

A woman in the foreground is taking a selfie with a pink smartphone. She is wearing a dark blue dress with yellow and white patterns. In the background, a group of people, including women in traditional white dresses with colorful embroidery and gold jewelry, are smiling and looking towards the camera. The setting appears to be an indoor event with a brick wall and balloons.

WILKES

SPRING/SUMMER 2016

Viva Panamá, Go Wilkes!

UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES HISTORIC PARTNERSHIP

Founders Gala Ensures Wilkes' Sacred Mission Continues

The Founders Gala—started just three years ago—is becoming an important new tradition at Wilkes University. I say it's important, but not just because it's a great party. It is important because of two goals that the Founders Gala accomplishes.

The first goal of this gathering is to remember and honor people who have advanced this institution from its beginnings as Bucknell University Junior College to the University we know today. This year's President's Medal recipients, Clayton and Theresa Karambelas, clearly are among those whose contributions have advanced this institution—not the least of which is the gift they have made to create the Karambelas Media Center, which you will read about on page 2.

Just as importantly, the Founders Gala's second goal—to raise money for the First Generation Scholarship Fund—continues to be of vital importance. Since its inception, this event has raised \$1 million for the fund. To understand why that is important, let me give you a few numbers to consider: \$74,000, 41 percent, and 50 percent. The average annual income of our freshman families is \$74,000, well below other private schools across the nation. The number of first-year students who are Pell eligible—that is, eligible for the federal aid program for the neediest students—is 41 percent, well above other private schools across the nation. And, 50 percent of our first-year students—even today in 2016—are the first in their families to pursue a four-year college degree, again well above other private schools across the country.



Wilkes President Patrick F. Leahy addresses attendees at Founders Gala 2016, held June 4 at the Westmoreland Club in Wilkes-Barre.
PHOTO BY KNOT JUST ANY DAY

We have a sacred mission here at Wilkes: to find individuals with promise—who need that extra mentoring—and offer it to them, no matter their socio-economic situation. Because after all of our efforts to keep the cost of a Wilkes education affordable, after all of the institutional aid that we can offer, after all of the federal and state aid programs that we can tap, sometimes gaps remain that prevent first-generation students from affording a Wilkes education. The First Generation Fund bridges these gaps.

In just three years, we've been able to start an event that will ensure that Wilkes will be able to continue its sacred mission of educating first-generation college students. And that is something that we can celebrate year-round as we see those students on campus, taking advantage of all that Wilkes University offers.

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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Panamanian teacher Kelsie Gutierrez takes a photo to post on social media at Panamanian Cultural Day at Wilkes.
PHOTO BY KNOT JUST ANY DAY

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Have a story idea to share?

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

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The Clayton and Theresa Karambelas Media Center will bring communication studies programs under one roof on South Main Street, adjacent to the new campus Gateway. RENDERING BY BORTON-LAWSON

Clayton and Theresa Karambelas Media Center Will Be New Home for Communication Studies

Wilkes unveiled plans for a new home for the communication studies program with the announcement of the planned Clayton '40 and Theresa Karambelas Media Center. The new facility, to be housed at 141 S. Main St. (formerly Bartikowsky Jewelers) at the entrance of the new campus Gateway, is being named in honor of the Karambelases, long-time benefactors of the University. The couple have given Wilkes one of the largest gifts in its history. The media center plans were announced at the annual Founders Gala on June 4, where the Karambelases were presented with the President's Medal.

The new 17,726-square-foot center will bring the communications studies department's cocurricular activities under one roof. These include WCLH Radio, the television studios, *The Beacon* student newspaper, student-run public relations agency Zebra Communications and the speech and debate team. The facility will include separate offices and work rooms for student organizations, as well as new television and radio studios, audio room, video editing room, faculty offices and classrooms. The University previously had announced that one wing of the building will be the new home of the Sordoni Art Gallery.

Wilkes ENACTUS Team Wins Regional Competition

Students on Wilkes' Enactus team took top honors at the organization's regional competition this spring in Washington, D.C. The team, made up of students in the Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and Leadership, beat teams from 47 other American northeast region universities. Enactus is an international nonprofit organization that encourages college students to become entrepreneurs through collaboration to create innovative, sustainable community development projects.

Wilkes' Enactus students presented their projects from the 2015-16 academic year at the competition. Projects included the Wilkes University Entrepreneurial Experience, a business plan competition for local high school students. The students also designed a veterans empowerment project offering development on personal and professional skills to veterans.

Wilkes Students Launch Political Careers in Their Hometowns

When they write about political newcomers in this election year, two Wilkes University students could make the list. Dominic Steiner-Butchko became Pennsylvania's youngest elected official when he joined the Forty Fort Borough Council in January. His classmate Beth Gilbert was sworn in to Wilkes-Barre City Council the same month. The two students won the seats in fall 2015 and took office in 2016.



Dominic Steiner-Butchko



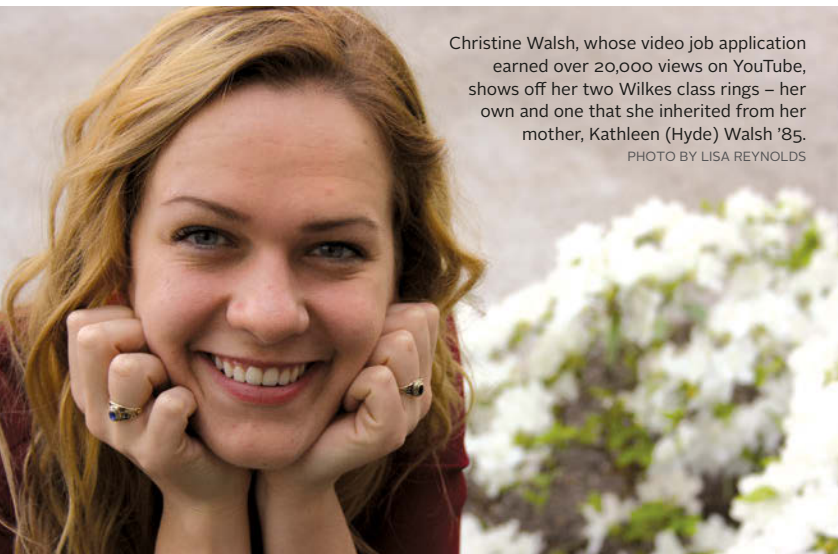
Beth Gilbert '16

A sophomore political science major, Steiner-Butchko also is the youngest person to ever hold office in his hometown. He decided to run because he believed it was time for someone from his generation to make a difference. "Our future can be shaped and people's lives can be positively affected from any level of government, especially the local level," he says.

Beth Gilbert '16, who graduated with a political science degree in May, also ran for office to make a positive impact on her home city. She spent summer 2015 completing an internship at the United Nations before returning to campaign for her council seat in fall.

"As a councilwoman, I try to make constituent outreach my priority. I realize how important it is to hear the opinions of our residents, and I want them to know that I value their voices and their input," Gilbert says.

Student's Video Application for Campus Job Earns 20,000 Reasons to Hire Her



Christine Walsh, whose video job application earned over 20,000 views on YouTube, shows off her two Wilkes class rings – her own and one that she inherited from her mother, Kathleen (Hyde) Walsh '85.
PHOTO BY LISA REYNOLDS

Wilkes University freshman Christine Walsh applied to be a resident assistant—and became a bit of an Internet sensation in the process. As part of her application, Walsh, a Lebanon Township, N.J., native, created a video to the tune of the Grammy Award-winning “Uptown Funk.” It has garnered more than 20,700 views—and counting. Walsh eventually was hired to be a resident assistant for the 2016-17 academic year.

When Elizabeth (Roveda) Swantek '05, MBA '07, Wilkes director of residence life, shared the video on Facebook, it went viral, racking up thousands of views from all over the country.

Walsh wrote the song parody, acted in the video, sang the song and edited the video.

A management and digital design and media art double major, Walsh also is in Wilkes' honors program. She works as an ambassador for the admissions office, where she gives tours and answers questions for prospective students.

Walsh is carrying on the Wilkes tradition in her family: Her mother, Kathleen (Hyde) Walsh '85, and aunt, Mary (Hyde) Pfister, also graduated from the University. Her legacy as a Colonel is a point of pride: Walsh wears her mother's Wilkes class ring on one hand and her own on the other.



Catch Christine Walsh's “RA Funk” video that helped her to snag a job with the University's residence life staff. Visit www.wilkes.edu/RAFunk

NPR's Maureen Corrigan, Scranton Native Jay Parini to Present at Pennsylvania Writers Conference

Wilkes University's graduate creative writing program is sponsoring the Pennsylvania Writers Conference, celebrating all genres of writing and featuring workshops and panels with authors, editors, literary agents and film producers. Guest speakers include Maureen Corrigan, book critic on NPR's *Fresh Air*, and Scranton native, poet, novelist and biographer Jay Parini. The conference will take place at Wilkes on Aug. 5-6.

The conference opens on Friday, Aug. 5, with an open mic and a poetry slam. Writing panels and workshops begin on Sat., Aug. 6 at 9 a.m. with an opening session featuring Corrigan. Throughout the day, conference attendees will have a choice of workshops focusing on poetry, fiction, nonfiction, playwriting and screenwriting. The keynote address will be delivered by Parini at 7 p.m., preceded by a dinner for attendees in the Henry Student Center.

Conference registration is \$130; college students with a valid school ID are \$40. Learn more and register online at www.wilkes.edu/PWC.



Barista Sheila Tavella puts the finishing touches on a specialty drink. PHOTO BY KNOT JUST ANY DAY

Make It a Latte, No Foam

College students and coffee have had a love affair since the first late-night study session. This year, Wilkes students had more reasons to be enthusiastic about their cup of Joe as Starbucks made its debut on campus in spring semester. Housed in the University Center on Main, Starbucks at Gambini's Café offers the campus community all of the company's signature caffeinated beverages. Open to the downtown Wilkes-Barre business community as well, Starbucks' primary focus is on Wilkes students. It even offered extended hours during finals week.

Veterans Center of Excellence Dedicated

Military veterans attending Wilkes have a new gathering place on campus with the opening of the Veterans Center of Excellence. The new center on the lower level of Conyngham Hall offers one-stop access to a variety of services for veterans.

Wilkes' Veterans Council was awarded a \$10,000 grant to create the center from the VetCenter Initiative grant program, a partnership between Student Veterans of America and The Home Depot Foundation.

The Veterans Center of Excellence will provide a single point of contact to coordinate support services for students who are military veterans. The services offered in the center include private computer room, lounge, kitchen and peer mentoring/professional room. Tutoring for mathematics and academic writing is also offered.



A meeting room and lounge are two of the amenities in the new Veterans Center of Excellence in Conyngham Hall.
PHOTO BY ANNIE STAUFFER

Pharmacy faculty celebrate student Sarah Fillman's U.S. Public Health Service Award. Pictured from left are Associate Professor Scott Bolesta PharmD '00, Professor Ed Foote, Fillman, Associate Professor Jon Ference PharmD '03, Eric Wright of Geisinger Health System, Associate Professor Jennifer Malinowski and Assistant Professor Thomas Franko.
PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH CRISPELL



Pharmacy Student Wins U.S. Public Health Service Award

Third-year pharmacy student Sarah Fillman, of Limerick, Pa., was the recipient of a United States Public Health Service Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Award. Fillman was recognized for her work during a summer internship at Geisinger Health System, where she piloted a program to establish public awareness efforts to promote proper drug disposal. It is the third consecutive year that a student from the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy has won the award.

Fillman's other campus activities include serving as vice president of the Health and Wellness Club, outreach to elementary students at an after-school program and work as a by-stander intervention trainer at the University and a Victims Resource Center advocate.

Biology Professor Michael Steele Receives National Science Foundation OPUS Award

Michael Steele, professor of biology and Hilder Fenner Chair of Research Biology, has received an OPUS Award of \$134,204 from the National Science Foundation to complete a book synthesizing more than 25 years of research. The grant is one of the foundation's most prestigious grants and Steele is the first faculty member at a small liberal arts university to receive the honor. Steele's research examines how acorns are dispersed in the ecosystem—principally by rodents and jays—and why dispersal is important for regeneration of forests worldwide.

The OPUS Award, which stands for Opportunities for Promoting Understanding through Synthesis, is presented by

the National Science Foundation's Division of Environmental Biology. Often awarded to mid- to late-career researchers, the awards are given to help integrate work that will produce significant insights for the scientific community.

Steele is one the world's foremost authorities on oak seed dispersal and on tree squirrels—which play a significant role in the dispersal process. His synthesis will support and promote improvements in oak forest management and conservation, especially in the context of climate change.

SCORING SUCCESS

Madeleine Brownsey '16
Wins Academic and
Sports Accolades

By Sarah Bedford

Lacrosse player Madeleine Brownsey '16 started her college athletics story on a different field. Recruited for the Wilkes field hockey team as a freshman, Brownsey was encouraged by her father to try out for lacrosse. Balancing two sports and academics became quite the task for the Glenside, Pa., native.

“Playing two sports was a lot,” Brownsey explains. “Once one sport ended the other was starting, so balancing that with academics was a little tough. I had to choose one or the other and it ended up being lacrosse.”

This proved to be a perfect fit for Brownsey as she went on to become a record-breaking, multi-award-winning scholar-athlete for the women’s lacrosse team.

Named Wilkes Female Athlete of the Year, Brownsey broke the University record in career goals, scoring 270. She was also named the Middle Atlantic Conference women’s lacrosse offensive Player of the Week and the conference’s Women’s Lacrosse Senior Scholar-Athlete. Brownsey also was the Eastern College Athletics Conference, Division III South Offensive Women’s Player of the Week.

“The most rewarding was the scholar-athlete because it not only recognized the athletics part of my four years but also the academic part. So that was a huge accomplishment,” she says.

The athlete was also a member of the Student Athletics Association Committee her junior and senior years, and chaired the Colonel Charity Challenge. Brownsey, a double major in marketing and sports management, values proper study habits and explained that the structure of her athletic season helped her maintain a 3.68 GPA. Brownsey received two honors at Wilkes’ 2016 Academic Awards Ceremony: the Academic Achievement Award in Sports Management and the Dean’s Award for Excellence in Sports Management.

“Playing a sport almost forces you to study,” she says. “Your time limits when you can work, so when you have that time to do those academics, it’s all spent doing academics.”

She attributes her success in her final season to her teammates. “I was given all these awards and recognitions and statistics and records, but none of it would have been possible without every girl on my team,” Brownsey says.

Looking forward to the future, Brownsey is interviewing for positions in the Philadelphia area hoping to score a position in marketing and advertising with a sports focus.

Sarah Bedford is a senior communication studies and political science major and serves as editor of The Beacon.



Madeleine Brownsey '16 displays the form that helped her score 270 career goals in lacrosse.

PHOTO BY KNOT JUST ANY DAY

VIVA PANAMÁ, GO WILKES!

HISTORIC AGREEMENTS BEGIN PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY AND PANAMÁ

By Francisco Tutella MFA '16



he dance is called Congo. A woman and a man step close then twirl apart. She wears a multi-colored dress sewn in different patterns, he a colorful, tattered costume. Panamanian high school teacher

Ana Aizpurua explains that his outfit, stitched from discarded strips of fabric, mocks the former Panamanian slave owners. The dance itself is a continual exchange of seduction and rejection accompanied by clapping and the occasional cheer.

Spectators watching the dance in the Henry Student Center cannot resist Congo's allure. The dancers are joined by Wilkes President Patrick F. Leahy, Panamanian Minister of Education Marcela Paredes de Vásquez, and Laura Flores, permanent representative of Panamá to the United Nations. University faculty, staff and administrators join the Panamanian teachers to form a giant conga line, kicking their feet and waving their arms as they circle the floor.

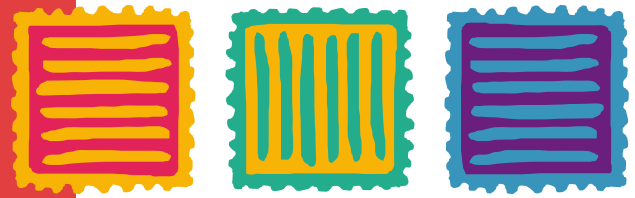
It was Panamanian Cultural Day at Wilkes, celebrating that country's history, dance and food. The event gave the Wilkes community an opportunity to meet the 19 Panamanian teachers studying on campus. It also celebrated the historic agreements forged by Wilkes and the Republic of Panamá. The visiting Panamanian educators came to Wilkes as part of the MEDUCA-Bilingual Panamá program—the first of several programs that will be part of a comprehensive partnership

between the University and the central American country. MEDUCA is the acronym for Panamá's education ministry. Other agreements have been signed with Panamá's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with four of the country's universities. (See sidebar, opposite page.)

An initiative of Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela, the MEDUCA-Bilingual Panamá program brings cohorts of teachers to colleges and universities in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom to study English and learn education best practices. The program is part of a national commitment to develop bilingualism in the country's public schools. Wilkes is one of only 12 universities in the United States and just two in Pennsylvania participating in the program. The University will host three cohorts of Panamanian teachers each year. The first cohort came to Wilkes for eight weeks of study starting in January 2016. The second group arrived in late May.

"Panamá is undergoing the process of revamping its entire educational system starting with the public school system," says Rosi Ponce, Wilkes' executive director of international engagement and a native of Panamá City, Panamá. "One of the goals of President Juan Carlos Varela is to modernize the public schools and to do it in a way that meets the needs of the country for generations to come. One of the priorities that the government has identified is to provide a bilingual education."

WILKES UNIVERSITY SIGNS AGREEMENTS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMÁ



The Panamá partnership is an integral part of the University's comprehensive internationalization efforts, flowing from the Gateway to the Future Strategic Plan, to bring the world to Wilkes and Wilkes to the world. The goal is to ensure a presence in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Panamá work will be replicated in other countries of that region, and includes partnerships with foreign and domestic governmental agencies, universities, non-governmental organizations and civil society to ensure an effective and sustainable effort.

- MEDUCA-Bilingual Panamá brings cohorts of teachers to colleges and universities in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom to study English and learn education best practices.
- President Leahy and Isabel de Saint Malo de Alvarado, vice president and minister of foreign affairs of Panamá, signed an agreement in January for Wilkes to provide professional development and other academic programs to staff in the Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, the country's equivalent to the U.S. Department of State.
- Wilkes Provost Anne Skleder signed agreements with four universities to facilitate academic collaborations: Universidad de Panamá, Universidad Tecnológica de Panamá, Universidad Especializada de las Americas and Universidad Latina.
- Wilkes is the only American university to sponsor the annual Feria Del Libro Panamá 2016 from Aug. 16-21 in Panamá. It is the fourth-largest cultural and book fair in Latin America, drawing more than 100,000. Partnering with the U.S. Embassy in Panamá, Wilkes will host educational workshops and panel discussions focusing on educational issues.

In Panamá, now one of the world's fastest growing economies, business is conducted in English, Ponce explains.

Panamá's Minister of Education Marcela Paredes de Vásquez came to campus in February to sign an agreement paving the way for educational partnerships in fields that include education and the STEM fields: science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Wilkes presented the minister with an honorary doctor of humane letters recognizing her extraordinary professional achievements as an educator, former university president, and as chair or board member of nongovernmental organizations promoting education and women's roles in science and engineering. The minister gave an inspiring speech about the power of education, global understanding and partnership.

At an event honoring Paredes de Vásquez, Leahy highlighted the benefits that Wilkes brings to the partnership. "We are a full-scale university that can offer all of the programs and opportunities that Panamanian students need across bachelor's, master's and even doctoral programs," Leahy says. "Yet we offer all of this in a relatively small, caring, mentoring environment that larger universities simply cannot offer."

Leahy cites other American partners in the program, including the University of Pennsylvania, Georgetown, Northwestern and American universities and Georgia Tech.

SHARED VALUES AND COMMUNITY

"Wilkes University and the country of Panamá share the same values," Leahy says. "Both believe that the path to prosperity winds through education. We both believe that in an increasingly global community, we are all interconnected. And we both believe in the power of relationships."

Wilkes President Patrick F. Leahy and Panamá's Minister of Education Marcela Paredes de Vásquez sign agreements for educational partnerships between the University and Panamá. PHOTOS ON THESE PAGES BY KNOT JUST ANY DAY





Paredes de Vásquez discussed these shared values at a breakfast with 10 Wilkes student ambassadors. A kind, easygoing and humble woman, the minister asked the students to describe their Wilkes experiences. Several students commented on their relationships with professors. Bella Jang, a political science and criminology major from Guam, shared how her professors helped her overcome her fear of participating in class discussions. Kaitlyn Sitch, an electrical engineering major from Weatherly, Pa., explained the research she has done with professors in their laboratories.

The minister noted the diversity of the Wilkes student body—native Pennsylvanians studying alongside students from Guam, the Bahamas and China, among other countries—and appreciated that 50 percent of Wilkes undergraduates are first-generation college students. She said, “We are looking for great partners. Wilkes is one of these partners. It is a small community, and there is a strong bond between faculty and students here. This kind of community makes students successful.”

A FAMILY ATMOSPHERE

Many of the Panamanian educators left their spouses and children to study at Wilkes, with many leaving their country for the first time. Here they found a new family.

Eddie Serrano, who teaches kindergarten and second grade, says, “We really love the people here. We feel so comfortable, and feel like the people are family.” Serrano, who played baseball for six years on the San Diego Padres farm team, would return home just 12 days before his wife was expected to deliver their first child.

One member of the teachers’ Wilkes family was Mildred Urban, associate director of advancement. Urban, who is Hispanic and bilingual, planned the cohort’s extracurricular

activities and accompanied them on cultural trips to New York City, Philadelphia and Jim Thorpe and on adventures like snow tubing. She says, “I bonded with them because I felt their kindred spirit.”

Their spirit continually manifested itself in laughter, dancing and smiles. Many on campus commented on the group’s enthusiasm and *joie de vivre*.

Domicella and Vito Balice encountered this enthusiasm and joy daily in the classroom. The mother and son, working under the supervision of Kimberly Niezgoda, director of Wilkes’ Intensive English Program, designed and taught courses on teaching pedagogy and technology in the classroom for the Panamanians. The two teachers and their students formed warm relationships. The Panamanians surprised Domicella with a large bouquet of flowers on her birthday. They also persuaded Vito to do something he had never done before.

“They got me to dance—twice,” he says with a smile.

Anne Skleder, Wilkes’ senior vice president and provost, recalls hosting a dinner for the group. “When I was planning the dinner, I asked Rosi Ponce, who of course knows the culture, ‘Should I get board games? Should I get cards? Should we do movies after dinner?’ And she said, ‘Anne, I think they will dance.’”

The visitors proved Ponce right. They danced to salsa music then played their own, authentic Panamanian music.

FIELD TRIPS AND SELFIE STICKS

Not all of their study was in the classroom. In addition to field trips to cultural centers such as Philadelphia and New York City, they observed American education in action. The group visited Coughlin, G.A.R. and Meyers high schools and Heights Murray and Macklin elementary schools, all in the



Far left, teachers studying at Wilkes under the MEDUCA-Bilingual Panamá program celebrate seeing snow for the first time.

Second from left, Liriola Smith and Alexis Anderson share one of their country's dances at Panamanian Cultural Day.

Third from left, Panamanian teachers work on group projects during class.

Fourth from left, Celebrating Panamanian culture with Wilkes friends are, from left, Henry Barrera, Raquel Cardenas, Wilkes intensive English teacher Dee Balice, Abdel Arauz, Keisy Gonzalez, Wilkes President Patrick Leahy, Panamá Education Minister Marcela Paredes de Vásquez, Wilkes intensive English teacher Vito Balice, Alexis Anderson and Carmen Rodriguez. Kneeling in front are, left, Liriola Smith and Mariela Benitez.



Wilkes-Barre Area School District, and two private schools: Graham Academy and Wyoming Seminary.

Second-grade teacher Maribel Ríos observes, “The behavior is different. American students respect their teachers and pay attention in class. This makes it easier to teach the lesson.”

The special education classes at Heights Murray impressed elementary school teachers Andrellys Torres and Abdel Araúz. “It was so different for me because in Panamá I don’t have students with those conditions. It was special to see that,” says Torres. Araúz praised the special education teacher’s interactions with the students, the extra attention they received, and the practical skills they were learning.

The visitors observed classes at Wyoming Seminary’s upper school. In Nate Fisher’s sophomore theater class, the students introduced themselves and described in Spanish the scene they were about to perform, the conclusion to Shakespeare’s Othello. They also participated in a question-and-answer session with the Panamanian teachers. The students learned that the average class size in Panamá is 25 to 30 students, with some classes reaching 40 to 45 pupils, a far cry from the 10 students in the sophomore theater class. They also learned that for the Panamanian educators, this trip to Pennsylvania afforded them their first experience with snow.

Situated near the equator, Panamá has two seasons: wet and dry. When it began to snow during one of Vito Balice’s classes, the educators could not contain their excitement and asked to go outside.

“My dream came true when the snow fell. I was very excited and started to jump and have fun in the snow,” says high school teacher Alex Anderson.

Second-grade teacher Janeth Borrero built a miniature snowman, snapped a picture with her cell phone, and sent the image to her family back home.

Selfies and social media were key to recording their American experience for the Panamanians. The educators used their smartphones and the Internet to share their experiences with their families and friends in Panamá. By the end of the eight weeks, they had collectively taken more than 2,000 photographs.

NOT “ADIÓS” BUT “HASTA LUEGO”

During an emotional and teary-eyed completion ceremony on March 2, Skleder told the Panamanians, “Please know that you are and continue to be trailblazers, the first of many groups to come to Wilkes, but you will always be the first to come.”

Rhonda Rabbitt, dean of Wilkes School of Education, noted, “You came to change Panamanian society, but you also changed society here.”

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Carmen Rodriguez spoke on behalf of the MEDUCA cohort. “We want to say thanks to the government of Panamá for giving us the opportunity to come to this wonderful country. We say thanks to Wilkes University for opening its door to us not only to learn about methodologies but also to be successful in our life.”

On behalf of the group, Rodriguez thanked the Wilkes community, citing many by name. She forgot no one, down to the facilities team and the cafeteria staff. She gave special thanks to the Balices, saying, “We can say we are now better teachers because of you. You are the best.... Once again, thanks, Wilkes University. You are now part of us. We will go to Panamá full of many anecdotes and experiences. We know we have a commitment to Panamanian education and our students and will try to do our best.”

The educators concluded the ceremony by chanting the motto they had developed with Wilkes faculty, staff and administrators that captures the shared vision of the University and its Panamanian partners: “*Viva Panamá, Go Wilkes!*”



A Passion For Place

SANDY LONG '86 CAPTURES NATURE WITH LENS AND PEN

By Kelly Clisham MFA '16

Browsing the work of photographer Sandy Long '86 is like taking a nature walk with the best possible tour guide, one who not only knows the area, but has a deep knowledge built on love. When Long visits a location, she doesn't merely take pictures. Instead, she engages the area in conversation, using camera and pen, to learn about what she calls the particularities of place. Someone viewing her work is just as likely to see the wonder of mushrooms growing on a mossy log as the majesty of a vast landscape.

In 2014, Long's talents earned her the first-ever artist-in-residence position at Shenandoah National Park in Virginia. Long and her family camped at the park when she was a child, so when the artist-in-residency program was announced, she jumped at the chance to apply. "The early connection to the park is one of the reasons I was so interested in the residency there," says Long.

As Shenandoah National Park's artist-in-residence, Long was awarded two weeks to live and work in the park, with the goal that any works produced during the stay would help increase the public's awareness and understanding of the area's natural beauty. As a condition of her residency, Long was required to donate a work to Shenandoah National Park and conduct a public presentation. She chose to invite the public to join her on a nature walk and bring their cameras. A crowd ranging in age from 12 to 90 showed up. "We just prowled around with our cameras and had a conversation with the meadow."

An exhibition of the photographs Long produced during her stay at Shenandoah National Park caught the eye of folks from the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, who invited her to participate in their artist-in-residence program at Lemons Brook Farm. Long spent four weeks focusing on the natural beauty of 119 acres of protected farm and forest land in Bethel, N.Y. She wrapped the residency in late November 2015 and shared her work during the digital and spoken-word event "Lemons Brook Farm: Lens, Pen and Place" on May 21.

Long often merges her photo skills and her love of writing. "The two have always remained intertwined for me. Ultimately the joy is in combining them," she says. "I think of myself sometimes as a poetographer." While at Lemons Brook, she also delved into a collection of her images and poetry titled "Impermanence." The work "explores both the desolation and ragged beauty of the temporal nature of existence."



Sandy Long '86 at work outdoors.
PHOTO ON THIS PAGE BY DAN Z. JOHNSON

Though Long has yet to finalize plans, she may deliver “Impermanence” as a piece of performance art rather than an exhibit.

Long credits her parents for her love of nature and photography. She grew up camping and hiking, reveling in and respecting the natural world. When she was a child, they gave her a little plastic camera that became her near-constant companion on these jaunts. “From that point on, I’ve never been without a camera,” says Long.

Long’s love of words also started early. “Probably from when I was little I had an interest in language and words,” she says. Long honed her writing talent as an English major at Wilkes, and she remembers her time as a student fondly. “I have good

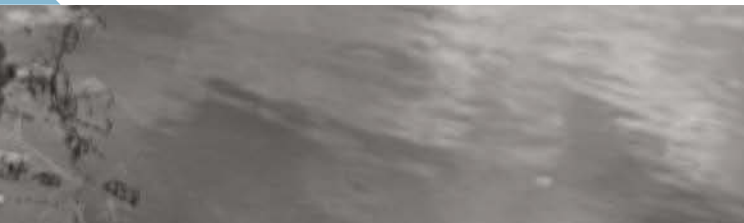
memories of the English department as a whole. There were some wonderful souls there.” Long is particularly grateful to the late Patricia Heaman, who named her editor of *Manuscript*, the student creative writing and visual art magazine. “That was a terrific opportunity for me,” says Long. “I cherish it to this day.”

When Long thinks of her days at Wilkes, she also remembers the positive influence of Jane Elmes-Crahall, communication studies professor. She talks about time spent in the darkroom during an elective photography class and free time spent on the banks of the Susquehanna River.

The variety of experiences on campus seem like fitting preparation for Long’s wandering career path from college administration to freelance writing and photography to newspaper reporting and to co-founding (with fellow Wilkes alumna Krista Gromalski ’91) the marketing and public relations firm Heron’s Eye Communications in Greeley, Pa.

After the Lemons Brook Farm residency, Long is not sure yet what her next project will be, though it will likely involve the type of heartfelt exploration she undertook during her residencies. “The more I do this kind of work, it’s coming into focus for me. My best work is as a photographer of place. What I really do is immerse myself in a place. That’s definitely a process that I use and continue to want to deepen,” says Long. “When people have these conversations and begin to love a place, it sets the stage for advocacy.”

On these pages, Sandy Long shares her thoughts about creating each of these photos.



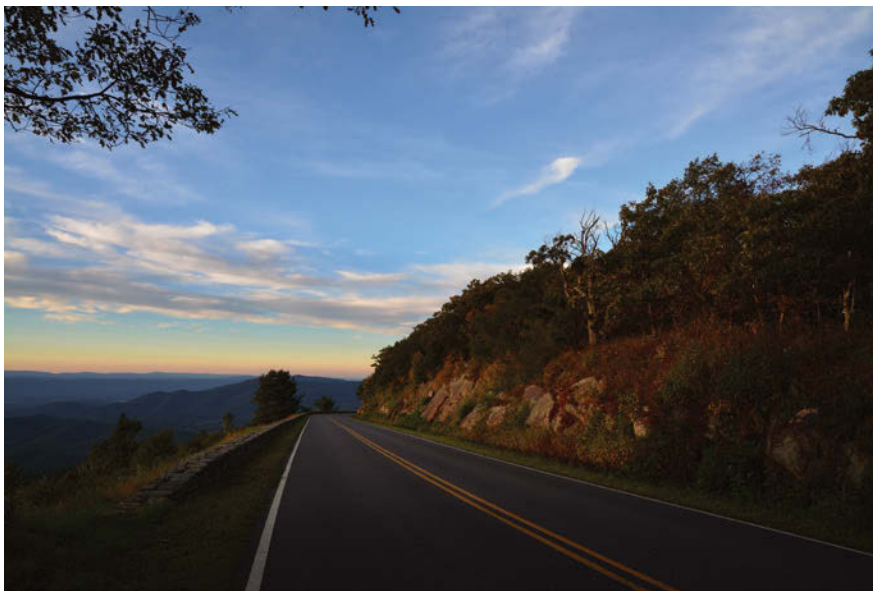
This artwork was produced under the artist-in-residence program at Shenandoah National Park. America’s national parks play an essential role in protecting the wild lands and precious waters that sustain the heart of the nation and the spirit of its people.

“The image raises a visual question about choices—those we make as individuals, and those made as part of the larger systems that affect our lives. It invites deeper consideration of the complexities associated with all public lands, as competing interests of habitat protection, public access, wilderness preservation and private property issues must be weighed. The photo’s mist-laden character suggests that these challenges are not clear matters easily resolved.”

PHOTOS AND CAPTIONS BY SANDY LONG



“I am fascinated by the conversations that go on in the natural world. The visual elements explored in this image hint at layers of possibility in the ethereal landscape. Beyond what I am seeing, there is the realm of feeling. As I bring my attention to this sensory experience, I am invited into the conversation. This is at the heart of my creative process. To what extent is that lone tree me? Or those wavering grasses, buffeted by wind and blanketed in fog? At what point does separation of self and other occur, if at all?”



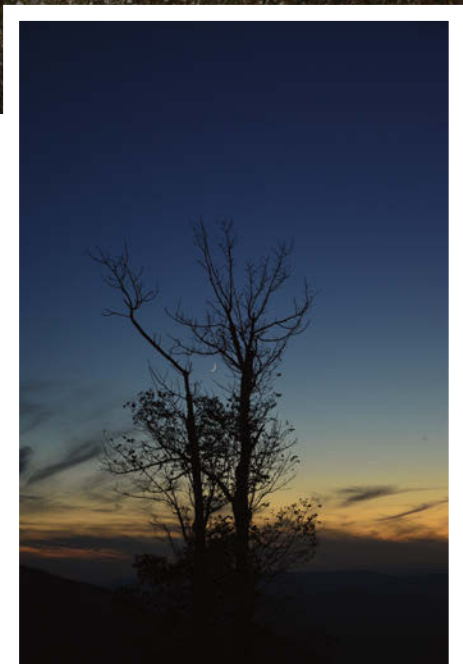
“Skyline Drive is a chief feature of Shenandoah National Park, winding for 105 miles along the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia and delivering stunning views of the valleys below. Its 35-mph speed limit invites a contemplative drive, which takes about three hours to complete. I found the slow pace refreshing and conducive to enjoying the jaw-dropping views offered at 75 overlooks featuring the Shenandoah Valley to the west or the Piedmont to the east.”

“The particularities of a place—its notitia—are at the core of what is compelling about it. But they are often its most underappreciated aspect. Tuning in to the notitia of place leads to a much richer exchange and a relationship that is both nourishing and illuminating. Deepening such relationships can impel us to work on behalf of the places we love.”



“The myriad expressions of beauty in the natural world are endlessly enriching. Capturing images of this artful nature and sharing them with others is one of the most satisfying aspects of this work. ‘Let the beauty we love be what we do,’ wrote 13th century mystic and poet, Rumi. In my work as a reporter, much of my focus was placed on the opposite. In contrast, this is my heart work. I shoot with the eye of a photographer, the attention of a naturalist and the soul of a poet.”





“Photographers are always chasing light. On any given day in Shenandoah National Park, one will encounter plenty of people toting tripods and long lenses, scurrying from overlook to rock outcropping to capture the first or last light of day. In the race against time, I found that my fellow photo enthusiasts rarely spoke to one another during those windows of opportunity.”



“Wilderness funds something deep within us that is easily depleted in today’s fast-paced world—and necessary to our survival. We may even make better choices as a result of the restorative experiences made possible through connection with the natural world and its wild beauty. I hope these photos raise awareness of the need for such beauty to flourish beyond our lifetimes, to nourish and sustain all life forms and to inspire the vigilance of the artist in each of us.”

Sandy Long '86, Greeley, Pa.

Bachelor of Arts, English, Wilkes

Career: Accomplished nature photographer and co-owner of Heron’s Eye Communications, a marketing and public relations firm, with fellow Wilkes alumna Krista Gromalski '91.

Notable: Was chosen Shenandoah National Park’s first artist-in-residence.

Favorite Wilkes Memory: Serving as editor of *Manuscript* and classes with Jane Elmes-Crahall and the late Patricia Heaman.



To view more of Sandy’s photos and read about her creative philosophy, go to www.SandyLongPhotos.com

Discussion at Dusk

We wander out at dusk for a final prowl before the light fully fades. I am looking, listening, opening my senses to what this place is saying.

Buddhawg settles on a nearby knoll, silhouetted against the darkening sky. The patience of a senior dog is one of their greatest gifts. At 14, his sense of hearing nearly gone, Bu sniffs the air for answers, scenting unseen molecules for clues.

I aim the lens, ply this portal to deeper awareness of how it goes here.

A crescent moon begins conversing with the poet-tree that's flung its form in a forward flump, drama and torment comingled. Each holds the other in its thrall; I crawl on belly to observe what's being said.

The darkness deepens, tree becomes jagged line, dog is shadowed shape protruding from the grass. Moon mounts her stage. We are audience, partners, participants in something happening beyond what we see, when suddenly, the silence is knifed with sound.

Rippling cackles of coyote enter the conversation, filtering from the fringe of forest that begins where the clearing concludes. They are on the run, coming closer, clearer, when a pack across the road declares its presence.

Yodels ricochet around us as I lie there with lens, gathering in, growing colder, taking up what's offered, imagining how it will go when they emerge in a rush from the dense brush, flow across the open land, past a woman and a dog, entwined with tree and moon in a twilight embrace, engaged in a deepening conversation with place.

At the invitation of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Sandy completed a second artist's residency at Lemons Brook Farm in Bethel, N.Y., through the month of November 2015. At right is an excerpt of her exploration there.





Brian Nalesnik 'go confers with a member of his crew before the airing of "Face the Nation," the weekly public affairs show he directs. PHOTOS BY STEVE BARRETT

CONTROL-ROOM QUARTERBACK

Brian Nalesnik '90 Directs "Face the Nation" with Efficiency, Savvy and Humor

By Geoff Gehman

BRIAN NALESNIK '90 WAS A LITTLE LEAGUER WHEN HE EARNED THE BIG-LEAGUE NICKNAME "NAILS," A SIMPLIFICATION OF HIS LAST NAME AND A DESCRIPTION OF HIS HAMMER-TOUGH CHARACTER. STEELY NERVES HAVE SERVED HIM WELL DURING A 20-YEAR CAREER AS A DIRECTOR OF LIVE TELEVISION SHOWS ABOUT SPORTS, FINANCES AND POLITICS. HIS LATEST JOB IS PERFECT FOR A CONTROL-ROOM QUARTERBACK WHO LOVES HARD NEWS.

Last winter Nalesnik began directing "Face the Nation," the long-running, top-rated public-affairs program airing Sundays on CBS. Supervising everything from cameras to graphics, he's had a ringside seat for debates about everything from transgender bathrooms to the presidential-campaign circus. He aims "to make everything easier for everyone," especially host John Dickerson, who last June succeeded iconic moderator Bob Schieffer.

Tom Nelson, his first TV mentor at Wilkes, says Nalesnik's success is not surprising. "Brian has the stuff that TV directors are made of," says Nelson, now associate professor of communications at Elon University. "He never rattles. He's the kind of person you'd like to follow into a battle."

It was Nelson who introduced Nalesnik to a TV career during the course "Introduction to Television." A student who was admittedly more passionate about sports than academics, Nalesnik was inspired by Nelson's blunt, bold personality and his honest portrait of TV news as a fast-paced, high-pressure team game. Impressed by Nalesnik's intelligence

and tenacity, Nelson steered him to an internship at a small station in North Dakota, a state where Nelson once worked. Only Nalesnik, he figured, could thrive in faraway, frozen Fargo.

Nalesnik rewarded Nelson's faith, enjoying everything from preparing shot sheets for the sports anchor to driving 90 minutes in a whiteout to shoot video of a high-school hockey game. Back at Wilkes, he tried to simulate the unbelievable camaraderie of his Fargo crew. He helped set up a TV studio and a TV news show, "Wilkes Today" (now "Wilkes Now"). According to his adviser, Jane Elmes-Crahall, he grew remarkably as a theorist, an interviewer and a critic. He was "poised, respectful, a very solid writer, a very logical and visual

“One of the most difficult jobs is to simulate a vision for a producer or an anchor, to get into their head.”

Right, Nalesnik confers with staff member Sharman Boyle on the week's lineup for “Face The Nation,” which is broadcast from CBS's Washington, D.C., studio.

Opposite page, Nalesnik, center, orchestrates the show from the control room, which he also calls the “front row.”



thinker, a natural leader,” says Elmes-Crahall, a professor of communication studies who remains one of Nalesnik’s mentors.

After graduation, Nalesnik began practicing Elmes-Crahall’s tips: “Work as much as you can. Network yourself. Don’t be afraid to ask questions. Be up front.” He spent five years at WBRE, the NBC affiliate in Wilkes-Barre. He moved to CNBC, where he directed daytime financial shows and helped launch “Squawk Box,” the popular morning news/talk program. At MSNBC, he supervised “Hardball with Chris Matthews,” hosted by the fast-talking, take-no-prisoners politico.

Along the way Nalesnik learned to get along with difficult anchors and producers. The experiences prepared him for a 2003-08 run on the MSNBC show “Countdown with Keith Olbermann,” starring the often cantankerous, sometimes controversial commentator. Nalesnik says he worked well with Olbermann, who appreciated the director’s efficiency and levity. The two bonded over sports statistics, trivia and hockey games pitting Olbermann’s favorite team, the New York Rangers, against Nalesnik’s Pittsburgh Penguins.

“We have a nice little friendship,” says Nalesnik. “I know Keith is an eccentric who has a reputation for not being the most pleasant person. I think it helps that I’m part of his sports world and not part of his political world.”

Nalesnik followed “Countdown” with stints for the National Hockey League, Major League Baseball and Bloomberg.

Freelancing with the “CBS Evening News” brought him to the attention of “Face the Nation” officials, who hired him last December to help cover the unusually contentious and colorful race to the White House.

Nalesnik serves “Face the Nation” as a sort of on-air traffic controller. In New York he sets up the CBS graphics studio for the show’s statistics expert, commuting from the Poconos home he shares with his wife, Tina, and their two children. Every week he travels to Washington, D.C., the program’s headquarters, where he choreographs camera operators as they track panel discussions and live and recorded interviews. In the control room, also known as “the front row,” he’s watched moderator John Dickerson grill former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton about her private emails about federal business and Donald Trump about his weathervaning views on abortion.

One of Nalesnik’s primary duties is to make life easier for first-time TV host Dickerson, a longtime political reporter and CBS’s political director. “John is well versed and well respected in the political realm,” says Nalesnik. “He gets along with everyone—even Trump. What I love is that he’s fairly green to this medium, which means I can play a part in his progression. My job is to give him security and confidence when I throw changes his way.....You have to gain the trust of any anchor—or any producer, for that matter. One of the most difficult jobs is to simulate a vision for a producer or an anchor, to get into their head.”

Mary Hager, executive producer of “Face the Nation,” calls Nalesnik a first-rate teammate. “Brian is very quick on his feet,” says the 25-year veteran of CBS News. “He’s creative; he has lots of great ideas about graphics that don’t involve spending a terrible amount of money. He doesn’t yell about problems. He’s fabulous about following up. He’s fabulous.” The director, she adds, is also a fellow fan of Bruce Springsteen, who grew up near Nalesnik’s hometown of Marlboro, N.J.

Nalesnik’s short-term goals include building a snappier “Face the Nation” set that matches Dickerson’s youthful Beltway savvy. His long-term goals include teaching. In March he was a guest in Elmes-Crahall’s “Controlling Spin” class, where he described media manipulation as art, craft and war.

After a quarter-century in TV, Nalesnik still relishes the adrenaline rush, the long hours, the break-neck complexities of breaking news. “In this field you’re going to fail a lot,” he says. “You’ve always got to prove yourself; it’s like a constant trial. It’s a bit of a grind, but I love it. It’s fascinating, it’s fun, you meet a lot of great people. I don’t consider it work; it’s television.”



Brian Nalesnik '90
Henryville, Pa.

Bachelor of Arts, Communication Studies, Wilkes

Career: Director of CBS’s “Face the Nation,” one of television’s longest-running programs.

Notable: Has worked on some of television’s most popular news and public affairs programs, launching CNBC’s “Squawk Box” and directing MSNBC’s “Countdown with Keith Olbermann” and “Hardball with Chris Matthews.”

Favorite Wilkes Memory: Pulling all nighters during final exams. “The sense of accomplishment after acing finals was exhilarating.”



Alumni Association Welcomes New Board Members

The Alumni Association Board of Directors welcomes four new directors elected to the board during the February 2015 meeting. They began their three-year terms in June.



EMILIE GINO '60

I believe the most memorable and meaningful thing about Wilkes for me is the caring, helpful, knowledgeable and understanding staff and faculty. In the fall semester of my sophomore year, I missed many weeks of class while ill. I

went on to graduate on time because of my two professors Dr. Eugene Hammer and Catherine Bone, who helped ensure that I was able to complete my coursework. I have not forgotten the extra effort of those two individuals.

I look forward to an expanded involvement with the University through the Alumni Association. Although I have been able to contribute to the school financially for a fair number of years, that is only one way to pay it forward. Time, effort and active involvement are equally as important as financial support. Although I live 3,000 miles away from campus, technology today has effectively erased that distance, at least most of the time. We all need to give back, to pay it forward and leave the campus better than we found it.



KRISTIN HAKE KLEMISH '04

My favorite part of my Wilkes experience is becoming part of the Wilkes family. My connection to Wilkes has extended beyond just attending and graduating from Wilkes. As an alumna, I love coming back to campus for Homecoming,

to mentor current students or just catch up with friends I have met and stayed connected with over the years. Wilkes is home for me! As a member of the board of directors, I love getting to hear firsthand about the exciting programs and projects that Wilkes is planning.



LISA HARTMAN NINOTTI '02, MBA '08

One thing that I believed helped me to succeed academically and grow as a student at Wilkes was the personal connection with faculty and small classes. The small-class environment made me feel comfortable to participate

during class discussions and made me feel valued as a student. I am still in contact with many of my professors and feel that is a true testament to the success of the small-class environment offered at Wilkes. Wilkes has had a very special place in my heart since the day I stepped on campus for freshman orientation.

I am looking forward to the opportunity to give back while serving on the board by reaching out to prospective and new students. The school has impacted my life tremendously both academically and personally, so to have the opportunity to be part of that process for new students is very exciting and something I am very much looking forward to.



MICHAEL NOONE '97

Wilkes is the best of both worlds.

It is small enough to allow students to participate in a wide variety of experiences but large enough to give students access to first-class educational opportunities. Interning on Capitol Hill and covering sports for WCLH

and *The Beacon* were opportunities that shaped my Wilkes experience and helped prepare me for my career.

We are alumni of Wilkes much longer than we are Wilkes students, and we are all part of the Wilkes family. The Alumni Association serves a vital role in supporting alumni and the University. I am grateful for all that Wilkes has done for me, and I am looking forward to giving back to Wilkes as a board member.



Alyssa Mursch with her mother, Judy Morgan McDonough '87.

Meet the 2016 Alumni Scholarship Recipient Alyssa Mursch

Alyssa Mursch '17, daughter of Judy Morgan McDonough '87, is the 2016 Alumni Association Scholarship recipient. Alyssa is a communication studies major with a concentration in journalism and minors in political science and women's and gender studies. She is from Scranton, Pa., and her dream is to work for *National Geographic*. In addition to her studies, Alyssa spends time speaking with alumni as a member of our phonathon staff. Learn more about Mursch at www.wilkes.edu/AlumniScholarship

Michael DeVincentis '75 Helps Connect Classmates Via the A-List

It can be difficult to stay in touch with former classmates after leaving college. Because of the efforts of Michael DeVincentis '75, many Wilkes alumni from the classes of 1971 through 1979 have maintained strong relationships despite time and distance, reuniting at Homecoming and sharing updates on social media sites.

“Wilkes is a really special place because everyone hung out together,” says DeVincentis. “Your college friends are just the best.”

His efforts started more than 10 years ago, when he looked through the alumni directory to see where his classmates ended up after graduation. The group of alumni, which has come to be known as the ‘A-List’ (short for the ‘Alumni List’), would gather at weddings and house parties, but DeVincentis realized there was a need to stay in touch on a more regular basis than just special occasions.

DeVincentis thought it would be fun to get everyone together for Homecoming 2005 and the group has been gathering each year since. He connected various alumni who graduated between 1971 and 1979 because both he and his brother, Tony DeVincentis '79, graduated from Wilkes and many of the friendships overlapped between the class years.

Social media has played a vital communication role for the A-List. DeVincentis manages a Facebook page, a Flickr account and a Shutterfly account. There are currently about 150 members of the Facebook page, with about 35 of those members being

actively engaged. The Flickr and Shutterfly accounts help DeVincentis to store and archive all of the photos from the yearbooks of 1971–1979. There are between 12,000 and 15,000 photos housed on the photo sharing websites. These accounts also help Michael reach out to those alumni who aren't on Facebook, but would still like to be involved and connected to the group.

He also gives special birthday shout-outs on Facebook and through emails during each A-List member's birthday week.

“The birthday shout-outs take a while,” he says. “I'm also a member of the American Greeting Cards website so that I can send personalized emails with birthday wishes.”

He spends at least 5 hours per week working on organizing photos, sharing information, sending birthday wishes and posting updates on Facebook.

“The friends I've made at Wilkes are so special to me,” says DeVincentis. “So, updating the Facebook page is not work because I love to do it and everyone appreciates it.”

Each year, he makes an effort to have everyone join in the Homecoming festivities by posting updates and encouraging everyone to stay in the same hotel.

“I always tell people, ‘Give us one chance. Come to Wilkes for Homecoming one time—we'll have you hooked and you'll be kicking yourself for all those years that you didn't come,’” says DeVincentis. “I haven't had one person tell me that they didn't have a great time when they joined us for Homecoming.”

The group of Wilkes alumni from the 1970s known as The A-List celebrate their camaraderie at Homecoming. The group was created by Michael DeVincentis '75.



Michael DeVincentis '75
Pequannock, N.J.

Majors: history, sociology

Career: Electrical contractor

Favorite Wilkes memory:
“I have so many Wilkes memories. Now, I just love getting together with all of my college friends.”

Tony Vlahovic '82 Coaches New Jersey Special Olympics Team to Baseball Hall of Fame

When Tony Vlahovic '82 was pitching for the Boston Red Sox, he had dreams of making it into the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. In January his wish came true, but not in the way he had imagined. The two-sport athlete at Wilkes was honored as the coach for the gold-medal Special Olympics baseball team.

Team New Jersey and Vlahovic were recognized at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., as the winners of the 2014 Special Olympics USA games gold-medal baseball game. The Hall of Fame will display a gold medal, a game jersey, a hat, 15 photos of the team and the gold-medal game line-up card. Erik Strohl, vice president of exhibitions and collections, was the team's personal guide during its visit and surprised members by giving them a private viewing of bats from Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig and Derek Jeter.

Special Olympics provides sports training and a variety of athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, providing them with opportunities for physical fitness, boosting self-esteem and experiencing team sports in an Olympic setting.



Tony Vlahovic '82, center in red jacket, with members of Team New Jersey, who he coached to a gold medal in the Special Olympics, standing in front of the National Baseball Hall of Fame. PHOTO BY GERRY MONIGAN

“My fondest memories of the past few years coaching Special Olympics baseball are watching the joy of our team after winning the gold.”



Tony Vlahovic '82 displays his cap that will become part of the National Baseball Hall of Fame for his work coaching Team New Jersey in the Special Olympics. Erik Strohl, right, vice president of the Hall of Fame, stands with other baseball artifacts from the museum's collection.

Special Olympics never had baseball as a sport until 2013, when Vlahovic helped form the New Jersey team. Alabama, Rhode Island and Delaware then followed and all four competed in the USA games. In 2014, New Jersey defeated Rhode Island 6-2 for the first-ever gold medal in the U.S. games. After bringing home the gold, Vlahovic, who coaches high school baseball for the New Hope-Solebury Lions in New Hope, Pa., was nominated as the Special Olympics North American Coach of the Year.

Vlahovic says, “My fondest memories of the past few years coaching Special Olympics baseball are watching the joy of our team after winning the gold. There were a lot of tears and hugs along with singing ‘Take Me Out to the Ballgame’ with the fans.”

Though injury shortened his professional playing career, Vlahovic is proud to be displayed with the rest of baseball's greats with his Team New Jersey hat instead of the Boston “B.” He wouldn't have it any other way.

“These athletes have provided me with more love and passion than I could ever imagine for the game of baseball.”

– By Jennifer Jenkins

Undergraduate Degrees

1958

Peter Gale practices law in New York City. After going to graduate school in mathematics, he became a lawyer. In his spare time, Gale helps with the Bernie Sanders presidential campaign.

1964

Richard Owen Burns was sworn in as a trustee for the Village of Piermont, N.Y., and is on the board of directors of Meals on Wheels. Burns and his wife of 48 years, Lynda, live in Piermont, and they have three children and six grandchildren. He practices law in Chestnut Ridge, N.Y.

Gary Einhorn has expanded his business consulting practice to full time in Ashland, Ore., with a new name, The Entrepreneurial Ear.

1966

REUNION: SEPT. 30 – OCT. 2

Philip Cheifetz retired from Nassau Community College in New York after a 49-year career. In 2008, he received the State University of New York's prestigious Distinguished Service Professorship. A writer of materials for the Harvard Consortium and a spokesperson for Harvard Calculus, he helped to systematically change calculus instruction in the United States. He played a seminal role in the creation of the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges, serving as its president in 1978 and its executive director from 1979-83.

1972

Hedy (Wrightson) Rittenmeyer was named a board member of KERA Public Television in Dallas-Fort Worth and chairs the development committee.

Ronald Rittenmeyer

was named chairman of Millennium Health Corp. in San Diego, Calif. He continues to serve on the boards of AIG, Avaya, IMS Health and Tenet Health Care. He also is on the board of the National Defense University in Washington, D.C., and the Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. He also was named to the foundation board at the Church of the Incarnation in Dallas.

1976

REUNION: SEPT. 30 – OCT. 2

Marie Stolarick is manager of donor relations in the division of university advancement at Misericordia University. She lives in Nanticoke, Pa.

1978

Doreen Wickiser Dzoba retired from teaching after 34 years. The first 28 years were at St. Jude School in Mountain Top, Pa., and the last six years were in Orange County, Fla. She resides in Orlando, Fla., with her husband, Tom Dzoba.

1991

REUNION: SEPT. 30 – OCT. 2

Linda (O'Boyle) Zaneski MHA '02 was promoted to associate chief of nursing services for geriatrics and

extended care at the VA Medical Center in Wilkes-Barre. She has a certification in gerontological nursing and case management and a nursing home license. She resides in Edwardsville, Pa., with her husband, **Stan '90**, and their children, Rebecca and Stanley.

1992

Karen (Schiavo) Ayers of Redlands, Calif., is executive director of the Fontana Chamber of Commerce. She previously served as the marketing manager for Visterra Credit Union in Moreno Valley, Calif. Ayers also serves on the board of directors for March Field Air Museum in Riverside, Calif.

Catherine (Heaman)

Weaver was elected to the board of directors of the Delaware Valley Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. Weaver is chief executive officer of CSG Global, a regional provider of next-generation business collaboration and communication solutions.

1995

Cara (Smigiel) Reed MS '04 has joined Allied Services Integrated Health System as a clinical nurse specialist at Allied Services Skilled Nursing and Rehab Center. Reed also is helping to launch the nonprofit health system's on-site certified nurse aide training.



2006

REUNION: SEPT. 30 – OCT. 2

Lauren Pluskey McLain MBA '10 married Scott McLain on Dec. 20, 2014. The bride says that her bridesmaids were her "something blue," each wearing a different shade of blue symbolizing the lasting friendships she made at Coughlin High School and at Wilkes. Both schools have school colors that include blue. Wilkes friends wearing blue included **Janell (Chwalek) Starlin '06**, **Tiffany Duda '06**, **Megan Mance '06**, **Kathy (Moran) Houlihan '95** and **Kristin (Pissano) Koulik '07**. Wilkes was evident at the wedding in other ways: The bride's mother is Wilkes alumna **Lois (Enama) Pluskey '79**. Photos were taken by **Laura Gleason-Ancherani '09**, and entertainment at the reception was provided by comedian **Terry Granihan '94**. The couple currently reside in Plains, Pa. McLain is director of development for the F.M. Kirby Center in Wilkes-Barre and Scott is employed at MTI as an inspector in Clarks Summit, Pa. The wedding party, pictured here in Weckesser Hall, from left, are **Stacie Malenovitch**, **Nicole Grimm**, **Lisa McLain**, **Sara Moore EdD '15**, **Lauren Pluskey McLain MBA '10**, **Scott McLain**, **Matt Pisko**, **Jason Pluskey** and **Ryan McLain**.



2008

Lurena Gimble MS '10 MS '12 teaches special education in Northwest Area School District. In September 2015, she and five students—all of whom have cognitive or physical disabilities—took a dream trip to Walt Disney World. Through bake sales and fundraising, they collected enough donations to send each student with a guardian on the trip. The goal was not only to expose the students to opportunities to learn and generalize life skills, but to provide them with an opportunity to experience a trip of a lifetime that otherwise would not be feasible.

2007

Joy Anne Kurlandski and Matthew David Check were married June 20, 2015, at Holy Family Parish in Luzerne, Pa. The bride is a nurse at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. The groom works for Tobyhanna Army Depot. They live in Pittston, Pa.

2008

Megan Broski married Lee Comstock on Aug. 8, 2015. The wedding was held at St. Faustina Church in Nanticoke, Pa. She is employed as a licensed professional engineer at Susquehanna Nuclear in Berwick, Pa. The groom is a

licensed professional engineer at PPL in Wilkes-Barre. They reside in Hunlock Creek, Pa.

2009

Alicia Mattioli accepted a position as an elementary school psychologist for the Parkland School District in Allentown, Pa.

Alison Woody of Old Forge, Pa., was appointed to the board of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Northeast Pennsylvania Chapter. She serves as the director of competitive grants for Geisinger Health System Foundation. Woody also volunteers with Leadership Lackawanna, Friendship House and the Arts on Fire Festival.

2011

REUNION: SEPT. 30 – OCT. 2

Bonnie Kerin Bawiec published a self-help workbook intended to help patients reflect on coping skills and create a plan for stressful situations through a seven-day program utilizing stress-management techniques.

Brittany Dougherty became owner of Magic World Child Care Center in Newport Township, Pa. Her twin sister, Brianne, is her partner in the business. The sisters have managed the center since 2011.

2014

Nick Rosati purchased a historic seven-acre Miller Street property known as “the repository” in Wilkes-Barre. It once housed a bustling

premier grain processing mill, and Rosati plans to open a distillery to make craft spirits. He is a resident of Moosic, Pa.

2015

Jacob Parrick of Duryea, Pa., was one of the first recipients of a scholarship to The Commonwealth Medical College in Scranton through a Northeastern Pennsylvania Healthcare Foundation scholars program. He was recognized recently at a luncheon and awards ceremony at the Westmoreland Club in Wilkes-Barre. Parrick is finishing his first year of the four-year scholarship and plans to practice emergency medicine.

Graduate Degrees

1989

William Jones MBA is the president and chief executive officer of the United Way of Wyoming Valley. He appeared on WBRE-TV as part of a panel about programs designed to help lift children from the cycle of poverty through early education and reading.

1993

Janelle Kaczmarek MBA was named the chief financial officer at NET Credit Union. She fundraises for local charities such as Leadership Lackawanna and Make-A-Wish. She is a certified bank auditor and certified financial services auditor. She lives in Exeter, Pa.

2000

Doreen Wickiser Dzoba – See Undergraduate Degrees 1978.

2002

Linda (O'Boyle) Zaneski
MHA – See Undergraduate
Degrees 1991.

2004

Cara (Smigiel) Reed
MS – See Undergraduate
Degrees 1995.

2009

Dawn Leas MFA's poetry
book, *Take Something When You
Go*, was published in April 2016
by Winter Goose Publishing.

2010

Lurena Gimble MS '10
MS '12 – See Undergraduate
Degrees 2008

Lauren Pluskey McLain
MBA – See Undergraduate
Degrees 2006

2011**REUNION: SEPT. 30 – OCT. 2**

Karen Kuklewicz MBA was
named vice president at Benco
Dental, where she also serves
as chief financial officer. She
joined Benco in 1999 as a staff
accountant and became interim
chief financial officer in 2015.

Rachel Strayer MFA

recently had her play,
“Drowning Ophelia,”
produced at the Gaslight
Theatre in Scranton. The play
had its world premiere at the
Repurposed Theatre in San
Francisco in 2013, and it was
her thesis for her master's
degree in creative writing
at Wilkes. Strayer teaches at
Keystone College, where she
will serve as head of theatre
for the 2016-17 school year.

2014

Dawn Zera MFA, Forty-
Fort, Pa., was one of 10
finalists for the prestigious
PEN/Bellwether Prize for
socially engaged fiction.
Zera was recognized for
her manuscript *Earth Teach
Me*. The award, founded by
novelist Barbara Kingsolver,
is presented biennially to
the author of a previously
unpublished novel of high
literary caliber that promotes
fiction that addresses issues of
social justice and the impact
of culture and politics on
human relationships. Zera
is an adjunct professor of
writing at the University
of Scranton, Marywood
University and King's College.

2015

Nichole Priestman Kanney
MFA, a resident of Richmond,
Ind., took first place in the
family/animation short script
category in the screenwriting
competition at the 2016
Nashville Film Festival. Her
original work “Fridge Mates”
is a story about condiments
coming to life behind closed
refrigerator doors, embarking
on a quest to save a friend
from spoiling.

Michael Nixon MA of
Washington, D.C., earned a
fellowship with The Norman
Mailer Center for summer
2016. The Norman Mailer
Center and Writers Colony
offers fellowships for writers
at Pepperdine University and
the Ucross Foundation. Three
applicants each from fiction and
nonfiction and five from poetry
were chosen based on merit for
these residential programs.

In Memoriam

1937

Harriet (Thalenfeld) Gray,
Kingston, Pa., died Jan. 26.
Gray co-owned and operated
The Fashion Youth Center
and was a member of Temple
Israel and its sisterhood,
the Jewish Council of
Women, Hadassah and Jewish
Community Center.

1945

Gifford S. Cappellini,
Dallas, Pa., died Jan. 14. He
was judge of the Court of
Common Pleas in Luzerne
County from 1985 to 2005.
Cappellini was senior partner

at Cappellini, Reinert,
Cardone Law Firm. He served
as Wilkes-Barre city solicitor,
prothonotary for Luzerne
County, and was a lifetime
member of the Pennsylvania
and Luzerne County bar
associations. Cappellini served
in the U.S. Army as a sergeant
in the Judge Advocates
Department.

Gretchen Troback McLain,
Franklinville, N.J., died Jan. 23,
2015. McLain taught English
at Delsea Regional High
School for 27 years until her
retirement in 1989. She was

chairperson of the Franklin
Township Historical Society
and chaired the Franklin
Township Bicentennial
Committee.

1947

Joseph V. Pringle,
Kingston, Pa., died Dec.
28, 2015. He worked
for the Commonwealth
of Pennsylvania as an
employment counselor and
supervisor. Pringle served in
the U.S. Army Medical Corps
during World War II on Iwo
Jima. He is credited with
naming Wilkes' athletics teams

the Colonels in a contest held
during his student years.

1950

John Joseph Rostock Sr.,
Mountain Top, Pa., died Dec.
17, 2015. He was employed
for 25 years by Foster Wheeler
Energy Corp. as plant
accountant, several years with
the Luzerne County Housing
Authority as project manager,
and later was self-employed
as a tax accountant. He was a
World War II veteran of the
U.S. Army.

1951

M. Thomas Robbins, Ottsville, Pa., died April 28, 2015. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II in Japan and the Philippines. Thomas worked in sales for a local engineering firm.

Leonard Stanley Anthony, Homestead, Fla., died Feb. 8. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force and retired at the rank of lieutenant colonel after a 20-year career. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He served in the U.S. Air Force in hospital administration. After his retirement from the Air Force, he held positions as a hospital administrator and in public health care insurance.

1954

Dr. John Albert “Jack” Lupas, Pottstown, Pa., died Dec. 26, 2015. He assisted Dr. Jonas Salk in the development of the polio vaccine. Lupas was the chief of pediatric and general medicine at the Oklahoma Indian Hospital until 1962. He maintained a large family practice in Pottstown.

Andrew Sofranko, Hanover Township, Pa., died Feb. 26. Sofranko served as a high school guidance counselor and as a biology teacher in New Jersey.

Edward A. Laux, Wilkes-Barre, died Feb. 16.

1957

William Marker Farish, Williams, S.C., died Nov. 20, 2015. Farish worked in the textile and rubber industries and was also a poultry farmer.

1958

Paul J. Tracy, Perryman, Md., died Feb. 27, 2015. Tracy began teaching in the Harford County, Md., public schools in 1958 at Havre de Grace High School as a social studies teacher. He later was assistant principal at Bel Air and Aberdeen high schools before being named social studies supervisor for county schools. Tracy was inducted into the Harford County Public Schools Educator Hall of Fame.

1959

Cromwell Wayne Griffith, Weston, Mass., died Feb. 1. He served overseas in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Griffith spent over 40 years as a successful senior operating executive and was an entrepreneurial chief executive officer in several startups and turnarounds.

1961

Robert L. “Bob” Dickerson, Towanda, Pa., died Aug. 2, 2015. He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. He began his career in banking with the Public Loan Company in Owego, N.Y., and eventually worked for Citizens & Northern Bank and First Bank of Troy, where he served as assistant vice president of business development and loan officer of the Towanda office until 1988.

1965

Jane M. Morris, Dallas, Pa., died Jan. 4. She was a music teacher and later a school counselor at Lake-Lehman High School. She was the Lake-Lehman field hockey coach for 16 years.

**1968**

Jack Miller of New Rochelle, N.Y., died April 25. He was a member of the Wilkes University Board of Trustees since 1999. Miller served two terms as board chair, from 2005 to 2008 and from 2011 to 2013. He also served as vice chair of the board and chair of the governance committee. As chair, Miller's leadership helped to accomplish a series of strategic initiatives, including providing the board support necessary to complete the Cohen Science Center. He was a great friend of the University and generous with his time, talent and philanthropic support. His generosity to Wilkes included naming a geology lab and an office suite in the Cohen Science Center, sponsorship of the Miller Conference Room in the Henry Student Center and the KPMG/John R. Miller Scholarship, which is awarded to an accounting major.

A native of Wilkes-Barre, Miller graduated with a bachelor's degree in commerce and finance from Wilkes and entered the accounting profession. He retired in 2005 as a partner and vice chairman of KPMG LLP. His extensive public service included serving as chairman of the board of trustees of the Osborn Retirement Community in Rye, N.Y., serving as a trustee and regent of the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine in New York, and as a vestryman of Trinity Wall Street, as well as Christ's Church in Rye, N.Y.

Frederick “Rick” E. Hackett, Brodheadsville, Pa., died Jan. 10. He served as a professor of education and supervisor of student teachers at East Stroudsburg University and as

the superintendent of schools and assistant superintendent for personnel for the Stroudsburg Area School District from 1997 to 2006.

1967

Robert Stefanko, Luzerne, Pa., died Dec. 20, 2015. He was employed at Wilkes University in the bookstore.

1968

James T. Kozemchak Jr., Harveys Lake, Pa., died Feb. 26. He was a U.S. Navy veteran. He worked for Exxon as a dealer salesman. In 1969 he purchased Paramount Photography Studio and later he purchased Ace Hoffman Studio, which he ran successfully for 35 years. He was a well-known photographer.

1970

Nancy (Schmidt) Orcutt, Ashley, Pa., died Jan. 18. She was a bookkeeper at Union Petroleum, Luzerne.

William D. Kuss, Milwaukee, Wisc., died Jan. 2. He was employed by Miller Brewing Co., Milwaukee.

1971

Charles Lawrence Cappa, of Springfield, Va., died on Sept. 28, 2015. Cappa retired after 41 years at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in Washington, D.C., as an information technology specialist.

1973

Thomas S. Lasky, Dallas, Pa., died Dec. 31, 2015. He was a World War II veteran of the U.S. Army. Lasky worked for Wellington Pump, and then worked as a chemist for Rohm and Haas in Philadelphia and for IBM Corp. He returned to the Wyoming Valley and worked at his family company, Life-Kleen Oil Filters. He retired as vice president of operations with Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

1977

Robert T. Komnath, Wilkes-Barre, died Feb. 14. He was employed for 35 years at Luzerne County Community College, Nanticoke. He was a former Wilkes-Barre Township councilman and served on the zoning board.

1978

Matthew B. Donahue, Camp Hill, Pa., died Feb. 2. He was the owner and operator of Matthew Donahue Courier Service.

1979

Ruth Rico, Wilkes-Barre, died Feb. 19.

1983

Rev. Edward Krewson Furman, Pittston, Pa., died Jan. 5. Furman served in the U.S. Army. He also served as an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church in the Wyoming Conference.

1984

Eunice Mae Bebb, Wilkes-Barre, died Jan. 27. She worked at various nursing homes in the area.

1989

John Michael Ford, Nanticoke, Pa., died Feb. 3. He served in the U.S. Air Force. He worked in the banking industry.

1990

Alexandria (Sandy) Soletski, Plymouth, Pa., died Dec. 30, 2015. She was an elementary school teacher at Hunlock Elementary School from 1966 to 1969 and then by Greater Nanticoke Area Schools from 1969 to 1997.

1993

Jill M. King, Scott Township, Pa., died Jan. 26. She was an administrative clerk for Verizon Corp. in Scranton, Pa.

1999

Maria E. (Camiola) Scalleat, Schnecksville, Pa., died Nov. 22, 2013. She was a middle school teacher and literacy coach in the Hazleton Area School District for 18 years.

2002

Bernadine I. (Barchik) Pierontoni, died Feb. 9. She started teaching at Northwest Area School District in 1975. She retired after 31 years.

Psychology Department Receives Bequest From D. Keith Ferrell '72

The estate of the late D. Keith Ferrell '72 donated educational materials to the Wilkes University Psychology Department. More than 1,000 books, journals and articles were contributed, including some rare books by Dr. Albert Ellis, who pioneered the development of rational emotive behavior therapy. Other donated materials include issues of the *Journal of Rational-Emotive Therapy* and the *Journal of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy*, psychological testing materials and educational materials amassed over Ferrell's 40 years of practice as a psychologist. The donation was made by Ferrell's wife, MaryLee Brennan Ferrell.

Ferrell, a resident of Wilkes-Barre, died in May 2013 and was one of Pennsylvania's first certified drug and alcohol counselors. He worked in private practice in Wilkes-Barre and Hazleton and was founder and director of the Forensic Assessment and Counseling Unit at the Luzerne County Correctional Facility. Ferrell was a certified substance abuse professional. He was the program director for the Pennsylvania Institute for Rational-Emotive Therapy and a Fellow and certified supervisor associated with the Albert Ellis Institute in New York.

ROTC Dedication Honors Memory of Maj. Candice Adams Ismirle '03

In the hallway housing Wilkes University's Air Force ROTC Detachment 752, the image of a young woman, head tilted inquisitively toward the camera, peers from an acrylic plaque. Words on the sign announce this is the Maj. Candice Adams Ismirle Leadership Lounge and below it is a statement: "Choose to celebrate life rather than simply survive it."

The words reflect the late Candice Adams Ismirle's dauntless fight against an aggressive form of cancer.

Ismirle, a 2003 Wilkes graduate in communication studies, lost her battle to breast cancer in February 2016. A native of Brodheadsville, Pa., the late major was a member of the Air Force ROTC detachment. She received her commission as a second lieutenant at the time of her graduation from Wilkes. After her graduation, she enjoyed a distinguished career in the military as a public affairs officer.

The ROTC detachment honored her memory when it dedicated the lounge, located in the University Center on Main, on April 30. The event was held in conjunction with the detachment's annual Dining Out event, which includes a banquet and special recognitions for cadets.

Ismirle's husband, Lt. Col. Ryan L. Ismirle, who is a pilot, spoke at the program, and her parents, Sgt. Maj. (retired) Michael Adams and Sandra Adams attended. The Ismirles have twin 18-month-old boys, Rafe and Ryder.

Lt. Col. John Baum, the detachment's commanding officer, says it's fitting to honor Ismirle's memory.

"Detachment 752 is tremendously proud of Candice and her unwavering courage in the face of adversity. She personifies the Air Force core values of integrity, service and excellence while gracefully representing herself, Wilkes University and the officer corps during her fight against cancer," Baum says. "Candice raised the bar and set the standard that all cadets should strive to



Above left, Candice Adams Ismirle gives her best friend Kyla Campbell a ride on their Wilkes 2003 graduation day. Right, Ismirle and her husband, Ryan, hold their twin boys, Rafe and Ryder, after their birth through a surrogate. PHOTOS COURTESY KYLA CAMPBELL



achieve. She is a shining example of leadership, and her legacy will live on through every cadet that passes through our halls."

At the time of her medical retirement in July 2015, Ismirle worked at the press desk at Headquarters Air Force, the Pentagon. As a media operations officer for the People Team, she provided public affairs guidance to 11 commands worldwide, recommended media strategy to senior Air Force leadership and formulated media relations policy and guidance. In that role, she was responsible for covering some of the Air Force's most sensitive issues, such as sexual assault prevention and suicide awareness.

Prior to her work at the Pentagon, beginning in June 2009 Ismirle taught at the Department of Defense's Defense Information School, where she trained more than 1,470 students from all U.S. military branches, select foreign nations, and Department of Defense agencies.

Ismirle was first diagnosed with breast cancer while teaching at the school. She shared her story by co-producing an award-winning multimedia documentary, *Pink Kisses*, to raise awareness, all while undergoing treatment for her cancer and continuing to provide public affairs instruction. Following her diagnosis and treatment, she participated in a half-marathon. She and her husband chose to become parents to their twin boys by having Ismirle's cousin serve as a gestational surrogate.

Fellow 2003 Wilkes graduate Kyla Campbell says such choices reflected her best friend's dauntless spirit. "That was her to a T," Campbell said. "Going forward and starting a family and doing things like that in the face of cancer was her way of saying, 'I'm going to live my life and move forward.' She never threw in the towel, ever."



One of the pink head scarves worn by Ismirle during cancer treatment and her fatigues are displayed in a shadow box at Air Force Detachment 752's lounge at Wilkes. PHOTO BY VICKI MAYK

OCTOBER

Wilkes Homecoming


HOMECOMING WEEKEND

Homecoming Begins

2016

September 30 - October 2

- Book Hotel →
 - Grab Wilkes Sweatshirt
 - Call teammates



wilkes.edu/alum



Whether it's been 5 years or 50 since you've been back to campus, Homecoming is the perfect time to retrace your steps from the past. Reconnect with Wilkes friends and celebrate our exciting gateway to the future at Homecoming from **September 30 - October 2, 2016!** Use code **REUNION** to receive \$5 off your registration.

Reunions include:

- Classes ending in 1s and 6s
- A-List
- Business
- Communications
- Education
- Environmental Engineering & Earth Sciences
- Nursing
- Political Science
- Psychology



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...ved to be one of
 ...ents of the year.
 ...the traditional
 ...er, the Wilkes
 ...high energy perfor-
 ...d broke into a fren-
 ...nced. The Coun-
 ...i, Beth Cortez, Sa-
 ... Dave Hudak, a

New
 To Improve

The switch-over to the
 telephone system scheduled for
 day. September 19, the system
 postponed until the next
 week. According to the
 Berg: "It doesn't mean
 work is done. It means
 plain that the system
 be announced until
 around the time that
 both inter-



calendar of events

July

- 13-Aug. 13 "Upstream & Down: The Susquehanna," Sordoni Art Gallery
- 11, 18, 25, Aug. 1, 8, 15 The Craft of Comedy, 6 p.m.-8 p.m., online
- 12, 19, 26, August 2, 9, 16 Writing from the Other Sex (Fiction Workshop), 6 p.m.-8 p.m., Kirby Hall
- 13, 20, 27, August 3, 10, 17 Nonfiction Places and Spaces Workshop, 6 p.m.-8 p.m., Kirby Hall
- 14, 21, 28, August 4, 11, 18 Essential Elements of Creative Nonfiction Workshop, 6-8 p.m., Kirby Hall
- 15 Instant Decision Open House, various campus locations
- 24-30 Women Empowered by Science (WEBS) Summer Camp, various campus locations

August

- 5-6 Pennsylvania Writers Conference, featuring novelist and poet Jay Parini and NPR's Maureen Corrigan
- 26 Move-in Day for First-Year and Transfer Students
- 26 Transfer Orientation
- 26-28 Welcome Weekend Orientation
- 29 Fall Semester 2016 classes Begin
- 30-Oct. 12 "Persistence: The Continuing Influence of Classical Myths," Sordoni Art Gallery

September

- 3-5 Labor Day Recess
- 3 Veterans Council 10K, 8 a.m.
- 6 Classes resume
- 11 Summer Commencement, Marts Center
- 15 Welcome to Our Neighborhood Social, 5-7 p.m., Ballroom, Henry Student Center
- 17 Instant Decision Open House, various campus locations
- 21 Latin Café, 2-4 p.m., Savitz Lounge, Henry Student Center
- 26 Congress to Campus, 7-8 p.m., Henry Student Center
- 27 LGBTQA Awareness Training 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Savitz Lounge, Henry Student Center
- 30-Oct. 2 Homecoming



PHOTO BY EARL AND SEDOR PHOTOGRAPHIC