

WILKES

SPRING 2011



HEROES IN HEALING | OPENING DOORS | A DIFFERENT DRUMMER | GOOD SCOUT

Facilities for a New Generation of Students

The cover story in this issue of *Wilkes* magazine celebrates the careers of five alumni who each were recently honored with the University's Health Sciences Distinguished Service Award for exceptional contributions to medicine. I urge you to read their stories and learn how their experiences at Wilkes contributed to their careers. They were inspired by great faculty and their interest in science was nurtured in the University's fine classrooms and laboratories.

Today's Wilkes students receive the same great one-on-one education from faculty. But, I am sad to report, we do not have first-class science facilities in which to prepare them to be tomorrow's research scientists, physicians, pharmacists and veterinarians.

The Stark Learning Center, home to biology and chemistry programs and to the University's School of Pharmacy and the departments of engineering, environmental engineering and earth sciences, provided state-of-the-art instructional space when it was built in the 1950s and 1970s. But the time has come to build new facilities for the next generation of scientists.

The University Board of Trustees is committed to building a state-of-the-art science facility that, when completed in Spring 2013, will become the new home for the departments of biology, chemistry and environmental engineering and earth sciences. It is the first phase of a multi-stage project that will produce a complex of interconnected buildings housing the division of engineering and the Nesbitt College of Pharmacy and Nursing. It will help us to attract talented students who will make significant contributions to research and medical science.

contributions to research and medical science.

The new building is being designed by Bill Gregg of SaylorGregg Architects of Philadelphia, assisted by laboratory design expert Bob Nalls of Nalls Architecture. It will be 55,000 – 70,000 square feet, located between Conygham Hall and the Annette Evans Alumni House and connected to the Stark Learning Center. The four-story structure will accommodate the needs of the departments of biology, chemistry, environmental engineering and earth sciences, including laboratories, classrooms and offices. It will also house the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, which will monitor the impact on water quality from the gas drilling associated with Marcellus Shale Formation and be a clearinghouse for information on the associated environmental and economic impacts.

We hope to break ground for our science building in September 2011. We also hope that as a friend or member of our alumni community you will support this critical project. It is a worthy cause; this \$35 million project will make it possible for Wilkes to continue its tradition of providing a world-class education in the sciences and helping our region develop economically.



Dr. Tim Gilmour
Wilkes University President



A new science building will provide state-of-the-art laboratories for today's students.

WILKES MAGAZINE

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

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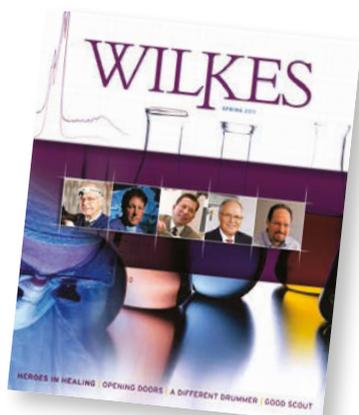
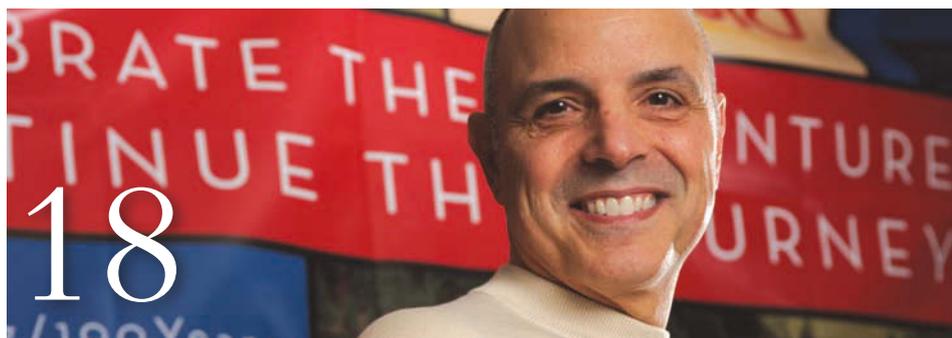
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Wilkes' tradition of preparing leaders in the health sciences is celebrated in the University's Health Sciences Distinguished Service Awards, presented to alumni who are leaders in their fields. Profiles of this year's winners begin on page 8.

Have a story idea to share?

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



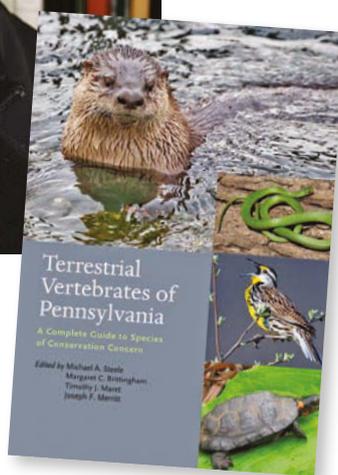


Biology Professor Mike Steele Edits First Book Focusing on Pennsylvania's Endangered Species

Michael A. Steele, professor of biology and the H. Fenner Chair of Research Biology, is lead editor of the first reference book focusing on Pennsylvania's endangered species. The book, *Terrestrial Vertebrates of Pennsylvania: A Complete Guide to Species of Conservation Concern*, was published in December by Johns Hopkins University Press.

The book examines 133 species of reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals that are the state's most vulnerable species on land. The book reveals what can be done to manage and conserve the Keystone State's important natural resources. It includes basic biology, photographs and range maps. Written by contributors who are recognized authorities on their respective species, the narrative focuses on conservation priorities, research needs and management recommendations. It is a valuable reference for conservationists, wildlife managers and naturalists.

Steele's co-editors are Margaret C. Brittingham, professor of wildlife resources at Pennsylvania State University, Timothy J. Maret, professor of biology at Shippensburg University and Joseph E. Merritt, senior mammalogist with the Illinois Natural History Survey at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.



Spring Speakers Bring Perspectives As Innovators

The perspectives of speakers who are innovators and entrepreneurs highlight spring lectures at Wilkes.

Allan P. Kirby Lecture Features

Gary Hirshberg of Stonyfield Yogurt

Gary Hirshberg, CE-Yo of Stonyfield Yogurt, will talk about running a successful company while focusing on the environment and social responsibility when he presents the Allan P. Kirby Lecture in Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship on March 22. He will speak about "Win-Win: Why 'Good for All' Will Save the Planet" at 7:30 p.m. in the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts. The event is free and open to the public.

Hirshberg has overseen the growth of Stonyfield from its infancy as a seven cow organic farming school in 1983 to its current \$320 million annual sales. Stonyfield has enjoyed a compounded annual growth rate of over 24 percent for more than 18 years by consistently producing great-tasting products and using innovative marketing techniques that often combine the social, environmental, and financial missions of the company. One of the company's five missions is "to serve as a model that environmentally and socially responsible businesses can also be profitable" and Hirshberg has realized this vision in every aspect of the company.

Michelle Rhee, Founder of StudentsFirst, Delivers Max Rosenn Lecture

Michelle Rhee, founder and chief executive officer of StudentsFirst and former chancellor of the Washington, D.C. public schools, will deliver the 30th annual Max Rosenn Lecture in Law and Humanities. Rhee will speak on May 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the Darte Center. Admission to the lecture is free but attendees must register by calling (570) 408-4306.

Rhee founded StudentsFirst in fall 2010 in response to an increasing demand for a better education system in America. The organization promotes a grassroots movement designed to mobilize parents, teachers, students, administrators, and citizens throughout country to channel their energy to produce meaningful results on both the local and national level.



MORE ON THE WEB

To learn more about Pennsylvania's endangered species and for a video interview with Mike Steele, visit www.wilkes.edu/steele.



Above: Gary Hirshberg, CEO of Stonyfield Yogurt, above, will deliver the Allan P. Kirby Lecture in Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship on March 22. PHOTO COURTESY STONYFIELD YOGURT

Below right: Michelle Rhee, founder of StudentsFirst and former chancellor of the Washington, D.C., public schools, will be featured at the Max Rosenn Lecture in Law and Humanities on May 1. PHOTO BY RANDY SAGER

Rhee has worked for 18 years to give children the skills and knowledge to compete in a changing world. From adding instructional time after school and visiting students' homes as a third-grade teacher as part of the Teach for America program in Baltimore, to hosting hundreds of community meetings and creating a Youth Cabinet to bring students' voices into reforming the D.C. public schools as chancellor, she was guided by one core principle: put students first. Rhee was appointed chancellor of schools in the District of Columbia in 2007 by Mayor Adrian Fenty. She took over a school district serving more than 47,000 students in 123 schools. Under her leadership, the worst-performing school district in the country became the only major city system to see double-digit growth in state reading and state math scores in seventh, eighth and 10th grades over three years. Her work was highlighted in the documentary *Waiting for Superman*. Rhee resigned as chancellor in 2010.

For more information about the Kirby and Rosenn lectures, please call Wilkes University events office at (570) 408-4306.



Sidhu Student Continues His Freshman Project

Sophomore entrepreneurship major Nick Wesley entered his freshman year with a clear purpose and mission in mind. “I came to Wilkes specifically because I heard that as a freshman, you receive the opportunity to start a business from scratch,” says Wesley. “I have not heard of this approach anywhere else and as an entrepreneur I believe this is the best way to learn about business.”

In February 2010 Wesley began a tabletop advertising business for his Integrated Management Experience class. “I have always been good with advertising and I had the idea to use lunch tables in schools as a media outlet for a long time,” says Wesley. “After I was put in the Integrated Management class, I found a perfect opportunity to develop my idea.”

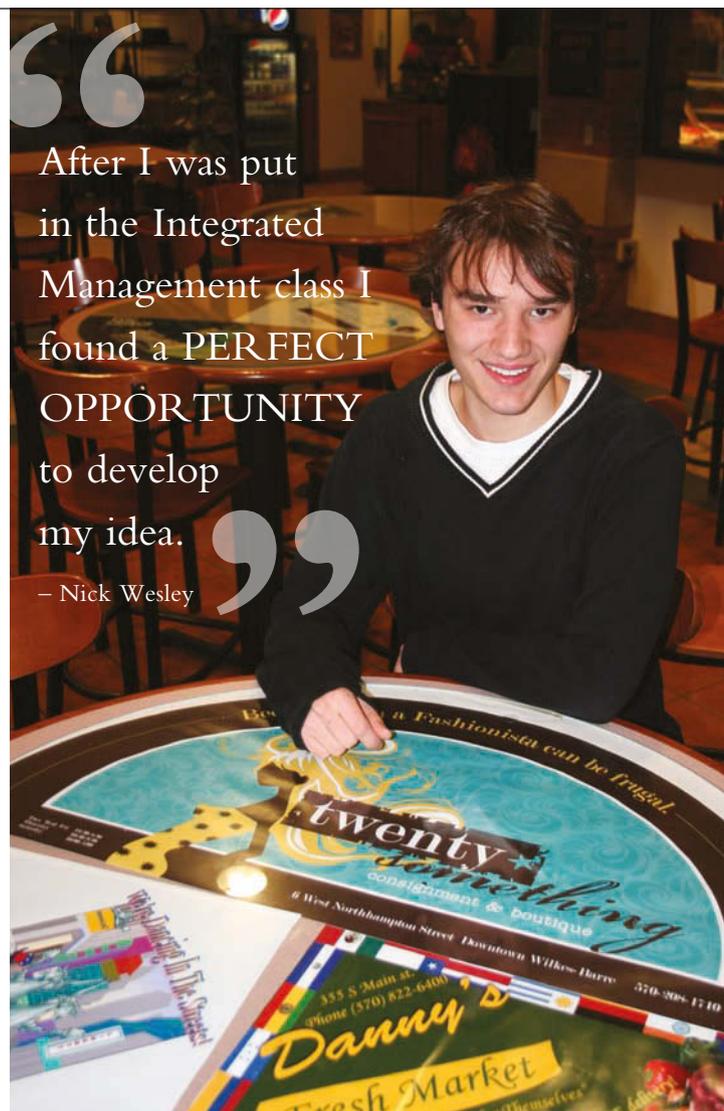
Integrated Management Experience is a two-semester course that takes students through the sequential steps of a business, including creating a business concept, planning the venture, launching and operating the business, and finally closing the firm.

Wesley’s interest in advertising led him to start the business now known as University Advertising. The business that started out as a requirement in his freshman year turned into a growing business venture. University Advertising sells space to local businesses on the tabletops of Rifkin Café, located on the first floor of Wilkes Henry Student Center.

Upon completion of the course, instead of closing the firm, Wesley initiated a transfer of management and is now responsible for purchasing supplies and other expenses associated with University Advertising.

“It would have been a shame to the business and the customers to just let this idea, which was on the brink of success, die,” Wesley states.

This is just the beginning for University Advertising. Wesley plans to expand the firm using other schools, more unique advertising spaces and other innovative methods to gain viewers and deliver advertisements. “There are many subtle nuances in business which no book can teach you. Immersion is the best tool,” he says.



Sophomore entrepreneurship major Nick Wesley shows off the table-top advertising sold by University Advertising, the business he started in his freshman Integrated Management Experience. PHOTO BY KIM BOWER-SPENCE

“After I was put in the Integrated Management class I found a PERFECT OPPORTUNITY to develop my idea.”

– Nick Wesley

CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM'S READING SERIES STREAMED ONLINE

Wilkes University’s Maslow Faculty Reading Series, featuring faculty, advisory board members and alumni of the Graduate Creative Writing Program, can now be seen anywhere in the world. The series, held each January and June as part of the program’s residencies, is now streamed live on the Internet. In addition, the videos of the readings are archived and can be seen at any time.

To view the videos, visit www.livestream.com/wilkesevents. The next residency will be held from June 17-25, 2011. Readings are held nightly at 7 p.m. from June 19 to 23.

Readings from the January 2011 readings can be viewed now. The January series was highlighted by a Jan. 13 reading featuring National Book Award finalist H.L. Hix; Beverly Donofrio, author of *Riding in Cars with Boys*; and the newest Wilkes creative program advisory board member, Susan Cartsonis, commercial producer of films such as *What Women Want*, *Nell*, *Where the Heart Is*, *The Truth About Cats and Dogs* and more.



Pictured from left are Donna (O'Toole) Sedor '85, chamber executive vice president; Bob Snyder, Luzerne Bank; King's College President Father Thomas O'Hara; and Wilkes President Tim Gilmour.

President Gilmour Honored by Wilkes-Barre Chamber

Wilkes President Tim Gilmour was honored by the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry with its Outstanding Citizen Award. The award was presented at the chamber's annual dinner in November in recognition of Gilmour's contributions to the community during his tenure as Wilkes president. He shared honors with King's College President Thomas O'Hara. The two presidents were honored because of their pending retirements—O'Hara in May 2011 and Gilmour in May 2012.

Texting Study by Psychology Faculty Receives National News Coverage

A study of the text messaging habits of college students by Wilkes psychology professors Deborah Tindell and Robert Bohlander made national headlines when the Associated Press ran a story about their research.

Tindell and Bohlander designed a 32-question survey to assess the text messaging habits of college students in the classroom. In total, 269 Wilkes students, representing 21 majors, and all class levels, responded anonymously to their survey. The study showed that 95 percent of students bring their phones to class every day and 91 percent have used their phones to text message during class time. Almost half of all respondents indicated that it is easy to text in class without their instructor being aware.

The story about their research was carried by more than 500 print, television and online news outlets, including media giants like *The New York Times*, National Public Radio, CBS, ABC, *The Chicago Tribune* and literally hundreds of others. The research also appeared on over 100 online resources including blogs, Web sites and social media outlets. Major online resources included *The Huffington Post*, *The Washington Examiner*, Gawker and more than 30 technology blogs,



Professors of psychology Deborah Tindell and Robert Bohlander's research about students' text messaging in the classroom was featured in media outlets across the United States. PHOTO BY LISA REYNOLDS

Web sites or forums. It also appeared on over 20 educational online news sources, including *InsideHigherEducation.com*.

Tindell and Bohlander have developed tips to help teachers on all levels with classroom management when dealing with text messaging. They also have plans to expand the study at more colleges and universities.



MORE ON THE WEB

Learn more about Drs. Deborah Tindell and Robert Bohlander's research about text messaging in the classroom. To read more details about their study and to access tips for how teachers can minimize texting in their classrooms, visit www.wilkes.edu/texting.

In the Game

WOMEN ATHLETES
CELEBRATE A HALF-CENTURY
OF COMPETITION AT WILKES

By Helen Kaiser and Vicki Mayk



ASK DORIS SARACINO WHAT women athletes wanted when she joined Wilkes in 1960 and she has a simple answer.

“They wanted to play,” she says.

Thanks to Saracino’s efforts, backed by University administration, Wilkes women athletes are celebrating a half-century of competition this academic year. In January 2011, an event was held celebrating 50 years of women’s basketball. Establishing a women’s basketball team with Saracino as coach in 1961 was a turning point. Before that, women’s teams played in what was essentially intramural play. Local newspapers ran women’s sports scores on the women’s social pages.

“Prior to that time, if they wanted to compete in tennis, they had to join the men’s team,” Saracino recalls. “Wilkes had a swim team in those

days, and if women wanted to compete, they had to join the men’s team.”

Saracino led the charge to establish women’s intercollegiate teams. When women complained about unequal treatment, she discouraged open protests, insisting, “I’ll take care of it: you play.”

Saracino did what she promised. A field hockey team, also coached by Saracino, followed basketball in 1962. Teams for women were established in other sports: tennis in 1973, volleyball in 1975, softball in 1977 and soccer in 1987. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which guaranteed equity in athletic programs at schools receiving federal aid, strengthened the program. Wilkes women’s teams joined the NCAA and Mid-Atlantic Conference in the 1980s.

Alumnae athletes praise Saracino and other coaches for making it possible for them to compete and benefit from athletic competition. One of them is Candice Cates Zientek ’71, a resident of Fayetteville, Pa., who played two seasons of basketball and four years of field hockey as center half and later center forward for Wilkes.

Zientek credits Saracino, “the heart and soul of Wilkes women’s athletics” and now a lifelong friend, with the excellent mentoring she received as an athlete.

ALUMNAE REFLECT ON IMPACT OF ATHLETICS

Sandra Bloomberg '71, Brooklyn, N.Y.

**Dean, College of Professional Studies, New Jersey University
Played basketball and field hockey; coached field hockey,
basketball and tennis at Wilkes**

Sandra Bloomberg says playing sports helped her “to build leadership skills and develop greater self-confidence; to learn that talent is important but a good attitude and a solid work ethic are most essential for success; to recognize and appreciate the unique contribution that each individual brings to a group; to deal with prioritizing competing responsibilities; and to learn the absolute necessity of teamwork (and selflessness) to accomplish common goals.”

Mary Jo Hromchak '80, Wilkes-Barre.

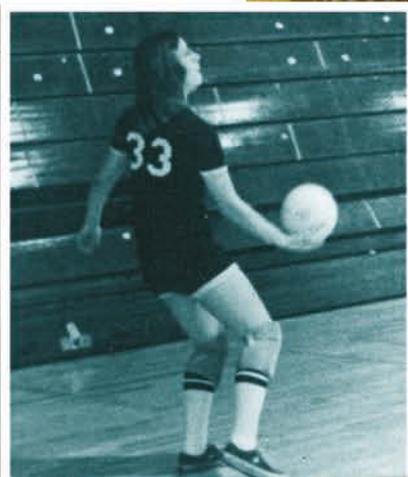
**Head field hockey coach, Dallas High School, Dallas, Pa.
Played field hockey, basketball and softball; 22 years
as an assistant coach for basketball, field hockey, and
lacrosse at Wilkes**

“The faculty and staff [at Wilkes] were in the stands when you played. They wanted you to succeed. This personalized the experience for me—made the campus world a bit smaller because you were known by the teachers...Being involved in athletics makes you disciplined, because you had to make good grades to stay on the team...Athletics taught me who I was: a competitor, someone who likes to be active, doing things...”

Kim (Kaskel) Mushinsky '96, Wilkes-Barre Township.

**Math teacher, Crestwood Middle School, Mountain Top, Pa.
Played field hockey at Wilkes on the 1995 championship
team inducted into Wilkes Athletic Hall of Fame**

“Playing sports reinforced so many valuable life lessons: time management, setting personal and team goals, working with others, discipline, leadership, and good sportsmanship. Our coaches (Addy Malatesta and M.J. Hromchak) made the experience so fulfilling. I couldn't have asked for two better role models. They really set the bar high. They expected a lot from all of us—not only as players but as individuals.”



Wilkes women's athletic teams are pictured through the decades. Center, opposite page, Doris Saracino, the “mother” of Wilkes women's athletics.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WILKES UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

“All of the coaching lessons, compassion, and leadership she instilled in me, I am now trying to instill in my students.”

Saracino and field hockey coach Gay Meyers both inspired Zientek's career in athletics. She teaches in the exercise science and coaching programs at Shippensburg University. After graduating from Wilkes, Zientek taught middle school before earning master's and doctoral degrees. She went on to coach in the U.S. Field Hockey Program for more than 20 years. She also was head field hockey coach at the University of Michigan and at the University of Surrey in England.

Although not all student athletes pursue careers in athletics, Saracino says all female athletes learn common lessons that benefit any career path.

“Wilkes has developed such leadership skills among its women athletes,” Saracino says. “I'm like a proud mama, seeing how well women athletes have done in their careers.”



HEROES IN HEALING



HEALING

THE WINNERS OF WILKES HEALTH SCIENCES DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD REPRESENT EXCELLENCE IN THEIR FIELDS AND A PASSION FOR THE HEALING PROFESSIONS. THE AWARDS, PRESENTED EVERY FIVE YEARS, RECOGNIZE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE LEADERS IN THEIR FIELDS THROUGH GROUND-BREAKING RESEARCH, INNOVATION IN TREATMENT AND OUTSTANDING SERVICE IN THEIR SPECIALTY.

THE DOCTORS, DENTIST AND VETERINARIAN HONORED WITH THIS YEAR'S AWARDS ARE MAKING SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS IN THEIR FIELDS AND DEMONSTRATE EXCELLENCE IN THEIR WORK.

Profiles by Helen Kaiser and Kim Bower-Spence

RICHARD CLOMPUS, O.D. '75: Eye on Sight

The Wilkes experience helped to prepare Richard Clompus '75 for an international career as a vision expert, training professionals in advances in optometry that benefit patients throughout the world.

The Jacksonville, Fla., resident is vice president for global professional relations for the San Francisco-based Cooper Vision; and he spends a good deal of time traveling to foreign countries on five continents. He supports clinical studies, education and professional relations for one of the world's leading manufacturers of soft contact lenses.

Clompus was director of the Vision Care Institute in Jacksonville from 2006 to 2009, supporting optometric education in the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico. Previously, he held leadership positions with two Johnson & Johnson Vision Care companies. Earlier in his career, he operated a private multidisciplinary optometric practice in his native West Chester, Pa.

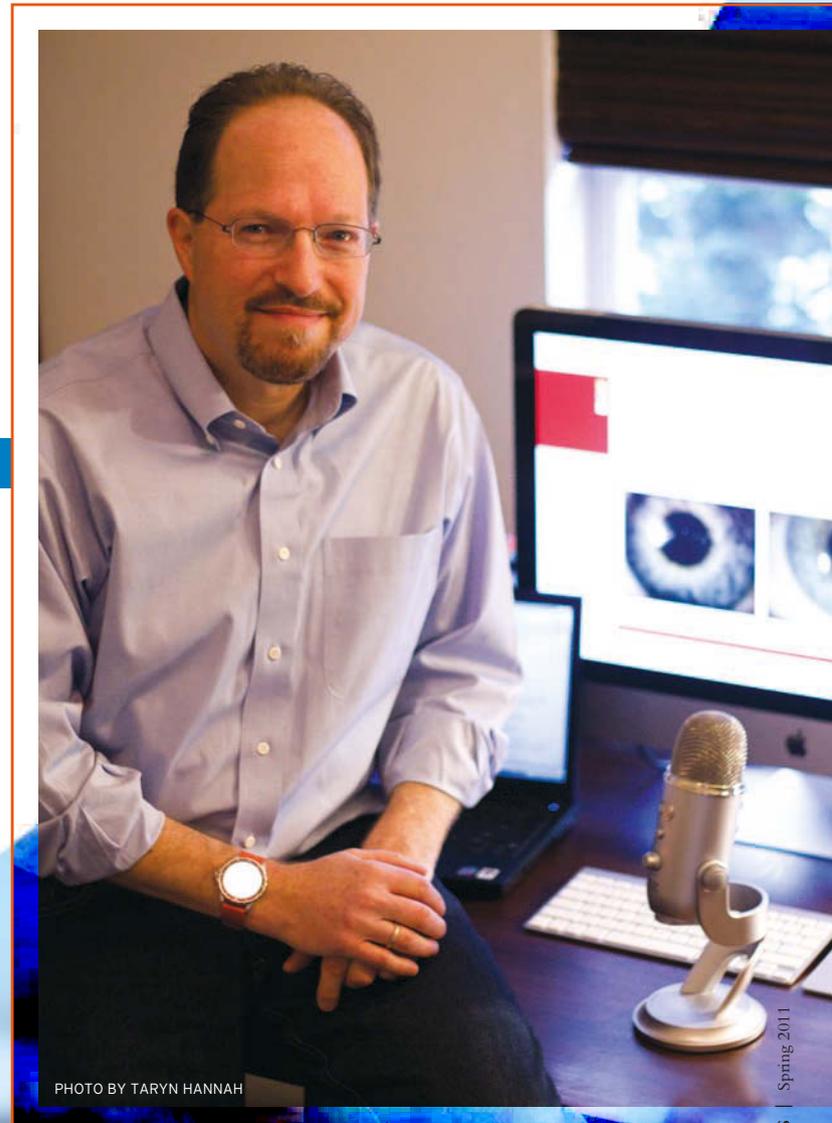


PHOTO BY TARYN HANNAH

“That practice I had standing up in front of an audience made PUBLIC SPEAKING easier for me later in life. I was able to build on it until I was comfortable connecting with large groups.”

– Richard Clompus, O.D. '75

connecting with large groups. I have lectured to over a thousand doctors at a time. Preparation is key.”

Clompus says his work as a resident assistant to students on campus helped him learn about communications and dealing with conflict—another set of important life skills.

Always interested in science and medicine, he initially thought about becoming a pharmacist. He obtained an excellent foundation in biology, thanks to the late Charles Reif and Lester Turoczi, both professors emeritus of biology.

“Dr. Turoczi was the inspiration behind a research project I did on fruit flies and how insects age. I learned that research was hard work, and I got to present my scientific findings at a college conference,” Clompus says.

When he reflects on his Wilkes years, Clompus sees the impact that various activities had in his later life.

“As a student I was the chairman of the concert and lecture series at the Performing Arts Center on the edge of campus,” he says. “I would work to bring in the performers, meet them ahead of time, and introduce them to the audience.

“That practice I had standing up in front of an audience made public speaking easier for me later in life. I was able to build on it until I was comfortable

“When you look back on your life, you see how one experience progresses to another,” he says. By combining science and medical education with his avid interest in photography, Clompus began to look for ways to use lenses to help people improve their vision. He graduated from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry and completed a family practice residency at the University of Alabama School of Optometry in Birmingham.

“My goal has always been to help improve the quality of patient care. Optometry is very technologically based. Doctors need to understand new technologies to diagnose disease earlier, and they need to know how to communicate results to patients in order to improve their compliance (with medical advice),” he says.

While internationally renowned in his field, Clompus says he is most proud of his 34-year marriage to his high school sweetheart, Linnea. The couple has three grown children who have chosen careers in women’s studies, computer science and medicine.

HENRY FINN, M.D., FACS '80: People Mechanic

Henry Finn '80 salvages limbs for a living.

As chief of the orthopedic section at the University of Chicago’s Weiss Memorial Hospital, director of the Bone and Joint Replacement Center at Weiss and a professor of surgery at the University of Chicago Medical Center, he sees challenging cases from all over the country. Patients who need amputation seek out Finn as their last hope for complicated knee or hip replacement surgeries.

In 1989, the first prototype of his Finn Knee System was implanted. Two years later the Food and Drug Administration approved Finn’s invention for use in complicated cases such as cancer. About 15,000 people around the world have the device.

Orthopedics Today cited it as one of the most significant orthopedic



PHOTO COURTESY
WEISS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

“I probably would have ended up as a CAR MECHANIC, and I ended up as a people mechanic.”

– Henry Finn, M.D., FACS '80

advancements in the last century, and the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons in 2008 named the Finn Knee one of the field's most significant advancements.

The Consumers' Research Council of America's Guide to America's Top Physicians twice listed Finn for orthopedic surgery and joint replacement. Among his other inventions is an artificial hip that

can allow patients to bear weight the day following surgery.

Finn grew up in rural Waymart, Pa., and gave no thought to attending college until deciding at 16 to become a doctor. He read about Wilkes' Hahnemann program in the local tri-weekly newspaper. Unqualified for admission to Wilkes, let alone the Hahnemann program, he recalls challenging admissions dean John Whitby to give him a chance. "Huck Finn," as he was known then, scrambled to teach himself algebra so he could do advanced calculus and physics.

The world-renowned physician and educator cites professors like Charles Reif, Owen Faut and Lester Turoczki among his favorites. "Wilkes College provided me with excellent preparation for medical school," Finn recalls. "I got the gift of being able to be a part of it."

One of his first medical school experiences was orthopedic surgery. He knew instantly that's where he wanted to be. It used the same tools—saws, hammers and drills—that he'd used as a boy to transform lawn mowers into mini bikes. "I probably would have ended up as a car mechanic, and I ended up as a people mechanic."

After medical school and residency at Hahnemann, Finn completed a fellowship in orthopedic oncology at the University of Chicago. His wife, Catherine Hughes Finn '78, teaches preschool at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools. Brother Charles Finn '85 is an orthopedic surgeon in Florida. Henry and Catherine have two daughters, Lauren and Caitlin.

In nominating her father for the Wilkes award, Lauren wrote about one patient benefitting from the Finn Knee: "Think about this: (Finn) turned a fused knee, a solid bone, into a joint! Finally, one of his patients was able to bend his knee and get on the floor to play games with his two little kids."

“
(Most gratifying is)
the ability to take
an idea that really
HATCHED out of
work in the basic
laboratory and take
it all the way to
developing a **NEW**
TREATMENT.

– Eduardo Marban,
M.D., Ph.D. '74

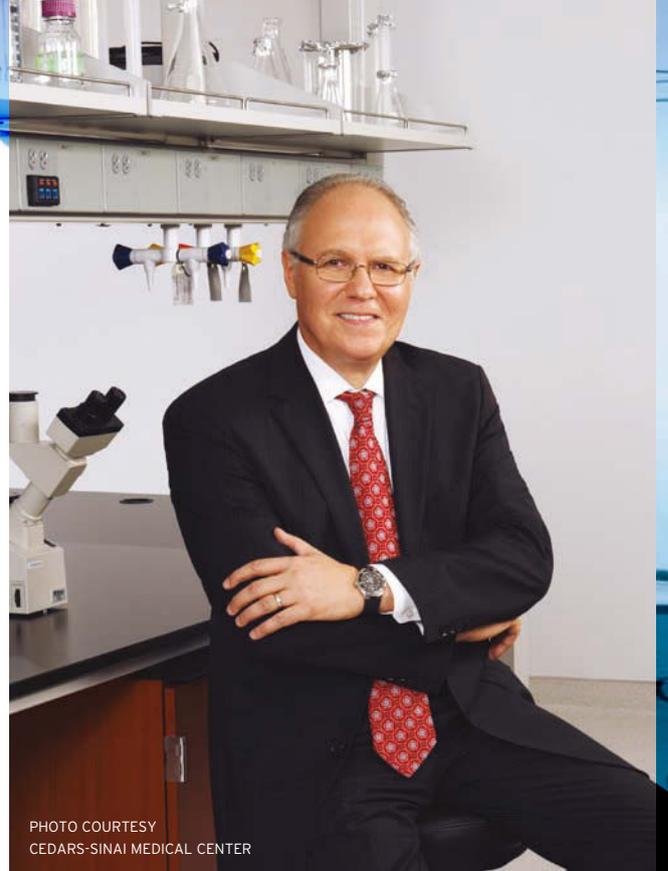


PHOTO COURTESY
CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL CENTER

EDUARDO MARBAN, M.D., PH.D.'74: Cardiac Quest

Eduardo Marban '74 explores the frontier of medicine, developing techniques that could allow a heart attack victim's own cardiac stem cells to heal scarred heart muscle.

As director of the Cedars-Sinai Heart Institute, Marban is in the midst of a 30-patient clinical trial to determine if the therapy is safe and effective. "Preliminary results look very promising, and full results should be available by the end of 2011," he reports. If the stem cell clinical trial succeeds, Marban says, cardiac stem cell therapy could reach patients as early as 2014.

The Cuba native came to the United States at the age of 6 with his parents as a political refugee. His late mother, Hilda, taught Spanish at Wilkes College, and he chose to attend college close to home with a goal of becoming a physician. "Many of my classes were small, and the teaching was very much one-to-one," notes this teacher, professor and researcher. "It was a great experience in terms of getting to know the professors, and a very tailored education."

He graduated with a mathematics degree at age 19, then went to Yale University for doctorates in medicine and physiology. He became interested in the heart in his first year of medical school, where references to a "pump" and "pipes" fascinated his quantitative mind. "At the time, the heart and circulatory system were being approached in simple physical terms, with little biological insight. I was stirred by how rudimentary our knowledge was, and by the opportunity for discovery."

After medical school, Marban's focus on the heart led him to Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md., where he completed his training as a cardiologist and served in a variety

of academic and research positions before joining Cedars-Sinai, located in Los Angeles. He also served 10 years as editor of the scientific journal *Circulation Research*.

Marban's research career focuses on how the heart works and why it does or does not work in various disease states, with a view to creating new therapies. He received the American Heart Association's Award of Meritorious Achievement in 2009, and has won the Basic Research Prize of the AHA, the Research Achievement Award of the International Society for Heart Research, the Gill Heart Institute Award, and the Distinguished Scientist Award of the AHA.

Marban has co-founded three biotechnology companies based on his research and patents: Capricor, to develop products resulting from his current research; Paralex, acquired by Cardiome Pharma and which tested drugs for treating heart failure; and Excigen, to develop gene therapy replacing pacemakers for rhythm disorders.

Most gratifying, he says, is "the ability to take an idea that really hatched out of work in the basic laboratory and take it all the way to developing a new treatment." He likens it to football, where play after play incrementally marches a team down the field to a touchdown—except Marban's goal is to improve human health.

W. PETER NORDLAND, D.M.D. '74, M.S. '75: Saving Smiles

W. Peter Nordland '74, M.S. '75 has developed innovations in oral plastic surgery that impact patients' lives.

A periodontal and implant surgeon in San Diego, Calif., Nordland also is involved in teaching and research. He directs the Oral Plastic Microsurgery Training Program at the Newport Coast Oral Facial Institute and his own Nordland Oral Microsurgical Institute.

"What we're able to do when someone is disfigured is to reconstruct missing bone and soft tissue. They can't smile anymore; we can put them back together, and they can be happy and whole. It's a really rewarding field," he says.

Nordland came to Wilkes when he was recruited to play both baseball and football for the Colonels. This was during the height of the football team's 33-game winning streak, he recalls, laughing. When he saw how physically daunting the players all were, the tall, slender Nordland quickly decided on baseball.

He enjoyed playing third base during his freshman year, but—knowing he wasn't going to wind up as a professional baseball player—he realized he needed to get more serious about his academics. From early on, his goal was to enter dentistry, and two Wilkes biology professors inspired him. The late Charles Reif, was "really tough, mentally challenging." Nordland credits him with pushing him to seek higher goals. Lester Turoczi, with his enthusiasm and humor, showed that learning can be fun.

"To this day, I have tried to model my teaching after him," the surgeon says.

After earning both bachelor's and master's degrees at Wilkes, he went on to earn his doctor of medical dentistry degree from Temple University. He completed a general practice hospital residency at the Gerry Pettis Memorial V.A. Hospital and Loma Linda Medical Center, as well as a surgical residency at Loma Linda University—earning a master's certificate in periodontics.

Nordland is a co-founder of the International Academy of Oral Plastic Surgeons. He played a significant role in developing this sub-specialty and introduced various new surgical procedures.

During the mid-1990s he began using the microscope in his work. Less than 4 percent of specialists use one, even today,

“With every change I make, my goal has been to EDUCATE and PROMOTE microsurgical procedures to enhance the final outcome.”

– W. Peter Nordland, D.M.D., M.S. '74:



PHOTO COURTESY
DR. W. PETER NORDLAND

although it can make a huge difference, he says. To benefit from this innovation, he discovered he needed smaller instruments—so he invented his own and makes them available to professionals worldwide.

“With every change I make, my goal has been to educate and promote microsurgical procedures to enhance the final outcome,” Nordland says.

He receives many invitations to teach and has given more than 300 presentations to international, national, state and county dental societies, dental schools and the military. He has published extensively, and his awards include the 2008 and 2009 “America’s Top Dentists-Periodontists Award” from the Consumers Research Council of America.

He is a fellow of the American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry and an active member of the American Academy of Periodontology.

Nordland is a native of Dover, N.J. His wife, Kathleen, is a dental hygienist, and his two stepdaughters have pursued medically related careers. His 13-year-old daughter is also showing leanings toward science, he says, so he may suggest she attend Wilkes.

MARK STAIR, V.M.D. '70: Respecting all creatures

Wilkes-Barre native Mark Stair '70 developed his penchant for biology and science at Wilkes under the tutelage of the late professor emeritus of biology Charles Reif, whom he described as “an institution” at Wilkes at the time.

“He was quite the naturalist and got me interested in wildlife and ecology,” Stair says. As his life progressed, however—through two years in the Marine Corps and a semester of graduate studies in ecology at the University of Minnesota—Stair determined he was better suited to healing animals instead of trapping them for research.

He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine in 1978 and joined a hometown clinic, the Trucksville Dog and Cat Hospital. In 2001 Stair purchased the busy practice, which has been named “Best in the Back Mountain” by the local newspaper.

Stair’s contributions as a veterinarian include providing a variety of free and low-cost services in the community. He takes pride in helping people be able to care for their pets responsibly, so he participates in various rabies clinics and spaying/neutering programs offered through local organizations.

He also helps at microchip clinics. When a microchip implant is placed under the skin of a dog or cat, animal control officers or animal shelters can quickly access information to return pets to their owners. The practice is a service to the community as well as the animal, since it eliminates the need for shelter housing, feeding, and out-placing or euthanizing the pet.



“It’s hard to find homes for animals that need them,” he says—especially in challenging economic times. He’s taken in four cats that now have the run of an upstairs room at the clinic. Stair says it has been rewarding to rescue numerous animals that otherwise would have been euthanized and to have found good homes for many of them. He also paid to have advanced orthopedic surgery performed on a dog and a cat that are now enjoying satisfying family lives.

“
It’s hard to
FIND HOMES
for animals that
need them.
”
– Mark Stair,
V.M.D. '70

A regular participant at Wilkes’ health sciences day for high school juniors, Stair mentors high school and college students considering a career in veterinary medicine.

Married to Maureen Clinton Stair '70, he has fond memories of playing trombone in the Wilkes band, especially at football games. His brother was a music major at Wilkes, and two of the veterinarian’s three daughters graduated from the university. The third graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. All of them have pursued careers in medicine or physical therapy.

“We grew up learning a lot about life and death, and about respect for all creatures, in large part from our experiences with veterinary medicine with our own pets,” his daughters say.

Stair fills his spare time with music and nature. He is a member of Local 140 American Federation of Musicians, the National Audubon Society, the National Wildlife Federation, the Sierra Club, the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association, and the American Birding Association.

WILKES STUDENTS
GET PRACTICAL
EXPERIENCE—AND FIRST
JOBS—THROUGH INTERNSHIPS

OPENING DOORS

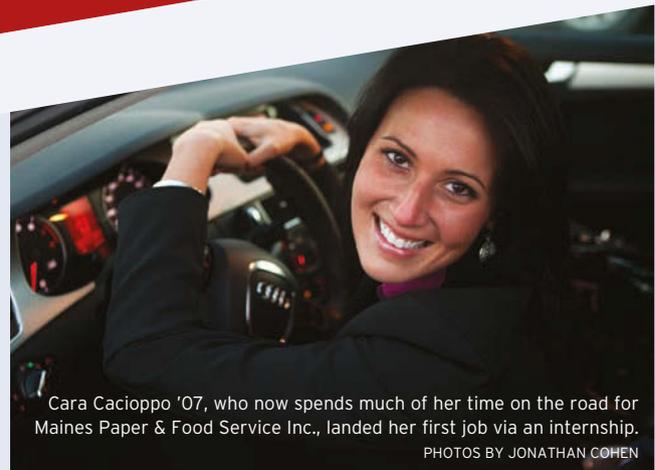
By Mary Ellen Alu '77

WHEN CARA CACIOPPO '07 GRADUATED from Wilkes nearly four years ago, she avoided the one major challenge that most new college graduates face—landing a job.

Two weeks before graduation, she was offered a position as a regional account manager at The Lion Brewery in Wilkes-Barre. No resume needed.

“I took my cap and gown off,” she says, “and I went to work the next week.”

The key to this success story, Cacioppo will tell you, was the fact that management already had an idea of her work ethic and sales ability. As a senior, the business administration major had toiled in sales and marketing as an intern for the brewery. She had been calling on 25 to 30 accounts.



Cara Cacioppo '07, who now spends much of her time on the road for Maines Paper & Food Service Inc., landed her first job via an internship.
PHOTOS BY JONATHAN COHEN

“I completely skipped the sending-out-resume step after graduation, because the internship exposed me to the real business world and allowed me to exercise what was learned at Wilkes,” says Cacioppo, now an account manager with Maines Paper & Food Service, Inc., a food and paper distributor.

While not all internships lead directly to jobs, Cacioppo learned what professors and university administrators preach: Potential employees need to set themselves apart, particularly in these economic times, and a college internship is an ideal way for students to do that.

Each year at Wilkes, 200 to 250 students participate in internships, whether in communications, psychology, business, criminology, integrative media or other fields.

The majority, about 70 percent, are seniors, says Sharon Castano, who coordinates the university's internship program. Some students complete an internship as early as their sophomore or junior year, which gives them time to complete more than one before graduating.

Marcus Magyar '08's first internship was with Mericle Commerical Real Estate, where he worked for five months. The next was a year-long internship in the financial services industry with Scottrade, Inc., which led to his job as a licensed stock broker with the company.

Not only did he learn both industries, he says, but he also learned how to conduct himself professionally. It afforded him the opportunity to network with professionals through emails, meetings and projects.



Marcus Magyar '08's internship at Scottrade led to permanent employment after graduation.

PHOTO BY
MICHAEL TOUEY

One life lesson came early. After compiling data for Mericle, he sent out a mass e-mail to the brokerage division filled with e-mail jargon and acronyms. When the division's vice president called him into his office, Magyar was hoping to get accolades for his work. Instead, the boss read the e-mail aloud, much to Magyar's embarrassment. "I spent that evening researching e-mail etiquette," he says.

Internships hold value for students and companies alike, says Mike Luksic, who, while at The Lion Brewery, mentored many Wilkes students in sales and marketing. Students worked 20 hours a week, earning college credits and learning the business. The company was able to mold the interns into effective sales representatives, gaining an understanding of their work ethic and skills.

If a job became available, Luksic had a sense of whether any of the interns would be a good fit for the company. He likened the experience to leasing a car before deciding whether to buy it.

Wilkes alumnus John Mishanski '07, who was hired by Google after a summer internship, says the people he had worked with as a software engineering intern could later vouch for him. "My full-time job was not an automatic consequence of my internship, but it certainly helped," he says. Google later extended an offer after considering his interviews, internship performance and grades.

"There are a lot of good reasons to do internships, but from my experience the one that sticks out is the ability to try something with low risk," Mishanski says. "I ultimately moved to California for a full-time job. If I hadn't spent a few months giving it a try, that decision would have been much harder."

Castano says some programs, such as business administration, require internships, while others, such as engineering, highly recommend it. Other fields offer the choice. Students receive college credits, get paid, or both, depending on the employer.

Even if an internship doesn't lead to a full-time job, students have more practical experience to add to their resume, Castano says. And that could make all the difference in landing a job.

"Their resume is professional," she says. "It stands out."

Magyar acknowledged that some students don't think they need internships. They might be caught up in the college lifestyle, not thinking beyond graduation. Or they believe their degree will be enough. But, he says, internships open doors.

Now Magyar, like others, is paying it forward. He helped bring on another Wilkes student at Scottrade as an intern.

“There are a lot of good reasons to do **INTERNSHIPS**, but... the one that sticks out is the ability to try something with **LOW RISK**.”

– John Mishanski '07
Software Engineer, Google

A DIFFERENT DRUMMER

STEVE FIDYK '90 IS A WORLD-CLASS PERCUSSIONIST IN MILITARY AND PROFESSIONAL ENSEMBLES

By Rachel Strayer

Steve Fidyk '90 never expected to find himself performing in the Middle East for service members on a recent USO tour, much less enjoying it. Fidyk and select members of the United States Army Band, "Pershing's Own," toured Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan on the 2008 USO holiday tour hosted by the Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth Preston. Fidyk describes the tour as "some of the most rewarding performances" of his career.

"(There were) servicemen asking, 'Did you travel all this way just to play for us?'" Fidyk recalls. "If traveling overseas and bringing a piece of home made their lives a little easier, then it was all worthwhile."

Fidyk's journey started years before when he was recruited as an eighth grader at Hanover Area Junior High by Wilkes faculty member Jerry Campbell. "At that time, Mr. Campbell was in the process of rebuilding the music program and he had a great rapport with my band director, Mr. Baranowski," states Fidyk. The opportunity to receive first-hand experience with jazz professors Bob Wilbur, Tom Heinze and percussion ensemble director Bob Nowak helped set Fidyk on his current musical path.

"At Wilkes, no one cared that I was in eighth grade. They treated me as an equal and expected me to work hard and keep up," says Fidyk.

He took that challenge, playing five years at Wilkes before attending the college as a music education major. After



Steve Fidyk '90's career as a drummer started at Wilkes and has taken him around the world. PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE FIDYK

graduation, he accepted a teaching assistantship at the University of North Texas and immediately missed what he had received in abundance at Wilkes: playing experience.

"I really wanted to play, and at The University of North Texas, my schedule was full with teaching responsibilities" he says.

After one semester, Fidyk left Texas looking for new opportunities. After answering an audition advertisement for the U.S. Army Field Band, Fidyk was accepted and enlisted. Though based in Washington, D.C., for more than five years, he spent an average of 120 days per year on the road traveling throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico. With a wife—fellow Wilkes alum Tamela (Newell) Fidyk '90—and a growing family, Fidyk recognized the need for a less hectic travel schedule. He auditioned for the prestigious 17-piece jazz ensemble, The Army Blues, winning the drumset spot from 60 other contenders. He is now a master sergeant with 20 years of military service.

Originally, Fidyk never considered a career in the military even though his father is a Korean War veteran, his uncle served during World War II and another uncle died in Vietnam. His decision came from the recommendations of three trusted individuals: his private music instructors and mentors, Ed Soph, John Riley and Joe Morello. All three New York City musicians encouraged Fidyk, just as they provided him with skills and guidance that would impact his career. At 82 years of age, Morello is still giving lessons to Fidyk's son, Tony.

When not playing for the military, Fidyk keeps a busy performing schedule. In addition to leading the Taylor-Fidyk Big Band with arranger Mark Taylor, he has toured and recorded with artists such as Maureen McGovern, Tom Paxton and the Woody Herman Orchestra. He played on Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer's Grammy-winning albums, "Bon Appetit! Musical Food Fun" in 2004 and "cELLAbration: A Tribute to Ella Jenkins" in 2005. The Taylor-Fidyk Big Band "Live at Blues Alley" recording won a Washington Area Music Award—known as a WAMMIE—for "best big band recording" of 2006.

Fidyk also teaches in the jazz studies department at Temple University and has written several articles for *Modern Drummer Magazine*, *Percussive Notes Journal*, *Teaching Music Magazine* and *Music Alive!* He has published several method books and even a beginner's "how to set up your drum set" DVD featuring his son, Tony. His latest book, *Big Band Drumming At First Sight*, is due out in the spring of 2011.

Despite all his professional commitments, Fidyk's number-one priority is his family. He lives with his wife and two sons, Tony and Joey, in Davidsonville, Md.

"All my inspiration for playing today comes from my wife and kids," says Fidyk. "When I walk in the front door, I'm not a musician or a teacher...I'm dad, and that's exactly how I like it."



MORE ON THE WEB

Listen to Steve Fidyk play and learn more about his career by visiting his website www.stevefidyk.com.

Steve Fidyk, Davidsonville, Md.

B.A., Music Education, 1990

M.A., Jazz Studies, University of Maryland, 2002

Career: Master sergeant and percussionist in the U.S. Army Blues Jazz Ensemble, member of the Jazz Studies department at Temple University and co-leader of The Taylor-Fidyk Big Band.

Notable: Played percussion for two Grammy Award-winning albums.

Favorite Wilkes Places: The Dorothy Dickson Darte Center and his wife's former dorm, Waller North.

Favorite Wilkes Memory: "I met my wife at Wilkes; that trumps everything!"

Right: Fidyk performs with the Army Blues jazz ensemble.
PHOTO COURTESY STEVE FIDYK

Below: Steve Fidyk performs with his son, Tony, during a concert at Wilkes-Barre's River Common in summer 2010. Fidyk teaches in Wyoming Seminary's Performing Arts Institute.
PHOTO BY CURTIS SALONICK



Good Scout



MICHAEL LOPRESTI '77 CONTRIBUTES TIME AND TALENTS TO BOY SCOUTS

By Glenn Kranzley

AS THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA RECENTLY observed its 100th anniversary, Michael LoPresti '77 celebrated a personal milestone with the organization: 33 years of involvement that began in boyhood and has continued with service as a local, regional and national scouting volunteer.

Recently retired from the position of chief financial officer with Chicago's Adler Planetarium and launching his own consulting business, LoPresti says he's used the lessons learned in scouting throughout a successful career.

"I often tell people, 'I'm too much of a Boy Scout,' " LoPresti jokes. "If I take on something, it's got to be done right, and I'm going to be honest and transparent in my dealings. I try to get better with each new project that I take on. The value system that I learned in scouting has been the bedrock on which I've built my career."

A resident of Glenview, Ill., LoPresti uses his business skills as volunteer treasurer and executive committee member for the Northeast Illinois Council, Boy Scouts of America, which serves 17,000 scouts. His service earned him scouting's prestigious Silver Beaver Award in 2005.

LoPresti's father was his scoutmaster in his hometown of Groveville, N.J. Together they led an expedition to the Philmont Scout Ranch, which challenges boys with more than 214 square miles of rugged northern New Mexico wilderness.

Two years later, LoPresti traveled to Japan to attend an eight-day World Scout Jamboree and trekked to the summit of Mount Fuji. While on the mountain, a typhoon struck. He scrambled down the summit and scouts from more than 100 countries were evacuated from flooded campgrounds to a high school gymnasium. He took a lesson away from the experience.

"The Scout motto is 'Be Prepared.' What I realized is that I was prepared," LoPresti says. "I could adapt to the experience. I wasn't intimidated."

The civic lessons he learned in scouting led him to major in political science at Wilkes. He honed leadership skills participating in student government and residence hall council and public speaking skills in Professor Brad Kinney's class. "His encouragement was important. He told us, 'You're going to have to get up in front of large groups your whole life.' I've used the skills I learned there throughout my career."

LoPresti took a break from scouting after high school, but was hooked all over again when his older son joined. "Scouting

is fun for the parents, too," he says. He and his wife, Bonnie, became pack leaders. When his sons went onto Boy Scouts, he joined them. He enjoyed watching boys develop leadership skills through the experience.

"It is gratifying to work with the scouts and see them master cooking over an open fire, camping in sub-zero weather or carrying out a community service project," LoPresti says. "Boy Scouts give the scouts a chance to fail and then succeed in a controlled environment. Once they realize they can master a task, their self confidence soars. They can become the teacher, instead of the student."

More recently, LoPresti has helped to bring that same character-building experience to underserved youth through the Scoutreach program. The urban scouting program focuses on city and minority youth. What started in a single school has expanded to dozens of locations in Waukegan and North Chicago, Ill. LoPresti has helped to fund the program.

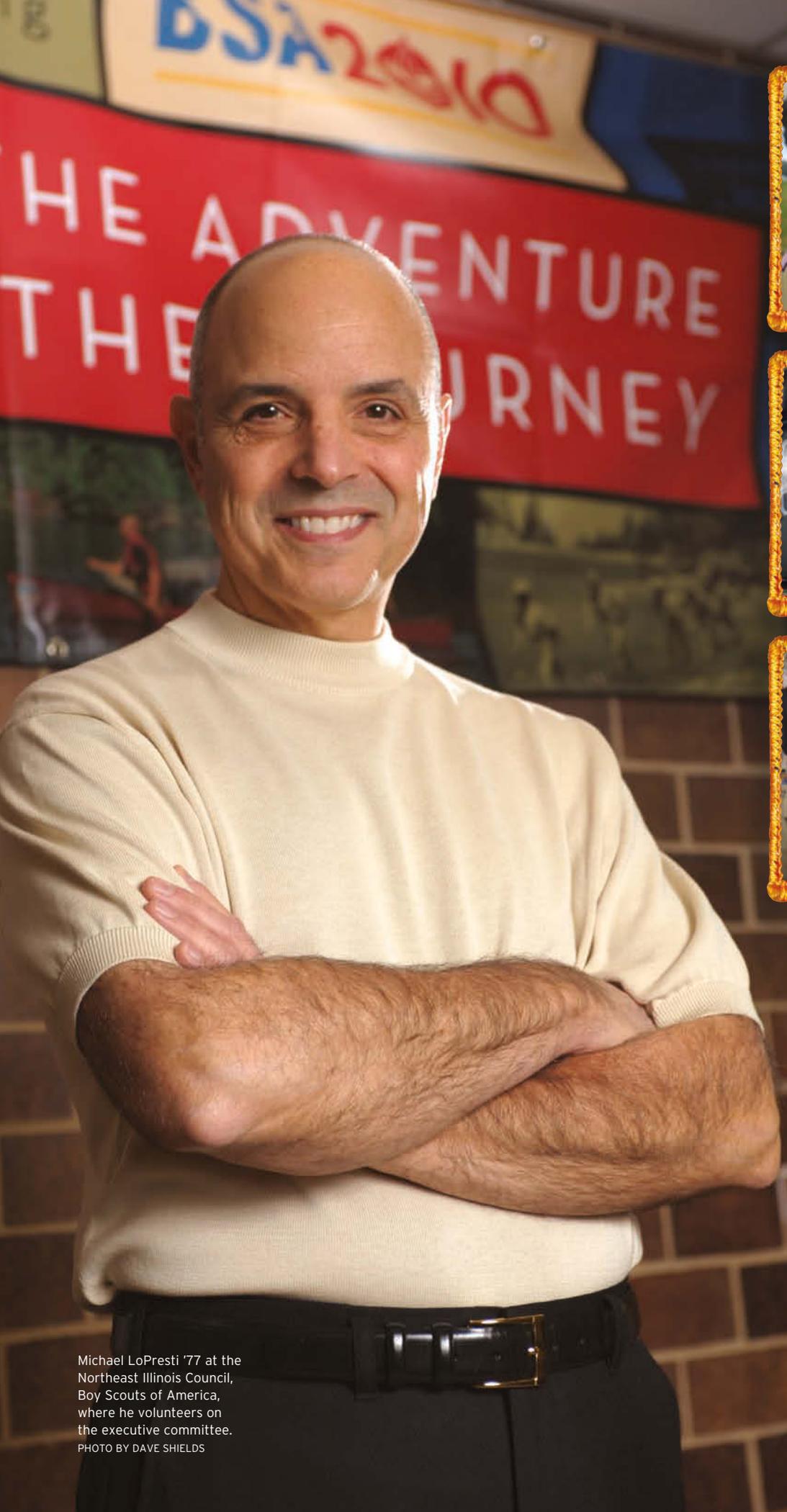
John Mosby, CEO of the Northeast Illinois Council, says, "Mike is a servant leader and he leads by example. And he's a visionary. He's making a difference in the economically challenged cities of Waukegan and North Chicago with his work to bring scouting to schools through innovative lunchtime programs. Mike is making a difference one boy at a time. Just think where that might lead as those youngsters grow up."

LoPresti's younger son, Chris, is the next generation to assume a leadership role in Scouting. Father and son have led scouts on a 50-mile trek through Montana's Glacier National Park and on trips to the 2005 national jamboree and the 2007 centennial world jamboree in England. In July 2010, they were selected from volunteers across the country to serve on the VIP/Guest Services staff at the 100th anniversary jamboree in Virginia, the only father-son team on the 30-member staff.

Chris's busy high school schedule delayed him from receiving his Eagle Scout medal at the traditional Court of Honor ceremony before entering Yale University. His father arranged for him to receive it in a special ceremony at the jamboree, followed by a flight in a Blackhawk helicopter over the 2,200-acre jamboree site.

Although such experiences are exciting, LoPresti says the satisfaction he gets as a Boy Scout volunteer is knowing the impact it makes on young lives. It was perhaps best reflected in a thank-you card received from one of the urban scout troops in the Scoutreach program.

"They sent us a picture. They were all there in their neckerchiefs, holding up their badges. The smiles on their faces said it all."



Michael LoPresti '77 at the Northeast Illinois Council, Boy Scouts of America, where he volunteers on the executive committee.
PHOTO BY DAVE SHIELDS



Top: LoPresti with his son, Chris, at the 2010 national Jamboree, where both served as volunteers.

Center: The LoPrestis viewed the Jamboree from an Army Blackhawk helicopter.

Bottom: LoPresti presents his son, Chris, with his Eagle Scout award during a special ceremony at the national Jamboree.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Michael LoPresti, Glenview, Ill.
B.A., Political Science, Wilkes, 1977
Master of Public Administration,
George Washington University, 1979

Career: Retired chief financial officer, Adler Planetarium, Chicago, Ill.

Wilkes memory: Stayed behind when campus was evacuated because of a flood threat in 1976 to move furniture and contents of campus buildings to their second floors. Fortunately, the Susquehanna River crested just below the top of the levee.

Notable: Rode in an Army Blackhawk helicopter over the 2010 Boy Scout National Jamboree in Virginia.



Wilkes seniors and faculty celebrate and network at an Alumni Association event. Pictured from left, Anna McFadden, Angela Nicolosi, Professor of Psychology Robert Bohlander, Katie Nadeau, Professor of Psychology Deborah Tindell, Krista Hill and Alyssa Ciesla.

PHOTO BY BRIDGET GIUNTA HUSTED '07.

Alumni Association Works With Senior Class

The spring semester is filled with opportunities for current senior students to meet alumni and learn more about the Alumni Association. At the First Farewell event in February, students were welcomed into the Alumni Association by board members and began the tradition of raising funds to present Wilkes with a senior class gift. Other social events are planned throughout the semester to unite the class and set the stage for events such as Homecoming. Many of the students are also involved in the alumni-student mentoring program, further strengthening the connection with alumni. The fun isn't just for the students, either. Alumni have just as much fun—if not more—coming back to campus and hanging out with the senior class. To find out more about these events, check out the alumni website at www.wilkes.edu/alumni or contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (570) 408-7787.

HIRE WILKES!

When the senior class graduates in May, approximately 400 students will join the network of over 33,000 Wilkes alumni.

As a Wilkes alumnus or alumna, you can help Colonels at any stage of their career by sharing job opportunities within your company. Helping Wilkes alumni in search of a job while recruiting talent for your organization is as easy as contacting the Office of Alumni Relations with vacancies.

The professional network committee of the Alumni Association is creating opportunities for alumni to help other alumni develop their careers. If you're interested in serving on this committee, contact Alumni Relations at alumni@wilkes.edu. Join the Wilkes alumni LinkedIn group at www.linkedin.com to network with fellow professionals. Share job



postings, suggestions and your thoughts with the Office of Alumni Relations by calling (570) 408-7787 or emailing alumni@wilkes.edu.

We're also here to help if you are in a period of transition. Visit the Career Services website at www.wilkes.edu/career or view opportunities on www.collegecentral.com/wilkesu.

Mary E. (Balavage) Simmons '10 Joins Alumni Relations Office

Mary E. (Balavage) Simmons '10, a communication studies graduate, has joined the Office of Alumni Relations as coordinator. She was an intern for the Office of Alumni Relations in Fall 2009. Simmons will work with the mentoring and development committees of the alumni board. She will also be responsible for the administration of the alumni-student mentoring program and will help organize alumni events throughout the country.

In her spare time, she is a member of the Robert Dale Chorale and a member of the St. Therese's Pastoral Council and choir.

Be sure to look for her at the next alumni event!



Mary E. (Balavage) Simmons '10 has joined the Wilkes Alumni Relations Office.

We want to know what's happening with you!

Update your classmates on your latest news—did you start a family, get a new job or meet up with other Wilkes alumni?

Submit a class note—it only takes a moment. Email alumni@wilkes.edu, call (570) 408-7787 or submit your update online at www.wilkes.edu/alumni.



Dan '79 and Puddy '79 Cardell, Dr. Henry Finn '80 and Provost Reynold Verret celebrate Finn's achievement as a Health Sciences award recipient at a dinner in his honor at Weiss Memorial Hospital in Chicago. For a story on Finn's career, please see page 10.

SAVE THE DATE!



1965

Dr. Catherine D. DeAngelis has announced that she will retire in June 2011 as editor-in-chief of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. She plans to return to Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine to develop a center for professionalism in medicine and related professions, including nursing, public health, business and law.

1966

Reunion Sept. 23-25 

Dwight E. Giles Sr. and his wife Josephine celebrated 65 years of marriage on June 2, 2010.

1969

David Palmer retired from The Newark Museum after 30 years as a designer and director of exhibitions. He recently opened a new painting studio in Bangor, Pa., where he practices iconography in the Russian style.

1970

Dave Bogusko see 2004.

1975

Ann M. Bartuska is deputy under secretary for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Research, Education and Economics mission area.

1978

Kevin McCall accepted a new position as manager for production planning with Nobel Biocare in Yorba Linda, Calif. Nobel Biocare is a leader in innovative restorative and esthetic dental solutions.

Clark F. Speicher, retired colonel of the U.S. Air Force, recently accepted the position of business development manager with Lockheed Martin MS2, Mission and Sensors Systems business unit in Liverpool, N.Y. Clark resides with his wife, Merry, in Sherrill, N.Y.

1980

Barbara E. King and **R. Michael Paige** were married on Sept. 26, 2010. The bride is associate dean of student affairs at Wilkes. She has worked for the University for 31 years. The groom is a partially retired professor of international and intercultural education at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities campus. They live in Dallas, Pa.

1982

Maurita (Gries) Elias and **Robert Elias** celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on Oct. 19, 2010. The couple reside in Dallas, Pa.

1989

Maria DiCredico married **Robert Waegerle** on Sept. 25, 2010.

1990

Brian Curran was elected to the New York State Assembly on Nov. 2, 2010. Curran was expected to join the New York State Assembly on Jan. 3, 2011. Curran has been an associate partner at the law firm of Nicolini, Paradise, Ferretti and Sabella for the past 10 years and was recently the mayor of Lynbrook, N.Y.

1991

Reunion Sept. 23-25 

Christopher R. Arabis and his wife welcomed a son, Jackson Robert Arabis, on Oct. 11, 2010.

1994

Tracy Zabrenski is director of revenue cycle at Moses Taylor Hospital. She previously filled a similar position at Geisinger Health System for 12 years.

1995

Jackie Coolbaugh and **Garth Andrade** were married on Nov. 20, 2010. Both are employed with the Dallas School District and reside with their two children in Dallas, Pa.

Anthony D. Mazzatesta is project manager in the environmental engineering group for RETTEW, an engineering design firm in Lancaster, Pa. He resides in Kulpmont, Pa.

1996

Reunion Sept. 23-25 

Edward Benjamin Hoffman see *Graduate Students 2006*.

1997

Regina (Frappolli) Dunphy and her husband welcomed their fourth child, Patrick, in July 2009. He joins 9-year-old sister Isabella and brothers Michael, 6, and John Paul, 5. The family lives in Florence, N.J.

1998

Charles J. (C.J.) Copley was named one of Northeast Pennsylvania Business Journal's

"Top 20 Under 40" for 2010. He is executive vice-president of sales and marketing at Golden Technologies, a manufacturer of home health care equipment.

Brian Kaschak received the Teaching Excellence Award from the Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church. Kaschak is a history teacher, assistant wrestling coach, and varsity boys' baseball coach at the Upper School at Wyoming Seminary College Preparatory School, where he is also dorm head of Carpenter Hall and the director of the summer English as a second language program.

Shannon (Stair) Bushong and her husband, Brandon, announce the birth of their second son, Sheldon Ross, born Sept. 28, 2010. Sheldon joins big brother, Winston. Bushong recently obtained her doctorate in physical therapy from the University of Scranton and works for Christiana Care Health System in Wilmington, Del.

2000

Greg Riley started an online music sales and consignment shop, www.instrumentcloset.com. The online store specializes in the sales of new and consigned instruments online from all over the world. The web address was printed incorrectly in the last issue of *Wilkes* magazine.

Air Force Maj. Deirdre Gurry '99 Meets Woman Who Paved the Way

Maj. Deirdre Gurry '99 is part of an elite group: As a pilot in the U.S. Air Force, she's one of only 4.5 percent of flyers who are female. Gurry is a C-17 Globemaster pilot, flying test and delivery missions as the Government Flight Representative to Boeing in San Antonio, Texas, for the Defense Contract Management Agency.

A mechanical engineering major at Wilkes, she was a member of the Air Force ROTC detachment when she was tapped for flight training. After graduating from Wilkes, she went to pilot training at Columbus Air Force Base in Mississippi. Since then, Gurry's service has included assignments as a T-37 flight instructor at Columbus Air Force Base and a C-17 aircraft commander and flight instructor at McChord Air Force Base in Tacoma, Wash. She also has been deployed to Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom, serving as a cargo pilot ferrying servicemen and supplies in and out of combat zones.

"One of the most amazing feelings was when I was bringing a bunch of Army troops out of the war zone on their way home," recalls Gurry, a native of Bushkill, Pa. "As soon as we were airborne, they were cheering."

Equally touching, she says, are the children of Afghanistan and Iraq. "They are really happy we are there," she says, recalling that many service men and women bring coloring books and other gifts for the children when they are deployed.

One of Gurry's most memorable assignments came in March 2010 when she helped honor some of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) of World War II. The WASP were formed in 1942 as civilian volunteers so that male



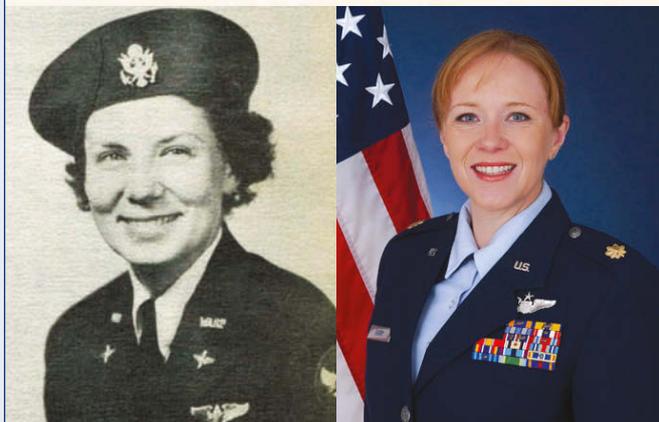
Air Force Maj. Deirdre Gurry '99, above left, presents the Congressional Gold Medal to Mary Reineberg Burchard, honoring her for her service as a WASP in World War II.

pilots could be released for combat duty. When they were deactivated in 1944, their service was deemed confidential and they received no benefits or recognition as veterans.

In 1977, Congress finally acknowledged their contribution and granted them veteran status which led to honorable discharges in 1979. On July 1, 2009 President Obama awarded them the Congressional Gold Medal, and on March 10, 2010 more than 200 of them attended the ceremony in Washington D.C.

One of the WASP, Mary Reineberg Burchard, was unable to attend the Washington ceremony. Her daughter arranged for her to receive her medal, in a special ceremony in Long Beach, Calif., and Gurry was asked to present it to her. Burchard, a native of York, Pa., was a test pilot at Marana Air Base in Tucson, Ariz. Several other WASP attended her award ceremony. Gurry says she felt like she was meeting her heroes. "Their dedication, commitment, courage and strength laid the groundwork for the opportunities afforded to us today. There are no words that can express the amount of gratitude they deserve," she says.

– By Vicki Mayk



Left: Mary Reineberg Burchard in her WASP uniform, and Maj. Deirdre Gurry '99 her modern-day counterpart. Photos courtesy Deirdre Gurry.

From College to Colleagues: Anthony DaRe '00 and Kerianne Geist '00

Individuals sometimes lose touch with old college chums. Not Anthony DaRe '00 and Kerianne Geist '00. The business administration majors first partnered in their classes at Wilkes. Ten years later, they are working together again.

The opportunity came with the 2010 expansion of DaRe's company, BSI Corporate Benefits. BSI stands for balance, strength, and integrity, words that DaRe attributes to his parents. Founded in 2003, the company advises clients about insurance benefits, laws, and procedures, and negotiates the best deal for each client's needs. When DaRe expanded the Michigan-based business to the East Coast, he called his old friend.

Though living and working in different parts of the country for a decade, the pair kept in touch. Geist, who worked in marketing and project management for Rita's Italian Ice and Leo Burnett, was excited to tackle a new challenge with an old comrade. She is now managing director for BSI in Bethlehem, Pa. DaRe has also moved to the east coast office.

He lives with his wife, Adrienne, and daughter, Lila, in Easton, Pa. Geist resides in Doylestown, Pa.

"We joke that it really does feel like we're back at Wilkes working on a project," laughs DaRe, whose brother Michael DaRe '03 also graduated from Wilkes. "But now the project is real."

They welcome new projects, like dealing with health-care reform. "It's challenging because it literally changes by the hour," says DaRe. "I'm very excited to be at the forefront of working on successful solutions." Successes have included the work DaRe did on behalf of Central Columbia School District in Bloomsburg, Pa. It was featured on CNN's *The Situation Room*.

Geist and DaRe credit Wilkes with preparing them for demanding careers. Both juggled athletics with their academic schedules, finding guidance and encouragement from their Wilkes mentors, such as head football coach Frank Sheptock and their advisor, Professor of Business Anne Heineman Batory.

"Their help didn't stop when we stepped out the door after Wilkes," Geist says. "They would drop what they're doing to help us, even now. How many other colleges have professors who would do that?"

Geist and DaRe are thrilled to be once again living close to their alma mater, along with many of the friends and mentors they acquired at Wilkes.

"To be closer to our college friends—and to our school—it's just been a fantastic transition," says DaRe. "The majority of our friends, they're our Wilkes friends. They're our Wilkes family."

– By Rachel Strayer



Kerianne Geist '00 and Anthony DaRe '00 in the Bethlehem, Pa., offices of DaRe's company, BSI Corporate Benefits.

Donna Talarico MFA '10 was hired as web content editor in the office of marketing and communications at Elizabethtown College in Elizabethtown, Pa.

2002

Matthew M. Yencha see 2004.

2003

Stacey Veronica Rutt M.S. '06 and **Gene Matthew Molino** were married on Oct. 17, 2009. The bride is a third-grade teacher in the Wyoming Area School District. The groom is associated with the law offices of Vough and Associates and also serves as a judicial law clerk. The couple live in Exeter, Pa.

2004

Melissa Jurgensen is the director of marketing for GrooveCar Inc., one of the nation's largest loan aggregators. She is responsible for advertising, employee communications, trade event support and public relations.

Melissa Joy Mendygral and **Michael Richard Dutrow** were married on May 29, 2010. The bride is a settlement agent for Pennsylvania First Settlement Services. The groom is a pharmaceutical sales representative for Strativa Pharmaceuticals. The couple reside in Hanover Township, Pa.

Kate (Gowisnok) Menta and her husband, **Jarrod**, announce the birth of their second child,

Luciana Grace, born March 19, 2010. Luciana joins three-year-old sister, **Sofia Elizabeth**.

Sarah (Bogusko) Yencha and **Matthew M. Yencha '02** announce the birth of their son, **Lukas Peter**, born Dec. 3, 2010. The family resides in Easton, Pa. Grandparents are **Dave Bogusko '70** and his wife, **JoAnne**, of Bel Air, Md., and **Edward and Bernice Yencha** of Wilkes-Barre.

2005

David Randall Paden see **Graduate Students 2009**.

2006

Reunion Sept. 23-25 

Sarah Diane Kopko and **Michael Joseph DeFrancesco** were married on Sept. 5, 2010. The bride is employed part-time at The Dough Company. The groom is chief financial officer of Animal Scan, LLC, and the president and chief executive officer of The Funding Zone LLC, both in Allentown, Pa. The couple reside in Bear Creek, Pa.

Sara Toole was named one of Northeast Pennsylvania Business Journal's "Top 20 Under 40" for 2010. She is the planning and analysis manager at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs.

2007

Chris Applegate won the 2010 INBF New York State Bodybuilding and Figure Championships. He won the men's open middleweight class and the overall show.



Kandice Avery '06 and **Thomas Joseph Bross** were married on June 12, 2010. The bride is a respiratory sales representative for Merck Pharmaceuticals. The groom is a business analyst for The Boeing Company, Ridley Park. The couple reside in Swarthmore, Pa.

Staff Sgt. Matthew John Emelett and **Grace Elizabeth Hughes** were married on Nov. 1, 2009. The groom is serving in Afghanistan as a mental health specialist. The bride is a secondary education math and science teacher at Green Mountain Valley School in Waitsfield, Vt.

Adrienne Richards

accompanied the national Thanksgiving turkey to the White House in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 24, 2010, for the traditional presidential turkey pardon. Richards is the public relations manager

for the National Turkey Federation. This is her second year participating in the turkey pardon. She was featured in the Fall 2010 issue of *Wilkes* magazine.

Nicole Spagnola and **Jason Marconi** were married on July 30, 2010. The couple reside in Bear Creek, Pa.

2008

Amy Sekol is completing her third year as an elementary music teacher for the Scranton School District. She is also a licensed Zumba instructor. Sekol lives in Throop, Pa.

2009

Alison Woody is communications coordinator at the non-profit agency United Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern Pennsylvania in Scranton, Pa.

2010

John Gill was hired for the Civil Unit/GIS discipline at Borton Lawson, an architecture and engineering design firm in Wilkes-Barre.

Michael Piotti accepted a position as a resident nurse at Cooper University Hospital in Camden, N.J.

Graduate Students 1990

Anthony F. Torquato MBA is the chief credit officer at LandMark Bank of Florida in Sarasota, Fla. He has been working in the banking industry for over 23 years.

2005

Vanessa G. Velikis Pharm.D. and **Eli G. Phillips Jr. Pharm.D. '06** were married on April 17, 2010. Both bride and groom are assistant professors of pharmacy practice at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas. The couple reside in San Antonio.



Mary E. Balavage '10 and Catlin W. Simmons were married on Sept. 18, 2010.

Wilkes Wedding Bells

Beginning with this issue, *Wilkes* magazine is accepting photos of alumni weddings. If wedding bells rang for you in the last year, please share your photos with us. We will accept your photos up to one year after your nuptials. Please follow these requirements:

1. E-mail jpeg files to **wilkesmagazine@wilkes.edu**. Digital photos **must be at least 4 by 6 inches at 300 dpi or 1800 pixels by 1200 pixels**. Please note that we will not be able to use photos that do not meet these minimum requirements. Non-returnable prints can be sent to: Vicki Mayk, editor, *Wilkes* magazine Marketing Communications Dept. Wilkes University, 84 W. South St. Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766.
2. NOTE: Do not write on the back of photos when submitting prints. Identify people in photos on a separate piece of paper, stating who is pictured left to right.
3. The bride or groom must be a Wilkes graduate (undergraduate or graduate degree).
4. Photos of a wedding party may be submitted if at least one bridesmaid or groomsman is an alumnus. Identification, including class year, must be provided for everyone in the photo.
5. Group photos of all Wilkes alumni attending a wedding may be submitted. Identification, including class years, must be provided for everyone in the photograph.

Wilkes magazine reserves the right to edit photos for space purposes if non-alumni are pictured.

2006Reunion Sept. 23-25 

Sandra Mary Cawley M.S. and **Edward Benjamin Hoffman '96** were married on July 10, 2010. The bride is a special education teacher for the Lake-Lehman School District. The groom is a logistics analyst for Keystone Automotive Operations. The couple reside in Plains Township, Pa.

Joseph Iracki MBA see **Graduate Students 2009**.

Eli G. Phillips Jr. Pharm.D. see **Graduate Students 2005**.

Stacey Veronica Rutt M.S. see 2003.

2007

Paige Elizabeth Oxley M.S. and **Christopher Paul Swales** were married on Oct. 15, 2010. The bride is employed by Community Health Centers of Pinellas Inc. The groom is employed by Morgan Stanley Smith Barney. The couple reside in St. Petersburg, Fla.

2008

Erica Perugino M.S. and **Eric Greco** were married on July 21, 2010. The bride is a first-grade teacher for the Hanover Area School District. The groom is self-employed as the owner of Greco Construction. The couple reside in Forty Fort, Pa.

2009

Patricia Eichorn M.S. and **Joseph Iracki MBA '06** were married on June 26, 2010.

The bride is employed by the Crestwood School District. The groom works for Koehler-Bright Star LLC. The couple reside in Wilkes-Barre.

Dawn Leas M.F.A. published her first chapbook of poetry, *I Know When to Keep Quiet*, released in November of 2010. The chapbook was published by Finishing Line Press and is available at www.finishinglinepress.com or www.amazon.com. Leas teaches middle school English at Wyoming Seminary Lower School in Forty Fort, Pa. She lives with her husband and two sons in Shavertown, Pa.

Courtney Ann Peters M.S. and **David Randall Paden '05** were married on July 10, 2010. The bride is a special education teacher for the Stroudsburg Area School District. The groom is an electrical engineer for Smith Miller Associates in Kingston, Pa., and is the owner of DRP Realty, LLC. The couple reside in Swoyersville, Pa.

2010

Thomas D. Longenecker M.S. is building one of the largest solar arrays in Pennsylvania in the Carlisle Area School District. It is the largest in any public school district in the state, made up of 5,178 solar panels and showcasing four types of technology for educational purposes on 6.2 acres of land.

Donna Talarico MFA see 2000.

In Memoriam**1945**

Donald A. Frederick Jr., Hanover Township, Pa., died Oct. 17, 2010. He was a World War II U.S. Army veteran as well as the owner and operator of M.S. Frederick & Son Funeral Home in Wilkes-Barre and Frederick Fine Furniture in Plymouth, Pa.

1948

Gomer E. Jones, Albrightsville, Pa., died Oct. 25, 2010. He was a World War II U.S. Army veteran and scout executive for The Boy Scouts of America.

1952

Thaddeus C. Putkowski, Nanticoke, Pa., died Nov. 1, 2010. He was a member of the Pennsylvania Optometry Association for 52 years and was self-employed.

1954

James T. Atherton, Wilkes-Barre, died Dec. 10, 2010. He was a U.S. Army veteran as well as a coach and educator at various academic institutions.

Joseph Mioduski, Nanticoke, Pa., died Nov. 21, 2010. He was a World War II U.S. Navy veteran and worked as a chemist for Okanite Wire Co. and Eberhard Faber Co.

1955

James (Jim) Neveras, Drums, Pa., died Nov. 13, 2010. He was retired from a career in banking and sales.

1959

Michael J. George, Plantation, Fla., died Oct. 19, 2010. He was employed at Slamen & Slamen CPA firm until 1981.

1963

Nancy Amelia Palazzolo, Babylon, N.Y., died Oct. 31, 2010. She was a retired employee of the Suffolk County Department of Social Services.

1967

Frank M. Yencharis, Spokane, Wash., died Oct. 7, 2010. He worked as a civilian for the Department of the Army as a human resources officer for 32 years.

1968

William R. Swartwood, Falls Church, Va., died Nov. 14, 2010. He served in the U.S. Army during Vietnam and retired from his position as an accountant and psychologist for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Inspector General after 35 years.

1969

Carol H. Klimchak, Plymouth, Pa., died Dec. 7, 2010. She was an operator for Bell Telephone Co. for 15 years as well as a second-generation owner and operator of Raub's Restaurant in Plymouth.

In Memoriam

Friends of Wilkes

Josephine C. Fiascki, Forty Fort, Pa., died Nov. 30, 2010. Prior to her retirement, she was the manager of the acquisitions department in the Farley Memorial Library at Wilkes University.

Donald H. Glatzel, New Milford, Pa., died Sept. 23, 2010. A longtime benefactor of Wilkes, he was employed as an engineer at IBM and served with the Columbia Hose Company for over 40 years, spending some of the time as fire chief.

Creative Writing advisory board. A scholarship in her name was established in the creative writing program by her late husband, the author Norman Mailer.

Norris Church Mailer, Brooklyn Heights, N.Y., died Nov. 21, 2010. She was a model, actor, painter, novelist, and playwright. Mailer served on the Wilkes

Wallace F. Stettler, honorary doctor of humane letters, Dallas, Pa., died Oct 21, 2010. He was the ninth president of Wyoming Seminary, retiring after 23 years, and served as president emeritus until his death.

Emeriti Faculty

Thomas N. Kaska '57 of Alden, Pa., died on Dec. 17, 2010. He received his bachelor's degree from Wilkes University and earned his doctorate at Duquesne University. Kaska returned to Wilkes as a professor of English, where he taught for 30 years until his retirement in 1997. Wilkes professor emeritus of English Benjamin Fiester '55 recalls that Kaska was "universally admired."

"When he taught Shakespeare," Fiester recounts, "his students thought so much of him that they bought him a first folio edition (of Shakespeare's works) when it was published by Yale."

Kaska is survived by his wife of 54 years, Eilene (George) Kaska; his daughters, Judith Fox '85, Lora Williams '84, and Beth Kaska '86; his brother, Henry; grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Hilda A. Marban of Beverly Hills, Calif., died on Sept. 19, 2010. Marban was professor emerita of foreign languages, teaching Spanish until her retirement from Wilkes in 1986. A political refugee from her native Cuba, she held doctorates from the University of Havana and the University of Virginia. Survivors include her son, Dr. Eduardo Marban '74.

Philip L. Rizzo of Germantown, Md., died Nov. 21, 2010. Rizzo was a professor of literature and linguistics at Wilkes and was named professor emeritus upon his retirement in 1987. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II, serving as a sharpshooter

and mortar expert for the glider infantry. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania, where he also earned his doctorate in British and American 19th- and 20th-century literature. He also taught courses at the University of Maryland University College and Montgomery College and was the author of several works of fiction.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Marcia Blanco Rizzo '71; his son, Louis; and his brother, Joseph.

Theatre performances have been an important part of the extracurricular experience for Wilkes students for decades—whether performing a leading role or working stage crew. See anyone you recognize in this photo?

Share names or reminisce at The Colonel Connection message boards, found at community.wilkes.edu. Or send responses to *Wilkes magazine*, 84 W. South Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18766. You can also e-mail wilkesmagazine@wilkes.edu.

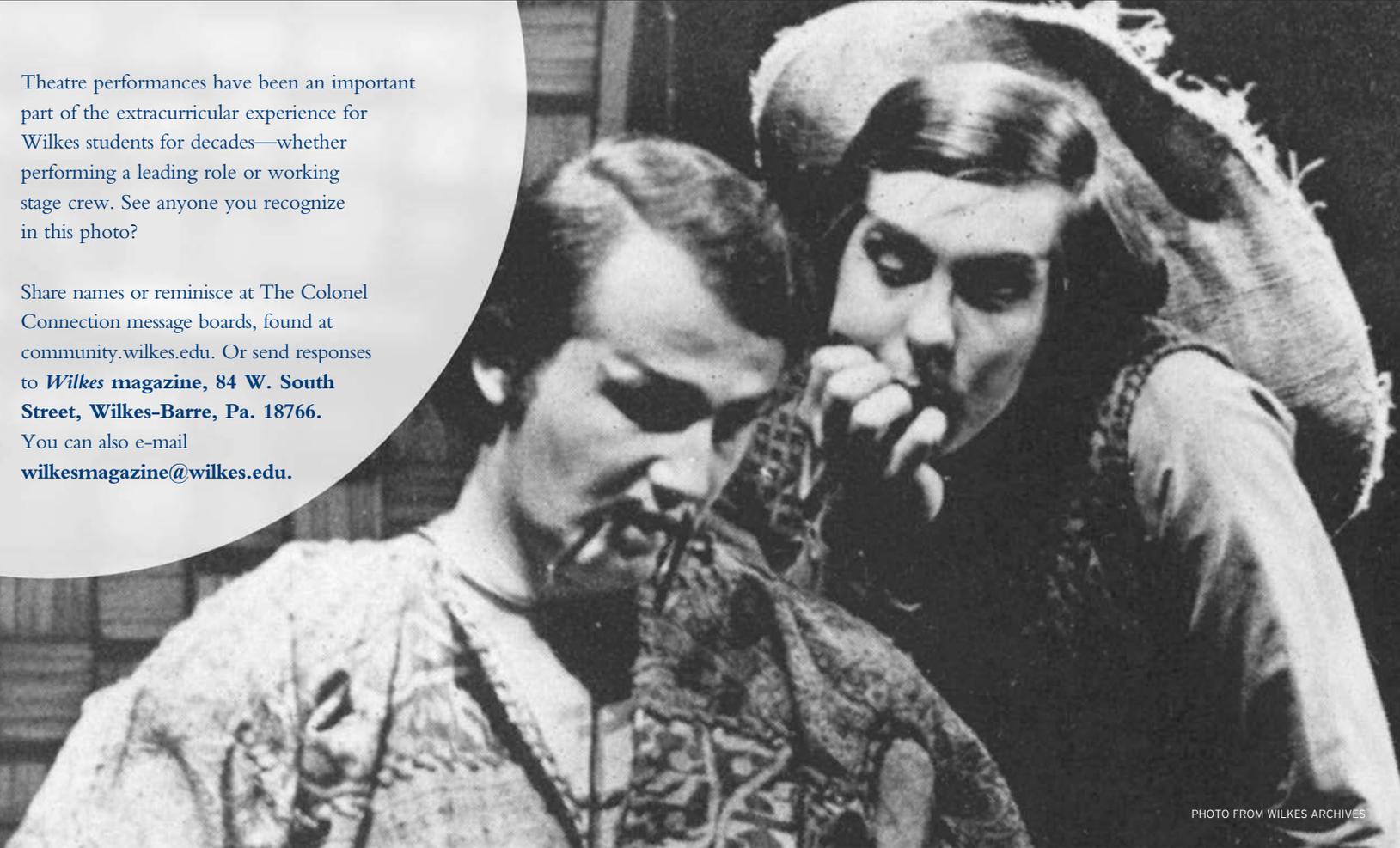


PHOTO FROM WILKES ARCHIVES



Today's student performers still enjoy opportunities to shine – like these cast members from the February 2010 production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. The production was chosen for the Region II Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival at Towson University in January 2011. With competition from eight states, Wilkes University's *Spelling Bee* is one of only nine Region II productions selected to perform for a chance to compete in the national finals.

PHOTO BY CURTIS SALONICK

calendar of events



March

- 1-6 *Portraits from the Golden Age of Jazz*, Photos by William Gottlieb, Sordoni Art Gallery
- 22 Kirby Lecture in Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship featuring Gary Hirshberg, president and CEO of Stonyfield Farms and chairman of Climate Counts, Dorothy Dickson Darte Center, 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Halfway to Homecoming Happy Hour, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

April

- 6 Alumni event, Philadelphia, Pa.
- 7 Alumni event, Limerick, Pa.
- 7-10 Theatre Production: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Darte Center, 8 p.m.; April 10, 2 p.m.
- 29 Alumni Association Scholarship Dinner, Wilkes-Barre

May

- 1 The 30th Annual Max Rosenn Lecture in Law and Humanities featuring Michelle Rhee, former chancellor of Washington, D.C., public schools, 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Commencement, Mohegan Sun Arena

June

- 12 Alumni event, Boston, Mass.

PHOTO BY BRUCE WELLER