

Wilkes University

May 15, 2009

Baccalaureate Service



A Baccalaureate service seeks to respond with gratitude to the Giver of all good gifts and to ask the Lord's blessings on the graduates' future. This service includes the faith traditions and spiritual orientations represented in the senior class. It is dedicated to the hope of mutual understanding and appreciation in this community and throughout our world.

The Campus Interfaith Office congratulates those who today mark the completion of their courses of study and wish you and your families a safe and blessed journey as you leave Wilkes University.

We thank the members of the Class of 2009 who contributed to this service from their faith traditions. We are grateful for the members of the Wilkes University Chorus, Dr. Steven Thomas, director, and accompanist Tsukasa Waltich for providing today's music; and a special thanks to our guest speaker, Rev. Daniel Gunn for his words of wisdom.

Welcome

Dr. Paul Adams, Vice President, Student Affairs

Introduction

Theresa Monaco, Campus Interfaith Coordinator

Lighting of the Candle & Invocation

Jeffrey Bauman, Wilkes '09, Biology

As We Begin (responsive)

By Morris Silverman (adapted)

Jonathan Botch, Wilkes '09, Business

Eternal God, as the twilight of the old era fades into the night that marks the birth of a new era, we gather with mingled emotions, mindful of life's blessings and sorrows.

***Response: You, O Lord, are without beginning and without end.
"A thousand years in Your sight are as yesterday."***

But as for us, our years are limited; every hour is precious.

Response: And so we pray: "Teach us to number our days, That we may attain a heart of wisdom."

As we ponder the flight of time, the vanity of our possessions, and the uncertainty of life, we seek to link our lives to that which is timeless and true.

Response: May our prayers arouse within us lofty resolves and help us to give richer meaning to our daily lives.

Grant us, O Lord, faith and wisdom enough to meet the perplexities and perils which may beset us.

Response: May we acknowledge You as our Father, and recognize all human beings as Your children. May the new year be, for us and for all the world, a year of sustenance and cheer, of peace and serenity.

May this be a era in which Your spirit will guide our deeds,
And the love of You will fill our hearts. Amen.

Qur'an 96,1-8; 57,21; 23,118

Lili Dibai, Wilkes '09

Education and Spanish

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.
Proclaim! in the name of thy Lord and Cherisher, Who created-
Created man, out of a (mere) clot of congealed blood:
Proclaim! And thy Lord is Most Bountiful,-
He Who taught (the use of) the Pen,-
Taught man that which he knew not.
Nay, but man doth transgress all bounds,
In that he looketh upon himself as self-sufficient.
Verily, to thy Lord is the return (of all).

Be ye foremost (in seeking) Forgiveness from your Lord, and a Garden (of Bliss), the width whereof is as the width of Heaven and earth, prepared for those who believe in Allah and His messengers: that is the Grace of Allah, which He bestows on whom He pleases: and Allah is the Lord of Grace abounding.

So say, "O my Lord! Grant Thou forgiveness and mercy! For Thou art the Best of those who show mercy!"



Ride the Chariot Wilkes University Chamber Singers

Inspirational Reflection on Life by *Swami Vivekananda* Nitasa Sahu, Wilkes '09, Nursing

First, believe in the world—that there is meaning behind everything. Don't look back—forward, infinite energy, infinite enthusiasm, infinite daring, and infinite patience—then alone can great deeds be accomplished.

This is the first lesson to learn: be determined not to curse anything outside, not to lay the blame upon anyone outside, but stand up, lay the blame on yourself. You will find that is always true. Get hold of yourself.

Tell the truth boldly, whether it hurts or not. Never resort to weakness. If truth is too much for intelligent people and sweeps them away, let them go; the sooner the better.

This life is a hard fact; work your way through it boldly, though it may be adamant; no matter, the soul is stronger. This I have seen in life—those who are overcautious about themselves fall into dangers at every step; those who are afraid of losing honor and respect, get only disgrace; and those who are always afraid of loss, always lose.

“Face the brutes.” That is a lesson for all life—face the terrible, face it boldly.

Those who work at a thing heart and soul not only achieve success in it but through their absorption in that they also realize the supreme truth—Brahman. Those who work at a thing with their whole heart receive help from God.

What the world wants is character. The world is in need of those whose life is one burning love, selfless. That love will make every word tell like a thunderbolt.

We have to go back to philosophy to treat things as they are. We are suffering from our own karma. It is not the fault of God. What we do is our own fault, nothing else. Why should God be blamed?

Fill the brain with high thoughts, highest ideals, place them day and night before you, and out of that will come great work. Knowledge can only be got in one way, the way of experience; there is no other way to know.

Stand up, be bold, be strong. Take the whole responsibility on your own shoulders, and know that you are the creator of your own destiny. All the strength and succor you want is within yourselves. Therefore, make your own future.

Don't Quit

Melissa Jones, Wilkes '09, Biology

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest, if you must, but do not quit.

Often the goal is nearer than,
It seems to a faint and faltering man,
Often the struggler has given up,
When he might have captured the victor's cup,
And he learned too late when the night slipped down,
How close he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out—
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems so far,
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit—
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.



Romans 12:1-12

Amanda Karaffa, Wilkes '09, Chemistry & Education

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without hypocrisy Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, and devoted to prayer.



Baccalaureate Address:

Rev. Daniel Gunn

Pastor, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Time of Recollection & Book of Gratitude

Please take time to quietly reflect and remember the names of those who have been influential, helpful, or important to you. The graduates are asked to please come forward to write these names in the Book of Gratitude.

Benediction

Theresa Monaco, Campus Interfaith Coordinator



**Joyful, Joyful, We adore Thee
led by the Wilkes University Chorus**

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in Thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus,
which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us Sunward
in the triumph song of life.

Congratulations & Blessings to the Class of 2009!

Thank you for joining us. May God pour forth blessings upon all of you as you continue on your journey. Praise God!