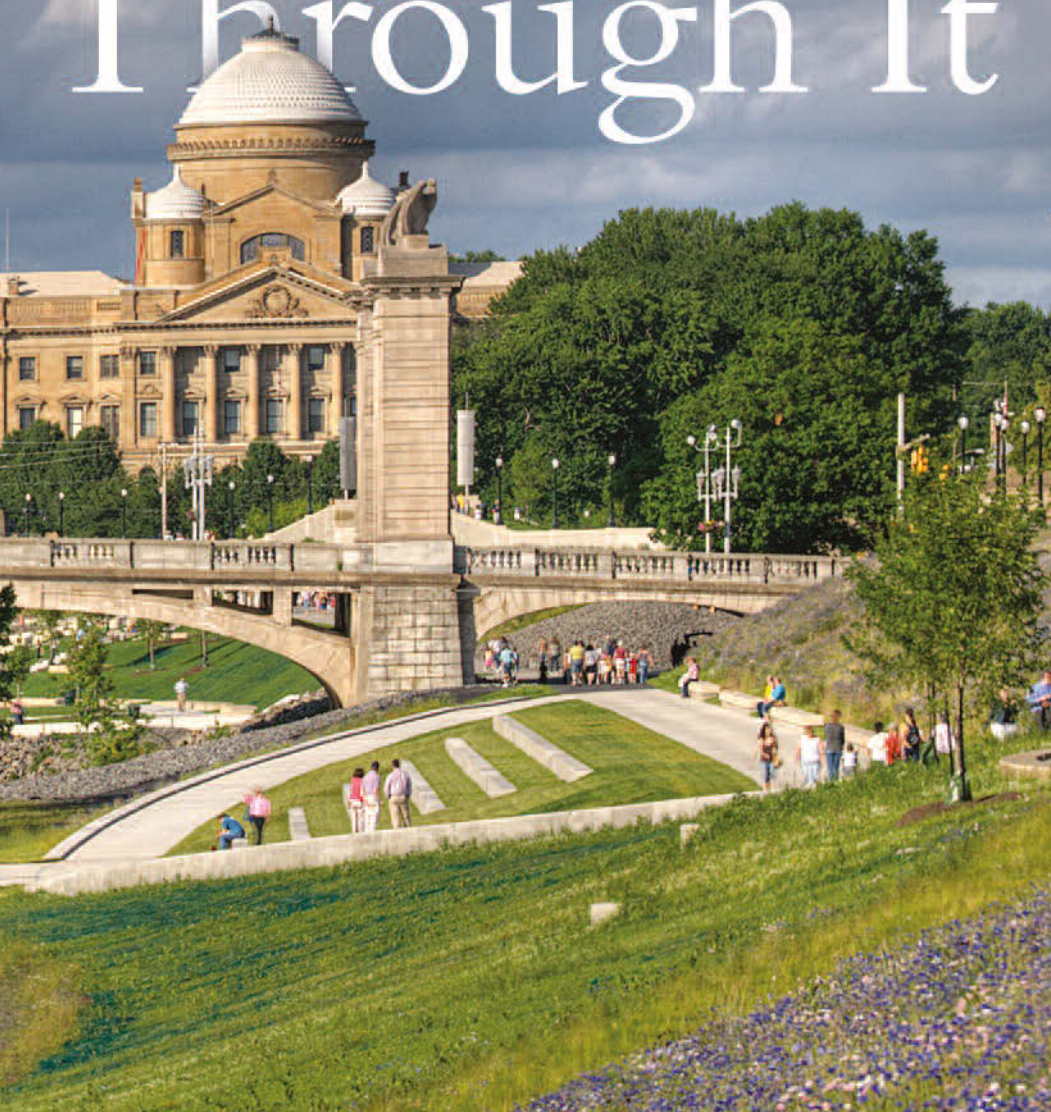
A River Runs



Views of the new River Common can be seen from the Wilkes campus.
PHOTO OF FOUNTAIN AT NIGHT BY ANDREW SEAMAN
ALL OTHER PHOTOS BY MICHAEL P. TOUEY



Through It

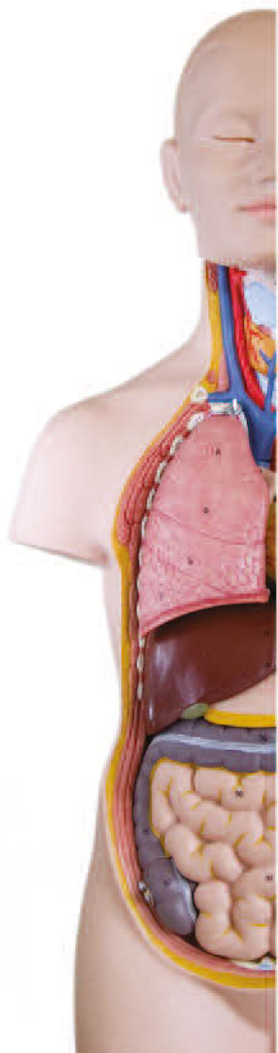


FEW UNIVERSITIES CAN say that a river flows past the front door of campus. Wilkes University is one of them. The proximity of the Susquehanna River has been a blessing and challenge over the years. For generations of alumni, the River Common—the lovely greenway fronting the river—provided a respite from the classroom. At other times, flooding—most notably following Hurricane Agnes in 1972—was the curse of having a campus bordering a river. A new system of levees completed in 2003 has reduced flooding issues. Now the River Common project, completed in June of this year, tops the flood wall and provides a new riverfront park facing the Wilkes Campus.

Two portals in the flood wall along River Street—with the southernmost located near the Wilkes campus—invite visitors to access the riverfront. Looking northeast from the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center, the new River Common provides opportunities for walking, cycling, boating and fishing along the river. An amphitheatre for open-air concerts, a boat launch and other amenities bring the promise of new recreational opportunities for Wilkes students and alumni.

More on the web: To take an online tour of the new River Common, go to www.wilkes.edu/rivercommon.





TEACHING THE DIGITAL NATIVES

TECHNOLOGY
CHANGES
21ST CENTURY
CLASSROOMS

By Vicki Mayk

Building a model of the solar system—complete with little planets made from plastic foam balls—has no place in Kathy Schrock’s world. Schrock, an adjunct professor in Wilkes University’s master’s degree program in instructional media, likens it to an ancient artifact with little relevance for today’s digital learners.

“We need to be using technology to allow students to do alternative assignments,” says Schrock, a nationally recognized expert on technology and education who has authored six books and presented more than 100 workshops on the subject. “We need to be asking them, ‘Do you want to do a video about that, or a comic strip, or a Flash video presentation?’ They still have to

demonstrate that they know the material. Changing how they do it is the big step.”

Offering students alternatives for completing assignments is just one aspect of the 21st century classroom, a place that actively engages students by using technology—from interactive whiteboards to digital cameras—as tools to teach and inspire. The 21st century classroom will find some students making a video instead

of writing a term paper. Virtual field trips will take them to an art museum on the other side of the world. And if their high school doesn’t offer a particular advanced placement class? No worries: They can take the class online.

Computers have been in schools for more than two decades. But it takes more than equipment to transform schools for the future. Michael Speziale MS ’78, dean of Wilkes University’s College of Graduate and Professional Studies, says more is required.

“Computers have had little, if any, effect on transforming our classrooms because they haven’t been used effectively,” Speziale says. Classrooms of the 21st century, he explains, must reflect the way members of the millennial generation—those born between 1982 and 2000—think. “They multitask, they collaborate, they live, breathe and work in social networks. And there is a whole body of research that addresses how these students learn and how to reach them,” he states. “Then they come to school, and we ask them to park the technology at the door.” The way to teach them, he explains, is to use a variety of media that engage them in learning collaboratively.

The key to transforming schools is transforming teaching methods to incorporate the wide variety of digital and online tools available. Helping educators learn how to do that is the focus of several Wilkes University master’s degree programs in teacher education. One of those programs—21st Century Teaching and Learning—starts by helping teachers understand why change is necessary.

“We tell them that they’re not doing something wrong: The students have changed,” says Kathleen Makuch, program coordinator and a former school superintendent. Their students,



“Chalk boards and worksheets aren't preparing our students for the world in which they will perform.”

Left: A computer is always close at hand for Pamela Oliveira, a teacher in the Wyoming Valley West Middle School in Kingston, Pa., and a student in Wilkes' master's degree program in instructional media.
PHOTO BY BRUCE WELLER

Below: Jim Kotz '90 MS'92 demonstrates the use of an interactive whiteboard as a technology coach in the Lackawanna Trail School District.
PHOTO COURTESY JIM KOTZ

she explains, are “digital natives”—a term coined by e-learning guru Marc Prensky to describe youngsters who have never known a world without the Internet and cell phones. Teachers are “digital immigrants” who have had to learn the equivalent of a second language.

Gone are the days of lecturing by the teacher. For digital natives, Makuch explains, “project-based learning” is the key. “Teachers are the facilitators of learning. They set up projects and the students do the learning.”

The need for change drew Pamela Oliveira, a teacher at the Wyoming Valley West Middle School, to enroll in Wilkes' instructional media program. “Chalk boards and worksheets aren't preparing our students for the world in which they will perform,” Oliveira says.

Jim Kotz '90 MS'92, focuses on helping teachers master the tools in his role as technology coach for the Lackawanna Trail School District in Factoryville, Pa. “Newer teachers have been using the technology all along. For experienced teachers, it's a matter of finding the time to incorporate it into their lesson plans,” Kotz says.



Once they do, many become advocates. He cites one veteran science teacher who “jumped right in” and made lessons interactive. For example, students in his classroom study anatomy by placing organs in a digital human body.

The assignment to create a model of the solar system still has a place in the digital universe. Using simulated modeling, students can build the solar system, set the planets in motion and watch them orbit the sun. Barbara Moran '84 MS'88 and Victoria Glod MS'91, program coordinators for Wilkes' classroom technology and instructional technology graduate programs, can identify dozens of such resources. Technology can be especially helpful in teaching challenging concepts.

“Sometimes the concept of slope can be difficult for students to understand,” Glod explains. “If they take digital pictures of roofs with various pitch and then use Google SketchUp to outline the height and width of the roof line, they can calculate the slope of the roof.”

And for those who fear that technology is making education more impersonal—Moran disagrees.

“It's getting more personal,” she states. “Students can be online with their peers from New York to California and collaborate with them on a project. Twitter, Facebook, Web cams—here are endless options for being connected.”

LEARN MORE ON THE WEB



Learn more about online learning tools and the classroom of the 21st century:

- <http://course.wilkes.edu/web20>
- <http://school.discoveryeducation.com/schrockguides>
- www.kathyschrock.net
- www.iste.org

Music Alumni in Tune at Spring Concert



Music alumni came back to campus on April 25 and 26 to perform in the annual spring concert and to catch up with each other thanks to the collaborative efforts of Assistant Professor Philip G. Simon and the Office of Alumni Relations. Twenty alumni reunited under the direction of guest conductors Ray Nutaitis '62 and Terry Zipay. Photos of the weekend are available at: <http://community.wilkes.edu/band>.

Pictured above, from left, are David Cooper '74, Philip Herfort '69, Donald Williams '76, Ray Nutaitis '62, Ethel Shannon Sherman '73, Clark Hamman '72, and Mark Dubik '76.
PHOTO COURTESY OF ETHEL SHANNON SHERMAN '73



2009 Alumni Scholarship honoree Helen Ralston '52 and Wilkes President Tim Gilmour show off the award presented at the annual scholarship dinner held April 25 at the Henry Student Center. Alumni gathered to honor Ralston for her contributions and accomplishments. Recognized for her heart of blue and gold, she still brings the Wilkes family together and regularly leads the alma mater and National Anthem at University functions.

MEET LAURA CARDINALE '72, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Education

I hold a bachelor's degree in economics from Wilkes University and completed post-graduate work in economics at Northeastern University in Boston.

Career

My current position is vice president-finance and business planning at Verizon. I began my career at New England Telephone Company and have held positions in marketing, finance and strategic planning there and at Bell Atlantic and Verizon corporations.

Favorite Wilkes Memory

My favorite academic memories include multiple walks a day (usually in the cold!) to Parrish Hall, where all of the business, finance and economics classes were held at that time. I credit the small classes and excellent faculty with the high-quality education I received. From a social perspective, my favorite

Wilkes memory is life at Sturdevant Hall, with fond memories of fabulous friendships and camaraderie as well as great parties.

How did you get involved with Alumni Association?

Four years ago a friend and former classmate contacted me and asked if I would be interested in becoming a member of the Alumni Association Board. I became aware of the great work that was being done to transform the post-graduation relationships between the University and alumni.

What is your vision for the Alumni Association Board?

My vision is straightforward: to strengthen the bond between alumni and the University.



NEW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

The following alumni joined the board in May:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Jef Bauman '09 | Kristin Hake Klemish '04 |
| Cynthia Charnetski '97 | Nick Koch '12 |
| JJ Fadden '98 | Ruth McDermott-Levy '82 |
| Roya Fahmy '83 | Anita Mucciolo '78 |
| Jill Kalariya '10 | |

Newly elected Alumni Association officers, from left: Fred Demech '61, first vice president; Laura Cardinale '72, president; Rosemary LaFratte '93 MBA'97, second vice president.
PHOTO BY LISA REYNOLDS



Alumni Homecoming Weekend 2009: Oct. 9-11 The Legend Continues...

Relive Wilkes memories and make new ones at Homecoming! Last year 1,000 alumni and friends were back on campus to celebrate. Enjoy events all weekend long:

- Tailgate Tent and football game vs. Lebanon Valley
- 10th Anniversary Celebration of the pharmacy program
- Young alumni Tent Festival on Saturday evening
- Running Club-sponsored 5K
- Parade through downtown Wilkes-Barre
- Gatherings for Doane, Weckesser and Gore Hall alumni, field hockey alumnae and many more
- Ralston Alumni Golf Tournament at Irem Country Club
- Celebrate your reunion!

CELEBRATE YOUR REUNION!

If you graduated in **1949, 1959, 1969, 1984, 1999** or **2004**, don't miss out on your class reunion!

Find out more and register online today! wilkes.edu/homecoming



QUESTIONS?

Contact the Office of Alumni Relations at **(800) WILKES-U Ext. 7787** or at alumni@wilkes.edu.



PHARMACY PROGRAM 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Come back to campus to get together with faculty members, reconnect with friends and meet current students. Planned weekend activities include:

- dinner on Saturday night
- reception with LKS, Kappa Psi
- continuing education opportunity
- events throughout Homecoming Weekend

For more information on the Pharmacy Program's 10th Anniversary Celebration, check out The Colonel Connection, <http://community.wilkes.edu/pharmacy> or contact the Office of Alumni Relations at **(800) WILKES-U Ext. 7787** or e-mail alumni@wilkes.edu.

Above: Members of the first Pharmacy School graduating class. PHOTO FROM WILKES ARCHIVES

1963

Philip Siegel has accepted the position of Peter S. Knox III distinguished chair in accounting at Augusta State University. He was on the accounting faculty at Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, and was to begin his new position in August 2009.

1965

Bill Schwab and his wife, Donna, will be married 30 years in December 2009. They spent their careers working in

education in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District. Bill retired as principal of Coughlin High School in 2002, and Donna retired in 2004. Now they are traveling as much as they can. They have spent a month driving around Alaska, cruised the Greek Isles, taken the old American Orient Express train from Idaho to New Mexico, and driven snowmobiles through northern Quebec.

1968

Helen Dugan Worth, director of the Office of Communications and Public Affairs at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, has been named to the laboratory's principal professional staff. The appointment recognizes the highest professional stature and is equivalent to achieving a tenured faculty appointment. She led media relations for such programs as the near-earth asteroid rendezvous

mission that landed the first spacecraft on an asteroid. She lives in Columbia, Md.

1970

Kenneth Gordon recently retired after more than 38 years as an analytical chemist with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. He lives in Philadelphia with his wife, Karen. They just celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary. The couple have a daughter, Jill, age 29.

Voda Turns Past into Prose

When Mary Beth Kennedy Voda '66 retired from teaching English at Wyalusing Valley Area High School, it was her husband who suggested she rediscover her passion for writing. A mother of two grown children with an English degree from Wilkes, Voda had been waiting for an opportunity to write about "interesting people who have done interesting things with their lives." For Voda, those interesting people look a lot like family.



In her book *From Shoebox to Saltbox*, Voda described "a young family's love affair with an old saltbox house." The family is her own. She wrote about her struggle as a city girl adjusting to country life and the challenges of home renovation. "With two kids at home and my husband working, we tore that house apart and put it back together," she says. Why take on such a challenge? "It needed us as much as we needed it," she explains.

Another success for Voda was an *American History* magazine article titled "A War in Letters." It recounted the experience of Voda's father, World War II Marine Corps Pvt. Tom Kennedy, during the battle of Iwo Jima. The article has led to multiple speaking engagements for the author throughout the Northeast.

Voda has published several other articles, including one written for *Pennsylvania Heritage* magazine on political activist Cornelia Bryce Pinchot, wife of Pennsylvania's 1922 governor, Gifford Pinchot. She also wrote and performed a 22-part radio series on Pennsylvania women for local Public Broadcasting affiliate station WVIA. Her inspiration, she says, comes from family, particularly her father and grandmother. "I come from a family of storytellers," she says.

Voda continues her love affair with words and is currently working on a children's book, *Dixie Smiles*. She makes her home in Wyalusing, Pa., with her husband, John.

— **By Rachel Strayer**

Mary Beth Kennedy Voda '66 poses with an edition of *From Shoebox to Saltbox* at an author's event. PHOTO COURTESY TONY MUSSARI

Nicholas Inducted Into National Teachers Hall of Fame

Les Nicholas '81, a teacher at Wyoming Valley West Middle School, was prepared to watch an Earth Day program with his class on April 22, 2009, in the school's auditorium. When he arrived he found the entire school waiting—as well as his family and a representative from the National Teachers Hall of Fame.

Nicholas was selected as one of the best teachers in America and was one of five teachers inducted to the Hall of Fame this year. The awards ceremony took place in June at Emporia, Kan. This is not the first award bestowed upon Nicholas. His other honors include being named a 2005 Disney Teacher, the 2004 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year, 2005 University of Pennsylvania Educator of the Year, and a 2008 First Freedom Award winner.

Nicholas graduated from Wilkes College with a triple major in English, German and education. He went on to earn his master's degree in educational leadership from the University of Pennsylvania in 1985. He has worked in the Wyoming Valley West School District teaching journalism, advanced journalism, broadcast journalism and English for the last 28 years.

Lindsey O'Brien, a former student, describes the teaching style that has made Nicholas an award-winner: "Mr. Nick's industrious work ethic never fails



to seep into the habits of his students. Because one of Mr. Nick's many catch phrases is 'Make it first class or third, but never second,' students quickly realize they cannot cut corners because if something is worth doing, it is worth making excellent."

Nicholas says that he emphasizes involving students in the learning process.

"Often we educators are imposing too many restrictions on them. I find that if the kids make decisions, then things like discipline become non-issues. You've got to be a little clever in how you do that," he says.

Nicholas will be permanently honored with a plaque at the Wyoming Valley West Middle School and with a display at the National Teachers Hall of Fame Museum, in Emporia.

— **By Andrew Seaman, Wilkes University senior**

Les Nicholas will deliver the first lecture in the 2009-2010 "Issues in Education" speakers series on Sept. 17 at 4:45 p.m. at Wilkes University. His topic will be "Becoming a Teacher."


1972

Karen (Baldoni) Bernardi joined the real estate firm Prudential Poggi & Jones. She had a successful 33-year career in education as an elementary teacher before graduating from the Pennsylvania Real Estate Academy and obtaining her real estate license. She lives in West Pittston, Pa., with her husband, Raymond, and has three sons.

1980


Shepard Willner completed all of the requirements for the Toastmasters International Distinguished Toastmasters Award. This distinction, presented in the form of a medallion, was given at the May 2, 2009, District 27 Spring Conference at George Mason University. The award is achieved by only 2 percent of all members.

1984

Reunion Oct. 9-11  **Dr. Daniel J. Glunk** received the Susquehanna Council of Boy Scouts of America 2009 Distinguished Citizen Award. The award honored his achievements, which include being the first Pennsylvania Medical Society president from Lycoming County in more than 100 years.

1985

Timothy Williams successfully defended his doctoral dissertation in educational leadership at Immaculata University. He is the director of instruction for the Manheim Township School District. He resides in Lancaster County, Pa., with his three children.

1989
Reunion Oct. 9-11 

Robert Faille graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a master's degree in technology management. The program is co-sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania and Penn Engineering.

Ronald E. McHale Jr. of Mountain Top, Pa., recently joined First National Community Bank as a senior financial consultant. He has 20 years experience in the bank brokerage industry. He resides in Mountain Top with his wife, Donna, and their son, Tyler.

1990
John Paul Corcoran Jr. has been appointed an adjunct professor of law at Duquesne University School of Law in Pittsburgh.

Keith Silligman has been appointed to the newly created role of executive director with the Omaha

Ambulatory Surgery Center and MidWest Pain Clinics in Omaha, Neb. Keith, wife Nancy, and their two children, Ashley and Christopher, have lived happily in Omaha for the last eight years.

1991
Victor James Mosca married Denise Diane Gilbert on May 10, 2008. He is self-employed. The couple reside in Kingston Township, Pa.


1996
Karen (Bednarczyk) Cowan and her husband, Scott, announce the birth of their second daughter, Eden Elizabeth, born on March 4. Eden is welcomed by her big sister, Grace Evelyn. The family resides in Winter Garden, Fla.

John Decker and his wife, Mandy, announce the birth of their first child, Luke Charles, on April 24, 2009. The couple reside in Orlando, Fla.


LOOKING FOR CAREER ADVICE?

Are you thinking of changing careers or facing a transition due to the current economic situation? Wilkes is here to help. There are a number of resources available to alumni, including the services of the Wilkes Career Services Office.

Find out what's available to you at http://community.wilkes.edu/career_resources.



1997
Meredith (Cabrey) Nascimento and her husband, Christian, welcomed their second son, S. Christian Jr., on March 27, 2008.

1999
Reunion Oct. 9-11 
William John Weidner married Terri Ann Gallagher on Sept. 6, 2008. He is employed as a certified public accountant by Decker Accounting LLC, Wilkes-Barre. They reside in Hanover Township, Pa.


2000
Laura Burns married Daniel DiMarzo on Nov. 1, 2008, in Westport, Conn. The couple resides in East Norriton, Pa., where Laura works as a marketing director for a telecommunications company. She is the daughter of **Robert Burns Jr.** '82 and Wilkes employee Anita Burns.

Jennifer Kennedy and Nicholas Wadas were married on Aug. 23, 2008. The groom is employed by Allied Services as an occupational therapist and by Wilkes University as

the head cross country coach. They reside in Dallas, Pa.

2002
Ronald Metcho is an associate attorney with the law firm of Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Goggin and Coleman. He resides in Philadelphia.

2003
Kyla Campbell-Bubb is a reporter and weekend morning anchor for WBRE in the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton television market. She married Nathan Bubb on Oct. 13, 2007. The couple reside in Drums, Pa.

2004
Reunion Oct. 9-11 
Emily Bly graduated from the University of North Texas in December 2008 with a master of music degree in musicology. While at the University of North Texas, Bly was a member of Pi Kappa Lambda honor society in music.

2005
Stephanie Dickert and **Joshua Hall** were married on June 6, 2009. Joshua is an officer in the U.S. Air Force

STRIKE UP THE BAND



Any member of the Wilkes community, student or alumnus, is invited to play with the Wilkes Pep Band at home games, Homecoming and other fall activities around campus. Rehearsals are **Monday afternoons, 4 to 5:30 p.m., and home game Saturdays, 9:30 to 11 a.m.** Pep Band shirts and jackets are provided, as well as brunch after rehearsal on home game days. Call Philip Simon, (570) 408-4437, for more details.

Butchko Influences Community Revitalization



Butchko appears at a property dedication for a senior housing development constructed by NeighborWorks of the Blackstone River Valley, a region encompassing parts of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Michael Butchko '96 has a hand in rejuvenating distressed communities across the United States through his work with NeighborWorks America. He serves as deputy director of field operations for the Washington, D.C.-based organization. As a nonprofit organization created by Congress, NeighborWorks distributes funds to create opportunities for people to live in affordable homes. NeighborWorks also provides technical assistance and training for community-based revitalization efforts.

Butchko began working in the public policy office of the organization in 2000. Recently, his job has given him first-hand experience with the foreclosure crisis impacting the housing industry. NeighborWorks administers the National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling program authorized by Congress.

Through May 31, 2009, more than 405,000 homeowners have received foreclosure counseling through the program. According to Butchko, in many of the communities impacted by NeighborWorks support, the local organizations started to see foreclosures rise in their communities before anyone else.

Butchko graduated from Wilkes with a degree in political science. He went on to earn a master's degree from the University of Rochester in public policy analysis. He says Wilkes and the mentoring he received from faculty like political science professor Thomas Baldino prepared him well for a career that has given him a front-row seat in the political arena.

Butchko has had the opportunity to see the complete political process in action. In the past, he was charged with making his organization's case in front of Congress in order to continue receiving funds.

He says working with members of Congress was a dream come true for a political science major.

"Working with Congress was always exhilarating. It's akin to being a sports fan: You know the players, and you're just thrilled to be in that action," says Butchko.

He also says that it is great to work for an organization like NeighborWorks.

"NeighborWorks America has a commitment to nonprofits across the U.S. that assist America's most underserved communities," he says. "I'm proud to have spent the last nine years of my professional career working for such a terrific organization."

— **By Andrew Seaman, Wilkes University senior**

and will be transferring to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, in July of this year. Stephanie is currently working on a master's in counseling with the expectation of completion in fall 2009.

Bridget McHale MBA'07 married **Josh Turel Pharm.D. '07** on May 9, 2009. Bridget is employed by Wilkes University as a coordinator in the Sidhu School of Business. Josh is employed by PharMerica pharmacy as a staff pharmacist. They reside in Dallas, Pa.

2006

Jami Lynn Shuleski and **Matthew John Koch '02** were married Sept. 27, 2008. She is employed as a software developer by Keystone Automotive Operations, Exeter, Pa. The couple reside in Forty Fort, Pa.

2008

Joseph Magyar married **Nina Marie Dumas** on Aug. 30, 2008. He is employed at the State Correctional Institution at Mahanoy, Frackville, Pa. They reside in Wyoming, Pa.

Graduate Students 2001

Raymond Bernardi, Pharm.D., joined the real estate firm Prudential Poggi & Jones. He is a licensed pharmacist and a realtor. He lives in Duryea, Pa., with his wife, Jessica, and son, Dominic.

Shanna Lee (Henninger) Dawson, Pharm.D., and her husband, James, would like to announce the births of their two children. Kevin Francis Dawson was born Oct. 31, 2006, and Mallory Jean Dawson was born Feb. 8, 2009. They reside in Nazareth, Pa.

Kevin Michael Polifko, Pharm.D., married **Susan Elizabeth Pellock '05, Pharm.D.**, on Aug. 16, 2008. She is employed as a lieutenant in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Office of Regulatory Affairs,

Harrisburg, Pa. He is employed as a pharmacy supervisor for CVS, Harrisburg, Pa. They reside in Harrisburg.

2006

Jennifer Lee Bernick, MS, married Jeffrie Edward Welby on June 28, 2008. Jennifer is in her final year of coursework

From Accounting to the FBI

From a young age, Karen Bednarczyk Cowan '96 always dreamed of working in law enforcement. So when it came time to pursue a major at Wilkes University she chose ... accounting?

"As a high school student I researched the type of people the FBI would hire, and their top candidates at the time were people with accounting degrees," explains Cowan, an intelligence analyst on the Joint Terrorism Task Force in the FBI's Tampa, Fla., division.

With her accounting degree and minors in finance and management in hand, Cowan went on to earn a master's degree in educational leadership and policy studies from Virginia Tech. "The FBI rarely hires young adults fresh out of college," Cowan says. "I remember being told on my first day at the FBI Academy that one in 12,000 people who apply to the FBI are offered a position."

On the Joint Terrorism Task Force, Cowan became a member of the FBI's Evidence Response Team. She identifies documents, collects and preserves evidence supporting FBI cases. "The ERT provides assistance in any area of evidence collection management from traditional search warrants to complex crime scenes. As a member of this team, I received a high level of training to ensure evidence is collected in such a manner that it can be introduced in courts throughout the United States and the world. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to work a number of warrants and crime scenes, including those involving missing children."



Karen Cowan's accounting degree was a stepping stone to an FBI career.
PHOTO BY SCOTT COWAN

The best part of her career, she says, is the uncertainty of the tasks each day will bring. She often has to reprioritize her workload quickly. That's also the most challenging aspect.

Cowan lives in Winter Garden, Fla., with husband Scott and daughters Grace and Eden.

— By Shannon Curtin '07 MBA'09

for her doctorate in educational leadership. She teaches fourth grade in Lake Lehman School District. They live in Dallas, Pa., with their black lab, Marley.

2007

Craig Czury, MA, is the author of “Kitchen of Conflict Resolution,” a collection of poetry published by FootHills Publishing.

2009

Kerrie Stephanik, MS, and Seaton Angley were married on June 21, 2008. She is an English teacher at Hazleton Area High School. The couple reside in Conyngham, Pa.

In Memoriam

1945

Dr. Matthew M. Mischinski of Pinehurst, Pa., died May 9, 2009. He was a physician and a diplomate of the American Orthopedic Society and the American Society of Emergency Physicians. He was a graduate of Wyoming Seminary in Kingston, Pa., Bucknell University Junior College and Temple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia. He served his country during World War II as a first lieutenant in the Army Air Corps. He was a B-17 pilot and completed 35 missions over Europe.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Eleanor

Mischinski; sons, Richard Mischinski, Austin, Texas, Paul Mischinski, Winston-Salem, N.C., Mark Mischinski, Telford, Pa., and Carl Mischinski, Indian Trail, N.C.; sister, Loretta Dunn, State College, Pa.; eleven granddaughters and one grandson.

1948

William J. Rule of Exeter, Pa., died May 25, 2009. He attended Temple University, Wilkes College, and Legion College at Indiantown Gap. He enlisted in the Army Signal Corps in December 1942 and was honorably discharged in 1946. He has been a legionnaire for over 60 years and was employed at Foster Wheeler Corporation for 25 years.

He is survived by his daughters, Linda T. Cook, Alamo, Calif.; and Sherry L. Emerhaw, Dallas, Pa.; a grandson and several nieces and nephews.

John Francis Washko of Morrisville, Pa., died June 5, 2009. He was a veteran of World War II, having served in both the Army and Army Air Corps. He saw active duty in the European theater and was awarded the Purple Heart. He graduated from Bucknell University Junior College with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. Washko was employed at General Motors in Ewing,

N.J., for 45 years, retiring as a senior mechanical engineer.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Florence Kozik Washko; his daughter Susan, Charlottesville, Va.; son John, Canton, Conn.; daughter Judy; and a granddaughter.

1949

The Rev. Michael Mokris of Kingston, Pa., died April 22, 2009. He graduated from Bucknell University Junior College and received a master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He was a World War II veteran, serving in the U.S. Army. Mokris graduated from Saints Cyril and Methodius Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, Pa. He was ordained into the holy priesthood in 1961, serving in eastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania. He retired from SS. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church, Lopez, Pa.

Surviving is his sister Margaret Jankik, Miami, Fla.

Cyprian Rapczynski of Toms River, N.J., died on April 29, 2009. He was a graduate of Bucknell University Junior College and was employed as the vice president of exports at Associated Metals and Minerals Corp., New York City. He was a Navy veteran of World War II. Surviving are his wife, the former Romaine Smar, and son Allen.

1952

Adeline ‘Addie’ Stein of Yuma, Ariz., died May 15, 2009. She attended Wilkes College from 1950 through 1952. She is survived by her husband of 56 years, Carroll “Bert” Stein Jr., Yuma, Ariz.; a daughter, Linda Fallert, Pine Valley, Calif.; a son, Jeffery Stein, Yuma, Ariz.; sisters, Christine Stankevicz, Luzerne, Pa. and Betty Kazokas, Courtdale, Pa.

1953

Robert “Barry” Jordan of Oceanside, Calif., died April 17, 2009. He attended Wilkes College, Elizabethtown College and Lincoln Chiropractic College, where he received his doctor of chiropractic degree in 1954. He interned at Spears Chiropractic Hospital in Denver, Colo.; spent two years in the medical corps of the U.S. Army; and entered private practice in Wilkes-Barre. He later began a career in sales. After moving to California, he owned a roofing business until his retirement.

He is survived by his brothers, Wayne Jordan, Binghamton, N.Y.; Donald Jordan, New Castle, Del.; sister Joyce Jordan, Hummels Wharf, Pa.; children Kimberly Kenyon of Maryland, Brenda Jordan of California, Susan LaNunziata of Exeter, Pa., Scott Jordan of Thornhurst, Pa., Brett Jordan of California, Gregg Jordan of Florida and 10 grandchildren.

1957

John S. Klimchak of Hanover Township, Pa., died March 16, 2009. He was a World War II veteran, serving in the U.S. Coast Guard and receiving numerous medals for his service. He was a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5267 and a 4th Degree Knight in Our Lady of Czestochowa Council 3987. Klimchak worked at the American Chain and Cable Company, Wilkes-Barre, and was a member of the United Steel Workers of America. He also worked at the Highway Trailer Company, Hazleton, Pa., as personnel manager.

Surviving are son John Klimchak, Waldorf, Md.; daughter Pat LaPorte, Lancaster, Pa; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and sister, Josephine, Berlin, Md.

Dr. Anthony W. Kutz of Dallas, Pa., died April 22, 2009. He was a veteran of the Korean Conflict, serving with the U.S. Army in the military police and received his bachelor's degree in biology from Wilkes College. He furthered his studies at Temple University, graduating from Temple Dental School in 1961. He was a dentist for more than 45 years. He is survived by his wife of almost 52 years, the former Pauline Pelczar; daughter Mary Murphy, Mountain Top, Pa.; son Dr. John Anthony, Clarks Summit, Pa.; and five grandchildren.

Gerald B. Lefkowitz of Baltimore, Md., died March 22, 2009. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran of World War II, serving as a staff sergeant with the Eighth Air Force. He was co-owner of The Pittston Corset Shop, founded by his father in 1929.

He is survived by his wife, Dolores (Rubin) Lefkowitz; children Diane Celmer and Susan Bellomy, both of Baltimore, David Lefkowitz, Oregon, Marc Lefkowitz, Manchester, Md.; brother Saul "Pinky" Lefkowitz; seven granddaughters; and one great-grandson.

Bernard Rubin of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., formerly of Wilkes-Barre, died March 29, 2009. He served in the U.S. Army and was self-employed as an accountant prior to retiring. He was a member of the former United Orthodox Synagogue, Congregation Ohav Zedek and other civic and religious organizations.

He is survived by his beloved wife, the former Helen Schainuck; loving children William Rubin, Dr. Keith Rubin, Davida Rubin Baker, Faye Rubin Orefice; and six grandchildren.

1958

Dorothy L. Owens of Kingston, Pa., died May 27, 2009. She graduated from Wilkes and was employed as a teacher at the Franklin Street Elementary School, Plymouth,

Pa., until her retirement in 1975. She was a member of the Holy Family Parish, Luzerne, Pa. and the Retired Teachers Association.

In addition to her husband, William, of 42 years, she is survived by son Mark; sisters Carol Batrone, Kingston, Pa., and Barbara Swartwood, Wilkes-Barre; and brother Edward Thomas Jr., Plymouth, Pa.

1962

George Gavales of New York City, N.Y., died April 4, 2009. He is survived by his loving companion of 17 years, Jacalyn Brown; his daughter, Lisa Gavales-Connors; granddaughter, Linda Alice; and brother Emmanuel.

Ruth M. (Connelly) Walker of Wilkes-Barre died May 21, 2009. She was a graduate of King's County Hospital School of Nursing and Wilkes. She worked first as a nurse and later as an associate administrator of long-term care for the Pennsylvania State Department of Health.

Survivors are her husband, William Walker; stepchildren, Jeff and Wendy Walker (Miller); and two grandchildren.

1971

Ronald James Kamage, Esq., of Inkerman, Pa., died on May 16, 2009. He was a graduate of Wilkes College and Widener Law School. He was in private law practice in Kingston, Pa.

He is survived by his wife, the former Darlene Wilde, Inkerman, Pa.; and brother, George Kamage, Pittston, Pa.

1973

Marlene C. Zvirblis of Mountain Top, Pa., died March 25, 2009. She was employed at the United Penn Bank, Wilkes-Barre, and worked for the federal government. Zvirblis was a member of the Gold Prospectors Association of America, Susquehanna Chapter; the Delaware Valley Paleontological Society; and the Mid-America Paleontology Society. She was also a member of the Polish Women's Alliance and St. Jude's Church, Mountain Top, Pa.

Surviving are her husband, Anthony G. Zvirblis; and a brother Richard Strobel, Granada Hills, Calif.

1977

John J. Sharkowicz of Wanamie, Pa., died April 18, 2009. He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army, having served from 1956 to 1958. He was employed as an industrial engineer with the Office of Surface Mining in Wilkes-Barre from 1977 to 2006. He was a member of Corpus Christi Parish/St. Adalbert's Church, Glen Lyon, Pa.

Surviving is a sister, Wanda Stralka, Oxon Hill, Md.

Remembering Charles N. Burns Sr., M.D. '37

Charles N. Burns Sr., M.D., of Kingston, Pa., died April 21, 2009. During a long and distinguished medical career, he also played a significant role at Wilkes University as alumnus, friend and mentor to both students and faculty in the biology department.

In 1987, Wilkes University named the campus bell tower in his honor, as well as presenting him with an honorary degree. A scholarship is also given annually in his name at Wilkes. His positive influence was felt in many other ways.

Michael Steele, Fenner chair of research biology, remembers his contributions and professional leadership.

"Dr. Burns was a superb mentor to many of us in the biology department at Wilkes, regularly sharing his passion for medicine and his research on prostate cancer, and frequently involving our faculty and students in these endeavors," Steele says. "In fact, many of the students who worked with him followed in his footsteps by pursuing careers in medicine or medical research. He was a dear friend of the biology community at Wilkes and will be deeply missed."

He was a graduate of Wyoming Seminary class of 1933; Bucknell University Junior College, class of 1937; and Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, Pa., class of 1941. He interned at Mercy Hospital, Wilkes-Barre, where he met his wife, Mary Agnes Quigley, R.N. Drafted into the Army Medical Corps at 28, he participated in the Battle of the Bulge as a battalion surgeon with the 104th Infantry Division. He was awarded the Bronze Star

and separated from the Army in 1946, after attaining the rank of major.

In 1950, he became chief of urology at Crile VA Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. Returning to Wilkes-Barre in 1953, he joined his uncle, Peter P. Mayock, M.D., in the practice of urology. In 1981, his son, Dr. Charles N. Burns Jr., became affiliated and they practiced together until the retirement of Dr. Burns Sr. in 2006. Prior to retirement, he was involved in basic research on prostate cancer at Wilkes University.

Linda Gutierrez, assistant professor of biology at Wilkes, recalled her first meeting with Burns as a colleague in cancer research.

"I met Dr. Burns in 2005, and I still remember how his eloquence and bright persona impressed me at first," says Gutierrez. "I shared with him the belief and passion in finding a cure for cancer through basic and translational research." She continues, "Dr. Burns was a high-caliber physician, a sharp researcher and remarkable mentor for all of us here at the department of biology."

He is survived by his son, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.



The late Charles N. Burns Sr., M.D.'37, left, was mentor and friend to generations of students and faculty. He is pictured with former Wilkes President Christopher Breiseth at the 1987 dedication of the Burns Bell Tower named in his honor.

1980

Bette Lynn Gardner of Tunkhannock, Pa., died June 2, 2009. She was employed as a social worker at St. Michael's School until retirement. She was a member of the Tunkhannock United Methodist Church, the Tunkhannock Borough Council, and the Tunkhannock Community Ambulance Association, serving as an emergency medical technician and board secretary. She was also an EMT and CPR instructor for the American Red Cross and Emergency Medical Services.

She is survived by her husband of 45 years, Bruce Gardner; sons David Gardner, Manchester, N.H.; Stephen Gardner, Tunkhannock; Paul Gardner, Courtdale, Pa.; daughter Terri Velez, Colorado Springs, Colo.; sister Heidi May King, Cheyenne, Wyo.; eight grandchildren and two great-granddaughters.

1986

John Michael Phillips of Berwick, Pa., died May 17, 2009. He graduated from King's College, Wilkes-Barre, with an associate's degree and a bachelor's degree in business administration. He continued his education at Wilkes University, graduating with a master's degree in business administration. He was the owner and operator of Phillips Financial Services, Berwick.

Surviving are his brother, Peter Phillips, Fort Meyers, Fla.; and sister Carolyn Williams, Aurora, Ohio.

1989

Amanda J. Picketts of Wilkes-Barre passed away March 25, 2009. She was employed by Sallie Mae in Wilkes-Barre. Surviving are her mother, Irene Solonski, Wilkes-Barre; husband David J. Picketts; daughter Avery Picketts; and sister Amy O'Hara, Charlotte, N.C.

Friends of Wilkes

Constance Kline Umphred of Naples, Fla., passed away April 7, 2009. She graduated from Moravian Seminary in 1951 and Wheaton College in 1955. Upon graduation from college, she taught at Dedham Country Day School in Massachusetts. She served on the Union Terrace Parent Teacher Association as president and on the board of trustees of Moravian Academy. She later served on the boards of Muhlenberg College, Wilkes University, Sordoni Art Museum, Allentown Art Museum, Allentown Community Concerts, United Way of Lehigh County, and the Wilkes-Barre YMCA. She was a founding member of Wilkes-Barre's Luzerne Foundation and president of the McCole Foundation.

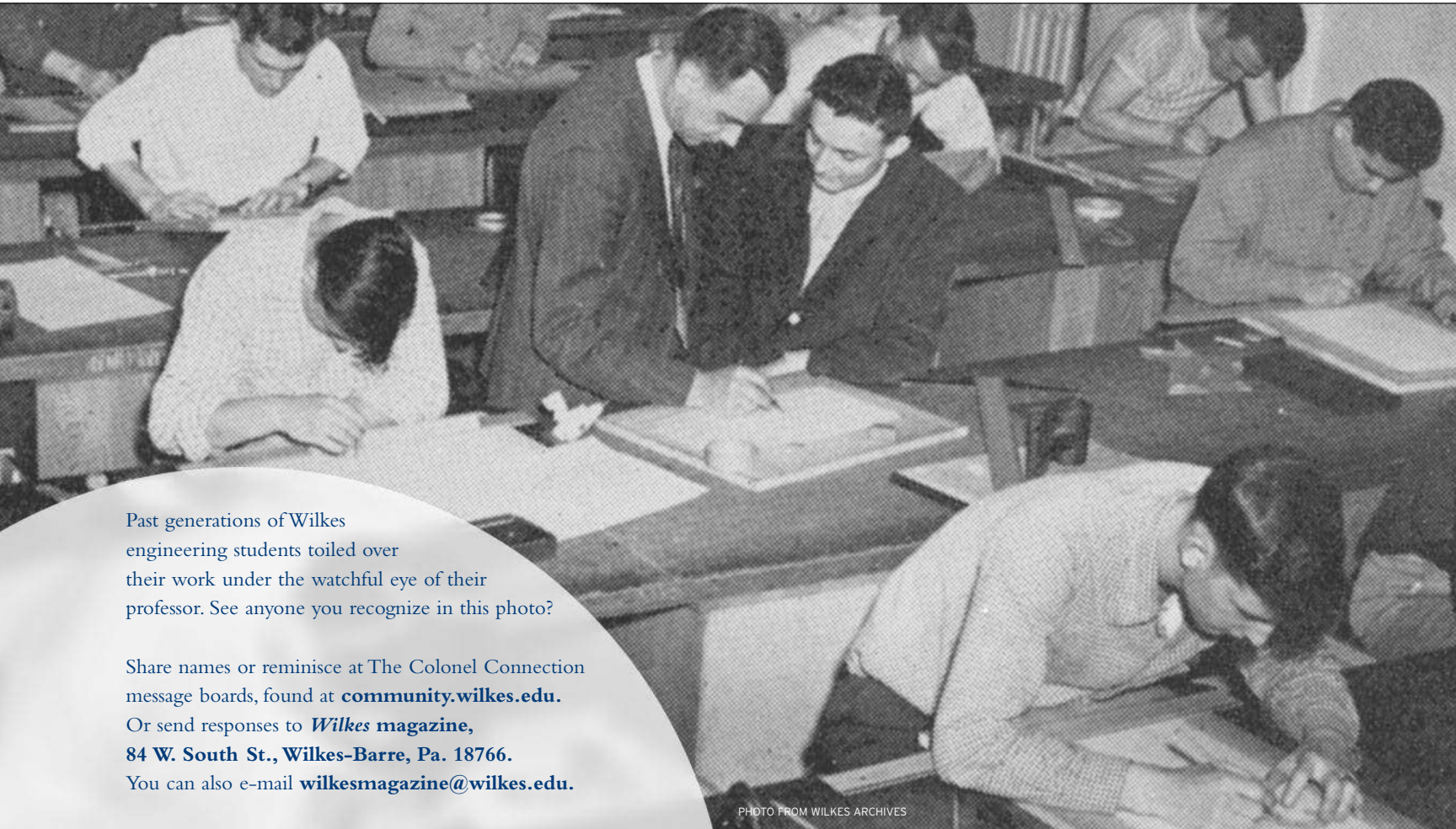
She is survived by her husband, William '52, Naples; sons David W. Leh, Stroudsburg, Pa., and Edward K. Leh, Short Hills, N.J.; daughter, Lorraine Pearson, Basking Ridge, N.J.; and eight grandchildren.



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Past generations of Wilkes engineering students toiled over their work under the watchful eye of their professor. See anyone you recognize in this photo?

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PHOTO FROM WILKES ARCHIVES



Today's Wilkes engineers study cutting-edge technology like robotics— but the mentoring relationship with professors is still central to the learning experience.

PHOTO BY BRUCE WELLER



Wilkes student Ashley Deemie works out on the balcony of her University Towers apartment.
PHOTO BY BRUCE WELLER

calendar of events

September

- 10 John Wilkes Society Annual Dinner, Westmoreland Club, honoring Eugene Roth, Esq.

October

- 1-4 Theatre Production, Dorothy Dickson Dart Center, 8 p.m.; Oct. 4, 2 p.m.
- 8 Allen P. Kirby Lecture in Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, Lawrence Reed, president, Foundation for Economic Education
- 9-11 Homecoming
- 19 Faculty Exhibition 2009, Sordoni Art Gallery. Opening reception, Oct. 25. Through Dec. 13.

November

- 13-15 Musical Theatre Production, Dart Center. Also Nov. 20-22
- 17 Outstanding Leaders Forum, humanitarian Elie Wiesel, 8 p.m., F. M. Kirby Center

December

- 5 Flute Ensemble Concert, Dart Center
- 7 String Ensemble Concert, 7 p.m., Dart Center
- 10 Jazz Orchestra Concert, 8:15 p.m., Dorothy Dickson Dart Center
- 11 Choral Ensembles Christmas Concert at St. Stephen's Church, Wilkes-Barre, 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Civic Band Concert, 3 p.m., Dart Center

For details on times and locations, check

www.wilkes.edu and

The Colonel Connection!

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