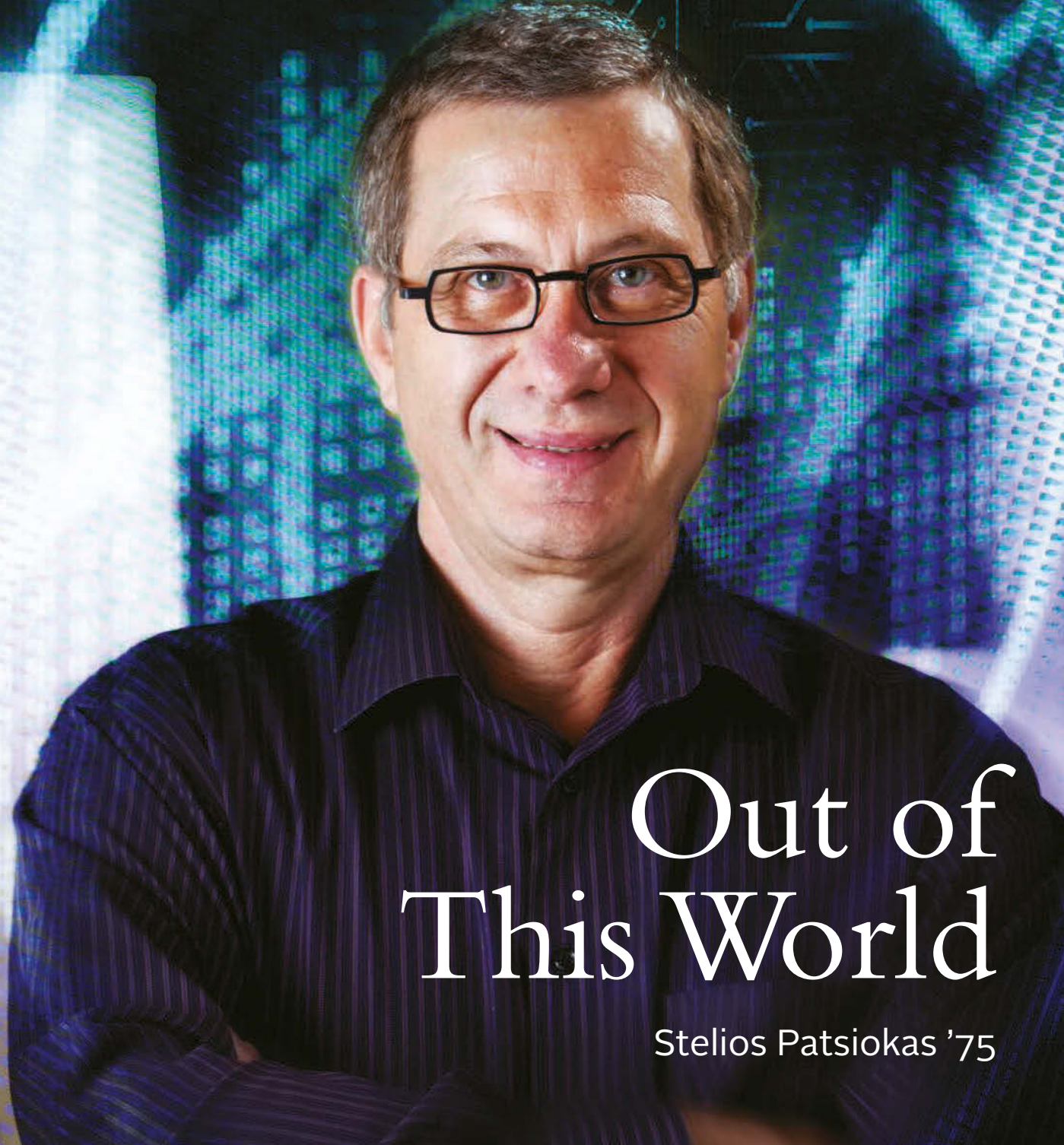


# WILKES

FALL 2013



## Out of This World

Stelios Patsiokas '75

INSIDE: PHOTOS OF THE NEW LAWRENCE AND SALLY COHEN SCIENCE CENTER

## The Unique College Experience That Defines Wilkes

**T**he start of the 2013–2014 academic year—my second year as Wilkes president—began with an occasion to honor the past while moving forward into an exciting future. We named the University archives in honor of Harold Cox, professor emeritus of history and Wilkes' archivist. It was appropriate to start the year recognizing an individual who has been part of Wilkes for a half century and who has preserved precious artifacts from our history.

It was Dr. Cox who first shared with me the idea that Wilkes is an institution truly unique in American higher education. It was formed to answer an educational need in the city of Wilkes-Barre and, through many challenges, has grown and prospered, even when circumstances might have suggested it would not survive. Wilkes continues to occupy a unique place today, a University with an academic and co-curricular program mix of a larger research institution in the intimate setting of a smaller liberal arts college. That mix makes for the one-of-a-kind college experience that we know as a Wilkes education.

Understanding our past provides us with the context for mapping the future. As we move forward to develop a strategic plan for the coming years, six themes have emerged. We will continue to focus on building high-quality curricular and co-curricular programs. In order to do that, we will invest in our people—the faculty and staff who provide a stellar college experience for Wilkes students. Recruiting and retaining talented students will continue to be a priority, as will building the financial strength of the University. Finally, we will develop our campus infrastructure, improving existing facilities and adding new ones. And

we'll continue our commitment to improve downtown Wilkes-Barre, because its success and the success of Wilkes are inextricably linked.

Achieving these goals will require us to tap the spirit of innovation that has always been part of our campus culture. Students will remain at the center of our decision-making. We'll solicit your input, welcome your ideas and keep you informed about our plans for your alma mater.

In all that we do, I want to remember the words of the English poet John Masefield, who wrote, "There are few earthly things more beautiful than a university, a place where those who hate ignorance may strive to know,

where those who perceive truth may strive to make others see." Maintaining and growing the beauty—of community, education and spirit—that defines Wilkes is my highest priority in the years ahead.

Thank you for your continued support.



John Stachacz, left, dean of the Farley Library, and President Patrick Leahy unveil the Harold Cox Archives Room at a ceremony this fall. PHOTO BY VICKI MAYK

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

### WILKES MAGAZINE

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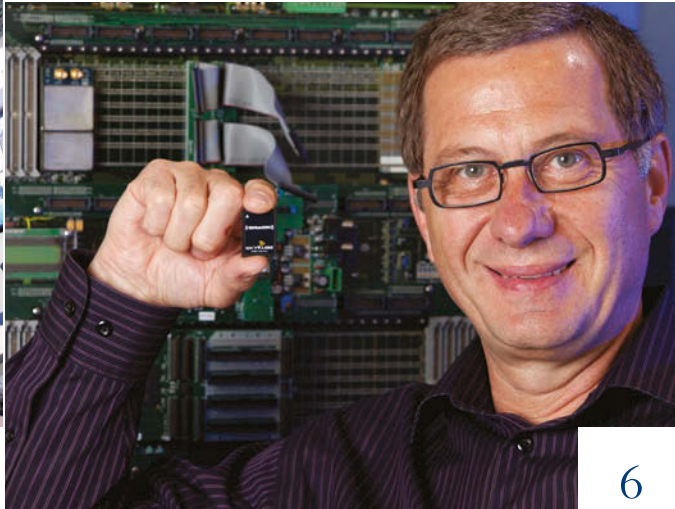
Wilkes University is an independent institution of higher education dedicated to academic and intellectual excellence in the liberal arts, sciences and professional programs. The university provides its students with the experience and education necessary for career and intellectual development as well 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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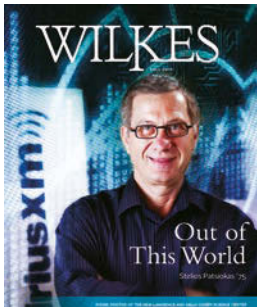


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Stelios Patsiokas '75 stands in the lobby of Sirius XM Satellite Radio, the company he helped launch. PHOTO BY JOHN RICKSEN

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Have a story idea to share?

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Wilkes magazine is available online at [www.wilkes.edu/wilkesmagazineonline](http://www.wilkes.edu/wilkesmagazineonline)



## New Nursing Simulation Center Provides Real-World Environment

Visitors walking into the School of Nursing’s new Clinical Nursing Simulation Center might do a double take. Rooms look more like hospital rooms than a simulated environment.

Joyce Chmil, director of the center now in Stark Learning Center, says, “The new Clinical Nursing Simulation Center was designed based on years of research and tours of simulation laboratories across the country, as well as on student and faculty input. The new CNSC provides opportunities for our students to fully engage in the experiential learning processes needed to develop clinical nursing judgment and enhance clinical performance.”

The patient rooms in the simulation center stress medical-surgical care since that is the primary focus for undergraduate nursing students. One of the patient rooms is set up as a



Nursing student Gemena Williams checks the heartbeat of Cathy Hauze, simulation specialist, in a hospital room in the new simulation center. PHOTO BY VICKI MAYK

critical care suite. This room offers opportunities for the students to learn and practice skills for basic and advanced cardiac support. Another is set up as a high-fidelity pediatric and obstetric suite. Since critical care, pediatrics and obstetrics are considered high-risk areas in hospitals, students sometimes cannot get hands-on experience with real patients. The simulation rooms give students hands-on experiences in a safe, risk-free environment. All the rooms employ life-like manikins that can be programmed with changes to pulse and breathing and to simulate a variety of conditions.

In the center, instructors can observe students interacting with patients via

one-way glass. Exam rooms are outfitted with cameras and microphones that allow the demonstrations in the hospital room and pediatric room to be broadcast to the center’s classroom. The center also includes a computer lab and an apartment to simulate home-health visits.

## Wilkes Named A “High ROI College” by Affordable Colleges Online

Wilkes has been named one of the top 20 Pennsylvania colleges with the greatest lifetime return on investment by the website AffordableCollegesOnline.org. Wilkes is ranked 16th on the list of 81 colleges and universities in the state that offer a good return on a student’s investment in higher education.

Only 81 of more than 400 schools in Pennsylvania made the list. Graduates from these schools enjoy the largest earnings gap between non-degree holders over 30 years, and earn more on average than graduates from other Pennsylvania schools. Wilkes outranks all of its peer institutions in the northeast Pennsylvania region.

“It is heartening to receive this endorsement from Affordable Colleges Online because we have long emphasized the value of a Wilkes education,” says Wilkes President Patrick F. Leahy. “We may not be the low-cost provider in our recruiting market; nor are we the premium price option. But at Wilkes we strive to be the highest-value option.”

## A DIVERSITY OF LANGUAGES

Wilkes new freshmen bring diversity to campus in a variety of ways—including in the number of native languages spoken by members of the class of 2017. In addition to English, members of the freshmen class are fluent in Spanish, Portuguese, Ukrainian, Russian, Polish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Thai, Hindi, Gujarati and Farsi.

## Creative Writing Program Co-Founder and Professor Emeritus J. Michael Lennon Publishes Norman Mailer Biography

J. Michael Lennon, vice president emeritus for academic affairs, professor emeritus of English and co-founder of the graduate creative writing program at Wilkes, has written a comprehensive biography of the late Pulitzer Prize-winning author Norman Mailer. *Norman Mailer: A Double Life* reflects Mailer's dual identities: journalist and activist, devoted family man and notorious philanderer, intellectual and fighter, writer and public figure. It will be released this month by Simon and Schuster.

"I wrote him a letter of support and also passed on some of my theories about his recent nonfiction books..."

— J. Michael Lennon



PHOTO BY  
CURTIS SALONICK

Lennon will read from the book and sign books on Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. in the ballroom of the Henry Student Center.

Lennon describes how he got to know Mailer. "In 1971, right after he got into a tussle with Gore Vidal on the *Dick Cavett Show*, I wrote him a letter of support and also passed on some of my theories about his recent nonfiction books, which were changing the way major events were reported." Mailer was one of the leading voices of the New Journalism during the 1960s. This literary genre is a writing technique that combines fictional story telling with reportage.

After corresponding, they met in fall 1972 at Western Illinois University. "We talked late into the night at a local bar," recalls Lennon, who chairs the *Mailer Review* board. "And every summer after that, my family and I visited him in Maine or Provincetown, Mass." Over time, they grew closer as Lennon began editing books by and about Mailer. In 1986, after reading Lennon's book *Critical Essays on Norman Mailer*, Mailer asked him to serve as one of his literary executors.

Mailer described his relationship with Lennon in the preface of a bio-bibliography, *Norman Mailer: Works and Days*, written by Lennon and his wife, Donna Pedro Lennon. "Sometimes I think

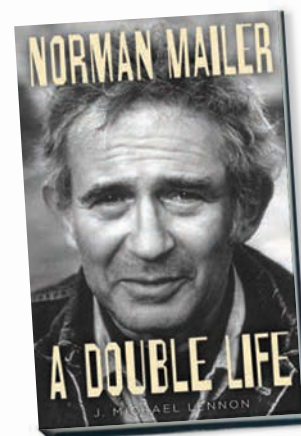
Mike Lennon and I were as designed for each other as some species of American Yin and Yang, as hot dogs, perhaps, and mustard. His talents, his discipline, and his ambition form a complement to all the slacks, voids, and indolences of my nature," Mailer wrote.

Integrating the streams of material became the most difficult part of the biography project for Lennon. Included in the plethora of papers were over 45,000 letters written, unpublished journals and interviews with Mailer, his friends and family.

Mailer won Pulitzer Prizes for *The Amies of the Night* and *The Executioner's Song*. His first book, *The Naked and the Dead*, was an enormous bestseller, and Mailer would have 10 more bestsellers from the 44 books he published. He also was co-founder of *The Village Voice*.

Mailer, who died in 2007 at 84, was the founding chair of the Wilkes Graduate Creative Writing Program advisory board. He was the keynote speaker at the June 2004 writing conference that kicked off the program. His wife, Norris Church Mailer, succeeded him on the advisory board and remained involved with the program until her death in November 2010. The Mailer family established a scholarship in her name.

— By Bill Schneider M.A.'13



*Norman Mailer: A Double Life*, written by Wilkes professor emeritus J. Michael Lennon, was released this month by Simon & Schuster.

## Integrative Media Chair Eric Ruggiero Receives Sony Pictures Fellowship

Eric Ruggiero, associate professor and chair of the integrative media and art department, was one of three individuals nationally awarded a fellowship from Sony Pictures Imageworks. Ruggiero was selected for the Faculty Fellowship Program known as IPAX, and spent six weeks this summer at the Sony Pictures motion picture lot in Culver City, Calif., shadowing production team members working on current animated feature films.

Ruggiero observed and worked with special effects professionals and animation experts on such current and upcoming releases as *The Amazing Spiderman 2*, *Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs*, *Smurfs 2* and *Hotel Transylvania*. He was present for the production of the trailer for *The Amazing Spiderman 2* that was shown at this year's Comic Con. Ruggiero was able to learn how the experts use 3-D modeling, computer graphics and other tools to create the worlds seen on the screen.

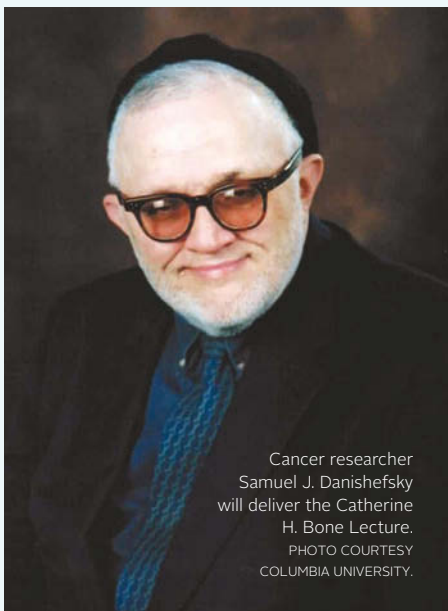
## Cancer Researcher Samuel Danishefsky to deliver Catherine H. Bone Lecture

Renowned cancer researcher Samuel J. Danishefsky, centennial professor of chemistry at Columbia University, will deliver the 2013 Catherine H. Bone Lecture. Danishefsky also serves as the Kettering Chair of Bioorganic Chemistry at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York. He will present his lecture, "Biologics By Chemical Synthesis," at 7 p.m., Oct. 16 in Stark Learning Center 101. The event is free, but registration is required.

Regarded as one of the world's leading chemists in cancer research, Danishefsky is a leader in the field of organic synthesis, with particular emphasis in carbohydrate chemistry.

Nominated multiple times for the Nobel Prize, Danishefsky is the recipient of numerous awards, including prizes from the American Chemical Society and the French Pharmaceutical Society. He earned his doctorate at Harvard University.

For more information about the Catherine H. Bone Lecture, call (570)408-4306. To register for the lecture online visit: <http://community.wilkes.edu/bonelecture>.



Cancer researcher Samuel J. Danishefsky will deliver the Catherine H. Bone Lecture. PHOTO COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.



## Sordoni Art Gallery Features Work by Chad Stanley and James Lennox

Chad Stanley and James Lennox work in very different academic disciplines at Wilkes. But the two share something in common: creating visual art.

Stanley teaches composition and literature as associate professor of English. Lennox advises senior engineering students as director of instrumentation in the College of

Science and Engineering. Their artwork is being exhibited through December 2013 at the Sordoni Art Gallery.

Stanley began studying painting at Pratt Institute before transferring to Syracuse University for a broader liberal arts education. After switching his major several times, he found English the best fit. Yet his interest in painting never waned.

Stanley prefers painting oil on canvas, culling literature for subject matter. He incorporates art and his artwork into the English courses he teaches. Students write analytical papers focusing on paintings or photographs. He also presents his paintings—which have literary themes—to his classes as visual commentaries about the reading list. Stanley says, "These options do not ever replace writing as our fundamental medium of analyzing and responding to literature; they simply broaden the range of ways of engaging with written texts."

Lennox has sculpted 3-D work in wood and metal for more than 25 years. His interest in art and drawing began in childhood. During a stint in the U.S. Air Force in the 1980s, he realized that he wanted to pursue an artistic career. After his military service, Lennox took a 3-D design class at Wilkes with Herb Simon and has been sculpting ever since.

The majority of his work uses hollow-form sheet metal, but he incorporates other elements when he finds that insufficient to complete a project. Lennox says, "For me, being an artist is a way of life; I really do not have a choice. I have always been creative and it has helped me throughout all of my various careers and experiences."

— By Francisco Tutella



"Coleridge and the Albatross," top, is a painting by Chad Stanley, associate professor of English. Left, the 3-D sculpture "Pink Shoes" is the work of James Lennox, director of instrumentation. Both artists are featured in a Sordoni Art Gallery show.

# OUT TO WIN

## Wrestler Kris Krawchuk Finds Athletic and Academic Success at Wilkes

By Bill Schneider M.A. '13

Whether looking at genes through a microscope or wrestling on the mat, senior Kris Krawchuk is out to win. The hard-working biology major is as passionate about his goal of becoming a physician assistant as he is about becoming a finalist in the NCAA Championship.

His commitment has earned him recognition academically and athletically. He is a member of the Colonels Elite, a program for Wilkes student athletes who have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.5 or higher. Krawchuk also finished his junior year with a 29-4 overall mark on the wrestling team. The NCAA ranked him in the top five in the country throughout the 2013 season, marking the fifth straight year that Wilkes produced an All-American and its second consecutive national finalist.

Krawchuk came to Wilkes three years ago from Slatington, Pa. He was attracted to the college town atmosphere at Wilkes, which was a departure from living in rural northern Lehigh County on an acre of land. Krawchuk also discovered the significant focus on community service at Wilkes was perfect for him. "I was introduced to Women Empowered by Science during my freshman foundations course," he says. Krawchuk enjoyed working with the program's summer camp, which provides girls entering seventh or eighth grade the opportunity to explore science through hands-on laboratories and activities.

Jon Laudenslager, Wilkes head wrestling coach, looks forward to watching Krawchuk become a national champion this year and continue his strong leadership skills. "Kris has a great combination of work ethic and desire to be very successful," says Laudenslager. "When you have goals and are willing to pay the overall price and sacrifice to accomplish them, you give yourself a great chance to do what Kris has done."

Krawchuk continues to place a priority on his work in the sciences. He spent summer 2013 at Wilkes performing genetics research on fruit flies, applying different techniques to study the epidermal growth factor receptor, which exhibits behavior characteristic to many forms of cancer. Under the direction of Lisa Kadlec, associate professor of biology, Krawchuk and his cohort worked with characterizing genes, comparing them with genes of known function in humans.

He is applying to several graduate programs to become a physician assistant after graduating from Wilkes in May 2014. Through his Wilkes experience, Krawchuk has found the perfect way to strike a balance in life.



Senior Kris Krawchuk is an All-American wrestler and brings his dedication into the biology lab.  
PHOTO BY CURTIS SALONICK

# Out of This WORLD

Stelios Patsiokas '75  
helped develop the  
technology that made  
satellite radio fly

By Geoff Gehman

Stelios Patsiokas '75, chief innovation officer and corporate vice president for Sirius XM Radio, displays the compact technology designed by his team to bring satellite radio to consumers. Behind him, older, more traditional circuitry provides the backdrop.

PHOTO BY JOHN RICKSEN





**Stelios Patsiokas '75 was tired of his engineers arguing at cross-purposes across the globe. Hoping to improve productivity through unity, he summoned them from Canada, Germany and Italy to his command center in Florida.**

For the next six weeks he ran a technological boot camp that could have been nicknamed “Stell’s Hell.”

Patsiokas fed his troops gourmet cuisine to boost their efficiency and enthusiasm while they worked around the clock. He kept their passports so they wouldn’t leave before finishing their jobs to his satisfaction. After 40 days they had become a lean, mean fighting machine. After 40 nights they had roughed out a system that would allow satellite radio to fly.

Thirteen years and many patents later, Patsiokas remains a leader of a revolution in audio entertainment. He is the chief innovation officer and corporate vice president of Sirius XM Radio, the nexus of satellite radio. He’s largely responsible for

the devices—microchips, radios, receivers, antennae—that enable nearly 25 million subscribers to tune into everything from the Metropolitan Opera to the Grateful Dead, The Catholic Channel to Cosmo Radio. You can thank him for crystal-clear, constant reception of the 24 Hours of Le Mans race while you’re barreling through a small tunnel.

Patsiokas has guided satellite radio through a costly competition, a market-saving merger and a boom in wireless links to smarter phones and cars. “It’s one of those rewarding experiences whereby you take a white sheet and turn it into an industry-changing, life-changing concept,” says the expert in radio-waves propagation. “It’s been a tremendous journey, a beautiful trip.”

Patsiokas grew up in Serres, Greece, where he listened to Top 40 tunes on a leather-covered transistor radio under the bed covers. The salutatorian of his high-school class, he entered Wilkes on a tuition scholarship awarded to top international students to attend American colleges and universities. He arrived in Wilkes-Barre with a “dismal” knowledge of English, a disadvantage he soon turned into an advantage.

Patsiokas knew he was in deep trouble when he opened the first page of a health textbook and jotted 150 words he didn't know. Unable to understand his Physics I professor, he skipped classes and took exams with the help of a Greek-English dictionary. He received a B-plus, a testament to his superior science background and translating skills.

After six months Patsiokas spoke passable English. He starred as a forward-center on the soccer team, receiving an automatic “A” in health given to exceptional athletes. He dated “nice” girls attracted by his “sexy” accent. And he partied hardy. “Let’s just say,” he says, that Wilkes dorms in the early ’70s had “a great celebratory environment.”

The celebration dimmed when Patsiokas learned he owed \$620 for a semester’s worth of room and food. The bill shocked him largely because it equaled three months of salary for his father, a construction truck driver for the Greek government and a fan of radio shows featuring violins. The bill was eventually forgiven by then-Dean George Ralston.

Patsiokas decided to knuckle down and buckle up. He worked for the Wilkes foreign-student program. He pumped gas, earning the “heavenly” sum of \$3.20 an hour. He switched majors from pre-med to electrical engineering, which had fewer English words and more universal technical terms. He became a devoted student, inspired by “holy mackerel” courses in electronic circuits, electromagnetic fields and early software. “I looked at myself in the mirror and said: ‘Are you going to be a bum or are you going to become someone?’ I had a total transformation. I went from a party guy to a monk.”

After “the four best years of my life,” Patsiokas entered the doctoral program in electrical engineering at Virginia Tech University. After receiving his doctorate in 1979, he began working at Motorola,

attracted by the Florida climate and the chance to develop groundbreaking communication devices for an electronics giant.

For Patsiokas and Motorola, the next 20 years were a golden age. He supervised the system performance of the first digital telephone, a “poor man’s cell” activated at public wireless booths. He helped launch the first two-way pager with an operating system, an embryonic Blackberry that “was very, very slow but nevertheless way before its time.”

Patsiokas says he was assigned to rescue the pager after a year of stagnation caused by conflict. He fired troublemakers, united software and hardware specialists, made partners of enemies. “You’ve got to have tremendous engineering talent under you,” he says. “You have to make decisions quickly. You have to have thick skin. Sometimes you get it right, and sometimes you get it wrong. Sometimes it’s one step forward, and sometimes it’s two steps backwards.”

By 1998 the golden age at Motorola had been tarnished by low morale. A headhunter convinced Patsiokas to interview with Hugh Panero, the CEO of a fledgling company later called XM Satellite Radio. The year before the company had received a license for satellite-radio frequencies along with Sirius Satellite Radio, its future rival.

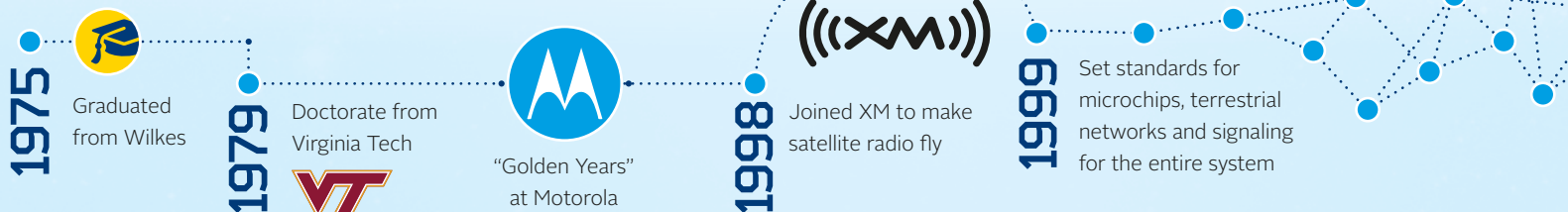
Patsiokas met with Panero at XM headquarters in Washington, D.C. He told the CEO that he doubted that satellites 22,000 miles above the earth could prevent obstructions—trees, tunnels, towers—from muting or silencing radio signals.

“I said: ‘No way it’s going to fly.’ Hugh asked me: ‘So why the hell are you here?’ I told him: ‘Well, I wanted to visit the Smithsonian...’”

Patsiokas leavened the joke by requesting a month to make his decision. In September 1998 he asked XM technicians a blunt question: How could satellite radio work effectively among skyscrapers in Manhattan? Their answer: a terrestrial network, set up specifically for dense downtowns, with radio receivers that blocked bad signals and combined good signals, constructing constantly clear channels.

“Right there and then I said ‘Thank you very much,’ ” says Patsiokas. “And I walked out to tell Hugh: ‘I’m your man.’”

“I looked at myself in the mirror and said: ‘Are you going to be a bum or are you going to become someone?’”



Stelios Patsiokas '75, Deerfield Beach, Fla.

Bachelor of Science, electrical engineering, Wilkes

Master of Science and doctorate, electrical engineering, Virginia Tech.

**Career:** Chief Innovation Officer, XM Satellite Radio

**Notable:** Led the team that enabled satellite radio to fly.

**Favorite Wilkes memory:** Playing soccer and partying with a United Nations of Greek, Turk and Portuguese students. "That was the beauty of Wilkes: it had tremendous diversity."

**Campus mentor:** The late George Ralston, the first Wilkes athletic director and dean of students. "He'd just look you in the eyes and understand you," says Patsiokas. "The warmth came out of his eyes, the way he treated you with respect. He was definitely a father figure." Ralston forgave Patsiokas a \$620 bill for food and lodging at the end of his first semester. Patsiokas repaid the favor with interest, donating money to his alma mater "tenfold."

When Patsiokas joined XM, the company had only a few weeks of salary in the bank. He dramatically increased brain capital by recruiting members of his Motorola team, starting an exodus that would create the quip that "XM stands for Ex-Motorola."

By early 1999 the Patsiokas team had set standards for microchips, terrestrial networks and signaling for the entire system. By late 1999 Patsiokas was tired of bickering emails from his engineers around the world. Weary of feeling like "a punching bag," he turned his Florida lab into a United Nations boot camp.

What followed were 40 days and nights of tough work and tough love. For Patsiokas and his teammates, the eureka moment came when they passed a complete song through the system simulator flawlessly. He recalls "everybody went berserk" at the successful conclusion of a remarkable 40-day experience. The test tune was doubly symbolic: *Money for Nothing*, a Dire Straits hit that helped make MTV a hit.

XM launched its radio satellites, appropriately nicknamed Rock and Roll, in March and May 2001. On Sept. 11 that year Patsiokas was at XM's headquarters in Washington, meeting with officials from General Motors, a major XM investor. The meeting was adjourned early after the news that airplanes hijacked by terrorists had struck the World Trade Center and the nearby Pentagon. Also postponed was the next-day announcement that XM was ready to begin broadcasting.

On Sept. 25 XM broadcast for the first time to San Diego and Dallas/Ft. Worth. On Nov. 12 the company premiered a nationwide network. In July 2002 it was joined by Sirius, which immediately became its bitter competitor.


Led by Patsiokas, XM produced many innovations. He helped develop a car system linking an antenna with a cassette and a radio receiver operated by a cigarette lighter. Installed as after-market equipment in cars, SKYFi dramatically increased subscriptions for XM, a breakthrough that Patsiokas calls "crossing the chasm."

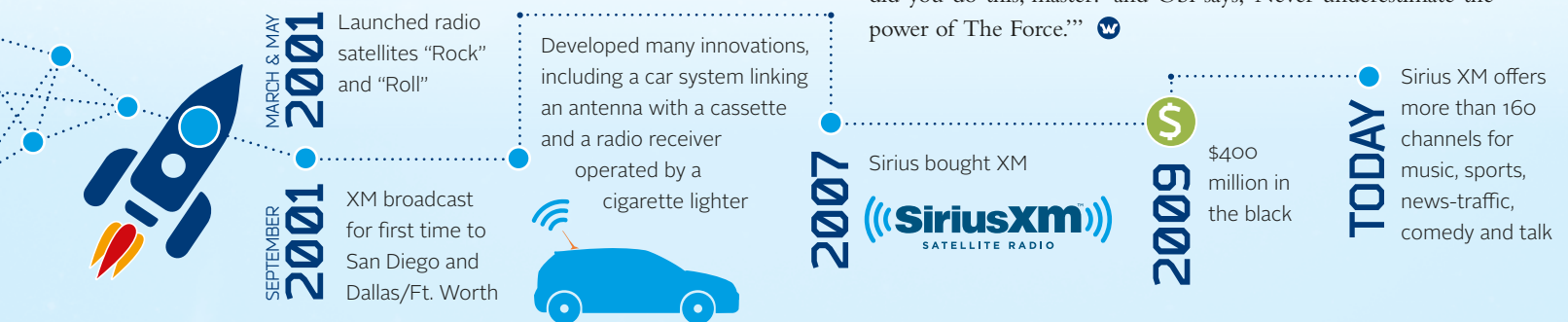
XM was less successful in its programming war with Sirius. The companies battled fiercely for exclusive deals with carmakers, entertainment networks and stars. XM spent millions to hire Oprah Winfrey, the communications queen. Sirius spent millions to hire Howard Stern, the shock jock. After eight years the rivals had lost nearly \$7 billion.

"It was a content bloodbath," says Patsiokas. "The mentality was 'Win this at all costs.' We forgot we were in the business to make money."

The rivals merged to avoid certain death. In February 2007 Sirius bought XM for over \$4 billion in stock, even though XM had 40 more channels and 1.6 million more subscribers. Renamed Sirius XM Radio, the new organization became far more profitable than its predecessors. By 2009 it was \$400 million in the black. Boosted by subscriptions from new-car buyers, as well as the recovery of the auto industry, the company this summer projected revenue of \$3.7 billion in fiscal 2012.

Today Sirius XM offers more than 160 channels for music, sports, news-traffic, comedy and talk. Among the 70-plus commercial-free music stations is "The Blend," an adult-contemporary mix recommended by Patsiokas, who has an around-the-dial fondness for classical, jazz, country and Top 40 from the '50s to the '80s. "I'm a strange cat who basically likes all genres except rap," he says. "In a way, I'm an ideal radio consumer."

Thirteen years and many patents later, Patsiokas remains driven. The success of satellite radio is "the ultimate story of what happens when you have a great, great engineering team, supplemented by great, great partners, and being led with a positive attitude," he says. "We more or less willed this thing to work. It's like that *Star Wars* scene where Luke Skywalker and Obi-Wan Kenobi are riding on a motorcycle and a guard asks them for their papers. Obi uses [a Jedi mind trick] and the guard suddenly says 'Pass.' Luke asks 'How did you do this, master?' and Obi says, 'Never underestimate the power of The Force.'" 



The lobby of the Lawrence and Sally Cohen Science Center offers a dramatic welcome, with a natural stone wall, large flat video screen and seating areas for students and visitors.

PHOTOS BY EARL AND SEDOR PHOTOGRAPHIC


# GAME CHANGER

## Cohen Science Center Shapes The Future of Science at Wilkes

A new building can be a work of art and a presence that transforms the landscape surrounding it. A building on a university campus has a more profound influence. Designed with the educational needs of students and faculty in mind, it helps to define and inspire the work happening within its walls.

The new Lawrence and Sally Cohen Science Center at Wilkes is such a transformational and inspiring space. Designed by SaylorGregg architects, the state-of-the-art facility puts the focus on student research—the cornerstone of science education at

the University—by providing teaching laboratories rather than typical classroom space. The building also features meeting spaces promoting collaboration among students and faculty and across disciplines. A spectacular view of the Susquehanna River from the River Street side of the facility serves as a reminder of the environment that Wilkes scientists have sought to preserve for decades.

The photos on these pages reveal a combination of beauty and utility in a building that is becoming the architectural anchor of campus. 



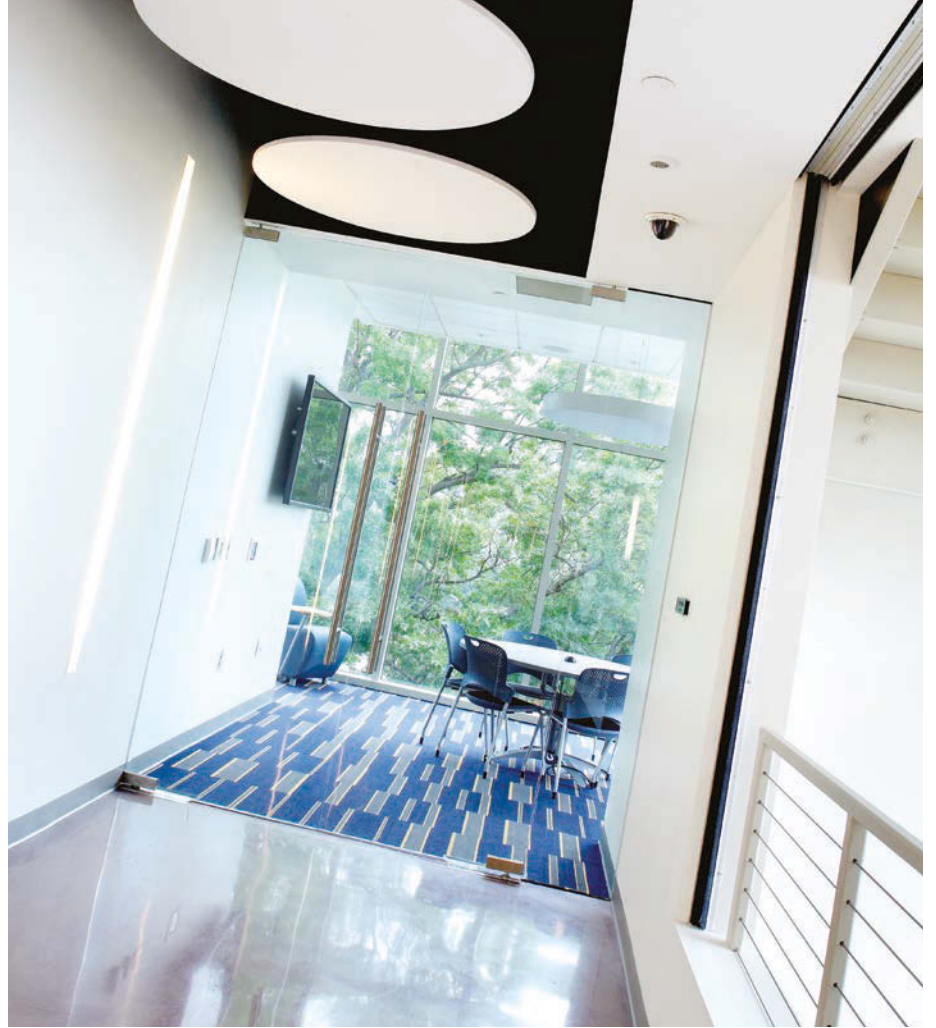


**“WE SHAPE OUR BUILDINGS:  
THEREAFTER THEY SHAPE US.”**

**– WINSTON CHURCHILL**

## Lawrence and Sally Cohen Science Center At A Glance

- 72,500-square-foot building
- \$35 million project
- The center houses the biology, chemistry and biochemistry and environmental engineering and earth science departments. In addition, any Wilkes student studying a laboratory science will have class in the center. Physics labs continue to be held in Stark.
- The lobby is graced by a 2- by 3-foot video screen, which will feature Wilkes science and engineering news and readouts of energy use in the building.
- The third floor features labs arranged to promote interdisciplinary work among the sciences housed in the building.
- Up-to-date technology includes “Smart” classrooms with interactive whiteboards and wireless Internet.
- The roof features a greenhouse and terrace.



The physiology labs feature stainless steel tops for dissection.

Above, a student lounge and meeting space is featured at the end of each floor of the building.



The central staircase is a dramatic focal point in the science center's lobby.

Left, signage on the quadrangle and South River Street identifies the building.





Hallways feature dramatic lighting and polished concrete floors.

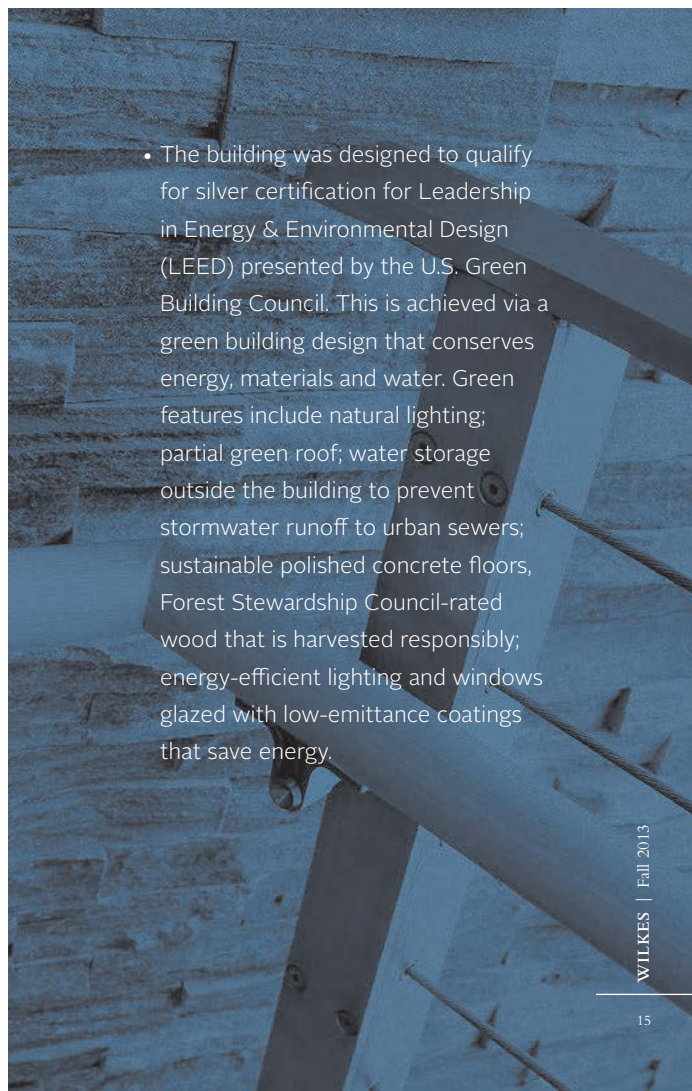
Bottom right, a videoconference room offers the latest technology for distance learning and meetings with scientists at other institutions.







A meeting space looks out over the Fenner Quadrangle. Below, state-of-the-art fume hoods are among improvements in chemistry labs.



- The building was designed to qualify for silver certification for Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) presented by the U.S. Green Building Council. This is achieved via a green building design that conserves energy, materials and water. Green features include natural lighting; partial green roof; water storage outside the building to prevent stormwater runoff to urban sewers; sustainable polished concrete floors, Forest Stewardship Council-rated wood that is harvested responsibly; energy-efficient lighting and windows glazed with low-emittance coatings that save energy.

**MORE  
ON THE  
WEB**

The new Lawrence and Sally Cohen Science Center was to be dedicated on Friday, Oct. 4. But the true kick-off for the new building happened in late August, when students began attending classes in the center. Photos for this photo essay were taken before students returned to campus. For photos capturing the dedication festivities and a slide show of students at work in the Cohen Science Center, please visit [www.wilkes.edu/cohen](http://www.wilkes.edu/cohen).

# Advocating Understanding

LYNN ELKO '95  
FINDS NEW CAREER  
WITH EMMA'S FRIENDS

By Bill Thomas '13

When LynnMarie (Rosencrance) Elko's daughter, Emma, was born with multiple disabilities, it opened her eyes to misconceptions that she—and many others—have about people with special needs. Before Emma's birth, Elko '95 recalls seeing people with disabilities with their families. "I would think, 'That's so tragic,'" she says.

Her perceptions changed after becoming Emma's mother. Her daughter is affected physically and cognitively due to neurological disorders impairing vision, speech and motor skills, but Elko has learned that family life still can be happy. "I didn't realize that, even though people have disabilities and their lives are different, there is still a tremendous amount of joy," she says.

Nonetheless, helping Emma overcome her daily challenges proved to be a full-time job, one that necessitated Elko leaving her position as vice president of production at Educational Impact, an online provider of professional development programs



for teachers based in Warminster, Pa. She left the company in 2004 to dedicate more time to Emma, now 11 years old.

Therapists and teachers were an integral part of Emma's life and they, indirectly, provided Elko with a surprising new career path. "I started making gifts for her therapists. I spent a lot of time baking treats and eventually started thinking there had to be something better. Then one day I was in the grocery store and I saw an issue of Martha Stewart's magazine about soaps and I picked it up thinking I'd give it a try," Elko says.

She began making soap as thank-you gifts. Before long, Elko found the demand for her creations growing—so much so that, in 2008, her newfound hobby turned into a full-fledged business called Emma's Friends Soaps & Lotions. Since then, Elko's handcrafted, all-natural product line has expanded to lotions, scented sprays and even pet shampoos. Her items can be found in stores in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia, Florida, California, including Elko's own shops in Tamaqua, Pa., and West Hazleton, Pa. She also sells at juried craft shows and online at [www.emmasfriends.com](http://www.emmasfriends.com).

Looking back, Elko admits she never expected her gift-giving endeavor to evolve the way it has.

"I spent about two to three years experimenting with different oils and their properties, learning about the oils and how they combine to create different types of soap, developing my own special formulas," Elko explains, pointing out that her prior background as a communication studies and political science major at Wilkes didn't quite prepare her for the business of making soaps.

"I love research, though. I love to read. And thankfully my husband was a wonderful critic," she adds with a laugh.

While the name "Emma's Friends" initially referred to the teachers and therapists receiving Elko's creations, the name now has a double meaning, referring also to the people Emma's Friends employs, all of whom have intellectual disabilities. These friends wrap and package all the soaps and also make, bottle and label all the dry bath products.

Opposite page, Lynn (Rosencrance) Elko '95 poses in her store, which is the retail outlet for Emma's Friends Lotions and Soaps, on Broad Street in Tamaqua, Pa.

Above, Elko and her daughter Emma, 11, who is the inspiration for her mother's thriving business.

PHOTOS BY DAN Z. JOHNSON

LynnMarie (Rosencrance) Elko, Tamaqua, Pa.

B.A., Communication Studies and Political Science, Wilkes, 1995

M.A., Business Communications, Jones International University, 2005

**Career:** Owner and founder, Emma's Friends Soaps & Lotions

**Notable:** Elko started her own handcrafted toiletry business called Emma's Friends Soaps & Lotions, which employs individuals with disabilities.

**Favorite Wilkes memory:** Working late into the night (and often into the early morning) in *The Beacon* office where, as editor, she and her staff assembled Wilkes University's student newspaper on a steady diet of delivery pizza.

**"I didn't realize that, even though people have disabilities and their lives are different, there is still a tremendous amount of joy"**

As a member of the board of directors for Avenues—a Pottsville, Pa.-based organization that helps disabled individuals improve their work skills and their quality of life—Elko was aware that job opportunities for such individuals are limited. Emma's Friends was founded to creatively and purposefully employ individuals with special needs.

Part of Emma's Friends mission, Elko says, is advocating greater understanding of such individuals. Elko believes every person she can touch now "will be someone who will be more accepting of our friends today and Emma tomorrow."

Being a mother is still her top priority. "Emma is nonverbal, meaning she is not able to speak, but she lets me know when I'm working too much. Two years ago, around Christmas, our busiest time of the year, I wasn't spending enough time with her. She made sure to let me know by just ignoring me. That hurt and was a big wake-up call," Elko says.

"I make sure to put her to bed every night. I cuddle with her every night. She wants that quality time every day. I play with her and tickle her and make her laugh, and if I don't, she lets me know. Which is good. I think a lot of kids whose parents have businesses don't express that. They have all these filters that keep them from expressing what they really feel, telling them, 'You're supposed to be a good kid. You're supposed to behave.' Emma doesn't have that. In a way, we're very fortunate that she's so transparent, because it can be hard to balance things. Regardless, she is and will always be my first priority."



# INTO THE **WILD**

Wilkes doctor of nursing practice grad  
Josh Martin applies his education  
in remote regions

by Helen Kaiser



Top, military personnel practice  
evacuations required in the field. Bottom,  
Josh Martin DNP '13 draws on training  
as an Air Force pararescueman to train  
others in wilderness medicine practices.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOSH MARTIN.



Josh Martin DNP '13 teaches health care providers how to make good decisions in bad environments. As a specialist in wilderness medicine, he trains paramedics, nurses and others to deliver care in hostile situations—from remote military bases in Afghanistan to the open seas.

As president and CEO of Northern Cairn LLC in Petoskey, Mich., Martin coordinates and teaches challenging courses in wilderness medicine. The school prepares students for emergency situations that involve prolonged patient care, severe environments and improvised equipment. Students range from summer camp counselors and outdoor enthusiasts to the military and FBI hostage rescuers.

“We instruct students how to keep out of trouble in extreme situations by recognizing potential problems before they occur,” says Martin, a member of Wilkes’ first graduating class in its online doctor of nursing practice program.

Martin credits his eight years in the U.S. Special Operations Command with galvanizing his eventual career choice of wilderness medicine. The 39-year-old served as a U.S. Air Force pararescueman from 1993 to 2001, with multiple deployments in Southwest Asia and North Africa.

“My primary role as a pararescueman was to save lives and aid the injured in hostile, non-permissive and austere environments,”

he says. Translated, that would mean tasks like parachuting from a C-130 aircraft into the middle of the ocean, with limited medical capabilities.

“You’re trying to provide good wound care, feeding, hydrating and keeping him warm until he can be rescued,” he explains.

To qualify for pararescue, Martin spent more than 30 months in rigorous military training—first to become an emergency medical technician. That training was supplemented with crucial instruction that included helicopter-parachute rescue, advanced land navigation, small arms weapons handling, survival techniques, chemical warfare survival, advanced trauma life support, land and water parachute landings and scuba diving.

“You’re caring for a patient who may or may not have good mental capabilities, who was likely in bad shape before being wounded.”


After his military discharge, Martin earned a bachelor’s degree in business studies from Davenport University. He became president and CEO of Northern Cairn in 2003, allowing him to spend more time in his native region of northern Michigan with his wife, Elsa, and their three sons. In 2009 he was awarded a fellowship in the Academy of Wilderness Medicine from the Wilderness Medical Society, Salt Lake City. He became a family nurse practitioner in 2010 and in May 2013 received his doctorate from Wilkes.

For one doctoral project, Martin drew on experiences providing contract wilderness medicine training to 118 Army medics in Afghanistan in 2011. The training addressed the problem of 19-year-old Army medics being shipped off to war with just basic “street EMT” training. “There’s a huge difference in what’s covered in regular EMT textbooks—where the focus is on being able to access a fully stocked ambulance and arrive at a hospital in 10 or 20 minutes—and the realities of people being shot at or blown up in the midst of an austere, unforgiving environment,” Martin explains.

The wilderness training helped medics to assess whether medical evacuations—dangerous to both flight crews and soldiers—were actually needed. Martin cited the outcomes from the training in his research project, which compared outcomes in traditional emergency medical training programs with those in a hybrid program such as the one he offers for wilderness training.

Wilkes Assistant Professor of Nursing Kathleen Hirthler taught three of Martin’s doctoral courses and served as his scholarly project chairperson.

“Josh is accomplished in a unique way,” she says. “I expect he will be a leader in finding new ways of providing safe, quality care for populations requiring wilderness medicine. The doctorate will help him to influence his field through sound application of evidence-based research.”

Martin agrees, saying, “These days there is a drive to keep patients out of the hospital,” he says, “so we need to teach them self-care and how to recognize when they are starting to fail before their conditions get too serious. The same holds true for healthy people who might be mountaineering in cold or desert-like conditions. They need to recognize their limits.” 

**Joshua Martin DNP '13, Petoskey, Mich.**

**B.S., Business Studies, Davenport University**

**M.S., Nursing, Grand Valley State University**

**Doctor of Nursing Practice, Wilkes**

**Career:** President and CEO of Northern Cairn, LLC, a wilderness medicine training company

**Notable:** Served eight years as a U.S. Air Force pararescueman, giving him expertise in wilderness medicine.

## Alumni Association Board Welcomes Five New Members

The Wilkes University Alumni Association welcomed five new alumni members in June to its Board of Directors. In the following question-and-answer profiles, the new members share their motivations for getting involved with the Alumni Association. Their class years and occupations may vary, but they all have one thing in common: a love of Wilkes University and the desire to give back to their alma mater.

**GABE LEDONNE '05**  
**News desk manager,**  
**SNL Financial, Blakely, Pa.**  
**Bachelor of Arts,**  
**Communication Studies, English**



I've always wanted to continue to be a part of Wilkes after graduating. During my time at the University, I received a lot of great support and guidance from faculty, administrators, staff and others. Wilkes has a great sense of community, and I feel that serving as an alumni board member gives me an opportunity to be a bigger part of that community and to contribute to it.

**ROB BURNS '64**  
**Trial attorney, Piermont, N.Y.**  
**Bachelor of Science, Business Administration**



While at Wilkes, I was president of Student Government, on the wrestling team and a proud member of Ashley Hall. I became active in the Alumni Association because I still have a special place in my heart for my time at Wilkes, even after almost 50 years. Wilkes, with its small student body; teachers who were not only devoted in the classroom but who also came to social events; and my participation in wrestling and student government really helped to shape my life.

**JESSICA SHORT '13**  
**Student development graduate assistant, Wilkes University, Clifford Township, Pa.**  
**Bachelor of Arts, Elementary Education, Early Childhood Education Certification, Reading Minor**



Being on the Homecoming student team all four years of college had a major influence on my desire to be involved with the Alumni Association after graduation. I am thankful for my Wilkes education and have great pride in my school, making me want to give back and make it a better place for incoming students. Because I was so involved, I could not leave the University without having some kind of tie to the school.

**P. CHRISTOPHER SOMMER '94**  
**Entrepreneur, Wilmington, Del.**  
**Bachelor of Science, Accounting**



When President Leahy came on board with Wilkes, I saw this as a catalyst for change and an opportunity to develop the leadership of the University. I wanted to be involved with the momentum to advance the institution.

**JOHN SWEENEY '13**  
**Assurance associate, PwC (the U.S. firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLC), Parsippany, N.J.**  
**Bachelor of Science, Accounting; Bachelor of Business Administration, Business Management**



As a student at Wilkes, I was extremely involved in campus life. I decided to join the Alumni Board so that I could keep a strong connection to campus and the events that affect Wilkes. As a member of the Alumni Association Board, I look forward to having the opportunity to foster relationships with alumni and help keep recent alumni engaged. The board does important work with advancement and mentoring and I hope to contribute to its goals in any way possible.

## Investing in the Future

Louise Hazeltine '44 and Ray Dombroski '78 honor faculty, benefit students with gifts to Cohen Science Center

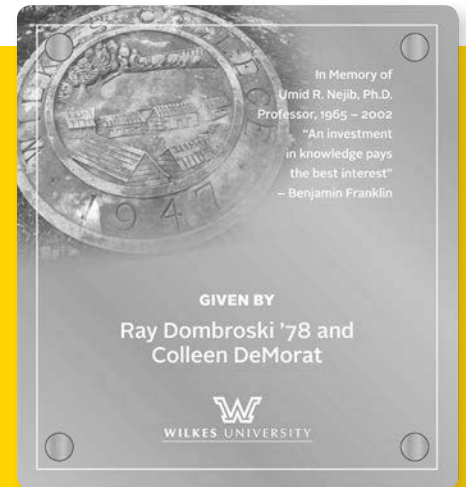
**“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”**

– Benjamin Franklin

A plaque on the third floor of the Cohen Science Center that displays Franklin’s quote reminds students, faculty and staff of the long-term benefits of education. The message becomes even more meaningful when you read the words that accompany it – “In Memory of Umid R. Nejjib, Ph.D., Professor, 1965–2002.”

The plaque represents a gift by Ray Dombroski '78 and his wife, Colleen DeMorat, to Wilkes to honor Nejjib, Dombroski’s former engineering professor. “The influence of Professor Nejjib was important while I was a student, but the real value of my interactions with him only became obvious over time, well after graduation.”

Dombroski, a senior vice president of product development and deployment for Comcast Corp., believes that education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics is critical to the economy and global competitiveness. “Having up-to-date lab facilities is an important facet of such an education. As a Wilkes student in the mid-1970s, when Stark Learning Center was built, I recognized that it was time to update the facilities.”



**Ray Dombroski '78**

Senior Vice President,  
Product Development  
and Deployment

**Comcast Corp., Malvern, Pa.**

**Bachelor of Science, Electrical Engineering, Wilkes University**

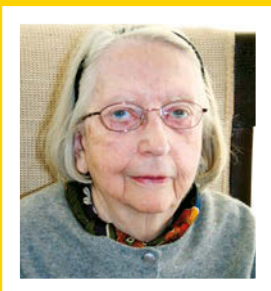
We decided to make a gift because I believe in the mission of Wilkes University and its strong commitment to the region and excellence in its programs. It was a way to show gratitude for my experience at Wilkes and to ‘pay it forward’ to future students.”

Like Dombroski, Louise Hazeltine '44 is providing opportunities for current science students at Wilkes while honoring the faculty members who helped her achieve success. Her gift recognizes biology teachers Charles B. Reif and Lenore Ward, who, Hazeltine says, were invaluable in her pursuit of a science education at Bucknell Junior College in the early 1940s.

“Dr. Reif had a good sense of humor and got us all interested in science. I remember his great attention to detail when he prepared slides to view under a microscope. Dr. Ward made even the most reluctant students enjoy the courses she taught, even when they required us to dissect a cat...They challenged us to become excellent students.”

Hazeltine says that the greatest impact that these two individuals had on her was “instilling the need to be meticulous.” Mastering this skill served Hazeltine well; she went on to work as a registered nurse at the New York Hospital, earn a master’s degree at New York University and serve as associate dean and director of the division of education at Cornell School of Nursing.

“I am pleased to support a space for the next generation as they study to become the best students possible,” she says.



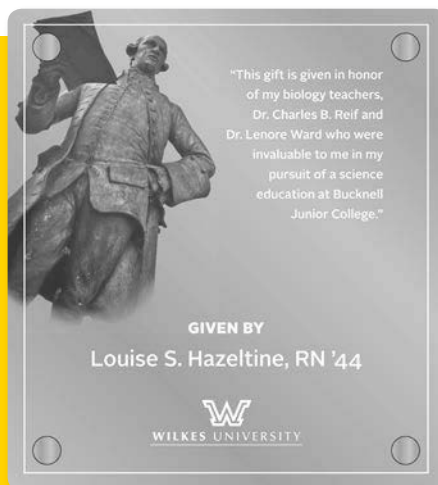
**Louise Hazeltine '44**

Retired nurse in the  
New York Hospital and  
associate dean and  
director of the division of  
education at Cornell School of Nursing

**Trucksville, Pa.**

**Bachelor of Arts, Nursing, Cornell University**

**Master of Science, New York University**



## Tom Ralston '80 Survives Boston Marathon Bombing

Tom Ralston '80 moved to Boston shortly after graduating from Wilkes. It's a city he's grown to love. "Everything about Boston is historical, in one way or another—and I love history," says Ralston, president of the Wilkes University Alumni Association and a fundraiser for Bentley University.

Ralston's personal history merged with his adopted city's when he was an eyewitness and victim at the April 15, 2013, Boston Marathon bombing. Taking part in the merrymaking at the marathon has long been a tradition for Ralston. "I think I've only missed getting to the marathon twice in the 33 years that I've lived there," says Ralston. This year's event found him strolling by himself on Boylston Street among celebrants near the finish line; his usual companions were traveling that day.

"I was enjoying the whole atmosphere when I heard the first explosion to my left, about a block and a half away," he recalls. Thinking that perhaps the large jumbotron televising the race had exploded, he moved in that direction.

Ten to 12 seconds later, the second bomb exploded. "I couldn't have been more than 12 to 15 feet from it," Ralston says. The impact knocked him to the ground. "Five, six, maybe seven seconds later, I realized that I was on the ground and I was bleeding pretty profusely." He clambered to his feet and began walking from the scene, knowing, even in his confusion, that moving away from what was obviously an explosion was a good idea. Two bystanders who were not injured came to his aid. One, a Marine trained in first aid on the battlefield, applied pressure to stop the heavy bleeding on his arm. He could not hear anything because the blast had ruptured his eardrums.



Tom Ralston '80 kneels at the temporary memorial at Copley Square for victims of the Boston Marathon bombing. The memorial has been moved to the Boston Historical Society. Ralston, who was injured in the bombing, is serving on a committee to determine how the city will mark the anniversary of the event in the future. PHOTO COURTESY OF TOM RALSTON.

**"I think I've only missed getting to the marathon twice in the 33 years that I've lived there."**

At the hospital, doctors removed shrapnel from his arm. FBI agents and Boston police detectives questioned him. It was only after he returned home that he realized the black specks on his jeans were small holes burned by bomb debris. He discovered that his leg was burned and had bled.

Although his hearing is still impaired in one ear, Ralston says he's "healing nicely" from his other injuries. The

emotional fallout continues, and he still has some flashbacks. He's been helped by attending events sponsored by the city of Boston, where he's traded stories with others who were at the scene. "I was talking one day to two guys and realized that they were standing within a couple of feet of where I was. Each of them had a leg amputated, and I knew God was with me that day."

– By Vicki Mayk MFA '13



## Undergraduate Degrees

### 1947

**Dolores (Seitchek) Price** retired after a 64-year career in physical therapy, most recently working at the Masonic Village in Elizabethtown, Pa. Her sister, **Rita Seitchek Dicker '42**, and brother, **Jacob Seitchek '49**, also attended Wilkes, all when it was Bucknell University Junior College. Price resides in Elizabethtown, Pa.

### 1954

**Elaine (Bogan) Law** – see 1952.

### 1961

**Joe Cardone** is a humor consultant and inspirational speaker. He presents a variety of seminars, programs and workshops on the value of humor for wellness, stress reduction and positive living. His clients include Celebrity and Royal Caribbean cruise lines and St. Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick, N.J.

### 1965

**G. Joseph Rogers** was awarded the IBM President's Award for Lifetime Achievement for volunteer service in December 2012. His volunteer service includes serving as chairman of the board of the Cambridge Historical Society and secretary/treasurer of Cambridge Regional Health Center. Both organizations are in Cambridge, Vt., where he lives. Rogers retired from IBM in 1992 after 27 years with the company.

### 1966

**Edward McGinley** was inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame's Class of 2013. At Wilkes, McGinley was an All-American wrestler in 1963, a Wilkes Open finalist in 1962 and a Mid-American Conference finalist in 1965. McGinley founded the wrestling program at King's College and has coached there for the past 44 years.

### 1970

**Edward Burke** was inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame's Class of

2013. Burke played offensive tackle on Wilkes University's legendary Golden Horde football team, was a part of a 32-game winning streak and helped Wilkes win three Mid-American Conference titles and the 1968 Lambert Bowl. From 1972-1977 he coached football at Wyoming Valley West High School. He retired in 2005 after 35 years teaching at the school.

### 1972

**Bill Hanbury** joined the executive search firm Boyden's Washington, D.C., office as a principal and will recruit candidates to fill board, senior executive and functional leader roles.

**Ronald Rittenmeyer** received an honorary master's degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College on June 8, 2013. The degree was presented by Maj. Gen. Anthony Cucolo and U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond T. Odierno. Rittenmeyer was recognized for his leadership of the U.S. Army War College Board of Visitors, including his involvement in the strategic direction of the institution.

### 1980

**Edward White** is director of corporate communications at the National Basketball Association's Indiana Pacers organization where his job responsibilities include conducting the post-game show.

### 1985

**Naomi Cohen** has joined United Technologies Research

Center in the thermal fluid sciences department. She, her husband, Bruce, and children Nathan, 21, and Abigail, 19, live in West Hartford, Conn.

**Dianne Charsha** is in the second year of Drexel University's Doctor of Nursing Practice program. She is studying in the executive leadership track.

### 1987

**Carmen Mazzatta** was appointed president of the health care division at Modern Marketing Concepts, Inc. Prior to his appointment, Mazzatta led technology-based health care sales and marketing business processing for inVentiv Health and Express Scripts.

### 1993

**Melanie O'Donnell Mickelson** and **Christopher Wade** were married on June 23, 2012, at Weckesser Hall on the Wilkes campus. The bride is the vice president of enrollment services at Wilkes. The groom teaches social studies in Forest City Regional School District and is supervisor at the Edward A. Wade Funeral Home in Carbondale, Pa.

### 1995

**William F. Noone** was inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame's Class of 2013. At Wilkes, Noone was a member of a Mid-American Conference championship baseball team and was named All-MAC Freedom League first team. He was inducted into the University's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005. He works for Prudential Financial.



1952

**Donald Law** and wife **Elaine Law '54** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on April 11, 2013. They met at Wilkes.



2009

**Kathy Dalton** married **Matt Wagner** on Oct. 27, 2012. Kathy works as a residence area coordinator for York College of Pennsylvania. Matt is a mechanical engineer for the U.S. Army at the Aberdeen Test Center. They reside in York, Pa. Pictured at their wedding, from left, are Amanda Heyl, Christine Heyl, **Lindsay Behrenshausen '11**, Trudy Dalton, Debbie Welch, **Kathy (Wagner) Dalton '09**, **Matt Wagner '09**, Josh Potts, Joe Wagner, Chris Wagner, **Jamie Montville '09**, **Eric Skoglund '09** and **Pete Wassel '09**.

### 1997

**Margaret Manley** was appointed director of performance measurement and reporting at TMG Health. She also was elected president of the Northeastern Chapter of the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants for the 2013–2014 year.

**Heather (Howell) Johnson** and her husband, John, announce the birth of their son Koda Anthony Krys Johnson. He joins John Nelson-Ray, Karl Aidan and Justus Xavier to complete the Johnson clan.

### 1998

**Aldith Campbell** received her MBA and pursued a doctor of

education degree in counseling psychology. She works in the mental health field and serves as an adjunct instructor.

### 1999

**Corinna Sowers-Adler** has been asked to sing at Lincoln Center as part of the Mabel Mercer Foundation's New York City Cabaret Convention on Oct. 10, 2013.

**James Warner MFA '09** is managing editor of *Quiddity International Literary Journal* and Public Radio program in Springfield, Ill.

### 2000

**Donna Talarico-Beerman MFA '10** was named director

of integrated communications at Elizabethtown College. She joined the university in August 2010, previously serving as integrated marketing manager. In her new role, she serves as editor of *Elizabethtown*, the official college magazine, and managing editor of *E-town Now*, the college's online news publication.

### 2006

**Jeffrey Bartman** was appointed assistant principal at Springhouse Middle School in Allentown, Pa.

### 2008

**Janelle Weiand Caruano Pharm. D.** see Graduate Students 2008.

### 2009

**Farrah Munir** graduated from the Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Blacksburg, Va. Her father, Dr. Muhammad Munir, presented her diploma.

**Jamie Gywnn** graduated with a master's degree in public administration from the Fels Institute of Government at the University of Pennsylvania. He is assistant to the manager of Northampton Township in Richboro, Pa.

### 2011

**Anthony Dorunda** is the producer for the 10 p.m. weekday and 11 p.m. weekend newscasts at

WKRC, the CBS-affiliate station in Cincinnati, Ohio. He previously served as a news producer at WBRE-TV in Wilkes-Barre.

### 2012

**Sara Cosgrove** is assistant director in the annual giving office at Princeton University. She manages Princeton's student-organized phonathon and the alumni phonathon.

**Liza Prokop** was hired as Wilkes-Barre City's community relations coordinator.

### 2013

**Kirstin Cook** is a producer at WBRE-TV in Wilkes-Barre. She received the *Society of Professional Journalists Region 1 Mark of Excellence* second-place award in general news reporting for a small college newspaper for her story "Gilmour's paid sabbatical amid proposal of cuts disturbs faculty" at the society's Region 1 Spring Conference at Rutgers University. The article appeared while Cook was editor of *The Beacon* at Wilkes.

**William Thomas** received the *Society of Professional Journalists Region 1 Mark of Excellence* third-place award in feature writing for a small college newspaper for his *Beacon* story about Professor Bradford Kinney's retirement. It was presented at the society's Region 1 Spring Conference at Rutgers University.

## Annual Baseball Trip a Home Run for Grissom Hall Alumni

For some members of the classes of 1970 and 1971, baseball has become more than America's pastime. It's a way to maintain their Wilkes friendships.

Bart Hauser '70, John Squeri '70, Jack Mulligan '70, Ken Ganser '70, Len Surdi '70, Jim Darlington '70, Bob Tarone '71 and David Silberman '70, residents of the Grissom Hall section of Pickering Hall, get together once a year to see a major league baseball game. The group has visited 13 cities with hopes of visiting all 30 major league baseball teams during their lifetimes.

The idea surfaced in the mid-90s when a few of them decided to go to Chicago and catch a Cubs game. A trip to see the Baltimore Orioles followed the next year.

The group came back to Wilkes for their 30th class reunion in 2000. That same year, after a trip to a Boston Red Sox game, they decided to make it a yearly tradition to visit a major league baseball stadium together.

The group has visited St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Milwaukee, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Boston and a minor league game in Memphis. This year, the men went to Toronto to see the Toronto Blue Jays, and next year they plan to visit New York to see the new Yankees Stadium.

"It's just a group decision that we sit around and talk and usually one guy says, 'Well, let's go to this place,' and we basically all agree to it," Silberman says, adding that the desire to get together is as important as the location. Planning the trip also involves working around each person's schedule and travel; some years one or two members can't make the trip. Because most of them live in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, they usually travel together, with Silberman flying in from Memphis, Tenn., and Surdi coming from Bellingham, Wash.

In addition to visiting baseball stadiums, the group has also visited Mount Rushmore; the *Field of Dreams* movie site in Dyersville, Iowa; Graceland and the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis; and the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y.

Squeri and Silberman agree that these trips are something each of them look forward to and a chance for them to get together.

"The baseball theme is what has gotten us to stay together and to meet and just become Wilkes College kids every year," Silberman says.

– By Christine Lee

Top photo: Grissom Hall alumni traveled to Toronto this year on their annual baseball park pilgrimage to see the Blue Jays play at the Rogers Centre. Pictured from left are **David Silberman '70, John Squeri '70, Bart Hauser '70, Bob Tarone '71, Ken Ganser '70 and Jack Mulligan '70.**

Bottom photo: In 2012, the self-described "Wilkes College kids" traveled to Washington, D.C., to see the Washington Nationals play. Pictured from left to right are **Mulligan, Ganser, Silberman, Hauser, Jim Darlington '70 and Squeri** – and a very whimsical "Teddy Roosevelt."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAVID SILBERMAN '70.



## Graduate Degrees

### 2007

**Jennifer Freed MFA** recently published her young adult historical fiction novel *The Last Encampment* with Northampton Press.

### 2008

**Erin Delaney MA** was featured at Misericordia University's Speaker Series "From Mouth to Mic: Waxing Poetic II." She teaches literature at Misericordia and also teaches the sophomore seminar at Southern New Hampshire University.

### 2009

**Chad Mullen MFA's** book *The Mirror of Aberrantine* is scheduled to be published by Northampton House Press.

**Lori Myers MA** had her short story "Dante's Window" published in the inaugural issue of *Rock Bottom Journal*. She also recently interviewed singer Helen Reddy for an article in *B Magazine*.

**Kevin Voglino MA's** second book, *Tea Time Boys*, is now available from Rogue Phoenix Press.

**James Warner MFA** – see Undergraduate Students 1999.

### 2010

**Donna Talarico-Beerman MFA** – see Undergraduate Students 2000.

## Martin Strayer '93: Hounds and Chicks Play Well Together

Martin Strayer '93 has found his true love in music. In 2006, after he joined the road crew of the popular country music band the Dixie Chicks, he began collaborating with two of its three members, producing new material and forming a spin-off group, The Court Yard Hounds.

He remembers quite well his first-day orientation at Wilkes in fall 1988, especially the encouraging remarks made by Dean Jane Lampe-Groh, which promised new students that the friends they made during their time at Wilkes would become their best friends throughout life. "What Dean Lampe-Groh said is true," he says. "My Wilkes experience helped form life-long friends, including the guys that became part of the band."

After graduating, he segued into sound engineering, working for the concert audio

Martin Strayer '93, center, flanked by Court Yard Hounds—and former Dixie Chicks, Martie Maguire and Emily Robison—have released a second album, featuring tunes written by Strayer.

PHOTO COURTESY MARTIN STRAYER



company Clair Brothers, where he provided audio and sound mixes for large concert venues around the world. But he missed playing with a band on stage.

His biggest musical influences have been Mozart, The Beatles, Eddie Van Halen, Soundgarden, and Pearl Jam, but it was meeting the Dixie Chicks that got him back on stage. "I was brought in to help with their sound engineering," he recalls. "They were in rehearsals when I flew to Austin to meet the crew."

The rest, he says, is history. "I started writing songs under the radar. The idea to start a new band came to mind. My time at Wilkes helped me become a smart business man, right down to finding a band name."

The name Court Yard Hounds evolved from a novel mentioned in David Benioff's book *City of Thieves*. "We brainstormed about stuff we had read," Strayer says. "It came down to a book within a book about a character who never gives up on his dreams."

The group released its self-titled debut album in 2010, securing a spot in Billboard's Top 10. Strayer continued to write songs, along with Martie Maguire, who, along with her sister, Emily Robison, also are two thirds of the group known as the Dixie Chicks. Lead vocalist Natalie Maines went on to record a solo album, which was released earlier this year.

On July 16, Court Yard Hounds released their second album on Columbia Records. "Amelita" is the title track, about a young girl from Mexico who needs direction in her life. The album features a dozen tracks, 10 of which Strayer co-wrote.

— By Bill Schneider MA '13

Sarah Pugh MFA's original series *Killjoy* made the Top 25 Semi-Final round of the Austin Television Festival's Pitch Competition.

Gale Martin MA was featured at the annual book and author luncheon of the Willingboro, Pa., chapter of the American Association of University Women on April 26, 2013, where she gave an author talk followed by a book signing. She appeared at the fourth annual BookFest PA, part of the 2013 Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts, on July 13, 2013.

William Lowenburg MFA's monograph "Crash Burn Love" was featured with a 14-picture spread on *Slate.com*'s photo blog "Behold."

Tara Caimi MFA's memoir excerpt "Without Words" was published in *Outside In Literary & Travel Magazine*.

### 2011

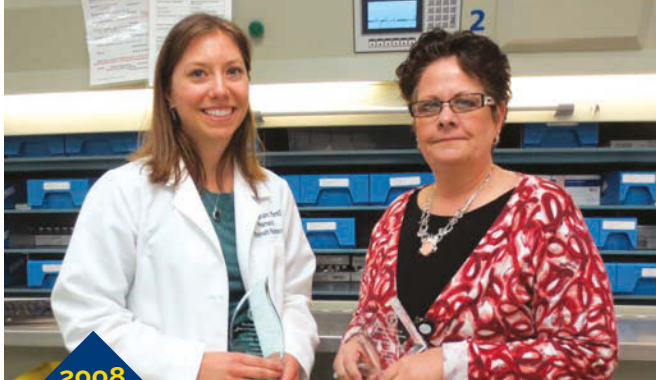
Carol MacAllister MFA was accepted into the Horror Writers Association.

Patricia Florio MFA's short story "Golden Boy" was published in the summer issue of Newtown Literary.



2009

Jennifer Cerra, Pharm.D. and James Sharp were married June 22, 2013, at the Nassau Valley Vineyards in Lewes, Del. Pictured in the back row, from left, standing are: Amy Lynn Antos Pharm. D. '08, Tony Scerbo '08, Neil Bavitz Pharm. D. '07, Andrew Eckert '07, Sarina Kapoor '07, Tina Guraya-Davies Pharm. D. '09, Stephen Davies Pharm. D. '11, Lindsay Klish Pharm. D. '09, Bill Barbester Pharm. D. '06 and Jonathan McClave '07. Pictured in the front row from left are: Brenton Shaffer Pharm. D. '15, Paola Pardo-Bavitz '06, Jenna Strzelecki '09, Cerra, Joellen Cerra-Morgan '08, Alysha Nicholls '08 and Kate McClave '08.



2008

**Janelle Weiand Caruano Pharm. D.** was named Pharmacist of the Year by the Delaware Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists. She works as a clinical pharmacist at Bayhealth Kent General Hospital in Dover, Del. She is pictured with pharmacy technician Dottie Collison at the awards ceremony.

**Brian Fanelli MFA** began a full-time position teaching English at Lackawanna College in August 2013. His poem “Writing the Last Word” appeared in the June 2013 issue of *Spillway* and his poem “Temp Worker” was accepted by *The Oklahoma Review*. A third poem, “Goodbyes in a Blackout,” was accepted by *North Chicago Review*. Fanelli is studying for his doctorate in English at SUNY Binghamton.

**Christopher Bullard MFA** had his chapbook *Dear Leatherface* accepted for publication by Kattywompus Press. His full-length collection *Back* is also scheduled for publication this year with WordTech Communications.

2012

**Ginger Marcinkowski MFA** is now a regular column contributor to *Book Fun Magazine*.

**Rachel Strayer MFA’s** play, *Drowning Ophelia*, will be produced by Repurposed Theatre in San Francisco, Calif. Performances are scheduled for fall 2013.

**Sandee Gertz Umbach MFA’s** book of poetry, *The Pattern Maker’s Daughter*, received 2nd place in the national Tillie Olsen Award competition for creative writing given by the Working Class Studies Association.

**Amye Archer MFA** became writing center coordinator at the University of Scranton in fall 2013.

**Kevin McCormick MBA** was promoted to assistant vice president at Fidelity Bank. He lives in Dunmore, Pa.

2013

**Todd McClimans MFA’s** alternate-history middle grade manuscript *Time Traitor* was one of five finalists in the 2013 National Association of Elementary School Principals Children’s Book Award competition.

**Lori A. May MA** was featured in an interview at *r.kv.ry Quarterly Literary Journal*, where her poetry also was featured. She also had an essay published in *Northern Cardinal Review*.

**Jason Carney MFA** has signed a contract to have his memoir *Starve the Vulture* published by Kaylie Jones Books, an imprint of Akashic Books. Storefront Pictures has optioned the book for film rights.

## In Memoriam

1938

**Marion Dunstan Karsten**, Kingston, Pa., died April 25. She was a teacher at Wyoming Seminary, Crestwood High School, Wyoming Area Senior High School, and also taught in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District.

1941

**Kenneth Kressler**, Manchester Township, N.J., died Jan. 12.

1945

**Dr. Robert E. Karns**, Mayfield Heights, Ohio, died Dec. 27, 2011.

1947

**James Patrick Flynn**, Midland, Mich., died April 14. Flynn

worked for 33 years for Dow Chemical as a research scientist and project leader.

1949

**Arthur D. Dalessandro**, Yatesville, Pa., died May 22. Dalessandro served in the U.S. Air Force and was a World War II veteran. He was a trial lawyer for 17 years and served for two decades as state trial judge.

**James Morrash**, Media, Pa., died May 26. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II. Morrash worked for Westinghouse Corp.

1950

**Mary Porter Evans**, Lexington, Ky., died March 3. She was a charter member of Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Bluegrass.

**Edward V. Gill**, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., died May 17. He served in the U.S. Navy and was a veteran of World War II and the Korean War. He retired from the Tobyhanna Army Depot in 1989.

**Edward A. Godek**, Tappan, N.Y., died March 13, 2012. Godek was a U.S. Army Air Corps veteran of World War II. Before retiring in 1992, he was a teacher at Tappan Grammar School.

**Walter F. Haczewski**, Plains Township, Pa., died April 8. He served in the U.S. Navy and was a veteran of World War II. Haczewski worked at Roth Novelty Co. of Wilkes-Barre.

**Paul E. Huff**, Vienna, Va., died Oct. 11, 2012. He worked for the CIA for 47 years and, after his retirement, recruited for the agency at colleges and universities. He was a member of the Wilkes board of trustees under former President Christopher Breiseth and received the Wilkes Excellence Award for Public Service in 2000.

*Editor’s Note: Incorrect information about Mr. Huff was printed in the spring/summer issue of Wilkes. We apologize for the error.*

**Richard “Dick” E. Martin**, Cherry Hill, N.J., died March 23. Martin was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II. For 36 years, Martin worked for GMAC.

**Robert Lee Williams, Jr.**, Gillette, N.J., died April 5. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II.

### 1951

**Donald E. Blankenbush**, Pennington, N.J., died May 16. He served in the U.S. Army and was a veteran of the Korean War. For 37 years, Blankenbush taught at the Princeton Regional Schools.

**Henry F. Heineman**, Corning, N.Y., died Sept. 14, 2012. Heineman was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II. He owned and operated Credit Adjustment Bureau of Corning.

**Richard J. Rappaport**, Columbia, Md., died Nov. 23, 2010. He served in the U.S. Army.

### 1953

**Theodore “Ted” Lazarus Krohn**, Myrtle Beach, S.C., died March 25. He served as a captain in the U.S. Army Reserve. Krohn was a professor of accounting at Wilkes and for many years worked as an attorney and solicitor, serving the Municipality of Kingston, Borough of Dallas, and Back Mountain Police Association.

### 1954

**William J. Lendener**, Lacey Township, N.J., died Jan. 11. Lendener served in the U.S. Navy. He worked as a chemist with Citgo Petroleum.

### 1955

**William “Bill” W. Walp**, Lancaster, Pa., died May 7, 2013. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II. Walp retired from the banking industry, where he worked for National Bank and Fulton Bank.

### 1957

**Frank Lutinski**, Hampton, Pa., died June 1, 2012. He was a senior research chemist at Gulf Oil.

### 1958

**William “Bill” A. Littleton, Sr.**, Devon, Pa., died April 6. Littleton was employed at General Electric Aerospace Division in Philadelphia until opening his own construction business.

### 1959

**Ernest “Ernie” Ashbridge, Jr.**, Shaverton, Pa., died April 9. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. For 41 years, Ashbridge worked at Hanover Bank of Pennsylvania.

### 1960

**William J. Woll**, Harrisburg, Pa., died March 22. Woll served as executive director of the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association.

### 1965

**Keith P. Ackerman**, Noank, Conn., died Nov. 18, 2012. He taught art at Fitch Junior High School and Fitch Middle School.

### 1966

**Carol Cowell**, Apache Junction, Ariz., died Feb. 21.

### 1967

**Jan Thomas Kubicki**, Philadelphia, Pa., died March 6. He worked at Marple Newtown High School, where he won state championships for directing drama club productions. He was self-employed at Truefire, a photography business.

### 1968

**Wayne Bloomberg**, Northampton, Pa., died Jan. 8. He served in the U.S. Air Force and was a Vietnam War veteran. Until his retirement in 2003, Bloomberg worked at AT&T.

**Barbara Mary Salus**, Freedom, Pa., died May 2. Salus was a social worker at the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Western Center.

### 1969

**Dayle Hemingway Swisher**, Clarks Summit, Pa., died April 27. She was a nurse at the Georgetown University Hospital and Arlington Hospital in Virginia as well as in her husband’s private practice.

### 1972

**Dr. D. Keith Ferrell**, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., died May 1, 2013. Ferrell was the founder and director of the Forensic Assessment and Counseling Unit at the Luzerne County Correctional Facility. He also served as the program director for Pennsylvania Institute for Rational Emotive Therapy and associate professor at the Albert Ellis Institute in New York.

### 1973

**Anthony “Tony” Karuzie**, Avoca, Pa., died March 23. Karuzie served in the U.S. Army Special Forces and was part of the 82nd Airborne Division. He worked as an operations manager at Ingersoll Rand Company.

**David G. Lieb**, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., died May 7.

### 1975

**Donald Smith**, White Haven, Pa., died April 6. Smith served in the

U.S. Air Force and was a veteran of the Korean War and chairman of the NATO working party in Brussels, Belgium. For 36 years, he worked at the Tobyhanna Army Depot.

### 1982

**Dr. Beverly A. Rothery**, Kingston, Pa., died Feb. 23. Rothery practiced medicine at Marietta Medical Care in Marietta, Ohio, and also worked at the Step-by-Step Program in Wilkes-Barre.

### 1985

**Jacqueline A. Vandenberg**, Fairview Township, Pa., died May 22. She was employed by Nabisco Inc.

### 1986

**Jane D. Lashock**, Hazleton, Pa., died Oct. 13, 2012. She worked in nursing at Geisinger Medical Center, Pocono Medical Center, Palmerton Hospital, St. Joseph’s Medical Center and Hazleton General Hospital.

### 1987

**Evan M. Chumard**, Scranton, Pa., died July 24, 2011. Chumard worked as a veterinary technician.

### 2005

**Beth Ann Wenner**, Freeland, Pa., died Nov. 21, 2011. She was employed by the Keystone Job Corps Center in Drums, Pa., and was studying for her doctorate at Marywood University.

## Friends of Wilkes

**Dr. David Walter Kistler**, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., died March 24, 2013. He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War. Kistler dedicated his life to service in his community where he had a medical practice for 52 years.

# Thank You to Our Donors

Thank you to the 2,691 alumni who gave a gift to Wilkes in the 2012-2013 fiscal year. Your gift enables Wilkes to provide current and future students with excellent academic programs, cutting-edge research opportunities, life-changing co-curricular experiences and scholarship aid. Without your generosity, these programs would not be possible.



We're pleased to announce that, for the first time, Wilkes University's annual report of gifts will be published online. You will receive a postcard in the mail directing you to the new report when it is available. There you will be able to view the following:

- John Wilkes Society members—annual donors who contribute at least \$1,000 each year
- Marts Society members—contributors participating in gift-planning programs
- Giving by class year
- Giving by constituency

Much progress was made across campus in the 2012-2013 fiscal year because of the generosity of our donors, University family, business partners and friends. Highlights include:

- more than \$5,000 raised by the class of 2013, which furnished a student lounge in the Cohen Science Center;
- three new annual endowed and five new endowed scholarships established to benefit students from a variety of disciplines;
- the renovation and expansion of the Munson Field House at Ralston Athletic Complex;
- and the completion of the \$35 million state-of-the-art Cohen Science Center.

## calendar of events



### October

- 1-20 Sordoni Art Gallery exhibit, *The Art of Balliet*
- 3 Allen P. Kirby Center Lecture featuring political columnist Jonah Goldberg, Darte Center, 7:30 p.m.
- 4-6 Homecoming Weekend
- 4 Dedication, Cohen Science Center, 4 p.m.
- 17 Wilkes University & King's College Alumni Networking Night, 6 p.m., Rodano's
- 19 Passport to Science, community open house, Cohen Science Center
- 29-Dec. 15 Sordoni Art Gallery exhibit, *nine-O-one: Jim Lennox, Sculpture and Paintings*
- 29-Dec. 15 Sordoni Art Gallery exhibit, *Visual Literacy: Paintings by Chad W. Stanley*

### November

- 5 J. Michael Lennon, reading and book signing, 7 p.m., Henry Student Center
- 6 Connecting the Dots, alumni networking event with current Wilkes students, Henry Student Center, 6 p.m.
- 8, 9, 15, 16 Theater Performance, *Seussical, The Musical*, Darte Center, 8 p.m.
- 9 Admissions Open House
- 10, 17 Theater Performance, *Seussical, The Musical*, Darte Center, 2 p.m.
- 17 Empty Bowls, benefiting local food banks, Henry Student Center, 11:30 a.m.
- 22 Choral Ensembles Concert, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Wilkes-Barre, 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Civic Band Concert, guest narrator Patrick Leahy, President of Wilkes University, Darte Center, 7:30 p.m.

### December

- 2 Graduate Studies Information Session, Henry Student Center Ballroom, 6-8 p.m.
- 5 Jazz Orchestra Concert, Darte Center, 8 p.m.
- 7 Flute Ensemble Concert, Darte Center, 7 p.m.
- 8 Chamber Orchestra Concert, Darte Center, 3 p.m.

### January

- 25 Athletic Hall of Fame Celebration, Marts Center