

# WILKES

FALL/WINTER 2017

## Colonel Couple

PANOS AND DEB  
(STEPHENS) KALARITIS  
SHARE CAREER SUCCESS  
AND A MARRIAGE  
MADE AT WILKES

INSIDE: THE NEW KARAMBELAS MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION CENTER AND THE SORDONI ART GALLERY

## Milestones Signal Time of Great Progress at Wilkes

**W**ilkes is halfway through our six-year *Gateway to the Future* strategic plan, and we are making great progress toward our goals. Through the efforts of our campus community, Board of Trustees, alumni, and talented student body, we are positioning Wilkes for the next phase of our continued evolution—becoming one of the nation's finest small doctoral universities. In just the first few weeks of the fall semester, we celebrated three significant milestones that are evidence of this evolution.

In September, the University's first Ph.D. program in nursing became a reality. Sixteen students from seven different states will be prepared to educate the next generation of nurses through the program's rigorous coursework. With the addition of the Ph.D. in nursing, we now offer five terminal degrees that enroll more than 550 students.



Wilkes President Patrick F. Leahy speaks at the dedication of the Sordoni Art Gallery, launching a new era for the arts. PHOTO BY KNOT JUST ANY DAY

Just two weeks later, Wilkes' commitment to the arts was renewed with the rededication of the Sordoni Art Gallery in its new location at 141 South Main Street, making a bold statement about the importance of the arts at this University. The opening exhibition, "15 Minutes: From Image to Icon," featured works by internationally-known artist Andy Warhol. In just the first month since the gallery opened its doors, more than 1,000 people have visited the space. It has been such a thrill to see visitors—both art-lovers and novices alike—experience Warhol's renowned works right here on our campus. This is the beginning of a new era for the Sordoni Art Gallery, during which our students and the community will have the opportunity to view art at Wilkes like never before.

And finally, earlier this semester, I had the distinct honor of writing a letter in support of a senior biology student who is applying for a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship. Guided by a faculty member with experience in this highly competitive process, we believe that this is the first time in University history that a Wilkes student will apply for this scholarship. Regardless of the outcome, this effort has elevated the level of academic excellence for all of our students.

I think you will agree that each of these achievements is individually impressive and worthy of celebration; however, when viewed collectively, they signal something greater. Now is a time of great progress at Wilkes, as we layer exciting investments in academics and infrastructure with initiatives that strengthen our foundational values of community and mentorship. I hope that these three examples of our progress make you as proud of Wilkes as I am.

There has never been a better time at Wilkes, and I look forward to celebrating more milestones like these with you in the coming months.

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

### WILKES MAGAZINE

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

**Vice President for Advancement**  
Thomas MacKinnon

**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

**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 Sweeney '13

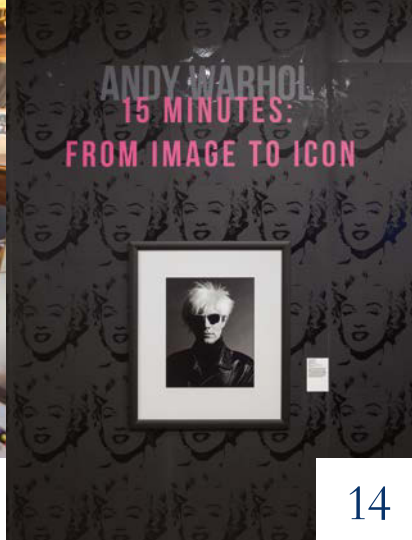
**Historian**  
Cindy Charnetski '97

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.



8



14



16



22



24

# contents



Panos '77 and Deborah (Stephens) '78 Kalaritis met at Wilkes and went on to success in the pharmaceutical and telecommunications industries. PHOTO BY SETH JOHNSON

## FEATURES

### 8 Colonel Couple

Panos '77 and Deb (Stephens) '78 Kalaritis found success individually and as a couple.

### 14 Artistic Vision

The rededicated Sordoni Art Gallery has a new vision, a new location and the works of Andy Warhol.

### 16 Collaborative Communicators

Students celebrate the possibilities in the new Clayton '49 and Theresa Karambelas Media and Communication Center.

### 22 Flying High

Deirdre Gurry '99 is a lieutenant colonel, squadron commander and a pilot in the U.S. Air Force.

### 24 Creative Community

Past editors of *Manuscript* contribute to an oral history of the magazine's 70 years.

## DEPARTMENTS

### 2 On Campus

### 28 Alumni News

### 29 Giving Back

### 30 Class Notes

Have a story idea to share?

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

*Wilkes* magazine is available online at [www.wilkes.edu/wilkesmagazineonline](http://www.wilkes.edu/wilkesmagazineonline)



## Words of Wisdom

### REAL-LIFE LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTED IN WILKES PRESIDENT'S SEMINAR

Bob Bruggeworth '83 explains to a group of Wilkes students that sometimes failure is necessary in business—especially among innovators. But he adds an important caveat: “I tell the team, let’s fail fast.”

Bruggeworth, CEO of Qorvo Inc., a global developer of radio-frequency technology, addressed the President’s Seminar in Leadership, taught by Wilkes President Patrick Leahy in spring 2017. His advice didn’t end with the two-word dictum about failure.

“What I mean by that is, I’m okay with failure. Just fail faster,” he explains. “The problem is, we learn too late and spend too much money. Part of innovation is failing. I define innovation as having an idea, creating something and making money with it sooner than your competition.”

Bruggeworth was one of seven seminar speakers who brought lessons about leadership to Wilkes students. It offered them the chance to hear from leaders in fields as diverse as technology, child care, investments and retail. Guest speakers also included Frank Joanlanne, president of Borton-Lawson; Dan Cardell '79, chairman of the Chicago Quantitative Alliance; Bill Miller '81, president of Galison/Mudpuppy; Tara Mugford Wilson, CEO of Power Engineering Corporation; Carl Witkowski, COO of Guard Insurance; and Bill Grant MBA '86, founder of Hildebrandt Learning Centers.

Structured as a conversation, each class began and ended with questions posed by Leahy to spark discussion. These included what Leahy calls the “lightning round,” a succession of questions designed to elicit one-word responses that give a snapshot of the speaker. Questions posed are as diverse as “What is your favorite word?” and “What is your most irrational indulgence?”

The most important information shared, Leahy says, has to do with achievement after Wilkes.

“These distinguished individuals have much to share with our students about leadership and success,” Leahy says.

Bill Miller '81 discusses his role as president of Galison/Mudpuppy.  
PHOTO BY CURTIS SALONICK



Bob Bruggeworth '83, CEO of Qorvo Inc., shares career insights with students.  
PHOTO BY RYAN WOOD

“The alumni bring the unique perspective of discussing how their Wilkes experiences prepared them for the roles they now fill.”

“I really felt like I grew up at Wilkes,” Bill Miller '81, president of Galison/Mudpuppy, a stationery and gift company, tells the group. Noting that he gained experience just as they did—writing for *The Beacon* and serving in Student Government—he also shares that summer jobs at the retailer Pomeroy’s paved the way to his selection to Macy’s Management Training Program upon graduation. From those early experiences, Miller became a retail marketing guru for industry giants like FAO Schwarz and Barnes and Noble.

His networks supported him through his career transitions, prompting Miller to tell the students, “One lesson that I learned early is to create your own networks.”

Emphasizing that he learned many facets of each company where he’s worked, Bruggeworth lauded the value of teamwork. “That’s why I’m a big fan of collaboration. It’s also interesting to get different people’s perspectives to make a good decision, because everybody sees the world differently,” he says. “I’ve been a big fan of bringing together people who are cross-functional.”

He also encouraged students to become life-long learners. “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 part,” he says.

Senior finance major Aaron Sadowski of Robesonia, Pa., says he rearranged his schedule to take the leadership seminar. He’s glad he did. “Presidents don’t decide to teach a class unless they are going to do it to presidential standards,” Sadowski says. He especially appreciated hearing the perspectives of Frank Joanlanne and Dan Cardell, who both had successful careers in finance.

Among the biggest takeaways for students? “There isn’t one roadmap to success; it’s what you make of your education and experiences,” Sadowski says.



Wilkes President Patrick Leahy hosted Bill Miller '81 at the President’s Seminar in Leadership.  
PHOTO BY CURTIS SALONICK



## Scott Stolte Appointed Dean of Nesbitt School of Pharmacy

Scott Stolte, Pharm.D., has joined Wilkes University as dean of the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy.

Anne Skleder, Wilkes provost and senior vice president, praises the breadth of Stolte’s experience in pharmacy education. “We are fortunate to have Dr. Stolte at the helm of the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy. Our outstanding pharmacy program is poised to move forward to educate the next generation of pharmacists,” Skleder says. “I couldn’t be more excited to work with Dr. Stolte and support his vision on behalf of the University.”

Stolte says, “I am humbled and honored to lead the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy. I am excited to work with our outstanding faculty and staff members and student pharmacists to improve the health and well-being of the citizens of our community. I look forward to meeting with our alumni and local leaders to discuss how the school can have the greatest impact.”

Prior to joining Wilkes, Stolte was professor and dean of the College of Pharmacy at Roseman University of Health Sciences in Henderson, Nev. He began his career in pharmacy education in 1998 at the Bernard J. Dunn School of Pharmacy at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Va. During more than

a decade at Shenandoah, he rose through the faculty ranks and served in a variety of leadership positions, including department chair and associate dean of academic affairs.

Stolte has an established national reputation in pharmacy education. He is active in the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, serving on a number of national committees and as a leadership fellowship facilitator. Stolte earned a doctor of pharmacy degree from Purdue University. He completed a postdoctoral residency in community pharmacy practice at the Family PharmaCare Center Inc. and Purdue University. He also completed an Academic Leadership Fellowship with the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.



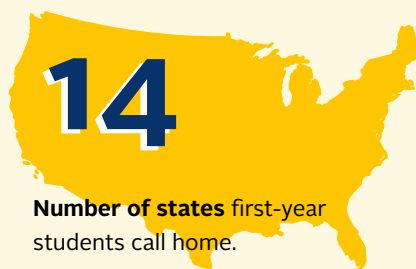
Scott Stolte joined Wilkes this fall as pharmacy dean. PHOTO BY EARL & SEDOR PRODUCTIONS

## MEET THE CLASS OF 2021

Wilkes’ Class of 2021 has 632 students, making it the second largest class in University history, as well as the strongest academically. What else do we know about the newest crop of Colonels?



Students joining **Wilkes honors program**, now in its third year.



**Number of states** first-year students call home.



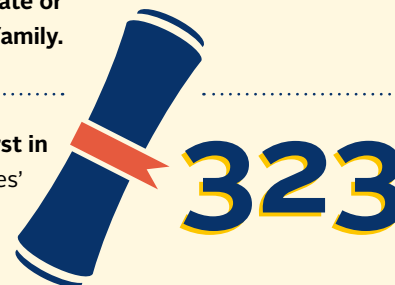
The percentage of all new entering students who count a **Wilkes graduate among their immediate or extended family.**



Total number of **new international students** enrolling at Wilkes.



Number of students in the first-year class who are **the first in the family to pursue a four-year degree**, reflecting Wilkes’ continuing commitment to its founding mission.



## Wilkes Welcomes New Members to Board of Trustees

**Ellen Stamer Hall '71** earned a degree in English from Wilkes and has served as a member of the Alumni Association board of directors since 2010. She became president of the Alumni Association in March 2017 and previously served in leadership roles including vice president and secretary. In addition, Hall chairs the board's Homecoming Committee and mentors current Wilkes education students. Now retired, Hall taught elementary school in the Northwest Area School District for 34 years.

**Seymour Holtzman '57** graduated from Wilkes with a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration. He is the president and CEO of Jewelcor Inc., which operated a chain of retail stores throughout the United States. He was previously the chairman of the board and CEO of Gruen Marketing Corp., a company involved in the nationwide distribution of watches. Holtzman also serves as chairman and CEO of Jewelcor Management Inc., an investment and management services firm. He owns C.D. Peacock Inc., a retail jewelry

store in Chicago, Ill., and the Rolex Boutique Luxury Swiss in Miami, Fla. Holtzman is chairman of the board of Destination XL Group Inc., the nation's largest specialty retailer of big and tall men's apparel. He is also the owner of Homeclick.com Inc., an internet retailer specializing in luxury brands for the home.

**Gregory MacLean '78** graduated from Wilkes with a Bachelor of Arts degree in art. He was the founder and CEO of Magestic Systems Inc., located in Westwood, N.J. The company provides integrated manufacturing software solutions used worldwide by leading manufacturers in the aerospace, transportation, energy, defense, industrial and construction industries.



Ellen Stamer Hall '71



Seymour Holtzman '57



Gregory MacLean '78

## A REGAL RETURN AT HOMECOMING 2017



Among the alumni returning to campus for Homecoming from Oct. 6-8 was Gloria Dran Elston '57, the University's first-ever homecoming queen. Crowned in 1955, Elston traveled to Wilkes from her home in Salt Lake City, Utah, to celebrate her 60th class reunion. Elston did the honors, crowning this year's king and queen during halftime of the football game against Widener University at the Ralston Athletic Complex. She's pictured, left, with this year's royal couple, Nancy Ramirez and Dylan Fox. PHOTO BY KNOT JUST ANY DAY

## Honors Students Gain Global Perspective at Conference in Thailand

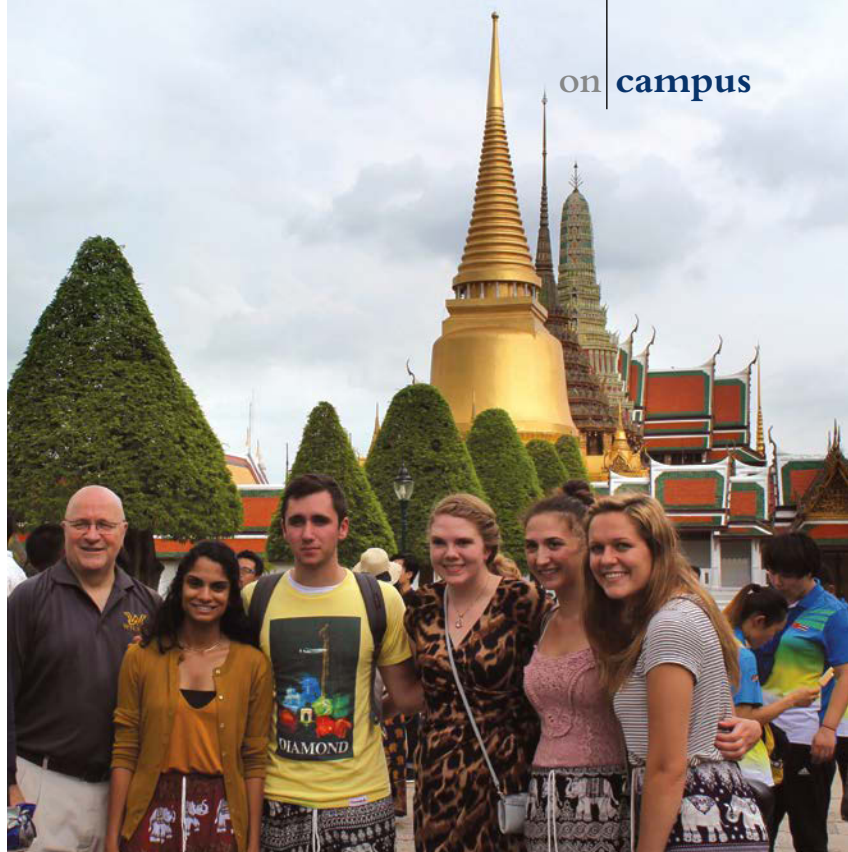
“Think global, act local, and start personal” was the big take away for five Wilkes University honors students who attended the 2017 University Scholars Leadership Symposium. The students traveled to Bangkok, Thailand, with Mark Allen, dean of students and adjunct professor, Sidhu School of Business and Leadership, for the week-long training session. The event draws 1,000 of the world’s most promising leaders from 90 universities and colleges around the world.

The students included neuroscience major Raeva Mulloth; management major Christine Walsh; nursing major Angus Fortune; environmental engineering major Nicole Hart; and psychology major Maria Lerch.

Held at the United Nations building in Bangkok from Aug. 1-7, 2017, attendees heard speakers and participated in group discussions surrounding the topic of “Causes that Matter” and completed workshop sessions to put their plans into action. Students also spent one day completing community service by working with local schools and planting in mangroves.

“Being in the U.S., problems such as famine and widespread disease are not seen as everyday problems. However, for some of the people that I met, these are struggles they face every day in their communities,” says Mulloth. “The symposium not only opened my eyes to the vast and differing amount of problems around the world, it also inspired me to look at the problems I see in my own community.”

The Wilkes students attended the symposium as part of an honors course, International Leadership. The students will be graded on their attendance at the symposium and three presentations about their experience at the event that will be given to



Wilkes honors students attended the 2017 University Scholars Leadership Symposium in Bangkok, Thailand, where they gained an international perspective that they shared with first-year honors students. Pictured from left to right are attendees Dean of Students Mark Allen, Raeva Mulloth, Angus Fortune, Nicole Hart, Maria Lerch and Christine Walsh. PHOTO COURTESY CHRISTINE WALSH

the honors sections of First Year Foundations classes during fall semester. The honors course continued through fall 2017.

It was the second year that Wilkes honors students attended the symposium. In August 2016, four students attended the event in Hanoi, Vietnam. These two international events have created a chance for students and administration to network across the globe. The connections may lead to the development of new curriculum at Wilkes as soon as January 2018.

**MORE ON THE WEB**

**A CONVERSATION WITH JAY SIDHU MBA '73**

President Patrick F. Leahy hosted a conversation with Jay S. Sidhu MBA '73, Chairman and CEO of Customers Bancorp, Customers Bank, BankMobile, a division of Customers Bank, and BankMobile Technologies. The Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and Leadership was named in his honor. The event, held in October, was attended by Sidhu School students. To view a video and highlights from Leahy's conversation with Sidhu, go to [www.wilkes.edu/presidentialconversation](http://www.wilkes.edu/presidentialconversation).

Wilkes University President Patrick F. Leahy listens to a response from Jay S. Sidhu MBA '73, Chairman and CEO of Customers Bancorp. PHOTO BY LISA REYNOLDS



WILKES | Fall/Winter 2017

## History Majors Bring the Past Alive in the Present

A young Luzerne County soldier's draft notice for the Union Army sits in the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, Pa. The fragile piece of paper took a son away from his family, possibly pitting him against friends. The draft notice was one of the artifacts researched by Wilkes senior history major Sarah O'Hara during an internship at the center.

O'Hara and fellow history major Jeffrey Stanford both held internships in which they were responsible for researching and recording American history. History majors at Wilkes are required to complete at least one internship. It reflects the department's interdisciplinary approach to studying, preserving and sharing the past.

O'Hara of Doylestown, Pa., researched artifacts from the Civil War at the Constitution Center, such as a newspaper describing the death of Abraham Lincoln, medical supplies from battlefield hospitals and fans used as Victorian mourning accessories. She also picked out new artifacts to add to the collection and created packets to be used for retraining the museum programs staff. O'Hara put lessons learned in her material culture class with Diane E. Wenger, associate professor and co-chair of global cultures, to good use when writing summaries and questions regarding the objects.

"I liked creating something that I knew would be useful and instrumental in helping people learn and connect to the past," O'Hara says. "I also loved being able to interact and talk with visitors when I had time to work on the floor."

Stanford took inventory of a 1950s diner, *Valentine Diner*, at the Antique Auto Club of America Museum in his hometown of Hershey, Pa. He described around 400 objects or more, including duplicates, to create digital records.

"I would try to accurately describe how old an object is and what the condition was," Stanford explains. "My only real tools to do this were the objects themselves and the internet. There were objects like a rearview mirror above the stove so the cook could see what was happening behind him. Objects like that helped me gather information on the diner."



History major Jeffrey Stanford spent the summer as an intern at the Antique Auto Club of America Museum. PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH CRISPELL

Both students credit Wilkes for developing research skills needed for the internships. Stanford used skills learned in his Wilkes classes to research the manufacturing stamps on the back of objects such as plates. The stamps would help him to identify where the objects were produced.

"I think it is important to make sure people have something digital to look at. We live in a digital age and we have to integrate history into that so people can tell stories and connect more with the past," Stanford says.



"I liked creating something that I knew would be useful and instrumental in helping people learn and connect to the past."

– Sarah O'Hara

Senior history major Sarah O'Hara interned at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, where she is seen in Signers Hall, posing among life-size statues of the signers of the Constitution. PHOTO BY DAN Z. JOHNSON



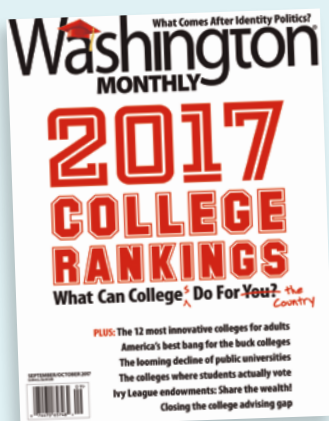
**WASHINGTON MONTHLY RANKS WILKES AMONG TOP SCHOOLS CONTRIBUTING TO PUBLIC GOOD**

Wilkes is among the nation's top colleges and universities included in *Washington Monthly's* annual rankings of higher education institutions and what they are doing for the country.

Wilkes is ranked in two categories: contribution to public good and best bang for the buck. The University is the highest ranked institution from northeast Pennsylvania in the best bang for the buck category, which looks at schools that help students pursue a marketable degree at an affordable price. Wilkes ranked 83 of 384 institutions in the northeast.

In the contribution to public good category, Wilkes ranked 129 of 632 master's institutions, jumping 15 spots since 2016. Wilkes is the only institution in northeast Pennsylvania to improve its ranking in the category this year.

"We have always taken issue with rankings that focus on prestige as opposed to outcomes. We look for and value rankings that celebrate our unique, access-based mission," says University President Patrick F. Leahy. "We're pleased to be recognized by a respected publication like *Washington Monthly*, which celebrates our enduring commitment to first-generation and high-need students."



## Enhancements Improve Safety and Beautify Campus

New sidewalks, lighting and tree plantings have been installed on streets bordering the Wilkes campus, funded by a \$1 million grant from the Pennsylvania State Transportation Alternatives program. Work was completed this summer and fall to enhance pedestrian safety on West South Street between South River and South Franklin streets and on South Franklin between West South and Northampton streets. A new pedestrian crosswalk was installed in front of the Henry Student Center.

In addition to the streetscape improvements, the first phase of a planned \$8 million renovation to Stark Learning Center will be completed by the end of fall semester. The building will have a new façade facing the Fenner Quadrangle, a project that precedes significant interior renovations. The project is funded in part by a \$3 million RACP grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with matching funds from the University. Wilkes also saw the completion of the first phase of a three-part project to improve signage on campus.

## Terese Wignot Appointed Associate Provost for Enrollment Management

Wilkes has announced key leadership appointments to the University's enrollment management team. They will lead efforts to recruit students to the University on both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Terese (Terri) Wignot will serve as the associate provost for enrollment management. Wignot brings 28 years of experience as a faculty member and university leader to the position. During her career at Wilkes, she has served as chair of the Chemistry Department, interim provost, associate provost and in several interim dean roles.

In announcing her appointment, University Provost and Senior Vice President Anne Skleder said, "Dr. Wignot has been instrumental in recruitment and retention at Wilkes, serving as a liaison between the faculty and admissions, and leading the development of our innovative WilkesEDGE program. I am confident that her leadership will be instrumental in reaching our ambitious enrollment goals."

Joining Wignot on the enrollment management team is John Baum, who was appointed executive director of undergraduate enrollment. Baum successfully led the Wilkes Air Force ROTC program since 2015 after an exemplary career as a U.S. Air Force aviator. Baum retired in 2017 at the rank of colonel. Under his leadership, the University's ROTC detachment grew substantially in size and the number of academically prepared and successful cadets increased.



Terese Wignot



John Baum

# Colonel Couple

## PANOS '77 AND DEB (STEPHENS) '78 KALARITIS SHARE CAREER SUCCESS AND A MARRIAGE MADE AT WILKES

By Vicki Mayk MFA '13

It wasn't the most auspicious introduction. Wilkes freshman Deb Stephens '78 had joined her Waller Halls roommate, Sherry Meyer, as a score keeper for the men's soccer team. Milling around with the players before an away game, Deb, clad in dark pants, had taken a seat on the stairs at the Ralston Athletic Complex. Wilkes soccer player Panos Kalaritis '77, a junior international student from Greece, was there with the rest of the team.

"He was not shy," Deb says of her first encounter with the man who would become her husband. "And his first words were less than romantic."

When Deb rose from her perch on the stairs, Panos informed her that her pants were dirty—using a very specific word to identify the location of the dirt. Deb retreated to the ladies room in embarrassment.

The husband and wife laugh at the memory. "It wasn't intended to be an ice breaker," Panos says. "It was just a casual comment."

Despite the dubious first impression, the meeting at Wilkes began a relationship that is now a successful marriage of more than 38 years. And, although they did not know it then, career success lay ahead as well. Panos' work in the pharmaceutical industry would earn him 35 patents while working with leading pharmaceutical

companies such as Abbott Laboratories and Hoffman La Roche, and eventually his own company, IRIX Pharmaceuticals. Deb would make her name in the telecommunications industry, working in marketing for AT&T and Accenture before launching her own consulting firm, Mercury Communications. (See stories on pages 11 and 13.)

Careers weren't yet the focus when the pair formed a friendship at Wilkes in fall 1975, getting together with friends to play cards. Eventually they began dating. On the surface, it seemed a case of opposites attracting—right down to their choice of major. Panos was studying chemistry and Deb majored in international studies. "I was her international studies subject," Panos chuckles. In her own tongue-in-cheek take on their early relationship, Deb notes wryly that her brother wasn't particularly thrilled that she was dating a chemist, given her history with the subject. "My experience in organic chemistry included causing a fire, which my teacher rapidly doused."

The paths that brought each of them to Wilkes were equally diverse.



Above, Panos and Deb Kalaritis confer about plans about their many philanthropic and professional projects.

Opposite page, The Kalaritises, who met when they were Wilkes undergraduates, are pictured at their home in Florence, S.C.

ALL PHOTOS BY SETH JOHNSON MEDIA UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED



A native of Patras, Greece, Panos was salutatorian when he graduated from the High School of Corinth, Greece. His good academic record earned him a scholarship to study at Wilkes starting in 1973 via a program run by the Anglo Hellenic Bureau of Education. The program identified talented Greek students, providing them with a scholarship and matching them with universities in the United States. The program placed about 10 students per year in colleges in the northeast. Students did not choose which school they would attend. The first person in his family to finish high school, Panos' trip to America also marked the first time he left his country. He and his wife credit his mother, Georgia Kontea, a woman whose education ended in elementary school, for having the vision to allow her only son to leave Greece to pursue a college degree thousands of miles away.

"I went from a small town back then to a huge country without having any relatives nearby to rely on," Panos says. "The most memorable moment was getting off the Greyhound and seeing Dr. (George) Ralston and the assistant dean, Mr. Domzalski."

Deb also did not choose where she would attend college. Her father, dentist Joseph D. Stephens '51, formerly Wilkes Alumni Association president, gently insisted his daughter attend Wilkes. "My dad gave my brother (Joseph D. Stephens Jr. '79 ) and me a choice: We could attend Wilkes or continue living at home. With five siblings all living at home, it seemed like a good decision to come to Wilkes."

Once on campus in Wilkes-Barre, both embraced the experience, academically and socially. "One thing I will say for Wilkes is that it was a perfect environment for me," says Panos. "Coming from a small environment in Greece, it was a school that gave a lot of personal attention."

A strong background in chemistry, physics and math helped ease his transition to academic life. At Wilkes he was introduced

to work in the lab by Dr. Owen Faut, professor emeritus of chemistry, and Dr. John Labose, professor of chemistry.

Faut remembers his student, characterizing him as "dependable" in class and in the lab. "You knew that you could count on him to do what was expected."

Faut says that Panos' subsequent success in pharmaceutical research is not a surprise. "His attitude was so very good. One of the most important things we see in a student is their attitude," he says, noting that the right attitude is often the difference between success or failure.

## A TWO-CAREER COUPLE

Panos headed to the University of Kansas to earn a master's degree after his 1977 graduation while Deb fast tracked her bachelor's degree completing her program in three years. The couple were married in 1979, just after he completed his master's degree. Deb landed a job with AT&T in the years before the company's breakup and restructuring. Deb's relocation prompted Panos' entrance into a doctoral program at Washington University in St. Louis.

The Kalaritises became the quintessential two-career couple, frequently taking turns relocating to accommodate a new job or opportunity for either spouse.

"Panos supported me in my career and vice versa," Deb recalls. "We used to say if we lived someplace for more than two years, that was a long time. It's been a very symbiotic and supportive relationship between the two of us."

Plotting their career moves on a map would find lines taking them from St. Louis and Chicago in the Midwest to East Coast locations in Basking Ridge, N.J., and eventually Florence, S.C. While living in South Carolina, a downsizing at Hoffman La Roche ironically coincided with Panos receiving a bonus for his work there. He jokes, "It left me with a lot of money and a lot of time on my hands." The combination of capital and time allowed him to launch his own company, IRIX Pharmaceuticals, in 1996. Continuing their pattern of mutual support for career endeavors, Deb, by then running her own marketing consulting firm Mercury Communications, designed the company's logo and tagline. In ancient Greece, the name IRIX meant falcon.

Panos and his partner, J. Guy Steenrod, interviewed chemists for research positions at the new company, seated on folding chairs at a card table in temporary headquarters and retrofitted their first lab at South Carolina's Francis Marion University. Panos was the company's co-founder and chief operating officer. Under his leadership, IRIX grew to 200 employees, including more than 40 scientists with doctoral degrees and annual revenues of approximately \$75 million. It was sold to Patheon in 2015.

Wilkes sophomore biology student Maria Dima of Corinth, Greece, received a scholarship named in honor of Georgia Kontea, Panos Kalaritis's mother.  
PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH CRISPELL



## PANOS KALARITIS '77 ACHIEVES SUCCESS IN PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

It started, as it does for so many Wilkes students, with opportunities to work in the lab in Stark Learning Center. Panos Kalaritis '77 felt at home there.

Originally intending to pursue a medical career, by graduation Panos found his lab experience had pulled him in a different direction: putting his chemistry research skills to work, ultimately in the pharmaceutical industry. "I've always felt that things happen for a reason," he says philosophically. His resume summarizing a 34-year career clearly reflects that fate set him on the path to success.

He earned a master's degree in medicinal chemistry at the University of Kansas and a doctorate in organic chemistry from Washington University in St. Louis. His research focused on the design of more effective chemotherapeutic agents for use in cancer treatment.

The word "design" is appropriate in describing Panos' approach to research, his wife Deborah explains. "His field fits his personality," she says. "He's not a pocket protector chemist.... Panos has such a creative bent."

That creative bent would earn him 35 patents in the pharmaceutical field, including innovations that assembled complex molecular structures in creative ways and produced commercial drugs more effectively, reducing the number of chemical steps, the processing time, and, ultimately, the costs. "Developing chemical processes for commercial products that are friendly to the environment was always at the forefront of my research endeavors," he notes. His portfolio of green commercial manufacturing processes includes well-known commercial drugs like Xeloda, used in treating cancer; Lumigan, Xalatan and Travatan, which are used for glaucoma; the cardiovascular drug Berapros; Remodulin, used for COPD; and the blood thinner Warfarin.

He began his career working for a combined 13 years for two major

pharmaceutical companies—Abbott Laboratories and Hoffman La Roche. He advanced through the ranks to the position of director of synthesis development. He was actively involved with developing many investigational drug candidates, commercializing several of them.

He was involved with the commercial manufacturing of Accutane, used in acne treatment; Dormicum, used to treat insomnia; the osteoporosis drug Rocaltrol; and the antibacterial drug Sulfisoxazole. He also worked on a large number of clinical development candidates, including drugs used to treat cancer, HIV, anxiety, ulcers, psoriasis and bacterial infections.

"Chemistry is a common thread that ties most of the activities relating to new drug product development from early discovery, to market introduction, and commercialization," he explains. "I was fortunate to have the opportunity to develop experience across the entire spectrum."

Panos was instrumental in two new drug introductions to market: the anti-bacterial Omniflox and the anti-cancer drug Xeloda. "The most rewarding moments of my career were when we introduced a new drug to market. The feeling of satisfaction is hard to describe," he adds. "It is the thought of having played a small part in the creation of a product that improves human health or saves lives."

Fate once again played a role in Panos' career when a global reorganization at Hoffman La Roche ended with him and several research and development colleagues losing their jobs. Once again stating, "things happen for good reasons," Panos and a fellow chemical engineer launched their own company, Irix Pharmaceuticals, in 1996.



Panos Kalaritis surveys the company he started in 1996, IRIX Pharmaceuticals, which he later sold to Patheon.

"I always wonder, if certain things had not happened, would I have had the nerve to do it," he muses.

Irix was a science-based company that offered research and development services to the pharmaceutical industry. It specialized in making difficult-to-manufacture active pharmaceutical ingredients, also known as APIs. "New drug discovery and early phase clinical development today is primarily in the expert hands of approximately 2,000 small pharmaceutical discovery companies in North America, not the major pharmaceutical companies," he explains. "Irix played a pivotal role in helping these companies advance their clinical candidates."

Before the company was sold to Patheon in 2015, Irix supported the development of approximately 80 investigational drugs per year and served more than 200 pharmaceutical companies worldwide. Most recently, the company was also instrumental for the market introduction and commercial manufacturing of Viberzi for irritable bowel syndrome.

## A NEW CHAPTER

The Kalaritises found a new focus in their lives after Deb weathered treatment for breast cancer in 2001. She notes that her husband's knowledge about cancer treatment, forged during graduate school, added an extra measure of support. "It was a long time after his master's and Ph.D., when he researched chemotherapy, but he spoke quite knowledgeably with my oncologist, Dr. Michael Pavy. We were surprised there was not significant change in cancer treatment from 1979 to 2001... same drugs with improved administration protocols."

After facing down cancer, Deb stepped up her volunteer activities in the Florence, S.C., community, for church, civic and charitable organizations. With the help of friends who supported her during her cancer treatment, she raised more than \$10,000 for the American Cancer Society in 2002. She served on the board of the Florence Symphony Orchestra, chairing its Taste of Symphony benefit, and also lent her talents to supporting the community's library, museum and domestic violence shelter.

Deb and Panos, being avid advocates of higher education, have supported undergraduate academic research and established scholarships. Panos offered scientific internship programs at IRIX Pharmaceutical. He also funded undergraduate research programs at Francis Marion University in Florence, S.C., and the endowed Coffen-IRIX Research Fund at the University of South Carolina. The couple also have taken a personal interest in helping promising students receive a college education. Remembering the help that Panos received, they have founded scholarships for worthy students at Wilkes, Francis Marion University in South Carolina and Towson University in Baltimore, MD.

"The passion that Panos and Deb have for higher learning, particularly here at Wilkes, has established a unique opportunity for our students to experience the global education that is key to their success and at the core of our mission," says Wilkes President Patrick F. Leahy. "The Kalaritises are role models in every sense, from their business success to their ability and desire to provide philanthropic support for our students. We are so proud to count them among our most valued alumni and friends."

Two scholarships at Wilkes have allowed the Kalaritises to honor their parents while helping the next generation of Colonels. The Dr. Joseph Donald Stephens, DDS Global Scholars Award, named in honor of Deb's father, provides students with scholarships to pursue their education in another country. Three scholarships will be awarded annually.

The first three \$5,000 awards were presented to three Wilkes students. During summer 2017, Ana Castillo, a nursing major, traveled to Spain for a six-week program to complete her Spanish minor and improve her Spanish language skills in health-care terminology. Junior biology major Dillon Davis completed a two-month summer internship at Southampton University in England. He assisted a doctoral student studying retinal pathophysiology with a focus on age-related macular degeneration. Jacee York will use her scholarship to study in Australia in 2018.

Another scholarship established at Wilkes brings Panos' experience at the University full circle. In summer 2016, he contacted the principal of the high school he attended in Corinth, Greece, to request his help in identifying a student who would benefit from attending Wilkes. Maria Dima, a sophomore biology major, became the first recipient of the four-year scholarship, established in honor of Panos' mother, an uneducated person who had great appreciation for education, who supported the decision of her only son to study in the United States.

Meeting her benefactors just before traveling to the States, Dima was impressed by their friendly and approachable demeanor. "They are so much fun!" she says. Dima learned she was coming to Wilkes only one month before her arrival, so she didn't have time to think about the giant step she was about to take. "Looking back, it scares me more now," Dima states. "I ask myself, 'How did I do that?'" She says she has benefited from advice that Panos offered—"In order to be successful in your new environment you will need to adapt in it. Get involved on campus and socialize but not only with international students." She has joined Enactus and the UNICEF Club.

Like her benefactor, she found the culture at Wilkes has been the most significant factor in her transition. "What made me the most comfortable is that everyone was here to help me."

Most recently, the Kalaritises added a third four year scholarship at Wilkes University in their name that will go into effect with the 2018 academic year.

## BUCKET LIST AND BEYOND

Since selling IRIX, the Kalaritises have traveled, checking items off their bucket list of places to visit. Stops have included the Great Barrier Reef and the rainforest in Australia and international wine tasting at Hawkes Bay, New Zealand, at Barossa, Eden, and McLaren Vale valleys in Australia, and Rioja, Priorat, and Ribera del Duero in Spain. Other stops included the Guggenheim Museum in Spain, and visits to Seville, Granada, the Spanish Riviera and the Greek Isles. "Panos had his first taste of golf at St. Andrews in Scotland and we both visited shrines amid the cherry blossoms in Kyoto, (Japan)," Deb says.

Their new home in Austin, Texas, signals another development in his pharmaceutical career. "I am looking to start a new company with a focus on commercializing pharmaceutical products with improved therapeutic profiles over their current commercial proteges," Panos says, explaining that his new company concept will also help to shorten existing approval processes and timelines to bring such products to market. Deb meanwhile, is gearing down her involvement in real estate company Evelpis, LLC to devote more time to managing their donor advisory fund to further their philanthropic efforts.

Neither is using the word retired to define their status.



Deb (Stephens) Kalaritis coordinates her work for the real estate start-up Evelpis LLC and for many philanthropic projects from her home office in South Carolina.

## DEB (STEPHENS) KALARITIS '78 MARKETED TELECOMMUNICATIONS GIANTS

Deb (Stephens) Kalaritis '78 worked in the telecommunications industry in its heyday, when communications technology was rapidly developing. It was 1978, long before cell phones could be found in everyone's pockets. A new Wilkes graduate, Deb went to work for industry giant AT&T.

"I was part of a marketing organization that was developed within AT&T," Deb says. "I loved every day that I worked there."

Focusing on business-to-business marketing of AT&T's products, she was based in St. Louis while her husband completed his doctorate at Washington University. "My last job in St. Louis was implementing a private network for Southwestern Bell," she recalls. The project was the largest electronic tandem network, or ETN, ever installed at the time. The terminology refers to technology used to route calls within a private company network.

Her efforts earned Deb a promotion to the Competitive Assessment Organization at AT&T's headquarters in Basking Ridge, N.J. and a position in the Management Development Program. During her time in New Jersey, she earned an MBA at Fairleigh Dickinson University, where she would later teach as an adjunct professor. In 1988, when Panos accepted a position with Abbott Laboratories in Chicago, Deb transitioned to the AT&T regional vice president's staff.

In the Windy City, Deb made her next major career move, joining the technology consulting firm now known as Accenture. As marketing director, Deb helped position the global firm's cutting-edge business solutions within the telecommunications industry.


"I interfaced with some amazing visionaries at Accenture," Deb recalls. "Al Burgess was at the top of the pack. He was the global telecommunications visionary at Accenture."

Burgess, who was a managing partner at the time, is credited with initiating several firsts during his career at Accenture, including the creation of the annual Customer Contact Forum in 1989, which is the global communications industry's premier conference for senior-level executives.

"I would set up interviews for him with national and industry publications (*Business Week*, *Newsweek*, *Telephony*), and he could speak eloquently and brilliantly about anything to do with the telecommunications industry; absolutely an amazing man," Deb says.

Panos' move to South Carolina with Hoffman La Roche brought with it the opportunity to start her own marketing consulting firm, Mercury Communications. Accenture became one of her customers during the five years that she ran the firm.

More recently, Deb runs her second business start-up, Evelpis LLC, a real estate development and management company with vacation and residential rental properties in the Myrtle Beach, S.C., area. Evelpis is also parent to two partnerships with another Wilkes graduate, her brother, Joseph Stephens, Jr. '79. Eline-Stephens focuses on commercial real estate in Maryland while Evelpis Aruba features vacation rentals at Desert Dolphin, an estate home in Aruba.

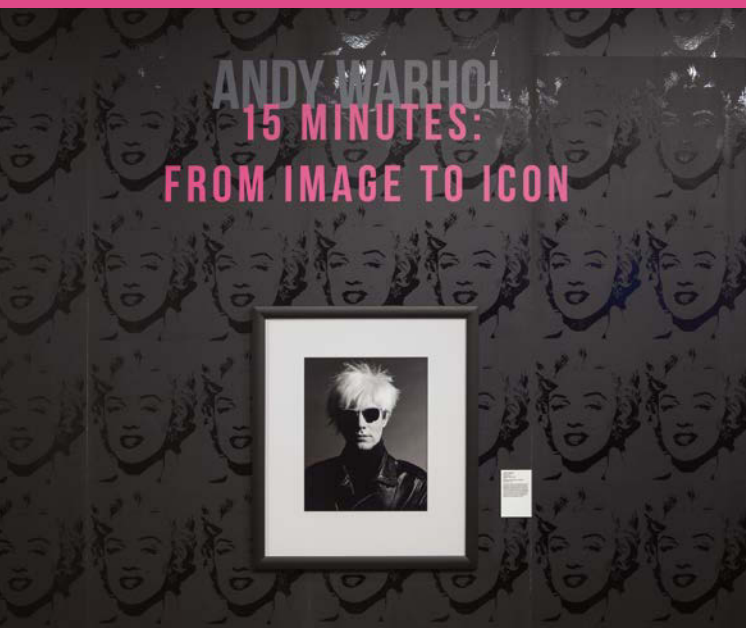
Deb also has turned her marketing acumen to philanthropic efforts, including fundraising for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life and the Florence Symphony Orchestra. She says her philanthropic direction focused early in her career. Her parents had always been civic-minded but, she states, "My interest in philanthropy came from my time at AT&T where community involvement was an organizational objective." 

# ARTISTIC VISION

Sordoni Art Gallery Opens the Doors to New Home With Warhol Exhibit

By Geoff Gehman

Zigzagging through the opening-night crowd for the opening exhibit of the new Sordoni Art Gallery, people are staring at Andy Warhol's iconic images: Marilyn Monroe, Jackie O., Brillo. No two people experience Warhol's art the same way and part of a gallery's purpose is to provide myriad ways to enter the experience. In its new location with a new director, the Sordoni Art Gallery aims to do that.



The bigger, better Sordoni Art Gallery debuted in October beside the new Karambelas Media and Communications Center on South Main Street. It has 7,000 square feet, nearly double than in its previous home in Stark Learning Center. State-of-the-art climate control and convenient parking also are upgrades.

Three years ago, Wilkes President Patrick F. Leahy began campaigning for a gallery that was more engaging and empowering. He envisioned a place with more space for a wider range of exhibits and programs to attract visitors, drawing not only arts veterans but arts rookies. The gallery would reflect the University's investments in academic programs, people and campus infrastructure, all part of the *Gateway to the Future* strategic plan.

"In my opinion, you can't be a true university without an enduring commitment to the arts," Leahy said during the Sordoni's opening ceremony.

Leahy's vision was quickly championed by Andrew J. Sordoni III, who helped launch the Sordoni Art Gallery in 1973 with his artist mother, who provided a naming gift from the family foundation he now heads. Sordoni shared Leahy's vision to make the gallery more vital. Increasing the endowment for exhibits, they reasoned, would attract shows spotlighting bigger artists, leading to increased attendance. The plan involved judiciously selling some works from the permanent collection, generating more than \$600,000 to push the endowment past \$1.3 million.

Leahy praises Sordoni as an open-minded steward. "I'm glad to lock arms with him," he says. "I'm very grateful to him for





Above, Grace Leahy, daughter of Wilkes President Patrick F. Leahy, and a friend consider the Warhol exhibit at the opening of the Sordoni Art Gallery.

Right, a new era for the Sordoni Art Gallery at its October rededication. Doing the honors at the ribbon cutting are, from left, Paul Riggs, dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, William Sordoni, Wilkes trustee Bill Miller '81, gallery director Heather Sincavage, President Patrick F. Leahy and Student Government President Cody Morcom. PHOTOS BY KNOT JUST ANY DAY



## “You can’t be a true university without an enduring commitment to the arts.”

—Wilkes President Patrick F. Leahy

lending credibility to a bold investment in the arts via a slightly different model.”

“A university has to serve its students, its community, its mission, as it evolves,” says Sordoni. “The arts are fragile; for the arts to survive and thrive, everyone has to buy into the commitment.”

Two summers ago while visiting Pittsburgh, Leahy identified the artist whose work would launch the new gallery. In the city’s Andy Warhol Museum, he saw that his four children were impressed by their first exposure to his jarringly colored Pop pictures. If Warhol’s works could captivate his kids, they could captivate Sordoni visitors, especially novice gallery goers.

Leahy found a Warhol ally in Heather Sincavage, who became the Sordoni’s new director in June 2016. She too fell under Warhol’s spell as a youngster. Four decades later, Warhol played a role in her job as director of a new gallery at the University of Maine at Presque Isle. She curated a Warhol show there and acquired Warhol prints, including a silkscreen of *Sitting Bull*, the Native American chief.

Sincavage included the *Sitting Bull* picture in the Warhol show she curated at Wilkes. She covered a wall with Warhol’s Polaroids, most studies for his “vanity” silkscreens of such celebrities as musician Carly Simon and choreographer Martha Graham. During the opening reception, the Polaroids were a backdrop as attendees were photographed with a Warhol impersonator wearing a suit the color of tomato soup.

Another Warhol ally was Bill Miller '81, a Wilkes trustee and a distributor of Warholian merchandise. As president of Galison Publishing LLC/Mudpuppy Press, he works with the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts to produce everything from crayons with signature colors like Jackie O. Pink to an hourglass that empties after 15 seconds, invoking Warhol’s infamous prediction that everyone will be famous for 15 minutes.

Miller persuaded the foundation to lend a 54-minute film, projected from floor to ceiling, of slightly moving head shots of 13 '60s celebrities, including rock musician Lou Reed and actor/director Dennis Hopper.

Sincavage also is an assistant professor of integrative media and art. One of her goals is to make the gallery an extension of Wilkes’ academic programs. The women’s and gender studies program will be among the first. In January she’ll launch the initiative with the exhibit “The Bones of Us Hunger for Nothing,” a series of Angela Fraleigh’s realistic, abstract paintings of women in classical settings usually dominated by men. Later in spring semester, the gallery will host a poster workshop led by a member of the Guerrilla Girls, the feminist activist group.

Sincavage also plans programming to draw students and community members to the gallery. During fall semester, this included a visit from a mobile glass-blowing studio and a series of “Warhol Wednesdays” lectures. “I want to break down the intimidating factor, especially for first timers,” she says. “I want to make the Sordoni a place where they can really start a lifelong love of the arts, a place that will inspire them to hop on that Martz [Trailways] bus and head into New York.”

Warhol began his career as an illustrator. It seems fitting then that the Sordoni will end its 2017-18 season with a spring exhibit of nearly 100 works from Andrew Sordoni’s vaunted collection of classic American illustrations and comic strips. Illustrator heavyweights include N.C. Wyeth, Maxfield Parrish and Alberto Vargas. “Art, if it’s attractive and worthy, deserves to be loved, deserves to be seen,” says Sordoni. “The whole point is to share.”





# Collaborative Communicators

## New Karambelas Media and Communication Center Launches New Era

By Vicki Mayk MFA'13  
and Sarah Bedford '17

A centralized newsroom with computers and meeting space in the Karambelas Media and Communication Center promotes a collaborative environment for students. PHOTOS ON THESE PAGES BY EARL AND SEDOR PRODUCTIONS



## Features of the new Karambelas Media and Communication Center include:

- new, state-of-the-art equipment;
- a radio studio visible from the street;
- a centralized newsroom to serve all student media;
- a high-definition television studio with theater-style viewing;
- classrooms equipped with ceiling-mounted cameras for critiquing public speaking classes;
- a production control room, which manages the composition of outgoing television programming.

Wilkes junior communication studies major J.M. Rey has a window on the world these days—at least the world outside the new Clayton and Theresa Karambelas Media and Communication Center. Rey, production director for campus radio station WCLH, has gone from cramped quarters in a hard-to-find area of the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center to a spacious, state-of-the-art studio that looks out on the street through tall windows at 141 S. Main St. Passersby can hear WCLH’s programming broadcast from speakers placed outside.

“Now people walking by can see you, say hi, and promote the station,” Rey says. “Now when you’re doing a live show they can hear what you’re playing out in the street. It’s just great to hear reactions and see people jamming out and everything; it’s just so cool.”

Rey sums up his first reaction to seeing the new facility in three words: “My jaw dropped.” His reaction is shared by many who visit the new center. Dedicated in August, the \$4 million, 14,000-square-foot building houses the communication studies program, consolidating all classes and activities into one modern facility where students can collaborate across media disciplines. Previously, the cocurricular activities that enhance students’ academic experience, such as *The Beacon* newspaper, *WilkesNow* television program and Zebra Communications, the student-run public relations agency, were scattered in various locations around campus.

The center is named in honor of Clayton and Theresa Karambelas, who made one of the largest gifts in Wilkes history to support the project. Clayton Karambelas earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Wilkes College in 1949. He and his wife, Theresa, are the previous owners of the Boston Candy Shop & Restaurant and C.K. Coffee. In 2016, they were honored with the University’s President’s Medal, presented annually to individuals whose personal and professional lives reflect the highest aspirations of Wilkes University.

The new center is designed to promote a collaborative experience for students, according to Mark Stine, professor and chair of the communication studies department.

“Convergence in the media and in the communication-related fields is a reality that’s upon us. This center gives students the opportunity to work in an integrated environment to learn and practice the collaborative skills they’ll need in order to thrive in today’s communication industries,” Stine says.

**On the following pages, student leaders from the communication studies student organizations share their enthusiasm for their new home.**



# Zawadi Nshimirmana

Senior, Communication Studies

Vice President of Client Relations, Zebra Communications

**Concentrations:** Strategic Communication, Multimedia Journalism

**Hometown:** Bethlehem, Pa.

Above, the viewing room in the new center provides facilities for viewing and critiquing programs, watching political debates for rhetoric classes and a host of other possibilities.

"I just want to say thank you to the donors, because not everybody has that kind, warm heart and not everybody would be willing to do this big thing for us to make our dreams come true."



Members of *The Beacon* staff meet in their new offices to prepare for next week's edition. From left, faculty advisor Kalen Churcher '96, standing left, coaches a reporter while staff members life, arts and entertainment editor Amanda Bialek, seated, editor Toni Pennello and news editor Cabrini Rudnick confer.

WILKES | Fall/Winter 2017  
**THE CHANGING FACE OF JOURNALISM**  
 WILKES UNIVERSITY JOURNALISM CONFERENCE 2017



## J.M. Rey

**Junior, Communication Studies**  
**Production Director for 90.7 WCLH**  
**Concentration:** Media Production  
**Hometown:** Wilkes-Barre

WCLH staff members, from left, Kendle Peters and J.M. Rey discuss programming in a bigger, brighter studio overlooking South Main Street, with their advisor Kristen Rock '06.

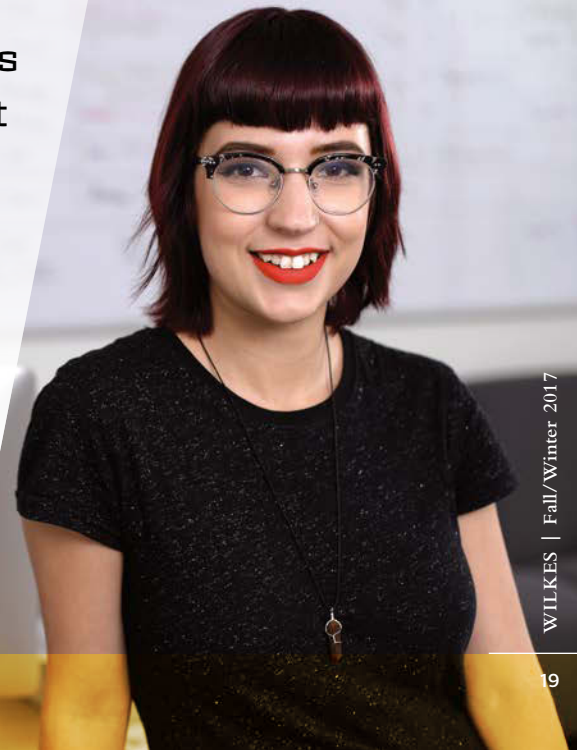
"It's going to allow us to more easily pull people from other departments within the communications major to work on stories together, for example—I'm really excited about that. If we have a story going on at *The Beacon* or at *WilkesNow*, we can get something and run it on the radio as well. It's going to allow for a lot more teamwork, which is a great thing."



## Toni Pennello

**Senior, Communication Studies**  
**Editor-in-Chief, *The Beacon***  
**Concentration:** Multimedia Journalism  
**Hometown:** Tobyhanna, Pa.

"One of the main things that I like about it is that everybody is in one place now. We were all over campus ... so I didn't feel like we had a place to be a community.... I think it's important that we all know each other, for networking purposes and for that sense of community."



Right, Mark Stine, professor and chair of the communication studies department, gives feedback to students in the new production studio. New digital equipment and monitors give students experience in a setting comparable to commercial studios.

Below, Members of the speech and debate team practice while being coached by faculty. Pictured from left are Christopher Smith, Jerome Hannon, Olivia Fakhoury, Christine Mellon, faculty of practice in communication studies and Mia Briceño, assistant professor, communication studies.



## Jerome Hannon

**Junior, Communication Studies**

**President of Speech, Speech and Debate**

**Concentration:** Public Relations and Broadcast Production

**Hometown:** Wilkes-Barre

"It means to me ... another degree of professionalism. ... This is a communication and media center. This is where we can go to grow and define our talents. This is our capital; it means a lot to my impression of our department to see this. It feels like an amazing step forward."





"I got really excited because I get to learn all new equipment and it's up to date, so if I do this in the real world, I'll be familiar with (working on) a set and behind the scenes. It will provide students with a better sense of the real world once they graduate."



## Micaela Oliverio

Senior, Communication Studies and Musical Theatre double major

Director, *WilkesNow*

Concentration: Media Production

Hometown: Carlisle, Pa.

Below, the television studio is designed to offer maximum flexibility in configuring space for programs and the latest lighting capabilities.



# FLYING HIGH

FROM WILKES COLONEL TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL IN THE U.S. AIR FORCE, DEIRDRE GURRY '99 HAS SEEN THE WORLD

By Kelly Clisham MFA '16



## GROWING UP IN THE SMALL TOWN

of Bushkill, Pa., Deirdre Gurry '99 never imagined she'd become a pilot. "My vision of my future was very limited. I had no idea as a kid what I would be doing with my life," she says. Today she has a much higher world view. Gurry is not only a pilot but a lieutenant colonel, squadron commander, teacher and mentor to the next generation of aviators in the United States Air Force.

In high school at Notre Dame of East Stroudsburg, Gurry thought she might want to teach. When she told her guidance counselor that she wanted to teach college students, he laughed and replied, "You have to learn something first."

Gurry took the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test, or ASVAB, scoring in the 99th percentile on the mechanical section of the test. She decided to pursue an ROTC scholarship to help cover college costs.



When she completed the scholarship application, she says, “It’s the first time I ever saw a list of majors.” Encouraged by her high ASVAB score and her fondness for tinkering in the garage with her dad, Gurry checked off mechanical engineering on the list.

Visiting Wilkes for the ROTC scholarship interview, Gurry discovered the campus would be an ideal place to spend the next four years. It was close to home, offered a major in mechanical engineering and provided room and board as part of the Air Force ROTC scholarship.

“My engineering experience at Wilkes was incredible,” she says. “I loved that we had small classes. It was more of a small-group setting, which really helps in engineering.” Gurry took advantage of hands-on experience in the machine shop, learning how machines work and figuring out how to build things.

Outside of class, Gurry occasionally rode into sporting events on horseback as the Wilkes Colonel, though she spent most of her time with the AFROTC detachment. “I enjoyed the program. I enjoyed the structure. I worked well in that environment. I showed up with enthusiasm.” Her enthusiasm led to a spot in the pilot training program at Mississippi’s Columbus Air Force Base, then an invite to stay on as an instructor. “I ended up with my dream career of teaching college kids,” Gurry laughs. “I’m one of the luckiest people in the world.”

Luck may play a part, but Gurry demonstrates serious skill in the air. She piloted the C-17 Globemaster III, a large military cargo plane, as well as the T-37 and now the T-6, two-person aircraft used to teach new pilots. Gurry’s service has taken her to all seven continents. As a cargo pilot, she’s been deployed to Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom, transporting servicemen and supplies in and out of combat zones. She also enjoyed time in Ferrara, Italy, serving as an airlift liaison to NATO, practicing military movements on paper and planning cargo movements. It was “essentially wargaming,” says Gurry.

Promoted to lieutenant colonel in October 2014, she took command of the 8th Flying Training Squadron at Vance Air Force Base in Oklahoma in June 2017, the first woman to do so. As squadron commander, Gurry oversees 68 pilots and 110 student pilots annually. She not only teaches pilots in training, but mentors those across the base. “I really enjoy mentoring people and seeing people grow and meet their potential.”

Gurry’s mentoring extends to the Supergirls, a group for female pilots that she helped to found. As one of 713 women out of 12,600 pilots in the Air Force, she’s committed to making sure her colleagues have a voice and the support they need.

**Lt. Col. Deirdre Gurry, Enid, Okla.**

**Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering, Wilkes**

**Master of Business Administration,  
Trident University International**

**Master of Military Operational Art and Science,  
Air University, Air Command and Staff College**

**Career:** One of an elite group of women pilots in the U.S. Air Force. First female commander of the 8th Flying Training Squadron at Vance Air Force Base.


**Noteworthy:** Gurry’s call sign—the nickname pilots use to refer to each other— is “Nuke.” She’s tight-lipped about its origins, but says, “Everybody earns their call sign. It’s a rite of passage.”

Though her days are anything but typical, Gurry tries to fly every day with the students. As a T-6 instructor, she gives her students a solid foundation—from take-off and landing to aerobatics and formation fundamentals—that will translate to every aircraft. She enjoys performing aerobatics while flying in formation. “I like to fly upside down. It’s my favorite thing.”

Gurry is hard-pressed to name any specific challenges she’s faced during her Air Force career. Though she has not received every assignment she’s hoped for, she never let it slow her down. “When given a project, whether I like the project or not, I dive into it and own it and make it the best that I could make it. I show up every day with pride and enthusiasm.”

Longtime friend and current Wilkes associate professor of pharmacy practice Dan Longyhore saw that same spirit in Gurry, first when they were high school and then college classmates. “She takes on absolutely anything and excels at it,” says Longyhore.

Longyhore recalls time spent with Gurry in the roller hockey club at Wilkes. When other players were content to take it easy, Gurry was always focused. “She was motivated and determined and positive. She was like the coach.” The lieutenant colonel’s drive hasn’t changed from her days in the Marts Center. “There’s no surprise in my mind that she’s where she’s at today,” says Longyhore.

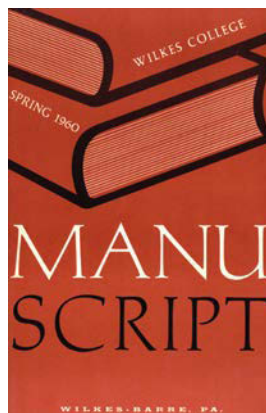
Gurry hasn’t thought much about life after the Air Force. “I feel that when I get out of the military, I get to start a whole new life, and I don’t know where to go with it.” She may pursue a master’s degree in architecture to satisfy an interest in art. She may travel around to air shows, promoting STEM education by showing off her plane and getting kids excited about the mechanics behind it. “I don’t know what I want to be when I grow up,” she says. Whatever she decides, no doubt Gurry will make a smooth landing. 

Opposite page, Lt. Col. Deirdre Gurry '99 stands next to her aircraft—a T-6 Texan II—which she pilots as the commander of a squadron of T-6 pilots. PHOTO COURTESY U.S. AIR FORCE

# Creative Community

AN ORAL HISTORY  
OF *MANUSCRIPT'S*  
70 YEARS AS WILKES'  
LITERARY MAGAZINE

By James Jaskolka '16



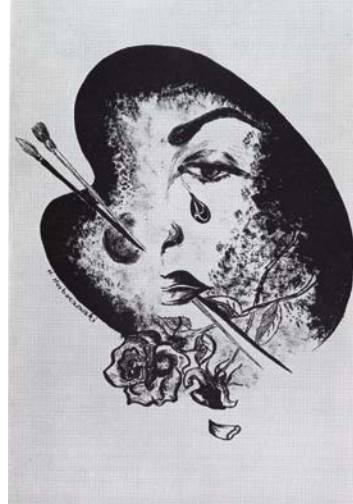
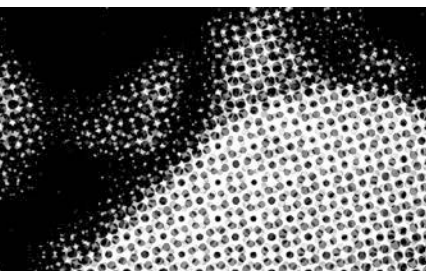
In the first issue of *Manuscript* published in 1947, the editors expressed their hope that the literary magazine would become a college tradition of which they might all be proud. As the publication marks its 70th anniversary, it's clear their dream was realized.

Founded as a way to ensure free and open speech in creative work, Manuscript Society and the publication it produces serve as a vital creative outlet at Wilkes. Visual art and writing are accepted from students, faculty or alumni, guaranteeing that each edition reflects Wilkes' best creative work.

Manuscript Society also hosts creative events such as open mics, writing workshops, film showcases and the annual unveiling of *Manuscript* every spring, where the creators celebrate by reading their works or discussing their art.

Sean J. Kelly and Chad Stanley are both associate professors of English and co-advisors of *Manuscript*. They share a vision for the value it brings to the student experience.

Above, *Manuscript* covers and art culled from the publication's seven decades. From left to right are the cover from the 1999 edition, the graphic "Eve of the Second Millennium" by Donna Bytheway '96 and the cover from spring 1960.



“There has always been a core group who strongly self-identify as poets, novelists or visual artists. These students often keep writing and even publishing long after graduation. If *Manuscript* didn't exist, they would have to invent it,” Kelly says.

Stanley adds, “I think it is a crucial medium for students engaging in studies in creative writing, art, or design—and for students who have relevant interests in such work but are not majoring in those fields. It complements education in many ways, and extends education and culture.”

Although much about *Manuscript* has changed over 70 years, reflecting the changing University and the city surrounding it, much remains the same. Interviews with previous editors reflect common themes of community and creativity and the long-term influence that producing *Manuscript* had on improving skills and influencing careers.

In this oral history, editors from all generations reflect on their experience with *Manuscript*.

## INSPIRATIONAL LOCATION

For generations of Wilkes students, working on *Manuscript* meant time spent in Kirby Hall.

**Ron [Kryznewski] Kross '60:** We met at Kirby Hall, but at that time, Kirby Hall was the main library ... the smaller room on the first floor was the card catalog room; what they call the salon now was a reading and study room ... it was a wonderful place in a wonderful school.

**Jim Warner '99 MFA '09:** Kirby Hall was a great place for reading. It still is. ... The weekly meetings we had used to be in the old alumni offices in the top floor of Kirby, and that place was like a clubhouse for us. We got work done, but it was also a place where a lot of friendships were codified.

## CENSORSHIP AND ARTISTIC FREEDOM

An emphasis on free expression distinguished *Manuscript* from its earliest years.

**Kross:** I was a pain in the butt for the people there, because my senior year I wrote an article on H.L. Mencken's view of Christianity. ... Of course, it was anti-Christian. At that time, I was in a rebellious stage. ... I was told that Dr. Farley was not pleased when he saw the *Manuscript* out.

**Ray Klimek '78:** There was one issue where we printed something by a woman about Joan of Arc. ... I think the clincher line was something like “they couldn't [expletive] her so they made her a saint...” and this became the subject of a little bit of controversy. ... We always had the support of the faculty, which was great because they were like, “We aren't approving of censorship, they can do whatever they want.”

**Elyse Guziewicz '18:** I can't speak for all of the faculty or the administration, but the English faculty value creativity. As an organization, *Manuscript* prides itself on not censoring sensitive material and promoting the inclusion of all creative material in our canon. Even if the administration tried to step in, I think both the English faculty and the *Manuscript* staff would resist that full-force.

**Warner:** We were never really censored ... We had controversial things, issues of sexual identity, drug use ... but when you're in college, being able to discover those spaces to talk about things that were taboo is important ... I was fortunate enough to be with a department that gave us free rein.



Above, the work “Artist's Lament” by Hedy (Horbaczewski) Prater '60 from the 1960 *Manuscript*.

Left, the photograph “Self Portrait” by Murnal Abate '87 MBA '94 appeared in the 1985 edition.



Read selections from 70 years of *Manuscript*—including work written by the alumni interviewed in this story—online. To view poetry and

prose from seven decades of Wilkes' literary magazine, please go to [www.wilkes.edu/manuscriptanniversary](http://www.wilkes.edu/manuscriptanniversary)

## MENTORS

Working closely with faculty mentors was a memorable part of working on *Manuscript*.



### **Deirdre Swinden '95:**

I worked with Dr. Bonnie Bedford [Culver]...she was very open with everything we wanted to do. She sort of let us have free rein over *Manuscript* itself ... she was really a wonderful resource. She simply said, 'Think and then do,' and that's what we did.

**Karen Mason '85:** Bob and Pat '61 Heaman [professors of English], they were real mentors for me ... They were really willing to take students under their wing, spend time with students and help them. ... *Manuscript* in a lot of ways was about relationships to me, and about having a connection. ... it was a lot about community.

**Klimek:** Bob Heaman used to have parties every year. We'd go to his house in the woods and hang out. It was a good way to get to know your professors in a more intimate setting, rather than a formal one. It was an important experience for me, to be treated seriously by someone I respected. ... there's a lot of interaction that way, and a lot of support for *Manuscript* as well ... it was a very special kind of thing.

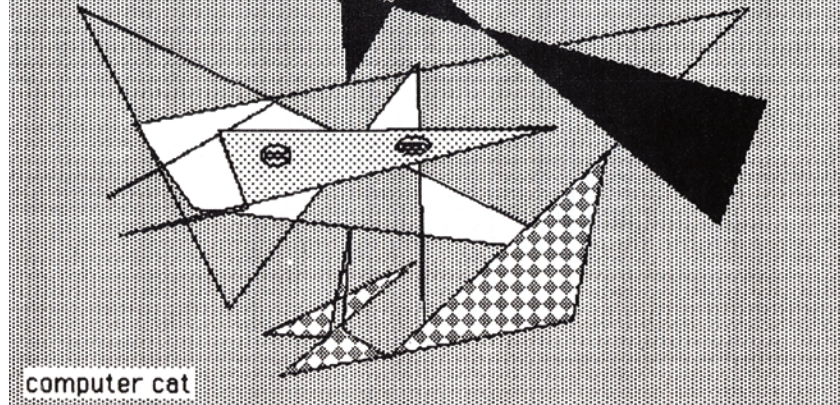
## LESSONS LEARNED, VALUE GAINED

*Manuscript* added as much to the educational experience as time spent in the classroom.

**Warner:** I was a pretty shy kid, so [writing] was a way for me to try to connect. Things like literary magazines and literary communities are places where the intangible is made flesh. ... it's a space for those connections to be made real ... and the older I get, the more important that's become to me ... I think *Manuscript* planted that seed early on, that it wasn't just about my work. There's all this out here. ... It kind of gave you that idea, that you're not creating in a vacuum.

**Kross:** The greatest thing at the time was getting the feedback from the group. It didn't always happen in the English classes, because the English classes were bigger. ... when you wrote something for the *Manuscript*, people would discuss it, and you could go back and rewrite.

**Swinden:** To have [your work] critiqued by your peers at a university level and get that feedback ... is really vital to everyone's creative process. You can write as many stories as you want, but if nobody sees them, you're only writing for yourself.



**Klimek:** I think the most important thing was that there were sets of values there that could be applied in all kinds of circumstances. It's something that comes from studying literature, studying humanities, and studying the arts ... It's learning to ask the right questions, learning to question your own motives, learning to question the values of the culture that you live in.

**Sarah Simonovich'15:** Part of the reason *Manuscript* was such a positive influence in my life was the creation ... being able to put something out there that you're proud of. We live in a world where it's so easy to see the negative and all the bad things that people do...but at the end of the day, people are creators. Whether you're creating text, visual art... if you're creating in a community, that in itself is such an inherently good thing.

## PROGRAMMING BEYOND PRINT

For 70 years, *Manuscript* Society has enriched campus life with cultural events that touched the community beyond campus.

**Mason:** We would show films that were open to the public... Hitchcock films, James Dean...that was another way to connect with people and establish a presence for *Manuscript*.

**Klimek:** The advantage to that was it encouraged a discussion about a common experience, which is harder to do when you're watching DVDs on your computer screen. I think that fulfilled a really important service, not only to other students but to the larger community ... these were people that were sort of starved for foreign films or art films.

**Warner:** When I was at Wilkes we were lucky enough to have writers like Edward Albee and John Updike visit. ... having these people come, interact and give their time were sort of models for me on how you're supposed to act.

**Swinden:** We had Joyce Carol Oates come to dinner, which was an incredible experience for those who were invited to attend. It was great to have people like that to show us that writing isn't something you could just do on the side, that it was something you could use to express yourself in ways you hadn't thought of before.



From left, a selection of artwork from *Manuscript* includes an untitled work from 1999 by Colleen (McKinnon) Boyer '99, "Computer Cat" from the 1985 edition by Tim Williams '85, MS'01 and an untitled work by an anonymous artist that appeared in 1995. *Manuscript* has a tradition of printing anonymous work.

## LONG-TERM IMPACT

Alumni agree that *Manuscript* was a life-changing part of the Wilkes experience, providing lessons that impacted their careers.

**Simonovich:** *Manuscript* was the first time I was in a leadership position ... It was a learning experience ... learning to understand other people's perceptions. You think, 'How can I approach this problem, whether its textual or with people, in a different critical way?' I learned an appreciation for other people's worldviews and their interpretations of things.

**Klimek:** I just taught my first class of the semester, History of Photography, and I made a big point about photography being, you know, not just taking nice pictures, but a kind of thinking ... being both a creative tool and a critical tool ... so in that way, *Manuscript* still informs my ways of thinking. It did make me more confident in my judgments and probably prepared me to be a teacher.

**Guziewicz:** *Manuscript* has done wonders for my professional and organizational skills, especially since I stepped up as executive editor last year. I had to learn how to communicate to a group, organize events, run meetings, and put together a publication pretty much on the fly as I was the only one returning from the senior staff ...

**Mason:** Part of [my job] is writing a two-page letter of recommendation for every student I advise ... we're comprising that from the facts of the student's life and shaping it into a story, which is definitely a creative act ... I'm also looking at tons of essays, helping students revise, so I use those skills I developed at *Manuscript* every day.

**Swinden:** It enabled me to move better in the world, and to obtain my first job in communications. Being part of *Manuscript* helped me learn how to refine my writing skills and techniques, and that I had a resource to show off my editing skills professionally—which in turn enabled me to have a career as a writer and an editor. If I hadn't been involved with *Manuscript*, I'm not sure I'd have thought of publishing my own novel, helping to realize a lifelong passion of mine.

**Warner:** Everybody has that moment where something gives you the permission to create, to write. For me, that moment was *Manuscript*...being the editor gave me confidence about my own work.



## Alumni Interviewed for the Oral History

The following are the alumni and current students—all editors of *Manuscript*—interviewed in this oral history.

**Elyse Guziewicz '18** is a senior at Wilkes majoring in English and the current executive editor of *Manuscript*.

**Ray Klimek '78** is an assistant professor at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, where he is also the supervisor of the photography lab. Formerly, Klimek taught English at Rutgers University.

**Ron [Kryznewski] Kross '60** is retired from a long career as a professional actor and an English teacher in the New York City public schools.

**Karen Mason '85** is the director of college counseling for Germantown Academy, a private school in Fort Washington, Pa.

**Sarah Simonovich '15** is lead content writer for Petroleum Service Company.

**Deirdre Swinden '95** is the director of global marketing communications for West Pharmaceutical Services in Exton, Pa., where she has been employed since 2009. She published her novel, *The Inn*, in 2015.

**Jim Warner '99 MFA '09** is a member of the faculty in the Master of Fine Arts program in creative writing at Arcadia University. He also is host of the CitizenLit podcast. He has published two poetry collections, *Too Bad It's Poetry* and *Social Studies*.



Top, the colorful painting "Hombolovi" by Michael Loverdi '01 from 1999 and, bottom, the print "Decisions" by Amy (Blease) Strockoz '96 that appeared in the 1995 *Manuscript*.



Kathy Kautter '72

## Alumni Association Welcomes New Board Members

The Alumni Association Board of Directors welcomes five new directors elected to the board at its February 2017 meeting. They began their three-year terms in June.

The five new directors share their favorite memory about their Wilkes experience:

### **KATHY KAUTTER '72**

*Independent arts and crafts professional*

I spent six years getting my undergraduate degree, starting full time and ending up going part time...while working full time. With that frantic schedule, I found a little oasis of quiet and comfort in the old Kirby Hall Library. On one of the upper floors, tucked away behind some bookshelves, was a little room with a solitary chair—a big old comfortable chair—that looked out over the Commons. I like to think that I spent a lot of time reading and studying in that chair, but I think I often dozed off to get some much needed rest. I am so happy to see the direction that Wilkes University is taking in 2017 and beyond. ...I want to do whatever I can to help any student who wants to succeed at this great school.

### **BRIAN PALMITER '13**

*Civil designer, Borton-Lawson Engineering*

It is difficult to pick my absolute favorite thing about my Wilkes experience because I loved everything about my four years at the University. ...If I had to point out one thing...I would have to say (it would be) my freshmen year living in Catlin Hall. ...As to be expected, putting two dozen men in such a close-knit environment led to frequent fun ... I still keep in close touch with several people from Catlin Hall and they are among my best friends to this day. ... My point of all this is that life at Wilkes is amazing, not just in the classroom, but around the entire campus. You feel like you are a part of a community ... Being a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors allows me to give back to the University that treated me so well.



Brian Palmiter '13



Fred Pierantoni '80



Alyssa Stencavage '15



Kate Thomas '15

### **FRED PIERANTONI '80**

*Judge, Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas*

As a student I enjoyed my time at Wilkes as I received a quality education, which provided an opportunity to achieve my career goals while developing many lasting friendships. I also enjoyed the co-curricular activities. I particularly cherish the time I spent as a disc jockey and station manager at WCLH. As a proud legacy parent, I am honored to serve on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, mentor current students and provide internship guidance while encouraging other graduates to share their own experience and become involved in the Wilkes community.

### **ALYSSA STENCAVAGE '15**

*Marketing Coordinator, Aramark*

This might sound cliché, but I loved the tight-knit connection that exists in the Wilkes community and the relationships that form between students and professors and all others on campus. The professors knew me personally and I could always go to them with a question or concern. Not only did this serve me well during my time at Wilkes, but it has also been beneficial in my post-graduate life ... I'm excited about the opportunity to serve on the Alumni Board because it allows me to come back to campus with a fresh and different perspective and also see things in a slightly different light.

### **KATE THOMAS '15**

*Assistant director of undergraduate admissions, Wilkes*

My favorite thing about Wilkes is that there are so many opportunities on campus to get involved and allow yourself to grow. As a student, I met some of my closest friends by getting involved in different activities through my classes, sport and student clubs. As an admissions counselor, I get to work with prospective students and share my story, as well as work with enrolled students who share the same passion for the University that I do, which makes me even more proud to represent the Alumni Association.

## Meet the 2017 Alumni Scholarship Recipient, Nicole Cumbo

Nicole Cumbo '18 was awarded the Alumni Association Scholarship for the 2017-2018 academic year. Nicole's father, Joseph Cumbo '90, MS '01, pictured with her, left, received two degrees from Wilkes, both in electrical engineering. Nicole is a biology major with a minor in chemistry. She is a member of the women's softball team, Beta Beta Beta Biology Honor Society, the dance team, Pre-Professional Society, and the Badminton Club. In addition, Nicole is a first-year student E-Mentor and does research with Linda Gutierrez, associate professor of biology. Nicole also works as a nursing assistant at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center. Learn more about Cumbo at [www.wilkes.edu/alumnischolarship](http://www.wilkes.edu/alumnischolarship).



## Eugene Pappas '72 Leaves a Legacy

When Eugene Pappas '72 arrived on the Wilkes campus in 1968, he was a first-generation college student with a scholarship award and a dream. Gene passed away in May 2016 and left behind many loving family members and friends, as well as his impeccable collection of personal records.

“He had records from the '60s, including paystubs, and even his original scholarship letter from Wilkes in 1968,” says Nicholas Pappas, Gene’s brother. Seeing the letter made an impression. “Had he not received the scholarship, he probably would not have gone to Wilkes. I don’t think he would have had the same path.”



During his career, the late Eugene Pappas '72 frequently worked in Paris. PHOTO COURTESY NICHOLAS PAPPAS

Gene, a family-oriented, hard-working man, always believed in giving back and he greatly appreciated that path that led him to a fulfilling education at Wilkes. To create a legacy for Gene, Nick established an endowed scholarship so that students can benefit from Gene’s generosity for years to come. The scholarship recipient will be an undergraduate student who demonstrates academic ability, good character and



The late Eugene Pappas '72, pictured far right, worked on a project that involved working with former New York Gov. Elliott Spitzer, fourth from left, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, fifth from left and Sen. Chuck Schumer, third from right.

financial need. One student will receive the scholarship each year, with the first awardee in the 2019–2020 academic year.

While at Wilkes, Gene worked at the Osterhout Library. After graduation, he was hired full-time, but then had the opportunity to receive his master’s degree from the Pratt Institute in New York City, N.Y.

While he was in graduate school, he took a part-time position at McKinsey & Co, a global management consulting firm in New York City. He worked his way up through the company, spending more than 30 years of his professional career there as a banking consultant and senior partner in New York and Paris. When he passed away, he was semi-retired and still working for McKinsey & Co. as a senior advisor.

“He was on-the-go a lot. He was a frequent flyer on the Concorde for business purposes,” says Nick. “He was able to maintain residency in the Wyoming Valley area and Paris.”

His career afforded him many opportunities, including working on a study produced by McKinsey & Co. for New York City. The project enabled him to meet luminaries such as Mayor

Michael Bloomberg and Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY).

Gene’s generosity lives on through his scholarship at Wilkes. “A scholarship just seemed to be the best long-term investment,” says Nick. Although he considered other options to create a legacy for his brother, Wilkes seemed the best choice. “The impact would not have been as direct as it is at Wilkes. He’s helping someone to get the same start he had.”

### ESTABLISHING AN ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

The benefits to endowed scholarships are endless. With your donation, students at Wilkes will benefit from your generosity in perpetuity. At Wilkes, endowed scholarships require a minimum gift of \$50,000. For more information, or to begin an endowed scholarship of your own, contact Margaret Steele at **(570)408-4302** or **[margaret.steele@wilkes.edu](mailto:margaret.steele@wilkes.edu)**.

## Jason Homza '11 MS '14 Honored as Pat Tillman Scholar For Commitment to Service

When Jason Homza '11 MS '14's oldest brother, Joe, became critically injured in a head-on crash while serving in the Marines, he was not expected to survive. But Joe made a full recovery, returned to active duty and deployed to Iraq. Inspired by his commitment, Homza was compelled to follow in his footsteps, enlisting as a Marine after high school.

Those first steps in service eventually led Homza to a Wilkes degree, a teaching job and most recently to enrollment in medical school at Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine. Now his commitment to service has earned him national recognition as a Pat Tillman Scholar, awarded for exemplifying strong leadership and a drive to make a positive impact on his community and country.

Homza says his commitment evolved from his decision to enlist in the Marines. The experience helped clarify his future goals.

"At that time I was 16 years old and I didn't have a direction," says Homza. After serving for four years, including time in a war zone in Haditha, Iraq, he began a new chapter when he enrolled at Wilkes on the GI Bill. Homza earned a bachelor's degree in earth and environmental science with a minor in education. His next step was taking a teaching job at Scranton High School while pursuing his master's degree in education, also from Wilkes. While teaching, he felt called to serve in a different way by studying medicine.

He is humble in discussing his selection as a Tillman Scholar, crediting his wife, Autumn, for her support. The Tillman Scholars program was established in honor of Pat Tillman, who ended his NFL career with the Arizona Cardinals to serve in the U.S. Army after the 9/11 attacks and was subsequently killed in combat. The scholarship covers educational expenses, including tuition and fees, books and living expenses. Scholars are selected based on academic

and leadership potential, a true sense of vocation and a deep commitment to create positive change through their work in the fields of medicine, law, business, policy, technology, education and the arts.

Surrounded by "amazingly accomplished leaders" at the Pat Tillman Foundation Leadership Summit in Chicago, Ill., Homza realized just how big of an honor it was. Sharing the story of fellow Tillman scholar Jonathan Kim, who served in the Navy, earned numerous accolades then became a Harvard medical doctor and an astronaut, Homza says, "The fact that I'm in the same room as people like that, that's when it really hit me."

If Homza seems surprised to find himself in such distinguished company, those who know him are not. Lt. Col. Mark Kaster is Wilkes' veterans counselor and met Homza as an undergraduate.

**"It's a great story of a teacher helping people becoming a medical doctor who will help people heal. It warms my heart that I made a difference to this young man."**

– Lt. Col. Mark Kaster, Wilkes Veterans Counselor

perfect career choice for those who wish to serve.

"If you aren't service oriented this isn't the career for you," he says. While he has yet to declare a specialty, he has found an interest in prostate cancer research. "Even small advancements can make a difference," he explains, adding he could see himself staying in the area to work in medicine.

– Sarah Bedford



Jason Homza '11 MS'14 is committed to making a difference. PHOTO COURTESY OF LAVELLE STRATEGY GROUP



## Undergraduate

**1950**

**William Plummer** of Painted Post, N.Y., has published a book, *Fronds and Anemones*, a collection of essays on birding and gardening. The collection reflects an interest in nature that began while growing up in north Wilkes-Barre.

**1959**

**Stephen Poleskie** of Ithaca, N.Y., is having his artwork studied at a graduate seminar at Humboldt University in Berlin. The course is being taught by the Swiss art historian Inge Hinterwaldner, who is writing a book about Poleskie. Formerly a member of the faculty at Cornell University, Poleskie's long art career included running the New York City fine-art screen printing shop Chiron Press and the creation of Aerial Theatre, in which he created four-dimensional designs in the sky by flying an aerobatic plane.

**1965**

**Catherine DeAngelis** of Baltimore, Md., was among those honored at the Awards and Portrait Presentation at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine Biennial Meeting and Reunion Weekend in June 2017. Awards recognized the outstanding achievements of distinguished Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine alumni and faculty, and portraits honored the influential members of the Johns Hopkins Medicine family.

**1970**

**David Koranda** received the Distinguished Advertising Educator Award from the American Advertising Federation at its national conference in June 2017. He teaches at the University of Oregon.

**1972**

**Fred DeVecca's** first novel, *The Nutting Girl*, was published in August 2017 by Coffeetown Press.



**1965**

**Leslie Tobias Jenkins** of Aurora, Colo., was one of six women who won the 2017 notecard contest for the national American Association of University Women. Jenkins won for her yellow mailbox photograph.

**1973**

**Kay Marie Platt** of Mickleton, N.J., retired on March 17, 2017, after more than 27 years as an administrator at Widener University. She spent the last 22 years as assistant dean for the University College and then for its Center for Continuing Studies.

**1974**

**James Godlewski MS '77** of Kingston, Pa., was the keynote speaker at the 13th Annual Building Blocks to Early Learning, Early Care and Education Professional Development Event held at Lock Haven University in



**1987**

**Allan Knox** of Yorktown, Va., has accepted a position as an analyst with the search and rescue satellite-aided tracking system program with the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Knox retired from the United States Air Force in 2007 after 20 years and since that time has worked as both an Air Force and Coast Guard civil servant in various search and rescue positions.

Clearfield, Pa. Godlewski's presentation was entitled *School Readiness: What Early Education Teachers Can Do to Help Families Get Their Child Get Ready for Kindergarten.*

**W. Lee Miller** recently celebrated 30 years in business at his company, Independent Sealing Company. As president and founder, Miller formed the company that serves all of the United States specializing in parts for the fluid sealing industry.

**1976**

**Garry Taroli** was featured on the "Newsmakers" program on WBRE TV in Wilkes-Barre in a segment dealing with new anti-animal abuse legislation signed into law by Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf.



**1976**

**Charles D. Jones** of Richardson, Texas, had the opportunity to meet Drew Brees, NFL quarterback for the New Orleans Saints on Jan. 28, 2017. The picture was taken at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in Orlando, Fla. Andy Dalton, NFL quarterback for the Cincinnati Bengals, is married to Jones' daughter, Jordan.

# Bo Ryan '69 Inducted Into National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame

Bo Ryan '69, former University of Wisconsin head men's basketball coach, was inducted into the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame, earning him a place among the sport's most legendary players and coaches.

Ryan's remarkable coaching career included 27 postseason appearances as the coach at three different University of Wisconsin campuses. Ryan began his head-coaching career at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and won 353 games from 1984 through 1999. He also guided the program to four NCAA Division III national titles. He spent two years at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and gave the team its first back-to-back winning seasons in nearly a decade.

In 2001, he moved to Division I coaching when he was hired by the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Ryan spent the next 14 years in Madison racking up 364 wins for the Badgers. He took all of his Badger teams to the NCAA Tournament, including a Final Four appearance in 2014 and a spot in the national championship game in 2015, his last season on the sidelines. He never finished lower than fourth in the Big Ten standings and won four conference titles.

Bo Ryan '69 cuts down the net at the NCAA Tournament during his time coaching the University of Wisconsin-Madison team.  
PHOTO COURTESY THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN



1997

**Christina Poff** of Williamsport, Md., was selected as Supervisor of the Year for the Maryland Correctional Training Center. The center contains the largest population of inmates in the State of Maryland's Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. Poff works as a psychotherapist for Greater Washington Psychiatry Counseling.

1978

**Susan Adams** of Pottsville, Pa., retired after 38 years as a high school and elementary art teacher with the Williams Valley School District in Tower City, Pa.

1988

**Andrew Bossard** was chosen as the Outstanding Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Intermediate-Level Civilian of the Year. Each year, the Air Force honors outstanding performance in intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) missions and exceptional contributions to the field of ISR.

1989

**Anthony DeCosmo** of Swoyersville, Pa., released his latest science fiction novel, *Anansi Station*, which is available in paperback and e-book formats.

1994

**Jonathan Perloff** of Slatington, Pa., received his sixth patent issued for an interbody spacer that can be introduced in a minimally invasive manner to help patients with degenerative disc disease. He developed the device as part of his work for Globus Medical, a company specializing in innovative technologies for patients with spinal disorders.

1995

**Timothy Williams** was appointed superintendent of schools for the Westmont Hilltop School District. The district is located outside of Johnstown, Pa.

1997

**Asif Ilyas** was featured in *The New York Times* in March. Ilyas is a hand and wrist surgeon who specializes in wide-awake surgery as well as an associate professor of orthopedic surgery at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia.

**1998**

**Kristen LaBuda** of Boiling Springs, Pa., published a children's book, *Don't Be A Bully, Be A Friend!*. LaBuda is a mother of four children and was an elementary school teacher for eight years before becoming a full-time mom in 2007.

**Sarah Kovacs Yoder MS '09** earned her doctor of education degree in

educational administration from Temple University on May 12, 2017.

**1999**

**Ronald Honick Jr.** of Old Forge, Pa., has been appointed to Pennsylvania Bankers Association advisory committee for the Security/Fraud Committee. Honick is the senior vice president and operations and technology services officer at FNCB Bank.

**2004**

**Amanda Leigh Brozana** married Victor Barreto Rios on Sunday, May 28, 2017, at a ceremony in Schuylkill County, Pa. She is the director of communications and development at the National Grange. The groom works in customer support and information technology at Comcast.

## John Lack '78 Launches Second Career as Published Author

John Lack traveled the world as a senior manager with a long career in the telecommunications field; but, exotic, faraway places couldn't satisfy his imagination. Lack traded in his 31-year career, picked up a pen, and wrote his way to becoming a self-published author.

John has four published works. The two newest titles are *Scarcity Bites* and *Heiding Fortunes, Feinding Truths*. *Scarcity Bites* is "a modern economic fable," where Lack taps into his financial knowhow and appreciation of irony to highlight the fact "that no matter how well-meaning the intentions, the unbending laws of economics will ultimately intervene to dictate the outcome."

*Heiding Fortunes, Feinding Truths* follows two men named Richard who live 200 years apart, but face similar life challenges. "The Dickensian style novel is my first attempt at creating a completely serious storyline without an assist from humor to entertain the reader," Lack explains.

He describes his other two novels, *The Other Side of the Kneeler* and *Tempest's Arc*, as "comedic fiction with a dash of irreverence." *The Other Side of the Kneeler* is set in a funeral parlor and is narrated by a current customer while *Tempest's Arc* follows a young girl who adores math, but can't tolerate the irrational nature of Pi.

John Lack '78 makes notes for his next novel. PHOTO COURTESY JOHN LACK

Lack graduated from Wilkes with a commerce and finance degree and received his MBA from Columbia University. He gives substantial credit to his English literature professor at Wilkes, Philip Rizzo, as a central motivator in his writing career.

"Dr. Rizzo influenced my interest in literature and the long-term impact it can have on the way people view their lives," he says. "I can still picture an animated Dr. Rizzo breathing life into the classics as he performed before a captivated class. His passion for the written word left an indelible mark on me."

Wilkes-Barre shines through as the thinly veiled setting of his upcoming novel, *The Context of My Life*. The fictional account centers on a 17-year old boy from upstate New York who goes to a small college town in northeastern Pennsylvania.

"Expressing my ideas through stories has always appealed to me," Lack says. "Triggering a reflective moment or a nascent memory that enriches someone's path through life has a pleasing draw. Hearing directly from readers that my stories either brightened their day or lessened their load makes the work gratifying."

– Samantha Stanich



# Kristen Konosky PharmD '15 Helps With Relief Efforts After Hurricane Harvey



Lt. Commander Charity Earnhardt, left, a pharmacist with the U.S. Public Health Service's Indian Health Service, and Wilkes alumna Kristen Konosky PharmD '15, who works for the Federal Bureau of Prisons, are ready to take off to aid in Texas hurricane relief efforts. PHOTO COURTESY U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Lt. Kristen Konosky, PharmD '15 is spending her career behind bars, putting her pharmacy degree to work for the Federal Bureau of Prisons in the Federal Medical Center—Fort Worth in Fort Worth, Texas.

After graduating from Wilkes, she worked in a retail pharmacy until she had the opportunity to become a Commissioned Corps officer for the U.S. Public Health Service in September 2016. Konosky became interested in working in a prison after completing one of her clinical rotations in a prison in her last year of pharmacy school.

Less than a year after achieving her goal of working for the Public Health

Service, her training was put to the test when Hurricane Harvey barreled down on Texas. Konosky was deployed to help with the relief effort.

“USPHS officers have day jobs, but we get deployed for humanitarian relief efforts,” she says.

During her two-week deployment, Konosky worked in San Antonio, restocking ambulances with supplies to send out to areas in need. She then headed to Houston, where she was stationed in the NRG Stadium parking lot to help disperse medical supplies to ambulances serving the flooded areas.

“When we were in Houston, we flew with the Army Reserve to Beaumont to resupply the ambulances,” she said. “Ambulances couldn’t get back to Houston, so we flew to them.”

Konosky humbly sees her work in Texas as part of her job. She was excited to be able to help and carry on the mission of the U.S. Public Health Service to protect, promote and advance the health and safety of the nation.

“I felt prepared when I got deployed to Texas, largely because of my Alternative Spring Breaks and mission work I did through Wilkes,” she explained.

Konosky took trips to the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica for Alternative Spring Break and mission trips, and she also spent time in Uganda for a five-week rotation that included time in the Mulago National Referral Hospital in Kampala and two weeks in a rural clinic where the closest hospital was four hours away. Konosky also says she benefited from being able to complete a double major in Spanish and pharmacy at Wilkes because she’s been able to use it quite often on her job.

Konosky recognizes the connections and great relationships she developed because of Wilkes and its small school environment with a large focus attitude.

“I was close to my classmates and got to know my professors,” she says. “I would tell the pharmacy students to be adventurous and don’t be afraid of opportunities as they come to you. People thought I was crazy to take the rotation in the prison or to go to Uganda, but if I hadn’t take that rotation or gone, I wouldn’t be where I am today.”

– Samantha Stanich

## 2013

**Conor Clair '13** – see undergraduate degrees 2012.

**Brian Palmiter**, of Kingston, Pa., was nominated as a 2017 Young Professional of the Year by the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce. Palmiter is a civil designer at Borton-Lawson where he has been employed for three years.

## 2014

**Jeremy Wiest** was promoted to the national account sales team with Consolidated Electrical Distributors and relocated to Fort Worth, Texas. The national accounts team works with retail operations, restaurants, healthcare providers, property managers and other national multi-site clients helping to fulfill construction and maintenance needs.

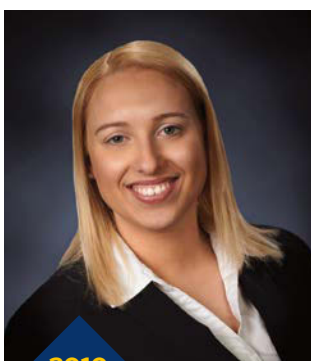
## 2015

**Rasha Shaker** was named the executive marketing assistant for Grayscale Entertainment Marketing. Grayscale Entertainment Marketing is a full-service marketing agency focused on connecting brands, fans, events and bands located in Nashville, Tenn.



2005

**Darron Fadden** of Scranton, Pa., and wife, Jessica, welcomed a daughter, Eleanor June, on Jan. 30, 2017. She weighed 8 lbs. 11 oz. and was 21.5 inches long.



2010

**Katie Nealon** of Huntington Beach, Calif., was named to the 2017 list of Pennsylvania Super Lawyers, an honor awarded to the top five percent of lawyers in Pennsylvania. Super Lawyers is a resource that recognizes the country's most outstanding attorneys in more than 70 practice areas. Selection is based on independent research, peer nominations and peer reviews. Candidates are evaluated on twelve indicators of professional excellence, including experience, honors/awards, verdicts and settlements, pro bono work, scholarly achievements and other credentials.



2010

**Thomas Kresge** of Brodheadsville, Pa., had a hole-in-one using a wedge on hole 9 at Whitetail Golf Club on Sunday, July 30. His witnesses were Jerry Rickrode, Wilkes major gifts officer, and Jeremy Gigliotti.



2012

**Cynthia Riccio Clair** of Tannersville, Pa., and **Conor Clair '13** were recently married. Fifteen Wilkes alumni attended the wedding and the group took a Wilkes photo. The alumni who were there include: Nick DiPaolo '12, Ryan Bracey '12, Jake Stonelake '12, Dave Kratzer '13, Justin Franiak '13, James Harcher '12, Ashley Thorpe '12, Chelsea Minix '12, Conor Clair '13, Cindy Clair '12, Jaclyn Volpe '12, Mark Fowler '13, Kerry Morton '13, Amanda Peters '12, and Bridget Hine '12.

## Graduate

1977

**James Godlewski MS** – see undergraduate degrees 1974.

1999

**Carissa Pokorny Golden MS** of Hellertown, Pa., was named associate dean of the College of Education at Kutztown University this May after serving as the interim associate dean. Pokorny Golden served as an associate professor of English and supervisor of secondary education at Kutztown since 2004. Prior to that, she taught English at Lehigh Carbon Community College and Pleasant Valley School District.

2003

**Shawn T. Fitzpatrick MS** was named superintendent of the Schuylkill Haven School District. He previously taught middle school in the Hamburg Area School District

2009

**Sarah Kovacs Yoder MS** – see undergraduate degrees 1998.

2011

**Patricia Florio MFA** and **Donna Ferrara MA'13** co-edited *Jewels of San Fedele*, published by Serenity Books. The book is a collection of short fiction, memoir, art and photography. After a magical week in Tuscany, a group of writers shared their experiences in this paperback.

2013

**Donna Ferrara MA** – see graduate degrees 2011

# In Memoriam

## Remembering Doris Saracino

– By Dotty Martin '77

Before Title IX, there was Dorie.

Standing just over 4-feet tall, Doris Saracino was a giant when it came to women's athletics. She believed in equality for female athletes and fought hard to make sure they got that.

Saracino—called Dorie by her letterwomen—died June 2 at 81, leaving behind a family who loved her dearly and a nation of female athletes who owe her so much.

The mission of Dorie Saracino began when she accepted a position as an educator in the athletic department at Wilkes College in 1960—12 years before Title IX became law, forcing mandatory equality for women in education and athletics.

Dorie spent 34 years at Wilkes, where she became affectionately known as the “Mother of Wilkes Women's Athletics” and where her mission of advocating for female athletes would continue until the day she died.

She started the women's basketball program at Wilkes and served as the first full-time coach of the team, a position she held for 10 years. She started a field hockey program at the school in 1962 and coached that team for eight years. The volleyball program for women at Wilkes began in 1972 under Dorie's tutelage, and she guided the Lady Colonels in that sport for 15 years.

As female athletic programs at Wilkes continued to grow, Dorie recruited Gay (Foster) Meyers to coach the field hockey team and Sandy Bloomsberg, one of the best basketball players to ever wear a Wilkes uniform, to coach the women's basketball team upon her graduation.

Dorie then started the Wilkes Letterwomen's Club, an organization whose members continue to network with each other to this day.

She served as part of the women's volleyball rules committee during the 1984 Olympics. Many of her letterwomen were on hand to see her inducted into the Wilkes University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1995 and, in one of her proudest moments in 2016, when she was named to the Middle Atlantic Conference Hall of Fame, one of only eight Wilkes athletic personnel to receive that prestigious honor.

Dorie was an annual presence at Wilkes Homecoming events and could always be found under the Letterwomen's banner in the tent. She called meetings every couple of months, urging local members of the club to socialize with her and each other.



One of Doris Saracino's proudest moments came in 2016 when she was one of only eight Wilkes University staff named to the Middle Atlantic Conference Hall of Fame. She is pictured with Wilkes President Patrick Leahy.

She fit right in with the women, many 20 and 30 years her junior, telling stories and recalling memories of days gone by.

Dorie Saracino stood up for women athletes during a time when they had no one else on their side. She showed them they deserved equality and, if they had to fight for it, they should do just that.

Dorie commanded respect. When she spoke, her letterwomen responded.

Mike, her husband of 56 years, her children, Michael, Maria and Edward, and her grandchildren will miss her. But many Wilkes women around the country will mourn her passing just as much. They know that many of the doors that opened for them, both athletically and professionally, opened only because of Dorie Saracino.

**Dotty Martin '77**, of Forty Fort, Pa. graduated from Wilkes with a bachelor's degree in English with a concentration in journalism. While at Wilkes, she was a four-year starter on the women's basketball team and a four-year member of the Letterwomen's Club. She is suburban editor of the Times Leader Media Group in Wilkes-Barre.

**1940**

**Henry C. Johnson** of Pittston, Pa., died on Dec. 29, 2016. He served in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II. He owned and operated Henry C. Johnson Company, his family's lumber and hardware business in Luzerne.

**Paul Hooper Trebilcox** of Plymouth, Pa., died on March 19, 2017. He attended Bucknell University Junior College and finished his chemistry degree at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pa., in 1942. Trebilcox worked on the Manhattan Project at the Y-12 plant in Oak Ridge, Tenn.

**1941**

**Thomas E. Brislin** of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., died on Jan. 4, 2017. He served as a lieutenant j.g. in the U.S. Navy South Pacific Fleet during World War II. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and was the vice president and trust officer of PNC Bank, Wilkes-Barre.

**1942**

**Rita Dicker** of Luzerne, Pa., died on June 26, 2017. She worked as a lab technician and on the venipuncture team at Abington Memorial Hospital, Abington, Pa.

**1943**

**Pearl Kaufman**, of New York City, N.Y., and formerly of Edwardsville and Kingston, Pa., died on June 9, 2017. She was a realtor for Lewith & Freeman and was active with Jewish Family Services.

**1944**

**Robert Edward "Bob" Parker**, of Dallas, Pa., died on July 29, 2017. He had a 40-year career as an engineer and engineering manager with Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania.

**1948**

**Dorothy (Sorber) Garboczi**, of Neffsville, Pa., died on March 27, 2017. She worked for the Donnelley Printing company.

**1949**

**Austin C. "Bing" Bisbing**, of Kingston, Pa., died on Dec. 13, 2016. He served as a B-17 pilot in World War II. He was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor and retired from the Air Force Reserves as a major.

**Richard D. Glass**, of Wallingford, Pa., died on Jan. 3, 2017. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He worked as a mechanical engineer with Uniroyal.

**John J. Verban** of Potomac Falls, Va., died on Aug. 28, 2015. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II and retired as a colonel after completing his service in the Air Force Reserve. He worked for the Department of the Navy and the General Services Administration.

**1950**

**Reed D. Lowrey** of Greenwood, N.Y., died on Sept. 6, 2016. He served in the Canadian Air Force and the U.S. Air Force in World War II.

**Steven Senko** died on May 16, 2017.

**Marvin Smith** of Laffin, Pa., died on April 7, 2017. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He was a manager for Prestige Footwear and Carter Footwear.

**1951**

**Elmo J. Begliomini**, of Wyoming, Pa., died on Dec. 15, 2016. He served in the Navy Air Corps. He worked as an accountant and acquired ownership of Atwater Inc., a division of Burlington Industries.

**Joseph George Bendoraitis**, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., died on Feb. 4, 2017. He was a chemist for Mobil Oil for 41 years and was a pioneer in the development of synthetic motor oil for ExxonMobil in Paulsboro, N.J.

**Benjamin R. Bona**, of Mountain Top, Pa., died on April 23, 2017. He served in the Army during the Korean War. He was employed by the Social Security Administration and the Pennsylvania Department of Welfare.

**Donald Charles**, of Corning, Pa., died on Jan. 3, 2002. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He taught at Corning-Painted Post East High School for 30 years and was inducted into the Corning-Painted Post Sports Hall of Fame in 1991 for coaching.

**John A. Germann**, of Estero, Fla., died on April 19, 2013. He taught at Parkville Senior High School.

**Harold Hymen**, of Baltimore, Md., died on Feb. 12, 2017. He was born in Mildred, Pa.

**Thomas Daniel Morgan**, of Kingston, Pa. and Leesburg, Fla., died on March 16, 2017. He was a former member of the Pennsylvania National Guard and had a 38-year career in education.

**Doris (Kanarr) Pearsall**, of Forty Fort, Pa., died on Dec. 26, 2016. She donated her time to local charities including Planned Parenthood, the United Way and the Dorranceton Methodist Church.

**1952**

**Ruth A. Casey**, of Dalton, Pa., died on July 22, 2014.

**Paul John Delmore Sr.**, of Webster, N.Y., died on July 3, 2017. He served in the U.S. Army. He worked as a chemical engineer and is credited with several patents for products developed for Kodak.

**Carl A. Fosko**, of Plains Twp., Pa., died on Jan. 5, 2017. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1946 to 1948. He worked as an IRS agent and tax accountant in Philadelphia prior to opening his own practice in Kingston, Pa.

**1954**

**Robert “Bob” T. Croucher**, of Linden, N.J., died on Jan. 29, 2016. He served in the U.S. Air Force and was a member of the Linden Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

**Nancy Lee (Hannye) Goodman**, of Pacific Grove, Calif., died on Jan. 10, 2017. She had a long academic career lecturing in statistics and probability theory and was the dean of Empire State College in New York.

**Caroline M. (Szczechowicz) Pierog** of Endwell, N.Y., died on Nov. 9, 2015. She worked at UHS Binghamton General Hospitals as a medical technologist.

**1955**

**David L. Hoats**, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., died April 25, 2017. He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War.

**Russell R. Picton**, of Corvallis, Md., died on Jan. 6, 2016. He served in the Marine Corps, enlisting in 1947 and returning to serve in the Korean War. He was the quarterback for the Parris Island and Camp Lejeune football teams, winning the titles of All-Navy and All-Marine quarterback during his time on both teams. He had a long career as a fund raiser in higher education, serving as director of development at Wilkes College and at other colleges and universities. He ended his career as a consultant for Marts and Lundy.

**1956**

**Clifford R. Brautigan**, of Avon-by-the-Sea, N.J., died on Sept. 25, 2016. He taught at Highstown High School for 38 years and worked as an assistant principal and content specialist.

**Carol (Heuer) Steinhauer**, of Kingston, Pa., died on Feb. 8, 2017. She was a homemaker and a past member of Grace Episcopal Church, Kingston, where she worked for a time as a church secretary

**1957**

**Martin Joseph Novak**, of Laurel, Md., died on Aug. 24, 2014.

**Ronald David Slimak**, of Orlando, Fla., and formerly of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., died on Jan. 8, 2017. He served in the U.S. Navy on a destroyer during the Korean War. He worked for Air Products and Chemicals for 20 years.

**1958**

**Ruth Younger Davidson**, of Pottsville, Pa., died on Feb. 8, 2017. She was an instructor of writing composition at Penn State Schuylkill Campus for 22 years and was active in community organizations.

**Robert S. Jacobs**, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., died on Nov. 21, 2016. He was an educator and guidance counselor at Meyers High School in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District for over 30 years.

**Rev. George R. Richards**, of Scranton, Pa., died on May 13, 2017. He was pastor of churches in Pennsylvania and in Clifton Springs and East Rochester, N.Y.

**1959**

**Eugene “Cord” Sheridan**, of Berwick, Pa., died on Jan. 23, 2017. He was employed at Pope and Talbot—previously Potlatch Corporation and Swanee Paper—as a production scheduler and credit manager for 33 years.

**1960**

**Peter “Captain” Janoski**, of Hanover Twp., Pa., died on April 18, 2017. He served in the U.S. Air Force for four years. He was employed by Danoff Sporting Goods, and was a member of Exaltation of the Holy Cross Church, Buttonwood, Pa.

**Shirley (Brandwene) Klein**, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa. and Longboat Key, Fla., died on Aug. 9, 2017. She served as president of Hadassah, League of Women Voters and Temple Israel Sisterhood for many years.

**1961**

**Sebastian T. Amico**, of Pittston, Pa., died on July 30, 2017. He served in the Air Force during the Korean War. As a 58-year member of American Legion Post 477, Pittston, Pa., he was its longest-living member.

**Frank A. Spudis**, of Pittston, Pa., died on May 28, 2017. He was considered a key contributor to the football program at Wilkes, as both a player and a coach. He was the owner of Fran-Jo’s Pizza, Pittston, and was employed for many years as an insurance manager with INA, now known as CIGNA, and as a car salesman.



**1962**

**Dale DeRonda**, of Kingston, Pa., died on April 28, 2017. He served in the U.S. Navy. He worked at CIA headquarters in Langley, Va. while President John F. Kennedy was in office, serving during the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Kennedy assassination.

**Robert F. Januszko**, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., died on June 4, 2017. He was captain of the Wilkes golf team. He was employed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for 35 years.

**1963**

**Lorraine Marie (Rome) Payonk**, of The Villages, Fla., died on Feb. 7, 2017. She was an educator, artist and mother.

**1964**

**Donald L. Brominski**, of Moosic, Pa., died on Jan. 5, 2017. He was employed in managerial positions by Aetna Casualty, Atlas Chain and Louis Cohen & Sons.

**Patricia (Gonos) Flannery**, of Kingston, Pa., died on April 17, 2017. She was employed for 34 years as a third- and fourth-grade teacher by Wilkes-Barre Area School District.

**Daniel Lyons** died on May 18, 2017. He served in the U.S. Air Force and was an industrial engineer.

**Inger Kate Miller**, of Bear Creek Twp., Pa., died on Jan. 11, 2016.

**1965**

**Carl John Missal**, of Kingston, Pa., died on May 15, 2017. He served in the U.S. Navy and was a teacher in the Groton, Conn., school district for 29 years.

**1967**

**Janie “Jackie” (Black) Eustice**, of Frazer, Pa., died on Nov. 7, 2016. She was a teacher for many years in Altoona, Pa.

**Carole Ann Thomas**, of Mystic, Conn., died on May 31, 2016. She taught in the Mary Morrisson School in the Groton, Conn., school district and was active in community organizations, including serving on the board of directors of the Mystic Marine Life Aquarium.

**Dennis Quigley**, of Greensboro, Ga., died on April 27, 2017.

**1968**

**David Baum**, of Kingston and Shavertown, Pa., died on July 28, 2017. He served in the U. S. Coast Guard. He was the business manager of WBRE TV in Wilkes-Barre.

**Rosemary Susan (Baiera) Hieronymous**, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., died on Jan. 23, 2017. She worked as a certified licensed vocational rehabilitation counselor for 35 years.

**Lee A. Nunemacher**, of Woodbury, Conn., died on Dec. 21, 2016. He taught high school math in Hazleton, Pa., and Woodbury, Conn., before changing careers to become a machinist, specializing in secondary operations in the screw machine industry.

**1969**

**Sandra Ann “Sandi” (Kulick) Matthews**, of Sun City, S.C., died on April 27, 2017. She worked as a pre-kindergarten teacher in Arnold and Annapolis, Md.

**1970**

**Georgiana (Cray) Bart**, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., died on Feb. 19, 2017. She graduated cum laude from Wilkes University and taught art there. She also taught classes on various cruises with Queen Mary II.

**John J. Guida**, of Old Forge, Pa., died on Jan. 1, 2015. He was employed for 32 years as a special-education teacher by the Northeast Education Intermediate Unit 19.

**Bernard Leo Holleran, M.D.**, of Harveys Lake, Pa., and Tierra Verdes, Fla., died on Jan. 18, 2017. He had a private practice in West Wyoming, Pa., and worked at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. He was head of emergency medicine and head of the credentials committee at the former Nesbitt Memorial Hospital, Kingston, Pa. He also served as the physician on call for the State Correctional Institution, Chase, Pa. and for the Wyoming Area School District.

**Philip G. Rudy**, of Mountain Top, Pa., died on March 2, 2017. He opened Circles on the Square, a gourmet deli, which became a downtown fixture for 32 years in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

**1971**

**Marilyn (Grzyb) Crossin**, of Shavertown, Pa., died on May 28, 2017. She was employed by TV Guide, Triangle Publications, for 26 years. She advanced to the position of regional editor in the Wilkes-Barre office.

**Ellen Arthur Davenport**, of Forty Fort, Pa., died on April 18, 2017. She was a social worker for Family Service in Wilkes-Barre. She also was bookkeeper for Davenport Manufacturing, the metal fabricating business that she owned with her husband in West Wyoming, Pa.

**William Huey Roberts Jr.**, of Kingston, Pa., died on March 8, 2017. He worked as a defense contractor auditor for the federal government.

### 1972

**Alan J. Bloem**, of Archbald, Pa., died on Sept. 3, 2016. Prior to his retirement, he worked in the banking industry. He served as both a deacon and an elder at First United Presbyterian Church of Lackawanna Valley.

**Mary Elizabeth (M.E.) Morris Mickulik**, of Kutztown, Pa., died May, 23, 2017. She earned a music degree at Wilkes and participated in several area church choirs and served as a soloist and cantor.

### 1973

**Walter T. Petrash**, of Nanticoke, Pa., died on July 11, 2017. He was a master carpenter and a musician.

### 1974

**Lorna (Stubblebine) Davis**, of Dallas, Pa., died on March 21, 2017. She was the guidance counselor for West Side Vocational Technical School.

### 1976

**Gilbert Reese Griffiths**, of Dallas Twp., Pa., died on April 28, 2017. He served in the U.S. Air Force. He was superintendent of the Dallas School District. He returned to Wilkes University in 2004 where he mentored and educated the next generation of leaders in education. He served as chairman of the board for the Pennsylvania Professional Standards and Practices Commission.

### 1977

**Leo J. Strumski Jr.**, of West Palm Beach, Fla., died on Nov. 21, 2016.

### 1979

**Joseph Hogan**, of New York City, N.Y., died on Feb. 25, 2017. He was a teacher in the New York City public school system until his retirement.

**Mark A. Molitoris**, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., died on May 3, 2017.

### 1980

**James W. Grey**, of Mountain Top, Pa., died on April 12, 2017. He was the owner and operator of Grey and Associates in North Wilkes-Barre, Pa., serving as a financial planner and advisor.

**Ronald David Williams**, of Nuangola, Pa., died on Aug. 8, 2017. He was the owner of a construction company for more than 30 years.

### 1983

**Susan Ann (Harrison) Jenkins**, of Monument, Colo., died on Nov. 17, 2015. She worked for several nonprofit organizations in Colorado, including the Colorado Opera Festival and the DaVinci Quartet.

**William Kopf Lourie**, of Mullica Hill, N.J., died on Feb. 18, 2017. He was a computer programmer for Brandywine Global Investments in the Philadelphia area.

### 1987

**Keturah E. Faust**, of Harrisburg, Pa., died on Nov. 19, 2016. She served in the U.S. Navy. She retired from the Pennsylvania Department of Health where she worked as a nursing home surveyor.

### 1989

**Robyn Ann Jones MS**, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., died on July 15, 2017. She was the first women's athletic director at the Wilkes-Barre YMCA. She coached field hockey at Coughlin High School and taught junior high health in the Dallas School District, where she finished her career as a guidance counselor after earning her master's degree at Wilkes.

### 1990

**Paul "Willie" Williamson**, of Kingston, Pa., died on Aug. 26, 2017. He was the owner and operator of "Will-eeze Speedy Lube."

### 1996

**Mary Ann Stockdell MBA '00** of Scranton, Pa., died on July 8, 2017. She worked as a financial analyst for IBM in Rochester, N.Y.

### 2000

**R.C. "Mac" Miller**, of Plains Twp., Pa., died on Dec. 15, 2016. He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. He served at Malcolm Grow Medical Center, Andrews Air Force Base, Md., attending to the veterans returning home from Vietnam. He continued to serve veterans as a registered nurse at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Plains Twp.

### 2005

**Gregory Michael Haladay**, of Danville, Pa., died on May 20, 2017. He was employed by Vintage Tub and Bath.

# Creating a Legacy

Wilkes University's giving societies recognize alumni, friends and benefactors for their role in shaping the future of the University and its students. Consider joining the prestigious John Wilkes Society by making a year-end charitable gift of \$1,000 or more. Or become a member of the Marts Society, where Wilkes recognizes generous donors for their planned giving support. Your planned gift can provide security for your heirs while giving back to the University that helped to shape your life. Consider sustaining your legacy with one of the many giving options.



“As an alumna and member of the Marts Society, I intend to leave a legacy. We created an endowed scholarship which will help future generations of students benefit from a Wilkes education.”

- *Ronald & Lois (Schwartz) '61 Nervitt*

Charitable trusts make clear your giving priorities.



“The First Generation Scholarship Fund reminds us to appreciate the educational foundation Wilkes provided to me. This fund is near to our hearts and a natural way to give back.”

- *Kenneth & Joanne (Schreibmaier) '72 Schoonover*

Using a donor-advised fund helps donors manage charitable giving in an immediate, tax-efficient way.



“As John Wilkes Society members for many years we see our donation put to direct use. Every year when we visit we see tremendous progress; the campus is clearly on the move.”

- *Daniel '63 & Alexandra Zeroka*

2017 may be the year to consider an IRA rollover as a tax deductible opportunity and an easy way to support Wilkes University.

For more information about how planned giving opportunities can benefit you while supporting Wilkes, please contact Margaret Steele, executive director of alumni relations and advancement, at (570) 408-4302 or [margaret.steele@wilkes.edu](mailto:margaret.steele@wilkes.edu).

## calendar of events



PHOTO BY KNOT JUST ANY DAY

### December

- Through Dec. 20 Andy Warhol: "15 Minutes: From Image To Icon,"  
Sordoni Art Gallery
- 2 Chorus Concert, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 7:30 p.m.
  - 3 Chorus Concert, Covenant Presbyterian Church, 3 p.m.
  - 4 Chamber Orchestra Concert, Dorothy Dickson Darte Center, 8 p.m.
  - 6 Chamber Winds Concert, Church of Christ Uniting, 7:30 p.m.
  - 7 Jazz Orchestra Concert, Dorothy Dickson Darte Center, 8 p.m.
  - 9 Flute Ensemble Concert, Dorothy Dickson Darte Center, 7:30 p.m.
  - 10 Civic Band Concert, Dorothy Dickson Darte Center, 3 p.m.

### January

- 7-11 Maslow Foundation Salon Reading Series, Maslow Family Graduate Program in Creative Writing, nightly at 7 p.m.; Jan. 7, Barnes and Noble, Public Square; Jan. 8-11, Dorothy Dickson Darte Center
- 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 16-March 2 Angela Fraleigh: "The Bones of Us Hunger for Nothing,"  
Sordoni Art Gallery
- 20 Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony,  
Arnaud C. Marts Center, 4 p.m.
- 21 Winter Commencement, Henry Gymnasium,  
Arnaud C. Marts Center. 1 p.m.
- 27 Admissions Open House

### February

- 22-24 *The Crucible*, Wilkes University Theatre production,  
Dorothy Dickson Darte Center, 8 p.m.
- 24-25 *The Crucible*, Wilkes University Theatre production,  
Dorothy Dickson Darte Center, 2 p.m.

### March

- 3 Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science
- 24 Admissions VIP Day

### April

- 12-14 *A Chorus Line*, Wilkes University Theatre production,  
Dorothy Dickson Darte Center, 8 p.m.
- 14-15 *A Chorus Line*, Wilkes University Theatre production,  
Dorothy Dickson Darte Center, 8 p.m.