

W I L K E S UNIVERSE



VOLUME 3 NUMBER 1

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By STEVE
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A Season for the Ages



W I L K E S
UNIVERSE

Volume 3 → Number 1

Editor

Vaughn A. Shinkus '91

Director of University Relations

Craig (Mark) Davis

Associate Editors

Stephanie Geyer

Krista Gromalski '91

Editorial Assistants

Jessica Bierbower '97

Regina Frappolli '97

Karen Jones

Jean Pall

Sports Editor

Tom McGuire '85

**Executive Director of Alumni
and Development**

Sandra Beynon M'85

Design

Projects by Design Corporation

Administration

Christopher N. Breiseth, Ph.D.

President

J. Michael Lennon, Ph.D.

Vice President for Academic Affairs

Paul A. O'Hop

Vice President for Business Affairs and
Auxiliary Enterprises

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FROM THE EDITOR

Examining Wilkes from the outside-in

The strength of an alumni publication is in the variety of viewpoints it presents.

That's the philosophy we've adopted at Wilkes, and this edition of Wilkes Universe perhaps best reflects its practice. Over the past two years, we've established a growing network of correspondents who bring an external perspective in communicating stories about the Wilkes community.

For coverage of Wilkes's stellar basketball season, for example, we looked to two Wilkes-Barre area journalists who knew the subject first-hand. Free-lance sports writer Steve Bennett and photographer Warren Ruda had followed the Colonels all the way to the Elite Eight championships last season, and were with them every step of the way this year as they made a run for the MAC and NCAA championships. The result is a story which documents in words and pictures each step in the evolution of a team which sparked excitement on the Wilkes campus and beyond.

Geography played a role in our selection of another correspondent. Newly relocated to the greater Philadelphia area, former Wilkes communications assistant Christine Liberaski was in the perfect location to interview Norristown dentist Dr. Thomas Check on his humanitarian efforts providing care to the underprivileged children of Jamaica. Her touching profile of Check captures the compassion and humility of this extraordinary alum.

Indeed, sometimes the best writers are just across campus. Melanie O'Donnell '93, an assistant dean of Admissions, literally walked into her assignment. O'Donnell had stopped by the University Relations office just as we were brainstorming for a writer to report on Wilkes's faculty writers. A published author in her own right, O'Donnell was the perfect person for the job. She brings a writer's perspective to a report on the varied works of several Wilkes professors.

Wilkes alumnus James Clark '93 has covered small-town politics, big-time rock and roll and even professional boxing. So we knew he'd be up for the rather elusive task of examining Wilkes's relationship with the river it borders. An ardent runner, Clark spent much of his college years trotting atop the Susquehanna's protective dikes. His article reflects Wilkes's love-hate relationship with the muddy tributary.

We hope you'll appreciate the external viewpoint each of these correspondents has brought to this publication. Their work is the ultimate validation of the many interesting people and places which make up the Wilkes Universe.

Sincerely,

Vaughn A. Shinkus



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Each year Dr. Thomas Check '48 travels to Jamaica to provide dental care to Jamaican children who otherwise wouldn't receive it. It is a labor of love.

PAGE 16 Wilkes and the River

The history and future of Wilkes University are inexorably tied to the river it borders. The Susquehanna is a nearby source for both research and recreation.

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ON THE COVER:

The 1995-96 Wilkes University men's basketball players take with them a season of memories. The squad captured the school's first ever MAC title for men's basketball.

Cover by Earl and Sedor Photography
Inset photo by Warren Ruda



Presidential Perspective

Investment in Wilkes strengthens the community

We have had a case of basketball fever at Wilkes. Our men's team took us on a long and wonderful ride, and their 28-2 record—the best winning percentage in Division III in the nation—contains memorable moments that will last for years to come. The impact on campus spirit and on the Wyoming Valley was extraordinary. When seven Martz buses rolled down I-81 to the Elite Eight game in the NCAA Tournament for Division III, there were supporters in cars all along the way who honked in solidarity. One thousand Wilkes fans attended the game with Franklin & Marshall in Lancaster.

The great accomplishment of Coach Jerry Rickrode and his team comes amidst a good deal of discussion in the area about the desirability of marketing Wilkes-Barre as a college town. With both Wilkes and King's, Wilkes-Barre has the obvious ingredients. The local business and government communities are waking to the fact that no greater asset can exist for a small to medium-size city than a college or two. Our Wyoming Valley has five. It has been proposed that a joint Wilkes-King's bookstore be established in the area of Public Square so that students from both campuses could purchase books and other col-

legiate paraphernalia together and gather in a proposed coffee house or Internet cafe. There are many challenges to overcome before this can happen. Indeed, citizens outside of the colleges must recognize that the future of this area rests in no small part on the health and success of the educational institutions. The reciprocal is also true.

We are about to begin a \$160 million levee raising project along the Susquehanna through the Wilkes-Barre area, with the possibility of building an inflatable dam that will create a lake/waterfront environment right in front of the Wilkes campus. The additional flood control protection is particularly welcome after the flood threat this winter that caused all of Wilkes-Barre to evacuate. It appears that the proposed Civic Arena also will be built. The decision of Harris Electric (the former RCA facility in Mountaintop which located here because of Wilkes's pledge to establish graduate courses in certain of the sciences) to expand their operation with an investment of more than \$250 million is a sign of crucial economic development activity. In all of these activities, Wilkes people are deeply involved. In several, the University itself is a crucial player.

Since the first years of Bucknell University Junior College, this institution has responded to the needs of the region in ways quite unusual for an independent college or university. In return, the region has been unusually and generously supportive of Wilkes. The leadership of the Board of Trustees over the years has come from the local community. While that leadership continues, it has been enhanced by both additional trustees from other parts of the Northeast and

Middle Atlantic regions of the country and by increasing numbers of alumni both local and from outside the region.



Christopher N. Breiseth

In coming months, Trustees and others in the growing Wilkes community will be meeting together in small gatherings to talk about a major capital campaign which will help position the University for the next century. The tentative goal is \$35 million, \$20 million of which would enhance the endowment, \$10 million to support annual operations, and \$5 million for bricks and mortar projects.

I will have much to say about the campaign in future editions. In the meantime, know that your alma mater continues to provide students with an outstanding educational experience in a unique environment where they can learn and acquire transferable skills by becoming involved in activities which strengthen the community. At the same time, Wilkes must look increasingly to the beneficiaries of its education, our alumni, to provide the financial support to allow Wilkes to achieve its potential as an outstanding small comprehensive university with a national reputation for excellence in teaching, learning and applied research. As the Capital campaign progresses, I will be inviting each of you to invest in Wilkes University for future students who will prepare themselves for lives of professional success and service to others.

Next recruiting stop: Milan, Italy?

Editor,

I read with considerable interest the article, "Wilkes Looks Globally for Future Students," in *Wilkes Universe* (Vol. 2 No. 1), which I received at my home in Milan several months ago. I am pleased that Wilkes is finally actively looking outside of the United States in its search for a varied and enriching student body.

I have been aware for quite a few years that many American Universities and colleges look globally to "bolster enrollment and enhance cultural learning." An increasing number of American schools are represented at the annual "Study In America" fair in Milan, which takes place in the fall. In fact, I remember giving Dr. Breiseth information on the fair some years ago with the aim of encouraging Wilkes to follow a similar path.

From your article it appears that Wilkes is currently recruiting in the Middle East, South East Asia, and Puerto Rico. Should you also consider looking into Italy, I would be happy to be of help.

I am a 1967 Wilkes graduate, and the daughter of Dr. J.G. Moravec, who was chairman of the Sociology department in the 60s and 70s. So, as you can see, I have ample reason to feel strong ties to Wilkes.

Moreover, I am quite familiar with the Italian educational system. I am currently an English language lecturer in the Department of Foreign Language at the State University of Milan. I also teach at I.U.L.M. (Istituto Universitario di Lingue Moderne), a small private university, specialized in modern languages.

—Alexandra Moravec Ocampo '67

Second presidential terms uncommon

President Bill Clinton's re-election team shouldn't start planning his second term just yet, especially in light of the recent Whitewater verdict. But history also suggests that it's uncommon for modern presidents to win re-election—just ask Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter or George Bush.

Few 20th century presidents were elected to two or more consecutive terms in their own right: Woodrow Wilson (D), FDR (D), Eisenhower (R), Nixon (R), and Reagan (R). Several vice presidents, however, served nearly two full terms as they filled out the unexpired terms of their presidents.

This suggests that it has become more difficult for presidents to win reelection to a second term. There are many explanations offered as to why most "modern" presidents have failed in their attempts to retain the office.

For one, the American electorate holds unreasonable expectations for the president. When candidates run in a presidential election, they make claims and promises to all types of constituencies. Once elected, it's obvious that the president cannot possibly fulfill all of his commitments. Thus he alienates important constituencies, generating greater cynicism about politicians. The newly alienated voters are much less likely to support the president in his reelection bid.

Secondly, America's political and economic systems have become so complex that they are impossible for any one person to manage. Thus when a president shows during a first term his inability to break the gridlock with Congress or control inflation, the voting public

becomes disillusioned with the president, doubts his ability, and votes him out of office.

Finally, an incumbent president, running on his record, is a more inviting target for negative ads when contrasted with a presidential candidate with no public policy accomplishments or "track record." As the art of negative campaigning has become more sophisticated, any incumbent president runs the risk of being skewed for actions taken during his first term.

If Clinton becomes the fifth president in the 20th century to be elected in his own right to consecutive terms, three factors will influence his second term success: his margin of victory, which party controls one or both houses of Congress, and the condition of the economy.

With the exception of FDR, presidents entering a second term experience their greatest domestic accomplishments during the first year to 18 months. The weight of lame-duck status limits a president's credibility with each successive month into the second term.

In foreign affairs, however, they have greater latitude. Without the burden of standing for re-election and with the constitutional authority inherent in the office, a lame-duck president can advance his international "vision," as Nixon did in traveling to China.

Regardless of Clinton's numbers in today's polls, obtaining a second term or running an effective second term are elusive goals for modern presidents.

Baldino is chairperson of the Political Science department at Wilkes.



Dr. Thomas Baldino

OPINION

What do you think?

Feedback on all issues addressed in Wilkes Universe is welcomed. All letters must be signed and will be subject to editing.

Mail:
Publications Manager
Wilkes University
P.O. Box 111
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766
Fax:
(717) 831-4973
e-mail:
alumnipub@wilkes1.wilkes.edu



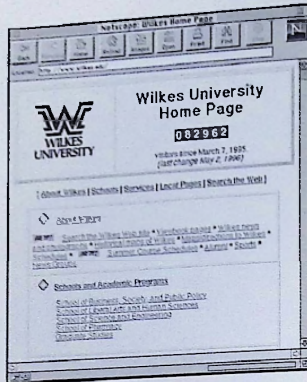
World Wide Web page popularity steady

Now in its second year as a site on the World Wide Web, the Wilkes University Home Page continues to be a popular destination for web surfers.

The home page includes information about admissions requirements, departmental program and course descriptions, campus photos and history and access to the University library.

More than 80,000 computer users have accessed the site since it was announced to the world on March 7, 1995. Accesses per month increased steadily through January, 1996, with a slight decline in the first quarter of 1996.

At the height of traffic in January, the site was accessed by 4,700 unique computers, a figure adjusted to eliminate machines which continually reconnect to the site. According to Dr. John Koch, Webmaster and professor of Math and Computer Science, the growth in the number of hits, or web page visits, has increased as the page contents have expanded. In the past year, several academic departments, administrative offices and student organizations have linked pages to the Wilkes Home Page. In addition,



The Wilkes University home page is located at <http://www.wilkes.edu> on the World Wide Web.

students and faculty members have added personal pages which represent their own studies and interests.

"As the amount of information we put up there increases, the number of people connecting looking for unique information about Wilkes also will increase," says Koch.

In January, Koch redesigned the page, changing the background and organizing the hyperlinks into a sectioned table. The site has been rated three stars out of a possible four by the Magellan Internet Directory, a comprehensive listing of nearly two million sites and 40,000 reviews.

"Eventually we hope to make the home page even more dynamic," says Koch.

Pharmacy School gains pre-candidate status

The Wilkes University School of Pharmacy is one step closer to accreditation by the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education (ACPE).

The School recently was granted pre-candidate status after a sight visit and review by the National Pharmaceutical Board. The School is now undergoing the final steps toward full accreditation, which can only be awarded after the first class graduates in the year 2000.

The four-year School of Pharmacy program includes three years of traditional courses and one year of clinical clerkship at area pharmacies and medical facilities. A competitive program, 80 pre-pharmacy students are accepted each year into the pre-pharmacy program, with 65 admitted into the professional pharmacy program.

Stark gets face lift to accommodate Pharmacy

Wilkes University's Stark Learning Center (SLC) is taking on a new look under the latest phase of the University's campus construction plan.

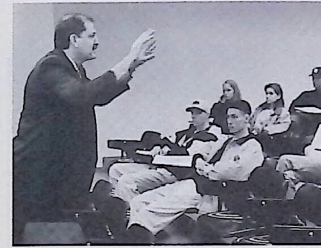
This phase of the plan, which began in January, is nearing completion. It includes 40,000 square feet of renovations encompassing the addition of laboratory, classroom and office facilities for the University's School of Pharmacy.

The School of Pharmacy will occupy the first and third floors of SLC. A space on the first floor will be converted into a pharmacy information center and computer lab, a model pharmacy and staff office space. The new third floor will include an anatomy and physiology laboratory, five research labs, conference rooms, staff office space and accessory rooms.

Named in honor of the late Admiral Harold R. Stark, Stark Learning Center was opened in 1958 and was expanded in 1973. In 1991, major renovations were completed on its laboratory space. The Center includes approximately 210,000 square feet of space with 160,000 square feet in use as modern classrooms, laboratories, studios and offices.



Looking over the SLC renovation plans are Robert Saffian, Wilkes staff architect, and Mike Hardik, job coordinator, Power Builders, Inc.



Dr. James Merryman, associate professor of Sociology/Anthropology, holds class at VIPS day.

Wilkes first VIPS day is a success

Wilkes welcomed more than 100 VIPS to campus last semester, but they weren't your average group of dignitaries.

Held in February, Very Important Prospective (V.I.P.) Student Day was designed to give potential Wilkes students a chance to experience University life first-hand. The high school seniors who attended were offered the opportunity to tour campus, ask questions and attend classes taught by Wilkes faculty.

The VIP students and their parents chose from a schedule of 40 classes such as "Writing and the Information Highway," "Creating Silicon Chips," "The Facts After 50," "Who's Reading Your Email" and "Design of the Van Halen Concert Stage." Afterward, lunch was served in the Marts Center, where the students attended a Student Life Fair which provided insight on residence life, cooperative education, financial aid, and student activities such as Student Government, Programming Board, and Commuter Council.

The VIP Student Day was one segment of a campus-wide program to enhance the University's recruiting effort. The integrated approach includes a revised communications plan, a personalized calling system, computer admissions tracking and staff customer service training.

New TV studio dedicated in honor of local television pioneer

Tom Shelburne epitomized the credo "think global, act local," so it's appropriate that a facility which prepares students to interact with the global community now bears his name, say his friends.

In April, Wilkes dedicated its newly constructed television studio in memory of the local television pioneer and former owner of WNEP-TV, Channel 16. The Thomas P. Shelburne Telecommunications Center is a 13-room, 5,500 square-foot facility which provides an opportunity for students to gain hands-on television experience.

"Tom would be especially pleased with it, first of all because he was a teacher," said Tom Bigler '93, professor of Communications, who served as master of ceremonies at the dedication.

"What an appropriate tribute," added Shelburne's longtime friend Wallace Stettler '90. "It's a tangible reminder of Tom's commitment to the community."

Shelburne co-founded radio station WILK and later was chairman and president of NEP Communications. Prior to his death last year, he was a strong advocate for regionalism and promoting the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton area as one region.



President Breiseth and Mrs. Catherine Shelburne unveil a plaque listing benefactors who helped fund the Center.



Dr. Wallace Stettler '90 reflects on the life of his friend, Thomas P. Shelburne.

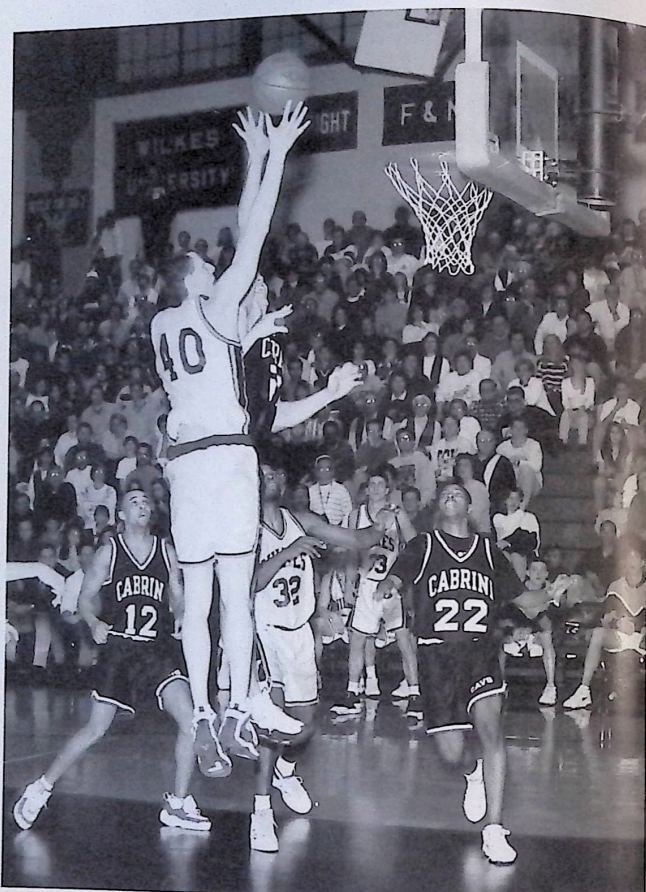
"He did more than anyone to pull this region together culturally and economically and help us realize the strength and growth potential of the Pocono Northeast," said Wilkes President Christopher Breiseth.

Transformed from a former storage area in the basement of Stark Learning Center, the Thomas P. Shelburne Telecommunications Center features two full-sized production studios, three editing booths, various classroom, offices and engineering control booths. The project was financed through the generosity of the Shelburne family and several close friends.

Wilkes students produce a daily news program and coordinate two weekly television shows in the studio. WOW!, an educational show for children, is produced weekly in conjunction with local station, WBRE-TV. A second program, "Colonels Corner" is a sports talk show which airs on local cable TV systems.

"In this studio, generations of future Wilkes students will be better prepared for a 21st century media age," said Breiseth. "This is a very special day for the University."

Men's Basketball



Dave Clancy reaches for the basket in a celebrated post-season match up against Cabrini College.

Photos by Warren Ruda

Colonels Make History on the Court

By Steve Bennett



Even before they began practicing for the 1995-96 basketball season, the Wilkes University Colonels had a big, red bulls-eye slapped right in the middle of their collective back.

The national spotlight was shining on Jerry Rickrode's mens' basketball team when it was announced that they had been chosen as the preseason number one Division III basketball team by *Sports Illustrated* and *Street and Smith's* college basketball magazines. The Columbus Multi-Media Poll had listed Wilkes as their number one team, while Dick Vitale ranked them third. Then, *The Sporting News* slid the Colonels into the fifth slot and selected two Wilkes seniors—center **Jason Turner** and forward **Matt LaBuda**—as second team preseason All-Americans.

And if that wasn't enough to make Wilkes a marked team this year, LaBuda and fellow senior guard **Chris Parker** had their pictures in major publications, LaBuda in *Sports Illustrated* and Parker in *Street and Smith's*.

All this pressure and the team hadn't even begun to practice.

But it wasn't as if the Colonels weren't deserving of the accolades. After all, Wilkes was returning all five starters from a 1994-95 team that finished a school

best 25-5, captured the school's first ever Freedom League title, and finished second overall in the Middle Atlantic Conference. The first team in school history to receive a bid to the Division III

NCAA Tournament, they had advanced all the way to the Elite Eight of the 1995 tournament before losing an 11-point halftime lead to be eliminated by Trinity College.

So with the experience of playing in the NCAA tournament, and the determination and desire to be able to take it one step

further this season, the Colonels were on a mission: To make this season even better than last year. That they did.

FOCUS, FOCUS, FOCUS

Playing with a whole lot of heart and not relying solely on talent, Wilkes had their best season in school history, a 28-2, in this, the year Wilkes basketball celebrated its 50th anniversary.

It surely wasn't as easy as everyone watching expected it to be. The fans and the media seemed to expect every game to be an easy win, disapproving when the margin of victory was narrower than predicted and placing more pressure on a team that actually didn't need any more.

But as all good teams do, the Colonels understood that basket-



Jason Turner was the Colonels' quiet leader and unstoppable in the paint.



Matt LaBuda was the Colonels' main man behind the three-point arc and one of the best free-throw shooters in the country.



“This team had a tremendous amount of pressure on it from the beginning. We knew what the expectations were, but we just had to go out and play our game.”

Dave Macedo '95
Colonels Guard

ball games are won on the court—not in a magazine, a newspaper, or on television. With that in mind, Coach Rickrode began to prepare his troops for what turned out to be a wild ride through an incredibly exciting basketball season.

“We tried to stay focused and prepare for each team one game at a time,” says Rickrode. “I tried not to think about the rankings.”

Despite early expectations, Rickrode did manage to keep his players on course. All year long, the Colonels played as a team—unselfish, yet business-like. At times, they executed to perfection.

“This team had a tremendous amount of pressure on it,” says Colonels guard **Dave Macedo**. “We knew it was on us from the beginning. We knew what the expectations were, but we just had to go out and play our game.”

“We didn’t worry about anyone’s expectations,” adds Turner. “Once you start living up to others’ expectations, you take away from the task at hand. We knew where we wanted to go and what we had to do to get there.”

The team was led by the heralded “big four,” a quartet made up of seniors Macedo, Rickrode’s under-rated first recruit, Parker, the team’s gutsy player who wasn’t afraid to shoot the ball; Turner, the Colonels’ quiet leader and main man in the paint; and LaBuda, a dead-eye shot from behind the three-point arc and one of the best free throw shooters in the country.

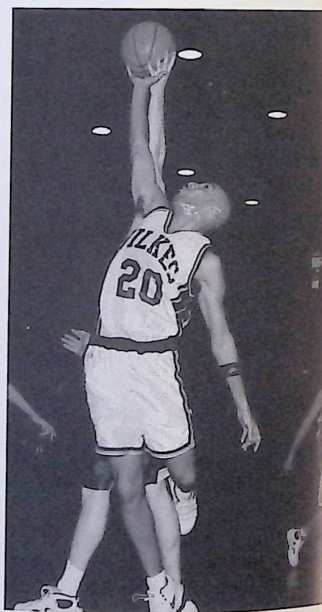
The season began on Friday, November 17 against Washington College of Maryland in the first round of the Widener University Tournament. The Colonels captured the first round game and eventually won what would be the first of two tournament championships. The

second came during the Lehman College (Bronx, New York) Tourney, culminating a three-game stretch Rickrode had planned to prepare the team for the long haul, a potential run in the NCAA tournament.

The Colonels breezed through the first ten games of their schedule before taking time off for the Christmas holiday. The players returned on New Year’s night for a workout that was the first of what would be many practices as 1996 was just beginning.

DISCOVERING MORTALITY

For Wilkes, the first real test of the season came in the finals of their own Holiday Inn/Wilkes University Colonel Classic tournament. The Colonels advanced to the finals with a convincing win over Marywood College. Then they received what was believed to be a



Chris Parker was the team’s gutsy player. On two occasions he connected on game-winning shots for the Colonels.



The Colonels ignited a spark in the Wilkes Community and beyond. When the team advanced to the NCAA Elite Eight, seven chartered buses followed them to Lancaster, Pa.

much-needed wake-up call against St. John Fisher of Rochester, New York.

Wilkes dropped its first game of the year in a matchup of teams that were both nationally ranked and top seeded in their respective regions. The Colonels lost 97-91, but the outcome may have been for the best. Finally they had something to build on as the sense of invincibility left the team.

“That loss did us some good,” says Rickrode. “Before that they thought they could just walk out on the court and teams were going to lie down.”

“We were able to feed off that loss to St. John Fisher,” adds Parker. “We thought we could just go out and beat teams, but that loss showed us we couldn’t just do that.”

What followed was a streak never before seen at Wilkes, as the Colonels ran through the Middle Atlantic Conference undefeated.

There were some close games and a few scares, but each night there seemed to be a new hero. One night it was Macedo or Parker, the next LaBuda or Turner would lead the team to victory.

But what made this team special was the role players. There was backup center **Tim Burlew**, junior forward **Dave Clancy** and 5-foot-9 inch backup point guard **Jay Williams**, who in one playoff game carried the Colonels on his back. These players emerged as forces to be reckoned with and made this group truly a team.

Following a victory over Lebanon Valley, the team that beat Wilkes in last year’s MAC Finals, the Colonels advanced to the second

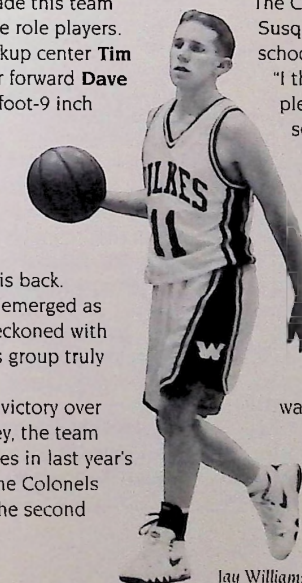
round where they escaped with a two-point victory over Drew. The Rangers had a chance to win the game at the buzzer, but a three-point shot attempt rimmed out and the Colonel season was still alive.

The Colonels went on to defeat Susquehanna to capture the school’s first ever MAC crown.

“I think we spoiled some people with all the 20-win seasons,” says Rickrode. “But for this team to go 18-0 in the MAC is quite an accomplishment. And, it wasn’t easy.”

Now the fun was supposed to start. The Colonels had reached the point in the season they had waited over a year to get to. It was finally time to exorcise the demons from last year, time to make a run toward the Final Four.

In the opening round of the NCAA playoffs,



Jay Williams



Cabrini Game Was 'One for the Ages'

It was the second round of the NCAA Division III tournament and the Colonel basketball season seemed to be coming to an abrupt end.

Then Jay Williams took control.

With his third straight three-point field goal of the final minute, Williams turned up the volume at the Marts Center to a deafening pitch. It shook the building that night. And the music produced by 2,400 charged-up fans may play in the heads of the Wilkes Colonels forever.

"When Jay hit some of those threes and the crowd roared," Wilkes forward Dave Clancy said after Wilkes beat Cabrini, 96-91 in overtime. "I said, 'This is what the NCAA tournament is supposed to be about. This is what I see on TV when I watch Sports Center.'"

The NCAA second-round victory was the final encore for the Colonels at home. And the largest crowd of the season swooned over the area's most incredible basketball comeback.

The players noticed.

"That was the loudest I've ever heard it here," Clancy said. "That was probably the best atmosphere I've ever played in."

"When Jay hit the one three and the crowd just exploded, your heart is up in your mouth," Wilkes coach Jerry Rickrode said. "You don't get that feeling very often."

Then again, performances like that are rare.

The Colonels trailed 75-64 with 3:30 left in regulation and were down 78-70 with 45 seconds left in a season that looked lost. Chasing an outstanding Cabrini team with a deep blend of athletic talent, Wilkes finally caught up when Williams stroked his fourth straight three-pointer with six seconds left. The

teams went into overtime tied at 82. "It was non-stop for 40 minutes," Clancy said. "It takes a lot to get back in a game like that. When you're down and fighting to get

By Paul Sokoloski
Times Leader Sports Writer

back, people don't realize that takes a lot of energy to get to that point. My legs started to feel a little bit tired.

"Jay didn't look like he was tired at all," Clancy continued. "He must have had the adrenaline flowing."

When Williams drilled his third straight try, bringing Wilkes within a 80-79 with 16 seconds left in regulation, an ear-piercing gasp of hope flooded the Marts Center.

"I couldn't communicate with the guys during the game," Rickrode said.

It only grew louder when Williams made the biggest shot of his life, the three that saved the season with six seconds left.

"Maybe on the street in front of my home, but never in a game," Williams said, when asked if he'd ever hit a shot so dramatic.

And when Chris Parker sank the game's final four points to seal victory from the foul line, the delirious fans had the memory of a lifetime.

"Chris Parker, when he made that last shot on the foul line, he was crying. I was told," Rickrode said. "He was so overcome with joy. The emotion is something you're going to remember for a long time."

"The team just has a no-quit attitude."

And for once, a gym full of cheers that may never stop.

"The crowd," Clancy said, "was great."

Excerpted with permission from The Times Leader March 14 edition. Paul Sokoloski is sports writer.

Wilkes faced Allentown College. After coming out a little sluggish, the Colonels pulled away and advanced to the second round, where mighty Cabrini College awaited. And in what was the greatest comeback in Wilkes basketball history, the Colonels showed that the game is truly never over until the final buzzer sounds (See sidebar, left).

Trailing by 14 points with 1:35 left in the game, little Jay Williams took over. The tiny guard scored 14 straight points, including four consecutive three-pointers to tie and force a game nobody thought Wilkes could win into overtime.

Once in the extra session, Williams didn't stop. He scored six more points to lift Wilkes to a 96-91 win and send them to Lancaster, Pa. for the regional semifinals.

"That game was a game that people will remember for a lifetime," said Rickrode. "It was just incredible."

For his efforts against Cabrini, Williams was featured on a segment of ESPN's Sports Center. "Jay Williams is the best point guard in the conference who doesn't start," says Rickrode. "Next year we'll be doing so much more to get him involved."

"I just tried to step up and make the big shots when we needed them," says Williams. "I felt it was just my time. Other times my job is to just distribute the basketball and play good defense."

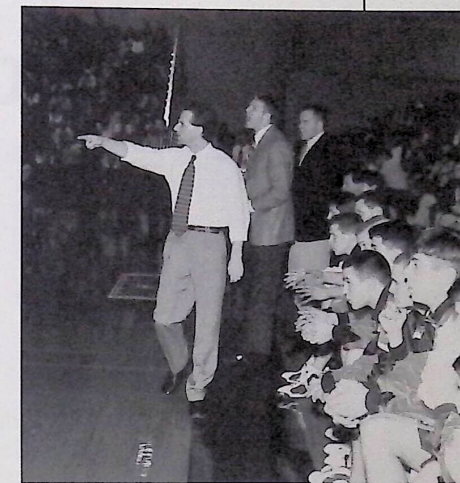
After Cabrini, it was on to face Buffalo State for a right to advance to the Elite Eight. After disposing of the Bengals, there was a matchup with top ranked Franklin and Marshall for the right to go to the Final Four. The F&M Diplomats

had the same record as the Colonels and lost to a much weaker opponent, but still found a way to get the region's top seed.

Wilkes went toe-to-toe with the mighty Diplomats for 12 minutes on F&M's home floor. Eventually though, Franklin and Marshall pulled ahead and came away with the victory and the right to move on to the Final Four.

Though disappointed by what some may perceive as failure, the 1995-96 Wilkes University Colonels accomplished a season that will go down in basketball history at Wilkes University, and probably in the Wyoming Valley.

There may never again be a team this good. The Colonels played with some of the best teams in the country, proving they could compete on a national level. They achieved an 18-game winning



Head Coach Jerry Rickrode, flanked by assistant coaches John Dunne and Matt McCaffrey.

streak, earned league and conference titles, and energized the Wilkes Community along the way.

Perhaps someday the players will realize just how good they were. But if anyone knows already, it's their coach.

"I told the kids that they've had a hell of a career," says Rickrode. "They shouldn't let the fact that they didn't make it to the Final Four have an effect on what they have done. This group won 89 games in four years."

Even as the seniors move on, their coach is preparing for next season. And rest assured, if there's a film to be watched or a recruit to be seen, Rickrode will be there. By next year, he'll be ready to reload, instead of rebuild.

Because basketball at Wilkes University has changed. And the whole country is watching.

Steve Bennett covered the Colonels season from start to finish as a sports correspondent for The Citizens' Voice newspaper, Wilkes-Barre.



Chris Parker cuts down the net as a memento of the Colonel MAC Championship victory.



A Lifetime of Service

"Love Has No Boundaries"



Dr. Check poses with his dental assistant, Sally Keenan, and an enthusiastic group of patients in front of the Jamaican dental clinic.

Photos courtesy Dr. Thomas Check

In many lives, there's a defining moment that can shape a person's spirit and direct the way his or her days are lived.

For **Dr. Thomas Check '50**, that moment came in 1956 while visiting family in Czechoslovakia. Check, now a dentist practicing in West Norristown, Pa., remembers the day as if it were yesterday.

"I asked the priest of a small, poor village town what I could send him once I returned to the States," says Check, who attended Bucknell University Junior College from 1946 to 1948. "But the priest knew my couple bucks wouldn't change the village's situation and asked for nothing."

"The priest said the most important thing I could do was to always remember 'Laska nema chranicov.'"

Those three words in English mean "Love has no boundaries," and they changed Check's life. Every year for the past 34 years, Check has travelled outside

the boundaries of his country and volunteered his dentistry skills to care for Jamaican orphans. He does it because he can.

HOMETOWN VALUES

Check always knew that somehow, someday, he wanted to help others. Once he became a dentist, he decided he wanted to take care of the dental needs of individuals who had no outlet for care.

"I grew up in Wilkes-Barre and was educated at Sacred Heart, Coughlin and then at Wilkes," says Check, 68. "Values were always emphasized, no matter what school I was attending."

Check studied biology at Bucknell University Junior College which became Wilkes College during his second year. Dr. Charles Reif, along with Dr. Eugene Farley, made lasting impressions on Check's life.

"Charles Reif was very instrumental as an example in my life. He had values, discipline and academic demands that had to be met," says Check. "And maybe most importantly, no matter how tough he seemed to be, he had a great sense of humor."

Check and Reif met again at Wilkes University's 1996 January Commencement when Check received an honorary doctor of sci-



Elizabeth Check, Sally Keenan and Sr. Maria Garretti, superintendent of Alpha Orphanage.

ence degree from the University in recognition for his humanitarian efforts.

"I didn't know that Thomas Check was involved with volunteering in Jamaica until graduation," says Reif, professor emeritus of Biology. "It surprised me at first, but then I thought, he and all his classmates back then were pretty serious youngsters and would do well."

Dr. Joseph Marino '50, now an osteopathic doctor in Philadelphia, was one of Check's classmates at BUJC. The two Biology majors stayed in touch and have remained best of friends. They're so close, in fact, that Check is godfather to Marino's 39-year-old son Michael.

"Tom has always impressed me as being an optimistic person who is extremely positive about the future," says Marino. "There is no doubt in my mind that he entered the dental profession thinking he could somehow help people."

A MISSION TO HELP OTHERS

After leaving Wilkes, Check attended Temple University for his dental degree and the University of Pennsylvania for post-graduate work in pediatric and oral surgery. In the



Check examines a young patient as part of the Jamaican incremental care program.

"We didn't know what to expect our first year... People would ask us if we would ever come back and we'd answer 'let's leave it to the Lord's hand.' By doing that we managed to get back to Jamaica every year."

Dr. Thomas Check '50



By
Christine Liberaski



early 1960s, after establishing a successful practice, getting married and starting a family, Check decided it was time to help others. His chance came in the form of a newsletter from the Catholic Medical Mission Board.

The board was looking for a dentist to set up an incremental dental care program at Alpha Orphanage in Jamaica. Check jumped at the chance and helped research, design and implement a program that annually measures decayed, missing and filled teeth and then evaluates and manages the increment of change. The program saves teeth instead of extracting them.

In the spring of 1962, Check and his wife, Elizabeth, and their three children made their first trip to the country that has one dentist to every 20,000 people. In the U.S. there is about one dentist for every 1,500 people.

"We didn't know what to expect our first year and we were all a little scared," remembers Check. "People would ask us if we would ever come back and we'd give them our stock answer, 'let's leave it in the Lord's hand.' By doing that we managed to get back to Jamaica every year."

Check with Sr. Susan Fragier R.S.M., superintendent of St. John Bosco children's home.



MORE THAN DENTAL CARE

Through the decades, Check has cared for thousands of children at the Alpha Orphanage in the city of Kingston, and St. John Bosco Orphanage in the country setting of Mandeville, which established a dental program about 10 years ago. He says the orphan's dental problems are no different than those of children he treats in America. The big difference between the children, however, is that most of his Jamaican patients have been abused, abandoned or orphaned.

Check recalls some very sad, but inspiring stories about the children, but the one of an eight-year-old boy named Newton stands out most in his mind. The child suffered abuse from his father that caused his hands to be deformed and webbed. The father had lit them on fire as a form of punishment.

"But the most incredible thing about the story was what Newton said when I asked him how he felt about his father," says Check. "The boy said, 'I forgive him.'"

Check believes it was the love and kindness the boy experienced at St. John Bosco that helped him for-

give his father. All the children, says Check, are very grateful to the people who run the orphanages, and to the volunteers who pay attention to their needs.

"I didn't realize until a few years ago how important it is to these children that volunteers come back every year," reflects Check. "They all come from dysfunctional families, so to feel the continuity of care by the same people has an enormous impact on them."

THE HUB OF THE WHEEL

When Check first started his work in Jamaica he spent about a month every year caring for the orphans. Now because of more volunteers, each dentist is only needed for two weeks. Volunteers from around the world, including England, Canada and the United States, now donate their time and skills.

The program has grown from being housed in a farm shed at Alpha Orphanage to having two year-round clinics. In addition, the Jamaican government now pays for three full-time dental auxiliaries.

"It's a very inspiring thing that Tom is doing down there," says Marino,

Citation for Dr. Thomas M. Check

Bestowed by Dr. Christopher Breiseth upon awarding of honorary doctorate at Winter Commencement, January 23:

Thomas M. Check, a native of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, you have combined your rich family and religious heritage and your professional expertise to serve humankind, not just in Norristown, your long time home, but in far away Jamaica.

In 1962, you began a dental clinic in a refurbished farm shed in Kingston, Jamaica for the children of the Alpha Orphanage. You began by serving 600 children and youth, many of whom would have lost most of their teeth by the time they were in their twenties had they not received the dental care you proceeded to organize for them. While you have mobilized other dentists and raised

money from your own patients and friends to build this initial modest clinic into a full incremental dental care program patterned after the World Health Organization's guidelines, you also continue to go each year to Kingston with your devoted wife and helpmate, Betty, to serve the children of the Alpha Boys' school and St. John Bosco School. Like the other dentists you have persuaded to provide this care, you pay for your own air fare and receive no remuneration except room and board.

You exemplify that private generosity for the public good that is so much part of the American character and which you cited in an early article on Project Alpha in quoting Dr. Arnaud C. Maris, one of the founding fathers of Wilkes University. He said that this generosity "is the inevitable flowering of the very

best moral, spiritual and cultural aspiration, insights, experiences and inspirations, over 19 centuries, of all the various racial strains that have merged in the creation of Western Man."

You have drawn from the rich tradition of your Slovak heritage, being a Sokol of Assembly 59 and a member of the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania. You have been a devoted son, husband, father to your three adopted children, Thomas C., Mary Rose and David and now also a grandfather.

Your alma mater is proud to recognize your life to devoted service. By the power vested in me by the Board of Trustees and by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I hereby confer upon you, Thomas M. Check, the doctorate of science, honoris causa, with all the rights and privileges appertaining thereto.

who is also Check's patient. "As a doctor myself, I don't know if I could do it. The customs are different, the medical malpractice laws are different—Tom really goes out on a limb to help the program succeed."

The ever-modest Check takes little credit for the growth of the dental programs in Jamaica.

"What we're doing isn't a big deal. My wife and I just happen to be the hub of the wheel," explains Check. "But there are a lot of spokes that keep the wheel going."

This humble manner is one of the reasons Diane Jellen, Check's patient, nominated the dentist to receive an honorary degree from Wilkes.

In her letter of recommendation, Jellen described Check as a person who "helped me rethink my values regarding time, ambitions, self indulgence and the value of helping others." Jellen is especially proud that her sons, **Paul '92**, and **Jonathan '95**, have the same educa-

tional foundation as Check.

"It is Wilkes alumni like (Check) who make a positive difference in positive ways," wrote Jellen. "It is Wilkes alumni like these that my sons, also Wilkes alumni, would do well to model."

FINDING MEANING

March 1996 marked Check's 34th visit to Jamaica. He plans to continue his work in that country as long as the "Lord allows it."

He says he and his wife are hooked on helping and they surround themselves with reminders of the orphanages—photo collages on the walls of his dental office and scrap books at the receptionist's desk. One of the first things patients see as they enter his office is a poster that reads "Love Has No Boundaries."

"I never wanted to be labeled a 'wooly-minded do-gooder.' I wanted to have purpose and meaning," concludes Check. "That's what I have

found with the project."

Christine Liberaski, former communications assistant at Wilkes, is a public relations specialist for Communications Solutions Group, a Philadelphia-area public relations firm.



Check with a satisfied dental patient.



Wilkes and the Susquehanna

A River Runs Through It

Wilkes University's history has been inexorably linked with the Susquehanna River over the decades. The school's song has tilted to and fro with the flow of water evident just along the western edge of the school's grounds.

Sometimes, that relationship has turned a tad adversarial.

In June, 1972, the rage of Hurricane Agnes turned Wilkes's grounds into a muddy hinterland. Most recently, a melting of a vast snowpack in January, 1996, dictated the evacuation of a buzzing campus that had just found its spring semester vibe.



In January, rising river waters necessitated the evacuation of downtown Wilkes-Barre and the University.

Courtesy Lewis Geyer, The Times Leader

RIVER AESTHETICS

Yet, despite the inherent risk of locating an academic collective so near to a majestic tributary, Wilkes University and her denizens treasure the aesthetic value of the geographic marriage.

Take heed the thoughts of **Karen Gould '93**, a native of Pitman, NJ.

"To me, the river added to the beauty of being at Wilkes," she says. "Think about it. Would you rather have your school located next to a natural landmark like the Susquehanna or a

major road or highway?"

The lure of the Susquehanna has even bordered on the mystical. Just ask **Tom McGuire '85**, the University's sports information director and former cross-country coach.

"I was a runner during my years as a student, and I was familiar with our courses in my days as a coach," says McGuire. "It was very interesting to show the course to the other schools. Many times we would run along

Nesbitt Park or other points near to the river and you would see the fog coming off of the water. Some of the other coaches would comment about the mystery of the Susquehanna."

Although the Colonel runners enjoyed a natural affinity for their home course, the complexities of the water course sometimes caused unwanted problems.

"I remember a particular race from 1981," says McGuire. "Part of the

course was flooded. When we would explain to the other squads that some of the course was below the dikes, they used to think we were running in the river. Unfortunately, sometimes we were."

RISING WATERS

McGuire's runner's lament pales in comparison to the woes that the

By James Clark '93

Wilkes student body experienced on January 20 of this year.

At 7 p.m. on the 19th, the river was predicted to crest at 27 feet, 10 below the flood stage around the Wilkes campus. By 11 p.m. that evening, the Wyoming Valley's flood plain was being voluntarily evacuated. The evacuation would become mandatory a mere eight hours later.

As Wilkes's resident population was transported to College Misericordia in nearby Dallas, Pa., Residence Life coordinator **Doug Lane '89** attempted to place the emergency in perspective.

"When I was a student," he says, "I remember the river almost reaching its banks. (The Susquehanna) certainly adds to the campus experience, but here was a situation where it was causing a tremendous amount of trouble."

Lane was one of several Wilkes staff members who managed the student displacement that evening.

"Everyone was very calm," he says. "We were instructed to access the dormitories and pull the fire alarms. I would say by 1 a.m., the campus was evacuated for the most part. It was a very surreal experience."

So says Paul O'Hop, the University's vice president of Business Affairs and Auxiliary Enterprises, who

coordinated the evacuation.

"We have a plan that we follow when a potential disaster faces the school," says the former military officer. "First of all, we consider personal survival. Next, the school reconstitutes. Then, we recover."

O'Hop had nothing but praise for staff members who helped move equipment that evening.

"I'll say this much," he says, "they were model employees. We found ourselves in a very difficult situation, especially where the new classroom building was concerned. Even though we were covered by insurance, many of the valuable items were moved to higher ground. It was a complete team effort."

A LEARNING RESOURCE

Wilkes's relationship with the Susquehanna isn't always classified as dangerous, however.

According to Ken Klemow, associate professor of Biology, the presence of the river on the campus environs adds to a student's educational experience.

"There's no question that the Susquehanna has an enormous educational value," he says. "It's a resource that's used in various ways."

Chief among those is the river's role as a natural laboratory.

"The science students use the river in several ways," says Klemow. "We study river vegetation,

"There's no question that the Susquehanna has enormous educational value. It's a resource that's used in various ways."

Ken Klemow
Assoc. Professor of Biology





Flooding precipitates Presidential meetings

Flood waters have brought United States Presidents to Wilkes-Barre on two occasions in the past 25 years. After the June, 1972 flooding that resulted from tropical storm Agnes, President Richard Nixon presented a \$4 million check to Wilkes president Dr. Francis Michelini (right), saying "this is one check that won't bounce, Dr. Mike."

In February, Wilkes president Dr. Christopher Breiseth was one of several community leaders to participate in a round table discussion during President Bill Clinton's visit to the city (below and bottom right), which followed small stream flooding and evacuation of the downtown.



C. Salomick



water flow, water chemistry, fish population—you name it."

Klemow adds that the Susquehanna benefits undergraduates in ways that transcend its worth as a unique ecosystem.

"When you consider the river," he says, "you can't think only of its scientific value. You must also consider its role in the cultural and business aspect of a Wilkes student. It transcends pure ecology."

Dr. Dale Bruns, Wilkes's chair of Geoenvironmental Science, agrees.

"(The Susquehanna) is a tremendous body of water

to study," he says. "If you go back as far as the 1800s, when the timber and mining industries were in full force, you'd find a river that's drastically different than what it is right now."

IMPROVING WATER QUALITY

Bruns is upbeat about the river as he champions its recent evolution.

"The acid content of the water has definitely decreased since the heyday of the mining industry," he says. "You also have a lesser amount of sediment and heavy

metals entering the water, although that is still a problem.

"I would say that over the last hundred years, the river's water quality has improved by leaps and bounds. It's been gradual but steady."

Such a diagnosis is good news to people such as **Tim Sichler '85**, a graduate assistant in Computer and Electrical Engineering who currently serves as the University's crew team advisor.

"Our attitude is that you might as well utilize the river," he says. "Yes, the water can be cold, but we

try to man the boats on as many days as possible; we try to soldier on. But when the depth gets to be about ten feet, we abandon the cause. Until then, it's business as usual."

That sentiment can be cited when considering the Wilkes experience through the years.

In 1972, the campus was inundated with the "muddy water."

In 1993, a flood scare caused tensions to rise in the community, only to be heightened by the 1996 evacuation.

Paul Kanjorski '59, representative to the 11th Congressional District of Pennsylvania for more than a decade, has proposed the harnessing of the Susquehanna's vast potential into a lakefront venture. It's Kanjorski's view that such a focusing of the river's drawing power would only improve the quality of life in its surrounding communities.

Whether or not such high-stakes enviroplanning would benefit Wilkes remains to be seen, but, as Klemow sees things, the Susquehanna is there to take advantage of.

"The river can be tapped in so many ways," he says. "We've only scratched the surface of it."

James Clark '93 recently was hired as a copy editor at The Press of Atlantic City, southern New Jersey's daily newspaper.

Writing What They Know

The Faculty Authors at Wilkes University

We've all heard it: sitting in composition class, chewing on the edge of a pencil, staring at the long blank page with rows and rows of blue lines to fill. Write what you know, the professor says. Your thoughts are there. Just write them.

And while undergraduates still ponder which thoughts they may have that are worth writing down, many of their mentors are taking their own advice. Professional, academic writing, once thought to be confined to the realm of articles in scholarly journals, has blossomed in a way unique to small schools such as Wilkes University. From full-length plays to third-edition textbooks, members of the Wilkes faculty have been busy chewing on the edges of their own pencils, writing—and publishing—major works.

Members of the Wilkes faculty embody a variety of writing genres: scholarly, trade nonfiction, and creative writing. "It is remarkable at a University like Wilkes, where the teaching load is heavy and teaching is stressed, that we can produce authors such as these," says Dr. J. Michael Lennon, vice president for

Academic Affairs. "It is a tribute to diligence and creativity."

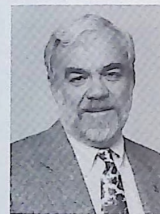
ON THE SHELVES AT WALDEN

It is diligence, indeed, that would readily describe the work of authors such as Dr. Kuo-Kang Shao, professor of History. Shao's work, a book about Zhou Enlai, a Chinese policy maker, will be available later this year through St. Martin's Press. The book represents eight years of writing and research into more than 1,000 primary sources. Despite his meticulous work, however, Shao notes that he could have devoted himself even longer to the project.

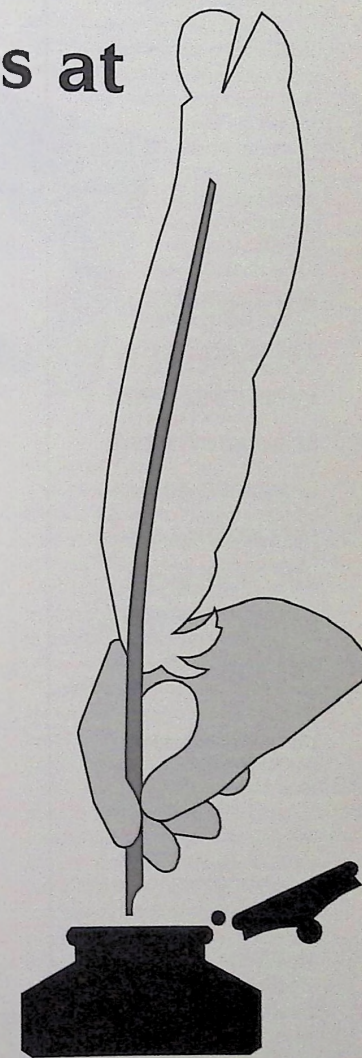
A similar sentiment is expressed by Dr. Dennis Hupchick, associate professor of History, who has authored three books about Eastern Europe, and co-authored and edited several more. While many of these works have been scholastic, his most recent solo project, *Conflict and Chaos in Eastern Europe*, was published by the trade division of St. Martin's Press in 1995.

Hupchick feels that many of his classroom discussions informed and improved his writing. As in the classroom, Hupchick takes a non-traditional approach to expressing his thoughts, and while he writes for an educated reader, one does not need a Ph.D. to comprehend his work.

Hupchick sees writing as his opportunity to reach beyond the



J. Michael Lennon



By
Melanie O'Donnell '93



“Knowledge is not a matter of notes, but what is in your head. If you’ve got interesting and different viewpoints, get them out there.”

Dr. Dennis Hupchick
Assoc. Professor of History

classroom, using his students’ questions to shape the topics of his arguments. In fact, his next book, already in progress, will be designed to be used as “a student text, but not a textbook,” he says. He stresses that any educational material, whether it be in lecture or written format, must be interesting above all else.

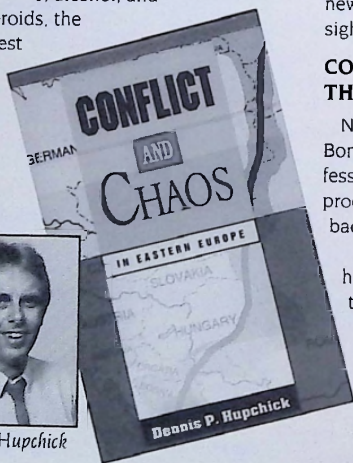
“As a writer, I have to present something in a coherent and understandable fashion,” he says. “That’s an extension of the classroom. Knowledge is not a matter of notes, but what is in your head. If you’ve got interesting and different viewpoints, get them out there.”

IN THE UNIVERSITY SHOPPE

What do nuclear reactors, alcoholic beverages, and steroids have in common? Dr. William R. Stine could tell you. Stine, associate professor of Chemistry, recently published a third edition of his college textbook, *Applied Chemistry*. The book arose from the need to create a text intended for non-science majors, one that would demonstrate chemistry through everyday objects. In addition to relating chemistry to reactors, alcohol, and steroids, the latest



Dennis Hupchick



edition also includes sections on radon, soap, and baking.

In Stine’s case, his teaching directly affected the development of the book.

“In 1978, I was team teaching a class with several professors, called ‘Chemistry for the Consumer,’ a course for non-science majors in which we discussed relevant, interesting material. There was no text, but every week we wrote more handouts, which developed into the book.”

While the course no longer exists, Stine still uses the text in several formats. Currently, he is teaching it as a Special Topics in Chemistry course to upperclass science majors. Education majors also have read the book on a self-study basis. Additionally, the text is used at more than 100 colleges and universities throughout the country.

“The material lends itself to being used at a lot of different levels,” he observes. “There was definitely an established need.”

Stine is keenly aware, however, of the need to keep such a book current, and is willing to publish further editions when necessary. But a new project? “Not for a while,” he sighs.

COMING SOON TO A THEATRE NEAR YOU

No stranger to the stage, Dr. Bonnie C. Bedford, associate professor of English, had her first play produced before she finished her bachelor’s degree.

Comprehensively, Bedford has had original works produced 25 times. But the past few years have been different: her plays *Sniper*, *Accident*, and two ver-

sions of *Group S.O.S.* (one with an all-female cast, one all-male) have been professionally produced at the Adam Hill Theatre in Los Angeles, California. Additionally, *Sniper* was produced at the T. Schreiber Theatre in New York City, as well as at Wilkes’s own Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts. It also was a finalist in the Sundance competition, a writing contest organized by the production company headed by actor Robert Bedford. Bedford’s screenplay, *Watch Fires*, also was a semi-finalist at Sundance last year.

So wouldn’t teaching fledgling writers seem a little dull to Bedford compared with all this excitement? Absolutely not, she says. She doesn’t view teaching and writing as separate processes—as she is teaching a class how to develop a story, she is writing with them. Many of her students had the opportunity to witness the development of *Sniper* from the rewrite stage to production. They even offered criticism in her playwriting workshop.

For Bedford, educating students about her personal experience as a writer is part of her job. Students taking her class are often seeking to become published or produced writers, and are eager to learn about “the business.” Yet Bedford feels that her responsibility as a teacher is equally as important as her work as a writer.

“It’s energizing to work with students,” she says. “It’s exciting to discover talent and nurture it. Too much out there can kill a writer, so I use an apprenticeship style of teaching. It’s my role to guide and facilitate young writers.”

It is perhaps because of this that Bedford could not envision herself leaving teaching to become a full-time writer. “Teaching makes me question everything I do. It adds accountability.”

Dr. Robert D. Stetten, associate professor of Psychology, found that his teaching subsequently inspired creative writing. “I developed a psychological drama to complement empirical-based knowledge in the classroom, for example, a Personality class,” he says.

From there, his work progressed to stage plays, staged readings, and radio plays, four of which have been produced on WVIA radio, and made available to National Public Radio for broadcast. He still ties his writing into the classroom, using the idea of a character study to explain psychological concepts.

Stetten sees his moonlighting, however, as a possible second career: upon his retirement, he plans to devote himself to his writing full-time.

AND ON THE SYLLABUS

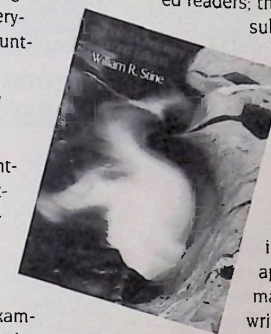
All of Wilkes’s faculty writers have found different ways to use their material in the classroom, and impress the value of writing upon the student as well. Hupchick notes that while he does not grade

his students on the quality of their writing, he is more keen in making students aware of writing blunders. “A paper that is not written well detracts from the content,” he says.

Bedford believes that it doesn’t matter if her students decide to become professional creative writ-

ers or not, as writing creatively helps students in other ways.

“Creative writers are more educated readers; they can pick up more subtle differences in a work. It also helps other types of writing, in that you come to understand the rules in a different way. Students who take a creative writing class also can appreciate those who manage to succeed as writers, and recognize writing as a discipline that requires hard work.”



she notes.

Vice President Lennon, an author himself, values the benefits that he feels students receive from faculty authors. “There is no professional academic activity that can contribute to the classroom as writing or editing a book,” he asserts.

Lennon also values student input. “Student questions help you to not get too esoteric. You must think in terms others can understand. You must rejustify your viewpoint.”

Most authors can elaborate upon reasons why they feel they must commit themselves to the weighty activity of writing large works. For some, like Shao, it is the devotion to a cause; for others, like Hupchick, it is a rewarding way to express their opinions. Still others feel a special obligation to write about some unique knowledge that only they may know.

But Lennon best sums up why a teacher chooses to write: “It makes it real.”

Melanie O’Donnell ‘93 is an assistant dean of Admissions at Wilkes. She has won several awards for her creative writing works.



Bonnie Bedford



New Alumni Association president officers elected

The Wilkes University Alumni Association recently underwent a change in leadership.



Bill Goldsworthy

At its June 8 meeting, members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors elected **William Goldsworthy '76**, **Suzanne Trosko '92**, **Elizabeth**

Ward '72 and **William Miller '81** to the positions of president, first vice president, second vice president and treasurer, respectively. The new officers replace **Colleen Gallagher '81**, **Fred Demech '61** and **James Ruck '78** who recently resigned after several years service on the board. **David Taylor '83 M'85** remains on as Secretary.

The elections were held in accordance with the Alumni Association Constitution, which stipulates that vacancies which occur during a term of office be filled by vote of the board. Term of office is two years.

Association plans "Big" trip to New York

The Wilkes University Alumni Association is hosting a trip to see the new Broadway musical "Big" on Saturday, September 21.

Buses will depart Wilkes-Barre from Ralston Field at 9 a.m. The performance begins at 3 p.m., and will be followed by a private reception and tour of FAO Schwarz hosted by **Bill Miller '81**, vice president of the world-renowned toy store. Buses will return to Wilkes-Barre at approximately 11 p.m.

Cost for the trip is \$100, which includes transportation from Wilkes-Barre, a ticket to the performance



Custom plates available to PA drivers

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) has approved a special license plate specially for Wilkes University alumni.

The special organization plates are blue and gold and include the Wilkes University flying "W" emblem and the words "Wilkes University Alumni."

Plates are available for Pennsylvania registered passenger cars, motor homes and trucks with a gross weight of less than 9,000 pounds. Motorcycles and trailers do not qualify, and personalized plates are not available. A one-time fee of \$20 is charged for each plate. This fee is separate from annual registration fees.

To order, complete the form on the inside back cover of this magazine and mail it to the Alumni Office with a check payable to Wilkes University.

The Association must receive 300 forms before an order can be placed

and admission to the reception. Other package options are \$95 for show tickets only, \$35 for the reception and bus ride only, and \$25 for the reception only. A portion of the price benefits the Wilkes Alumni Association.

Based on the 1988 movie of the same title, "Big" is the story of a 12-year-old boy who suddenly finds himself projected into the body of a grown man. FAO Schwarz is one of the backers of the musical, which opened in April at the Shubert Theatre in New York City.

Contact the Alumni Office for tickets.

Mark your calendar for Homecoming '96

Planned for October 11, 12 and 13, Homecoming 1996 promises to be a great weekend for reuniting with your classmates.

Alumni events will kick off on Friday afternoon with the annual golf tournament and continue that evening at the Friday Night Frolic in the Annette Evans Alumni and Faculty House.

Saturday's events will include the Top of the Hill celebration at the Munson Field House prior to the Colonel's football match-up against Juniata. Afterward, meet your friends at Murray's Inn for the Fifth Quarter party.

In addition, the men's Colonels soccer team will meet Susquehanna at 11 a.m. and the field hockey squad matches up with Delaware Valley at 1 p.m.

Other weekend events planned include a Saturday night reunion gathering for alumni who lived in the River Street Warner Hall dormitory, a Wilkes theatre production in the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts, a tennis tournament and a brunch for graduates of Wilkes's MBA program.

Watch your mail for Homecoming Weekend flyers which will further detail the weekend events. Or for more immediate information, contact the Alumni Office.

For further information on any Alumni activities, contact the Wilkes University Alumni Office:

(717) 831-4130 or
(800) WILKES-U, ext. 4130

Wilkes University
P.O. Box 111
Wilkes-Barre PA, 18766

Fax: (717) 831-4973

e-mail:

alumail@colonel.csc.wilkes.edu

"Colonel Bob" returns to Wilkes as new Alumni Office assistant

Robert Wachowski '89, '94, known to many Wilkes alumni as "Colonel Bob," recently accepted a position at Wilkes as assistant to the executive director of Alumni and Development.

"The University is pleased to welcome back one of its biggest supporters," says Wilkes president Christopher N. Breiseth. "Bob Wachowski will be an asset to Wilkes as we continue to improve our services to the alumni body."

In the newly created Alumni Office position, Wachowski helps coordinate alumni events, such as Homecoming and Reunion



Robert Wachowski

Weekends, and is responsible for expanding Alumni in Admissions, volunteer development, fund-raising and student alumni programs. Wachowski reports to **Sandra Beynon M'85**, executive director of alumni and development.

For the past two years, Wachowski has been employed as a full-time substitute teacher in the Western Wayne School District, where he also served as cheerleading and soccer coach.

A 1989 graduate of Wilkes with a bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Wachowski served two years as a service representative for Sony Corporation before returning to the University to obtain a teaching certificate in Mathematics. During each tenure at Wilkes, he acted as the Wilkes Colonel, the

University mascot, cheering at most sporting events, organizing pep rallies and representing the University at alumni and community events.

Wachowski was a student speaker at both 1989 and 1994 Wilkes Commencement ceremonies, and at the dedication of the Arnaud C. Marts Center. In 1994, he received the University's athletic service award for his work as the mascot. He also was a finalist for a position as the Phillie Phanatic, mascot for the Philadelphia major league baseball team.

The new Alumni Office position was created in response to an Alumni Association report which called for additional staffing to achieve University and Alumni Association priorities. Wachowski began work at the University in May.

Scholarship fund approaches goal

The Alumni Scholarship Fund is half way there!

Sponsored by the Association, the fund will be used to provide scholarships to children of Wilkes alumni who attend the University. The total currently stands at approximately \$5,000, midway to the \$10,000 minimum required to endow a scholarship at the University.

The Alumni Board of Directors is planning several fundraising events to bolster the fund, including the third annual Alumni Dinner Dance, which will be held April 5, 1997 at the Westmoreland Club, Wilkes-Barre.

Donations to the fund are welcome. Checks should be made payable to Wilkes University and mailed to the Alumni Office.

University Events Calendar

August 29, 1996

Thursday

❖ Summer Commencement/ Convocation exercises

September 14, 1996

Saturday

❖ Alumni Association Board of Directors' meeting, at Munson Fieldhouse prior to Wilkes vs. Widener football game

September 21, 1996

Saturday, 2 p.m.

❖ New York City theater trip to see "Big," followed by FAO Schwarz alumni event.

September 28, 1996

Saturday

❖ John Wilkes Club Dinner

October 11-13, 1996

Friday through Sunday

❖ Homecoming Weekend

October 12, 1996

Saturday

❖ University Council meeting

November 2, 1996

Saturday

❖ Alumni Association annual membership meeting, prior to Wilkes vs. Delaware Valley football game

April 5, 1997

Saturday

❖ Annual Alumni Association Scholarship Fund Dinner Dance

May 2-4, 1997

Friday through Sunday

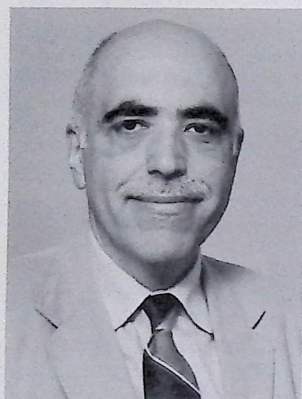
❖ Reunion Weekend



Organization or Compulsion?

In Pursuit of a New World Order

by Anthony L. Liuzzo, J.D., Ph.D.



Anthony L. Liuzzo, J.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Business and Economics, can be found "hanging tight" in his office at Wilkes University.

"My laundry is coordinated by color and type of material, so it is not uncommon for me to do a 'dark blue, delicate, cotton' wash."

I am organized. For years, I have been ridiculed, threatened, cajoled and misunderstood. But few will accept my compulsion without at least some feelings of discomfort.

My office looks like an advertisement from a furniture catalogue—computer hardware hidden; monitor tilting at exact 27.2 degrees; stapler and paper clips on the right side (all organized people are, of course, right-handed); scrap paper neatly aligned. My filing is up to the second and, in the event of my untimely demise, all of my work could be deciphered prior to the moment of my funeral. My office radio is always tuned to the weather station.

My automobile serves as a monument to *The Odd Couple's* Felix Unger. It is always topped off with gasoline, its tires inflated to the exact recommended pressure, its glove compartment contents ordered with flashlight, maps, flares and emergency towing information. It enjoys its weekly wash, and refuses to start if any one of its passengers possesses even an unlit cigarette.

I never hang loose, only tight; refuse to cut anyone any slack, and I always play the symphony of my life from sheet music, never by ear. I am a fanatic about time. I am never late, and enjoy getting the "feel of a place" prior to my luncheon companion's arrival. I set my wristwatch daily to the atomic clock. I know precisely where I will be and what I will be doing during each minute for the next year, sleep exactly 7.63 hours per night and chew each bite of my food 31 times (I confess, I am a rebel at times).

My home is immaculate. I employ the FIFO method for all foodstuffs and related items; rotating groceries, cleaning solutions, and toilet paper products. I am prepared for the diminished eyesight of my eventual old age, as my refrigerator is always maintained with milk on the top right, eggs in their container and mustard on the door shelf. My laundry is coordinated by color and type of material, so that it is not uncommon for me to do a "dark blue, delicate, cotton" wash.

I maintain paper trails for all of my business affairs. I possess every tax return that I have ever filed since my childhood, the original of every check I have ever written, all correspondence (including Christmas cards) and a record of every incoming and outgoing telephone call. I own reference books and encyclopedias that would rival the Library of Congress. I can win any argument, about any subject, and can provide supporting citations and documentation in moments. I have never knowingly admitted to being wrong.

Incidentally, I wish to thank all of those readers who wrote, who telephoned or who otherwise expressed complimentary words for my past columns. A few even pointed out that, in the last issue of *Wilkes Universe*, I incorrectly cited the Declaration of Independence as containing the redundancy "more perfect union," when in fact it was, of course, the United States Constitution. In light of my previous comments, I view my acknowledgment of this error as a new beginning for me.

I resolve that tomorrow I will move my stapler to the left side of my desk!

MV-904SO (01-95)

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of Transportation
Bureau of Motor Vehicles
P.O. Box 68266
Harrisburg, PA 17106-8266



APPLICATION FOR
SPECIAL ORGANIZATION
REGISTRATION PLATE

Fee: \$20.00

↑ FOR BUREAU USE ONLY ↓

A VEHICLE DESCRIPTION AND APPLICANT INFORMATION (complete this section exactly as information appears on current registration card)				
TITLE NUMBER	CURRENT REG. PLATE #	CURRENT EXPIRATION	MAKE OF VEHICLE	YEAR
In conjunction with replacement of your plate you will receive one registration card. If additional registration cards are desired, the fee is \$1.00 for each card.				How many extra registration cards do you want?
LAST NAME	JR., etc.	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME OR INITIAL	TELEPHONE NUMBER
STREET ADDRESS		CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
B TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT				
NAME OF ORGANIZATION:				
NAME OF ORGANIZATION CHAPTER, POST, LODGE, EMPLOYER, etc.			TELEPHONE NUMBER	
Wilkes University Alumni Association			(717) 831-4130	
STREET ADDRESS		CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
P.O. Box 111		Wilkes-Barre	PA	18766
C TO BE COMPLETED BY ORGANIZATION OFFICIAL (see special instructions below)				
I certify that the individual named in Section A is a member in good standing of the organization listed in Section B:				
NAME	TITLE	SIGNATURE		
Sandra A. Beynon	Director of Alumni	X		
D I CERTIFY THAT ALL INFORMATION GIVEN ON THIS APPLICATION IS TRUE AND CORRECT AND, THAT WHEN I CEASE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ABOVE NAMED ORGANIZATION, I WILL IMMEDIATELY RETURN THE REGISTRATION PLATE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.				
X _____			DATE _____	
APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE IN INK				

GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING A SPECIAL ORGANIZATION REGISTRATION PLATE

- Fee required with this application is \$20.00. Payment is to be made by check or money order payable to Wilkes University. **DO NOT SEND CASH.**
- No special organization registration plate will be duplicated. If your plate is lost or stolen, we will reissue you the next available plate in our series for \$5.00. To apply for replacement, complete Form MV-44 and submit with the required fee.
- Requests for special organization registration plates are restricted to passenger vehicles, trucks and motorhomes with a registered gross weight of not more than 9,000 lbs. Motorcycles and trailers do not qualify for special organization registration plates.
- **NO REFUND OF FEE** will be issued when applicant cancels request after order is placed.
- This application, completed in full, along with a check or money order should be mailed to Wilkes University, The Alumni Office, P O Box 111, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766.
- When the applicant ceases to be a member in the organization or ceases to be employed as a press photographer by the company listed in Section B, the registration plate must be returned to the Department. Complete Form MV-44 and submit a fee of \$5.00 for reissue of a regular series registration plate.
- All telephone numbers will be held in confidence and used only in the event of a problem with your application.
- Special organization plates are in number sequence only and may not be personalized.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS - SECTION C

- If applicant is a notary applying for a notary public plate, the applicant's notary seal should appear in this section instead of an official's signature



*Members of
the Wilkes
University
Rowing Club
practice on the
Susquehanna
River.*



W I L K E S
UNIVERSE

Wilkes University
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766

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