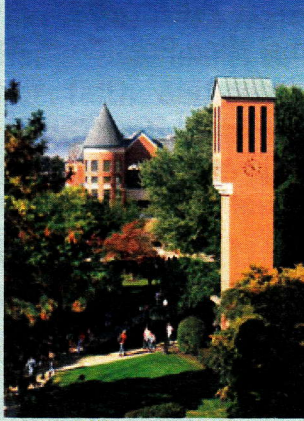


Wilkes University

May 16, 2008

Baccalaureate Service



A Baccalaureate service seeks to respond with gratitude to the Giver of all good gifts and to ask the Lord's blessings on the graduates' future. This service includes the faith traditions and spiritual orientations represented in the senior class. It is dedicated to the hope of mutual understanding and appreciation in this community and throughout our world.

The Campus Interfaith Office congratulates those who today mark the completion of their courses of study and wish you and your families a safe and blessed journey as you leave Wilkes University.

We thank the members of the Class of 2008 who contributed to this service from their faith traditions. We are grateful for the members of the Wilkes University Chorus, Dr. Steven Thomas, director, and accompanist Amy Sekol for providing today's music; and a special thanks to our guest speaker, Rabbi Larry Kaplan for his words of wisdom.

Prelude No.9 in E Major, WTC I
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
Amy Sekol, Wilkes '08, Music

Welcome

Dr. Paul Adams, Vice President, Student Affairs

Introduction

Theresa Monaco, Campus Interfaith Coordinator

Lighting of the Candle & Invocation
Samantha Payne, Wilkes '08, Biochemistry

The Call to Worship

Matthew Brown, Wilkes '08, Entrepreneurship

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!
 Serve the Lord with gladness!
 Come into His presence singing with joy!

***Response: Know that the Lord is God! Our Maker,
 to Whom we belong;
 We are God's people,
 the sheep of God's flock.***

Leader: Enter the Lord's gate with thanksgiving,
 and His courts with songs of praise!
 Give thanks to the Lord and bless God's name.

***Response: For God is good;
 God's steadfast love endures forever,
 and faithfulness is given to all generations.***

Alma Mater

led by the Wilkes University Chorus

Wilkes, our Alma Mater,
we pledge our hearts to thee.
Honor, faith, and courage,
Truth and loyalty.
In our work as in our pleasure,
Guide us as a friend;
We shall always love thee,
Loyal to the end.

Thou shalt lead us onward
In search of finer things.
May we find the wisdom
That thy spirit brings.
May our deeds of love and service
Ever swell thy fame --
Wilkes, we stand to greet thee!
Glory to thy name!



Job 28: 12- 28

Michael Lewis, Wilkes '08
Mechanical Engineering

"But where can wisdom be found? Where does understanding dwell? Man does not comprehend its worth; it cannot be found in the land of the living. The deep says, 'It is not in me'; the sea says, 'It is not with me.' It cannot be bought with the finest gold, nor can its price be weighed in silver. It cannot be bought with the gold of Ophir, with precious onyx or sapphires. Neither gold nor crystal can compare with it, nor can it be had for jewels of gold. Coral and jasper are not worthy of mention; the price of wisdom is beyond rubies. The topaz of Cush cannot compare with it; it cannot be bought with pure gold.

Where then does wisdom come from? Where does understanding dwell? It is hidden from the eyes of every living thing, concealed even from the birds of the air.

Destruction and Death say, 'Only a rumor of it has reached our ears.' God understands the way to it and he alone knows where it dwells, for he views the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens. When he established the force of the wind and measured out the waters, when he made a decree for the rain and a path for the thunderstorm, then he looked at wisdom and appraised it; he confirmed it and tested it.

And he said to man, 'The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding.' "



Romans 11:33- 12:2
Andrew Curry, Wilkes '08,
Mechanical Engineering

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever!

I urge you therefore, by the mercies of God, to offer yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.

**Solving Human Problems Through
Transforming Human Attitudes**

By His Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso
Kaitlin Taber-Miller, Wilkes '08, Musical Theater

Of the many problems we face today, some are natural calamities and must be accepted and faced with equanimity. Others, however, are of our own making, created by misunderstanding, and can be corrected. One such type arises from the conflict of ideologies, political or religious, when people fight each other for petty ends, losing sight of the basic humanity that binds us all together as a single human family.

We must remember that the different religions, ideologies, and political systems of the world are meant for human beings to achieve happiness. We must not lose sight of this fundamental goal and at no time should we place means above ends; the supremacy of humanity over matter and ideology must always be maintained.

Qur'an 2:268-9; 3:66; 4:113; 16:125

Lili Dibai, Wilkes '09
Education and Spanish

... God is infinite, all-knowing, granting wisdom unto whom He wills: and whoever is granted wisdom has indeed been granted wealth abundant. But none bears this in mind save those who are endowed with insight.

Verily, you are those who have disputed about that of which you have knowledge. Why do you then dispute concerning that which you have no knowledge? It is Allah Who knows, and you know not.

And but for God's favor upon thee and His grace, some of those [who are false to themselves] would indeed endeavor to lead thee astray; yet none but themselves do they lead astray. Nor can they harm thee in any way, since God has bestowed upon thee from on high this divine writ and [given thee] wisdom, and has imparted unto thee the knowledge of what thou didst not know. And God's favor upon thee is tremendous indeed.

Call unto the way of thy Lord with wisdom and fair exhortation, and reason with them in the better way. Lo! thy Lord is best aware of him who strayeth from His way, and He is Best Aware of those who go aright.

Baccalaureate Address:

Rabbi Larry G. Kaplan
Temple Israel, Wilkes-Barre, PA



Time of Recollection & Book of Gratitude

Please take time to quietly reflect and remember the names of those who have been influential, helpful, or important to you. The graduates are asked to please come forward to write these names in the Book of Gratitude.

A Prayer For Those Who Journey

By Joyce Rupp

Robert Bireley, Wilkes '08, Computer Science

Response : Draw near, O God, draw near!

As we journey through life, we face fear of the unknown, doubts, hesitations, anxieties and insecurities...

Life is an unfolding mystery, sometimes a painful search and sometimes a wonderful discovery. When our hearts are restless because they are pilgrim hearts whose Home is not here...

When our footsteps grow weary, when we stumble along the way, discouragement and doubt so easily come forth to greet us...

We are always learning what to leave behind and what to take with us as we move along the road of life. As we struggle to make good decisions...

We encounter you, God, continually in the constant cycle of setting out and coming home. Sometimes we allow life to be so busy as we travel that we miss your presence. When we need to slow our hectic pace...

Expectancy, anticipation, and courage rise up in our beings when we are open to your ways, God of the wilderness. As we search for reasons to hope...

In our journey, we need a strong conviction about the beauty and goodness of life, a vision of hope that endures the pain and struggle, and a thread of love that weaves through all of our dreams. When we try to hold on to what gives our life meaning and purpose...

Benediction

Theresa Monaco, Campus Interfaith Coordinator

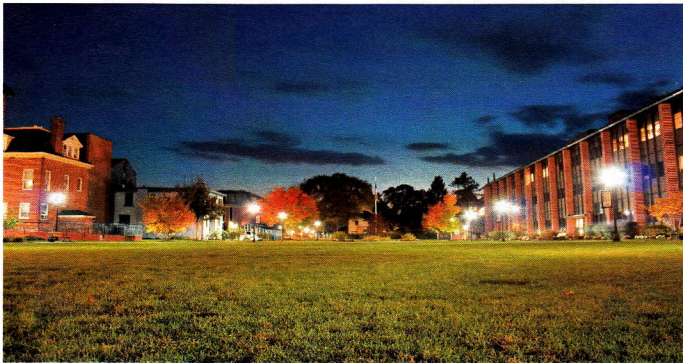
Recessional

Joyful, Joyful, We adore Thee led by the Wilkes University Chorus

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus, which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us Sunward in the triumph song of life.



Thank you for joining us. May God pour forth blessings upon you as you continue on your journey. Praise God!