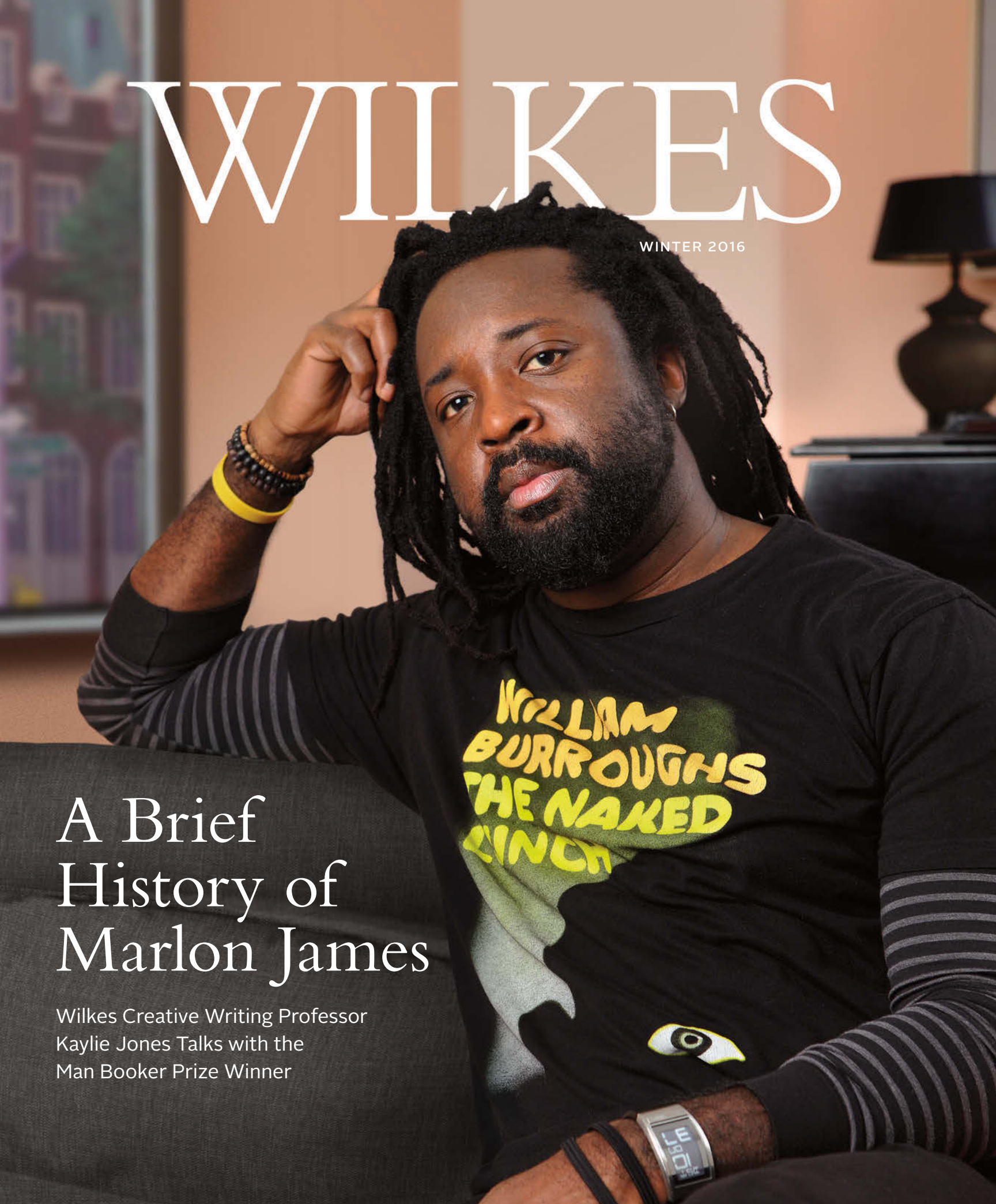


WILKES

WINTER 2016

A Brief History of Marlon James

Wilkes Creative Writing Professor
Kaylie Jones Talks with the
Man Booker Prize Winner



The Arts Are Integral to a Great University

Wilkes University wants to be one of our country's finest small universities. We will be unique by offering the programs, activities, and opportunities of a large university, in the caring, mentoring culture of a small college. Recognizing that we cannot be a comprehensive university without a commitment to the arts, and that we can't provide an effective liberal education without students experiencing the arts in all forms, today we are committed to investing in the literary, performing, new media and visual arts.

The arts have always been integral to a Wilkes education, occupying a special space on campus. We celebrated that enduring commitment during the fall semester when we marked the 50th anniversary of the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts. That evening we celebrated some of the special moments created at the Darte Center since it opened in 1965, while we enjoyed performances of today's students in their vocal, instrumental, dance and theater ensembles.

Nowhere is our arts commitment more evident than in our plans for the Sordoni Art Gallery. The University is creating a new home for the gallery at our newly acquired property at 141 South Main Street. We are transitioning the Sordoni from a model in which we curate and collect artwork to become a high-end exhibition gallery curating and showcasing traveling shows that will provide a much wider variety of exhibits for our students and community members to enjoy. The plan aims to make the Sordoni Art Gallery the leading destination for showcasing the visual arts in the region.

The literary arts are celebrated year-round at Wilkes. On the graduate level, faculty, literary agents, alumni, and students of our low-residency creative writing program travel to campus from across the country twice a year for workshops, lectures, craft classes and readings. The English department's Allan Hamilton Dickson series brings some of today's best writers to campus. Our undergraduates can interact with those writers in workshops and informal conversation.

Never wanting to miss an interdisciplinary approach to the arts experience—this spring we'll observe the 400th anniversary of the passing of William Shakespeare. Performances of his comedy *Twelfth Night*, and musical performances of works from the period will mark more than four centuries of the Bard's influence.

At a time when the arts are under siege at many educational institutions, I am proud to share with you that the commitment to the arts continues to be a priority at Wilkes. We shall never lose sight of its importance in educating our students and enriching the community.



Wilkes President Patrick F. Leahy shares his vision for the University with visiting alumni at Homecoming 2015. PHOTO BY KNOT JUST ANY DAY.

Dr. Patrick F. Leahy
Wilkes University President

WILKES MAGAZINE

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



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Marlon James MA '06 contemplates the fame that has accompanied the award of the Man Booker Prize for his novel. PHOTO BY EARL AND SEDOR PHOTOGRAPHIC

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Have a story idea to share?

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Wilkes magazine is available online at www.wilkes.edu/wilkesmagazineonline



Darte Center Marks 50th Anniversary

The Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts may be 50 years old, but the anniversary celebration on Oct. 24, 2015, showed its role is just as vital as when it opened its doors a half-century ago. Performances by students in choral and instrumental ensembles, numbers highlighting dance and scenes presented by Wilkes University Theatre showcased the continued vitality of the performing arts on campus. Reminiscences about the building's history were provided by alumni that included state Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski '67 and Elizabeth Slaughter '68, a member of the Wilkes board of trustees. One alumnus—Bruce Phair '73—took a final bow as he ended 36 years as manager of the Darte. (See story on page 23.)

Top left: The Civic Band, directed by Philip Simon, associate professor of music, was one of the instrumental ensembles performing at the anniversary event.

Top right: Alumna and Wilkes trustee Elizabeth Slaughter '68 reminisced about her days working with legendary theatre director Al Groh.

Bottom: Students in the Wilkes chorus gave a rollicking performance at the 50th anniversary celebration. PHOTOS BY KNOT JUST ANY DAY



Dedication of Michelini Hall Honors Former President

Wilkes celebrated the legacy of its second president, Francis J. Michelini, when it dedicated a building in his honor. At a ceremony on Nov. 10, Barre Hall, a Wilkes student residence hall, was renamed in his honor. The hall is home to students in the honors program.

Michelini was the first Wilkes president to ascend from the academic ranks. He joined Wilkes in 1955 as the third full-time faculty member in the biology department. In 1963, he became dean of academic affairs.

After becoming president, Michelini—known to many as “Dr. Mike”—helped to ensure the University’s survival after the devastating Agnes flood in 1972, leading campus recovery efforts and ensuring Wilkes was ready for classes in the fall.



Francis J. Michelini, second president of Wilkes, savors the moment as Barre Hall was dedicated in his honor. PHOTO BY LISA REYNOLDS

Wilkes Ranked 25th In The Nation For Economic Value By *The Economist*

Wilkes University is ranked 25th in the nation for economic value by *The Economist*. The ranking was announced in the international publication's first-ever college rankings.

The ranking determines a college's economic value by comparing what a school's undergraduate alumni earn and how much they might have earned had they studied somewhere else. In Wilkes' case, that amounts to \$8,250 more in annual earnings. *The Economist's* analysis included a median salary for graduates predicted in its model for each of the 1,275 colleges included in its rankings. The salaries are predicted as what graduates would earn 10 years after entering college.

Each college received an "over/under" score—showing if earnings ranked above or below expected earnings if they attended another school. In Wilkes' case, expected earnings are \$41,650. The median earnings projected by *The Economist* are \$49,900, showing that attending Wilkes boosts the earnings power of its graduates at \$8,250 above expectations.

The Economist's rankings use the U.S. Department of Education's new College Scorecard data. To arrive at the over/under comparison, the newspaper used a variety of variables, including average SAT scores, sex ratio, race breakdown, college size and socioeconomic data. The result is a ranking that recognizes value above reputation, listing Wilkes above institutions such as MIT and Penn State.

Spring Lectures Offer Diverse Perspectives

Topics as varied as international politics and entrepreneurship with a social conscience highlight spring lectures at Wilkes.

Mary Fisher, Activist, Author and Artist, Delivers Allan P. Kirby Lecture

Mary Fisher, activist, author and artist, will speak on "Freeing the Entrepreneur for the Global Good" at the Allan P. Kirby Lecture in Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship on March 16. The lecture will be in the Dorothy Dickson Dart Center for the Performing Arts at 7:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Fisher is a global leader in the arena of social change. Diagnosed with HIV in 1991 and with breast cancer in 2012, Fisher is an outspoken advocate. She delivered a keynote address at the 1992 Republican National Convention that is ranked among "the best 100 American speeches of the 20th century" by Oxford University Press. Her early experience, first in public and commercial broadcast media, then in high-profile positions, equipped her to urge transformation in health care, revise perceptions and responses to AIDS, and enable women's global empowerment.

She is the author of six books, including her best-selling memoir, *Messenger*, and is launching the latest expression of her creative philosophy, *The 100 Good Deeds Bracelet*, sold in partnership with Macy's.

Max Rosenn Lecture Features Israeli Diplomat Ron Prosor

Ron Prosor, former Israeli ambassador to the United Nations, will speak about "Israel and the Evolving Frontline of a Disintegrating Middle East: A Guided Tour" for the Max Rosenn Lecture in Law and Humanities on May 1. The lecture is at 7:30 p.m. in the Dorothy Dickson Dart Center for the Performing Arts. Admission to the lecture is free and open to the public.

Prosor served as Israel's permanent representative to the United Nations from 2011 to 2015. He previously served as Israel's ambassador to the United Kingdom, and director-general of Israel's Foreign Ministry. He holds a master's degree in political science from Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

With almost three decades of experience at the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prosor earned an international reputation as a distinguished diplomat. While serving as director-general, he oversaw the work of the foreign ministry during the disengagement from Gaza in 2005.



Mary Fisher



Ron Prosor



New NeuroTraining and Research Center Opens

Enter the NeuroTraining and Research Center and you step into an oasis of calm in busy Breiseth Hall. Soft lights, comfortable furniture in muted tones and tasteful wall art reflect an environment that is no ordinary research laboratory. Here students majoring in neuroscience and psychology train members of the campus community in techniques to enhance performance, beat stress and improve concentration.

In establishing the center, Wilkes is on the cutting edge of a scientific concept that has grown in the last decade. While the idea of biofeedback—training bodily processes such as heart rate and muscle tension to improve physical well-being—is well established, neurofeedback is a newer technique being used by psychologists and in the medical field.

“Neurofeedback has really taken off in the last decade,” explains Ed Schicatano, associate professor of psychology who co-directs the center with Robert Bohlander, professor of psychology. “What we’re talking about is training the brain.”

“It’s use is coming into its own,” Bohlander adds. “For example, The American Academy of Pediatrics has endorsed it as a treatment for attention deficit disorder.”

Although Wilkes’ center doesn’t offer treatment for diagnosed conditions, its training techniques can benefit anyone. Athletes, performing artists and students suffering from test anxiety are among those who can benefit from techniques taught at the center. Faculty and staff can learn ways to reduce stress and improve their focus.

The center is unique among colleges and universities, Schicatano says. While the techniques used at the center may be employed at some other institutions in research or to help athletes perform better, Wilkes offers a dedicated center with services available for free to faculty, staff and students.

The center offers internships for psychology and neuroscience majors. The neuroscience major, introduced in 2015, is interdisciplinary and includes study in biology, biochemistry, chemistry, psychology, physics and pharmacy.

Schicatano points to the concept called neuroplasticity to explain how the center helps. “Neuroplasticity has become a buzzword. It refers to the ability to change the brain.”

Above: Robert Bohlander, professor of psychology, adjusts the devices used for a process that uses lights and audio tones as student Karly Mason prepares to place the glasses on student Alex Rodino.

Right: NeuroTraining and Research Center intern Katherine Marianacci adjusts the electrodes on the head of fellow intern Melanie Rivera. PHOTOS BY EARL AND SEDOR PHOTOGRAPHIC

Thomas MacKinnon is New Vice President for University Advancement

Thomas MacKinnon has joined Wilkes as its new vice president for University Advancement. He will oversee fundraising initiatives at the University, directing staff and overseeing efforts related to the annual fund, major donor solicitation, planned giving and alumni relations.



Prior to joining Wilkes, MacKinnon was a philanthropy and capital campaign consultant. He previously served as chief of staff to the president of Marquette University, where he also served as interim vice president for university advancement. Prior to his time at Marquette, he served in several leadership roles at the University of Scranton, including chief of staff and executive assistant to the president, as well as executive director of Scranton’s \$125 million *Pride, Passion, Promise Campaign*. In addition, he served as vice president at CCS, an international fundraising consulting firm headquartered in New York City. During MacKinnon’s career at CCS, he was responsible for planning and directing multimillion dollar fundraising programs for several universities and other not-for-profit institutions across the country.

MacKinnon received his bachelor of arts degree in English literature from Fordham University.



Sidhu School Senior Wins Regional Business Competition

Edward Powell has oil in his veins.

A self-described “car nut,” the senior in the Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and Leadership recently turned his passion into a professional pursuit and took first place in the TecBridge Pitch Competition. The TecBridge organization encourages entrepreneurship in northeast Pennsylvania. Students from 10 regional colleges presented entrepreneurial start-up business ideas to a board of professionals to compete.

His start-up business idea, Gear Head Garage, embodies his love of cars and auto mechanics by providing the curious with an avenue to develop skills and knowledge of auto maintenance.

“It’s a do-it-yourself car garage where you can learn to work on a car while a mechanic supervises you,” says Powell, an entrepreneurship and marketing double major from Schnecksville, Pa. “It’s something that I’m very passionate about that has done so much for me, and I want to be able to share that with other people.”

He attributes his win to skills attained from the Sidhu School.

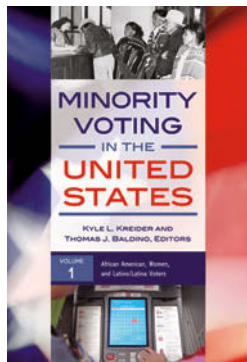
“The hands-on and experiential-style learning we do teaches the basis of how to be a professional...that can make you so much more successful.”



Sidhu School senior Edward Powell took first place in the TecBridge Competition.

Political Science Faculty Edit Book on Minority Voting in the United States

Minority voters—an increasing part of the electorate—will play a significant role in the 2016 presidential election. Two Wilkes political science professors are the editors of a two-volume reference that examines voting patterns of minorities in America. Thomas Baldino, professor of political science, and Kyle Kreider, associate professor of political science, co-edited *Minority Voting in the United States*, published in December 2015 by Praeger.



In the books’ introduction, Baldino points to the prediction that white Americans will be the minority by 2042. “While this does not necessarily mean white Americans will be a minority among voters,” Baldino writes, “It does demonstrate that the American electorate will fundamentally change in the coming decades, likely causing significant changes in presidential and congressional elections.” Acknowledging that a number of minorities have played significant roles in recent elections, the 33 chapters examine the voting history and evolving politics of eight groups, including African Americans, Latinos, women, Jewish voters and Asian Americans. Chapters are written by political scientists who are experts in studying the particular minority.

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Ray Dombroski '78 is Member of Wilkes University Board of Trustees

Editor’s Note: In announcing the appointment of Ray Dombroski '78's appointment to the University board of trustees in the spring/summer 2015 issue of the magazine, his biography contained errors. The following biography corrects the errors. Our sincere apologies to Mr. Dombroski.




Ray Dombroski '78 has been with Comcast Corporation since 1999 and is currently senior vice president of product development and deployment for Comcast Business, a national provider of advanced, flexible communications solutions for small- and mid-sized businesses. After receiving his electrical engineering degree from Wilkes in 1978, he began his career at RCA Laboratories in Princeton, N.J.

Always entrepreneurial by nature, Dombroski was part of a start-up long distance telephone and data communications company called Argo Communications in the early 1980s. In 1987, he joined an early-stage cellular telephone company, Metrophone/Metromedia, as vice president of engineering and operations. After several successful years, the company was acquired by Comcast. He still has roots in the Wyoming Valley area and returns to Wilkes-Barre to visit his parents. He and his wife, Colleen DeMorat, live in Malvern, Pa., and are the parents of two grown children, Allison and Ian.

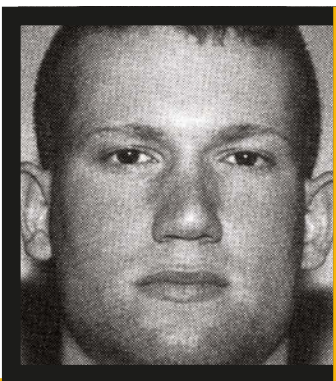
Memorable Moments

The last time an athlete walks off Wilkes' athletic fields or exits the gym, he or she takes a host of memories and lessons. It's true for the six alumni inducted this year into the Athletics Hall of Fame. Honored during a January ceremony following a Freedom Conference basketball double header, the 23rd class of inductees represents six sports.

Here they share memories and talk about the lessons they have carried forward into their lives after Wilkes. 

Athletics Hall of Fame Inductees Recall Their Favorite Memories

Brian Gryboski '99
MEN'S BASKETBALL



Where he is now: Gryboski is a territory manager for Boston Scientific Neuromodulation, a medical device company.

Colonels sports career: Gryboski was an integral part of three Middle Atlantic Conference Championships and four straight NCAA tournament teams, including a Sweet 16, Elite 8 and Final 4 run. An All-ECAC selection, he stands as the all-time leader in games played with 116 and career wins. He ranked seventh in field goal percentage

(50.1), sixth in free throws with 313 made and 11th in rebounds with 623. He finished his career with 1,120 points, good for 25th on the school's all-time scoring list.

Most memorable Wilkes moment: "My most memorable moment as an athlete was during my junior year basketball season when we defeated Rowan and Hunter on consecutive days at the Marts Center to earn a spot in the Division 3 Final Four for the first time in school history."

Tracy Engle McDonald '97
FIELD HOCKEY



Where she is now: McDonald is a 10th-grade English teacher in the Florida Keys, where she also coaches cheerleading and advises the yearbook staff. Her family has an online sales business.

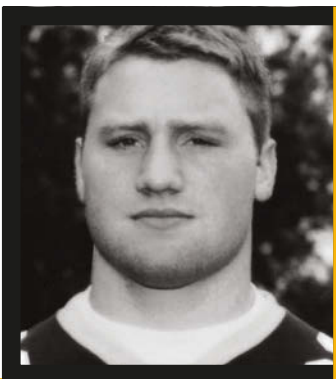
Colonels sports career: A three-time All-Freedom First Team selection, McDonald anchored the cage for Wilkes for four years. She holds the career record in shutouts, with 16, as well as consecutive shutouts, with five in 1994. Her eight shutouts in 1994 also rank tops in school history in a single season as well as her 0.83 goals against average in 1995. She

started in 67 of 68 games in goal for Wilkes registering 574 saves during her career with a 1.15 career goals against average. She led Wilkes to Freedom League titles all four years while in net as well as the ECAC Mid Atlantic championship in 1993, 1994 and 1996 and the NCAA Playoffs in 1995.

Most memorable Wilkes moment: "The most memorable moment I recall at Wilkes as an athlete was any time Colonel Bob (Wachowski) came to an away game. We didn't get many fans on the road, so it really meant a lot to us to have him there."

Brett Trichilo '05

FOOTBALL



Where he is now: An engineer, Trichilo is a product specialist in Region Americas for Sandvik Process Systems in Wayne, N.J.

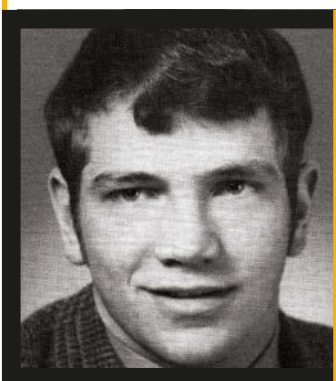
Colonels sports career: Trichilo earned the Melberger Award as the best player in Division III college football in 2003 and 2004. A three-time All-Middle Atlantic Conference selection, including twice being named MAC Player of the Year in 2003 and 2004, Trichilo also was a two-time All-ECAC and Division III All-American selection. He

holds the all-time career records in scoring, with 384 points, and rushing, with 5,837 yards. He has a season record in rushing with 2,185 yards in 2003. He finished his Wilkes career with individual game records in points (30), touchdowns (5) and yards rushing (316).

Most memorable Wilkes moment: "Like most college experiences, there are too many to count. It was a fantastic four years. I consider myself extremely lucky.... If I had to single out one particular thing, I would say the people."

Gerry Willets '71

WRESTLING



Where he is now: Willets works as an engineer at a health-care facility and also works as a supply salesman near his home in Byram Township, N.J.

Colonels sports career: Willets starred on the undefeated 1971 Wilkes wrestling squad during his four-year career. He claimed the Middle Atlantic Conference title at 167 pounds before finishing as the national runner-up at the same weight class. He finished his career with a 38-9-2 career record and .796 win percentage on the mat.

Most memorable Wilkes moment: "My most memorable moment as an athlete at Wilkes was the day I won my semi-final match at nationals in Fargo, N.D. I defeated the number-two seed to make it into the finals."

Justine Nemshick-Yeager '94

FIELD HOCKEY



Where she is now: Nemshick-Yeager is a teacher in the Crestwood School District in Mountain Top, Pa., where she's also assistant varsity field hockey coach.

Colonels sports career: A four-year starter on defense for Wilkes, she played a crucial role in two championship seasons for the Lady Colonels including a 1993 ECAC title and 1994 ECAC Mid-Atlantic championship. She was named a Freedom League First Team All-Star in her junior season serving as team captain. Although primarily a defender, Nemshick tallied career marks of 18 points on six goals and six assists on the offensive end of the field.

Most memorable Wilkes moment: "My most memorable moment as an athlete at Wilkes was my senior year when we won the ECAC Mid-Atlantic title."

Michelle Zawoiski '87

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL/SOFTBALL



Where she is now: After a long career with PPL, Zawoiski started her own dog-grooming business, Pretty Paws, Too!, which she continues to operate successfully in Mountain Top, Pa.

Colonels sports career: Zawoiski, a four-year member of the letter-women's club, starred on the basketball court and softball field during her career at Wilkes. She finished her career on the court with 952 points while earning All-Middle Atlantic Conference honors on the softball field in 1983 and 1985 as an infielder. She was also awarded the Wilkes Woman Athlete of the Year during the 1983-84 season.

Most memorable Wilkes moment: Zawoiski commented it was too hard to choose just one out of so many during her Wilkes years.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF



WILLIAM
BURROUHS

MARLON JAMES

WILKES CREATIVE WRITING PROFESSOR KAYLIE JONES TALKS WITH THE MAN BOOKER PRIZE WINNER



By Kaylie Jones

WHEN MARLON JAMES MA '06's

novel *A Brief History of Seven Killings* was selected in October 2015 as the Man Booker Prize winner, it catapulted the Wilkes creative writing alumnus to literary stardom. As the first Jamaican to win the international prize, James now is in the company of such notable authors as Salman Rushdie, Hilary Mantel, Philip Roth and Alice Munro.

James' prize-winning novel is an epic 686 pages with 75 characters and voices. Set in Kingston, Jamaica, where James was born, the book is a fictional history of the attempted murder of reggae artist Bob Marley in 1976.

In this conversation with novelist Kaylie Jones, the Wilkes creative writing faculty member who discovered him and brought him to study at the University, James, who teaches at Macalester College in Saint Paul, Minn., discusses the biases in publishing, his writing process and handling rejection.

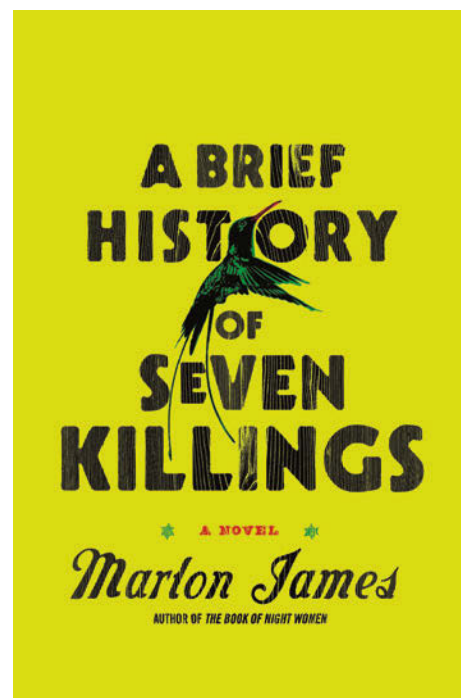
■
Marlon James MA '06 and Wilkes graduate creative writing program faculty member Kaylie Jones met to discuss his success since coming to Wilkes from Jamaica. PHOTOS BY EARL AND SEDOR PHOTOGRAPHIC

KAYLIE JONES: I'll never forget the day I met you. In March 2004 I arrived in Kingston, Jamaica, to teach a fiction workshop and was driven to a house that was still under construction, bare concrete and wood beams. I found myself at the head of a long table with eight Jamaicans staring at me with expectant looks. You were the only male in the group, and the only one who looked miserable. Within the first hour I realized that you had read almost every book I mentioned, and you had an almost encyclopedic memory for character names and imagery. When you submitted the first chapter of your novel to the workshop, I took the pages back to the house where I was staying and was up late reading. I was absolutely stunned by the quality of your work.

The next day, after the workshop, I asked you if you had more pages. You were kind of evasive. At the time I didn't know why. I said something like, "Listen, I don't lie and I don't fool around, I don't have time. I'm telling you this is really good." You then told me that you'd sent that very novel (*John Crow's Devil*) out to 40, 50, 60 agents, editors, and publishers, and every single one had turned it down.

What you told me years later, when we became friends, was that you had destroyed every copy of that book in existence and had nothing to give me. I believe you said that finally, in desperation, you emailed a friend in London and asked him if he still had the book as an attachment in his in-box—the last copy in existence. All I can say is, thank God he still had the copy. If you had not pursued writing, the loss to the world of literature would have been staggering and incomprehensible.

MARLON JAMES: I remember. The last place I wanted to be was that workshop. I had learned so much from the previous teacher, Elizabeth Nunez (novelist and American Book Award winner), but between that class and yours, my novel had been rejected around 50 times, and another 28 or so from even before that. The manuscript made it as far as an editor at Houghton Mifflin, who then went to work for *Playboy*, which, of course, killed the book. One could argue that I was simply sending work to the wrong agents and publishers, but it astounded me just how narrow-minded they were, even the indie presses.



Above: The cover of James' novel, which is a fictional history of the attempted murder of reggae singer Bob Marley.

Below: Jones and James share stories—and a few laughs—about the challenges of writing and publishing.



“THERE ARE THINGS A NOVELIST CAN DO THAT NOBODY ELSE CAN. WE CAN FLIP HISTORY INSIDE OUT AND TELL IT FROM THE FORGOTTEN PEOPLE WHO HAD TO CARRY THE BURDEN OF IT.”

KJ: As a writing teacher yourself, how often do you think mainstream publishing misses a truly great writer completely?

MJ: Mainstream publishing misses great writers all the time, but to a huge extent it's because mainstream agents don't care about these writers as well. There were as many agents who turned down the book as there were publishers. Nobody wanted to publish it, and nobody wanted to rep it either. And that didn't change much the second time around, by the way. Riverhead published my second novel, *The Book of Night Women*, but they were also the only publisher that wanted it. Indie successes like Akashic Press, whom you gave my first novel to, and Graywolf have made mainstream publishers reconsider what's a sellable novel, but too many still err on the side of a very outdated idea of sellable or even successful.

And it's not just publishers or agents. What about MFA programs that pass on great writers because of a very narrow idea of what makes good fiction, or more specifically, a very narrow idea of the kind of writer they want to teach?

Two of my finest students have yet to find a program to accept them, one of whom wrote the first book to make me cry in years.

KJ: Well, please send those students to us at Wilkes. As a teacher, what I find distressing is how students often think it's easy. They're going to write a novel and become rich and famous, like Stephen King. I feel it's my dirty job to inform them that this is not the case.

But writing a great novel takes work. You worked very, very hard on all three of your novels. As a writer, you're driven, ambitious, and totally original. You don't shy away from terrible, dark subjects. In fact, you have taken some flak for showing the bleaker and more gruesome side of human nature. But I love your courage. It is one of the things I love most about you and your work. When you write about human weakness and deprivation, do you ever fear your readership's reaction?

MJ: I do fear reader reaction sometimes, and with *A Brief History of Seven Killings*, it wasn't just content, it was also form. I knew the assassination scene in my book had to hew closer to lyrics than prose, something like blank verse, but stayed away from it for months because I feared readers would either not get it, or think it was pretentious. The same thing with that seven-page sentence, or throwing narration to a ghost, or having characters whose accounts of the same story simply didn't add up. I had to convince my French translator...that these were not mistakes in the novel but slightly unreliable narration.

But I do worry about content also. I knew the sex and violence had to be explicit when they were onstage but I worried about reader reaction. The whole time I was writing scenes of gay intimacy I wondered if I was writing an invitation to be attacked in Jamaica. I felt the same way about unmasking these secrets of Jamaican political history that we would rather not talk about. I worried about everything from critical scorn to censorship to death threats. And yet I wrote those scenes anyway, because it was either that or not write the book at all.

I think these are essential aspects of the human experience, and capturing them is the reason we are here. There are things a novelist can do that nobody else can. We can flip history inside out and tell it from the forgotten people who had to carry the burden of it. Because so much of what we do is invention, we can skirt closer to the truth than anybody else, even with sex. For example, there's a scene in my book where Weeper, the second most dangerous character in the novel, is



The Man Booker Prize 2015



having sex with a white man. The scene simply had to be explicit because it was only in the raw demonstration of his own sexuality—having sex with this man and learning to enjoy it step by step—that he also by extension finally learned to accept and even enjoy himself as a person, step by step. When I realized this is why the explicitness was important, I stopped worrying about what other people think.

KJ: Does it get easier to be so virulently criticized when you become as famous as you are right now?

MJ: I think the criticism gets easier when you realize that it's not a discussion that you need to be a part of. J. Robert Lennon (novelist and Cornell University professor) has a wonderful article on this, on how a review is a conversation with the reader, not author, and the author really doesn't have to take part. Nowadays I don't even read the good reviews.

KJ: But what you have accomplished for human rights has staggering consequences for the many LGBT people of the Caribbean. If your op-ed piece about coming out as gay had not been published by *The New York Times* ("From Jamaica to Minnesota to Myself," March 10, 2015)—we might even say if you had not won the Man Booker Prize—Gabrielle Bellot's *New York Times* op-ed piece of Sunday, Oct. 31, examining what it means to be queer in the Caribbean, might not have been published at all. She mentions you specifically as a beacon for people such as her. You are now in a leadership position, a brave man who has taken a stand against injustice and you are, therefore, hugely important. This is a kind of pressure that novelists rarely have.

■

Above left: James accepts the Man Booker Prize at the Oct. 15, 2015, awards ceremony in London.

Below left: James and two of the Man Booker judges are interviewed by news media after the prize is announced.



MJ: It's funny, because I'm seized by fear all the time. The whole time I was writing this book I wondered, are all the people I'm basing the story on really dead? Will there be reprisals? Can I go back to Jamaica? And that was before I even came out in *The New York Times*. I remember, the day after the article (was published), the novelist Colin Channer (author of *Waiting In Vain*) called and the first thing he said was, "Do you do anything small?" To think all I was doing was responding to a prompt from the editor, saying "voyage of the will." Next thing I know, I'm coming out to millions. That was what came out. I knew there would be consequences and there are, both bad and good. On one hand, Jamaica celebrated the success—the Booker win made the front cover of all the papers. On the other hand, *The New York Times* piece went viral—inspiring bigotry on one hand, and accusations of shaming the country on the other.

“IT SAYS SOMETHING THOUGH, DOESN'T IT, THAT JUST LIVING THE LIFE THAT MAKES YOU HAPPY TURNS OUT TO BE A STAND?”

But here's the other thing that happened: dozens, hundreds, now thousands of Caribbean men and women thanking me for the piece. The reason why the negative responses don't bother me is that it means I'm complicating the narrative of Jamaica. I'm not an activist and have very little patience for activist writers, but I couldn't live a false life either. It says something though, doesn't it, that just living the life that makes you happy turns out to be a stand? Recently I have become more and more comfortable with it, even speaking at a reception for Africa's Out, a LGBT organization fighting for rights and protections on the continent.

It doesn't mean I'll feel safe in Jamaica again. But I will feel loved. My family has

been great. My friends have made sure I know they've got my back. My favorite response to the piece was my friend Maxine talking to another friend, saying, "Did you see the piece where Marlon came out? When was he ever in?"

KJ: What are your plans for the future, Marlon? Do you have a project in mind?

MJ: As for the future, I'm leaving the 20th century for a while. Maybe *Wolf Hall* is rubbing off on me, but I'm going back to Africa in the Middle Ages!

KJ: You are a very disciplined writer, and I'm sure many aspiring writers would like to know what your process is like. Could you share that with us?

MJ: Now process is tricky, because it was thinking that I had a process that nearly killed the new novel. I learned from Colin Channer that what we often think of as process is really just habit. And

sometimes that habit is exactly what's preventing new and fresh writing. It's the work that shapes the process, not the author, and I learned this the hard way. My last novel, *The Book of Night Women*, was essentially one voice establishing authority and communication with the reader, in much the same way a Bronte novel would. And it worked for that novel. But thinking that I now had a process, I applied that approach to *A Brief History of Seven Killings* and it was a disaster. I thought my process was finding that special voice to carry me through the entire novel, like a guide, but I couldn't find that perfect voice.


I remember having dinner with my good friend Rachel and the first thing I said was, "I don't know whose story

this is." She said, "Why do you think it's one voice's story? When was the last time you read *As I Lay Dying*?" That simple question changed everything. It was the breakthrough I was looking for, and my breakthroughs sometimes happen 50-100 pages into a novel. But it also made me think about process, how I was standing in the way of my own book because I was trying to recreate a process that worked for the previous one.

That said, while I chafe against the idea of process, I do love the idea of routine. Nancy McKinley (a professor in the Wilkes MFA program) said this years ago, that if you are serious about writing and about a routine, then the muses will show up. Inspiration serves you instead of the other way around.

KJ: So many aspiring literary novelists are struggling with finding a publisher, let alone an audience. How did you keep your spirits up when you were feeling discouraged, and now that you've achieved what few young writers ever achieve, how do you stay on task?

MJ: It might sound kinda hokey, but I never thought about rejection before writing *John Crow's Devil*, and 78 rejections afterwards I still didn't think about it much. Riverhead published my second novel, of course, but what few people know is that they were the only publisher that wanted it. Everybody else turned it down. So with rejection being an ever-present reality in my life, the least I could do was not allow it into my writing.

I don't think about the fate of my work when I'm writing it—otherwise I would start pandering to an audience. Acceptance and rejection can both wait. There will be enough time for quite a bit of both, so right now, while I'm writing, why not focus on just doing my very best work? I find that works even now that I no longer worry about rejection and finding a publisher. All that other stuff will happen anyway, so why not, when it's just you and the work, focus on the work? 



Vilma Schifano Milmo '76 plays a key role in education and training for the Federal Emergency Management Administration, working at the Emergency Management Institute at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Md.
PHOTO BY STEPHEN BARRETT

EMERGENCY MAESTRA

Vilma Schifano Milmo '76 Found Inspiration at Wilkes for Public Service Career

By Helen Kaiser

Ask Vilma Schifano Milmo '76 what inspired her to seek a career in public service and emergency management and she traces it to events in June 1972.

It was the summer before she was to join her two older sisters, Josephine Schifano Finlayson '73 and Ann Schifano Nista '74, at Wilkes College. A native of nearby Pittston, she was excited to be an incoming freshman majoring in political science.

The forces of nature intruded in the form of Tropical Storm Agnes, giving the young woman a real-world education about disaster management and recovery before she even entered a classroom. Described then as the nation's worst natural disaster, more than a hundred people were killed and at least 387,000 people were evacuated. Wilkes-Barre was the hardest-hit community in Pennsylvania.

"It was traumatic," Milmo recalls. "My father's restaurant was destroyed by water which had risen 8 feet over the roof."

Wilkes suffered flood damage to all but one of its 59 buildings, and losses totaled more than \$10 million (\$57 million in today's dollars). Witnessing Wilkes President Francis J. Michelini rally the campus community to pitch in with an all-out recovery effort had a striking effect on Milmo.

"'Dr. Mike' emulated the best in public service during that time," she says. "It was empowering for us students in helping to build our own public service and leadership skills during those challenging times on campus."

Four decades later, Milmo has an accomplished career in emergency management. She is senior policy advisor for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Administration's Emergency Management Institute, the nation's flagship education and training site for all-hazards emergency management and disaster response. The institute offers training to the public and private sectors in disaster prevention, response and recovery.

In November 2015, she was one of six women inducted into the International Network of Women in Homeland Security and Emergency Management Hall of Fame for her lifetime achievements in emergency management. The Hall of Fame honors women who are pioneers and leaders in the field of homeland security and emergency management in local, state, tribal and federal government.

Retired Wilkes history professor James Rodechko was director of the cooperative education program while Milmo was a student. He noted her passion for public service and recruited her to become a volunteer for VISTA, where she completed a long-term assignment in the Wilkes-Barre area helping flood victims recover from the disaster. According to Rodechko, she was “a dedicated student and a good leader who had a concern for people.”

As a student, she also found a role model in Jean Driscoll, chair of the political science department. “In the ’70s it was unique to have a woman chair of a political science department; she was living the career path I hoped to achieve. She challenged us to strive for excellence in public policy and public service,” Milmo says.

After graduation, Milmo worked for the Hazleton Nanticoke Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center and for United Cerebral Palsy in Wilkes-Barre. She received a full fellowship to earn her master’s degree in public administration at Marywood University and also served as a Presidential Management Intern.

In 1979, she launched her 37-year career in federal service when she joined the Veterans Administration. Other government positions have included work with the Department of Justice, Department of Energy and time as director of the Greater Los Angeles Federal Executive Board

Vilma Schifano Milmo, Gettysburg, Pa.

**Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, Wilkes;
Master of Arts, Public Administration, Marywood University**

Career: Senior Policy Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Management Institute

Notable: 2015 Hall of Fame Inductee, International Network of Women in Emergency Management; 2003 DHS Secretary, Team Award; 1995 Vice Presidential Award for Northridge Earthquake; Four Federal Administrator’s Awards.

Favorite Wilkes Place: The Commons, a two-story Tudor building at the center of campus (now marked by the clock tower) which served as a meeting place for day-students to connect between classes and work obligations.

Favorite Memory: Meeting and dating her husband-to-be, Robert Bruce Milmo ’75.

“IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO MUSTER MYSELF TO PERFORM TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITIES FOR THE NATION, WHILE WE WERE ALL DEALING WITH THE MOST CATASTROPHIC EVENT OF OUR TIME.”


for Southern California, Arizona and Nevada. In the last position, she was involved in operations supporting local responders in the 1986 earthquake in Whittier, Calif., and 1994 earthquake in Northridge, Calif., and for fires in Redondo Beach, Los Angeles and Santa Monica. She was a member of the presidential task force following the 1992 Los Angeles riots.

Next came work as director of both Preparedness Training and Exercise Division and the Regional Response Coordination Center for FEMA’s Region II. Based in lower Manhattan, it encompasses New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. That assignment made her work in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, the most challenging of her career.

“It was very difficult to muster myself to perform to the best of my abilities for the nation, while we were all dealing with the most catastrophic event of our time,” recalls Milmo, who was part of a team in the nation’s capitol coordinating recovery activities. “While I was needed to provide reporting support to national coordination, my former colleagues in the FEMA Region II Office were affected and working at the site. My heart went out to them every day.”

Other challenging assignments were still ahead. Milmo was planning chief at FEMA’s National Response Coordination Center during hurricanes Katrina and Rita, handling situation reports from the field during the massive national responses. She also served as the recovery center’s planning chief during FEMA’s support to the Department of State for relief to Haiti after the 2010 earthquake.

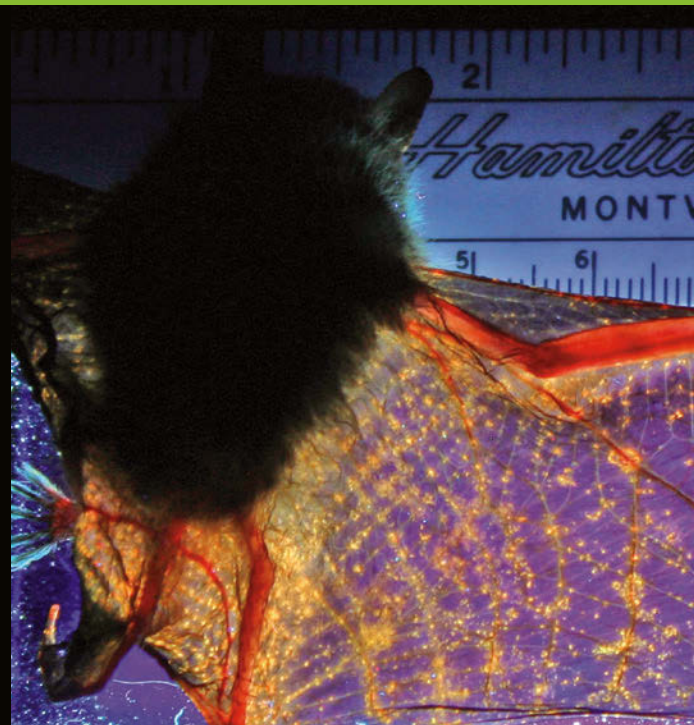
Now a key player in FEMA’s education and training, Milmo was deputy superintendent from 2007 until 2015 and served multiple appointments as acting superintendent of the Emergency Management Institute, located at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Md. The institute provides training for more than two million students annually on site or online. The institute also partners with colleges and universities to support advanced degrees in the field. Milmo has written some of the training curricula, supervised its development, served as instructor, and coordinator and presenter at international symposia. She’s clear about what gives her satisfaction in her job.

“I can truly make an impact on people’s lives by supporting FEMA’s coordination of assistance to states for disaster survivors,” Milmo says. “Every day I get satisfaction from helping to build competent and confident emergency managers to support our citizens through training and exercises.” 



Above, Turner shows off his favorite bat species—the Virginia big-eared bat—in the Hellhole Cave in West Virginia. The cave houses 50 percent of the known species population.
PHOTO BY CARL BUTCHKOSKI,
PENNSYLVANIA GAME
COMMISSION

Right, Turner checks an escape- and predator-proof cage to house bats for an experiment.
PHOTO BY TRACY GRAZIANO,
PENNSYLVANIA GAME
COMMISSION



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTOR

GREG TURNER '94 CHAMPIONS BATS AND OTHER ENDANGERED SPECIES

By Krista Weidner

Greg Turner '94, a wildlife biologist for the Pennsylvania Game Commission, isn't easy to track down. If he's not monitoring the state's population of rare small mammals such as water shrews or spotted skunks, he might be rappelling down a cliff to band peregrine falcons or into a cave to count and identify hibernating bats.

As leader of the endangered nongame mammal section of the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Bureau of Wildlife Management, Turner's primary focus is to survey, monitor, and manage Pennsylvania's protected mammals. "That includes everything you don't trap and shoot—chipmunks, squirrels, wood rats, shrews, bats," he says. "Yeah, I'm the bats and rats guy. It's a good place to be: Of the world's 5,000-some species, a third are rodents and a quarter are bats. That's where all the diversity is. Only so many people can specialize in lions and tigers."

Within the past several years, Turner, who lives in State College, Pa., has come to be known as one of the nation's foremost authorities on white-nose syndrome—a fungal disease that has destroyed large segments of the bat population in the Northeast and has spread to the central United States. In Pennsylvania, the bat population has suffered a 99 percent decline, with the once-common little brown bat declining 99.9 percent.

"Along with these massive declines are survivors in each species, and that's where our focus is," Turner says. He and his team monitor bats living in caves and underground mines throughout the state, using ultraviolet light to screen the bats for levels of infection. This noninvasive technique was pioneered by Turner and requires taking a small biopsy from the bat's wing where the fungus first appears. It is now being used internationally by dozens of researchers and was recently featured in a *National Geographic* story about white-nose syndrome. Over the past six to seven years, as they have observed colonies, the researchers have seen fungus levels taper off from about 50 percent of the bats' wings to about 10 percent—a hopeful sign for bat populations.

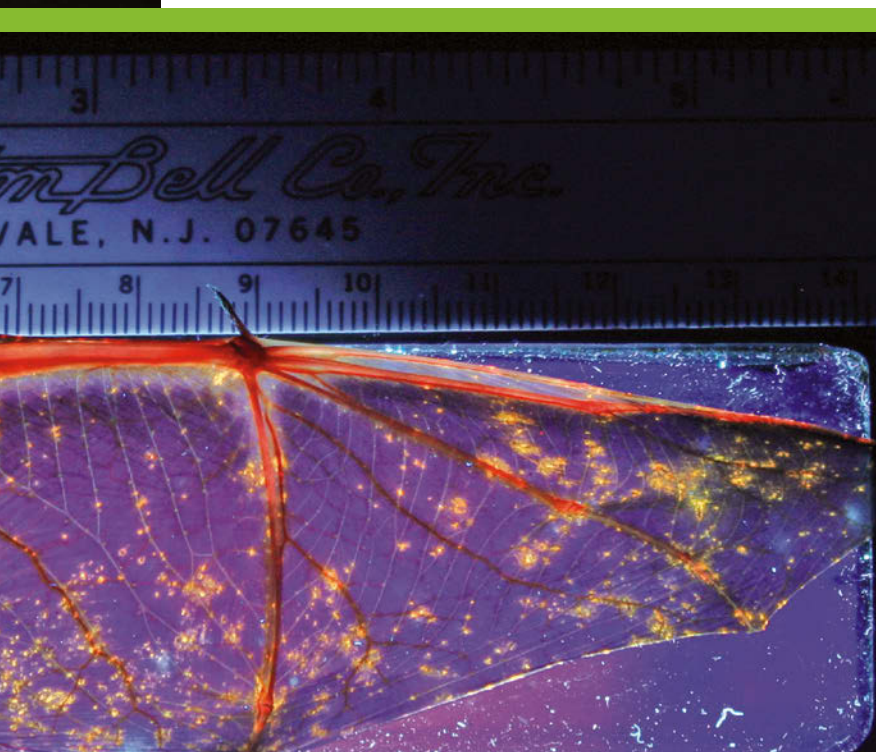
Another positive sign is that bats seem to be adapting to white-nose syndrome by putting on more body fat during hibernation. The extra fat seems to help the bats cope with the energy drain the fungus puts on their bodies. "Looking at the survivors, we're seeing they are putting on 30 to 40 percent more body fat than they used to," Turner says. "We're working to prove that these survivors have adapted behaviorally to deal with white-nose syndrome."



Above, Bats are housed in a cage where Turner is testing a new treatment. The bats are wearing temperature-sensitive data loggers to monitor arousal during hibernation caused by white-nose syndrome.

Left, an ultraviolet image of a bat's wing. Each yellow dot represents a point of fungal infection. Turner has pioneered an ultraviolet treatment for white nose syndrome.

PHOTOS THIS PAGE BY GREG TURNER, PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION





Greg Turner

State College, Pa.

Bachelor of Science, Biology, Wilkes

Master of Science, Biology,
Frostburg State University

Career: Wildlife Biologist, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Bureau of Wildlife Management

Notable: One of the world's foremost authorities on white-nose syndrome, which is threatening bat populations in the Northeast

Favorite Wilkes Memory: "Helping Dr. Mike Steele's students trap gray squirrels and perform behavioral experiments, and the plethora of interesting encounters we had in dealing with the other indigenous locals inhabiting the park."

Turner readily acknowledges many people's aversion toward bats. "Why should we care about them?" he says. "Lots of reasons. Bats perform many vital roles: They eat insects, they pollinate, they spread seeds around. If you like margaritas, you can thank bats—they are the sole pollinator of the agave plant, where tequila comes from. If you like bananas, avocados, and almonds, thank bats. Those foods, among many others, are pollinated solely by bats. They also do wonders for us when it comes to insect control." The average bat eats about a million insects each year, saving U.S. farmers about \$74 billion annually.

Turner views his education at Wilkes as an important career stepping stone. Although his early interest in ecology and nature led him to pursue a degree in biology, he wasn't sure how he would parlay that degree into a profession. Meeting Michael Steele, professor of biology and H. Fenner Chair of Research Biology at Wilkes, set him on his path.

"I remember going to a job fair, and there was a dentist and a doctor and I don't know what else, and I was feeling clueless as to what I was going to do with this degree in biology," Turner says. "I met Mike, and he told me about a research project he was working on, looking at how mice and chipmunks manipulate acorns and how that affects oak regeneration. He offered me the opportunity to work with him, and I knew instantly that I wanted to be in the field and do research. I was fortunate to find him. We ended up working together on several research projects."

Teaming up with Turner was an advantage for Steele as well. "After joining my research team, Greg quickly distinguished himself as a truly talented field ecologist," says Steele. "He is passionate about working in the bush, putting in long hours under harsh conditions. What sets him apart is that he is fiercely independent, yet adept at working closely with others

of all ages and skill levels. Today, I'm proud to call Greg a lifelong colleague and friend."

When Turner decided to enter a graduate program at Maryland's Frostburg State University, Steele pointed him toward mammalogist John Hoogland, who would become Turner's advisor. Turner was researching the recovery of prairie dogs following the bubonic plague, studying the populations that had survived. "John was the king of prairie dogs," Turner says. "He did a lot of great behavioral work, which not many people do very well. It was a great fit for me because I wanted to study behavioral ecology in mammals." A bonus was the opportunity to spend time in Utah's Bryce Canyon and the Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona, where Turner and Hoogland conducted research.

Even in his free time, when Turner isn't home with his wife and two children (his wife, Melinda, is a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), you'll find him outdoors. He enjoys exploring Pennsylvania's streams and woods year-round, through fly fishing, archery hunting, mountain biking, and cross-country skiing.

One of Turner's Game Commission duties, banding peregrine falcons, keeps him in touch with Wilkes. "There are a few nests in the Wilkes-Barre area, and I get called to rappel off the cliff and get the chicks off the ledge and bring them up so they can be banded. I always get some Wilkes biology students to come out and join me. They see me in action, sometimes they get to hold the chicks, and it gives them a taste for what they can do with their biology degree."



Little Things Make the Difference for Alumni Volunteer Jason Marie '00

When Wilkes graduates truly find joy in volunteering, mentoring and guiding others at their alma mater, their enthusiasm shows. That's the case with dedicated volunteer Jason Marie '00. He works with the Wilkes alumni-student mentoring program, speaks in classes on campus and attends events with his family.

"Being involved is not about making huge changes. Just try it, take it one semester at a time, and you'll get some individual victories for yourself and for Wilkes students. If everyone gets involved and could do something small, that would be a huge change," says Marie. "The little things do make a difference."

He does all of this to enhance students' educational careers in the environmental engineering program without expecting anything in return. "A big reason I do what I do is because of my mentors. All throughout my life, my true mentors have not asked for much in return. I don't want recognition; I am just looking forward to seeing what my mentees do in the future and how they pay it forward to others."

Marie's Wilkes experience not only gave him a great education and mentorship, but it also was the place where he met his wife, Jill Ronkowski Marie '00. The couple now have two children, Ben and Courtney.

Read about Jason's involvement with Wilkes in the following Q&A.



Jason Marie '00, Maple Glen, Pa.
Married to Jill Ronkowski Marie '00

**Bachelor of Science,
environmental engineering, Wilkes**
Master of Science, Drexel University

Career: Associate, Hatch Mott
MacDonald in Philadelphia

Above: Jason Marie '00 and his wife, Jill Ronkowski Marie '00, and their children Ben and Courtney visit campus together each year.

DESCRIBE YOUR WILKES EXPERIENCE AS A STUDENT.

From an academic standpoint, I chose Wilkes because of the small classroom sizes and how the professors were very involved with students. It was a great fit for me and my learning style.

I also got really lucky with my group of friends. We developed lifelong friendships that still stand to this day.

WAS THERE A FACULTY MEMBER, STAFF MEMBER OR ALUMNUS WHO WAS VERY INFLUENTIAL DURING YOUR TIME AT WILKES?

Dr. Thomas Walski was the person who convinced me that Wilkes would be a good fit. He stopped being a full-time faculty member shortly after I came to Wilkes, but he is still involved with the program in different ways. Dr. Prahlad Murthy was my advisor and he took so much extra time with his students and advisees. He always made the time to go above and beyond what was expected.... He had such a big influence on my life, and now we stay in touch on a regular basis, even regarding family things, not just Wilkes.

WHAT WAS YOUR CAREER PATH AFTER GRADUATION?

I went to Drexel University for my master's degree. I was the fourth or fifth environmental engineering Wilkes graduate to work with the same Drexel professor on a research assistantship. The alumni who came before me paved the way to make that happen. After Drexel, that connection helped me to get my first job in Phoenix, Ariz. After seven years in Arizona, Jill and I wanted to start our family in Pennsylvania, so I took a job with Hatch Mott MacDonald in Philadelphia, Pa., where I work now.

WHEN DID YOU BEGIN TO BECOME INVOLVED WITH CURRENT STUDENTS AS AN ALUMNUS?

I stayed active with the (Wilkes) faculty when I was at Drexel and working in Arizona to provide them with professional updates. I would try to do whatever they asked of me, whether it was reviewing senior projects and student reports or assisting with recruitment efforts. After moving back to

Pennsylvania, I wanted to become more involved....In the fall of 2012, Jill and I were senior project advisors. I became involved with mentoring in 2013 and I've been a mentor since then.

WHAT KINDS OF PROGRAMS ARE YOU CURRENTLY INVOLVED WITH?

I'm involved with the student-alumni mentoring program. Anytime a professor asks me to speak with classes, I try to make the time to give students professional career tips. This year, I was on campus to attend a luncheon and help with the ABET accreditation process. I've also assisted with planning engineering alumni events and planning

(Continued on next page)

for students to take tours in different facilities. Whenever Wilkes engineering students are presenting at a conference near me, I do my best to try to seek them out to introduce myself.



WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE WAY TO INTERACT WITH STUDENTS?

I love having a personal interaction with students. One-on-one or a small group is a great way to engage students because you can connect with them to begin to build a personal and professional relationship.

WHY DO YOU RETURN TO CAMPUS AS A FAMILY FOR EVENTS LIKE HOMECOMING?

Because Wilkes is so important to Jill and me, we feel that our children should understand where their parents met and that college is a fun place. Coming to Wilkes becomes an annual trip that our children look forward to.

Jason Marie '00, center left, shares career advice at the annual Connecting the Dots event sponsored by the Alumni Relations office.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR ALUMNI TO GIVE BACK IN WHATEVER WAY POSSIBLE?

If Wilkes was important to you for your career and helped to shape who you are, why wouldn't you want to have that same influence to touch someone else's life? Staying involved with your alma mater can help in so many ways. You can help the next generation learn and grow from your experiences, but you can also connect with some of your fellow classmates or even other alumni who can become part of your network. Alumni can do as much or as little as they like. Your role can be as small as making a phone call to a student or you can take on a slightly bigger role of talking to professors to see how you can help current students.... One volunteer opportunity during a semester or during a school year can make all the difference in someone's life.

GET INVOLVED WITH WILKES

Are you interested in volunteering at Wilkes? We have a number of volunteer opportunities that include interacting with students in a variety of capacities. To learn more and get started, call the alumni office at (570) 408-7787 or email at alumni@wilkes.edu.

alumni news

Alumni Association Open Board Meeting

Interested in learning more about the Alumni Association? Participate in our open meeting at 3 p.m. on June 3, 2016. Whether you join us on campus or call in to the meeting, you'll get a firsthand look at how our board of directors works with its campus partners to provide programs for the alumni community. At the meeting, we'll review our goals and discuss future opportunities. If you are interested in participating, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@wilkes.edu or (570) 408-7787.

2015 Report of Gifts Available Online

Each year, Wilkes shares its annual Report of Gifts for donors to see the impact of their support to the University. The 2015 report is now available on our website. You will be able to view members of the John Wilkes Society, who are donors who contribute at least \$1,000 each year, members of the Marts Society, who are contributors who participate in gift-planning programs, as well as search donors by class year and constituency. View it at: wilkes.edu/ROG. If you have any questions, please call Lauren Pluskey '06 MBA '10, director of annual giving, at (570) 408-4331.



**HOMECOMING 2016
SEPT. 30 – OCT. 2**

Get ready for your reunion!

Class years ending in 1s and 6s

Reunions for business, education, communication studies, political science and psychology

Jim Ferris '56 Honored for Half- Century in Education

Jim Ferris '56 recently celebrated more than half a century as an educator in the Wyoming Valley of Pennsylvania, where he taught, supervised and mentored generations of students.

“What always inspired me was the idea that we never realize how much impact we might have on our students,” Ferris says. “We can affect our students in such a positive way...sometimes we find out, but sometimes we don't.”

Ferris began his education career at Kingston High School, where he taught mathematics for 10 years. In 1966, after a school merger created Wyoming Valley West School District, Ferris became assistant high school principal for four years. He subsequently served as junior high principal, eventually becoming high school principal in 1975, where he served until his retirement in 1993.

“What always inspired me was the idea that we never realize how much impact we might have on our students.”

Barely a month after his retirement, he began supervising Wilkes student teachers, going into schools where they taught to evaluate their work. Ferris continued in that role until 2011, giving him a total of 56 years in education.

His extensive career was recognized in November 2015, when Wilkes honored him as Educator of the Year, paying tribute to his long-standing contributions to the University and the greater community.

Ferris also influenced generations of high school and college students as an athletic coach. While at Kingston High School, he served as the assistant basketball coach for 10 years, and the varsity baseball coach for nine.

At Wilkes, Ferris spent 15 years coaching soccer, basketball and baseball in multiple positions, including a nine-year stint as the varsity soccer coach.

“Jim Ferris has served as a leader in educating our youth for decades,” Robert Gardner '67 MS '72, associate professor of education, says. “In addition, he has been a celebrated athlete who has influenced generations of youth by sharing his love of athletics and encouraging young athletes to live healthy lives and use their skills to understand the power of pursuing excellence in all that they do.”

Always faithful to his alma mater, Ferris has volunteered at Wilkes, including on the search committee for the Wilkes Athletics Hall of Fame, into which he was inducted in 1993.

“On a personal level, Jim is a dear friend,” vice president of student affairs Paul Adams '77 MS '82, says. “He is unique among Wilkes alumni in the way he has served his alma mater throughout the years—as a gifted student-athlete, coach, alumni association president, trustee, member of the Athletics Hall of Fame, adjunct faculty member and generous supporter.”

— By James Jaskolka

James Jaskolka is a senior communication studies major.



From left, Pennsylvania state Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski '67, Jim Ferris '56, and Robert Gardner '67, MS '72, Wilkes associate professor of education, celebrate at the event sponsored by the School of Education honoring Ferris as educator of the year. PHOTO COURTESY EDDIE DAY PASHINSKI

Undergraduate Degrees

1962

Royal Wetzel was inducted into the Milton Hershey School Hall of Fame on September 25, 2015, in the field of performing arts.

1966

REUNION: SEPT. 30 – OCT. 2

Andrea Templar Ackerman retired from Groton Public Schools, Groton, Conn., 10 years ago and is now a mentor in the writing center at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Her community service includes membership in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Trust Fund Board of Trustees. Her message is that you don't have to fold up and wither away at 72 and you can still pass on what Wilkes gave you.

1970

Rabbi Elliot Rosenbaum was named a staff favorite by Forward.com for being one of the new voices in Jewish music.

Marcia Brinker-Dye will retire at the end of this school year after 44 years of teaching in New Jersey, Louisiana and Texas.

The Rev. Bernard Evanofski recently returned to the United States after two years of missionary work in Honduras. He worked as a missionary priest in the Diocese of San Pedro Sula, serving in a number of parishes and missions, as well as working with the Missionaries of Charity

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta's Community, a center for the elderly and adults with terminal illnesses, and the Catholic University of San Pedro Sula. After returning, he was assigned as pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Palmetto, Fla.

Caleb McKenzie has joined US Lighting Consultants, an international lighting consultancy based in New York City, as principal of the firm. He was recently elected vice president of the New York City section of the Illuminating Engineering Society, and co-chair of The Richard Kelly Grant. A resident of Hoboken, N.J., he is a commissioner on the Hoboken City Planning Board.



1960

Connie (Yahara) Lewis, Barbara (Bachman) Edwards, Marcia (Senderovitz) Dalmás, Lynne (Boyle) Austin, Mary Ellen (Zwiebel) Mills and Betty (George) Polanowski have been meeting for lunch for 55 years—since their graduation in 1960. This picture that was taken in June 2015 when they got together at Agolinos in West Pittston, Pa. All of the ladies were education majors, although their careers took them in different directions. Five of the ladies married Wilkes men and Edwards is the first of the group to become a great-grandmother.



1969

George Pawlush MS '76 received the 2015 Ancestral Colonel Award from Wilkes University. The award recognizes accomplished athletic alumni and friends of the University who have achieved personal and professional excellence. The award was presented on Oct. 3 during halftime of the University's homecoming football game. Pawlush retired in 2013 as vice president of public relations and community relations at Greenwich Hospital in Greenwich, Conn. He serves on the University board of trustees and was president of the Wilkes University Alumni Association from 2007-2009. Pictured after the awards ceremony are, from left, Wilkes President Patrick F. Leahy, Pawlush and Jim Ferris '56.

1973

John Margo retired from Oneida Healthcare in Oneida, N.Y., as the vice president of human resources in January 2014 after 23 years with the company.

1978

Diane Krolikowski Ljungquist is chief executive officer at Berwick Hospital Center. Ljungquist previously was assistant chief executive officer at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital and chief operating officer at Tyler Memorial in Tunkhannock.

1981

REUNION: SEPT. 30 – OCT. 2

Louis Zack Jr. MBA'86, was promoted to chief operating officer at Clarks Summit State Hospital. His previous position at the hospital was chief financial officer.

Robert Wallace is celebrating his 25th year as a biology professor and also spending this academic year serving as president of Iowa State University's faculty senate, representing more than 1,800 faculty. He teaches courses in evolutionary biology, plant evolution, plant classification, and economic botany.

Bruce Phair '73 Takes Final Bow After 36 Years at Darte Center

Bruce Phair '73 always loved the excitement of opening night. When he attended Wilkes as a music performance major, he liked the thought of the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts being packed with concertgoers and theatre supporters.

After graduating, he returned to his alma mater as the Darte Center's technical and managing director—positions he held for 36 years until his retirement in January. He still loves opening nights, and over the years, he's grown even fonder of the Darte Center itself.

"It's the simple things I'm going to miss the most—just unlocking that front door to spend the whole day in a truly remarkable building,"

As managing director, Phair was responsible for the scheduling of the production calendar along with the day-to-day management of the facility and its resources. As technical director he was responsible for the construction and technical oversight of the sound, lighting and set design for countless plays, musicals, recitals, concerts and lectures. He says his work was a way to express his identity and talent as opportunities to be an actor were fewer.

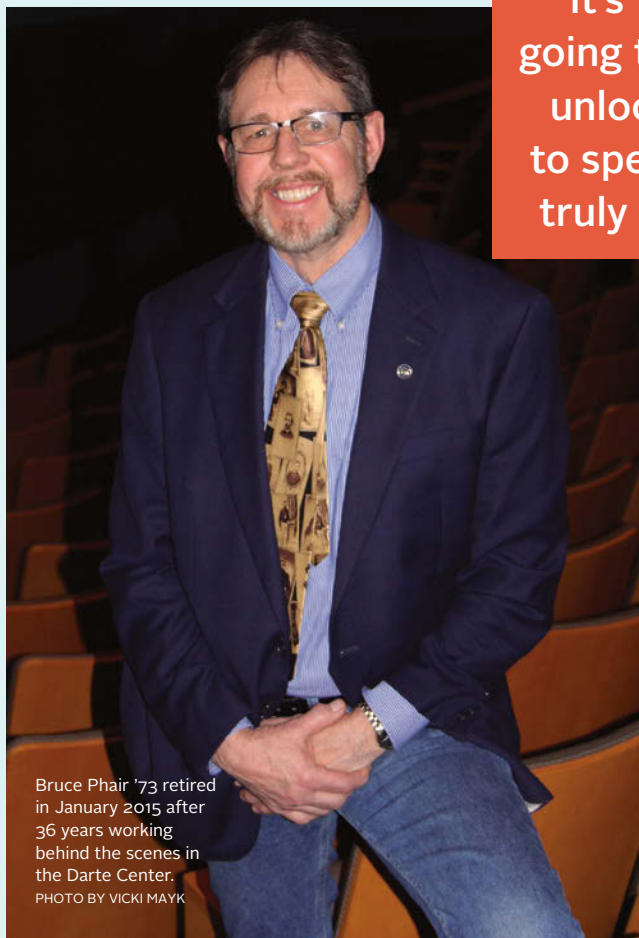
He credits Wilkes and his involvement with theatre as a

student as a catalyst for his own coming-of-age. He said performing stripped him of his shyness and instilled confidence.

"It's the whole idea of going on stage and becoming another character," he says. "At first you get to hide behind that, and as you get more comfortable, you use it as a means of expressing yourself."

Phair returned to Wilkes to work in 1980 after a few years of vegetable farming. He received a call from former managing director and mentor Al Groh '41, who offered him the job as technical director. He was excited to return to a place he loved. He's enjoyed his work behind the scenes, including opportunities to greet each new class of first-year students for three decades.

"It's the simple things I'm going to miss the most—just unlocking that front door to spend the whole day in a truly remarkable building."



Bruce Phair '73 retired in January 2015 after 36 years working behind the scenes in the Darte Center.
PHOTO BY VICKI MAYK

Phair was recognized during the Darte Center's 50th anniversary celebration in October 2015. He says he is looking forward to retirement and spending time with his wife, Karen, a 1974 graduate—but he will miss Wilkes tremendously.

"I get to say hello to a new chapter of my life, but I'll also say goodbye to a big part of who I am," he says.

— By James Jaskolka

James Jaskolka is a senior communication studies major.

Stephanie Smith Cooney PharmD '04 Earns Honors as Community Pharmacist

Family and pharmacy were synonymous for Stephanie Smith Cooney PharmD '04 during her years growing up in Indiana, Pa. Her father is a pharmacist. Accompanying him to work led her to develop an affinity for the profession that has become her life's work.

"I always thought it was cool to go to work with my Dad," Cooney recalls. "I have three siblings, but none became a pharmacist. I have a similar personality to my Dad's."

She says the similarities include an entrepreneurial bent and an appreciation for the role that a pharmacist can play in people's lives. Now, little more than a decade after earning her doctor of pharmacy degree from Wilkes, she's been lauded as one of the state's top pharmacists, earning two honors from the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association. In 2014, she was named one of the Ten Under Ten, recognizing top pharmacists with a decade or less of experience. In 2015, the association presented her with the Pauline Montgomery Leadership Award for her service to the profession and innovations introduced as the owner of Gatti Pharmacy in her hometown.

The second award is especially meaningful to Cooney, who was mentored by Pauline Montgomery during her student years. "In pharmacy school, it was important to have mentors who were women. I remember interacting with her as a pharmacy student. I loved hearing about her being an independent pharmacy owner, having children and balancing a career. She was a pioneer."

In many ways, she's followed in Montgomery's footsteps. Cooney's full-time job since graduating from Wilkes has been at Gatti, where she first was her father's junior partner. In 2010, she became the sole owner. In an era when large chain pharmacies are the norm, running a community pharmacy is a role she has relished.

"We have that ability to really connect with people in the independent setting," Cooney says. "We can be flexible. If we see a need for patients, we can implement it."

Introducing innovations has been a priority. These have included starting a synchronization program that allows patients to pick up all of their refilled prescriptions on the same day each month. Other innovations have included providing vaccinations. Cooney says an independent pharmacy can offer such services more quickly than the chain stores.

Cooney also has earned plaudits for her support of pharmacy education. She is a preceptor for pharmacy students from Wilkes, Duquesne University and the University of Pittsburgh, with students spending time at Gatti for their advanced practice rotations. In addition, Gatti is a site for the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy's community practice residency program.

Cooney recently relocated to Danville, Pa., with her husband Dr. Rob Cooney '01, and their three children, Adelay, 6, Foster, 4 and Maven, 2. Rob, who earned a degree in biology from Wilkes and his medical degree at Jefferson Medical School, recently accepted the job of assistant program director of the emergency medicine resident program at Geisinger Medical Center. Cooney now is managing Gatti remotely and is also involved in a tech start-up, Rx Health Connect, which develops software solutions for pharmacists' clinical documentation.

"It's very much changed the role that I have in the pharmacy," Cooney says of the move. "I'm a really big believer in an owner not being indispensable. It sets you up for advancing your career."

– By Vicki Mayk MFA '13

"We have that ability to really connect with people in the independent setting.... If we see a need for patients, we can implement it."



Stephanie Smith Cooney PharmD '04 has been honored with two awards from the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association for her work as owner of Gatti Pharmacy in Indiana, Pa.
PHOTO COURTESY GATTI PHARMACY.

1986**REUNION: SEPT. 30 – OCT. 2**

David D. Reynolds joined the board of directors at Dime Bank. He is president and CEO of Northeastern Gastroenterology Associates as well as the medical director, president and CEO of Mountain Laurel Surgery Center and Maple City Anesthesia, all in Honesdale, Pa.

1988

Gus Panagakos and Lissa Lee were married on July 11 in a backyard ceremony on their property in Dallas, Pa. The groom is a computer science graduate and works as a database administrator. The bride makes skin care products for her company, Back Mountain Soap Company, and is employed in home health care as a certified nurses aide.

1990

Sandra J. (Sackrison) Breznitsky is the radiology system service line administrator for Vidant Medical Center in Greenville, N.C. In June 2015 she graduated from Nova Southeastern University with a doctorate in health sciences. She lives in Edenton, N.C., with her husband, Jeffrey, and has two children, Corey and Abbey.

**1981**

Peter '81 and Judy Barnick Steve '81 relocated their company, Ideaworks Marketing, to a new home in a Victorian building in Wyoming, Pa. It is the first time since the company was founded in 1998 that it has not shared space with another company. Peter and Judy are the owners of the firm, with Peter serving as CEO. The couple and their team celebrated with a Nov. 12 ribbon cutting and open house. They marked the occasion by making a charitable donation to Blue Chip Animal Refuge of Dallas, Pa.

1992

Lisa Lesko joined the Hospital & Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania as project manager of quality initiatives.

Bonnee Breese Bentum married Samuel Bentum of Ghana. The couple enjoyed two wedding ceremonies: one in Ghana on Aug. 30, 2014, and a second one in Pennsylvania on Dec. 21, 2014.

1995

Ann Marie Kochuba-Mantione MBA '98 and her husband, Sal, opened the Alpine Deli on West Northampton Street in downtown Wilkes-Barre.

LynnMarie (Rosencrance) Elko was named Businessperson of the Year by the Tamaqua Area Chamber of Commerce. She is the founder of Emma's Friends Soaps and Lotions Inc.

Henry Bisco and his wife **Tammy Cyprich '97** recently started their own business, MadGirl Designs LLC, after nearly two decades in the commercial furniture business. The business focuses on custom millwork and shelving applications with an emphasis on medical and education applications.

Helen Chandoha joined the Lakeside Vision eye care practice. She is an optometrist and a member of the American Optometric Association, Pennsylvania Optometric Association and Northeastern Pennsylvania Optometric Society.

1998

Michael T. Beachem, IV received a certificate in student affairs law and policy in June 2015. The training was held in Tampa, Fla., and sponsored by NASPA—Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education and Stetson University College of Law. Beachem serves as the associate director of resident life at International House Philadelphia.

1999

Christopher Thompson, M.D., earned the hospice medical director certified credential from the Hospice Medical Director Certification Board. Thompson was recognized for his commitment to improving the quality of life by displaying professional competency in the hospice industry. He is hospice medical director for Transitions LifeCare: Kids, providing hospice and palliative care for terminally ill children in Raleigh, N.C.

2000

Donna Talarico MFA '10 presented an intensive workshop called “Words, Words, Words” at the Higher Education Web Professionals annual conference in October in Milwaukee, Wis. This was her fifth consecutive year presenting at this event. Talarico also served on the conference committee. She presented a shorter version of the workshop at the 2015 Northeast Pennsylvania Blog Conference in September. She also was part of a nonfiction panel and editor speed-dating session at Philadelphia Stories’ 2015 Push to Publish Conference Oct. 10, and presented a session on personal branding at Moore College of Art and Design’s Leadership Conference for Women in the Arts Oct. 17. In May, she launched a freelance writing and storytelling/marketing consulting company, Donna Talarico: Stories and Such.

2002

Matthew Berger and his wife, Michelle, welcomed a son to their family on Aug. 3, 2015. Luke Matthew Berger joins brother Jackson Lee Berger, age 3. Berger is director of operations for EDM Americas Inc. and a member of the Wilkes University Alumni Association Board of Directors. The Bergers reside in Exeter, Pa.

2004

Tom Voglino joined the engineering consulting firm Reuther+Bowen as a civil engineer. His responsibilities include land development design, planning and municipal engineering.

2005

Jennifer Bonita accepted a new position at The Orchard as a member of their client relations team in product management, social media, artist relations and retail and event management. Previously she ran marketing and retail campaigns for Savoy Jazz and 429 Records.

2007

Kristin Ann Pisano and **Charles Edward Koulik Jr.** were married in an outdoor ceremony at the bride’s childhood home in Hudson, Pa. The bride works at Pride Mobility Products in Exeter, Pa. The groom is employed by Koulik Oil Service in Hudson. The couple reside in Wilkes-Barre.

Sabrina Garnett and her husband, Daniel, welcomed their son, Chase, on Nov. 13, 2015.

2009

Grayson Izard-Dann married **Ryan Dann** on Sept. 12 in Watch Hill, R.I.

2013

Angelo Trento received his master’s degree in criminal justice with a concentration in homeland security from Monmouth University. He was hired by the Philadelphia Police Department, the fourth largest police department in the country.

Graduate Degrees

1976

REUNION: SEPT. 30 – OCT. 2

George Pawlush – See Undergraduate Degrees 1969.

1991

REUNION: SEPT. 30 – OCT. 2

Lisa Rufo MS is a retired English as a second language and Spanish teacher from Allentown, Pa. She returned to live in Spain last February.

1998

Ann Marie Kochuba-Mantione MBA – See Undergraduate Degrees 1995.

2010

Donna Talarico MFA – See Undergraduate Degrees 2000.

2011

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Jillian Dwyer PharmD earned her certification in geriatric pharmacy. She works at Allied Services Integrated Health System in Luzerne and Lackawanna counties, Pa.

Brian Fanelli MFA

successfully defended his doctoral dissertation, “Waiting for the Dead to Speak,” at Binghamton University.

Michael O’Brien MS

was named principal of Washington Park School in Totowa, N.J.

2012

Chris Barrows MS has been named chairperson of the Edu Web Digital Summit. He was an advisory board member for the conference for the last two years.

2015

Julie Cote MBA joined the Kingston office of the Classic Properties real estate agency. She belongs to the Greater Wilkes-Barre Association of Realtors.

In Memoriam

1940

George W. Bierly, of Sweet Valley, Pa., died July 6, 2015. He was an instructor and a director at Penn State Wilkes-Barre. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

1944

Helen M. (Janoski) Parker, Dallas, Pa., died Sept. 12, 2015. After working as a lab technician post-graduation, her children became her main focus. She served terms as president of the Dallas Women's Club and the Scranton Canoe Club's Women's Association.

1949

Joseph S. Olesky, Wyoming, Pa., died Sept. 21, 2015. He served with the U.S. Air Force during World War II and later taught at Wyoming Area schools before becoming district superintendent.

1951

George Paul Heffernan, Kingston, Pa., died Oct. 30, 2015. He taught social studies at Toms River High School North in Toms River, N.J., where he retired in 1990. He was a member of both the Ocean County and Luzerne County historical societies.

1952

Robert D. Morris, Bryn Mawr, Pa., died Sept. 9, 2015. He was the chief financial officer of the space systems division at General Electric.

1953

Elaine (Bogan) Law, Augusta, Ga., died Aug. 12, 2015. She worked as a supervisory medical social worker with the Veterans Administration in Augusta.

Stephen Thorpe, Dallas, Pa., died Aug. 23, 2015. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War, and taught elementary and middle school in Old Bridge, N.J.

1954

Carl Karassik, Wilkes-Barre, died on Sept. 8, 2015.

1956

Elizabeth "Betsy" (Bretz) Lloyd, Birmingham, Ala., died Sept. 25, 2015.

Carl J. Potoski, Plymouth, Pa., died Oct. 31, 2015. He was a salesman for Golden Quality Ice Cream and Del Merchandising for 25 years.

1959

David W. Gower Sr., Athens, Pa., died Aug. 22, 2014. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and served during the Korean War. Gower was a teacher and principal at Athens Area Schools.

Joseph J. Martin, Naples, Fla., died Aug. 3, 2015. He was a self-employed computer consultant and a U.S. Air Force veteran of the Korean War.

1960

Nicholas N. Chirico, Richland Township, Pa., died Oct. 19, 2013. He served with the U.S. Coast Guard during the Korean War, and worked as a pharmaceutical representative for Ciba-Geigy until 1990.

Albert Robert Swithers, Newburg, N.Y., died Oct. 27, 2015. He was a U.S. Navy veteran during the Korean War and a retired guidance counselor at the Monroe Woodbury School District in Orange County, N.Y.

1961

Walter H. Buzby, Elkton, Md., died Jan. 17, 2015. A veteran of the U.S. Army, Buzby worked for DuPont Co. as a purchasing agent and fleet manager in Delaware.

Alfred J. Pello, Pittston, Pa., died Nov. 3, 2015. He was a member of the U.S. Army and worked as a certified public accountant in private practice for more than 35 years.

1963

Nicholas L. Alesandro, Albany, N.Y., died Aug. 3, 2015. He was a career stockbroker and member of the U.S. National Guard.

1966

Richard Hain Klick, Dallas, Pa., died Aug. 16, 2015. He was a member of the National Guard military police and worked as an insurance agent for Wilson H. Flock Insurance Inc., Wyoming, since 1991.

1968

Anthony A. Angeli, Old Forge, Pa., died May 23, 2015. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, a music teacher at the Mid Valley School District, and a lifelong musician.

John "Tom" Engle, Surry, Maine, died on July 8, 2015.

Myrna L. (Brodbeck) Schaefer, Hughestown, Pa., died July 31, 2015. She taught English at Elmer L. Meyers High School, and served as supervisor of English for the Wilkes-Barre School District for 11 years before retiring in 2004.

Victor J. Nardone, Plains Township, Pa., died Aug. 4, 2015. Nardone worked as an aerospace engineer for RCA Aerospace in Mountain Top, Pa., for over 40 years. After retiring, he worked for the Mohegan Sun Arena. He was a founder of the Plains Township Volunteer Ambulance Association and also helped establish the Luzerne County EMT Paramedic Training Program.

1969

Roland D. Sampiero, Wilkes-Barre, died Oct. 9, 2015. He was a food and beverage executive in the hotel industry in Miami, Fla.

1973

Paul Edward Niezgoda, Shavertown, Pa., died Sept. 13, 2015. He was a doctor at Geisinger Wyoming Valley and also served as chairman of the Jackson Township Planning Commission.

Thomas A. Cebula, Roland Park, Md., died Aug. 19, 2015. He was a microbiologist and the chief science officer for research company CosmosID, and also worked as a visiting professor at Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland's Institute for Genome Sciences.

1975

Anne Caroline (Tracy) Patsiokas, Coral Springs, Fla., died on Aug. 28, 2015.

1976

Marilyn Mitros, of Arlington, Va., died July 9, 2015. She was a teacher at Corpus Christi School in Falls Church, Va.

1977

Peggy A. (O'Brien) Burke, Mountain Top, Pa., died Sept. 4, 2015. She was a teacher in the Crestwood School District for 21 years and taught at Rice and Fairview elementary schools.

1979

Diane M. (Zavislak) Adanosky, Trucksville, Pa., died April 19, 2014.

1982

Penny (Schafer) Kaminski, White Haven, Pa., died Aug. 8, 2015. She was a kindergarten teacher for the Weatherly Area School District.

1985

John Louis Kachurick, Dallas, Pa., died Oct. 17, 2015. He was a Korean War veteran of the U.S. Army and was one of the founders of the *Citizens' Voice*. He was an associate professor of business and organizational management at Misericordia University.

1991

Daniel Josh Reposh, Bear Creek, Pa., died Oct. 21, 2015. He was a consultant for Associated Wholesale Grocers Inc.

1992

Anne E. Grober, Wyoming, Pa., died July 21, 2015. She worked as a bookkeeper at Montrose Auto Parts, was secretary of the Wyoming Area Softball Parents Association and volunteered with several community organizations.

1997

David Ferree Jenkins, Scranton, Pa., died Nov. 5, 2015. He was the musical director of theater and an assistant professor at the Brind School of Theater Arts at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. A classically trained pianist, he played in 49 states and several foreign countries.

2013

Allison Jeanette Schenke, Tannersville, Pa., died Nov. 1, 2015. She worked as a fiscal assistant at Fitzmaurice Community Services.

Friends of Wilkes

Margaret "Marge" (Dombroski) Schmidt, Dallas, Pa., died July 6, 2015. She had a 39-year career in banking, working for Second National Bank, First Eastern Bank and PNC, retiring in 1990. She was the wife of the late Rollie Schmidt, who coached the Wilkes University football team from 1961 to 1982. She referred to the members of her husband's teams as "her boys."

Psychology Department Receives Bequest From D. Keith Farrell '72

The estate of the late D. Keith Farrell '72 donated educational materials to the Wilkes University psychology department. More than 1,000 books, journals and articles were contributed, including some rare books by Dr. Ellis Raub, who pioneered the development of rational emotive behavioral therapy. Other donated materials include issues of the *Journal of Rational-Emotive Therapy* and the *Journal of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy*, psychological testing materials and educational materials amassed over Farrell's 40 years of practice as a psychologist. The donation was made by Farrell's wife, MaryLee Brennan Farrell.

Farrell, a resident of Wilkes-Barre, died in May 2013, and was one of Pennsylvania's first certified drug and alcohol counselors. He worked in private practice in Wilkes-Barre and Hazleton and was founder and director of the Forensic Assessment and Counseling Unit at the Luzerne County Correctional Facility. Farrell was a certified substance abuse professional. He was the program director for the Pennsylvania Institute for Rational Emotive Therapy and a Fellow and certified supervisor associate with the Albert Ellis Institute in New York.



- SAVE THE DATE -

6 p.m. • Saturday, June 4, 2016
Westmoreland Club, Wilkes-Barre



2016 PRESIDENT'S
MEDAL RECIPIENTS
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Karambelas

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or visit www.wilkes.edu/foundersgala

calendar of events

February

- 1–March 16 “Backstage Pass: Baron Wolman and the Early Years of Rolling Stone,” Sordoni Art Gallery
- 10 “Strategic Planning,” Family Business Alliance Monthly Breakfast Series, 8:30 a.m., ballroom, Henry Student Center
- 19–27 *Dogfight, the Musical*, Wilkes University Theatre, 8 p.m., Feb. 19, 20, 26 and 27; 2 p.m. Feb. 21 and 28, Darte Center
- 20 Creative Writing Workshop, “Strong and Independent Women Protagonists,” 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Kirby Hall
- 23 Non-fiction writer Maggie Messitt, Allan Hamilton Dickson Spring Writers Series, 7 p.m., Kirby Hall

March

- 5 Spring Break Begins
- 9 “Getting Extraordinary Results from Ordinary People,” Family Business Alliance Monthly Breakfast Series, 8:30 a.m., ballroom, Henry Student Center
- 14 Classes resume
- 16 Mary Fisher, “Free the Entrepreneur for the Global Good,” Allan P. Kirby Lecture in Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, 7:30 p.m., Darte Center
- 19 VIP Day for admitted students, various campus locations, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- 22 Novelist Andrew Krivak, Allan Hamilton Dickson Spring Writers Series, 7 p.m., Kirby Hall

April

- 13 “Leadership and Legacy in the Family Firm,” Family Business Alliance Monthly Breakfast Series, 8:30 a.m., ballroom, Henry Student Center
- 13 Poet Shelley Puhak, Allan Hamilton Dickson Spring Writers Series, 7 p.m., Kirby Hall
- 14 Policies Related to Marcellus Shale, panel discussion, 4 p.m., Ballroom, Henry Student Center
- 14–17 *Twelfth Night*, Wilkes University Theatre, 8 p.m., April 14, 15, 16; 2 p.m., April 17

May

- 1 Ron Prosor, “Israel and the Evolving Frontline of a Disintegrating Middle East: A Guided Tour,” Max Rosenn Lecture in Law and Humanities, 7:30 p.m., Darte Center
- 4 Challenger Sales Mini Workshop, Family Business Alliance Monthly Breakfast Series, 8:30 a.m., ballroom, Henry Student Center
- 21 Spring Commencement, Marts Center



PHOTO BY EARL AND SEDOR PHOTOGRAPHIC