

# WILKES



WINTER 2015

## Beyond Print

DIGITAL HUMANITIES CURRICULUM TRANSFORMS STUDY OF LITERATURE

## Campus Projects Launch New Era At Wilkes

A beautiful campus and exceptional facilities help the University recruit the best students, attract excellent faculty and staff and provide an outstanding educational experience. Because a quality education requires first-class academic buildings and infrastructure, the University has identified “Strengthening Our Campus Infrastructure” as one of the six goals outlined in its new strategic plan, *Gateway to the Future*. In the next few years, significant improvements to campus will help us become one of the finest small universities in the country.

Wilkes has a long history of preserving historic properties near campus and adapting them from their original residential purposes to academic and administrative use or for student residences. Wilkes also has strategically constructed state-of-the-art buildings designed with a specific educational intent. This blending of old with the new has created a wonderful campus that enriches our students’ educational experiences. The Stark Learning Center, the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts, the Arnaud C. Marts Sports and Conference Center, Breiseth Hall, the Henry Student Center and the Cohen Science Center have been visionary projects that enhanced the quality of student life and learning.



President Patrick F. Leahy thanks former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett at the event announcing the award of a \$3 million grant for Wilkes engineering labs. Corbett is on the right. PHOTO BY LISA REYNOLDS

Projects in our new *Gateway to the Future Plan* are of strategic importance to the University. This spring and summer, we’ll create the South Campus Gateway that will create an iconic entrance to campus and will completely transform our presence on South Main Street. This gateway will extend from South Main Street through campus into the Fenner Quadrangle, connecting the heart of our campus with downtown Wilkes-Barre.

The South Campus Gateway project is only the beginning. Wilkes received \$1 million in federal funding through the Transportation Alternatives

Program to pay for enhanced street lighting and improved pedestrian crossings on South Franklin and West South streets. The work will complement the campus gateway and improve pedestrian safety.

A second grant—a \$3 million Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant—will allow Wilkes to upgrade engineering labs in the College of Science and Engineering. Wilkes will match the grant to support \$6 million in improvements. New labs will be created, including a nanotechnology lab, an additive manufacturing lab and a bioengineering lab. These state-of-the-art facilities—the only ones of their kind in the region—will enhance our relationships with community business partners.

Just as campus projects in the past transformed this University, these projects promise to help launch a new era of excellence at Wilkes. I hope you will share my enthusiasm for the future of Wilkes and support the work to which we are committed to make our University the best it can be.

**Dr. Patrick F. Leahy**  
Wilkes University President

### WILKES MAGAZINE

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

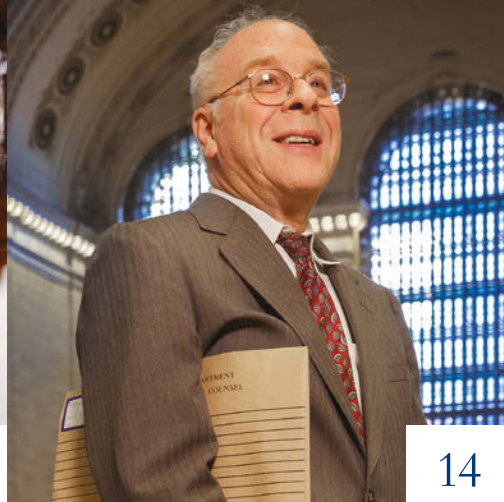




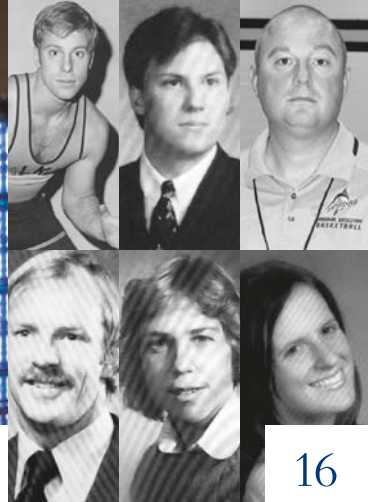
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ILLUSTRATION BY KARA REID

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Have a story idea to share?

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## Wilkes Joins Coalition Launching SHINE Program For Schoolchildren

Wilkes University is the educational host for Luzerne County SHINE, an afterschool program aimed at improving educational opportunities for schoolchildren in the county.

The program is a joint project brought to Luzerne County by Congressman Lou Barletta and state Sen. John Yudichak. SHINE is an evidence-based educational program that has been successfully used in Carbon and Schuylkill county schools for more than a decade. The program's outcomes—increasing student retention, parent participation and improved grades—have been lauded by the United States Department of Education.

The College of Education at Wilkes University will provide critical administrative as well as research support to position Luzerne County SHINE as an evidence-based, education-driven afterschool program. Wilkes students across academic disciplines also will have opportunities to work with the program. The program offices will be housed at the University.

“A commitment to our community is part of Wilkes University’s mission. SHINE offers us the opportunity to continue that commitment in a way that will impact Luzerne County for years to come,” President Patrick F. Leahy says. “At the same time, our students are also the beneficiaries, engaging with the community and providing service as tutors and teachers while gaining valuable experience working with youth.”

Luzerne County SHINE will be phased in over a three-year period beginning in fall 2015. The program, geared to grades K-8, focuses on a project-based STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) curriculum. Relying heavily on a STEAM core, SHINE links schools to homes to help children build a stronger academic and social foundation.

Above: Students from State Street Elementary School in the Wyoming Valley West School District celebrate the launch of the Luzerne County SHINE Program, an afterschool program aimed at improving children's educational opportunities. Pictured with the youngsters, center from left, are Anthony Grieco, executive director of the Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18, Congressman Lou Barletta, state Sen. John Yudichak and President Patrick F. Leahy.

## Wilkes Launches Undergraduate Business Programs, Scholarships at Mesa, Ariz., Site

Wilkes launched its undergraduate business degree program in January 2015 at its site in Mesa, Ariz. The University also is awarding Founders Scholarships to the first 30 qualified students in the program.

The University is offering undergraduate degrees in business with majors in accounting, entrepreneurship, finance, management, marketing, and sports and event management. The undergraduate business degrees are the first bachelor's degrees that Wilkes will offer in Arizona since it became part of Mesa's H.E.A.T. (Healthcare, Education, Aerospace,

Technology/Tourism) Initiative for Economic Development, designed to increase college opportunities and spur economic growth. Wilkes already offers its master of business administration program in Mesa, as well as degrees in creative writing, engineering and education.

Wilkes University will award \$5,000 scholarships to the first 30 qualified transfer students to enroll in its business bachelor's degree programs. The Founders Scholarships, good for two years, will provide access to quality education at an affordable price.



## New Honors Program Targets Talented Students

An honors program offering enhanced academic experiences and grants and scholarships totaling more than \$35,000 over four years will be offered to Wilkes students for the first time in fall 2015.

The Wilkes University Honors Program will be available for freshmen admitted for the 2015–2016 academic year. Targeting talented and highly motivated students, the program offers a living and learning environment that includes dedicated housing to enhance students’ academic, social and cultural growth. Honors students will receive a \$7,800 housing scholarship for each of their four years that covers all room costs except meals.

Honors students also will receive an academic enrichment grant of \$1,000 in the first two years and \$2,000 in the second two that can be used to fund study-related expenses, such as travel abroad or technology.

Other program benefits include first-priority access to course registration and no charge for academic course overload.

## Wilkes Scientist Leads Research Team Awarded \$1 Million National Science Foundation Grant

Ned Fetcher, scientist and coordinator of the Institute for Environmental Science and Sustainability, is the principal investigator on a research team that has been awarded a \$1 million grant from the National Science Foundation to study the effects of climate change on plants. The team will study the effect of a changing climate on tussock cottongrass, a plant indigenous to tundra ecosystems in Alaska. The grant funds research titled “Collaborative research: Local adaptation in a dominant arctic tundra sedge (*Eriophorum vaginatum*) and its effects on ecosystem response in a changing climate.”

Fetcher, whose share of the three-year grant is \$285,737, will conduct research with co-investigators Jianwu (Jim) Tang of the Ecosystems Center of the Marine Biology Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass., and Michael Moody of the University of Texas at El Paso. Wilkes undergraduates will participate in the project as field assistants, spending up to 10 weeks during the summer at the Toolik Lake Field Station, 170 miles north of the Arctic Circle.

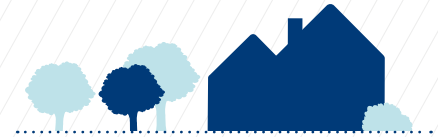


Ned Fetcher, coordinator of the Institute for Environmental Science and Sustainability, is shown on a research trip to Alaska, where he began studying the effects of climate change on plant life. PHOTO COURTESY OF NED FETCHER

# COMMUNITY SERVICE

## BY THE NUMBERS

Part of Wilkes University's mission is a commitment to serve the community. The number of people involved and the hours volunteered in 2013 confirm that commitment.



**2,370**

Total students engaged in **community service of any kind**



**950**

Number of students annually engaged

in **academic service-learning or community engaged research**

**478**

Number of students engaged in **more than 20 hours** of any kind of community service per academic term



**65,285**

The **total number of community service hours** engaged in by Wilkes students, faculty and staff



**1,472,176**

**Estimated value of time** contributed by Wilkes students, faculty and staff to non-profit and community agencies\*

\*Based on the estimated hourly value of volunteer time for 2013 by the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics as \$22.55.

## Public History Class Brings Past Alive

The past became part of the present in fall 2014 for students in Professor Diane Wenger's public history class. The class is a required course in a public history concentration introduced for students this year in the global history and languages department. Public history is the presentation of history outside of academic classes and the academic environment. The public history field includes museum work, historical sites such as Eckley Miners Village and Colonial Williamsburg, historical societies, historical reenactments and other public venues.

Projects in the class included work at the Luzerne Historical Society, where students donned gloves to handle artifacts in exhibits, and creating historical displays about University history for the Farley Library. The community can view the displays, which include exhibits about the Colonels football team, women's soccer team and University theatre productions.

Revolutionary war reenactor Gene Kearney, garbed in period attire, speaks to students in Professor Diane Wenger's public history class. His daughter, Katie Kearney '09, majored in history at Wilkes and joins her father at historical reenactments.



## May I Have Your Autograph? Rare Collection is Little-Known Wilkes Treasure

Step inside the Farley Library and you're in the presence of royalty. In a manner of speaking.

"Our autograph collection includes documents signed by Napoleon Bonaparte and Charles V of France," public services librarian Elizabeth A. Sullivan says. "The collection goes back hundreds of years. We also have a number of major literary figures and almost every U.S. president from George Washington to Dwight D. Eisenhower."

Containing an estimated 300 plus items, including documents recording the early history of the Wyoming Valley and the Revolutionary War, the collection was originally the property of the McClintock family. The McClintocks started the collection in the 19th century and passed it down as a family heirloom through the generations, finally ending with attorney Gilbert McClintock, who donated it to Wilkes in 1959. McClintock was a member of Wilkes' board of trustees and a community leader.

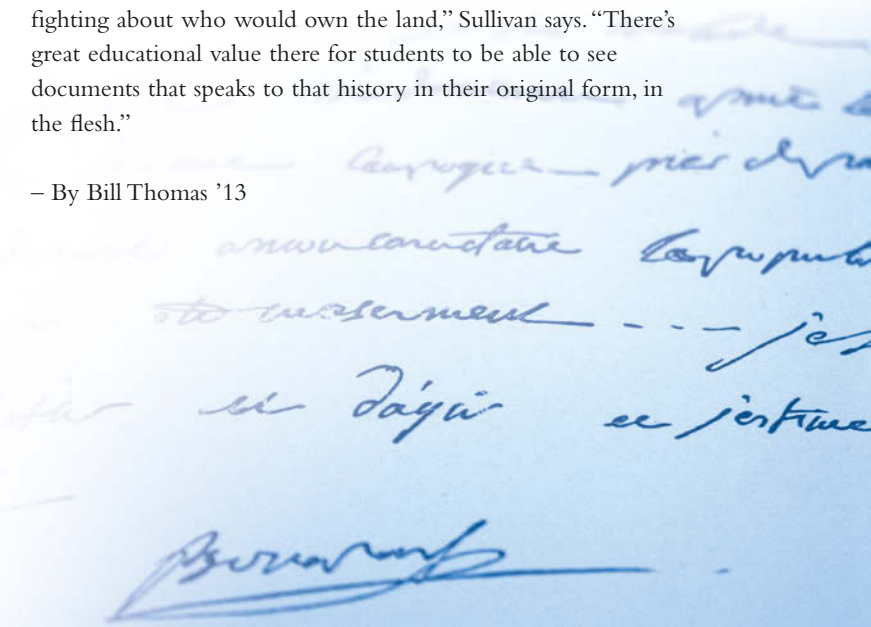
Often overlooked, the McClintock autograph collection is another of the Farley Library's little-known treasures, along with those items in the library's Norman Mailer Room, which includes several of Mailer's books, awards and even his dining room table, and the Polish Room, which includes antique wooden dolls in native Polish attire and "pisanki," beautifully painted ornamental eggs, as well as another collection of

autographs given to the school by Harold Stark, for whom the Stark Learning Center is named.

Some of the autograph collection focuses on events and people in Wilkes-Barre history.

"We have a number of important documents from the Wyoming Valley controversy, when Connecticut and New York and Pennsylvania and the Native Americans in the area were fighting about who would own the land," Sullivan says. "There's great educational value there for students to be able to see documents that speaks to that history in their original form, in the flesh."

– By Bill Thomas '13



# GOAL ORIENTED

Ask Wilkes junior Lisa Semetti what drives her to balance three majors and two minors while also acting as goalie for the women's soccer team, and you may be surprised by the answer. Her unusual inspiration is the animated Disney movie *Mulan*.

Based on a 6th-century Chinese legend, the film features a young woman who must masquerade as a man to fight in the army during a period of political tension. Semetti's three majors? Political science, international studies and history coupled with a self-described obsession for studying China. Her two minors are aerospace studies and women's and gender studies. The latter is the one Semetti admits to being most passionate about.

"Yeah, I blame *Mulan*. I think it's the best movie ever. I'm pretty sure that's when my whole feminism rant started," the Limerick, Pa., native says. "I've passed the point of being a feminist, and I'm just a complete women's rights advocate. I think everyone should be a feminist. It's only logical."

Like *Mulan*, she's also a leader, acting as president of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee, an organization made up of student athletes hand-picked by coaches, who help provide the school with insight into the student-athlete experience. She also tutors for the history department. In spring 2015, she'll spend the semester studying abroad in Wales before returning to Wilkes for her senior soccer season and a future that will include graduate school.

Semetti relishes competition academically and on the soccer field.

"I love being put under pressure and pushing myself," Semetti says. "It's one of the reasons I love being a goalkeeper. As a goalkeeper, you're the last line of defense. You have huge amounts of

Lisa Semetti Balances  
Three Academic Majors  
With Success in Soccer

By Bill Thomas '13



Lisa Semetti is goalie for the women's soccer team.  
PHOTO BY CURTIS SALONICK

pressure because, if you make a mistake, a goal is going to happen. If you're crazy like I am, it's the best position for you."

Semetti admits she'd be a whole lot crazier without a rock-solid support system.

In high school, Semetti had heard horror stories about how difficult college would be: professors and coaches unwilling to give students the time of day and classmates too wrapped up in their own problems to lend a helping hand. When Semetti came to Wilkes, she found the opposite to be true. Her professors, she says, are supportive. Her coach, John Sumoski, always puts academics first. "That's one of the reasons I came to

Wilkes: My coach said I could do the two majors."

And her peers? Semetti can't imagine life without them.

"I probably wouldn't have made it through any school year at all without my team. My best friends are on that soccer team. If any of us ever have an issue, we know we can go to one another," she says. "I came in with 20-odd automatic friends, including upperclassmen who helped show me the ropes and helped me pick professors. That made all the difference. We're like family. I like being able to say I have a home away from home. I call Wilkes my home."





# BEYOND

Digital Humanities Curriculum Transforms Study of Literature

# PRINT

By Geoff Gehman

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...of the water  
...of the water  
...and they follow



An assignment for their Studies in Chaucer Class became an academic pilgrimage for Wilkes sophomores Tara Giarratano and Nicole Kutos. They visited archives in two states and two countries without leaving Kirby Hall. They debuted as handwriting analysts, editors and archivists. They were digital detectives, searching for how words open worlds.

The two students spent fall 2014 transcribing the work of medieval scribes with a Mac computer. Sitting side by side in the English department's digital studio, the pair dissected 100 lines in four different manuscripts of *The Miller's Tale*, a pivotal part of *The Canterbury Tales*. They used collation software to log variations in spelling and syntax; they footnoted definitions and comparisons with the help of the online *Middle English Dictionary*. After scores of hours, they had created their own scholarly edition of Chaucer's colorful introductions of key characters, including a carpenter's wife prettier than a blooming pear tree.

Thomas A. Hamill, associate professor of English and their teacher, praises Giarratano and Kutos for plodding along the electronic pike to interact with literature in a new way. "Struggling to decipher 14th- and 15th-century scribal hands, grinding out lines of transcription, put them in unfamiliar spaces and gave them a set of uncommon experiences," says Hamill, an authority on medieval manuscripts. "Instead of following maps, they had to make their own maps. They didn't just interface; they interacted."

Kutos and Giarratano are pioneer partners in the English program's new digital humanities concentration, where students have created a video featuring World War I poems and examined Victorian society by tracking a single word in *Wuthering Heights*.

As the future of print is debated, scholars are embracing digital resources in their studies. Typically aligned with English programs, digital humanities is an emerging field engaging students in the long-term challenges that digital technologies pose for the future of human literary, linguistic and scholarly work. It challenges students to use emerging technologies to research and to present their work. Archival resources from around the world can be accessed online, while final projects might be a website instead of a research paper.



**"INSTEAD OF FOLLOWING MAPS, THEY HAD TO MAKE THEIR OWN MAPS. THEY DIDN'T JUST INTERFACE; THEY INTERACTED."**

— Thomas A. Hamill, Associate Professor



Wilkes' English department is the first among regional colleges to introduce a digital humanities curriculum. Launched last year, it is designed to turn students already adept as social-media users into more scholarly digital stewards while giving them more marketable skills. It's also designed to make a relatively solitary discipline—the academic study of literature—more collaborative while marketing the department as more progressive and practical.

"No one in the room is a digital humanities specialist right now, but that affords us an opportunity to define the brand," says Lawrence Kuhar, who chairs the English department and who has taught at Wilkes for 27 years. "Digital humanities engages us in a broader negotiation with knowledge and reality. It moves us into new ways of making meaning. It's exceptionally postmodern. We're in a different world altogether."

Left: Lawrence Kuhar, English department chair, teaches the Introduction to Digital Humanities class in the new concentration. PHOTO BY EARL AND SEDOR PHOTOGRAPHIC

Above: Thomas A. Hamill, associate professor of English, examines a facsimile of the Hengwrt manuscript of *The Canterbury Tales* with students Nicole Kutos and Tara Giarratano, center. The students' transcription of the manuscript page is on the right of the screen. PHOTO BY KNOT JUST ANY DAY PHOTOGRAPHY

Kuhar explored this brave new world in his class Introduction to Digital Humanities. For one project, he asked students to demonstrate the value of digital technology as a humanities tool. Sophomore Victoria Rendina chose a letter by Vincent Van Gogh, her favorite artist, from an online collection run by his namesake museum in his native Amsterdam. She had access to the original letter in Dutch, the English translation, footnotes and image. She found inspiration in Van Gogh's exquisitely sharp descriptions of rising from his sick bed to paint *The Bedroom*, the star of countless postcards and posters. What emerged for her was a 3-D portrait of "how someone so tragic could make something so beautiful," she says.

Art and artifact were bound together in the other new digital humanities course, Technologies of the Book. In the seminar, Hamill traced books as agents of technological revolution, whether printed by Gutenberg or digitized by Google. Again, his main agent was Chaucer.

Hamill instructed his Technologies of the Book students to create their own Chaucerian edition from 10 of the 50-odd manuscripts available in digital facsimile online. Decoding and

coding 14th-century words from so many hands evolved from a miserable exercise to a pleasurable experience. "They were not happy campers at first," says Hamill. "But they were so committed to slogging along together; they really took that part to heart. They got to argue for one manuscript reading over another. They got to unpack a lot of the nuances that get covered up or are reduced to esoterics in footnotes and textual notes. It ended up being an illuminating and empowering experience."

For the first time he assigned the creation of a web page as a final project. His students basically created Internet guides to the course's three areas of focus: medieval manuscripts, early printed books and the transformation of the book in the digital age.

Associate Professor Helen Davis also uses electronic resources in her classes. Understanding what technology makes possible, she did something last year she had never done: She asked every student in her Victorian Literature class to track a single word in a novel of their choice. Tara Giarratano picked *Wuthering Heights*, which she downloaded free in Farley Library because its copyright had expired. She charted the 41 appearances of the word "dream," noting its geographic location, symbolic

"IT TEACHES STUDENTS THAT ... TECHNOLOGY CAN BE YOUR FRIEND WHETHER YOU'RE WORKING FROM A SINGLE WORK, A WHOLE BODY OF WORK OR A WHOLE CENTURY."

— Helen Davis, Associate Professor



Left: Associate Professor Helen Davis, standing, discusses the use of iPads to research literature. PHOTO BY EARL AND SEDOR PHOTOGRAPHIC

Above: Student Victoria Rendina studies Van Gogh's letters. PHOTO BY KNOT JUST ANY DAY PHOTOGRAPHY



Below: Tara Giarratano and Nicole Kutos work in the English department's digital laboratory.

PHOTO BY KNOT JUST ANY DAY PHOTOGRAPHY

Right: Students in a literature class use iPads alongside traditional texts.

PHOTO BY EARL AND SEDOR PHOTOGRAPHIC



placement and importance to two kinds of characters: romantics and skeptics. Using the *Oxford English Dictionary*, she mapped the meaning of “dream” across centuries and cultures. A workshop exercise became a 12-page paper.

Electronics played a more dynamic role in Davis’ romantic literature class. Her students used iPads to trace the relationship of poems and prints in William Blake’s *Songs of Innocence and Experience*. The iPads enabled them to better detect how the meaning of a line can be changed by a semi-colon, and how the intensity of a poem can depend on the intensity of an etching of a tiger.

Davis believes in the power of digital technology to explore illustrations and give context to text. “It’s an incredibly useful approach for teaching,” she says. “It teaches students that they can do traditional research more efficiently, that technology can be your friend whether you’re working from a single work, a whole body of work or a whole century. It gives them more insight into our field; it helps them work like scholars. It gets them excited about research in new ways, and anything that gets them excited about research is a fun thing.”

Images and words are natural partners for Associate Professor Chad Stanley, who plays music, paints and directs the Wilkes Writing Center. An expert on visualizing and analyzing trauma, he has his English 101 students present a paper and a PowerPoint on a traumatic picture. Freshman Jessica Reynoso used online images and reviews to dissect a 1963 photograph of a young black civil-rights demonstrator confronted by two white policemen, one of them leashed to a lunging dog. In her classroom presentation she asked peers to evaluate the photo, which helped her examine how personal beliefs can change the perception of a radical image. She deepened the debate by comparing a photo of soldiers returning from war with a reenactment of the picture in LEGOs. Words and images are more potent partners in Visual Literacy, a new digital humanities course that Stanley is teaching in spring 2015. His students are analyzing paintings and movies, video games and memes, and both printed and electronic texts.

Kuhar expects that a critical component of the digital humanities curriculum will be a critique of digital technology as a humanities tool. Will visits to online archives discourage or encourage students to visit real archives? Will studying electronic books encourage or discourage them from reading printed books for fun? Transcribing medieval scribes with a Mac can improve their understanding of *The Canterbury Tales*, but can it improve their chances of getting a job as an editor?

Hamill capped the Chaucer course by taking students to the Morgan Library and Museum in Manhattan. There they saw one of the manuscripts of *The Canterbury Tales* that they had struggled to edit, as well as other medieval manuscripts, such as the Wycliffite Bible. The trip extended Hamill’s mission to have students engage with Chaucer “not only in the textbook but in terms of how that textbook was made. I want them to see medieval manuscripts as cutting edge and as significant as their iPads.”

Giarratano considers herself one of Hamill’s pilgrims on the electronic pike. Indeed, she traveled beyond the online *Middle English Dictionary* while she was creating her own mini-*Miller’s Tale*. She walked over to Farley Library, where she thumbed through a real copy of the book. Turning the pages was a touching experience for the true-blue bookworm.

“I think I’ll still be a total sucker for the Barnes & Noble leather-bound classics at the end of the day,” says Giarratano. “At home I’ll still read a book on my lap. I’ll still pay attention to the pretty pages in my four versions of *Pride and Prejudice*. And I will always pay attention to the editor of whatever I read for the rest of my life.”





# Ardent

# Activist

Jane Stapleton '86 Works to End Sexual Violence on Campus

By Andrew M. Seder

Jane Stapleton '86 credits her Catholic school education as contributing to her innate desire to rally against social injustices. Her time at Wilkes as an undergraduate student only strengthened that sense of activism and empowerment.





Jane Stapleton '86 co-directs the Prevention Innovations program at the University of New Hampshire, where she is pictured in her office.  
PHOTO BY PERRY SMITH

“I was inspired by my professors to really make a difference in the world,” Stapleton says from her office at the University of New Hampshire where she’s co-director of the Prevention Innovations program that develops, implements and evaluates programs, policies and initiatives that seek to end violence against women.

In 2006, Stapleton and her colleague Sharyn Potter created the Know Your Power Bystander Intervention social marketing campaign. The campaign consists of a series of images portraying realistic scenarios that highlight the important role all members of the community have in ending sexual assault, relationship violence and stalking. The program models active bystander behaviors that audience members can use to prevent or respond to violence. Such behaviors may include checking on a friend who is drunk and left alone with a member of the opposite sex or stepping in when witnessing partner abuse.

The campaign and related instructional materials created by the Prevention Innovations team have garnered national and international recognition and have helped to shine a spotlight on the problem of sexual assaults and ways to prevent them. The White House identified Prevention Innovations’ work in its report “Not Alone: The First Report of the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assaults.” The acknowledgement was a great honor, Stapleton says, adding that it’s nice to have that level of recognition and proves the program is being noticed.

“This is not just a college problem  
or a woman’s problem.  
It’s all of our problem.”

Stapleton also appeared before the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions on June 26, 2014, to testify about sexual assaults on college campuses. She also has been featured in interviews in *The New York Times* and *MSNBC*. The issue—now almost constantly in the news—actually led Stapleton to her career path.

A sexual assault on the University of New Hampshire campus on Feb. 17, 1987, was a watershed moment in the New England school’s history and in Stapleton’s life. As a first-year sociology graduate student, Stapleton’s social injustice alarm sounded as she joined a group of women and men on campus—“activists,” Stapleton calls them—to protest the rape and what they felt was the university’s inadequate response.

Though she didn’t know the victim, a freshman who was assaulted by three male students while she was under

**Jane Stapleton '86, Durham, N.H.**

**Bachelor of Arts, Sociology and Psychology, Wilkes**

**Master of Arts, Sociology, University of New Hampshire**

**Career:** Co-director of Prevention Innovations: Research and Practices for Ending Violence Against Women, a research center at the University of New Hampshire

**Notable:** Part of a growing movement to prevent the perpetration of sexual and relationship violence and stalking and make a difference in the lives of survivors. Her work has been cited by the White House and she has testified before a U.S. Senate committee hearing.

**Favorite Wilkes memories:** “I don’t have one. What I mostly remember and miss is spending time with my Wilkes friends, many of whom really shaped my life in the transition from high school to college and then beyond.”

the influence of alcohol, Stapleton was deeply affected by the incident and the facts surrounding it. Especially troubling, she says, was that several students, including a dormitory resident assistant, could have interceded at various times and ended the assault but remained bystanders.

“It really changed my life,” Stapleton says. “I was 22 and I’ve always been a pretty strong feminist and pretty vocal. It seemed like an incredible injustice.”

Stapleton graduated from Wilkes with a degree in sociology and psychology but wasn’t sure what she would do with her life. She was very interested in studying violence and why it occurred. The incident on that winter’s night nearly three decades ago changed her career trajectory and sent her down a new and narrower path focused on violence toward women.

“Ultimately that case really showed me my interest in violence in general needed to be paired with my activism,” Stapleton says. “More than just researching it, I wanted to have my work have an impact on those who had been victimized.” She also wants to help others avoid becoming new victims.

While most career-minded people hope the need for their profession and their chosen field never ceases to exist, Stapleton is not among them. She says she would love to see the day she isn’t needed.

“I’d ultimately love to be out of business,” she says, adding that, while she’s seen great advances in sexual violence awareness and prevention, the reality is it’s been around for millennia and it’s not going to disappear overnight or within a decade.

“I do think we’re making strides, figuring out how to prevent it. Hopefully it will be in my lifetime,” she says. “The work I’m doing is contributing to that.”

Born and raised in Bethlehem Township, Pa., between Easton and Bethlehem in the Lehigh Valley, Stapleton attended Notre Dame-Green Pond High School. When she was nearing her 1982 graduation date she chose to head northwest to Wilkes-Barre to further her education. As a first-generation college student, her yearning to continue to learn pushed her to attend college.



She was familiar with Wilkes thanks to her older brother Michael Stapleton '80, who graduated with an environmental science degree. She appreciated the small campus and small enrollment, which mirrored her high school, where she was one of 82 in her graduating class.

"It was very homelike and small," she recalls. She was on the school's cross country team and recalls runs through Kirby Park "on the other side of the Susquehanna River." She also remembers working at what was then dubbed "the SUB" or Student Union Building. She was employed at The Grill and was able to run, work and learn while at Wilkes.

She chose to major in sociology and psychology, she says, "because I always wanted to be in a helping profession." But for a person whose education had always been attained within a 70-mile drive from her childhood home, the decision to pursue her graduate degree more than 350 miles from both the Lehigh and Wyoming valleys seemed out of character.

The university, located in Durham, N.H., ended up on her radar thanks to Bruce Brown, one of Stapleton's sociology professors at Wilkes. Brown, who worked at Wilkes from 1979-1989 before moving to Washington state, earned his doctorate from the 149-year-old New England school. Stapleton credits Brown for guiding her at Wilkes and always being available to discuss educational and professional topics. And she credits the feeling of being part of the Wilkes family for having a positive impact on her life ever since.

In addition to her fond memories of running around the city and the campus and working at the SUB, Stapleton recalls living in McClintock Hall along South River Street all four years she was at Wilkes.

"I had a third-floor room with a great river view," she says. Her Wilkes degree hangs proudly on her office wall and she looks at it often. "I really had a great experience at Wilkes."

Another memory she has of Wilkes played a vital role in her life, though she didn't realize it at the time.

"I had a very close friend of mine at Wilkes who was sexually abused as a kid by a neighbor. ... I was struck by the impact it had on her life, even all those years later. It spurred me to look into making a difference in the lives of those who had been victimized."

At the time, she viewed it as a sad experience for her friend and she sought to get her the help and resources she needed.

"But ultimately for a number of reasons, she dropped out," Stapleton recalls. At the time, she didn't know how much that incident impacted her. But, she acknowledges, "it probably did."

"It was significant," Stapleton says. "I don't think I knew how much at the time" but when she thinks about it all these years later, she realizes that it almost certainly influenced her decisions, even if they were at a subconscious level.

While Stapleton's career has been filled with official recognition, she says she's most proud when she meets with students who seem genuinely interested in what she has to say. And while a lot of attention has been paid to cases of rape and sexual assaults on college campuses or by athletes, she notes this idea shortchanges the problem.

"This is not just a college problem or a woman's problem. It's all of our problem," Stapleton says.

Stapleton spends much of her time traveling the country visiting college campuses and speaking to classes and groups about the issue and showing them ways to identify potential problems and prevent them from occurring. But it's the individual conversations she has with victims or those who know victims that move her the most.

"At that very individual level it's at its most powerful," Stapleton says. "It shows me how very important my work is."

While there are hundreds of victims she's counseled, offering solace and empowerment, that University of New Hampshire freshman that was assaulted so many winters ago is often on the periphery of her mind.

When Stapleton offered testimony before the Senate committee on June 26, that teenage girl, now likely a grown woman in her 40s, weighed heavily on her mind.

"All I could think about was all the people I worked with all of these years; all of the survivors. I thought about that (1987) survivor. I looked back at that and I wanted her to know what happened to her was wrong. And since that time there are men and women committed to making sure it doesn't happen again," Stapleton says.

"Together we can prevent this," she adds. "That's what motivates me."



## Wilkes Bystander Intervention Training Engages Students to Stop Assaults

Wilkes University's Bystander Intervention Program empowers students to take on leadership roles in preventing sexual violence in the campus community. Started in fall 2014, the program is presented by 20 students who act as peer trainers. These students received a comprehensive six-hour training provided by the Victim's Resource Center, a Wilkes-Barre-based agency that provides education and advocacy services related to domestic violence and sexual assault.

Peer trainers, accompanied by a member of the student affairs staff, visited the First-Year Foundation classes attended by all freshmen. The primary tool used to spark dialogue in the sessions was a video filmed on campus using Wilkes students as actors. The video, "Colonels Don't Stand By," portrays the story of a freshman at a party who is at risk of assault. Peer trainers lead classes in a discussion about how to identify signs that someone may be at risk and how different characters in the film could intervene safely to alter the ending.



# LOW-KEY Litigator

Leonard J. Koerner '64  
Built a Career as a Lawyer  
for New York City

By Francisco Tutella

Leonard Koerner '64 in  
New York's Grand Central  
Station—a landmark building  
he saved from demolition  
as a lawyer for the city.  
PHOTO BY DAN Z. JOHNSON



New York City's Grand Central Terminal is an engineering and architectural marvel that conveys 82 million passengers annually throughout the city. The station, which hosts restaurants, stores, markets and special events, celebrated its centennial in February 2013. Yet if it weren't for Leonard J. Koerner '64, the beaux arts terminal would be gone, replaced by an office building.

Today, Koerner is chief assistant corporation counsel in the New York City Law Department. In 1975, the Penn Central Transportation Co. announced plans to demolish Grand Central and build a skyscraper. The public backlash, led by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, pushed the issue to the courts. In 1978 the case landed before the U.S. Supreme Court, where the soft-spoken and unpretentious Koerner headed New York City's litigation team.

"There was a lot of pressure on the case," Koerner recounts. "If we lost, the building would be lost. I didn't want to be responsible for its demolition." He argued that New York's Landmarks Law and real estate development rights, the railroad company's poor management and its need for an operational terminal in the city prevented Penn Central from razing the station. The Supreme Court sided with the city in a 6-3 decision.

The Grand Central case—one of seven he's argued before the Supreme Court, winning six—remains Koerner's most memorable and exemplifies his unpretentious litigative style and demeanor. While the railroad company's legal team spread binders full of notes across their tables, Koerner's table remained uncluttered. When Allen G. Schwartz, then New York City corporation counsel, approached Koerner and asked to see his notes, the young lawyer took a notepad and wrote, "Mr. Chief Justice and members of the Court." Koerner laughs about it now but recognizes that his gesture was then not so appropriate.

"My first year I used notes but found that I paid too much attention to the notes and not to the questions and themes the judges raised," he says. Koerner prefers to prepare well beforehand, develop his arguments in his mind, and deliver a fluid litigation.

Another notable Supreme Court case was *Ward v. Rock Against Racism*, in which the Supreme Court ruled that the city has the right to regulate noise volume while upholding artists' First Amendment rights. A significant New York State Court of Appeals case won by Koerner, *Hernandez v. Robles*, confirmed that the New York State Legislature has the sole right to set the state's same-sex marriage policy.

He chose Wilkes because a high school classmate, Mike Landesman, was attending and going to study accounting. Koerner chose the same major. One of 4,500 students at his Queens, N.Y., high school, Koerner's class at Wilkes boasted 202 students, his accounting cohort eight. He lived in Hollenback Hall with dorm mates who did everything together.


Koerner remembers the night his friends "relocated" an expensive marble and ivory inlaid pool table from the future Weckesser Hall. "That's cute," he recalls saying upon discovering the caper. Dean George Ralston did not share his sentiments. In a move foreshadowing his future career, he argued on behalf of his friends and saved them from an academic suspension.

He played basketball for three years at Wilkes. A mandatory 10-week accounting internship in New York City ended his sports career, and also his interest in accounting. His wife, Suzanne Stica Koerner '65, recalls how he returned from the internship dissatisfied. "When I asked him what happened," she says, "he said that they told him he had to wear a hat and how to dress for work."

"Some people liked performing audits," Koerner says. "I didn't. I was interested in public policy."

He entered New York University School of Law. When he graduated, Norman Redlich, one of Koerner's law school professors, encouraged him to apply to the New York City Law Department.

When he was in the appeals division, he held several positions including assistant attorney, deputy chief and chief of appeals. He has held his current position as chief assistant since 1985. He has also received numerous awards and distinctions, including the Sloan Public Service Award in 1998 and the 2004 New York State Bar Association's Award of Excellence in Public Service, the state's highest legal public service award. The New York City Landmarks Preservation Committee also recognized him on the 25th anniversary of the *Penn Central Transport Co. v. New York City* decision.

Today Koerner supervises the thousands of cases the city litigates each year. Asked when he plans to retire, he responds that eventually his energy level will fall but, "not yet." 

### Leonard J. Koerner '64, Chatham, N.J.

**Career:** Forty-year law career with the City of New York, where he now serves as chief assistant of corporation counsel.

**Notable:** Has argued seven times in front of the U.S. Supreme Court, including winning the case that saved Grand Central Station from demolition and preserved it as an historic landmark.

**Favorite Wilkes memories:** Living in Hollenback Hall, playing varsity basketball, and successfully convincing Dean George Ralston not to suspend his friends after they stole an expensive pool table.

# MOST VALUABLE

## Wilkes University Inducts 22nd Class to Athletics Hall of Fame

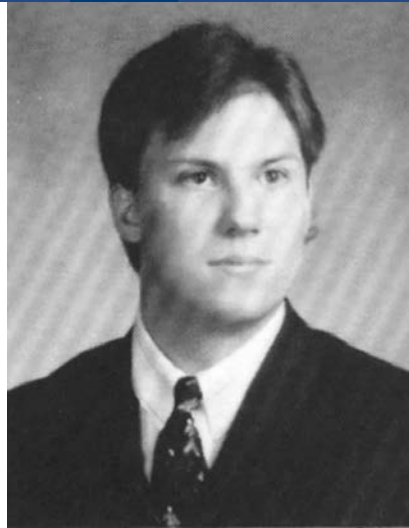
The latest group of alumni inducted into the University's Athletics Hall of Fame are being recognized at the Feb. 7 Colonels men's basketball game during a special half-time ceremony.



### Ron Fritts '72

#### WRESTLING

Fritts was a two-time MAC Champion wrestler at 190 pounds for the Colonels in 1970 and 1971. His career dual-match record stands at 36-6-2, the best winning percentage of any wrestlers in his weigh class in the history of Wilkes wrestling. Fritts was also a member of the silver anniversary team.



### David Kaschak '94

#### BASEBALL

Kaschak was a two-time All-MAC and 1993 All-ECAC baseball player for the Colonels. He also was a member of the 1994 MAC Championship team. Kaschak ranks fourth all-time in home runs with 25 long balls and fifth all-time in RBIs with 119.



### Dave Macedo '96

#### MEN'S BASKETBALL

As a player, Macedo was a four-year starting point guard for Wilkes, winning two league championships and making two NCAA Elite 8 appearances in 1995 and 1996. Following graduation, he was an assistant coach at Wilkes for two years, helping guide the teams to two NCAA Tournament appearances and one Final Four. Macedo just finished his 14th season as head coach of Division III Virginia Wesleyan College where he has guided the Marlins to a 314-100 overall record in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference. Macedo's teams have won five ODAC championships and reached the NCAA Tournament in 10 straight years.

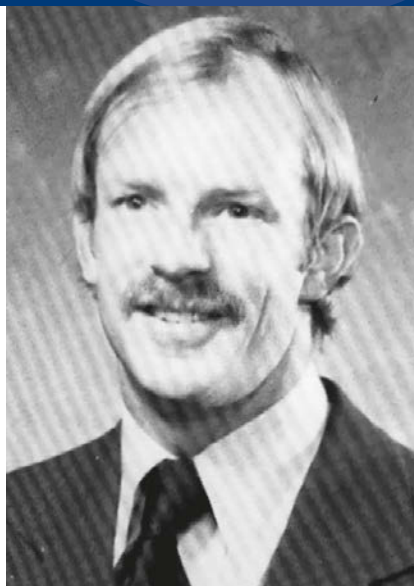




# PLAYERS



Members of the 22nd class of inductees to the Athletics Hall of Fame reflect on the importance of athletics in their lives at [www.wilkes.edu/halloffame](http://www.wilkes.edu/halloffame).



**Richard Marchant '76**  
**SWIMMING**

Richard Marchant was a four-year letter winner serving as a co-captain in 1975 and 1976 for the men's swimming team. At the MAC Championships he placed fifth in the 50 freestyle and in the 100 freestyle and sixth in the 100 butterfly. During his junior year at the MAC Championships he finished third in the 100 butterfly and sixth in the 50 freestyle.



**Pam Snyder '81**  
**FIELD HOCKEY**

Pam Snyder was a four-year letter winner for the Lady Colonels field hockey team. In 1977, she was an All-MAC second team all-star, followed by two All-Mac first team all-star honors in 1979 and 1980. Snyder scored 29 career goals with 13 career assists. She received Second Team Mideast Sectional Honor Roll awards from 1978-1980.



**Holly (Shiber) Sowcik '03**  
**WOMEN'S SOCCER**

One of the best women's soccer players to ever play for the Lady Colonels, Sowcik was a three-time First Team All-Freedom Conference midfielder. She was named to the NSCAA Mid-Atlantic All-Region third team in 2002. She is tied for first with 15 goals in a single season, and ranks second all-time in career goals with 37, third in career assists with 23 and third all-time in career points with 97.





## The Alumni Website Has A New Look

Next time you type in [wilkes.edu/alumni](http://wilkes.edu/alumni) to register for a Wilkes alumni event, update your contact information or find out the latest news from campus, you may be surprised to see the redesign of our alumni website. The new site, pictured here, features a more modern look and streamlined navigation, making it easier to find your favorite content. If you have any questions or if you want to tell us what you think of the new website, be sure to email us at [alumni@wilkes.edu](mailto:alumni@wilkes.edu).

The alumni website, left, has been redesigned for a modern look and better navigation.

## Alumni Association Open Board Meeting

Interested in learning more about the Alumni Association? Participate in our open meeting on Saturday, May 30, 2015. Whether you join us on campus or call in to the meeting, you'll get a firsthand look at how our board of directors works with its campus partners to provide programs for the alumni community. At the meeting, we'll review our goals and discuss future opportunities. If you are interested in participating, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at [alumni@wilkes.edu](mailto:alumni@wilkes.edu) or (570) 408-7787.

## SAVE THE DATE HOMECOMING 2015: OCTOBER 2-4!

.....  
Class years ending in 0s and 5s,  
get ready for your class reunion!

## 2014 REPORT OF GIFTS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Each year Wilkes shares its annual Report of Gifts so that donors can see the impact of their support to the University. The 2014 report is now available on our website. You will be able to view members of the John Wilkes Society (annual donors who contribute at least \$1,000 each year), members of the Marts Society (contributors who participate in gift-planning programs), as well as search donors by class year and constituency. View it at: [www.wilkes.edu/RG2014](http://www.wilkes.edu/RG2014). If you'd like a printed copy of the report, please call Lauren Pluskey, director of the annual fund, at (570) 408-4331.





## Alumni Board President Cynthia Charnetski '97 Has Sights Set on Success

Cynthia Charnetski '97 has a long history with Wilkes. She grew up on campus. Her father, Carl Charnetski '70, has been a professor of psychology here for decades. Now an optometrist at Northeastern Eye Institute and the new president of the Alumni Association board of directors, Cindy discusses her goals for the association, and her ideas on engaging alumni.

### Do you have a favorite memory of Wilkes from childhood?

I remember when my dad's office was in Stark Learning Center. Sometimes he would take me in with him on a weekend or holiday and I would use his classroom to pretend I was teaching my own class. Then he'd take me to his experimental lab and let me feed the rats. I loved going there; it was so much fun!

### What do you enjoy doing outside of your work with Wilkes?

I start every day with a workout and love being outdoors. My husband and I love to travel and hike. We also have three rescue dogs who keep us busy.

### How did Wilkes prepare you for your career as an optometrist?

Wilkes prepared me most importantly by opening the door to go to optometry school. When I went for my interview at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry, the dean said, "Wilkes students always do well here."

### What is the best part about being an alumna of Wilkes University?

I currently live in Kingston, so Wilkes is in my backyard. Being an alumna allows me to stay involved in an institution that is part of the community I live in. When I support Wilkes and attend University events, I'm also supporting the community in which I live.

### How did you become involved with the Wilkes Alumni Association?

A friend of mine, Rosemary LaFratte '93, MBA '97, sought me out to become involved and I am very grateful she did!

### What has been your favorite project or responsibility as the Alumni Association board president?

I take my role very seriously and feel my biggest responsibility is to engage more alumni. Whether you are looking to be

**"When I support Wilkes and attend University events, I'm also supporting the community in which I live."**



involved with current or incoming students, staff or board members, networking and meeting people, community service or attending a sporting event—there is truly something for everyone.

### What are your goals as president of the Alumni Association?

I want Wilkes alumni to feel proud of their institution and to be part of this extraordinary group which continues to build it. I believe this starts by just getting back on campus and seeing the changes. I want all alumni to get excited about what Wilkes has done and where it's going.

### How would you encourage other alumni to stay involved?

As a younger alumna, I didn't realize the full importance of giving financially. As I have become more involved, I now understand that tuition pays only a part of your overall expenses. Our institution counts heavily on donations, so I encourage everyone to remember what Wilkes provided for you and to consider helping make that a reality for students. Also, as I mentioned, stop by campus and check out all of the amazing changes. Try just one of our events or volunteer opportunities and I guarantee—you'll want to keep coming back!

### Cindy Charnetski '97, Kingston, Pa.

B.A., Psychology, Wilkes  
B.S., Salus University  
Doctor of Optometry, Salus University

**Career:** Optometrist, Northeastern Eye Institute

**Notable:** New president of Wilkes University Alumni Association

## Sara Wolman '11 Finds Calling as Park Ranger in Alaskan Wilderness

“Katmai is unique because it’s so remote...You have to have a real passion to come out this far.”

for the lunar landing. The ground is covered in brightly colored purple and orange and white rocks. It has a very prehistoric feeling and no one is out there. It’s one of the most surreal, pristine and amazing sights I’ve ever seen.”

As an interpretive park ranger at Katmai National Park, Wolman has the opportunity to take in such sights regularly. Though she was always passionate about

As an interpretive park ranger, Sara Wolman '11 introduces visitors to the beauty of remote Alaska.  
PHOTO BY LIZ JULIAN

When Sara Wolman '11 moved to Alaska in 2013, she knew the transition would be almost like traveling to another country. What she didn't realize was how close it would be to traveling to another planet.

“There's this spot in Katmai National Park and Reserve called the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes. It was the result of the 1912 eruption of Novarupta, which is the largest volcano eruption of the 20th Century. It created this huge pyroclastic flow (a fast-moving current of hot gas and rock) which completely covered this valley. It looks like Mars now, and I believe in the '60s, the government actually used the area to train astronauts

nature and environmental policy, it was Wolman's time at Wilkes that sparked her desire to see more of the world.

“I did the alternative spring break trip to Costa Rica in 2010. I went with (Andrew Miller, associate professor of political science) to San Marcos, and it was an incredible experience,” says Wolman, who majored in political science. “It inspired me to start getting out and hiking more, getting more into the outdoors. That's when it occurred to me that this was something I could do for a career.”

Following graduation, Wolman completed three terms of service with the federally funded AmeriCorps program. First,



she worked on a backcountry trail crew in Washington state, then moved on to work with the California Conservation Corps. Her third AmeriCorps assignment led her to Alaska, where she found her calling as an interpretive park ranger. In summer, she works in Katmai. In winter, she works on the Alaska Peninsula and the Becharof Wildlife Refuges. She also teaches native elementary and secondary students about the environment.

"I'm in charge of essentially educating the public. It's interesting because you meet people from all over the world," Wolman says. "Katmai is unique because it's so remote; you can't really get to the park unless you take a boat or a floatplane, so you have to have a real passion to come out this far, and to see that passion in someone else is wonderful. The majority of my job is really about connecting people with nature."

It's a long way from her home in Shavertown, Pa. But she's grown to love her new location—even relishing the fact that bears outnumber people roughly 15 to one.

"I believe it's about 2,200 to 3,000 brown bears in this area, whereas people-wise we're at about 200," Wolman says. "They're incredibly human-habituated, so they're used to having people around. You give them their respective space and they just do their thing, but they are massive, weighing upwards of a thousand pounds. I've developed quite the affinity for the Alaska brown bear. They're amazing creatures."

– By Bill Thomas '13

Brown bears, pictured at Brooks Falls, are among the most plentiful inhabitants of Katmai, Alaska, where more than 2,000 of them outnumber humans. Bottom, the Alaskan wilderness is the colorful backdrop for Sara Wolman's work. Pictured is the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes. PHOTOS BY SARA WOLMAN



## Undergraduate Degrees

### 1964

**Alan Gubanich** is an emeritus faculty member at the University of Nevada, Reno, where he was a member of the biology department for 35 years. An ornithologist, he is vice president of the local Lahontan Audubon Society and chair of its education committee. He also is a board member of the Great Basin Institute. He is co-editor with Karen Kish of *A Birding Guide to Reno and Beyond*. He has led outdoor weekend trips and one-day excursions for the continuing education program of Truckee Meadows Community College.

Gubanich and his wife also spend time babysitting their 2-year-old twin grandchildren, Rita and Jackson.

### 1969

**Martin Naparsteck** published his eighth book, *The Trial of Susan B. Anthony: An Illegal Vote, a Courtroom Conviction and a Step Toward Women's Suffrage*. The book tells the story of the landmark trial that made Anthony the iconic leader of the women's rights movement.

### 1973

**Shirley Newhart** was appointed international music representative for Delta Kappa Gamma International Society, an organization for key women educators.

**John Ormando** recently retired from Intel Corp. after 23 years. He resides in Prescott, Ariz.

### 1975

**REUNION: OCT. 2-4**

**Robert Dwyer** became president of the Chancellor Financial Group's investment advisers business line. He lives in Kingston, Pa.

**Mark A. Van Loon** was elected to a three-year term on the board of trustees at Misericordia University in Dallas, Pa. Van Loon is a partner at the law firm Rosenn, Jenkins & Greenwald LLP in Wilkes-Barre.

### 1977

**Richard A. Russo** was selected by his peers at Rosenn, Jenkins & Greenwald LLP for inclusion in the 21st Edition of the Best Lawyers in America in the area of personal injury litigation – plaintiffs. He is a resident of Dallas, Pa.

### 1978

**James Siberski** presented "Brain Rehabilitation and Alzheimer's Disease" at the 2014 Alzheimer's Association Fall Education and Research Conference, on Nov. 5, 2014, in Grantville, Pa. Siberski is assistant professor and coordinator of the Gerontology Education Center for Professional Development at Misericordia University in Dallas, Pa.



1982

**Ruth McDermott-Levy** was named director of the Villanova University College of Nursing's Center for Global and Public Health. Launched in 2010, the center extends the nursing college's engagement in global and public health. McDermott-Levy, who is an associate professor at Villanova, has extensive international public health research experience, including working with community health workers in Nicaragua, international nursing students in Oman and Arab immigrants in Pennsylvania. Since 2009, she has worked on the Nicaragua telehealth program, a collaborative effort of Villanova's colleges of nursing and engineering and its school of business and the National Autonomous University Nicaragua School of Nursing.



1984

**Dr. David Talenti**, a gastroenterologist from Sayre, Pa., was elected to the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania Medical Society. He continues in his role as the society's 12th district trustee, representing physicians in Bradford, Luzerne, Sullivan, Susquehanna and Wyoming counties.

1980

REUNION: OCT. 2-4

**George Kavulich** joined Lackawanna Insurance Group as vice president of underwriting. He resides in Archbald, Pa.

1986

**Sandy Long** was selected as Shenandoah National Park's first artist-in-residence. An accomplished nature photographer, Long spent from Sept. 22 to Oct. 3, 2014, in residence at the park, capturing its natural beauty in photographs. She is co-founder, with fellow Wilkes alumna **Krista Gromalski '91**, of Heron's Eye Communications, a

marketing, communications and project-management firm specializing in projects that foster community partnerships that promote the environment and a sustainable local economy. The firm is based in Greeley, Pa.

1999

**Christopher Thompson** completed a fellowship in hospice and palliative medicine from Mercer University School of Medicine. He has joined Columbus Hospice as associate medical director and is a clinical assistant professor at Mercer University School of Medicine.

1990

REUNION: OCT. 2-4

**Patty Maloney** became assistant professor of nursing at Misericordia University. She resides in Hanover Township, Pa.

1992

**Michael J. Mellody** was promoted to chief financial officer at Jack Williams Tire Company Inc. He resides in Tafton, Pa.

1993

**John J. Keeler** joined Penn East Federal Credit Union as manager and business development officer at its Clarks Summit, Pa., office.

2001

**Edward Bednarz III** published a fiction story, "The Journey To Discover The

Meaning Of Life." Part of the book was written while he was an undergraduate at Wilkes, and he finished it 14 years later as an assistant professor at the University. It is available through Tate Publishing.

2003

**Henry Albert Turchanik III** and **Tanja Marie Plessl** were married June 14, 2014, at Notre Dame Church in Bethlehem, Pa. The groom is employed as an electrician by I.B.E.W. Local 163, Wilkes-Barre. The bride is an English as a second language (ESL) teacher at Washington Elementary School, Allentown. The couple honeymooned in Aruba and reside in Schnecksville, Pa.

2007

**Shannon Curtin MBA '09** was nominated for a 2014 Pushcart Prize by ELJ Publications for her poem "To The Boy I Couldn't Make Myself Love." Her second poetry chapbook, *Motherland*, will be published by Anchor and Plume Press. Curtin and her husband, **Zachary Mazur**, welcomed their first child, **Quinn Steelyn**, on Aug. 8, 2014. Curtin is a communications and engagement analyst for Northrup Grumman in Suffolk, Va. She lives with her family in Portsmouth, Va.



## Ann Marie Kopec '79 Tastes Success With Winterland Winery

In a small rural area in Sullivan County, said be the coldest spot in Pennsylvania, sits Winterland Winery, an avocation of Ann Marie Kopec '79.

“Growing up in Luzerne County, wine was a part of growing up—a lot of people made homemade wine,” Kopec says.

After she moved to Sullivan County, it became more about the process of wine and its importance on the commercial level.

“It was a bucket list thing, kind of like a hobby that turned into a second career,” she says.

The winery, which opened five years ago on Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, isn't her only forte. Since graduating with a sociology major, Kopec held several positions in her field, including teaching as an adjunct faculty member in the Wilkes sociology department. She is now a graduate fellow and supervisor of the Albert Ellis Institute in New York City, and the owner and executive director of Abington Counseling Center, which serves high-risk families in Bradford and Sullivan counties.

Kopec says one of the best aspects of the winery is its ability to attract people from across the United States and around the world. It is a place where personal and social interaction thrive and has allowed her to make several good friends. People even come to see the winery's Olde English Bulldog, FiFi.

The winery's location adds to the value of the experience. Kopec says it gives people something to do after hiking and biking and is also a plausible alternative when rain hits on camping trips.

She says there is more involved than what meets the eye. Acquiring a license to own and run a winery is a lengthy one. However, she was in luck thanks to her previous experience at another winery in Sullivan County known as Bird Song Winery.

“A lot of people think it's just tasting wine and nice talk,” Kopec says. “I worked in a winery, so I knew the ins and outs.”

Pennsylvania ranks seventh in the United States in the number of wineries, and Kopec says the traffic at Winterland Winery speaks to that number.

“People are realizing the quality of Pennsylvania wine,” Kopec says.

“It was a bucket list thing,  
kind of like a hobby that  
turned into a second career.”



Ann Marie Kopec '79 greets customers at Winterland Winery, where she makes wines in Sullivan County, Pa.

She says coming to a winery like Winterland offers a much different experience than a trip to the liquor store.

“The good thing is that you taste your wine,” Kopec says.

Winterland Winery is also home to several other sweet and Minnesota varieties, including traditional concord, Niagara, drier reds and whites, a port-like wine, and a holiday spice for the holiday season. In fact, some of the winery's bestsellers include Frost and Winter's Night. Kopec says these varieties are made with cold, hardy grape varieties developed by the University of Minnesota so the vines could withstand frigid climates like those found at Winterland, which reached a negative 32 degrees last year.

The quality of Kopec's blueberry wine—made from 100 percent organic blueberries and no artificial flavoring—even won her a bronze medal at the Finger Lakes International Wine competition. The grapes used to make the Minnesota varieties at Winterland are grown locally in that cold climate of Sullivan County, hence the phrase “earth to bottle.”

– By Alyssa Stencavage

*Alyssa Stencavage is a senior communication studies major.*

Judy Shandler MA '08 had her first short story, "There but for Fortune," published in *The Boardwalk*, a collection of stories by local writers published by Cat & Mouse Press in November 2014. Shandler writes a column in the weekly Delaware Coast Press and teaches noncredit creative writing classes in Rehoboth Beach, Del.

### 2008

**Christopher Dallas** welcomed his new son, Tanner Christopher, who was born June 30, 2013.

**Lisa Ann Dreier** and her husband, Jared Clossen, welcomed their daughter, Teddie Marie Clossen, born Dec. 21, 2013.

**Koryn Gallagher** joined Belle Reve Senior Living as director of resident care. She resides in Olyphant, Pa.

**Kristin Marie Wempa**  
(See Graduate Degrees 2010)

### 2009

**Bethany Toczek Gerdy**  
(See Graduate Degrees 2011)

**Kathy Dalton Wagner** is an analyst for a small business in Havre de Grace, Md., that specializes in software development and consulting.

## Melanie Thomas '11 Honored for Envisioning Life Beyond Disability

For some, seeing is believing. For Melanie Thomas '11, it's been the other way around.

"I begged and pleaded with God. I said 'God, if you fix my eyes I will do whatever you want me to do with my life,' " says Thomas, who majored in communication studies at Wilkes. "I was always told my whole life that I would never drive a car. I would never be able to participate in sports. I'd never be able to do normal activities."

Thomas, who was recently honored with the Greater Wilkes-Barre Association for the Blind's Arline Phillips Achievement Award, was legally blind from birth. She was born with cataracts, a clouding of the lenses inside her eyes, and nystagmus, a condition causing involuntary eye movement. At age 8, she developed acute angle glaucoma, a condition that increases pressure build-up of the fluids of the eye. Her doctor told her lens implant surgery could help with her vision problems, but the glaucoma made such an operation needlessly risky.

Undeterred, Thomas sought a second opinion. Today, she is categorized as "partially sighted" and she's earned her driver's license.

Sara Peperno, president and CEO of the Association for the Blind, says, "The Arline Phillips Achievement Award is awarded to someone who is blind or visually impaired but who reflects an independence that sets an example for others in similar situations.

"Melanie and her family have been involved with the association for many years. She's volunteered for us many times. She's an amazing, uplifting person. She has such a positive attitude, and she's worked very hard to get where she is. Seeing her as an adult now, with a child of her own, it's been so wonderful to get to know her and her family."

Determined to make the most of her blessings, Thomas is pursuing a master's degree in business administration at Wilkes while working in a paid position as a voluntary service assistant at the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. She says her job working with veterans helps her to honor her late grandfather who served in the Korean War.

"I'm succeeding in living the best life I possibly can live. I want to inspire other people who might have a disability or who struggle with physical limitations. You've got to get up and advocate for yourself, and you've got to serve and help others. I truly believe that volunteering and serving others pulled me out of what could have been a bad depression. It helps me to focus on the bigger picture. It brings me so much joy to help feed into other people's lives," Thomas says.



**"You've got to get up and advocate for yourself, and you've got to serve and help others."**

Melanie Thomas '11 receives the Arline Phillips Award from ophthalmologist Dr. Erik Kruger. PHOTO COURTESY GREATER WILKES-BARRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

– By Bill Thomas '13



**2010****REUNION: OCT. 2-4**

**Christopher Gulla** joined the law firm of Zeller & Weilicsko in Cherry Hill, N.J. He also is assistant men's basketball coach at Rutgers University-Camden in New Jersey.

**Michael McAndrew** married **Kate Murtaugh '11** on July 26, 2014.

**Andrew Seaman** was named chair of the ethics committee of The Society of Professional Journalists at the organization's national conference on Sept. 6, 2014, in Nashville, Tenn. The society is the world's largest broad-based group for journalists. Seaman lives in New York City, where he works for Reuters.

**Mary (Balavage) Simmons** and her husband, Catlin, welcomed their first child, Michael Christopher, on Feb. 27, 2014. Simmons is associate director of alumni relations at Wilkes.

**2011**

**Kate Murtaugh** (See Undergraduate Degrees 2010)

## Graduate Degrees

**1974**

**Bernard Healey MS** co-authored a new textbook with Tina Marie Evans titled *Introduction to Health Care Services: Foundations and Challenges*. The book provides a comprehensive guide to the structure, synergy and challenges in U.S. health care delivery. Healey is professor of health care administration at King's College, Wilkes-Barre.

**1975**

**Robert Edgerton, Jr. MBA** was promoted to the position of executive vice president of Luzerne Bank.

**1992**

**Charles Makar MBA** has been named an instructor of business at Misericordia University in Dallas, Pa.

**1994**

**Patricia Staskiel MS** became coordinator of student support services at Penn State University Wilkes-Barre.

**2007**

**Craig Czury MFA** received a faculty development grant from Albright College to travel to Iquique, Chile, to speak and read poems at the launch of *So Far...So Close*, an anthology of contemporary writers of Tarapacá and Pennsylvania, for which he was selected among

Pennsylvania poets. His poetry chapbook *Because Although Despite*, originating from a Marcellus Shale hitchhiking project, was published by FootHills Publishing. He was also a featured poet at the international Södermalms Poesifestival in Sweden.

**2008**

**Judy Shandler MA '08** (See Undergraduate Degrees 2007)

**2009**

**Shannon Curtin MBA** (See Undergraduate Degrees 2007)

**2010**

**Brian Fanelli MFA's** poem "Trying to Catch the Culprits" received an honorable mention for the Allan Ginsberg poetry prize. The poem will appear in a future issue of Paterson Literary Review, along with another poem titled "For Jimmy, Who Bruised My Ribs and Busted My Nose." In addition, his essay "He Too Sings America: Jazz, Laughter, and Sound as Protest in Langston Hughes's Harlem" was published by TheThePoetry.com.

**Salena Fehnel MA's** novel *Nesting Dolls* was published July 1, 2014, by Northampton House Press. The novel was nominated for the American Library Association's Stonewall Book Award and for the 2014 GLCA New Writers Award.

**2004**

**Stephanie Smith Cooney Pharm.D.** received "The 10 Under 10" award from the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association. The award recognizes the top 10 Pennsylvania pharmacists practicing for fewer than 10 years. She owns Gatti Pharmacy in Indiana, Pa.

**2007**

**Kimberly Metka Welch Pharm.D.** received "The 10 Under 10" award from the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association. The award recognizes the top 10 Pennsylvania pharmacists practicing for fewer than 10 years. She resides in Mountain Top, Pa. She is assistant professor of internal medicine at Wilkes University's Nesbitt School of Pharmacy.

**Kristin Marie Wempa Pharm.D.** and **Matthew Ryan O’Rear** were married Aug. 23, 2014, at St. Faustina Kowalska Church in Nanticoke, Pa. The bride is a clinical research associate with Renaissance RX in Virginia. The groom is worship and music director at a community church in Virginia. They reside in Charlottesville, Va.

### 2011

**Desiree Marie Boris MS** and **Jeffrey Brayton Kreidler** were married Oct. 26, 2013, at St. Nicholas Church in Wilkes-Barre. The bride is employed by the Northwest Area School District as a special education teacher. The groom is a Pennsylvania state trooper. The couple reside in Mountain Top, Pa.

**Bethany Toczec Gerdy Pharm.D.** married **Matt Gerdy** on Aug. 9, 2014.

**Morowa Yejide MFA’s** debut novel, *The Time of the Locust*, was nominated for an NAACP Image Award in the category of literary work by a debut author. She resides in Washington, D.C.

### 2012

**Catherine Arne MA’s** feature-length sci-fi script *The Decimation* was optioned by Voyage Media, where she has also begun assignment work as an independent contractor, doing script treatments, action plans and book-to-screen projects.

**Danielle Poupore MFA** was hired as communication and marketing specialist for student affairs at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City.

### 2013

**Michael E. Batyko MS** was named head mechanical engineer at Finch Technology LLC.

**Chris Campion MA** is a guest columnist for Giuporshutup.com.

**Laurie Elizabeth Powers MFA’s** *The Importance of Sex Education* placed in the top six in the DC Shorts Screenplay Competition. In addition, the short screenplay was recognized with her feature-length screenplay *Related* as quarter-finalists in the Screencraft Comedy Screenplay Competition.

### 2014

**Nisha Sharma MFA** sold her master’s thesis project, *My So-Called Bollywood Life*, and an additional untitled young adult romance to Crown Books for limited world rights. *My So-Called Bollywood Life* is slated for publication in spring 2016 and has been optioned by producer Susan Cartsonis for filmmakers Gurinder Chadha and Paul Mayeda-Berges to adapt. Cartsonis, Chadha and Mayeda-Berges will produce the film through their companies, Storefront Pictures and Bend it Films.

**Heather Ann Taylor MFA** was named assistant professor of English at Bethany College in Bethany, W.Va.

**Autumn Whiltshire MA** placed first in the science fiction feature category of the Indie Gathering for her screenplay *Gaia*.

### 2015

**April Line MFA** was hired as a part-time lecturer in the English department at The Pennsylvania State University, University Park. She also teaches a literature class at Misericordia University in Dallas, Pa.



## In Memoriam

**1943**

**John P. Heim**, Lawrence, Kan., died Nov. 20, 2013. He was a chemical engineer and retired from Hercules Inc. in the 1980s.

**1944**

**Arthur Williams**, died April 13, 2014. He served as a U.S. Army Paratrooper during World War II. He worked for The McClatchy Company for 35 years, retiring as vice president. He also worked in public relations for the *Sacramento Bee* newspaper.

**1946**

**Calvin Kanyuck**, Newport Township, Pa., died Sept. 7, 2014. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and was a teacher for the Freeland and Lake Lehman school districts.

**Doris Mary Raub**, Clarks Summit, Pa., died July 23, 2014. She was the first woman to be awarded a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Bucknell University. In addition to working as a civil engineer for Pennsylvania, she also was a licensed real estate associate broker.

**1947**

**Joseph Edward Elick**, East Alton, Ill., died Sept. 2, 2014. He served the U.S. Air Force in World War II and later worked for Hoover Inc. in Massillon, Oh., before moving to Godfrey, Ill., where he worked as a design engineer for Olin-Winchester Western.

**Herbert Levy**, Westerville, Ohio, died Aug. 26, 2014. He owned and operated the Copy Cat Fast Print Shop and ran Tall Timber, a boy's camp in Casco, Maine. He also worked at Blue Ribbon Baker, his family's business.

**1948**

**George Frear Fry Jr.**, Wilson, Wyo., died Jan. 11, 2014. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and later went to work for Hughes Aircraft as an industrial engineer before starting his own machine tool tracing valve manufacturing company, True-Trace Corp., in California.

**1949**

**Dr. James Matthews Hofford**, Wilmington, Del., died Aug. 26, 2014. He served in the U.S. Navy and, after graduating from Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University, maintained a private practice in pulmonary medicine until 1988. He founded and served as director of the pulmonary function lab at Wilmington Hospital and served as chief of pulmonary medicine at St. Francis Hospital.

**1950**

**John Wardzel**, Larksville, Pa., died July 8, 2014. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II in Saipan.

**1952**

**Joseph Rogan**, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., died July 22, 2014. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, and, with his brother Edward, established E.J. Rogan and Sons Inc., a mechanical contracting business.

**1953**

**Thomas E. Boyle**, Hanover Township, Pa., died Oct. 3, 2014. He was employed by the Muncy School District and served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean Conflict.

**1955**

**Hardol A. Groff**, Hunlock Creek, Pa., died Oct. 26, 2014. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. He was later awarded a fellowship in telecommunications by Bell Atlantic and was a licensed NARTE senior engineer.

**John S. Novitski**, Shavertown, Pa., died Aug. 27, 2014. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. Prior to retirement, he was the controller at Penn State Belt and Buckle in Wilkes-Barre Township.

**1958**

**David H. Weber**, Silver Spring, Md., died April 4, 2014. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army.

**1959**

**Richard E. Edwards**, Springfield, Pa., died Aug. 27, 2014. He had been vice president of the Philadelphia National Bank, retiring as a special corporate lending officer in 1992 after 33 years of service.

**1960**

**Janet L. Cristello**, Winthrop, Maine, died July 11, 2014. She was employed for many years at Macy's Department Store in New York and was later employed at Kennedy's Department Store in Hyannis, Mass., as store manager. In retirement, she became a real estate executive and worked for the Niles Company at the Village Condominiums in Watertown, Maine.

**Margaret J. Franklin**, Danville, Pa., died Aug. 21, 2014. She was a registered nurse and she served on the faculty of Geisinger Medical Center Nursing School for 36 years.

**Thomas Paul Korshalla**, Larksville, Pa., died Sept. 3, 2014. He was employed as a teacher and principal by the Old Bridge Township School District in New Jersey until his retirement. He served in the U.S. Air Force.

**Robert V. Stevens**, Guilford, Conn., died Oct. 12, 2014. He worked as transportation director for Sarah Inc. from 1997 to 2010. He received a law degree from Penn State University, Dickinson School of Law, and practiced law for two years in Wilkes-Barre before moving to the Trust Department of Miner's National Bank, then to Union Trust Bank and Shawmut National in Guilford.

### 1961

**Edward C. Bedner**, Boston, Mass., died Aug. 6, 2014. He completed bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in music at Boston University with additional piano study at the New England Conservatory of Music. He was a professor of music at Berklee College of Music at the time of his passing.

**Robert "Red" Marr**, Dallas, Pa., died Sept. 12, 2014. He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean conflict, and was employed as a math teacher at Dallas High School for 30 years.

### 1963

**Patricia A. Pisano**, Drums, Pa., died Oct. 4, 2014.

### 1964

**Marsha Edlich**, New York, N.Y., died on Jan. 31, 2014. She taught French at the Professional Children's School in Manhattan for 35 years, and had previously been chief of operations for Club Med USA. She was also a member of the board of the New York Women's Foundation.

### 1968

**Paul P. Fosko**, Dallas, Pa., died Aug. 30, 2014. He was a chemical engineer with the state Department of Environmental Protection, and, with his wife, owned and operated Fosko Accounting Services.

**Daniel P. Kenia Sr.**, German Hill, Pa., died July 24, 2014. He had an accounting practice in Tunkhannock for 40 years and was a partner/owner of Stonehedge Golf Course.

**Richard H. Seidel**, West Pittston, Pa., died Sept. 25, 2014. He served in the U.S. National Guard and was employed by W.H. Conyngham & Co. Inc. until 2012.

### 1969

**Joyce Carr**, Larksville, Pa., died Oct. 9, 2014. She was an elementary school teacher with Wyoming Valley West School District at the State Street School Elementary Center for most of her career.

**Barbara DeGenevieve**, Chicago, Ill., died Aug. 9, 2014. She received her master's degree in photography at the University of New Mexico. She taught at the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign and the School of Art Institute of Chicago, where she also served as chair of the photography department. Her work is featured in museums around the world.

**Larry R. Volkel**, Wescosville, Pa., died April 25, 2014. He served as a U.S. Army Specialist in the Vietnam War. He worked for 10 years in medical records and human resources at the former Allentown Hospital, and for 20 years was human resource manager for ABB, a power and automation technologies company in Allentown, Pa., until his retirement in 2003.

### 1972

**James J. Loftus**, Ellicott City, Md., died Sept. 13, 2014. He was a retired attorney and former Pan-Am in-flight purser.

### 1989

**Lynn M. Wargo**, Glen Lyon, Pa., died Sept. 22, 2014. She was employed as a notary public.

### 2000

**Jeffrey Barrouk**, Wilkes-Barre, died Nov. 1, 2014. He was a senior product specialist for Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

### 2006

**Melissa Joye Karis Fox Zarlengo**, West Palm Beach, Fla., died July 30, 2014. She started her nursing career at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital as a licensed practical nurse and, following her graduation from Wilkes as a registered nurse, returned to Wilkes-Barre General Hospital as a critical care nurse. After moving to Palm Beach, she worked as a home health nurse and later a school nurse. She earned many pageant titles, including Mrs. Luzerne County, Mrs. Palm Beach and Mrs. Florida.

## Graduate Degrees

### 1997

**Robert Aulisio**, Old Forge, Pa., died Sept. 19, 2014. He was a science teacher for the Lakeland School District for more than 40 years, and also taught and coached football in Eldred, N.Y., and was a ski instructor for the Special Olympics.

### 1999

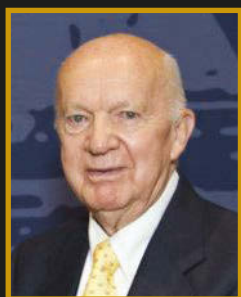
**Daniel W. Doughton**, Pennsdale, Pa., died Oct. 14, 2014. He taught for 25 years in the Sullivan County School District, retiring in 2000, before becoming a UniServe representative for Pennsylvania State Education Association in the Wilkes-Barre office.





S·A·V·E T·H·E D·A·T·E

MAY 30, 2015 • 6 P.M.  
WESTMORELAND CLUB, WILKES-BARRE



**2015 PRESIDENT'S MEDAL RECIPIENT  
JOHN REESE**

*former Wilkes University athletic director and wrestling coach*

**WE SOLD OUT!** The Inaugural Founders Gala, held on June 7, 2014, raised over \$250,000 for the newly established First Generation Fund. Don't miss the opportunity to support first-generation college students at Wilkes University. Mark your calendar now to join us!

For more information, contact Lisa Everitt-Ensley at [lisa.everittensley@wilkes.edu](mailto:lisa.everittensley@wilkes.edu) or (570) 408-4137.

## calendar of events



### February

- 10 Phil Klay, National Book Award winner, Reading and book signing Ballroom, Henry Student Center, 7 p.m.
- 13–15, 20–22 *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*, Dart Center, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays
- 26 MBA “Flights & Bites” – University Center on Main, 5–7 p.m.
- 28–March 2 Spring Break

### March

- 14 Wrestling Alumni Event, Troegs Brewing Co., Hershey, Pa., 4–5:30 p.m.
- 14 Hershey Area Alumni Event, Troegs Brewing Co., Hershey, Pa., 5:30–7 p.m.
- 16 Lynn Emanuel, Poet, Reading, Kirby Salon, 7 p.m.
- 21 VIP Day for accepted students

### April

- 9 Business Networking Mixer, Rodano’s, Wilkes-Barre, 6 p.m.
- 9 Henry Veggian, Literary Critic and Essayist, Reading, Kirby Salon, 7 p.m.
- 9–12 *Alice In Wonderland*, Dart Center, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays
- 16 Allan P. Kirby Lecture, Cynthia Montgomery, Timken Professor of Business and Director of Research at Harvard Business School, “The Strategist: Be The Leader Your Business Needs.” Dart Center, 7 p.m.
- 18 Spring Dance Concerts, Dart Center, 8 p.m.
- 19 Civic Band Concert, St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, 35 South Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre, 3 p.m.
- 23 Jazz Orchestra Concert, Dart Center, 8 p.m.
- 26 Choral Concert, St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, 35 South Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre, 3 p.m.
- 26 Max Rosenn Lecture in Law and Humanities, Brian Greene, Physicist, Dart Center, 7 p.m.
- 29 University Orchestra Concert, Dorothy Dickson Dart Center

### May

- 16 Spring Commencement, Marts Center
- 30 Founders Gala 2015, Westmoreland Club, 6 p.m.