

W I L K E S

UNIVERSE

VOLUME 6 + NUMBER 1



Facher or Fiction?

"A Civil Action" Brings Surprise Fame to '44 Grad
and an Academy Award Nomination to the Actor Who Plays Him

See story on page 7.

Time Travel for Surfers

By now, most of us know that we can find just about anything we could ever possibly need by surfing the Internet. Whether we click around for 10 minutes or 10 hours, every need for education, entertainment, or possessions we have is at our fingertips.

But, did you realize that in those same 10 minutes you could find something you once had, you lost along the way, and when you find it, it can make you feel 20-years-old again? And did you know that out of all those websites, there's only one that can give it back to you?

Enter The Wilkes Collegians.

If you attended Wilkes from the mid-'50s to the early '70s, you know The Wilkes Collegians, or their alias - the Male Chorus. For the rest of us, they were a group of guys who, because of their love and passion for music, formed an independent club during their student days at Wilkes. They rehearsed during their lunch hour, with sandwich in hand, and at night, performed for various local organizations.

The Westmoreland Club, Women's Club, Irem Temple Country Club, Kiwanis, Rotary Club, and area High Schools all booked the Collegians. For "donations to the choir" (beer money), the songsters performed such selections as "Nothin' Like a Dame," "Goodnight Ladies," and the "Wilkes Drinking Song."

The Collegians reunited for the first time in 40 years, this past Homecoming, **Sam Lowe '58**, music director from '57-'58, was riding an Internet wave one day and wondered if Wilkes had a website. With a click here, and a click there, he found <http://www.wilkes.edu>

With a couple more clicks, he found the alumni page and ventured in for a browse. With thoughts of 1998 marking his 40th reunion year, Sam took on the task of forming "The Commission" to bring the Collegians' reunion to fruition.

Sam called classmate **Jerry Luft '58**, Medford Lakes, NJ, and from his home in Syria, Virginia, contacted other commissioners: **Bob Lynch '56**, Columbus, Ohio; **Ted Jones '58**, Little Meadows, Pa.; **Stan "Stash" Yurkowski '58**, Forty Fort, Pa.; **Carroll Davenport '59**, Forty Fort, Pa.; and **Richard (Dick) Myers '60**, West Nanticoke, Pa.

Commuting back and forth from the Ramada Hotel on Public Square, W-8, the Collegians made the most of their weekend back at Wilkes. They held rehearsals, attended the Friday Fright Frolic, and participated in the "Hottle Gulp d'Tribute," a solemn procession through the alley behind the Marts Center to Hottle's Restaurant, in memory of Ray Hottle. (As students, they used to meet at Hottle's on Fridays.)

The crowning moment for the Collegians came that Saturday evening with a special dinner concert for family and invited guests. Just like those 20-year-olds who didn't know what life had in store, they belted out their tunes and revised passions they experienced as students.

I was lucky enough to get to spend some time with this hilarious group of guys and observe the fruits of their labor. I saw no difference between them and the students that attend Wilkes now. They have their own language. They tell funny stories that I laugh at, but they can howl over, because what makes them so funny are the memories and the time period attached to them.

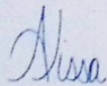
Forty years ago, they took Wilkes and made it their own, on their own. They did it again last October. You can, too.

In the "basketball" issue of the Universe (Vol. 5, Number 1), we introduced **Alumni Connections On-Line Community** and the **On-Line Directory** (page 8) to help you find your fellow graduates. At that time, the cost to use it was free to whoever purchased the 1997 print edition of the directory, but \$19.95 to those who didn't.

Now It's Free! The alumni association and Harris Publishing are giving you a **FREE** way to find each other (directory), talk to each other (email) and get together. Whether you want to know if an old friend is going to Reunion Weekend, Homecoming, or if you want to take Sam's cue and plan your own group reunion, you can do it - **free!**

The Collegians' story has me wondering, if they're just one group of the almost 18,000 alumni scattered around the world, how many other stories are just a click away?

Sincerely,



Alissa M. Antosh '91

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Alissa M. Antosh '91

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The Wilkes Universe is published by Wilkes University and is distributed free to its alumni and friends. Comments, suggestions and story ideas are welcomed.

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ON THE COVER

BUJC alumnus, Attorney **Jerome Facher '44**, is portrayed by Academy Award Winner and recent nominee Robert Duvall in Touchstone Pictures' "A Civil Action."



Presidential Perspective

One of our challenges at Wilkes is to convey to our constituencies the uniqueness of our University. Many of you attending alumni events over the next two years will see the "Endow the Future" Capital Campaign video that premiered at the public kickoff program last fall. Virtually all its viewers pronounce it as an authentic expression of the Wilkes they know. It features students and alumni from different generations talking informally about their experiences and the crucial role Wilkes has played in shaping who they are today. Some of those experiences are shaped by the role Wilkes plays in our community and the world.

Wilkes' uniqueness was best displayed in November when we awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa, to **Jerzy Kluger**, a childhood friend of Karol Wojtyla, named **Pope John Paul II** in 1978. Their remarkable friendship (Kluger, Jewish and Wojtyla, Catholic) that began in Wadowice, Poland, was interrupted after Hitler's invasion in 1939. Wojtyla became a priest in Nazi-occupied Poland, while Kluger struggled as a Polish soldier in a Siberian Soviet labor camp until he was released in 1941. Because he lost his immediate family (mother, sister, grandmother) in Auschwitz, Kluger remained determined never to return to Poland. He established a new life in Rome with his Irish Catholic wife, Renée.

In 1965, Karol Wojtyla was named Archbishop of Krakow, traveling frequently to Rome. After 27 years, the two resumed the friendship that continues to this day. When Archbishop Wojtyla was named Pope, he gave his first audience to his Jewish friend, Jerzy Kluger, signaling to the world the importance he gave to achieving a reconciliation between Catholics and Jews. Over the ensuing 20 years, the friends helped pave the way for mutual diplomatic recognition between Israel and the Vatican.

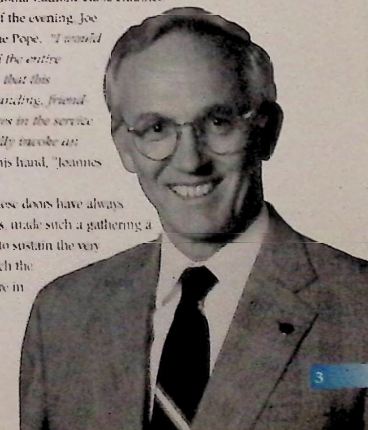
Kluger's business activity in the early 1970s focused on the rebuilding of war-torn Europe. It was then that he met a Northeastern Pennsylvania businessman-contractor, **Joseph D'Andrea, Sr.**, from Dunmore. Kluger introduced D'Andrea to the Pope because of his active investments in the Polish economy.

A chance meeting between **Paul A. O'Hop**, vice-president for business and auxiliary enterprises at Wilkes, and Joe, resulted in Mr. Kluger's visit to Wilkes. A mutual friend from Pioneer American Bank and Paul were arranging the establishment of a full-service banking facility in the new Student Center. Paul was given a copy of *The Hidden Pope*, an account of their friendship written by the late Darcy O'Brien. He gave it to me to read. We both agreed that it would be marvelous to honor Jerzy Kluger for his remarkable contributions to Jewish/Catholic relations and in the process, highlight how friendships can make such a difference in the world.

Through the devoted efforts of Paul O'Hop, Joe D'Andrea and our corporate sponsor, Pioneer American Bank, an audience of nearly 1,000 gathered in the Henry Gymnasium of the Marts Center to witness the presentation and to hear Dr. Kluger's address. Thousands more viewed the elegant but simple interfaith event when it was televised over Wilkes' new special educational cable channel, through follow-up interviews and a rebroadcast of the ceremony on the regional Catholic cable channel.

Providing one of the more touching moments of the evening, Joe delivered a special message to the audience from the Pope. "I would ... ask you kindly to convey to the President and the entire University community my prayerful best wishes that this occasion will help to encourage greater understanding, friendship and cooperation between Christians and Jews in the service of the human family. Upon all present I cordially invoke an abundance of divine blessings." It is signed in his hand, "Joannes Paulus II."

The very independence of Wilkes University, whose doors have always been open for people of all backgrounds and faiths, made such a gathering a natural event. We at Wilkes will continue to work to sustain the very special mood of harmony and brotherhood - which the Pope's friendship with Dr. Kluger epitomizes - here in Northeastern Pennsylvania and beyond.



Dr. Christopher N. Breiseth

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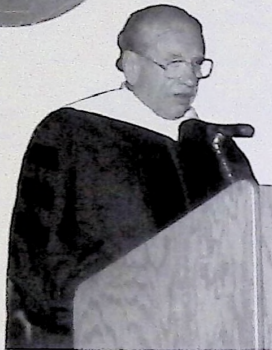
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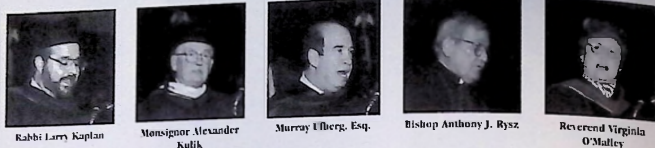
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Jerzy Kluger, Friend of Pope John Paul II, Honored at Wilkes



After receiving his doctor of humane letters degree, **Jerzy Kluger** addresses the audience of 1,000 in the Mars Center.



Rabbi Larry Kaplan, **Monsignor Alexander Kulik**, **Murray Elberg, Esq.**, **Bishop Anthony J. Rysz**, **Reverend Virginia O'Malley**, **Eugene Roth '57**, **Joseph D'Andrea, Sr.**

Jerzy Kluger's appearance at Wilkes brought together officials from a wide variety of denominations, including **Rabbi Larry Kaplan**, Temple Israel, Wilkes-Barre; **Monsignor Alexander Kulik**, Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, W-B; **Murray Elberg, Esq.**, chairman of the Jewish Community Board of the Wyoming Valley; **Bishop Anthony J. Rysz**, Bishop of Saint Stanislaus Polish National Catholic Cathedral; and **Reverend Virginia O'Malley**, United Methodist Church, Dean of Wyoming Cabinet; **Eugene Roth '57**, immediate Past Chairman, Board of Trustees; **Joseph D'Andrea, Sr.**, who was awarded the first President's Circle Award for outstanding contributions to the Wilkes community.

Corporate sponsor, **Pioneer American Bank**, was well-represented at the reception for Dr. Kluger. **Attorney Patricia Cobb**, senior vice president; **Gail Rees**, vice president; **John W. Reuther**, president and C.E.O.; **James Jackson**, senior vice president; **Dr. David M. Weinberger**, advisory board member; **Bill Rolland**, advisory board member.



Wilkes in the News

Below is a sampling of the many stories generated from Wilkes that achieved national recognition.

Professor Mike Steele's research on animal-look interactions appeared in the:

- Psychologic Journal*, N.Y., *Wahon Creek, Calif., La Crosse Tribune*, Wisc., *Waterloo Courier*, Ind., *Houston Chronicle*, Texas, *Gen're Daily Times*, State College, Pa., *Omaha World Herald*, Neb., *Packwood Times-Herald*, Verg., *Syracuse Herald Journal*, N.Y., *Post-Standard*, Syracuse, N.Y., *Republican-American*, Westbury, Conn., *Sunday Advocate*, Baton Rouge, La., *Yakima Herald Republic*, Wash., *Columbus Dispatch*, Ohio, *Columbian Vancouver*, Wash., *Gazette*, Montreal, Qc., Canada, *Scranton Times*, Pa.

The Pa. Senate Debate at Wilkes sponsored by the League of Women Voters, under the direction of Dr. Jane Elias-Czajka, was picked up by:

- ERA*, Bradford, Pa., *Sentinel*, Carlisle, Pa., *Eagle*, Butler, Pa., *Bedford Gazette*, Pa., *Herald Standard*, Uniontown, Pa., *Republican*, Kane, Pa., *Milton Daily Star*, York, Pa., *Lehigh Valley Daily Journal*, Pa., *Tribune*, Scranton, Pa., *Public Opinion*, Chambersburg, Pa., *Observer Reporter*, Washington, Pa., *Indiana Gazette*, Pa., *Morning Call*, Allentown, Pa., *Quakertown*, Pa., *Carbon Monitor*, Pa., *Belvidere*, Pa., *Union*, Pa., *Tribune Review*, Gettysburg, Pa., *New Era*, Lancaster, Pa., *Times*, Reading, Pa., *Spirit*, Pottsville, Pa., *Herald*, Shrewsbury, Pa., *Republican*, Pottsville, Pa., *Citizen*, West, Wilkes-Barre, *Times Leader*, Wilkes-Barre.

Capital Campaign Cornerstones Take Their Place on Campus

With only five months left until its doors are scheduled to open, construction of the new **\$7.7 million student center** is right on schedule. The construction team, **Quandel Group, Inc.**, has been working through the winter months to build the 48,000 square-foot facility.

Elevated concrete floors have been installed, along with plumbing, duct work for the heating system, interior stairs and the rough electrical work.

Representatives from Wilkes and **Novartis Pharmaceutical Corporation**, East Hanover, N.J., formally dedicated **Room 114 of the South Learning Center** as the new **Novartis Amphitheater**.

Dr. Bernard W. Graham, dean, Wilkes School of Pharmacy, highlighted a few of the many high-tech modifications made to the room as a result of a generous monetary donation by **Novartis** to the School.

Through more than \$100,000 in recent renovations, the new amphitheater now provides each student with an outlet for laptops, computers, access to the Internet, new

desks and table tops, and new technology and equipment. In addition, the amphitheater is now equipped with internet connections and video projection capabilities that allow students and professor to see and talk to another professor in a separate location.



The crown jewel of the capital campaign, the new **\$7.7 million student center** fitting classrooms, is on schedule to open its doors for the **1999 Fall Semester**.

Dr. Stuart Heydt, *Co-singer*; **Dr. Bernard W. Graham**, *dean*, **Wilkes School of Pharmacy**; **Jean Herz**, *Pharm. D., associate director, disease management*, **Novartis Pharmaceutical Corporation**; **Anne Wilson**, *Novartis Outcomes Research Fellow*, **South Dakota State University**; **Dr. Christopher V. Breiseth**, *Wilkes president*; **Wayne P. Yetter '67**, *president and C.E.O.*, **Novartis**.



New Staff Develops At Wilkes

by Paula Gentilman '00



Anne Pelak, **Carol Maculloch**, **Leigh Ann M. Hostetler**, **Carol M. Fells** is absent from photo.

The Spring semester has produced some growth in the development office. The staff has added three new members and given one a new title. The new faces around campus are **Leigh Ann M. Hostetler**, from Dallas, Pa.; **Anne Pelak**, from Kingston, Pa.; and **Carol M. Fells**, from Clarks Summit, Pa. **Carol Maculloch**, from Hunlock Creek, Pa., was promoted.

Leigh Ann M. Hostetler has been named director of development services.

Prior to joining the Wilkes team, Hostetler was employed by Rosen, Jenkins & Greenwald, Wilkes-Barre, as a corporate paralegal. Since 1996, she's served as a part-time adjunct faculty member with the English departments of King's College and Luzerne County Community College.

Hostetler has ten year's experience to her credit within the legal field, both in private and government sectors. She was the senior administrative assistant for the United States Court of Appeals, chambers of Judge Max Rosen.

Anne Pelak M '98, accepted the position of coordinator of grants processing and compliance, but is not a stranger to Wilkes. She served on the search committee for the new dean, School of Arts and Sciences at Wilkes. She was also an adjunct faculty member in the communications department and a graduate assistant in the Regional Computer Resource Center.

The new director of annual giving is **Carol M. Fells**. Fells comes to Wilkes from The Everhart Museum in Scranton, Pa., where she held the position of development director.

Other posts that Fells has held are development director with The Development Cultural Center, Scranton, realtor associate with John J. Lavelle Realty Co., Clarks Summit, Pa., and consultant, annual campaign for The Luzern Center for the Arts, Scranton.

Carol Maculloch '99, was promoted to annual giving program manager. The position serves as assistant director for the annual giving office and oversees Philanthony, the Community Business Campaign, and the Senior Class Gift Campaign.

She has represented Wilkes for the past five years, serving as secretary for the former School of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and was most recently the coordinator of special events and stewardship.

Seasonal Ceremonies Award Degrees in the Darte Center

Sylvia Savitz '98, of Bal Harbour, Florida, realized her 40-year dream of taking home a bachelor's degree in sociology during Summer Commencement Exercises last September.

With a handshake from **President Breiseth** and **Dr. Jim Merryman**, sociology/anthropology professor and director of international studies, standing by, Sylvia became the oldest graduate in Wilkes history, at 83.

Breiseth conferred 121 undergraduate and graduate degrees, and an honorary doctor of humane letters degree upon **Edward Schechter**. Known for his commitment to helping renew the culture and economy of the Wyoming Valley, Schechter has been affiliated with the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber, The Flood Recovery Task Force, The Committee for Economic Growth and the Earth Conservancy.

Trustee **Melanie M. Lumia**, **Dr. Bing Wong**, chair, faculty affairs council and professor of mathematics and computer science, and **Jeff Moisey '99**, president, student government, offered the ceremonial greetings.

King's College president, **Father James Lackemier**, and Congressman **Paul Kanjorski** enjoyed some one-on-one time after receiving their honorary doctor of humane letters degrees during Winter Commencement in January.



Father Lackemier and Congressman Kanjorski

One-hundred and forty-eight students received degrees, including **Christine Marie Anderson '99**, who received her Armed Forces Reserve Officer Appointment from **Lieutenant Colonel, Air Force, Scott R. Papp**.

Greetings were orated by **Gerald A. Moffatt '63**, chairman, board of trustees; **Dr. Bing K. Wong**, chair, faculty affairs council, and former Miss New Jersey; **Melanie Joyce Bell '99**.



Dr. Breiseth, Sylvia Savitz '98, Dr. Merryman

Retraction

Dr. John Orehtsky, professor of mechanical and materials engineering at Wilkes since 1971, was awarded two Fulbright-Haves Fellowships. He taught and conducted research on magnetism in thermodynamics at the University of Porto, Portugal, and in 1987, at the Technical University in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia.

Davidowitz and Pearce Expand Community Arts Tradition

By Deena M. Guadagno '99

With the development of programs such as the **Encore Music Camp** and the **Wilkes Community Conservatory (WCC)**, Wilkes extends its influence on the arts beyond the traditional classroom.

Newly appointed directors **Nina Davidowitz**, **Encore**, and **Shelley Pearce**, **WCC**, are expanding their cultural programs to increase community involvement in the arts.

A native of Kingston, Pa., Davidowitz was recently promoted to director of **Encore**, a nationally acclaimed summer arts camp for students, ages 13 to 18. She is currently working to incorporate visual arts and creative writing into the traditional **Encore** program, which includes classical music, jazz, ballet, dance and theater productions.

Davidowitz served as the director of the **WCC** for two years and has been working as a professional artist for nearly 30 years.

Shelley Embra Pearce, the newly appointed director of the **WCC**, is designing an instructional program that includes all orchestral instruments, piano, guitar, and voice lessons available to all community members.

Other programs the Conservatory offer are theater and music theory classes to high school students, performing ensembles, and a children's choir, as well as early music literacy classes for ages 18 months to 9 years.



Nina Davidowitz



Shelley Pearce

LET'S WRAP IT UP

by John Setzinger, Sports Editor

The men's basketball team is off to another excellent start with a record of 16-3. The Colonels, who are seeking their fifth consecutive Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom League title, are currently 5-2 in league play.

Junior guards **Dave Januzzi** and **Clad Fabian** lead a trio of Wilkes players in double figures. Januzzi, a preseason All-American, is averaging 20.2 points, 3.5 rebounds and 4.8 assists per game. Fabian is clipping in with 14.3 tallies, 3.8 rebounds and 2.0 assists per contest. Rounding out the trio is senior forward **Scott Cleveland**, who is tossing in 10.1 points and 6.4 rebounds per game. Senior forward **Brian Gryboski** is contributing 9.9 points and a team-high 7.2 rebounds per contest.

Wilkes has already captured three tournament titles this season, winning the season-opening Dickinson College Tournament, the York College Tournament, and their own Ramada Plaza Hotel Colonial Classic.

The women's basketball team has battled its way to a 8-10 overall record this season. The Lady Colonels, who are 2-5 in Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom League play, have had to fight the injury bug that has left head coach **Karen Haag's** squad with only 10 healthy players. Included

among the wounded is junior guard **Jill Ronkowski**, the team's second leading scorer and top three point shooter, who will miss the remainder of the season with a knee injury. Also missing are guards **Angela Collins**, who suffered a knee injury, and **Beth LoPiccolo**.

Despite the injuries, Wilkes has remained competitive thanks to the play of junior forward **Katie Watkins**. Watkins, who was recently named the MAC Player of the Week and the Columbus Multimedia Middle Atlantic Regional Player of the Week, has posted six consecutive double-doubles for Wilkes. She is fifth in the MAC in both scoring and rebounding, averaging 16.6 points and 9.1 rebounds per game.

The wrestling team is enjoying an outstanding 1998-99 season. The Colonels, who were just 3-17 a year ago, are off to a 16-4 start this year. Wilkes is in their final season of transition from the Division I to Division III level. Next season, the Colonels will officially begin wrestling as Division III and Middle Atlantic Conference members.

Junior captain **Duane Ritter** leads a group of eight wrestlers who have won 10 or more matches. Ritter has an 18-3 record, followed by juniors **Corey Luce** and **John Conte**, who are 16-5 and 15-4 respectively. Others with double figure wins include **Scott Henshaw** (14-7), **Heath Fleisher** (12-4), **Josh Mendoza** (12-6), **Joe Smith** (12-9), and **Kevin Baker** (11-10).

The big man under the boards, senior **Brian Gryboski**, prepares for flight against Lycoming College.



Junior forward **Katie Watkins** shows off the style that garnered her MAC Player of the Week and Columbus Multimedia Middle Atlantic Regional Player of the Week.

John Reese Pins National Recognition

Former Wilkes wrestling coach John Reese will be inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in a ceremony to take place on June 5, 1999, at the National Hall of Fame in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

1999 Hall of Fame Members Announced

by John Setzinger, Sports Editor

Wilkes President **Dr. Christopher N. Breiseth** is pleased to announce the seventh class to be inducted into the Wilkes University Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, April 24, 1999, at 5:30 p.m., in the Marts Center.

Members of the 1999 class are wrestler **Dick Cook '68**, professor emeritus **Dr. Welton Farrar**, men's basketball player **George Gacha '60**, baseball and football standout **Frank Galicki '73**, women's basketball player **Charlene Hurst '85**, swimmer and diver **Cindy Maillous '78**, four-sport athlete **John Milliman '57**, soccer and tennis player **Tom Rokita '68**, baseball star **Dave Trethaway '76**, and the 1966 wrestling team, which finished second at the NCAA Division III championships.

The Wilkes University Athletics Hall of Fame was established in 1993 to honor those players, coaches and other non-participating individuals who have made outstanding contributions to athletics at Bucknell University Junior College, Wilkes College and Wilkes University.

Calling All Colonels Fans

Can't make it to the game? Want to hear what the coaches and players have to say?

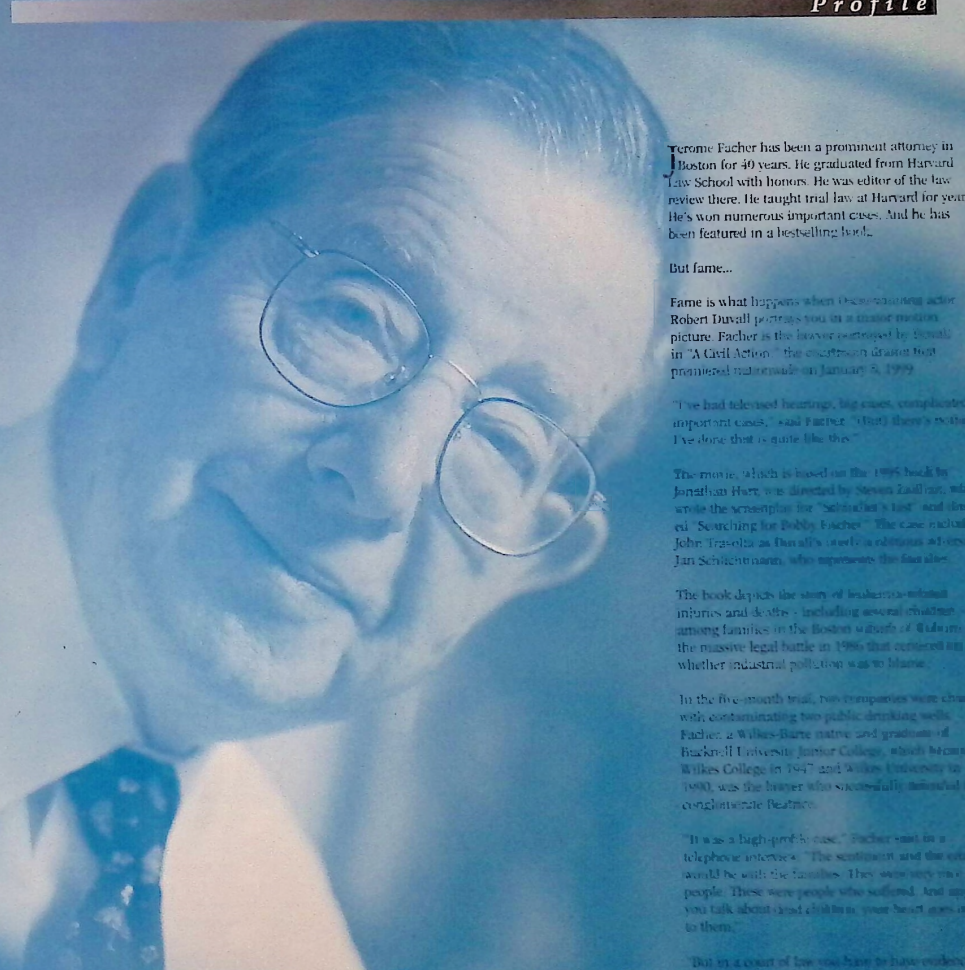
Time into:

WFJL 630 AM/WBAX 1250 AM

WFJL/WBAX broadcasts all Wilkes University men's basketball games, both home and away. This season, a new wrinkle was added by way of the "Colonels Court," a radio show that airs on Thursday evenings from 6:05 p.m. to 7 p.m., during basketball season. The show features weekly interviews with coaches, athletes and many others.

WCLH 90.7 FM (Wilkes Student Radio Station)

WCLH provides home coverage for both men's and women's basketball, while also broadcasting selected radio dates for both teams. WCLH is also the exclusive voice for Wilkes football games, both home and on the road. This season, the station will also carry all Wilkes home baseball games.



Jerome Facher '44 Finds Fame with "A Civil Action"

By Joe Bulkiewicz

Photography of Jerome Facher by Rocky Thies Photography, Boston, Massachusetts

Jerome Facher has been a prominent attorney in Boston for 49 years. He graduated from Harvard Law School with honors. He was editor of the law review there. He taught trial law at Harvard for years. He's won numerous important cases. And he has been featured in a bestselling book.

But fame...

Fame is what happens when Oscar-winning actor Robert Duvall portrays you in a major motion picture. Facher is the lawyer portrayed by Duvall in "A Civil Action," the courtroom drama that premiered nationwide on January 5, 1999.

"I've had televised hearings, big cases, complicated, important cases," said Facher. "But there's nothing I've done that is quite like this."

The movie, which is based on the 1995 book by Jonathan Harr, was directed by Steven Zaillian, who wrote the screenplay for "Schindler's List" and directed John Travolta as Dan's lawyer in a courtroom drama, "The Verdict," which represents the fact alone.

The book depicts the story of industrial-related injuries and deaths - including several children - among families in the Boston suburb of Woburn as a result of the massive legal battle in 1980 that centered on whether industrial pollution was to blame.

In the five-month trial, two companies were charged with contaminating two public drinking wells. Facher, a Wilkes-Barnes native and graduate of Bucknell University Junior College, which became Wilkes College in 1947 and Wilkes University in 1980, was the lawyer who successfully defended the conglomerate Beatrice.

"It was a high-profile case," Facher said in a telephone interview. "The settlement and the situation would be with the families. They were very nice people. These were people who suffered. And anytime you talk about child health, your heart goes out to them."

"But in a court of law you have to have evidence and with Beatrice, the evidence wasn't there."

While both the movie and book tell a story with various shades of gray, it is Facher who is closest to a final answer in black.

In his book, "The Poisoner," Facher, an attorney, though lauded and respected, because of the film describe Duvall's depiction of the Facher character as a "wily, wise corporate litigator." Even the press makes for the film describe Facher as "irreproachable, yet formidable."

"I don't have anything to apologize for," said Facher. "I was delighted to represent Beatrice. I was proud to represent Beatrice."

Duvall met with Facher prior to filming and was impressed. That said, the Facher on the movie screen is not the Facher of real life.

(continued next page)

Friends Remember Jim Weisenfluh

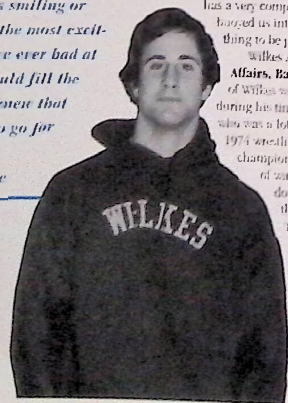
by John Setzinger, Sports Editor

Jim Weisenfluh always knew how to make people laugh and smile. Whether it was on the wrestling mat, where Weisenfluh earned a reputation as one of the most exciting wrestlers in Wilkes history, or in every day life, Jim was the type of person that others just loved to be around.

On Tuesday, January 5, Weisenfluh died in a fire that also took the lives of two others in Fort Jervis, N.Y. Jim, who is survived by his two children, Daniel 14, and Katelyn 11, was honored by his family and friends at a memorial service in Fort Jervis. Among those in attendance was former Wilkes wrestling coach John Reese, who remembered Weisenfluh as someone who was always smiling and laughing.

"Jimmy was always smiling or laughing. He was the most exciting wrestler that we ever had at Wilkes. People would fill the gym because they knew that Jimmy was going to go for the pin."

- John Reese



Weisenfluh, who wrestled from 1973-76, first made his mark on the national scene by placing 5th at 167 pounds to help the Colonels win the NCAA Division III national championship hosted by Wilkes. The following season, Weisenfluh returned to the NCAA Championships with a purpose to win a national title. This time he would not be denied and captured the national title at 167 pounds. The following season Wilkes made the move from Division III to Division I in wrestling and Weisenfluh wasted little time earning the team creditability. At the EFWA Championships, Weisenfluh, who was the Middle Atlantic Conference Most Valuable Wrestler during both the 1974 and 1975 seasons, pinned all four wrestlers he faced to win the 167 pound title. For his efforts, he was named the tournament's Most Valuable Wrestler, the only Wilkes grappler to ever earn that honor.

"You can honestly say that Jimmy was the backbone that helped our wrestling program make the jump from the Division III to the Division I level," said current Wilkes head wrestling coach **Alan Zeller**. "Jimmy's performance at the EFWA tournament gave the program immediate legitimacy. It served notice that even though Wilkes is a small school compared to other Division I institutions, it has a very competitive wrestling program. It really

hugged us into Division I and gave us something to be proud of."

Wilkes Associate Dean of Student Affairs, **Barbara King**, is a 1980 graduate of Wilkes who was friends with Weisenfluh during his time at Wilkes. "Jimmy was a guy who was a lot of fun to be around. That whole 1974 wrestling team that won the national championship was a special team in a lot of ways. Not only were they tremendous wrestlers, but the camaraderie that they exhibited was amazing. There was a big group of us that hung around together and Jimmy was a big part of that group."



"It's strange and interesting to be portrayed by someone else," said Facher. "It's not really me you see in the movies. There wasn't anything I was going to tell Duvall about playing me. He's much better at me than I am at me."

"When I met the real life Facher he was very charming," said Duvall in the press notes for the film. "I told him, 'You're certainly as legitimate as someone like Eisenhower or Churchill, but because you're an anonymous guy to the public, I'm going to fictionalize you'."

Although Facher seems to have had great fun with the movie - he was interviewed by the New York Times while on a location shoot - the experience has been unreal.

"It's strange and interesting to be portrayed by someone else," said Facher. "It's not really me you see in the movies. There wasn't anything I was going to tell Duvall about playing me. He's much better at me than I am at me."

"I've looked at this with good humor."

Formula for Success

Facher, now 73, grew up in south Wilkes-Barre where his family lived in several areas, including Alexander and Muffet streets. His father, Morris, was a salesman. His mother, Gussie, operated clothing stores in Wilkes-Barre.

Facher recalled many aspects of growing up in Wilkes-Barre, including the 1936 flood of the Susquehanna River, which inundated the city. "We were evacuated from 103 New Alexander in a rowboat," he said.

Facher attended grade school on Carey Avenue and he remembered a pretzel factory across the street where a bag of pretzels, still hot, cost a nickel. He spent time in the Osterhout Library and, with his family, worshipped at the Olhav Zedek temple.

Facher went on to Meyers High School and attended Bucknell University Junior College in 1943 and 1944.

"They had a program that you could leave high school early," said Facher. "I was set to graduate from Meyers in June of '43. At Bucknell, I remember Dr. (Eugene) Farley and having classes under a tree and some of my classmates. I remember you had to take German. It was a required course if you were going to be a scientist."

Facher studied chemistry at Bucknell although even then, it didn't seem the right formula.

"I probably broke the Wilkes and Bucknell record for broken beakers and burned lab coats," chuckled Facher.

After graduating, Facher moved to Penn State in State College where he studied journalism, "which I liked except for the wass of poverty you had to take."

Following Penn State, Facher was accepted at Harvard Law School but instead, he enlisted in the Army in 1946 and served in Korea. After the Army, Harvard honored Facher's acceptance and he attended from 1948-1951.

"I was so impressed with the faculty and the intellectual stimulation. I was hooked. I think law school was the defining experience of my life," said Facher.

"I was scared to death when I entered. I was a kid from Wilkes-Barre running around with these guys from Princeton and Yale and Harvard. But I thought the law could lead to a lot of things. Public service, corporate. I knew I didn't want to be a chemist."

Law school suited Facher well enough that he was Editor of the Harvard Law Review "which was the hallmark of distinction in those days." Facher graduated from law school magna cum laude.

Public Service

Facher said he was offered jobs at Wall Street firms but turned them down to take the position of assistant to the department counselor in the Office of the Secretary of the Army.

"I had received great benefits from the government, and the G.I. Bill had put me through law school. I felt an obligation to pay back something that had been given to me."

As department counselor, Facher did "a lot of the background, the spade work, on the Army McCarthy hearings, what became the McCarthy hearings."

In 1953, Facher joined NATO as the U.S. representative on the NATO Infrastructure Committee, helping decide, at age 30, where the United States would commit funds to help major military installations. After two years, Facher returned to Boston and worked for a small firm before joining the firm of Hale and Dorr in 1959.

With that firm, Facher specialized in trials and appeals in the fields of securities, antitrust, contracts, intellectual property and product liability. He became a senior partner in 1965 and chairman of the firm's litigation department.

Facher was active outside the firm as well. Twice, Facher was appointed by the Supreme Judicial Court as special counsel to the Judicial Conduct Commission to investigate instances of judicial misconduct.

From 1962 to 1991, Facher was a lecturer at law at Harvard Law School, teaching a course in Trial Practice.

But in the end, Facher was a lawyer who won cases. For example, in 1985 and 1984, he successfully defended a railroad in one of the longest antitrust trials in Massachusetts Federal Courts.

"I had a number of important cases and was among the lawyers in Boston that any business or individual might consult if they had an important case. If you had a 'bet the company' case," said Facher. So it was that after 25 years with the firm, the Beatrice case came to Facher. A "bet the company" case.

A Civil Action

In the mid 1980s, Beatrice was a very large company, so large the name had become synonymous for conglomerates. Among the many brand names under the banner were Tropicana, Playtex, Sansonite and Peter Pan peanut butter.

Beatrice also owned small companies, including Riley Tannery, which the plaintiffs claimed allowed chemicals into the well water.

"It's the kind of defendant personal injury lawyers love," said Facher. "If Riley Tannery had been Joe Blow Tannery, it never would have been a defendant. But Beatrice had deep pockets."

These days, Facher said, a large company in a situation similar to the one Beatrice found itself, would interview many lawyers and firms. But in 1986, "they looked around for lawyers and settled for Hale and Dorr," said Facher. "We had no advance notice of the suit."

Facher was about 60 years old at the time of the case, which routinely involved 14 to 17-hour days. The court case lasted 78 days for Beatrice and was followed by a 23-day hearing for a new trial. Facher was the lead lawyer representing Beatrice for his firm.

And to prepare, he had to school himself in a wide variety of sciences. "I was not an expert in environmental law. I was a trial lawyer," said Facher.

In the end, however, Facher prevailed and charges against Beatrice were dismissed. "They were not guilty of using or disposing the particular chemicals in this lawsuit," Facher said of Beatrice. "They did absolutely nothing wrong. They were vindicated by the jury."

Facher said Harr's book is accurate and fairly written, if slanted toward the plaintiffs. Harr spent much of the 10 years he researched and wrote "in the plaintiff's camp. (He) was emotionally attached to them," said Facher.

The movie "A Civil Action," however, is largely fictitious, said Facher. "They've invented most of the scenes and a lot of the dialogue," said Facher. "The legal aspects are not emphasized. There's a lot of dramatic license taken."

Facher has returned to the Wyoming Valley four times recently: twice for high school reunions and once to show each of his daughters, Mimi and Gillian, where he grew up. (Facher's parents and brother Herbert left the Wilkes-Barre area in 1956.)

One of the greatest ironies of Facher's story, as opposed to "A Civil Action," is that his mother, father and brother battled cancer, as did the lawyer himself.

"My chances of survival were not good," Facher said of his bout with cancer of the colon. "I never played it up or talked about it. Harr knew it."

"It's one of the ironies life gives you. I had a very deep feeling for what these people were going through."

Prior to working as the Arts & Letters Team leader for The Times Leader in Wilkes-Barre, Joe

Hulbacevic reviewed movies for 13 years at the newspaper. He teaches The Art of Film at Wilkes University.

Profile

Academy Award winner Robert Duvall (left) portrays attorney Jerome Facher, Jan Schlichtmann's (John Travolta, right) unpredictable and formidable adversary in the courtroom, in Touchstone Pictures' legal thriller, based on a true story, "A Civil Action." The film is distributed by Buena Vista Pictures Distribution.

Travolta (left) with Kathleen Quinlan (right), who stars as Anne Anderson, a Woburn, Massachusetts mother who is instrumental in bringing suit against W.R. Grace and Beatrice Foods after her son dies of Leukemia.

Preparing for the biggest case of his career, attorney Jan Schlichtmann (Travolta, left) consults his partners (left to right) James Gordon (William H. Macy), Kerin Conroy (Tony Shalhoub) and Bill Crowley (Zeljko Ivanek).

Travolta portrays Schlichtmann as a tenacious personal-injury attorney whose fierce determination entangles him in a case that threatens to destroy him.

While presenting their case before Judge Skinner John Lithgow, right, Schlichtmann (Travolta, left) and Crowley (Ivanek, second from right) face highly skilled litigator Jerome Facher (Duvall, second from left).

Photos: David James © Touchstone Pictures all rights reserved

Alumni Calendar

HAPPY HOUR
Friday, March 26, 1999
5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Whistles
126 Franklin Avenue
Scranton

ALUMNI BOARD MEETING
Saturday, April 17, 1999

ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP DINNER DANCE
Saturday, April 17, 1999
6 p.m., black tie optional
Westmoreland Club
59 South Franklin Street
Wilkes-Barre

ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME DINNER
Saturday, April 24, 1999
5:30 p.m.
Murray's Inn
274 South Franklin Street
Wilkes-Barre

SPRING COMMENCEMENT
Saturday, May 15, 1999

HAPPY HOUR
Friday, May 21, 1999
5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Murray's Inn
290 Pennsylvania Blvd.
Wilkes-Barre

REUNION WEEKEND
Friday, June 4 -
Sunday, June 6, 1999
For all classes ending in
4 and 9

YOUNG ALUMNI BEACH BASH
Saturday, July 24, 1999
Bar Anticipation
Belmar, N.J.

New Officers on Board for 1999

New alumni board members were nominated during January's board meeting and will be elected at the next meeting. **G. Garfield Jones '72** replaces **Sue Trosko Abele '92** as first vice president of the alumni board for 1999. **Charles (Charlie) Butler '59** is handling the duties of second vice president, formerly occupied by **Beth Roche Ward '72**. She and Beth remain on the board as active members.

Wilkes Grads Are All Heart at Mercy Hospital, Wilkes-Barre

Armed with expertise acquired both near and far, four Wilkes alumni have united at the new Heart Surgery Center of Excellence in Wilkes-Barre's Mercy Hospital.

Dr. Walter J. Boris '81, **Laura Kofchak '96**, **RN**, **Frances A. Rogers '81**, **MSN, RN, CCRN**, and **Dr. Michael D. Rupp '83**, are working side-by-side on the same heart team, bringing their level of excellence and personal care to the people of the Wyoming Valley.

Since leaving Wilkes, they have traveled and held impressive positions at some of the country's most prestigious health care facilities. But, no matter where their careers took them, they credit Wilkes as the birthplace of their accomplishments.

Walter J. Boris '81, D.O., of Shavertown, Pa., is a cardiothoracic surgeon at Mercy. He is an integral part of the cardiac team that implemented the Octopus Tissue Stabilizer, a safer and more affordable technology used in heart bypass surgery. He is also an associate faculty member and cardiothoracic surgeon at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

"Wilkes is where my academic career began, prior to being accepted at medical school and continuing my chosen profession," said Boris. "It's wonderful to be able to return to the area where the initiation of my career started."

Laura Kofchak '96, R.N., of Wilkes-Barre, is currently the nurse manager for the Cardiothoracic Intensive Care/Coronary Care Unit at Mercy. She is also an adjunct nursing professor and lecturer at Wilkes, where she received her M.S. as a clinical nurse specialist in perinatology.

"My graduate education has provided me with the necessary tools needed to face the challenges of the ever-changing



Dr. Walter J. Boris '81, Laura Kofchak '96, RN, Frances A. Rogers '81, MSN, RN, CCRN, and Dr. Michael D. Rupp '83

ing healthcare arena," said Kofchak. "My Wilkes education was very worthwhile and enabled me to grow both personally and professionally."

Frances A. Rogers '81, MSN, RN, CCRN, of Pittston Township, Pa., is a clinical nurse specialist for Cardiothoracic Services at Mercy. She was awarded the Excellence in Acute Cardiovascular Care, Highest Achievement RN Award and the Outstanding Clinical Performance Award.

"Having received my BSN at Wilkes, it provided me with the stepping stone I needed to pursue an advanced nursing degree," said Rogers. "Professors like Teresa Grabo and Carol Zack were not only professional role models, but also staunch supporters of RNs returning for their degrees."

Michael D. Rupp '83, M.D., of Dallas, Pa., is presently a cardiologist at both Mercy and the Guthrie Clinic, Sayre, Pa. He has garnered many honors within his field, including being named to the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society and as the Outstanding Medical Resident while at the Guthrie Clinic.

Rupp earned a B.S. from Wilkes in the accelerated three-year program and his medical degree from Hahnemann University, Philadelphia. He interned at Robert Packer Hospital's Guthrie Clinic in Sayre, Pa., and served as a Fellow in Cardiology and as an Interventional Fellow at Allegheny General Hospital.

Fire up the Grill - Reunion Weekend is Near!

Reunion Weekend '99 is coming Friday, June 4 thru Sunday, June 6. Classes ending in 4 and 9 will join us on the quad for the sizzlin' Saturday afternoon barbecue and again Saturday night for an inaugural Awards Recognition Dinner. Call the alumni office at 1-800-WILKES-U, extension 4130, for more information and to make reservations.

Homecoming King Anthony Petrolonis, of East Windsor, N.J., and **Queen Lisa Dente**, of Hudson, Pa., flash a smile for their royal subjects. Anthony '99 is a biology major with a minor in chemistry. Lisa will graduate from the School of Pharmacy III 2001.

Homecoming '98



Surrounded by was **Stephen '69**, of Cary, N.C., wife **Elizabeth Laughler Linda (Farrar) Pendleton '71**, of Ledyard, Connecticut, and daughter **Pauline 'Penny' (Farrar) Buckno '68**, of Elvoston, Pa. **Wilton G. Farrar**, of Dallas, Pa., received the "Colonel of Excellence" Award during Homecoming to commemorate his 50 years of service to Wilkes.



Attention Class of 1998

Your senior yearbook was mailed to your permanent address at the end of December.

If you have not received your copy, please contact:

The Yearbook Office
1-800-WILKES-U, extension 2955
email: amnicola@wilkes1.wilkes.edu

Splish Splash, We're Off to the Beach Bash

Belmar, N.J., look out! For this summer's Young Alumni Beach Bash, Wilkes is coming to town on Saturday, July 24, 1999, and it's bringing along a few friends. Graduates from several other Northeast Pa. schools will be taking the turnpikes to Bar Anticipation this year. Challenge your favorite King's counterparts to a game of beach volleyball or try to outlast and out-joust your friends above a pool of water. Everyone's welcome to enjoy the sun and celebration at Bar A. Call Jennie at 1-800-WILKES-U, extension 4130, for hotel information and directions.

Let's twist again, like we did last...Spring!

Kick up your heels for a worthy cause at the annual Scholarship Dinner Dance at the Westmoreland Club on Saturday, April 17, 1999, at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$60 per person, with proceeds benefitting the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. The black-tie optional gala is a great way to meet new people. See you on the dance floor!

Homecoming '99 will be held Friday, October 15 and Saturday, October 16. The golf tournament at Irem Temple Country Club will commence Friday morning. Saturday offers the "Top of the Hill" buffet luncheon which will begin at 11 a.m., prior to the football contest vs. Iycoming College at 1 p.m. Then it's the 5 at 8 pm - the ever-popular Fifth Quarter Happy Hour.

Say Cheese! **Marty Popky '50**, treasurer of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America, **Bill Goldsworthy '76**, alumni association president, **Karen Wolfe**, club president, and **Sandy Nicholas M'85**, executive director for alumni, take a break from the action. The NPAACA donated \$1,500 to the Alumni Scholarship Fund and several of its antique cars for the Homecoming Court to use.



Attendance at the annual Irem Temple Golf Tournament hit an all-time high in '98. Leading the pack was the team of **Bob Margan**, **Andy Barilla**, **Bill Holly**, and **Don Gosart**.

Alumni Association Needs Nominations

Here's your chance to pay homage to those special graduates you've watched pile up accomplishments since graduating from Wilkes. Nominate them for the 1999 Eugene S. Farley Memorial Alumni Award and the Distinguished Young Alumnus Award.

For application forms and criteria, call Jennie or Sandy in the alumni office at (570) 408-4130 or 1-800-WILKES-U, extension 4130.

CHAPTER Chat



PHILADELPHIA

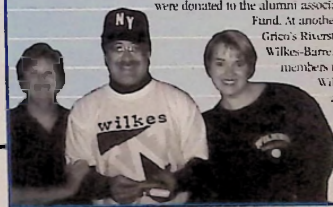
Rich Enders '92, **Jennifer Schmitt**, **Liz Merena '94**, and **Bryan Smith '93** and their 50 fellow chapter mates set sail on the "Spirit of Philadelphia" for an evening Harbor Cruise last September. The 3 hour tour included dinner and entertainment.

HARRISBURG

The chapter met in November at Leed's Restaurant for dinner and were presented with their official chapter banner. The next gathering will be Friday, May 21, 1999, at the Allensbury Dinner Theater for the comedy production of, "No Sex Please, We're British."

LUZERNE COUNTY

Celebrity Guest Bartender **Sandy Nicholas M'85** (executive director for alumni), **Bill Goldsworthy '76** (alumni association president), and **Jadi Willison '93** (Luzerne County Chapter President), turned tips into tuition during Happy Hour festivities at Love's Restaurant in Wilkes-Barre. Proceeds were donated to the alumni association Scholarship Fund. At another Happy Hour at Grieco's Riverstreet Jazz Cafe, Wilkes-Barre, creative chapter members unveiled "The Wilkes Colonel," a special mixed drink concoction.



The Wilkes Collegians -

- Front row: **Joe Miotto '54**, Denver, Pa.; **Larry Chase '60**, New York, N.Y.; **Wayne Walters '59**, Randolph, N.J.; **Sam Lowe '58**, Scotia, Virginia; **Peter Perog '60**, Little River, S.C.; **Jerry Pauley**, Shickshinny Lake, Pa.; **Boyd Hoats '60**, Fort Fort, Pa.
- Second row: **Bob Evans '62**, Wilkes-Barre; **Wilbur Dotter '62**, West Pittston, Pa.; **Carl Hovora '60**, Bear Creek, Pa.; **Bob Lynch '56**, Columbus, Ohio; **Bruce Miles**, Staaford, Conn.; **Narm Phillip '50**, New Brunswick, N.J.
- Third row: **Carroll Davenport '59**, Fort Fort, Pa.; **Richard Myers '60**, West Nantcoke, Pa.; **John Salva '59**, Rochester, N.Y.; **Raymond Sabat**, Cranbury, N.J.; **Ray Pirino '61**, Orlando, Flor.
- Top row: **Hugh Lynch**, Fort Fort, Pa.; **George Richards '58**, Scotia, N.Y.; **Ted Jones '58**, Little Meadows, Pa.; **Bill Hall '64**, Mt. Airy, Md.; **Bill Peters '60**, Jacksonville, Flor.; **Bob Martin '61**, Harrington Park, N.J.



A MATTER OF ECONOMICS

Dr. Anthony L. Linzzo



They examine all currency received for evidence of counterfeiting, even one-dollar bills, with a diligence that would make even individuals at the Federal Reserve Banks envious.

You see them every day. They're strangers, casual acquaintances, friends, relatives, significant others, spouses - maybe even yourself. They refer to themselves as thrifty, frugal, prudent, and economical. They are the people who pay extraordinary attention to the dollars they earn, and they are loathe to part with them under any circumstances.

In the office, they are never the contributors - only the contributors. They are conveniently away from their workstations when the collection hat is passed for a co-worker's wedding. They help themselves to the largest slice of birthday cake, and even take home leftovers for their families.

Avoid them in the supermarket, for they come armed with fistfuls of coupons, many expired, and engage in lengthy debates with cashiers regarding sale items, rainchecks, and mismarked foodstuffs. Before exiting, they scrupulously check their receipts for errors in pricing, oftentimes re-adding the columns of debits and credits.

Enjoying an evening out for dinner with them is no picnic - unless it is a picnic for they select from the

menu solely on the basis of the information contained on the right side. They are always aware of the exact amount of each guest's tally, and they will be absolutely certain never to divide tabs equally unless they will personally benefit from such an equitable distribution. They compute the 15% gratuity to the penny, and round downward to the lower dollar.

They never pass a pay telephone booth without attention, always checking the return coin slot for forgotten change. They examine all currency received for evidence of counterfeiting, even one-dollar bills, with a diligence that would make even individuals at the Federal Reserve Banks envious.

On the road, they drop their coins into the exact change toll a nickel at a time, in the hope that the traffic light will turn green prematurely. They never visit a full service gasoline station, and always input their vehicle with the lowest octane fuel available. Their automobiles are washed only when it rains.

Everything in their homes is recycled. Wrapping paper is reused until yellow, and bows, ribbons, string,

rubber bands and paper clips are employed over and over. Their closets contain clothing representing the styles of the past four decades. Nothing is disposed of, and trash collectors have been known to report their homes to the authorities, believing that their lack of garbage is an indication they have fallen victim to foul play.

They justify their frugal styles in the name of poverty, never failing to inform any person who will listen of their meager salaries and abundant expenses. Sometimes, they cite environmental concerns for their maintenance of every item that has ever entered their residence. When all other excuses fail, they blame their DNA.

Nonetheless, we accept them as friends, relatives, significant others, spouses, and yes, even ourselves. We can't afford not to!

Dr. Anthony L. Linzzo is professor, business and economics at Wilkes. The paper upon which this column appears may be recycled to line your birdcage.

W I L K E S

UNIVERSE

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Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766

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