

# WILKES

SPRING 2007



MENTORING MATTERS | HISTORY MYSTERY | ARTIST AND ANGLER

## Building a College Town



**I**N KEEPING WITH WILKES UNIVERSITY'S HISTORY OF HELPING build the economic prosperity of our region, I began service as chair of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry in January. This is a wonderful opportunity for our university to integrate more fully its strategic and master plans into the economic revitalization of our region and help lead an organization that has done so much to facilitate that revitalization.

The outstanding results the region enjoyed last year are a tribute to many dedicated and talented people who work to bring our region economic growth: Gov. Ed Rendell, the county commissioners, Mayor Tom Leighton, the chamber and colleges in the Wyoming Valley. One headline after another extolled the economic progress of our downtown business district: Barnes & Noble Booksellers, the purchase of 10 E. South (University Towers) for student apartments, Movies 14, new restaurants and businesses, and creation of a downtown Business Improvement District. We have a great opportunity to challenge the business community to accelerate this progress even more.

Many leaders, including me, believe the key to our region's future is promoting Wilkes-Barre as a college town, with the additional richness of a vibrant arts community and a strong business and retail presence.

Success at making Wilkes-Barre a college town will be good for Wilkes University and good for all of Wilkes-Barre. If we have learned anything from the past, it is that working together to find new solutions to old problems produces exciting results from which everyone can benefit.

Movies 14, located on Northampton Street, is just one of the recent downtown improvements in Wilkes' neighborhood.

PHOTO BY MARK GOLASZEWSKI

**Dr. Tim Gilmour**  
*Wilkes University President*

### WILKES UNIVERSITY

President

Dr. Tim Gilmour

Vice President, Development and Alumni Relations  
Marty Williams

### WILKES EDITORIAL STAFF

Executive Editor

Jack Chielli

Associate Director, Marketing Communications  
Christine (Tondrick) Seitzinger '98

"Wilkes" Editor

Kim Bower-Spence

Manager, Graphic Design

Mark Golaszewski

Manager, Athletics Administration

John Seitzinger

Contributing Writers

Cindy Taren M'07

Kimberly Pupillo

Photography

Earl & Sedor Photographic

C. Richard Gillespie

Jason Jones Photography

Howard Korn

Warren Ruda

Phil Sheffield

Michael Touey

Layout/Design

Quest Fore

Printing

Payne Printery Inc.

### EDITORIAL ADVISORY GROUP

Anne Batory '68

David DiMartino '01

Brandie Meng M'08

Bill Miller '81

George Pawlush '69

Donna Sedor '85

### ALUMNI RELATIONS STAFF

Executive Director

Sandra Sarno Carroll

Associate Director

Michelle Diskin '95

Alumni and Advancement Services Manager

Nancy A. Weeks

Alumni Relations and Annual Giving Manager

Lauren Pluskey

### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President

Colleen Gries Gallagher '81

First Vice President

George Pawlush '69

Second Vice President

Terrence Casey '82

Historian

John Pullo '82

Secretary

Beth Danner '02

### SPRING 2007

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

# contents

## FEATURES

### 8 Mentoring Matters

More than simple advising, mentoring permeates the Wilkes culture with one-on-one relationships that drive students to achieve more than they thought possible.

### 13 Window to a Tiny World

Donation of two scanning electron microscopes helps establish Microscopy Center on campus.

### 14 History Mystery Unveiled

Even historians didn't know that blacks served in white Union regiments during the Civil War – until Juanita Patience Moss '58 told them about her great-grandfather.

### 16 Artist and Angler

Passions for painting and fly fishing converge in watercolors and oils that bring Luther Kelly Hall '70 national recognition among sportsmen.

## DEPARTMENTS

### 2 On Campus

Welcome to “Wilkes,” the newly redesigned university magazine • Leadership Day brings together scholars from area colleges for Giuliani visit.

### 6 Athletics

Football and women's tennis teams post championship seasons; Sheptock and Leicht are named coaches of the year.

### 18 Alumni News

Get ready for the Last Hurrah Wrestling Reunion, and check out tour opportunities to Italy, Costa Rica and the French Riviera.

### 20 Class Notes

What's happening in the lives of fellow alumni? See who has a new job, spouse or baby.

On the cover: Amanda Lewis '06, left, credits mentor Tom Thomas, right, with helping her confirm that a communications career is the right fit for her.

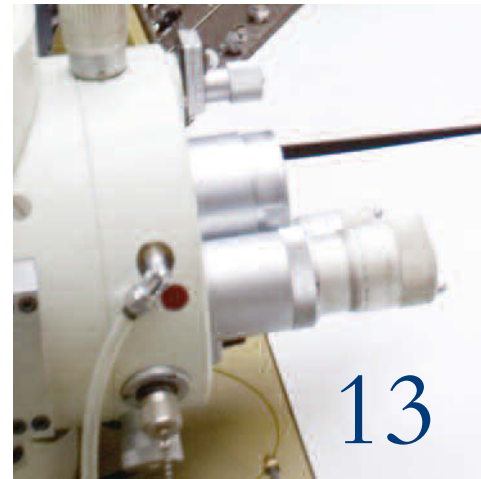
PHOTO BY JASON JONES PHOTOGRAPHY



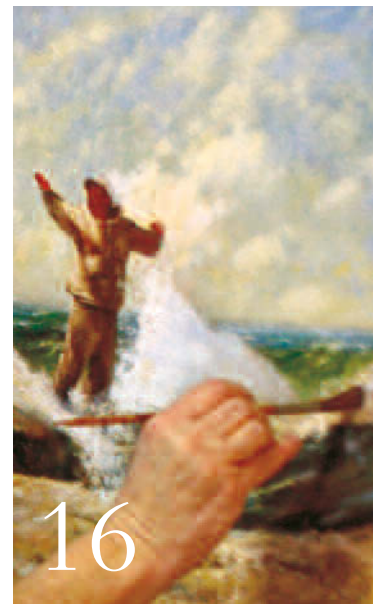
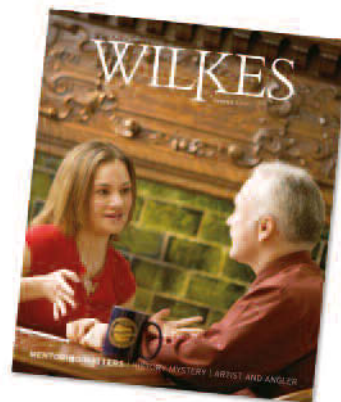
8



14



13



16



## Giuliani Addresses 'Leadership in Difficult Times'

"America's Mayor" and potential presidential contender Rudolph Giuliani shared his vision of leadership during the Second Annual Outstanding Leaders Forum in November.

Giuliani listed six principles outlined in his 2002 book titled "Leadership":

- **Strong beliefs.** "You have to know what you believe."
- **Optimism.** "Train yourself to be a problem solver."
- **Bravery and courage.** Manage and overcome fear.
- **Relentless preparation.** "Take the fear and put it into relentless preparation."
- **Teamwork.** "Leaders have to understand it's about the other people."
- **Communication.** "A leader, I think, ultimately comes down to teaching and motivating."

He concluded: "You can't dictate to people. You've got to get them to participate. You've got to be there when things go wrong."

The lecture, coupled with a New York-style buffet, raised funds to support Outstanding Leaders scholarships in the Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and Leadership.

Rudolph Giuliani. PHOTO BY MICHAEL TOUEY

### THANKS TO THESE SUPPORTERS OF THE OUTSTANDING LEADERS FORUM:

#### UNDERWRITER

Young Presidents' Organization

#### PARTNER

Entercom Pocono Northeast

Commonwealth Telephone

Enterprises

Maslow Foundation

Sodexo

Umphreds/McCole

Foundation

Wachovia Bank

#### LEADERSHIP

Ballard, Spahr, Andrews

& Ingersoll

Benco Dental

Diversified Information

Technologies

Hirtle, Callaghan & Company

Lockheed Martin Corporation

One Source HR Solutions

Power Engineering Service

Corporation

Rosenn, Jenkins &

Greenwald LLP

SunGard Higher Education

#### ASSOCIATE

A. Pickett Construction

Amtire Corporation

Bloomsburg Metal

Brdaric Excavating

Coca-Cola Enterprises

Gavin Law LLC

Gould Evans

GUARD Insurance Group

Intermetro Industries

Michael Gottdenker

Morgan Stanley

Prudential

UBS Financial Services

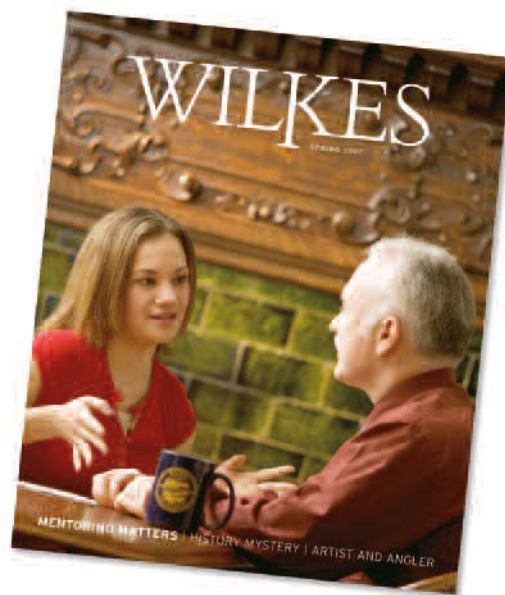
Inc./UBS Securities LLC

## New Look, New Name

Welcome to the new "Wilkes" magazine, and thanks to all who responded to our fall readership survey. You spoke and we heard you.

You've asked for more color, more features about alumni, and more emphasis on achievements of our alumni, students and faculty. We aim to deliver a timely and engaging glimpse into how Wilkes University impacts students, our community and our world.

You'll notice a name change too. The magazine is now called simply "Wilkes" to spotlight its position as the university's premier publication. Let us know what you think about the changes. Send a note through The Colonel Connection ([www.community.wilkes.edu](http://www.community.wilkes.edu)) or to "Wilkes" magazine, Marketing/Communications Department, 84 W. South St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18766.





## Einstein Another Smart Move for Campus

Einstein Bros. Bagels, a national restaurant franchise, opened Jan. 2 in the recently renovated University Center on Main (UCOM).

Einstein Bros. employs five full-time and three part-time workers at the 2,250-square-foot facility. It currently operates in more than 300 locations in 27 states, serving hot and cold sandwiches, salads, baked goods, desserts and to-go and gourmet coffee. The franchise adds another casual dining option for the campus and downtown business communities.

“With 100 full-time Wilkes employees in UCOM and a capacity for 400 students living directly across the street at University Towers, Einstein Bros. will have a built-in customer base and become another success story for downtown Wilkes-Barre,” says Scott Byers, vice president for finance and general counsel for Wilkes.

Einstein Bros. Bagels will serve Wilkes and the downtown business community.  
PHOTO BY CHRISTINE SEITZINGER

## Discourse to Ropes Course: Leadership Day Brings Together Scholars from Neighboring Colleges

Eight Outstanding Leaders scholarship recipients spent the day leading up to Rudolph Giuliani’s speech reflecting on his leadership and preparing themselves to tackle tomorrow’s challenges.

College Misericordia, King’s College, Penn State Wilkes-Barre and University of Scranton each sent two students to participate in Leadership Day with the Wilkes scholars. Morning workshops explored leadership styles. Then they moved to the new ropes courses in the University Center on Main (UCOM) for exercises in confidence and team building.

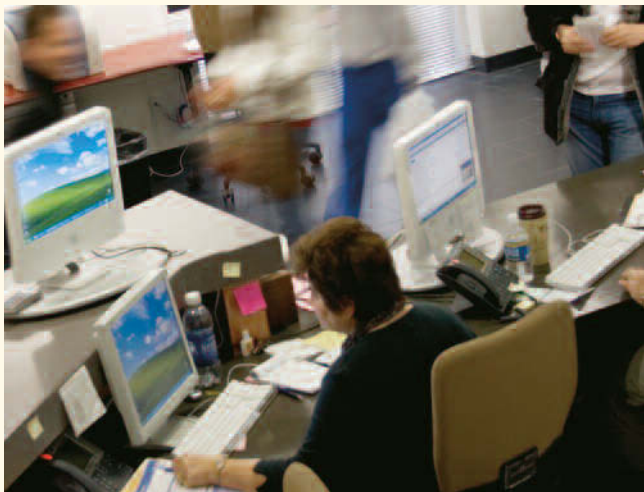
Sophomore entrepreneurship major Elizabeth Lewis of Falls, Pa., appreciated the teamwork exercises. “We needed to communicate ideas, encourage participation, trust each other and help each other perform the task at hand. At the end of the session, the group discussed how some people emerged as prominent leaders, and we talked about the differences in everyone’s contribution to the team.”

Salman Punekar, a senior business administration major, admires Giuliani’s leadership in high-pressure situations. “Many people can easily lead when things are going well, but few can be calm, composed and effective when things are falling apart,” observes the Manhattan resident. “It takes an exceptional leader to maintain control when things are going bad. Applying this to a business model seems very fitting.”

Organizer Matthew Sowcik ’00, director of leadership education in the Sidhu School of Business and Leadership, says, “I received so many wonderful e-mails and letters from the students and administrators at the other universities that we are currently in the process of planning some future events. We will definitely do Leadership Day each year.”

Elizabeth Lewis tackles the ropes course.  
PHOTO BY KIM BOWER-SPENCE





The one-stop Student Service Center is open for business in the University Center on Main.

PHOTO BY MARK GOLASZEWSKI

## Decisions Made Easy

Wilkes University is taking some of the anxiety out of the college application process. High school seniors visiting campus now can find out immediately whether they're accepted to the university.

The process is easy. Prospective students who schedule an on-campus appointment with a counselor any time during their senior year of high school are asked to bring an official transcript, SAT scores and completed application. Admissions counselors review the file and give an admissions decision the very same day.

The Instant Decisions program applies only to traditional students applying to full-time undergraduate programs. Pharmacy and some health science programs may require a secondary application for acceptance into these popular programs.

## Freshmen Dig Up the Past

Wilkes University freshmen archaeologists uncovered human bone and ceramics fragments from the basement of a local church.

The excavation project, conducted by about 20 students as part of an archaeology course, unearthed more than 100 artifacts buried beneath St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Theresa Kintz, instructor of sociology and anthropology, led the students as they discovered artifacts ranging from historic ceramics dating back to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century to human hair and bone fragments. Kintz believes the human remains were displaced from burial sites during the 1972 flood, but further investigation is required into recorded burial locations in the vicinity.

Students excavated in the church basement, which was consecrated in 1823, in an approximate 12-by-12-foot area where the concrete and brick floor had been removed to accommodate a heating system.

Kintz has previously led students on excavations at Doane and Kirby halls on campus. Her course offers freshmen an opportunity to explore the human odyssey from the Stone Age to the Space Age through study of archaeology. The artifacts remain on display in Stark Learning Center.

Archaeology students found human hair and bone fragments buried beneath St. Stephen's.

PHOTOS BY MARK GOLASZEWSKI



## Savitski Named McGowan Scholar

Joshua R. Savitski, a senior in the Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and Leadership, was named the 2006 William G. McGowan Scholar and received an \$18,000 scholarship. The McGowan Scholars program began at Wilkes in 1999.

Savitski serves as secretary of the Society for the Advancement of Management (SAM), where he helps supervise fund-raising events and prepares the team for annual competitions. He also is a member of the Programming Board and Commuter Council.

Administered by the William G. McGowan Charitable Fund, the Scholars Program honors William G. McGowan, the Ashley, Pa., native, humanitarian and telecommunications pioneer who founded MCI Communications. The program provides select colleges and universities with a program to identify outstanding business students.



Left to right: Paul Browne, dean of the Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and Leadership, Josh Savitski and Wilkes President Tim Gilmour. PHOTO BY CHRISTINE SEITZINGER

“  
Not only  
should you  
look **AHEAD**  
**TO THE**  
**FUTURE,**  
you must also  
learn to **LIVE**  
**IN THE**  
**PRESENT**  
moment.”

– Edward Schicatanò

## Professor Lauded as Outstanding Teacher

Edward Schicatanò, associate professor of psychology at Wilkes University, received the annual Carpenter Outstanding Teacher Award for the 2007–08 academic year.

The Carpenter Award recognizes a faculty member who has been an outstanding educator during a three-year period. A committee of colleagues generates nominations. The recipient must meet professional qualifications, which include teaching effectiveness, interaction with students, research contributions and overall excellence.

“I’m especially honored because this award is given to me by my peers,” says Schicatanò. In addition to receiving the Carpenter Award, he also won the Wilkes Outstanding Faculty Award during the 2002–03 academic year.

In a commencement speech on Sept. 10, 2006, he said, “Not only should you look ahead to the future, you must also learn to live in the present moment. Appreciate what is here today. Notice the beauty that exists outside you. And don’t be afraid to show the beauty that is inside you.”

It’s a philosophy that Schicatanò says reached him after college, as he got older. He imparts this wisdom on his students on a daily basis by “showing respect in the classroom and smiling.”



Edward Schicatanò, Carpenter Outstanding Teacher for 2007. PHOTO BY CINDY TAREN



# CHAMPIONS

## Football Team Claims MAC Championship

A talented group of Colonels claimed its first Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) football championship and first unbeaten regular season since 1993. For the second straight year, Wilkes earned a berth in the NCAA Division III playoffs, where players garnered a win for the first time in school history.

Head coach Frank Sheptock led the football team to an 11-1 mark and a new school record for victories in a season. For his efforts, Sheptock was recognized as the MAC Coach of the Year and AFCA Region 2 Coach of the Year.

Junior Kyle Follweiler earned D3football.com All-East Region and ECAC Southeast Player of the Year honors. Follweiler and senior Anthony Serafin were named second-team All-Americans by D3football.com, while senior Mike Ferriero and junior Jordan Purdy earned honorable mention honors. Follweiler garnered MAC Defensive Player of the Year honors as well, while senior Jim Jordan was the MAC's Offensive Player of the Year.

Follweiler and Jordan were among 14 Colonels named to the All-MAC team. Senior Bryan Vivaldo was recognized as a first-team Academic All-American by "ESPN The Magazine," while both Vivaldo and senior John Darrah copped first-team "ESPN The Magazine" District II Academic All-America honors.

Senior running back Tom Andreopoulos (#8) rushed for 1,285 yards and 12 touchdowns this season.  
PHOTO BY WARREN RUDA

## Lady Colonels Net Tennis Title

The Wilkes University women's tennis team left its mark on the 2006 season with poised domination. The Lady Colonels fashioned a 16-0 record en route to their first Freedom Conference title and an automatic berth into the NCAA Division III Championship.

Wilkes overpowered the opposition during the year, winning 79 of 89 singles matches and 41 of 48 doubles contests. Team members garnered a number of individual accolades along the way. Coach Chris Leicht was named Freedom Conference Coach of the Year after leading Wilkes to its best season in school history.

Freshman Xiaoqiao Zhang was honored with the conference's Player of the Year award after fashioning a 17-1 record while playing number one singles in her rookie season. A first-team All-Freedom Conference recipient, Zhang claimed the number one singles title at the Middle Atlantic Conference Individual Championships. She was joined on the All-Conference team by first-team selection and Freedom Conference team tournament MVP sophomore Alison McDonald, and second-team honoree sophomore Kristin Wilt.

The Lady Colonels, ranked 17<sup>th</sup> in the Atlantic South Region, will continue their historic season in the spring as they make their first NCAA Division III Tournament appearance in May.

Freshman Xiaoqiao Zhang was honored with the conference's Player of the Year award.  
PHOTO BY WARREN RUDA





# Mentoring Matters

A LITTLE PUSH, GENTLE GUIDANCE AND UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES PROPEL STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE MORE THAN THEY THOUGHT POSSIBLE

By Kim Bower-Spence



Tom Thomas, right, administered personality and career tests to help Amanda Lewis, left, confirm a communications major was a good fit for her.

PHOTO BY JASON JONES PHOTOGRAPHY

**S**ALVATORE AGOSTA '98 WAS convinced his interest in natural history couldn't translate into a job. So as a student at Wilkes University, he needed direction to find an ordinary profession that held his interest.

Enter biology professor Mike Steele. "Mike steered me away from doing something ordinary by showing me the path to a career doing something that I would do for free," explains this northern New Jersey native. Now in the last year of a five-year doctoral program in ecology at University of Pennsylvania, he studies how different plants impact the growth, development and survival of the caterpillars that eat them. And he does that in the tropical dry forests of northwestern Costa Rica's Guanacaste Conservation Area.

One-on-one relationships with professors are common at small universities. But Paul Adams, vice president of student affairs, says Wilkes takes it further. "It's the culture of the institution. And while there are numerous and separate initiatives aimed at developing different aspects of mentoring relationships, what we're really doing is initiating and fostering that culture and taking it to a greater level. We're working to assure that everyone who wants to be engaged in such a relationship at the university has an opportunity to do so."

The challenge is to not institutionalize the natural, organic nature of the process — to not create a mechanized system but rather nurture conditions that allow relationships to evolve naturally. Notes Adams: "Education is about people learning and changing and developing, and that involves risk."

## Research Boost

All faculty in the biology department run their own research programs in their own research space. Freshmen can volunteer to help with research projects. And at least five paid summer research positions are available for undergraduates, with free housing provided on campus. “We try to provide those opportunities for full-time research,” says biologist Steele. “Research defines much of our culture, and we really believe it has made for a much more dynamic and exciting atmosphere for our students and provides much more opportunity for career development.”

Many students work on two or three research projects before they get to their senior project. Notes Steele: “This is how a graduate student would learn science.” And that translates into a good number of students entering the best doctoral programs in the country.

That includes Agosta, who now studies with renowned Penn scientist Dan Janzen. Agosta credits Mike Steele’s mentorship with helping get him there. “Mike’s research program is well-designed to foster and nurture the interests of undergraduates.”

He is currently writing his dissertation, with plans to defend in May 2007. Afterward, he hopes to continue his research in tropical ecology.

Agosta adds: “Initially, undergraduates like me have only a foggy idea of what ecology is and what it means to do research.

Through his mentoring and friendship, Mike helps lift this fog, which is the first step to defining one’s goals and harnessing one’s ambition.”

## Finding a Path

For Amanda Lewis ’06 of Somerset, N.J., defining that ambition was the challenge. She arrived at Wilkes undecided on a major but with a passion for dance. She met Tom Thomas, executive director of University College, when he taught a freshman foundations course. Two years later, as a junior, she looked him up, and he remembered her.

Even though Thomas wasn’t her advisor,

he took time to administer a personality test and a career test to gauge whether a communications major was a good fit.

“I was so overwhelmed in college. I didn’t know there were so many choices in my career path,” acknowledges Lewis, who works as a Relay for Life coordinator for the American Cancer Society. “He showed me the light that there was something I was good at. He just gave me that little extra push, and I was able to take it from there.”

Building confidence is a big part of the mentor’s role, Thomas asserts. “If we as mentors have confidence in someone and we point out their strengths, they’re more likely to listen because they see us as being objective.”

## Beyond the Comfort Zone

Gabe LeDonne ’05 planned on a college path that would launch his career as a political reporter. He became editor of “The Beacon” and a mentee of advisor Andrea Frantz, who encouraged him to “get out of your comfort zone.”

With her prodding, this Lake Wallenpaupack, Pa., native accepted a position as a financial reporter with SNL Financial, based in central Virginia. Writing about investing and the financial services industry was foreign to this communications studies and English double-major with no business background. “I’m gaining knowledge in something that I previously had no knowledge of at all, and now I enjoy it.”

Says Frantz: “My job is to be a sounding board. I need to listen and ask questions. My job as a mentor is as coach and supporter and advisor, someone who continues to push and advocate and even challenge ideas.”

And that doesn’t stop when student dons cap and gown. “I don’t believe in false openings and false closings of education,” she says. “Relationships established with students continue because learning never ends.” LeDonne and Frantz continue to touch base almost weekly.

## Bridging Generations

Adams sees mentoring efforts tying together generations of alumni. As decades pass, the value of mentoring sustains itself and has really become part of Wilkes’ fabric.

Take Brian Summers ’90 and Beth Ann Horn ’08. “Having a mentor, somebody to lean on, is so important,” explains Summers, Skillman, N.J., who serves as chief operating officer of Construction Financial Management Association. Fellow Wilkes alumnus Jason Griggs recruited him to participate in a Sidhu School of Business and Leadership program that pairs sophomores with alumni mentors. Summers and Horn corresponded via email over an eight-week period in spring 2006.



Junior Beth Horn reworked her resume and focused her marketing ambitions as a result of e-mail communications with alumni mentor Brian Summers. PHOTO BY EARL AND SEDOR



Mary Waldorf, left, teaches communication and team building while belaying for students like Michael Lewis, right, in UCOM's Recreation and Athletic Center. PHOTO BY EARL & SEDOR

Horn, of Roseland, N.J., credits Summers with helping her focus her career interests. She hadn't realized that within marketing, her chosen concentration, she could go into promotion or research. She's already updated her resume to reflect Summers' suggestion that she highlight how her employers to date had benefited from her efforts.

"I'm more focused now, so I'm more confident about what I'm going to do in the future," reports Horn, who's never met Summers in person.

Summers benefited from the discussions too, picking up ideas he'll use in mentoring his own staff, and in establishing a mentoring program to groom his association members for leadership. And Horn's determination reminds him to "prepare a little more for things I don't see. There's more for me out there, and I'd better be prepared."

“Initially, undergraduates like me have only a foggy idea of what ecology is and what it means to do research. Through his **MENTORING** and **FRIENDSHIP**, Mike (Steele) helps lift this fog, which is the first step to **DEFINING ONE'S GOALS** and **HARNESSING ONE'S AMBITION.**”

– Salvatore Agosta '98

## Student to Student

The nurturing culture permeates right down to students. Upperclassmen often help and encourage classmates through programs like E-mentoring (see fall 2006 issue) and the Writing Center.

Matt Zebrowski '06 benefited both from mentoring and serving as a mentor to others. An English major now studying linguistics at Temple University, he began working in the Wilkes Writing Center as a freshman. He served several semesters as a writing fellow, coaching fellow students who needed extra help in English 101 and 120.

"If education is done right, it is mentoring," reasons Zebrowski, who comes from a family of teachers in Laffin, Pa. "I don't really see the two as distinct."

Zebrowski and Patrick Austin '07 are developing an online writing center based on MySpace.com to expand consulting services and allow students to direct papers to tutors best able to help them. A mentoring mini grant allowed English professor and Writing Center Director Chad Stanley to take the two students to a writing conference at University of Illinois, where they presented the concept.

Says Stanley: "I love the mentoring culture at Wilkes. It's wonderful to see it being funded and supported."

### **Grants and mini-grants augment and encourage mentoring at Wilkes University. Among projects funded are:**

- Scholarly research projects in biology. The program funds paid summer research positions for undergraduates.
- Sidhu School of Business and Leadership mentors. All sophomores studying business have opportunity to pair with alumni mentors.
- Writing mentors and writing associates programs. Students are paid to coach and assist fellow students with writing assignments.
- Mini-grants to promote travel to conferences such as an October 2006 Chicago Writing Center Conference at University of Illinois and a national clinical competition for pharmacy students.

**To learn how you can help nurture the mentoring culture at Wilkes University, contact (800) WILKES-U ext. 4130 or [alumni@wilkes.edu](mailto:alumni@wilkes.edu). Summers invites anyone with questions to contact him at [bsummers@patmedia.net](mailto:bsummers@patmedia.net).**

## Climbing Higher

Mentorship sometimes happens in surprising places. Michael Lewis, a junior mechanical engineering major and a cadet with the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Detachment 752 on campus, names Mary Waldorf '01, coordinator of student development, as his mentor. "Mary is my advisor for the National Society of Leadership and Success and a co-belayer for the Wilkes rock wall." For those unfamiliar with climbing, a belayer is the person who secures the ropes to ensure climbers don't fall very far if they slip.

Waldorf headed the project to bring a rock wall and ropes course to the Recreation and Athletic Center in the University Center on Main (UCOM). She says it adds an experiential adventure component to leadership training — and an opportunity for mentoring. "At Wilkes, our doors are always open to the students. This mentality gives us, the faculty and staff, the opportunity to learn as much from students like Mike as they can learn from us."

Adds Lewis: "Mary inspires me with her optimistic view on life and positive attitude. Although she has a very busy job at Wilkes University, she always finds time for students. She serves as a constant reminder to me of the motto 'Mission first, people always.'"

## Can't Be Contrived

Thomas asserts that the most important factor in a mentoring relationship is respect. "I truly don't believe that it is a contrived or artificial relationship. I don't think it's something you can set out to become."

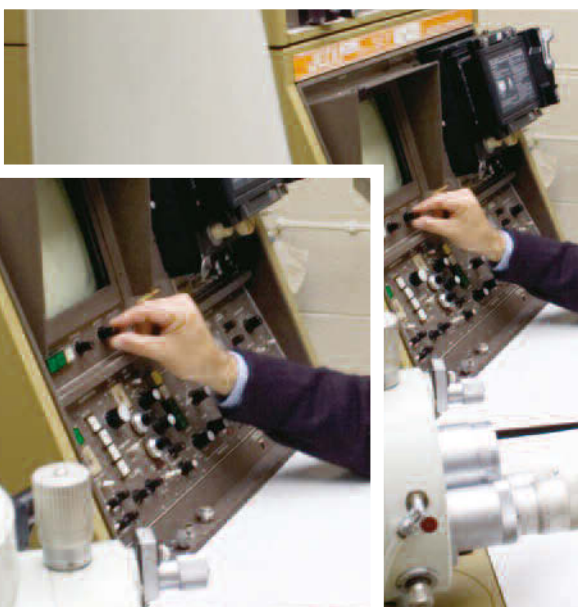
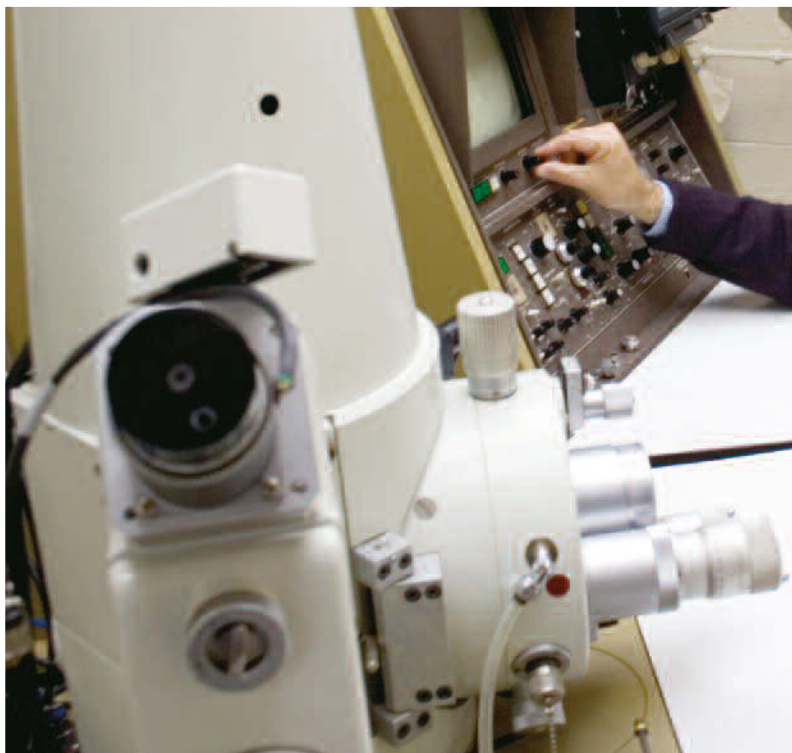
He says: "Oftentimes when someone assigns us to that mentoring role, it is not because we have done more than we would for any other student. These are the kinds of relationships we want to develop with all our students."

Concludes Adams: "Every encounter — no matter with whom — is a moment of truth and frames our future encounters and relationships."

I was so overwhelmed in college. I didn't know there were **SO MANY CHOICES** in my career path. ...He just gave me that **LITTLE EXTRA PUSH**, and I was able to take it from there.

— Amanda Lewis '06

# Window to a Tiny World



Left to right: Ali Razavi and Don Mencer will head the newly established Microscopy Center for faculty and student research.  
PHOTO BY MARK GOLASZEWSKI

## DONATION OF ELECTRON MICROSCOPES OPENS NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCH

By Jack Chielli

**T**WO SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPES (SEM) worth \$600,000 were recently donated to Wilkes University's newly established Microscopy Center. The powerful microscopes will open up a new path of research for students and faculty who can now experiment and learn on some of the most sophisticated equipment in the region.

Ali Razavi, associate professor of mechanical engineering, and Donald Mencer, associate professor of chemistry, have teamed up to head the Center, which will be located on the first floor of Stark Learning Center. The equipment will be particularly useful to faculty and students from chemistry, biology, pharmacy and engineering programs, Razavi explains. The microscopes give students and faculty an opportunity to experiment and learn on some of the most sophisticated equipment in the region.

Schott Optical Company, Duryea, Pa., and Fairchild Semi Conductor, Mountain Top, Pa., donated the equipment because of ongoing relationships with Razavi, who has done work for them in the past. "We are ecstatic that these two companies have decided to donate their equipment to Wilkes," Razavi said.

A scanning electron microscope forms topographical images by moving a beam of electrons across an object. Electron microscopes can produce high-resolution images of the surface of microscopic materials. The microscopes, which can magnify objects up to 200,000 times their size, are used in research and development of electronic devices such as computer microprocessors. And research on biological specimens helps scientists better understand microorganisms.

The microscopes will also be used by the university to build partnerships with area industries to stimulate economic development, Mencer says. In fact, Razavi and Mencer already have their first partnership, with Gentex Corporation of Carbondale, Pa.

"If Gentex needs to use this type of equipment, they either have to invest in a new SEM or travel out of the region to use one at another location," Mencer said. "Now they can come here. These types of projects provide valuable research and development experience in the form of real-world, hands-on work for our students."

# History Mystery

## UNVEILED

RETIRED TEACHER UNCOVERS  
PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN HISTORY  
OF BLACKS SERVING IN CIVIL  
WAR'S WHITE REGIMENTS

By Kim Bower-Spence

**J**UANITA PATIENCE MOSS '58 RECALLS LAYING flowers on the West Pittston, Pa. grave of her great-grandfather each Decoration Day when she was a girl. As American Legion members led a parade for what we now call Memorial Day, her family made sure the youngster knew escaped slave Crowder Patience had served with the Union Army in the Civil War.

The retired biology teacher didn't think much about that part of her family history until she noticed a *Washington Post* article in 1998. It invited descendants of black Civil War veterans to a symposium coinciding with the unveiling of the African-American Civil War Monument. Moss, living just across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C., in Alexandria, Va., searched a National Park Service database of United States Colored Troops (USCT) and was surprised to find no record of her ancestor. Before she headed to the symposium, Moss combed the contents of an old box given to her by Patience's daughter. Discharge papers revealed the regiment in which he

served, and she was able to find his name listed as a Union soldier.

At the symposium, she stood before politicians, archivists, historians and authors to ask why they weren't also honoring black men who served in white regiments. "Because there weren't any," she was told.

"Oh, yes there were. I know of one: my great-grandfather," she recalls telling the assembly. She pulled his discharge papers from her briefcase. "You could tell by the looks on their faces that this was entirely new information to them."

The mystery launched a search that would divert Moss from a quiet retirement in which she had planned to learn Spanish and quilting. Instead, the 74-year-old has mined Civil War records to research Patience and other black soldiers in white regiments.

"She's done a good job of digging," confirms Wilkes University history professor Harold Cox. "The evidence is there. She's proven to my satisfaction that there were integrated units in the northern army."

Moss learned that Patience enlisted in the 103rd Pennsylvania Regiment on Jan. 1, 1864, in Plymouth, N.C., serving as a cook. In April 1864, this Union regiment was among 16 that fought Confederate troops in the Battle of Plymouth. All Yankees were killed or captured, but Moss' grandfather apparently escaped. "He had not deserted," she confirms.

After the war, he ventured north to Harrisburg, Pa., to collect his last pay from the Union Army. Patience married and eventually made his way to West Pittston, where he raised eight children in the predominately white community.

Savoring the mystery, Moss refuses to reveal how he got away. The answer is in Moss' first book, "Created to be Free." She wrote this fictional account of Patience's life because she lacked enough details to write a biography. "He didn't discuss his former life in slavery at all."

That doesn't mean the book lacks a historical basis. Cox helped fill in Civil War facts, and Moss did extensive research. Moss has discovered 1,000 black Civil War soldiers in white regiments so far, and she plans to keep looking. After writing "Created to be Free," she was encouraged to write the nonfiction "The Battle of Plymouth, N.C., April 17-20, 1864: The Last Confederate Victory" and "Forgotten Black Soldiers in White Regiments During the Civil War."

At the encouragement of a friend who appraises African art, she authored "Anthracite Coal Art of Charles Edgar Patience" about her father's work. Moss is a frequent speaker at historical societies, universities and other organizations from Connecticut to Florida. Besides recounting history, she offers workshops on "Becoming Your Own Family Storyteller."

Moss has no interest in encouraging others to write "Mommy Dearest"-type books that air family skeletons. "Overcoming — those are the stories that need to be told. And every family has them."

**Juanita Patience Moss**

**Alexandria, Va.**

**BA, Secondary Education 1958**

**Career:** High school biology teacher, New Jersey

**Notable:** Amateur historian revealed previously unknown fact that black men served with white regiments in the Civil War

“  
Overcoming  
— those are  
the STORIES  
that NEED  
TO BE  
TOLD. And  
every family  
has them.”



Above: Moss has learned of at least 1,000 black soldiers who served in white Union regiments during the Civil War.

Insets: Photos show Moss' father, coal sculptor Charles Edgar Patience. Crowder Patience's grave can be found in West Pittston Cemetery.

PHOTOS BY HOWARD KORN AND KIM BOWER-SPENCE



# artist and...

LUTHER  
KELLY HALL  
HOOKS  
NICHE  
PAINTING  
SCENES OF  
FLY FISHING

By  
Kimberly  
Pupillo

# angler



**B**Y COINCIDENCE – OR MAYBE NOT – Wilkes University alumnus Luther Kelly Hall '70 was watching the movie “A River Runs Through It” when called in December to talk about the juncture of his vocation and passion.

Hall, a renowned watercolor painter and illustrator of fly fishing scenes, actually watched the 1992 classic about family and fly fishing twice that week. It happened to be on cable, but he owns the DVD too. “It’s an incredible story,” says Hall, of Mystic, Conn. “It just reminds me of my own family. A river ran through it all. My family does a lot of fishing. I grew up going fishing with my father’s family — my grandfather, my father, my brother and now my son and daughter. I had so many great times in the stream fishing. I can just really relate to it.”

He relates so much so that he decided to focus his artistic abilities on this unique genre. Hall, who earned a bachelor’s degree in art at Wilkes, had been painting traditional landscapes when he received a book showing fly fishing scenes. At that point, he decided to follow his heart and paint what he loves so much.

“Landscape is extremely competitive,” Hall notes. “Fly fishing is a good, unique niche.”

In 1992, he started exclusively painting fly fishing scenes. He’s done two-person shows with the American Museum of Fly Fishing, Manchester, Vt., as well as events in cities such as Denver and San Francisco. He also has provided illustrations for numerous magazines, including “Gray’s Sporting Journal,” “Sporting Classics Magazine” and “Flyfisher” magazine, based in Tokyo. “Yale Angler’s Journal” featured one of Hall’s paintings on its front cover – the first time the magazine used an image from a living artist.



Above: Luther Kelly Hall’s painting “Fishing the Grande,” acrylic, 18” x 24”.  
Left: Hall’s paintings have appeared in magazines across the United States and in Japan.  
PHOTO BY PHIL SHEFFIELD

He also works with the Atlantic Salmon Federation and auctions paintings off to raise money for conservation efforts. His work is featured in galleries such as Redbone Gallery, Islamorada, Fla.; Sportsman’s Gallery and Paderewski Fine Art, Atlanta, Ga., and Beaver Creek, Colo.; Morgan Gallery, Blakeslee, Pa.; and others.

Primarily, Hall uses watercolors as his medium of choice. Within the past year, however, he has used mainly oil. “I did oil at Wilkes, and I was interested in trying and developing my skill,” he explains. “I decided to experiment, and I found I enjoyed the medium. I’ve put a really serious effort into oils.”

Hall works full-time as a middle school art teacher in Mystic, but he still finds time to paint every day. The length of time it takes to complete a painting or illustration varies. After fishing a particularly scenic spot, he may shoot photographs from several vantage points. “I try to find a place that has good angles and good design.” Then he creates practice sketches and completes one or two smaller versions before completing a project. Sometimes, he will do several practice studies.

Finding time to fish can be a challenge, considering the amount of commission work he does. And he participates in celebrity fishing tournaments to raise money to fight cystic fibrosis. Still, he enjoys salt-water fly fishing from his Hydra-Sports center console boat in the Atlantic Ocean, just 10 minutes from his home. And the Kingston, Pa., native still likes to cast about the Keystone State, particularly Spruce Creek and the Little Juniata River.

Hall and wife Susan, a dental hygienist, have two children: Michael, 18, and Ashley, 12. Recently, Michael had to write an essay for a college application on a unique skill he possesses. “He’s writing it about fly fishing,” Hall said. “He came in and saw that I was watching ‘A River Runs Through It,’ and he sat down with me and we watched it together.”

“ I GREW UP GOING FISHING with my father’s family – my grandfather, my father, my brother and now my son and daughter.”

**Luther Kelly Hall, Mystic, Conn.**

**BA, Art 1970**

**Career:** Painter, middle school art teacher

**Notable:** Gained renown with paintings depicting his favorite pastime, fly fishing

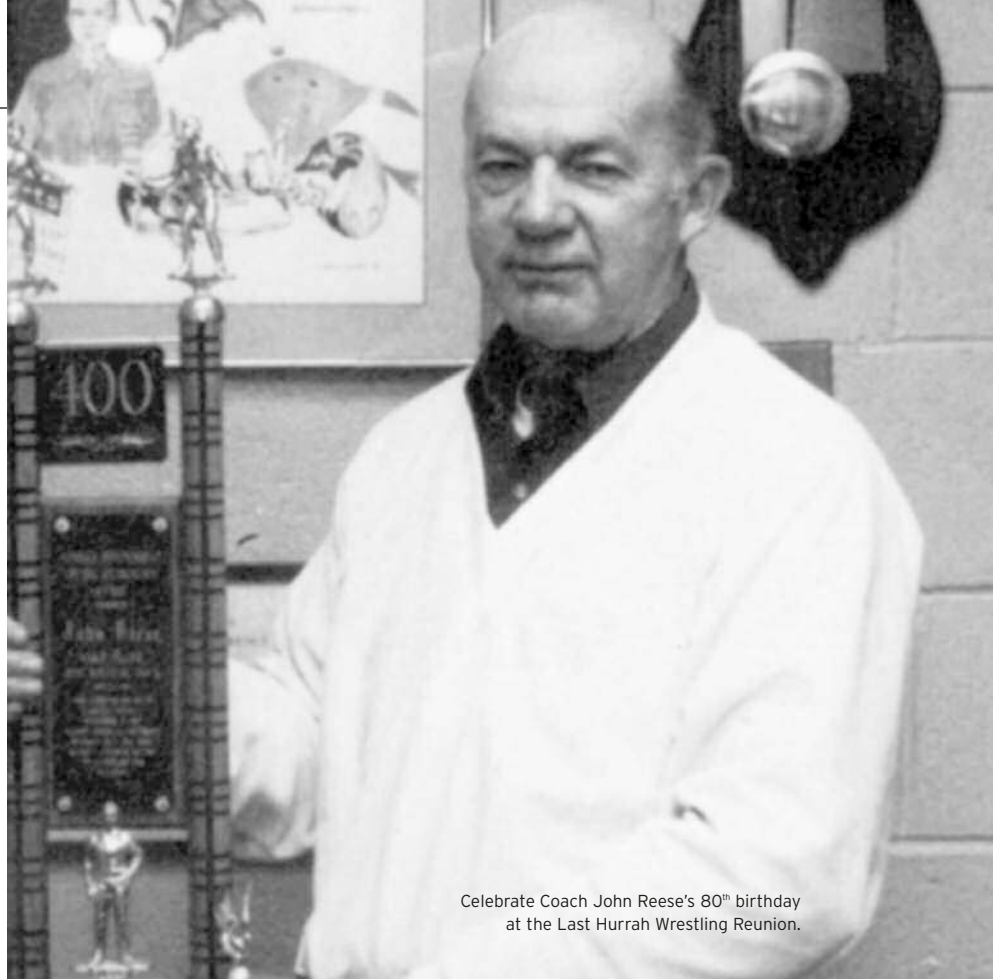
**Website:** [www.lutherhall.com](http://www.lutherhall.com)

## Wrestlers to Gather May 26-27 for 'Last Hurrah'

Legendary Wilkes University wrestling coach John Reese will host the Last Hurrah Wrestling Reunion on Saturday and Sunday, May 26 and 27, in the Marts Center.

The reunion, which coincides with Coach Reese's 80th birthday, will begin Saturday at 4 p.m. with a meet-and-greet and cocktail reception. Following the reception, dinner will be served in the Marts Center, with a storytelling session scheduled for later in the evening. The event concludes Sunday with a brunch from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The reunion is free and is open to former wrestlers and fans of the program. For more information on the event, please contact current Wilkes head coach Jon Laudenslager at (570) 408-4035 or [jon.laudenslager@wilkes.edu](mailto:jon.laudenslager@wilkes.edu).



Celebrate Coach John Reese's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Last Hurrah Wrestling Reunion.

## Alumni Association Meets Its Goals

After a full year of activity, the Wilkes University Alumni Association has made real progress toward its three initial goals:

### Improve communications to alumni.

- Completed are a readership survey and redesign of "Wilkes" magazine to include full color.
- The Colonel Connection, the Wilkes online community (<http://community.wilkes.edu>), has been launched and includes online transaction capability.

### Develop programs and services that stimulate and re-engage alumni.

- The association introduced a networking component to alumni events and programs.
- Alumni programs/visits have been scheduled in areas with populations of alumni. See back cover for upcoming locations.

### Enhance use of technology to improve alumni relations and the alumni services' support process.

- "Neighborhoods" based on alumni affinity groups (for example, residence halls, sports, clubs) have been developed.
- The online community includes self-service directory/e-mail/message board capability.

The work accomplished in committee reflects an enormous commitment of time and energy on the part of committee chairs and members and is the direct result of Alumni Association President Colleen Gallagher's pledge to move the organization forward in new and positive directions. For example, through the leadership of Chair John Wartella '84, the Development Committee assured that the Alumni Board achieved 100 percent participation in the Annual Fund. The Affinity Committee, shepherded by John Serafin '90, worked tirelessly to develop several new benefits for alumni. These include long-term healthcare insurance, a student loan consolidation program and AFLAC insurance.

Beyond this work is the underlying "buzz" that comes as the result of many alumni being engaged in activities of benefit to the organization, to Wilkes and to alumni in general. The association hosted an open meeting at Homecoming 2006, and plans are in place to do so again in October 2007. If you are interested in a leadership role or committee membership, please complete the tear card in this issue of the magazine or e-mail [alumni@wilkes.edu](mailto:alumni@wilkes.edu).



## The Colonel Connection Relaunches — With Prizes!

Since the launch of The Colonel Connection in July 2006, almost 3,000 people from the Wilkes community have logged into the new online community to see what this website is all about. What is it all about, you ask?

The Colonel Connection is the new MySpace and Facebook at Wilkes. It is the university's very own Wilkes social networking space, strictly geared toward Wilkes alumni, students, parents, faculty/staff, friends and family of the university. The Colonel Connection works just like MySpace and Facebook. It is a virtual neighborhood where you can find old friends, share your news, chat online, post your resume, search job openings, share class notes, create a photo gallery and network with classmates and friends from all over the world.

The community is a great place to find a former classmate or professor and reach out to them. Jonathan Henry '03 says he found a friend he hadn't talked to since his junior year. "I was looking for a friend I hadn't talked to in years and e-mailed her through the community and found out she had moved to Oklahoma. If it wasn't for the community, I don't think I would have ever found her."

If you haven't already, sign up now. The more members who log in and update their information, the more useful the site will be to users. A prize will be given to the 100th person who registers to this online community. There also will be a weekly scavenger hunt called "Catch the Colonel," where the first person to find the "hidden colonel" on The Colonel Connection website will win a prize for that week.

Anyone who has not yet signed in should have recently received a postcard with instructions on how to do so. To check out The Colonel Connection, go to <http://community.wilkes.edu>. For more information on how to login into The Colonel Connection, contact the alumni office at (570) 408-4331 or e-mail [alumni@wilkes.edu](mailto:alumni@wilkes.edu). Stay tuned for more good news.

## Explore Exotic Locales with Fellow Alumni

### Northern Italy

Departs June 21, 2007

Price per person: twin, \$2,799; single, \$3,049

#### Highlights

- Stresa • Como • Lugano • Milan • Bergamo
- Cremona • Cinque Terre • Parma • Busseto

Wilkes University alumni will travel to Italy for nine days. This trip includes round-trip air travel from Philadelphia, hotel transfers, air taxes and current fuel surcharges. The cost also includes seven breakfasts and four dinners. Fuel charges are subject to change until trip is paid in full. This amount does not include insurance of \$120 per person.



### Tropical Costa Rica

Departs Nov. 7, 2007

Price per person: twin, \$1,999; single, \$2,499

#### Highlights

- San Jose • Poas Volcano • Thermal Spa Resort
- Cano Negro Refuge • Monteverde Cloud Forest • Guanacaste

Join fellow Wilkes University alumni as they travel to Costa Rica for nine days. This trip includes round-trip air travel from Allentown, Pa., hotel transfers, air taxes and current fuel surcharges. Eight breakfasts, two lunches and seven dinners are included. Fuel charges are subject to change until trip is paid in full. Cost does not include insurance of \$120 per person.

### French Riviera

Departs March 2, 2008

Price per person: twin, \$1,849; single, \$2,249

#### Highlights

- Nice • Flower Market • Chagall Museum
- Grasse Perfumerie • St. Paul De Vence
- Ventimiglia • San Remo • St. Tropez
- Cannes • Antibes • Picasso Museum
- Villefranche • Rothschild Villa and Gardens
- Monaco Oceanographic Museum



The price of this eight-day trip includes round-trip air travel from Newark, N.J., air taxes, hotel transfers and current fuel surcharges (subject to increase until paid in full). Six breakfasts and four dinners are included in the cost. It does not include insurance of \$120 per person.

For more information on any of these trips, contact Michelle Diskin, associate director of Wilkes University Alumni Relations, at (570) 408-4134 or [michelle.diskin@wilkes.edu](mailto:michelle.diskin@wilkes.edu).

**1955**

**Robert Fay** resides in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He is retired.

**1958**

**Judith (Menegus) DeLuca** resides in Belvidere, N.J.

**1962**

**Reunion Oct. 5-7** 

**Rick Rees** co-authored a book titled “The Successful Leadership Development Program: How to Build It and How to Keep It Going.” The book was published in June 2006 by Pfeiffer, an imprint of John Wiley Inc.

**1970**

**Georgiana Cray Bart** is an artist who has been featured at The State Museum of Pennsylvania, in Harrisburg, Pa., and the 78th annual regional exhibition of the Hazleton Art League, where she was awarded the Theodore R. Laputka Memorial Award. Her work has been accepted into exhibitions at the Broome Street Gallery in New York City and the National Association of Women Artists 217th annual meeting at GoggleWorks, Reading, Pa., among others. Her work was also featured in three publications in 2006. Bart resides in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

**Don Turner** is president of Jorad & Company. He owns and operates a number of northern California businesses, including hotels, restaurants and a financial services company. Turner currently serves as chair of the California Lodging Industry Association. He resides in Napa, Calif.

**1971**

**Raymond Smith** resides in Hazleton, Pa., with his wife, **Marlene (Atherholt) Smith** ’71, and their daughter, Lindsay.

**1972**

**Reunion Oct. 5-7** 

**Judith (Greenstein) Davis** is human resource director at Bradley Arant Rose & White LLP, the oldest and largest law firm in Alabama. She resides in Birmingham, Ala., with her husband, Patrick, and children, Abby and Jamie.

**Leo C. Petroski** is an IT audit senior manager for Accume Partners. He resides in Morrisville, Pa., with his wife, Joan Ann (Usevicz) Petroski. They celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary in November 2006.

**1974**

**Philip E. Auron** recently accepted a position as professor and chairman of the department of biological sciences at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pa. He received his doctorate in biochemistry from the Pennsylvania State University in 1980 and did postdoctoral training at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He then accepted an appointment to the faculty of Harvard Medical School, where he remained as an associate professor until 2002, when he accepted a position as professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Auron has published 90 scientific papers and holds 11

issued patents dealing with biotechnology. He resides with his wife, Dr. Deborah L. Galson, and his three children in Wexford, Pa.

**Ray Dombroski** resides in Malvern, Pa.

**Bernard Fagnani** is owner of Bernard A. Fagnani & Company, CPAs. In addition, he is a full-time instructor at Penn State Worthington Scranton since 1989. He is also an investment advisor representative with Genworth Financial Securities Corp.,

specializing in management of retirement assets, since 1999. Fagnani resides in Peckville, Pa., with his wife, Linda Marie, and their children, Karly Marie, Linnzi Rae and Dustin.

**Diane Kiwior** resides in Dedham, Mass.

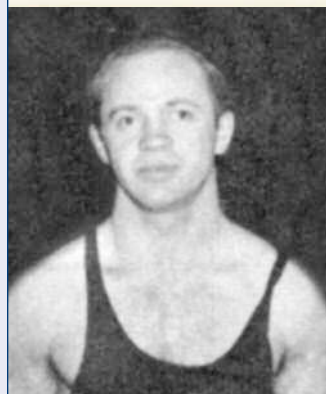
**1975**

**Michael V. DeVincentis** is an owner of Tony D Electric Inc. He resides in Pequannock, N.J.

**Beth Robin Kaye** resides in Port Washington, N.Y.

**William Rice '48 Endows Pharmacy Scholarship**

William H. Rice '48 gave more than \$90,000 as a charitable gift annuity to fund the first endowed pharmacy scholarship. The scholarship will go to a student enrolled in the Nesbitt College of Pharmacy & Nursing studying for a doctor of pharmacy degree.



William Rice, shown in a 1947 wrestling photo. WILKES ARCHIVE

The recipient must demonstrate financial need and maintain acceptable grades. Preference will be given to a person who contributes to campus diversity efforts.

Rice, of Oberlin, Ohio, was a member of Wilkes' first wrestling team in 1946. His mother always hoped one of her children would become a pharmacist. None ever did, which is why Rice designated the gift for pharmacy. Rice retired from General Electric as an engineer in 1987.

## Pashinski Wins House Seat; Trades Music for Politics

Retired music teacher Edwin “Eddie Day” Pashinski '67 was sworn into the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in January, handily winning the 121st District seat vacated by Kevin Blaum.

“It’s totally exhilarating, and it’s quite humbling,” Pashinski says. The democrat hopes to “balance the scales of fairness” toward working-class families. “Those people who work every day and do the right thing every day — they need to have a voice.”

Pashinski hopes his new position will let him work toward healthcare reform benefiting all Americans. He began researching the issue about four years ago due to his involvement with the Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA). “Every company, every school district is struggling trying to find ways to pay for the health insurance plans for their employees.”

Pashinski graduated from Wilkes University with a bachelor’s degree in music education and received a master’s equivalency from Penn State University. He began his music career as a member of the Back Mountain rock band Starfires, which he joined as a freshman. Upon graduation, he became a music teacher and choral director for

Pashinski, left, hopes to tackle healthcare reform as a state representative.

PHOTO BY GUY CALI



Greater Nanticoke Area School District while a member of Eddie Day and the TNT. After that group broke up in 1982, Pashinski managed several other rock groups and helped local musicians organize their own bands.

As a teacher, Pashinski became active as a union representative in his local teacher’s association. He began as a school representative and advanced to chief spokesperson, vice president and eventually local president. Pashinski retired in June 2005.

On a regional and state level, Pashinski represented Luzerne County as president of the PSEA Coordinating Council, chair of the Luzerne County Legislative Committee and regional assistant and chair of the state PACE Committee.

He and his wife, the former Millie Ritza, reside in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. They have four children and seven grandchildren.

**Ann Timko-Hughes** has taught world and American history for four years at Methuen Public Schools. She also works as the coordinator of education for the Worcester Diocese of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church. She resides with her husband, Edward, and their children in Methuen, Mass.

**1976**  
**David L. Davies and Gina P. Davies** '77 reside in Plano, Texas.

**Raymond Ostroski** is senior vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary at Commonwealth Telephone Enterprises. He resides in

Shavertown, Pa., with his wife, Pam, and their children, Chuck, Lauren, Ray Anthony and Brett.

**Anthony M. Schwab** was recently appointed principal of Meyers High School, Wilkes-Barre Area School District. He resides in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

**1977**  
**Reunion Oct. 5-7** 

**Christine A. (Koterba) Lodge** has served as a director for American Education Services for 10 years, managing federal student loan programs for the state of Delaware. She resides with husband John in Wilmington, Del.

## Rittenmeyer Takes Helm of Technology Giant EDS

Ron Rittenmeyer '72 became president of Plano, Texas-based EDS in December. He retains his role as



chief operating officer. The Kingston, Pa., native oversees all of EDS' operations, including about 145,000 employees in 63 countries.

"2006 for us will be a very good year, and we want to continue that growth in a positive way," Rittenmeyer noted, speaking before release of full-year earnings reports.

"Our goal is to continue that growth and get a better return for our shareholders."

Before joining EDS in July 2005, Rittenmeyer served as managing director of The Cypress Group, a private equity firm. He was responsible for all operating aspects of the company's \$3.5 billion investment portfolio. Previously, Rittenmeyer served as chairman, chief executive officer and president of Safety-Kleen Inc., a \$1.5 billion hazardous and industrial waste management company. At Safety-Kleen, he successfully led the company's reorganization from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

At Wilkes, he earned a degree in commerce and finance. "Wilkes provided me with an opportunity to learn that I still respect and appreciate," he says, noting that he worked three jobs while a student. He also holds a master of business administration degree from Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Mo.

He and his wife, Hedy Wrightson Rittenmeyer '72, are the parents of a son, 29, and a daughter, 22.

### 1980

**Mary P. (Patty Cullinan) Spinelli** is assistant vice president of human resources at Rochester Institute of Technology. She resides with her husband, **Robert J. Spinelli '76**, and their children, Elizabeth, Christopher and Amanda, in Rochester, N.Y.

### 1980

**John Kazanecki** resides in Thornhurst, Pa.

**Barbara Pirrella** is a division director for Bayada Nurses in Pittston, Pa. She resides in Pittston with husband Bob and daughter Giavanna.

### 1978

**Dr. Cynthia Mailloux** has been appointed associate professor and chair of the Department of Nursing at College Misericordia. She completed her doctorate in nursing with a concentration in education at Penn State University in 2003. She contributes to her community's educational goals by serving as a Crestwood School Board director and is a member of Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center's advisory board. Dr. Mailloux resides in Mountain Top, Pa. with her husband, Peter, and two children, Bradley and Clifford.

### 1981

**Kathryne (Whitney) Lavoie** is a foster care supervisor with Chenango County Department of Social Services. She resides in Norwich, N.Y., with husband William and their three children, Scott, Matthew and Whitney.

**Judith (Barnick) Steve** is partner/chair of Ideaworks Marketing & Design in Plymouth, Pa. She resides in Dallas, Pa.

### 1982

#### Reunion Oct. 5-7

**Michael A. Gould** is a district assistant superintendent for the Department of Defense Education at Quantico Marine Corps Base and Dahlgren Naval Base in Virginia and the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. He resides in Fredericksburg, Va., with wife **Lori J. (Cavalla) Gould '81** and their children, Jessica and Megan.

**Tina (Falcone) Stehl** has been a vice president of software development for Agilysys Inc. for five years. She received an MBA degree in May 2006 from Emory University's Goizueta School of Business. She resides in Alpharetta, Ga., with husband **Jim Stehl '77** and daughter Lauren.

### 1983

### 1979

**Karen Lucchesi Bostrom** is a marketing specialist at Krugliak, Wilkins, Griffiths & Dougherty Co. in Canton, Ohio. She resides with husband Brian and son Anthony in North Canton, Ohio

**Stephanie Grenfell** has been a nurse manager at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for 23 years. She is recipient of The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Nursing

Excellence in Leadership Award for 2006. Grenfell resides in Philadelphia.

**Stuart Kall** resides in Jamaica Estates, N.Y.

**Alice Merlino** has worked as an associate broker for DeMulder Realty USA.com

for the past year. She resides in Norwich, N.Y.

### 1984

**Jerome P. Nachlis** was promoted to president and CEO of ImageFirst Professional Apparel, a direct-sale uniform company located in New Castle, Del., that

supplies uniforms throughout the United States to mid-to large-size companies. In addition, he serves on the board of directors of the Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center, located in Wilmington, Del., and has been named treasurer. He resides in Wilmington,

Del., with wife Debbie and two sons, Joshua and Aaron.

**Albert Solomito** is a full-time emergency physician working for Emergency Physician Medical Associates in Indianapolis since 2000. He resides in Indianapolis, Ind., with his wife, Michelle, and their children after completing 12 years in the U.S. Air Force.

## Jeffrey Yablon '80 Publishes First Novel

By day, neurosurgeon Jeffrey Yablon '80 delves deftly into the life-and-death cases of patients in need of his highly specialized care. But he spent late nights during much of the last decade dissecting and weaving characters for his first novel, "Eight Cases."

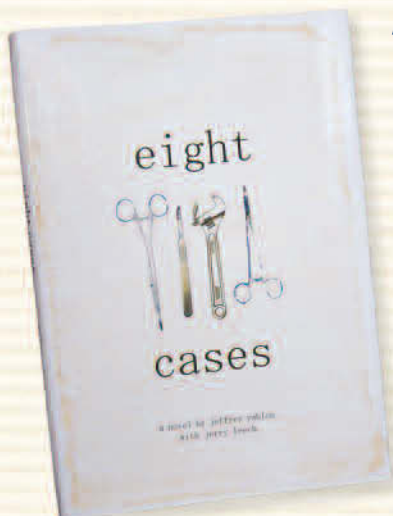
Drawing on Yablon's own experiences, the book is told from the perspective of a mechanic and fledgling writer who befriends a neurosurgeon. In his visit to the mechanic's shop, the fictional Dr. Robert Green offers compelling insight into his professional and personal life as he shares with his friend.

Yablon wanted to leave a legacy for his 16-year-old son, Jeremy, so the teen would understand his father's work. "I had a lot of information and stories that I wanted to tell from my training and practice."

The New York native had written journal articles through the years, but this was his first attempt at fiction, with characters to develop and grow through the story. "It was almost cathartic. I had the story in me, and I wanted to get it out. And I wanted it to have a surprise ending."

He co-wrote the book with the late Jerry Leech, a handyman friend with whom Yablon shared a love of literature. Leech, who passed away two years ago, told the physician, "I have a lot of free time. I can help you."

The actual writing took eight years of late-night powwows. Editing and publishing added another two years to the project. "Eight Cases" is available for purchase on Amazon.com.



The biggest reward came at a local book signing. "A whole group of my patients showed up and had me sign the book." Yablon's private practice in Pottstown, Pa., serves patients in Chester and Montgomery counties. Named Wilkes' Outstanding Young Alumnus in 1995, he also is affiliated with Temple University and Graduate Hospital and serves as a medical legal expert. He is married to Monique and has two stepdaughters.

Yablon hopes to follow "Eight Cases" with a sequel, and he has other ideas for stories that don't deal with medicine. "I hope in retirement to continue writing extensively."

**Michael Williams** is a principal at Hancock High School. He resides in Liberty, N.Y., with his wife, Christine, and their children, Brittany and Gillian.

### 1985

**Maureen (McDermott) Cannon** has been an elementary band director for the Caesar Rodney School District in Camden, Del., for 12 years. She is also the principal flutist of the Dover Symphony Orchestra in Dover, Del., where she resides with husband John.

**David Foster** is a lieutenant colonel for the U.S. Air Force. He resides with his wife, Chris, and their sons, Kyle and Evan, at McGuire AFB, N.J.

### 1986

**Carl Sosnowski** is a detective with the Broward County Sheriff's Department, where he has worked for 21 years. He resides in West Palm Beach, Fla., with his wife, Cindy, and their children, Carly, Casey and Caley.

**Michele J. Wagner**, SPHR, has been a college relations

manager for six years in Englewood, Colo. She resides with her husband, Jeff Wagner, and their children, Lizzy and Spenser, in Centennial, Colo.

**1987**

**Reunion Oct. 5-7** 

**Thomas Gasper** is chief investment officer at Columbia Ridge Capital Management. He resides with his wife, Hollie, and their children, Zachary, Alex, Valerie and Lacey, in Raleigh, N.C.

**1988**

**Deborah J. (Marquart) Liddick** has been a lieutenant colonel with the U.S. Air Force in Washington, D.C., for 17 years. She resides with her husband, Terry S. Liddick, in Bowie, Md.

**1989**

**Jeff Churba** and his wife celebrated the birth of twin daughters in September.

**1990**

**Elizabeth (Walsh) Barbieri** has been a senior medical information specialist for Sanofi-Aventis Pharmaceuticals for five years. She resides in Bridgewater, N.J., with husband Jeffrey and daughter Caitlin.

**Steve Fidyk** is an accomplished percussionist and educator. He has made more than 30 recordings, three of which were Grammy-nominated. Fidyk is a drummer with the United States Army Jazz Ensemble, a gig that has taken him into the White House, the vice

president's house and to many other diplomatic Washington events. He holds a master's of jazz studies from the University of Maryland. Fidyk has also taught music at several universities, including Wilkes.

**Daniel Fisher** is a teacher at the Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit. He resides in Drums, Pa., with his wife, Dawn.

**Keith Silligman** has been director of ambulatory care services for Children's Hospital in Omaha, Neb., for five years. He resides with his wife, Nancy, and their children, Ashley and Christopher, in Omaha.

**1991**

**Jason Griggs** and his wife welcomed twin daughters in September.

**Dina (Gavenas) Nathan** is a registered nurse and has worked for eight years as an operating room nurse at St. Barnabas Medical Center. She resides in West Orange, N.J., with husband Mark and son Nicholas.

**Scott Redfield** resides in St. Charles, Mo.

**1992**

**Reunion Oct. 5-7** 

**Susan (Merchant) Denner** has been a label specialist at Shire Pharmaceuticals for one year. She resides in Royersford, Pa., with husband Edward and daughter Faith.

**Joann (Scubelek) Prushinski** has been a division sales manager with the Avastin brand for Genentech BioOncology for three years. She resides in Palmyra, Pa., with her husband, **Scott '93**.

**1993**

**Andrew Banks** married Yvette Stackhouse on Feb. 2, 2002.

**Cristina Bruno** is a guidance counselor for Patchogue Medford Schools. She resides in Great River, N.Y., with husband Bill and children Lindsay, Douglas and William.

**Lori Guarino** is an account executive for Pfizer Inc. in the animal health veterinary industry. She resides in Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif.

**Gregg Steuben** is a computer scientist for GE Global Research. He resides with his wife, Nicole, in Clifton Park, N.Y.

**1994**

**Kevin M. Barno** is owner and therapist of Pinnacle Rehabilitation Associates in Kingston, Pa. He resides with his wife, Bridget, and their children, Drew and Erin, in Mountain Top, Pa.

**Tom Brisbane** is a sales engineer for Brisbane Industrial, a power transmission and motion control equipment manufacturer in Jim Thorpe, Pa. He resides in Middletown, Del., with his wife, Yesim, and their children, Alex and Ryan.

**Nancy (Stanislaw) Crake** resides in Newark, Del.

**Wilkes Visits California**



**Bill Harries '88** hosted Wilkes alumni director **Sandra Carroll** during a recent visit to the San Francisco, Calif., area. Harries owns and operates a mortgage franchise helping underserved multicultural populations.



**Suzanne (Stanski) Scheible** and her husband, Robert Scheible, announce the birth of their second daughter, Zoe Emma, born May 17, 2006. Suzanne resides with her family, including daughter Hannah, age 4, in Andover, N.J.

### 1995

**Cherie Casari** has been vice president of Microbac Laboratories Inc. in Camp Hill, Pa., for 10 years. She resides in Weatherly, Pa.

**Guy DuBoice** is a senior corporate planning engineer at Century Telecommunications. He resides in West Monroe, La., with his wife, Jully, and their children, Joseph and Daniel.

**Arada (Kunyoising) Halder** resides in Pearland, Texas, with her husband, Kallol, and their children, Priya and Arun.

**Julie (Good) Heffner** resides in Lititz, Pa., with her husband, Chad, and their children, Owen and Natalie. Natalie Donna Heffner was born July 19, 2006.

**Jean (Gaudio) Hemmer** and **Chris Hemmer '97** announce the birth of their second son, Andrew Martin, on Jan. 9, 2006. Jean is a stay-at-home mom, and Chris works as a fund-raiser. Andrew joins older brother Thomas, who is 3. Jean and her family reside in Airmont, N.Y.

**Jerome Hunsinger** works in strategic sourcing for Wawa Corp. He resides in Mount Laurel, N.J., with his wife, Tine, and their son, Jerome Jr.

**J. Corey (Chick) Jackoby** resides in Springboro, Ohio, with her husband, Henry, and their children, Joshua, Andrew and Lucas.

**Bill LePore** is an account executive for Otterstedt Insurance Agency in Summit, N.J. Bill and his wife, Sandy, became parents of twins, Justin Tyler and Olivia Paige, on April 1, 2006.

**Andrew Mazzeo** is an operations manager at Tetra Tech EM Inc. Andrew, his wife, Hope, and their daughters, Clare and Jane, recently relocated to the Philadelphia area after spending 10 years in Kansas City.

**Daniel Reilly** is an attorney at Drinker, Biddle & Reath LLP in Philadelphia, Pa. He resides with his wife, Jennifer, in Conshohocken, Pa.

**Timothy Williams** is a fifth-grade teacher in the Clark County School District in Las Vegas. He also teaches multi-age dance classes at Gilbert Magnet School for Creative Arts and Communication. Timothy trains teachers in literacy/ writing as a teaching consultant for the Southern Nevada Writing Project. He was named to the 2005-06 edition of Who's Who Among American Teachers.

**Tanya (Daigle) Zegers** and her husband, Ernie, welcomed their first child, Emma Margret, on Aug. 14, 2006. They reside in Roscoe, N.Y.

### 1996

**Timothy Ahrens** is a project manager for AMEC E&E. He resides in Schenectady, N.Y., with his wife, Vanessa.

**Karen B. (Bednarczyk) Cowan** and husband Scott announced the birth of their first daughter, Grace Evelyn, on Dec. 7, 2005. The family resides in Winter Garden, Fla.

**Jodi DePue** resides in Binghamton, N.Y.

**Chad Edwards** is a senior clinical dietician at Temple University Hospital. He completed his master's at Marywood University in 2001. Edwards resides in Philadelphia with his wife, Michelle.

**Marci McDade** is a 10-year guidance counselor in Scranton School District. She resides in Scranton, Pa., with husband Kenneth P. Barnansky and daughter Katherine Anna, who was born April 20, 2006.

**Ali Qureshi** was recently promoted to director of advanced business solutions for the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer at the U.S. House of Representatives. He completed his Executive Master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania (Wharton School and Penn Engineering) and now plans to focus on his Ph.D. and spend time with his two boys, Daniyal and Ryaan, and his wife, Sarah. Ali serves on the alumni board at Wilkes.

### 1997

#### Reunion Oct. 5-7

**Paul Chimock** has been a mortgage specialist for NEPA home loans for the past year. He resides in Duryea, Pa., with his wife, Meredith.

**Matthew Connor** is a senior chemist for the Pall Research and Development Corporation. He resides in Van Etten, N.Y., with his wife, **Laura (Rhodes) Connor '97**, and their children, Shannon and Michael.

**Mark B. Evans** has been a mortgage specialist for NEPA home loans for the past year. He resides in Scranton, Pa.

**Asif Ilyas** recently completed a residency in orthopedic surgery at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia. He was awarded a fellowship in surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital of Harvard Medical School. He and his wife recently welcomed their second child, Amber. Their oldest child, Dean, is 3. They reside in Boston.

**Amy (Michel) Lounsbury** and her husband, Scott, welcomed their first son, Zachary William, on Oct. 19, 2006. The family resides in Nanuet, N.Y.

**Tonya Masenheimer** is an owner of Pinnacle Wireless in Hanover, Pa. She resides in McSherrystown, Pa.

**Michael Noone** is an assistant district attorney in the Chester County District Attorney's Office. He resides in West Chester, Pa.

**Christine Pavalkis** has been a graphic designer for Wizdom Media for three years. She resides in Weehawken, N.J.

**William Zigmund** is a project manager at PRA International, a pharmaceutical research facility in Charlottesville, Va. He resides in Crozet, Va., with wife Heather and daughter Catherine Wynn.

### 1998

**Amy Lynn (Reilly) Craig** is a registered nurse of 13 years for the Wyoming Valley Healthcare System. She resides in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., with son Mathew.

**Kerri (Gosling) Fasulo** is an acquisitions marketing manager for Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield based in New York City. She resides in LaGrange, N.Y., with husband **Justin '96**.

**Brian Miller** has been a leasing director for Dranoff Properties Inc. for three years. He resides in Newark, Del., with his children, Brian and Briya.

**Jacqlyn Ryan** resides in Pottsville, Pa.

### 1999

**Jennifer (McDonnell) Mleczynski** is a certification specialist at Tri County Housing Council, a non-profit organization in Big Flats, N.Y. She resides in Elmira, N.Y., with husband Shawn.

**Bridget E. (Finnerty) Moran** has been a special education

teacher at Forest City Regional High School for five years. She resides with husband Tom and sons Thomas and Michael in Forest City, Pa.

**Susan (Smith) Shetti** resides in Nashua, N.H.

**Danielle (Lillis) Spadafora** resides in Sellersville, Pa., with husband Elio and children Dylan, Nico and Matthew.

**Andrew Yenser** has been a sales engineer for KME Fire Apparatus for six years. He resides in Lehighton, Pa., with wife Sarah and children Bradley and Quinn.

### 2000

**Dustin Daniels** has been a quality assurance manager at Power Packaging in Reading, Pa., for more than two years. He resides with his wife, Amy (Wenz) Daniels, and their son, Brody Daniels, in Blandon, Pa.

**Michael Krasulski** is a public services librarian at Philadelphia University. Krasulski recently co-authored an article titled "Keeping Up with Google: Resources and Strategies for Staying Ahead of the Pack," which was published in "Internet Reference Services Quarterly." He resides in Philadelphia.

**Lisa Marconi** is an administrative assistant with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). She resides in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

**Amanda Muscavage** works as a civil/environmental engineer at the Tobyhanna Army Depot in Tobyhanna, Pa. She resides with husband Mohamed in Plymouth, Pa.

**Jeffrey Nason** recently became president of Crossroads Group LLC. He is a primary design engineer for the firm. He and **Jeremy Hoagland '01**, Harleysville, Pa., started this business to "address the ever-growing need for responsible engineering." Crossroads is based in Quakertown, Pa. Nason resides in Pottstown, Pa., with wife Mary.

**Wendy-Ann (Skiro) Oresick** is a first-grade teacher at Rice Elementary in the Crestwood School District. She and husband Michael welcomed their second child, Olivia Elisabeth, on June 28, 2006. She joins big brother Tyler Michael. The family resides in Drums, Pa.

**Abby (Sherburne) Stroud** is a claims representative for the Social Security Administration and coaches the dance team at Towanda High School. She resides in Towanda, Pa., with husband Jake and daughter Jocelyn.

**Will Taylor** resides in Ridgefield Park, N.J.

**Miranda H. Thresher** is a phlebotomist at Chester County Hospital. She resides in West Chester, Pa.

**Jennifer Lynn (Gadomski) Vallach** is an adjunct faculty at Wilkes University in the nursing department. She is also employed with Geisinger Health System as a peri-operative nurse. Vallach resides in Plains, Pa. with husband Scott and son Ryan.

**Carol (Hudak) Vallinino** resides in Cornwall on Hudson, N.Y., with husband Brian. They were married in July 2006.

### 2001

**Danielle (Flock) Michaels** is a mortgage broker with Wells Fargo Home Mortgage. She resides in Philadelphia with husband Etzion.

**Megan (Stevens) Greenman** has been a clinical nurse specialist at SUNY Upstate University Hospital in Syracuse, N.Y., for two years. She resides with husband Jason and daughter Kathleen in Cortland, N.Y.

**Skyler Rohwedder** resides in Millburn, N.J.

**Raymond Wascavage** resides in Old Forge, Pa.

### 2002

#### Reunion Oct. 5-7

**Aaron Kuzmick** is a pharmaceutical technician for Sanofi-Aventis. He resides in Forty Fort, Pa.

**Debbie Brandt Landry** is an attorney at Covais Law Offices. She resides in Hanson, Mass., with husband Charles.

**Dr. Kara (Jones) Martin** has been a staff pharmacist at Costa Drugs for nearly 13 years. She resides with husband Christopher in Duryea, Pa.

**Erin Priestman** resides in Berwick, Pa.

**Emily Sheston** resides in Philadelphia.

### 2003

**Kyla Cambell** is a sports reporter at WJAC, Johnstown/Altoona, Pa.

**Jason Holloway** is a financial representative with Northwestern Mutual. He resides in Nescopeck, Pa., with wife Whitney (Bull) Holloway.

**James Moran** resides in Larksville, Pa.

**Erin Schultz** and **Aaron Moreck '03** were married Aug. 6, 2005, in Wilkes-Barre. Erin is employed as an English teacher in the Dallas School District and is pursuing a

master's degree in education at Wilkes University. Aaron is employed as a network engineer at Lightspeed Technologies. They reside in Forty Fort, Pa.

**Elizabeth (Alles) Sheakoski** is a sales manager at Residence Inn Sandestin. She resides in Destin, Fla. with husband **Brian '03**. They were married Sept. 16, 2006. Brian is an active-duty captain and pharmacist in the U.S. Air Force. He is stationed at Eglin AFB.

### 2004

**Emily Bly** resides in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

**Misty (Weidner) Davis** is a clinical staff pharmacist at Lehigh Valley Hospital. She resides in Martin's Creek, Pa., with husband **Ron '02** and children Evan and Rece.

**Ronald Krysiwski** resides in Moosic, Pa.

**Jessica Pezolano** is a special education teacher at Brandywine High School in

Glenmoore, Pa. She resides with husband **Jeremy Gordon '04**, in Exton, Pa.

**Lori Ann Phillips** is an engineer in training for BBL, an Arcadis Company, the world's largest environmental consulting company. She resides in Apex, N.C.

**Tammy (Perry) Sweigart** is a psychiatric caseworker at St. Joseph Medical Center in Reading, Pa. She resides in Wyomissing, Pa., with husband Craig and sons Elliot Neil and Adian Daniel.

### 2005

**Matthew Caines** is a graduate student at A.T. Still University, the principal school of Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine. Matthew has been inducted into Alpha Epsilon Delta, the national college honor society for premedical students. Upon completion of the Master of Public Health program at ATSU, he plans to pursue medical school in preparation for a career as a physician. Caines resides in Fort Washington, Pa.

**Rachael Conner** is a kindergarten teacher at the Beginnings Company. She resides in Philadelphia.

### 2006

**Ashley Ambirge** resides in Spring City, Pa.

**Kate Thomas** is an operations coordinator for International SOS, an international medical assistance organization. She resides in Berwyn, Pa.

## Master's Degrees

### 1986

**Abiodun Ogunkoya** resides in Hartstown, Dublin, Ireland.

### 1987

**Reunion Oct. 5-7** 

**Betty Z. Harris** is currently retired and resides in Mechanicsburg, Pa.

### 1999

**Heather Johnson-Mullisky** is an English teacher in the Wilkes-Barre School District. She resides in Mountain Top, Pa., with her daughters, Caitrin and Ruth.

### 2002

**Reunion Oct. 5-7** 

**Corey Yanoshak** is a high school teacher at Lake Forest School District in Felton, Del., responsible for its Daylight/Twilight Program. He was hired in August and is currently taking courses to become a certified business education teacher.

### 2006

**Amanda Wojcik** is a special education teacher at Voorhees High School. She resides in Phillipsburg, N.J.



Brian Tull '02 and Michael V. O'Neill '77 chat with Michael Wood, Wilkes' executive director of advancement, in Washington, D.C.

## In Memoriam

### 1949

**John M. Culp Jr.** died July 19, 2006, at Hospice Care of the Visiting Nurses Association at Heritage House, Wilkes-Barre. He served in World War II. Culp had resided on Rutter Avenue in Kingston for 46 years. A life member of the Irem Temple, he was past president of the Kingston Rotary. He served on the council of the Church of Christ Uniting as the council moderator and Sunday school teacher. Surviving are his wife of 56 years, the former Rhuea Williams; sons John, Jeffrey and Drew; brother and sisters.

### 1950

**John “Jack” D. Joseph** of Hanover Township died Sept. 29, 2006, at Riverside Manor, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Jack was a graduate of Meyers High School. He attended Bucknell University Junior College and Wilkes College. He was instrumental in naming Wilkes College the “Colonels.” He was a member of the undefeated Wilkes football teams of the late 1940s. As a member of the Eighth Air Force, he was stationed in England and France during World War II. He was a retired sales representative for Lion Brewing Company, Wilkes-Barre.

### 1960

**Mary (Homan) von Guillaume** died Sept. 16, 2006, of pneumonia in Johannesburg, South Africa, her home for the

last 44 years. She went to South Africa in 1962, was married and had six children.

### 1962

**Dr. Stephen W. Schwartz** died June 11, 2006, of complications from a 19-month battle with lung cancer. He is survived by his wife, Beverly Major Schwartz '61, son Jonathan and daughter Jennifer Moroz. He was a nationally recognized figure in leadership education and was instrumental in creating Marietta College's McDonough Leadership Program, which became a national model for small liberal arts college leadership programs.

### 1968

**Joseph Roszko** died Dec. 23, 2005, after battling cancer. He played four years as a Colonel and was co-captain of the undefeated football team. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Infantry immediately after graduating from Wilkes. Serving two years in Vietnam, he was a decorated soldier, receiving two purple hearts. He spent much time tutoring and coaching young people. He retired from the Pennsylvania Welfare Department in June 2004.

### 1973

**Regina Bria** died May 14, 2006, in the Hospice Care of the Visiting Nurses Association at Heritage House, Wilkes-Barre, after a battle with breast cancer. She was a member of St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic

Church, where she was a Eucharistic minister and had been employed as an outreach coordinator. Regina had been employed as a seventh grade school teacher at St. Boniface Interparochial School. Surviving are her parents, Leonard J. and Marie A. Gdovin Sulzinski; a son, Frank Bria Jr.; daughters Rebecca and Alyssa Bria; a brother and a sister.

### 1980

**Monsignor Andrew J. McGowan** died July 19, 2006, at Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore after a long illness. He was 80. A distinguished toastmaster, community leader and longtime priest in the Diocese of Scranton, he served in such local organizations as Leadership Wilkes-Barre, the F.M. Kirby Center, Wachovia Arena and all four Catholic universities in Northeast Pennsylvania. He also was a leading public figure in both his work as a clergyman and community advocate.

### 1989

**Christine A. (Dodds) Brasington** died Aug. 11, 2006, after a long battle with brain cancer. She died peacefully at home surrounded by her family. She is survived by her two children, Lauren and Tyler, and her husband, Jamie.

## Friend of Wilkes

**Geraldine Townend Nesbitt-Orr** died, July 21, 2006, at her home in Dallas, Pa. She endowed \$3 million for Wilkes University's Nesbitt School of Pharmacy. Mrs. Orr named the school in honor of her late husband, Abram Nesbitt II, who died in 1982. The gift was the largest one-time gift in the 66-year history of Wilkes University.

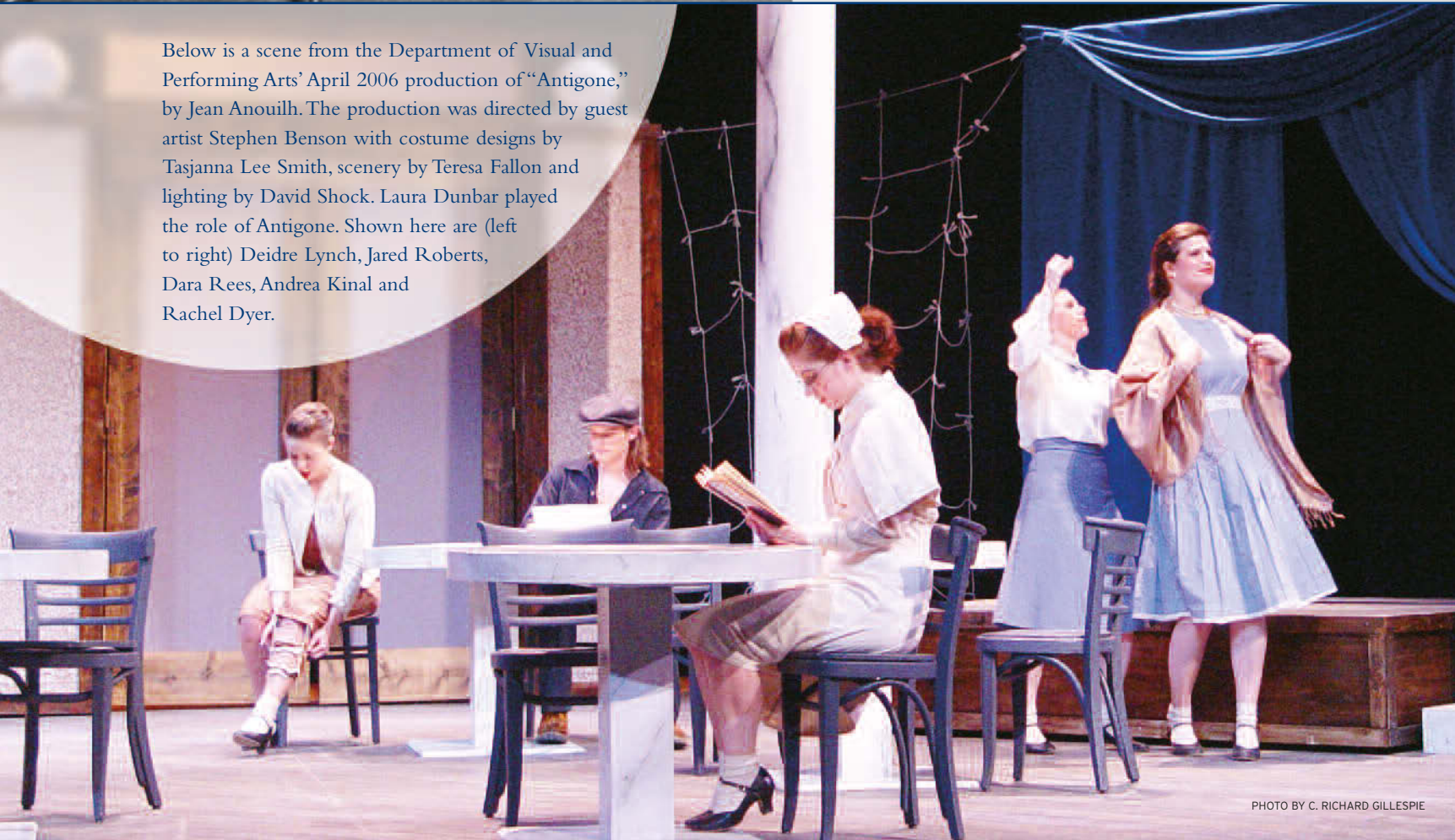
Orr helped to shape the Luzerne County Birth Control League, which secured its first clinic space in the Kirby Memorial Health Center in 1934. She served as president of the league from 1939-41. Her family has been associated with quality health care and philanthropy in Northeastern Pennsylvania since 1912, when Abram Nesbitt donated land for West Side Hospital. In 1929, the name of the hospital was officially changed to Nesbitt Memorial Hospital. She was dedicated to serving the community on the board of Nesbitt Hospital and its auxiliary. She also had a longtime association with such organizations as the Wyoming Valley Philharmonic, the League of Women Voters and the Junior Aide. She was active at her residence in Palm Beach, Fla., with the Garden Club, Crippled Children's Association and the United Way. The Nesbitt-Orr Trustee Scholarship was named in honor of her and her second husband, William P. Orr III. Mrs. Nesbitt-Orr had attended the Wilkes-Barre Institute and the Sarah Lawrence School, Bronxville, N.Y.



Recognize anyone from these photos? Cue and Curtain presented Gershwin's "Girl Crazy" at the Irem Temple in November 1954. The musical comedy was the first production to combine efforts of the theatre and music departments and included a pit orchestra.

To identify cast members shown here, or to reminisce about these productions, visit The Colonel Connection at [www.community.wilkes.edu](http://www.community.wilkes.edu) and click on Message Boards. Or send us a note at "Wilkes" Magazine, 84 W. South St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18766.

Below is a scene from the Department of Visual and Performing Arts' April 2006 production of "Antigone," by Jean Anouilh. The production was directed by guest artist Stephen Benson with costume designs by Tasjanna Lee Smith, scenery by Teresa Fallon and lighting by David Shock. Laura Dunbar played the role of Antigone. Shown here are (left to right) Deidre Lynch, Jared Roberts, Dara Rees, Andrea Kinal and Rachel Dyer.





## February

- 1 Exhibition “Sudan: The Cost of Silence,” Sordoni Art Gallery. Runs through March 18.
- 13 Alumni Mixer, Connolly’s Pub, New York City
- 21 Alumni Mixer, Don Cesar Beach Resort, St. Pete Beach, Fla.
- 22 Alumni Mixer, Bay Colony Beach Club, Naples, Fla.
- 23 Alumni Mixer, Hemisphere Lounge, Miami Beach, Fla.
- 26 Alumni Mixer, Chapel Hill Golf Club, Douglasville, Ga.

## March

- 12 Alumni Mixer, Omni Tucson National, Tucson, Ariz.
- 13 Gallery Talk, “Sudan: The Cost of Silence” with photographer Ryan Spencer Reed, Sordoni Art Gallery
- 14 Alumni Mixer, Omni Interlocken Resort, Denver, Colo.
- 29 Allan P. Kirby Lecture Series in Law and Humanities, featuring Ken Schmidt, former director of communications for Harley-Davidson
- 30 Alumni Yield Party, RiverCrest Golf Club, Montgomery County, Pa.

## April

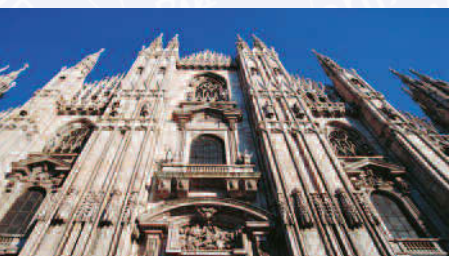
- 1 Wilkes University Art Faculty Show, Sordoni Art Gallery. Runs through June.
- 19-22 “The Pied Piper” theatre production, Dart Center
- 27 Chorus/Chamber Singers Concert, St. Stephen’s, Wilkes-Barre
- 28 Dance Concert, Dart Center
- 29 Civic Band Concert, Dart Center
- 29 Max Rosenn Lecture, featuring film “God Grew Tired of Us” and lecture by director Christopher Dillon Quinn and John Dau, one of the Lost Boys of Sudan in the film, Dart Center
- TBA Alumni Mixer, Boston

## May

- 5 Flute Ensemble Concert, Dart Center
- 10 Wilkes Alumni Day at Lackawanna County Stadium (Yankees vs. Pawtucket Red Sox)
- 19 Spring Commencement
- 26-27 “Last Hurrah” Wrestling Reunion, Wilkes University (Come celebrate Coach Reese’s 80th birthday!)

## June

- 21-29 Alumni trip to northern Italy
- TBA Alumni Mixer, Philadelphia



For details on dates and locations, check [www.wilkes.edu](http://www.wilkes.edu) and **The Colonel Connection!**