

WILKES

SPRING/SUMMER 2018

Global Innovator

BOB BRUGGEWORTH '83
FINDS SUCCESS MANAGING
AND MOTIVATING IN
HIGH-TECH INDUSTRY



INSIDE: PREVIEW OF TRANSFORMATIONAL CAMPUS ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS

Ambitious Enhancement Plan Transforms Campus

When I became president of Wilkes, I started a tradition of celebrating major campus developments with the Wilkes community during Homecoming Weekend. These historic events included: the grand opening of the Cohen Science Center in 2013, the dedication of the Sidhu School of Business and Leadership in the University Center on Main in 2014, the groundbreaking of the Karambelas East Campus Gateway in 2015, and the unveiling of the Campus Gateway project in 2016. At Homecoming 2017, I was proud to introduce the new Karambelas Media and Communication Center and to rededicate our expanded Sordoni Art Gallery.

This Homecoming, Oct. 5-7, there will be no shortage of exciting things to celebrate. Wilkes University is in the midst of an ambitious \$100 million campus enhancement plan that will help us achieve our decades-long dream of creating a first-class, residential campus, fully integrated into our host city of Wilkes-Barre. In the relatively short time until your return to campus for Homecoming, the Wilkes campus will be improved in immeasurable ways.

Here is a preview of the projects being completed this summer. You can see renderings of some of them on page 6 of this issue:

- **Engineering Innovation Center at Stark Learning Center:** An \$8 million renovation to our largest academic building has dramatically enhanced our engineering capabilities. We have created state-of-the-art bioengineering, nanotechnology, additive manufacturing, and high-speed computing labs that will prepare students to meet the changing needs of engineering in the 21st century.
- **Campus Gateway Project:** This system of walkways will seamlessly connect the southern section of campus behind the Henry Student Center to the Fenner Quadrangle in much the same way that the Karambelas East Campus Gateway connects the center of campus to South Main Street. Focal points along the Gateway highlight our beautiful campus and provide comfortable gathering areas and additional event space.
- **Campus Enhancement Plan:** A master landscaping plan will replace overgrown greenery with colorful flowers and bushes, showcasing the beauty of our historic mansions. This plan will also include new and improved lighting, sidewalks, and signage, all in an effort to beautify our campus and enhance its functionality.

In addition to these projects, work will begin on other transformative initiatives: the creation of a Pharmacy Collaboration Corridor in Stark Learning Center and the total renovation of the Ralston Athletic Complex.

People often tell me that campus has never looked better. While I'm extremely grateful for those remarks, I often respond by saying: "If you think the campus looks good now, just wait until later this year!"

There has never been a better time at Wilkes. Won't you join me at Homecoming 2018 and experience this progress for yourself?



Wilkes President Patrick F. Leahy announces campus improvements at a fall 2017 news conference. PHOTO BY LISA REYNOLDS

Dr. Patrick F. Leahy
Wilkes University President

WILKES MAGAZINE

University President
Dr. Patrick F. Leahy

Managing Editor
Kim Bower-Spence

Senior Editor
Vicki Mayk MFA'13

Creative Services
Lisa Reynolds

Director of Communications
Gabrielle D'Amico MFA'17

Web Services
Joshua Bonner MS'16

Electronic Communications
Brittany Terpstra

Communications Specialist
Kelly Clisham MFA'16

Graduate Assistants
Sarah Bedford '17
Samantha Stanich

Layout/Design
Kara Reid

Printing
Lane Press

EDITORIAL ADVISORY GROUP

Anne Batory '68
Brandie Meng MA'08
Bill Miller '81
George Pawlusch '69 MS'76
Donna Sedor '85

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

Executive Director of Development and Alumni Relations
Margaret Steele

Associate Director, Office of Alumni Relations
Mary Balavage Simmons '10, MBA '16

Manager of Alumni Relations and Advancement Special Projects
Jacki Lukas '11

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President
Ellen Stamer Hall '71

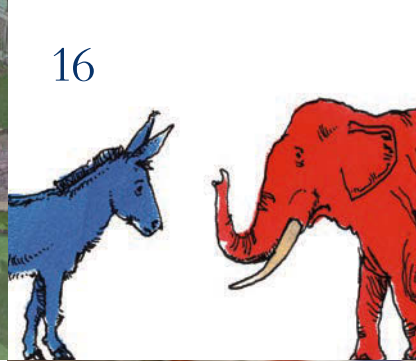
Vice President
Matt Berger '02

Secretary
John Sweener '13

Historian
Cindy Charnetski '97

Wilkes magazine is published three times a year by the Wilkes University Office of Marketing Communications, 84 W. South St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766, wilkesmagazine@wilkes.edu, (570)408-4779. Please send change of address to the above address.

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.



6

16

28

10

20

contents



Bob Bruggeworth '83 is president and CEO of Qorvo, a chip manufacturer in Greensboro, N.C.
PHOTO BY TODD BOWMAN

FEATURES

6 Coming Attractions

A \$100 million campus enhancement plan will transform Wilkes.

10 Global Innovator

Bob Bruggeworth '83 leads high-tech firm Qorvo to cutting-edge solutions.

16 Wild Card

Wilkes political science professors Thomas Baldino and Kyle Kreider examine the unpredictable midterm elections.

20 Crisis Intervention

LEADING THE CHARGE: Wilkes students, faculty and alumni are working in classrooms and the community to stem the opioid epidemic in the United States.

CHANGING THE STANDARD:

Dr. Asif Ilyas '97 tackles the opioid crisis from a surgeon's perspective.

28 Mind Game

Megan Cannon '08 is a sport psychologist who helps athletes improve their mental games.

DEPARTMENTS

2 On Campus

32 Alumni News

33 Giving Back

34 Class Notes

Have a story idea to share?

Contact us at wilkesmagazine@wilkes.edu or *Wilkes* magazine, 84 W. South St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18766.

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



Alumnus Lawrence E. Cohen '57 to be Honored With President's Medal at Founders Gala 2018

Wilkes University alumnus Lawrence E. Cohen '57 will be awarded the President's Medal at the 2018 Founders Gala on June 2. The President's Medal is bestowed annually on an individual whose personal and professional life reflect the highest aspirations of Wilkes University.

Cohen enjoyed a successful career at Benco Dental, a company started by his father in the 1930s. Cohen joined Benco in 1959, when the organization served a handful of dentists in Wilkes-Barre and Scranton. Over the next three decades, Benco grew into one of the largest dental distributors in the United States, with sales of more than \$100 million. Since the '90s, Cohen has worked closely with his sons to build Benco into the nation's largest family-owned dental distributor, serving dentists from coast to coast. Cohen currently serves as Benco's chairman and chief customer advocate.

Cohen graduated from Wilkes University with a bachelor's degree in accounting. He went on to earn a master's degree in management and finance from Columbia University. Cohen served on the University's board of trustees for 14 years and was granted trustee emeritus status in 2008.

In announcing Cohen as the 2018 President's Medal honoree, Wilkes president Patrick F. Leahy praised his personal commitment to the University. "The Cohens' support of Wilkes University has been paramount to the success of our students. Because of Larry and Sally's generosity, our students learn in a first-class, integrative facility bearing the Cohen name. Collaboration across disciplines is the future of science. The Cohen Science Center puts Wilkes at the forefront of research and study."

The Lawrence and Sally Cohen Science Center, a \$35 million, 72,500-square-foot interdisciplinary science facility, was built in 2013. The science center was named in recognition of the couple's \$2.5 million gift in support of the project—one of the largest gifts in Wilkes history. It brings four floors of state-of-the-art laboratories together to encourage collaborative research and study.

The Founders Gala, established in 2014, has raised more than \$1.5 million. Proceeds from the event support the First Generation Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarship funds to students who are the first in their family to pursue a four-year degree. For more information about sponsorships and attending the Founders Gala, please visit www.wilkes.edu/foundersgala or contact Margaret Steele, executive director of advancement and alumni relations, at margaret.steele@wilkes.edu or (570) 408-4302.



"The Cohens' support of Wilkes University has been paramount to the success of our students. Because of Larry and Sally's generosity, our students learn in a first-class, integrative facility bearing the Cohen name."

– Wilkes President Patrick F. Leahy

PHOTO COURTESY BENCO DENTAL



Among the works featured in *Selections from the Sordoni Collection of American Illustration and Comic Art* is Maxfield Parrish's *A Dark Futurist*, above, which graced the cover of *Life* magazine. Also featured in the exhibition is N.C. Wyeth's *I am Sir Launcelot du Lake, King Ban's son of Benwick, and knight of the Round Table*, right, which illustrated a book about King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table.

Selections From the Sordoni Collection of American Illustration & Comic Art Featured in the Sordoni Art Gallery

Illustrations and comic strip art from the late 19th century to the present provide a glimpse into popular culture in the spring exhibition in the Sordoni Art Gallery. *Selections from the Sordoni Collection of American Illustration & Comic Art* is featured through May 20. The exhibition, drawn from the private collection of Andrew J. Sordoni, III, features 135 original artworks by more than 100 artists, including “Golden Age” illustrators N.C. Wyeth, Maxfield Parrish and Frank Schoonover. Norman Rockwell and J.C. Leyendecker, both known for their mass-market magazine covers, are also represented.

The exhibition includes paintings and drawings that appeared on magazine covers, interior story illustrations, advertisements, book jackets, album covers, daily and Sunday comic strips, cartoons and movie cels. Notable comic strip artists on view include George Herriman (*Krazy Kat*), Harold Foster (*Prince Valiant*) and Charles Schulz (*Peanuts*) along with Wilkes-Barre native Ham Fisher (*Joe Palooka*). Cartoons that appeared in periodicals such as *The New Yorker*, *Playboy* and *The National Lampoon* by Buck Brown, John Caldwell and Charles Rodrigues are also represented. The exhibition was curated by Stanley Grand.



WILKES INTENSIVE ENGLISH PROGRAM EARNS MEMBERSHIP IN PRESTIGIOUS CONSORTIUM

Wilkes University's intensive English program was granted membership to University and College Intensive English Programs (UCIEP), an independent consortium representing the highest professional standards for intensive English programs in the United States due to professors' commitment to ensuring their students receive the highest quality intensive English instruction.

The University is one of four Pennsylvania schools, including the University of Pennsylvania, Drexel University and the University of Pittsburgh, to receive this honor. It is also one of just 80 universities and colleges worldwide.

“This recognition reflects what we already know: Wilkes continues to evolve to a university of national prominence,” University President Patrick F. Leahy says.

The intensive English program was established in 2006 and is a 13-week program that immerses international students in the English language as well as American culture. Students are prepared to continue their academics at Wilkes or other American Universities by focusing on writing, listening, speaking, grammar, vocabulary and academic conversation.

The program uses project-based learning to get the students active in the Wilkes community and help them develop an in-depth cultural awareness.

Wilkes continues to provide the opportunities of a large, research institution in the mentoring environment of a small, private college with this exclusive membership. Only 10 percent of the nation's intensive English programs are UCIEP members and Wilkes is one of the smallest schools to earn a membership.

For two years, the University was assessed on setting and achieving high-academic standards, providing a comprehensive process for language teaching and learning, actively promoting the highest professional standards, and adequately preparing students for success at the university or college level, both in terms of English proficiency, and academic and cultural orientation.

“Our goal is to provide the highest quality English instruction, which shows in our student success rates and the way they perform during and after the program,” Kimberly Niezgod, director of the Intensive English Program, says.



Nursing students Peter Sidari, left, and Amber Ankudovich were honored by the American Red Cross of Northeast Pennsylvania for aiding a bicyclist struck by car. PHOTO COURTESY AMERICAN RED CROSS

Wilkes Nursing Students Honored by Red Cross

Wilkes University nursing students Peter Sidari and Amber Ankudovich were awarded the Medical Emergency Services Award by the American Red Cross of Northeast Pennsylvania for aiding a bicyclist hit by a car last year. The two students were honored at the 2018 Celebration of Heroes event in March 2018. The event recognizes trained heroes and good Samaritans who were nominated by their peers and the community.

Sidari and Ankudovich were driving to a local hospital for clinical assignments in April 2017 when they came upon a bicyclist who was struck by a car near the Market Street Bridge in Wilkes-Barre. They began chest compressions until a registered nurse and the Wilkes-Barre paramedics arrived. The Medical Emergency Services Award recognizes their efforts in representing the values of the American Red Cross.

Professor Andrew Wilczak Begins Partnership With High School

Andrew Wilczak, associate professor of sociology, goes beyond the textbook, involving his students in real-world experiences that enhance their education. During the spring 2018 semester, Wilczak partnered with Michelle Zapotoski, a guidance counselor at Hanover Area Junior/Senior High School in Wilkes-Barre, on a mentoring project to prepare high school students for the realities of college life.

Wilczak and a team of his students visited the high school to offer advice about the transition to college. Although they covered some traditional topics—like how to choose a major—the program addressed issues that are sometimes overlooked. They included managing time, dealing with homesickness, anxiety and depression, and staying healthy. The program is the first of its kind for the school.

“Over the years, I have heard about some students switching colleges or dropping out of college,” Zapotoski says. “I can’t help but wonder if there is more we can be doing to help prepare our youngsters for what lies ahead. The transition from high school to college and what that first year is really like is the focus of the program.”



Andrew Wilczak, associate professor of sociology, has brought his students to Hanover Area High School to help prepare students for college. PHOTO BY KNOT JUST ANY DAY



SHORT-FORM DOCUMENTARIES HIGHLIGHT WILKES STUDENTS

“Some people tell me I’m an overachiever.” That statement launches a short-form documentary about Wilkes University senior Gabrielle Spanuolo. The 60-second video goes on to chronicle Spanuolo’s Wilkes experience that includes three majors (biology, neuroscience and history), two minors and travel abroad. The documentary is the first of six planned short videos capturing the journeys of Wilkes students. Catch Spanuolo’s piece and several others at www.wilkes.edu/6in60



PHOTO BY DAN WINTERS

Legendary Athlete, Author and Activist Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Delivers Rosenn Lecture on Sept. 30

Basketball Hall of Fame center, *New York Times*-bestselling author and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient Kareem Abdul-Jabbar will deliver the Max Rosenn Lecture in Law and Humanities on Sunday, Sept. 30. He will speak at 2 p.m. in the McHale Athletic Center in the University Center on Main. The lecture, "Becoming Kareem," will be a moderated discussion between Wilkes President Patrick F. Leahy and Abdul-Jabbar. Their conversation will explore issues such as political activism in sports, race relations, and facing life's struggles with positivity. The event will end with a book signing. Admission is free but advance registration is recommended. Registration will open June 1. To register, go to www.wilkes.edu/kareem.

Research, Travel and Service Highlight Spring Break Experiences

Spring break offers students more than a vacation from classes. Colonels roll up their sleeves or put on their hiking boots and experience international and stateside community service trips, research opportunities and outdoor adventures. These experiences give students the opportunity to develop their leadership, teamwork and critical thinking skills.



Students examine coffee beans on an Alternative Spring Break trip to Costa Rica.

Students enrolled in geology Professor Sid Halsor's Geology of Hawaii class spent several days in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park exploring the spectacular volcanic features associated with Kilauea volcano, the most active volcano on earth and in continuous eruption since 1983. The trip was coordinated with the GeoExplorer Club and Bobby Karimi, assistant professor of geology. Highlights included a tour and presentation by U.S. Geological Survey geoscientist at the Hawaii Volcano Observatory, close-up observations of active lava flow on the volcanic field, and night-time view of the vivid red glow over the Kilauea summit crater where lava fountaining was occurring.

Other spring break opportunities included community service Alternative Spring Break trips to Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic and a Wilkes Adventure Education trip to San Francisco that also included coastal stops in California and Oregon.

Students in Professor Sid Halsor's Geology of Hawaii class and members of the GeoExplorer Club spent spring break exploring the volcanic features at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. PHOTO COURTESY SID HALSOR



Coming Attractions

Campus Projects are Transforming Wilkes



THE CAMPUS GATEWAY PROJECT

An expanded gateway will link the southern part of campus to the heart of campus in the same way that the Karambelas East Campus Gateway links Main Street to the Fenner Quadrangle. The project includes generous pedestrian walkways, gathering areas and event spaces.



Wilkes is in the midst of a \$100 million campus enhancement plan

that will help the University achieve a decades-long dream of building a traditional, residential campus fully integrated into the City of Wilkes-Barre. These unprecedented investments will create a cohesive look and feel on campus, while improving safety and alleviating traffic congestion. Here is a look at some of the projects that will take place over the next two years.





CAMPUS ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

The creation of new green space and a companion gateway at the south entrance to the Henry Student Center will transform a utilitarian area into a gathering space for students and all members of the campus community. Redesigned parking areas and landscaping will enhance both attractiveness and safety.

ENGINEERING INNOVATION CENTER

More than 15,000 square feet of space in Stark Learning Center is being renovated into a state-of-the-art engineering facility that will meet the changing needs of the engineering field through a flexible design, emphasis on collaboration and equipment that supports industry. Highlights include additive manufacturing and high-performance computing labs, a 3-D visualization space, two large flex labs, industry collaboration space and lounge areas.





RALSTON ATHLETIC COMPLEX

An extensive renovation of the Ralston Athletic Complex will include a first-class baseball stadium, an additional multi-purpose turf field, a dedicated tennis center and spectator conveniences.

Global Innovator

BOB BRUGGEWORTH '83 FINDS
SUCCESS MANAGING AND MOTIVATING
IN HIGH-TECH INDUSTRY

By Kelly Clisham '12 MFA '16

If you've sent a text from your phone, read a book on your tablet, used Wi-Fi on your laptop or even turned on the TV with a remote control, **Bob Bruggeworth '83** has had an impact on your life. He's president and chief executive officer of Qorvo, a communications chipmaker headquartered in Greensboro, N.C.



Qorvo's headquarters in Greensboro, N.C., is home base for Bob Bruggeworth '83, who travels the globe as the firm's president and chief executive officer.
ALL PHOTOS ON THESE PAGES BY TODD BOWMAN

While Qorvo may not be a household name, it specializes in RF, or radio frequency, solutions, manufacturing amplifiers, switches and filters that connect individuals, households and businesses all over the globe. “We’re in a great market that’s growing by double digits, being fueled by the consumers’ insatiable demand for data, which means you need more of the parts we make,” says Bruggeworth. “If you name a phone, we’re probably in it—or any of your access points.”

Bruggeworth’s access to technological know-how began in the engineering labs at Wilkes. “I would put my Wilkes education up against any other school,” says Bruggeworth. “The hands-on experience that I got, when I went out and started doing some of the engineering work, I had every bit of the fundamentals, maybe more.”

His road to Wilkes started in western Pennsylvania. Bruggeworth grew up in Pittsburgh, a devout fan of the city’s sports teams. “I love the Steelers, I love the Penguins and I love the Pirates. I bleed black and gold.” When he was a senior in high school, his family moved to Dallas, Pa., for his father’s job. “My dad promised us all this great skiing,” Bruggeworth jokes.

The move to northeastern Pennsylvania was quite a transition. “Back in the 70s, I wore platform shoes, silk pants, silk shirts. I came here and switched to Dunham boots, blue jeans and flannel shirts to fit in.” Fashion choices aside, the relocation gave Bruggeworth a reason to examine his support group for the first time. “I moved my senior year. That’s a pretty tough time to move,” he says. “It’s when I realized I’ve got this network to support me at home: my family, my brothers, my parents. It’s pretty good.”

BECOMING A COLONEL

The oldest of three children, Bruggeworth graduated from Dallas Junior-Senior High School, where he played golf and basketball. When he began looking at colleges, Wilkes stood out for two reasons. First, the engineering department had both small class sizes and a great reputation, with a placement rate of close to 100 percent. Second, the Division III school would give him a chance to continue being a student-athlete. “I wanted to play sports,” he says.

He landed a spot on the Colonels soccer team as the goalkeeper. As a Wilkes senior, he played under then-rookie head coach Phil Wingert, who now serves as associate athletic director. “He had a great work ethic. To have a senior like Bob in the goal with his maturity and leadership helped my transition to college coaching,” says Wingert. The two men have stayed in touch over the years, trading notes after family accomplishments or a big win.

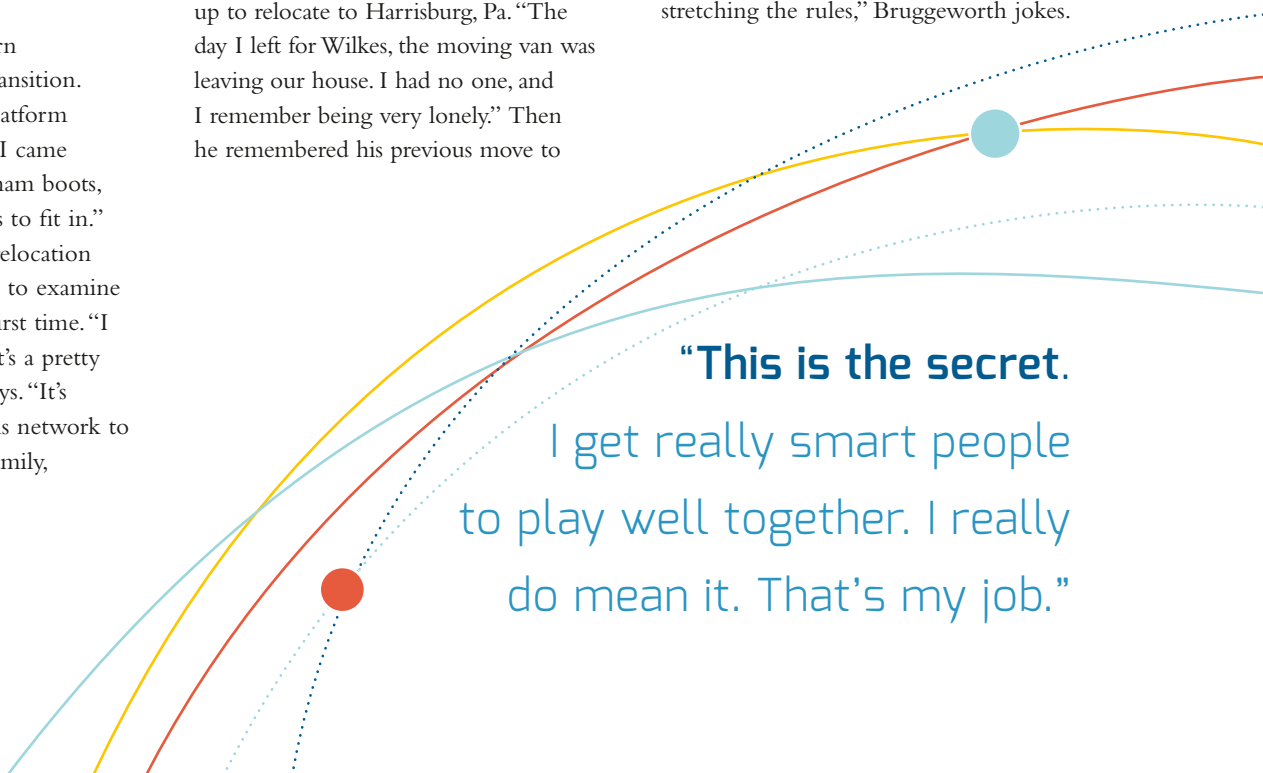
Soccer, and Wilkes in general, helped Bruggeworth adjust when his parents geared up for another move. While he was getting ready for soccer practice freshman year, his family was packing up to relocate to Harrisburg, Pa. “The day I left for Wilkes, the moving van was leaving our house. I had no one, and I remember being very lonely.” Then he remembered his previous move to

northeastern Pennsylvania, and the fact that he would be surrounded by other students who were feeling the same way. “That was a life lesson, that first year here.”

Bruggeworth made himself at home on campus. As an electrical engineering major and physics minor, he could often be found in the lab. He remembers with special fondness the materials science lab taught by Gary Dolny on Thursday nights. The lab used equipment donated by RCA in Mountain Top, Pa. “That’s where we actually made transistors. That’s what really got me fired up about semiconductors.”

Dolny was not the only member of the Wilkes community who had an impact on the young engineering student. Bruggeworth’s mentor was the late Umid Nejib, chair of the engineering department. “He challenged us, but he also cared about us. He was pretty cool about that.” He also remembers physics professor Richard Aston and calculus teacher Richard Sours.

Bruggeworth also stayed busy outside of class. During his senior year, he was a resident advisor. “I needed a lot of attention outside the classroom, let’s put it that way. They probably figured it was better for me to be the RA than always stretching the rules,” Bruggeworth jokes.



“This is the secret.
I get really smart people
to play well together. I really
do mean it. That’s my job.”

Bruggeworth Gift a Lasting Legacy for Athletics

When Bob Bruggeworth '83 talks about his most formative experiences at Wilkes, playing soccer is always among them. Over the years, he's continued his commitment to the sport—and to Wilkes—by making sure the team has jackets, backpacks or anything else they need.

"Since he's been out, he's been an annual benefactor," says Associate Director of Athletics Phil Wingert, who coached Bruggeworth in his senior year on the Colonels soccer team. "He's never forgotten where he came from."

Now Bruggeworth is making a gift that will touch the lives of generations of Wilkes students and make a lasting impact on the University athletic program: a \$1 million gift will establish a new field at the Ralston Athletic Complex. He says he is establishing Bruggeworth Field in honor of his mother.

"Whether speaking to Wilkes students as a guest in my leadership seminar or providing his on-going support for our athletic programs, Bob Bruggeworth clearly conveys an enduring commitment to Wilkes University," says Wilkes President Patrick F. Leahy. "We are grateful for his leadership gift—a gift that

will bear testimony to that commitment for years to come. It will aid us in our goal of creating one of the finest Division III athletic complexes in the northeast."

The new multipurpose field will be located adjacent to Schmidt Stadium and will be complemented by bleachers, lighting and a scoreboard. This additional surface will dramatically improve playing and practice conditions for not only Wilkes soccer teams, but also for football, men's and women's lacrosse, field hockey, and the marching band. The construction of this new field is a key component of Wilkes' multi-million dollar renovation of the Ralston Athletic Complex.



An artist's rendering of the proposed field made possible by a \$1 million gift from Bob Bruggeworth '83 shows its position at the Ralston Athletic Complex.

Paul Adams '77, MS '82, now Wilkes vice president of student affairs, was the director of residence life at the time. "Bob probably knew what everyone was going to try to get away with," says Adams. "All kidding aside, Bob has a dynamic and engaging personality. As he grew through his years at Wilkes, it was clear that his leadership would be an asset to the residence life program."

One of Bruggeworth's most memorable moments at Wilkes came from his time as an RA. The first night the freshmen were on campus, flames broke out in Sullivan Hall. The resident assistants had just been through fire training and they made sure the residents were safe before the fire department even

arrived on scene. "We got everybody out successfully," says Bruggeworth. "I had a lot of smoke inhalation. I couldn't play soccer for a while."

His other memories of campus life are more light-hearted. In his freshman year dorm room, he and his roommates built a three-stool bar that doubled as a great study spot. "We built it from scratch for about 30 bucks. That was all we could afford," says Bruggeworth. "We actually did a lot of study work there for engineering labs. That's where we'd go to work."

Always the planner, Bruggeworth and some pals organized a pig roast near Harveys Lake, about 15 miles from campus. They rented buses to

transport guests and hired bands. Local businesses—even the campus cafeteria—donated food and beverages. Attendance grew to more than 500 people, including faculty and administrators, and the event was immortalized in a two-page spread in the 1983 *Amnicola*. "That's something I'll never forget," says Bruggeworth.

Even then, he showed a passion for innovative thinking, making sure his dorm residents had a range of beverage choices. The vending machine in his hall featured root beer and birch beer, but a touch of those buttons also dispensed cans of Genessee and Pabst Blue Ribbon. "I'd leave an extra \$10 in the machine for the soda guy and he never said a word," Bruggeworth says with a laugh.

Bruggeworth held jobs both on and off campus. He was known as the Wilkes DJ, playing tunes for events in the gym, student union and campus dorms. He worked in the admissions office, giving tours to prospective students, often athletes like himself. He sold stereo equipment, and took shifts at a downtown store and hotel. “I learned I was no good at sales when I worked at the gourmet cheese shop on the Square. I was a decent bellhop though.”

His years at Wilkes were a lesson in time management and priorities, teaching him to focus on the task at hand. The lessons have served the CEO well throughout his career. “I worked the whole time. Between sports, studying and work, I didn’t sleep much,” he says. “When I was studying, I was all in. When I played, I played hard. I made the most of every minute.”

EXPERT IN ‘THE PEOPLE BUSINESS’

Bruggeworth gained professional experience while still a student through internships and summer work with AMP Inc., a connector company in Harrisburg, Pa. He started working second shift on the factory assembly line, then moved into the engineering department. After graduation, AMP offered him a job in North Carolina. “I’ve pretty much been in North Carolina ever since.”

At first, Bruggeworth thought he wanted to be a design engineer, but his employer had plans for him in manufacturing. His previous experience helped him to relate to the workers on the factory floor and develop mechanical improvements for production methods. When he was only 26 years old, his boss offered him the position of plant manager. Bruggeworth considers that the big break in his career. “I was an individual engineer, never led anybody,

and he wanted me to be responsible for 350 people who worked 24/7, 365 days a year. I remember saying to him, clear as day, ‘I can’t lead myself. Ask my wife. She’ll tell you that’s true.’ ”

He remembers his boss telling him, “When I get done with you, you’re gonna forget everything you knew about engineering and you’re gonna understand the people business.”

To this day, when Bruggeworth talks about what he does, it’s not chips and circuits that dominate the conversation, but people. “This is the secret. I get really smart people to play well together. I really do mean it. That’s my job. Secondary to that, I hire really smart people. I don’t design it, I don’t make it, I don’t sell it. I do get to decide who does.”

Bruggeworth worked with AMP from 1983 to 1999. A highlight was the time he spent as the vice president of global consumer electronics, based in Hong Kong. When he and his wife Michelle were still dating, he told her one of his goals was to live in Asia, where technology was experiencing rapid growth in the early 80s. “The industry I was in, even semiconductors, was moving big into Asia.”

The family spent four years in Hong Kong. “You move over there and you go to work, and no one else there has your experience. You do find little networks of ex-pats over there,” says Bruggeworth. “That was tough, but it was really tough on my wife.” During that time, they grew to a family of four when their youngest son was born. “We joke that he was made in China.”

A new baby was not the only change. A layoff left him and his family with only weeks to pack and move back to the States. “My friends called me keyless at that time in my life,” Bruggeworth says. “I had no office key, no house key, no car key, nothing because I was living in Asia and had to regroup.”

At his wife’s request, they returned to North Carolina, where Bruggeworth accepted a position as vice president of the wireless products group for RFMD, a small, public company. For the first time in years, he wasn’t responsible for a 24/7 workforce spread out around the world. “I told my wife, ‘I have this great, small job. It’s gonna be fun.’ ” He spent 15 years with the company, serving in leadership positions including president of the wireless products group and president and chief executive officer of RFMD.



Although his firm focuses on high-tech innovations, Bob Bruggeworth '83 says his success as Qorvo's president is managing people.

A NEW CHAPTER

In 2014, RFMD merged with the Oregon-based semiconductor company TriQuint to form Qorvo. Bruggeworth counts this successful merger of equals among the proudest—and most challenging—moments of his career. “Mergers are hugely distracting. People are worried about their jobs, who’s going to be the boss. You’re working on getting to know each other and the industry’s still moving. You need to be making decisions.”

Bruggeworth turned to his expertise in the people business as he brought two different corporate cultures together. He held staff meetings around the country to help them get to know each other, and he made sure the Qorvo name was on everything from shirts to memos from day one, so everyone could see they were on the same team. As a result, employee turnover has been incredibly low. “This is what an engineer I am. I keep our employee turnover on a control chart just like you do for a manufacturing process, so I can see if it’s out of control or in control. But I think everybody believed in the vision, and you know, we put together a really good team.”

Becoming CEO of Qorvo has meant he’s gone back to managing a global company. Though his typical day is hard to define, a typical week involves time at the airport. “I travel almost every week. I travel a lot. When you run a global business, when 80 percent is outside of the U.S., you have a lot of customers there. More than half of our employees are outside the United States.”

Part executive, part entrepreneur, Bruggeworth looks toward the future and advances in 5G technology, bioengineering, nanotechnologies, additive manufacturing and biosensors.

“Part of innovation is failing.
What I mean by that is,
I’m okay with failure.
Just fail faster.”

“We try to expand and grow outside of what we’re doing today. We’re a very innovative company.” Innovation is not synonymous with success. “Part of innovation is failing,” says Bruggeworth. “What I mean by that is, I’m okay with failure. Just fail faster. I define innovation as having an idea, creating something and making money with it sooner than your competition.”

Bruggeworth relishes the competition, staying on top of the game in a rapidly-evolving and aggressive industry. “Every day someone’s trying to put you out of business with something new. The fear is very motivational.” Perhaps even more than the challenge, Bruggeworth enjoys the people around him. “I’ve never been surrounded by such a bright group of people with such a great attitude. There aren’t many companies in the world that do what we do. There’s only a handful. So being one of the best in the world at what we do and working with all these bright people is a blast. That’s what makes it fun.”

When Bruggeworth’s not having fun at work, he catches Pittsburgh sports on TV or goes to the games, plays some golf, indulges in good red wine or reads books on business and leadership. He vows to finish his M.B.A., which he put on hold when he and Michelle started a family. “It’s the only thing in my life I can remember quitting, and it’s the one thing I know I’m going to

finish. I was one of those guys who took my business law and organizational development book on my honeymoon. My wife has not let me forget that.”

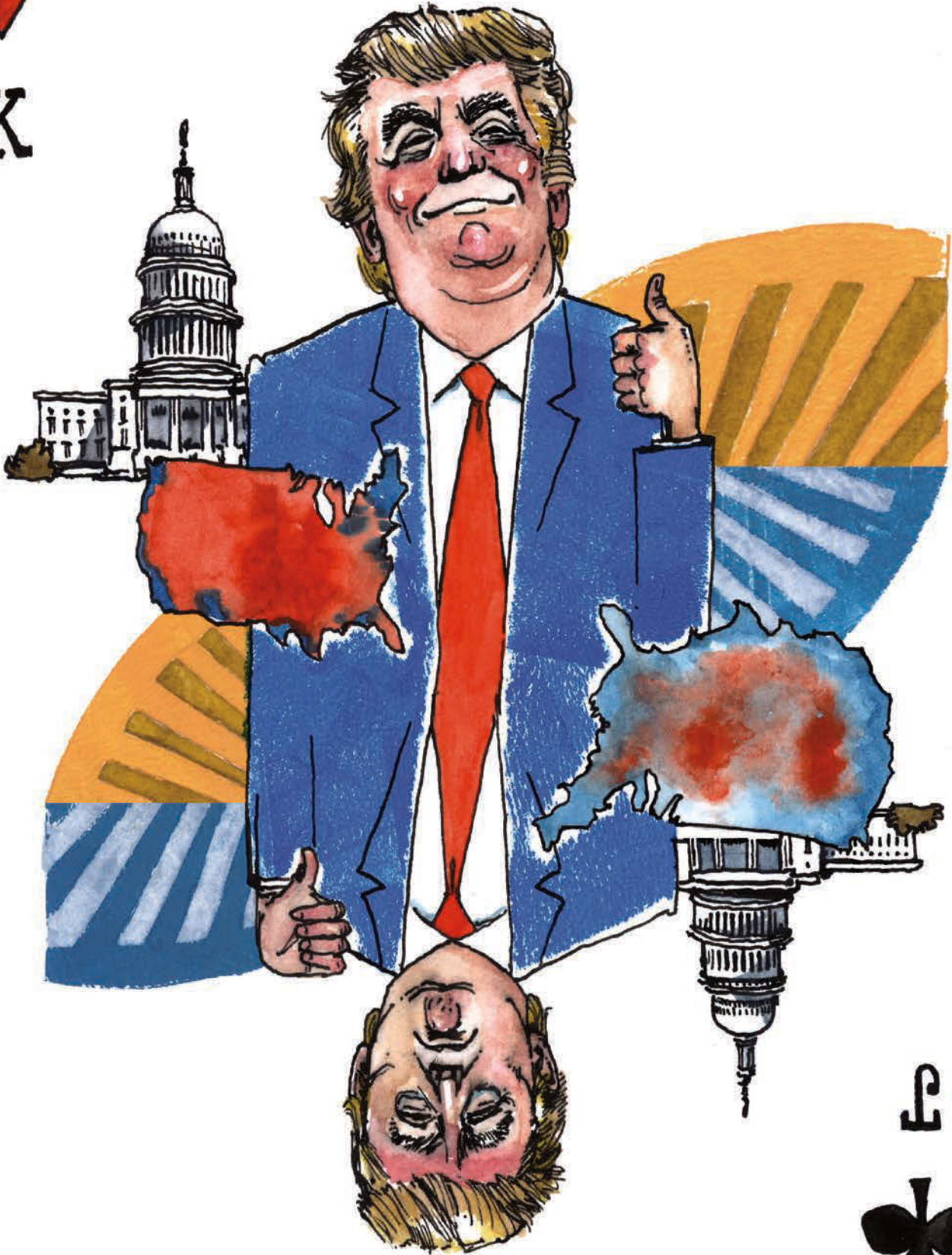
The CEO is a firm believer in learning, whether it’s in the classroom or on the job. “Your education doesn’t stop when you graduate. You should continue to invest in yourself. We’re the only asset that appreciates in business. We become worth more over time if we keep investing in ourselves and bringing more to the party.”

Bruggeworth is grateful his investment started at Wilkes, resulting in a successful career full of innovation and global connection. “I really appreciate what Wilkes did for me. I get emotional about it. The faculty, the professors, they were fantastic to me. I think of the administration. I think of my fellow students. I wasn’t even sure I wanted to go to college. This place got me excited. It taught me a lot of life lessons. It means a lot to me.”





K



WILD CARD

WILKES POLITICAL SCIENTISTS EXAMINE ROLE OF PRESIDENT TRUMP AND OTHER FACTORS INFLUENCING MIDTERM ELECTIONS

By Hilary Appelman

Donald Trump isn't on the ballot in November, but how much he gets involved in the midterm elections could be a key factor in determining the outcome, according to Wilkes University political science professors Thomas J. Baldino and Kyle L. Kreider.

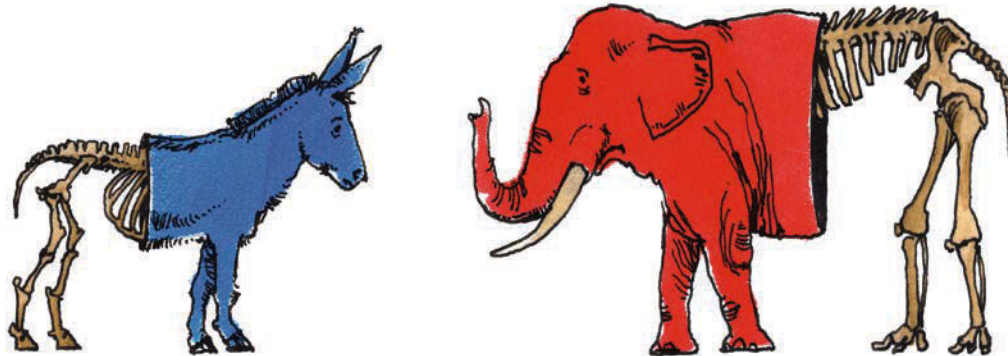
The stakes are high: control of Congress. Republicans will attempt to hold on to their majorities in the House and Senate, while Democrats hope to ride a wave of opposition to Trump and his policies to take control of one or both houses.

"The critical unknown is, what role will Trump play in this election," Baldino says. "How much he intrudes in this election by actually campaigning for or against candidates—how much his tweets affect public perception of him and the candidates running for the House and Senate—will probably vary by district and by state."

Baldino and Kreider, who have co-written and edited books on voting rights and the history of political campaigns, say the party of the president typically loses seats in midterm elections, in part because those elections are interpreted as barometers of the popularity of the president and the president's agenda. Both say they expect that pattern to hold true in 2018.

"The question is not so much, will the Republicans lose seats, but when the Republicans lose seats, how many will they lose and will they lose enough to cost them the majority," Baldino says.

Democratic candidates are happy to make the election about Trump, whose approval ratings are historically low, while the Republicans, for the most part, would prefer to shift voters' focus away from the president.



“**DEMOCRATS** and **REPUBLICANS** are closely studying this special election for clues on what issues will motivate the voters in their base to win in the Fall.”

The Republican party needs Trump to “shut up and stop tweeting,” Kreider says.

Baldino says that even if a president stays on the sidelines, which he believes Trump is unlikely to do, voters may turn out to register their disapproval anyway, as Republican voters did in 2010 following passage of the Affordable Care Act.

“If they’re that unpopular or if their policies are that unpopular, voters will look beyond their district boundaries to national issues and vote on the basis of a national issue,” he says.

Baldino and Kreider agree that Democrat Conor Lamb’s recent victory in the special House election in southwest Pennsylvania’s 18th congressional district is a concrete example of why the 2018 midterm elections are distressing Republicans. Lamb won by the narrowest of margins—627 votes— over Republican Rick Saccone in a district considered “Trump Country.”

“President Trump won the district by over 20 percent in 2016, and it was considered safely Republican. Mr. Lamb’s very narrow victory was achieved by appealing to union members, gun enthusiasts and pro-life voters and by not specifically making Trump an issue,” Kreider says. “Mr. Saccone, his opponent, tied himself to the president. Trump and members of his administration visited the district frequently, specifically appealing to voters to cast their ballots for Saccone as a way to support the president, obviously to no avail. Democrats and Republicans are closely studying this special election for clues on what issues will motivate the voters in their base to win in the fall.”

Democrats will have to be careful, however, about where and when they invoke the president in areas where support for Trump remains strong, Baldino says. U.S. Sen. Bob Casey, for example, who is running for a third term from Pennsylvania, will have to temper his message in rural Pennsylvania, he says.

“In a city like Philadelphia he can go in there and say, ‘You’ve got to return me to the Senate so I can keep a check on Trump,’” Baldino says. “But if he goes out to rural Pennsylvania, he doesn’t want to raise Trump.”

Democrats would seem to have a good chance of taking control of the Senate, where Republicans hold only a two-seat voting majority—but only nine Republican incumbents are up for reelection, compared to more than 20 Democrats, Baldino and Kreider note. Almost half of those Democrats are facing tough battles in states that went for Trump in 2016 and where he still holds higher-than-average approval ratings, including Jon Tester of Montana, Joe Manchin of West Virginia, Joe Donnelly of Indiana, Claire McCaskill of Missouri and Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota.

In the House, the Democrats need to pick up 24 seats to take control and will focus on unseating Republicans in districts where Hillary Clinton won or performed well in 2016, Kreider says. Structural advantages favor the Republicans, who control the vast majority of state legislatures and thus have drawn the electoral maps to their advantage, he says. But those advantages have been weakened this year because of court-ordered redistricting in states such as Pennsylvania, which is likely to produce some additional seats for the Democrats.

Turnout will be a major factor in the midterm elections, as it was in 2016 when Trump drew many voters who had not voted in recent elections. But those voters were attracted by Trump personally, and they may not show up in November when he isn't on the ballot, Kreider says.

Kreider says Trump's frequent attacks on Congress may make it hard to translate his support into enthusiasm for congressional candidates. If Trump decides to campaign for Republican candidates, his presence could increase opposition turnout as much as or more than Republican turnout.

"In many respects he's pretty toxic," Kreider says. "I just can't imagine that Republican candidates are going to be requesting Trump to come to their states. His approval rating is just so low."

Many other factors are also at play in the November elections, Baldino and Kreider say, including higher than usual retirements of Republican incumbents, and heated national debates on issues such as immigration, sexual assault and gun control.

Democrats hope the outpouring of enthusiasm and Trump opposition that they have seen in the Women's March and #metoo and #neveragain movements translates into votes at the ballot box.

"Trump has woken a lot of people up," Kreider says.

If the Democrats do win control of the House or the Senate—or both—Baldino and Kreider say the country can expect to see expanded investigations of the president.

If the House changes hands, "Trump's legislative agenda is gone," Baldino says. "You can expect what the Republicans did to Obama and Clinton from 2010 to 2016 to happen to Trump—which means investigations, investigations, investigations."

Kreider predicts Democrats would retake the House and probably also the Senate, although he anticipated tight races.

"I think it's going to be a pretty substantial national win for them," he says.

But the Democrats face the challenge of making the election more than just about Trump, by formulating a clear economic message that resonates with middle- and working-class voters, Kreider says.

"I don't think the Democrats have done a good job coalescing around what they are about," he says. "It's one thing to run against Trump, but you've got to stand for something."

Baldino put the chances of the House flipping at about 50-50 and the Senate at a little less than that, though he noted many factors that could affect voting could still emerge before the election.

"Between now and November is a lifetime," he says.



ABOUT POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSORS THOMAS J. BALDINO AND KYLE L. KREIDER



Thomas J. Baldino is professor of political science at Wilkes University. He was the 2017 winner of the President's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and he is a past recipient of the Carpenter Award for Teaching Excellence. His research interests

include legislative politics, political parties and elections and Pennsylvania government and politics. Since the start of the 2016 presidential election cycle, his expertise has been featured in stories appearing in nearly 100 regional, national and international news outlets, including *The New York Times*, *Newsweek* and *CNN*. His research has appeared in political science and history journals, political encyclopedias, and in many conference papers during his career. He served as a faculty associate to the Legislative Office of Research Liaison of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and as the associate editor of *Commonwealth*, the journal of the Pennsylvania Political Science Association. Baldino earned his doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania, a master's degree from The University of Illinois – Urbana, and his bachelor's degree from LaSalle College, all in political science.



Kyle L. Kreider is professor of political science and chair of the division of behavioral and social sciences in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at Wilkes. He also serves as the University's pre-law advisor. During his tenure at Wilkes, he has been the recipient of the Carpenter

Award for Teaching Excellence. His research interests include the interactions of law and social science, the Supreme Court's treatment of political parties, and election law. His research has been featured in journals and in encyclopedias of civil rights and civil liberties, First Amendment, and law and criminal justice scholarship. Kreider holds a bachelor's degree in political science and philosophy from Millersville University and a master's degree and doctorate in political science from Temple University.

Together Baldino and Kreider have co-authored three books: *Of the People, By the People, For the People: A Documentary History of Voting Rights in the United States* (Greenwood Press 2010); *U.S. Election Campaigns: A Documentary and Reference Guide* (Greenwood Press 2011); and *Minority Voting in the United States* (Praeger 2015).

CRISIS

INTERVENTION

WILKES FACULTY, STUDENTS AND ALUMNI LEAD THE CHARGE AGAINST THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

By Vicki Mayk MFA '13

When Tom Franko talks about the impact of addiction in the United States' opioid epidemic, he likens it to an image from a popular 1980s film.

"It's like the picture of the family from the film *Back to the Future*," says Franko, as assistant professor of pharmacy practice in Wilkes Nesbitt School of Pharmacy. "As people look at the picture, one person's image fades until it disappears. That is what addiction is like. It is a disease of isolation, separating people from their families, their jobs, everything that is important to them."

Franko says he and his colleagues in pharmacy are uniquely positioned to play a key role in the deadliest drug crisis in American history.

“Our main goal is to change the education of pharmacists for the future so that they can be successful and better handle the condition,” Franko states. “I believe that the profession that is going to have the 100 percent greatest impact in dealing with this is the pharmacists. We’re the ones who are going to take charge.”

He cites two reasons for that claim: pharmacists’ accessibility in most communities and the profession’s emphasis on patient education.

“In every single town across the country, there are probably five things: a church, a McDonald’s, some type of Chinese restaurant or pizza place, a funeral home and a pharmacy,” Franko says. Educating patients about prescription drugs is an important part of the pharmacists’ role, so involving them makes sense, he adds. Schools of pharmacy, like the one at Wilkes, can help make that happen.

In the last two years, Franko led efforts addressing pharmacists’ role in an epidemic that was declared a public health emergency in October 2017 by President Donald J. Trump. Franko co-chairs the education committee for the pain, palliative care and addiction special interest group of the American Pharmacists Association. In that position, he is involved in recommending certification programs and education that could impact the profession nationwide.

In the past two years, he and his students have presented continuing education events about the opioid crisis in northeastern Pennsylvania, initiated research projects related to improving pharmacists’ training to administer the anti-overdose drug naloxone, and joined with faculty colleagues to involve student pharmacists in drug take-back programs, education and training efforts.

Pharmacy isn’t the only Wilkes academic program preparing students to deal with the opioid issue after graduation. The Passan School of Nursing in April 2016 was among 191 nursing programs in the nation recognized by the White House for its early commitment to requiring advanced-practice registered nursing students to take some form of prescriber education by the time they graduate. Undergraduate nursing students learn about opiates and the use of naloxone in the junior-level Pharmacology course and as seniors in the Advanced Care Concepts class. Nurses in graduate-level courses also cover the material, and those earning master’s degrees to become nurse practitioners who can prescribe medications must complete a minimum number of state-mandated education hours covering pain management, addiction and prescribing or dispensing opioids. Addiction and related issues also are examined in criminology, psychology and neuroscience classes.



Erika Zarfoss, a third-year student pharmacist, practices administering a questionnaire used to assess a patient’s use and dependence on prescription medication. PHOTO BY KNOT JUST ANY DAY

Preparing students to deal with the issue makes sense. According to an October 2017 story in *The New York Times*, overdoses—which have risen dramatically in recent years due to opioids—are the leading cause of death for Americans under 50, outpacing deaths caused by guns or car accidents. A report for The National Institute on Drug Abuse, part of the National Institutes of Health, states that 115 Americans die each day after overdosing on opioids. Wilkes graduates entering health-care, law-enforcement and human-services careers in the next decade will deal with the epidemic and its related health and social issues.

Associate Professor Andrew Wilczak cites additional reasons for discussing the issue with students in his criminology classes.

“I think it’s important for students in my major to study this because, not only is it something they’re going to encounter in their careers, it’s also something they’re likely to encounter in their personal lives, if they haven’t already,” Wilczak says. “It helps provide more context to what they’ve experienced, it helps them recognize that they aren’t the only people in their situation, and it helps them see that there are ways for people to get better. It shows them that healing and redemption are possible.”

**ACCORDING TO THE
CENTERS FOR DISEASE
CONTROL, 18 OUT OF 100
AMERICANS HAVE USED
ILLICIT DRUGS OR MISUSED
PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.**

ANATOMY OF AN EPIDEMIC

Franko's interest in the opioid epidemic grew out of his work as Geisinger Health System's first pain management pharmacist. He experienced firsthand the delicate balance involved in managing chronic pain—from prescribing appropriate medications to using treatments such as physical therapy. He acknowledges that chronic pain is difficult to manage while still ensuring a patient has a good quality of life. Too often in the past, the goal was most easily achieved by prescribing opioids.

Several factors that Franko calls “a perfect storm” led to the opioid crisis of today. It included drug company marketing of opioids—particularly the medication OxyContin—as safe and non-addictive. It was compounded by dramatic increases in prescribing opioids and the designation of pain as “the fifth vital sign” in evaluating patients' conditions by the Veterans

Administration and the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. (See opioid crisis timeline below.)

“The Joint Commission tied hospitals' financial reimbursement to pain control,” Franko explains. When patients evaluated the care they received, one measurement was how effectively they felt their pain was managed. Hospitals felt the pressure to get a good score.

More people received more opioid pain medication for longer periods. Opioids act on the nervous system to relieve pain and they can lead to physical dependency. Physical dependency—different than addiction—can cause patients to continue the drug long after the need for it has passed. People who have become dependent experience severe, unpleasant symptoms if they abruptly stop taking it. Pharmacists trained in pain management understand that there are appropriate ways to wean people off the drugs. Every person is different.

“It's the worst flu that you've had plus the worst panic attack that you've had, combined at the same time,” Franko says, describing the symptoms of an opioid-dependent person suddenly stopping the drug. “It won't kill you, it's totally safe, but you will want to die. They will feel like garbage if you do not appropriately wean people.” Heroin, cheap and obtainable without a prescription, becomes a next step for some severely dependent people. Eighty percent of the people using heroin got their start using a prescription medication, Franko says. They may be addicted or dependent on opioids.

More recently, the introduction of the synthetic opioid, fentanyl, has further complicated an already critical situation. The drug, which is relatively inexpensive to manufacture, is said to be 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine.



THE UNITED STATES USES THE LARGEST SHARE OF THE WORLD'S OPIOIDS.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC TIMELINE

● Late 1990s

Pharmaceutical companies assure health-care providers that opioid medications are non-addictive, leading to prescribing them at a greater rate.

● 1991–2009

Number of prescriptions written for opioids in the United States increases 300 percent.

● 1996

Introduction of the drug OxyContin. Its maker, Purdue Pharmaceuticals, markets it heavily as non-addictive.

● 2000

Joint Commission of Healthcare Organizations designates pain as “the fifth vital sign.” Control of patient pain is tied to hospitals' reimbursement.

WHEN DEPENDENCY BECOMES ADDICTION

At the most basic level, addiction is when a person uses a drug, alcohol or even an activity—such as gambling—to excess, regardless of consequences. The American Society of Addiction Medicine states that “addiction is a chronic relapsing disease of the brain which affects multiple aspects of a person’s life.” Edward Schicatano, professor of psychology and director of Wilkes’ neuroscience program, covers addiction in two neuroscience classes: Psychopharmacology and Behavioral Neuroscience. His students learn that when someone becomes addicted to opioids, or any other drug, the brain literally undergoes a neurological change. “And once it changes, it’s hard to change it back,” Schicatano says. “The changed brain is what triggers the uncontrollable craving that tells an addicted person that they must have a drug.”

Research suggests that severe stressors early in life—sexual abuse, a trauma experienced in utero—may trigger a genetic pattern predisposing some to addiction. The result is the same. “In addiction, the brain is saying, ‘Without this—the drug, the act of gambling, whatever—you die.’ That’s what the brain says to the addict. They can’t give it up,” Franko says.

Franko and Schicatano agree that addiction isn’t restricted to a particular socio-economic group. People of all ages, races, occupations and backgrounds are part of the opioid crisis.



Thomas Franko, assistant professor of pharmacy practice, is taking a national role in combating the opioid epidemic as co-chair of the education committee for the pain, palliative care and addiction special interest group of the American Pharmacists Association. PHOTO BY KNOT JUST ANY DAY

WILKES BECOMES A REGIONAL LEADER

In March 2017, President Trump established The President’s Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis. The commission’s report included 56 recommendations, ranging from screening and treatment programs to research. Recommendations include:

- promoting programs aimed at opioid addiction prevention,
- better prescribing guidelines for opiates,
- training health-care professionals to screen for substance use,
- training pharmacists on best practices to evaluate legitimacy of opioid prescriptions,
- establishing more medication take-back initiatives to collect prescription drugs when no longer needed, and
- broader use of the overdose reversal drug naloxone by emergency medicine and other health-care providers.

● 2016

Deaths from opioid overdoses are five times higher than in 1999.

● 2017

President Donald J. Trump and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services declared the opioid epidemic a public health emergency.

IN 2016, THE FIVE STATES WITH THE HIGHEST RATES OF DEATH DUE TO DRUG OVERDOSE WERE WEST VIRGINIA, OHIO, NEW HAMPSHIRE, PENNSYLVANIA AND KENTUCKY.

By the time the recommendations were issued, faculty and students in the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy, joined by colleagues in nursing, had already worked for more than a year, implementing projects to combat the problem. Students involved in the student chapter of the American Pharmacists Association embraced its Generation Rx initiative to combat the problem. A key part of that work included medication take-back programs and community education. Learning to screen for possible addiction is part of courses for students in pharmacy and nursing. (See sidebar on student involvement on page 25.)

One key community education effort happened in February 2017. A class focusing on addiction and substance abuse was offered by Wilkes Continuing Education. Aimed at health-care professionals, first responders and social workers, it was taught by Franko and Eugene Lucas, an assistant professor who teaches in the Passan School of Nursing's graduate nursing program. It drew more than 60 attendees, leading the University to offer the Pain and Addiction Summit in spring 2018. (See box on page 27.)

At the continuing education program, Lucas, who is a nationally board-certified nurse practitioner in psychiatric mental health, covered new Pennsylvania requirements for monitoring narcotic prescriptions, including prescriber guidelines. Franko's portion of the program focused on opioid overdose and on administering naloxone, a drug that reverses the effects of overdose.

Franko's community presentation mirrored training that he is piloting with Wilkes student pharmacists as part of their Care Lab. Pennsylvania, like a number of other states, has issued a standing order for naloxone as part of combatting the opioid crisis. A standing order means that the prescription drug, known by the brand names

Narcan and Evzio, is available to anyone. It is administered primarily by inhalation. Franko says that in Pennsylvania the only required training for pharmacists for administering naloxone is an online program. Noting that pharmacists are required to complete hands-on clinical training to administer flu shots and other immunizations, Franko believes similar training is in order for naloxone.

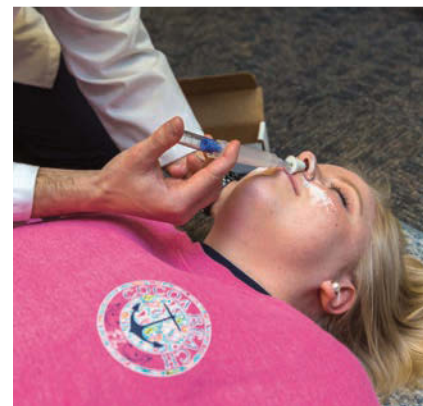
Working with students Lauren Lewis and Danielle DiStefano, a hands-on simulation was developed for the pharmacy Care Lab. In the training, the student pharmacists enter an "apartment" in the nursing simulation center to find a "patient" who has overdosed lying on the floor. While another student plays the role of an hysterical "friend," the pharmacist must locate the naloxone and administer it while following the required steps. To maintain legal immunity, those steps include calling 911, administering naloxone "in good faith" staying with the patient until help arrives, and having completed the required training. In their Wilkes simulation, students check a patient's breathing and, after administering the drug, place the patient on his or her side. (See photos below.)



1 As part of a simulation to teach administration of anti-overdose drug naloxone, student pharmacist Michael DiMaggio finds a patient unconscious.



2 He prepares a device to administer naloxone as a nasal spray.



3 After checking the patient's pulse and respiration, he administers the drug to senior nursing student Jenna Skrinak posing as a patient. PHOTOS BY KNOT JUST ANY DAY

STUDENT PHARMACISTS BECOME EDUCATORS AND ACTIVISTS

Third-year Wilkes pharmacy student Alex Ponce became active in activities related to the opioid crisis through the Generation Rx initiative of the American Pharmacists Association. The program focuses on educating people about the potential dangers of misusing prescription medications. In 2016, Wilkes pharmacy professor and assistant pharmacy dean Jennifer Malinowski received a grant in partnership with Geisinger Health System to develop community education and medication take-back events. Ponce became the student lead on the project, eventually earning Wilkes' student chapter of the association regional chapter of the year honors for its outreach.

The award-winning work carried out by Ponce and other student pharmacists included community medication take-back events. Ponce and his peers also tried novel approaches such as partnering with funeral homes to collect medications from families of the recently deceased and staffing a drive-through medication take-back day. Wilkes student pharmacists also worked with the art department at Pittston Intermediate School near Wilkes-Barre, helping students design posters illustrating proper medication disposal.

Recently Ponce has served as the student coordinator for the University-sponsored pain and addiction summit. In March, he joined Thomas Franko, assistant professor of pharmacy practice, in presenting a poster highlighting research they conducted on pharmacists' attitudes about dispensing the anti-overdose drug naloxone at the American Pharmacists Association conference. Not content with what he was already doing, Ponce founded a committee in the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy in fall 2017. The Opioid Epidemic and Addiction Committee drew more than 30 students.



Student pharmacists raised money to provide naloxone to first responders. Pictured here at Wilkes-Barre Fire Department are, from left, Harrison Ferro, Kayla Hart, Alexandra Grudeski, Mia Lussier, Rachael Velehoski, Erika Zarfoss, Cody Morcom, Abby Stevens, Dr. Thomas Franko, Shane Daugherty, Kayla Bardzel, Danielle DiStefano, Jarret LeBeau, Alex Ponce, and Dylan Fox.


Although Ponce was a bit surprised by the level of interest from his peers, he's clear about why students should be involved. "It's a growing epidemic, but we still don't have many solutions," Ponce says. "Because we're pharmacists dispensing medication, our obligation—as well as doctors'—is to see people use opioid medications as prescribed."

The following are examples of student initiatives:

- Fourth-year student pharmacist Danielle DiStefano co-chaired the Generation Rx initiatives with Ponce. She also partnered with Lauren Lewis, another fourth-year student, to create the naloxone training program being piloted in the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy. The training was first presented to health-care professionals at a February 2017 event presented by Wilkes continuing education.
- Second-year pharmacy students Jenny Lee, Brittany Atherholt, Sarah Ahearn, Austin Paisley, Lauren Albright and Quan Nham developed a training for the Wilkes Public Safety Department to teach officers how to administer the anti-overdose drug naloxone.
- Mia Lussier, a second-year student pharmacist, is starting the "Luzerne County Faces of Addiction" campaign to raise awareness of the effects of addiction—all through the power of story. The project will include videos, voice memos and written stories.
- Fourth-year pharmacy students working with faculty member Jennifer Malinowski developed medication protocols for substance abuse disorders at the Wright Center for Primary Care. Students working on the project included Dana Achenbach, Shane Daugherty, Keri Diehl, Michael DiMaggio and Mark Gryskevicz. The project helped to earn Malinowski the 2017 Innovations in Teaching award sponsored by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.
- Through the CVS Health Foundation Scholars Program, Wilkes students Cody Morcom and Allie Grudeski completed research projects related to opioids. Morcom studied "The Effect of Topical Pain Creams: An Alternative to Prescription Opioids" while Grudeski's project was "Combating the Opioid Epidemic: The Power of Naloxone Within Pharmacies."

Franko is in the second year of piloting the hands-on training, which he hopes eventually will be adopted by other schools of pharmacy. He has done one presentation about it at a national conference. He also is engaged in other research to assess a more challenging issue: pharmacists' knowledge about administering naloxone and their attitudes toward using the overdose reversing drug. He acknowledges that some pharmacists have mixed feelings about the degree to which

they want to become involved with addicted individuals. By arming Wilkes student pharmacists with talking points about the issue while they are completing their community pharmacy rotation, he is hoping to change some attitudes.

It's important, he says, because pharmacists are needed to combat the epidemic. "We are the ones to take the lead." 

CHANGING THE STANDARD

SURGEON ASIF ILYAS '97 SAYS OPIOID PRESCRIPTION GUIDELINES ARE RIPE FOR REFORM

By Koren Wetmore

A disturbing revelation struck Asif Ilyas, M.D. '97 as he read a recent study about potential addiction among surgical patients. Published in *JAMA Surgery*, it showed that about 6 percent of those prescribed opioids for post-surgical pain were still taking the pills six months later.

An accomplished surgeon, Ilyas had pursued a medical career because he wanted to help people. Yet the study suggested his profession was contributing to the nation's opioid crisis.

"Six percent—that's a remarkable number," says Ilyas, who specializes in hand, wrist, elbow and orthopaedic trauma surgery at The Rothman Institute in Philadelphia. "It's what made me look critically at patient opioid consumption for various procedures and sparked my search for ways to safely decrease their use post-operatively."

Research conducted by Ilyas and his colleagues revealed that patients only take about a third of the up to 90 opioid pills surgeons routinely prescribe. The rest lands in home medicine cabinets where family members might take them simply because they are available.

Dr. Asif Ilyas '97, a hand surgeon with The Rothman Institute in Philadelphia, is working to reduce the number of opioids prescribed after surgery. PHOTO BY DAN Z. JOHNSON





WILKES SPONSORS PAIN AND ADDICTION SUMMIT

Wilkes University took a leadership role in northeast Pennsylvania in educating about the opioid crisis when it presented the 2018 Pain and Addiction Summit in April. New York Mets All-Star pitcher and keynote speaker Dwight “Doc” Gooden was one of baseball’s brightest stars of the 1980s until his career was sidetracked by addiction. The continuing education event brought together nearly 200 medical, legal, and law enforcement professionals to discuss the current state of the opioid crisis, share methodology and interprofessional approaches to deal with critical issues, and identify opportunities for the treatment of pain and substance abuse.

“Multiply that by the number of surgeries we do individually, then by a community, a city, a state and quickly you get into a huge number of opioids that we are inadvertently distributing into society for potential abuse or diversion,” he says.

TACKLING THE PROBLEM

His findings inspired him to experiment with pre-surgical counseling to educate patients about the issue. At first he spoke directly with them about the pain they might experience after surgery, along with the pros and cons of using opioids to manage it. Later he created a five-minute video, which patients now view instead.

Ilyas also reduced the number of opioid pills he prescribes and encourages patients to use an alternative such as the over-the-counter medication ibuprofen. Occasionally patients ask for more pills, he says, but such requests have been the exception, not the rule.

In a pilot study Ilyas did last year of 40 patients who underwent carpal tunnel release surgery, those who received pre-surgical counseling used two-thirds less opioid medication than their uncounseled peers. “That’s a huge improvement that came from just having a five-minute conversation with patients.”

His next goal is to find effective alternatives to opioids, which, surprisingly, might be found at your local market.

In a blind study finished this year, Ilyas and his colleagues gave patients post-surgical pain medication without revealing whether it was the opioid oxycodone or an alternative such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen. They found only a slight difference—both in pain relief and the number of pills used—between those who took the opioid versus those who took an alternative.

AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY

Ilyas never envisioned being on the front line of the opioid crisis when he graduated from Wilkes with a degree in biology. His plan was to become an internist until his experience as a medical student at Drexel University College of Medicine introduced him to the intricacies of surgery. He went on to complete his orthopaedic surgical training at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia, followed by a fellowship in hand, upper extremity and microsurgery at Harvard Medical School.

By 2013, he became a pioneer in wide-awake hand surgery, which uses local anesthesia, lowers patients’ costs, and also happens to reduce the need for post-operative opioids. “The effects

of the local anesthetic we use help to reduce pain after surgery,” he explains. “The patient is also awake during the procedure, so that allows me to talk with them about their next steps, including strategies to manage pain.” Ilyas was featured in a March 2017 *New York Times* story about the awake surgical technique.

To date he has done more than 2,000 hand surgeries in this manner.

He has also taught surgical techniques abroad and has participated in medical mission trips to countries such as Pakistan, Haiti and India. While abroad, he rarely saw the use of opioids following surgery. Most patients outside the United States receive a drug such as Tylenol for pain relief, he says.

“Only in America do you see the expectation that you need 40 opioid pills post surgery. There’s no basis for that beyond cultural standard,” Ilyas says. “It’s our standard, but not necessarily the right one.”

Moving forward, he hopes to study opioid use in a wide array of surgical procedures to develop prescription guidelines for other medical specialties. As the newly elected president of the Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society, he also aims to provide evidence-based opioid prescribing strategies for physicians and surgeons throughout the state.

MIND GAME

SPORT PSYCHOLOGIST
MEGAN CANNON '08
HELPS ATHLETES DEVELOP
COMPETITIVE EDGE

By Gary R. Blockus '79



Sport psychologist Megan Cannon '08 has a private practice working with athletes in a variety of settings, such as Syr CrossFit pictured here in Allentown, Pa. PHOTO BY DAN Z. JOHNSON

When Kyle Lowry of the Toronto Raptors missed four straight three-pointers and walked off the court before halftime of Game Two in the 2016 NBA Finals, sports fans across the country sounded off about another athlete losing his cool.

Megan Cannon '08 set them straight on *ESPN's SportsCenter*.

Cannon holds a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Nova Southeastern University and is a practicing sport psychologist with Mind of the Athlete in Bethlehem, Pa.

"I explained that a lot of athletes feel significantly more pressure in the playoffs than during the regular season," Cannon remembers telling *SportsCenter* viewers. "It turns out he does it during the regular season, but it became more magnified by the press in the playoffs."

Her advice for Lowry and other athletes experiencing frustration is direct and practical.

"Slow down. Focus on your breathing," she says. "When anxiety occurs, our sympathetic nervous system goes out of control and our body goes into fight or flight. Emotionally we can be panicked, but nothing in that first half has any correspondence to what you can produce in the second half."

SportsCenter found "Dr. Megan" after one of its producers thought that a sport psychologist's interpretation would be interesting. The show's producers have since asked her back to comment on several issues, including the emotional toll basketball star Kevin Durant felt returning to Oklahoma City for the first time after being traded to Golden State.

Cannon has presented sport psychology seminars to a variety of high school and college teams, including the Wilkes Student Athlete Council in 2016, Old Dominion University and Bucknell University.

"As a sport psychologist, I try to connect the dots between what an athlete is feeling internally and develop strategies to manage their stressors," Cannon explains. "We're not going to remove those stressors, but we can control our perspectives on them."

Athletes at all levels are subject to pressures from family, relationships, school work, practices, competitions, even nutrition and sleep.

Cannon began her love affair with sports at Allentown Central Catholic High School, where she swam and played softball. She looked at several colleges, but Wilkes stood out.

"When I stepped foot on campus—and I know this sounds cliché—it felt right," she says. "I went to a smaller high school, and the size of Wilkes really appealed to me."

Cannon initially didn't decide on a major but found out she had an affinity for psychology. She credits Wilkes with playing an enormous role in becoming the professional she is today. She found the professors in the department easy to speak with, helpful and caring.

Professors Robert Bohlander and Debbie Tindell inspired her to pursue a doctorate. Her favorite class was Behavioral Psychology with Associate Professor Ed Schicatano, the Neuroscience Program coordinator and Psychology Department coordinator.

"Megan was a bright, energetic and focused student," Schicatano says. "None of our faculty are surprised to see how successful she has become. She has a commanding style of presenting that captures the athlete's attention every time."

After graduating summa cum laude with a psychology major and a minor in dance, Cannon earned a doctoral degree in clinical psychology at Nova Southeastern University.


"Lisa Mulvey and Carol Bosack at Career Services had a lot of insight into graduate school application. Had I gone to another college, there's no way I would have gotten that personal care," Cannon says.

When Cannon was a fourth-year doctoral student, she competed for and received an elective in sport psychology.

"Half of what we did was concussion management and baseline concussion testing," she says. "We helped physicians with return-to-play protocol, the if-and-when an athlete can return. Additionally, we were the psychologists for the student athletes at the university. Through that I got immersed into the specialization. It was a really good fit."

She matched with her first choice program at Pacific Clinics, a community mental health center in Pasadena, Calif., for her pre-doctoral internship. When she began looking for a post-doctoral position, she found Mind of the Athlete.

Cannon's next big role will happen Aug. 31-Sept. 3 at the 2018 LEAD Sports Summit when she will serve as a clinician along with five-time Olympian Missy Franklin and three-time Olympians Kara Lynn Joyce and Elizabeth Beisel, among others.

Unless you see her on *SportsCenter* first. 



Megan Cannon '08, Allentown, Pa.

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, Wilkes
Master of Science, Clinical Psychology,
Nova Southeastern University

Doctor of Philosophy, Psychology, Nova Southeastern University

Career: Sport Psychologist, Mind of the Athlete, Bethlehem, Pa.

Notable: Nationally recognized expert in sport psychology with appearances on *ESPN SportsCenter* to discuss issues regarding NBA and NFL player performance. Featured clinician and speaker working with athletes, coaches and sports officials on the high-school and college level.

Favorite Wilkes memory: "My memories ultimately boil down to the people at Wilkes. It's a great community, and that's what really stands out."

RECORD SETTERS

ALUMNI ATHLETES' WINNING WAYS EARN THEM SPOT IN ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

Five men and women who left their mark on Wilkes athletic teams were honored with induction in the 25th Athletics Hall of Fame class. From setting scoring records to earning plaudits in post-season play, these athletes were among the best to hit the mats, take to the court or enter a playing field wearing the blue and gold. The inductees were recognized at half-time of the Jan. 20, 2018, basketball game. A formal induction ceremony followed the game. This year's inductees reflect on what they learned as Colonels.

DENISE CARSON '92

Women's Basketball/Soccer/Softball

COLONELS SPORTS CAREER: A three-sport standout for Wilkes, Carson starred for the basketball, softball and soccer teams during her four years. She quarterbacked the basketball team from her point guard position, ranking in the top 12 in several statistical categories. Carson ranks 12th all-time in scoring with 978 points, 12th in field goals made with 390 and third in free throw percentage at 78.2 percent. Carson, a pass-first lead guard, held the school record for assists with 282 before relinquishing her rank in 2013 to become second.

WHERE SHE IS NOW: Carson has been a teacher for 20 years in the Clark County School District and currently is teaching second grade at Bonner Elementary School. She resides in Las Vegas, Nev.

LESSONS LEARNED: "I learned many lessons during my time playing sports at Wilkes such as being a team player, discipline, respect, passion, strength, determination and being a leader. All of which I took with me into my profession and my life. Hopefully I will instill the same qualities in my classroom... One of the most important lessons I learned is never quitting when things get difficult!"

BARRY GOLD '68

Wrestling

COLONELS SPORTS CAREER: Gold continued the fine legacy of Wilkes wrestlers as a two-time college All-American and two-time MAC finalist. He finished his career with a 23-5 dual match record with four of the losses coming against Division I All-Americans. He finished fourth at the NCAA College Division Championships in 1966 and sixth in 1967 to earn All-American status. Gold also won the Binghamton Open championship as a senior. During his time at Wilkes, Gold's teams went 49-5 overall including being ranked the No. 1 college team during the 1966-67 season.

WHERE HE IS NOW: Gold is retired, living in Boulder City, Nev., after a 21-year career with the Air Force. Gold completed more than 200 combat missions in tactical fighter aircraft and has over 40 years of experience directing, leading and interacting with top government and corporate officials regarding information technology, training, aviation and protocol among many others.

LESSONS LEARNED: "In addition to learning to pronounce "r," organizational skills, goal orientation, persistence, and self-reliance in stand-alone situations, inter alia, were strengthened as a result of my participation in the Wilkes wrestling program. All of these helped keep me alive while flying fighters in war and peace and contributed to successfully meeting future life challenges."

LAURIE AGRESTI MIRRA '07

Softball

COLONELS SPORTS CAREER: Mirra finished her career as one of the greatest strikeout pitchers in the country in NCAA Division III. She ranks sixth in the entire NCAA and second in Division III in strikeouts per seven innings at 12.40. Her 1,040 career strikeouts remain in the top 15 in Division III. Mirra was a four-time First Team All-Middle Atlantic Conference selection and earned Pitcher of the Year honors all four years. She also was named All-Region and All-American every year. Mirra led the nation in strikeouts in 2004 and 2005 and was second in 2006 and 2007.

WHERE SHE IS NOW: Mirra is a certified public accountant employed by the Internal Audit Manager at the Pennsylvania Employees Benefit Trust Fund. She resides in Mechanicsburg, Pa.

LESSONS LEARNED: "Positive mentoring, persistent individual effort and dedication to team concept equals success."



Members of the 25th Athletics Hall of Fame class were inducted during a ceremony on Jan. 20. They posed at the reception after the ceremony holding the photos of themselves as student athletes that will hang in the Marts Center. Pictured from left are Anthony Serafin '07, Denise Carson '92, Laurie Agresti Mirra '07, Jason Turner '96 and Barry Gold '68.

JASON TURNER '96

Men's Basketball

COLONELS SPORTS CAREER: After transferring to Wilkes from Division I Northeastern University, Turner wasted little time making an impact. He was a key contributor in the middle of back-to-back berths in the NCAA Tournament Elite Eight as well as a MAC Championship in 1996. In just two years with the program, Turner totaled 987 points, 593 rebounds, 84 assists, 102 steals and 89 blocked shots. He was a two-time All-Freedom Conference selection as well as a two-time NABC Regional All-American. Turner was named ECAC Player of the Year in 1996 after averaging 16.8 points and 11.2 rebounds per game as a senior. Turner remains ranked in the top ten in several season statistical categories including rebounds, blocked shots and free throws made.

WHERE HE IS NOW: Turner has been a licensed practical nurse for seven years and resides in Baltimore, Md.

LESSONS LEARNED: Paraphrasing hockey great Wayne Gretzky, Turner says, "I learned from playing basketball that you miss 100 percent of the shots you don't take."

ANTHONY SERAFIN '07

Football

COLONELS SPORTS CAREER: Serafin was one of the best defensive linemen in the football program's rich history, helping lead the team to a 33-11 record over his four-year career. He was a member of the 2006 team that finished undefeated in regular season play, capturing the MAC Championship and a win in the NCAA Tournament. Serafin was named First Team All-MAC and First Team d3football.com All-East Region as a junior in 2005, leading the conference in tackles-for-loss with 18.0. As a senior, Serafin was tabbed a pre-season All-American and led the conference in sacks with 11. As a senior he was again named First Team All-MAC, First Team All-ECAC, First Team All-Region and First Team Don Hansen Football Gazette All-American.

WHERE HE IS NOW: Serafin is a New Jersey State Trooper residing in Bedminster, N.J.

LESSONS LEARNED: "It would have to be what my head coach Frank Sheptock instilled in us. Faith and family amongst all else first. Also, no matter what, nothing can beat hard work. My class came together my junior season and with hard work and determination we became the most all-time winning class in school history."



SAVE THE DATE FOR HOMECOMING 2018: OCT. 5-7!

Class years ending in 3s and 8s, get ready for your class reunion!



Save the Date for the Ralston Memorial Tournament

The Ralston Memorial Golf Tournament to benefit athletics at Wilkes University will be held on Monday, Sept. 10, 2018, at the Wyoming Valley Country Club in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. This college-wide event will combine other golf events such as the Chwalek Tournament, Homecoming Tournament and the Football Golf Outing. For more information, contact Margaret Steele, executive director of advancement and alumni relations at margaret.steele@wilkes.edu or (570) 408-4302. See ad on inside back cover for more details.

Alumni Association Open Board Meeting

Are you interested in learning more about the Alumni Association? Participate in the open meeting on Friday, June 1, 2018, at 3 p.m. Whether you join on campus or call in to the meeting, you'll get a first-hand look at how the board of directors works with its campus partners to provide programs for the alumni community. At the meeting, we'll review goals and discuss future opportunities for the upcoming fiscal year. If you are interested in participating, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@wilkes.edu or (570) 408-7787.

SUPPORT WILKES: MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN NATIONAL RANKINGS

By contributing to Wilkes University as an alumna/us, you can do more good than you may realize. The number of contributions that are made to Wilkes are a variable in awarding national rankings. If alumni collectively participate, no matter the size of the gift, you can make a big difference in Wilkes University's ranking. For more information about the many ways your contributions can be put to use at Wilkes, contact Margaret Steele, executive director of advancement and alumni relations, at margaret.steele@wilkes.edu or (570) 408-4302.

From Mentor to Colleague: Chad Lojewski '95 Opens Career Doors for George Sidiropolous '17

George Sidiropolous '17 needed someone to believe in him. Sidiropolous was having little luck looking for an internship in finance until he met Chad Lojewski '95. It led to Sidiropolous having an internship with Stifel, a full-service brokerage and investment banking firm with an office in Wilkes-Barre. Lojewski is first vice president of investments at the firm.

Now Sidiropolous is Lojewski's first intern to transition to a full-time position with Stifel. Lojewski thinks of himself as Sidiropolous' 'coach,' and provides him with advice and next steps in navigating the financial industry.

The pair first met at a mock interviewing event hosted by the personal and professional development program for juniors in the Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and Leadership. It was fate when the two met again at a student-alumni mentoring evening called Connecting the Dots.

Looking back to the early days in their professional relationship, Sidiropolous showed initiative and interest in Lojewski's career in finance. That interest is what led Lojewski to offer him an internship.

"Where there's an opportunity to help mold someone or pay it forward, that's what I look forward to doing," Lojewski says. He has hosted many interns over his 22-year career and a primary goal is for them to gain real-life experience by talking with clients and becoming more personable.

"Talking with someone might be a simple thing, but I think in this world of social media and technology, it's hard for students to talk to people," says Lojewski.

Lojewski knows the value of the internship experience in his own career. He had an internship with FAO Schwartz as a student, and it helped him to realize that he did not want to work in retail. However, he learned that he enjoyed working with people. That internship, too, came from an alumni connection: Bill Miller '81, who is still an executive in New York City and now a Wilkes trustee, provided the opportunity at FAO Schwartz.

When it was time for Sidiropolous' internship to end, Lojewski lobbied for a full-time position for him at Stifel. "George has motivation; he wants to get registered and he wants to learn. I wanted to take on the responsibility as the mentor/teacher, if George wanted to learn the business. He did, so we needed to work something out for him. My branch manager and Stifel were supportive," recalls Lojewski.

"I had to get through some barriers, but when you love what you want to do, the experience you get from an internship will help you in the long-term," says Sidiropolous, who was the first in his family to graduate from college. He started with Stifel on Jan. 1, 2018, and looks forward to a great career with Lojewski as his mentor. Lojewski is also looking forward to watching his protégé move up through the ranks.

The two agree that so much of being a financial analyst is talking with and getting to know your client. When Lojewski speaks with business students at the high school or college level, they will sometimes ask very specific, finance-related questions. Lojewski notes that the job is really about life and not investing.

"So often, in school, we get caught up with the technical side of things, like PE ratios, and earnings per share," says Sidiropolous, now a client service associate with Stifel. "When I speak with some of my former classmates, I explain to them that those things are only a portion of what we do."

The two men agree that the opportunities that Wilkes University provides are unmatched.

"The opportunity to connect with alumni as students through mentoring events is so important," says Sidiropolous.

"Where there's an opportunity to help mold someone or pay it forward, that's what I look forward to doing."

– Chad Lojewski '95



Chad Lojewski '95, left, has mentored George Sidiropolous '17, right, first as an intern and now as a colleague at the investment firm Stifel. PHOTO BY JACQUELINE LUKAS

Three Alumni Return to Their Roots With Jack Black in *The Polka King*

Three Wilkes University alumni enjoyed a moment in the spotlight when they performed with actor Jack Black on national television to promote his movie, *The Polka King*.

Bob Lugiano '92, Ron Stabinsky '92 and Steve Bitto '95 appeared with the comedian in segments on *The Late Show With Stephen Colbert* and *The Today Show* playing a number from the movie, which premiered on Netflix in January. Black portrays Pennsylvania polka legend Jan Lewan, who took the world by storm until a ponzi scheme landed him in prison. All three alumni played in Lewan's band during its peak.

Performing on national television is another credit in the long musical careers of all three men, who have been playing and teaching professionally since graduating from Wilkes with degrees in music.

Lugiano has run the band Souled Out since 1999, primarily playing weddings and private events and once even opening for Aretha Franklin. He also runs Music Solutions, a music business that does everything from composition and judging to instrument repair and lessons.

Freelance trombone player Bitto has played in various jazz clubs, concert halls and with wedding bands, including time in Lugiano's band. He also has been a band instructor for more than two decades in the Pleasant Valley School District.

Stabinsky is a full-time professional pianist, specializing in jazz and avant-garde. In addition to accompanying university and community choirs, he plays regularly with the New York City-based bands Mostly Other People Do The Killing and the Peter Evans Ensemble, as well as alternative legends the Meat Puppets.

Working on promotional appearances in New York for Netflix's *The Polka King* brought together alumni musicians, from left, Ron Stabinsky '92, Steve Bitto '95 and Bob Lugiano '92, seen in a New York restaurant. PHOTOS COURTESY BOB LUGIANO '92



Actor Jack Black, left, and alumnus Ron Stabinsky '92 take a break from rehearsals for an appearance on *The Late Show With Stephen Colbert* to promote the film *The Polka King*.

While the three men have vastly different career arcs, the common thread—in addition to Wilkes—had always been playing in Lewan's band. Playing with Black was a way to re-live that chapter.

"It was scary to hear him sing and sound so much like Jan...it brought back memories," Lugiano says.

"All the sound checks and rehearsals were Jack, but once he showed up in costume, none of the personal interactions were. It was *all* Jan," Stabinsky says. "It was just a little surreal, when you know you're not talking to that person, but someone's doing a really accurate portrayal of them."

"To be playing with Jan's actual music stands, with [Black] dressed in an exact replica of one of Jan's suits, as he's basically channeling Jan....surreal is definitely the word," Bitto adds.

The alumni said Black has a genuine personality and a great work ethic.

"Jack and Jason [Swartzman] are so down to earth and very much into their roles...they didn't come with a big entourage. Jack actually showed up in a taxi cab," Lugiano says. He was the only one of the three alumni to play on the film's soundtrack.

"Over the course of three days, we probably played the song 50 times because of soundchecks for the shows...but he never mailed it in," Bitto explains. "He did the moves, he did the voice... he gave it 100 percent every time."

While playing on national television was a great experience, the trio also expressed how good it was to be in each other's company again. "Steve, Ronny and I all stayed together, and it was like 20 years ago, like in college," Lugiano says.

— James Jaskolka '16

"It was scary to hear him sing and sound so much like Jan... it brought back memories."

— Bob Lugiano '92

Undergraduate

1960

Donald Murray of Dallas, Pa., is writing a book on the effort to draft Adlai Stevenson as a presidential candidate at the 1960 Democratic National Convention.

1964

Rob (Richard) Burns of Piermont, N.Y., and his wife, Lynda, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 24, 2017. Burns is a village trustee and vice president of the Paradise Homeowner's Association.

Richard Probert of Sackets Harbor, N.Y., wrote a new novel, *That Good Night*, published by Beaufort Books. He taught music at Wilkes from 1968 to 1973.

1966

Marie Shutlock Drinko of Acworth, Ga., a military and family life counselor, received a coin of excellence for her work in Italy and a certificate of appreciation for her work in Germany. She is working in Guam until June 2018.

1968

REUNION: OCT. 5-7

Daniel Klem of Allentown, Pa., professor of ornithology and conservation biology at Muhlenberg College, discussed creating bird-friendly glass with Hari Sreenivasan of Scitech Now, a science program on PBS. Klem is an internationally recognized expert on bird deaths from



1965

Leslie (Tobias) Jenkins and James Jenkins of Aurora, Colo., recently visited Tacoma, Wash., to see their great grandson, James, on the occasion of his first birthday.

flying into glass windows and structures. His interview can be seen at <http://www.scitechnow.org/videos/>

1972

Michael Gallagher of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., retired after 36 years with the Music Box Dinner Playhouse in Swoyersville, Pa. He began working at the theatre in 1981 when it was established. He served in various capacities with the theatre over three decades and most recently has designed sets as the artistic director emeritus of the playhouse. Gallagher, who majored in education and minored in theatre at Wilkes, learned about set design from the late Klaus Holm while he was a student. Gallagher established a theater program and taught school in Pennsburg, Pa., and honed his skills at the Colorado Springs Opera Festival. He also designed sets for Scranton Public Theater, Theater Under the Tent on Montage Mountain and the Masonic Temple.



1986

William V. Lewis Jr. of Jenkins Twp., Pa., was elected to the national board of directors of the Academy of Certified Portfolio Managers. He is a vice president, wealth management advisor and portfolio manager with Merrill Lynch Wealth Management in Wilkes-Barre.

1977

Joseph Sekusky retired in December 2016. He was a caseworker for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the Department of Public Welfare in Scranton, Pa.

1979

Gary Robert Blockus of Laurys Station, Pa., was named executive director of the Lehigh Valley Youth Soccer League. He also writes for TeamUSA.org, covering elite U.S. athletes and teams in international and Olympic competitions. Blockus retired from *The Morning Call* newspaper after 35-plus years as a sports writer.



1989

Linda Kelnock of West Chester, Pa., completed her fifth Philadelphia Marathon and her 17th all-time marathon on Sunday, Nov. 19, 2017.

Kathleen Herpich of Bensalem, Pa., was named principal of the St. Elizabeth School in Paincourtville, La.

1980

Shepard Willner of Arlington, Va., is expected to retire in September 2018 after a 35-year career in federal service. Willner plans to enjoy life with his friends and family and is writing a memoir titled *Marching to a Different Drummer*.

1985

Donna (O'Toole) Sedor was named director of development for the Women's Resource Center in Scranton, Pa. She previously was director of development for the Wyoming Valley Children's Center.



1991

Shelley (Umbra) Pearce is an integrative psychotherapist in private practice in Los Angeles, Calif. She serves as president of the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, Los Angeles Chapter, and also serves on the board of directors of the Global Bridge Foundation. In 2007, she was honored as a community leader of the year by NEIU-19, a Pennsylvania organization servicing three counties and 20 school districts. Her direction of the site *Humanistic Spirituality* led to receiving the 2014 Culture Unplugged International Film Festival Award for a compassionate theme. Pearce is a nonsectarian minister and student of contemplative and wisdom traditions. She served as director of the Wilkes University Conservatory from 1998 to 2009.

1995

Kevin Gryboski of Venetia, Pa., participated in the Atlanta Braves Alumni Weekend in August 2017. He was a standout pitcher for Wilkes University from 1992 to 1995. He played for the Braves from 2002 to 2005 where he was a relief pitcher who earned the nickname “Groundball Gryboski” due to his success in getting batters to hit grounders, often ending in double plays.



1995

David Allen Hines of Kingston, Pa., was appointed to the Government Finance Officers Association national committee on governmental budgeting and fiscal policy. He is the director of operations for the City of Pittston, Pa.



2006

Jamie (Babbit) Stewart of Parispany, N.J., married Russell Stewart on Aug. 12, 2017, at Zugibe Vineyards in Geneva, N.Y., on Seneca Lake.

Alexandria Zuranski of Salt Lake City, Utah, transferred to the Social Security field office in Provo, Utah, where she works as a service representative.



2009

Christopher Noll of Danville, Pa., and **Danielle (Vindigni) Noll '10** of Lewisburg, Pa., married on Oct. 28, 2017.

1996

Christopher Parker of Wilkes-Barre is an 18-year veteran of the Luzerne County Department of Probation Services, and was named the state Juvenile Probation Officer of the Year in November 2017.

1998

REUNION: OCT. 5-7

Kerri Fasulo of Pleasant Valley, N.Y., was promoted to marketing director at Anthem Inc. where she oversees marketing strategy for specialty pharmacy.

2004

Ryan Klemish of Duryea, Pa., and his wife, **Kristin (Hake) Klemish**, welcomed a daughter, McKenna Dee Klemish, on May 5, 2017.

2009

Marc Wyandt of Old Forge, Pa., is the principal of Abington Heights Middle School and was appointed assistant superintendent of the school district in January 2018. During his time at Abington Heights, Wyandt has served as an elementary and middle school principal and assistant high school principal. He received a master's degree in educational leadership from Wilkes.

Randa Fahmy '86 Tackles National Debt With Makeup America!

Randa Fahmy '86 has always focused on politics in her work as a lawyer and owner of a consulting firm. Now her passion project also puts America in the spotlight and addresses one of the biggest numbers in Washington: the national debt.

Fahmy is the founder of Makeup America!, promoted as “the first American branded premium cosmetic line that reflects the American Spirit.” The line is made in America and gives one dollar of every product sold to the U.S. Treasury in hopes of paying down the national debt of \$20 trillion.

Makeup America! sells lipsticks and nail polish at patriotic prices that play off the year of America's independence, 1776. With names such as Gold Standard and Independence Red, the lipsticks cost \$17.76 and the nail polish is \$13.76. Fahmy wants to expand into all beauty products and hopes to continue her pricing scheme.

A daughter of immigrants, Fahmy says she has always had a “heightened sense of appreciation for all things American.” She explains she saw an incredible movement of America and patriotism in 2016 during the presidential election, and something clicked in her mind.

“It made me ask, ‘What do I think America is?’” Fahmy says. “I remember how much I loved America's bicentennial, and I wanted to feel like that again. And I wanted to bring people and women together.”

Fahmy had been interested in cosmetics years prior to her entrepreneurial journey, having read the statistic that Americans are the number-one users of beauty products. She continued her research and found that the national debt affects women of every generation.

“Women benefit the most from programs that will get cut if we don't pay the debt down,” she says. “They always tell us to not to get into debt personally, but who is looking out for the country's debt? No one. My rallying cry became, ‘It's time for women to take control of our nation's checkbook.’”

“I remember how much I loved America's bicentennial, and I wanted to feel like that again. And I wanted to bring people and women together.”



Randa Fahmy '86 sports red, white and blue to promote her company, Makeup America! PHOTO COURTESY RANDA FAHMY

Fahmy is also a Wilkes University trustee and her father is Mahmoud Fahmy, a Wilkes emeritus professor of education. Her work to improve America has been a long time coming as her mother and father always taught her to be a good global citizen.

“No one is addressing the national debt, and people ask me if it can really be that easy to pay,” she says.

The mechanism by which Fahmy pays down the debt was formally approved by the U.S. Department of Treasury. Every year, she tallies up the amount of product she sold, multiplies that by one dollar and writes a check from Makeup America! to the U.S. Department of Treasury Bureau of Fiscal Services with a note in the memo line that states “contribution to pay down the U.S. national debt.”

The company celebrated its one-year anniversary in February 2018 and has been featured in articles in *Cosmopolitan*, *Allure* and product placement on ABC's *Dancing with the Stars*. She is also in discussions with the *Home Shopping Network* and most recently provided gift baskets at an event for the U.S. Olympic Committee. The products are available online and in boutiques in Michigan and Virginia.

– By Samantha Stanich



2010

Brian Switay '10, MBA '12 of Port Monmouth, N.J., and **Courtney Malast '13** of Belford, N.J. got married on July 21, 2017. Many Wilkes alumni celebrated with them at the wedding. Colonels who attended the ceremony are pictured, from left to right: Samantha Mulvihill Caiola '10, Genelle Gunderson '12, Benjamin Caiola '12, Michael Olerta '12, Yasmine Solomon '12, Danielle Capone Hanson '12, Gerbeys Roa Harris '12, Kristina Spauldin Grandinetti '11, Courtney Malast Switay '13 (bride), Zak Grandinetti '10, Brian Switay '10, MBA '12 (groom), Anthony Dorunda '11, Lorelay Corona Benedict '11, Jonathon Bowman '12, Karissa Henderson '10, Ray Dungee '13, Michal Ogar '16 and Renee Loftus (retired faculty).



2010

Andrew M. Seaman of New York, N.Y., was named the digital editor for Reuters.com, an international news agency. Previously, he was the agency's senior medical journalist covering the Affordable Care Act and other health and medical news. Seaman was awarded a President's Award from the Society of Professional Journalists for his work as Reuters.com's ethics committee chairperson. He is also on the alumni board of Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.



2012

Jessica DiBernardo '12 MS '15 of Dallas, Pa., was chosen as a top 20 Under 40 for the *Northeast Pennsylvania Business Journal* 2017 edition. DiBernardo is an associate director of graduate admissions at Wilkes University, focusing on recruiting and enrolling students for the nurse practitioner programs.

2010

Danielle (Vindigni) Noll '10 – See photo in Undergraduate 2009

2013

REUNION: OCT. 5-7

Justin Franiak is hosting the afternoon drive slot on air on WHMK, 98.1 The Hawk, with Townsquare Media in Binghamton, N.Y. Previously, he worked at WPIG/WHDL in Olean, N.Y., where he hosted nights and afternoons.

Courtney Malast Switay '13 – See photo in Undergraduate 2010

2017

Matt Kaster of Washington, Pa., was signed by the Washington Wild Things as their second pitcher. Kaster played four seasons of collegiate baseball at Wilkes, spent summer 2016 playing

for the Purcellville Cannons in the Valley Baseball League and had a brief stint in his first taste of pro ball with the Florence Freedom in 2017. At Wilkes, Kaster logged 92 innings in 61 appearances. All but two of those outings were in relief. Kaster was a two-time all-conference selection, and had a career ERA of 3.82. In 2016, he enjoyed his best year at Wilkes, earning him a first-team selection that year.

Graduate

1991

Terrence J. Purcell MBA of Barnesville, Pa., was appointed president of the former Blue Mountain Health System hospitals after their acquisition by the Bethlehem, Pa.-based St. Luke's University Health System. The hospitals have been renamed St. Luke's Palmerton Campus in Palmerton, Pa., and St. Luke's Gnadon Huetten Campus in Lehighon, Pa. Purcell has been employed by Blue Mountain Health System for more than two decades, most recently serving as the senior vice president of operations.

2015

Jessica DiBernardo '12 MS '15 – See undergraduate 2012

Lauren Stahl MFA '12 Solves the Mystery of Writing a Successful Thriller



Lauren Stahl MFA '12 signs copies of her novel at her New York City book launch. PHOTO COURTESY KAYLIE JONES BOOKS

After beginning her professional career as a prosecutor, Lauren Stahl MFA '12 took a page from her own life when she wrote her first novel. The result is *The Devil's Song*, published in January by Kaylie Jones Books, an imprint of Akashic Books.

"I was able to draw on my experiences as a former prosecutor," she says. "I've been in the throes of a criminal trial, worked with detectives, I've attended autopsies—I've worked cases where the facts were stranger than fiction."

Stahl's experiences jumped off the pages as her writing successfully took readers into her days as a prosecutor, in the persona of her protagonist, assistant district attorney Kate Magda. On the day of publication, Jan. 2, 2018, the book broke the top 50 in Amazon's Kindle/Mystery, Thriller and Suspense bestsellers category and broke the top 100 in paperback book sales. Within two days of publication, the book sold out on the online bookseller. The thriller then headed into a second printing, just one month after its first publication, all because Stahl wrote what she knew best: the law.

"I've been in the throes of a criminal trial, worked with detectives, I've attended autopsies—I've worked cases where the facts were stranger than fiction."

"I think it is fair to say as writers, we take what we know and then expand on it," she says. "That expansion is where our characters truly come to life."

The twists and turns of *The Devil's Song* grab the reader's attention not only because of Stahl's suspenseful writing but also because she has lived parts of the life of her main character. Magda is a prosecutor in Pennsylvania who is the lead counsel on a series of murders in the community. The character is also the daughter of a powerful local judge.

"There are admittedly a few things Kate and I have in common," Stahl says. "Like Kate, my father was the county's president judge when I was in the DA's Office, her choice in music is similar to mine, and the fact she is somewhat obsessed—okay, really obsessed—with her giant dog, all mirror my own life, but the similarities mostly end there. In the end, she is very much her own character," she says.

All the success of the book seems surreal to Stahl, but she isn't through with trying to win the case.

"It was a true 'pinch me' moment," she says. "Kate Magda isn't through telling us her story. I am about halfway through writing the second book."

Stahl may not have started out as a writer, but according to her, she has "been a writer my entire life," and she credits Wilkes University's Maslow Family Graduate Program in Creative Writing for taking her writing to the next level.

"Whether it was a short story, a journal entry, or really bad poetry, I was always writing," Stahl says. "But it wasn't until I entered the Wilkes University Maslow Family Graduate Creative Writing Program that I began to take my writing seriously or thought I could actually pull off writing a novel."

– By Samantha Stanich



2007

Bryan Zellmer MBA '07 of Shohola, Pa., has been named director of KU Presents!, a performing artists series at Kutztown University that brings professional performing artists to the school and the surrounding communities. He previously worked in leadership roles at a 10,000-seat amphitheater in Pennsylvania, a casino entertainment lounge in New Jersey and an historic theater in Colorado. Zellmer has a long career as a performer, which has included performing the National Anthem for the Philadelphia Phillies and singing with the Hudson Valley Philharmonic. He's performed with a marching band in numerous parades, from Disney World to New York City. He also spent several years as a lighting designer working with a professional regional theater company and a high school theater program, working with professional Broadway directors.



2011

Kaitlyn Martin Fitzgerald MS '11 of Forty Fort, Pa., coached her inaugural field hockey game in September 2017 with Bryn Athyn College in Montgomery County, Pa. She helped start the program from the ground up. Before taking the job at Bryn Athyn, she was an assistant for three years at Arcadia University.



2012

Sarah Lloyd MS '12 earned a master's degree in communication sciences and disorders from East Stroudsburg University in May 2017. She recently completed her fourth year as an adjunct instructor in the English-as-a-second-language program at Northampton Community College. She is currently a speech language pathologist in southern California. Lloyd is pictured with Frank T. Brogan, chancellor of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. Lloyd received the Fitz Dixon Memorial Scholarship from the state system in April 2017.



2012

Amy (Hetro) Washo MBA '12 of West Pittston, Pa., and Jason Washo married on Jan. 14, 2017. The ceremony was held at Immaculate Conception Church, West Pittston, and the reception was held at the Mary Stegmaier Mansion, Wilkes-Barre. The bridal party included several Wilkes alumni. Pictured in the first row, from left to right, are: Jim Cooney, Delaney Washo, Jason Washo, Amy Hetro Washo MBA'12, Leah Scholtis; second row, left to right: Jon Besko, Jessica Vensky, Matthew Washo; and third row, left to right: Jon Krieger, Ashley Popovich '07, and Bridget Giunta Husted '05.

PICTURE PERFECT: GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING PHOTOS FOR CLASS NOTES

Wilkes magazine accepts photos of alumni weddings and to 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 wilkesmagazine@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.

In Memoriam

1947

Helen Matalonis of Hanover Twp., Pa., died on Feb. 1, 2018.

Thomas E. Wahl, of Wilkes-Barre, died on Oct. 23, 2017. He was a U.S. Army Air Force veteran of World War II. He worked for the National Weather Service for 38 years, assisting in the establishment and instrumentation of the weather station at the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport.

Leo Wojcikiewicz, of New Cumberland, Pa., died on July 19, 2017. He was a decorated World War II veteran serving in France in F. Company, 134th Infantry Regiment, 35th Infantry Division, under General Patton. He retired from the United States Postal Service after 40 years of service.

1949

Shirley Fleet of Coudersport, Pa., died on Nov. 22, 2017. She was a biology and chemistry teacher in Matawan, N.J., and in Sayre, Pa. She was also a real estate broker in Flemington, N.J. An accomplished writer, she published poetry and family cookbooks.

Clemence A. Scott of Sheatown, Pa., died on July 14, 2017. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps and was a tail gunner on a B17, the Flying Fortress. He was an Internal Revenue Service agent for more than 36 years.

1951

William Perlmuth, of New York, N.Y., died on Nov. 24, 2017. He attended Columbia Law School, where he was an editor of the Law Review and a Harlan Fiske Stone scholar. He served in the U.S. Army as a member of the 1st Division, the Big Red One. He was a partner at Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, focusing on corporate financing law. He served on the firm's executive committee for nearly 20 years, including two terms as chairman. He served as chairman of the board of the Hospital for Joint Diseases from 1996–2007. He also established the Harkness Center for Dance Injuries there and served as president and trustee of the Harkness Foundation for Dance. Perlmuth also was a trustee emeritus at Wilkes University. Wilkes awarded him an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters in September 2017.

Daniel Ungvarsky of Lansdale, Pa., died on Oct. 30, 2017. He retired from General Electric Co.'s Space Systems Division in 1992 after a 35-year career as an aerospace engineer.

1952

Donald Kistler, of Ft. Wayne, Ind., died on Aug. 5, 2017. He retired as the general sales manager for Bucyrus Erie.

1953

Florence (Kistler) Reynolds of Portland, Ore., died on Nov. 13, 2017. She was an elementary school teacher in Wilmington, Del., for 35 years.

1954

Phyllis Prater of Thomaston, Maine, died on July 30, 2016. She earned her master's of arts degree in English literature from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, in 1982. She served as an adjunct professor at Franklin University and Columbus State Community College in Columbus, Ohio.

1955

John Morris of Dallas, Pa., died on Dec. 11, 2017. He served in the U.S. Army from 1958–1960. He was the business manager of Wyoming Seminary Preparatory School beginning in 1967. After retiring from Wyoming Seminary in 2010, he continued to work for the school as a special projects manager.

1956

Edward "Ed" Ralph Dubin of Lillian, Ala., died on May 1, 2017. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. After a post-doctoral fellowship at Jefferson Medical School in Philadelphia, he practiced medicine for 35 years in Philadelphia, Bethlehem, Pa., and the Pocono Mountains.

Richard Jones of Easton, Pa., died on Jan. 30, 2014. He served in the U.S. Air Force for five years. He taught English at North Hunterdon High School in New Jersey for 34 years. Jones also served as the director of adult education for North Hunterdon High

School for 30 years, assisting in the development of the Hunterdon County Adult Education program.

Nancy E. (Batcheler) Juris of Swatara Township, Pa., died on Aug. 29, 2017. She taught in the business education department at Central Dauphin East High School beginning in 1980. In 1981, she also joined the faculty of Harrisburg Area Community College, where she taught until 1991.

Raymond Michael Sillup of Murrells Inlet, S.C., died on Oct. 20, 2017. He graduated from the Mount Vernon School of Law. He worked for the University of Pittsburgh as the director of contract and reimbursement services at the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic. He also was the chairman of the Council of Psychiatric Service Providers at The Hospital Association of Pennsylvania.

1957

John L. Coates of Berwick, Pa., died on Nov. 30, 2017. He served in the Naval Reserve from 1953 until 1962. He worked for Okanite Cable Company as a financial controller and later for Bercon Plastics. He was president of LaBar Trucking and ended his career as owner of Tri-County Hardware and Tri-County Lumber.

Robert Drexinger of Orefield, Pa., died on Nov. 19, 2017. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean

Conflict. He retired as a senior engineer after 28 years at Western Electric/Lucent.

Vincent Herron of Lancaster, Pa., died on Nov. 15, 2017. He served in the U.S. Army from 1953–1955. He worked for Armstrong World Industries from 1966 until his retirement in 1999 as a project engineer.

Max Salsburg of Kingston, Pa., died on Feb. 16, 2018. He owned and operated Goldstein's Deli in Kingston, Pa., prior to retiring.

1962

Joseph "Joe" Simoson Jr. of Northampton, Pa., died on Aug. 22, 2017.

1963

Philip Johnson of Lebanon, Pa., died on June 15, 2017. He was a chemical engineer for the Henkel Corp.

1964

LeRoy "Gene" James Sult of Harveys Lake, Pa., died on Aug. 22, 2017. He owned and operated VIP Coffee Shop, located in the Sterling Hotel, Wilkes-Barre, and worked in his family's Mark II Restaurants.

Gregory H. Szeyko of El Paso, Texas, died on Sept. 11, 2012. He earned his medical degree from the West Virginia University School of Medicine. In 1976 he took a position as an assistant professor of medicine at Texas Tech University School of Medicine. He entered into private practice in 1978. He became the medical director

of the Providence Wound Institute. In 2011 he was appointed adjunct professor for the biomedical research department at University of Texas at El Paso, where he continued to advance research into novel wound therapies.

Joseph Douglas Yeager of Forty Fort, Pa., died Oct. 11, 2017.

1966

Theresa Ann Mond of Drexel Hill, Pa., died on Aug. 22, 2017. She earned her master's degree in nursing from Hunter College, New York City, and worked in the nursing field for several hospitals and educational institutions until her retirement.

Peter Stchur of Hanover Twp., Pa., died on Feb. 27, 2018. Stchur retired as a chemistry teacher in the Hanover Area School District after serving more than 35 years. He was the director of the Science in Motion program at Wilkes University.

1967

Robert Cardillo of Swoyersville, Pa., died on Feb. 6, 2018. He worked in advertising before starting his photo finishing business, Custom Color Lab. Prior to retiring, he worked in radio advertising and as a salesman for Certified Laboratories.

John Kleynowski of Dayton, Ohio, died on May 2, 2016. He was a U.S. Army veteran and was a sales and marketing manager with Exxon Oil Company.

Neil Millar of Landenberg, Pa., died on Aug. 15, 2017. After high school he joined the Army Tank Corps. He was employed by General Motors Assembly Plant in Wilmington, Del., as an accountant and retired in 1998. He worked in the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center following retirement.

1968

Roger Beatty of Exeter, Pa., died Jan. 31, 2018. He was a member of the legendary Wilkes Golden Horde football team. He taught at Solomon-Plains Junior High School in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, where he coached football and baseball. His baseball teams won eight Wyoming Valley Conference championships and two District II championships over 13 years. He was a PIAA referee and was inducted into the Plains Township Sports Hall of Fame in 2014.

Alicia (Ramsey) Burton of Philadelphia, Pa., died on Jan. 20, 2017. She was a teacher at the Overbrook School for the Blind.

Keith Russin of Plains, Pa., died on Oct. 26, 2017. He earned a master of library science degree from Pratt Institute. He also attended St. Vladimir's Seminary and earned the master of divinity degree. He was the librarian at the Meriden Public Library in Meriden, Conn. He owned and operated the Simon S. Russin Funeral Home in Plains, and Edwards and Russin

Funeral Home in Edwardsville, Pa., for nearly three decades.

1969

Robert Jay Holliday of Lake Grove, N.Y., died on Jan. 3, 2018. A football player at Wilkes, he later became the assistant football coach at East Islip High School in New York from 1969–1979. He was the head football coach at Kings Park High School from 1981–1984 and returned to East Islip to coach in the 1985 and 1986 seasons. He retired in 2002 as the Islip Schools athletic director. Holliday is survived by his wife Sharon (Going) Holliday '69.

1970

Joel Fierman of Exeter, Pa., died on Feb. 4, 2018. He was employed as an ironworker.

David Kutz of Sicklerville, N.J., died on Aug. 7, 2017. He spent many years as an Eagle's Scout assistant and master.

Frances (Salgado)

Cavanaugh, of Edgewood, Ky., died on Feb. 10, 2016. She was a teacher for 40 years and she spent the last 18 years at St. Pius X School, in Edgewood.

1972

Thomas J. Morris of Hanover Township, Pa., died on Sept. 15, 2017. He founded and served as president of Professional Developmental Services Inc., one of the largest mental and behavioral health service companies for geriatrics in northeast Pennsylvania. He practiced as a psychologist and social worker

for 44 years. He is survived by his wife, Felicia Z. Morris '72.

1974

Leonardia (Marusak) Karpowicz of Nanticoke, Pa., died on Dec. 1, 2017. She was employed as a chemist in the food industry and served in several other positions prior to her retirement, including as office coordinator for Supporting Autism and Families Everywhere, Inc.

1975

George C. Comerosky of Shavertown, Pa., died on Sept. 18, 2017. He was an insurance claims adjuster with CNA and Traveler's Insurance companies. Prior to working in the insurance industry, he was employed by Air Products in Hanover Township and worked as a wedding photographer in the 1990s. Comerosky was very active and held a strong commitment to Fidelity Lodge 655 Free and Accepted Masons, Wilkes-Barre.

Raymond Gustave of West Wyoming, Pa., died on Jan. 23, 2018. He served in the U.S. Air Force, receiving the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal for his service in Vietnam. He became chief of the financial management branch of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research. He served as West Wyoming Borough manager for two years.

Harold Hoover of Dallas, Pa., died on Feb. 14, 2018. He earned his master's

degree from Marywood University and taught music at Dallas Elementary School for 35 years. He was a former member of the AGO Oratorio Society.

Gary Sitkowski, of Jonestown, Pa., died on Oct. 28, 2017. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Bob Jones University and served as an evangelist with the Baptist Church. Prior to his death, he was employed by D.B. Fisher.

1976

Oliver James Behm, of Wilkes-Barre died on Jan. 21, 2018. He was named "Patriot of the Year" in 2001 and 2002 from the Hospitalized Veterans Organization and was awarded a certificate of appreciation from the Disabled Veterans Association.

1983

Susan (Harrison) Jenkins of Colorado Springs, Colo., died on Nov. 17, 2015. She was a physician recruiter for Centura Health Physician Group. Also a talented musician, she was a member of the Colorado Vocal Arts Ensemble and the Colorado Springs Chorale.

1993

Suzanne O'Hara Leseber, of Plains, Pa., died on Nov. 12, 2017. She was a U.S. Navy veteran. She was employed by the Social Security Administration in Plains Twp. as a record specialist.

1995

Barbara A. Negvesky of Dallas, Pa., died on Sept. 1, 2017. She was employed by

Baron Strassman Zneimer and Co. CPA, Wilkes-Barre, and in the audit and finance departments of the Geisinger Healthcare System in Danville, Pa., and Wilkes-Barre.

2001

Wayne Brokenshire of Mount Carmel, Pa., died on Sept. 26, 2017. He was a math teacher at Shamokin Area High School for 34 years and earlier taught at Cardinal Brennan High School. He was the voice of WKMC Red Tornado football for 33 years. He was a football coach for Cardinal Brennan, track and field coach for Shamokin, basketball coach for Holy Spirit and for the Mount Carmel Junior Baseball League.

2003

James Hanson of Yulan, N.Y., died on Dec. 30, 2017. He served in the United States Marines, achieving the rank of captain. Later he worked at the New York State Governor's Office under governors Elliot Spitzer and David Paterson. He later joined the administration of Ulster County Executive Michael P. Hein. In 2013, he joined Avesta Communities, a property management and investment company, as a project director and operations manager. After becoming ill, he became president of the Patients' Rights Action Fund in September 2015, where he worked for compassionate, life-affirming care, for patients facing disease and disability.

Eric Zuber of Lansford, Pa., died on Jan. 15, 2018. He was employed by Amazon.

Friends of Wilkes

Virginia "Jennie" (Pittman) Sikes of Lexington, Va., died on Jan. 13, 2018. A member of the Wilkes University Board of Trustees since 2006, Sikes earned her bachelor's degree Phi Beta Kappa from the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. She also earned a master of education degree there. She attended Columbia University School of Law where she was a Stone Scholar, editor-in-chief of *The Journal of Law and Social Problems* and winner of the E.B. Convers Prize for the best original essay on a legal subject. After graduating from law school, she clerked for the Hon. Max Rosenn, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. She became a partner in the law firm of Montgomery, McCracken, Walker, & Rhoads in Philadelphia, where she served many years on the management committee. She was the first woman ever to be named managing partner of the law firm. She taught law courses at Philadelphia area colleges. Active in charitable and arts organizations, she was a past president of The Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers of the Arts and the Philadelphia Cultural Alliance.



SUCCESS STARTS HERE

Learning continues near you.

Online and on-campus graduate programs at Wilkes University

There's never been a better time at Wilkes University. Why? Because we continue to grow in size, opportunity and reputation while offering the mentoring, personal attention and small classes that graduate students desire, whether in person or online. Learn about our more than two-dozen graduate degrees and certificate programs for educators, business leaders, nurses, writers and engineers. Programs are offered in online, face-to-face and convenient blended formats.

ADVANCE YOUR CAREER IN:

- Business (M.B.A.)
- Creative Writing (M.A. and M.F.A.)
- Education (M.S. and Ed.D.)
- Engineering (M.S.)
- Nursing (M.S., D.N.P, Ph.D.)
- Mathematics (M.S.)



Wilkes University

APPLY ONLINE AT

WWW.WILKES.EDU/GRADUATESTUDIES

Questions? Contact graduate admissions at (570) 408-4235.



**Monday,
Sept. 10, 2018**
*Wyoming Valley Country Club,
Wilkes-Barre*

**Featuring a
Chwalek Putting Contest**

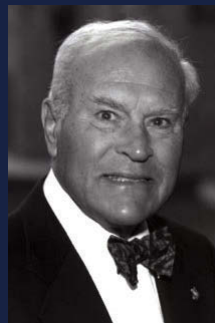
ANNOUNCING THE



Ralston Memorial Golf Tournament

WILKES UNIVERSITY

benefiting Wilkes University Athletics



Honor the memory of George Ralston, the father of Wilkes athletics, by supporting the inaugural Ralston Memorial Tournament. From coaching to leading his trademark cheer, George Ralston embodied the spirit of Wilkes athletics. His legacy lives on

in the University's 23 varsity sports fielding teams today. Join us in supporting student-athletes at a tournament benefiting all athletic programs.



**For more information, contact Margaret Steele,
executive director of advancement and alumni relations,
at margaret.steele@wilkes.edu or 570-408-4302.**

calendar of events

May

- 1–20 “Sordoni Collection of American Illustration & Comic Art,” Sordoni Art Gallery
- 19 Commencement
- 30–July 1 Ben Woodeson: “Solid Gone,” Sordoni Art Gallery

June

- 2 Founders Gala
- 2 Ben Woodeson and Jane Cook, Corning Museum of Glass: “Approaches to Metal and Glass (in) Compatibility,” 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Sordoni Art Gallery
- 10–14 Maslow Faculty Reading Series, 7 p.m. Dorothy Dickson Darte Center
- 11 Summer Session 1 Begins
- 23 Damian Roden: “Periodisation in Soccer,” 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m. Schmidt Stadium

July

- 13 Summer Session 1 Ends
- 16 Summer Session 2 Begins
- 17–20 “Tape Art Muralists,” Sordoni Art Gallery
- 20 Admissions Open House
- 22–28 Women Empowered By Science Camp
- 29–Aug. 3 Norman Mailer Writers Colony Workshops

August

- 3–4 Pennsylvania Writers Conference
- 4–10 Norman Mailer Writers Colony Workshops
- 17 Summer Session 2 Ends
- 24–26 Welcome Weekend
- 27 Start of Fall Semester

September

- 9 Summer Commencement
- 10 Ralston Memorial Golf Tournament
- 15 Admissions Open House
- 30 Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Rosenn Lecture, 2 p.m., McHale Athletic Center, University Center on Main

October

- 5–7 Wilkes Homecoming 2018
- 11 Fall Recess Begins
- 15 Classes Resume
- 16–Dec. 16 Heather Sincavage: “Loud Silence: Expressions of Activism,” Sordoni Art Gallery

PHOTO BY JAMES MUSTO

