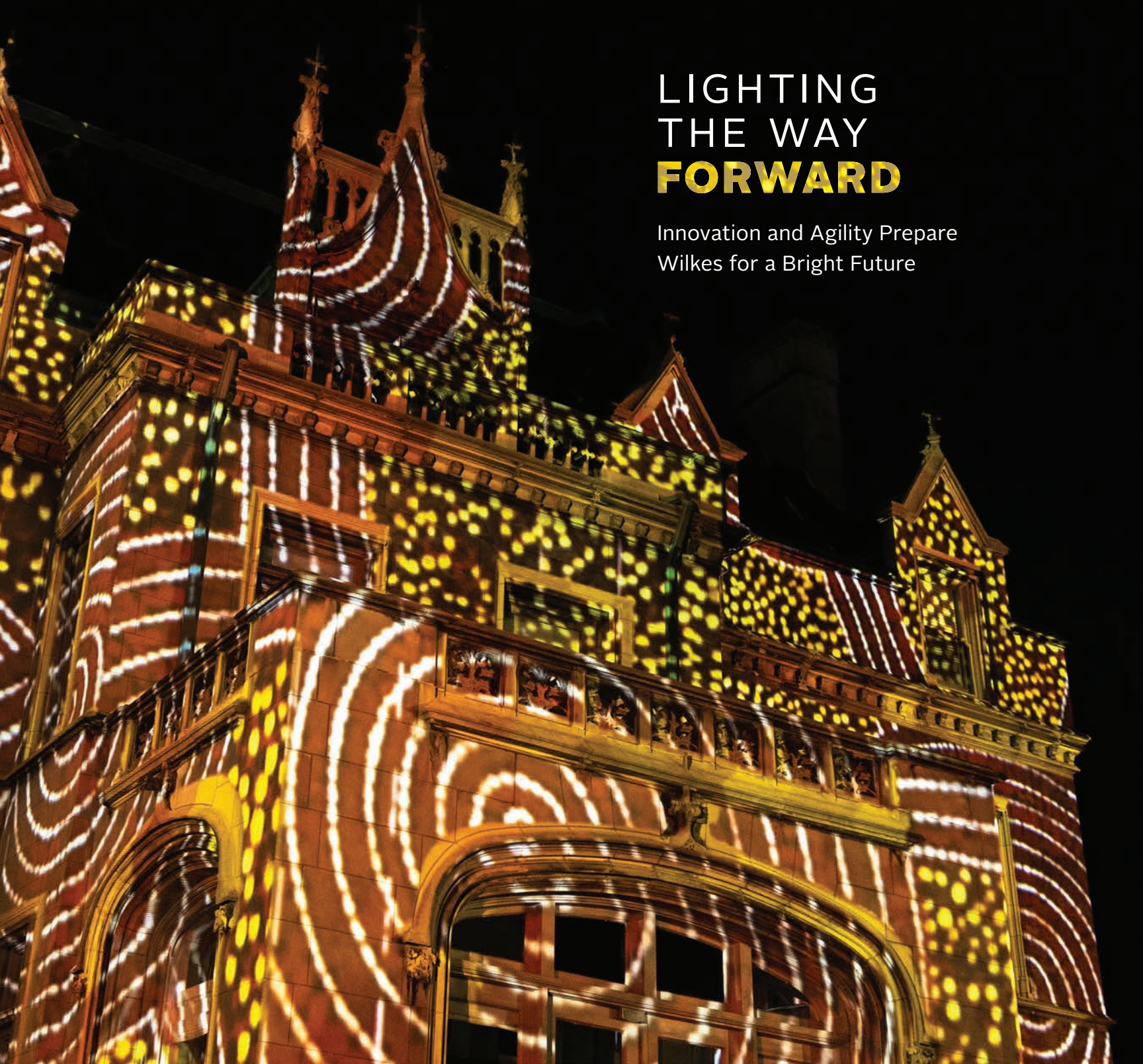


WILKES

WINTER 2021-2022

LIGHTING THE WAY **FORWARD**

Innovation and Agility Prepare
Wilkes for a Bright Future



president's letter

WILKES
VOLUME 15 | ISSUE 1 WINTER 2021-2022

Welcome Back

I am pleased to share with you the winter 2021-2022 edition of *Wilkes* magazine, my first as president of Wilkes University. Much has happened since our last issue and the pandemic continues to create uncertainty. Above all else, we hope that you and your families are remaining healthy and safe.

On the following pages, you will see that Wilkes has slowly and safely reintroduced some normalcy to our campus. I was honored to be formally installed as Wilkes president on Oct. 1. An inauguration ceremony is much less about any one individual and much more about celebrating the greater Wilkes community. It is setting a vision for the future and reinforcing our commitment to those we ultimately serve—our students. It was a moment of pride for our University and a humbling one for me personally. Thank you to all who shared in this event and sent well wishes.

We also held our first in-person Homecoming Weekend since 2019. Everyone on campus worked tirelessly to host safe, outdoor experiences. The photos on the following pages show that the weather was certainly in our favor. After a year in which many events were canceled or held online, we have an incredible lecture series this year. In April, Wilkes will welcome presidential historian and author Jon Meacham as part of the 40th anniversary of the Max Rosenn Lecture Series in Law and Humanities. Two days later, Wilkes hosts the one and only Margaret Atwood. The author of more than 50 novels, including *The Handmaid's Tale*, will speak as part of the spring Allan Hamilton Dickson Writers Series. Learn more at wilkes.edu/lectureseries.

Finally, we want to thank you for your patience as you awaited the next issue of *Wilkes* magazine. For nearly two years, university personnel have been united in our mission to create a safe environment, focusing on the most pressing priorities. Though the pandemic continues to remind us of the importance of those we hold dear, it is lovely to resume many of our typical activities. It also gave us an opportunity to reflect.

The format and frequency of *Wilkes* magazine will likely change moving forward. But our commitment to you, our valued alumni and friends, has never been stronger. Thank you for all the ways you supported us during these challenging times. Your kind and generous spirit continues to transform the lives of our students. We are forever grateful. And we are Forever Colonel.



President Greg Cant

Greg Cant
President

WILKES MAGAZINE

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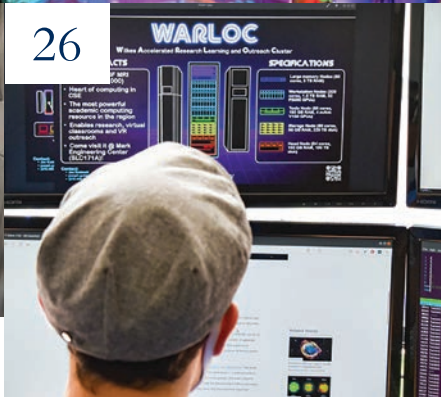
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Wilkes University is an independent institution of higher education dedicated to academic and intellectual excellence in the liberal arts, sciences and professional programs. The university provides its students with the experience and education necessary 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.



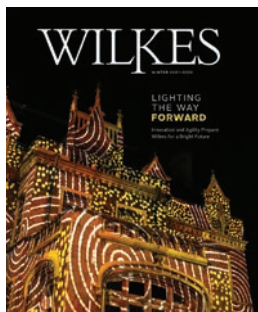
10

14

22

26

contents



Inauguration week paid homage to Greg Cant's Australian roots, as depicted during a stunning light show at Weckesser Hall that featured Aboriginal art and music. See story on page 20.
PHOTO BY KNOT JUST ANY DAY

FEATURES

- 10 Unwavering**
Greg Cant reflects on his first year as president, new priorities and the hope that lies ahead.
- 14 Lighting the Way Forward**
Wilkes unites to honor the past, celebrate the future and reaffirm a campus-wide commitment to innovation.
- 22 A Day in the Life of the Simms Center on Main**
The Ron and Rhea Simms Center on Main intersects campus and community, academics and activities, social time and studying.
- 26 Supercomputing on Campus**
Meet WARLOC, one of the most powerful academic supercomputers in the region.

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 On Campus**
- 28 Alumni News**
- 30 Giving Back**
- 32 Class Notes**

Have a story idea to share?
Contact patricia.deviva@wilkes.edu or *Wilkes* magazine, 84 W. South St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18766.

Wilkes magazine is available online at www.wilkes.edu/wilkesmagazineonline



Bonner Leaders Program Welcomes First Students

Wilkes University welcomed its first eight students into the Bonner Leaders Program, a unique work-study initiative that blends community service and leadership education to inspire students to become service leaders at Wilkes and in the greater community. Wilkes is the only university in northeastern Pennsylvania and one of just eight in the state to offer the service-leadership program to students.

The Bonner Leaders Program at Wilkes was made possible by alumnus and attorney William Bush '68, who has served on the board of the Bonner Foundation since its inception. A longtime advocate for students who are the first in their families to attend college, Bush helped connect the Bonner Foundation to the University.

“It is a program that perfectly aligns with the Wilkes commitment to hands-on learning, individualized attention and community engagement.”

– Greg Cant, Wilkes University President



Bonner leaders, from left (seated): Alexis Nardone, Rockaway, N.J.; Ava Musloski, Avoca, Pa.; Ada Soriano, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; Amelia “Mia” O’Connor, Brooklyn, N.Y. Back row: Marytere Quintana-Avila, Scranton, Pa.; Emily Blaine, Shavertown, Pa.; Brenda Arias, Hanover Township, Pa.; Bhavika “Nikki” Dawar, Sparta, N.J.

“Mr. Bush’s encouragement, support and guidance were instrumental in our decision to move forward with the Bonner Leaders Program,” said University President Greg Cant. “It is a program that perfectly aligns with the Wilkes commitment to hands-on learning, individualized attention and community engagement.”

The Bonner Leaders Program is a progressive four-year experience that blends direct service in the community with enrichment and training activities designed to promote leadership, self-awareness, professionalism and public service. The four-year program culminates in a senior capstone project where students conceive, build and lead their own service project and inspire campus participation. Students are compensated through work-study funding, providing financial support for their education.

Bonner Leaders is a national, service-based initiative from the Corella and Bertram F. Bonner Foundation. Founded in 1990, the Bonner Leaders Program has grown to a multifaceted civic engagement and leadership program hosted by a network of more than 70 colleges and universities. In Pennsylvania, Wilkes joins schools like Widener University and Ursinus College to offer the program to incoming students.

David Ward Named Senior Vice President and Provost

David M. Ward was selected as the new senior vice president and provost of Wilkes University, beginning his new position in June 2021. In this role, Ward serves as the chief academic officer of Wilkes, leading the University's scholarship, programs and initiatives, and working with the deans and faculty of its six academic schools and colleges. Ward was selected for the position following a national search.

Ward comes to Wilkes from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke where he served as provost and vice chancellor of academic affairs



from 2017 through 2020, leading an academic unit that included 36 undergraduate and 17 graduate programs serving a total 7,698 students. During this time, the university experienced significant enrollment growth and created a shared vision around new program development and retention.

“With six months under my belt, I am more excited than when I first accepted the job,” said Ward. “Everyone in the Wilkes community has made me feel welcome and perhaps more importantly, has shared their ideas and energy for moving the University forward. I see a very bright future for Wilkes University and am thrilled and honored to be a part of it.”

Ward received his doctorate and master's degree in public administration from the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University. He earned his bachelor's degree in political science from Colgate University.

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

2 NEW MAJORS
civil engineering & special education

200 STUDENTS received \$2,000 for the Hometown Advantage Award for Lackawanna and Luzerne County residents

89TH academic school year

630 NEW UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS



165 NEW STUDENTS ARE ATHLETES

2025 & 2027 INCOMING CLASS YEARS

14% INCREASED ENROLLMENT

FROM **19** STATES

FROM **7** COUNTRIES

8 Bonner Leaders

39 new Honors Program students

8 new faculty members

1 new bookstore—Colonel Corner



Ned Fetcher

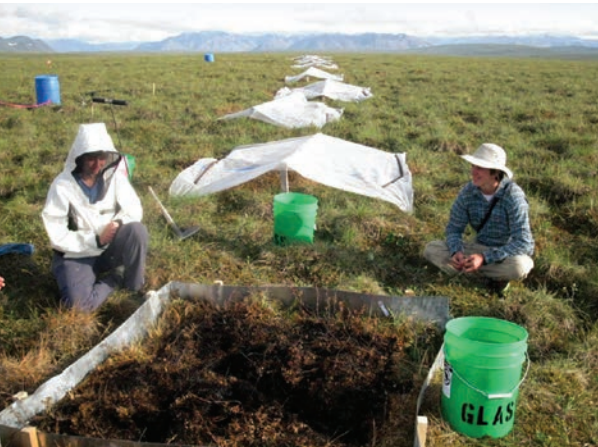
\$1.1 Million Collaborative Grant From National Science Foundation Award for Climate Change Research at Wilkes

Wilkes University has been awarded part of a \$1.1 million collaborative grant from the National Science Foundation to study the effects of climate change on plants. Ned Fetcher, coordinator of the Institute for Environmental Science and Sustainability at Wilkes, is a co-principal investigator on a research team that will study the effect of a changing climate on tussock cottongrass, dwarf birch and tealeaf willow, all plants found in tundra ecosystems in Alaska. The grant funds research titled “Collaborative Research: Plant phenology, local adaptation, and growing season length in the changing Arctic tundra.”

Fetcher, whose share of the three-year grant is \$456,716, will conduct research with co-principal investigators Jianwu (Jim) Tang and Gaius R. Shaver of the international, world-renowned Ecosystem Center of the Marine Biology Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass., and principal investigator Michael Moody of the University of Texas at El Paso. Wilkes undergraduates will participate in the project as field assistants, spending up to 10 weeks during the summer at the Toolik Lake Field Station, 170 miles north of the Arctic Circle.

The team’s research focuses on plant phenology (the study of cyclic and seasonal natural phenomena), one of the traits most affected by climate change. In the Arctic, plant phenology can alter how ecosystems function at multiple levels. Previous research by Fetcher and associates identified a significant difference in growing season length between northern and southern populations of tussock cottongrass. This finding suggests that the phenology of this species is under genetic constraint (unable to adapt).

“Changes in day length are responsible for many phenological events in the temperate zone. This research will help us to understand how phenology is controlled in a region where day length is 24 hours,” said Fetcher.



A Wilkes research team in the Arctic in 2016.

AUTHOR COLUM MCCANN HIGHLIGHTS INAUGURAL LITFEST WRITERS FESTIVAL

National Book Award-winning author Colum McCann (*Let the Great World Spin*) was the featured speaker for the inaugural LitFest literary festival, a celebration of writers and writing that was held on campus from June 20-24. LitFest was sponsored by the Maslow Family Graduate Program in Creative Writing and was part of the program’s first in-person residency in two years. Held on the Fenner Quadrangle, McCann spoke to the creative writing students, read from his work and was joined by National Public Radio book critic Maureen Corrigan and memoirist Beverly Donofrio (*Riding in Cars With Boys*). The evening concluded with book signings by the featured authors and also the authors from the creative writing program. Wilkes offers a nationally recognized and widely reputed graduate creative writing program where students and faculty find the writing support, community and market opportunities to become lifelong, productive, professional writers in all fields. The program boasts an impressive list of faculty, advisors and friends.



Colum McCann signing his book for President Greg Cant.

Wilkes University Partners with Geisinger on Geisinger Pharmacy Scholars Program

Wilkes University and Geisinger have partnered to give future pharmacists a jump on their careers with the Geisinger Pharmacy Scholars Program. The program will reduce the cost of education while recruiting highly skilled pharmacists to work at Geisinger, one of the largest healthcare systems in northeast and central Pennsylvania.

The Geisinger Pharmacy Scholars Program provides qualified students with a guaranteed job offer within the Geisinger system upon graduating from Wilkes University's Nesbitt School of Pharmacy. Geisinger also provides a \$20,000 loan as students enter their fifth year of the six-year program. Geisinger will forgive the loan for scholars who remain employed by Geisinger for two years immediately following graduation or the end of a post-graduate residency.

In addition, scholars benefit from a Geisinger pharmacist mentor, as well as a Wilkes advisor, to help them navigate their studies in addition to their first year of employment.

"We are so pleased to partner with Geisinger on this unique program that continues to advance Wilkes pharmacists," said Scott Stolte, dean of the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy. "Wilkes University boasts job placement rates that ensure our students achieve both economic and professional success. The value of retaining the talents of our graduates through the Geisinger Pharmacy Scholars Program cannot be overstated, particularly in the midst of a global health crisis."

"More than 25 percent of the more than 400 pharmacists employed within Geisinger are graduates of the Wilkes Nesbitt School of Pharmacy," said Michael Evans, RPh, chief pharmacy officer at Geisinger. "This is a natural partnership that will help aspiring pharmacists achieve their career goals and also help Geisinger recruit and retain much-needed pharmacists within our communities."

High school seniors admitted into the Wilkes pre-pharmacy guaranteed seat program with a minimum grade point average of 3.5 (or rank in the 90th percentile or higher) are qualified to apply. Students must be willing to be employed anywhere in the Geisinger system with locations throughout northeast and central Pennsylvania.

Interested students can learn more about the program at wilkes.edu/geisingerscholars or about the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy at wilkes.edu/pharmacy.

National Rankings Recognize Wilkes

Wilkes University is once again ranked among top national universities in *U.S. News and World Report's* Best Colleges ranking of American colleges and universities. In the 2022 edition, Wilkes is ranked 213 among 391 national universities. This is the 18th consecutive year that Wilkes has been ranked and its third year as a national university.

New in 2022 is the *U.S. News and World Report* ranking of Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs. Wilkes ranks 388 of 694 institutions. In 2021, Wilkes conferred 236 total nursing degrees, including 91 at the bachelor's level. In addition:

- Wilkes ranked for social mobility, which measures how well schools educate and graduate students who receive Pell grants, the federal aid program reserved for the most financially needy students.
- Wilkes was recognized among "A+ Schools for B Students" which looks at schools in the top three-fourths of their ranking category and their average first-year student retention rate.
- Wilkes ranked 166 of 239 engineering bachelor's-degree programs when considering institutions who do not offer doctoral degrees in the engineering field.





Wilkes Celebrates In-Person Commencement for the Class of 2021

To say Wilkes University's 74th Spring Commencement was eventful would be an understatement. In order to honor the Class of 2021 and their families while maintaining safety protocols, six separate events awarding nearly 700 degrees were held throughout the Memorial Day weekend on May 28, 29 and 30. A year after officially earning their degrees, Wilkes also honored the class of 2020 during a commencement ceremony on May 22. Approximately 130 members of the class participated.



SCAN TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE



Erica Acosta Named Marshal of 4th Annual Multicultural Parade

Erica Acosta MBA '20, director of diversity initiatives in the Center for Global Education and Diversity, was named Grand Marshal of the 4th Annual Multicultural Parade and Festival by Wilkes-Barre Mayor George Brown. Mayor Brown also announced that Sept. 25 would be known as Erica Acosta Day in Wilkes-Barre. Acosta was accompanied by her five-year-old daughter, Elena, who received the pin of Wilkes-Barre from Mayor Brown.

Acosta is a champion of diversity at Wilkes and also in the community. At Wilkes, Acosta provides support and services for undergraduate and graduate students from under-represented groups; is the co-chair for the Council on Diversity, Inclusion and Equity; developed and implemented the Diversity and Inclusion Student conference; and is the advisor to the Multicultural Student Coalition Club. In the community, Acosta serves as the executive chair of the Wilkes-Barre branch of the NAACP and vice chair of Wilkes-Barre Chamber Diversity Council.

When asked why having a multicultural event in Wilkes-Barre is important to her, Acosta said, "Instead of focusing on what divides us, let's celebrate what we have in common. Taste each others' food, listen to music and enjoy our cultural richness. Wilkes-Barre is endorsing these types of events and we need to celebrate our cultures."



WATCH THE VIDEO

\$1 Million Gift Creates Scholarships Opportunities for Native American Students

Native American students wishing to study at Wilkes now have access to more scholarship opportunities, thanks to a \$1 million gift from Irene Tomalis Stone, class of 1957. The newly-established Louise Federovich Tomalis and William C. Tomalis Endowed Scholarship is available for undergraduate Native American students who may not be able to attend Wilkes without additional financial support. African American students can also benefit from the scholarship, named in memory of Stone's parents, Louise and William.

"My parents were first-born Americans who worked very hard all their lives to be sure I had access to a good education," said Stone. "They always encouraged me and were thrilled when I was given a scholarship to Wilkes—the first such award in my family's history. This new gift honors their memory by providing opportunities to students that

my parents were not able to access in their youth. I hope that many young people with financial need will take advantage of this scholarship to turn their lives around for themselves, their families and for many generations to come."

Four Native or African American students are expected to benefit from scholarship dollars exceeding \$10,000 each year. With successful academic progress, they will receive the scholarship during each year of their studies.

"The Tomalis Scholarship, inspired by the vision of Irene Stone, is a historic opportunity for Wilkes University. Irene and I have shared dozens of wonderful conversations over many years about changing the potential life path for Native American students combined with promoting Wilkes University as a beacon of opportunity which has led us to this newest endowment," said Margaret Steele, chief development officer.

Endowed scholarships offer donors the opportunity to combine their personal values and experiences with deserving students. For more information on giving opportunities, contact Steele at margaret.steele@wilkes.edu.

Faculty and Staff Recognized with 2021 President's Awards for Excellence



Greg Cant presented the President's Awards for Excellence at Fall Convocation on Aug. 25, 2021. Award recipients are pictured, from left: William Terzaghi, professor of biology, President's Award for Excellence in Scholarship; Jeanne Rabel, University College advising coordinator, President's Award for Excellence in Community; Cant; Grace Surdovel, School of Education faculty of practice, President's Award for Excellence in Diversity; and David Bieber, assistant head football coach, President's Award for Excellence in Mentoring.



**WATCH
THE VIDEO**

New Campus Store Contest Won by Alumna

The campus store returned to Wilkes from its location in downtown Wilkes-Barre. The new store is located in the Henry Student Center, conveniently near dining facilities, student services and activities. A call was put out to the community for a store name—and the winning submission was “Colonel Corner” by pharmacy alumna Julie Miller PharmD ’17. In addition to physical and virtual textbook services, the store stocks school supplies, spirit apparel and has a lounge area with computers right outside its doors. Scan the code to watch Wilkes President Greg Cant announce the winning name.

World-Renowned Speakers Highlight a Blockbuster Year for Lectures at Wilkes

As part of its 2021-22 lecture series, Wilkes University welcomed a Nobel Laureate in Physics and the founder of Travelocity in the fall, and in the spring will feature a Pulitzer-Prize winning biographer and the bestselling author of *The Handmaid's Tale*. Below are the highlights from the fall lectures and details about the spring lectures.

Nobel Prize winner in Physics William Phillips held an interactive lecture titled, “Time, Einstein and the Coolest Stuff in the Universe” on Oct. 21, as part of the Catherine H. Bone Lecture in Chemistry. An audience of over 300 filled room 101 in Stark Learning Center and watched in awe as Phillips used liquid nitrogen to demonstrate how the measurement of time is changed by cooling atoms to extreme low temperatures. Phillips also visited the Third Avenue Elementary School in Kingston, Pa., where he delighted more than 80 kindergarteners from the Wyoming Valley West School District.

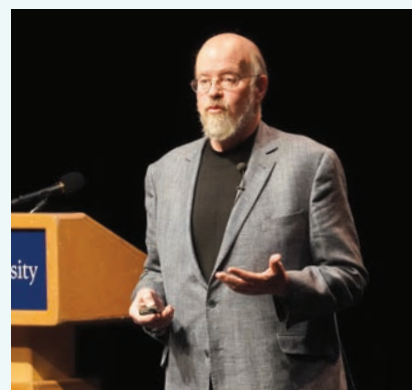
On Thursday, Oct. 22, Terry Jones, founder of Travelocity and founding chairman of kayak.com, discussed how organizations can embrace innovation as part of the Allan P. Kirby Lecture in Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship. The nearly 400 attendees, both online and in the Dorothy Dickson Dart Center, heard about the need for business to continually innovate. Jones provided leaders with simple but powerful ideas they can use to create more innovative organizations.

Presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jon Meacham will deliver the Wilkes University Max Rosenn Lecture Series in Law and Humanities, “Hope Through History,” on Sunday, April 24. Meacham won the Pulitzer Prize for biography in 2009 for *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House*, and his No. 1 *New York Times* bestseller, *Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power*, was hailed as “masterful and intimate” by *Fortune* magazine. His other national bestsellers include *Franklin and Winston* and *American Gospel*. His newest bestseller *His Truth Is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope* is the intimate and revealing portrait of civil rights icon and longtime U.S. congressman John Lewis.

On April 26, the Allan Hamilton Dickson Spring Writers Series will present “A Conversation with Margaret Atwood,” with the award-winning author of more than 50 novels, including *The Handmaid's Tale*. Renewed for a fifth season on Hulu, the critically acclaimed adaptation of her 1985 novel has earned 54 Emmy nominations and 15 awards. The dystopian work’s follow-up novel, *The Testaments*, sold out its initial half-million copy run, requiring two additional printings in just over a week and breaking first-day sales records for Penguin Random House titles that year.



William Phillips



Terry Jones



Jon Meacham



Margaret Atwood

THE SPRING LECTURES ARE FREE

Find out more and register at
www.wilkes.edu/lectureseries
 or scan this code:



UNWAVERING



The pandemic may have changed the plan for Wilkes University's seventh president. But it didn't change the promise.

By Gabrielle D'Amico '04, MFA '17

**WITH OVER 30 YEARS
IN HIGHER EDUCATION,
GREG CANT LEARNED THAT
THE COLLEGE SELECTION
PROCESS IS A DEEPLY
PERSONAL ONE.**

He knows that students thrive in a variety of campus environments: large, small, urban or rural. After all, he has worked in a variety of institutions including three research-intensive universities, a regional state university and a private liberal arts college. But as a student, Cant struggled as a result of his environment.

“I recognize that not all students can thrive in a large institution. Turns out, I was one of them,” he admits.

A native of Australia, Cant went from primary schools so small that he shared classrooms with his sisters, Robyn and Marilyn, even though they were a year or two behind him. A tiny school in Perth had just four classes and about 100 total students. A dramatic shift occurred when Cant transitioned to Balcatta Senior High School which, at the time, was western Australia’s second-largest high school boasting over 1,400 students.

It was partially the size of that institution, along with admitted immaturity and gusto, that led to a surprising decision: at 16-years old, Cant dropped out of high school.

“I was chatting with Mum about this just a few days ago and she reminded me that what I actually said was, ‘education is a waste of time and I’m never going to do it again.’ Famous last words,” he says with a chuckle.

Cant’s parents were educators so he remains impressed at their supportive reaction to his decision. But it was during his brief hiatus from education where he rediscovered his love for it.



Cant is pictured with his parents upon earning his PhD from the University of Western Australia. Cant’s father, Alan, passed away in 1999. “His optimism, adventurous spirit, steadfast faith, enduring compassion and love of life shapes me to this day.”

After working a variety of jobs that ranged from being assistant manager of a hardware store to working in road construction to being a chauffeur, Cant earned his high school diploma and, later, his bachelor’s degree from the University of Western Australia.

But it was his experience as a graduate student in a 12-month intensive master’s program at Queen’s University in Ontario, Canada, that changed the trajectory of his career.

“To that point, I never worked so hard in all my life. There were 30 people in my cohort. Just an amazing group of individuals. We started together and we graduated together,” he recalls. “I realized during that time that working in higher education isn’t just a job. It’s a life. It was a world that I could see myself in. And I wanted to be part of it.”

So perhaps it’s not surprising that the one-time high school dropout soon found his calling in higher education. After a national search, Cant was named Wilkes University’s seventh president on Dec. 12, 2019. The announcement was held in a packed Sordoni Art Gallery amongst the images of Pete Souza, White House photographer during the presidencies of Barack Obama and Ronald Regan.

“It was just a stunning day. There could have been a light coming down from the heavens. Everything was perfect. We had this plan about slowly getting to know the institution while I concluded my time at Montclair.” He thinks and smiles wryly. “Well. You know what they say about making plans.”

“I realized during that time that working in higher education isn’t just a job. It’s a life. It was a world that I could see myself in. And I wanted to be part of it.”

CRISIS RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

Cant is quick to note that Wilkes has faced great moments of challenge throughout its history. Whether it was the collapse of the anthracite coal industry or the devastation of the 1972 Hurricane Agnes Flood, Wilkes has endured even during the most difficult of circumstances.

In early 2020, the pandemic was spreading across the globe. By March, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania ordered that all colleges and universities stop in-person instruction. Classes were quickly transitioned to remote modalities as most faculty and staff began working from home.

“The priorities shifted almost overnight. Everything I assumed I would do in my first weeks at Wilkes changed in the blink of the eye. The safety of our campus community is always paramount, but the pandemic created much more urgency for us all.”

Cant remained in close contact with Paul S. Adams, interim president at the time, as he concluded the academic year at Montclair. On May 26, 2020, he arrived to a nearly empty campus and was immediately faced with what was arguably the biggest decision of his career.

“Under normal circumstances, the priority of any new president is to get to know the campus and embark on long-term strategic planning,” Cant reflects. “From the moment I stepped on campus, and long before that, we were determining if we could safely reopen and if we could realistically remain open.”

Cant called together the COVID-19 Task Force, comprised of faculty, administrators and colleagues, to tackle that very question. Once again, the size of the University played a critical role.

“Unlike large universities who struggled to open, we found a way to do so safely while managing our 2,500 undergraduate students. We felt that if we could test, contact trace and isolate infected members of our campus community quickly, we could offer a version of the face-to-face experience that is true to our history and carries forward our educational promise.”

And it did. During a time when many colleges and universities taught exclusively online, Wilkes offered a residential experience that blended various learning formats. Select staff members were trained as contact tracers and residence halls were transformed into isolation and quarantine spaces. As testing became more readily available, an ambitious assurance testing program was introduced in the spring, furthering

the University’s ability to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Overall, case counts remained manageable. But it was the quick-to-adapt approach that he witnessed from essentially every area of the University that became the basis for his strategic vision.

LOOKING FORWARD

“Until the Delta variant, I think we had the false idea that the pandemic would soon be in the rear-view mirror. The reality is that we will be dealing with COVID-19 for years to come, and I’m becoming more certain that we need to learn to live with it as safely as we can while planning for the unknown.”

Cant immediately committed to creating a plan that focuses the



Above: In an ode to his Australian roots, Wilkes students gifted Cant with an authentic boomerang hand painted in blue and gold and inscribed with the inauguration date and theme.

Opposite: Cant’s family in Australia, including his 87-year-old mother, Dorothy, center. “In classic Cant style, they’re drinking and holding the banner upside down. Perfect.”

University's efforts on its most critical priorities in the midst of a global pandemic. The Bridge to the Future Strategic Plan is two years in duration and limited in scope. Above all else, it emphasizes institutional efficiency, agility and a culture of entrepreneurship.

"Throughout this crisis, we demonstrated an amazing capacity to reimagine ourselves. We need to move beyond episodic pivots and be laser-focused on efficiency, while we promote agility and embrace the power of entrepreneurial thinking," Cant says, a message he repeated during his inauguration address.

As he points out, that creative mindset is already part of the Wilkes DNA. He cites a new program in civil engineering and a reimagined special education program as examples,

as well as established successes in graduate nursing, education and creative writing programs.

"I was attracted to Wilkes because we have all the key ingredients: programs that meet marketplace demands. Excellent faculty. Incredible research opportunities shared with students. A caring staff. A great reputation. A small environment with state-of-the-art facilities that enhance the learning experience," he explains.


But Cant admits there is no shortage of well-documented challenges facing colleges and universities. And in some cases, small, independent schools like Wilkes are considered at a greater risk than large, state-institution counterparts. In his view, the long-anticipated shortage of college-age students blended with

a hypercompetitive environment only exacerbates the need for change.

"Being blunt, higher education is not known for its speed or agility. In fact, a reasonable observer might conclude that higher education's foundation has been stability, not agility. Agility creates risks, but I would argue that rigidity guarantees steady decline."

He continues. "We have an entrepreneurial flair and we are not afraid to try new things. I simply want to embolden that. As I said in my inauguration address, the workforce of the future will have needs not yet known and will operate in a world not yet understood. We must be prepared to meet those needs. To carry forward our promise and to thrive."

Cant thinks for a moment and smiles.

"And we do it as student's lives are transformed. What's better than that?" 



Lighting the Way *Forward*

The theme of the inauguration of Wilkes University's seventh president, Greg Cant, was "Carrying Forward Our Promise." Even though the event took place almost two years after his presidential appointment was announced, the joyful weeklong celebration itself was a promise that Wilkes has a bright future ahead.

Inauguration week began with a stunning light show that projected Aboriginal art onto historic Weckesser Hall, dancing to the beat of Australian electronic music and delighting the crowd of faculty, staff, students and their parents. It concluded a week later with a happy reunion of alumni at Homecoming weekend.

View the following pages for the photo highlights, and be sure to scan the QR codes to watch the accompanying videos.



Above: Cant receives the Presidential Chain of Office from trustees (left) Cynthia Charnetski '97, and (right) Elizabeth Slaughter '68.

Opposite: Cant gives the inaugural address with the theme of "Carrying Forward the Promise" to an audience of nearly 400 that included more than 30 delegates from other institutions, and 60 alumni class representatives.

ALL PHOTOS BY STEVE HUSTED/KNOT JUST ANY DAY UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED



WILKES UNIVERSITY





*“With the inaugural theme of **Carrying Forward Our Promise**, it seems to me that the essential value of a ceremony that passes authority from one president to the next is the unique opportunity to reflect on our past and the values that have guided us, consider the realities of the current state and present a bold vision for our future.”*

– Greg Cant



Top left: Members of the Wilkes Civic Band, directed by Mark P. Johnson, assistant professor of music. The Civic Band, which includes students, community members, and advanced high school students, played works by G.F. Handel, Francis Scott Key and concluded with a rendition of “Waltzing Matilda,” an Australian folk tune.

Left: Before the inauguration ceremony, Greg Cant chats with Paul S. Adams '77, MS '82, vice president of Student Affairs, and who served as interim president of Wilkes from August 2019 through May 2020.



**WATCH THE
INAUGURATION WEEK
HIGHLIGHT VIDEO**



Left, top: The Wilkes University Presidential Chain of Office is four feet long and crafted from sterling silver. It bears a portrait of Eugene S. Farley, the first president of Wilkes, and is surrounded by gilt oak leaves commemorating his strong leadership of the emerging institution of his day.

Below: Susan Cole, PhD, President Emerita of Montclair State University, was the inauguration keynote speaker and also received the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa, during the ceremony.



“What I came to appreciate most about Greg was the courage he brought to his leadership skill set. Greg is able to formulate a clear vision of where and how an organization should be moving and he has absolutely no reticence in acting in accordance with that vision.”

– Susan A. Cole, President Emerita,
Montclair State University



Left, middle: Alexi Payne '22, Wilkes biology major and student government president from Cedarville, N.J., shares well wishes from the student body in her inauguration speech.



Left, bottom: Sidhu School of Business and Leadership Professor Wagih Taylor heads the processional serving as the faculty marshal and University mace-bearer.



Due to the pandemic, Cant's family in Australia was unable to attend his inauguration. The family gathered to watch the ceremony via live stream and sent their well wishes in a video presented to a surprised Cant during his inauguration luncheon. "It just blew us away. I can't believe Eliza (co-conspirator in the surprise) kept it a secret."

“Greg, we would just like you to know that all your friends and family are thinking of you with pride and we hope that all goes well with you and your family and your academic community as you face the future together.”

– Dorothy Cant, mother of Greg Cant, in a recorded message played during the inauguration luncheon

From top: The Cant family portrait was taken the day of the inauguration: Cant, son Jackson, a first-year business student at Duquesne University, wife Angela, and daughter Eliza, currently a biology and pre-med student at Wilkes University.


Cant's adult children reside in Australia: Daughter Genevieve, 28, works at the University of Western Australia. Callum, 30, is a worksite rehabilitation consultant for a mining company on Koolan Island. PHOTO COURTESY GENEVIEVE CANT

Attendees were given a special "taste of Australia" as they exited the Kirby Center: a box full of Australian candies and treats, including Cherry Ripe and Violet Crumble, as well as some of Cant's favorite American candies. The packages were topped with a keepsake medallion featuring the date and the Wilkes seal.

Cynthia Charnetski '97, co-chair of the inauguration steering committee, and Bill Miller '81, chairman of the board of trustees, present Cant with original artwork from Wilkes alumna, Ana Perez '21. Perez's digital design featured a compilation of illustrated images of the Wilkes campus, including Weckesser Hall and the gateway during Commencement.





At dusk on Sept. 24 and 25, “Light the Way Forward: Celebrating Innovation at Wilkes University” was held in recognition for the ways faculty and staff have problem-solved, thought creatively and allowed Wilkes to carry out its mission of educating students regardless of the circumstances during the pandemic. An ambitious large-scale light projection art installation, the show was hosted by the Sordani Art Gallery and presented in partnership with the Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection of the University of Virginia. Videomapped by artist Jeff Dobrow and projected onto historical Weckesser Hall, it featured 12 Australian Aboriginal artists. To the audience’s delight, the light show was synchronized with pumping electronic music by Electric Fields, Aboriginal musicians. 



WATCH THE
"LIGHT THE WAY FORWARD"
VIDEO



RON & RHEA
SIMMS CENTER
ON MAIN

$x = x_0 + v_0 t$
 $y = y_0 + v_{0y} t - \frac{1}{2} a t^2$
 $v = v_0 + a t$
 $v^2 = v_0^2 + 2 a \Delta x$
 $y = 4.5 t^2$
 $-4.9 t^2 = 12.6 t + 1$
 $-4.9 t^2 - 12.6 t - 1 = 0$
 $a = 1, b = -4, c = -1$
 $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$
 $t = \frac{-(-4) \pm \sqrt{(-4)^2 - 4(-1)(-1)}}{2(-4.9)}$
 $t = \frac{4 \pm \sqrt{16 - 4}}{-9.8}$
 $t = \frac{4 \pm \sqrt{12}}{-9.8}$

Your Perspective
The college grants more than \$2 million
in 2021. Approximately 10% of that amount
will go to support the college's new
Master's program in the next few years.
The college's new Master's program
will be a major benefit to the college.
The college's new Master's program
will be a major benefit to the college.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE SIMMS CENTER ON MAIN

A Hub for Campus and
the Greater Community

By Vicki Mayk MFA '13

Before the sun even shows its face, the Simms Center on Main is coming to life. On a rainy Tuesday morning, cadets from Air Force ROTC Detachment 752 are working out in the McHale Athletic Center—more commonly known as the MAC. By 5 a.m., the sound of the 50-plus members going through what they call “PT” echoes in the cavernous space. It’s their haven when workouts can’t be outdoors. The athletic center boasts an indoor track and plenty of room for team practice and special events. **1**

Just across the lobby, Terry Groner, manager of the campus Starbucks, and her team ready the coffee shop to open at 7 a.m. Keeping Colonels caffeinated is a busy job. Groner knows when the line for cold brew, lattes and Frappuccinos will be longest: “Any time a class gets out.” It’s a quick stop for students and faculty before they exit the building. At peak times, the line snakes into the lobby. While in line, students add post-it messages to a board marking Starbucks’ 50th anniversary. **2**

Although the Simms Center houses the Sidhu School of Business and Leadership, students from virtually every major use the building. For some, like Julia Dreyfus, a senior neuroscience major, it’s part of her daily routine. “I come here every day early in the morning, around 7:30,” Dreyfus explains from her seat by the window in Starbucks looking out on Main Street. “I like the music and I like being in here. It’s peaceful. I sit here studying until my first class—and

spend a lot of money on coffee,” she says laughing as she gestures toward her Starbucks cup. **3**

Study spaces throughout the building are popular with students, whether it’s in Starbucks, the lobby or spaces that are adjacent to walls that are painted to be used as erasable whiteboards. Students come and go throughout the day, parking themselves with their laptops between classes. Sophomore nursing major Gianna Picco is a fan of the whiteboards. “I rewrite my notes, draw pictures and diagrams—all kinds of things,” she says. Picco says she encounters fewer distractions studying in the Simms Center than in other campus spots. “And I live on Starbucks,” she adds. **4**

HOME SWEET HOME

While students from across campus find their way to the Simms Center for a coffee or study break, others are there for classes. The building houses classrooms, co-curricular and extracurricular spaces for the Sidhu School and for the ROTC program. **5**

The ROTC students attend classes there all day on Thursday, but every other day of the week, you can find them in a spot that’s become a home away from home. Lt. Col. Sarah Hedrick, commander of ROTC Detachment 752, says, “The heart of AFROTC’s operations, where cadets plan training sessions, develop lesson plans and relax together, is based out of the Maj. Candace Adams Ismirle Leadership Lounge. A 2003 Detachment 752 graduate, Maj. Ismirle embodied the character traits necessary in Air and Space Force Officers. It is a privilege to see her image and inspiration each day, as cadets strive for excellence of character in preparing to serve in the world’s greatest Air and Space Forces.”

To ROTC students like Wilkes senior criminology major Nick Leverentz, the space is known simply as the lounge or “the Det”—short for detachment. “It’s really been the place of a lot of memories because we spend most of our time in there,” Leverentz explains. “It’s where we do all of our planning for classes and for all of our extracurricular clubs....I know the office has our cadre members in it, but the lounge is more of the actual heart and home of ROTC.” **6**

Leverentz puts in late nights there working on projects. Other times, he’s been known to bring a cornhole game into the space. “We really appreciate being here and that we have all this space,” Leverentz says.

Sidhu School Dean Abel Adekola also is enthusiastic about what the building has provided for his students and faculty in the seven years since the business programs moved there in 2014. “Being in one space gives faculty and staff the

PHOTOS BY PATTY
DEVIVA, BRAD
BARRY AND KNOT
JUST ANY DAY



Simms Center Dedication Honors Alumni Ron and Rhea Simms

The University community gathered on Aug. 11 to dedicate the Ron and Rhea Simms Center on Main. The building, previously known as the University Center on Main, was dedicated in recognition of Ron and Rhea Simms, members of the classes of 1960 and 1978, respectively, in honor of their decadeslong commitment and generous support of Wilkes University.

Speaking at the dedication, Wilkes President Greg Cant said, “There is no better space on this campus to honor the Simms than this building. It is the intersection of campus and the Wilkes-Barre community, and one of the most popular parts of the Wilkes University campus.”



**WATCH THE
SIMMS DEDICATION
CEREMONY VIDEO**

opportunity to interact seamlessly in providing student-focused education that enhances their personal and professional development through teaching, mentoring and advising,” Adekola states. “It also provides innovative educational culture that fosters joint creativity.” **7**

That creativity is reflected everywhere—from the casual conversations between faculty and students in hallways to the student store where the products produced by first-year students in the Integrated Management Experience (IME) class are displayed and sold. There’s no mistaking that business is the focus from the moment visitors enter the lobby with its stock ticker or see the state-of-the-art Cardell Financial Center where students have access to the Bloomberg trading terminals, giving them real-time financial data and news. **8**

Sidhu senior and accounting major Allen Kokilananda spends every day in the Simms Center for classes in his major or related to his senior capstone. As a member of the Sidhu Dean’s Advisory Council, he also regularly visits the dean’s suite on the second floor. “I really like being able to see what’s going on in the building throughout the day,” Kokilananda says. “I think it’s really neat seeing some faculty members running the track in the mornings, just getting ready for their day. Then I’m off to class. Later I’ll see students doing their sports in the gym.”

As the lead admissions ambassador, Kokilananda sees other benefits. The building is a highlight when he gives campus tours. Prospective students also are introduced to Wilkes at open house events kicking off in the MAC. Four years later, those who enrolled receive their diplomas in commencement ceremonies held in the same place.



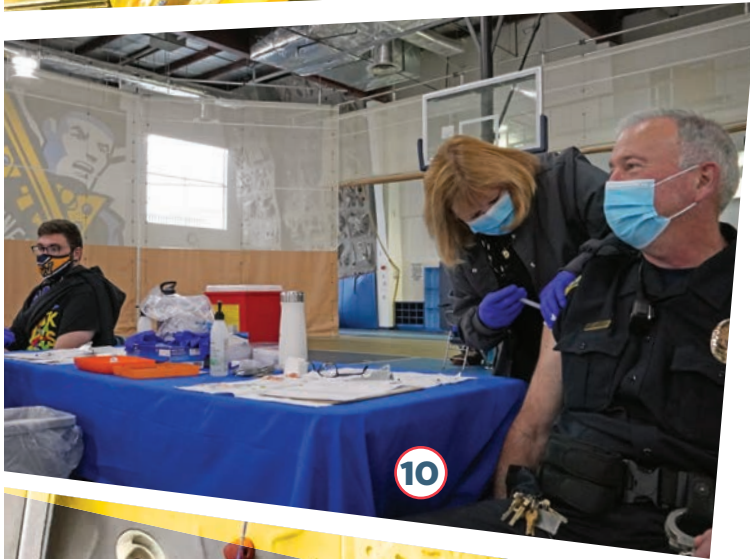


9

WELCOMING THE COMMUNITY

Kokilananda, who wrestles for the Colonels, notes that the Simms Center is valuable as a place to welcome the community. The Student Athletic Advisory Council (SAAC) traditionally held an annual trick-or-treat event for children in the MAC. (This year it was held outdoors due to pandemic restrictions.) Guest speakers and other events in the athletic center are open to the community like this lecture with Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in 2018. **9**

Some community uses are decidedly practical. On an October Tuesday, the Wilkes-Barre Health Department offered flu shots in the MAC. Earlier in the semester, it was the site for administering Covid-19 vaccinations. ROTC Cadet Leverentz notes, “I feel like this is probably the building that represents the university the most since it’s right on Main Street.” **10**




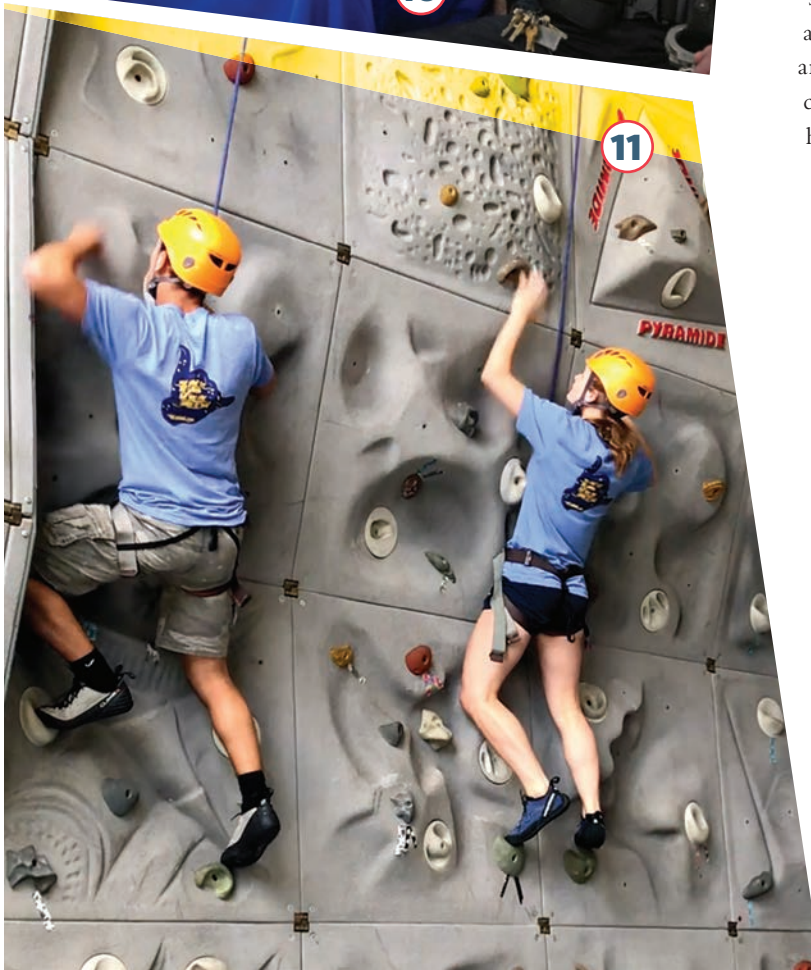
10

AFTER HOURS

Third-year pharmacy student Allie Gundlah still remembers being surprised by what she found in the Simms Center when she came to Wilkes. The Step-Up Rock Wall and Ropes Course was a first for her. “I came from a really small high school where we didn’t have things like that,” Gundlah says. “And then to find out that it was such an open, easily accessible thing...You don’t have to be in any kind of club or anything. You just go and try it.” Monday evenings are open climbing hours on the wall where students like Gundlah, who have trained in the Wilkes Adventure Education program, guide students in using the equipment. Other times, the ropes course might be used by athletic teams or classes for team-building activities. **11**

The rock wall and ropes course aren’t the only things bringing people into the Simms Center after 5 p.m. On any given evening in the MAC, you might see the Ultimate Frisbee Club’s members tossing discs into the air or find a team holding practice. The back door to the MAC, open to the Gateway on a warm night, beckons passersby to check out the action.

Meanwhile, upstairs, MBA students, fueled by that cup of coffee they snagged before Starbucks closed, are in a night class. **12** Some time after 9, the last one will make their way across the bridge connecting the Simms Center to the parking garage and the building will be quiet. Until tomorrow. 



11

12



WILKES | Winter 2021-2022

MEET THE "AVENGERS"

Behind Wilkes University's Powerful New WARLOC Supercomputer

By Jonathan Davies '05, MFA '09

Wilkes University booted up one of the most powerful academic supercomputers in the region this fall. The Wilkes Accelerated Research Learning and Outreach Cluster, or WARLOC, is the product of a nearly \$500,000 grant from the National Science Foundation. WARLOC is housed within a special, multi-disciplinary computer lab inside the University's Stark Learning Center.

Several Wilkes programs have already begun utilizing the cluster's incredibly advanced computing power to aid in faculty and student research. As far as classroom applications go, WARLOC allows Wilkes to offer students hands-on experience in data analysis, modeling and

statistical computation that most research universities never even have the capability to approach. In many instances, students within the sciences, engineering and computing rarely have access to a supercomputer until they're well established and working in the field. With WARLOC, Wilkes hopes to bring a new, uniquely prepared class of young research professionals to the workforce.

We had the opportunity to chat with the brilliant team working most closely with the WARLOC supercomputer (pictured, opposite page). They also happened to be the authors behind the generous and somewhat unprecedented NSF grant.



A student at the workstation in the WARLOC computer center. ALL PHOTOS COURTESY SNYDER

This is the only supercomputer of its kind in the region. How did it end up at Wilkes University?

Del Lucent, associate professor of physics: We had been trying for a long time to get an NSF (National Science Foundation) grant to fund computational research here at the university. In general, it's very, very challenging to do this because we're competing in basically the same pool as universities all around the country, including some very prestigious schools. So, we had been trying for a while, but we eventually achieved a critical mass of a bunch of people working together, an environment in which to house it, and a very do-able way to impact students and we got our grant. So, that was for about a half a million dollars. And that was to have the machine built and also to hire Joe (Gubbiotti, system administrator).

What is the WARLOC supercomputer? What does it do?

Lucent: So, basically, WARLOC allows us to do all sorts of special stuff in a lot of different fields. We can teach things that we could never teach before. We can reach out to students in ways that were previously not possible—using things like virtual reality and such. More importantly, we can all perform very advanced computational research on really important global problems and integrate our students with that as well.

Was it pure coincidence that this thing ended up with such a cool name?

Lucent: In a way, yeah (laughs). We had some really clever, geeky people collaborating on that. Many of them are in this room (laughter around the room). So, we had a little contest and the winning entry actually came from Joe. It stands for Wilkes Accelerated Research Learning and Outreach Cluster.




From left: Joe Gubbiotti, system administrator; Henry Castejon, professor and chair, mechanical engineering; Del Lucent, associate professor of physics; Sofya Chepushtamova, associate professor of math and computer science; and Bobak Karimi, assistant professor of environmental engineering, earth science and geology.

How will access to this supercomputer directly benefit students here at Wilkes?

Lucent: This is something that's special about Wilkes. We allow our students to undertake research tasks that they normally wouldn't do anywhere else, even at larger schools. And WARLOC is a great example of that. Someone might ask, "Why don't you just buy some time on a cloud and do all your calculations there?" Right? Because, no matter how impressive WARLOC is, Google has something better. And Microsoft has something better. But the thing is, in those cases, it's almost like teaching your 16-year-old kid how to drive in a rented car. Nobody wants to do that. In this case, we're using our own car.

Rather than having to wait until later in their careers to learn how to use something like this, we allow students to have an actual hands-on approach with supercomputing as early in their undergraduate careers as they want. That's something that basically does not exist anywhere else. I went to grad school in a big university, and even in my post Doc work, someone else handled the computer. You don't ever learn how to really do that.

You're part of the University's Data Science Collaboration Group. Is this like the Science Avengers? Explain?

Lucent: I would love if people thought of us that way (laughs). 



**SCAN TO
READ
THE FULL
ARTICLE**

This article was excerpted by permission from DiscoverNEPA.com, published on Sept. 27, 2021, and written by Jonathan Davies '05 MFA '09, a NEPA-born-and-raised Wilkes alumnus. He earned a BA in English in 2005 and an MFA in Creative Writing in 2009. In the intervening years, he's explored the finer minutiae of carpentry, teaching, writing, editing, marketing and so on. He is currently the senior writer at DiscoverNEPA, a popular, regional multimedia marketing initiative created by Mericle Commercial Real Estate Services. He resides in Kingston, Pa., with his wife, Shannon Shumoski-Davies '04, and their two children.

A Celebratory Homecoming 2021

There were many celebrations during Homecoming Weekend, but perhaps the most meaningful was the joy of simply being together once again after a two-year hiatus from in-person events. More than 600 Colonels returned home on Oct. 1-3, and many kicked off the weekend by attending the Inauguration of Greg Cant on Friday afternoon. Sixty alumni delegates represented their classmates at the ceremony at the F.M. Kirby Center in Wilkes-Barre. They then joined the president, his family and guests at an outdoor luncheon by Weckesser Hall.

The warm early fall weather could not have been better, and set the stage for alumni gatherings including the “W Club” donor recognition reception in the Melberger Courtyard, the perennial favorite “Pints with Professors” on the Karambelas East Campus Gateway, and the 50th reunion cocktail party celebrating the Classes of '70 and '71. Events began early on Saturday morning with breakfast with the president, an opportunity for alumni to meet and mingle with Cant, and continued at the Homecoming game at Ralston Athletic Complex.

On the Monday following Homecoming, the 3rd Annual Ralston Memorial Golf Tournament began but was rescheduled to October 22nd due to heavy rain. The tournament raised more than \$80,000 to benefit athletics at Wilkes and was sponsored by BSI Corporate Benefits.

Save the date for next year's Homecoming: Friday, Sept. 30 through Sunday, Oct. 2!



Above: Beautiful weather was the backdrop for the Homecoming game vs. Stevenson University at Ralston Field, where Wilkes was victorious (21-14). A great time was had by all at the Tailgate Tent.

Opposite: A special highlight was the dedication of the new Stephens Plaza, a beautiful pavilion and tables that has quickly become the gathering place right inside the entrance to the Ralston Athletic Complex. The plaza was given by Dr. Panayiotis (Panos) Kalaritis '77 and Deborah (Debi) Stephens Kalaritis '78 and named in honor of Dr. Joseph Donald Stephens, DDS '51.



**WATCH THE VIDEO OF THE
STEPHENS PAVILION DEDICATION
AT HOMECOMING 2021**



Gueseppe Rea '17 Realizes His Dream With a Little Help From His Friends

Lissa and Dick Smith's endowed scholarship made it possible for Rea to represent Ecuador on the world stage of wrestling.

Gueseppe Rea, a 2017 Spanish and sociology grad, is having an amazing year. In April, he was named the National Wrestling champion in his home country of Ecuador. In May, he competed in the Pan American Wrestling Championships in Guatemala City, Guatemala. And in early October, he became the first Wilkes wrestler to compete

in the Senior World Wrestling Championships in Oslo, Norway. He had finally achieved his boyhood dream of representing Ecuador as a wrestler on the world stage. "It felt great to represent my country where I was born and raised," he said. But none of it would have happened if not for the generosity of Dick Smith and Lissa Bryan-Smith, who established an

Gueseppe Rea at the 2021 World Wrestling Championships in Oslo, Norway, from Oct. 2-10, 2021.
PHOTO COURTESY OF UNITED WORLD WRESTLING

endowed scholarship for students like Rea and many others.

Surprisingly, the Smiths have no connection to Wilkes other than the proximity of their home which is near residence halls and the athletic facilities on the Wilkes campus. "Because we lived in the neighborhood, we got to know people from Wilkes," said Dick. The Smiths had admired the strong programs, caring faculty and coaches and dedicated students, and they wanted to help out in some way. "We found out that there were too many good minds being lost due to lack of

money. So that's how we got involved," he said. The Smiths established both an endowed scholarship and an annual scholarship—with only one stipulation. "The student has to be in dire need," Smith explained. "It has to be for someone who wouldn't be at Wilkes without it."

Gueseppe Rea was one of those students. He moved to the U.S. from Ecuador with his family when he was 10. A few years later, Rea fell in love with wrestling at Stroudsburg High School, where he was a stand-out. He had big wrestling dreams beyond high school, but because of finances, college wasn't an option. Then a high school teammate who attended Wilkes introduced him to head wrestling coach Jon Laudenslager, and as Rea remembers, "Wilkes became my only option."

Seeing Rea's talent and determination to succeed, Laudenslager recommended him as a recipient for the Smith Endowment. The Smiths agreed—and over the next few years Rea thrived at Wilkes. "He had a strong will to succeed and strove to get better every day," said Laudenslager. While at Wilkes, Rea was a four-year starter, earned All-American honors, was a four-time regional medalist, won the 2014 Wilkes Open Championship

and still ranks as first in the record book for all-time victories.

During that same time, a warm relationship grew between Rea and the Smiths. Dick Smith remembers the first time he and Lissa met Rea. "He came over to the house and we sat on the porch and G-Rea (what Lissa and Dick call Gueseppe) was so shy, he didn't say a word. Now he talks a mile a minute!" The Smiths would often take Rea to dinner in town; and in turn, Rea invited the Smiths to family gatherings. "We met his family at his 100 wins party. His parents, aunts and grandmother came. G-Rea has a wonderful family. They are very connected," said Lissa. Rea says of the Smiths: "I'm very fortunate and grateful to have met and built a relationship with Mr. and Mrs. Smith. They have become part of my family since I met them back in 2013. They are great people who love me and support my goals."

For the boy from Stroudsburg who once dreamed of a life as a wrestler, it's amazing to see where those dreams, determination and hard work have taken him. After graduating from Wilkes, Rea joined the wrestling team at Muhlenberg College as an assistant coach, and now has the opportunity to coach and mentor others the way he was by Coach Laudenslager, to whom



Dick Smith, Gueseppe Rea and Lissa Bryan-Smith in the Smiths' home in Wilkes-Barre.

he credits his successes. "Being at Wilkes taught me to be independent," Rea said. "Coach Laudenslager and the wrestling program has a strong tradition of champions and has helped open doors to the wrestling community for me."

Rea has also stayed close friends with the Smiths. "I go visit them and stay at their home all the time," he said. And the Smiths, who were never wrestling fans before, go to his matches and watch him online. Said Lissa, "We were up at 4:30 a.m. watching the World Championships in Norway and we were messaging Coach Laudenslager back and forth. It was wonderful because we were able to tell G-Rea that we saw him!"

WHAT IS AN ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP?

The Richard M. Smith and Lissa Bryan-Smith Endowed Scholarship was established at Wilkes in 2011, and is awarded annually to a student who demonstrates significant financial need and who would not, without the help of this scholarship, be able to attend college. At Wilkes, endowed scholarships are monetary gifts that will provide scholarships for students for many years, because the funds come from the interest accrued every year, not the principal.

The Smiths' endowed gift keeps giving by helping many students over the years and changing the lives of

its recipients, like Gueseppe Rea. "Lissa and Dick Smith are the most perfect example of why I am inspired in my job. Their sincere wish is the success of our students. The support they give not only helps financially, but they also offer counsel and comfort to students as they experience the challenges of college and life," said Margaret Steele, Chief Development Officer.

If you have questions about an endowed scholarship or other giving options, contact Margaret Steele at 570-408-4302 or margaret.steele@wilkes.edu.

UNDERGRADUATE

60

DONALD MURRAY of Arlington, Va., is writing a book focusing on the organizational effort to draft Adlai Stevenson at the 1960 Democratic National Convention. The book is an expansion of his master's thesis titled, *Patronage and the Draft in the Nominating Process: An Investigative Analysis of the Stevenson Organization at the 1960 Democratic National Convention*. An early draft of the thesis has been cited in three biographies of Adlai E. Stevenson. In Washington D.C., Murray worked for 43 years mostly as a Senior Legislator Director at the National Association of Counties.

64

LORRAINE (DYERS) PRICE of Williamsburg, Va., and her husband Doug just returned from living abroad in Lyon, France for a year. Lorraine was a French major at Wilkes and a former high school French teacher. Lorraine believes that former Wilkes professor Sylvia Dworski would have been so happy to know all those years of French classes at Wilkes paid off in a big way. • **WILLIAM (BILL) SCHMIDT** and his wife, Gretchen, are celebrating her birthday in Recife, Brazil. They departed from Ft. Lauderdale on a complete circumnavigation of South America. The couple has enjoyed spending four days in Antarctica, then Carnival in Rio, and soon, they will be on the Amazon River for three days. They plan to return to Florida in March 2022.

69

THOMAS G. EVANS has been teaching at Towson University, Towson, Md., and conducting workshops for aspiring leaders for the Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals and the National Association of Secondary School Principals. This year Evans received two significant awards, the Gloria A. Neubert Award (TU) and the Distinguished Service to Education (NASSP). The Gloria A. Neubert Excellence in Teaching Award recognizes faculty who have impacted academic and personal growth in an outstanding way, promoted an exemplary learning environment, and made real-life connections between academic theory and daily classroom expectations. The Distinguished Service to Education (NASSP) award is given annually by the National Association of Secondary School Principals to individuals, organizations, foundations, corporations, or publications for significantly improving or strengthening education.

Daniel Klem '68 Publishes New Book to Save Billions of Birds

“There are billions of birds that are dying by flying into windows, and we need to address this,” says Daniel Klem, Jr. '68, Sarkis Acopian Professor of Ornithology and director of the Acopian Center for Ornithology at Muhlenberg College. Klem's passion about the subject is represented in his new book, *Solid Air, Invisible Killer: Saving Billions of Birds from Windows*, which shares both the challenges and solutions to this preventable issue. Klem has been studying, writing and teaching about this issue for nearly half a century, and is considered by many in the field to be the leading expert on the topic. The audience for the book is “every person on the planet,” Klem said. The book is published by Hancock House.



LEARN MORE
ABOUT THE BOOK

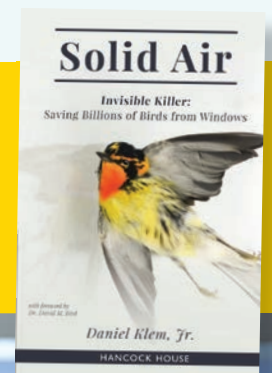


PHOTO BY DAN Z. JOHNSON

MARC LEVEY of Westport, Conn., is partner in the international law firm of Baker & McKenzie, LLP, based in New York, N.Y. He is also an adjunct professor in the LL.M Tax Program at NYU Law School and the University of Cincinnati College of Law.

71

CHRISTINE (HINCKEN) BLOOM of Leland, N.C., received a grant from the North Carolina Arts Council to work with mentors on painting from life, the coastal landscape and still life.

73

BERNARD CHARLES BARNICK of Wilkes-Barre, published a book about his life experiences titled, “Penn’s Woods: A Romantic View.” • **JOSEPH GRILLI** of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., recently joined Senior Day Services as its president and CEO. Grilli is a seasoned professional with over 15 years’ experience in home health and services to seniors as well as 10 years’ experience in higher education instruction and administration. He currently serves as vice-chair of the Luzerne County CARES Commission and several United Way of Wyoming Valley committees. He was the past chair of V.I.S.I.O.N. men’s homeless shelter and serves on the board at Wyoming Valley Alcohol and Drug, Inc., the Catholic Youth Center, Luzerne County Community College and Northeast Services.

74

HOLLY STULTS of Santa Fe, N.M., celebrated her 40th year in the jewelry art business as Holly Stults Design. She has sold to more than 300 galleries and 12 museums nationwide and in Japan.

75

PATRICK MORAN of Arnold, Md., has retired after 40 years as an engineering professor including the last 30 at the US Naval Academy. He also taught engineering at Wilkes during the 1977-78 academic year. He is retired with his wife, Angela, in Annapolis, Md.

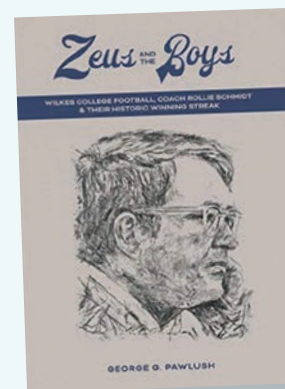
George Pawlush '69, MS '76 Chronicles the Legendary Wilkes Coach Rollie Schmidt in *Zeus and the Boys*

Members of the Wilkes University football team were practicing at Artillery Park on an October day in 1967 when the weather turned nasty. The players clambered down the steps after practice, grumbling about having to play in a chilling mix of rain and sleet. Suddenly a man walking among them, unnoticed until then, pointed at the sky and uttered a single word. “Stop.”

The rain ceased and players realized that their coach, Rollie Schmidt, was the guy who seemed to cause the weather change. Several of them said that maybe it was really Zeus, Greek god of lightning and thunder, disguised in the personage of their coach. Schmidt, already on his way to becoming a Wilkes sports legend, acquired the nickname Zeus. Years later, the story is among many chronicled by Wilkes alumnus George Pawlush '69 MS '76 in his book *Zeus and the Boys*.

A book about Schmidt was a natural choice. Although a low-key personality, his career coaching teams that came to be known as the “Golden Horde” stands as the most illustrious in Wilkes history. Schmidt, coaching football from 1962 to 1981, amassed a record of 92-73, including a stretch in which the “Golden Horde” won 32 games in a row over five seasons. A key to Schmidt’s success as a coach was his exhaustive preparation, studying films of opponents in a way not common in 1965. “He was totally prepared for every opponent they played,” Pawlush says.

Pawlush began working on the book by combing the University archives and conducting more than 100 interviews with Schmidt’s former players and colleagues. “I went through two or three tape recorders,” he says, noting he probably transcribed more than 100,000 words from interviews. *Zeus and the Boys* can be ordered from Amazon.



76

KARL BACON and wife **GIACOMINA (BUZZELLI) BACON '77** of Naugatuck, Conn., are retired in the upstate of South Carolina. Karl has written award-winning novels, *An Eye For Glory* and *The Shiloh Trilogy*. Giacomina retired after 40 years as a Connecticut teacher and principal.

78

JANINE (POKRINCHAK) DUBIK MFA of Dallas, Pa., has been selected for the 2021 Poetry in Transit series. She has been selected for Poetry in Transit since 2016. Her poems have been published by Word Fountain, Back Channels, The Pandemic Issue's The Electric Rail, and Thirty-Third Wheel.

80

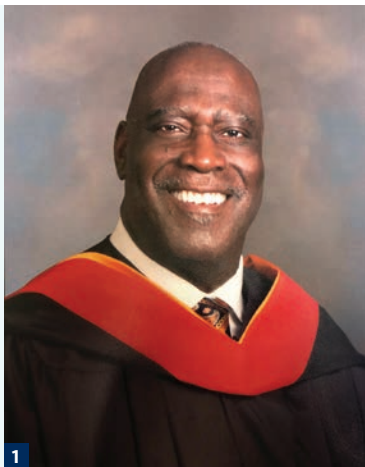
PATRICIA KLOTZ of Seattle, Wash., recently retired from the University of Washington, Harborview Medical Center, where she was a nursing supervisor in Trauma Research for 23 years. Currently she is employed as a research nurse with Bloodworks Northwest Research Institute in Seattle.

81

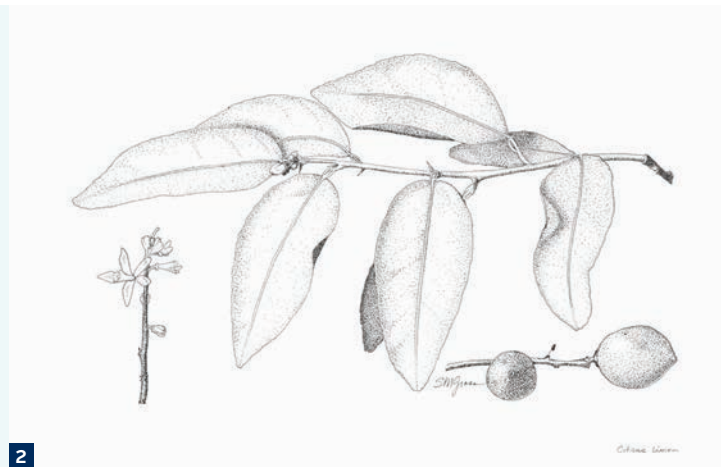
PAT MORROW MBA of Raleigh, N.C., has been appointed senior manager of global branding and communications for Bayer Environmental Science. As soon as circumstances allow, she will relocate to Lyon, France. Most recently she was senior manager for Bayer, based in North Carolina. Prior to joining Bayer, Morrow was in marketing roles with BASF Corporation and GlaxoSmithKline. Morrow earned an MBA from Duke University.

82

DR. RUTH MCDERMOTT-LEVY of Berwyn, Pa., was recently promoted to professor at the M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing at Villanova University. In addition, she is the co-director of the Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health and the Environment which is the EPA Region 3 Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU), part of the national PEHSU network. • **ANTHONY (TONY) VLAHOVIC** of New Hope, Pa., was recently named chairman of baseball development for Special Olympics North America. • **BRUCE WILLIAMS** of Blue Springs, Mo., has been appointed associate dean of clinical education at the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, College of Osteopathic Medicine.



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1 **REVEREND BART JASEN COOK '81** of Asbury Park, N.J., graduated from New Brunswick Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity in June 2021. Cook also serves as executive director of the Neptune Township Housing Authority and operates the Law Offices of Bart J. Cook. He is also an associate minister of United Fellowship Baptist Church in Asbury Park. 2 **SHARON MICHENER GROSS '84** of Collegeville, Pa., was elected president of the Philadelphia Society of Botanical Illustrators (PSBI). PSBI exhibits annually at the Philadelphia Flower Show and at other venues in the tri-state area. In addition, Gross has an illustration in the Lehigh University Art Galleries Thinking Through Drawing Exhibition online.

1 HARRY SARKAS BSEE '89, was part of the Apple Engineering team for iPhone, iPad and Apple Watch from 2011 to 2016 as a senior RF engineer. Sarkas explains, "I enjoyed my five-plus years at Apple and it was definitely a highlight of my career to date. I was proud to represent Wilkes engineering alums while working on some of the most successful consumer electronics products in the world, at the same time achieving one of the highest engineering quality standards and breakthrough technology." **2 JAMES (JIM) DEE '91**, of St. Louis, Mo., published a novel, *Chroo*, in November 2019. The novel follows Chroo, the richest dog in the world who belongs to celebrity heiress Upferra Quiquis. In this literary fantasy, the fun starts when Upferra finds out she's inheriting vastly more than the billions expected because of her father's involvement in the Game. And now, it's her move. The problem is, she doesn't care to play. So, she, Chroo, and an ensemble cast of humans and animals work to take down the Game, thus restoring freedom to the entire world.



83

THERESA SMITH of Mechanicsburg, Pa., is enjoying her recent retirement near the beach area of Delaware.

85

CHERIE BURKE of Macungie, Pa., PhD, DNP, CRNA, APRN has been named the program director of the Nurse Anesthesia Program at Rush University in Chicago, Ill. • **NAOMI (HARRIS) COHEN** of Hartford, Conn., has been with Collins Aerospace since January 2019, where she supports multiple departments within enterprise engineering. Additionally, she and her husband, Bruce, just celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary.

86

SHERRI (ZIMMERMAN) GRAHAM of Mt. Holly, S.C., celebrated her 20-year anniversary as the accountant for the Clerk of Court's Office for Berkeley County Government in Moncks Corner, S.C. Graham oversees the finance office for the Clerk of Court and in December of 2020, the Clerk of Court named her employee of the year. Prior to joining Berkeley County Government, Graham was employed at Georgetown County School District for four years.

87

PAUL ISAAC of Folcroft, Pa., started an online running news and information website, Running News Online, at runningnewsonline.com. The site offers easy access to race results, upcoming events, elite runners and current running news. Isaac has been a competitive long-distance runner for 34 years and has completed 750 road races including 18 marathons and 41 half-marathons. He is a member of Philadelphia Masters Track and Field Association, Delaware County Road Runners Club and United States Track and Field. He has also written several articles for *Runner's Gazette*. In addition, he is on the Long Distance Running Committee of United States Track and Field Mid-Atlantic Association, and has competed in that association's Road Grand Prix Series for 21 years, winning several age group placing awards and four consecutive years winning the Road Grand Prix Completion Award.

90

CHRISTOPHER BUCHANAN of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., was promoted from captain to assistant fire chief with the Wilkes-Barre City Bureau of Fire in March. A career fireman since 1992, Buchanan will now serve as a shift command officer in his new position. He is married to his wife, Sharon, and they have two children, Brooke and David.



1 JOHN A. BEDNARZ, JR. '06 of Shavertown, Pa., has been selected as a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer for 2020 for the 10th consecutive year. Only five percent of Pennsylvania lawyers obtain the status of Super Lawyer. Since 1991, Bednarz has been a Board-Certified Civil Trial Attorney as recognized by the National Board of Trial Advocacy, and is one of only two claims attorneys practicing in Wilkes-Barre named a Super Lawyer in the practice area of workers compensation. **2 TARA PRIEST-RHODES '06** of Kingston, Pa., owns Dream Vacations, which recently celebrated its first anniversary. The full-service travel agency is based in the Wilkes-Barre THINK Center at 7 S. Main St. Rhodes has participated in extensive training and certification programs so she can better serve her customers. Additionally, she won the Business Development Managers (BDM) Superstar Award during Dream Vacations™ annual National Conference. Rhodes was one of five honorees out of 1,500 franchisees and was recognized for her engagement and sustained growth over the past year.

91

SHELLEY PEARCE, L.M.F.T., C.M.H.I.M.P. is an integrative psychotherapist and Santa Monica College faculty member, who was chosen to present her talk at the 2020 International Embodiment Summit titled “Empathic Receptivity: Generating Unity through Healing Contact.”

93

EDWARD GENEROSE of Old Forge, Pa., has opened a microbrewery in Scranton called Groove Brewing. • **KARIN (MCELROY) NICHOLSON** was promoted to Colonel in 2018 and became the chief medical officer at Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center in Texas.

94

BRYAN ALLEN of Hatfield, Pa., was promoted to president of American Manufacturing Company, the leading American brand of drilling mud pumps and replacement parts. • **JAMES BRUCK MBA** of Honesdale, Pa., was promoted to the rank of Major in the Civil Air Patrol. He currently serves as the public affairs officer with the Scranton Composite Squadron 201.

97

HEATHER (HOWELL) JOHNSON of Gainesville, Fla., and her husband, John Johnson, moved from Port Richey to Gainesville, Fla., where they have started a farm called JH and Sons Family Farm. Heather is still a hospice registered nurse at Vitas Healthcare.

98

SARAH (KOVACS) YODER MS of Schuylkill Haven, Pa., was appointed superintendent of schools at Pottsville Area School District in May 2021.

99

CHRISTOPHER THOMPSON of Raleigh, N.C., has earned fellow status from the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. The Academy is the professional organization for physicians who care for patients with serious and life limiting illness. The Fellow of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (FAAHPM) status is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a physician member. Thompson has demonstrated a significant commitment to the field of hospice and palliative medicine.

05

HECTOR BONILLA of Macungie, Pa., was promoted to the position of district K-12 supervisor of curriculum and instruction and the coordinator of Easton Cyber Academy for the Easton Area School District for 2019-20 school year. • **MATTHEW TREESE MS, Ed.D.** of Kingston, Pa., is the vice provost for Secondary Education at Commonwealth Charter Academy.

08

LAUREN CAREY, MFA of Jacksonville, Fla., has been nominated for the Outstanding Adjunct Teaching Award at the University of North Florida for the 2019-20 academic year. • **MARK CONGDON JR.** of Waterbury, Conn., accepted a new position as an assistant professor of communication studies at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Conn.

09

MELISSA JONES of Southbury, Conn., has joined Child and Adolescent Healthcare Associates. She is a board certified pediatrician and proficient in osteopathic manipulative medical treatment.

10

KATIE NEALON of Scranton, Pa., was named to the 2021 list of Pennsylvania's Rising Stars, which acknowledges just 2.5 percent of American lawyers who have been practicing for less than 10 years.

1 DENISE KATZ '10 has joined the Cityview team as director of asset management. Katz will leverage her more than 12 years of experience in asset management, operations, ground-up development and value-add to maximize the operational and financial performance of Cityview's assets while increasing the value of the company's portfolio. Cityview is a vertically integrated real estate investment management firm focused on multifamily and mixed-use real estate in the Western U.S. **2 JACKI (LUKAS) EOVIATCH '11** of Courtdale, Pa., and husband, Kevin Eovitch, welcomed baby girl, Madison Jane, on Oct. 18, 2020. **3 JOHN HAWKINS '11** of Stockton, N.J., summited Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa, on March 6, 2020. He reached the peak in five days via the Machame Route. **4 SARA WOLMAN '11** of Fairbanks, Alaska, is currently the visual information specialist at the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, where she educates the public about conservation through visual media.



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12

JAMES R. BARCHESKI, CPA of Camp Hill, Pa., was promoted to manager at Brown Schultz Sheridan & Fritz (BSSF). Barcheski has over eight years of experience and specializes in providing audit and review services to nonprofit organizations, local government entities and school districts.

13

ERIN GALLAGHER of Philadelphia, Pa., began working as a researcher at Harvard University with the Technology and Social Change project in July of 2020. • **JONATHAN KADJESKI** of Kingston, Pa., was recently honored by the Young Professionals Awards as the Educator of the Year by the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce. He has also begun a new position, as the Achievement Plus student success counselor at King's College, in Wilkes-Barre.

14

CHRISTINE LEE along with her colleagues at the *Republican Herald* in Pottsville, Pa., received an honorable mention in the 2021 Professional Keystone Media Awards in the Ongoing Coverage category on Education and COVID-19. It was awarded in the DIII, multi-day publications with circulations between 10,000 and 19,999.

15

ABDULRAHMAN SHEIKH is employed by McDermott International Inc. in Dubai.

16

MICHAEL CALLAGY '17 and **CHELSEA WORKMAN '16** recently married in East Stroudsburg, Pa. The Wilkes sweethearts met while both working as students in the NeuroTraining and Research Center on campus. Chelsea is working as a physician assistant in urology and Michael is employed as an ER nurse.

17

PATRICIA THOMAS EIT of Selinsgrove, Pa., has been promoted to Engineer II at Barton & Loguidice and is a member of the firm's Solid Waste Practice Area.

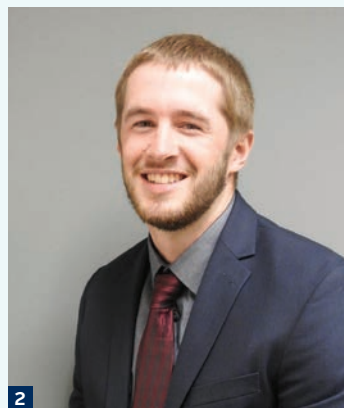
18

MADISON SCARFARO of Whitehall Pa., is a JD candidate attending Touro Law in Central Islip, N.Y.



NICOLE (POLLOCK)

KAUFMAN '12 and husband Mark Kaufman welcomed their second child, Aubrey Colleen Kaufman on Nov. 18, 2020.



1 BRYAN MARCEL BILBAO '17 of Old Forge, Pa., is currently in his rotational year of physician assistant school (PA-S2) at the Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport, Pa. He recently published a video on Youtube called “Does Healthcare Care? #WHYICARE,” which has accumulated over 10,000 views currently and is being used at several educational institutions for diversity training in healthcare fields. The video was for his “Medical Decision Making” course and he is currently conducting a capstone research project based on how healthcare providers can better themselves and reduce provider stigma when treating a patient and providing lackluster care due a patient’s primary language, skin color, race/ethnicity, sexual preference, gender identity, or having a disability. **2 JOHN E. STONER '17** of East Berlin, Pa., was promoted to supervisor at SEK, CPAs & Advisors. He is a member of Leadership Cumberland Class of 2021, West Shore Young Professionals, and SEKs Emerging Professionals Committee. Stoner works in the firm’s Carlisle, Pa., office and provides audit services for nonprofit and governmental clients, ensuring proper internal controls and a better understanding of their financial reports.

PICTURE PERFECT: GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING PHOTOS FOR CLASS NOTES

Wilkes magazine accepts photos to announce alumni weddings and accompany class notes reporting achievements and milestones. To ensure that we can use the photos submitted, please follow these requirements:

1. Email jpeg or tif files to alumni@wilkes.edu or upload as an online class note submission on the alumni website at www.wilkes.edu/alumni.
2. Digital photos must be at least 4 by 6 inches at 300 dpi or 1200 pixels by 1800 pixels. If you are sending a photo from your smart phone, choose full size or the largest size when prompted to specify the size you wish to send.
3. Please identify everyone in the photo, starting from left to right. Identify both alumni and non-alumni in submitted photos. Include class years for alumni.

GRADUATE

07

JEFF LOVE MS of Gretna, Va., purchased Leesville Lake Campground, Gretna Va., in May 2017. He has made numerous improvements to the property, and is preparing for an expansion. Business has improved annually, with a waiting list for most weekends.

12

JENICA HARSHBARGER MS had a children’s book published by Covenant Books in March 2020. *Kamille’s Quest of Courage* relates the adventures of a young Komodo dragon who learns that inner courage is more important than outward appearance.

18

SARAH ABALOS MS of Sharon, Pa., is the director of the recently approved Thiel College Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. Abalos is a licensed registered nurse and is currently a PhD candidate at Wilkes University and a Doctor of Nursing Practice student at Aspen University. She is projected to graduate in summer 2021 and 2022, respectively. • **ANTHONY FANUCCI PHARMD** of Carlisle, Pa., has accepted a full-time post-grad associate position with Alston & Bird, one of the top 100 law firms in America. He will be serving as an associate in the firm's FDA practice group in the Washington, D.C. office. • **MARY-LEE HELBING DNP** and her husband, Erik, welcomed their third child, Katerina Grace, on July 30, 2020.

19

JANET A. WILLIAMS MD, MSM, CNM is currently the CEO of Transitions Women's Health Consulting, LLC, whose main mission is to help decrease the maternal mortality rate of women in the U.S, especially women of color. She was a contributor in the Color of Wellness magazine with her article entitled "A Mother's Love ... what you need to know about Maternal Health Care." She is a doctoral prepared midwife who has 18 years' experience in a full-scope municipal hospital midwifery practice, and has delivered more than 800 babies. She is a sought-after speaker in the maternal health arena, and has presented at numerous conferences and online on numerous topics during the COVID-19 pandemic. She is the author of a journal entitled "The 4th Trimester of Pregnancy: Transformation."



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4

1 KERI DARBY MSN, RN, AHN-BC, SGahn '09 of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., was recently inducted as a distinguished scholar into the Global Academy of Holistic Nursing. The Academy, in support of the mission of The American Holistic Nurses Association and in concert with the American Holistic Nurses Credentialing Corporation, will focus on advancing the specialty of holistic nursing around the world. Darby is an RN whole health consultant with the Office of Patient Centered Care & Cultural Transformation for the Department of Veterans Affairs. **2 KIMBERLY (WARRINER) WEBER MS '13** wrote a book about healthy eating for children titled, *Penny the Pup Presents: The Power of Real Food*, which is now available as a paperback on Amazon and an eBook on Kindle. **3 TREY TIETZ PHARMD '14**, of Aurora, Ohio, was honored by the Ohio Pharmacists Association (OPA) with a 2021 UNDER 40 Recognition Award for leadership, excellence, and vision in the practice of pharmacy at its 143rd Annual Conference held April 16-18. Tietz is an ambulatory pharmacy manager for the Cleveland Clinic Euclid Avenue Pharmacy, the flagship outpatient pharmacy at Cleveland Clinic's main campus. **4 CORI FREDE MS '17** of Philadelphia, Pa., was selected as one of ten members of the United States delegation for the 2020 Education Exchange (E2) hosted in a different country each year. Cori will be traveling to Sydney, Australia, in March 2022 to spend a week working with educators from around the world in connecting the global classrooms using digital tools.

In Memoriam

Like the world around us, the Wilkes community has suffered great loss since our last issue. Though we could not include each obituary on these pages, we honor all the colleagues, alumni and friends that we have lost. We send our sincere condolences and caring thoughts to all who are mourning.



SALLYANNE ROSENN '42 of Kingston, Pa., died on Aug. 28, 2021. Sallyanne was a member of Temple Israel Synagogue; its sisterhood, Hadassah; the Jewish Community Center; the Westmoreland Club; and many other civic and religious organizations.



CLAYTON J. KARAMBELAS '49 of Kingston, Pa., died on Nov. 15, 2021. Karambelas was an alumnus, supporter and friend to Wilkes University. Together with his beloved wife, Theresa, he helped to transform the Wilkes campus through his loyalty, vision and generosity. A native of Wilkes-Barre, Karambelas graduated from Meyers High School and began

his undergraduate career as a student of Bucknell University Junior College, going on to receive his bachelor's degree in commerce and finance from Wilkes College in 1949. Karambelas served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors for many years, and was granted emeritus status in 2018. The Karambelases' lifetime commitment to Wilkes was recognized in 2016 when they received the President's Medal, the University's highest honor given annually at the Founders Gala. Karambelas served on many committees including the community and capital campaigns. In 1994 he served on the president's council and many years on the alumni association board and earned their first director emeritus chair in 2017. He received the Eugene Farley Award, the Honor of Wilkes Colonel Award as well as the Wilkes Ancestral Colonel and was the recipient of the coveted President's Medal along with his wife in 2016. As part of his legacy to Wilkes, he was proud to help fund the South Main Street, East

Campus Gateway, and gift the Karambelas Media and Communication Center, the Darte Center digital marquee, the Henry Student Center Atrium, the Cohen Science Center grand staircase, Library Web of Science project and the Greenway Pergola projects. In addition to Wilkes, Karambelas was an ardent supporter of the Greater Wilkes-Barre YMCA, Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business & Industry, the Osterhout Library and numerous other community organizations.



WILLIAM UMPHRED SR.'52, of Clarks Summit, Pa., died on Sept. 10, 2020. Umphred served as a naval officer during the Korean War. Following his return to Wilkes-Barre, he joined Commonwealth Telephone Company as a management trainee in 1955 and was elected president of the company in 1974. He retired in 1989. Umphred served as a director of the

Pennsylvania Independent Telephone Association and the United States Independent Telephone Association. He also served as chairman of several national committees of that association. His business associations included service as chairman of the board of Wilkes Barre's Franklin First Financial Corporation and the *Citizens Voice* newspaper and as a member of the board of Pennsylvania Millers Insurance Company and OnBanc Corporation (now M&T Bank). Umphred served as a trustee of Wilkes College, president of the board of the Salvation Army and as a member of the President's Advisory Board of College Misericordia. He was a board member of the United Way of Wyoming Valley and chaired that organization's 1978 fundraising campaign. He also chaired fundraising campaigns for the Osterhout Library and the Back Mountain Memorial Library.



EUGENE ROTH ESQ. '57 of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., died on June 9, 2021. In 1960, Roth graduated with honors from the Dickinson School of Law. He was a partner in the law firm of Rosenn, Jenkins & Greenwald LLP, for more than 60 years and maintained a longstanding and successful practice in the firm's business and finance department to public and private companies. Roth was a 61-year member of the Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, and American Bar Associations. Roth was a member of the Ohav Zedek Synagogue and board member, past president and chairman of numerous Jewish and community civic organizations in Northeastern Pennsylvania. He was a member of the board of directors of several public companies, received the United Hebrew Institute Shofar Award in 2000, National Society of Fundraising Executives Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser in 1993, B'nai B'rith Community Service Award in 1994, Northeast Pennsylvania Council of the Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Citizen Award in 1998, Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Pennsylvanian

Award, Wilkes University Ancestral Colonels Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009, Wilkes University John Wilkes Society's Eugene S. Farley Memorial Achievement Award in 2009 and the Wilkes University President's Medal in 2019.



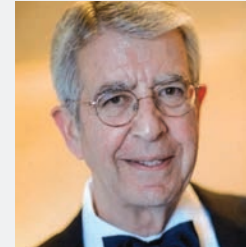
WILLIAM TREMAYNE '57 of Somerset, N.J., died in May 2020. Tremayne became the first member of the President's Council at Wilkes University after which he joined the Board of Trustees at the invitation of then President Christopher N. Breiseth. He was instrumental in recruiting the next president at Wilkes, Joseph "Tim" Gilmour (2001-2012). Tremayne served on the Wilkes University Board of Trustees with his younger brother, Ron, also a Wilkes alumnus ('58), and a retired executive with IBM Corp. In 2016, Tremayne became a trustee emeritus. Tremayne was with his wife, Lora Christensen, for 62 years. Tremayne was employed by Prudential Insurance Company for 36 years, rising to senior vice president overseeing the tax department and later, the public affairs division. In 1977, Bill became the

treasurer of the Bateman for Governor Committee. In 1981, Bill served on the Kean for Governor Committee. Following that successful election, he served on Kean's transition team as director of the treasury and budget team. At the federal level, in 1982, Bill helped lead the Grace Commission Defense Department audit team for Johnson & Johnson/ Prudential under President Ronald Reagan and was on the board of Business Executives for National Security.



BEVERLY HISCOX '58 of Shavertown, Pa., died on Feb. 25, 2021. Hiscox served for years as a trustee of Wilkes University. She served as president of the Wilkes University Alumni Association, served on the Advisory Council for Wilkes' creative writing program and established the Beverly Hiscox Scholarship. Hiscox served as president of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic Society, working numerous years in support of that organization. She also served as an elder in the First Presbyterian Church of Wilkes-Barre and as

President of the YWCA. She was also active for years with the Wilkes-Barre General Hospital Auxiliary.



FRANK MENAKER JR., ESQ. '62 of Potomac, Md., died on Feb. 18, 2020. He graduated from William Penn High School in 1958, Wilkes University in 1962, and American University Washington College of Law in 1965. Menaker served as senior vice president and general counsel for Lockheed Martin Corporation, and general counsel for Martin Marietta. He served in these roles for 36 years before retiring in 2006. He was a key member of the 1995 merger team that joined Martin Marietta with Lockheed Corporation creating what we know today as Lockheed Martin Corporation. In 1986, Menaker was part of the Defense Industry Initiative, where he served as chairman of the working group that developed industry-wide standards for accountability, auditing, ethics, and self-assessment. He established a corporate ethics and integrity program for Lockheed Martin that became the defense industry standard. He also served as president

of the Washington Metro Area Corporate Counsel Association and chair of the ABA Public Contracts Law Section. In 2008, Frank was listed as one of the Legal Time's "Visionaries."

1942

Elizabeth Mitchell

1943

Harry Katz

1944

Beverly Myers
George Papadopoulos

1947

George Trebilcox

1948

Miriam Baumann
Stephen Doberstein
Marie Duffy
William Harvey
Eugene Shaver
Charlotte Terry

1949

William Beck
John Evans
Morris Feinstein
Michael Fex Jr.
Jay Rauscher
Mary Romanick

1950

Julius Brand
Daniel Cuscela
Jean Erickson
Thomas Foster
James Holifield
Chester Omichinski
Angelo Pascucci
William Plummer
Gwenn Smith

1951

Olin Evans
John Gresh Jr.
Nicholas Heineman
Betty Hibler
Donald Kivler
David Parsons
Mary Rentschler
Glenn Reinhart

Doris Stotter
John Stozenski

1952

George Cross
Joseph Falzone
Joseph Fattorini Jr.
Charles Gloman III
Jean Sutherland
John Wolfkeil

1953

Raymond Garbor
Paul Griesmer
John Hilburt
Philip Husband
Cledwyn Rowlands

1954

Edward Lanning
Joseph Mosier
Ralph Rozelle
Rodion Russin Esq.
John Vale

1955

Madelyn Decker
Naomi Jones
Leona Markiewitz
Doris Merrill
Ellen Ondash
Lawrence Roeshot

1956

Mary Croce
Michael Perlmuth
Paul Shiffer
John Suffren
Joseph Ungvarsky
Joseph Zawatski

1957

Larry Amdur
Rose Bellomo
Samuel Dilcer
Jacqueline Griffith
Morgan Lewis
Thomas Podolak
James Speicher
Carl Urbanski O.D.
John Zachmann

1958

Elaine Barrett
Larry Groninger
Theodore Jones USN
Joseph Kotch
Albert Mlynarski
Harry Smith Jr.

Jerome Stone
Mary West

1959

Eugene Conser
James Eidam
Robert Florio
Jerome Gutterman
Edward Kozlowski
Edward McCafferty Ph.D.
Lawrence Pugh
Thomas Ruggiero Esq.
David Shales
Gustave Sundberg
Robert Thomas Sr.
Jean Verbarg
David Wagner
Carl Zoolkoski Sr.

1960

Thomas Barnick
Clarence Dennis
Arthur Evans
William James Jr.
Thomas Jones
Clifford Kobland Ph.D.
Patricia Levandoski
Edwin Matthews
Jerome Pauley
Agesino Primatic
Judith Schall
Raymond Yanchus

1961

Anne Blewitt
Clement Gavenas
Frederick Jacoby
Gale James
Hana Janjigian Heald
Arlene Matus
Patricia Petrasek
Ronald Roski

1962

James Brunza
Gerald Burkhardt
John Hrencecin
Andrew Kocur
Dennis Kravitz
David Peters
Edward Yadzinski
Robert Yetter

1963

Alice Bartlett
Joseph Gay Sr.
George Guzo Jr.

Harold Harty Ph.D.
Thomas Penhale Jr.
Judith Spitale
John Tredinnick

1964

James Bachman
Robert Bednar
Caroll Blank
Michalene Levi
Sally Levy
Owen Williams
Leonard Yankosky Jr.
Marie Zemanick

1965

Charles Adonizio
Raymond Bolek
Edward Brominski Sr.
Barbara Cobb
John George
John Hohn Jr.
Mary Rosencrance
Eubank Travis-Bey Jr.
John Wasilewski
Carolyn Weston

1966

Reina Bakish
Carol Isaacs
Donna Porzucek
Faith Sabol
William Webb

1967

Richard Bergstrasser
Ronald Czajkowski
Georgiann Dalon
Theodore Gourley Jr., Ed.D.
Andrea Lander
Kenneth Maloney
Walter Narcum
William Perrego
William Trethaway

1968

Arthur Kreinberg
James O'Boyle
Patricia Wanalista
Samuel Wolfe III

1969

Richard Asch
Thomas Evans
Richard Foy
Brent Jackson
Joseph Kopec
John Zikor

1970

Robert Broody
 Ronald Bukevicz
 Edward Gower
 Ralph Hodgson Jr.
 David Hoffman
 Charles Lengle
 Judith Ververs

1971

Albert Baloga
 Steven Brunn
 Mary Combellack
 John Hoover
 Stephen Kaschenbach
 Patricia Kramer
 Frances Laskofski
 Raymond Smith Jr.
 Samuel Smulyan

1972

Mary Ellen Blazejewski
 John Breita
 Freas Hess III
 Roy Hollabaugh
 Lois Hughes
 Deanne Lisko
 Jacqueline McGinley
 Robert Paranich
 Brenda Shone
 Anne Wasko
 Theodore Zelinski

1973

Karen Czwalina
 Richard Flower
 Frederick Gedrich
 Mary Grace Loncoski
 Sheila McLaughlin
 John Nesbitt
 Ronald Samek
 Thomas Steltzer

1974

David Edwards
 James Kelley
 Rosemary Murphy
 Bernard Parsons
 James Rodda
 Marguerite Sauer

1975

Edward Beoris
 Debra Schonfeld
 Michael Stambaugh

1976

Robert Jones Jr.
 Mary Manganiello
 Joseph Santini
 Patricia Schillaci

1977

John Kosloski
 Robert Warren
 Richard Zbysheski

1978

Scott Leeds

1979

Donald Demko

1980

Clifford Jones Jr.
 Thomas Needham Jr.
 Rodney Wyffels

1981

Mary Kay Bifano
 Raymond Pambianco
 Robert Rushworth Jr.
 Donna Shandra

1982

Walter Babetski
 Diane Maroun
 William Mecca Sr.
 Robert Stackhouse

1983

Barbara Ann Landis
 Hoffmann MD CMD
 Pamela Piskorick

1984

Joseph Leandri
 Cathy Prater
 Teresa Rudi

1985

Sandra Luongo
 Philip Roke
 Eugene Wachowski
 James Zaykoski

1986

Kevin Chabal
 Dennis Clarke
 Robert Meehan Jr.

1988

Suzanne Alba
 Lois Parry
 Thomas Samide
 Donald Strickland
 Carolyn Warner

1989

Patricia Hornsby
 Carol Raymond
 Harry Salavantis
 Jane Smith
 Dolores Vida
 Joseph Yuscavage III

1990

Shirley Butler
 Pamela Cooper
 Christian Royek
 Joseph Santanasto

1991

David Billet
 Anthony Cameron
 Colleen Caputo
 Dawn Survilla

1992

Michael Kosloski Jr.

1993

Thomas Minchin
 Sylvia Simmons

1994

Mark Buss

1995

David Strumsky

1996

Aaron Beyer
 Thomas Latimer
 Neil Stefanisko

1997

Tara Keegan
 Amy Plutino

1998

Nancy Wallis

1999

Julie Grimes
 Jack Kocher
 Frank Nutaitis
 Judith Shimp

2000

Kathleen Price

2001

Michael Loverdi
 Michael Lucsky
 Jeffrey Spaide

2002

Dina Palski

2005

David Holdredge

2006

Rita Darragh-Connors
 Silvia Diaz
 Rosemarie Gerstein
 Claire Kulp
 Vicki Shaffer

2007

Robert Pietrucha
 Milagros Santiago
 Anne Spindler

2008

Nancy Slowikowski

2009

Charles Bachert
 Elizabeth Lambert

2010

Curtis Clark
 David Hangen

2011

Larry Wildermuth

2014

Marjorie Whispell

2015

Alex Malon
 William Robinson Jr.

2017

Jesse McDermott

2018

Patrick Belusko

2020

Deanne Kalin
 Jessica Roxby

FACULTY



HAROLD E. COX, of Exeter, Pa., died on Sept. 8, 2021. Cox was an U.S. Army veteran serving in active duty from 1954-1956 and then served in the U.S. Army Reserve for an additional 30 years achieving the rank of command sergeant major. Later, Cox attended William and Mary University of Virginia and received his doctorate. He was a beloved professor at Wilkes University for 52 years in the history department. Upon leaving teaching, President Christopher N. Breiseth appointed him as the first official Wilkes University Archivist. The Farley library rooms that house the university's archives are named in his honor. In 2005, Cox developed the library research methods course which would impact the various academic programs at the university.



STEVEN THOMAS of Kingston, Pa., died on July 12, 2020. He served as chair of

the Division of Performing Arts and as professor of music. Thomas received his undergraduate degree from Harvard University before earning his master's and doctoral degrees from Yale University. At Wilkes, he was the director of choral activities for more than 20 years. In addition to teaching various classes within the music curriculum, he led the University Chorus and the Chamber Singers. Thomas sang in the Lyric Consort and was also the music director of the Arcadia Chorale, both based in Scranton, Pa. He continued the Chorale's traditions of hosting a spring Bach Festival and an annual Messiah sing-along, which could be heard on WVIA-FM during the Christmas season. Under his leadership, the Chorale performed at the American Choral Directors Association convention and produced several recordings.

FRIENDS OF WILKES



JOHN PASSAN of Laflin, Pa., died on Feb. 21, 2021. At the age of 17, Passan enlisted in the United States Navy. Stationed on the USS Los Angeles, he served in the Pacific Theater of World War II.

After serving his country, he returned home from the war and under the G.I. bill, earned his degree from the Dolan School of Mortuary Science in Philadelphia. Returning to Wilkes-Barre, he began his life's journey that became filled with business and philanthropic accomplishments. Passan was a founder of Valley Distributing and Storage Company, a family owned and operated warehouse and trucking business, for more than 60 years. He was past president of the American Warehouse Association, the America Chain of Warehouses, and president of Pocono Downs. With the Passan Family Foundation, Passan transformed the education of students in nursing and healthcare. He established the G. Thomas Passananti Professorship at Penn State College of Medicine in honor of his late brother; the endowments of the Wilkes University Passan School of Nursing, the only named nursing school in the northeast; John J. Passan Hall for Health Sciences at Misericordia University; and the Penn State Open Doors Scholarship for disadvantaged students. Passan has been the recipient of the Northeast Pennsylvania Philanthropy Award and Wilkes University's honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.

Friends of Wilkes (continued)

Anita Ambrose
Virginia Banks
Robert Barbieri
Leona Castor
Daniel Check
Scott Fertal
Katherine Ford
Randy Freas
Gerald Hartdagen
David Hiscox
Lucas Homeijer
Benjamin Jones III
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Esther Robzen
Carolyn Romanko
Janice Schuh
Robert Smith
Patrick Solano
Robert Stetten
David Tressler
Jo Ann Wolinsky
Vernon Zellner

Wilkes University

Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766

calendar of events

Spring Lectures at Wilkes

Wilkes University is bringing two of the most influential authors to campus this spring. Both lectures are free and registration is strongly encouraged due to expected attendance. Get more information and the link inside on page 9.



JON MEACHAM

The Max Rosenn Lecture in Law and Humanities Series will present “Hope Through History” with the presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 24, 2022 at the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center.



MARGARET ATWOOD

The Allan Hamilton Dickson Spring Writers Series presents “A Conversation with Margaret Atwood,” the bestselling author of *The Handmaid’s Tale*, at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts in Wilkes-Barre.

March 22, 2022 is Giving Day

Join the challenge and give to your favorite programs on the third annual Giving Day, a 24-hour, campus-wide fundraising challenge to support the Wilkes programs you love most. Watch your inbox for more details about the surprises planned for Giving Day on 3/22/22!



PHOTO BY STEVE HUSTED/KNOT JUST ANY DAY

To learn more about the latest news and events happening at Wilkes, please visit news.wilkes.edu and wilkes.edu/alumni.