

WILKES UNIVERSITY  
ATHLETICS  
HALL OF FAME





16/02/005

In Loving Memory  
Len Bartlo '54  
1993 Hall of Fame Inductee  
From Family and Friends

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Marvin Antinnes '61  
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**CLASS OF 1993**

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## MARVIN ANTINNES '61

Marv Antinnes starred on both the football field and wrestling mats twice earning Male Athlete of the Year Honors. On the field Antinnes was a running back gaining over 1300 yards in three years (started at center his first season) and middle linebacker. He is currently in the top 10 on the all-time Wilkes rushing list. He was named to the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) All-East Team as a senior.

On the wrestling mats Antinnes compiled a 36-1 record, was the first national champion at Wilkes, winning the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics National championship in 1961. A three time Middle Atlantic Conference champion, Antinnes was also the first wrestler from Wilkes to make the finals of the Wilkes Open in 1959 and 1960.

Antinnes will retire this year as athletic director and head football coach at Wyoming Seminary in Kingston. As head coach Antinnes compiled an overall record of 161-61-4. Antinnes will become Assistant to the President for Athletics and External Affairs, Financial Aid Officer and Associate Dean of Admissions at Wyoming Seminary.



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## LEN BATRONEY'54

Len Batroney was a star for Wilkes in the early 1950's on both the basketball court and the baseball diamond. The 1954 Male Athlete of the Year, Batroney, a four year letterwinner, scored 1629 points in his career (19.6 per game), a mark that stood as the best all-time at Wilkes until 1989.

In baseball Len was a four year letter winner and averaged .380 over four years as a second baseman and later played in the St. Louis Cardinals farm system.

Now retired, Len Bartlo (Bartlomowicz) is a former teacher, coach, and athletic director in the Michigan school system.



## SANDRA BLOOMBERG

Sandy Bloomberg is perhaps the greatest female athlete at Wilkes. Participating in both basketball and field hockey, two varsity sports for women at the time, Bloomberg was a four time letterwinner. Three times she was named the Wilkes Female Athlete of the Year, Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the basketball team, and defensive MVP of the field hockey team. In 1954 Bloomberg had her number 44 for both basketball and field hockey. She is now retired.

After graduating from Wilkes, Bloomberg was the first coach of the Wilkes women's tennis team, guiding the team to three eastern Pennsylvania Women's Intercollegiate Athletic Association titles. Sandy was also head coach of the women's basketball team at Wilkes with her 1978 team winning a then school record of 22 games.

Currently Bloomberg, a PhD, is the acting dean of the College of Health Related Professions at the State University of New York Health Center at Brooklyn.





## LEN BATRONEY '54

Len Batroney was a star for Wilkes in the early 1950's on both the basketball court and the baseball diamond. The 1954 Male Athlete of the Year, Batroney, a four-year letter winner, scored 1629

points in his career (34 per game), and was the best all-time at Wilkes until 1979.

In baseball Len was a four year letter winner and averaged .380 over four years as a second baseman and later played in the St. Louis Cardinals farm system.

Now retired, Len Bartlo (Bartlomowicz) is a former teacher, coach, and athletic director in the Michigan school system.



## SANDRA BLOOMBERG '71

Sandy Bloomberg is perhaps the greatest female athlete ever at Wilkes. Participating in both basketball and field hockey, the only two varsity sports for women at the time, Bloomberg was a seven time letterwinner. Three times she was named the Wilkes Female Athlete of the Year, Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the basketball team, and defensive MVP of the field hockey team. In 1971 Bloomberg had her number 44 for both basketball and field hockey retired.

After graduating from Wilkes, Bloomberg was the first coach for the Wilkes women's tennis team, guiding the team to three Northeastern Pennsylvania Women's Intercollegiate Athletic Association titles. Sandy was also head coach of the women's basketball team at Wilkes with her 1978 team winning, a then school record, 12 games.

Currently Bloomberg, a PhD, is the acting dean of the College of Health Related Professions at the State University of New York Health Center at Brooklyn.





JOHN CARR '66

John Carr was one of the top wrestlers of all-time for coach John Reese. Carr was a two time NCAA College Division champion, a Division I All-American, and a two time Middle Atlantic Conference champion. Carr finished his career as the only unbeaten wrestler in Wilkes dual meet history with a record of 15-0.

At the Wilkes Open Carr was crowned a champion in 1965 along with being a two time second place finisher.

Carr retired as head wrestling coach at Hanover Area High School in 1990. His teams won many league and district championships during his 22 year coaching career.



JAMES FERRIS '56

Jim Ferris was a three sport star in soccer, basketball and baseball earning a total of 11 letters. He was the school's Male Athlete of the Year in 1955 and Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the baseball team in 1954 and MVP of the basketball team in 1956 along with being captain of both the baseball and basketball teams his senior year. He was selected to the Wilkes Silver Anniversary Soccer team as a halfback in 1973. Ferris coached the Wilkes soccer team from 1957 to 1965 and the basketball team from 1963 to 1965.

Ferris is currently a principal in the Wyoming Valley West school district. He is also President of the both the Wyoming Valley Wrestling and Soccer Conferences and chairman of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) District Two for soccer and wrestling and a member of the PIAA Steering Committee for both soccer and wrestling.

Ferris is still active at Wilkes having been National President of the Wilkes Alumni Association from 1981-85 and the Alumni Representative on the Wilkes Presidential Search Committee in 1983-84.





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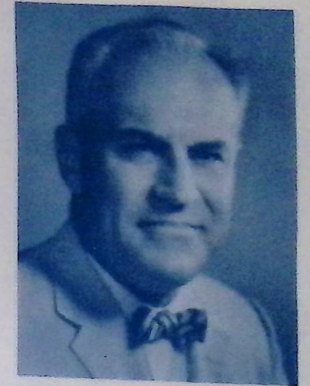




### ART HOOVER '55

Art Hoover, better known to all students as "Uncle Art" served Wilkes as a Dorm Proctor, full-time faculty member, Student Activities Director, Alumni Director, Freshman Advisor, ticket manager, Dean of Students, and many other positions from 1955 until his death in 1988.

To the athletic program he was a "Booster Extraordinaire." His smiling face was there at every home athletic event and at many road games. He was the athletes best friend, acting as an advisor and counselor to everyone that needed him. His interest and dedication to the Wilkes athletic program will never be forgotten by the students and athletes he came in contact with during his thirty three years of service to Wilkes.



### GEORGE RALSTON

George Ralston, Dean of Students Emeritus, was the first Director of Athletics at Wilkes and coached the football, basketball and baseball teams at the school. His first ever football team, at the Bucknell Junior College, was undefeated at 6-0. As football coach Ralston compiled a record of 41-32-4, while in basketball he compiled a record of 76-109, and 24-16 in baseball.

Through Ralston's leadership Wilkes soon expanded the sports program offered to Wilkes students with the addition of wrestling, soccer and swimming as well as intramural bowling and hockey.

In 1992 Ralston was inducted into the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame, Luzerne County Chapter. The Athletic Department at Wilkes in 1967 recognized Ralston as the "Father of Athletics at Wilkes," and awarded him a plaque proclaiming "To the person who most represents the spirit of athletics at Wilkes College: Friendship Through Contest."

Ralston is still active on campus and for many years has been famous for giving his "Go Wilkes" cheer at pep rallies and sports events.





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JOSEPH WIENDL '69

Joe Wiendl was a three sport star for the Colonels and is still the only 12 time letterwinner in Wilkes sports history and three time Athlete of the Year. Wiendl starred on the gridiron becoming a two time All-American, Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) and Associated Press All-State All-Star, and a three time Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) All-Star. Wiendl was a big part of the "Golden Years" at Wilkes helping the Colonels to 32 straight wins and two Lambert Bowls, symbolic of Eastern College Division III football supremacy.

On the wrestling mats Wiendl was a four time All-American and a two time National champion and four time NCAA placewinner compiling a dual mark of 49-1 for his career. In addition, Wiendl was a two time MAC champion and a Wilkes Open champion.

On the baseball diamond Wiendl was an MAC All-Star hitting over .300 for his career, including over .400 his senior year.

At the end of his collegiate career Wiendl had his number 44 retired, one of just three Wilkes athletes so honored. Currently Wiendl is a sales representative for the Ingersoll-Rand Co. in California.



TED YEAGER '72

Ted Yeager was a two sport star at Wilkes earning eight letters in football and baseball. On the gridiron Yeager holds 10 Wilkes records including most yards rushing in a career, 288, most yards rushing in a season, 952, and most points scored in a game, 24, most points in a career, 158, and most touchdowns in a career, 26. Yeager was named Wilkes Athlete of the Year in 1969 and was an Honorable Mention All-American in 1969.

On the baseball diamond Ted was a three year starter, captain in his senior year and set records for most stolen bases in a career, and season as well as walks, runs scored, and doubles. He earned 1st team All-Middle Atlantic Conference All-Star in 1971. Yeager was honored after his graduation with the retirement of his number, 21, one of just three so honored at Wilkes.

Yeager is a teacher in the Danville Area school district and also coached football for a time.





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## CLASS OF 1994

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Mary Jo (Frail) Hromchak '80

Rollie Schmidt

Joe Skvarla '69

Joe Zakowski '70

Gerard Washco '50

1968 Football Team





## EDDIE DAVIS '54

Davis, a four year starter in three sports, was an 11 time letterwinner for the Colonels as a member of the football, basketball and baseball teams. He was co-captain of the 1953 football team, the 1953-54 basketball team, and the 1954 baseball team. He was named the Wilkes Athlete of the Year in 1952. In 1962 he was named to the "50's Wilkes Dream Team" for basketball.

Known as "Mr. Versatility" on the football field, Davis played quarterback, and fullback on offense, safety on defense, and also punted, kicked off and extra points, and returned both punts and kickoffs.

On the basketball court Davis, an aggressive defensive player, averaged in double figures all four years at Wilkes

As a member of the baseball team, Davis hit .342 for his career while playing several infield positions.

After his playing days were over Davis also spent eight years coaching the Wilkes men's basketball team leading the 1957-58 team to the playoffs for the first time in school history.

Davis is currently owner and president of Construction Analysis, Inc, a consulting firm along with working for large Northeast Pennsylvania construction company.





## MARY JO (Frail) HRMCHAK '80

Mary Jo (Frail) Hromchak was a three sport star for the Lady Colonels earning 11 letters in four years and twice being named the Beacon Athlete of the Year.

As a member of the field hockey team, Hromchak scored 10 goals and assisted on 38 in her career. Her 38 assists rank her fifth all-time in the NCAA III. She holds the Wilkes single season and career assists marks.

On the basketball court, Hromchak also "assisted" with many a basket and left Wilkes as the all-time leader in assists. Her record of 254 stood until the 1990-91 season. Her 897 career points rank 9th all-time at Wilkes.

On the softball diamond Hromchak hit .309 with 16 RBI in four years. As a pitcher Hromchak was 2-0 with one save for the Lady Colonels.

Hromchak has since gone on to be assistant coach in both field hockey and women's basketball at Wilkes. In the 1990-91 season Hromchak was the head coach of the women's basketball team and guided the team to a 13-12 record in her only season.

Hromchak is currently the assistant field hockey coach at Wilkes.



## ROLLIE SCHMIDT

Rollie Schmidt will go down in Wilkes history as one of the greatest coaches of all-time in any sport.

As football coach Schmidt guided Wilkes in its glory days of the 1960's leading the team to a 32 game winning streak and two Lambert Bowl championships. In the 32 game winning streak, 11 of the wins were by shutout. Under his guidance 65 players earned spots on the Middle Atlantic Conference All-Star squad, and another 10 spots on the Eastern College Athletic Conference All-Star team.

As baseball coach Schmidt guided the Colonels to their very first MAC championship in 1968. His 11 wins that year were the first time in a decade that the baseball team had reached double figures in wins.

As golf coach at Wilkes Schmidt has no peer at Wilkes. In his 22 years as coach Schmidt has guided the Colonels to a record of 206-165-1 and three MAC championships. His 1976 team was the best ever in school history with a record of 16-0 and a 14th place finish in the NCAA III national championships.





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**JOE SKVARLA '69**

Skvarla was a member of the football and baseball teams at Wilkes.

On the gridiron, Skvarla was a four year starter who led the team in receiving each season. He is currently seventh on the all-time Wilkes receiving list 85 receptions for 1543 yards. Skvarla, who is ninth on the scoring list with 96 points, was a 1967 and 1968 Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC), and a 1968 Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC), and Associated Press (A.P.) All-Star. In 1969 Skvarla earned a spot on the All-Time Greats team as a tight end.

On the diamond, Skvarla was a catcher for the Colonels who co-captained the team in 1969. As a junior he hit .348 with a homer and 13 RBI.

Skvarla currently works for the United States Postal Service.



**JOE ZAKOWSKI '70**

Zakowski is considered one of the top quarterbacks ever to take a snap for the Colonels. As a signal caller for coach Rollie Schmidt, Zakowski was 108 of 242 for 1532 yards and 16 TD's. As a rusher Zakowski carried the ball 172 times for 914 yards and 10 TD's. In total offense for his career Zakowski tallied 2,446 yards. In 1969 he was named as one of the Wilkes All-Time Greats at quarterback.

On the baseball diamond Zakowski was a pitcher for the Colonels who still holds the record for consecutive wins with 15 straight from 1967 to 1970. For his career the lefty compiled a mark of 21-7.

Zakowski is currently the Operations Manager for Miles Homes/Plymouth Captial.





## MARLA '69

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Zakowski is currently the Operations Manager for Miles Homes/ Plymouth Captial.





## GERARD WASHCO '50

Washco was a member of the Colonels football team for four years and played on the undefeated 1946 BUJC team. A four year starter on both offensive and defense for Wilkes, Washco was co-captain of the 1947 team. In his four years as member of the football team, Washco started all but the last two games after suffering a broken wrist. "Wash" as he was known to his teammates, earned the reputation as being the college's finest tackle. He was named Lineman of the Year in 1949 when he performed with the "Seven Blocks of Anthracite." That 1949 team that led eastern colleges in scoring with 293 points in nine games (32.5 per game). In 1969 Washco was named as one of Wilkes' football All-Time Greats at tackle.

Washco is retired



ROW 1 Paul Merrill, Joseph Kotreba, Vince Yarnel, Angelo Luvro, Bill Layden, Bruce Comstock, Joe Wenzel, Dan Malley, Mike Schmitt, Mike Connolly, ROW 2 Dave Kaschak, George Conway, John Mazar, Paul Kane, Joe Frappelli, John Howe, Jay Holliday, Dave Pennington, Joe Gervasi, Rick Simonson, Ed Hurkr, ROW 3 Reinhardt Bolesta, Ronald Hillard, Joe Klein, Stan Zureck, Pat Malley, John Williamson, Joe Sawinski, Leo Loveland, Jerry Muser, Emil DiTullio, ROW 4 Kent Jones, Dave Mitchell, Bill Lazor, Harry Hoover, Mario Zucchi, Al Kenney, Bill Johnson, Ed Brown, Jerry Havenport, John Fairley, ROW 5 Charles Graziano, Dennis Brew, Dave Krajewski, Frank Marascio, Tony Cardinale, Nick DeLillo, Garry Davis, John Hujanowski, Bob Gennaro, Jim Loveland, ROW 6 George Jones, Neil Langdon, Ted Yeager, Nate Eastin, Gary Moore, Mike Hughes, Earl Tabor, Bruce Mallan, Tom Kolagy, Al Farnetti, Fred Harkins, ROW 7 Martin Sowa, Xaver Abbott, Chris Salami, Bill Hoshorn, Tom Bauer, Jack Keri, Steve Hall, Dan Walters, John Clark, Charles Fick, Leo Maree, ROW 8 Assistant coaches Chuck Adelman, Rodney Yarnall, Dr. Farnham, Ron Gault, Steve Schmidt, Assistant coaches Gene Domzalski, Jack Lukis, and Jonah Goeblie.

## 1968 FOOTBALL TEAM

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, the 1968 Wilkes football team will always be remembered as one of the best teams in Wilkes sports history. Posting a record of 8-0 the team won the Middle Atlantic Conference championship and was named the winner of the Lambert Bowl, symbolic of Eastern Football Supremacy. The Colonels of 1968 were also named winners of the "Timmie" Award, symbolic of the Most Outstanding Small College Football Team, by the Washington Touchdown Club.





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### WILKES UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

Although much is written about a university's role  
In recruiting and honoring athletes,  
Since education is a student's primary goal  
It's the scholar for whom a university says it competes

Universities come in assorted sizes  
As do athletic scholarships and prizes  
Some universities, like clubs or religious sects,  
Promise rewards a student never collects;  
Yet no university worth its salt  
Would make a student an offer and then default  
Any more than athletes and non-athletes, in return,  
Would repudiate responsibility for the grades they earn.

Athletes, like actors, hone their craft-  
Whether departments are over or understaffed-  
By practice, self-discipline, exercise, and skill,  
And of course commitment, perseverance, energy, and will

Individual records are kept to please  
Sports writers, statisticians, parents, or referees,  
But a university that values each student's worth  
Unmindful of family status or place of birth  
Inducts alumni athletes into its "Hall Of Fame"  
For contribution of self to the sport, the team, and the game,  
An honor the recipients value more  
The next day and the next than the day before.

To see an athlete in full control  
Physically, emotionally, body and soul,  
Is like effortlessly lifting heavyweights  
Or speaking in person with the President of the United States.

We are honoring performance, ability, and grace  
That in our hearts occupy a special place  
Where achievement does not diminish with time  
But endures beyond an individual's prime.

Old timers remember the halcyon days  
When red meat, butter, eggs, and mayonaise  
Were heaping staples on athletes' trays  
For building muscle, character, and winning ways;  
When fat and cholesterol went unobserved in our diet  
(Today, if food has fat or cholesterol we don't want to buy it,  
And if we do we're embarrassed to try it);  
When games were played and viewed live not on TV  
And lettermen were regarded as BMOC\*;  
When Art Hoover greeted folks at every game,  
And the president knew each student by name,  
John Reese and the Colonels were a small-college big-time story  
And the Lettermen's musical, *All In Fun*, added to the athletes' glory;  
When the attraction for athletes to enroll at Wilkes-  
Like jockeys who wear a stable's silks-  
Was the chance to be different, to develop their own individual style  
With encouragement to go the extra mile,  
Not to be just another name on a roster to be kept on file.

It is this tradition that still holds sway,  
Exemplified by these athletes our alma mater honors today.

It is not a building or an endowment or a coach's name,  
But an athlete's achievement only, unique and no two the same  
That called into being the Wilkes University Athletics Hall of Fame.

\* Big Man on Campus

-Alfred S. Groh

## CLASS OF 1995

Mike Lee '74

Alexander Molosh '52

Paul Purta '52

Ron Rescigno '67

Doris Saracino

Bill Winter '76

1974 Wrestling Team



## ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

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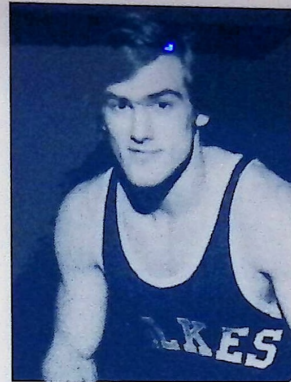
Ron Rescigno '67

Doris Saracino

Bill Winter '76

1974 Wrestling Team





## MIKE LEE '74

Lee was a four year member of the wrestling team. Captain of the team as a senior, Lee was a member of the 1974 Wilkes NCAA Division III National Championship squad and won the individual championship at 150 pounds. As a sophomore, he placed third in the NCAA College Division National Tournament.

A three time Middle Atlantic Conference champion and a two time All-American, Lee compiled a career dual record of 38-7-2 for the Colonels and 49-9-2 overall with 14 pins.

Lee is married and lives in Ashburn, Va.





## ALEXANDER MOLOSH '52

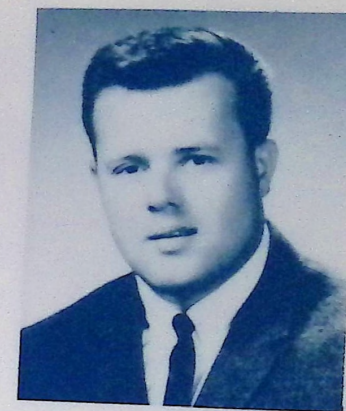
(Posthumously)

Molosh was a four year letterwinner in both baseball and football and was captain of each sport his senior year. He also played basketball for two years and was a member of the student sponsored Wilkes ice hockey team which was active in the 40's and '50's.

On the gridiron Molosh played at several positions, but mainly he was an end who played both ways each and every game. He was voted to the Wilkes Football All-Time Greats team as a linebacker.

On the diamond, Molosh was a shortstop and is best remembered for his strong arm, his ability to cover the field, and his natural talent for hitting doubles and triples. In 1949 the Brooklyn Dodgers drafted Al and sent him to Pawtucket for the summer season.

Molosh had a career in the insurance industry prior to his death in 1989.



## PAUL PURTA '67

Purta was a member of the Wilkes football team Colonels 32 game winning streak. A four year letterwinner Purta was a two way performer for the Colonels, playing as a halfback and linebacker. In addition, Purta also handled kickoffs, extra points, and field goals for coach Rollie

A two time Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) all-star Purta was named the MAC Most Valuable Player in 1965 and 1966. He rushed 60 times for 312 yards and four TD's, caught 10 passes for 102 yards and two touchdowns, and intercepted one pass on defense. Purta was also a two time selected member of the Associated Press All-State team in 1965 and 1966.

Purta is currently 8th on the Wilkes all-time rushing list with 1,269 yards and is tied for 5th in career scoring with 100 points. He was voted to the Wilkes Football All-Time Greats team as a halfback.

Purta is currently a teacher in the Crestwood School





## ALEXANDER MOLOSH '52

(Posthumously)

Mr. Molosh was a four year letterwinner in both baseball and basketball. He also played for two years and was a member of the Wilkes ice hockey team which was active in 1948 and 1949.

Molosh played at several positions, but was best known for his ability to play both ways each and every year. He was named to the Wilkes Football All-Time Greats team in 1966.

Molosh was a shortstop and is best remembered for his strong left arm, his ability to cover the field, and his skill in hitting doubles and triples. In 1949 he was drafted by the New York Yankees and sent him to Pawtucket for the remainder of the season.

Mr. Molosh has a career in the insurance industry prior to his death.



## PAUL PURTA '67

Purta was a member of the Wilkes football team during the Colonels 32 game winning streak. A four year letterwinner, Purta was a two way performer for the Colonels, playing both halfback and linebacker. In addition, Purta also handled kickoffs, extra points, and field goals for coach Rollie Schmidt.

A two time Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) all-star, Purta was named the MAC Most Valuable Player in 1966 after rushing 60 times for 312 yards and four TD's, catching three passes for 102 yards and two touchdowns, and intercepting one pass on defense. Purta was also a two time selection to the Associated Press All-State team in 1965 and 1966.

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Purta is currently a teacher in the Crestwood School District.





## RON RESCIGNO '58

Rescigno played both football and baseball at Wilkes earning a total of eight letters.

As a member of the football team, Rescigno was named both an Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) and Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) All-Star in 1957. He was also named to the Associated Press All-State football team in 1957 and was a member of the 1956 Small College All-American squad as chosen by the Williamson Poll. Rescigno was Captain of both the 1956 and 1957 Wilkes grid squads and earned a berth on the Wilkes Football All-Time Greats team as a halfback. Rescigno is the 9th all-time leading rusher in Wilkes history with 1,215 yards and still holds the Wilkes single season punting record with an average of 39.1 yards a kick.

As a member of the baseball team, Rescigno batted over .350 for four years as a shortstop and second baseman. He was captain of the team in both 1957 and 1958 seasons.

Now Dr. Rescigno, he is known internationally for his work in educational technology as Superintendent of the Hueneme School District, Port Hueneme, California.



## DORIS SARACINO

Saracino, a 34 year member of the Wilkes athletic dept can be called the "Mother of Wilkes Women's Athletics".

At a time when women's sports scores were generally on the society pages, Saracino put into place the foundation of women's athletics at Wilkes. In 1960-61, Saracino was full-time coach of the women's basketball team and guided the team for its first 10 years of existence. In 1962 Saracino drew her attention to starting a field hockey program at the college and coached that sport for its first eight years.

In 1975 Saracino, a graduate of East Stroudsburg, PA, saw a need for another fall sport to complement field hockey and started a volleyball team. For 15 years Saracino guided the fortunes of the Lady Colonels volleyball team, reaching the MAC playoffs in 1982 with a record of 16-6.

Saracino is married and the mother of three children and one grandchild.





## RESCIGNO '58

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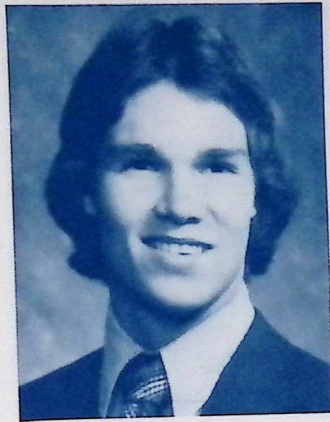
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Saracino is married and the mother of three children and has one grandchild.





## BILL WINTER '76

Winter can confidently be called the best lacrosse player ever in the history of Wilkes leading the school to its only Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Lacrosse championship in 1975.

Holding every Wilkes single game, season and career scoring record, Winter was a three time MAC All-Star and was named a Division II-III All-American as a senior. One of the best performances of his career came against Lebanon Valley when he scored eight goals and added six assists. Twice, Winter led the nation in scoring, averaging 8.2 points a game as sophomore and 8.0 points per game as a senior.

In 1976, Winter set a Wilkes record with 50 goals in one season and was named the Most Valuable Player in the MAC. Winter finished his career with 126 goals and 92 assists.

Winter is married with three children and lives in Boonton, NJ.



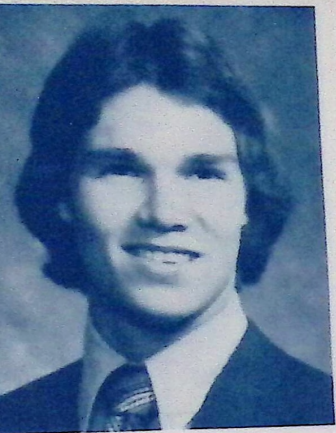
## 1974 WRESTLING TEAM

Celebrating its 20th anniversary, the 1974 Wilkes team is the only team in the history of the Wilkes ever to win a national championship.

Putting together a record of 13-5 in dual meet competition, the Colonels faced a tough regular season schedule that included the likes of Lehigh, Navy, Syracuse, Army, and Stroudsburg. The strategy proved to be a wise one as the Colonels won their fifth straight Middle Atlantic Conference title. Next up for Wilkes was the task of appearing in Philadelphia to host the first ever Division III championships, a task they accomplished a year earlier by the NCAA.

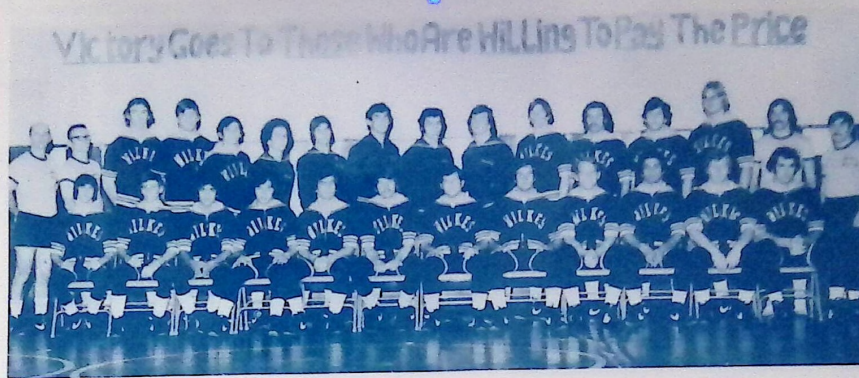
Led by national champions John Chakmakas at 135, 142 pounder Art Trovei, and 150 pounder Mike Lee, the Colonels finished with 3rd place finishers Rick Mahonski, Gene Ashley, and Al Schaeffer, and 4th place finishers Lon Balum, and fifth place finisher Weisenfluh, the Colonels rolled to a 49 point victory over the





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Led by national champions John Chakmakas at 134 pounds, 142 pounder Art Trovei, and 150 pounder Mike Lee, 2nd place finishers Rick Mahonski, Gene Ashley, and Al Scharer, as well as 3rd place finisher Lon Balum, and fifth place finisher Jim Weisenfluh, the Colonels rolled to a 49 point victory.



**CLASS OF 1996**

Gene Domzalski '71 MS

Nicholas Giordano '59

Albert Nicholas '55

Jim Stehle '77

Al Yatko '70

1976 Baseball Team





## GENE DOMZALSKI '71 MS COACH

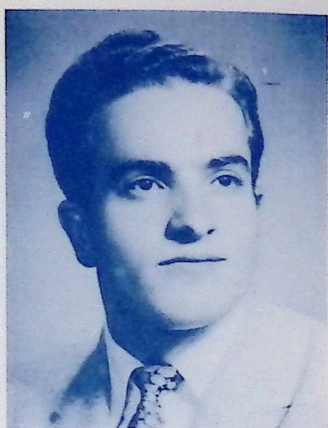
Domzalski, a 1971 Master's program graduate, is being inducted for his career as baseball coach at Wilkes during which he molded the squad into a national power.

Posting a career record of 138 wins, a school record, and just 42 losses in nine years as coach, Domzalski guided the Colonels to MAC titles in 1972 and 1977 and three NCAA Division III playoff berths in 1976, 1977, and 1978. The 1976 team reached the Division III World Series where the Colonels finished fourth in the nation. Over his coaching career, four players were signed to professional contracts while seven players earned Small College All-America Honors.

An outstanding athlete in his own right, Domzalski earned a football scholarship to the University of Wyoming. When a knee injury ended his football career, Domzalski had the opportunity to play baseball at Wyoming. In 1958, he signed a contract with the New York Yankees and played for five seasons. Three times he was named to minor league all-star teams.

Domzalski, a graduate of the University of Wyoming, is currently Director of Career Services at Wilkes.





## NICHOLAS GIORDANO '59

Giordano, a 1959 graduate, was a four year starter on the soccer team at Wilkes. He was named Athlete of the Week seven times during his four years. He was an Honorable Mention selection to the All-Pennsylvania/New Jersey/Delaware All-Star team as a freshman in 1956. He was a Middle Atlantic Conference All-Star in 1958 after earning honorable mention honors in 1957.

In his junior and senior seasons Giordano scored a total of 23 goals and was also an Honorable Mention selection to the All-Pennsylvania/New Jersey All-Star team in 1958. He was invited to the Olympic try-outs in the Spring of 1959. Giordano also set a then Wilkes record with 39 career goals. A co-captain of the 1958 team, Giordano was named the Wilkes Most Valuable Player in 1958.



## ALBERT NICHOLAS '55

Nicholas, a 1955 graduate of Wilkes, was a member of the football team and a two year member of the baseball team. As a single wing tailback, Al made for himself as a quick and elusive runner, a tough and first rate passer. Known as 'Mr. Football' during years 1949-51, Nicholas was touted by the local press the day as the 'most feared small college back in the state'. In 1950 Nicholas gained over 1,000 yards from scrimmage in nine games, scored 10 touchdowns, and was named second team All-State, first team Small College All-Pennsylvania, and Little All-America. He scored 25 touchdowns in his career despite missing several games in his senior season with an injury.

In 1954, Nicholas was named co-captain of the football team. His career at Wilkes was interrupted for two years by military duty with the Marines. Nicholas was named Outstanding Back of the Decade in 1958 and was selected in 1969 to the Wilkes Football All-Time Team as back.





## LAS GIORDANO '59

Graduate, was a four year starter on the Wilkes. He was named Athlete of the Week during his four years. He was an Honorable Mention to the All-Pennsylvania/New Jersey/ Delaware team as a freshman in 1956. He was a Conference All-Star in 1958 after earning MVP honors in 1957.

His senior seasons Giordano scored a total of 39 goals. He was also an Honorable Mention selection to the All-Pennsylvania/New Jersey All-Star team in 1958. He participated in the Olympic try-outs in the Spring of 1959. He set a then Wilkes record with 39 career goals. In the 1958 team, Giordano was named the Most Valuable Player in 1958.



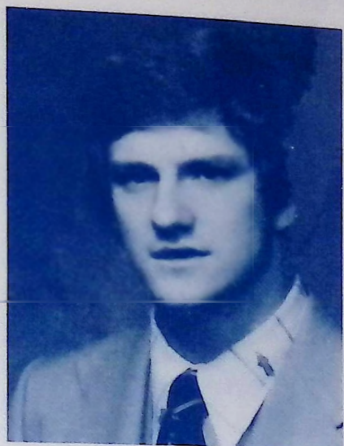
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In 1954, Nicholas was named co-captain of the Colonels. His career at Wilkes was interrupted for two years by a tour of duty with the Marines. Nicholas was named the Outstanding Back of the Decade in 1958 and was also selected in 1969 to the Wilkes Football All-Time Greats Team as back.





**JIM STEHLE '77**

Stehle, a 1977 graduate, was one of the best pitchers ever in the history of Wilkes baseball. A four year member of the baseball team, Stehle was a three time Middle Atlantic Conference All-Star and was named the conference Most Valuable Player in 1977. Stehle was also named a Small College All-American in 1976, and a 1st team TOPP's NCAA District II All-Star in 1976 and a second team selection in 1977.

In his career Stehle won 17 and lost just three while posting an ERA of 1.47. He struckout 261 batters in his career and shares the Wilkes record for most strikeouts in a game with 16, which he accomplished twice. He also holds the Wilkes mark for most consecutive strikeouts with eight and for the most games with 10 or more strikeouts with 12. His winning percentage of .810 is also a Wilkes record.

During the Colonels 1976 championship season, Stehle was 6-1 with a 1.41 ERA allowing just eight earned runs in 51 innings of work.

Stehle is married with one daughter and lives in Atlanta, Ga.



**AL YATKO '70**

Yatko, a 1970 graduate of Wilkes, was a linebacker on the Wilkes football team in the mid-1960's. Yatko earned Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) and East College Athletic Conference (ECAC) All-Star honors both 1965 and 1966. He was also a 1st team All-South Atlantic Associated Press All-Star in both 1965 and 1966. In 1969 Yatko was voted to the Wilkes All-Time Great football team as a linebacker.





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## 1976 BASEBALL TEAM

Celebrating the 20th anniversary of its trip to the NCAA Division III World Series, the 1976 baseball team is recognized as one of the best teams in the history of Wilkes athletics.

After posting a regular season record of 17-5, the Colonels advanced to the NCAA Mid-East Regional Tournament where they won four and lost one, winning the regional title with an 11-0 win over Mansfield.

In the World Series the Colonels lost a heartbreaker, 2-1, to Montclair State before seeing their season end with a 16-3 loss to Ithaca. Overall, Wilkes posted a record of 21-8.

From that 1976 team, Jim Stehle was named 1st team NCAA District II All-American, while outfielder Steve Leskiw was a second team all-star and shortstop Greg Snyder an honorable mention selection.

As a team the Colonels hit .316 that year with Mike Supczenski leading the team with a mark of .386 with Greg Snyder second at .373. First baseman Don McDermott led the team with 10 homers and 21 runs batted in. Jim Stehle was 6-1 with a 1.41 ERA while Andy Kresky was 6-3 with a 1.94 ERA to lead the pitchers.

## CLASS

Gene A

John Chak

Bruce Con

John Florkie

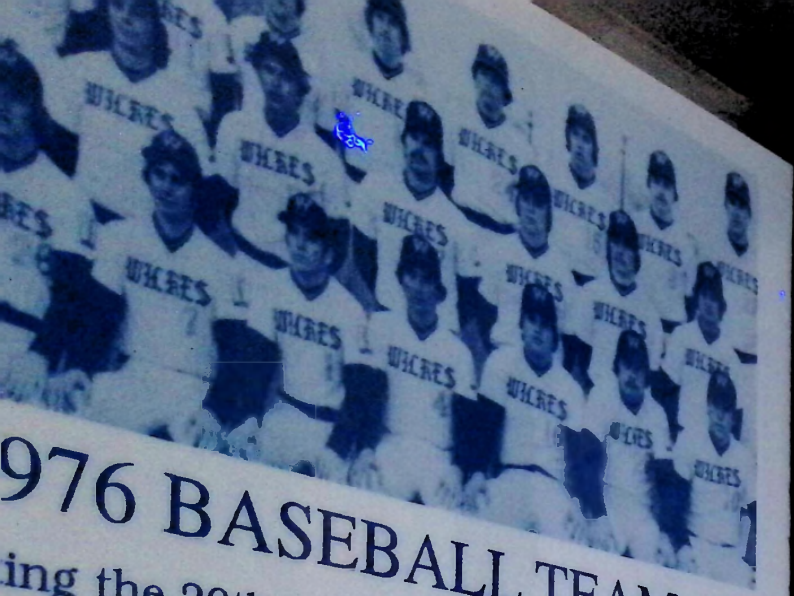
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Dave Kasch

George Morg

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### CLASS OF 1997

Gene Ashley '75

John Chakmakas '75

Bruce Comstock '69

John Florkiewicz '50

Jeff Grandinetti '74

Dave Kaschak '71

George Morgan '58

Candy Cates Zientek '71



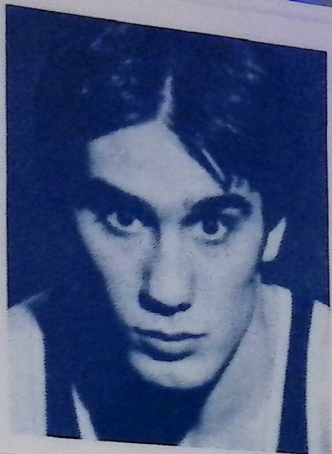


## GENE ASHLEY '75

Ashley was a member of the Colonels 1974 Division III National Championship team compiling a career dual meet record of 33-9-1. In the 1974-75 season, Ashley was 13-0-1 in dual meets and 27-5-1 overall. He was a Division III National Champion in 1975 and was also a Division III National runner-up in 1974 for coach John Reese. A two time All-American, Ashley was also a two time Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) champion for the Colonels while helping the Colonels to four straight MAC titles.

Ashley, who finished second in the Wilkes Open as a junior, was named the Wilkes Athlete of the Year for the 1974-75 school year.





## JOHN CHAKMAKAS '75

Chakmakas was a member of the 1974 Wilkes Division III National Championship team and was a Division III National Champion in 1974. Chakmakas also recorded a fourth place finish in the NCAA championships in 1975 during which he was 13-1-1 in dual meets and 28-5-1 overall. In his career Chakmakas was also a two time Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) champion. His career dual record was a sparkling 35-4-4 for coach John Reese which still ranks among the best all-time marks for the Colonels.

Along with wrestling, Chakmakas was also a two year member of the Wilkes soccer team.



## BRUCE COM

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cer team.



## BRUCE COMSTOCK '69

Comstock was a four time Middle Atlantic Conference All-Star in football and played during the Colonels 32 game winning streak. He was the first four time Middle Atlantic Conference All-star in any sport at Wilkes and twice was also named an Associated Press All-State performer, including first team as a senior, in the days when all colleges and universities in the state were grouped together for the voting.

As a member of the offensive line, Comstock was part of a group that opened holes that gained a Wilkes record 2,242 yards on the ground. That team rushing mark is still a Wilkes record 31 years later.





## JOHN FLORKIEWICZ '50

Playing in an era of few statistics and two way performers, Florkiewicz was one of the Colonels first superstars and the first to play professionally. In four years for coach George Ralston, Florkiewicz scored 29 touchdowns, including 12 in the 1949 season. Florkiewicz is currently second all-time at Wilkes in scoring with 174 points. In 1948 he set a Wilkes record with a 100 yard kickoff return against Rider College. Florkiewicz was named the first all-star of any kind in Wilkes football history when he was named a first team Associated Press All-Star and a second team All-State performer after the 1949 season.

On the professional level, Florkiewicz played one year of football with the Pittsburgh Steelers before being recalled to the Army for duty in the Korean War.



## JEFF GRANDINETTI

Grandinetti was a star on the gridiron where he was a star defensive tackle. He had a season that is a dream for most players. He was second on the team in tackles, sacks, fumbles, and scored a touchdown. He earned him first team All-American honors. He was also an Eastern College Athletic Association All-Star and a Middle Atlantic Conference All-Star.

In addition to being named a first team All-American at Wilkes University, Grandinetti was also named a Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) All-Star.

Following his senior year Grandinetti ended his college football career by being named the Wilkes Athletic All-Star for the 1973-74 school year.





## JOHN FLORKIEWICZ '50

in an era of few statistics and two way performers, Florkiewicz was one of the Colonels first superstars and the key professionally. In four years for coach George Florkiewicz scored 29 touchdowns, including 12 in 49 seasons. Florkiewicz is currently second all-time in scoring with 174 points. In 1948 he set a Wilkes record with a 100 yard kickoff return against Rider College. Florkiewicz was named the first all-star of any kind in football history when he was named a first team All Press All-Star and a second team All-State after the 1949 season. Florkiewicz played one year of professional level, Florkiewicz played one year of with the Pittsburgh Steelers before being recalled to active duty in the Korean War.

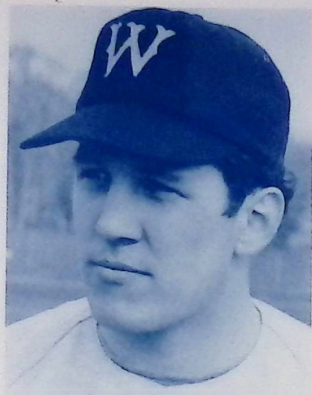


## JEFF GRANDINETTI '74

Grandinetti was a star on the gridiron for the Colonels where he was a star defensive tackle. In 1973 Grandinetti had a season that is a dream for most defensive players. He was second on the team in tackles with 82, recovered five fumbles, and scored a touchdown after blocking a punt earning him first team All-American honors. Grandinetti was also an Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) All-Star and a Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) All-Star.

In addition to football, Grandinetti was also a four year member of the lacrosse team at Wilkes earning Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) All-Star honors as a senior. Following his senior year Grandinetti capped his athletic career by being named the Wilkes Athlete of the Year for the 1973-74 school year.





## DAVE KASCHAK '71

Kaschak was a two sport standout for the Colonels seeing success on both the football and baseball fields. In football, Kaschak was a four year letterwinner and up until 1995 held the Wilkes career record for most career extra points with 66. He also shares the Wilkes single game record for most punts with 13 and finished his career with a 38.2 yards per kick average. Kaschak was a versatile performer for the Colonels on the gridiron doing everything from returning kickoffs and punts, to playing defensive back as well as his duties as placekicker and punter.

On the baseball diamond Kaschak was a three year letterwinner, a Middle Atlantic Conference All-Star, and an NCAA District II All-American as a catcher. He was a .344 lifetime hitter and helped the Colonels to a 47-14 four year record and one MAC championship as well as being one of the best defensive catchers in school history.



## GEORGE MORGAN

Morgan was a standout basketball player in the late 1950's scoring 1,349 points on the all-time Wilkes scoring list despite 25 seasons. He also holds the Wilkes single game record with 25 rebounds and the season record with 174 made, 174, and attempted, 220. His scoring average of 25.6 in 1956-57 is also the Wilkes record for which he was named to the NAIA All-American team. As a senior, Morgan averaged 23.5 points per game helped Wilkes to its first ever Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) playoff berth. He was also named to the Pennsylvania All-State performance team as a senior.

Morgan, who was twice named the Wilkes Sportsman of the Year, was named in 1962 as the Wilkes Sportsman of the Year and Best Basketball Player of the 1950's.





## DAVE KASCHAK '71

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## GEORGE MORGAN '58

Morgan was a standout basketball player for the Colonels in the late 1950's scoring 1,349 points in his career, sixth on the all-time Wilkes scoring list despite playing only three seasons. He also holds the Wilkes single game record with 25 rebounds and the season record for most free throws made, 174, and attempted, 220. His season scoring average of 25.6 in 1956-57 is also the Wilkes highest single season mark for which he was named to the NAIA Little All-America team. As a senior, Morgan averaged 23.5 points a game and helped Wilkes to its first ever Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) playoff berth. He was also named an honorable mention Pennsylvania All-State performer and a Middle Atlantic Conference Northern Division first team All-Star as a senior.

Morgan, who was twice named the Wilkes Player of the Year, was named in 1962 as the Wilkes Outstanding Basketball Player of the 1950's.





## CANDY CATES ZIENTEK '71

One of first stars of female athletics at Wilkes in the late 1960s, Zientek was a star in field hockey for the Lady Colonels. Playing at a time when opportunities for women athletes were limited, Zientek set the early standard for future women athletes at Wilkes.

A four year letterwinner and two time Most Valuable Player, Zientek graduated with the Wilkes career record for goals scored with 34, a mark which has been surpassed just four times since. After college Zientek went on to be a successful college field hockey coach at the Division I level, in addition to obtaining her PhD in psychology with an emphasis on sports psychology. Zientek has published numerous papers in sports psychology and has worked as a consultant to the United States Field Hockey team among others.

## CLASS OF

Donna George

Jeff Giberson

Charles Jackson

Mark Jarolen

Karen Johnson

Bill Layden '71

Steve Leskiw

John Marfia '71

John Reese

W. Brooke Yeager





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## CLASS OF 1998

Donna George '69

Jeff Giberson '79

Charles Jackson '51

Mark Jarolen '77

Karen Johnson '83

Bill Layden '69

Steve Leskiw '76

John Marfia '70

John Reese

W. Brooke Yeager '64





## DR. DONNA GEORGE, Ph. D. '69

George was a two-sport standout at Wilkes, playing on both the field hockey and basketball teams for the Lady Colonels. George was a four-year member of the field hockey team, earning the Most Outstanding Player award at Wilkes in both 1965-66 and 1966-67. She was named the school's Woman Athlete of the Year following the 1966-67 and 1967-68 seasons. A four-year member of the women's basketball team, Donna was also the first woman athlete to ever earn the school's Scholar Athlete Award.

Following her graduation from Wilkes, Donna attended Rutgers University, where she earned her Ph. D. in Genetics in 1974. Donna then did her postdoctoral research in human genetics and the identification of cancer genes at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee. She followed that up with a Postdoctoral Fellowship position at the University of California, San Diego, and worked as a faculty member in the Department of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University. Since 1982 Dr. George has served on the faculty in the Department of Genetics at the University of Pennsylvania.





### JEFF GIBERSON '79

Giberson was a two-sport star for the Colonels in both baseball and football. In football, Giberson was a 1972 Middle Atlantic Conference All-Star. Jeff threw for 1291 yards and six touchdowns during his senior season. At the conclusion of his playing days, Giberson held four single season passing records, four career passing records, and two single game records (all since broken). For his career Giberson is currently ranked third all-time in passing yards with 3,247.

In baseball, Giberson was a 1973 MAC All-Star after hitting .350 with three homers and 15 RBI. As a pitcher Jeff had a career record of 11-2 with a school record 0.98 ERA.



### CHARLES JACKSON

A two-sport standout for the Colonels, Jackson was a four-year member of the basketball team, while also on the first two men's soccer teams at Wilkes in 1950.

On the hardwoods, Jackson is considered the man in Wilkes history. A strong rebounder and player for the Colonels, Jackson helped Wilkes claim their first-ever tournament title in 1949 when they captured the Southern Tier Invitational championship. Jackson was selected to the All-Tournament team at the Invitational in 1948, 1949, and 1950. A captain of the 1950-51 team, Jackson ended his career as the school's leading scorer and rebounder (records since broken).

On the soccer field Jackson played as both a fullback and goalkeeper for the Colonels. He was named captain of the 1950 team.

Upon his graduation, Jackson pursued graduate studies at Penn State, Villanova, Tennessee, and the University of North Carolina. He was awarded a Ford Foundation Fellowship in 1954. A retired educator, Jackson served as principal of Public School Secondary in...





## JEFF GIBERSON '79

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## CHARLES JACKSON '51

A two-sport standout for the Colonels, Jackson was a four-year member of the basketball team, while also playing on the first two men's soccer teams at Wilkes in 1949 and 1950.

On the hardwoods, Jackson is considered the first big man in Wilkes history. A strong rebounder and inside player for the Colonels, Jackson helped Wilkes claim their first-ever tournament title in 1949 when they captured the Southern Tier Invitational championship. Jackson was selected to the All-Tournament team at the Invitational in 1948, 1949, and 1950. A captain of the 1950-51 team, Jackson ended his career as the school's leading scorer and rebounder (records since broken).

On the soccer field Jackson played as both a fullback and goalkeeper for the Colonels. He was named captain of the 1950 team.

Upon his graduation, Jackson pursued graduate studies at Penn State, Villanova, Temple and Walden University. He was awarded a Ford Foundation Fellowship to Temple in 1954. A retired educator, Charles spent 45 years in Public School Secondary Education.





## MARK JAROLEN '77

In all the years of golf at Wilkes, Jarolen can easily be described as the best player to ever hit the links for the Colonels. Finishing seventh as a senior at the MAC Championships, Jarolen and his teammates qualified for the 1976 NCAA Division III National Championship Tournament. At the Division III Championships, Jarolen finished 11th and was named a second team All-American. As a team he helped the Colonels to a record of 16-0 in 1976, and a 14th place finish at the National Championships.

Since that time, Jarolen has enjoyed his time as a teacher at Crestwood High School. Mark started at Crestwood in 1980 as a World Cultures teacher. He coached golf at Crestwood from 1985 to 97, while also coaching in their basketball program from 1980 to 1994. He culminated his basketball coaching career by coaching the Comets varsity basketball team during the 1993-94 season.



## KAREN JOHNSON

Johnson was a three-sport star at Wilkes in field hockey and basketball. She enjoyed the most success in her career in softball. In 1982, Johnson was named a Conference All-Star in 1983, Johnson was named All-Star in a season (since broken), runs 100 home runs in her career, and highest career batting average of .333. In 1982, Johnson was named an outstanding 1982 season in softball with outstanding 1982 season in softball with 100 runs per game category, home runs percentage for a season. In 1982 she was named the only MAC softball championship and played in the playoffs for the first time in school history. Johnson was named team's offensive MVP in both 1981 and 1982, and defensive MVP honors in 1983.

In field hockey, Johnson was a three-time honorable mention all-star and she was named a first place ranking in Division III in 1982 and 1983. Johnson was named defensive MVP in both 1982 and 1983, and named the school's Athlete of the Year in 1983.



MARK JAROLENT

In all the years of golf at Wilkes, Jarolent was  
described as the best player to ever hit the links in  
the Colonies. Ranking seventh as a senior at the  
Championship, Jarolent and his teammates captured  
the 1976 NCAA Division III National Championship  
Tournament at the Division III Championship in  
Bridgewater, NJ and was named a second team All-American  
and a 1976 place finisher at the National Championship.  
Sheer that time, Jarolent has enjoyed the same success  
at Chestnut Hill High School. Mark starred at Chestnut  
Hill as a World Champions leader. He coached a  
Chesnut Hill program from 1985 to 97, while also coaching the  
Assistant coaching career by coaching the Colonies  
national team during the 1982-84 season.



KAREN JOHNSON '83

Johnson was a three-sport star at Wilkes, playing softball, field hockey and basketball. Softball is where Karen enjoyed the most success in her career. A Middle Atlantic Conference All-Star in 1983, Johnson set records for runs in a season (since broken), runs in a career, RBI's in a career, and highest career batting average. Johnson is also listed in the NCAA single season record book after putting together an outstanding 1982 season. Karen is listed in the runs per game category, home runs per game and slugging percentage for a season. In 1982 she helped Wilkes to its only MAC softball championship and a berth in the NCAA playoffs for the first time in school history. She was the team's offensive MVP in both 1981 and 1982, and earned defensive MVP honors in 1983.

In field hockey, Johnson was a 1982 and 1983 MAC honorable mention all-star and helped Wilkes to a 17th place ranking in Division III in 1982. She was the team's defensive MVP in both 1982 and 1983. Johnson was named the school's Athlete of the Year in both 1980 and 1983.





## BILL LAYDEN '69

Layden was a standout football player for Wilkes at a time when the Colonels were running up a 32 game winning streak. A defensive tackle, Bill was a three-time Middle Atlantic Conference All-Star, as well as a three-time Associated Press second team All-State performer. He was also selected to the Little All-American team in both 1967 and 1968. Layden was part of the Colonels drive to achieve the Timmy Award for small college supremacy in both 1967 and 1968.

As a junior, Layden led Wilkes with 104 tackles after racking up 92 tackles during his sophomore season. He was named the team's Most Valuable Defensive Lineman for three consecutive years, and was one of the team's captains as a senior. Layden would be honored once again in 1977 when he received the Wilkes College Centennial Award as one of the all-time greats in Colonel football history.

## STEVE

Leskiw was a standout the Colonels. On the base letters. He was named American in 1975 after hit RBI. That same year, L percentage with a mark triples and RBI. In 1976, and 21 RBI and was na District Two All-American Conference All-Star. He h 21-8 during the season, a III College World Series w Leskiw also earned four his inside linebacker po during both his junior and an MAC first team All-St helping the Colonels win t Steve was chosen a co-ca that same year, was nam Game in the Anthrac





**BILL LAYDEN '69**

Layden was a standout football player for Wilkes during a time when the Colonels were running up a 22 game winning streak. A defensive tackle, Bill was a three-time Middle Atlantic Conference All-Star, as well as a two-time Associated Press second team All-State pick. He was also selected to the Little All-American team both 1967 and 1968. Layden was part of the Colonels' drive to achieve the Timmy Award for small college supremacy in both 1967 and 1968. As a junior, Layden led Wilkes with 104 tackles after racking up 92 tackles during his sophomore season. He was named the team's Most Valuable Defensive Linebacker for three consecutive years, and was one of the team's captains as a senior. Layden would be honored once again in 1977 when he received the Wilkes College Centennial Award as one of the all-time greatest athletes in school history.

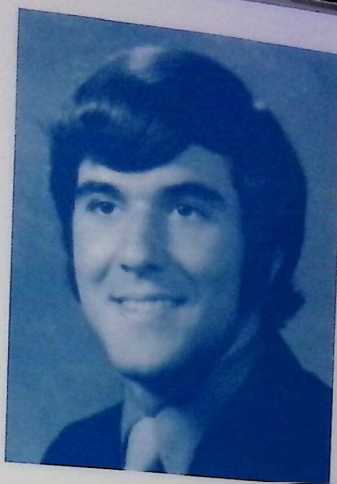


**STEVE LESKIW '76**

Leskiw was a standout in both baseball and football for the Colonels. On the baseball diamond, Steve earned four letters. He was named a first team Small College All-American in 1975 after hitting .410 with five homers and 24 RBI. That same year, Leskiw led the NCAA in slugging percentage with a mark of .896, and was third in both triples and RBI. In 1976, Leskiw hit .320 with nine homers and 21 RBI and was named a first team TOPPS NCAA District Two All-American and a first team Middle Atlantic Conference All-Star. He helped the Colonels to a record of 21-8 during the season, and a berth in the NCAA Division III College World Series where the Colonels finished third.

Leskiw also earned four letters on the football field. From his inside linebacker position he led Wilkes in tackles during both his junior and senior seasons. He was named an MAC first team All-Star during his junior year, while helping the Colonels win the MAC Northern Division title. Steve was chosen a co-captain in his senior season, and that same year, was named the Defensive Player of the Game in the Anthracite Bowl.





## JOHN MARFIA '70

Marfia earned four letters as a member of the varsity wrestling team at Wilkes in the late 1960s. He posted a career dual match record of 42-7-1, which included 19 falls. John was a co-captain of the wrestling team during the 1969-70 season.

Marfia was a two-time Middle Atlantic Conference champion, winning titles at 126 pounds during his junior and senior seasons. He also garnered a third place finish as a freshman, and finished second as a sophomore. As a senior John was named the Most Outstanding Wrestler at the MAC Championships.

On the national level, Marfia earned a fifth place finish at the NCAA College Division Championships as a sophomore, and placed second during his senior season. On both occasions he was named an All-American.

Marfia was an assistant wrestling coach at Wilkes from 1973 to 1975, helping guide the Colonels to the 1974 NCAA Division III National Championship. Marfia was also voted to the Wilkes Silver Anniversary Team (1953-1978) as the Most Outstanding Wrestler at 126 pounds.



## COACH JOHN REESE

Reese is the second winningest coach and helped put Wilkes on the national wrestling program. On February 12th, 1978, he was named the second winningest coach in history to top retired Dale Thomas of Oregon State.

Reese left with a record of 518-17-10, including undefeated seasons in 1958-59, 1959-60, 1960-61 and 1973-74. Through the 1992-93 season Reese guided 10 winning campaigns.

During his 42-year tenure at Wilkes Reese guided his 1973-74 team to the Middle Atlantic Conference championship. In six other College Division championships, Reese coached second, third, fourth and fifth place finishes. Reese coached 10 individual champions, and 46 All-Americans during his tenure.

In 1976, Reese took the Colonel program into the NCAA Division III Wrestling Association (EIWA). Despite being the second winningest coach in the country, Wilkes produced eight champions, and the 1973-74 team was named the Blue and Gold All-Americans.





## COACH JOHN REESE

Reese is the second winningest coach in NCAA wrestling history and helped put Wilkes on the national map with his outstanding wrestling program. On February 12th, 1994, Reese became just the second wrestling coach in history to top the 500 win mark, joining the retired Dale Thomas of Oregon State as the only two members of the "500" club.

Retiring in 1995, Reese left with an outstanding collegiate dual record of 515-171-10, including undefeated seasons in 1956-57, 1958-59, 1959-60, 1960-61 and 1970-71. From the 1955-56 season through the 1992-93 season Reese guided the Colonels to 38 straight winning campaigns.

During his 42-year tenure at Wilkes, Reese led the Colonels to 15 Middle Atlantic Conference titles in 19 years at the Division III level. John guided his 1973-74 team to the NCAA Division III national championship. In six other College Division national championships his squad garnered second, third, fourth, sixth and tenth place finishes. Reese coached 10 individual national champions, 61 MAC champions, and 46 All-Americans during his College Division tenure.

In 1976, Reese took the Colonel grapplers out of Division III and the MAC and into the NCAA Division I and Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association (EIWA). Despite being the smallest Division I program in the country, Wilkes produced 87 EIWA place-winners, including eight champions, and the 1976 Outstanding Wrestler, Jim Weisenfluh. The Blue and Gold has also produced five Division I All-Americans.





## W. BROOKE YEAGER '64

Yeager was a standout for the Colonels in the early 1960s when the Wilkes wrestling tradition was just building. With a career dual match record of 29-4, Yeager was a Middle Atlantic Conference champion at 123 pounds as a sophomore and was named the Outstanding Wrestler of the tournament. Yeager also finished fourth in the NAIA Championships as a freshman and followed that up with a second place finish in the NCAA College Division Championships as a senior.

After graduating from Wilkes, Yeager continued his wrestling career by competing for eight years with the New York Athletic Club, where he won the Eastern AAU's twice and competed in the AAU National Tournament twice. Yeager returned to the Wyoming Valley and started a wrestling team at Luzerne County Community College from 1968 to 1972. In 1972 he became an assistant coach to John Reese and helped lead the Wilkes wrestling team to a national title. Yeager has continued to contribute to wrestling as an official with the PIAA, EIWOA, USA Wrestling and as a volunteer with the Keystone State Games.







