

WILKES

SPRING/SUMMER 2014

Worldly Ways

FOREIGN STUDENTS BRING
INTERNATIONAL FLAVOR
TO WILKES CAMPUS



Continuing A Commitment To First-Generation College Students

One of the greatest regrets of my life is that I never met my Grandfather Leahy. He passed away before I was born. I'm told I get my passion for education from him. He cared so deeply about education, in large part because he never had the chance to obtain one. He was a self-educated man – a traveling salesman who spent his free time reading the classics.

He made a commitment that all of the Leahys who came after him would obtain a college degree. According to my father, one of the biggest fights he ever had with his father was the day that he told Grandfather Leahy that he might not go to college. "Over my dead body," my grandfather protested. "If you get an education, you get a chance."

He believed that a college degree would open up economic opportunities. But, perhaps even more important than that, a college degree was the surest way to a meaningful life. All of the Leahys subsequently earned college degrees, some even earned graduate degrees, and became lawyers, doctors, business leaders, teachers – even a university president.

Why do I feel compelled to share such a personal story? Because the type of transformation that my Grandfather Leahy envisioned – lives transformed by education – is still happening at Wilkes. The University has a long history of supporting first-generation college students. Indeed, it was founded to serve these students, and they continue to make up a large part of our population.

At Wilkes, we're taking that commitment seriously, establishing the First Generation Fund to provide more scholarships to enable those students to obtain a first-class Wilkes degree. To raise money for those scholarships, we

held on June 7 the first of what will be an annual event – the Founders' Gala.

The need to provide more scholarships is clear. At Wilkes, 95 percent of our students receive either merit- or need-based financial aid. Among freshmen entering Wilkes last fall, 41 percent were eligible for Pell grants, the federal aid program supporting those with the most economic need. And, 54 percent of those freshmen were the first in their families to seek a four-year degree.

I'm proud to say that Wilkes continues its commitment to support first-generation college students. As Grandfather Leahy put it, "If you get an education, you get a chance." With initiatives like the First Generation Fund, we can all have a hand in making it happen.



Dr. Patrick F. Leahy
Wilkes University President



Student Gregory McFarlane shares a commencement day photo with President Patrick Leahy.
PHOTO BY EARL & SEDOR PHOTOGRAPHIC.

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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.



12



14



6



18

contents



Foreign students bring international flavor to the Wilkes campus. PHOTO BY DAN Z. JOHNSON

FEATURES

6 Worldly Ways

Foreign students bring international flavor to the Wilkes campus.

12 A Passion for Penn's Woods

Ellen Ferretti '78 leads state conservation agency.

14 Publication Pathways

Creative writing alumni follow many avenues to publish.

18 Coal Crackers

Krista Gromalski '91 launches newspaper written by students in Pennsylvania's coal region.

DEPARTMENTS

2 On Campus

5 Athletics

20 Alumni News

22 Class Notes

Have a story idea to share?

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



Pharmacy Professor KarenBeth Bohan Receives Fulbright Grant

Getting out of the classroom and into Africa has helped Wilkes pharmacy practice associate professor KarenBeth Bohan develop a greater appreciation for things we take for granted about health care in the United States. Pharmacy training that includes clinical experience in a hospital and the safety and effectiveness of drugs are just two differences that Bohan has noted in her work as a Fulbright Specialist working at Makere University in Uganda.

Bohan received a Fulbright Specialist Grant in public/global health work. The grants pair experts in a variety of fields with organizations and educational projects. The goal is that projects funded by the grants will be something that the sponsoring institution can continue after the consultant ends his or her work.

“I am working with professionals to develop clinical pharmacy skills...”

– Karen Beth Bohan
Associate Professor, Pharmacy



“I am working with professors to develop clinical pharmacy skills, including patient counseling, making dosage recommendations, researching drug interactions and learning how to interact with and talk to health care providers,” Bohan explains, adding that training received by Wilkes pharmacy students already emphasizes those skills.

The process to become a pharmacist in Uganda is much different than in the United States, Bohan explains. Unlike the pharmacy program at Wilkes, which awards students a doctor of pharmacy degree at the end of six years of study, the pharmacy program at the African university awards a bachelor’s degree. It provides minimal hands-on experience in hospitals and other health-care settings, primarily emphasizing theory and classroom instruction. Bohan’s project will expand clinical practice for the Makere students.

Bohan’s work is an outgrowth of earlier trips to Uganda and Tanzania, that began in summer 2011. Since then, she has made several trips with the students. In addition, Wilkes hosted two pharmacists from Uganda for eight weeks in November and December 2013, helping them to become certified in advanced pharmaceutical care training.

Under the grant, Bohan completed her first trip in March, and will travel two more times to Uganda. Readers can follow her progress at her blog, “Out of the Pharmacy Classroom and Into Africa,” by clicking on the blog link on the homepage at www.wilkes.edu.

Anne Skleder Joins Wilkes As Provost And Senior Vice President



Anne A. Skleder has joined Wilkes as its provost and senior vice president. In the position, Skleder is responsible for leading the University’s academic programs and initiatives, working with the deans of its five academic schools and

colleges and its faculty. She also will have a major role in implementing initiatives outlined in its strategic plan.

Skleder comes to Wilkes from Cabrini College in Radnor, Pa., where she served as provost and vice president for academic affairs and professor of psychology since July 2010.

President Patrick F. Leahy cited Skleder’s more than two decades of higher education experience. “Dr. Skleder is a dedicated and extremely knowledgeable member of the higher education community who has had many years of successful experiences as an academic leader,” Leahy says. “She embraces Wilkes’ unique mentoring culture and our belief in the benefits of a liberal arts education.”

Skleder was selected for the position following a national search. In speaking about what attracted her to Wilkes, she says, “First and foremost, I felt there was a ‘mission match.’ I am a champion of mentoring, as I have had, and continue to have, amazing mentors who have helped me learn and grow and have pushed me to extend my reach beyond my grasp. I have studied mentoring, and I have tried in as many ways as possible to mentor others.

“Second, I felt there was a match between my background and experience and the responsibilities and goals of the position. I am committed to collaborative work, collegial governance, innovation, student success and strategic growth. I saw all of these in the position description.”

Before joining Cabrini, Skleder was dean of Chatham College for Women at Chatham University in Pittsburgh. She also served Alvernia University in Reading, Pa., in a number of administrative positions, including vice provost, associate vice president for academic affairs and enrollment management, department chair of psychology, director of the honors program, and founding director of the Center for Community Engagement.

Skleder received her doctorate and master’s degree in social and organizational psychology from Temple University and her bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Pittsburgh.

University Announces Plans for Sidhu School, South Campus Gateway

The Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and Leadership will have a new home in time for fall semester as part of a \$4.5 million project announced by the University this spring. The multiphase project includes transforming its University Center on Main located at 169 S. Main St., into the new home of the



Above, an artist's rendering of the new home of the Sidhu School of Business. Courtesy Borton-Lawson.

Sidhu School and renovating 141 S. Main St., the former Bartikowsky jewelry store, located next door.

The project also envisions creating the South Main Street Gateway – a dramatic entrance to the heart of campus from South Main Street that would stretch through South Franklin Street onto the main campus greenway, the Fenner Quadrangle. The gateway project is expected to be completed some time during the 2014–2015 academic year.

Renovation of the University Center on Main, which housed administrative offices, a café and a recreation center, will be completed in time for the start of the new school year in August. Renovations are estimated to cost about \$3 million. When completed, the building will include a financial market trading room, smart classrooms, faculty offices and club space.

The project is expected to be completed in time for the Sidhu School's 10th anniversary, which will be celebrated during the 2014–2015 academic year. For more photos of the project, visit www.wilkes.edu/capitalprojects.

Wilkes Football Fans Follow The Colonels Year-Round On Social Media

Alumni don't have to wait until the fall to follow Wilkes football. When appointed as the new head coach of the Wilkes University men's football team, Trey Brown stated that he wanted to rally players, coaches, students and alumni around the team and build a social community on and off campus. He is tackling these aims through a social media campaign initiated this spring.

Brown has taken the football team news to Facebook and Twitter, posting videos and photos from team practices and competitions to garner support from players, students and alumni.

His players have embraced Brown's excitement, retweeting and sharing their favorite posts on their own social media accounts. Brown plans to use social media during the season to rouse support from fans at home and in the bleachers.

Be sure to check out Wilkes' YouTube channel for a video of the team's latest weightlifting competition. Alumni can "like" the team's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WilkesFootball> and follow them on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/WilkesFootball> to show their support for the Blue and Gold.

Enactus Team Wins National Recognitions

The Wilkes Enactus team placed in the top five out of 100 schools across the United States participating in the Sam's Club Step Up for Small Business Project Partnership competition. The team also placed second runner-up in its league at the Enactus national competition.

The Sam's Club competition required participating teams to partner with small businesses and provide consultation and marketing services. The team worked with Phil Daniels of Daniels Contracting, an independent firm located in Wilkes-Barre that renovates apartments for student housing and provides emergency contracting services.

Sam's Club issued the students a \$1,500 grant, which they used to purchase QuickBooks for Mac and arranged for the Small Business Development Center to teach Daniels how to use the software. The students also purchased

and renovated an enclosed utility trailer to provide Daniels with a portable equipment storage container and eliminate the need for multiple trips between job sites. They also provided him with marketing assistance.

At the Enactus 2014 National Competition, the team placed second runner-up in its league in the quarter-final round for five projects completed during the 2013–2014 academic year. In addition to the Sam's Club competition, the projects included assisting the Thrive Wellness Center, a holistic healing center in Kingston, Pa.; the Wilkes University Entrepreneurial Experience Business Plan Competition; The Campbell's Let's Can Hunger project partnership; and volunteering at the Ruth's Place women's shelter to provide job training and professional development skills to residents.



Wilkes undergraduates, above, took a trip to the Grand Canyon as part of their Semester in Mesa. Pictured, front row from left, Assistant to the Dean for Strategic Initiatives Kristine Pruet, J. Brandon Carey, Ryan Joyce, Dan Lykens. Second row, from left, Doug Cowley, T.J. Zelinka, Alexis Gildea, Joseph Zack, Sara Hagenbach, Andrew Polzella and Alex Planer.

Wilkes Students Spend Semester In Mesa

Ten Wilkes University students from its northeast Pennsylvania campus participated in a pilot program, Semester in Mesa, allowing them to pursue internship and cultural opportunities in the Arizona city. The program is similar to the University's Semester in Washington program. The students – all business and engineering majors – are interning with companies that include the City of Mesa Engineering Resources Department, Visit Mesa, the Phoenix Mesa Marriott and Entrepix, a company that provides service to the semiconductor industry.

As part of their experience in Mesa, the students took classes at the Mesa Center for Higher Education, where Wilkes is offering classes. The Semester in Mesa builds on Wilkes' participation in the H.E.A.T. (Healthcare, Education, Aerospace, Technology/ Tourism) Initiative for Economic Development in Mesa.

The students and their host companies were recognized at a reception held May 5 in Mesa.



Hillary Transue, left, is now a student in the Wilkes graduate creative writing program.

PHOTO BY VICKI MAYK

Wilkes Partners To Bring Kids For Cash To The Screen

Hillary Transue says she has something in common with one of her favorite fictional characters. "I'm like Harry Potter: I'm famous for something that I wish never happened,"

Transue says. While Potter survived an attack by the make-believe villain Voldemort, Transue survived a real-life ordeal.

She's referring to her role in the largest scandal ever uncovered in America's juvenile justice system. At 15, Transue was sent to jail for creating a fake MySpace page about her high school's vice principal. When Transue was convicted for what many would say was a typical teenage prank and sent to a wilderness camp for delinquents, her mother sought help from Philadelphia's Juvenile Law Center. An investigation revealed that the judge sentencing her had received millions of dollars in payments from the privately owned juvenile detention centers where he sent the kids he convicted. Transue's case is one of those highlighted in the new documentary, Kids For Cash, released Feb. 7 by SenArt Films.

Today Transue is enrolled in Wilkes University's master's degree program in creative writing, where she has a graduate assistantship in the program's office. She's studying fiction and creative nonfiction and plans to write a novel for her creative thesis. Wilkes has been a supporter of the Kids For Cash documentary, which was produced and directed by Robert May, a member of the creative writing program's advisory board. Students profiled in the film were offered opportunities to enroll at Wilkes. Transue is the first to do so.

Wilkes' support of the film also included providing office space for May's company, SenArt Films, as well as office and editing space and housing for members of his crew. Graduate assistants from Wilkes' creative writing program, provided hundreds of hours of labor and gained valuable experience, working as researchers and production assistants on the film. The Wilkes facilities and public safety departments, among many others on campus, provided additional support for the film.

Christopher Jagoe Is New Director of Public Safety



Christopher Jagoe has joined Wilkes as its new director of public safety. In this new position, he will direct the University's

public safety officers and will lead efforts to strengthen campus safety and security.

Jagoe joins Wilkes with three decades of experience working for the University of Maryland Police Department in College Park, ending his career there as the deputy chief of police. While at Maryland, he managed approximately 100 law enforcement officers and 80 auxiliary police aides. During his career, he served as a patrol officer, detective, supervisor, and director of the university's police academy. Jagoe says that his broad range of experience allows him to employ a hands-on approach to his job at Wilkes.

"I look forward to forging strong relationships with local law enforcement, the fire department, and leaders on campus and in the surrounding community," Jagoe says. "In partnership with local law enforcement, I will work on issues concerning off-campus student conduct and crime prevention. In everything I do, the safety of our campus community is the primary goal."

Jagoe earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Maryland and also attended the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va.

BALANCING ACT

By Bill Thomas '13

Ally Kristofco Balanced Tennis And Two Majors On Way To Degree

As captain of Wilkes University's women's tennis team, Ally Kristofco '14 has plenty of experience keeping balls in the air. It's a skill that's come in handy throughout her college career, as she's balanced athletics with the academic responsibilities of double-majoring in marketing and Spanish.

"It's been a juggling act, but I'm really happy I was able to make it work and finish on time," Kristofco, who graduated this spring, says. "Knowing I had to juggle both things helped me because I would actually use the free time I had to focus on my school work. If I didn't have anything else to do I might have gotten lazy. In having that structure, if I had two hours I knew I should start on something or read something or be more active."

Driven as Kristofco is, however, the importance of giving back remains a major motivating factor for her. This April, she spearheaded efforts to create the Pink Day tennis charity event, raising money to benefit breast cancer research.

"My mother had battled breast cancer and, so far so good, she's a survivor. That's the motivation behind it. There's another girl on the team whose mother had breast cancer, so it's something we're passionate about and believe in," Kristofco says. "The tennis team hasn't really done something like this before,

and I'd wanted to do something like this for a while, so it seemed like a great way for us to get involved and give back. It's a team effort, not just mine. I think this is something that can be passed on and really grow into something that Wilkes tennis can be proud of and continue to do in the future."

It's hardly surprising the future is on Kristofco's mind. Her tireless work ethic certainly seems to have paid off, earning her a 3.75 grade-point average, a spot on the dean's list every semester and membership in the Delta Mu Delta business honor society, among other honors. Kristofco believes the achievements and education she received at Wilkes will continue to open doors for her as she decides whether to go first to grad school or directly into the job market.

Ideally, Kristofco says she hopes to find work that will allow her to use both of her Wilkes degrees. Her participation in Wilkes' 2012 study abroad program in Rome only whetted the adventurous Hollidaysburg, Pa., native's appetite to see the world.

"I love to travel," she said. "I would definitely like to go to Brazil someday. I would love to see Rio and some of Latin America because I've never been there. I'd love to go to places where I can use my Spanish and really see the culture firsthand."

Ally Kristofco '14 scored in the classroom and on the court.

PHOTO BY CURTIS SALONICK





WORLDLY WAYS

By Vicki Mayk MFA '13

FOREIGN STUDENTS BRING INTERNATIONAL FLAVOR TO WILKES CAMPUS

Bowen Wang hated to do it, but he had to be honest with the other students on his integrated management experience team. They had taken him to a Chinese buffet.

“I had to tell them it wasn’t real Chinese food,” the freshman in the Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and Leadership says laughing. “Not like what we have in China.”

But Wang also speaks warmly about the team from one of his first business classes at Wilkes. “Our team name was the word ‘business’ in Chinese,” he says with a grin. The fact that the Sidhu School is named for an alumnus who came to Wilkes as an international student – Jay Sidhu MBA ’73 – makes Wang’s next comment even more gratifying.

“Coming to Wilkes is the best choice I ever made,” he says. That’s high praise from any freshman. For one who traveled more than 6,600 miles from his home in Rizhao, Shandong Province, to attend the University, it’s an extraordinary affirmation of the educational experience.

“I cannot say enough good things about Wilkes,” says Wang “I will have more opportunities to practice my English here and master the language than at a large university with many Chinese students.” The university’s size matters in other ways too. “This is a small university, big enough to develop myself, but small enough so that professors give you attention,” he says, adding, “Everybody is so nice to me. They know how difficult it is to come here from another country, and they are very patient.”

Wang is one of a growing number of international students at Wilkes. Internationals have long been part of the campus. But in the last decade, thanks to recruitment efforts targeting foreign students and strong programs to support them once enrolled, numbers have increased. During the 2013–2014 academic year, 255 international students were enrolled for academic classes or in the Intensive English Program. Wilkes has the largest population of international students of any college in northeast Pennsylvania.

The experience of being a foreign student has changed over the years. International students have enrolled at Wilkes at least since the 1950s. At one time, such students found their way to Wilkes via personal relationships between administrators and faculty and their foreign counterparts. More recently, the University’s admissions team has started to recruit internationally.



Above, international students try out the tradition of coloring Easter eggs. Pictured from left, are Victoria Grasso, Evana Manandhar '14, Deanna Moore '14 and Yujia Jiang. Below, Bowen Wang likes life at Wilkes.

PHOTOS BY
DAN Z. JOHNSON

SELLING WILKES WORLDWIDE

Xiaoqiao Zhang '10 understands the challenges of studying in the United States. She remembers the adjustments that she had to make when she came here as a high school student from her native China. Her experiences as an international student who made the most of her Wilkes education also made Zhang the perfect choice to become Wilkes' first international recruiter. Her position was created in 2012.

"This job is very personal. It's my alma mater," Zhang declares. "I want to make this school as well-known and appreciated as I want it to be."

She admits that it's sometimes challenging to sell Wilkes to families in China. Schools with high name recognition, such as Ivy League institutions, are top of the list for many. Zhang emphasizes her own undergraduate success – which included playing varsity tennis, high-profile internships with television networks and going to graduate school at Columbia University – when recruiting. Zhang travels to China for six weeks at a time, speaking at college fairs in multiple cities.

"I tell them that the language environment here is what made my English so good," she says when Chinese parents compliment her fluency. "I tell them that you want to go to a school that prepares you to be the best, where you'll get personal attention and many opportunities. That school is Wilkes."

A tireless cheerleader for the University, there is now a cadre of Chinese students on campus who call her "Mama Xiao" and come to her for advice on navigating life in the States.

Staff in the Center for Global Education and Diversity also has

recruited in South America. Companies specializing in international recruitment organize such trips. College and university representatives travel to a series of organized college fairs, where students and parents can talk to them at their school's booth.

Saudi Arabian students are a strong presence at Wilkes because the University participates in the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission's King Abdullah Scholarship Program that pays for students to study in the United States. Once those students succeed at Wilkes, their friends and family members are more likely to attend.

There is strong interest in attending school in the United States, says Melanie O'Donnell Wade '93, Wilkes vice president for enrollment, and schools are wise to leverage it.

"Almost every young person in America has something highly coveted by people in all other countries – and that's the education at our colleges and universities," Wade says. "To be the international destination for higher education is something we should be proud of."

Wade says that international students are good for the University because of the tuition dollars they bring. But she emphasizes that there are other important reasons why it's good for Wilkes to have a globally diverse student body.

"It is valuable for our domestic students to be exposed to students from other countries," Wade states. "Many of our students, as first-generation college students, have never traveled beyond this region. The working world they are going to enter is an international one. One of the best ways to prepare them is to have a student body that is internationally diverse."

Xiaoqiao Zhang '10 mans the Wilkes booth at an event in China. PHOTOS COURTESY OF XIAOQIAO ZHANG



CRASH COURSE IN CULTURE

On the Thursday before spring semester begins, the first floor of the Max Roth Center hums with the sound of different languages. Saudi Arabian students, the women's heads wrapped in the colorful scarves called hijabs, cluster on one side of the room. A Chinese student clutches a cup of coffee in one hand and a stack of papers in the other. Others navigate around a table of refreshments.

The international student orientation introduces the students to Wilkes. It's also a crash course in United States culture and a time to process the paperwork required by the Department of Homeland Security in order for international students to study here.

Welcoming them all is Georgia Costalas, executive director of the Center for Global Education and Diversity and director of international student services. For two days before the start of each semester, Costalas and her staff, plus a team of work-study students, prepare a new group of international students to begin their American college experience.

"It's amazing: People will be coming in the door who don't speak English," says Costalas. "We'll have 40 kids in here speaking different languages, all having questions and different needs. We collect about eight different documents from each student, so one of our work-study students is a runner, taking them upstairs to copy and returning it to me."

The center was started in 2008 to address the needs of a growing population of international students. The two-day orientation includes a workshop about the F-1 visa, which foreign visitors must have to study in the United States. There are parameters for students with such a visa: They may have jobs on campus, but not off. They must be enrolled in school full time. Paperwork must be filed and protocols followed if an international student returns home during summer or holiday break.

Other sessions during the two-day orientation include campus tours (complete with translators), a resource lunch to introduce students to campus services and an academic protocols session. The latter, Costalas says, is particularly important.

We cover aspects of U.S. culture that affect the U.S. classroom,"

Costalas says. "The concept of time and how we demonstrate

respect are two examples of things

that can be quite different. We have to explain to our international students that being late for class can be viewed as a sign of disrespect."

Arguing critically in class – an accepted part of class discussions in the United States – seems like a sign of disrespect for the professor to foreign students. Becoming accustomed to these cultural differences takes time.

The center is the hub of life for foreign students, a place where they bring questions and concerns and also a place to socialize. The center staff supports student clubs promoting cultural diversity. They include the Asian Interest Society, the Hindu Spirituality Club, the Indian Cultural Association and the Saudi Interest Club. The clubs hold events that allow other members of the University community to learn more about their cultures. The center and the Intensive English Program sponsor trips to places like a New York Yankees baseball game.

It also sponsors the weekly Global Coffee Hour, held in the Savitz Lounge of the Henry Student Center. Coffee hour traditions – such as cutthroat Uno card games – keep students coming back for camaraderie and refreshments. An American student, Deanna Moore '14, organized the coffee hours for the past four years until graduation in May. Her goal was to attract more students by adding themes and special programs. For example, one event featured two chefs from the Wilkes-Barre restaurant Katana who taught attendees how to roll their own sushi.

Moore, a management major and international studies minor from Tobyhanna, Pa., enjoys working with international students – so much so that she hopes to continue after graduation. She grew up appreciating cultural differences because her father and grandfather had military careers and lived in other countries. "It's an entirely different world," she says of working at the center. "It brings a different culture to Wilkes that so many people don't know about."

She is proud that events like international orientation do more than provide information. They also are the starting point for campus friendships.

"My sophomore year, I knew we were doing something right when new international students would jump up and down and wave at me from across the greenway," Moore says.

Moore also participated in another program – Global Thanksgiving – that pairs international students with faculty, staff and student families to experience the American holiday. Accounting student Yujia Jiang from Fuzhou in China's Fujian Province, spent Thanksgiving 2011 with Moore's family. "That is what solidified my friendship with Yujia," says Moore. "When Yujia's mom came here, she asked if our families could meet. My mother, sister and I got together with them while she was here."



Below, playing Uno is a tradition among Wilkes international students at the weekly Global Coffee Hour. Above, Georgia Costalas, executive director of the Center for Global Education and Diversity, works with all foreign students as director of international student services.

PHOTOS BY DAN Z. JOHNSON



MAKING THE ADJUSTMENT

For many international students, the first stop on their Wilkes journey is Hollenback Hall. The building across from Farley Library on South Franklin Street is the home of the Intensive English Program. The program has five class levels progressing in difficulty from level one, for students with little or no English language skills, to level five for students who have almost mastered the language well enough to begin taking classes at Wilkes. Classes are taught year-round, and students take up to a year and a half to master English. Only students scoring high enough on the TOEFL or IELTS exams are exempt from taking intensive English classes before they can enroll in regular classes. TOEFL is the Test Of English as a Foreign Language. The program also sponsors a conversation partners program pairing American students with an international student who wants to practice speaking English.

In her first-floor classroom, Dee Balice, one of five program teachers, is addressing her level two class. Balice's level two students – one man and six women, all from Saudi Arabia – are still challenged when expressing their thoughts orally or in writing English.

"In English, please!" Balice – known as Mrs. B. – admonishes them good naturedly. "I don't know Arabic." An energetic woman with short dark hair and glasses perched on the edge of her nose, Balice hands back folders containing the first draft of an essay about the dangers of cell phone use while driving. She turns to the blackboard and draws a diagram of a table.

"One of the biggest problems that students have is learning that they need to have supporting ideas," Balice says as she completes the drawing. "All students, not just international students. Each major point must have a supporting idea. Without those legs, the table top falls."

Balice uses many methods to illustrate her points. To explain the meaning of the English word affectionate, she shows students a picture of her cat cuddling at home. "That's affectionate," she explains. The class breaks into individual groups to work and she circulates among them to talk one-on-one about their writing. Offering encouragement here, a suggestion for improvement there, she pauses and raises her voice slightly. "Class, Hidayh used a very good word that I want to share with all of you. Violation," she says as she writes it on the board. "It means breaking a law."

Balice challenges the students and most rise to her expectations. Student Mansi Ashkan says, "Every international student should have a teacher like Mrs. B."

Wilkes' Intensive English Program is accredited by the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation – now a requirement for such programs thanks to 2012 federal legislation. The Wilkes program is the only one to receive accreditation through 2024. Kimberly Niezgoda directs the program, which was established at Wilkes in 2006 to strengthen services for the international population. Preparing foreign students for the demands of English in college classrooms is far different than teaching conversational skills.

Balice uses many methods to illustrate her points. To explain the meaning of the English word affectionate, she shows students a picture of her cat cuddling at home. "That's affectionate," she explains.



Top, Dee Balice explains a point to her class.
PHOTO BY KNOT JUST ANY DAY.

Bottom, Kimberly Niezgoda directs Wilkes' Intensive English Program which prepares international students for college-level work in English.
PHOTOS BY DAN Z. JOHNSON



“These students aren’t just learning to speak English,” Niezgoda explains. “They are learning academic English. About 5,000 words are needed to survive in English. American high school graduates have about 20,000 academic words as they enter college.”

If language is the first and greatest adjustment for international students, there’s one thing that clearly ranks second. Bowen Wang remembers that Xiaoqiao Zhang counseled him to buy a 40-meal plan in the cafeteria. “I still have most of them. I haven’t used them,” he says. Eating American cuisine also was cited as a concern by the Saudi students in Dee Balice’s class.

The food dilemma leads many internationals to live off campus. “We can cook our own food – but sometimes I have to go to New York to find things I want,” says Yujiya Jiang. Like her American counterparts, going to college and living off campus has helped her to develop life skills. “When I was at home, I couldn’t cook, do dishes or wash my own clothes. My father said it was time for me to grow up. I’ve become more independent.”

Weather also is an issue for students from places like the Bahamas or Saudi Arabia. Andrew Asare ’14, a mechanical engineering major from Ghana, sums up the experience. “The weather was difficult,” Asare says. “I had never seen snow or been exposed to such cold temperatures. I learned to layer up and got gloves.”

Asare says he had help navigating life in America because his three older brothers attended college here. His brother Geoffrey attended Tufts University, his brother Phillip went to the University of Pennsylvania and Ernest went to Arcadia University and then to graduate school at Columbia University. His younger brother, Edward, a junior computer science major, followed him to Wilkes.

“My mom wanted me to be close to my brothers so I would have a support system,” Asare explains.

All of the students said culture shock in a broader sense stems from differences between their country’s standards for manners and accepted behavior and what is acceptable in America. The differences are often complicated and can range from what is the proper way to show respect for faculty to how loud students can be in the cafeteria.

Among the most significant cultural differences are those experienced by Saudi Arabian women who come to the United States. “The women here have freedom. They can drive and can walk anywhere they want,” says Norah Aldharman. In her country, women cannot drive cars or travel alone. A husband or male relative accompany most of the Saudi women who come to Wilkes.

Aldharman and fellow students Ahlam Almaki and Maryam Al-Marnoon say Americans frequently ask questions about their dress, which includes the traditional hijab, a scarf covering their hair.



Top, Mansi Ashkan participates in an intensive English class.
PHOTO BY KNOT JUST ANY DAY.

Middle, brothers Edward and Andrew Asare of Ghana adjusted to life at Wilkes as players on the soccer team.

PHOTOS BY DAN Z. JOHNSON

Bottom, Maryam Al-Marnoon listens intently to instruction in English.
PHOTO BY KNOT JUST ANY DAY.

FINDING FRIENDSHIP

For every student, a circle of friends is a significant part of their Wilkes experience. The process of forming these relationships is more complicated for internationals dealing with issues of language and culture.

Business students like Bowen Wang and Yujia Jiang have made friends through classes. “Everything for a business major is teamwork,” Wang says.

A team of a different sort helped Andrew Asare find his place at Wilkes. He and his brother Edward are both soccer players. “I started here in fall 2010,” Asare recalls. “It was really nice to have welcoming teammates. I can’t imagine not knowing anyone when I came here. Coach (Phil) Wingert has guided me all four years.”

Although it can be more challenging for others still mastering English, the atmosphere is positive. “All American people to me are friendly,” says Saudi student Mansi Ashkan. Alumna Felixa Wingen ’09 who came to Wilkes from Germany and is the former assistant director of the Center for Global Education and Diversity, says such positive impressions are due to the Wilkes culture.

“What really makes Wilkes a great place for international students are the staff and faculty, people who are caring,” Wingen says. “Any international student struggles – but to know you have so many you can turn to – that’s something that so many students know when they’re there.”

That this should be the overall impression is as important for Wilkes as it is for the international students, says Costalas of the Center for Global Education and Diversity. “Wilkes is the ‘America’ they are experiencing. When they return and talk about what America is like, they will be talking about the America that a Wilkes student sees and is part of.”



International students socialize at the Global Coffee Hour. Pictured front from left, graduate students Parashumrama Mariyappa and Sirisha Thimmapuran and back, Hussein and Adnan Salamah.

PHOTOS BY DAN Z. JOHNSON



As an international student at Wilkes University, **Fahad Hamad Aldubayan '84** received advice from his physics professor that he carries with him to this day: “Take care of your studies and your homework, and your grades will take care of themselves.”



Yohana de los Santos Maria '09 heard a radio ad for Wilkes University while visiting her parents in the Wilkes-Barre area from her native Dominican Republic. Longing to attend college in the United States, and at her dad’s nudging, she sat down with a Wilkes admissions counselor.



When **Felixa Wingen '09** came to Wilkes from Bonn University in her native Germany, she went from being an anonymous student among 35,000 at the European school to being greeted by name by professors.

Learn about three alumni who came to the University as international students, read their success stories and see where their Wilkes education has taken them. To access this exclusive Web content, go to www.wilkes.edu/internationalalumni



**Ellen Ferretti '78 enjoys a spring
afternoon in Frances Slocum
State Park.**

PHOTO BY DAN Z. JOHNSON

A PASSION FOR PENN'S WOODS

Ellen Ferretti '78 - Leads State Conservation Agency

By Helen Kaiser

Ellen Ferretti '78 grew up in the Cork Lane section of Pittston Township, Luzerne County—where the neighborhood houses were just steps away from each other. Families often packed picnics and took Sunday drives to get away from it all and appreciate the riches of nature.

“I always loved the outdoors,” she says. “We would enjoy the lakes, swimming beaches, pavilions and hiking at Tobyhanna and Gouldsboro state parks.”

Now, some 50 years later, Ferretti oversees Pennsylvania's 120 parks and its 20 forest districts as secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Confirmed to the cabinet post in December, Ferretti had served as acting secretary for several months and as deputy for parks and forestry since June 2011. Her background includes more than 20 years in private industry and nonprofit conservation posts.

“Here (at DCNR) we deal with both private sector firms and nonprofits, so it's easy for me to relate to them,” she says. “When you understand from the ground up how to build a program or start a project, how to assess and how to implement, it informs your decision making. You have a true appreciation of what's involved.”

With an annual budget of \$315 million, DCNR is charged with: maintaining and preserving nearly 300,000 acres of state parks; managing 2.2 million acres of state forest land; providing information on the state's ecological and geologic resources; and establishing community conservation partnership.

Ferretti's passion for her life's work developed while at Pittston Area High School in the early 1970s, just as environmental concerns were gaining a hold on the nation's consciousness. She remembers being active in the Ecology Club and in paper recycling at school. Fortunate to live near the inspiring backdrop of northeastern Pennsylvania's pristine natural resources, Ferretti also was within commuting distance of Wilkes—which offered cutting-edge education in environmental science. She began her degree work in biology and switched as a junior to environmental science. Both provided a “solid foundation” for her career.

Opting out of the workforce for 10 years after college while her three children were young, Ferretti later took consulting roles with Westinghouse Environmental and Geotechnical Services

and Quad Three Group. She was vice president of ARRIS Engineering Group in Wilkes-Barre, a land protection specialist for the Nature Conservancy, and director of environmental resources at Borton-Lawson Engineering, Wilkes-Barre.

She came to DCNR from the Pennsylvania Environmental Council where she served as vice president of its northeast regional office. She cited her conservation work at the council as an accomplishment of which she is particularly proud.

“We were part of what has grown into a very healthy land trust movement in northeastern Pennsylvania,” she says. “We also formed the Wyoming Valley Watershed Coalition which has implemented stream clean-ups and created RiverFest with its yearly kayaking events on the Susquehanna.”

In her current role, Ferretti encounters the significant challenges that accompany the Marcellus shale gas play. She and other officials must weigh the mega industry's boon to economic development and energy independence against the critical concerns of local communities and environmentalists.

Ellen Ferretti '78, Dallas, Pa.

Bachelor of Science, Environmental Science, Wilkes

Career: Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, overseeing the state's 300,000 acres of state parks and 2.2 million acres of forest land.

Favorite Wilkes Place: Hanging out with fellow commuter students in the old student union, which at that time was in a converted church—“a lovely little one-room building, smack in the middle of campus.”

“We never stop listening to the public's input, and there are many interest groups. For every one position for an issue you can find another against it,” she says.

The state does not own about 80 percent of the mineral rights in state parks, or 20 percent in its forests, but DCNR believes it can strongly influence developers and ensure access that minimizes the impact of drilling, Ferretti says.

“Our state forest system has been independently certified for the 16th year in a row, validating that we are managing in a way that protects its long-term health, even with energy production activity related to the Marcellus Shale,” Ferretti says.

PUBLICATION PATHWAYS

CREATIVE WRITING ALUMNI FOLLOW MANY AVENUES TO PUBLISH

By Bill Schneider MA '13

As the Wilkes graduate creative writing program nears its 10th anniversary, director and co-founder Bonnie Culver is discussing plans for a celebration to be held during the January 2015 residency. “We’ve been gathering information about our alums, faculty and current students,” says Culver. “Our plan is to produce a celebratory book that offers a snapshot of what everyone connected to the program has done and continues to do.”

Culver, who recently was named president of the Association of Writers and Writing Programs’ national board of trustees, says the book project will showcase alumni and faculty from the program and their successes in a variety of outlets.



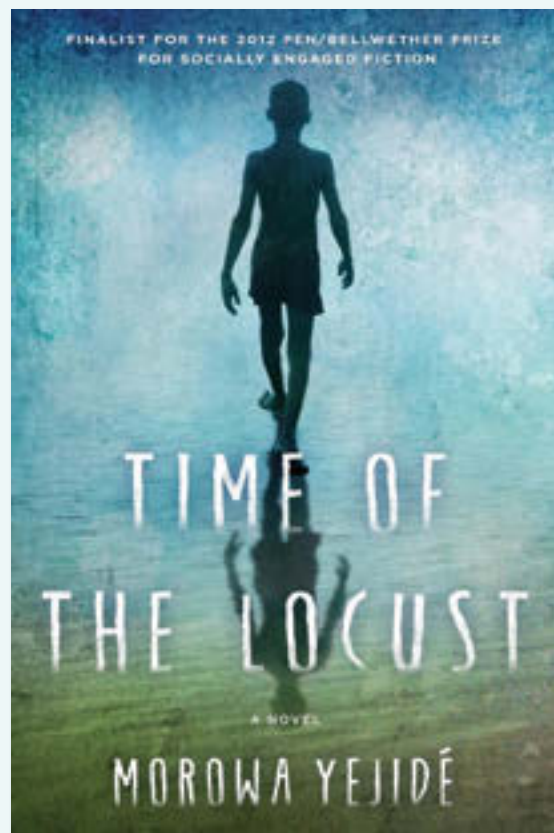
Morowa Yejide’s novel *Time of the Locust* tells the story of a 7-year-old autistic boy and his supernatural relationship with his incarcerated father.

For Yejide MFA ’12, it’s also a tale of persistence. She worked for two years to find a publisher for the novel,

which will be released in June 2014 by Atria Books, a division of Simon & Schuster. The book also was named one of the 10 finalists for the PEN/Bellwether Prize for Socially Engaged Fiction after what she describes as a soul-crushing effort to find an agent. The prize is given to a work of high literary merit that addresses issues of social justice.

Yejide described her relationship with a very large publisher to be like standing on a large platform with a microphone, providing her a chance to shout above the crowd. “There are no guarantees in today’s publishing world,” she says. “It’s sink or swim. When I signed with Atria, I went in expecting to continue to push my work largely on my own... to continue to navigate my little boat. Now there is this larger trade wind behind me that might help to move me along a little better.”

For Yejide and other alumni of Wilkes graduate creative writing program, the road to publication is not easy. But there are more ways to travel that road than ever before. Today, writers have an unprecedented number of avenues in which to publish their work, from traditional mainstream presses to independent boutique presses, e-books and team publishing, an innovative concept that relies on social media to promote and generate book sales.



Morowa Yejide MFA ’12’s debut novel, *Time of the Locust*, is publishing in June 2014.

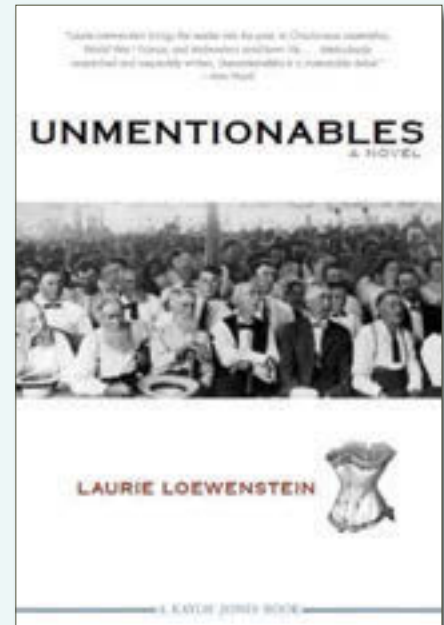
Recent releases by creative writing alumni illustrate the many paths to publication.

INDEPENDENT PRESSES, SPECIALIZED IMPRINTS



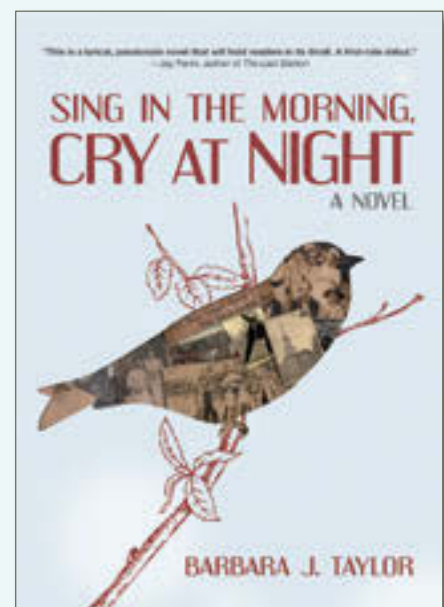
Laurie Loewenstein MA '07's novel, *Unmentionables*, became the flagship publication of Kaylie Jones Books, a new imprint of Akashic Books, a Brooklyn-based company. The imprint was founded in 2013 by Wilkes creative writing faculty member Kaylie Jones with the goal of publishing quality books unable to find a home with mainstream publishers. Set in 1917, Loewenstein's novel is the story of a traveling dress reform orator who agitates for enlightenment and justice, throwing into turmoil a small Midwestern town's unspoken rules governing social order, women and Negroes, with little time for insight into her own motives and extreme loneliness.

Unmentionables was under contract with an agent for two years, but never sold. Loewenstein made at least 60 submissions of short stories as well as applications to writing colonies, none of which was accepted. Success came with the publication of *Unmentionables*, which served as her capstone project in the Wilkes creative writing program.



Alumna Barbara Taylor MA '08 also found a home at Kaylie Jones Books for her book *Sing in the Morning, Cry at Night*. The novel is set in 1913 Scranton, Pa., a time of coal mining, vaudeville and evangelism. It tells the story of 8-year-old Violet, blamed for the death of her 9-year-old sister, Daisy. Releasing in July 2014, the book was named one of the top summer reads

by *Publisher's Weekly*. "Akashic has an impeccable reputation, and Kaylie Jones is already making her mark in the industry," Taylor says. "They've included me in every decision, from cover design to marketing. This is a safe place to land for a first-time author."



Kaylie Jones Books, an imprint of Akashic Press, published *Unmentionables* and *Sing In The Morning, Cry At Night*.

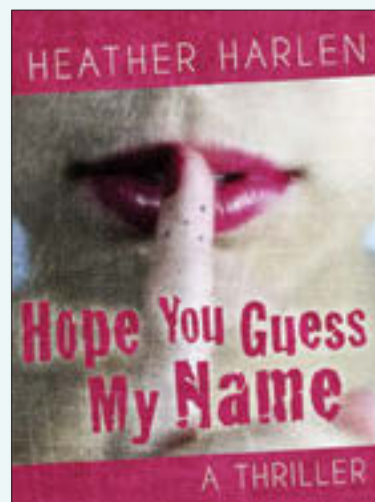


A prize paved the way to publication for **Todd McClimans** MA '12. His book, *Time Traitor*, is a novel about time travel and treachery that takes two contemporary sixth graders back to the Revolutionary War to foil the plot of America's most infamous traitor, Gen. Benedict Arnold. McClimans did not submit his manuscript to any publishers; however, he queried several dozen agents without getting beyond the slush pile of unsolicited manuscripts and form rejections. The difference was a children's book award contest he entered through the National Association of Elementary School Principals. *Time Traitor* became one of five finalists out of 2,000 entries and gained recognition from Northampton House Press, founded by novelist and Wilkes creative writing faculty member David Poyer. Northampton publishes fiction, romance, nonfiction, memoir and poetry as e-books and print editions.



Northampton House also published **Heather Harlen** MA'07's thriller, *Hope You Guess My Name*. The book is about an event planner from northeastern Pennsylvania whose quarter-life crisis coincides with a sinister outdoor competition. Harlen queried about 10 agents before connecting with Northampton House. "There are many advantages to an indie press," Harlen says. "The common

denominator is great writing." She credits Northampton's success with being run by professionals who know the business inside and out.



Time Traitor above, and *Hope You Guess My Name* were published by Northampton House Press.

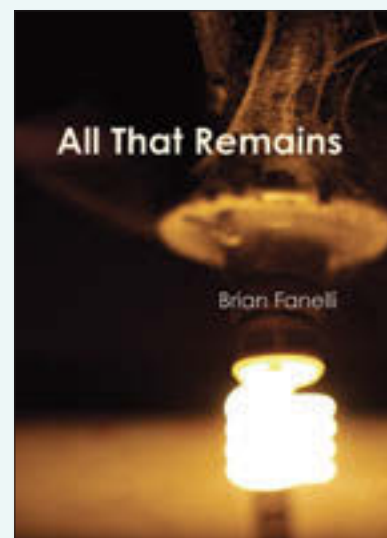
**MORE
ON THE
WEB**

Join us for **Wilkes Summer Reads**, a chance to win copies of the books featured in this story. Every week in July and August, starting July 7, visit our online magazine, read an excerpt from that week's featured book and leave a comment for your chance to win a copy of that week's book. Go to <http://www.wilkes.edu/SummerReads> to read excerpts and learn more.

SMALL PRESS SUCCESS



Brian Fanelli MFA '10's *All That Remains* is a collection of narrative, working-class poetry. He sent his manuscript to fewer than 10 publishers and poetry contests before being published by Unbound Content, a small press that Fanelli says focuses on everything from social media to creating website author pages. "They've done a nice job getting the book reviewed by many journals I respect, including *Harpur Palate*, *PANK*, *Off the Coast* and *The Pedestal Magazine*." Fanelli's book was a finalist for the Tillie Olsen Award, given by the Working Class Studies Association for a work of creative writing focusing on working class issues. Poems in the book also were nominated for a Pushcart Prize.



Poems from *All That Remains* were nominated for the Pushcart Prize.

TEAM PUBLISHING



Booktrope Editions has a goal to reinvent the standard top-down publishing process. Its website describes it as a team publishing platform and social marketing engine. Authors create an online publishing team to edit, design and market a book. The team shares profits. All books are available in e-books, print and web versions.

This approach stood out when Gale Martin MA '10 began directly querying publishers. Booktrope published Martin's novels *Don Juan in Hankey, PA* in 2011 and *Grace Unexpected* in 2012. Her third novel, *Who Killed 'Tom Jones'?*, was published in January 2014. The novel takes the reader on an unexpected journey when a leading contestant in a Tom Jones impersonators festival is murdered, and a single young woman is determined to catch the killer and preserve her best chance at finding romance.

"Booktrope sends a book to market very quickly—usually within six months of acceptance," Martin says. "Additionally, they had amassed a great deal of expertise regarding digital publishing—where to sell e-books, who buys them, and how to market to e-book buyers, knowledge I personally lacked."



Who Killed 'Tom Jones'? is Gale Martin MA '10's third book.

GOAL CRACKERS

Krista Gromalski '91 Launches Newspaper Written By Students in Pennsylvania's Coal Region | By Bill Thomas '13

Several members of the *Coal Cracker* staff are gathered around a table, discussing story ideas for the independent newspaper's next issue. On the agenda is a look at the current state of music programs in area schools, the first installment of a humorous advice column and a historical retrospective focusing on the effects of the infamous Centralia mine fire.

It's a scene you'd find in any newsroom, except this one is on the second floor of the Mahanoy City Public Library in Schuylkill County, Pa. The reporters range in age from 8 to 14.

"I came upon this idea at a time in my life where I was thinking a lot about where I'm from. This area has great history, but it is changing," *Coal Cracker* creator Krista Gromalski '91 says, referring to Mahanoy City, her hometown and the base of operations for the fledgling newspaper.

"I thought it would be important to focus on those issues and have a conversation about them. You could do that with a bunch of adults, but that's just the same thing we've always done. Here, we're starting at the ground level with kids.

We're getting them involved in the discussion and showing back to the community what the young people are thinking, exploring this place through their eyes." The first issue of *Coal Cracker* was published in March 2014 and, for now, the paper is on a bimonthly schedule. It is distributed in bulk through local business and a growing subscription list. The current budget – including grant funding from the New York-based Community Reporting Alliance – allows for a total of six issues, though Gromalski is optimistic that plans to include advertising in future issues will help *Coal Cracker* continue beyond that.

"I basically spent the last decade of my life trying to make this project happen. There were a lot of people – my family, for instance – who said 'This is a great idea, but it's never going to work here,'" Gromalski says with a laugh.

"It's hard to explain a concept without having a concrete example to show people. Thankfully, I also had some loyal supporters who helped me through the process, and now that it's a real, concrete thing and people can see it, the response has been 'Oh, we love this.' New people show up at every meeting."

Joining the *Coal Cracker* staff is free and open to any interested young people in and around the Mahanoy City area, with no prior experience required. She recruited the staff via outreach to local schools, the library and through social media. Gromalski mentors her young staff alongside fellow Wilkes alumna Sandra Long '86, with whom she

also founded Heron's Eye Communications, a publishing, marketing and project management firm.

Among *Coal Cracker*'s staff is 14-year-old Serena Bennett. Though she's had more experience writing fiction, Bennett's article about the importance of farming in the local economy, written for *Coal Cracker*'s first issue, was a double milestone. It was her first published piece of journalistic writing and also the paper's first front-page story.

"I think I've learned more in the three meetings we've had here than in two weeks of school," Bennet says.

Wilkes communication studies Professor Jane Elmes-Crahall, who taught and advised Gromalski when she was at Wilkes, recalls Gromalski reacting with similar excitement to the numerous political debates hosted on campus at the time.

"Watching people share opposing viewpoints, she loved that. Advocacy made sense to her. Where a lot of students could be apathetic, she wasn't," Elmes-Crahall says. "I think (the *Coal Cracker*) is Krista recalling what it is to be a kid with an opinion, who is otherwise not encouraged to be heard."

Gromalski hopes this project will provide her young staff with the same skills and inspiration she received during her time at Wilkes.

"I went to Wilkes to study journalism, and studying PR communications under Jane Elmes-Crahall, I learned more about the strategic angle of messaging, communication with a purpose," Gromalski says. "I learned that your writing can have an impact on others. It can affect their perspectives, and it can cause them to take action."

Below, Gromalski counsels two student journalists. Opposite, Krista Gromalski '91 recalls her roots in the coal region with her youth newspaper.
PHOTOS BY CHUCK ZOVKO



Krista Gromalski '91

**Bachelor of Arts, communication studies, Wilkes
Master of Arts, sustainable business and
communities, with a concentration in youth-led
engagement journalism, Goddard College**

Career: Co-founded Heron's Eye
Communications in 2006 with fellow Wilkes
alumna Sandra Long '86.

Notable: Founder of *Coal Cracker*, a youth-led
newspaper reporting on the culture and issues
of the coal region in Schuylkill County, Pa.

Favorite Wilkes memory: Rowing practice as part
of the Crew Team at 5 a.m., during which she was
able to take in the scenery of the Susquehanna
River and Falls, Pa., gaining a new perspective
on the city of Wilkes-Barre from the river banks
near Market Street Bridge.





Alumni celebrate Homecoming.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ELECTS NEW LEADERS

The Alumni Association Board of Directors held its annual election and welcomed both new and returning members to the organization. Longtime volunteer Cindy Charnetski '97 was named president. "I am so honored to have been chosen by this amazing group to be president of the Alumni Association. Wilkes has been a part of my life since I was very young due to my dad being a professor and my involvement has never stopped. I am proud to live in the community where Wilkes University continues to grow and advance our area. It is such an exciting time under the leadership of President Leahy, and I am very excited to be part of developing new opportunities and initiatives for our alumni," she says.

Ellen Stamer Hall '71 was elected vice president and Tony DaRe '00, Matthew Berger '02 and Cheryl Jaworski MBA '09 will begin terms as new board members. Outgoing president Tom Ralston '80, who has served the Alumni Association in this role for the past three years, remains on the board as historian and Kathy Heltzel '82 MBA '85 was appointed to the role of secretary. These individuals will begin their terms in June 2014. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the Alumni Association board and committees, contact the alumni office at alumni@wilkes.edu or (570) 408-7787.

SHARE THE SPIRIT WITH WILKES AT HOMECOMING, SEPT. 26-28, 2014

In addition to annual favorites such as Pints with Professors, the Tailgate Tent and the Twist and Stout Downtown Bar Tour, some new plans are in store this Homecoming:

- The George Ralston Golf Classic – On Friday, Sept. 26, Wilkes University and the Wilkes-Barre Rotary will combine efforts to present a new tournament in honor of George Ralston. "It makes perfect sense for our institutions to work together on the tournament. Wilkes and the Wilkes-Barre Rotary were two of my dad's passions, and I think he would love the idea of bringing them together in this way," says Tom Ralston '80. The tournament will be at 9:30 a.m. at Edgewood in the Pines in Drums, Pa., and proceeds benefit the Osterhout Library.
- Share the Spirit: A Celebration of Athletics at Wilkes – Join former athletes and coaches, current student-athletes, alumni and friends for a casual evening of fun in the Marts Gym on the evening of Saturday, Sept. 27. Our guest of honor will be Bo Ryan '69, University of Wisconsin men's basketball coach and member of Wilkes Athletic Hall of Fame.
- Reunions at the Tailgate Tent – if you're a member of one or more of these groups, we look forward to celebrating with you this fall! Class years ending in 4 and 9, A-List, *The Beacon* – celebrating 80 years, communication studies, lettermen and letterwomen, political science, psychology, the Sidhu School of Business and Leadership and WCLH – celebrating 40 years.

In a few weeks, you'll receive a registration brochure in the mail that lists all of the weekend's activities. In the meantime, check www.wilkes.edu/homecoming and www.facebook.com/WilkesAlumni for the latest homecoming information.



THIRD-GENERATION COLONEL RECEIVES ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP

More than 200 members of the Wilkes community gathered in the Henry Student Center on March 27, 2014, for the University's annual Scholarship Luncheon. Tara Giarratano, a freshman English major from Mountain Top, Pa., was this year's recipient of the Alumni Association Scholarship. A third-generation Colonel, Tara was joined at the luncheon by her mother, Barbara Michael Giarratano '89, and her grandfather, Anthony Michael '74, pictured at left. Tara lives in Waller Hall, which is the same mansion her mother lived in when she was a Wilkes student.

LEAVING A LEGACY THROUGH SCHOLARSHIP GIVING

Attending college can be a challenge for any student. Thanks to the support of her parents and guidance from her high school counselor, Anthony Perrone, and encouragement from Wilkes faculty, Patricia A. Patrician '82 graduated from Wilkes with a nursing degree while also being a single parent. She became a lifelong learner, earning additional degrees and success in her professional endeavors. Currently the Banton Endowed Professor of Nursing at the University of Alabama School of Nursing, Patrician now gives back to Wilkes through a scholarship she created in honor of her parents: the Frank and Anna (Elchinski) Markiewicz Memorial Scholarship. It will be awarded to a nursing student from the Wyoming Valley who demonstrates financial need with first preference given to a single parent. In the following interview, Patrician talks about her scholarship.



Patricia A. Patrician '82, right, is seen at her wedding with her parents Frank and Anna Markiewicz, in whose honor she has established a scholarship for nursing students at Wilkes.

Why did you decide to start a scholarship for Wilkes students?

There is a growing need to support education for the next generation. With the rising costs of tuition, there are a lot of talented individuals who cannot afford to go to college. I believe the best gift we can give to the next generation is a quality education. This is not just a one-time gift; an endowed scholarship is akin to leaving a legacy.

Why did you choose to name it in honor of your parents?

My parents instilled in me a strong work ethic and a love for family. While in high school, I was married, had my daughter, and became a single parent, all before high school graduation. When things did not work out in my marriage, my daughter and I moved into my parents' home and they helped me out a great deal while I finished high school and then college.

They did not have much to give monetarily – both had only eighth grade education levels because they had to quit school and work to help their respective families. My Dad was my biggest cheerleader throughout my life and encouraged me to go further and further in my education and my career. I think he was especially proud that I went into the Army as an officer and earned the rank of colonel before retiring after 26 years of service. So I want to leave a legacy bearing my parents' names so they will not be forgotten and live on in some way long after I am gone.

How did the opportunities you received by attending Wilkes shape you as a person?

I want to give back to Wilkes because I was given an excellent start in life to pursue my dreams and instilled in me the gift of a desire for lifelong learning. Wilkes was ahead of the time in nursing education in the 1970s and 1980s. I joined the Army Nurse Corps soon after graduating in 1982, and met brand new nurses like me, from all over the country. I felt that my education at Wilkes was superior because I had perfected many technical skills that my new colleagues had not had the opportunity to practice due to fewer clinical opportunities.

Another important lesson from Wilkes was the value of research. We had a research course in the nursing program and the assignment was to prepare a research proposal. Not many other undergraduate programs had such a focus on research at that time. Interestingly enough, the topic of that research proposal was quality of patient care, which has been the focus of my program of research for the past 14 years. Continuing to acquire knowledge was valued by my instructors and professors – they lived it! I still keep in touch with two faculty members from Wilkes: Marianne Saueraker, who is now retired, and Ann Marie Kolanowski, who is a professor at Penn State. They were two of my favorite teachers!

Patricia A. Patrician '82,

Birmingham, Ala., and Rising Fawn, Ga.

Bachelor of Science, Nursing, Wilkes

Master of Science, Nursing, University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio

Doctorate, University of Pennsylvania

Career: Donna Brown Banton Endowed Professor, University of Alabama at Birmingham

How can you give back?

Did you know that there are nearly 200 scholarships at Wilkes? Scholarship giving is a great way to match your interests and experiences with a student who needs financial support in order to make a Wilkes education possible. To learn more about what scholarships are available and how you can contribute, contact Evelyne Topfer at 570-408-4309.

Bo Ryan '69 Takes Wisconsin Badgers To Final Four

Wilkes University Athletic Hall of Famer William “Bo” Ryan '69's career as a collegiate head basketball coach reached another milestone as he led his Wisconsin Badgers men's basketball team into the NCAA March Madness Final Four. The Badgers' Elite Eight win over the University of Arizona secured their spot in the semi-finals. After an exciting matchup with the Kentucky Wildcats, Ryan and his team ended their Final Four journey with a heartbreaking one-point loss, 74-73.

During a press conference, Ryan said, “I really love coaching this team. I knew they had something in them; it was just trying to get it out of them [and] sometimes that was a little bit of a challenge. But they answered it. They answered everything. And that's how we got here.” Ryan credits his team's success to playing hard and smart all season, qualities inherent in his coaching strategy.

Ryan's 30-year record screams consistency. At the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, his teams completed two undefeated seasons, won four NCAA Division III national championships, and set an NCAA all-division record for fewest points allowed at just 47.5 per game. This consistency resulted in an 82.2 career winning percentage, an all-time best in Division III basketball history.

Ryan carried his coaching strategy from the Division III to the Division I level and now heads the University of Wisconsin

men's basketball team, where consistency continues to pay big dividends. Now in his 13th season at the university, his teams have won over 300 games and appeared in 13 NCAA tournaments, including six Sweet 16 games and two Elite Eight appearances.

Jerry Rickrode, Wilkes major gifts officer and former head coach of the University men's basketball team, first met Ryan in 1998 when both coaches' teams played in the Division III Final Four. After the meeting they developed a friendship. “He won't

deviate from the system. It's not about individual players or individual matchups,” Rickrode explains. “It is and has always been a team system.”

Ryan discussed his coaching strategy at a recent Final Four news conference. He said that his approach to the Final Four game was no different than his approach to a Division III Final Four. “The thing about valuing the basketball, playing good position defense, trying not to give up easy baskets...I just think that our guys have shown that they've been pretty consistent with the basics. I think that always gives you a chance.”

Regardless of all the success he has achieved, Ryan's attitude remains consistent. “He's down to

earth. Whether he's coaching UW-Platteville or Wisconsin, he's the same guy as always,” Rickrode says. “He's been good to the Wilkes program and reaches out often.”

– By Francisco Tutella



Wisconsin Badgers coach Bo Ryan '69 cuts down the net after his team's win over Arizona secured their spot in the Final Four. Photo courtesy of the University of Wisconsin.

Undergraduate

1943

Harry Katz published *A Material Scientist's Memoir: Recollections and Advice*. He lives in West Orange, N.J.

1966

Marie Shutlock Drinko received a COIN of Excellence award for her work as a military and family life counselor in Alaska. She currently works as a counselor in Bahrain.

1969

William (Bo) F. Ryan was honored with the Native Son Award at the 110th Philadelphia Sports Writers Association banquet. Ryan is the head coach of the University of Wisconsin men's basketball team.

Martin Naparsteck's seventh book, *Mrs. Mark Twain: The Life of Olivia Langdon Clemens, 1845-1904*, which he co-wrote with Michelle Cardulla, was published by McFarland.

David Ralston was honored as a distinguished doctoral alumnus by the Florida State University College of Business at a ceremony in April. Ralston is a professor and Knight Ridder Research Fellow at Florida International University College of Business.

1970

Caleb McKenzie was elected recording secretary of the Illuminating Engineering Society of New York. McKenzie is a senior associate with T. Kondos Associates Inc., an international lighting consultancy located in New York City.

1986

Paul Cummings co-authored a mathematics article titled "A solvable conjugacy problem for finitely presented $C(3)$ semigroups" that was published in February 2014 issue of the journal *Semigroup Forum*.

1987

Lisa (Berkoski) Zaleski earned her nurse practitioner certification in the state of Wisconsin. She is employed by St. Mary's Hospital, Madison, Wisc., as a critical care nurse.

1993

Christine Hooper-Ostroski was named director at The Center for Cancer Wellness, Candy's Place, in Forty Fort, Pa. She and husband Rick '91 live in Shavertown, Pa., with their children, Nathan and Tegan.

1995

Kevin Gryboski was hired as pitching coach by the Washington (Pa.) Wild Things, a professional baseball team and member of the Frontier League, for the 2014 season.

1996

Dave Macedo recorded his 300th career win at Virginia Wesleyan College as the men's basketball team defeated Randolph College 75-46. Over his 14 seasons as head coach, Macedo has recorded a 300-96 overall career record and was named Virginia College Division Coach of the Year six times. His teams have made nine straight NCAA tournament appearances, including an appearance in the school's first NCAA Division III national championship in any sport.

1998

Melissa Coxe was named Teacher of the Week by WITN News in North Carolina. Coxe teaches music and chorus at Eastern Elementary School in Greenville and also teaches a class at East Carolina University designed to teach elementary education majors how to integrate music into daily instruction.

1999

Jennifer Radzwillowicz was elected the 2014 Pennsylvania Jaycees vice president for business at the November 2013 convention in Grantville, Pa. She also serves as chairwoman of the board for the Greater Scranton chapter.

Corinna Sowers-Adler debuted her show, *By Request – New York Moments*, at 54 Below, Broadway's Supper Club in New York City in May 2014.

2000

Kerianne Geist was honored as one of the 2014 Women of Influence by *Lehigh Valley Business* at its annual luncheon on May 21 in Bethlehem, Pa.

2001

Greg Johansen recently moved back to the Wilkes-Barre area after finishing nine years of service with the U.S. Navy Seabees in Southern California.

2006

John Untisz, a doctor in the U.S. Air Force, took part in a training program at the University of Cincinnati's Institute of Military Medicine. The program prepares participants about to be deployed to active war theaters to treat wounded soldiers in military transport planes. The training was featured in *USA Today*. Untisz can be seen in the video clip of the *USA Today* coverage.

2008

Richard Read III was promoted to assistant vice president at PNC Bank, where he serves as an associate relationship manager.

2009

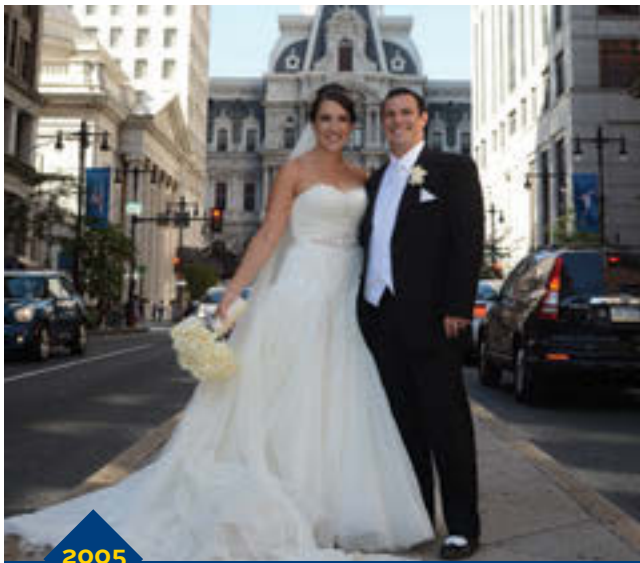
Mallory Marie Zoeller (see Graduate Degrees '12).

2013

Todd Oravic's and **Ryan Wood's** film *Pitchfork* was shown at the West Chester Film Festival. The film won in the Best Pennsylvania Filmmaker Award. The film script was written by creative writing alumnus **Kevin Conner MA '12** as his master's thesis project.



Want your classmates to follow you on Twitter? Share your Twitter handle when you submit a class note! And while you are at it, follow Wilkes University @WilkesU.



2005

Elena Archer and **Dan Alma** were married on Aug. 24, 2013, at Old St. Mary's Church in Philadelphia.

The bride is a resource management senior accountant at Pricewaterhouse Coopers. The groom is a physical therapist with Penn Care at Home. The couple resides in Philadelphia. **Danielle (Dallazia) Burns PharmD '08** was maid of honor and **Katie Morton '05** was a bridesmaid. Also celebrating were **Ed Buck '08**, **Sara (Toole) Buck '06**, **Amanda (Felegi) Hall '05**, **Erika (Knorr) Issler '06**, **Chris Issler '06**, **Bernadette Rabel '05**, **Autumn (Kishbaugh) Smith '06**, **Gary Steich '06** and **Alex Wishnie '05**.

Wilkes Wedding Bells

Wilkes magazine accepts photos of alumni weddings. We will accept your photos up to one year after your wedding. Please follow these requirements:

1. E-mail jpeg files to wilkesmagazine@wilkes.edu. Digital photos must be at least 4 by 6 inches at 300 dpi or 1800 pixels by 1200 pixels. Please note that we cannot use photos that do not meet these minimum requirements.
2. Please identify everyone in the photo, starting from left to right. Include class years for all Wilkes alumni.
3. Group photos of all Wilkes alumni attending a wedding may be submitted provided that all individuals are identified with a class year.

Graduate

1992

Army Col. **Jeffrey A. Boyer MS** has retired from the U.S. Army after a 25-year career. He was deputy director of the manpower personnel and security directorate, Defense Information Systems Agency, at Fort George G. Meade, Md.

2003

Jonathan Ference PharmD was elected president of the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association Educational Foundation Board of Directors.

2007

David R. Cotner MS has been appointed dean of the School of Industrial, Computing and Engineering Technologies at Pennsylvania College of Technology. He has served as assistant dean of the school since January.

2008

Bryan Svencer MS continues to receive recognition for his EDUtainment teaching philosophy, which he discusses in his book *EDUtainment: Entertainment in the K-12 Classroom*. The book was the top-selling pedagogical book on Amazon.com in 2013.

2010

Edward Charles Hamm MS and **Mallory Elizabeth Bieber** were married July 6. The bride is a clinical supervisor of inpatient surgery at Reading Hospital. The groom teaches the sixth grade in the Wellsboro School District.

Matthew S. Hinton MFA was appointed the coordinator of writing for the writing center at Misericordia University.

2012

Kevin Conner MA. See undergraduate 2013.

2013

Chris Champion MA recently published his first novel, *The Jiu-Jitsu Bum*, with Northampton House Press.

Wilkes Sisters Bond Via Book Project

Food unites individuals, and a food-themed book provided two sisters and Wilkes' alumnae with an opportunity to bond and put their Wilkes degrees to work. "James Beard once said, 'Food is our common ground, a universal experience.' Food can – and should – bring us together," Nicole Frail '10 explains when asked to describe *The Little Red Book of Kitchen Wisdom*.

Frail co-authored the book, which was released April 1, with her boyfriend of nine years, Manhattan restaurant wd~50 cook Matthew Magda. Her sister Kerri '12 provided the illustrations. The book contains food-related quotes from respected chefs and restaurateurs, television personalities, actors, artists, and authors who influence today's professional chefs, bakers, home cooks and foodies. The authors' aim for the book is to emphasize the collective power of food.

The idea for the book came to Nicole when she realized that New York-based Skyhorse Publishing, where she works as an assistant editor, did not yet have a book about food in its Little Book series. The series is a collection of 5-by-7 books in various colors that include quotes or advice on specific subjects. She had previously talked with Magda and her sister about producing a cookbook, so she pitched the idea of doing a food-themed Little Book to her publisher. After receiving a contract, Nicole and Magda spent the next six months compiling food quotes from various sources and writing introductions.

Kerri, a graphic designer and marketing specialist at Mericle Commercial Real Estate Services in Wilkes-Barre, became involved in the project through her work as a freelance graphic designer. She says, "I love working with Nicole. We've always gotten along as sisters, so the transition into a professional working relationship wasn't difficult. She has a very supportive, positive attitude and always allows me to have creative freedom over my designs." Kerri created all 52 drawings – among them cloves of garlic, a candlelit table for two, tomato gardens and bottles of wine.

This is not the first time that the sisters have collaborated on a book. While editing Emma Silverman's *The Joy of Yoga: Fifty Sequences for Your Home and Studio Practice*, Nicole hired Kerri to design the illustrations.

Nicole graduated from Wilkes with a degree in communications. As an undergraduate student, she served as editor-in-chief of *The Beacon*. Kerri graduated with a degree in integrative media and a minor in art. Both sisters look forward to collaborating on future projects.

– By Francisco Tutella



Kerri Frail '12, left, and her sister Nicole '10 collaborated on *The Little Red Book of Kitchen Wisdom*.



Angella DellaFortuna Means Business At MetLife Stadium

Angella DellaFortuna '08 recalls the moment she knew that she wanted to be a part of the New York Giants football franchise. “I remember my parents taking my sister and me to a Super Bowl party at their friends’ house. I can still remember the house filled with Giants memorabilia, the New Kids on the Block performing during half time and everyone cheering as the Giants won their second Super Bowl.”

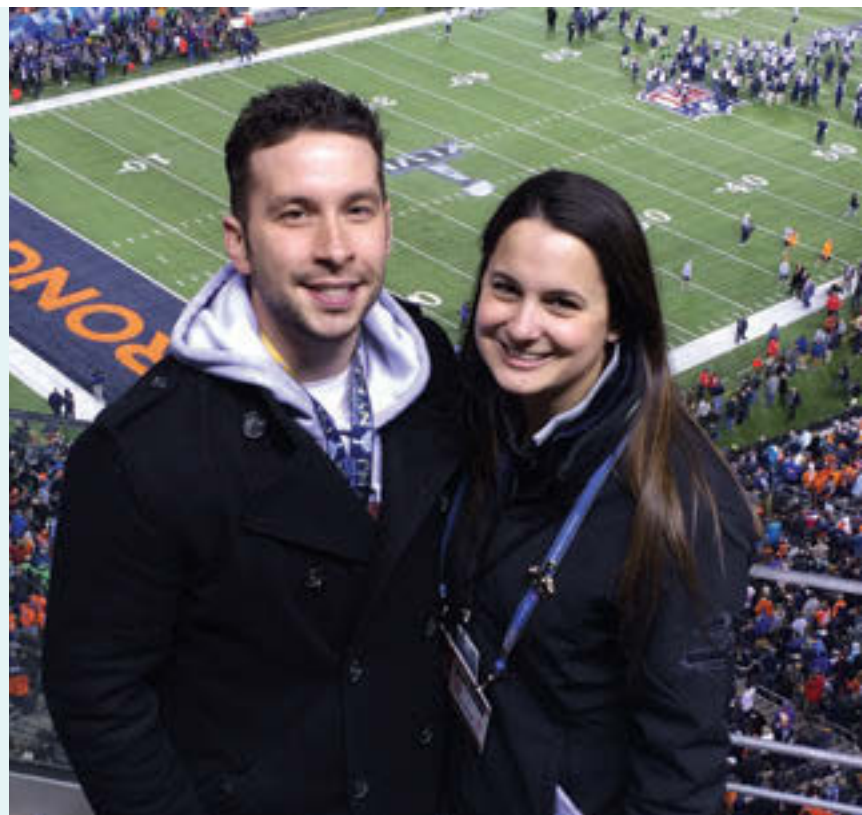
Since then, she has dreamed of becoming chief financial officer for the team. As an assistant controller at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., DellaFortuna has the pleasure of working for two of the nation’s top sports franchises, the Giants and the New York Jets. “MetLife Stadium is the only NFL stadium owned by two NFL teams,” she says. “This makes working here extremely unique because everything I do not only affects the stadium but the Giants and Jets as well.”

Her responsibilities extend beyond the professional football season. The stadium hosts other sports and events, such as international soccer matches, concerts, college football games and motorsports events like Monster Jam. During her four years there, DellaFortuna has worked behind the scenes at such events as Wrestlemania, a Brazil versus Argentina national soccer team match, a U2 concert, and Super Bowl XLVIII, the most watched televised event in United States history.

The work has its perks. She explains, “I find out information before the public—for example, knowing what was going to happen during the halftime show on Super Bowl Sunday or what the plan was for Wrestlemania prior to the event.”

DellaFortuna remains active in the Wilkes community. She stays in contact with her undergraduate mentors, Sidhu School of Business professors Anne Batory and Marianne Rexer. She says both continue to be great mentors and

“MetLife Stadium is the only NFL stadium owned by two NFL teams.”



Angella DellaFortuna '08 shows off MetLife Stadium, where she is assistant controller, to fellow Wilkes alum Bill Steiner '07.

advisors. DellaFortuna provided her expertise to help the Sidhu School develop its new sports and event management program. Rexer explains, “While Angela was helpful in reviewing our entire program, we also asked and received feedback on the law topics we thought were necessary. She was helpful in narrowing down the topics and specifying when the students would be ready to take the course.” The new program begins in the fall 2014 semester.

Rexer adds, “While Angela was in school, she was not only intelligent but capable of applying her knowledge to almost any situation. She was driven to succeed and could easily envision the path to make it happen.”

DellaFortuna certainly envisions a path for herself—one that leads straight to the CFO’s office. With a smile she says, “I like to think I’m one step closer to my dream job, but we’ll see.”

– By Francisco Tutella

In Memoriam

1937

Elizabeth “Bideth” Yeager (Davies) McGown, Cooperstown, N.Y., died Jan. 12, 2014. She taught at Wyoming Seminary.

1939

Joseph Gibbons, Inkerman, Pa., died Dec. 7, 2013. He was a World War II veteran of the U.S. Army. Gibbons worked at Continental Cigar Company.

1941

Harriet C. Seeherman, Boynton Beach, Fla., died May 28, 2013. She was a social worker with the Lackawanna County department of public assistance.

1948

Osea Galletta, Yardley, Pa., died Dec. 18, 2012.

1949

Claude Emory Keller, Vienna, Va., died March 5, 2014. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II. Keller worked as an electrical engineer for IBM.

1950

Cyril “Cye” A. Good, Dallas, Pa., died Jan. 18, 2014. Good served as a U.S. Army medic and was a veteran of World War II. He worked for Torcon Industries in New Jersey.

Albert “Bud” E. Herbert, Forty Fort, Pa., died Jan. 9, 2014. Herbert was a U.S. Army Air Force veteran of World War II. He was a public accountant and owned and operated the Earle R. Herbert Co.

1952

Cornelius “Con” F. Boyle Jr., Falls, Pa., died Nov. 27, 2013. Boyle served in the U.S. Army and worked in the insurance industry.

1954

Walter L. Cusma, Dallas, Pa., died Dec. 8, 2013. He was a veteran of World War II. Cusma worked as an engineer for the Bethlehem Steel Corp.

Gerard G. Washco, Conyngham, Pa., died Dec. 23, 2013. He was inducted in the Wilkes Athletic Hall of Fame. Washco was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II. He worked for Cooper Industries.

1955

Melvin W. Farkas, Laffin, Pa., died Dec. 10, 2013. Farkas was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War. He was a certified public accountant.

1956

Ronald McCarty, Secretary, Md., died Dec. 26, 2013. He was a U.S. Marines veteran of the Korean War. McCarty worked as a sales manager for GTE.

1957

Robert B. Chase Jr., Stony Brook, N.Y., died Nov. 6, 2013.

Helen M. Rutledge, Mill Valley, Calif., died Jan. 19, 2014. She was a registered nurse and served in the U.S. Army.

John J. Schultz, West Pittston, Pa., died Dec. 10, 2013. He served in the U.S. Army and worked for the Social Security Administration.

1958

Donald C. Domzalski, Sussex, N.J., died May 30, 2013. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of the Korean War. Domzalski worked as a teacher and basketball referee at middle and high schools in Morris and Sussex counties.

1959

Stephen Joseph Echan, Saginaw, Mich., died Feb. 5, 2014. He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War. He worked as equalization director for the County of Saginaw.

J. Rodger Lewis, Sebring, Fla., died Feb. 21, 2014. Lewis was superintendent of schools for Montrose Area School District.

George Morris, Mayfield Heights, Ohio, died Jan. 21, 2014. He served in the U.S. Navy and was an insurance executive.

Michael Stanko, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., died Oct. 13, 2013.

1962

Edith (Butts) Centrella, Plains Township, Pa., died Aug. 17, 2013.

Joseph F. Drobnicki, Ledgesdale, Pa., died Dec. 18, 2013. He taught biology at Wallenpaupack Area High School for 28 years.

Warren Greenberg, Miami, Fla., died Nov. 4, 2013. He was a long-time employee of Merck & Co.

Albert Kishel, Bear Creek, Pa., died Nov. 24, 2013. He was a certified public accountant for five decades.

1965

James R. Ward, Jacksonville, Fla., died March 10, 2012. Ward was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War. He worked as a CPA for over 30 years.

1968

John W. Democko, Pittsford, N.Y., died Aug. 4, 2013.

William Robert Kistler, Hampton, Pa., died Dec. 7, 2013. Kistler was a U.S. Navy veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a manager of Schewel Furniture Company.

Lee A. Namey, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., died March 3, 2014. Namey served for three terms on the Wilkes-Barre City Council and two terms as mayor before becoming an educator at Wyoming Valley West High School and West Side Career and Technology Center.

1969

George P. Andrews Jr., Harveys Lake, Pa., died Dec. 30, 2013. He worked for the Ostrander Steel Co. and was a licensed realtor.

Zigmund S. Koshinski, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., died Feb. 8, 2014. He served as a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

Dorothy A. Peiffer, Dallas, Pa., died March 11, 2014. She was a teacher at Dallas High School.

1970

Robert “Bobby” Solomon Aben, Dallas, Pa., died Feb. 2, 2014. He served in the U.S. Army and was a veteran of the Korean War.

H. Scott Lustig, Philadelphia, Pa., died Jan. 11, 2014.

1971

Della F. Schulz, Bear Creek Township, Pa., died Feb. 1, 2014. She worked at Eastern Penn Supply Co.

1972

Bryce Burgess, Chandler, Ariz., died Jan. 30, 2014. He served in the U.S. Navy and worked as a high school art teacher and football coach before pursuing a career in the trucking industry.

Robert “Bob” Cooney, Temple, Texas, died Oct. 1, 2013. He worked as the comptroller for King’s Daughters Clinic.

1973

Florence Matura Hozempa, Dallas, Pa., died Feb. 6, 2014. She was a reading specialist for the Wyoming Valley West School District and also taught at public schools in New Jersey and Illinois.

Thomas “Tom” Dale Jerrytone, Nanticoke, Pa., died Feb. 26, 2014. He was the chief financial officer and controller at Bloomsburg Hospital.

Doris “Dorrie” E. Shapiro, Feasterville-Treose, Pa., died Feb. 5, 2014. She was a registered nurse for the American Red Cross.

1974

Alfred J. (Yusinkas) Bradley, Kingston, Pa., died Dec. 5, 2013. Bradley was a veteran of the Korean War, where he served in the U.S. Navy. For more than 35 years he was employed by the former Lewis and Duncan Sporting Goods Store.

Craig Deacon, Chalfont, Pa., died March 3, 2014. He was a veteran wrestling coach for 36 years at Delaware Valley College, Central Bucks West and Central Bucks South.

William R. Sauers, Dallas, Pa., died Jan. 20, 2014. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War, where he served in the U.S. Army. Sauers worked as a school psychologist for the Wilkes-Barre Area School District.

Cathy Sellitto, Glendale, Calif., died Nov. 20, 2013.

1975

Michael “Shoemaker” J. Gluhanick, Hanover, Pa., died Dec. 14, 2013. Shoemaker was a veteran of the Vietnam War where he served in the U.S. Air Force. He owned and operated Shoemaker Tire in Wilkes-Barre.

Robert G. Sura, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., died Dec. 25, 2013. He was employed by Retreat State Hospital in Clarks Summit.

1976

Susan Brimo-Cox, Ohiopyle, Pa., died Nov. 12, 2013. She served as the director of marketing and communications for Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus.

1980

Joseph J. Majewski, Hazleton, Pa., died Nov. 6, 2013. He worked for Washington Inventory Service.

Mary Kathryn Ross, West Scranton, Pa., died July 2, 2013. She worked as a registered nurse at Clarks Summit State Hospital.

1982

Susan “Sam” (Burke) Menendez, San Francisco, Calif., died Jan. 18, 2014. She worked for Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

1983

Erin M. Callahan, Philadelphia, Pa., died Nov. 12, 2013. She worked for Campbell Soup Company.

1984

Jeffrey Godeck, Moosic, Pa., died July 24, 2013.

1985

Gerald O’Neill, Jenkintown, Pa., died Nov. 23, 2012.

Catherine Sheridan Piotroski, Harrisburg, Pa., died Jan. 24, 2014. She was an English teacher at Crestwood High School and served as postmaster for the Jermyn and Tunkhannock post offices.

1989

Terrence “Terry” A. Donovan, McKeesport, Pa., died Jan. 17, 2014. He was the chief financial officer for Ecker Enterprises in Rosemont, Ill.

Adam B. Sieminski, Mountain Top, Pa., died Nov. 17, 2013. He worked for UGI Corp. and Sallie Mae.

1990

Neil Thomas Fisher Sr., Kingston, Pa., died Nov. 29, 2013. Fisher served in the U.S. Air Force and served veterans for four decades while working at the V.A. Medical Center in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

1994

Camela P. Schwartz, Harrisburg, Pa., died Jan. 1, 2014. She was a U.S. Army veteran of operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Schwartz also served as a civil servant for the federal government.

2004

Jennifer Lynne (Tallman) Killam, Honesdale, Pa., died Jan. 7, 2012. She taught special education students and learning support at Wallenpaupack Area High School.

Elizabeth “Beth” Jean Yoder, Belleville, Pa., died Aug. 14, 2011. She was a teacher for the Mifflin County school district.

Friends of Wilkes

John Nesbitt Conyngnam III, Dallas, Pa., died Feb. 4, 2014. He served in the U.S. Marines and was a veteran of World War II and the Korean War. He worked for IBM Corp. and Eastern Pennsylvania Supply Co.

Alexandra C. Moravec, Dallas, Pa., died April 10, 2013. She was active with the Wilkes College Professors’ Wives Club and the Sordoni Art Gallery.

LASTING LEGACY



"I think first you learn, then you earn, and then you return. My Wilkes experience gave me the tools and confidence to succeed and I'm pleased with what I have done. However, now that I have this success, it's important to remember where you came from and why you achieved. This is why I plan to leave a part of my estate to Wilkes University."

- Mariea Barbella Noblitt '73

Mariea Barbella Noblitt '73's passion for administration and service was enhanced during her time at Wilkes through her relationship with Dean Jane Lampe-Groh. It led her to start Noblitt Consulting, a firm specializing in college enrollment management, 15 years ago. As the first one of five generations in her family to attend college, she relied on the support that Dean Lampe-Groh and Wilkes provided her. Today, she understands the importance of continuing to provide that same support for all Wilkes students. "I will help students experience the same support and receive the education that was so critical to making my life full. A resident of Chapel Hill, N.C., with her husband, James, she is active in the Wilkes alumni network. A class chair representative and member of the Homecoming Committee, Mariea wanted to make sure her connection to Wilkes will continue by leaving a part of her estate to Wilkes in her will. "Wilkes is a way of life for me," says Mariea. She combined her passion for quality education with her overall financial, tax and estate planning goals while deepening her Wilkes connection.

You can also touch students' lives now and in the future. Whether naming Wilkes as a beneficiary in a will, establishing a charitable gift annuity or creating an endowed fund, you can fuel educational advances that will benefit students for years to come.

Wilkes University offers gift planning assistance to alumni and friends at no cost or obligation. For more information, contact Angela Buckley at (800) WILKES-U ext.7833 or angela.buckley@wilkes.edu, or return the prepaid business reply card found in this issue of the *Wilkes* magazine.

calendar of events



June

- 1-30 Permanent Collection Exhibit, Sordoni Art Gallery
- 15 KIDS FIRST! Film Festival, Of Land and Sea, 3 p.m. Stark Learning Center Room 101
- 16 High School Girls Soccer Training Session, 6-7:30 p.m.
- 23 High School Girls Soccer Training Session, 6-7:30 p.m.
- 26 Creative Reading and Writing for the Classroom I (Fiction, Creative Nonfiction, Poetry), 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- 29-30 First-year Students Summer Orientation 2014

July

- 1-31 Permanent Collection Exhibit, Sordoni Art Gallery
- 7-24 2014 Conservatory Summer Dance Intensive, Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- 7-11 Field Hockey Mini Colonel Camp, 8 -11 a.m. Schmidt Stadium at Ralston Athletic Complex
- Field Hockey Colonel Camp, 12 -4 p.m. Schmidt Stadium at Ralston Athletic Complex

- 13-14 First-Year Students Summer Orientation 2014
- 14-18 Kids' Writing Workshop, Grades 5 - 7, 9 a.m.-noon
- 17 Creative Reading and Writing for the Classroom II (Screenwriting, Playwriting), 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.
- 18 Admissions Open House
- 20 KIDS FIRST! Film Festival, Never Give Up, 3 p.m. Stark Learning Center Room 101
- Women's Soccer College ID Clinic, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 21-25 The Write Stuff, Creative Writing Camp, Grades 8-11, 9 a.m.-noon
- 21-31 The Reading Academy, Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-noon
- The Arts Academy, Monday-Thursday, 1-4 p.m.
- 27 through Aug. 2 - Women Empowered by Science Summer Camp, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

August

- 1-31 Permanent Collection Exhibit, Sordoni Art Gallery
- 4 Graduate Studies Information Session, 6 -8 p.m. Henry Student Center Miller Room
- 6-8 Wilkes University Tennis Camp, 9 a.m.-noon Tennis Courts at Ralston Athletic Complex

- 9 Pennsylvania Writer's Conference, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- 17 KIDS FIRST! Film Festival, We Are the World, 3 p.m. Stark Learning Center Room 101
- 22 Move-In Day for First-year Students 2014
- 22-24 Welcome Weekend 2014, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 25 First Day of Classes
- 30 through Sept. 2 - Labor Day Recess

September

- 7 2014 Summer Commencement, 1 p.m. Marts Center
- 20 Admissions Open House
- 26-28 Homecoming

October

- 18 Field Hockey Alumni Game and Reception, 10 a.m. Ralston Athletic Complex
- 23 Wilkes/King's Alumni Networking Mixer, 6 p.m. Rodano's