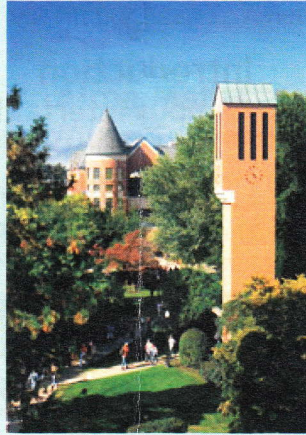




Wilkes University

May 18, 2007

Baccalaureate Service



Our purpose is peace.

This Baccalaureate Service seeks to include the faith traditions and spiritual orientations represented in the senior class. It is dedicated to the hope of mutual understanding and appreciation in this community and throughout our world.

The Campus Interfaith Office congratulates those who today mark the completion of their courses of study and wish you and your families a safe journey as you leave Wilkes University.

We thank the members of the Class of 2007 who contributed to this service from their faith traditions. We are grateful for the members of the Wilkes University Chorus, Dr. Steven Thomas, director, and accompanist Elizabeth Rish for providing today's music; and a special thanks to our guest speaker, Fr. Gary Mensinger for his words of wisdom.

Prelude Music
Elizabeth Rish, Accompanist

Welcome
Dr. Paul Adams, Vice President, Student Affairs

Introduction
Angela Hermes, Campus Interfaith Coordinator

Lighting of the Candle & Invocation
Allyson Bazarsky, Wilkes '07, Biology

As We Begin (responsive)
By Morris Silverman (adapted)
From Maariv Le-Rosh Hashanah

Eternal God, as the twilight of the old year fades into the night that marks the birth of a new year, we gather with mingled emotions, mindful of life's blessings and sorrows.

Response: *You, O Lord, are without beginning and without end.
"A thousand years in Your sight are as yesterday."*

But as for us, our years are limited; every hour is precious.

Response: *And so we pray: "Teach us to number our days, That we may attain a heart of wisdom."*

As we ponder the flight of time, the vanity of our possessions, and the uncertainty of life, we seek to link our lives to that which is timeless and true.

Response: *May our prayers arouse within us lofty resolves and help us to give richer meaning to our daily lives.*

Grant us, O Lord, faith and wisdom enough to meet the perplexities and perils which may beset us.

Response: May we acknowledge You as our Father, and recognize all human beings as Your children. May the new year be, for us and for all the world, a year of sustenance and cheer, of peace and serenity.

May this be a year in which Your spirit will guide our deeds,
And the love of You will fill our hearts. Amen.

Alma Mater **led by the Wilkes University Chorus**

Wilkes, our Alma Mater,
we pledge our hearts to thee.
Honor, faith, and courage,
Truth and loyalty.
In our work as in our pleasure,
Guide us as a friend;
We shall always love thee,
Loyal to the end.

Thou shalt lead us onward
In search of finer things.
May we find the wisdom
That thy spirit brings.
May our deeds of love and service
Ever swell thy fame --
Wilkes, we stand to greet thee!
Glory to thy name!

Readings:

Job 28: 12- 28
Nicholette Doliva, Wilkes '07,
Communications and English

"But where can wisdom be found? Where does understanding dwell? Man does not comprehend its worth; it cannot be found in the land of the living.

The deep says, 'It is not in me'; the sea says, 'It is not with me.' It cannot be bought with the finest gold, nor can its price be weighed in silver. It cannot be bought with the gold of Ophir, with precious onyx or sapphires. Neither gold nor crystal can compare with it, nor can it be had for jewels of gold. Coral and jasper are not worthy of mention; the price of wisdom is beyond rubies. The topaz of Cush cannot compare with it; it cannot be bought with pure gold.

Where then does wisdom come from? Where does understanding dwell? It is hidden from the eyes of every living thing, concealed even from the birds of the air.

Destruction and Death say, 'Only a rumor of it has reached our ears.' God understands the way to it and he alone knows where it dwells, for he views the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens. When he established the force of the wind and measured out the waters, when he made a decree for the rain and a path for the thunderstorm, then he looked at wisdom and appraised it; he confirmed it and tested it.

And he said to man, 'The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding.' "

Solving Human Problems Through Transforming Human Attitudes

**By His Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso
Ted Orelien, Wilkes '07, Biology**

Of the many problems we face today, some are natural calamities and must be accepted and faced with equanimity. Others, however, are of our own making, created by misunderstanding, and can be corrected. One such type arises from the conflict of ideologies, political or religious, when people fight each other for petty ends, losing sight of the basic humanity that binds us all together as a single human family. We must remember that

the different religions, ideologies, and political systems of the world are meant for human beings to achieve happiness. We must not lose sight of this fundamental goal and at no time should we place means above ends; the supremacy of humanity over matter and ideology must always be maintained.

Qur'an 2:268-9; 3:66; 4:113; 16:125
Salman Punekar, Wilkes '07,
Business Administration

... God is infinite, all-knowing, granting wisdom unto whom He wills: and whoever is granted wisdom has indeed been granted wealth abundant. But none bears this in mind save those who are endowed with insight.

Verily, you are those who have disputed about that of which you have knowledge. Why do you then dispute concerning that which you have no knowledge? It is Allah Who knows, and you know not.

And but for God's favor upon thee and His grace, some of those [who are false to themselves] would indeed endeavor to lead thee astray; yet none but themselves do they lead astray. Nor can they harm thee in any way, since God has bestowed upon thee from on high this divine writ and [given thee] wisdom, and has imparted unto thee the knowledge of what thou didst not know. And God's favor upon thee is tremendous indeed.

Call unto the way of thy Lord with wisdom and fair exhortation, and reason with them in the better way. Lo! thy Lord is best aware of him who strayeth from His way, and He is Best Aware of those who go aright.

Lakota Instructions for Living April Burko, Wilkes '07, Political Science and Sociology

Friend do it this way - that is,
whatever you do in life,
do the very best you can
with both your heart and mind.

And if you do it that way,
the Power Of The Universe
will come to your assistance,
if your heart and mind are in Unity.

When one sits in the Hoop Of The People,
one must be responsible because
All of Creation is related.
And the hurt of one is the hurt of all.
And the honor of one is the honor of all.
And whatever we do effects everything in the universe.

If you do it that way - that is,
if you truly join your heart and mind
as One - whatever you ask for,
that's the Way It's Going To Be.



Romans 11:33-36

Julie Weatherbee, Wilkes '07, Psychology

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?"

For from him and through him and to him are all things.

To him be the glory forever! Amen.

Baccalaureate Address:

Rev. Gary Mensinger, Wilkes '92, Psychology
Pastor, St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, Old Forge, PA

Time of Recollection & Book of Gratitude

Please take time to quietly reflect and remember the names of those who have been influential, helpful, or important to you. The graduates are asked to please come forward to write these names in the Book of Gratitude.

Response

The Call to Worship Psalm 100 (responsive)

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands! Serve God with gladness! Come into God's presence with singing!

Response: Know that the Lord is God! It is God who made us, and to God we belong; We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.

Leader: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise! Give thanks to God, bless God's name.

Response: For God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness is to all generations.

Benediction

Angela Hermes, Campus Interfaith Coordinator

**Recessional: Joyful, Joyful, We adore Thee
led by the Wilkes University Chorus**

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love; Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away; Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heaven reflect Thy rays, Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea, Singing bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus, which the morning stars began; Father love is reigning o'er us, brother love binds man to man. Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife, Joyful music leads us Sunward in the triumph song of life.