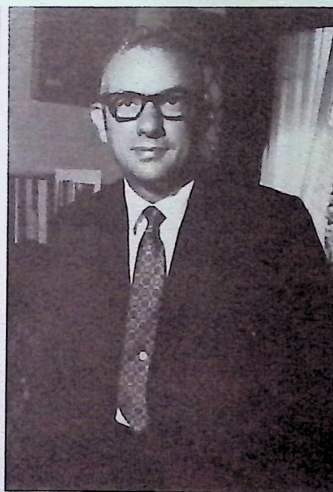
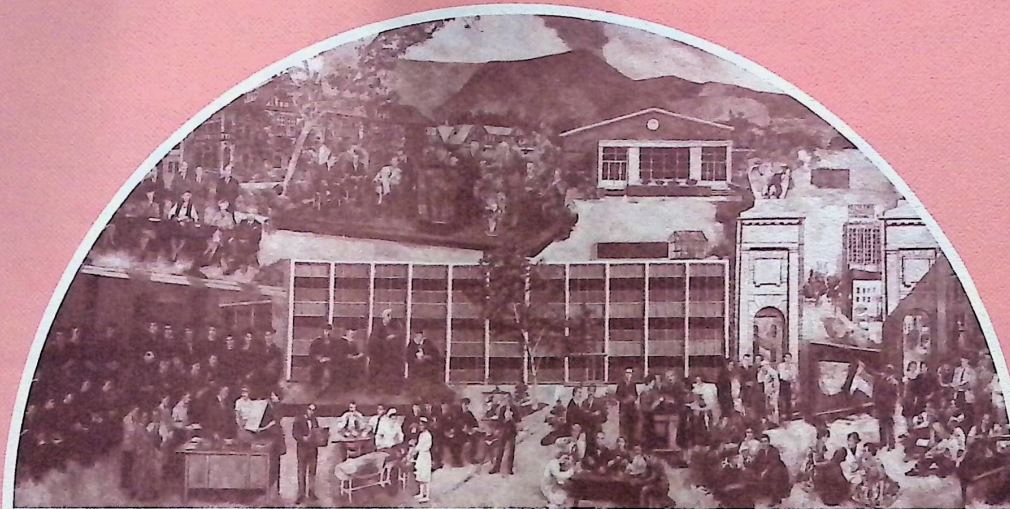


50th Anniversary
Issue

WILKES COLLEGE QUARTERLY

WILKES COLLEGE ARCHIVES
Eugene Sheldon Farley Library
c.1



A message from **ROBERT S. CAPIN,** president of Wilkes College



In preparation for the celebration of Wilkes College's 50th anniversary year, I have asked various members of the faculty and alumni to draw together their recollection of events that have determined and charted the educational commitment of the institution and shaped its philosophy. Included in this issue of the *Alumni Quarterly* is a retrospection commemorating the courage and vision of those early leaders of Bucknell University who brought the dream of a Junior College in Wyoming Valley to reality; it is also a tribute to our friends and neighbors in this community whose faith and support and generosity have brought us to this historic occasion. "The story of a college cannot be told in facts and figures," said Dr. Eugene S. Farley, our first president. "It unfolds with the lives of those who have been influenced by their association with it." It is my hope that from reading this report you may come to appreciate the sacrifices and dedication, the ideals and aspirations of men and women who have shared in the growth of Wilkes College. At this time we reaffirm the purposes and mission of the College, for only by constantly reexamining our responsibility and our goals can we maintain the character and integrity of the institution. It is my wish that our commitment to teaching, research, and public service will help bring a better world for us and for mankind. I invite you to join with us in celebrating our 50th birthday.

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FALL 1982

Volume 6, Number 1

WILKES COLLEGE QUARTERLY

Wilkes College: A Retrospection 1933-1983

This report is not intended to be a comprehensive history of Wilkes College. Each section reflects the growth and development of the College as those who lived through it remember it; each writer, chosen because of his or her familiarity with the period, could and did select and prepare information for inclusion in that chapter. In fifty years the College found some detractors who tried to put it down; but it found also friends who believed in its mission to nurture the creative spirit and ensure a better life for people everywhere. Future historians will have to assess the value of our contributions. As for us, and for now, it is enough to know that we were here; that we participated; and that we loved every minute of it.

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Joseph Salsburg

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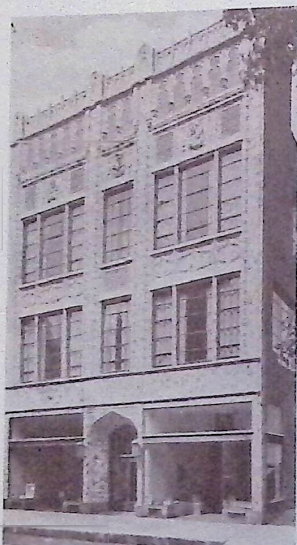
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Dr. James Rodechko

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The WILKES COLLEGE QUARTERLY is published quarterly by the Wilkes College Public Relations Office and the Alumni Relations Office.

"These were difficult times but there was the vision that grew over the years into the Wilkes College of today."

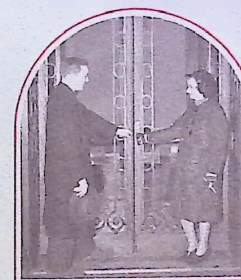
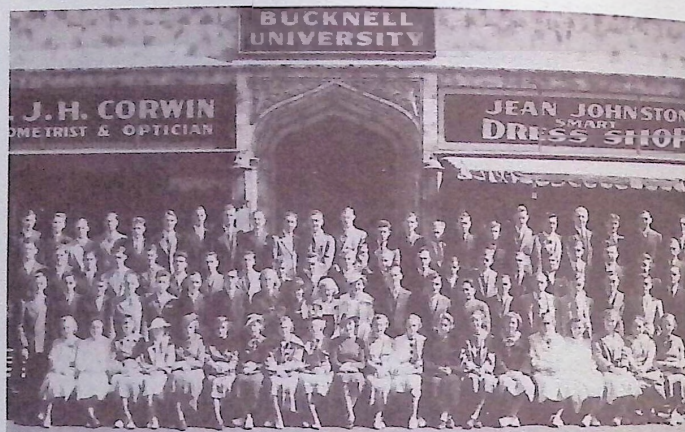


above: 1933-1937 rented quarters of Wilkes-Barre Business College where the Junior College started.

above right: Bucknell Junior College first graduating class.

right: Board of Trustees, Bucknell Junior College: seated: Gilbert S. McClintock, Chairman; Miss Mary R. Koons; Mrs. Charles E. Clift; Miss Annette Evans; Mrs. Edward H. Kent; Frederick J. Weckesser, Vice-Chairman; standing: Dr. Joseph J. Kocyan; Dr. Eugene S. Farley; the Rev. Charles S. Roush, Secretary; Jasper B. Carr; F. Ellsworth Parkhurst, Jr.; James P. Harris

Absent when picture was taken: Dr. Samuel M. Davenport; the Honorable Thomas F. Farrell; Reuben H. Levy; Charles H. Miner; Col. J. Henry Pool; the Honorable Andrew J. Sordani; Julius Long Stern; Mrs. Franck G. Darte; George W. Guckelberger; Edward B. Mulligan; Dr. Arnaud C. Marts; Dr. P. P. Mayock, Edward Griffith.



BUCKNELL JUNIOR COLLEGE

THE BEGINNINGS 1933-35

Contributing Writers: Dr. Edward Hartmann Dr. Joseph Lord Joseph Salsburg

In September of 1933 Bucknell University Junior College, the forerunner of Wilkes College, accepted its first students, a class of 193 fully qualified freshmen and part-time students. On September 14 the Junior College was opened in rented quarters on the third floor of the Wilkes-Barre Business College three-story brick building on Northampton Street. In the second year, when the Business College moved out, the Junior College occupied the entire building. Labs were then moved to the third floor, and the library, originally housed in the Registrar's office, was moved to the second floor.

In the beginning there were those who did not think the growing college could survive. A reference to the Junior College and the community appeared in a 1936 issue of the Survey Graphic, a national magazine (which suspended publication shortly afterwards): "Wilkes-Barre is a community divided against itself. The only effort to bring together diverse groups in the community is Bucknell University Junior College, and the community will never support it."

In the June 1933 edition of the *Bucknell Alumni Monthly*, Homer P. Rainey, president of Bucknell University, reported that there was a population of over 400,000 in Wilkes-Barre and Luzerne County within easy commuting distance, and there were more than 1,200 high school graduates within that area, many of whom were academically qualified, who could not afford to go away to a college or to a university. The results of a state-wide survey, made two years previously, indicated that there were at least ten cities where a junior college was eminently feasible. The report also indicated that "Wilkes-Barre offered the greatest need and the best opportunity of all the ten cities."

The timing was right. The nation was still suffering from the Great Depression. The economy of Wyoming Valley was especially weakened from the decline of the anthracite coal industry. The Depression also caused a plethora of high-level teachers simply because colleges and universities, for financial reasons, could offer fewer academic appointments.

Dr. Frank G. Davis, head of the Department of Education in Bucknell University, head of the Summer School, and, for many years, head of the Extension Division, is considered "The Father of Bucknell University Junior College." This was acknowledged in the biography of Arnaud C. Marts, president of Bucknell University from 1938 to 1945. Later, Dr. Eugene S. Farley, the first president of Wilkes College, referred to Davis' primary role in a memo to Dr. Francis J. Micheline, then Dean of Academic Affairs at Wilkes. Finally,

Dr. Davis himself, on May 3, 1940, in a letter to registrar George R. Faint, recalled those events: "The facts of the case are that no interested citizens, no school superintendents, and no civic clubs presented any needs whatsoever to me prior to my presentation of the idea to Dr. Rainey." From March 1 to March 4, 1933, he had come to Wyoming Valley, visited schools, and talked with school people.

"No individual or organization suggested to me the idea of a Junior College. I returned to Lewisburg on Saturday evening, March 4, [1933] and early the next week presented the idea to Dr. Rainey. Within the next two and a half months, I presented the matter to him at least a dozen times. He was interested but not sufficiently interested to move. On one occasion I asked him if I might bring to his office three school superintendents from that section, all Bucknell men. He agreed, and they attempted to show him where the Junior College could serve a real need. Finally, Dr. Rainey asked me to go to Wilkes-Barre and make a survey of the situation. I spent four or five days in that general area getting facts about the whole situation; and, when I returned with a recommendation that the Junior College be established, President Rainey presented it to the Board of Trustees and also to the Faculty. As soon as the Trustees and Faculty and the State Department of Public Instruction had approved the idea, I was sent to Wilkes-Barre to get the organization started; and you will recall that I took you, as Registrar, with me. We spent about three weeks there in strenuous endeavor . . ."

"There is evidence that the Junior College had attracted some of the top academically talented high school graduates from the area."



First basketball team, 1933.
first row (left to right): Kolinarishy, Loftus,
Sevengel, W. Haines, Grudkowsky.
second row: Coach Peters, Salsburg,
Mallahan, O'Donnell, C. Haines.

Varsity letter.

On May 22, 1933, Dr. Davis sent the requested report to Dr. Rainey on the possibility for success of the Junior College. A decline in enrollment at Bucknell University enabled the transfer to the Junior College of eight full-time, top-level teachers. Too, Bucknell University bore the costs and the burden of founding and maintaining the Junior College for the first five years. To that point, no funds, according to report, were received from local citizens.

In 1953, looking back on those early years president Farley wrote about the faculty that commuted from Lewisburg to Wilkes-Barre:

"Although some of these teachers were primarily interested in a job, a large portion were dedicated teachers who were convinced that the Junior College could and should play a central part in planning for the economic and social renaissance of the region . . . These were difficult times but there was the vision that grew over the years into the Wilkes College of today."

Bucknell University appointed John Henry Eisenhauer, M.A., Columbia, and Associate Professor of Education at Boston College, as the director. He was assisted by Byron Hollinshead, an Instructor in English. George Faint was registrar. The faculty was unusually qualified; they had done graduate study in such universities as Bucknell, Chicago, Columbia, Cornell, Dickinson (College), Duke, Harvard, Oxford, Stanford, Virginia, and Yale. A librarian from Osterhout Free Library came to the Junior College and the small college library was augmented by the use of the local library. Biology students had a working agreement with the Kirby Health Center with regard to blood tests and their course in bacteria.

The thrust was not all academic. There were many extracurricular activities so that the college life of

the beginning students was well rounded. A partial list of activities included clubs in Debating, Dramatics, Economics, German, and Biology. The Dramatic Club produced plays for the College and for the community at large. The *Sen Baitu Society*, a men's fraternity-type organization, was in existence for the first two years. The *Bison Stampede* was the school newspaper. In sports there were teams in basketball, boxing, football, and tennis. Impromptu lunchtime dancing in the auditorium was a daily occurrence.

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The first two years, 1933-1935, provided an auspicious start and set the stage for a bright future and, eventually, the establishment of Wilkes College.



WILKES COLLEGE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY RUN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1982 AT 10 AM

WILKES COLLEGE ARCHIVE
Eugene Shodden Farley Library

WHAT:

A five mile competitive run and a one mile fun run co-sponsored by the Wilkes College Alumni Association and the Pepsi Cola Company to celebrate the Wilkes College 50th Anniversary.

WHERE:

The start and finish of this event will be similar to the Cherry Blossom Run and will begin and finish in Kirby Park.

REGISTRATION:

8:00 to 9:30 AM on Saturday (October 9) at the Kirby Park Pavilion next to the pond. Entry fee of \$ 4.00 on or before Thursday, October 7; \$ 5.00 fee thereafter. All participants will receive a Wilkes College T-shirt and (2) tickets to the Homecoming Game with Trenton State on Saturday, October 9.

SPECIAL AWARDS:

The top male and female of each age group in the five mile run will be given awards.

Male: 15 and under, 16-19, 20-24, 25-34, 35-49, 50 and over

Female: 19 and under, 20-29, 30 and over

REGISTRATION

Specify one event only:
5 Mile Run _____

1 Mile Fun Run _____

NAME _____ AGE _____ SEX _____ PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

In consideration of the acceptance of my entry, I waive all rights and claims which I may have accrued me against Wilkes College and any sponsors while traveling to and from the event and participation in it, for any and all injuries/damages suffered by me in the Wilkes College Golden Anniversary Run.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

SIGNATURE OF PARENT IF UNDER 18 YEARS _____

Please Return Entry Form and
\$ 4.00 Entry Fee To:

Wilkes College
Office of Career Services
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766

T-Shirt Size: S M L XL

Make Checks Payable To: Wilkes College

(Please call 824-4651, Ext. 490 if
you have any questions)

WILKES COLLEGE ARCHIVES
Eugene Sheldon Farley Library

SINGERS!

COME, JOIN THE CELEBRATION!

WILKES COLLEGE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

INNAUGURAL CONCERT

OCTOBER 31, 1982

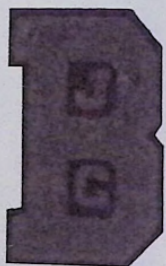
YOU are invited to share your talents by becoming a member of the large Festival Chorus that will be preparing the Franz Joseph Haydn oratorio THE CREATION. It is hoped that all interested friends, alumni, staff, faculty and administrators of Wilkes College will join the College Choir in the preparation of this truly magnificent composition. YOUR ONLY RESPONSIBILITY is to be in attendance at the Monday evening rehearsals beginning on September 13, 1982, 7:30-9:30, Room 2 Darte Music Building, and the two dress rehearsals with soloists and orchestra the weekend of the concert. The musical scores will be provided for you. YOU DO NOT have to be an accomplished singer! Just a genuine love of singing!

To indicate your interest, or to have any questions answered, please call the Wilkes College Department of Music, 824-4651 (ext. 355).

"There is evidence that the Junior College had attracted some of the top academically talented high school graduates from the area."



First basketball team, 1933.
first row (left to right): Kolinarisky, Loftus, Sevengel, W. Haines, Grudhowsky.
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THE FORMATIVE YEARS 1936-46

Contributing Writers: Dr. Charles B. Reif Thomas Richards Cromwell Thomas

During the month of March in 1936 Bucknell University Junior College had a change of command. Eugene S. Farley replaced John Eisenhower as director. Dr. Farley came to Wilkes-Barre because he believed he had an opportunity to be of service. The Junior College was still operating in what was known as the "boiler factory" on Northampton Street, but in 1937 Chase Hall and Conyngham Hall became "the campus." Most of the faculty were still commuting from Lewisburg but several had established residence in Wilkes-Barre.

"Year by year students come and go, but always friendships remain to enrich the lives of all of us who work together at Bucknell . . . We are none of us striving for ourselves alone, but all of us are helping to build an atmosphere and tradition that will mean much to those who follow us."

In September of 1937 in his welcome to freshmen, Dr. Farley spoke of the activities waiting for them outside the classroom, which are definitely, he reminded them, a part of college life. *"Year by year students come and go, but always friendships remain to enrich the lives of all of us who work together at Bucknell . . . Perhaps because we are a new and growing college, an added zest comes to our endeavors. We are none of us striving for ourselves alone, but all of us are helping to build an atmosphere and tradition that will mean much to those who follow us."*

In 1937 Norma Tyburski, nee Sangiuliano, affectionately known as Sangy, came aboard and founded the "Thespians." Sangy also instituted the May Festival, a pageant which was presented annually through 1947. It was Sangy and the women students who sewed and hung the curtains in Chase Hall soon after its acquisition by the College.

On January 13, 1938, a meeting was opened by president Arnaud Marts and action was taken to institute a fifteen-member Board of Trustees for Bucknell University Junior College. Gilbert McClintock was elected chairman and Charles Miner was elected secretary; thus a first step was made in recognizing the Junior College as a separate entity.

On February 16, 1938, the Board of Trustees faced the problem of financing the embryonic institution. Discussion ensued about the necessity of having a campaign, a move which became habit-forming. In June of 1938 Dr. Farley reported that during the first four years of its existence the Junior College had a

deficit of \$29,672.83; however, the financial picture looked better, and he predicted that the College would have to be more selective in its admissions because room for more students was not available. The campaign of June, 1938, raised \$27,924 and that improved the situation. In September Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Weckesser presented their home on Northampton Street to the College with the stipulation that the house be used as residence for the director, and the Farley family moved into 78 West Northampton; Dr. Farley accepted a reduction in his salary, from \$5,000 to \$4,250, in lieu of rent. The first Weckesser Hall was later to serve several functions before it disappeared to make room for a new dormitory. At about the same time, the carriage house behind Chase Hall was converted into a playhouse (seating about 125) and for years the weekly convocations of the students and faculty, as well as many fine theatrical productions, were held in Chase Theater. With the move of William Miller, the original professor of mathematics, back to the main campus at Lewisburg, and the appearance of Arthur Bernhart, the formation of an indigenous BUJC faculty drew near.

On the sixteenth of December, 1938, president Marts reported that BUJC had been accredited by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. However, Dr. Farley reported that recognition by the Middle States Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges might be withheld if the holdings of the Junior College library were not increased. Upon hearing that report, trustee Daniel Roberts wrote out a check for \$2,500 for the purchase of

"During the spring of 1943 a very large draft call took the majority of male students."



1937 — Conyngham Hall



1937 — Chase Hall

the thousand needed volumes. By June of 1939 Dr. Farley was able to announce to the trustees that during the six years since its inception the enrollment of the College had increased from 193 to 401. During the fall of 1939 a pilot training program, part of the federal effort to prepare more fliers for World War II, was instituted by BUJC, although the actual flying was initiated at the Forty Fort Airport. Two hundred and eleven students enrolled during the first year of the program. In October of 1939 Dr. Farley was able to announce that for the first time he had managed to balance the College's budget. More emphasis was placed on evening classes, which began in 1933, in addition to the daytime curriculum; a number of dedicated high school teachers joined with the full-time faculty to expand the evening school, which in 1936 enrolled 175 part-time students. Dr. Farley was able to report to the trustees that of the four hundred students in those days who went off to college from the Wyoming Valley, about a quarter of them started their collegiate studies at BUJC; thus the Junior College was beginning to make a constructive impact locally.

With the growth of the College the trustees began to cast designing

glances at the Kirby home on the corner of South River Street and South Street. Mr. Weckesser was appointed to visit Allan P. Kirby to encourage him to donate the house to the College but Mr. Kirby hesitated. Meanwhile, the debt of the College was still approximately \$30,000, on which the College was paying 5% interest, even though the pilot training program sponsored by the CAA showed a profit of three hundred dollars. In December of 1940 when Mr. McClintock was sent to call on him, Mr. Kirby proposed that the College share the building with The Wyoming Historical and Geological Society. However, the Society did not wish to share the house with anyone; Mr. Kirby then suggested that possibly the Wilkes-Barre Art Association might be interested. The Art Association was not interested, and finally in June of 1941 Kirby Hall became part of BUJC.

In the meantime, president Marts began to talk in terms of a four-year institution, and consideration was given to offering two-year terminal courses in Commerce & Finance, Music, and Home Economics. Somehow the debt to Bucknell University was paid off in June of 1941, and a small group of friends joined with Mr. Kirby to provide

\$55,480 for alterations and endowment of Kirby Hall and prepare the building for occupancy by students and faculty of BUJC. The library, which had been in Conyngham Hall, was moved to the second floor of Kirby Hall. A grand piano was placed in the small front room so that Paul Gies could give piano lessons. The main living rooms were the scene of many dances, with music supplied by phonograph.

In spite of the fact that the number of male students drafted into the armed services was starting to make inroads into the enrollment, the College continued and even instituted a course in medical terminology as a non-credit offering for secretaries of the Wyoming Valley. Rumor had it that the Army Air Force might come to BUJC and occasionally, throughout 1942, talk of a four-year college was heard. Then on the nineteenth of April, 1943, the Junior College appealed to Bucknell University to be allowed to administer the Army Air Force pre-flight training program here in Wilkes-Barre. The influx of 1,200 Army Air Force cadets came at a most opportune moment because during the spring of 1943 a very large draft call took the majority of male students. Practically the

entire student body, including faculty, went to the Lehigh Valley Railroad station to see the boys go off to war. It was a tearful scene. The enrollment of BUJC was down to one hundred and eleven students, mostly female, but it was not long before the cadets were here and the College had a reprieve. Weckesser Hall became headquarters for the Army Air Force contingent, and the Farleys moved to the third floor of Kirby Hall. The cadets were quartered in the Sterling Hotel and marched by platoons from place to place, crowding civilians off the sidewalks. Woe be to anyone so unfortunate as to be in the path of

two platoons marching in opposite directions! Nevertheless, the tenth anniversary of BUJC was celebrated at a dinner on November 11, 1943.

The Air Force departed early in 1944 and plans were laid for a campaign to raise \$150,000. Weckesser Hall was converted into a dormitory for sixteen proper young women over whom Dean Sanguiliano ruled with an iron hand in a velvet glove. With the news that King's College was about to come into being, in the former residence of BUJC on Northampton Street, the trustees again attacked the question of having a four-year institution and on June 14, 1945,

they passed a motion that such action be taken. Discussions were held as to the planning and use of the city block on which the campus was then located in its entirety. A first move was made to purchase the lot formerly occupied by the Baptist Church at the corner of South Franklin Street and South Street. The acquisition of that lot some months later was the College's first action to enlarge by purchase the extent of the campus. And again attention was focused on raising \$350,000 to be designated as endowment for the growing college. Bucknell University forgave the debt in the sum of \$8,352.86 still



1937 — Chase Theater



1938 — Weckesser Hall



1941 — Kirby Hall

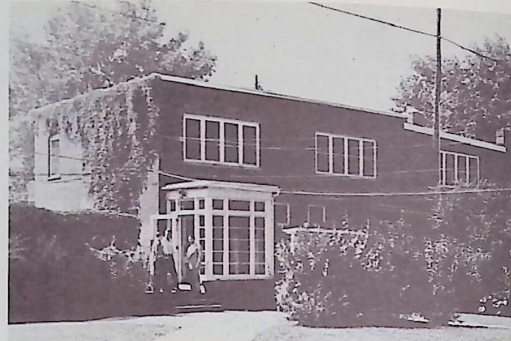


1945 — Gies Hall

"By the twenty-second of April, 1946, the new college was almost within reach and the trustees were considering the selection of a name."



1945 — Barre Hall



1945 — Cafeteria



1946 — Butler Hall

owed the university by the Junior College. BU's generosity gave impetus to the campaign.

On January 12, 1946, increases in salaries were proposed by the administration to the Board of Trustees. Dr. Farley was authorized to negotiate raises between \$280 and \$300 per person for those with the doctorate. Summer school courses were extra, and during the summer of 1946 a full semester was offered, beginning what was known as the trimester academic year. Most of the faculty, with loads approaching thirty contact hours per week, did teach the trimesters well into 1947.

Early in January of 1946 the Junior College trustees purchased the Payne House and established a men's dormitory. A proposal was made that the cafeteria, located for years in the former kitchen of Chase Hall and certainly inadequate, be moved to the garage of Conyngham Hall, but that move was not made and in 1947 the Conyngham garage was refitted to become Wayman Hall, the home of the Biology Department.

Next in acquisition was the Stoddard house, near the corner of Franklin and South Streets, later known as Gies Hall. The installation of required fire escapes to Gies

Hall, at a cost of \$14,000, was a major expenditure in those days; the growing Music Department was happy in Gies Hall, its practice rooms mercifully located some distance from the other campus classrooms. The former Stoddard garage was made into a cafeteria, and Mrs. Brennan moved her staff from the back room of Chase Hall to that elegant eatery, but when it was soon found to be too small Kirby garage and Stoddard garage were remodeled into one spacious dining facility and christened "The Commons."

At its meeting of March 25, 1946, the Board of Trustees considered making application for an ROTC program but that was still some years in the future. At the same meeting Herbert J. Morris was appointed acting registrar and the resignation of George Faint, who was ill, was regretfully accepted. More discussion centered on the big campaign, which had not yet materialized. Dr. Farley insisted that the funds to be raised were for a four-year college "for people of all faiths, nationalities, and races, so that through friendly associations understanding and good [between all peoples] will be created."



1946 — Ashley Hall



1946 — The Annexes

By the twenty-second of April, 1946, the new college was almost within reach and the trustees were considering the selection of a name. Among those mentioned in the minutes of that meeting were Wilkes-Barre, Anthracite, Riverside (which survived, at least in the name of the yearbook, "Amnicola"), Wyoming, Wyoming Valley, Luzerne, and Westmoreland. The name of John Wilkes emerged later. Also at that meeting on the twenty-second, Paul Gies appeared in person before the trustees and thanked Senator Andrew J. Sordoni for the gift of two grand pianos.

In June of 1946 BUJC had to borrow \$50,000 from the Miners National Bank, at 3%, to have the necessary cash until the Veterans Administration came through with the money owed the College for various service-related programs presented by BUJC. However, the order was issued for full speed ahead on plans for a four-year institution. The first yearbook was published and known only as BUJC 1946. The campaign goal was set at \$400,000 and things began to move. With the return of the veterans the enrollment in 1946 surpassed a thousand. The veterans were in all departments. Classes as large as 240 met on the second floor of the First Presbyterian Church House. Weekly convocations were held in the

sanctuary of the First Presbyterian Church. George F. Ralston, dean of men, football coach, adviser to veterans, and house father of Ashley Hall, was officially cleared by the United States Government as appointee of the Board of Trustees to purchase war-surplus items at Harrisburg. Dean Ralston and others of the College, in rented trucks, made many trips to the depots in the state capital and there paid \$1.00 per item for many things which enabled the College to perform its functions. The first computer on campus, a giant vacuum tube contraption, came from Harrisburg. BUJC in its last days appeared affluent even if it had mostly hand-me-downs.

As a Christmas present for 1946, Walter S. Carpenter gave the College thirty shares of duPont common stock. The College's supporters in the community were becoming more numerous. The campaign for an endowment was a success, and with \$500,000 in hand the graduation of Bucknell University Junior College to Wilkes College was assured. In May of 1947 application for a charter as an independent, four-year liberal arts college to be known as "Wyoming Valley College" was presented to the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas:

In the matter of: The application for a charter for Wyoming Valley College, in the Court of Common Pleas of Luzerne County, now, the 28th day of May 1947, upon motion of William S. McLean, Esq., attorney for the incorporators of the above intended college, IT IS ORDERED AND DECREED as follows:

That the incorporators be and are hereby permitted to amend their Articles of Incorporation by changing the name of the intended college from "Wyoming Valley College" to "Wilkes College." The within Amended Articles of Incorporation be and are hereby permitted to be filed in lieu of the original Articles of Incorporation . . .

On June 4 the Charter was granted by the court, and on June 26, 1947, at ceremonies on the lawn behind Chase Hall, Gilbert McClintock, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Junior College, accepted the Charter from the state of Pennsylvania for Wilkes College. Dr. Arnaud C. Marts, fulfilling the promise made by Bucknell University, turned the capital assets of more than \$2,000,000 over to the new College.

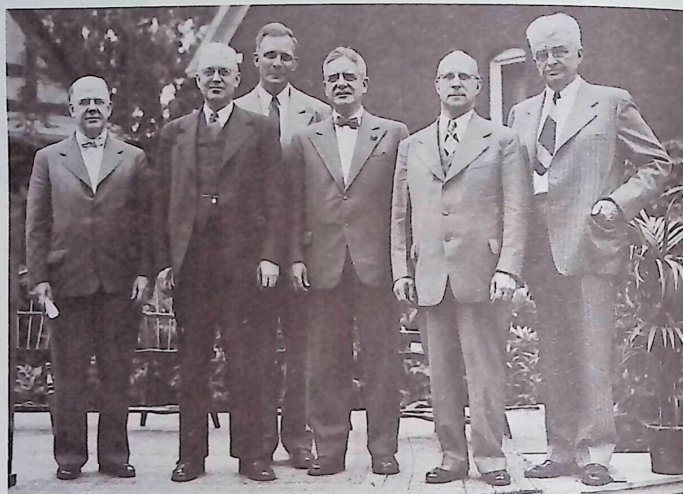
"Dr. Eugene S. Farley was inaugurated as the first president of Wilkes College."



above: In front of Chase Hall, South River Street.

above right: Charter Day principals. Left to right: Dr. Charles S. Roush, Dr. Herbert L. Spencer, Dr. Eugene S. Farley, Dr. Arnaud C. Marts, Dr. Henry Klonower, Attorney Gilbert S. McClintock.

right: Dr. Farley speaking at Charter Day, June 26, 1947.



WILKES COLLEGE

THE INNOVATIVE YEARS 1947-59

Contributing Writers:

Welton Farrar
Dr. Eugene Hammer
Dr. Charlotte Lord
Dr. Robert Riley
John P. Whitby

Dr. Eugene S. Farley was inaugurated as the first president of Wilkes College at special ceremonies held Wednesday night, November 12, 1947, at First Presbyterian Church, having served as director of Bucknell Junior College for eleven years.

Dr. Farley wrote that the early years were a time of slow material growth; they teemed, however, with the creation of cocurricular organizations, campus activities, publications, faculty and community involvements that established the rituals and the traditions of Wilkes College, its character, and its vital contributions to the economic and cultural ambiance of the area.

Rightly and inevitably, there were carry-overs from the Junior College. Student Government continued, and in 1949 the Inter-Dormitory Council was formed. Departmental clubs grew in number and in scope.

The Choral Club and the Bach Festival, founded by "Pop" Gies, flourished. Reese E. Pelton had created a military band in 1946 and expanded it to include concert performances in 1947-1948; there was also a "Collegio" orchestra under his direction. In the fall of that academic year the first Homecoming was held and the first Winter Carnival. In 1957, the twenty-fifth anniversary year, sequential class reunions came into being.

In 1947 the Thespians became Cue and Curtain under the direction of Al Groh, successor to Norma Sangiuliano Tyburski, and carried on the program of two full-length plays, one-acts, and radio shows. Productions were given in Chase Theater, at Irem Temple, and in various high school auditoriums. The first original one-act play, written by Ed Tyburski, was staged at Chase Theater.

The first Intercollegiate Theater Conference, sponsored by Cue and Curtain, was held on March 12-13, 1949, with guest speakers Rosamond Gilder, editor of *Theatre*

Arts Magazine, and John O'Shaughnessy, director of *Command Decision* on Broadway; attending were representatives from 23 college, 7 community, and 37 high school drama groups in Eastern Pennsylvania.

Beginning with George Gershwin's *Girl Crazy* in 1954 and continuing over the next fourteen years, musical comedies were sponsored by the Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs of Wilkes-Barre; proceeds from these shows helped the Wilkes-Barre Kiwanis endow the Wheelchair Club, started by Mrs. Paul Bedford, and aid the Crippled Children's Association, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and other civic organizations. *The Music Man*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Bloomer Girl*, and *Paint Your Wagon* were among the highly successful and largely attended performances held at Irem Temple. The Letterman's show, written by faculty members Alfred Groh and Dr. Charles Reif, with music composed by senior Ted Warkomsky, was presented in 1949 at Irem Temple and repeated at Kingston High School as a benefit for the Wyoming Valley Industrial Fund. Titled *All in Fun*, it was a mild satire of events and people on campus. The highlight was the "Can-Can" routine with George Ralston and the football squad in the kick-line, wearing costumes designed and made by Murray Popky. The College drinking song came from this show.

Dr. Arthur Kruger founded the Debate Union in 1948 and soon established an impressive record that gave Wilkes College national recognition. The Wilkes team placed second in the National Invitational Debate Tournament at West Point

"The early years teemed, however, with the creation of cocurricular organizations, campus activities, publications, faculty and community involvements."

"Now, as then, members of the college faculty and administration engage in a remarkable number of activities aimed at improving the economy and culture of the community."



1946 — Lecture Hall



1949 — Pickering Hall



1949 — Sterling Hall



1949 — President's Home

in April, 1955. J. Harold Flannery, Jr., and James Neveras were the winning debaters in a competition in which first-place University of Alabama had a weak lead.

The Beta Gamma Chi (Bucknell's Girls' Club) had been founded in 1945. After the chartering, that name, no longer suitable, was changed to Women of Wilkes; but after grimly enduring the "WOW'S" tag for a time, the organization became in 1948 Theta Delta Rho. A service group, it played an active part in campus and community affairs. In 1952 it adopted a ten-year-old French war orphan and established a scholarship for a deserving member of the sorority. Over the years it has made the Golden Agers' Christmas party an annual affair; it participates in the Bike-a-thon for Cancer; and it is widely active in social and human-service projects.

The first foreign students matriculated in 1947, and in 1949 a conference of International Relations clubs was held.

John Chwalek set up a Placement Center and Careers Library in 1948, and the first Annual Conference was offered on March 29-30, 1951, "for the entire student body of Wilkes College as well as for seniors from high schools in Wyoming Valley."

The first on-campus commencement was held in the gymnasium in 1951.

Gone today are freshman hazing, compulsory Assembly, and the Amnicola Beauty contests, although a Homecoming Queen and her court continue to reign. Annual picnics are still held at Fair-Lea, Dr. and Mrs. Farley's farm at Beaumont.

The *Bucknell Beacon*, the weekly campus newspaper, became the *Wilkes College Beacon*, and by 1949 the staff was attending the Interscholastic Press Conference. *Wilkes Alumnus* was the official

publication of the Alumni Association; Vol. 1, No. 1 appeared in the summer of 1948. It has had various names over the years: *Wilkes College Bulletin*, *Wilkes College Alumni News* (1954) and the present *Alumni Quarterly*. *Bucknell University Junior College Yearbook* became in 1948 the *Amnicola*, a Latin word meaning "that which dwells by the river." Founded by Dr. Mary E. Craig, faculty adviser and member of the English department, the *Manuscript* was a first in the literary field and a showcase for creative student writers.

The Allan Hamilton Dickson and Kate Pettebone Dickson Chair for the encouragement of research and creative writing was established in memory of her parents by Mrs. Franck Dart after World War II. The recipient was to have "a record of literary achievements which would encourage others to engage in creative writing."

"Women of Wilkes," comprised of faculty members and wives of faculty, was organized in 1948, providing coffee hours for students, a scholarship fund, a series of guest and member lectures, and other campus involvements.

The faculty seminar series, originally called the "Groping Group" series in an earlier incarnation, was revived in 1957 by an informal committee of Dr. Frank Davies, chairman of the English department; Dr. Stanko Vujica, chairman of the Philosophy department; and Dr. Konstantin Symons, chairman of the Sociology department; in 1958 it offered its first academic-year program to the campus family and to the public.

The Town and Gown Concert Series (1948) was also open to both College and community guests. In 1952 and 1953, as a result of a visit to New York by John Chwalek,

Wilkes hosted the American Town Meeting of the Air with Eric Severeid as moderator. The program was broadcast from the Wilkes College gymnasium coast to coast, through the facilities of station WILK, an affiliate of the American Broadcasting Company.

John Chwalek was also responsible for bringing the College to the attention of two widely read periodicals. The January 16, 1956, issue of *Sports Illustrated* covered the twenty-fifth Annual "Rose-Bowl" of Wrestling Tournament held at the gymnasium during the Christmas holiday. The event attracted to the campus approximately 500 wrestlers from about 70 universities and colleges representing twenty-four states. The magazine's vice president of public relations spoke at a dinner attended by the coaches.

An article, "Wilkes and Wilkes-Barre Working Together," appeared in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* Magazine, November 23, 1958; staff writer John Beverly characterized the community-oriented College: "Now, as then, members of the college faculty and administration engage in a remarkable number of activities aimed at improving the economy and culture of the community."

The Polish Club was an active force on campus and in the Valley. In 1948 in the College gymnasium it commemorated the achievements of nineteenth-century Polish leader and poet, Adam Mickiewicz, with a performance in English of his drama, *Forefathers Eve*. The cast, directed by Al Groh, included performers from the campus and community.

Several community-oriented programs had their origin in the 1950s. The Institute of Municipal Government began in 1951 as an adjunct of the Political Science department under the guidance and leadership of Dr. Hugo V. Mailey.



below top: Gymnasium groundbreaking ceremonies, 1950. Jack Sordoni, far right, with Dr. Farley, carrying shovel.



below center: Lettermen who participated in All in Fun musical, 1949.

below bottom: One of the many ethnic groups represented in the United Nationalities Pageant, 1953.

"The Labor/Management/Citizens Committee, the only one of its kind in Pennsylvania . . ."

Later, as the Institute of Regional Affairs, it continued to provide programs and services for government officials, public servants, industrialists, and business men throughout northeastern Pennsylvania. In 1960 the Ford Foundation rewarded its efforts with a substantial grant to expand its program.

The Labor-Management-Citizens Committee was established in 1957 by Dr. Samuel A. Rosenberg, chairman of the Commerce and Finance department, to act as an instrument of mediation in labor disputes. It was supported jointly by the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce and the Ford Foundation. A New York Times promotion supplement of November 29, 1958, referred to the L-M-C Committee as "an instrument of dramatic effectiveness in maintaining labor peace. The Labor-Management-Citizens Committee, the only one of its kind in Pennsylvania, has proved a positive factor in creating a climate of understanding, mutuality of interest, and joint responsibility which is rapidly making Wilkes-Barre one of the nation's most progressive areas in labor-management relations."

The first of six United Nationalities Pageants, an annual festival of songs and dances by ethnic groups living and working together in Wyoming Valley, was presented on Sunday, April 29, 1951, at the gymnasium. With a theme and script by Alfred Groh, director of theater, the Pageant portrayed experiences identified with people of different origins for whom "the dream of freedom is not an act of law but an act of faith." To help celebrate the Sesquicentennial of the city of Wilkes-Barre in 1956, Dr. Farley volunteered resources and personnel of the College. This commitment

resulted in a Fine Arts Fiesta, the first full-scale community-wide arts festival in Pennsylvania. The three-day cultural event included a United Nationalities Day as well as crafts-in-action, exhibits, visual and performing arts, and a variety of ethnic foods. This festival of the arts held on the Public Square, an outgrowth of the College's United Nationalities Pageant, came into being largely through the effort and support of Annette Evans, a member of the Board of Trustees.

On December 20, 1957, an original one-act music drama, *Man Against the Sky*, was performed at the Commons for Dr. and Mrs. Farley's annual Christmas dinner for faculty and administration. Written for the 25th anniversary of Wilkes College, the opera had a libretto by Alfred Groh and music composed by William Crowder, an alumnus teaching in the Wilkes-Barre City Schools. A recording was made in the lobby of the gymnasium and released in an album with a jacket cover painted by Cathal O'Toole, chairman of the Art department. The music drama was repeated at the 1958 Fine Arts Fiesta, with members of the original cast comprised of students and alumni.

During the 50s Wilkes' success in competing for students with colleges that offered more attractive campus settings, superior facilities, and established traditions was in large measure owing to the talents and resourcefulness of John Whitby, who, as Dean of Admissions, visited high schools, interviewed prospective students and welcomed parents, evaluated transcripts, scheduled courses during the summer for incoming freshmen, and served as coordinator for the College and Kiwanis Club joint sponsorship of the theater/music department musical comedy productions.

In these early years Wilkes became a part of the Community Chest annual campaigns. "Wilkes College on the Air" was broadcast over commercial stations.

In 1951 a Philharmonic Society was organized under the direction of Ferdinand Liva, a member of the music faculty; in 1952 the Wilkes-Barre Symphony was revived. This became the Wyoming Valley Philharmonic Orchestra, with both College and community musicians.

On September 27, 1957, Stark Hall was dedicated; named for Admiral Harold R. Stark, Chief of United States Naval Operations and Commander of the European Naval Forces during World War II, the building provided the College with facilities for teaching and research in physics, biology, chemistry, and engineering. On November 7, having accepted an invitation from David Vann, president of the Wilkes Chapter of the Collegiate Council of the United Nations (CCUN), Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt spoke to the student body, attended a luncheon in her honor at the Sterling Hotel, then sat in conference for the formation of a local United Nations group.

Over a weekend in May of 1956 Wilkes hosted students from Hampton Institute, Hampton, Virginia; in the first of many yearly exchange programs, representative students and leaders of both colleges met and shared common experiences. The Hampton students, in thanking Millie Gittins and Eleanor Farley for the hospitality at Wilkes, wrote that the visits "can only result in better understanding."

Dr. Farley's dream was coming true.

below top: Mural, painted by former chairman of the Art Department Cathal O'Toole, is in Farley Lounge of Stark Learning Center. A memorial gift of the Class of 1958, the mural shows faculty and trustees in scenes associated with the College from 1933 to 1958.

below bottom: Faculty at the dedication of Stark Hall, 1957.



above top: Scene from the College's first musical, George Gershwin's *Girl Crazy*, performed at the Irem Temple, 1954.
below: Dr. Farley heralding the opening of the 10th Annual Fine Arts Fiesta on Public Square.



"... in all areas that make for social, economic, and cultural growth of our community."



above top: Dr. Arnaud C. Marts.
above right: Testimonial dinner honoring Dr. Eugene S. Farley, November 11, 1961.
above: Admiral Harold R. Stark.
right: Members of the College and community attending the testimonial dinner at the gymnasium.



YEARS OF GROWTH 1960-69

Contributing Writers: Arthur J. Hoover George F. Ralston Francis J. Salley

The Lengthened Shadow of a Man

Dr. Eugene Shedden Farley was born at the turn of the century. In 1936 when he and Eleanor came to Wilkes-Barre from his position as researcher in the Newark Public Schools to become director of the Junior College, he was a young man. On November 11, 1961, to note his twenty-fifth year in Wilkes-Barre, Dr. Farley was honored at a testimonial dinner at the gymnasium attended by more than 900 leading citizens "in appreciation for the great contributions [he] has made in this area . . . indeed," as William O. Sword,

"I am sure many would not have stayed with the College through the heat of the long struggle if Gene had not been the College's leader . . ."

president of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Industrial Fund, acknowledged, "in all areas that make for social, economic, and cultural growth of our community."

Admiral Harold R. Stark, U.S.N. Retired, and chairman of the Board of Trustees of Wilkes College, referred to "this Quaker with an Irish name at the head and heart of the College" as "the main spring, the driving force, the tireless and devoted builder."

Arnaud C. Marts, chairman of the Board of Directors of Marts and Lundy, Inc., and a member of Wilkes College Board of Trustees, spoke of the vision and leadership Dr. Farley inspired in others: "... [men and women] knew the little College could not succeed without a leader who could and would put brains, skill, and unselfish devotion at the very heart and center of the venture . . . I am sure many would not have stayed with the College through the heat of the long struggle if Gene had not been the College's leader . . . It has been well said that 'every institution is the lengthened shadow of a man.' That is preeminently true of Wilkes College and Gene Farley."

Dr. K. Roald Bergethon, president of Lafayette College, told the group of Dr. Farley's importance in educational work and of his simple directness in responding as a human being to other human beings. "He has been single minded in pursuit of the welfare of Wilkes College, the youth of the community, the community as a whole, education in the Commonwealth . . . It is for this reason that beyond Wilkes-Barre he has become the outstanding leader of the independent colleges and universities . . . I think Wilkes College and Wilkes-Barre are lucky that this

big and energetic fellow is endowed with worthy ideas and great human affection."

Wilkes gained national recognition on Wednesday morning, November 8, 1961, when a seven-minute segment from the College campus was televised on the NBC "Today" program. Paul Cunningham, the National Broadcasting Company's roving news reporter, interviewed Dr. Farley and emphasized the College's unique role in community development and its persuasive force as an educational institution. The seventy-five member Wilkes College Chorus conducted by Richard Chapline was featured during the program. Arrangements for bringing the NBC network cameras and Paul Cunningham to the campus to film and report the College story were made by John Whitby and John Chwalek.

In 1961 in its second year as a semimonthly television series on WNEP-TV, "The College Challenge," a thirty-minute program, presented a panel of students and community leaders examining and discussing important ideas and events of our time. Alfred Groh was the program's moderator.

Also, a five-minute weekly series, "Education for Responsibility," was broadcast on WBRE-TV during the "Today" show by Livingston "Pop" Clewell, director of Public Relations, to keep the community informed of an active and growing College.

Physical Facilities

The decade of the '60s was in reality a period of rapid change and growth, especially in terms of the physical facilities and growth of the College campus.

"Wilkes also was privileged at these dedication ceremonies to confer its first honorary degree upon Walter S. Carpenter, Jr., a great industrial leader and warm friend of the College."

Within the first nine months of 1964 two events of particular significance to the future of the College had been noted. In January the Graduate and Research wings of Stark Hall were completed, and in August ground was broken for the Center for the Performing Arts.

At the dedication of this new Graduate and Research Center, Pennsylvania Governor William W. Scranton emphasized its economic importance to the region, as did First Lady Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson, whose interest in education and economic redevelopment brought her to the College. Wilkes also was privileged at these dedication ceremonies to confer its first honorary degree upon Walter S. Carpenter, Jr., a great industrial leader and warm friend of the College, whose devotion to the place of his birth enabled Wilkes, as well as other local institutions, to enlarge its services to the people of the area.

Completion of the Graduate Center was necessitated by the commitment the College made (availability of graduate programs and facilities in technical fields) to bring the Radio Corporation of America to the Greater Wilkes-Barre area. While meeting the commitment to R.C.A., a grant from the Area Redevelopment Administration permitted the College to construct research facilities which complemented the Graduate Center. These research and graduate facilities cost \$1,000,000; \$600,000 was provided by generous friends and businesses; the balance of \$400,000 was granted by A.R.A. The addition of these two facilities to the original Stark Hall, which was completed in 1957, gave the College a completely modern science complex valued at \$2,500,000.

In August of 1964, just eight months after the dedication of the Graduate and Research Center,

ground was broken for the long-awaited Center for the Performing Arts. Through the generosity of one of the College's trustees, the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts became a reality in October 1965 and helped to balance the advance in the sciences with a comparable advance in the arts. With excellent facilities for conferences, recitals, lectures, concerts, and dramatic productions, the Center provided both the College and the community an opportunity to participate in creative activities that broaden interests and enrich lives.

Playwright Paul Green and scene designer-consultant Donald Oenslager, along with other campus and civic dignitaries, spoke at the dedication ceremonies.

Wilkes College and the community were saddened by the passing of Eleanor Farley in May of 1965; a gifted pianist, Mrs. Farley had been invited to present a concert for the opening of the Center.

A second phase of the Center for the Performing Arts was realized in the summer of 1969 when the Dorothy Dickson Darte Music Building was completed: This facility provided a complete home for the Department of Music — faculty offices, studios, classrooms, practice rooms, and rehearsal rooms.

In 1964 the College's athletic facilities were expanded and improved on the West Side of the Susquehanna River in a seven and one-half acre area adjoining Kirby Park. Acquisition and renovations provided a field house, visiting teams locker rooms, a football field and stands, a soccer field, all-weather tennis courts, a field hockey area, and reasonable parking facilities. All of these facilities were adjacent to the College's baseball field, which was once

known as Artillery Park. The new facilities were first used in the fall of 1965, and during the Alumni Homecoming festivities that fall the area was formally dedicated as Ralston Field, named in honor of George F. Ralston, dean of students.

Because of an increasing number of requests for admission to Wilkes from students living outside the commuting area of the College, construction of a new dormitory and dining hall began in April 1965. Opened in September 1966 and eventually named Pickering Hall, the building in its design represented a departure from the barracks-type dormitory of the past. The Y-shaped, three-story dormitory provided housing for 268 men in nine separate housing units. The one-story, carousel-like dining hall provided for the serving of up to 700 students in two seatings.

When the College completed its periodic evaluation for accreditation by the Middle States Association in 1958, the need for enlarged library facilities was made evident and the College was committed to fulfillment of this goal by the time of its next evaluation. Consequently, on November 1, 1968, the newly constructed four-floor library was dedicated at a formal convocation ceremony. This new facility provided capacity for 425,000 volume equivalents and study area for 500 students. It also provided individual study carrels, faculty study rooms, a media center, a large microfilm collection, and four special collection rooms. As the true center of the College, the Library was named in honor of the College's first president, Eugene Shedden Farley, and the commemorative plaque appropriately reads: "May all who study in these halls gain vision to inspire, conviction to sustain, and wisdom to guide."

A record of the physical growth of the decade of the 1960s, the years

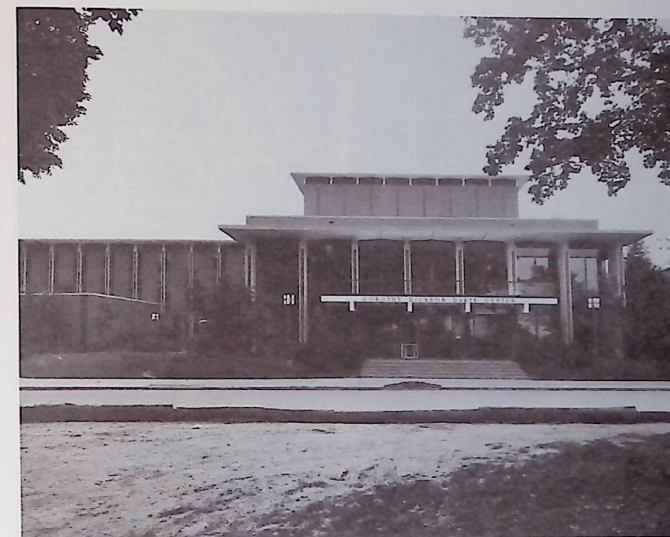
below top: The Center for the Performing Arts, named in memory of Dorothy Dickson Darte, a member of the Board of Trustees.

below bottom: Pickering Hall and dining hall opened September 1966.



above top: Dr. Eugene S. Farley with student leaders Cathy DeAngelis and Simon Russin at groundbreaking for Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts, August 1964.

above: The College's athletic facilities at Ralston Field, in 1965 named for the College's dean of student affairs and former director of athletics, George Francis Ralston.



"In December 1968, one of the College's oldest classroom buildings, Conyngham Hall, was destroyed by fire."



above top: Camelot, the first Wilkes-Kiwanis musical presented at Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts, November 1966.

above: A view of Pickering Hall, "new men's dorm."

of change, would not be complete without mention of two additional events which have had great impact on the College and those it serves. In the mid-1960s, the Weckesser mansion at 170 South Franklin Street was given to the College and has served primarily as an administration building since that time. And, in December 1968, one of the College's oldest classroom buildings, Conyngham Hall, was destroyed by fire. This loss hastened the planning and construction of the \$7,000,000 Stark Learning Center, which became a reality in the 1970s.

Student Life

Enrollment figures accurately verify the title "Decade of Growth." In 1960 the registrar indicated that 1,171 full-time students had registered. By 1970 the number of full-time students had more than doubled as the total enrollment rose to 2,556. Although the increased enrollment reflected the national pattern, Wilkes was unique in that the greatest growth occurred in the resident student population. While the total student population doubled during the decade, the number of students in residence nearly quadrupled. In 1960, 240 students resided on campus. By 1969 the residence halls accommodated 844. No longer was Wilkes regarded as a commuter college, for nearly fifty per cent of the full-time student population lived on campus.

There was also an increase in the number of faculty. In 1960 there were 80 full-time and 26 part-time members; in 1969 there were 161 full-time and 23 part-time faculty.

The decade was not characterized simply by growth in numbers. There was growth in diversity of student backgrounds. More extensive geographical areas were represented as well as educational backgrounds. Ethnic, economic, and social backgrounds were increasingly diverse with the

result that the term "Unity Amidst Diversity" was fittingly applied during the decade.

What were the students like during the sixties? They were restless and actively sought changes. An incipient revolt stirred within them. For years the College had encouraged students to question, to criticize, to test, to search for new meanings and new solutions. This was a period when students realized it was necessary to apply knowledge, and to live effectively it meant to have freedom beyond the classroom — to be given recognition to participate in the formulation of policies and rules as well as to participate in the planning of their own activities. To students of this era it meant having freedom to fail, to make mistakes, and to recover, to work within a broad framework of regulations that protect the rights of others; it meant, moreover, sustaining a faith in the individual's ability to reason, to learn, and to behave constructively.

To be sure, the restlessness, the energy and drive of students of this period to bring about changes and to participate in all matters concerning them manifested itself in some mildly disconcerting behavior. During this decade we experienced two massive sit-ins (of less than twenty-four hours duration) and at least three demonstrations. Personal appearances reflected disdain for the conventional; shaggy hair and general disregard for neatness and cleanliness of appearance were widespread.

More importantly, during this period emerged some of the finest student leadership Wilkes has known. Most of the present policies are the result of the creative activism on the part of talented student leadership of the decade of the 1960s. In 1968 the Student Life Committee was established, and it was a most creative and furiously

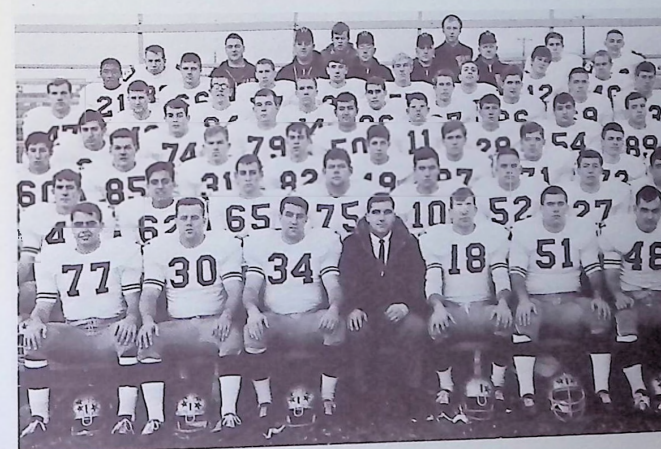
active body. From the latter part of the decade there emerged new definitions, new policies, and revised statements pertaining to governance, students' rights and privileges, social emancipation, student government constitution, judicial system, and traditions relating to student life.

The housing of students, the College believes, is an integral rather than an adjunct part of the education of students. To meet the needs of the greatly increased number of resident students the College created the Housing Office and procured professional directors. Student financial aid was greatly expanded, and the establishment of a permanent Financial Aid Office came into being.

Student life in the '60s was colorful, marked by growth and change. With all this there was frantic activity. More than 45 clubs, organizations, and athletic teams were officially recognized and active. Outstanding records were posted by the football and wrestling squads.

Programs and Curriculum

During this period major advances were made in the field of graduate education. In response to needs in the community a graduate program in education was developed in cooperation with Temple University. Graduate programs at the master's level in education and business administration were also developed in cooperation with Lehigh University. In 1967 the first annual Summer Theater Workshop for high school students and drama coaches was held at the Center for the Performing Arts. Funded through Title III and The Pennsylvania Department of Education, the six-week program offered a comprehensive theater experience for which Lehigh University gave graduate credit



below top: Eugene Shedden Farley Library.
below center: Coach John Reese's wrestling team won its seventh MAC championship in eleven years (1967).
below bottom: Under the direction of Rollie Schmidt, the football team won its second straight MAC championship and was awarded the first Lambert Bowl (1967).

"The matter of educational philosophy has always been of foremost concern to the faculty."



above top: Homecoming displays are a tradition.
above bottom: Bill Jervis, Sam Gittins, and Maintenance Crew.

and high school students received a certificate of achievement from Wilkes. Wilkes College responded to needs in the community by introducing graduate programs in biology, chemistry, and physics. Graduate programs were also added in business administration and education. In the education program a student could major in English, history, mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, or elementary education.

During this same period the undergraduate two-year physics program was expanded to four years. Also, four-year undergraduate programs in electrical engineering and materials engineering were introduced.

The matter of educational philosophy has always been of foremost concern to the faculty. This philosophy, embodied in the "Marks of an Educated Man," had been developed by the faculty in an earlier decade. It was during this period that the "Marks" were put into the form in which we find them today displayed prominently in the Wilkes College *Bulletin*.

In 1960 there were 18 major programs and 4 terminal programs; 427 courses were offered. By 1969 there were 16 B.A. programs and 12 B.S. programs with 534 courses being offered. The faculty conducted its business with 11 standing committees in 1960 and 13 in 1969; fortunately, this was the area of least growth.

Core Curriculum

The faculty has always been concerned that students get as broad an education as possible. After an extensive amount of discussion at many faculty meetings a core curriculum was adopted which served as the center around which every bachelor of arts program was developed. There was also an agreement in principle that every

bachelor of science program would respect the spirit of the core curriculum. The main aspects of this core curriculum continue today with an even broader program applicability. The result has been a common educational experience for most Wilkes College students.

Governance

The 1960s was a time of questioning for both students and faculty members. At about the middle of the decade signs appeared that the faculty was dissatisfied with its role in the governance of the College. This was the period when faculty senates were springing up on other campuses. A large study group consisting of all full and associate professors was charged by the president and the faculty to look at the faculty's role in governance and to suggest viable alternatives to the faculty meeting system. The study group held many meetings over an extended period of time. The recommendation took the form of a revised draft of a constitution which would have established a faculty senate if the faculty had adopted the constitution and assuming confirmation by the administration and board. The revised draft of the constitution is dated November 1968. For a variety of reasons — the turbulence of the times, uneasiness about the future, subtle pressures among faculty factions — the proposed constitution was never voted on by the faculty.

The faculty continued to be restive on the subject of governance. The constitution of the proposed faculty senate contained a section which provided for the establishment of a committee on commissions whose function was to review the activities of senate or faculty business. The idea for this proposal may have germinated in faculty discussions toward the end of the decade when a committee on committees was established. Its

charge was to study the faculty committee system with the thought that a revised system might satisfy faculty desire for an enhanced role in governance. The results of this effort did not appear until the next decade.

Student Participation in Faculty Standing Committees

It was during this period that student interest in governance reached its peak. At Wilkes this interest took the form of a Student Government study which reported the benefits of student participation in the governance process. The report suggested that students could contribute greatly if they were members of Faculty Standing Committees and were allowed to participate in debating and voting on issues. The president of Student Government made a presentation to the faculty with an appeal for student representation on faculty committees. The faculty responded positively and students have been faculty committee members since that time (1974).

Health Science Developments

Toward the end of the period a crucial event occurred in the community. Two physicians, Dr. Charles Myers and Dr. Lester Saidman, became increasingly aware that very few young physicians were coming into the northeastern Pennsylvania area to replace aging and retiring physicians. At their suggestion the Luzerne County Medical Society made a study that revealed a critical shortage in the offing of family physicians, the general practitioner who serves the patient's primary health care needs. At the same time Dr. Farley, Dr. Francis Michelini, in his role as Dean of Academic Affairs, and Dr. Ralph Rozelle, then chairman of the Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, had been exploring ties with Hershey Medical

Center. It was evident that some method had to be developed to attract and hold family physicians in northeastern Pennsylvania. When, as it turned out, Hershey was unable to make the commitment to the College, Dr. Farley, Dr. Michelini, and Dr. Rozelle met with local physicians. After several sessions here and in Philadelphia, Wilkes College announced its innovative Cooperative Medical Education Program in Family Medicine with Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital, to begin September 1972.

It was from this beginning that other pre-professional programs were developed in later decades with Temple University in dentistry and pharmacy, with Pennsylvania College of Optometry, and Pennsylvania College of Podiatric Medicine.



below top: A glorious end to a new beginning.
below bottom: Commencement 1969.

"In June of 1972 the most dramatic event in the College's history temporarily pushed these other issues to the background."



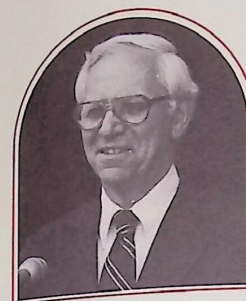
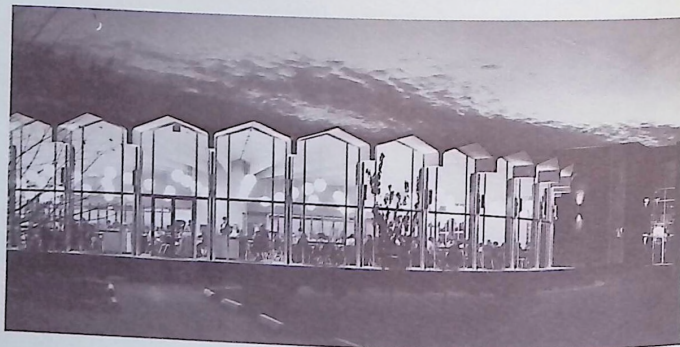
above top: Dr. Francis J. Michelini conferring honorary degree upon Commencement speaker Sam Ervin, June 3, 1973.

above: Dr. Francis J. Michelini receives President Richard M. Nixon and flood recovery chairman Frank Carlucci at Weckesser Hall, August 1972.

above right: Stark Learning Center includes Sordani Art Gallery, 1973.

above right center: George Ralston and Old Timers reunion, Marts Courtyard, fall 1978.

right: Open House at Pickering Hall.



YEARS OF ASSESSMENT

1970-83

Contributing Writers: Dr. Robert Heaman Dr. James Rodechko

With the '70s came fuller military involvement in Southeast Asia, student activism, and concern for eliminating racial and sexual inequities both in the colleges and in society as a whole. Wedges were driven between parents and children, teachers and students, administrators and faculty, and whites and blacks. Kent State, the trial of the Chicago seven, Nixon's promises to get us out of Viet Nam — all this led to moral and intellectual confusion, the kind of confusion that, in many instances, made people question whether small liberal arts institutions could survive in our society.

"With the '70s came fuller military involvement in Southeast Asia, student activism, and concern for eliminating racial and sexual inequities both in the colleges and in society as a whole."

Wilkes College was caught up in the turmoil of the early seventies. Student demands for visitation rights in the dorms, faculty and student concern for involvement in Viet Nam, and demands, generally, for a greater voice in formulating academic and social policy led to a series of teach-ins, demonstrations, and sit-ins. The administration met these needs by extending the governance of the College: faculty members were elected to committees by their peers rather than appointed by the administration; students were represented on College committees; and student demand for visitation rights were acceded to. The College administration was restructured in such a way that all elements felt their points of view were being represented more equitably.

However, in June of 1972 the most dramatic event in the College's history temporarily pushed these other issues to the background. The Agnes Flood wreaked havoc upon the Wyoming Valley and disrupted normal economic, social, and educational activities. For four days Wilkes-Barre lay empty of human inhabitants as turbulent flood waters rose to better than twenty feet in some locations. Buildings were crushed and often moved from their foundations. Streets and sidewalks were covered with a slimy layer of mud; gigantic chunks of concrete were simply torn up by the force of the water and strewn about roadways and front yards. Fires raged out of control and destroyed entire city blocks. By the time the flood waters receded and tired people returned to their battered homes, there was a general realization that the Wyoming Valley had experienced one of the worst

natural disasters in American history.

Since the College was at the center of the flood area, it suffered damages similar to those that plagued the city generally. No facility on campus escaped. Heating systems and electrical circuits were made unusable. Doors were forced off the hinges or jammed closed. Water-logged books, swollen to twice their normal size, forced apart metal and wooden bookcases. Carpets and stuffed furniture were not simply ruined, but were made ten and twenty times heavier than normal because of water and mud. Floors buckled, walls bulged, and moldings were stripped away. And everywhere there was mud. It lay three and four inches thick on floors and desk tops. It worked its way into typewriters, clocks, and maintenance equipment. It destroyed food, bedding, student records, and much of the library collection. It brought filth and a stench that would remain for years. As much as the water itself, the mud left its own reminder of destruction.

Human dislocation and suffering matched physical destruction. Large segments of the student body, faculty, and administration were victimized by the flood and had to attend first to family needs. Many people were forced from their homes for lengthy periods and took refuge in public shelters or with friends and relatives. How the financial burden of recovery would be handled was an uncertainty not only for the College itself but for members of the College family. There was much to do and little in the way of resources with which to do it.

"At its fiftieth anniversary the College reflects the marks of a mature and sound academic institution."



above top: Conyngham Student Center, presented by the Conyngham family, refurbished with funds from Alpha Campaign.

above: Ann Marts, with president Robert S. Capin, Melvin D. Brewer, chairman of the Board, Marts & Lundy, Inc., and Joseph Savitz, chairman of the Board of Trustees, at dedication of courtyard in memory of her husband.

In the immediate aftermath of the flood, the College reaffirmed its basic mission. Learning was after all more important than clean buildings, and the relationship between students and faculty was more vital than brightly lit classrooms. Since human beings were essential elements in higher education, other things could be at least temporarily discarded. With this in mind, the College's first summer session reopened less than a week-and-a-half after the flood.

While some faculty and students continued normal scholarly activities, albeit in dark and dirty classrooms, others shoveled out mud-filled basements, washed off desks and chairs, and restored some semblance of order to College records. Suits and ties gave way to work clothes and hip boots, squeegees and plastic waste baskets were sought-after possessions, and calluses and aching muscles became commonplace problems. Students gave up summer jobs and vacations to return to Wilkes-Barre and help reconstruct the campus. Alumni willingly gave their time, as well as monetary support, to help the beleaguered College. A spirit of unity and purpose emerged perhaps more fully than ever before, and gradually, under the leadership of president Francis J. Michelini the College returned to full operation. By the time fall classes opened on September 29, the invigorating impact of large-scale government support was only beginning to become evident. Yet there was a feeling among students and faculty that the College had already come to terms with its greatest problems.

Although the flood of 1972 was the single, most important event of the 1970s, even as the flood occurred the College was changing in other ways. Changing demographics across the country forced colleges generally away from the optimistic enrollment projections

of the 1950s and 1960s. Wilkes, like other colleges, became apprehensive about projections of declining enrollments, student interest in career development, and the concern with economic security. Although seeking to retain its identity as a liberal arts college, Wilkes decided to incorporate pre-professional programs into its curriculum. In this context, the Wilkes-Hahnemann medical program led the way to integrating pre-professional training with a liberal arts background. The Nursing Program, AFROTC, Engineering, Computer Science, Cooperative Education, along with the existing Business and Accounting programs, responded to the need for career development.

The growth of the athletic program along with other College programs forced the College to face the problem of its facilities. Because of the increase in fuel costs in the middle '70s and the consequent concern for efficiency, strict attention was given to the quality of facilities on campus. Newer buildings, like Stark Learning Center, were completed and others, like the new residence hall, started; older buildings, like the Student Center, the Annette Evans House, Kirby, Bedford, and Chase, were renovated — with stunning results. However, some older buildings had to be razed simply because they were prohibitively expensive to operate or renovate. The attempt to balance the older architecture with the new raised architectural issues — moral as well as economic.

Perhaps the single greatest change in the 1970s was the loss of Dr. Farley, who at the age of 70 resigned as president in the spring of 1970. Upon recommendation of a search committee the Board of Trustees appointed Dr. Francis J. Michelini, Dean of Academic Affairs, his successor. Under president Michelini, Dr. Farley

served as Chancellor until his death on September 17, 1973.

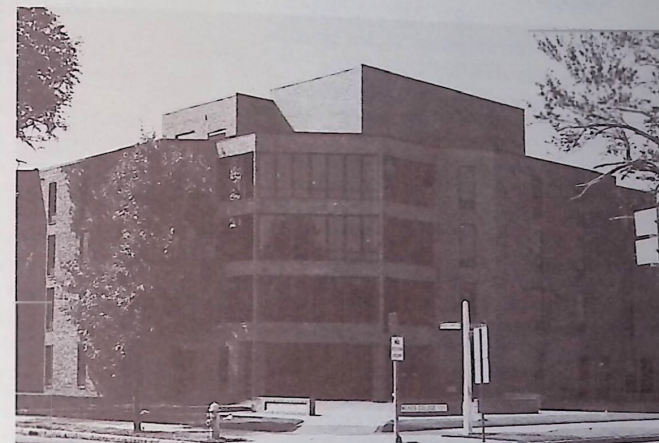
After Dr. Farley stepped down, the College experimented with a system of divisional chairmen, then, a provost, and, finally, has arrived at a system of corporate administration under president Robert S. Capin, an alumnus of the College. In 1975 when Dr. Michelini left to become president of the Pennsylvania Commission of Independent Colleges and Universities, Mr. Capin became acting president and was inaugurated as the third president of Wilkes College on October 24, 1976.

Under president Capin's leadership the College reestablished its operations with successive balanced budgets, refined and expanded its curricula, enhanced its fund-raising abilities, and renovated much of the physical plant. The latter included the reconstruction of the Conyngham mansion on South River Street to provide an attractive and functional student center.

Planning — both short-term and long-range — became marks of president Capin's corporate-style administration. At the end of the decade the College made plans for construction of a new residence center; Founders' Hall, dedicated in August of 1982, is a 205-bed residence facility that enabled Wilkes to transfer students housed for several years at the Sterling Hotel.

At its fiftieth anniversary the College reflects the marks of a mature and sound academic institution.

Founders' Hall, new residence for men and women, opened August 1982.



We conclude our retrospection with a quotation from a brochure written by Dr. Eugene S. Farley in 1960 titled *New Vistas for Wilkes College*:

"The growth of Wilkes College has demonstrated that vision and generosity are the essential ingredients of growth. Had we failed to foresee the needs of the community, or had we failed to struggle to satisfy them, a liberal college for people of all backgrounds and all faiths could not have been established in Wyoming Valley. The vision of generous men and women has enabled a dream to become a reality.

The fascination of the College is that, with growth come increased responsibility and opportunity. As the College has grown, its responsibilities and its opportunities have been enlarged.

Today Wilkes College looks back, only that it may look forward more clearly. The program of the past demonstrates the progress that is possible in the future. If we retain our convictions and faith, and continue to serve students, community, and neighbors, the impossible again becomes the possible."

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS 1933-83

- 1933 Bucknell University established its Junior College on the third floor of the building at 29 West Northampton Street, Wilkes-Barre.
- 1934 Bucknell University rented the entire building at West Northampton Street and equipped it to serve 200 students.
- 1935 The first class graduated from the Junior College.
- 1936 Arnaud Marts, acting president of Bucknell University, recommended Dr. Eugene S. Farley as director of the Junior College to succeed Dr. John H. Eisenhauer.
- 1937 Admiral and Mrs. Harold R. Stark and Mrs. John Conyngham gave Chase and Conyngham Halls.
- 1938 Mr. and Mrs. Frederick J. Weckesser gave the house at 78 West Northampton Street for use as residence of the director.
- 1939 The first contributions (totaling \$7,273.50) to a scholarship fund were made by a small group of friends seeking to help students of ability and ambition to *help themselves*.
- 1941 Mr. Allan P. Kirby gave the former residence of his father for use as a library and arts building.
The College received \$25,000 from the estate of Bucknell University trustee Daniel C. Roberts.
- 1942 Bucknell University Junior College's four-year plan proposed.
- 1943 The Sixth College Training Detachment of the Army Air Forces replaced students who were then serving in the armed forces.
- 1944 Citizens and firms of Wyoming Valley contributed \$150,000 as the first step in creating the required endowment for the creation of a four-year college.
- 1945 Isaac Barre and Gies Halls were purchased with funds contributed for this purpose by the trustees.
- 1946 Wrestling and football added to growing athletic list.
Drive for \$350,000 for endowment and \$75,000 for expansion of Junior College. Third year of college work added.
- 1947 On June 26 in ceremonies on Chase lawn Bucknell University Junior College came to an end and Wilkes College was chartered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to offer four-year courses.
At its meeting on November 6 the faculty voted against establishing secret and religious societies on campus.
- 1948 The first graduates of Wilkes College received their degrees from Bucknell University in accordance with the agreement under which the two institutions were working.
On December 3 at the first of three special dinner meetings in the Commons the faculty discussed the ideals which have motivated and directed their efforts and presented them as "Marks of An Educated Man."
The lecture hall was completed.
- 1949 Fourteen hundred friends of the College pledged \$217,000 to assure the construction of a gymnasium.
Wilkes accredited by Middle States Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges.
Commencement held at Irem Temple, North Franklin Street.
The president's residence at 146 South River Street given by a friend of the College.
The first Eastern Pennsylvania Intercollegiate Theater Conference, sponsored by Cue and Curtain, attracted 23 College, 7 community, and 37 secondary school drama groups to the campus on March 12, 13.
- 1950 Members of the third graduating class received the first Wilkes College diplomas at the first on-campus commencement, held at the gymnasium.
- 1951 B.S. in education approved.
First annual Careers Conference, March 29, 30.
First annual United Nationalities Pageant.
Institute of Municipal Government founded.
- 1952 Wilkes College and American Legion co-sponsor national network radio broadcast of America's Town Meeting of the Air, March 18, at the gymnasium.
Establishment of Grade Point Average for honors: 2.35, 2.60, 2.80.
- 1953 Faculty adopted MLA Style Sheet.
- 1955 B.S. in Art Education approved.
- 1956 Dr. Farley announces \$900,000 gift for science building.
- 1957 New grading system (4-3-2-1-0) approved.
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt visits Wilkes.
Labor-Management-Citizens Committee formed.
Man Against the Sky, an original one-act music drama, first performed at faculty Christmas dinner, then taped in the lobby of gymnasium and issued as recording commemorating the College's 25th anniversary.
- 1958 Three-page illustrated article, "Wilkes and Wilkes-Barre Working Together," appeared in Philadelphia Inquirer magazine, November 23.
Wilkes College/Hampton Institute, Virginia, weekend student exchange program in May. Millie Gittins, George F. Elliot, Eleanor Farley campus hospitality.
Wilkes College Summer Theater presented three original plays in repertory by Myranwy Williams, William Crowder, and Alfred Groh: Prince of the Green Winds (one-act music drama), Recollections of Childhood (dramatization of children's poems), The Tramp at Chase Theater.
Dr. Sheldon Cohen, Biology Department, initiates innovative undergraduate biomedical/medical science research program.
- 1959 Admiral Harold R. Stark elected chairman of Board of Trustees.
- 1960 Masters in chemistry and physics offered.
Reaccreditation by Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges.
- 1961 Theater alumni presented excerpts from past productions on May 13 at Chase Theater.
More than 900 leading citizens honored Dr. Farley at a dinner held at the gymnasium to commemorate his 25th year of service to the College and community.
Fifth annual tax clinic sponsored jointly by Northeastern Chapter, Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Wilkes Commerce and Finance department.
On Wednesday, November 8, at 8:47 a.m., "The Wilkes College Story," filmed by NBC roving reporter Paul Cunningham, was a seven-minute segment on John Chancellor's Today program.
Madrigal Singers, conducted by Richard Chapline, made their first recording of Christmas carols, taped at the First Presbyterian Church.
The Thirtieth annual "Rose Bowl" of Wrestling Tournament attracted to the campus approximately 500 wrestlers from about 70 universities and colleges representing 24 states.
- 1962 Building construction begins on research addition to Stark Hall.
- 1964 First Lady Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson arrives at College to dedicate Graduate Center.
Walter S. Carpenter, Jr., receives College's first honorary degree.
- 1965 Charles B. Waller named chairman of Board of Trustees.
Dedication of Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts.
- 1966 Of 3,658 colleges and graduate schools listed in the College Discovery Index, published by Columbia University Press, Wilkes is among the 92 most sought-after schools.
Football team wins first Lambert Bowl.
Camelot, the first Wilkes-Kiwanis production at Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts, is the eighth cooperative musical in the decade of association between the College and the service organization. A capacity patron audience of 500 attended the premier performance Saturday, November 12, with the week's run sold out before opening night.
- 1967 First annual Summer Theater Workshop at Wilkes.
Lehigh University offered graduate credit to teachers, high school juniors and seniors received Certificate of Achievement for six-week intensive participation in rehearsal and performance program.
- 1968 Eugene Shedden Farley Library opens.
- 1969 Fire leaves Conyngham Hall in charred ruins.
Louis Shaffer appointed chairman of Board of Trustees.
- 1970 Dedication of Dorothy Dickson Darte Music Building.
Francis J. Micheline becomes Wilkes College second president.
Dr. Farley named Chancellor.
- 1971 Sears-Roebuck Foundation presents grant to Wilkes.
- 1972 Wilkes initiates AFROTC.
College rebuilds after Agnes Flood.
Thomas Kiley named chairman of Board of Trustees.
- 1973 Sordoni Art Gallery opens.
Dr. Farley dies at his farm in Beamont on September 17.
- 1974 Church Hall new student union.
Wilkes wrestling team NCAA Division III National Champions.
- 1975 Robert S. Capin first acting president.
Dedication of Stark Learning Center.
Publication of Essays of An Educator, compilation of writings by Dr. Farley.
- 1976 \$10,000 donated to Wilkes by Gulf Oil.
Weckesser, Catlin, and Kirby Halls listed in State Historical Register.
Robert S. Capin named Wilkes' third president.
History of Wilkes mural painted by Cathal O'Toole displayed in Stark Learning Center.
Arnaud Marts Courtyard dedication October 23.
- 1978 Benjamin Badman elected chairman of Board of Trustees.
More than 6,000 attended the College's outdoor pageant July 1 at Kirby Park commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Wyoming. The pageant was made possible by a grant from F. M. Kirby Foundation, Inc.
- 1979 Historical register includes McClintock, Weiss Halls.
Wilkes receives reaccreditation from Middle States.
- 1980 College leases YMCA-YWCA for resident students.
- 1981 Trustees approve new residence hall plans.
- 1982 Founders' Hall dedication August 22.



Wilkes College

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