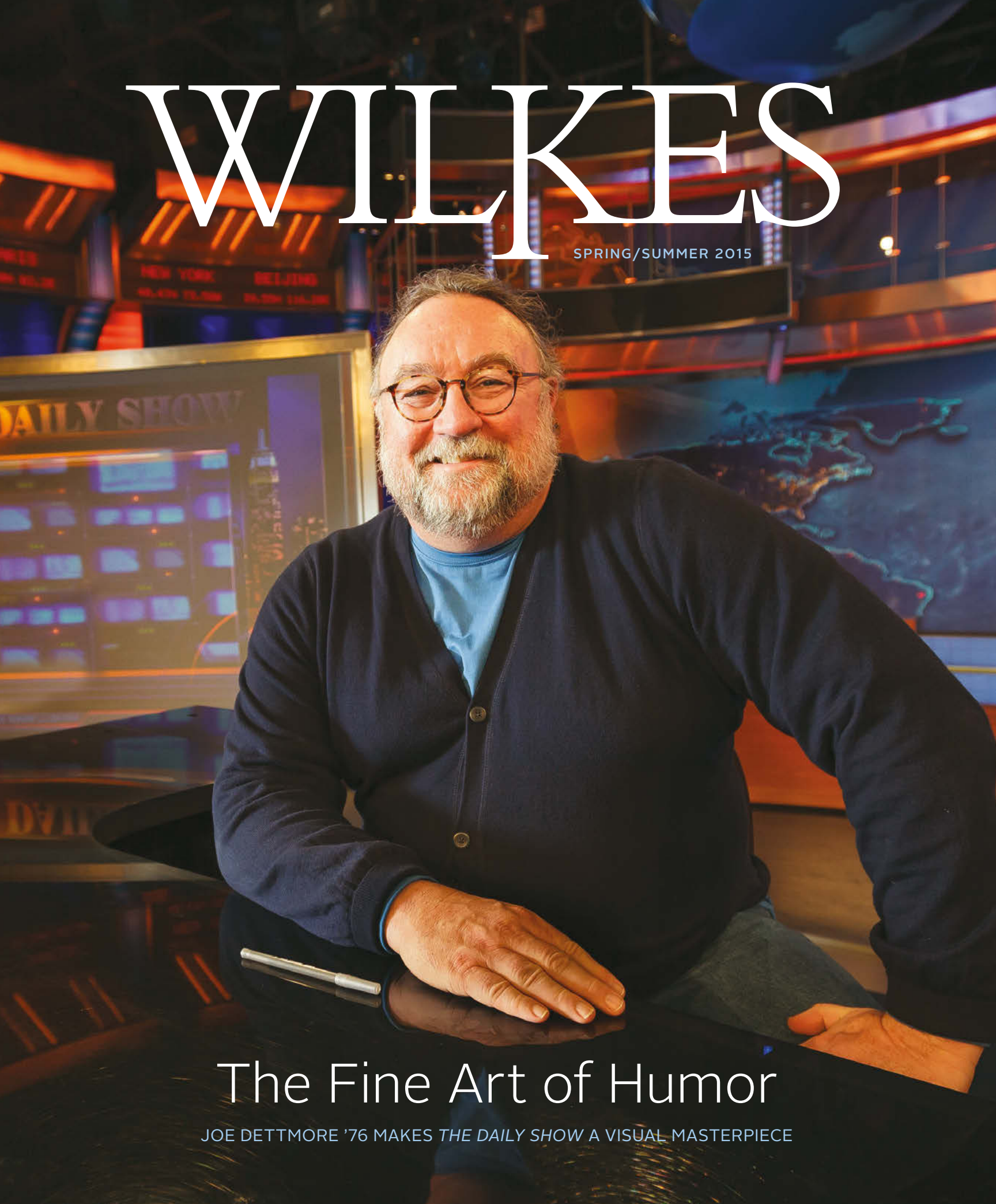


# WILKES

SPRING/SUMMER 2015



## The Fine Art of Humor

JOE DETTMORE '76 MAKES *THE DAILY SHOW* A VISUAL MASTERPIECE

## Welcome to the 12-Month Campus

I'm always surprised when asked if Wilkes is open during the summer. I can tell whoever is asking has never visited during that time, or they would know the answer: Wilkes offers classes and cultural events on campus year-round. I've made growing our summer offerings a priority since becoming president. It's good business—and it enriches our students and the surrounding community to have a college campus that is full of activity from January through December.

Summer classes at Wilkes have long been a popular option for our own students as well as those from other colleges who are home for the summer and living nearby. These students use the summer to get ahead by taking required courses for general education or their majors. Since 2010, Wilkes has offered an average of 100 classes during summer sessions, drawing more than 500 students.

Summer also is prime season for research and we have dozens of students working with faculty mentors in their labs or in the field, gaining valuable, hands-on experience. And when I say “in the field,” that sometimes can mean outside of northeastern Pennsylvania. For example, this summer, Ned Fetcher, a member of our biology department, will take students to the Alaskan tundra to conduct research under the auspices of a National Science Foundation grant.

College students aren't the only ones who benefit from summer at Wilkes. We also welcome high-school, middle-school and elementary-school students, many of whom may eventually choose to join the Wilkes

community as undergraduates, to campus. Our athletic coaches offer sports camps for young athletes. Our education students offer reading and arts camps for elementary school students, and we're encouraging our country's future women scientists in our Women Empowered by Science (WEBS) camp. I'm proud to say that some of the talented young middle-school students who first come to Wilkes in WEBS eventually enroll as college students in our science programs. These are just a few highlights.

Our first-year students also join us in either June or July for a three-day weekend to choose classes and begin to become acclimated to college life. It's one of my favorite duties as president to welcome our new crop of Colonels.

There's nothing sleepy about summer at Wilkes. I invite you to stop by and see our campus in action this summer.



President Patrick F. Leahy presides at spring commencement—an event that marks the end of the regular academic year and the start of summer sessions at Wilkes.  
PHOTO BY LISA REYNOLDS

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

### WILKES MAGAZINE

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





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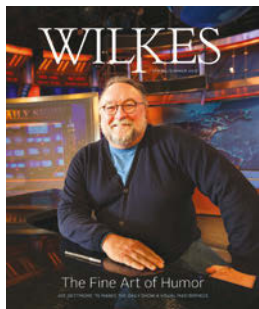


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Joe Dettmore '76 is seen on the set of *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*.  
PHOTO BY DAN Z. JOHNSON

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Have a story idea to share?

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## New Enterprise Center Launches Student, Faculty and Staff Businesses

Wilkes students, faculty and staff will receive expert help to start businesses at the Wilkes Enterprise Center, an incubator supporting businesses started by members of the Wilkes community. An initiative of the Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship at Wilkes, the center also reflects the University's commitment to support Wilkes-Barre by attracting new businesses downtown and retaining talented individuals to work locally.

Nine business startups are housed at the enterprise center, which opened in March 2015 on the sixth floor of the Luzerne Bank Building on Public Square in Wilkes-Barre. Students run three of the businesses, including Kraken Boardsports, an outdoor recreation products manufacturer.

Wilkes senior electrical and mechanical engineering major Daniel Lykens, founder, chief operations officer and partnership owner of Kraken Boardsports, says that the enterprise center has helped his company connect with local business leaders and offers resources that have kept startup costs to a minimum.

"The Wilkes Enterprise Center has helped us tremendously with networking. Most of our connections are with people we met directly through the center or who the center suggested we contact. It has been a huge stepping stone for being able to reach out and talk with professionals in the area, to ask questions and to learn how the business field works so that we



Kraken Boardsports is one of three businesses run by Wilkes students housed in the new Wilkes Enterprise Center, which opened in March. Pictured here, from left, are Dan Lykens '15, a Wilkes electrical and mechanical engineering dual major; Brandon Carey '15, a marketing major; Mike Grobinski '15 and Alex Planar '15, both mechanical engineering majors. The young entrepreneurs are receiving help to launch their business via the Enterprise Center. PHOTO BY CURTIS SALONICK

can interact with other businesses and in a professional manner," Lykens states.

"We can use all the resources Wilkes offers. We don't need to buy time at machine shops or our own tools, and Studio 20 (a student-run production club in the integrative media department) helped us design our website."

The other six businesses at the center are run by Wilkes faculty and staff. They include Four Hound Solutions, a company started by Wilkes associate professor and chair of electrical engineering and physics David Carey '83 MS '98. The company provides automated testing solutions and employs Wilkes alumni.

Most businesses in the center receive support in the form of office space and advising from an executive in residence and a team of volunteer business advisors. Advising may include help with business plans, marketing and other things needed to grow the businesses.

## Pharmacy Students Demonstrate Winning Ways in Clinical Competitions

Students in the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy earned honors in clinical competitions and awards programs during spring semester 2015. Among the award-winning students were:

Nicholas Stauffer of Barto, Pa., was selected to receive the U.S. Public Health Service Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award. The award was established to recognize pharmacy students' contributions to public health pharmacy practice. Stauffer was nominated for the award for a campaign to make the University a smoke-free campus, antibiotic use education in Guatemala, and for a web application he developed to monitor medication use. It is the second time a Wilkes student has received the award.

Bethany Sharpless of Lansing, N.Y., and Lindsey Coval of Phillipsburg, Pa., placed fourth in the 19th annual American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Clinical Skills Competition, held during the society's Midyear Clinical Meeting in Anaheim, Calif. A record 127 teams from pharmacy schools across the country competed.

Alysha Lopez of DuBois, Pa., won the 2015 "Know Pain, Know Gain" competition held Feb. 21 at the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association's Mid-Year Conference in Harrisburg. Lopez is a fourth-year pharmacy student at Wilkes.



## Wilkes Program Earns National Award for Educating Students About Sexual Assault

Since becoming a peer educator in Wilkes' first-year student sexual misconduct training program, Katharine Marianacci has found her impact is extending far beyond the classroom.

"I've had students approach me on the greenway or at the gym to tell me how helpful the program was and give me feedback on how we're doing," the sophomore psychology major and Dallas, Pa., native says. "It's great to know the students are listening and they hear what we have to say. If it's resonating with them enough that they remember me later on, that's a sign that at least some of our mission is being fulfilled."

Another sign of the program's effectiveness is its recent selection as the 2015 Grand Gold Excellence Award by NASPA – Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. A major national award, it honors the program for its innovation and effectiveness in educating students about preventing sexual assault.

"This isn't a one-person award. This is an institutional award," says Philip J. Ruthkosky, associate dean of student development and coordinator for the program. "I'm proud to be part of an institution that strives beyond compliance, that implements these programs with a mind toward what's best for our students rather than simply checking off something we're required to do by the federal government."

That desire to go above and beyond has shaped Wilkes' unique approach to its training program. While federal law requires all colleges and universities to provide some form of sexual misconduct education for freshmen, few have developed a program that is as comprehensive and campuswide an initiative.

"The subject is a complicated one, so our philosophy is that it can't be just a one-and-done hour-long session at orientation or something like that," Ruthkosky says. "Our program training paradigm includes a portfolio of programs. It consists of 10 different programs that range in intensity from a 60-minute, small-group bystander session, where we teach students how to recognize signs of when somebody might be at risk and how you can intervene safely, to a large-group presentation by the Victims Resource Center, to an online test on our sexual misconduct policy. Each one is intended to build on and complement the others."

Among the notable approaches Wilkes uses in its program is a five-minute video that shows how bystanders can identify and intervene against possible sexual misconduct. Produced by alumni filmmakers Ryan Wood '13 and Todd Oravic '13, the video features Wilkes students playing roles in scenarios set in a realistic party setting.



### CAMPUS GATEWAY PROJECT LAUNCHED

Wilkes broke ground for its \$1 million campus gateway project in April.

The project, pictured in this artist's rendering, will create a dramatic entryway to the Wilkes campus on South Main Street between the University Center on Main and 141 S. Main. The gateway will lead across South Franklin Street to the heart of campus on the Fenner Quadrangle. New safety features include raised pedestrian crosswalks on South Main and South Franklin streets. The project is expected to be completed in August 2015.

## Creative Writing Program Celebrates 10th Anniversary

The low-residency graduate creative writing program will celebrate a decade focusing on the craft and business of writing when it observes its 10th anniversary during the June 2015 residency. A 10th anniversary gala is planned for Saturday, June 20, for current students, faculty and alumni of the program. Other festivities during residency week from June 19-26 will include the June 24 dedication of the creative writing building as the Harold Cox Building. The new name honors Harold Cox, history professor emeritus, who teaches the research class for creative writing and who is a special benefactor of the program.

## PUBLISHING POWERHOUSE

Wilkes creative writing faculty, students and alumni have:

 Published over **100** NOVELS, MEMOIRS, NONFICTION WORKS

 Produced over **50** PLAYS

Published over **30**  CHAPBOOKS OR POETRY COLLECTIONS

 Produced over **40** NEW FILMS

Published **HUNDREDS** OF ARTICLES, POEMS AND SHORT STORIES

## Raymond Dombroski '78 and Stelios Patsiokas '75 Join Board of Trustees

Two alumni with distinguished careers in developing communications systems have joined the Wilkes University Board of Trustees.

Raymond E. Dombroski '78 of Malvern, Pa., has been with Comcast Corporation since 2000 and now serves as senior vice president of product development and voice development. After receiving his electrical engineering degree from Wilkes, he began his career in communications with RCA Laboratories in satellite and video systems in Princeton, N.J. In 1988, he was founding partner of Metrophone/Metromedia, where as vice president of engineering and operations, he built satellites and developed the cellular communications company. The company was sold to Comcast in 1992.

Stelios Patsiokas '75 of Deerfield Beach, Fla., is the chief innovation officer and corporate vice president for Sirius XM Satellite Radio, where he has worked for 15 years. A native of Serres, Greece, Patsiokas came to Wilkes University on a full academic scholarship and graduated with a degree in electrical engineering. After earning a master's degree and doctorate in electrical engineering from Virginia Tech, he went on to a career at Motorola. He was hired by XM Satellite Radio in 1998 and with his team of engineers created the technology that allowed satellite radio to fly. He's the holder of over 25 US patents in the areas of RF communication systems and wireless devices. Patsiokas was the University's May 2014 commencement speaker.



Raymond E. Dombroski '78



Stelios Patsiokas '75

## Zebra Communications Marks 15 Years of Helping the Non-profit Sector



Communication studies majors Talia Pantano and Marisa Farronato accept the award honoring Zebra Communications as top fundraiser for the Salvation Army. Presenting the award is Herbert "Chip" Godfrey of the Salvation Army's advisory board.

When it comes to earning their stripes in public relations, Wilkes students have a head start thanks to the student-run agency Zebra Communications. The organization, founded in January 2000, is observing its 15th year of providing both service to the Wyoming Valley community and hands-on experience to communication studies students.

Established by Jane Elmes-Crahall, agency executive director and professor of communication studies, Zebra works with non-profit organizations in the community. More than 100 agencies have been clients since its founding, including Candy's Place, the Victims Resource Center, Children's Miracle Network, the Wyoming Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Wilkes-Barre Area Educational Improvement Foundation and the Salvation Army.

Recalling how she established the agency, Elmes-Crahall says, "Establishing Zebra was a logical next step after including real clients from the community in every public relations course that I taught at Wilkes since 1985, when I was first hired."

Public relations services have been provided and more than \$100,000 has been raised by Zebra for these agencies. More than \$18,000 of that amount has been raised for The Salvation Army, a Zebra client since 2006. The account team from Wilkes was recognized in 2014 as its top fundraiser, beating out 60 other groups that raise funds for the organization. It's the fourth time Zebra has come in first.



# Quiet Conqueror

## Matt Grossman Becomes Wilkes' First National Champion Wrestler in Decades

By Bill Thomas '13

When you meet Matt Grossman, Wilkes' first wrestler to win a national championship since 1975, he may not be what you'd expect. As dominating and aggressive as the Lancaster, Pa., native is on the mat, in person he's soft-spoken and modest. Though his accomplishments are impressive—in addition to upsetting two top-ranked wrestlers to win the 2015 NCAA Division III 133-pound national championship, Grossman was also named Middle Atlantic Conference Rookie and Wrestler of the Year—he is humble and grateful for his opportunities.

"I had a lot of great help. (Wilkes University junior and fellow wrestler) Guessepe Rea was a great practice partner, and our coaches are amazing," says Grossman, a freshman management major. "Coming in as a freshman, I had some high goals for myself. Once I started wrestling some of the better kids in the country, some of the kids who are ranked really high, who are All-American status, and I actually started beating them, I realized my goals could be even higher."

Grossman's trust in his coaches is something both he and head coach Jonathan Laudenslager '99 credit for his success. While Grossman is quick to share the credit, Laudenslager is equally quick to note that Grossman's achievements are rare for a reason.

"In my 12 years of coaching, I can think of maybe one other kid who's won a championship like this as a freshman. Matt has earned every bit of success he's had," Laudenslager says. "He remains steady from the first whistle to the last. He's got a great intensity level. I don't think there was a morning that went by that I didn't see him in the weight room getting an extra 30 minutes on the elliptical in."

Laudenslager says that the place where Grossman's intensity and consistency will help him most is in the classroom.

"He's been getting really good grades, and that's the most important thing. I always tell him, it doesn't matter if you're a four-time national champ. If you don't get a degree and a good education, we haven't really helped you," Laudenslager says.

Taking that advice to heart, Grossman is already thinking about the future. Of course, wrestling is still in Grossman's blood. His father was a wrestling coach. Grossman himself has been at it since first grade. That, he says, is one of the reasons he's paired his major with a minor in sports and event management.

"I've grown up around it. I can't imagine not being a wrestler. It's who I am," he says. "It will always be a part of my life, even after I'm done competing, whether I'm coaching or something along the lines of that."

# Many Happy Returns

## Faculty Pay Forward Their Wilkes Experience in the Classroom

By Helen Kaiser, additional reporting and research by Francisco Tutella and Bill Thomas '13

### LIKE THE THEME FROM THE TELEVISION SHOW "CHEERS,"

Wilkes is a place where everybody knows your name according to assistant professor of nursing Joyce Chmil '87 M.H.A. '91, M.A. '07, M.S. '10.

Wilkes was—and is—a comfortable place. "Faculty talked to you like you were made to be here," she says, recalling her student days.

She's not alone. For about three dozen faculty members who earned Wilkes undergraduate degrees, there's just something about the University that creates a striking affinity—so striking that it drew them back to campus to continue the relationship with their alma mater.

These faculty are forging links with today's generation of students in hopes of giving back some of what they received when they were students. They remember the positive experiences they had with accessible professors in a welcoming atmosphere.

Unanimously, the returnees recalled faculty who made a difference in their lives and inspired them to achieve success in their careers. They emulate them in teaching today's students.

Several of these alumni share thoughts about their return—and about the "aha moment" when they knew college teaching was their calling.



## Scott Bolesta Pharm.D. '00

### ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, PHARMACY PRACTICE

PHARM.D., WILKES



**CAREER PATH:** After graduating in the inaugural class of Wilkes' doctor of pharmacy program—he was literally the first to receive his diploma—Bolesta completed a pharmacy practice residency at the University of Arizona Medical Center in Tucson and a critical care pharmacy residency at the University of Kentucky Medical Center in Lexington. He then worked as a critical care clinical pharmacist at Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore and as a clinical pharmacist in critical care and cardiovascular medicine at Geisinger Medical Center.

**RETURNING TO WILKES:** "Even while doing my post-graduate work I knew I wanted to return to academia," he says.

Bolesta worked at hospitals to get the practical patient-care experience he could share with his future students. When a position at Wilkes became available, he knew that he'd had a positive experience there as a student and that he and his wife wanted to move back home to be near their families and begin one of their own. Bolesta is married to the former Kelly West Pharm.D. '01, and they have two sons: Andrew, 8, and Brian, 3.

**BIGGEST INFLUENCE:** Dr. Anne Lin, former chair of the pharmacy practice department, Hue Tran, who taught cardiology pharmacy, and Wendy McKenzie, critical care pharmacy, were mentors.

**AHA MOMENT:** "I get the same feeling as a faculty member that I had as a student—but from a different perspective. At a small university campus it's easy to have an informal exchange between students and faculty. Whether it's a five-minute, 20-minute or an hour-long conversation about career choices and the future, these are aspects a student can't get just sitting in the classroom."

PHOTOS BY  
EARL & SEDOR  
PHOTOGRAPHIC



# David R. Carey '83 M.S.'98

## ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND INTERIM CHAIR, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

B.S., ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING; M.S., ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, BOTH FROM WILKES PH.D., CLARKSON UNIVERSITY.



**CAREER PATH:** After graduation, Carey worked full-time as an engineer at the Tobyhanna Army Depot while pursuing his master's degree. He subsequently worked as an engineer for several private firms, eventually assuming leadership roles in those companies. He returned to Tobyhanna before being hired full-time at Wilkes.

**RETURNING TO WILKES:** While earning his master's degree, Carey gave a presentation on integrated circuits to the Wilkes faculty. His presentation so impressed Professor Thyagarajan Srinivasan that he asked Carey to teach as an adjunct. When a full-time position opened in 2013, Carey was hired.

**AHA MOMENT:** As an engineer, Carey developed test systems for antilock brakes, automotive speed control, Blackberry phones and even the very first Xbox video game console.

Carey says, "I look back and I say, 'Okay, the antilock brakes and the safety devices, those things have meaning to me.' But the Xbox? How is that going to affect the rest of the world compared to a student I have who's going to go out and design something that could possibly save a life or change the world?"

**BIGGEST INFLUENCE:** Carey cites two faculty from his undergraduate days: professors Gary Dolny and Umid Nejb. Dolny connected course material to its real-world application, while Nejb, famous for his toughness, instilled discipline.

**CAREER PATH:** Charnetski worked two years for Systems Research Company in Philadelphia while pursuing his doctorate. The company had various contracts with government agencies to perform systems psychology studies.

**RETURNING TO WILKES:** While attending a conference in New York City to present his dissertation, Charnetski encountered Robert Riley, former chair of Wilkes' psychology department, who invited him to apply for a faculty position.

**BIGGEST INFLUENCE:** Charnetski entered college as a history major, but he switched to psychology after taking an introductory course from Riley.

"He was an interesting and entertaining lecturer, and I knew this is what I wanted to study for the rest of my life: human behavior," Charnetski says. He has tried to emulate his mentor in hopes of inspiring a new generation.

**AHA MOMENT:** In 2001 Charnetski authored a book about his research, *Feeling Good is Good for You: How Pleasure Can Boost Your Immune System and Lengthen Your Life*. That led to an invitation to speak at the 92nd Street Y in New York City—renowned as an intellectual venue for culture, arts, entertainment and conversation.

While the auspicious appearance was meaningful, he says he also derives much pleasure out of seeing his students at Wilkes go on to earn their doctorates and achieve success in their fields—knowing that he has played a significant role in their lives.

# Carl Charnetski '70

## PROFESSOR, PSYCHOLOGY

B.A., PSYCHOLOGY, WILKES  
M.A., PH.D., PSYCHOLOGY,  
TEMPLE UNIVERSITY



# Joyce Victor Chmil '87 M.H.A.'91 M.A.'07 M.S.'10

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,  
NURSING, AND DIRECTOR  
OF THE CLINICAL NURSING  
SIMULATION CENTER**

B.S., NURSING, M.H.A.,  
M.A., CREATIVE WRITING,  
M.S., NURSING,  
ALL FROM WILKES

PH.D., DUQUESNE  
UNIVERSITY



**CAREER PATH:** You could almost say Chmil never left Wilkes—save for attending Duquesne University in Pittsburgh to earn a nursing doctorate in 2014.

As an undergrad, a working professional taking graduate classes or an adult educator teaching CPR here, Chmil always felt at home at Wilkes. Her early years in nursing were spent in the critical care unit at Nanticoke State General Hospital and the progressive care unit at Mercy Hospital in Wilkes-Barre.

When the opportunity arose for an education position within the hospital she accepted it. This put her in the right place at the right time to fill a vacancy at the Wilkes' nursing learning resource center, now the Clinical Nursing Simulation Center.

**RETURNING TO WILKES:** Chmil was hired in 2004 and became a tenure-track faculty member last fall.

**BIGGEST INFLUENCE:** Mary Ann Merrigan, now associate dean in the School of Nursing, worked in the learning resource center when Chmil was an undergraduate, interacted with her when Chmil taught CPR classes at Wilkes adult education, and was the one who hired her to direct the Clinical Nursing Simulation Center.

**AHA MOMENT:** "I just love teaching—especially when you see the light bulb go on for a student because you explained something a different way and they finally got it. That's a great moment," Chmil says.

**CAREER PATH:** After graduating from Wilkes, Churcher worked for the American Lung Association in the Wyoming Valley doing fundraising and public relations. She later joined the *Times Leader*, where she worked for seven years, first for its weekly newspaper and later moving to the newsroom, where she reported on crime, courts, politics and education.

**RETURNING TO WILKES:** "One of the faculty members here, Jane Elmes-Crahall, (communication studies professor) contacted me while I was still working at the *Times Leader* and asked me if I wanted to teach a public speaking class." Churcher discovered she loved teaching, and it prompted her to earn her doctorate. She taught at Niagara University in New York for six years before coming to Wilkes in fall 2014.

**AHA MOMENT:** Churcher says, "Being the advisor for *The Beacon* was something that I really looked forward to and have fallen in love with. Even though I don't do much freelance writing for newspapers anymore, I still have ink in my blood, and I get to do that with the students here."

**BIGGEST INFLUENCE:** She admires the relationship that Elmes-Crahall has with her students and tries to emulate her. She also remembers Bradford Kinney, professor emeritus of communication studies. "He had so much energy and passion, and that's something I try to incorporate into my classes," she says. Perhaps most importantly, she remembers the sense of ethics that she learned from journalism professor Tom Bigler. "It's an honor to be filling the role he filled here all those years ago."

# Kalen Churcher '96

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,  
COMMUNICATION STUDIES,  
AND ADVISOR FOR THE BEACON**

B.A., COMMUNICATION  
STUDIES, WILKES

M.S., UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON

PH.D., THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY





# Holly Frederick '92

## ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

B.S., ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING, WILKES

M.S. AND PH.D., THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY.



**CAREER PATH:** Frederick's college internship with a private corporation was illuminating. Squirreled away inside a warehouse, she filed industry regulatory updates into a 10-foot long row of binders. It was an essential job in the days before the Internet, but Frederick found it wasn't for her. "It pushed me to go on to graduate school."

**RETURNING TO WILKES:** Frederick learned that Wilkes was in need of an adjunct professor to teach a mechanical engineering CAD lab. While it wasn't her specialty, she jumped at the opportunity. She also told an undergraduate mentor, Sid Halsor, professor of environmental engineering and earth science, that she'd be available if any environmental science courses needed staffing. She gradually taught more courses and was hired full time, first as a visiting assistant professor in 2009 and as assistant professor in 2013.

**BIGGEST INFLUENCE:** She easily lists Halsor; Mike Case, retired professor, geoenvironmental science and engineering; Owen Faut, professor of chemistry emeritus; and John Orehtsky, professor of physics and engineering—saying they encouraged her as a student and were later a pleasure to work with as colleagues.

**AHA MOMENT:** Frederick says one of the things she has discovered is that different students learn in different ways. "I know that I need to reinforce what I teach in lectures in the lab setting and to use real-world examples too. Hopefully everything becomes clearer the more ways you present it."

**CAREER PATH:** Gardner jokes that he didn't have to apply for a job. School districts called the University and told them what jobs needed to be filled. "I started teaching history in 1967 at Northwest Area High School and was playing music on weekends with Eddie Day and the Starfires," Gardner recalls. "I was torn between teaching and music. The band had written songs, recorded, and achieved local and regional success. But early on I decided I really liked what I was doing in the classroom."

After earning his doctorate, he entered the administration at Northwest, becoming assistant principal, principal and finally superintendent of schools.

**RETURNING TO WILKES:** "By 2003, I'd been at Northwest Area School District for 36 years. Things were going well and I started looking for a new challenge and a place to refresh myself. I retired from Northwest and came back to Wilkes as an adjunct professor. I was hired full time in 2007."

**AHA MOMENT:** Gardner says he enjoys developing partnerships with local schools that allow students to experience what he calls "authentic teaching situations" where they can grow and develop.

**BIGGEST INFLUENCE:** "My mentor was Dr. Doug Lynch, who's now department chair of education at the University of New England. I stepped into his position here."

# Robert S. Gardner '67 M.S. '72

## ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION

B.A., HISTORY,  
M.S., HISTORICAL  
EDUCATION, WILKES

PH.D., TEMPLE UNIVERSITY



# Del M. Lucent '03

## ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS

B.S., BIOLOGY, B.A., PHYSICS, WILKES

M.S., PH.D., STANFORD UNIVERSITY



**CAREER PATH:** After graduating from Wilkes with two degrees, Lucent spent a year working at his father's winery in upstate New York before entering graduate school at Stanford University. He credits his Wilkes experience with enabling him to enter the prestigious graduate program. "Every semester after my freshman year at Wilkes, I performed research and was a teaching assistant. This enabled me to cultivate strong relationships with my professors, who wrote me great letters of recommendation. That and my two degrees set me apart when I applied to Stanford," he says.

He never considered becoming a biophysicist before entering Stanford, which has a particle accelerator and where Vijay Pande introduced him to the Folding@home project. He completed his doctorate and, in January 2010, he went to Australia, where he worked in biomanufacturing at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Australia's national science agency, until June 2012. "As a bioengineer I designed enzymes, combining experimentation and theoretical work."

**RETURNING TO WILKES:** Lucent joined the Wilkes faculty in June 2012. "When I graduated in 2003, I was the last physics graduate. In 2012, the University was bringing back the B.A. in physics and starting a master's program in bioengineering," Lucent says. "I never thought the opportunity to pursue bioengineering in my hometown would show up. Plus in Australia I was half a world away from my family, which was hard."

**BIGGEST INFLUENCE:** Lucent entered Wilkes planning to become a medical doctor. "After my first year I discovered that I really liked physics, and I decided to also major in biology because I planned to go to medical school. Then I realized that my interest wasn't in medicine but biology. The way Dr. (William) Terzaghi, biology professor, taught his introduction to biology course, asking why the world is as it is, sparked an interest in molecular research."

**AHA MOMENT:** "My experience in world travel has put me in a position to be a more effective advisor, especially to students like me," Lucent says. "When you've been far away, you see your hometown differently, you see the good. I believe Wilkes is a special place. Being here and being able to give students the opportunities that Wilkes gave me is fulfilling. These are students with the same hopes and problems I had as an undergraduate. I find it fulfilling to go out of my way and help them attain their goals."

MORE  
ON THE  
WEB

More than 30 Wilkes faculty earned their undergraduate degrees at the University. Is your favorite faculty mentor among them? Check out our More On The Web feature to see the full list of faculty who earned their undergraduate degrees at Wilkes and learn more about them. Go to [www.wilkes.edu/facultyalumni](http://www.wilkes.edu/facultyalumni).



# Marianne Rexer '85

**PROFESSOR, ACCOUNTING,  
JAY S. SIDHU SCHOOL  
OF BUSINESS AND  
LEADERSHIP**

B.S., ACCOUNTING,  
WILKES

M.S., BRYANT  
UNIVERSITY

PH.D., DREXEL  
UNIVERSITY



**CAREER PATH:** Rexer began her career in an auditing position with a national firm in Boston and later its tax department in Providence, R.I. She then taught accounting at Johnson and Wales University in Providence, R.I.

**RETURNING TO WILKES:** A native of Mt. Carmel, Pa., Rexer says she moved back in 1990 to take a teaching position at Wilkes. “The truth is I never expected to stay in Pennsylvania, because I liked travel. I thought I’d stay a few years and then find another adventure.”

Over the past 25 years, however, she has loved watching her students develop.

**BIGGEST INFLUENCE:** Rexer says the best accounting professor she ever had was Fred Croop, formerly at Wilkes and now dean of the College of Professional Studies and Social Sciences, Misericordia University. “He would look at how you were doing a problem and try to understand why. You have to teach different students differently, by taking into consideration how they are thinking.”

**AHA MOMENT:** At her first job, as she taught others the high-tech skills they needed, Rexer found that she liked teaching people how to do things. Being back at Wilkes, she has felt the connections with the students and with the time when she was a student here.

“I was, am and always will be a Waller girl,” she says, recalling her years as a Wilkes student living in the Tudor Revival-style mansion known as Waller Hall.

# Matthew Sowcik '00

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, LEADERSHIP STUDIES,  
JAY S. SIDHU SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND LEADERSHIP**

B.A., PSYCHOLOGY, WILKES

M.A., COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

PH.D., GONZAGA UNIVERSITY, SPOKANE, WASH.



**CAREER PATH:** Sowcik worked at Cigna in New York City in organizational development and human resources while pursuing his master’s degree.

**RETURNING TO WILKES:** The tragedy of 9-11 triggered a desire to return to family in northeast Pennsylvania. He began consulting

for companies like La-Z-Boy, *The New York Times* and Mohegan Sun. He also became an adjunct instructor in Wilkes’ psychology department.

He was encouraged by former Wilkes President Tim Gilmour, Jay Sidhu MBA ’13 and former Sidhu School Dean Paul Browne to go for a Ph.D. in leadership studies. As a result, he transitioned from administrative staff member to full tenure-track faculty member.

**BIGGEST INFLUENCE:** Sowcik likes to say that he and his brothers “grew up” at Wilkes because their father, Mark Sowcik, campus psychologist, was instrumental in developing the counseling program for the student affairs department. Now, full circle, Matt Sowcik’s daughter, Marrisa, will enter Wilkes in the fall. Sowcik also recalls that it was Professor Carl Charnetski ’70 who recognized his passion for industrial organization psychology and gave it a boost by involving him in research. He also cites Jeffrey Alves, dean of the Sidhu School, Anne Heineman Batory ’68, professor, and Marianne Rexer ’85, professor.

**AHA MOMENT:** “I fondly remember being at Wilkes with my father; now I see my own children here. Every Tuesday we go to the cafeteria together. With my students, I see that passion for leadership that I remember discovering.”



# The Fine Art of **HUMOR**

**Joe Dettmore '76  
Makes *The Daily Show*  
A Visual Masterpiece**

By Jacqueline Lukas '11

Joe Dettmore '76 relaxes during a lull in production on the set of *The Daily Show*, where he's left his mark as creative director.

PHOTOS BY DAN Z. JOHNSON



## IT WAS FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND MOST

of Joe Dettmore's co-workers had left. He was relaxing in the break room when a visitor asked for directions.

The man, a little disoriented, said, "How do you get out of here?"

It was only later that Dettmore realized he'd just spoken with one of the most influential filmmakers in history: Martin Scorsese.

It's all part of a typical day for Dettmore '76, creative director at *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*.

During his decade on the satirical entertainment news show, he's turned around while at his desk and seen J.K. Rowling, Christopher Walken, Billy Crystal, Robin Williams, Steve Jobs and President Barack Obama. However, that hasn't made him star struck. "It's just regular people doing their jobs," says Dettmore.

With host Jon Stewart leaving in August 2015, Dettmore—who plans to stay on—reflects on work behind the scenes at one of the most lauded shows in television history. It's received 50 Emmy nominations and won 19. The Peabody Awards—considered the equivalent of a Pulitzer Prize for broadcasting—honored the show twice for election coverage, in 2000 and 2005.

"It's an historical thing. People have tried to imitate it, but no one can do it like we do on a daily basis," says Dettmore. "It's not only Jon, but also all of the pieces behind the scenes and people who work very hard every day. As the creative director, my work consists of all the graphics you see on the show. I'm challenged every day because the graphics we create have to fit a joke. They have to be funny and be conveyed in the correct way."

His colleagues are quick to acknowledge his contributions. Jen Flanz, *Daily Show* executive producer, says, "Joe's hard work and dedication to *The Daily Show* has always been a great asset to our team. His creativity and talent, as well as his ability to visualize a joke, is a big part of what makes our machine work."

The visual jokes are diverse. A logo for a restaurant called Olive Bucks combined elements of Starbucks and Olive Garden. A story about racist remarks made at a University of Oklahoma fraternity led to changing a familiar beer can to read "Bud White."

A first-generation college student when he came to Wilkes, he is thankful for training as a fine arts major. "I still think one of the most important things about my job is the fact that I can draw," says Dettmore. "A lot of people are under the impression that if you know Photoshop, then you should be able to do it all."

A Wilkes-Barre native, Dettmore has been in the news business for 35 years. He got his start when he returned home after pursuing a master's degree at Syracuse University from 1977 to 1978. A rugby club teammate told him about a job at WDAU, Channel 22 in Scranton. Dettmore describes his responsibilities in that first job, saying, "photographer, editor, designer, courtroom sketch artist, studio camera operator, film processor and whatever

else needed to done. Invaluable experience!" His next stop was WNEP, Channel 16, also in Scranton, before moving to network jobs at *Good Morning, America* on ABC and the *NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw*.

Dettmore left NBC to become design director at WFSB, Channel 3 in Hartford, Conn., where his team won three New England regional Emmys for graphic design and more than 12 Broadcast Design Association Awards. His former boss at NBC hired Dettmore to help launch MSNBC, where he received three national Emmys for broadcast design for the graphic look of the network, before joining *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* in 2005.

Years of practice as a news artist gave Dettmore skills to meet the *The Daily Show's* tight deadlines. Preliminary scripts arrive at noon with what Dettmore describes as "solid scripts" coming at 2 p.m. outlining graphic needs for a 4 p.m.



Joe Dettmore '76, left, is the man behind the sight gags for *Daily Show* host Jon Stewart, who leaves the show in August.

**Joe Dettmore '76,**  
Rutherford, N.J.

**Bachelor of Fine Arts,**  
Fine Arts, Wilkes

**Career:** Creative Director  
for *The Daily Show with*  
*Jon Stewart*

**Notable:** While at Wilkes,  
Dettmore was one of the only  
students to play football and  
major in fine arts.

**Favorite Wilkes memory:**  
Some of his greatest friends  
are still those he met at Wilkes.

rehearsal. There's more fine-tuning after rehearsal, with edits from Stewart and the producers that need to be completed by 6 p.m. for the show's taping.

The most recent challenge for *Daily Show* staff was the announcement that Stewart would leave in August. Stewart personally told the crew. Dettmore, has nothing but praise for him. "Jon is a really hard-working guy. Of course he's very talented and he's a comedic genius, but he's worked very hard to accomplish all that he has." He says that Comedy Central fully intends to keep the show on the air. Comedian Trevor Noah has been named as replacement.

While Dettmore is staying with the show, he's taking improvisation and storytelling classes in New York City. He's also come full circle with the subject of the play he's writing. Its action centers on a Wilkes-Barre rugby club.





Left, Dr. Thomas Kaschak '75 practices podiatry in Fresno, Calif. Right top, On a trip to Vietnam, Kaschak, right, is assisted in surgery by Dr. Bac Si Ky. Below, American colleague Dr. Allen Jones explains an x-ray to a patient, while Dr. Stephen Bui, Dr. Do Van Thanh and Kaschak listen.



# HUMANITARIAN EFFORT

**Dr. Thomas J. Kaschak '75 Heals with the Vietnam Medical Project**  
By Rachel Luann Strayer MFA '12



THIS PHOTO COURTESY KAISER PERMANENTE. OTHER PHOTOS BY CISSY KASCHAK

When Dr. Thomas J. Kaschak '75 was invited to join colleagues and residents from the Stanford University School of Medicine on a 1998 trip to Vietnam, he thought it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Kaschak, now a podiatrist with Kaiser Permanente Medical Group in Fresno, Calif., recalls thinking, “When am I ever going to do this again?”

He now knows the answer: In May 2015, Kaschak will make his 15th trip there. Trips are now made under the auspices of the Vietnam Medical Project, the humanitarian group he directs.

On that first trip, Kaschak was awed by the landmarks he recognized from news coverage of the Vietnam War. Arriving at the Da Nang Orthopedic and Rehabilitation Center, wonder turned to shock when his first patient walked in on his hands and feet because his knees bent forward instead of back.

“I expected typical hammertoes and bunions,” recalls Kaschak, a native of Hazleton, Pa. Instead, the common ailment was clubfoot, a condition of the foot rotating inward rather than pointing straight out from the body.

“Not only was I unprepared for what I had to do surgically, but with what little supplies were there....I was very humbled,” Kaschak says. For 12 days he performed surgery in tight



quarters with few supplies. When clinic director Dr. Hoang Van Cue invited him to return the following year, Kaschak’s first response was no.

“I thought I made a mistake in going,” he says of the initial visit.

He couldn’t forget the invitation. In 1999 Kaschak went back for three weeks, joined by his wife of 32 years, Cissy. “What we saw was heartbreaking,” Kaschak says. “At the end of that first day she just broke down.”

Kaschak says his wife immediately loved Vietnam, reaffirming his own feelings. “I was falling in love with the people and the country.”





Above, Kaschak enjoys a moment with Ca, the grandson of a Vietnamese friend and restaurant owner. Right, Kaschak instructs Kaiser Permanente medical resident Dr. Annie Nguyentat during surgery. Nguyentat accompanied him on a 2013 trip to Vietnam.

Cissy has since been dubbed the unofficial social director of their trips. Kaschak describes a formal meeting with the prime minister about the Ministry of Labour—Invalids and Social Affairs wanting to close the Da Nang clinic. Cissy relaxed the atmosphere by asking questions about the minister’s wife and children. “We were drinking buddies by the end!” says Kaschak. The minister agreed to keep the clinic open and to build the new Da Nang Women and Children’s Hospital, completed in 2012.

After studying biology at Wilkes, Kaschak followed his roommate, Dr. Louis Caputo’77, to San Francisco, where he graduated from the California School of Podiatric Medicine. He completed a two-year residency in Detroit. His career has included work at the VA Palo Alto (Calif.) Health Care System, and his time with the Stanford medical residency program, which first brought him to Vietnam. He worked at the San José Medical Group before joining Kaiser Permanente, where he was honored with the Sidney R. Garfield Exceptional Contribution Award in 2012 for his work in Vietnam. In a video developed for the award presentation, his colleague neurologist Don Yoshimura said, “Tom is a humble and unassuming guy who has been able to achieve some extraordinary things.”

**Dr. Thomas Kaschak, Clovis, Calif.**

**Bachelor of Science, Biology, Wilkes**

**Doctor of Podiatric Medicine, California School of Podiatric Medicine**

**Career:** Podiatrist, Kaiser Permanente Medical Group, Fresno, Calif.

**Notable:** Founder of the Vietnam Medical Project, which brings free surgeries and medical care to Vietnam.

**Favorite Wilkes Memory:** Working as a teaching assistant in several biology labs and daily walks along the river with his Irish setter, Cory. The dog drew the attention of many students. “Just about everyone knew his name but not mine!” Kaschak says.



Kaschak believes he benefits more from the experience in Vietnam than his patients. He remembers a little girl with two clubfeet who cried at the sight of her foot pointing forward for the first time. She waited a year so he could be the one to perform surgery on her other foot. Another time, the father of a patient wanted to repay Kaschak, who joked that he would love a cold drink. The man returned with a leaf wrapped around a cold can of Coke—the only payment Kaschak has ever received for his work.

“These are the things that bring you back,” Kaschak says.

Another reward has been watching the growth of Dr. Do Van Thanh, a young resident who “wouldn’t even suture” during Kaschak’s first visit. Thanh visited Kaschak in 2003 and returned to the United States in 2008, working at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital and studying the Ponseti Method, a nonsurgical treatment for clubfoot. Thanh is now acting hospital director in Da Nang. “He performs hip surgeries,” says Kaschak. “He instructs me.”

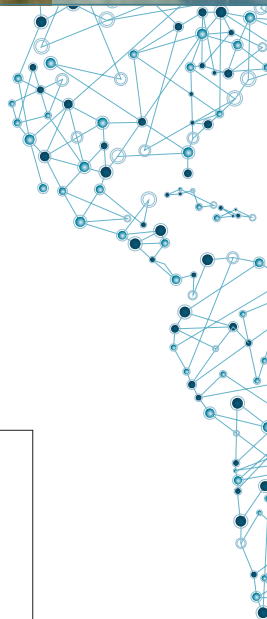
“Providing the tools we need to do the job is the biggest challenge,” he says. Kaschak is applying for non-profit status for the Vietnam Medical Project to help raise funds for equipment. Podiatrists, orthopedic surgeons, pediatricians, and obstetrician/gynecologists will join his trips. Seventeen years ago, Kaschak would not have imagined it. Now he says, “I can’t see me not doing this well into the future.”





Randa Fahmy pauses in front of the White House—a familiar part of the landscape in her career in government and as a consultant in Washington, D.C.  
PHOTOS BY STEVE BARRETT

# ENGINEERING DIPLOMACY



Randa Fahmy '86 Negotiates  
in the International Arena

By Geoff Gehman





Randa Fahmy '86 was working overtime to broker a deal between her client, a well-known American maker of highly sensitive defense equipment, and a Middle Eastern country well known for working with Americans. Along the way the international strategist discovered a fairly odd obstacle. Middle Eastern officials, she learned, were reluctant to award a contract to an American corporation that sent them representatives from their European branches.

She ordered her client to fly a half-dozen American employees, including a receptionist, to meet the Middle Eastern leaders the next day. Then she moderated two days of intense discussions, insisting to her hosts that her nearly century-old American client could indeed obtain a large number of complex U.S. government licenses to sell its equipment.

The project ended up taking six years, a dozen flights and all of Fahmy's skills as a boots-on-the-ground business negotiator and diplomatic translator. Getting all sides to speak the same language—even when they speak the same language—is her specialty as founding president of Fahmy Hudome International, a consulting firm that specializes in market-entry strategy and energy policy. She succeeds by combining comprehensive knowledge, fierce logic and feisty humor.

Fahmy grew up in a truly worldly home. She and her siblings, Roya Fahmy '82 and Raef Fahmy '84, were encouraged to embrace foreign cultures from Lebanon to Italy by their mother, Iran, a native of Iran, and their Egyptian father, Mahmoud, now a Wilkes emeritus professor of education. "Our parents always taught us to have a healthy understanding of the world," says Fahmy, a member of the Wilkes board of trustees. "They told us how equally important everyone was, how important it was to be a good global citizen."

Fahmy majored in political science and international relations at Wilkes. Her interest in law was sparked by a summer internship with Robert Gillespie, the Luzerne County district attorney. Her interest in politics was sparked by working for H. John Heinz III, the late Pennsylvania senator. Her desire to work in Washington was sealed by volunteering on a congressional campaign for Kingston native Marc Holtzman.

Fahmy received a law degree from Georgetown University, joined a blue-chip law firm in Washington and worked as a congressional liaison for the National Association of Arab Americans. Lobbying for peace through diplomacy earned her the position of foreign-policy counselor to Sen. Spencer Abraham of Michigan. When he became U.S. secretary of energy in 2001, she became the associate deputy secretary of energy under George W. Bush.

An energy-policy novice, Fahmy brought herself up to speed with six straight months of daily 45-minute tutorials from career civil servants. "Once you get a presidential order," she says, "you snap into shape." She snapped into shape enough to help supervise oil-emergency strategies for the International Energy Agency and to help write the first national energy policy, a playbook for diplomacy, security and self-sufficiency. She's particularly proud of launching a formal working group with the U.S., Canada and Mexico, a rare alliance between energy producers and consumers sharing borders and common interests.





Fahmy started her own consulting firm in 2003. The next year she was asked to represent Libya after the country had agreed to abandon its weapons of mass destruction in exchange for the Bush administration not deposing Muammar Gaddafi, its longtime dictator. Initially wary, she accepted the assignment largely because of the intriguing challenge of transitioning Libya off the U.S. list of terrorist countries.

For two years Fahmy lobbied for Libya's political transition. She secured the cooperation of the National Security Council and the Department of State, leveraging Libya's post-9/11 cooperation with American counter-terrorism officials. She received Capitol Hill support for the newly appointed Libyan ambassador to the U.S. Serving as a two-nation liaison, she communicated American policies concerning the Middle East.

This diplomatic engineering paid off in May 2006, when the Department of State removed Libya from its list of state sponsors of terrorism. "I can't tell you the process was easy or timely," says Fahmy. "I didn't expect it would take two years. On the day the Bush administration announced the removal, it was a mere one-day story in the


media. What I can tell you is that it was a very interesting foreign-policy study. The ultimate message is that peace is definitely better than war. As someone famously said, to make peace happen, you don't talk to your friends, you talk to your enemies."

Fahmy was criticized by those who perceived her as Libya's lobbyist. She didn't really mind the flak; for her, a flak jacket fits almost as comfortably as a Chanel suit. "You know you've made it when you've got enemies," she says with a laugh. "I tell people that when you Google me, don't believe the bad stuff and don't believe the good stuff. Just sit down with me and get to know me and I'll tell you the truth."

In 2006 Fahmy had another breakthrough. *The Wall Street Journal* published her op-ed piece "Hidden Assets," where she urged the U.S. government to employ loyal Arab- and Muslim-Americans to fight terrorism as diplomats, interpreters and intelligence advisors. The essay led to a

meeting with then-Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, which resulted in a new program dispatching Muslim- and Arab-Americans to other nations to explain religious diversity in America.

Fahmy stays sharp by outlining her missions with Roman numerals, a practice she learned at Wilkes and Georgetown. She stays sane by laughing. "Clearly, Washington is a rough-and-tumble place, and if you are involved in this world you cannot take yourself seriously," she says. "I've survived here for 30 years with a bit of humor and a lot of hard work and grit. I simply do not let anything bother me. I got that confidence from my parents, who told me: 'You can do anything you want to do.'"

Fahmy shares this message with her teenaged daughter. Alexandria's three passports contain the stamps of 14 countries. Her mental passport is stamped with the Fahmy family creed: "God blessed the United States, but he created the world." 

"THE ULTIMATE MESSAGE IS THAT PEACE IS DEFINITELY BETTER THAN WAR. AS SOMEONE FAMOUSLY SAID, TO MAKE PEACE HAPPEN, YOU DON'T TALK TO YOUR FRIENDS, YOU TALK TO YOUR ENEMIES."

### Randa Fahmy '86, Washington, D.C.

**Bachelor of Arts, Political Science and International Affairs, Wilkes; Juris Doctor, Georgetown University**

**Career:** President, Fahmy Hudome International, a government relations and strategic consulting firm in the nation's capitol.

**Notable:** Served as associate deputy secretary of energy under George W. Bush and, as a consultant, was instrumental in helping to re-establish U.S. diplomatic relations with Libya.

**Favorite Wilkes memories:** Having lunch and discussing philosophy with her father, professor emeritus of education Mahmoud Fahmy. She also fondly remembers bringing fellow students home on weekends to dinners featuring her mother's lasagna.



Fahmy stands at the corner of Connecticut Avenue and K Street, the famous corridor for Washington lawyers.

## 2015 Alumni Association Scholarship Recipient Named

The 2015 Alumni Association Scholarship was awarded to Adam Wychowanec '16, son of William Wychowanec '94. Adam is a junior double-majoring in business administration in management and marketing with a minor in leadership. He is president and Pennsylvania state secretary of Phi Beta Lambda, a business leadership organization, a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success and a phonathon student leader. "The most rewarding opportunity at Wilkes is the ability to do whatever you want. This scholarship has helped my family more than I can even imagine," says Adam.



Celebrating with Alumni Association Scholarship winner Adam Wychowanec are alumni association board members, from left, Tom Ralston '80; Ted Yeager '72; Dr. Jon Ference Pharm.D. '03; Taylor Moyer, student government president; Chris Sommer '94; Anita Mucciolo '78; Clayton Karambelas '49; Cindy Charnetski '97; scholarship recipient Wychowanec; Ellen Stamer Hall '71; Anastasia Mauger, senior class president; Bill LePore '94; Kristin Klemish '04; and John Sweeney '13.



## Take the Colonel to Work

For the past year, the Colonel has traveled the world with alumni, visiting places near and far. He's mingled with penguins in Antarctica with Cheryl Polak Woloski '80 and John Woloski Jr. '81; experienced landmarks in Iceland with Donna Talarico Beerman '00 MFA '10; posed with Elvis at Graceland with Amy Hetro MBA '12; and relaxed on the beach with many alumni in locations along the East Coast. Now it's time for the Colonel to get professional and join alumni in the workplace, like he did with these five alumni, pictured left. If you would like to bring the Colonel to work, contact the alumni office at [alumni@wilkes.edu](mailto:alumni@wilkes.edu) or (570)408-7787 and we'll send him to you. We'll share photos on our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/WilkesAlumni](http://www.facebook.com/WilkesAlumni). (Don't worry, you can still bring him on your road trips and other adventures!)

The Colonel traveled to work with these Wilkes alumni. Pictured from left to right at Pella Windows of New England are Kevin Gerhart '11, Alex Makos '14, David Hadley '82, owner of Pella Windows of New England, Anthony Griseto '12, and Jeff Simpson '11. Don't miss the Colonel in Makos' pocket!



# giving back

## Dr. Mark Stair '70 Shares Passion for Veterinary Practice With Wilkes Student

Wilkes junior biology major Brianna Smith's part-time position at the Trucksville Dog and Cat Hospital is more than a job. It's an opportunity to be mentored by Dr. Mark Stair '70 at his practice in Dallas, Pa., and to explore her passion for the veterinary field. Such opportunities with alumni are typical for Wilkes students during college.

Smith was able to connect with Stair through the assistance of Eileen Sharp, the pre-professional advisor at the University. "I've been working under Dr. Stair for eight months and have logged more than 700 experience hours," says Smith.

Smith, who is also minoring in chemistry, knows that this opportunity is unique and rewarding. "Thanks to Dr. Stair, I have never been more sure of what I want to spend the rest of my life doing," Smith says.

When Stair was an undergraduate biology student, mentorship opportunities were not as readily available, but he found a mentor in Charles Reif, professor emeritus of biology.

"He taught me and everyone who took his courses a great deal about the natural world," says Stair. "My relationship with Dr. Reif wouldn't fit the strict definition of a mentorship, but he saw in me someone with potential in the biological sciences and encouraged me every way he could."

Now Stair stresses the importance of gaining pre-professional experience for students before graduation.

"Today Wilkes students enjoy a pre-professional health sciences program which helps them prepare in the best way for application to professional schools, a valuable service which didn't exist when I was a Wilkes student," says Stair.

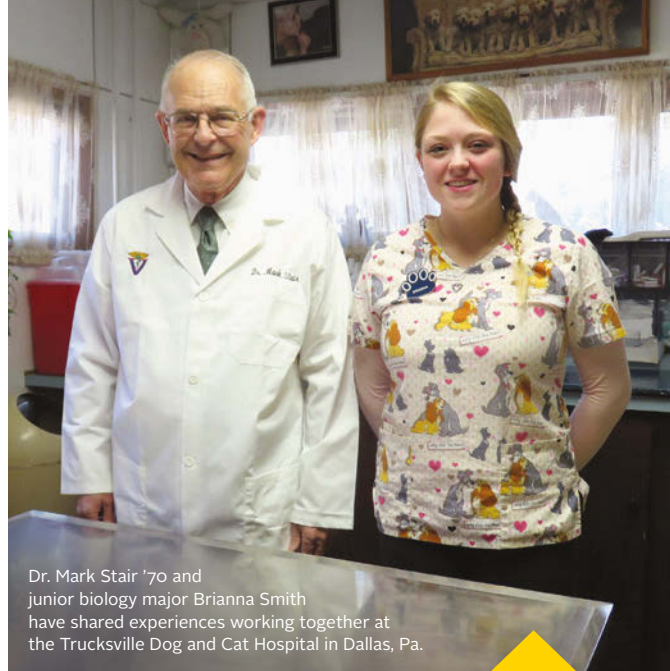
### Dr. Mark Stair '70, Trucksville, Pa.

Married to Maureen Clinton Stair '70

Bachelor of Science, Biology, Wilkes

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine,  
University of Pennsylvania

Career: Veterinarian at the Trucksville  
Dog and Cat Hospital



Dr. Mark Stair '70 and junior biology major Brianna Smith have shared experiences working together at the Trucksville Dog and Cat Hospital in Dallas, Pa.

**"It is my greatest hope that I can provide future students with an experience similar to what I have been given."** – Brianna Smith

Because Stair has someone watching and learning from what he does, he tries to embody what he believes is most important about being a practicing veterinarian, which is respect and compassion for all life, human and non-human.

"I try to convey to anyone who shadows or works for me that the veterinarian, first and foremost, has to put the animal's quality of life first, and all other considerations second," Stair says. "Brianna also sees the difficulty and frustration that can occur in trying to do this, but anything worthwhile, including veterinary medicine, will not always be easy."

Through Dr. Stair's time, patience and effort, Smith now understands all the demands associated with being a veterinarian.

"My future can go in many directions. As long as I land working with animals, I will be more than happy," says Smith.

Stair believes she can achieve her goal because of the passion for learning she displays. The mentoring experience has proven so valuable that Smith is already looking forward to the time she can provide it to students.

"It is my greatest hope that I can provide future students with an experience similar to what I have been given," says Smith.

## EMPLOY A WILKES INTERN

Did you know that 1,415 undergraduate Wilkes students have completed internships to gain valuable professional experience in real-world settings? You can help provide these opportunities by inquiring about internships with your organization and, if you're in a position to supervise an intern yourself, giving him or her access to your professional network. Students from any academic discipline, especially those in sports management, accounting, biology, criminology and computer science, can benefit from an internship. Share your opportunities by contacting the alumni office at [alumni@wilkes.edu](mailto:alumni@wilkes.edu) or (570)408-4134.





## A Brief History of Seven Killings Reaps Accolades for Marlon James MA '06

Marlon James MA '06's newest novel, *A Brief History of Seven Killings*, received a long list of accolades from the national and international literary community. Nominated for the PEN Open Book Award by the PEN American Center, *A Brief History of Seven Killings* placed on the BBC's "The Top 10 Books of 2014" and *The New York Times* Book Review's "Top 10 Books of 2014." It also was named a best book of the year by *The Washington Post*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Publishers Weekly* and *BuzzFeed Books*, among others. The novel received a 2015 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award and was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award for fiction. In April, James won a Minnesota Book Award for his novel. The book has also been optioned by HBO.

The nearly 700-page novel opens with the 1976 assassination attempt on reggae singer Bob Marley and chronicles the lives of gunmen, drug dealers, CIA agents and ghosts, taking readers from West Kingston, Jamaica, to New York City and back to Jamaica over a 30-year span.

James appeared on *Late Night with Seth Meyers* and discussed the inspiration for his novel. "I was writing a story about this sexually conflicted gay man in Chicago trying to kill this Jamaican guy," he said.



PHOTO BY JEFFREY SKEMP

James related how he "kept running into dead ends" with this and another character, and considered the stories failed attempts at novellas, until a friend told him that he was writing one story. And despite there being eight killings in the novel, James told Meyers he retained the original title because *A Brief History of Eight Killings* would be "so unsexy."

James was part of the first cohort of the Wilkes Graduate Creative Writing Program. He teaches English at Macalester College, St. Paul, Minn. James' other publications include the novels *John Crow's Devil* and *The Book of Night Women*, which was also a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award for fiction.

## Undergraduate Degrees

### 1964

**Gary Einhorn** visited southeast Asia, traveling through Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar, Thailand and South Korea from Jan. 2 to Feb. 8, 2015.

### 1968

**Roger Beatty** was inducted into the Plains, Pa., Sports Hall of Fame. Beatty was the last football coach at the former Plains Memorial High School. He also coached the junior high baseball team, leading

them to 106 wins, eight Wyoming Valley Conference championships and two District 2 titles.

**William Stinger** and **Phil Besler '76** completed the Beach to Battleship Half-Ironman triathlon in Wilmington, N.C. The triathlon consisted of a 1.2-mile open water swim, a 56-mile bike ride and a 13.1-mile run. The Colonel was there to cheer them on.

**Gail Wallen** is a staff chaplain at Banner University Medical Center, Tucson, Ariz. She is

also a consultant for Southern Arizona's Holocaust Group and is responsible for the development of Holocaust military programs, which include working with components of the German military in the United States.

### 1976

**Phil Besler** (See Undergraduate 1968).

### 1977

**Kurt Franke** retired in January 2015. He is now able to spend more time pursuing his public ministry.

### 1978

**James Siberski** presented "I Have What? What Do I Do?" at the Alzheimer's Association's fourth annual Early Stage Symposium "The Future of Dementia Care" on May 6 in Grantville, Pa. He is assistant professor and coordinator of the geriatric care management program at Misericordia University, Dallas, Pa.

**Clark Speicher** has been volunteering for three years with the American Diabetes Association Central New York Tour de Cure since retiring from the U.S. Air Force in

2008 and Lockheed Martin in 2012. Speicher is planning committee chair for the Tour de Cure, which is the largest single fundraiser for the American Diabetes Association in central New York.

### 1979

**Jeannie Swartz O'Donnell** and her husband, Norbert, own O'Donnell Winery LLC in Berwick, Pa. Jeannie is a senior consultant for Altegra Health in Los Angeles, Calif. She and her husband reside in Berwick with their two sons, Corrigan and Rory, and their dog, Olive.

### 1982

**Bruce R. Williams** was elected to the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians Board of Governors at its meeting in Las Vegas, Nev.

### 1983

**David Carey MS '98** has been named interim chair of the department of electrical engineering and physics at Wilkes. He, wife **Jen Ogurkis Carey '83** and son **John Carey '10 MS '12** formed Four Hound Solutions LLC. Daughter **Lauren Carey '08, MFA '12** developed the company's web page through her job with Web.com. Four Hound Solutions is located in downtown Wilkes-Barre in the Wilkes Enterprise Center.

**Ellen Van Riper** was appointed city attorney for the city of Winslow, Ariz., in May 2014.

### 1984

**Susan Havrilla Wasserott** was appointed to the position of director of legislative

affairs for the Maine Department of Labor. She lives in Woolwich, Maine.

### 1985

#### REUNION: OCT. 2-4

**Tom McGuire** was named the Eastern College Athletic Conference-Sports Information Directors Association's 2014 University Division Irving T. Marsh Award recipient. The annual award is presented to a person who has exhibited excellence in the field of sports information. McGuire is director of sports information/athletic marketing and promotions and assistant director of marketing communications at Bloomsburg University.

### 1986

**Paul Cummings** of Albany, N.Y., co-authored a mathematics article titled "Thickness of Feathers." The article appeared in the journal *Communications in Algebra, Volume 42, Issue 12, 2014*.

**David Orrson** of Shavertown, Pa., earned a promotion to vice president, credit administration manager, in the lending division at ESSA Bank & Trust. He manages credit administration, ensuring that loan-servicing activities comply with operative policies, procedures and regulatory requirements in the Lehigh Valley, Pocono Mountains, Wilkes-Barre and Scranton markets.

### 1988

**Deb Pavlico** published her nonfiction book *Conversations With Women: The Journey*

*Toward Self-Esteem*. A resident of Forty Fort, Pa., Pavlico is a self-employed counselor/psychotherapist and a licensed professional counselor in Pennsylvania. She also teaches part time at Marywood University.

### 1991

**James F. Burke** was appointed executive vice president and chief lending officer at Wayne Bank. He manages the commercial loan portfolio of the corporate bank and oversees the commercial lenders in Wayne, Lackawanna, Pike, Monroe and Luzerne counties and the Lehigh Valley.

### 1992

**Michael J. Mellody** earned a promotion to chief financial officer at Jack Williams Tire Company Inc.

### 1993

**Mark Malacavage** published a book of photography titled *My Cape May* with Schiffer Publishing. Malacavage is director of the senior living program at Bayada Home Health Care and lives in Trucksville, Pa.

### 1996

**Sarah Vandermark** started the Advising Success Center at New Jersey Institute of Technology. The center serves all transfer, undeclared freshman and at-risk students. Vandermark completed a doctorate in counselor education in May 2014.

### 1999

**Maggie Redmond** and Joel W. Lipperini were married

at Eagle Beach, Aruba, at a site overlooking the sunset. The bride received a master's degree in nursing from Widener University, Chester, Pa., and a master's degree in health care administration from Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas. She is employed at Regional Hospital of Scranton.

### 2000

#### REUNION: OCT. 2-4

**Nathan Lipton** was appointed to the board of directors



1992

**David Morris** was promoted to director of engineering for Pennsylvania at Frontier Communications. Morris resides in Olyphant with his wife, Dana, and daughters, Giavanna and Katarina.



1999

**Joseph Fadden** and his wife, Michele, welcomed their son, Bailey, on Jan. 21, 2015. Bailey measured 21 inches long and weighed 6 pounds, 7 ounces.

for the Central Pennsylvania Chapter of Certified Fraud Examiners. He works for the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General in Harrisburg, Pa., as a forensic auditor and investigations advisor. He lives in Pottsville, Pa., with his wife, **Jennifer (Evans) Lipton '02**, and their two children.

### 2001

**Mary McCabe Dunn**  
(See Graduate 2005).

**Corey Yanoshak** and **Amy Nesevich Yanoshak** welcomed their third child, Lincoln, in March 2014. Corey teaches business education at Lake Forest High School in Felton, Del. Amy teaches fifth grade at Greensboro Elementary School in Greensboro, Md. The couple reside in Dover, Del., with daughter, Ava, and sons, Cole and Lincoln.

### 2002

**Matthew Diltz MBA '04** was married to Mallory Diltz on June 22, 2013. The couple reside in Bloomsburg, Pa.

**Jennifer Evans Lipton** (See Undergraduate 2000).

**Stefanie Henninger Taylor** and her husband, Andrew, welcomed their daughter, Mackenzey Chando, on June 2, 2014. Mackenzey weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces and measured 19.5 inches long.

### 2004

**Selena (Bednarz) Clark** and **Brandon Clark** of Flanders, N.J., welcomed their second child, Cameron Michael, in April 2014. He joins big sister Leah Rose.

## It All Began at Wilkes: Alumni Couple Display Colonel Pride at Wedding

When it came time for Lindsay (Behrenshausen) Hopkins '11 to choose the colors for her wedding to fellow Wilkes alumnus Christopher Hopkins '11, she was stumped. Then the groom-to-be made a suggestion.

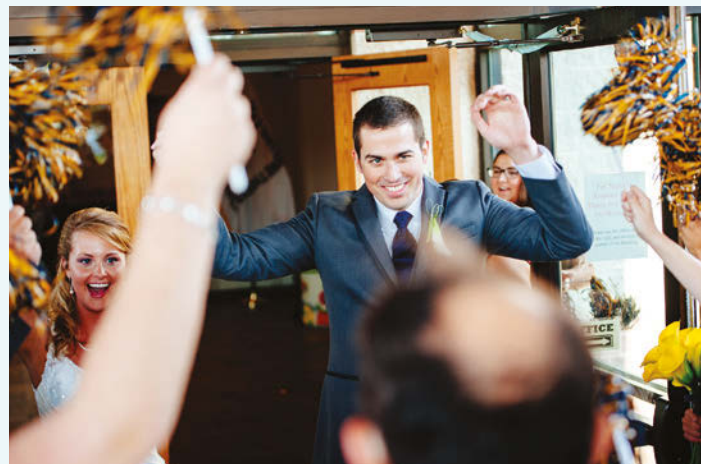
"Chris said, 'Why don't we just do Wilkes colors since that's where we met and where our story began?' " Lindsay recalls. "It was perfect, so we just ran with it from there." She adds that she loved the fact that the colors were the groom's choice. "It is one that is so often dramatized as the bride's choice....always a feminine color that the groom inevitably hates."

Although many alumni couples incorporate some nod toward being a Colonel in their nuptials, Lindsay and Chris made it a Wilkes wedding from beginning to end when they tied the knot on Sept. 20, 2014. From the navy and gold pompoms that guests waved when they exited the church to the blue and gold striped socks sported by the groom, best man and groomsmen, it was navy and gold all the way. The bridesmaids wore navy dresses and carried yellow flowers while groomsmen had navy and yellow ties and yellow boutonnières.

A welcome table at the reception featured two Wilkes-themed prints. One was a cityscape of Wilkes-Barre against a blue background and the other featured the couple's names, wedding date and the words "It all began at Wilkes University."

The reception photo booth had props that included large Wilkes foam fingers. Posing with her maid of honor, Allison (Slatinsky) Brock '11, using such props was fitting, Lindsay says, "since she was a cheerleader and I played softball while at Wilkes." Brianna (Edgar) Hinze '12 also was a bridesmaid.

"Wilkes is so special to us and is what brought us together, so we felt it was only fitting that we celebrate such a special place and time in our lives," Lindsay says.



Above, blue and gold pompoms greeted newlyweds Lindsay (Behrenshausen) Hopkins '11 and Christopher Hopkins '11 when they exited the church at their Wilkes-themed wedding. Below, left, maid of honor Allison (Slatinsky) Brock '11 and the bride display Wilkes pride with a blue and gold color scheme in bridesmaids gowns, bouquets and, below right, blue and gold striped socks for the groom, best man and groomsmen.



Did your wedding include any Wilkes details—from colors and flowers to decorations? We're looking for examples for a future feature story on planning a Wilkes wedding. **Please share yours at [wilkesmagazine@wilkes.edu](mailto:wilkesmagazine@wilkes.edu).** Be sure to include your contact information, including a phone number.





**Jude Gerard Koval** and **Erika Lynne Zavada** were married on July 5, 2014, in St. Monica's Catholic Church, West Wyoming, Pa. The groom is a certified public accountant and audit manager in Washington, D.C.

**2005**

**REUNION: OCT. 2-4**

**Thomas Charles Reynolds Jr.** and **Leanne Marie Bozym** were married Dec. 7, 2013, at Holy Cross Parish at Saint Patrick's Church, Olyphant, Pa. The bride is an elementary school counselor with Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit. The groom is a certified golf instructor at Leadbetter Golf Academy at Crystal Springs Resort, Franklin, N.J. The couple reside in Milford.

**2008**

**Megan Grace Butler** and **Santo David Zanghi** were married July 18, 2014, at Our Lady of the Snows Church, Clarks Summit, Pa. The bride is a pharmacist for CVS Pharmacy. The groom is a health and physical education teacher at South Scranton Intermediate School and owns and operates Zanghi's Sun and Snow Landscaping. The couple reside in Scranton.

**Lauren Carey MFA '12** (See Undergraduate 1983)

**Christopher Dallas's** son **Tanner Christopher** was born on June 30, 2013.

**Lisa Ann Dreier** and husband **Jared Clossen** welcomed a child, **Teddie Marie Clossen**,

on Dec. 21, 2013. They live in Wilkes-Barre.

**Dawn Freemore** joined the staff of real estate agents at Realty World Rubbico Inc. She lives in Kingston, Pa.

**Cheryl Gressley** received her master's degree in public administration on Dec. 14, 2014.

**Christopher Mayerski MBA '10** and his wife, **Kelly McGlone Mayerski**, celebrated the first birthday of their son **CJ** in August 2014. The family resides in Springfield, Pa.

**Patrick McAndrew** accepted a position as vice president at Container Products Corp., headquartered in Wilmington,

N.C. He and his wife, **Kelly**, reside in North Carolina.

**2009**

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

**Kathy Dalton Wagner** accepted a position as an analyst with a small business in Havre de Grace, Md., that specializes in information technology software development and consulting.

**2011**

**Valentina Machinas Beneski** and **Matthew Clarence Miller** were married on Sept. 27, 2014, in St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Glen Mills, Pa. The couple reside in Warrington, Pa.



**2002**

**Alanna M. Bath** and **Raymond C. Slater** were married on Oct. 25, 2014, at Stroudsmoor Country Inn, Stroudsburg, Pa. The bride is employed by Fulton Financial Corporation in Cherry Hill, N.J. The groom is employed by Freedom Mortgage and Cherry Hill Mortgage Management. The couple honeymooned in Paris and reside in Cherry Hill, N.J.



**2005**

**Timothy Mirra** and **Laurie Agresti** were married on Sept. 21, 2013, at St. Lawrence Chapel in Harrisburg, Pa. The groom is a senior accountant at PricewaterhouseCoopers. The bride is a senior auditor at Fulton Financial Corporation. Participating in the wedding party were maid of honor **Abbey Agresti '13**, bridesmaid **Erin Langermasini '09**, and groomsmen **Brian Brown '07** and **Justin Rogers '07**. The couple reside in Mechanicsburg, Pa.



**2011**

**Mason Harriman** and **Michelle Taylor** were married on Oct. 12, 2013, at Caldwell United Methodist Church in Caldwell, N.J. The groom is an officer in the U.S. Air Force. The bride is a registered nurse at the Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center. **Megan Dickinson '11** was a bridesmaid at the ceremony, and **John Hawkins '11** and **Andrew Hiller '11** were groomsmen. Also celebrating were **Nicole Persing '11**, **Tyanne Lyman '11** and **Anthony Mirable '11**. The couple reside in Dayton, Ohio, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.



2010

**Susanne O'Shea Burns PharmD** and **Tim Burns PharmD** were married Sept. 20, 2014, at St. Michael's Church, Jessup, Pa. The bride is a clinical pharmacist at Geisinger Kistler Clinic, Wilkes-Barre. The groom is employed by CVS/Caremark in Hanover Township, Pa. The couple reside in Old Forge, Pa. Pictured at the marriage ceremony, first row, from left to right, are **Heather Washenko '08**, Kate Kushmerick, Katie Mecca, **Koryn Gallagher '08**, Kiersten Burns, **Brian Roland PharmD '10**, Steve Reichwein, **Carmen Winters '08** and **Sam Craven PharmD '10**. Second row, from left to right, are **Anna Dunlap PharmD '10**, Ann Beynon, Anna Marushock, Jill Wasko, Tara Mullen, **Susanne O'Shea Burns**, **Tim Burns**, **Zac Wilson '07**, Ed Burns, **Paul Connolly PharmD '10**, **Kevin Gorsline PharmD '10** and **Steve Zerbe PharmD '10**.

## Graduate Degrees

1990

REUNION: OCT. 2-4

**Anthony Torquato MBA** joined the Royal Bank of Canada as the director of U.S. Credit Review in New York City.

1991

**David Orrson MBA** (See Undergraduate 1986)

1998

**David Carey '83, MS** (See Undergraduate 1983)

2002

**Corey Yanoshak MBA** (See Undergraduate 2001)

2004

**Stephanie Smith Cooney PharmD** was elected to a two-year term on the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association Educational Foundation's board of directors. Smith Cooney is a clinical community pharmacist and

owner of Gatti Pharmacy in Indiana, Pa.

**Matthew Diltz MBA** (See Undergraduate 2002).

2005

REUNION: OCT. 2-4

**Mary McCabe Dunn MBA** and her husband, Shawn, welcomed their daughter, Erin Elizabeth, on July 13, 2014.

**Victoria Maskinas PharmD** and **Chadwick Tucker** were married on June 6, 2014, at the Appletree Terrace, Dallas, Pa. The bride is employed as a pharmacist with CVS in Havelock, N.C.

2010

REUNION: OCT. 2-4

**Megan Grace Butler PharmD** (See Undergraduate Degrees 2008).

**Sharon Erby MA** was a Wilson College Writers Series presenter. She read from her collection of short stories

titled *Parallel*. Erby is professor of English at Wilson College in Chambersburg, Pa.

**Donna Malies MA** had a production of her one-act play *Broken* performed as part of the 24 Hour Pensacola Little Theatre on March 21, 2015.

**Kristin Marie Wempa PharmD** and **Matthew Ryan** were married on Aug. 23, 2014, at St. Faustina Kowalska Church in Nanticoke, Pa. The bride is a clinical research associate with Renaissance RX in West Virginia.

**Bethany Toczek Gerdy PharmD** was married to **Matt Gerdy** on Aug. 9, 2014.

2012

**John Carey MS** (See Undergraduate 1983).

**Jason Jolley MBA** of Dallas, Pa., was promoted to vice president and assistant branch manager at PNC Bank.



2014

**Tom Weeks MS** received his master's degree from Wilkes in school business leadership in May 2014. He is chief information officer at the University of Tampa in Florida.

2014

**Heather Brooke Lowery MFA** and **Austin Carl Free** were married on June 28, 2014, at St. James Chapel in St. James, Md. The bride is an executive assistant/estimator with Preferred Arbor Care in Hagerstown, Md.



## In Memoriam

### 1944

**Mary Varker Lytle**, Portland, Ore., died Nov. 9, 2013. She worked as a medical technologist for many years.

### 1947

**Eleanor Meehan**, Wilkes-Barre, died Jan. 31, 2015. She worked at Pomeroy's Department Store and became involved in the Friends of Plymouth Public Library, serving on the library's board of trustees.

### 1948

**Anthony J. Bartoletti**, Wilkes-Barre, died Feb. 27, 2015. Bartoletti served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and with the U.S. Air Force in the South Pacific theater. Bartoletti started his career at Michael Baker Jr. Engineering, Hughes Corporation and Cult Industrial before founding Parsons Sales Co. Inc.

**Clifford King Parker**, Shavertown, Pa., died Nov. 13, 2013. He owned Parker Fuel Co. and operated Lower Demunds Road Storage.

### 1949

**William G. Luetzel**, Allentown, Pa., died Dec. 8, 2014. He was a corpsman in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He was employed by General Electric and Dacar Chemical.

**Albert John Stratton**, Wyomissing, Pa., died Nov. 21, 2014. Stratton was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II. He served as associate professor of psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

for 25 years before serving as director of psychological services at Wernersville State Hospital from 1979 until 1990.

### 1950

**Victor Minetola**, Wilkes-Barre, died Jan. 18, 2015. He was a U.S. Army Air Corps veteran of World War II.

### 1951

**George William Troy**, Jenkins Township, Pa., died Feb. 4, 2015. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and took part in the Battle of the Bulge. He spent time at a POW camp in Lubeck, Germany. He was a supervisor for the Department of Disability Claims and Adjudication in Wilkes-Barre.

### 1953

**Paul W.T. Warnagiris**, Winchester, Va., died on Sept. 24, 2013. He was a member of the U.S. Army and served in Korea. He was an employee of IBM in Endicott, N.Y., and of Sears in Kingston, Pa. Warnagiris and his wife established, published and edited the *Wyoming Valley Observer* and a series of weekly shoppers in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties called *The Neighbors*. In Monroe County, Warnagiris published the *Pocono Today* shopper and the weekly *Monroe County Sunday Herald*.

### 1954

**Thomas J. Goblick Jr.**, Wayland, Pa., died March 30, 2014. He worked for nearly 50 years as an engineer, leader and mentor at MIT Lincoln Laboratory, and was

a Fulbright Scholar in 1958 at the University of London's Imperial College of Science and Technology. He was involved in the initial studies of satellite navigation that led to the now widely used global positioning system. He also worked on the first Federal Aviation Administration program, which developed the Mode S air traffic surveillance and datalink system, now the standard air traffic surveillance system used worldwide.

**Ted Kanner**, Rockville, Md., died Nov. 14, 2011. He served as an executive vice president of The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles. He established the Council on Jewish Life and served as an interim director of the School of Communal Service at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. He is survived by his wife, **Annette (Reiner) Kanner '54**.

### 1955

**Judith Hopkins**, Atlanta, Ga., died Aug. 8, 2014. She had a distinguished career as a librarian, specializing in cataloging at such colleges as Mt. Holyoke, Yale, the University of Michigan and, for 27 years, at the State University of New York at Buffalo. She received the Margaret Mann Citation for her contributions to her field and was the list owner of AUTOCAT, a worldwide online library cataloging discussion group.

**Joseph Owen Yanovitch**, Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., died Nov. 6, 2014. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and

became Jacksonville's Amateur Athlete of the Year for his world records in power lifting.

### 1958

**Mary Craig Pugh**, Warner Robins, Ga., died July 4, 2014. She worked as a teacher in the Houston County School District in Georgia.

### 1959

**Charles J. Gareis**, Manassas, Va., died Jan. 9, 2015. He was an auditor for the U.S. General Accounting Office and a U.S. Army veteran.

**William J. Mann**, Harveys Lake, Pa. died Feb. 2, 2015. He taught at Cayuga-Onondaga Area School District, N.Y., until retiring in 1986. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran of the Korean War.

**Reginald S. Travis**, Sarasota, Fla., died Aug. 11, 2014. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War from 1953 until 1955, and was employed for 32 years by pharmaceutical company Warner-Lambert (now Pfizer).

### 1960

**Edwin A. Duncan**, Laflin, Pa., died Jan. 7, 2015. He owned and operated Master Piece Industry.

**Doris Gademan Stephens**, Barrington, R.I., died June 20, 2014. She served as a public health service nurse on the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska, as a civilian nurse in Thailand during the Vietnam War and as a pediatric nursing instructor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing and Massachusetts General Hospital.

**Richard “Dick” Rawley Wileman**, Prospect, Ky., died March 1, 2015. A marketing and sales professional for most of his career in Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey, he was active in retirement in Kentucky. He is survived by his wife, alumna **Raye Thomas Wileman ’60**.

### 1961

**Catherine (Brominski) Kovac**, Birchrunville, Pa., died Jan. 19, 2015. Kovac retired as a registered nurse educator from Norristown State Hospital after 25 years. She also was a nursing educator at Haverford State Hospital and most recently was the health code enforcement officer with the Lansdale Department of Health.

### 1968

**James V. Brong**, Coopersburg, Pa., died Dec. 14, 2013. He worked as a project accountant for Fuller Co., later known as FLSmidth of Bethlehem, Pa., for 20 years before retiring in 2003. He served in the U.S. Navy.

**Arthur H. Trevethan**, Westerville, Ohio, died April 10, 2014. He retired as an executive at Nationwide Insurance.

### 1971

**Edward Blazejewski III**, Wilkes-Barre, died July 3, 2014. He was dean of students at Coughlin High School in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District. A mathematics major at Wilkes, he earned master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Scranton.

### 1975

**RoseAnn Cordora Williams**, West Pittston, Pa., died Nov. 24, 2014. She was a professor at Wilkes University before taking over her family business, Wyoming Valley Beverage.

### 1976

**The Rev. Deborah Ann Hargraves**, Luzerne, Pa., died Dec. 23, 2014. She retired as a sales associate for local time-shares.

**Jack W. Keller**, Larksville, Pa., died Dec. 29, 2014. He was the former owner of Pocono Family Eyecare in Pocono Summit, Pa, and was last employed by Northeast Eyecare.

### 1981

**Maire A. Box**, Kingston Township, Pa., died Jan. 20, 2015. She worked at the former Nesbitt Memorial Hospital as an emergency room nurse for 19 years and, most recently, with Eye Care Specialists Kingston Surgery Center.

### 1982

**Robert Francis Burns, Jr.**, Trucksville, Pa., died Nov. 19, 2014. He was a registered nurse at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital for 18 years and was employed by the Bayer Corp. for 12 years.

### 1984

**Betty Lou (Henry) Furman**, Pittston, Pa., died Jan. 1, 2015. She operated a dairy farm in Mehoopany for 25 years with her husband. Furman also worked for Procter & Gamble

and later served as executive director of the Endless Mountains Tourism Bureau. From 1989-1996, she was a missionary in Zimbabwe with her husband.

### 2000

**Jessica Marie (Murry) Range**, Elizabethtown, Pa., died Dec. 22, 2014. She was employed by Pleasant View Retirement Community in Manheim, Pa., prior to accepting a position with Weis Pharmacy in Elizabethtown.



Jane Lampe-Groh

## Administration

As *Wilkes* magazine went to press, the University community learned that **Jane Lampe-Groh**, dean of student affairs emerita, died on May 7, 2015. Lampe-Groh joined Wilkes in 1969. During her tenure, she served as dean of women, associate dean of student affairs and dean of students, touching the lives of hundreds of Wilkes students. She retired in 1997. An article remembering her long career at Wilkes will appear in the fall 2015 issue of the magazine.

## Faculty

**James L. Merryman** of Bear Creek Village, Pa., passed away on April 14, 2015 after an 18-month struggle with ALS. Merryman was professor of anthropology at Wilkes University for more than 25 years.

“Since 1989, Jim Merryman has been a champion on our campus for diversity, inclusion and cross-cultural understanding,” said Wilkes President Patrick F. Leahy. “His enduring legacy will be his shaping of the intercultural perspectives of the thousands of students he taught at Wilkes. We will miss him dearly.”

Last fall, Leahy and Merryman were joined by Wilkes faculty and staff on the steps of the Farley Library to take the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge to raise awareness about and funds to find a cure for ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease.

Merryman received his bachelor’s degree from Nebraska Wesleyan University, his master’s degree from State University of New York at Binghamton and his doctorate from Northwestern University.

He is survived by fellow anthropologist, wife and research partner of over 42 years Nancy and their daughter Juliann. The University celebrated Merryman’s life at a memorial service at the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts on May 2, 2015. An extended memoriam celebrating Merryman’s impact on the Wilkes community will appear in the fall issue of *Wilkes* magazine.



## Michael Bianco '60

Michael Bianco of Palo Alto, Calif., a dedicated volunteer and supporter of Wilkes, died on Feb. 8, 2015. A native of West Pittston, Pa., he was a political science major as a Wilkes undergraduate. He also earned a master of public administration degree at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Administration at the University of Michigan. Bianco went on to enjoy a distinguished career in the banking and finance industry, joining Chase Manhattan Bank in 1968 and working in Japan for the bank from 1970-1973.

He subsequently served as managing director and national partner, corporate financial consulting for Arthur Andersen & Company, and president and chief executive officer of Loeb Rhoades Securities Corp., a company that was later merged into Lehman Brothers. He was chairman and chief executive officer of American Capital Markets Group since 1993 and at the beginning of 2014 became a general partner at Life Science Equity Partners LLC, a \$150 million fund investing primarily

in mid- to later-stage life science companies.

A U.S. Navy aviation officer, he served in Vietnam. An active supporter of Wilkes University, he served on the University Council and was a class chair for the Wilkes Fund. Bianco also was active in community service, serving as a director of the Korean-American Chamber of Commerce, a national director of Junior Achievement and of the Enterprise Network of Silicon Valley.

He is survived by Marcia, his wife of 47 years, three children and two grandchildren.



## Friends of Wilkes

### Remembering Edward Elgonitis, Campus Friend For 40 Years

Wilkes University lost a special member of its campus community on Jan. 9, 2015, when Eddie Elgonitis passed away after nearly 40 years at Wilkes.

The face of the mailroom, Elgonitis got to know many members of the staff, faculty and student body, even knowing individual students by name and talking to them about their classes and upcoming tests.

Jim Yeninas, who worked with him in the mailroom, remembers Elgonitis—ever the prankster—indulging his sweet tooth. “Students would stop by to talk to him before lunch, and he’d tell them a sad story about how ‘no one ever brings me cookies anymore.’ So they’d come down afterward and bring

him one. But he was doing this to four or five different groups of kids, and they’d all bring him cookies. Whenever he’d take a day off, I’d go by his area and there’d be little stacks of cookies all lined up across the desk,” Yeninas says, chuckling.

Prior to working in the mailroom, Elgonitis worked for many years on the facilities staff. Before being hired by Wilkes directly, he worked as an employee of ABM, a private company contracted by Wilkes for custodial services. Though he officially “retired” at one point, it didn’t take, and he was soon back on campus, working part-time in the mailroom.

Matthew DiBernardo, Wilkes’ former assistant head football coach, spoke at Elgonitis’ memorial service in February 2015. He recalls Elgonitis as a regular at Wilkes sports events, always found sitting in his favorite spot. And he was just as consistent in other ways.

“No matter what was going on, if things were good or if they were bad, if we were doing well or if we were struggling, Eddie was always the same guy you could go and talk to. There’s not a lot of people like that in life. He always put a smile on your face,” DiBernardo says.

The Wilkes mailroom has been named in Elgonitis’ honor. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Paula, and four children.

Eddie Elgonitis, center, is pushed by President Patrick F. Leahy during the survivors round at Wilkes’ Relay for Life celebration benefiting the American Cancer Society.

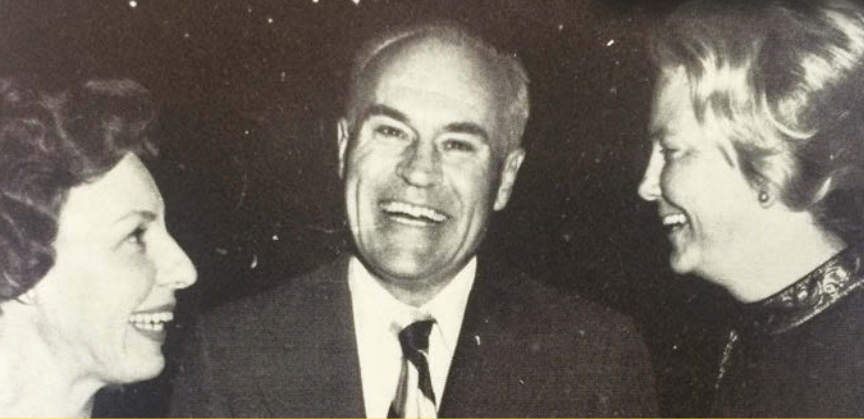




# WILKES HOMECOMING

OCTOBER 2-4, 2015

## *Family of Colonels*



Whether you are friends who are like family, actual relatives or teammates, we're one big family of Wilkes Colonels. Members of the classes ending in 0s and 5s, A-list, men's lacrosse, communication studies, business, psychology, and political science alumni are invited to celebrate reunions. Highlights of the weekend will include:

- Pints with Professors
- Opening of our new campus gateway on South Main Street
- Twist and Stout Bar Tour
- Reunions at the Tailgate Tent
- Recognition of the 1975 MAC championship men's lacrosse team
- Share the Spirit Saturday night celebration
- 50th Reunion gatherings
- Many family-friendly activities

Tell us about your family of Colonels! Share your stories and photos by emailing [alumni@wilkes.edu](mailto:alumni@wilkes.edu). Visit [www.wilkes.edu/homecoming](http://www.wilkes.edu/homecoming) for the latest information.



## calendar of events



### June

- 8 First Summer Session Classes Begin
- 8 Nine-Week Summer Session Classes Begin
- 11 Dr. Lori's Antiques Appraisal Comedy Show, 6-8 p.m. Miller Room, Henry Student Center
- 11 New Jersey Alumni Event, 6 p.m., Ellery's Restaurant and Pub, Middlesex, N.J.
- 25 63rd annual John Chwalek Open, Irem Country Club, Dallas, Pa.
- 28-29 New Student Orientation I
- 29-July 2 Boys and Girls Basketball Camp, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Marts Sports and Conference Center

### July

- 6-23 Wilkes University Conservatory Summer Dance Intensive, Dart Center
- 10 First Summer Session Classes End
- 12-13 New Student Orientation II
- 13 Second Summer Session Classes Begin
- 17 Wilkes University Open House For Prospective Students
- 20-24 Advanced Placement Summer Institute
- 20 Women's Soccer Clinic, 10:00 a.m.-3 p.m. Ralston Athletic Complex
- 20-Aug. 30 The Reading Academy, Breiseth Hall
- 20-Aug. 30 The Arts Academy, Breiseth Hall
- 25 Summer Youth Baseball Camp, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Artillery Field
- 26-Aug. 1 Women Empowered By Science (WEBS) Summer Camp, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

### August

- 11 Nine-Week Summer Session Classes End
- 14 Second Summer Session Classes End
- 28 Move-in Day for First-Year and Transfer Students
- 28-30 Welcome Weekend
- 31 Fall Semester 2015 Classes Begin

### September

- 5-7 Labor Day Recess
- 13 Summer Commencement, 1 p.m., Marts Sports and Conference Center
- 19 Wilkes University Open House For Prospective Students
- 19 Elite Prospect Baseball Camp, 3-6 p.m., Artillery Field

### October

- 2-4 Homecoming