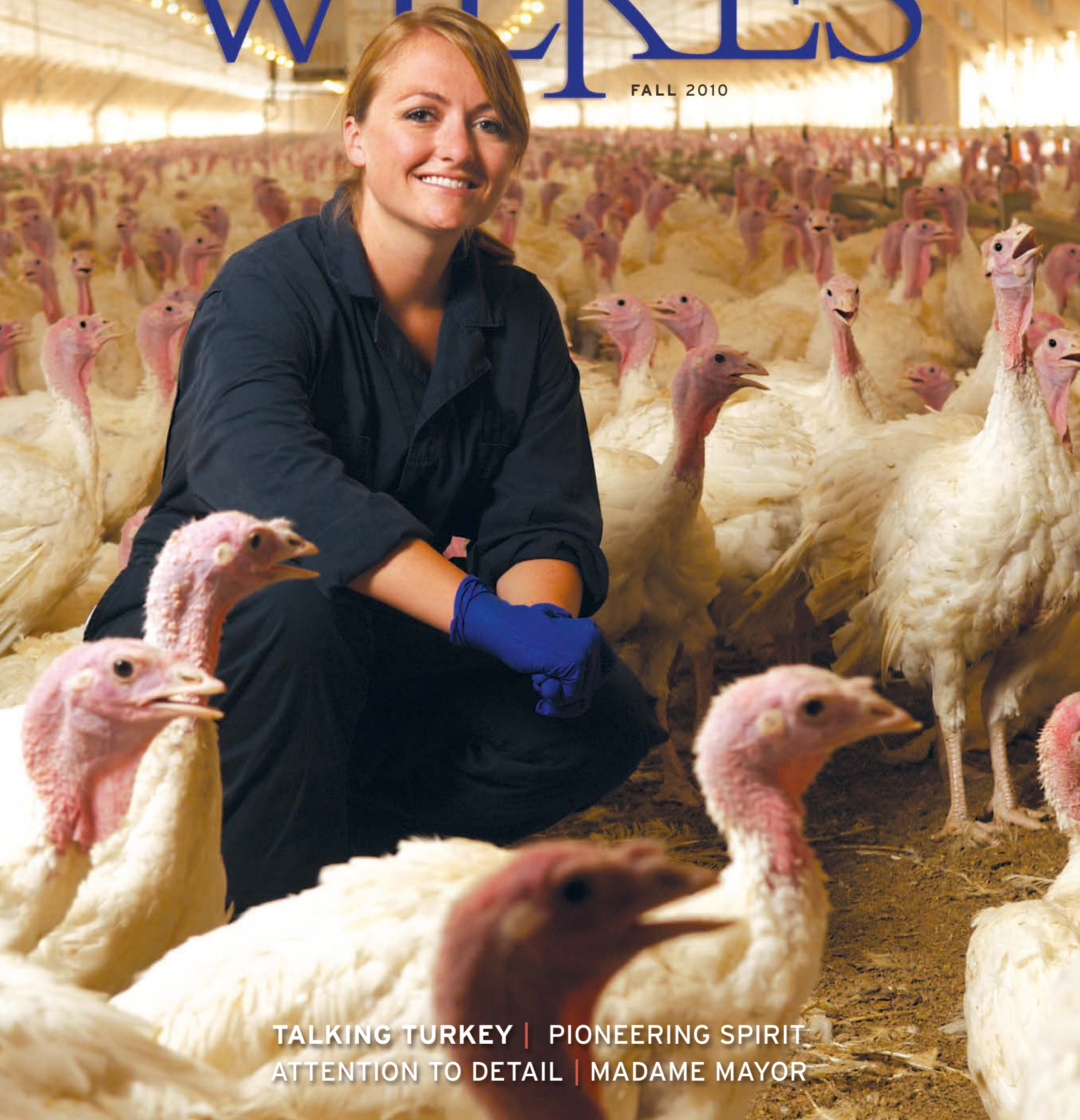


WILKES

FALL 2010



TALKING TURKEY | PIONEERING SPIRIT
ATTENTION TO DETAIL | MADAME MAYOR

Strategic Planning Advances Wilkes Mission

STRATEGIC PLANNING IS AN ONGOING PROCESS AT Wilkes University, enabling us to assess where we've been and chart a clear course for the future. Like any successful organization, many of our achievements in the last decade have grown out of our strategic plan, Vision 2010. The plan's success was affirmed by the University's recent re-accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

Indeed our Middle States Self Study focused on evaluating the impacts of Vision 2010 on Wilkes. I am happy to say that our Middle States visiting team applauded the exceptional work of Wilkes' faculty, staff and students in making Vision 2010 a reality.

Many goals were achieved from Vision 2010, but the most noteworthy referenced by the Middle States report include increasing undergraduate and graduate enrollments. We also made improvements to the salary structure for our faculty and staff, enabling us to recruit and retain the best people. There have been significant improvements to the campus infrastructure, including the addition of University Towers, the University Center on Main and the Barnes and Noble bookstore.

Successfully completing one strategic plan means it is time to launch another. A strategic planning team recently completed a year-long process that yielded a new plan, Vision 2015, that was adopted at our June 2010 trustees meeting.

The process to develop it was both inclusive and transparent, providing every member of the University community with opportunities to provide input.

Vision 2015 outlines goals in five areas:

- **Build Great Programs**, which includes focusing on excellent teaching and scholarship and developing high-quality academic programs.
- **Build The Wilkes Team**, with a focus on working together with open communication and shared governance.
- **Broaden Our Horizons**, which will focus on a global and diverse experience on our campus, engagement with alumni, community and career partners.
- **Recruit, Retain and Graduate Students**, which will be accomplished by offering an affordable and accessible education.
- **Exercise Financial Stewardship**, focusing on effective acquisition, allocation and utilization of resources.

The Alumni Association recently has completed its own strategic planning process that supports the University's plan. The Association's five-year strategic plan emphasizes building relationships with graduate alumni and current students. A primary focus is to provide opportunities for alumni-student mentoring.

With solid plans in place, Wilkes will build on its strengths, advance its mission and chart an ambitious course. We welcome your comments as we embark on a journey to becoming the unquestioned leader of higher education in northeastern Pennsylvania.



Dr. Tim Gilmour
Wilkes University President



Opening the Barnes and Noble Bookstore was among the accomplishments of Wilkes' Vision 2010.

WILKES MAGAZINE

University President
Dr. Tim Gilmour

Vice President for Advancement
Michael Wood

Executive Editor
Jack Chielli

Managing Editor
Kim Bower-Spence

Editor
Vicki Mayk

Creative Services
Lisa Reynolds

Web Services
Craig Thomas

Electronic Communications
Christopher Barrows

Graduate Assistant
Rachel Strayer

Layout/Design
Quest Fore Inc.

Printing
Payne Printery Inc.

EDITORIAL ADVISORY GROUP

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Wilkes magazine is published quarterly by the Wilkes University Office of Marketing Communications and Government Relations, 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.

contents



FEATURES

8 Pioneering Spirit

Wilkes has a tradition of helping first-generation college students achieve academic success

14 Talking Turkey

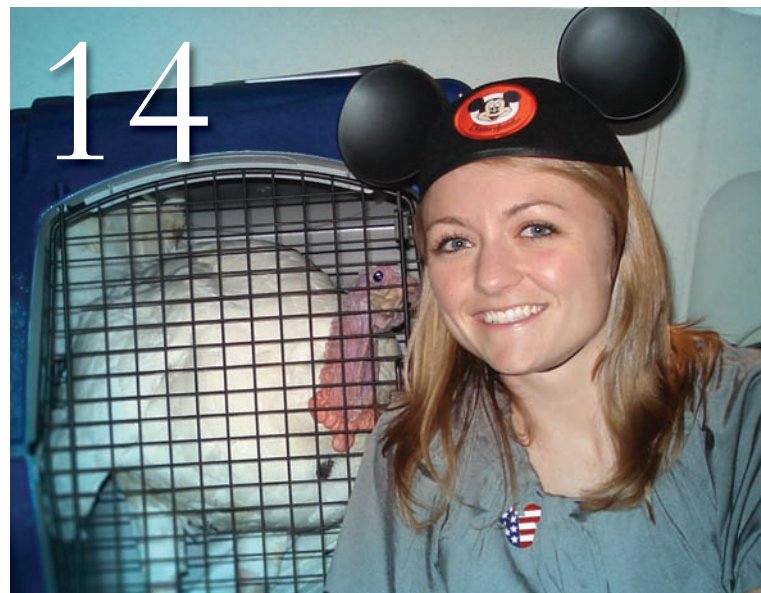
Adrienne Richards '07 takes turkey promotion under her wing at the National Turkey Federation

16 Attention to Detail

Take an up-close look at Wilkes' architectural treasures and enter our contest

18 Madame Mayor

Ruth Uy Asmundson MS '68 shifts career focus from mayor to grandmother



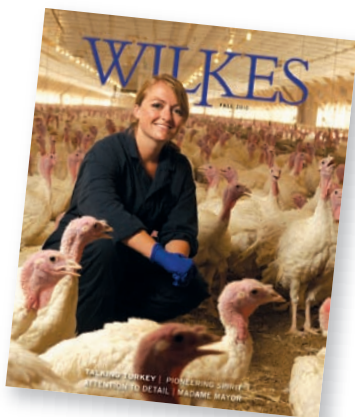
DEPARTMENTS

2 On Campus

6 Athletics

20 Alumni News

22 Class Notes



Adrienne Richards '07 visits the product she helps to promote—long before they become Thanksgiving dinner. She heads public relations efforts for the National Turkey Federation. PHOTO BY STEPHEN BARRETT



Have a story idea to share?

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

Spring Commencement 2010

More than 800 undergraduate and graduate students received their degrees when Wilkes held its spring commencement on May 22. The ceremony at Mohegan Sun Arena was highlighted by remarks from student speaker Jason Woloski '10, winner of the Alumni Award for Leadership, and an address by keynote speaker Pennsylvania Gov. Edward Rendell.

Far right (Inset): The graduates' view of the stage on a proud day.

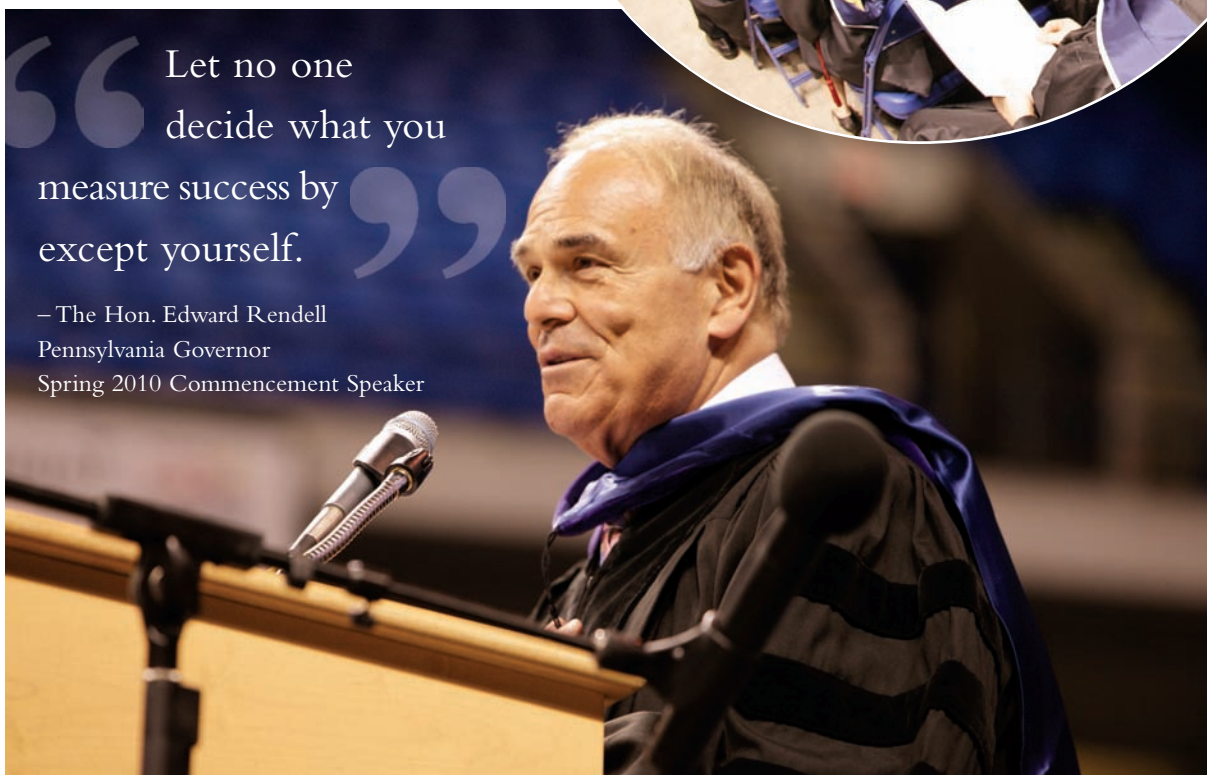
Right, Below: Commencement speaker Gov. Edward Rendell addresses graduates.

Below: Danielle Hritzak of Forty Fort, Pa., prepares to receive her bachelor of arts degree in communication studies during the ceremony. PHOTOS BY EARL AND SEDOR PHOTOGRAPHIC



“ Let no one
decide what you
measure success by
except yourself. ”

– The Hon. Edward Rendell
Pennsylvania Governor
Spring 2010 Commencement Speaker



WILKES LAUNCHES TEACHER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

Wilkes University is the first college in northeast Pennsylvania to offer a bachelor's degree leading to teacher certification to teach middle school. The bachelor of arts degree in middle level education launches in fall 2010. It offers certification for grades 4 to 8 in five concentrations: science, mathematics, English/language arts and reading, social studies and mathematics/science.

The program features clinical field experiences in partnership with local school districts and agencies. The field experiences focus on classroom management, pedagogy, assessment, differentiated instruction, accommodations, adaptations and appropriate interventions to promote student academic success.

Middle-level certification is now required to teach students in middle school. Requirements for highly qualified teachers, instituted under No Child Left Behind, has created a need for this specialized degree program focusing on the needs of students in that age group. For information about the program, call the Education Department at **(570)408-4680**.

Students in Free Enterprise Team Captures National Honors

The Wilkes University Students in Free Enterprise team was awarded second runner-up out of 169 teams representing more than 4,000 students at the SIFE USA National Exposition in Minneapolis, Minn. The honor, awarded at the competition held May 11–13, places the Wilkes students in the top 10 percent of SIFE USA teams.

During national competition, SIFE teams presented 24-minute multimedia summaries of the educational outreach project they developed and implemented throughout the year. They were judged by a panel of 14 of the nation's top business and community leaders on how well they created economic opportunity by helping others. During the 2009–2010 academic year, SIFE students at Wilkes completed 12 educational projects in the areas of market economics, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, success skills, environmental sustainability and business ethics.

“The atmosphere of the SIFE National Exposition is truly inspirational,” says team captain Katherine Gallagher, a junior accounting major from Jessup, Pa. “Our team is already developing new projects for next year to strengthen our community.”

Team advisor Jeffrey R. Alves was named a Sam M. Walton Free Enterprise Fellow for the 14th consecutive year in recognition of his leadership and support of the Wilkes SIFE program.

The Wilkes SIFE team was named regional champion at the New York City SIFE Regional Competition held on March 26.



Students participating on Wilkes SIFE competition team in Minneapolis, Minn., were, top, from left, Jeffrey Alves, team advisor; Anastasia Genelow '10, double major in entrepreneurship and business administration; Katherine Gallagher, accounting major; and Brandon Pauling, accounting major. Bottom row, from left, Raina Connor, business administration major; Alison Drake, entrepreneurship major; Sarah Orris, and Olivia Waszkiewicz, entrepreneurship major. PHOTO COURTESY OF STUDENTS IN FREE ENTERPRISE

Wilkes Professor Helps Area High School Students Take Written Work From “Page to Stage”

Students in four northeast Pennsylvania school districts became playwrights in a pilot program sponsored by Wilkes University. Bonnie Culver, director of Wilkes' graduate creative writing program, worked with classes in four high schools—Hanover Area, Hazleton, Tunkhannock and Wyoming Valley West—to teach basic elements of playwriting to take ideas from “Page to Stage.”

Four teachers worked with Culver, leading 45 students who produced 24 plays. At the end of eight weeks, students presented formal staged readings of their newly developed scripts. A reading of one school's plays was presented at Wilkes-Barre's Fine Arts Fiesta in May.

Wilkes plans to expand the program to include poetry in fall 2010.

Record Number of Pharmacy Graduates Pursue Residency Training

A record number of Wilkes pharmacy graduates are pursuing residency training. Since the first graduating class of doctor of pharmacy students in 2000, between 10 and 15 percent of graduates have pursued post-graduate training. Last year, a record 20 percent pursued residency training, and this year 25 percent of the 2010 class were awarded this privilege. According to Edward Foote, chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice, “Our graduates keep demonstrating their desire to grow.”

Only a select number of graduates are awarded residencies or post-graduate positions, adding to the honor and value of the opportunity. Some of the one-year residency locations for Wilkes pharmacy graduates include the State University of New York, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Orlando Regional Health and VA San Diego Healthcare System.

Professor Recognized as Top Ecology Educator by Ecological Society of America

Kenneth M. Klemow, Wilkes professor of biology, has received the Ecological Society of America's 2010 Eugene P. Odum Award for Excellence in Ecology Education. The award recognizes Klemow as one of the top ecology educators in the United States. It is presented to an ecologist for outstanding work in education that has furthered ecological science through teaching, outreach and student mentoring.

Klemow was nominated for the award by Rachel Curtis '10 of Waymart, Pa., who graduated from Wilkes in May. In her nomination letter, Curtis stated, "My first class with Dr. Klemow was second semester general biology at Wilkes, and it was because of his teaching skills that I began to truly enjoy studying biology. Not only is Dr. Klemow extremely knowledgeable in a wide array of subjects,

but he also is able to instill his excitement for the material into his classes."

Curtis said she switched her major from biochemistry to biology because of Klemow's enthusiasm for his subject and the opportunity to do hands-on projects with him. It also led to her spending the 2009-2010 year in Costa Rica researching poison frogs and medical practices at Duke University's Organization for Tropical Studies.

Klemow founded the Ecological Society's education section, serving as its first chair in 1988. He has also taken a leadership role in projects aimed at helping undergraduate faculty nationwide use new technologies to improve their courses.

However, it is Klemow's role in educating students of all ages about ecological issues that earned him the honor. At Wilkes, he helped launch the science careers of hundreds of students teaching such courses as general ecology, field botany, medical botany and alternative energy, and has mentored one-on-one research projects with more than 80 students. His influence extends to elementary and secondary-level students in northeast Pennsylvania through ecological education activities at such events as Wyoming Valley Riverfest and Earth Day.

Wilkes biology professor Kenneth Klemow, second from right, shares his passion for the outdoors with his students. His commitment earned him the Eugene P. Odum Award for Excellence in Ecology Education. PHOTO BY BRUCE WELLER



Wilkes Receives Reaccreditation from Middle States Commission on Higher Education

Wilkes has successfully received reaccreditation from the Middle State Commission on Higher Education.

A visit by a Middle States evaluation team followed a year of self-study by the University and submission of a detailed self-study report. The team indicated that Wilkes is in compliance with the 14 standards as presented in the Middle States *Characteristics of Excellence*. The standards include administration, integrity, institutional assessment,

student support services, admissions and retention, educational offerings and eight other characteristics.

In its exit report, the visiting team members wrote, "Wilkes University is providing a quality education to its students on the local campus as well as around the globe." The team also commended Wilkes for its undergraduate student mentoring initiatives and stated that it had "visited a strong, quality institution."

To affirm accreditation, Wilkes has been charged with updating and revising its faculty handbook. The University also was charged with implementing planning, improvement and institutional renewal processes that address the changing needs of the university community and incorporating assessment results that measure undergraduate and graduate student learning.

Tom Szaky, CEO and Founder of TerraCycle, to Present Allan P. Kirby Lecture on Oct. 7

Tom Szaky, co-founder and chief executive officer of TerraCycle, Inc., a company that has become the most eco-friendly brand in North America, will be the guest speaker for the Allan P. Kirby Lecture in Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship on Oct. 7. The event, which will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center, is free and open to the public.

TerraCycle makes useful products out of seemingly useless waste. They are most well-known for TerraCycle Plant Food, a fertilizer made from worm feces now available through popular retailers such as Walmart, Whole Foods and Home Depot. The company has three manufacturing facilities in North America with headquarters located in Trenton, N.J. They currently manufacture more than 50 consumer products that hold to their brand principles: better, greener and cheaper. Other TerraCycle products include garbage cans made from crushed computers, hand bags made from energy bar wrappers and juice pouches and the most eco-friendly binders and pencils.

As a freshman, Szaky left Princeton University to found TerraCycle, building a company that has doubled in size every year since its inception in 2002. Szaky has won over 50 awards for entrepreneurship and blogs for *Treehugger* and *Inc Magazine*, and is the star of National Geographic Channel's hit TV show "Garbage Moguls." He authored the book *Revolution in a Bottle: How TerraCycle is Redefining Green Business*.

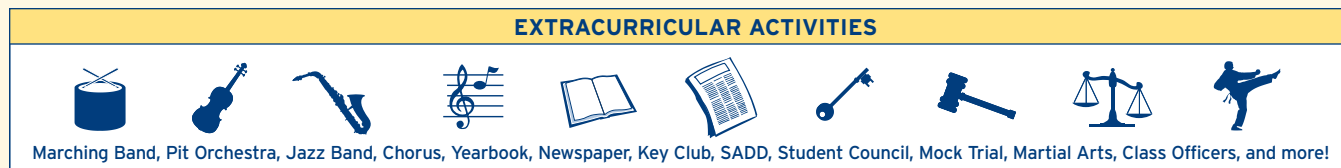
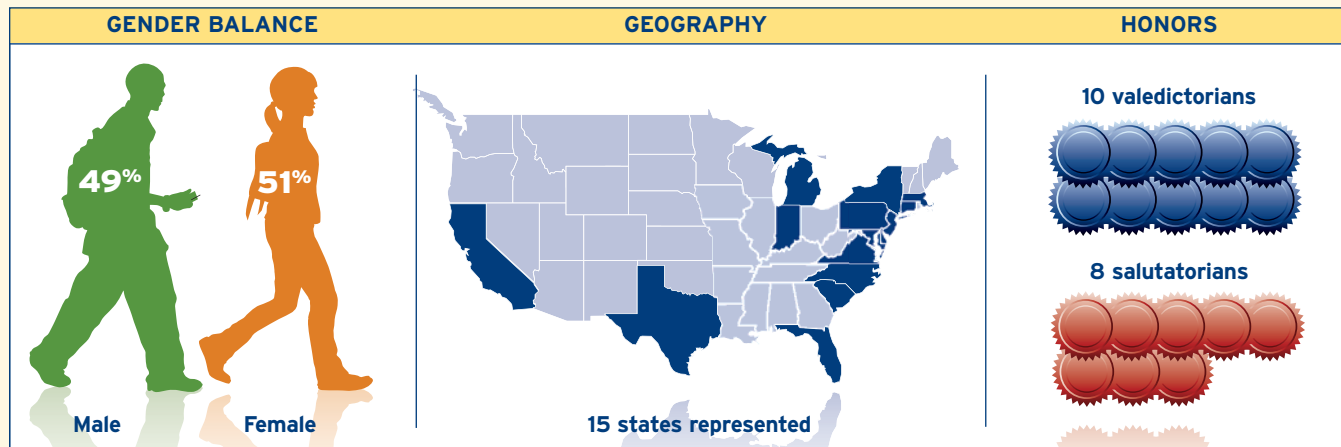
For more information on the Kirby Lecture, please call (570)408-4306.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TERRACYLE, INC.

FRESHMAN CLASS AT A GLANCE

Every Wilkes freshman class has unique characteristics. This year's new crop of Colonels—numbering 510—are no exception. Here, at a glance, are some facts about the freshmen:



On The Hill

WILKES ROLLS OUT
A GREEN CARPET
FOR A NEW ERA IN
ATHLETICS

By Vicki Mayk



Laying carpet was never like this: It took several men and a special machine to roll out the artificial turf at Wilkes' football field.

IT CAME ON ROLLS, LIKE THE CARPET for a giant's living room.

For more than a week in early August, crews labored to install the synthetic turf for the athletic field at the Ralston Athletic Complex. After laying the green surface in wide strips, crews added the finishing touches: white and colored lines, followed by stenciling the numbers. You could almost hear the announcer calling the yard lines, as the numbers appeared: *the 40, the 30, the 20*. And finally, the yellow and gold "W" logo was placed at the center of it all.

Welcome to a new era in Wilkes athletics.

Renovations began at the athletic complex in May. The synthetic turf is part of a \$1.6 million

project that includes a field lighting system, new goal posts, a scoreboard and fencing around the perimeter of the field. It transforms the field from a single-sport site to one that will accommodate five intercollegiate sports—football, women's lacrosse, women's field hockey and men's and women's soccer—and the men's club lacrosse team. The field also will be used for intramural games and for youth athletic camps offered to the community.

Paul Adams, Wilkes vice president for student affairs, says that the project reflects both the University's commitment to its athletics programs and the proud history of Wilkes athletics, from the championship teams of the Golden Horde to the present-day Colonels.

"The work at the Ralston Athletic Complex will provide a multi-purpose athletic field for more than 200 of our student-athletes," says Adams.

Alumnus Bill Hanbury '72, who played offensive guard from 1968 to 1971 for the Colonels, says the renovations unite past and future generations bound by the tradition of sports.

"On game day, Ralston Field was for me a special place...almost a holy

place...where you could only step on to the field if you had adequately prepared, both physically and mentally, to represent Wilkes football and its extraordinary tradition,” Hanbury says. “Playing on that field, I learned so much about myself and what it takes to be successful: courage, pride, poise and teamwork. I’m so glad the next generation of Wilkes athletes will have an opportunity to perform at this outstanding new facility.”

Wilkes athletics director Adelene Malatesta says other athletics projects are happening in addition to the field renovations. Resurfacing and painting new logos on the Henry Gymnasium floor, resurfacing tennis courts, and work on the softball field were among recent projects. Upgrades at Artillery Park are planned.

“The work benefits 350 student athletes in 16 varsity programs,” Malatesta says. Intramurals add another 450 to that number.

The enhancements to athletics facilities grew out of a strategic plan for athletics completed in 2002. Other developments that have occurred, such as the appointment of a full-time athletic director, the return of men’s and women’s cross country and the construction of the \$1 million recreation center in the University Center on Main, also were outlined in that plan.

All of the work reflects a commitment to athletics that is very much a part of the Wilkes tradition.

“To offer a broad-based program in athletics has always been our goal at Wilkes,” Malatesta says.

DID YOU KNOW...

- The Wilkes turf is a “green” material in more ways than one: Recycled rubber—primarily ground, used tires, is a component of the turf.
- It takes a crew of six to eight people 10 to 15 days to install the turf.
- The field weighs approximately nine pounds per square foot so the total weight of the field at Wilkes will be approximately 860,000 pounds.
- Five colors are being used as accents on the new field in the logo, yard lines and goal lines. Navy and gold are the Wilkes colors. Football is symbolized in white. Orange pays tribute to Wilkes’ origins as Bucknell University Junior College. A lighter shade of blue also is being used in tribute to Dean George Ralston, who was a graduate of North Carolina.
- The world’s first turf field was installed in 1966. The first “infill” type turf fields, like the one at Wilkes, were installed in 1997.
- The turf is made up of fibers that are 2.5 inches long tufted through a semi-rigid backing. The fibers are tufted in rows that are 3/4 inches apart. The turf is then top dressed with a combination of silica sand and recycled crumb rubber. This fills in the voids between the fibers and causes them to stand up straight. This “infill” also acts as cushioning for the athletes.



Top: A worker uses clippers to cut out green turf so that a colored line can be installed. After the green fibers are cut out, the turf backing is exposed and colored turf is hot glued in its place.

Middle: Workers use a cart mounted sewing machine to sew two panels of turf together.

Bottom: A turf clamp is used by crews to grab the turf securely as they pull out the turf while rolling it out. It also helps pull out wrinkles.



THE NEW VIEW FROM THE HILL

Wilkes invites all football alumni to cheer on the Colonels at the first home game on Ralston Athletic Complex’s new turf field on Saturday, Sept. 11. Alumni will meet at 11 a.m. at the tent next to Munson Fieldhouse to enjoy lunch, receive a commemorative gift and participate in a pre-game celebration. Tickets to this special event are \$10 and guests are welcome. To register or learn more, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at **(570) 408-7787** or alumni@wilkes.edu.

Members of the community also are invited to join the University in celebrating the new era for Wilkes athletics by attending the game on this special day. Admission will be free.

Left: A worker readies the giant stencils used to paint numbers on the yard lines. PHOTOS BY EARL AND SEDOR PHOTOGRAPHIC

WILKES CONTINUES
TRADITION OF HELPING
FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE
STUDENTS SUCCEED IN
HIGHER EDUCATION

By Helen Kaiser

Pioneering SPIRIT



They are family trailblazers— fueled by hope for a better life.

They may have been motivated by the sight of their fathers coming home exhausted from manual-labor jobs. Or they may have been spurred on by mothers who worked in factories or in cleaning jobs to support the family.

Most importantly, they listened—when counselors, parents and their own inner voice told them, “You can do it!”

They are first-generation college students, from homes where neither parent had earned a bachelor’s degree. Typically they make up about 30 percent of entering freshmen on United States campuses, including at Wilkes University.

“We became very good, early on, at dealing with first-generation students,” says Melanie Mickelson ’93, vice

president for enrollment services, and herself a first-generation student when she attended Wilkes.


“Both my grandfathers were coal miners,” says Mickelson, who has worked at Wilkes for the past 15 years. She said she has recently noticed college conferences offering seminars on how to prepare for the population of first-generation students—but this is something that Wilkes has been doing for decades (see accompanying alumni profiles).

“Our admissions counseling staff treats every family individually,” Mickelson said. “Some who have been to college will know how to navigate the process, but for others there can be an element of being afraid to ask and not wanting to be humiliated. Our policy is to walk all of our families through the process.”

Wilkes usually enrolls about 530 freshmen each year, mostly from Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey.

Above: Melanie Mickelson ’93, Wilkes vice president for enrollment services, was a first-generation student.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL TOUEY



“ They beat it into my head early that ‘KNOWLEDGE IS POWER.’ I saw what they meant as I got older...

— William Jones

WILLIAM JONES: TIME TO MOVE FORWARD

William Jones, 18, of Asbury Park, N.J., was thrilled to enter Wilkes in August as a first-generation freshman.

The youngest of five, Jones says his family pushed him toward college.

“They beat it into my head early that ‘knowledge is power.’ I saw what they meant as I got older,” he says.

He applied himself in his high school physics, chemistry and foreign language

classes—as well as on the football field. His academic record plus his skills as a wide receiver and defensive back helped him to gain admission to Wilkes.

“I’m very, very excited,” he says, citing the connections he had already made this past spring and summer with coaches and his admissions counselor. He also says he would never forget his high school guidance counselor who helped him so much she was like “a second mom” to him.

Before he made the four-hour trip to Wilkes this fall, Jones says he wasn’t nervous about going away to school to major in criminal justice, even though he wouldn’t know any other students at first.

It was time to move forward, he says, and he was set for the task: “You will be on your own. There are no guidance counselors there to baby you. If you miss something in class you’ll have to go and get it.”

DAVID LEWIS '10: “A JACKET OF COMFORT”

David Lewis '10 of Wilkes-Barre, reflected on his first-generation degree from Wilkes in English and education: “I hadn’t even applied for admission until April or May of my senior year of high school. Before that, I’d had some discussions with a military recruiter, and I would hear about all of my friends going to places like Penn State; but I really didn’t have a fire under me about college.

“It was my mom who said, ‘Why don’t you look into King’s or Wilkes?’ I was afraid they’d be too expensive but thought I would give it a shot. Then there was my dad who was a constant reminder for me. He would come home from his job as a machinist at a factory with bumps and bruises, sweaty, sometimes bloody, or with a sore back.

“This was a symbol for me, to go and find a job where I would use my brain,” Lewis says.

“At first it was daunting that many of my high school classmates had taken advanced placement classes when I hadn’t. They got a head start,” he says.

Once he stepped on Wilkes’ campus, however, “It was like a jacket of comfort around me. I...met the right people and got perfect guidance.”

His advisor, Karen Riley, helped him figure out what was necessary to be a successful college student and what major to select.

“She made me go to (advisors in) five other departments to learn about those fields—business, computer science and others. I found I really like to interpret things, so I decided on English.”

First-generation student David Lewis '10, left, received guidance in choosing a major from Karen Riley, right, assistant director of University College and the Act 101 program.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL TOUEY

Lewis said one of the biggest challenges for him as a student was managing his time.

“I was spreading myself too thin. I had a job. I had baseball, crew, clubs that I joined and other campus activities. ‘When do I get to study?’ I thought, so I dropped out of some things.” One activity that he kept was his role as one of Wilkes’ Colonel mascots.

He believes it is important for first-generation students to persevere. “Every time you think you have it bad, just remember there is someone out there who has it worse,” he says.

This past summer, the 22-year-old worked as a tutor/counselor for the Upward Bound program—which targets helping low-income, first-generation students—helping to make a difference in other students’ lives.

“This was a symbol for me, to go and find a job where I would USE MY BRAIN...

— David Lewis '10



PHOTO BY ANDREW CHILD

DAVID HADLEY '82: SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS CAREER STARTED AT WILKES

David Hadley '82 was an unlikely college prospect.

The youngest of seven children, Hadley grew up in an economically challenged, single-parent household in Ellenville, N.Y. His father, orphaned at birth, was a construction laborer turned janitor with only a fourth-grade education. Yet he was able to instill two major convictions in his son: a belief in himself and an understanding of the importance of education.

“When I was in the fifth grade, my older brother was serving in Vietnam,” Hadley says. “My father actually came to me and asked me to proofread a letter he had wanted to send him.”

The impact of that scene stayed with Hadley throughout his life. During his high school years, as a member of the football and wrestling teams, he watched upperclass teammates go off to college.

“I always thought I would go to college too; but I hadn’t necessarily taken college prep curriculum in high school. It was just dumb luck that I was prepared and able to do the college work,” he says.

To get through the admissions process, he was lucky again. He had a friend like Wayne Lonstein '82, whose parents had taken him under their wing. During his senior year of high school, Hadley’s father was in the hospital battling cancer.

Hadley accompanied his friend when he visited Wilkes to meet with admissions officials and the football coach.

“I figured if it was good enough for Wayne it was the choice for me too,”

Hadley says. Wilkes was the only school to which he applied. His older sister helped him with the paperwork and provided some financial support.

Hadley said he had trepidations upon arriving at school.

“There was a fear of failure—a concern about whether I could do the work. Not only that, I was a naïve boy from upstate New York—unworldly, pretty gullible. I had to look to my classmates and teammates to fill in the blanks for me when I wasn’t sure about the ins and outs of daily life on campus.

“One day the captain of the football team took me aside and said, ‘Here’s the most important thing: Go to class and take notes and read them every day until the next test.’”

Hadley said once he had his first semester under his belt and had earned decent grades he gained confidence.

“My dad survived (his cancer treatment) and made it to my college graduation; it was really a big deal.”

As a businessman, Hadley pursued more education in administration/management and in an executive education program, both at the Harvard Business School.

A self-made multimillionaire, Hadley is now CEO and owner of Pella Windows and Doors of Boston, New Hampshire and Maine. He and his family live in Tuftonboro, N.H.

“It all starts with the first step,” he reflects. “You’ve got to believe in yourself. Just because no one in your family has gone to college before you doesn’t mean you can’t do it.”

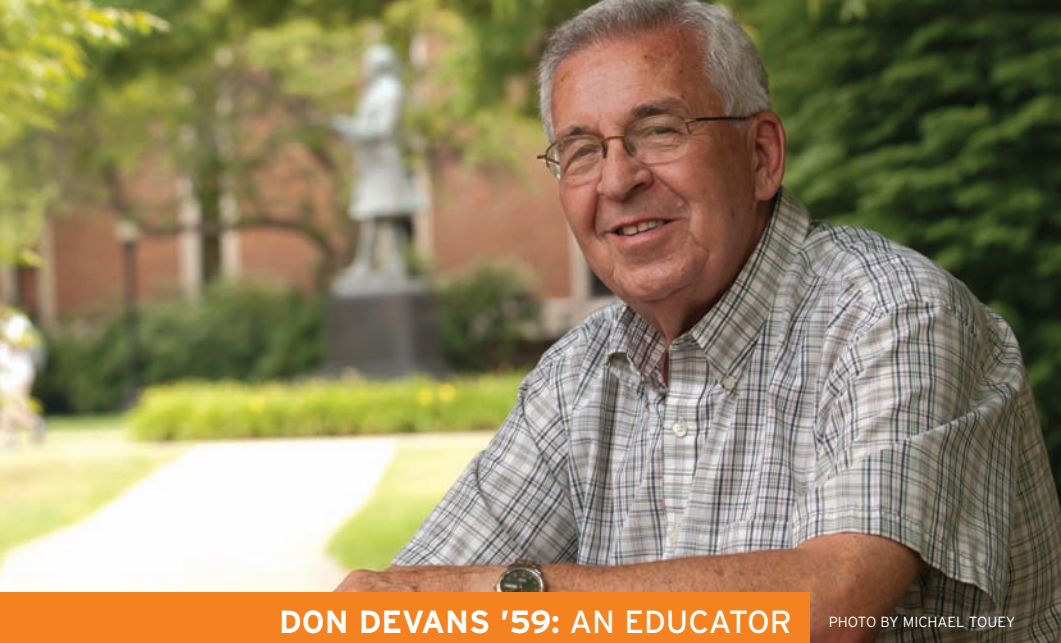


PHOTO BY MICHAEL TOUEY

DON DEVANS '59: AN EDUCATOR RECALLS FIRST-GENERATION EXPERIENCES

“When I was in high school I had no plan of going to college,” says Don Devans '59.

Devans grew up in a modest Wyoming Valley neighborhood. His father worked at a local coal company, and his mother was a housewife.

When the coal company closed, Devans' father was laid off from his job of 32 years. Eventually he was hired by the city street department, but he suffered a stroke a few years later. Devans' mother took a cleaning job with the Wilkes-Barre School District in 1957.

Just a few years later in that same school district, Devans launched his 37-year career in education with the bachelor's degree he earned from Wilkes.

It was his brother, Marine Sgt. Robert E. Devans, who inspired him to attend college. “We used to have long talks when he was home on leave, about what he had learned about the world and how important it was to get a good education,” Devans says.

Tragically, Sgt. Devans became a Korean War casualty at the age of 21. He had designated his younger brother as recipient of the government's few hundred dollars of “gratuity pay” in the event of his death.

That sum could make a dent in the modest tuition bills at the time, so the family was supportive of Devans' decision to attend college. He walked over to nearby Wilkes and asked the dean of students if there was any way he could attend. It was August in the year following his high school graduation.

“I'd taken just the fundamental classes in high school—applied sciences, Algebra I and II and no foreign languages,” Devans says, “but the Wilkes administrators were so helpful and understanding. They sent me to take some tests—IQ tests or something like the SATs, I guess.

“It all just fell together, thanks to those talks I had had with my brother,” Devans says.

It wasn't easy to be a first-generation college student: “Other students' backgrounds were far superior to mine, and I was a year behind because I had worked a year first.”

Devans remembers feeling more comfortable with some of the Korean War vets on campus and other students who were also working their way through school. Part of their day was spent in classes, part of it on the job, the rest of it studying. There wasn't much time for socializing.

“The professors made sure you got a well-rounded education,” he says. “They were so supportive that it encouraged you.”

What would Devans tell a first-generation college student today?

“You have to have a study pattern. Maybe Friday and Saturday nights you can relax, but on Sunday it's back to the books. You can't procrastinate studying and doing papers. You've got to set a pattern and stick to it.”

Devans earned his master's degree in education from Temple University and his principal's certification from the University of Scranton. He taught for 33 years and served as assistant principal for Wilkes-Barre's Coughlin High School for four years before retiring in 1997. He and his wife live in Dallas, Pa.

“

The second- and third-generation students will call home for ADVICE; first-generation students cannot.”

”

– Tom Thomas

TOM THOMAS: HELPING STUDENTS ACQUIRE THE “STREET SMARTS” OF CAMPUS

After 27 years of counseling students, Tom Thomas, executive director of Wilkes' University College, knows about student anxieties, especially those of first-generation students. His department provides all students with advising, career services, educational opportunities and tutoring. The department also supports those with disabilities.

Students need to acquire the “street smarts” of campus—from knowing what professors expect of them to the deadline for dropping a class without penalty if they're not doing well. They need to get along with roommates or deal with the hassles of commuting. They need to find a quiet place to study.

“It's not a one-day fix,” Thomas said. “It's an ongoing process; it goes on for four years.

“We design all of our programs to help first-generation students, and we know the others will benefit as well. First-



Tom Thomas.
PHOTO BY
MICHAEL TOUEY

generation students will have the same challenges as those whose parents have been to college, but they will be exacerbated because they don't have people at home to guide them."

Challenging issues include: handling independence for the first time, making decisions, understanding the difference between high school and college expectations and dealing with financial hardships.

"They don't have the confidence to come up to us as administrators with their questions until they get to know us. We have to develop relationships first," Thomas says. The primary route for this is through the advising process.

"We have to be approachable," he says. "The second- and third-generation students will call home for advice; first-generation students cannot."

QUYEN NGUYEN:
"COLLEGE IS THE WAY TO IMPROVE..."

Quyen Nguyen, 21, commutes to Wilkes from her home on Scranton's South Side. Because it would be contrary to family and cultural tradition, she hesitates to complain to her parents about any problems as a student, but she does tell them "the happy stuff," such as when she made the dean's list.

"They loved that," she says of her parents, who speak only a little English.

The family settled in the United States from Vietnam in 2004. In addition to being a first-generation college student, Nguyen faces dual challenges of adjusting to American culture and learning English well enough to understand what professors are teaching.

"In our whole family, the kids—my brother and I and all my cousins—have to go to college. They have no choice. Our parents know college is the way to improve," Nguyen says.

Her mom works in a nail salon at Walmart. Her dad was injured two years ago in a manufacturing job and is not working.

"They will be very proud to see me graduate. They have been waiting for that moment for too long."

Nguyen says it was difficult both enrolling in and adjusting to college.

"I was kind of upset I had to do my paperwork by myself. Other students had their parents to help them," she recalls. "Once on campus, it was kind of scary, because you know no one around the place. It took me about two weeks to get used to it."

A sophomore at Wilkes, Nguyen is undecided about her major. She is working with Riley, assistant director and

advisor in Wilkes' Act 101 Program, to identify abilities, interests, strengths and values. Act 101 is an educational opportunity program supporting low-income, first-generation students. Riley will help her select the remainder of her courses with the goal of choosing not only a major but a future career.

"It is rewarding to see any student make the transformation from an awkward first-year student...to a confident senior equipped to step out to make a difference in the world," says Riley, who has been working with first-generation students for 15 years, the past 10 of them at Wilkes.

Wilkes is ideally suited to assist first-generation students because of the supportive programs that it has developed over the years, Riley says. These include academic advising, the educational opportunity program, known as Act 101, and the bridge program for students who receive a conditional admission to Wilkes.

The very history of the institution has been one of offering accessibility to students of all socio-economic backgrounds, says Thomas of the University College.

"Wilkes was created as Bucknell Junior College to serve first-generation students in the coal mining region. The need was there and was not being met, so this became our mission."

Quyen Nguyen shares a moment on the Wilkes campus with her father Su Nguyen.
PHOTO BY MICHAEL TOUEY

“ They will be very proud to see me GRADUATE. They have been waiting for that moment for too long.

— Quyen Nguyen



Adrienne Richards '07 flies first class with her feathered charge on the way to the bird's permanent home in Disneyland.

Inset: President Barack Obama issues the White House's annual turkey pardon. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL TURKEY FEDERATION.

Talking Turkey

ADRIENNE RICHARDS '07 FINDS CAREER SUCCESS PROMOTING HEALTHY FOOD CHOICES

By Diane Stoneback



MOST FIRST-CLASS AIRLINE passengers would be unhappy to sit next to a real turkey on their flights. But Adrienne Richards '07 was thrilled to fly first-class from Washington, D.C., to Los Angeles with Courage and Carolina, two broad-breasted, celebrity turkeys who also were her tickets to the White House.

In fact, she views accompanying the nation's top turkeys for an official Thanksgiving pardon from President Obama as the most exciting moment of her career as public relations manager for the National Turkey Federation in Washington, DC.

When Obama was delivering his pardon, which guaranteed the two turkeys worry-free Thanksgivings for the rest of their lives, Richards was standing in front of his podium.

After the ceremony, a police-escorted motorcade whisked the birds, Richards and other turkey federation officials to Dulles Airport, where they boarded "Turkey One" for Los Angeles. After all, the very important turkeys (VITs) had to catch their flight so they could be grand marshals of Disneyland's Thanksgiving Day parade. After their wild flutter of official duties, they checked in at Disney's Frontierland for the rest of their days.

"Courage and Carolina posed for photos with other passengers onboard our United Airlines flight and then rested quietly after uttering only a few gobbles upon take-off. They really were good fliers," says Richards of her traveling companions whose kennels each filled two first-class seats.

Richards never anticipated talking turkey or a career in public relations. "I wanted to be a war correspondent in Iraq...to be in the line of fire like ABC's Martha Raddatz," she says. But spending the fall semester of her senior year as Wilkes' first student to participate in American University's Washington Semester changed her original career plans.

On her first day as a fledgling ABC news intern, she was dispatched to cover one of then-Sen. Hillary Clinton's press conferences.

"I was in awe. It was pretty amazing. That's when I realized I didn't want to start my career at some little station. I wanted to be in Washington. I loved its feel and excitement," Richards says.

Her job search landed her at the National Turkey Federation, a nonprofit organization funded by turkey growers and processors all over the country.

She credits the Wilkes communication studies faculty with providing hands-on experiences and the training she needed to build a strong portfolio. But she also praises former faculty member

Adrienne Richards, Arlington, Va.

B.A., Communication Studies, 2007

Career: Public relations manager, National Turkey Federation

Notable: Oversees consumer and food service public relations and social media campaign focused on increasing Americans' consumption of turkey.

Favorite Wilkes place: Henry Student Center for providing snacks and a masseuse during exams to make studying more fun.

Andrea Frantz for taking her under her wing. "She kept telling me I had a great ability to write, worked to get me involved with *The Beacon* and taught me to think critically by challenging me."

Her biggest challenge today is persuading Americans to eat more turkey. Currently, it's fourth in the pecking order, behind chicken, beef and pork consumption.

Previously, she hadn't cooked any turkey beyond turkey bacon and turkey hot dogs, but she's really into it now. "I'm making and eating more turkey than ever. Whether speaking to consumers or chefs, I need to know what I'm talking about."

She rattles off dozens of ways to prepare turkey faster than you can make a turkey sandwich.

She has helped develop the turkey federation's new "Upgrade It!" with turkey campaign, which starts by showing consumers the calories and fat they can cut by substituting turkey for other meats. Richards observes, "Switching from roast beef to skinless, roast turkey breast saves 276 calories per serving."

Promoted three times in three years, Richards oversees consumer and food service media campaigns. She spreads the word about turkey on Facebook and YouTube and tweets, too.

She and other staffers field wide-ranging turkey preparation questions, including crazy ones like whether or not the birds can be defrosted in dishwashers or toilet bowls.

Nothing ruffles her feathers, whether it's another crazy turkey question, a turkey joke, being called a turkey or having friends joke that going to dinner at her house means eating more turkey.

"I don't mind," says Richards. "Those turkeys are paying my bills."

“ Courage and Carolina rested quietly after uttering only a few gobbles upon take-off. They really were good fliers. ”



MORE ON THE WEB

Check out Adrienne Richards '07's favorite turkey recipes for Easy Meatball Stroganoff and Easy Salsa Meatloaf. Go to www.wilkes.edu/turkey

To calculate the calorie and fat savings on your favorite recipes, check out the Meal Upgrade Calculator on the National Turkey Federation Web site at www.eatturkey.com.

Attention to Detail



ARCHITECTURAL TREASURES FROM MANY ERAS HIGHLIGHT WILKES CAMPUS

THERE'S SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT that beautiful cornice on a building, up there near the roofline. You've seen that ornate door handle a hundred times, your hand caressing its beauty as you enter the front door. And that distinctive brick pattern—why, you'd know it anywhere.

Or would you?

Welcome to a close-up look at the rich array of architectural details on buildings, both modern and historic, found on the Wilkes campus. And with it comes a challenge: Can you name the buildings where these details can be found?

Alumni and friends of Wilkes are invited to submit their answers to this challenge. To enter, peruse the photos here and also those online at www.wilkes.edu/details. Submit your answers to correspond with the numbered photographs using the online form. The three people with the most correct answers will win a collectible bobblehead of The Colonel mascot. Remember: *You must identify the photos both in print and online.*



1. Top: Gather here for a meeting and see these details by the fireside. ▲
2. Above: Many people spend time here before taking off into the wild blue yonder. ▲
3. This chimney looks down on students from around the world. ▲



MORE ON THE WEB

If you are entering our architectural challenge—or just want to do it for fun—visit www.wilkes.edu/details to see the rest of our architectural detail photos. You must identify the photos by number both in print and online to win our challenge. Submit your answers using the online form for your chance to win a Colonel bobblehead.



6. Most Wilkes students pass this orb at least once a day. ▲

7. You won't find beautiful architectural hardware like this in a Woolworth's store. ▶



▲ 5. This building used to put out the welcome mat for alumni.



4. The entrepreneurial spirit is alive inside this hall. ▲

▲ 8. You can stop and smell the roses near this location.

▶ 9. This hall has beautiful metalwork on its exterior—and a view of the Susquehanna from its porch.

▼ 10. Female students have called this hall home since the 1950s.

PHOTOS BY EARL AND SEDOR PHOTOGRAPHIC



Madame Mayor

RUTH UY ASMUNDSON MS '68
RETIRES AS THE FIRST FILIPINA
MAYOR OF A U.S. CITY

By Rachel Strayer

RUTH UY ASMUNDSON MS '68 WAS balancing a glass of wine on her head when she first saw the man who would change her life. Asmundson, then a doctoral student, was performing a traditional Filipino wine dance for an international student club dinner and Vigfus A. Asmundson, the newly elected mayor of Davis, Calif., was in attendance.

“(The mayor) was so enchanted with my dance that he asked me for a date afterwards,” recalls Asmundson. Three dates later, she accepted his marriage proposal and took an unexpected step toward a career in politics. In July, she celebrated her retirement from a role she never imagined she would play: the first Filipina immigrant to be elected mayor of a U.S. city.

Asmundson was born in a remote barrio in the northern Philippines at the end of World War II. The fourth of eight children, she excelled in school, despite being told that “girls didn’t need to get an education.” She studied chemistry on a scholarship to Adamson University in Manila and was offered a teaching job there after graduation.

“One of my colleagues suggested that I apply for a Fulbright Scholarship...I never thought I would qualify,”

Asmundson remembers. “She told me one lesson that has defined my life. She said, ‘Ruth, nothing ventured, nothing gained.’ ”

Asmundson received the Fulbright, choosing Wilkes because she wanted a school in a smaller city and “Wilkes-Barre was such an interesting name.” She arrived in 1966.

Warmer weather and destiny called her to the University of California at Davis two years later. Asmundson was pursuing her

doctorate in agricultural chemistry when she met her future husband. Asmundson intended to teach at the university but delayed her professional career to raise a family. She served on the Davis School Board for 10 years, retiring to care for her husband who was suffering from Parkinson’s Disease.

“He wanted to run again for city council, but I wouldn’t allow him due to his condition,” Asmundson recalls. “So he asked me, begged me, to run for him.”

Asmundson had never entertained the idea of getting involved with city politics, but for the sake of her husband she agreed to run for the position of mayor on the Davis city council. When she won, it was the start of a new love affair. “I fell in love with city politics,” she says. She served for four years and promptly ran again. When she was re-elected, she became one of only three people in the city’s history to serve two terms as mayor. The Asmundsons were the first husband-wife mayors in city history.

Vigfus Asmundson died in 2003. While his work was finished, Asmundson’s had just begun. As mayor, much of her job involved “solving problems to make life better...working together with the community to find solutions.” In eight years in office, Asmundson spearheaded initiatives that brought more affordable housing to the city and generated more tax revenue through economic development.

Two projects stand out as particular points of pride. The first was a push for alternative transportation by providing bicycle lanes, paths and tunnels. Davis is now the home of the California—soon to be National—Bicycle Museum. The Bicycle Hall of Fame was relocated to Davis from New Jersey. Secondly, Asmundson added four more sister cities to Davis’ sister city relations, bringing the total to eight.

Asmundson advocates furthering education and giving back. She has established scholarships and a foundation at Adamson University in Manila. She returned to her barrio to mobilize the village to plant 1,000 trees and established a library there with her late husband.

After retirement, Asmundson will focus on her personal life. She plans to spend quality time with her children—four daughters plus two nephews that she raised as her own—and grandchildren. She also hopes to travel with her 90-year-old mother.

“I need to step aside and let the next generation take over,” she says. “I’ve done my part and I’m happy and proud of my accomplishments. I have enjoyed serving the community and I’m grateful for the opportunity to experience that kind of leadership.”



California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger receives an update from Davis, Calif., Mayor Ruth Asmundson.
PHOTO BY FRED GLADDIS/DAVIS ENTERPRISE FILE PHOTO



Ruth Uy Asmundson MS '68 ended her tenure as mayor of Davis, Calif., after establishing the city as home of the National Bicycle Museum.
PHOTO BY KENT LACIN

Ruth Uy Asmundson, Davis, Calif.

B.S., Chemistry, Adamson University, 1964

M.S., Chemistry, Wilkes University, 1968

Ph.D., Agricultural Chemistry, University of California, Davis, 1972

Career: Recently retired mayor of Davis, Calif.

Notable: The first Filipina to be elected mayor of a city in the United States and one of only three people in the history of Davis to serve two terms as mayor.

Favorite Wilkes Memory: Seeing her first snowfall.

"I was outside and all of a sudden there were these snowflakes everywhere. I told a friend that there must be people having a pillow fight in the dorm with all those cotton fillers everywhere. This friend said, 'Ruth, those are not cotton, it is snowing...'"



MORE ON THE WEB

Want to learn more about Ruth Uy Asmundson's fascinating life? Check out our Q&A with

Ruth to find out more at www.wilkes.edu/ruth

GET SOCIAL AT HOMECOMING!

HOMECOMING • OCT. 1, 2 & 3

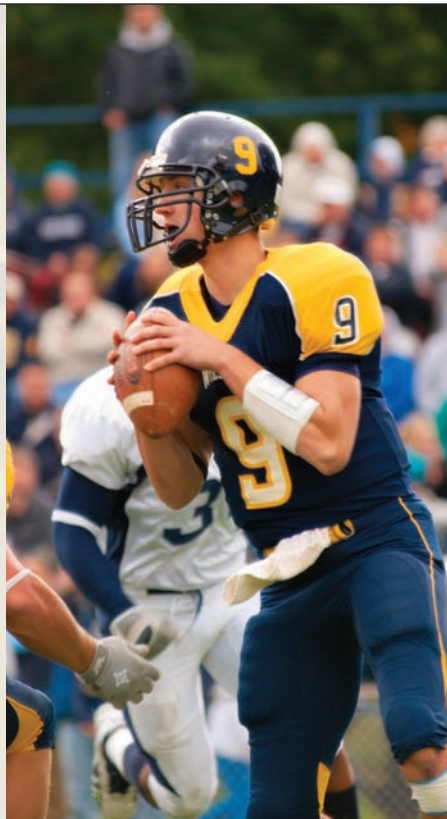
www.wilkes.edu/homecoming

Homecoming Hint

Keep your camera handy while you're on campus so you can enter your favorite snapshot from the weekend in our photo contest after Homecoming!

From tailgates and tweets to photos and football, Homecoming gives you plenty of ways to reconnect, reunite and reminisce! Highlights of the weekend include:

- all-you-can-enjoy Tailgate Tent
- Pints with Professors
- Ralston Alumni Golf Tournament at Irem Country Club
- a chance to sit in on classes with current faculty and students
- trolley tour of campus and downtown Wilkes-Barre
- an on-campus Friday concert by the Starfires band (featuring three of our very own Colonels!)



- parade through campus—you're invited to walk or ride with us!
- Colonels athletics, including the football game against Albright on the **new** turf field
- tent festival
- Recent Alumni Party
- Athletic Hall of Fame Induction
- and much more!

Spread the Word About Wilkes

Do you know a prospective student who would be a great addition to the Wilkes family? Share the tear out card from this magazine with them and their undergraduate application fee will be waived. This is an opportunity for you to help us recruit outstanding students while making the college application process a little easier for family members and friends. The fee waiver can be applied online by selecting 'Dean Ralston' in the fee waiver box at the end of the application. Thank you for helping to spread the word about a Wilkes education!

Go Mobile and Keep Up With Wilkes

Looking to keep up to date with Wilkes while you're on the go? Check out the new mobile site at www.community.wilkes.edu/mobile. You'll find the latest news and upcoming events, including Homecoming 2010 updates, as well as Wilkes-Barre weather. Do you have suggestions about other things you would like to see on the mobile site? Let the Office of Alumni Relations know at alumni@wilkes.edu.

Homecoming Hint

Pre-registering makes Homecoming as easy as 1, 2, 3!

Sign up online, over the phone or through the mail before September 28 and you'll:

- get a commemorative drawstring backpack and other perks at central registration
- **save \$5** on admission for each event
- skip the lines at events



If you're an alumna/us of one of the following groups, Homecoming is *the* time to come back to campus because we've got something special planned for you!

- **Class reunions:** '60, '70, '80, '90, '00, '05
- **Department gatherings:** biology, chemistry, communication studies, health sciences, nursing, political science, psychology and the Sidhu School
- **Clubs and Halls:** Butler Hall, Circle K, Programming Board and SIFE

For the latest Homecoming information, visit www.wilkes.edu/homecoming!

Alumni Association Board Welcomes New Members

Ben Beidel, Stephen Gruver, Jill Kalariya '10, Donna Talarico '00 and Lacey Wagaman '10 were recently elected to the Alumni Board of Directors. Ben, a pharmacy major, serves as Student Government president. Stephen, also majoring in pharmacy, serves as the representative of the senior class, and Lacey and Jill were selected by the Class of 2010 as their representatives to the Alumni Board.

Fall Alumni Events

Come join the fun with trips and regional events sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations. The fun continues after Homecoming: From bus trips to dinners, we're offering many opportunities to reconnect with old friends and make new connections.

- Oct. 23** New Jersey Alumni Gathering, Morristown
- Nov. 3** Northeast Pennsylvania Alumni Event: Family Italian Dinner, Henry Student Center, 6 p.m.
- Nov. 10** Northeast Pennsylvania Alumni Event: Tour & Tasting, Lion Brewery, Wilkes-Barre
- Nov. 13** Alumni Event: Wilkes vs. King's football game, Noon
- Nov. 20** Northeast Pennsylvania Alumni Event: Broadway Bus Trip to New York City. Choice of tickets to Tony Award winner for best musical, "Memphis," or the Radio City Musical Hall Christmas show.

To register or for more information, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (570) 408-7787 or visit **The Colonel Connection**.

1959

Stephen Poleskie recently published his new book, *Vigilia's Tempest*. He has published three other books including *The Balloonist* in 2007, *The Third Candidate* in 2008 and *Grater Life* in 2009. Poleskie is an artist, a pilot and a professor emeritus at Cornell University.

1967

David Foglietta is owner and publisher of *Old Forge Times* online (oldforgetimes.blogspot.com) and Lackawanna News (lackawannanews.blogspot.com). He is the former publisher of the print publications *La Triviata Magazine*, *The Libertarian American Magazine* and the *Lackawanna County News*. He is retired.

Wayne P. Yetter was elected to the board of directors at SDIX, a leading provider of biotechnology-based products and services. Yetter is chief executive officer of ProActive for Patients Media, Inc., providing a physician-to-patient messaging system to increase patient adherence to medication therapies.

1971

David Angelovich MBA '76 is the accounting program coordinator at Napa Valley College in Napa, Calif. He has been a full-time faculty member since 2000.

Donna Sedor '85 Honored with Athena Award

Donna Sedor '85 was honored with the Athena Award by the Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry at its annual dinner in June. The Athena Award is presented annually to a woman who demonstrates excellence, creativity and initiative in her business or profession, provides valuable service by contributing time and energy to improve the quality of life for others in the community, and who actively assists women in realizing their full leadership potential.

"I was always taught that if you have the ability to help, you have an obligation to help," says Sedor.

Sedor is executive vice president of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry's Chamber of Commerce affiliate. She joined the chamber in 1990. Previously she was the chamber's vice president of business and information services, vice president of communications and director of communications.

Sedor is a member of the board of the Osterhout Free Library in Wilkes-Barre, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Council of the Boy Scouts of America, where she serves as the Exploring Post chair, and Junior Achievement of Northeastern Pennsylvania. She is president of the Rotary Club of Wilkes-Barre.

She serves as a mentor for communication studies students at Wilkes and is a member of the *Wilkes* magazine advisory board. She also has taught communication classes at her alma mater. Sedor is a founding member of Circle 200—an executive women's group for leaders in Luzerne and Lackawanna counties. She assisted with the start up and planning of the You Are You program, an annual event designed to help tenth grade girls build self-esteem.

"I have the privilege of being involved with folks who are constantly looking to what our community can become," says Sedor. "I have had the opportunity to be a part of a great deal of change."



Donna Sedor '85, center, celebrates winning the 2010 Athena Award with sons Evan, left, 15, and Sean, right, 16. Donna is married to John Sedor '87. PHOTO BY CURTIS SALONICK

1974

Andrew Check is the new human resources director for Luzerne County. He most recently worked as executive director for The Lands at Hillside Farms in Kingston Township, Pa.

1977

Mandy Williams, along with her sister, Tina Pennington, developed a financial literacy program that is now part of the curriculum at KIPP Houston High School. Williams and Pennington penned the program's book, *What I Learned About Life When My Husband Got Fired!*, under the pseudonym Red & Black. Williams, a retired corporate executive who races Ferraris in her spare time, was featured in the summer 2009 issue of *Wilkes* magazine.

1982

Col. Ivan Shidlovsky has been selected to attend the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Washington, D.C., starting in fall 2010.


1985

Dianne Charsha was named senior vice president of patient care services and chief nursing officer at Cooper University Hospital in Camden, N.J.

1987

Kimberly Tokach-Kellar is employed by Liberty Dialysis LLC. She is the director of nursing at the outpatient dialysis unit in Hammonton,

N.J. She lives with her husband, Jim, and two daughters in Woolwich, N.J.

1990**Reunion Oct. 1-3** 

Janice Saldukas-Parsons is a member of the Organization of Competitive Bodybuilders. She was crowned the overall Figure Champion at the McJilton Classic held in Salisbury, Md., on March 27. She is supervisor of instruction at Caesar Rodney School District, Delaware.

1992

Nancy Chalker was named business development executive for StudentAid.com, a student-lending and debt-management advisor. Her primary role is to help university students manage their school debt and plan for their financial future.

Janice Raspen was named School Librarian of the Year for the Rappahannock region of Virginia. She will compete for the state-level award in October. Raspen has been a school librarian since 2001, and opened the library at her current school, Conway Elementary in Stafford County, in 2005. She lives in Fredericksburg, Va.

1995

Edward J. Ciarimboli was selected as one of *Super Lawyers* magazine's 2010 Rising Stars. He received his law degree from Duquesne University School of Law.

Timothy S. Williams teaches fifth grade at Gilbert Magnet School for Communication and Creative Arts in Las Vegas, Nev., recently named the top magnet school in the country out of approximately 5,000 magnet schools.

1996

Matt LaBuda – see 1998

1998

Michael T. Beachem IV, a student affairs administrator at Temple University, was recently awarded the 2010 Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Knowledge Community Outstanding Mentorship Award by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators. The annual award recognizes long-term members of the academic profession who have provided consistent and supportive mentorship to both peers and students surrounding social justice and support of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender concerns. This is the second honor Beachem has received from the association in the past two years. In 2008 he was awarded the Region II Mid-level Professional Award for his commitment to student development and the student affairs profession.

Kristen (Cookus) LaBuda and **Matt LaBuda '96** announce the birth of their third child, Makayla Marie, on June 29, 2009. The family resides in Boiling Springs, Pa.

1999

Corinna Sowers-Adler made her New York debut in "Stories...a Cabaret" on June 19 at The Laurie Beechman Theater on 42nd St., New York City. Adler served as director of theatre for the Wilkes University Conservatory for 10 years. She co-owns NiCori Studios & Productions, is director of foundations for the Young Actor's Training Center in New York City and serves as theatre/musical theater instructor at New Jersey School of Dramatic Arts.

2000**Reunion Oct. 1-3** 

Laura Burns married Daniel DiMarzo on Nov. 1, 2008. The bride is the daughter of **Bob Burns Jr. '82** and Wilkes employee Anita Burns. Burns DiMarzo works as a marketing director for a telecommunications company. The couple reside in East Norriton, Pa.

2002

Joyce Elaine Soska and Arthur Raymond Becker were married on Oct. 10, 2009. The bride is employed by the Wyoming Area School District as a music educator. The groom is employed by Jacobson Companies in Mountain Top, Pa. They reside in Harding, Pa.

Dr. Asif Ilyas '97 Lends Surgical Skills to Haitian Relief Efforts

During his years of training to become an orthopaedic surgeon, Dr. Asif Ilyas '97 never imagined performing surgery in a former amusement park. As a medical volunteer in the aftermath of the Haitian earthquake, he performed surgeries in just such a setting.

"We would be seeing between 300 and 500 patients a day. A lot of things were makeshift," says Ilyas, an assistant professor of orthopaedic surgery and director of the orthopaedic surgery residency program for the Temple University School of Medicine. "We were treating patients in a tent city of sorts, with no air conditioning and no running water. Conditions were extremely primitive."

Ilyas explains that the amusement park site was chosen for practical reasons: There was a boundary wall around it, making it easy to secure. He had anticipated poor conditions and made sure that he took supplies such as surgical equipment, sutures and gauze. But he was still unprepared for what he found. "Once I was down there, I was a little overwhelmed and shocked," he says. "The amount of medical need was overwhelming."

Ilyas went to Haiti in January after answering a call for physician volunteers from one of the many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) providing assistance in Port-au-Prince. He was part of a team of physicians assembled by IMANA and supported by the Aimer-Haiti group. The team included approximately 12

doctors in specialties such as orthopaedics, emergency medicine and family practice.

The earthquake caused many injuries and also destroyed existing hospitals and clinics. As a surgeon, Ilyas set broken bones and performed skin grafting, among other procedures. He also performed many amputations. He

Dr. Asif Ilyas '97, left, worked with Haitian nursing staff as a surgical volunteer in the aftermath of the earthquake.



2003

Marc Baron graduated from Walden University with a master's degree in nursing, specializing in nursing education. While teaching part time, he continues to work full time for Main Line Health. He lives with his wife and three children outside of Philadelphia, Pa.

Dawn Demchak was named 2010 Patient Choice Award winner by the Wyoming Valley Health Care System. The award recognizes quality care, comfort and compassion offered by nurses throughout the system. The winner is selected from nominations made by former patients. The award was presented during National Nurses Week in May.

Demchak is a nurse on Wilkes-Barre General Hospital's 8 East Medical/Surgical Unit. Demchak received her award from Cornelio Catena, chief executive officer, Wyoming Valley Health Care System.

Christopher Tedesco – see 2004

2004

Rebecca Jean Broyan was ordained on June 13 as a reverend and fully authorized minister of the United Church of Christ. Broyan graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary in 2008 and received a call to be the pastor at First United Church of Christ in Berwick, Pa.



A street in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, after the earthquake. PHOTOS COURTESY OF DR. ASIF ILYAS

recalls one case that was typical of the kinds of injuries he encountered.

“The patient’s hand had been caught in the rubble for three days. His hand was crushed so severely and so compromised that we had no alternative than to perform an amputation,” Ilyas says. “Because we didn’t have general anesthesia, we used sedation and regional blocks to numb his arm. Unfortunately this was a common scenario.”

In addition to volunteering with the NGO, physicians, including Ilyas, took turns working at the hospital established by the U.S. Army’s 82nd Airborne Division. Its full-time staff included only one internist, a physician assistant and several medics, so two doctors went to that site every day to assist.

Following his graduation from Wilkes with a degree in biology, Ilyas completed medical school at MCP-Hahnemann University in 2001. He completed his residency in orthopaedic surgery at Temple University Hospital in 2006, followed by a year as a surgical fellow at Harvard Medical School. He joined the staff at Temple in 2007, where he has specialized in hand surgery and orthopaedic trauma surgery.

Ilyas lives in Philadelphia with his wife, Erum, who also is a physician, and their three children, Dean, 7, Amber, 5 and Sammy, 3. Volunteering in Haiti was a first for Ilyas. “I feel lucky to have had the opportunity to serve.”

— By Vicki Mayk

Pamela Tedesco and **Christopher Tedesco** ’03 welcomed their second son, Nathaniel Lee, on Dec. 19, 2009.

2006

Ashley Marie McBrearty-Hindson received her doctor of osteopathic medicine degree from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic

Medicine on June 5. She will continue her medical training in internal medicine at the University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey.

2007

Theresa Brewer and **John Polson** were married on March 20. They reside in Rock City Falls, N.Y.

2009

Ryan Holmes is vice president of public relations for Waterbucket Media, a public relations firm based in Easton, Pa. His responsibilities include drafting and issuing press releases, conducting conferences and seminars, and holding televised interviews.

Christine Zavaskas was recently appointed community relations coordinator at Northeast Regional Cancer Institute. She will manage media relations, print and online publications and program promotion.

Jessica Woolfolk and **William Ives** were married on May 15. The couple resides in Nanticoke, Pa.

Jackie Manzolillo-Blais '05 Starts Sixth Season Behind the Scenes with "MARTHA"

Martha Stewart is one in a million—or at least one in 165. Jackie Manzolillo-Blais '05 would know. She helped "MARTHA: The Martha Stewart Show" set a Guinness World Record for the largest gathering of people with the same first and last name by bringing in an audience of 164 women legally named Martha Stewart/Stuart.

"It required a lot of research," says Manzolillo-Blais, an audience supervisor for the show which moves to the Hallmark Channel this fall. "[It was] definitely one of the most memorable audiences."

The Wilkes communication studies graduate is the show's audience supervisor, overseeing a team of audience coordinators and production assistants to manage a live television audience.

"Our responsibility is to research, procure and book an audience of 164 individuals for each show day," she explains. "[They] often include theme shows with specialty audiences such as pet owners with their pets in tow or an audience full of individuals named Martha Stewart."

Manzolillo-Blais, who lives with her husband in Washingtonville, N.Y., works with production teams to guarantee a quality show and a positive experience for the audience. "What I love the most is that I meet people from all over the world and I have an opportunity to bring them joy," she says.

She made her debut in the television industry working for "The View" while finishing her last semester in college. The connections she made there led to a job offer from "MARTHA" following graduation. She began as an audience production assistant and was promoted to audience coordinator after one season. She left the show during season three to pursue a reporting job in Lancaster County, Pa. She was back in time for season four.

"I missed "MARTHA" and the joy of making people happy daily," she recalls. She was invited back as the audience supervisor. "I love it just as much as I did when I began."



Jackie Manzolillo-Blais '05, left, who is audience coordinator for "MARTHA: The Martha Stewart Show," appeared with the show's famous host, demonstrating how to make Christmas trees out of magazines.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARTHA: The Martha Stewart Show

Members of the staff are given the opportunity to pitch ideas to be featured on "MARTHA." As a result, Manzolillo-Blais has appeared on the show three times.

"I grew up in a very crafty family," she says. "I was able to teach Martha to dye Easter eggs with silk ties and create Christmas trees out of old magazines. I had a great time!"

Season six of "MARTHA" starts this fall. In addition, a new show hosted by Stewart's daughter, Alexis Stewart, and friend and colleague, Jennifer Koppelman-Hutt, is being produced. Manzolillo-Blais will oversee two teams responsible for booking live audiences for both shows.

"I am excited for the new challenges this expansion will bring."

— By Rachel Strayer

Graduate Students 1998

John Ford MBA has been named senior vice president and commercial lending officer at Landmark Community Bank. He will continue his role in developing the bank's commercial loan and deposit portfolio. Ford has 25 years of experience in commercial banking.

2003

Jeremy M. Gerber PharmD, MBA, and Dr. Dawn S. Knudsen were married on March 19. The bride is a professor at Midwestern University College of Pharmacy in Glendale, Ariz. The groom is a pharmacist at Cancer Centers of America, Goodyear, Ariz. The couple resides in Avondale, Ariz.

Jeremy Robert Lisman PharmD and Jaime Monika Beierle were married on July 24, 2009. The bride is employed as an research and development chef consultant

at Preferred Meal Systems. The groom is employed as a pharmacist at Walgreens. The couple resides in Wilkes-Barre.

Wendy Lee Miller MS, and Mark Richard Landis were married on Oct. 31, 2009. The bride is a sixth-grade computer literacy teacher at Berwick Middle School. The couple resides in Wapwallopen, Pa.

2008

Stephen Bilko, MS – see Graduate Students 2009

Shannon Fenstermacher PharmD was recently promoted to clinical pharmacist specialist, pharmacy practice, at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H. She began her career as a pharmacist at Lehigh Valley Hospital in Allentown, Pa., prior to accepting a staff pharmacist position at Dartmouth-Hitchcock in October 2009.

2009

Brooke McDonald MS, and Stephen Bilko MS '08, were married Oct. 3, 2009. Both are teachers in the Pocono Mountain School District. The couple resides in Nanticoke, Pa.

Jared Meehan MS – see Graduate Students 2010

2010

Ellen Michael MBA and Jared Meehan MS '09 were married on March 20. The couple resides in Wilkes-Barre.



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Wilkes Magazine
84 W. South St.
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18766**

In Memoriam Fall 2010

1941

Melford Hyman, Oviedo, Fla., died May 4, 2010. He was a World War II Armed Forces veteran and U.S. postal worker.

1945

Helen Stapleton Schmitt, Adamstown, Md., died May 16, 2010. She was a homemaker and volunteer.

1949

Flora F. Lopko O'Hannes, Katonah, N.Y., died May 1, 2010. She was a scientific illustrator for the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C.

Raymond B. Williams, Lawrence, Kan., died June 6, 2010. He was a World War II U.S. Army veteran and retired fifth grade teacher, Dutch Neck School.

1951

Wade W. Hayhurst, Mollusk, Va., died April 17, 2010. He was a computer software developer and retired publisher.

1952

Edward J. Wallison, Kingston, Pa., died April 4, 2010. He was a Korean War Air Force veteran, teacher and local radio personality.

1958

Frederick J. Helfrich Sr., West Wyoming, Pa., died March 26, 2010. He was a Korean War U.S. Army veteran and Proctor & Gamble employee.

1960

Frank I. Edwards, West Pittston, Pa., died May 20, 2010. He was a music teacher and choir director. He is survived by his wife, **Barbara B. Edwards '60**.

1965

Alfred W. Johnson, Plains Township, Pa., died May 15, 2010. He was a retired history teacher and football/wrestling coach.

1966

John Leo Gurgick, Upper Saddle River, N.J., died Feb. 18, 2010. He was a U.S. Navy veteran; a psychologist for the Veterans Administration of New Jersey; and owner/operator, Softball Pitching Center.

1970

Joan M. McElwee, Mocanaqua, Pa., died April 13, 2010. She was a psychiatric registered nurse and nurse manager for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

1973

Judith A. Young, Dallas, Pa., died March 24, 2010. She was a mathematics teacher with the Wilkes-Barre Area School District.

1976

Diane Zelinka, Hanover Township, Pa., died May 27, 2010. She was a medical technologist with Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

1991

Ann Marie Cesarini Raspen, Shickshinny Lake, Pa., died May 2, 2010. She was a high school and elementary school teacher and a lay reader and eucharistic minister for Exaltation of Holy Cross Catholic Church.

1998

Danie Mark Bishop, Harding, Pa., died April 14, 2010. He was a licensed veterinarian.

2000

Ivan J. Bogan Jr., Parsons, Pa., died April 14, 2010. He was a former employee of the Department of Defense in Washington, D.C. and salesman for M.J. Mackarey Snacks.

Graduate Students 1981

Mark P. Steele MS, Beaumont, Pa., died June 4, 2010. He was a retired elementary school teacher.



PHOTO FROM WILKES ARCHIVES

When it opened in September 1950, the gymnasium on South Franklin Street was a welcome addition to campus. Its façade was graced with a large concrete medallion of the Wilkes College seal. For more than 30 years, Wilkes students congregated there for fitness and fun.

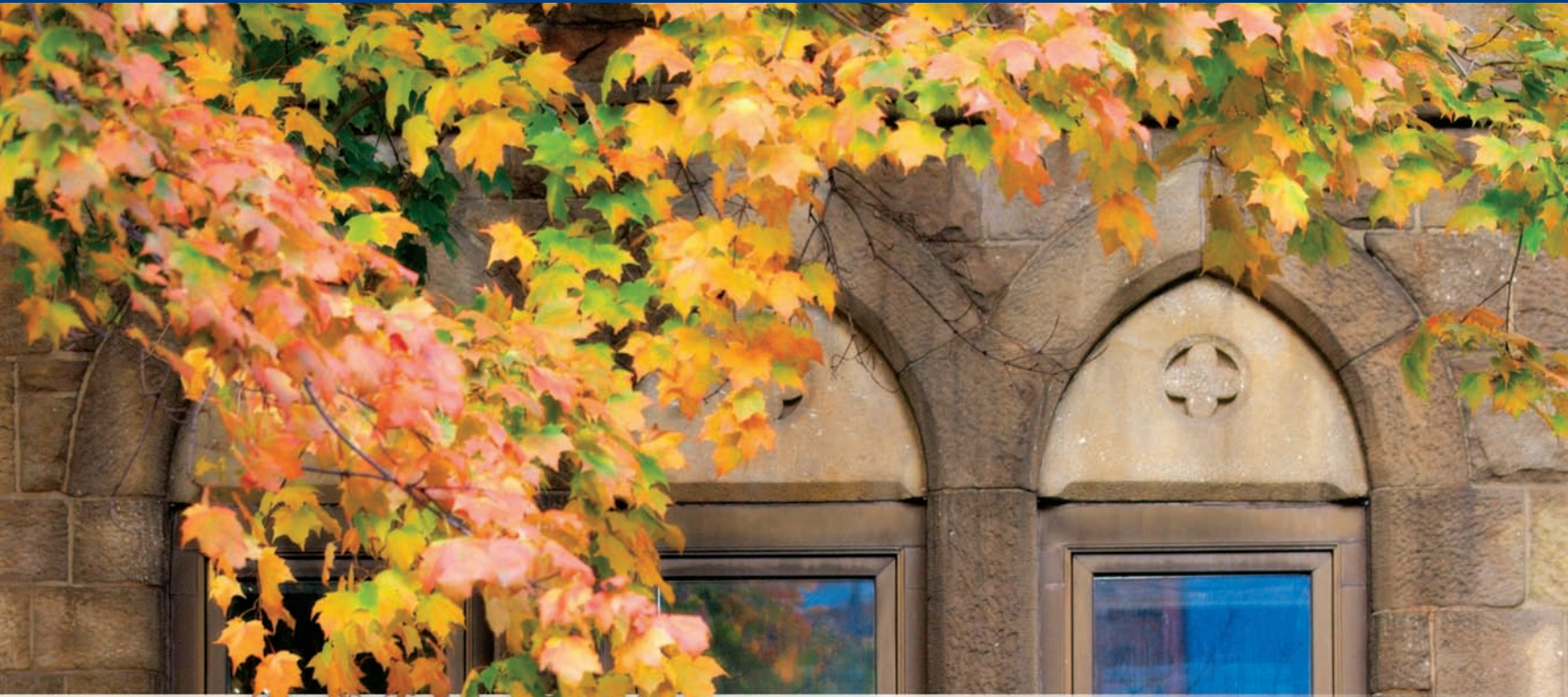
When the gymnasium made way for the Arnaud C. Marts Sports and Conference Center in 1989, the medallion was taken to the Ralston Athletic Complex. It remained there until recent renovations at the football field unearthed it, perfectly intact, under the stands. It has been relocated to a spot on South Franklin Street between the Eugene S. Farley Library and Fenner Hall.



PHOTO BY VICKI MAYK

Share names or reminisce on The Colonel Connection message boards, found at www.wilkes.edu/alumni. Or send responses to **Wilkes magazine**, 84 W. South St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18766. You can also e-mail wilkesmagazine@wilkes.edu.

calendar of events



September

- 11 First home football game
- 15 Free workshop on Identity Theft and Personal Safety, Lobby, University Center on Main, 6 p.m.
Sponsored by Alumni Relations
- 30-Oct. 2 *One Acts at Wilkes*, Dorothy Dickson
Darte Center, 8 p.m.; Oct 3, 2 p.m.

October

- 1-3 Homecoming: *Get Social with Wilkes*
- 18-Dec. 12 *Soul Rebel: An Intimate Portrait of Bob Marley* by photographer David Burnett, Sordoni Art Gallery. Opening reception:
Oct. 22, 6-9 p.m.

November

- 9 Outstanding Leaders Forum, featuring entrepreneur Blake Mycoskie, chief shoe giver of TOMS Shoes, F.M. Kirby Center, 8 p.m.
- 12-13 *The Adding Machine*, Darte Center, 8 p.m.;
Nov. 14, 2 p.m. Also Nov. 19-21

December

- 10 Chorus and Chamber Singers Concert, St. Nicholas Church, Wilkes-Barre, 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Civic Band Concert, Darte Center, 3 p.m.
- 19 Piano Studio Recital, Darte Center, 5 p.m.