

# WILKES

SPRING/SUMMER 2012



LASTING LEGACY | WEATHERING THE STORM | CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATOR

## The Best Lies Ahead

**P**ART OF THIS ISSUE OF *WILKES* MAGAZINE IS devoted to looking back on my tenure as president. For those who know me, I much prefer looking forward. And for Wilkes, it is gratifying to say that I know the years ahead will be great ones. That is not say that Wilkes won't have challenges. But I know the University will meet those challenges with the determination and entrepreneurial spirit that have always been part of what it means to "Be Colonel." These are difficult times for all of higher education. As we've prepared our budgets for the next academic year and laid plans for the years ahead, the overriding goal is to keep the cost of a Wilkes degree as affordable as possible for students and families and to maintain the quality of our programs. Keeping higher education affordable has been, and will continue to be, a major challenge for Wilkes and its peer institutions. It's

an important issue—especially for an institution like ours that has so many first-generation college students. All the dreams and promises that a college education holds can be seen in the faces of these families as they visit Wilkes for the first time. Keeping that education within reach must be a priority.

Nothing gives me more optimism than the fact that, as this magazine went to press, we're projecting that our fall 2012 freshman class promises to be among the largest in our history. Although the official class number is not final until August 31—and barring any unforeseen events—

we will welcome a record number of new colonels.

The freshman class is just one reason for optimism. Wilkes endures beyond any issues of the moment, dedicated to educating our students. Wilkes has a bright future with a great new president, a supportive alumni base and board, a faculty committed to its students, quality programs and a new state-of-the-art science building.

I am proud to have been part of the Wilkes community for the past 11 years and it has been an extraordinary honor to serve as its president. I look forward to watching the institution grow and flourish as it continues on the path to greatness.



Tim Gilmour retires as Wilkes president on June 30.  
PHOTO BY MICHAEL TOUEY

**Dr. Tim Gilmour**  
*Wilkes University President*

### WILKES MAGAZINE

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

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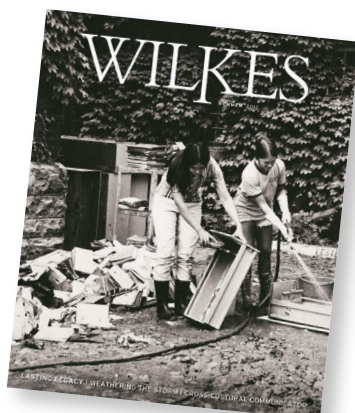
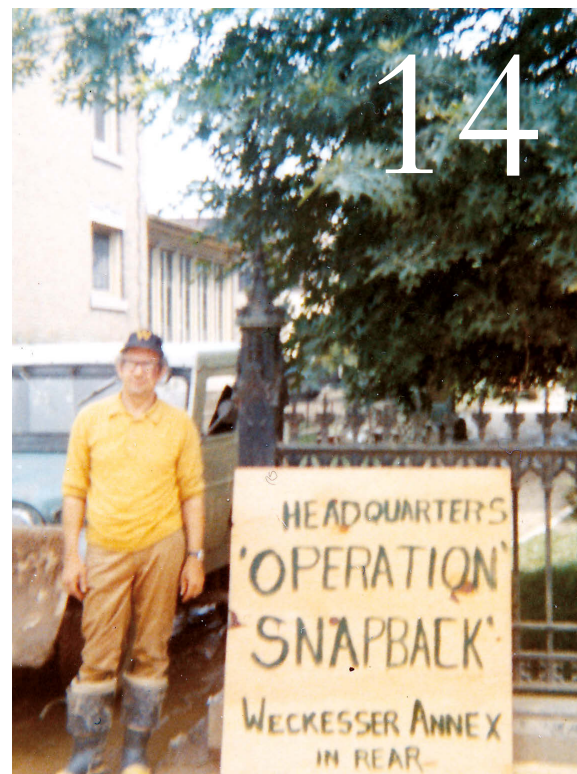
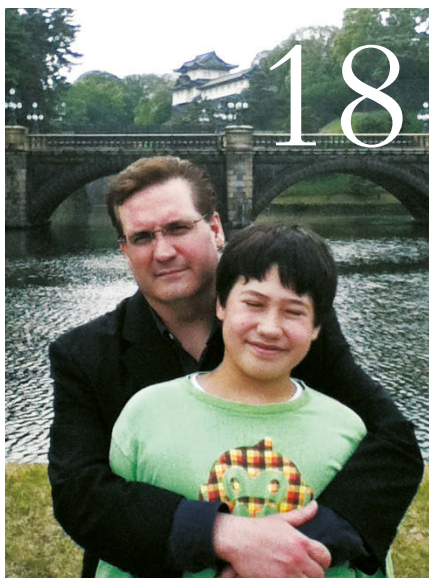
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In the aftermath of the Agnes flood in 1972, two Wilkes students clean file cabinets during Operation Snapback.

PHOTO COURTESY WILKES UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Have a story idea to share?

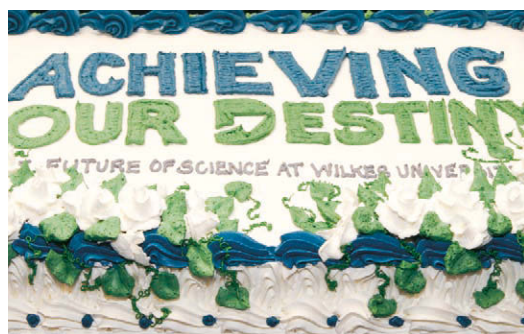
Contact us at [wilkesmagazine@wilkes.edu](mailto:wilkesmagazine@wilkes.edu) or *Wilkes* magazine, 84 W. South St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18766.



## Breaking Ground For Future Scientists

Donning a hardhat that declared “Achieving Our Destiny,” Wilkes President Tim Gilmour climbed into the cab of an excavator that sported a jaunty “W” on its door. Gilmour deftly manipulated the controls and the excavator took a generous bite out of the soggy ground outside Stark Learning Center.

The scoop of rain-soaked earth marked the start of a new chapter for the sciences at Wilkes. The University broke ground on March 1 for a new science building.



The \$35 million building will help to ensure Wilkes’ position as a national leader in undergraduate science education. It will house Wilkes’ award-winning biology and health sciences, chemistry and biochemistry, and environmental engineering and earth science programs. The 72,500-square-foot building, which will be the most advanced educational facility in the region with state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratory space, is slated to open in fall 2013.

Wilkes also announced the public phase of the \$20 million “Achieving Our Destiny” capital campaign to fund the project. The campaign already has raised \$10.7 million toward the goal. The University will seek additional contributions from alumni and friends of the University. For more information on the campaign, please see the update on page 21 and the honor roll of donors on the inside back cover.

Left, Cakes at the groundbreaking celebration sported the “Achieving Our Destiny” campaign logo.  
PHOTOS BY  
MICHAEL TOUEY



### MORE ON THE WEB

For updates about the science building project and the Achieving Our Destiny Campaign, please visit [www.wilkes.edu/achieve](http://www.wilkes.edu/achieve)

Above, Celebrating the groundbreaking for the new science building are Achieving Our Destiny campaign leaders, from left, Jane Cefaly; John Cefaly Jr. '70, campaign co-chair; Hedy Wrightson Rittenmeyer '72, campaign co-chair; Jack Miller '68, chair, board of trustees; President Tim Gilmour; and trustee Michael Mahoney, campaign chair of chairs.

Below, University President Tim Gilmour makes a ceremonial first dig with an excavator outside Stark Learning Center.





## Patrick Leahy Named Sixth President of Wilkes

It was a family affair when Patrick Leahy was introduced to the Wilkes community as its sixth president. The March 12 announcement drew more than 300 students, faculty and staff. But the most excited people in the audience might have been Leahy's four children, ranging in age from 13 to 5, who attended with his wife, Amy.

"When I mentioned to my kids that we would need to attend an event on campus this Monday morning, they were thrilled. I thought it was because they were proud of their father," Leahy quipped. "Actually, they were thrilled to be able to miss school today."

Promising that he and his family will be active and visible parts of the University community when he becomes Wilkes' sixth president on July 1, he shared his enthusiasm for the task ahead. "When I woke up this morning, I was excited. After all, it's not every day that a person can go from being a college administrator to being a Colonel in just a few hours. I'm thrilled to be the newest member of this Army of Colonels," Leahy said. "My first goal as your president will be to get to know this University community."

Leahy already started work on that goal by attending a series of two-day meetings on campus from March to June, familiarizing himself with different facets of the University. The meetings focused on four key areas: academic affairs, student life, relationship building and campus tours, and strategic positioning and financial resources.

Leahy, 43, comes to Wilkes from the University of Scranton, where he has been executive vice president. His appointment follows a national search that began in July 2011. At Scranton, he supervised six key administrative functions: development, government relations, intercollegiate athletics, undergraduate and graduate admissions, information technology and planning.

Above, members of the Leahy family show off the Wilkes gear presented as welcome gifts. From left are Brian, age 5, Patrick Leahy, Jack (under the shirt), age 7, Wilkes student Christa Filipkowski, Molly, age 11, wife Amy Leahy, and Grace, age 13. Below, Patrick Leahy addresses the University community. PHOTOS BY LISA REYNOLDS

### SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for the installation of Patrick Leahy as the sixth President of Wilkes University.

Welcome President Leahy and his family as a new era begins.

#### Installation Weekend:

**Friday, Sept. 14, and Saturday, Sept. 15**

Watch the mail for more details or visit [www.wilkes.edu/newpresident](http://www.wilkes.edu/newpresident).



## Wilkes To Host Geisinger Nursing Research Conference

The latest issues in health care and the nursing profession will be the focus when Wilkes hosts The Geisinger Nursing Health Research Conference. The event, presented by Geisinger Health System, will be held on Oct. 12, 2012 in the Henry Student Center. The day-long event's theme is *The New Healthcare: A Collaborative Approach*. Wilkes nursing students and alumni are invited to attend the conference, where participants can explore the impact of health-care changes at the local, regional, and national levels. Presentations will identify methods to evaluate health care outcomes, discuss the importance of inter-professional teamwork across multiple health-care settings, and discern nursing's role in the new health-care paradigm. Attendees can earn continuing education credits.

Wanda Ruppert, assistant professor of nursing and a member of the conference planning committee, says the event will be valuable for nurses at all career levels. "The Wilkes University community is afforded a great opportunity to discuss key health care issues facing the nation. The timing of this conference is ideal with the upcoming election season and the pending Supreme Court ruling on the Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act," Ruppert says. "We are grateful to have industry leaders, health care professionals and political leaders to share their perspectives and insights on these issues."

Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski '67, who represents Pennsylvania's 121st district, will participate in a Thursday panel discussion titled "Health Care Reform: Where Are We Going?" For more information about the conference, visit <http://www.geisinger.org/professionals/nursing/research/index.html>.



## Wilkes University Opens Metro Surgical Robotics Lab

A benevolent cow on a computer screen gazed down at the guests in Wilkes' new Metro Surgical Robotics Lab. Engineering senior Justin Flam '12 manipulated a remote arm that measures pressure. It relayed the feeling to the student's hand, allowing him to "feel" the skin of the virtual bovine. A similar device in an operating room would allow a surgeon using robotic equipment to "feel" the skin and organs of a patient.

Such cutting-edge technology is the focus in the new lab. Cameras and surgical instruments that move via laptops and joysticks and a camera that is guided by eye movement were demonstrated during an April 19 dedication ceremony. The lab is the newest addition to the University's Division of Engineering and Physics.

The opening of the surgical robotics laboratory makes Wilkes the only northeast Pennsylvania institution to offer biomedical and engineering students the latest instructional and hands-on experience in robot-assisted surgical procedures. Located in Stark Learning Center, the state-of-the-art laboratory features cutting-edge technology that allows students to remotely control intelligent robots. Wilkes faculty members collaborate with Geisinger Health System surgeons to teach students to develop instruments to shorten incision lengths to reduce infection risks, vital for saving lives.

Wilkes engineering student John Malachowski of Clarks Summit, Pa., demonstrates equipment on a model of the human torso in the Metro Surgical Robotics Lab. PHOTO BY LISA REYNOLDS

The laboratory is sponsored by Wilkes-Barre-based InterMetro Industries, a leading provider of technology, storage and transport solutions for health care. InterMetro made a significant gift in support of the project, which was spearheaded by John Nackley, InterMetro president. Other partners in the project are Geisinger and Keystone Automation.

The surgical robotics lab offers video and teleconferencing with Geisinger Medical Center's robotic surgery experts. The lab is outfitted with Mediascape technology, featuring Leapfrog and Stylist applications, which free students from work stations, facilitating learning. Other features include an interactive white board, a mobile station fully equipped with laptops, a surgical simulator station and modern cabinets to store miniature robotic parts.

More than 20 undergraduate students and several graduate students have worked with Wilkes assistant professor of mechanical engineering Xiaoli Zhang, the manager of the lab, to develop new surgical robot technologies.

## Sharon Cosgrove Participates in Art in Embassies Program in Kazakhstan

Sharon Cosgrove, associate professor of art, traveled to Kazakhstan in March on a trip sponsored by the Art in Embassies program and the U.S. Embassy in Kazakhstan.

Cosgrove, who teaches painting and printmaking in the Department of Integrative Media and Art, was chosen to have her artwork displayed at the U.S. Embassy in Astana, Kazakhstan. The Art in Embassies program was conceived in 1963, and it currently exhibits more than 3,500 original works of art, loaned by U.S. citizens.

Cosgrove has four paintings displayed at U.S. Ambassador Kenneth Fairfax's residence in Astana.

The work is part of a group exhibition of collected works by contemporary American artists as part of the Art in Embassies program.



Above, Sharon Cosgrove discusses her work in the Oblast Gallery during her trip to Kazakhstan. Lower, left, Cosgrove with some of the young Kazakh art students she met during her Art in Embassies trip. PHOTOS COURTESY OF ART IN EMBASSIES PROGRAM

Cosgrove traveled to three major cities in Kazakhstan, located in vastly different regions: Kostanay in the north, the capital city of Astana, and the southeastern city of Almaty. Within six days, she gave 10 presentations about her art and about art education in the United States. She also taught six master classes. Cosgrove taught at all levels, including children in an orphanage, gifted teenage artists, prospective young teachers, and talented undergraduate and graduate art students at select colleges of art.

"I was greeted with great enthusiasm everywhere I went. Youth in national costume, traditional music with dance performances, and elaborate art exhibitions were offered upon my arrival," Cosgrove says. "Some places had never had a visit by an American artist. Students and artists were very eager to share their cultural treasures and beautiful, creative works with me. The Kazakh people are extremely warm, welcoming and generous. The entire experience was exciting beyond measure, and will certainly have a positive and lasting impact on my teaching and studio practice."



### MORE ON THE WEB

For a slide show of photos from Sharon Cosgrove's trip to Kazakhstan and images of her artwork, please visit [www.wilkes.edu/cosgrove](http://www.wilkes.edu/cosgrove). An essay prepared by U.S. Ambassador Kenneth J. Fairfax about the exhibition titled "Questioning Perceptions" also can be viewed. It contains commentary on Cosgrove's work.

## BUSINESS STUDENTS ENRIKEN IN RETURN FOR INVESTMENTS

Wilkes students follow the rise and fall of the stock market by participating in the Investment Club. The club started in summer 2011 with graduate and undergraduate business students investing in the stock market. Students make money with their investments while learning about the process. Wilkes alumni Dan Cardell '77 and Fred Hermann '77 first became interested in the club when students bought and traded stocks using imaginary money. Both have recently given the club generous donations that allow students to get real-world experience investing dollars. Any profits made stay with the club.

Both graduates and undergraduates share the same portfolio, or group of stocks, with a financial goal in mind. Undergraduates participate in Investment Club meetings held weekly. Club members focus on an industry and decide whether to invest by researching a company. Students learn how to create a portfolio and the basics of investment. They have stock in Apple, Siemens and Conoco Phillips. Undergraduate club president Weston

McCollum is a senior from Harrisburg, Pa., majoring in accounting and business administration. McCollum explains, "I think the value of the Investment Club for undergraduates is to get them familiar with the process of how to invest. This club provides a foundation of skills for undergraduates that they can use to invest to try and achieve financial freedom."

Graduate students participate by taking Sidhu School of Business chair and associate professor Ted Engel's MBA class, Investments and Portfolio Management. The class has stock in Pepsi, and Engel integrates the investments and company research throughout the semester to teach class topics.

## Graduating Seniors Were Part of Majority of One

Brad Kuzawinski '12 remembers when a group of his friends at Maine-Endwell High School in Maine, N.Y., said to him, “Dude, you’re famous! You’re on a billboard!” At first he didn’t believe them – until they drove him to the billboard. He remembers getting calls from friends at other schools that had also seen a billboard featuring his acceptance to Wilkes University.

Nicole Pollock '12's father still carries a picture of her billboard on his phone and watches the Wilkes commercial featuring her on YouTube—even though both happened four years ago. The commercial and billboard helped Pollock—then a senior at Scranton High School—decide that Wilkes was the school for her.

Kuzawinski and Pollock, who graduated in May, were among the students featured in Wilkes’ award-winning “Majority of One” advertising campaign that was part of admissions marketing from 2006–2008. The campaign, which drew national media attention from outlets such as *National Public Radio*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and the *The Associated Press*, emphasized the personal attention that students receive at Wilkes by featuring recently accepted students on billboards, mall kiosks, gas pump ads and even on pizza boxes. The campaign helped seal their decision to attend Wilkes.

Kuzawinski says he felt like Wilkes really did want him. “I felt special; I wasn’t just an average Joe to them,” he says.

The campaign did more than ensure that students like Kuzawinski and Pollock chose Wilkes. Market research showed an increased awareness of Wilkes overall due to the unique ad campaign. In high schools of students featured in the campaign, applications increased.

Students wooed by the campaign have been among Wilkes’ best and brightest since their arrival. Kuzawinski might be called a triple threat: He graduated with three majors—mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and applied engineering science—and three minors, physics, math and statistics. He has been recruited by Precision Castparts Corp. for its management development program, one of a very few recent graduates selected nationally for the exclusive program.



Nicole Pollock '12 and Brad Kuzawinski '12 came to Wilkes after being featured in the Majority of One ad campaign. PHOTO BY MICHAEL MAY

Pollock, a psychology and sociology double major, will attend Marywood University for an advanced degree in mental health counseling. She completed a minor in women’s and gender studies. Pollock’s been a student leader at Wilkes, serving as vice president of Psi Chi, the psychology honor society; as co-editor of the psychology department newsletter, *Psychles*; and was the recipient of a Scholars in Service to Pennsylvania scholarship for two years.

Pollock and Kuzawinski both say Wilkes delivers on the promise of individualized attention. “Wilkes is my family away from family,” Pollock says, citing the relationships at her work-study job in the admissions office and her faculty mentor, assistant professor of psychology Jennifer Thomas. “They know what’s going on with your life.”

### FACT: RAISE CONFIDENCE IN FACULTY WITH NO CONFIDENCE VOTE

The University’s faculty voted no confidence in retiring President Tim Gilmour and board chair Jack Miller '68 on May 3. A vote of no confidence is a mechanism that faculty use to voice serious concerns about the leadership and governance of a university. Concerns about decisions related to the 2012-2013 academic year budget spurred the vote, but faculty also emphasized that their concerns go beyond budgetary issues. They cited as reasons for their action ongoing issues in the last few years related to communication and transparency in the campus decision-making process.

University governance is a complicated issue and the University administration and faculty will meet over the coming months to try and address the faculty concerns. The Wilkes administration had made a commitment to improve communications. Some progress had been made in the last year on increasing faculty participation on major University decisions. The Board of Trustees agreed to appoint non-voting faculty representatives to their committees this year in order for them to have a voice in board decisions.

On behalf of the University, the Board of Trustees has made a commitment to continue working on governance issues and also to keep alumni informed about the process. The University is strong and both faculty and administration remain dedicated to Wilkes’ mission of educating its students. It will grow stronger through resolving these issues.



## Wilkes Leads Middle Atlantic Conference With Scholar Athlete Honorees

Four students from Wilkes proved they excel in the classroom and on the playing field when they were recognized as Scholar Athletes by the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) for the 2011-2012 year. Wilkes had the most students of any college in the conference recognized at the ceremony held in May at Fairleigh Dickinson University. These students have demonstrated strong commitment and success athletically while excelling academically.

Schools in the conference may nominate a senior student-athlete in each sport. Nominees must have a cumulative 3.2 grade-point average. The MAC Awards Committee selects one winner in each sport based on athletic achievement and academic excellence.

Paul Adams '77, Wilkes vice president of student affairs, says the students epitomize the scholar-athlete ideal. "We couldn't be more proud of Anna, Michelle, Matt and Paul. They are shining examples of the commitment our student athletes have to succeed in competition and in the classroom," Adams says.

The recipients of the award were:

**Michelle Wakeley**, of Endicott, N.Y., earned First Team All-Conference honors finishing fourth at the MAC in cross country. Wakeley, holding the top eight finishing times in school history, has broken several records. A biology major, Wakeley was awarded the Outstanding Senior Intern Award for her work at Guthrie Health at Robert Packer Hospital and was honored with the Wandell Award as the female graduate with the highest grade-point average. She will be attending SUNY Upstate Medical University in the fall.

**Anna Mitchell**, of Montclair, N.J., has performed on the Wilkes tennis courts for three years, including three straight Freedom Conference championships and NCAA tournament berths. As a team captain, she has proven herself both on the courts and off. With a double major in Spanish and international studies and plans to attend graduate school for Spanish literature, Mitchell's classroom performance has earned her a place on the MAC All-Academic team for two consecutive years.



Michelle  
Wakeley



Anna  
Mitchell



Matthew  
Ruch



Paul  
Huch

PHOTOS BY STEFFEN ERNAGEL

**Matthew Ruch**, of Dallas, Pa., is a first-team All-Freedom performer for the Wilkes baseball team. Ruch became the school's all-time hits leader this season with 206 hits. He also ranks second at Wilkes for doubles and RBI's and third for runs scored and home runs. As an accounting major, Ruch has been named to the MAC All-Academic team three straight years, and he plans to attend graduate school for his Master of Business Administration degree in the fall. At commencement, he won the Wandell Award as the male student with the highest grade-point average.

**Paul Huch**, of Tuckerton, N.J., is a second-team All-Freedom selection in basketball. As a captain of the team, Huch was awarded Freedom Conference Player of the Week, Dickinson All Tournament Team, and was selected as the Capital One Cosida Academic All District Four First Team. As a psychology major at Wilkes, Huch has excelled in the classroom as strongly as on the court. He was a member of the Psi Chi Honor Society and the Alpha Chi Honor Society. Huch plans to attend graduate school at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey to earn his doctorate in physical therapy.



P T G 11  
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PHOTOS BY EARL • SEDOR  
PHOTOGRAPHIC

**2001**

▼ Tim Gilmour inaugurated fifth president



**200**

Sidhu School of Business and Leadership established

Outstanding Leaders Forum Begins



**200 200**

Purchase of UCOM and University Towers ▶



Mentoring Grants Begin ▼



# Lasting Legacy

DURING 11 YEARS AS PRESIDENT,  
TIM GILMOUR CHALLENGED WILKES TO BE GREAT

By Vicki Mayk

**T**HE GIRL IN THE PHARMACY school sweatshirt hesitated in the empty second-floor reception area in the University Center on Main. Shifting nervously from foot to foot, she clutched a stack of papers.

“Can I help you?” the man in the corner office asked.

“I’m looking for Dr. Paul Adams. I’m supposed to deliver these papers to him.”

“Dr. Adams isn’t in this afternoon. Do you think it would be all right to leave the papers with the University president to give to him?”

“Sure,” she said, handing him her delivery. “Thank you.” She started to

walk away and quickly turned back. “Nice to meet you!”

Tim Gilmour chuckles. “That’s the kind of thing that I’ll miss.”

Gilmour will retire on June 30, after 11 years leading Wilkes. It’s been a time marked by many milestones: stunning growth in enrollment, the addition of successful graduate programs, initiatives fostering regional economic growth, campuswide sustainability efforts and groundbreaking on a new science building. (See timeline on these pages for details of Wilkes during the Gilmour presidency.)

The achievements did not come easily, Gilmour concedes. “One of the reasons

why I came to Wilkes is that there were challenges to be faced, financial challenges and challenges related to growth. Challenges are something I’ve always embraced,” he says.

Jack Miller ’68, chairman of the board of trustees, praises Gilmour’s ability to overcome the challenges and move the University forward. “Tim led Wilkes from a place of chaos and financial threat to a place where we are poised to achieve our destiny as a recognized academic leader in the markets we serve.” He cites Gilmour’s use of respected management practices such as process improvement, benchmarking

## 2007

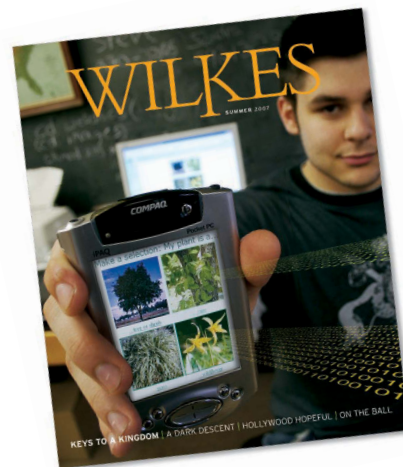


▲ Barnes & Noble bookstore Opens

Greening of campus  
(Signing of ACUP  
Climate Commitment)

Doctor of Education  
degree program  
launched

MFA in Creative  
Writing program  
established



◀ New *Wilkes*  
magazine debuts

Tim Gilmour serves  
as President  
of Greater  
Wilkes-Barre  
Chamber of  
Commerce



peers and assessment for improvement in charting the University's course.

Guiding the institution on the path to growth meant challenging people to aim high. Paul Adams '77, vice president for student affairs, and a Wilkes alumnus, says Gilmour was never content with "good enough."

"Tim always set high expectations for us. In fact, we always tease him about having a 'receding horizon.' When we would come close to achieving our stretch goals, Tim would move the bar and challenge us to go even further. A prime example is the initial goal he set for our growth in post-baccalaureate education. When we thought we couldn't do it, Tim always had the drive and faith in us that we would," Adams says. "In the end, we did it."

The construction of the new science building will be a visible part of the president's legacy, but Gilmour concerned himself with more than bricks and mortar on the academic side of the house. He also encouraged development of academic programs.

Dale Bruns, dean of the College of Science and Engineering, says Gilmour's work in support of engineering is a typical example. "He brought in an excellent technical reviewer, the former provost from Georgia Tech, who validated the rigor of the programs and their importance to business and industry in the region," Bruns says, adding that Gilmour reinvested in engineering, which has enjoyed significant enrollment growth in the last few years. Freshman engineering

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## 200

HHM Grant awarded, recognizing Wilkes as one of the nation's best undergraduate science programs

5th Anniversary of Wilkes University

New Colonel Mascot debuts



◀ Cross country added to sports

Opening of Center for Global Education and Diversity

Launch of Institute for Public Policy and Economic Development (formerly the Joint Urban Studies Center)

Launch of master's degree program in instructional technology with Discovery Education



# A Time for Reflection

## AN INTERVIEW WITH TIM GILMOUR

By Need Author Name

enrollments are expected to double between fall 2010 and 2012.

Capturing the achievements of more than a decade is difficult. More important is pinpointing the lasting impact that a president has on institutional culture. Student affairs vice president Adams compares Gilmour's impact to Wilkes' impact on its students.

"What Tim did for Wilkes is what Wilkes does best for its students: helping them achieve beyond their perceived potential," Adams says. "Through Tim's leadership Wilkes has achieved what we never imagined. Things on campus that now seem routine, were once ideas we thought were beyond our reach."

“When we thought we couldn't do it, Tim always had the **DRIVE** and **FAITH** in us that we would.

– Paul Adams '77,  
Student Affairs Vice President

**T**IM GILMOUR, WILKES University's fifth president, sat down with Wilkes magazine to reflect on his time at Wilkes.

**New presidents are often asked, "Why Wilkes?" when people want to know why they want to lead this institution. Now that you've been at Wilkes for more than a decade—and with the benefit of hindsight: why Wilkes?**

The reasons why Wilkes is a great institution have not changed a great deal since I came here. I like the fact that this institution looks beyond itself and really cares about the community that surrounds it. It's located in a city that depends heavily on the University for the contributions it makes to its vitality. Think about the way we marshaled our "Army of Colonels" to help with flood relief this year. I think that epitomizes the way that Wilkes cares about the community.

Another one of the things that is special about Wilkes is that we continue a tradition of educating first-generation college students. It was another thing that attracted me to the University, because that's a special niche and we continue to fill it and do a great job.

Wilkes has always been very entrepreneurial. It's a characteristic that's going to be increasingly important in the years ahead. That entrepreneurial spirit is going to be one of the reasons why Wilkes continues to thrive. It's one of the reasons why I chose Wilkes and why I'm proud to have been its president for the last 11 years.

And finally, this really is simply a wonderful place that brings a lot of people great joy. Our students and faculty come to work every day and they want to do a good job. That is a fantastic atmosphere and I've been glad to be a part of it.

**During your time as president, Wilkes has focused on partnerships to improve the City of Wilkes-Barre and the region. What initiatives do you feel will have lasting significance?**

One of the earliest initiatives that had an impact on the downtown was the opening of the Barnes and Noble bookstore in partnership with King's College. To have Barnes and Noble say, "We want to place a store there," sent a signal that a more vital downtown was possible, that it could work. That

## 2009

▼ Wilkes Awarded National Science Foundation grant for 400-MHz nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer, the region's largest

Undergraduate full-time equivalent enrollment grows by 28 percent from 2004 to 2009

Graduate full-time equivalent enrollment increases 155 percent for same period

Diversity of students body grows from 6.9 percent to 12.2 percent, with more than 21 countries represented among international students



## 2010

Alden Learning Commons opens in Farley Library

Doctor of Nursing Practice degree launched

▼ Nesbitt College of Pharmacy and Nursing establishes region's first School of Nursing



was the beginning. When we purchased University Towers and the call center that became the University Center on Main, it gave the city a tremendous shot in the arm. The call center had the potential to be a huge white elephant, draining the city's resources. Our occupancy of both those properties has helped to anchor our end of Main Street, ensuring a vital downtown. And a vital downtown is important to our students.

From the regional perspective, two of our institutes are having a significant impact. The Institute for Energy and Environmental Research is providing important information on the effects of the Marcellus shale development in northeast Pennsylvania. It has a goal to establish itself as the major source of unbiased scientific information about the impact of gas drilling in the region. We have evidence that is exactly what's happening, with reporters from major media outlets such as CNN and *The Christian Science Monitor*, as well as our regional news media, contacting the Institute for information.

The Institute for Public Policy and Economic Development has undergone a major transformation during my tenure. It's gone from a focus on "how do you fix towns like Wilkes-Barre" to a broader perspective, exploring the question of "how do you make life better

in this region?" It provides research that helps to give direction to major planning and development issues. The institute takes on significant public policy issues, such as housing, transportation, education, workforce development and the Marcellus development. Because of its work, northeastern Pennsylvania will have the planning and policy tools needed to make the region a more attractive place for people to live and work.

**What about your experience at Wilkes has fueled your passion for private colleges and universities?**

We are much more focused on our mission than you find in the public sector of higher education. Here, our primary focus is on the people we serve. If you want to feel like you are making an impact, it is great to be a president of an institution like Wilkes. We do an extraordinary job of educating our students. That commitment to students doesn't exist at many other places.

**Everyone talks about leaving a legacy. How do you define your legacy at Wilkes?**

My inaugural speech was "Dare To Be Great." I like to believe that I encouraged the institution to do that. If I am convinced of anything, it's that Wilkes should continue to set its sights

on becoming an even greater institution in the years ahead. If I have done anything, I like to think that the best thing I've done is to ask people at this institution to consistently do more than they think they can. I hope that people continue to do that.

**Is Wilkes a different Wilkes than when you became president and, if so, in what ways?**

As I said earlier, Wilkes has always had an entrepreneurial spirit and I think that spirit has grown exponentially since I've been here. I would cite the growth in our graduate programs as among the most significant changes here. When I first came to Wilkes, Joe Bellucci in our education department had a program for teachers to teach them to us two-way video and computers in their classrooms. That was very entrepreneurial, very cutting edge at the time. Because Joe had already paved the way, we were able to take that to the next level, making it possible for Wilkes to develop many distance learning and Web-based educational programs for teachers, which has been an enormous area of growth for us during my tenure. Our core mission of educating undergraduates will always be our most important focus, but opening up our graduate offerings was an enormous change for Wilkes.

**2010** i e



◀ Stadium renovations

Establishment of Institute for Energy and Environmental research for Northeast Pennsylvania ▶

Successful Middle States Evaluation

Wilkes named A Military Friendly School by *Forbes* magazine



**2011**



▲ Susquehanna river floods Wyoming valley Army of Colonels rallies to provide food relief

Schmidt Stadium named in honor of former coach Colie Schmidt

**What are your plans after leaving the University?**

I have no plans to work in higher education administration full-time after retirement—although I may do some consulting. But I am interested in studying the evolving higher educational landscape. It's clear to me that we are going to need to rethink some of the things we do in higher education. Issues of affordability for students and accountability for institutions in higher education will not be going away. The way we deliver education is evolving and will continue to change. We already know that the traditional classroom setting is only one of many ways to deliver instruction.

In the immediate future, I plan to spend my time researching these and other issues related to higher education, including talking with leaders at colleges and universities to gather their thoughts. My plan is to write a book about what I've learned. Wilkes will benefit from my findings before they are shared with anyone else.

**Any additional thoughts you'd like to share?**

Clearly we're going through some tough times in higher education, but I go away optimistic that Wilkes will come out on the other side stronger and better than ever. This is a great institution and it's been my privilege to lead it for the last 11 years.



T P  
G  
W B

**2012**

Patty Gilmour establishes Learning Garden adjacent to Fenner Hall ▶



Forbes magazine recognizes Wilkes as one of the fastest-growing universities in the U.S.

- Wilkes Pocono Center opens
- Grayson Arboretum established
- Wilkes One Stop Honored by University Business Magazine



Surgical robotics lab opens ▲

▶ Groundbreaking for new science building



# Weathering the **STORM**



WILKES CAMPUS COMMUNITY REMEMBERS AWESOME  
FORCE OF AGNES ON FLOOD'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

By Helen Kaiser





# W

ILKES-BARRE'S STREETS RESEMBLED the canals in Venice. Fires burned out of control. In nearby Forty Fort Cemetery, coffins and vaults were ejected from the earth by hydrostatic pressure when the raging Susquehanna River waters undermined the steel pilings of the adjacent dike and flowed underneath the cemetery.

No one who experienced 1972's Tropical Storm Agnes likely will ever forget it. Described then as the nation's worst natural disaster, more than a hundred people were killed and at least 387,000 people were evacuated. Property damage was estimated at more than \$3 billion—\$16.3 billion in today's dollars.

By far, the worst damage occurred in Pennsylvania, with more than \$2 billion in losses occurring in the Susquehanna River basin. Wilkes-Barre was the hardest-hit community in the state. While the June 1972 event was devastating—and its aftermath a monumental challenge—those who experienced it witnessed a triumph of human spirit.

Dealing with the crisis “was a situation where you just rose to the occasion,” recalls Francis J. Micheline, then president of Wilkes College. “You did a lot of things instinctively. There was no preparation for such a crisis.”

Now a resident of Mechanicsburg, Pa., Micheline, 87, has vivid recollections of those high-water days. He was able to assist with dramatic rescues and help firefighters and utility workers by piloting through floodwaters in a 60-horsepower motorboat Wilkes owned for its environmental sciences program.

Students on campus for the summer session first were evacuated to the nearby Hotel Sterling because of power failures. “I was a resident advisor, and our group went there with Dean (Jane) Lampe because the hotel had generators,” says Hedy Wrightson Rittenmeyer '72, of Plano, Texas.

The normally scenic Susquehanna River, however, was threatening; and the Wilkes evacuees soon had to be rescued from the River Street location. Rittenmeyer remembers being plucked from atop the marquee of the hotel along with several other students.

At 6:15 a.m. on Saturday, June 24, 1972, the river crested in Wilkes-Barre at 40.9 feet, about 5 feet higher than protection levels. According to the National Weather Service, Agnes “rewrote the book on inland flooding and the impact a tropical storm can have hundreds of miles from the coast.”

Wilkes College faced an ordeal like none other in its 25 years as an independent, four-year institution. It suffered flood damage to all but one of its 59 campus buildings, and losses totaled more than \$10 million. Severely impacted were the library, where 53,000 volumes were destroyed; Stark Hall, which sustained \$500,000 in damages to delicate scientific equipment and tools; and the Dorothy Dickson Darte Music Hall, where at least \$100,000 in musical instruments were lost.

Opposite page, clockwise from top left, Chase Hall staff cleaning furniture and equipment. Hundreds of books were damaged after water receded in the library. Muddy footprints mark the stage and orchestra pit in Darte. Flooding destroyed a Steinway grand piano that was less than a year old. Flood waters turned shelving upside down in the bookstore.

PHOTOS COURTESY FRANCIS MICHELINI AND WILKES UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

“Do you stay in business? Or close up shop?” Micheline says he and other officials privately weighed the alternatives. They concluded that none of the buildings had damage to upper floors. They believed that academic programs were shaped by dedicated faculty and exchanges with students in the classroom—not by muddy bricks and mortar.

“We had the sense that we're all in this boat together. Let's get back on our feet and keep going,” Micheline says.

An all-out recovery effort, dubbed Operation Snapback, was launched.

The local newspaper reported: “Students and college personnel . . . responded to a plea for ‘manpower and elbow grease’ from the college president in an effort to overcome what had at first appeared to be an almost fatal blow.”



Wilkes President Francis J. Micheline, seated on desk, confers with Tom Moran, Owen Faut, Don Tappa, Umid Nejib, Jim Bohning, Al Bruch, Bing Wong and others during a meeting about cleanup. PHOTO COURTESY FRANCIS J. MICHELINI

“  
 We had the sense that we're  
 all in this boat TOGETHER.  
 Let's get back on our feet  
 and keep going.”  
 – Francis J. Micheline

From left to right, President Michelini at the entrance to Weckesser Hall, where "Operation Snapback" was headquartered in the annex. Post-flood looters left behind whiskey bottles in muddy Pickering Dining Hall. Many books in the library were lost to water damage. A worker adds to the pile of refuse outside of Stark Hall. PHOTOS COURTESY OF FRANCIS J. MICHELINI AND WILKES UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

"It was devastating to see what had happened to the campus," recalls Benjamin F. Fiester '55, an emeritus professor of English who still teaches part-time at Wilkes. "But we were not all that depressed or unhelpful that we could (recover), and we did."

Some of it was common sense, Michelini says. "You had to get the basics restored, like electricity. Then you had to get the mud out. The banks in town were underwater. We had salvaged a \$25,000 fundraising check we'd received, and I remember telling someone to take it up to Hazleton to cash and use some of it to buy as many hoses and brooms and cleaning supplies as you could find!"

Summer classes reconvened within a week. Students helped with mud cleanup during the day and attended classes beginning at 3 or 4 in the afternoon.

Diana Gregory Finstad '73, of Prospect Heights, Ill., did her share of scrubbing.

"Those who worked tirelessly during the cleanup months truly understand the challenges and heartbreak faced during that time," she says. "The flood of Agnes is a distant memory that I won't forget. It ravaged the campus and left its mark, but it didn't destroy the Wilkes spirit or my spirit." (See sidebar for Finstad's tale of her first trip to the *Annicola* office after the flood.)

Michelini wrote many letters to prospective freshmen assuring them that classes would be held in the fall. Indeed, that semester began just one or two weeks later than originally planned, he recalls.

The college received about \$12 million in federal disaster aid, and restoration efforts continued at a busy pace into October, November and December of that year. By the time spring semester ended, campus life was approaching normal.

"We had a first-year anniversary party and told everyone to wear their flood clothes," Michelini says.

Looking back, the former president credits the institutional culture at Wilkes for the successful recovery. As a small, cohesive community, communication throughout the campus and the administrative unit was effective.

"You only had to say something was needed, and it would get done. There was a hard-core group of wonderful people—many of whom had attended Wilkes themselves and came back to teach there. They did the job that was necessary to make sure we survived. No one person could do everything."



## RECOLLECTIONS FLOW FROM ALUMNI WHO EXPERIENCED AGNES

### Maureen Klaproth Garcia-Pons '71, of Moscow, Pa.

Excerpts from her eyewitness account published June 26, 1972, in *The Scranton Tribune*, where she worked as a writer for the woman's page. It is reprinted courtesy of the *Times-Tribune*.

"From my balcony (Friday evening) I could see Red Cross vehicles and Army jeeps traveling up and down the streets. Sirens and alarms had sounded all day and continued through the night. I remember thinking that it looked and sounded like old films of the London blitz. . . .

"At 5 a.m. . . . I ran to my terrace. To my left what looked like an entire block of Pennsylvania Avenue was raging with fire. To my right, South Main Street had water rising half way up the first floor. . . . Car tops which had been above water level disappeared. . . .

"At approximately 6 p.m. Saturday two priests entered our building by boat and gave orders to evacuate. There was danger of more fires breaking out, of gas leaks, and of typhus. . . .

"We formed lines to board small boats. . . . At the South Street bridge guardsmen lifted us out of the boats and carried us through the water. . . . We were sent to Rice Township Fire Hall.

"For the first time during the entire ordeal I got upset. Some helpful woman kept hanging up my coat and telling me to eat and go to bed. I tried to explain that I had the biggest story of my life and I had to get to Scranton."



### MORE ON THE WEB

Read more alumni memories of the Agnes Flood and see more photos by visiting [www.wilkes.edu/agnes](http://www.wilkes.edu/agnes). Have a memory to share from Tropical Storm Agnes and the flood that followed? E-mail us at [wilkesmagazine@wilkes.edu](mailto:wilkesmagazine@wilkes.edu) and put Agnes in the subject line. We'll add your story to the Web site.



**John Anderson '72, Forest Hill, Md.**

"I worked at Wilkes during the cleanup after Hurricane Agnes under the Special Program for Emergency Employment Development (SPEED). I spent all my time working in Stark Hall, refinishing the butcher block tops of lab tables, painting walls, and other tasks . . . I was a member of the Physics Club, so on one of my first days on the job, I went into the basement of Stark Hall to see how the Physics Club room fared. It had been completely under water, and—much to my surprise—there was my Timex watch that I had left there. It was still ticking. I often thought that I should have contacted Timex for a possible TV commercial (It takes a licking and keeps on ticking)."

**Diana Gregory Finstad '73, Prospect Heights, Ill.**

"In the summer of '72 I was a student employee with the English department in Bedford Hall. When the employees and volunteers were allowed back on campus following the flood, a strict curfew was in place with defined arrival and departure times. Power had not yet been restored to the area.

"Except for those who arrived to clean up, the campus was deserted and gloomy. Mud, muck and dust were everywhere. The smell was so foul I had to cover my nose and mouth with a bandana. Most of all I remember that smell and how it lingered for days, possibly weeks.

"As a member of the yearbook staff, I felt responsible for checking the yearbook office. . . . As far as I knew, no one had entered yet and I was right. I was the first person to open the swollen door and be greeted by the smell. I felt sad to see many past yearbooks damaged by water and mold. That day was a blur. I was able to find and save the list of names and addresses of students who had ordered the 1972 *Ammicola*, which we had not yet received from the publisher."

**Sally Harvey Masloski '56, Rice Lake, Wis.**

"Water rose in my parents' house to about 4 inches on the second floor. . . . Many neighboring houses in Kingston had been totally under water. . . . We were fortunate to stay with relatives who lived on high ground. My mother's supply of canned goods had labels all washed off. (There were) lots of meals with mystery vegetables.

"When my dad was allowed to return to his business (Dorranceton Millwork in Forty Fort) there was a coffin on the doorstep."

Chairs and carpeting are piled outside Bedford Hall during cleanup.



# CROSS CULTURAL Communicator

SCOTT ZOLNER UNES  
PRESENTS THROUGH  
THE ZERO ENGLISH

By Geoff Gehman



Scott Zolner is seen in front of the Aerial Palace in downtown Tokyo, a man who teaches English to Japanese adults. PHOTOS COURTESY SCOTT ZOLNER.

**S**COTT ZOLNER '90 RUNS AN ENGLISH conversation school in Japan, where learning another language is a serious business and a serious hobby. His students range from a tire-company official who wants to speak more comfortably when he works in America to an obstetrician who wants to exercise his octogenarian brain. In between, he helps Japanese singers in a jazz club make sense of American lyrics.

But Zolner does much more than guide Japanese students through the maze of English vowel sounds. He sympathizes with the struggles of his pupils because he, too, struggles with his native language.

Zolner's linguistic odyssey began as a high-school sophomore diagnosed with dyslexia. The native of Metuchen, N.J., turned a learning disability into a social ability. He adjusted to problems with reading, writing and spelling by improving his speaking and listening skills.

These talents were tested at Wilkes, where he arrived as a biology/chemistry major and a football tackle. His first true test came in a public speaking class taught by Jane Elmes-Crahall, professor of communication studies. "Scott tried to be as endearing as possible, to make people think, 'Ah, nice guy,' and not expect him to produce persuasive words," she says. "My job was to tell him that in college you can't charm your way out of tough situations. It was a struggle, but I won."

Zolner won, too. "Jane became my mentor," he says from his home in Saitama, a district near Tokyo. "She was tough, but inspiring. She was the first person who recognized that I could do the hard research, who pushed me to work harder as a speaker and a writer, who treated me like an intellectual being. What I am today, I owe mostly to her."

Zolner began to hit his stride in his next Elmes-Crahall course, Rhetorical Criticism, while defending and deflating the debates of Plato and Socrates. Elmes-Crahall says it's as if he went from class clown to dean's list in one semester.

After graduating cum laude, Zolner worked as a telemarketer for MCI. In November 1990 he took his first trip to Japan, a graduation gift from his brother Stephen, an international money broker in Tokyo. A long vacation became an occupational residency in 1991 when he joined an English-oriented company in remote Ishikawa Prefecture. In 1992, he began assisting at an English conver-

sation school opened by his brother and new sister-in-law in Kazo, Saitama, her hometown. In 2000, his brother gave him another gift: ownership of the company.

English is the most popular foreign language in Japan. Hundreds of schools teach it as an essential business tool and as an important group hobby, along with jazz, baseball and other American imports.

It is an extremely difficult language since Japanese has only 13 sounds, compared with 60 unique vowel sounds in English. Zolner works overtime to calm students overwhelmed by phonetics and pronunciation. His dyslexia makes him sensitive to their suffering. "I have no problem with big words," he says. "It's the little tiny ones that stick in my craw."

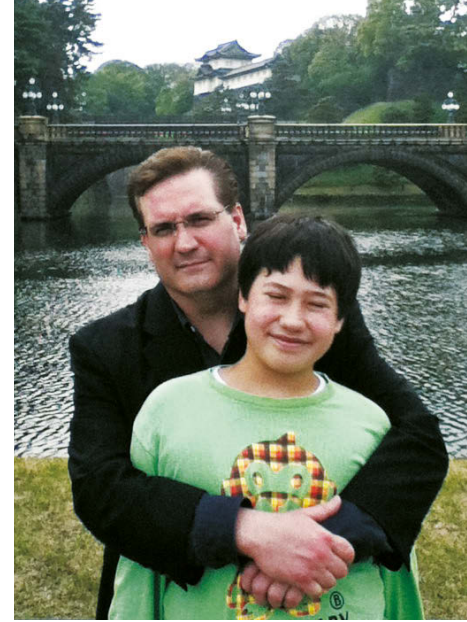
Zolner, who received a master's degree in linguistics from the University of Birmingham in England, shares a teaching philosophy with Noam Chomsky, the Einstein of linguistics, who believes everyone has an innate ability to learn a language. A new language is best learned, Zolner insists, through active communication rather than memorization.

It's a philosophy he employed himself. He's fluent in Japanese, which he taught himself. He's fluent in Japanese ways, partly because he's married to a Japanese woman, Yukiko, mother of their 13-year-old son, Eugene. Even before he married, he immersed himself in the culture of his adopted country. In the '90s he began singing an indigenous pop music known as Enka, matching '50s jazz melodies with country-and-western lyrics. He picked up the genre in karaoke bars as a way of breaking the ice.

Once a week Zolner works at a jazz club where he teaches Japanese vocalists how to navigate the blizzard of vowel sounds in "Smile," "Fly Me to the Moon" and other standards. He doubles as an interpreter, explaining why a dance and a state are linked in "The Tennessee Waltz."

Last year he was teaching two married doctors when he felt the jolt of the earthquake that would kill more than 10,000 in Japan. For two weeks his business was interrupted by brownouts and gas rations. He consoled his in-laws, who lost their beachfront house to the earthquake-triggered tsunami.

One of the few disadvantages of being a cross-cultural conversationalist: a lack of opportunity to practice your native language. Zolner plays the online game World of Warcraft for the chance to communicate freely in English. Online, Zolner is a casual student in a school of Australian conversation. "I'm picking up some of their lingo," he says. "I'm starting to call my friends 'mate.'"



Zolner and his 13-year-old son, Eugene, on a Sunday outing in Tokyo. PHOTOS COURTESY SCOTT ZOLNER

“  
She was TOUGH,  
but INSPIRING...  
What I am today,  
I owe mostly  
to her.”

– Scott Zolner '90  
about faculty  
mentor Jane Elmes-Crahall

## Alumni Association Board of Directors Elected

At the March meeting of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, nine alumni were elected to serve on the board. Current members Karen Cowan '96, JJ Fadden '98, Kristin Klemish '04, Rich Kramer '67, Ruth McDermott-Levy '82 and Anita Mucciolo '78 were all re-elected because of their dedication to the Alumni Association and its committees. In addition, Clayton Karambelas '49 and Ron Miller '93 rejoined the group at the director level.

Bill LePore '94 is a new addition to the board. Over the past year, Bill has been instrumental in

coordinating regional events in the Morristown, N.J., and Lehigh Valley, Pa., areas. "I am very honored to have been elected to the Wilkes University Alumni Board of Directors. The education and resources afforded me at Wilkes served as important stepping stones to my career and personal life as well. I have become very active with the alumni association during the past year and have become a mentor to a current Wilkes student. I have enjoyed these activities and want to give back to the University even more. When I was nominated for a position on the board, I jumped at the chance. The alumni association has made great strides to increase alumni participation with the current students and to spread the work of why Wilkes is the best place to attend," says LePore.

"We are very lucky to have such a committed, enthusiastic group of alumni serving on the Alumni Association Board of Directors. It is encouraging that interest in board membership grows each year," says alumni association President Tom Ralston '80.

## HOMECOMING 2012 IS AROUND THE CORNER: OCTOBER 5-7

The celebration started early this spring at Halfway to Homecoming events in Harrisburg, Pa.; Cambridge, Mass.; Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; and Washington, D.C. Now it's time to get excited for the on-campus Homecoming festivities that will take place on Oct. 5-7.

Here's a brief look at what's in store:

- Class reunions: 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007
- Special Reunions: A-List, the ladies of Delaware Hall, *Manuscript*, the ladies of Barre Hall, YMCA
- Academic groups: Communication Studies, Political Science, Psychology, Sidhu School of Business and Leadership

This Homecoming will be very special, since it will be Patrick Leahy's first as Wilkes president. In addition, you'll get a first-hand look at the progress that has been made at the site of the new science building.

Here are some helpful Homecoming tips:

- Make your hotel reservations now. We have blocks of rooms reserved at several Wilkes-Barre hotels but they fill quickly, especially if you prefer to stay within walking distance of campus. Don't forget to ask for the Wilkes Homecoming rate.
- Keep an eye on your mailbox. The registration brochure will be mailed to you in early August.
- Join our Facebook page: [www.facebook/WilkesAlumni](http://www.facebook/WilkesAlumni): In addition to [www.wilkes.edu/homecoming](http://www.wilkes.edu/homecoming), this is the best place to find the latest Homecoming info.



Alumni enjoy a beautiful afternoon on the Greenway during Homecoming weekend.



Football alumni reconnecting at last year's Homecoming are Joe Zakowski '70, Joe Skvarla '69, Joe Wiendl '69, John Baranowski '71 and David Kaschak '71.

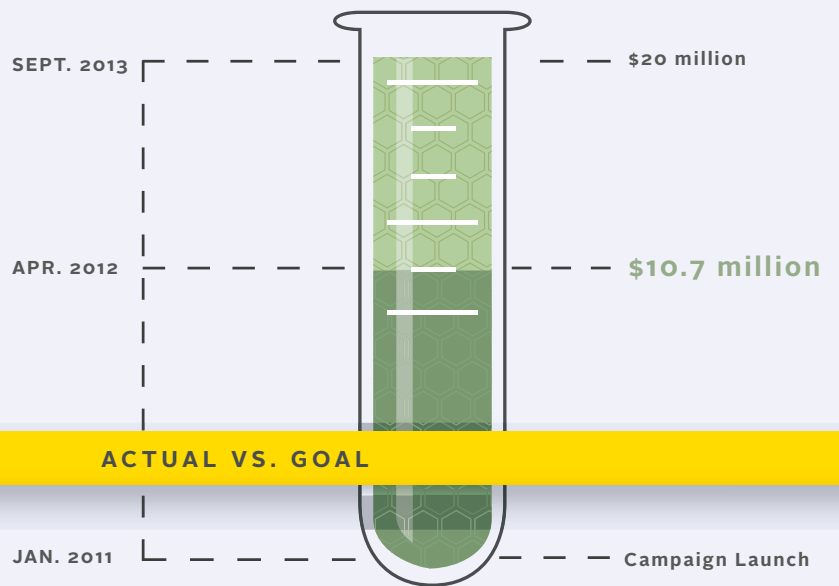
## Do Your Part To Help Wilkes University Achieve Its Destiny

Wilkes has announced that \$10.7 million of the \$20 million goal in the “Achieving Our Destiny” Campaign has been raised. This milestone is the result of a committed group of capital campaign volunteers that includes alumni and community leaders. Their fundraising efforts will bring this ambitious project to fruition and help Wilkes achieve its destiny as the undisputed leader in science education and research in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Student government president Willie Eggleston '14 spoke on behalf of the student body at the groundbreaking for the building held March 1. “Today would not be possible without the help of generous donors and volunteers like you, who understand that being Colonel is more than a title or a degree; it is a way of life,” Eggleston says.

“We’re thankful to all who have contributed so far,” says Bill Hanbury '72, co-chair of the alumni campaign. “But we’re only part way to our goal. We’re depending on every Wilkes graduate to help us give our science students the building they deserve.”

To learn more about the building and the campaign, or to donate, visit: [www.wilkes.edu/achieve](http://www.wilkes.edu/achieve).



Thank you to the following volunteers who have made significant investments in the future of Wilkes, our students and our region:

### Chair of Chairs

Michael J. Mahoney

### Co-chairs

John M. Cefaly '70  
Hedy Wrightson Rittenmeyer '72

### Honorary Co-chairs

Frank M. Henry  
William B. Sordoni

### Alumni Campaign Co-chairs

Laura Barbera Cardinale '72  
William A. Hanbury '72

### Community Campaign Members

Lissa Bryan-Smith  
Terrence W. Casey '81  
Eugene Roth, Esq. '57  
Matthew R. Sordoni  
Tara Mugford Wilson

### Members at Large

Lawrence E. Cohen '57  
Jason D. Griggs '90  
John R. Miller '68,  
Chair, Board of Trustees  
Jashinder S. Sidhu MBA '73

### Alumni Campaign Task Force

Clayton Karambelas '49  
Dr. Jesse Choper '57  
Emilie Roat Gino '60  
George Pawlush '69  
Jan Neiman Seeley '70  
Carol Gusgekofski Besler '76  
Tom Ralston '80  
Jason Griggs '90  
Melanie O'Donnell Mickelson '93  
Paula Gentilman Gaughan '00  
Eric Pape '04

Top left, The new science building will provide state-of-the-art facilities.

Bottom left, Campaign steering committee co-chair Hedy Wrightson Rittenmeyer '72, chair Michael J. Mahoney, community campaign member Eugene Roth, Esq. '57, board of trustees chair John R. Miller '68, President Tim Gilmour and vice president of advancement Michael J. Wood celebrate the start of construction.

**1958**

**Merri (Mary Jones) Earl** and **Paul Earl '59** celebrated 52 years of marriage on Feb. 27, 2012. They have five children. They spent the winter together in Sarasota, Fla., at their second home.

**1959**

**Paul Earl** See 1958.

**1960**

**Ronald W. Simms** was appointed by Gov. Tom Corbett to a 29-member panel

to develop a long-term strategy for higher education. The panel will pay specific attention to changing and future demands of the state's economy and jobs.

**1967**

**Reunion Oct. 5-7** 

**Richard Kramer** made his directorial debut with the Gaslight Theatre Company's production of Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*. The show ran from Jan. 5-8 in the Mellow Theater in Scranton, Pa.

**Larry A. Major** and his wife, Kay Ann, have been named Educators of the Year 2012 by the Lebanon (Pa.) County Educational Honor Society.

**1970**

**David Koranda** is a senior instructor in the School of Journalism Communication at the University of Oregon. Recently, his students were selected and given a sizable grant by the Century Council in Washington, D.C., to

implement an ad campaign to help curb binge drinking among college students. David resides in Eugene, Ore.

**1974**

**W. Lee Miller** is observing the 25-year anniversary of his business, the Independent Sealing Company, based in Philadelphia, Pa. Miller is the president and founder of the company that specializes in gaskets, pump and valve packing for the fluid sealing industry. He acknowledges

## Piyush Sabharwall '02 Engineers Success

Piyush Sabharwall '02 came to Wilkes for his senior year, after earning a scholarship from JSS Academy of Technical Education in his native India. Majoring in mechanical engineering with a concentration in robotics and controls, Sabharwall found Wilkes a nurturing environment for someone new to the United States. Now Sabharwall works for Idaho National Laboratory as a research scientist in the Nuclear Science and Technology Division and lives in Idaho Falls, Idaho. He was recently recognized as one of the "14 New Faces of Engineering" by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

He remembers being both excited and scared of the cultural shift when he first came to the states. "When I came to Wilkes, I was 20 years old and I didn't know my way around," he says. He credits Gina Morrison, associate professor of education, for help with the American culture; and Vijay Arora, professor of electrical engineering, Syed Kalim and Jamal Ghorieshi, professors of mechanical engineering, and others for their mentoring.

Sabharwall received his master's degree in nuclear engineering with a minor in mechanical engineering at Oregon State University, and received the Idaho National Laboratory Fission and Fusion Fellowship to pursue his doctorate from the University of Idaho. The fellowship led to his full-time job at the laboratory.

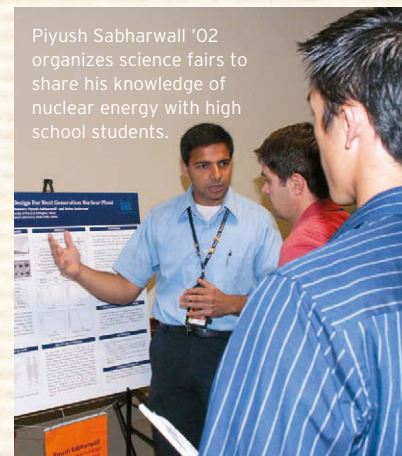
Sabharwall's works in next-generation reactor concepts, which include gas-cooled reactors and molten salt reactors, with an emphasis on industrial

process applications. He designs advanced compact heat exchangers, which are critical components of next-generation nuclear reactor systems.

He volunteers through the American Society of Mechanical Engineers organizing science fairs for high school students. "I enjoy the volunteer work," he explains. "I think it's my responsibility, being a professional in this area, to spread the benefits of nuclear power around so it can help people make correct decisions."

His volunteerism played a part in his nomination for the "14 New Faces of Engineering" program. "I was surprised but elated, as the selection process is hard and very competitive," Sabharwall says. The society looked at his research, publications and community work before nomination. His professional memberships include being an officer in the Idaho American Nuclear Society and serving on the board of Eastern Idaho Engineering Council. He has also published over 40 technical papers, reports and magazine articles, three book chapters, and two books.

– By Elizabeth Voda '12



Piyush Sabharwall '02 organizes science fairs to share his knowledge of nuclear energy with high school students.





The annual Wilkes scholarship luncheon introduces donors to scholarship recipients. New scholarships include the Miller Family Scholarship, the Wilkes LGBTQ Scholarship, the Nicholas L. Alessandro '63 Scholarship, the Richard M. Smith and Lissa Bryan-Smith Scholarship, and the Bergmann Foundation Scholarship. Pictured, front from left are Richard M. Smith, **Myzar Mendoza '14**, Lissa Bryan-Smith, **Rachel Matteucci '14**, **Emily Weary '14**, **Jane Miller '78**, **William R. Miller '81**; and back from left Mike Wood, Mirko Widenhorn, **Kevin Hopper '12**, **Nicholas L. Alessandro '63**, **Rhonda Zikowski '12**, Maribeth Weary, Dan Weary.

administration, teachers, and students from Wilkes for motivating him to create his business.

### 1976

**Sandra Akromas Thomson** recently retired from Workplace Safety and Insurance Board of Ontario after a 30-year career. She resides in Mississauga, Canada.

**Bill Goldsworthy** and his wife, Jannet, welcomed a granddaughter to the family in July 2011. Bill serves as the deputy director of Gov. Tom Corbett's Northeast Regional Office in Scranton, Pa. He served as the mayor of West Pittston, Pa., for 14 years and enjoyed a 30-year career at Golden Business Machines before resigning to



Patrick M. Walko '95

accept his position with the governor's office.

### 1988

**Andrew Bossard** retired from the U.S. Air Force as lieutenant colonel in January 2011. The following month, he joined the Department of Defense as a civilian intelligence analyst.

### 1990

**Thomas R. Griffith** has been appointed English department chair district coordinator for the Wyoming Valley West School District.

### 1993

**Daryle Cardone** recently assumed duties as executive officer of Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 121 in Norfolk, Va. He is employed by the U.S. Navy and resides in Virginia Beach, Va.

### 1995

**Patrick M. Walko** has been appointed program manager at Rettew & Associates oil and gas division. Rettew provides engineering, planning, environmental

## Greta Kleckner '09 Takes Center Stage

Greta Kleckner '09 arrived without an appointment in New York City in November 2011 for her audition for the national tour of



*Damn Yankees*. As she waited in line, her palms started to sweat. Usually in the back of line with hundreds of other performers, this time she managed to be one of the first few people to audition.

"You have to get up early, put your name on the list and hope for the best," says Kleckner, who majored in musical theater at Wilkes.

After 15 stressful seconds of belting out her song, she heard them say they would call her. "I didn't think I was going to get the job," Kleckner, a New York City resident, recalls.

But she did.

A few days later, Kleckner learned that she'd been cast in the ensemble and as understudy for the lead role of Meg. Meg is the wife of lead character Joe Boyd, who sells his soul to become baseball player Joe Hardy in the show.

The tour started the day after Christmas 2011 with two weeks of rehearsal. The journey ended three months later on April 12, 2012, after traveling 26,000 miles and visiting 39 cities, in states that included New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Florida and Idaho. "The people I'm working with are absolutely incredible, incredible people," Kleckner says. She was excited for the opportunity to be in a production with such a high "caliber of performance."

Growing up in Annapolis, Md., her mother was involved in theater. "Mom was the one who got me into theater in the first place," Kleckner says.

Her time and training at Wilkes was "pivotal," she explains. The learning opportunities from Wilkes productions gave her more knowledge and skills to go out into the world and audition. Since graduating, she has had six contracts with the Pines Dinner Theatre in Allentown, Pa. She's had roles in plays such as *I Do! I Do!* and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*.

– By Elizabeth Voda '12



**2006**

**Sara Toole '06, MBA '09** and **Ed Buck '07** were married on Sept. 4, 2011, at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Scranton, Pa. The bride works in finance at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs and the groom is employed by the Pocono Mountain School District. Their wedding party included fellow alumni Kelly Marion '05, Sharon Granahan '05, Brian Walter '03, Alexis Buck Rapp '06, Erik Stahlnecker '03 and Gary Steich '05.

consulting and surveying to a wide range of clients across the country. Walko is responsible for coordinating all operations in the northern region of the Marcellus Shale for a key natural gas client of the firm. He resides in Clarks Summit, Pa.

**1996**

**Mary Gertrude Kurlandski** and **Albert William Adomitis** were married on Sept. 23, 2011. The bride is a registered nurse of the critical care unit in Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. The groom is a certified, registered nurse anesthetist at Hazleton General Hospital. The couple reside in Mountain Top, Pa.

**Jennifer G. Moisey MBA '01** and her husband, **Adam Hoover**, welcomed their third son, **Brayden**, on Aug. 4, 2011. He joins older brothers **Joshua**, 5, and **Jacob**, 3.

**1997**

Reunion Oct. 5-7 

**Gino Bartoli** and **Kimberly Pisanti** were married on Feb. 19, 2011. The groom is employed by Fastenal as an outside sales support associate. The bride works in the wire transfer department of Bank of America. The couple reside in Mountain Top and Mayfield, Pa.

**2000**

**Tony DaRe**, owner of BSI Corporate Benefits, an employee benefits insurance agency located in Bethlehem, Pa., has become the naming rights partner of the BSI Dugout Suites at Coca-Cola Park, home of the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs, the Philadelphia Phillies Triple-A affiliate team.

**Greg Riley** and his wife, **Shea**, welcomed their second child, **Cadden Joseph**, on Dec. 2, 2011. He joins older sister **Lia Marie**. Riley also

added a new business to his company, **Wee Ideas LLC**. The new service offers photo booth rentals. The family resides in Wyoming, Pa.

**2002**

Reunion Oct. 5-7 

**Greg Barrouk** and his wife, **Jessica**, welcomed a son, **William Gregory**, on Nov. 30, 2011. Will joins big sisters **Elizabeth**, age 5, and **Emily**, age 2. The Barrouks reside in Wilkes-Barre.

**2004**

**Jessica (Hinkel) Leibig** and her husband, **Michael**, welcomed the arrival of their second son, **Lucas Jacob**, on Jan. 18, 2012.

**2005**

**Sabrina Benulis** of Drums, Pa., held a book signing for *Archon*, a fantasy novel published by HarperCollins. This is the first in a trilogy titled *The Books of Raziel*. The event took place on Jan. 21 at Barnes & Noble on Public Square in downtown Wilkes-Barre.

**2010**

**Michele Flannery** and **Joseph White** were married on Oct. 31, 2011. The bride is pursuing her second degree in diagnostic medical sonography as a registered vascular sonographer. The groom is a software engineer at Raytheon in State College, Pa. The couple reside in State College.



**2005**

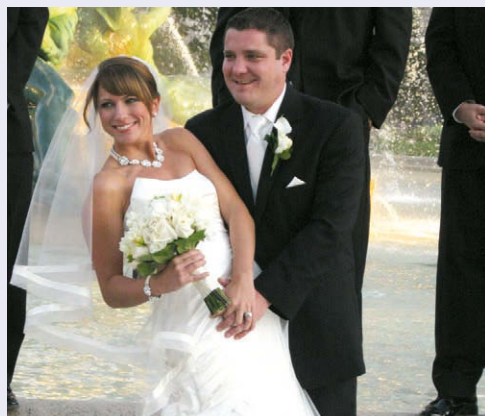
Pictured from left, **Rob Burns '05**, **Mike Burns** and **Eric Wagner '05** partnered with **Anita Burns** to open **Maer's BBQ off the Square** in Wilkes-Barre. Located at 50 S. Main St., the restaurant serves the downtown community as well as Wilkes University and King's College.

## Graduate Students 2000

Linda Chong, Pharm.D. and Nicholas Souchik III welcomed their third child, Liliya, on Sept. 7, 2011. She joins her older sisters, Larissa and Natasha.

## 2001

Jennifer G. Moisey MBA see undergraduate 1996.



## 2006

**Tiffany A. Archavage Pharm.D.** and Stephen P. Boyle Jr. were married on Oct. 7, 2011. The bride is a pharmacist for Wegmans in Collegeville, Pa. The groom is a senior financial analyst at S.E.I. Investments in Oaks, Pa. The couple reside in Collegeville, Pa.



## 2006

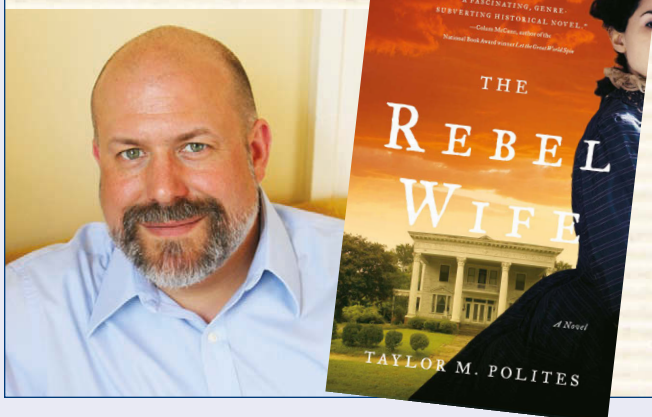
**Todd A. Glynn Pharm.D.** and his wife, Laura Phillips Howell Glynn, celebrated their four-year anniversary at Walt Disney World with a vow renewal on Dec. 10, 2011. Maid of honor **April Moran James '00** was in attendance. The couple reside in Kingston, Pa.

## Taylor Polites MFA '10 Publishes *The Rebel Wife*

Taylor Polites MFA '10 is receiving critical acclaim for his first published novel, *The Rebel Wife*. *O Magazine* called it one of "Ten Titles to Pick Up Now" in February 2012. It was the Southern Independent Booksellers Association's Okra Pick, and the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* named it one of the best southern books for 2012.

*The Rebel Wife*, published by Simon & Schuster, follows the story of Augusta Branson, born into the pre-Civil War South's nobility. All of the luxuries she was used to are dashed after the war; her husband dies, and she has lost her wealth and prosperity. She has to fend for herself and her son in a dangerous community filled with prejudice and violence.

Polites had the idea for his well-received book since 1998 and came to Wilkes for the support and structure



that the graduate creative writing program offered. Polites found the help of his mentor in the program, Kaylie Jones, indispensable when he needed direction. "Kaylie held my hand when it needed to be held," he explains. "I could not have asked for a better mentor or friend." He dedicated his book to her.

Jones revels in her student's success. "Taylor is a tireless, committed and an extremely talented writer. The book went through several drafts and I continued to work with him after he completed his MFA," Jones says. "The book is garnering extraordinary press for a first novel, and I feel like a proud godmother. I am so pleased: I jokingly refer to it as 'our book.' "

Before becoming a published novelist, Polites covered arts and news for many newspapers and magazines, including CapeAir's in-flight magazine *Bird's Eye View*, *artscope magazine* and *Provincetown Arts*.

But writing a book was always his dream. Polites wanted to become a novelist since childhood. "To realize a dream you could barely admit to yourself is euphoric and surreal," he says.

Bonnie Culver, creative writing program director, says his success reflects what is best about the program. "Instead of rushing to publish—and he had earlier agent and editor offers—he took his mentor's advice and revised and revised and revised until he turned a good novel into an excellent novel. He landed a top agent in New York City and a fantastic book deal," Culver says.

– By Elizabeth Voda '12

**2003**

**Tom Hurley M.S.** co-wrote the book *The Definitive Guide to Youth Athletic Strength, Conditioning and Performance* published by Celebrity Press. He is the owner of Dominant Athletics, which is a young athlete performance training center.

**2007**

Reunion Oct. 5-7 

**Patrick M. Bilbow M.S.** is the winner of the Man of the Year award presented by the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick at their 98th Annual St. Patrick's Day Banquet in March 2012.

**Sonya L. Mylet Pharm.D.** and Joshua H. Mylet welcomed their fourth child, Jackson Theodore Mylet, on Jan. 27, 2012. He joins older brother Joshua E., 4, and older sisters Juliana, 2, and Jiana, 1.

**2009**

**Peter Castelline MBA** has been promoted to vice president of operations at AAMCO Transmission in Scranton, Pa.

**Sara Toole MBA** see undergraduate 2007.

## Amanda Kaster '11 Having A Capitol Time

Since graduating from Wilkes in 2011, Amanda Kaster has gone from intern to permanent staff member on Capitol Hill with U.S. Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-Maine). Kaster, who majored in history and English with a concentration in writing, officially became a staff member in January 2012 after serving a four-month internship with the senator through the non-profit organization Running Start.

As a staff member, Kaster performs many duties, such as fielding phone calls and data entry, drafting letters concerning energy, housing, and labor issues, and other duties. She loves "working and learning in politics and supporting an incredibly talented politician, through writing, no less."

When a position on Snowe's permanent staff opened up after her internship, she could not resist trying to hold on to a job she loved. She felt that her internship gave her a leg up with the skills and knowledge she gained.

"It was one of the most incredible feelings in the world, because this is my dream," she says.

A recent experience affirmed why she finds the work so rewarding. Kaster attended a reception to gain more support for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program on behalf of the senator. While there, she found that many people appreciated the senator's support. "I am happy to say I work for Sen. Snowe," she acknowledges.

She now lives in the middle of Washington, D.C., and enjoys life in the capitol. "I love the city. My family is certain I am meant to be here, as I simply cannot get enough of this place." She adores the busy atmosphere of politics, culture and food.

Kaster found her experiences at Wilkes vital to both her new career success and her personal success. "The English department made certain I graduated with skills that would transfer anywhere, and for that I will be forever indebted. I would not be who I am now without Wilkes," she says.

Shortly after Kaster joined the staff permanently, she learned that Snowe would retire at the end of 2012. "I was very shocked," Kaster admits. "She made people's lives so much richer." The senator told her staff shortly before making the statement public. At the moment, Kaster's plans for the future are uncertain. She wants to stay in the city, and is seeking employment. "This experience has been invaluable," she says. "I'm looking to carry over what I learn to another office on the Hill."

– By Elizabeth Voda '12



Amanda Kaster '11 with Sen. Olympia Snowe in her Capitol Hill office.

## In Memoriam

### 1937

**Marjorie H. Cummins**, Jenkins Township, Pa., died Feb. 6, 2012. She was an elementary teacher in the Wyoming Valley West School District for over 20 years.

### 1942

**Stefana (Hoyniak) Shoemaker**, Dushore, Pa., died Feb. 6, 2012. She was the editor and co-publisher of *The Sullivan Review* for 45 years.

### 1943

**John C. Keeney**, Kensington, Md., died Nov. 19, 2011. He was a U.S. Army Air Corps veteran during World War II and survived being a prisoner of war. He served at the U.S. Department of Justice for nearly 60 years under 12 U.S. presidents and 23 attorneys general. He retired in 2010 as deputy assistant attorney general in the Criminal Division of the Justice Department.

### 1946

**Gloria (Farkas) Fierverker**, Kingston, Pa., died March 19, 2012. She taught literature and English for more than 20 years at Wyoming Valley West High School. She and her late husband, Harry, created the Harry and Gloria Farkas Fierverker Scholarship, awarded to Wyoming Valley West graduates majoring in English or communication studies at Wilkes

University. Contributions to the scholarship can be made in her memory. For more information, contact Evelyne Topfer at (570) 408-4309.

### 1949

**Ralph F. Hodgson Sr.**, Pittston, Pa., died March 13, 2012. He was a U.S. Army veteran with the 82nd Airborne Division. He retired from the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, where he was the director of field operations for the Office of Mental Retardation.

**Gordon R. Stryker**, San Antonio, Texas, died Feb. 12, 2012. In the U.S. Army, he served in the 106th Infantry Division during World War II. He was an insurance underwriter and taught insurance underwriting at San Antonio College.

### 1950

**Michael F. Connors**, Venice, Fla., died Jan. 28, 2012. He was a U.S. Navy veteran, and he was employed for 36 years at the DuPont Company.

**Chauncey A. Rowlands**, Wanamie, Pa., died March 6, 2012. A U.S. Army veteran of World War II who served in Okinawa, he worked at Vulcan Iron Works in Wilkes-Barre as a machinist.

**Henry H. Ward**, Dallas, Pa., died Sept. 27, 2011. He served with the 11th

and 503rd Airborne troops during World War II, and was employed as a sales manager and a teacher in Pennsylvania vocational/technical schools.

### 1951

**John E. Puchalsky**, Trucksville, Pa., died Feb. 3, 2012. He was a U.S. Army Air Force veteran during World War II. After the war, he continued to work for the Army and retired after 30 years of dedicated service with the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 4.

### 1956

**Madge K. Benovitz**, Key Largo, Fla., died March 24, 2012. She was past president of the Wilkes-Barre Chapter of Hadassah, past president of the United Way of Wyoming Valley, past president of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania and was the chairman of Temple Israel's 70th anniversary celebration.

**Allan B. Rosenberg**, Wheeling, Ill., died Feb. 17, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Sherry W. Rosenberg '58, and other family members.

### 1957

**Frederick J. Krohle**, Lake Township, Pa., died Jan. 1, 2012. He was a U.S. Army veteran, and he was employed by Wilkes University for 33 years as a reference and collections development librarian.

### 1958

**Gilbert W. Griffiths**, Fernandina Beach, Fla., died Dec. 6, 2011. He was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and a retired member of the U.S. Secret Service. He was also a member of the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington, D.C.

**Charles Joseph Pulos**, Ocean Township, N.J., died Nov. 22, 2011. A veteran of the Air Force, he worked for the Oceanport Board of Education in Oceanport, N.J. Later he owned an antique chiming clock repair shop until he retired in 1994.

### 1959

**Joseph J. Sable Sabalesky**, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., died Jan. 7, 2012. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran, and he was a professional music artist, arranger, conductor, composer and educator.

**Joseph P. Schmieg**, Plains Township, Pa., died Feb. 22, 2012. He served with the Air Force during the Korean War. Before retiring, he worked as a caseworker for the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

**Nancy Payne Spitler**, Crozet, Va., died Feb. 10, 2012. She taught in the Albemarle County schools.

### 1960

**Loralu Richards**, North Miami Beach, Fla., died March 5, 2012. She worked as a registered nurse.

## In Memoriam

### 1962

**Raymond D. Marchakitus**, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., died Jan. 15, 2012. He was a housing analyst and an economist. He worked on President Ronald Reagan's Task Force on Regulatory Relief.

### 1963

**Harold Kistler**, Media, Pa., died Jan. 13, 2012. He was an entertainer at the Ship Inn in Malvern, Pa., the Brownstone Inn in Glenn Mills, Pa., and other venues. He gave piano lessons to adults and taught in the William Penn School District.

### 1967

**Emil J. Warren**, Nanticoke, Pa., died Feb. 10, 2012. He was vice president and trust officer for several area banks. He retired from Luzerne Bank in 2007, and continued his tax preparation business. He is survived by his wife Phyllis Warren '66, daughter Kimberly '94, and other family.

### 1968

**Maurice (Marty) Cardone**, Nanticoke, Pa., died Feb. 22, 2012. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. In the 1950s and 1960s he worked as a disc jockey at WNAK Radio, Nanticoke. He operated Marty's Pizza in Nanticoke for 45 years. In 1989 he retired from the faculty of Northwest High School as a business teacher.

### 1969

**Fernando (Freddie) Spinosi**, Wilkes-Barre, died Feb. 21, 2012. He worked for Sapa of Mountain Top, Pa., formerly MidEast Aluminum, for 38 years.

### 1970

**Dorothy E. Davis**, Allenwood, N.J., died Feb. 16, 2012. She was head nurse of the cardiac unit at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital and was honored by the Luzerne County Nurses' Association in 1989 for her 40 years of service.

### 1976

**Michael J. Petyak Jr.**, Wilkes-Barre, died March 6, 2012. He earned his doctorate from Penn State University in instructional design systems. He was self-employed, holding several government contracts in instructional design. He also taught at Wilkes University.

### 1978

**Margaret Ann Hreha**, Kingston, Pa., died March 17, 2012. She was an avid reader as well as an accomplished quilter.

### 1985

**John F. Kelly**, Dunmore, Pa., died Nov. 1, 2011. He was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and had a career in purchasing management with various

companies in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. He also was a Lackawanna County Community Corrections Officer.

### 1990

**Michele Milunas**, Mountain Top, Pa., died March 26, 2012. She was a member of the St. Jude's Church in Mountain Top.

### 1994

**Jennifer L. Browning**, Greencastle, Pa., died Jan. 9, 2012. She was employed at Citigroup of Hagerstown, Md.

### 1997

**Patricia Walsh Williams**, Courtdale, Pa., died Feb. 20, 2012. She retired in 2011 from being a certified psychiatric nurse at First Valley and the VA Medical Center.

## Friends of Wilkes

**Kenneth F. Maloney**, Huntington Beach, Calif., died May 13, 2011. From 1968-1969, he was assistant to President Eugene Farley at Wilkes College. He is survived by his son, Kenneth L. Maloney '67, and daughter, Susan K. Maloney '71.

**Jack Scovil** died Feb. 23, 2012. A leading U.S. literary agent for over 40 years, he co-founded the Scovil Chichak Galen Literary Agency, which is now the

Scovil Galen Ghosh Agency. He was a founding advisory board member of the graduate creative writing program at Wilkes University.

**Patricia (Patsy) Reese**, Kingston, Pa., died May 1, 2012. She was known to generations of Wilkes wrestlers coached by her husband, John G. Reese, to whom she was married for 59 years. She retired as a teaching aide at Wyoming Valley West Elementary School and had been a counselor at the Diet Center. She is survived by her husband; a son, John J. Reese '76; two daughters, Lynne Kravits and Megan Thomas; two sons-in-law, four grandchildren; and a great grandchild. Memorial contributions can be made to the Patricia (Patsy) Reese Nursing Scholarship Fund, c/o Wilkes University, 84 W. South St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766.

**Emma L. Simms**, Mountain Top, Pa., died March 9, 2012. She and her husband, Augie, actively participated in campaign fundraising for Wilkes University, The United Way, and Geisinger Health System. She won the Hoyt Library Poetry Contest in 1992 and studied poetry at Wilkes. She is survived by son and daughter-in-law Ronald '60 and Rhea (Politis) '78 Simms, and daughter and son-in-law Rowena '63 and Jerry '63 Mohn.

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## calendar of events

### June

- 16-Aug. 6 Alumni and Community: Selections from the Sordoni Art Gallery Permanent Collection
- 20 Alumni reception, The Westin Waltham-Boston Hotel, Waltham, Mass.
- 21 Alumni reception, Nashua, N.H.
- 23 Picnic at Farley Farm, Monroe Township, Pa.
- 28 Annual John Chwalek Open Golf Tournament, Irem Country Club, Dallas, Pa.

### July

- 13 Admissions Open House
- 16-Aug. 2 The Reading Academy  
The Arts Academy

### August

- 9 Sordoni Art Gallery at Performing Arts Day at Wilkes-Barre Farmers Market, Public Square
- 27 Fall classes begin

### September

- 14-15 Installation of Patrick Leahy as sixth president of Wilkes University
- 27-30 Theatre Performance, Dart Center
- 29 Admissions Open House
- 29 Family Weekend

### October

- 5-7 Homecoming
- 21 2012 Rosenn Lecture, Cory Booker, Newark Mayor

### November

- 9-11, 16-18 Musical Theatre Performance, Dart Center
- 10 Admissions Open House

