

# WILKESunverse

The voice of Wilkes University Alumni

VOLUME ELEVEN, ISSUE THREE



GENERATIONS

GENERATIONS



## Voting for change

BY DR. TIM GILMOUR, WILKES UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

**R**ECENTLY, WE POLLED YOU ABOUT YOUR ALUMNI EXPERIENCES TO DETERMINE how you view your relationship with your alma mater. A statistically significant percentage of you responded to our survey. To those who replied, I thank you.

Fully 90% of you view your student experiences as "very positive" or "positive." Yet, when asked to rate your experiences as alumni, 48% reported the experience as "neutral." Despite record giving last year of \$3.75 million, only 16% of you participated with an Annual Fund gift. Clearly, we have some work to do to improve our relationship with you.

The most common interaction with alumni is this publication — 77% reported that primary contact is through the *Universe*. The second most frequent interaction is the Annual Fund Phonathon.

With respect to the *Universe*, you told us that you would like more information about classmates and friends, alumni events near your homes, academic programs, and changes in facilities at Wilkes University. Of less interest are trustee updates, major gift announcements, and athletic successes. Based on this information, we plan to form an alumni editorial board to advise us as we publish an even better *Wilkes Universe*.

You also request more alumni chapter activities and educational programs, and a significant percentage of you call for upgrades to our e-mail correspondence with you.

The lessons learned from our polling data, combined with giving trends, alumni participation in Homecoming, and my travel to alumni events will result in significant changes.

Our new vice president for development, Marty Williams, will lead new programs such as the Wilkes University Mentoring Program. A Planned Giving program will launch next year and the Wilkes Club will be greatly strengthened with new membership benefits.

In developing these programs, we are keenly aware that our challenge is to make your alumni years compelling, rich, and stimulating. Wilkes will be a resource and a gratifying passion for alumni for a lifetime. This is our charge, and we intend to succeed.

Thank you for helping to make the year just concluded one of the most successful in history at Wilkes University. ¶

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### VOLUME ELEVEN, ISSUE THREE

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 highest quality education necessary for career and intellectual development and for personal growth through a variety of services and programs. The University's commitment to excellence is reflected in the high quality of its academic programs and its commitment to the highest standards of scholarship and research. The University's commitment to the highest standards of scholarship and research is reflected in the high quality of its academic programs and its commitment to the highest standards of scholarship and research.

# WILKESuniverse

VOLUME ELEVEN, ISSUE THREE

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# ASSOCIATIONnews

## Alumni Mentoring Program Gets Ready to Launch

Expanding on past practices, the new Wilkes University Mentoring Program will match alumni and students to help participants make good career decisions and develop networking opportunities.

Freshmen and sophomores will be able to turn to mentors for guidance when facing career-path decisions. Mentors can guide juniors and seniors through networking strategies and pinpointing potential job opportunities as their college time wraps up and they prepare to venture into the work force.

According to Colleen Gries Gallagher '81, member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, the program will facilitate the exchange of information, the development of professional contacts, and the sharing of personal experiences and interests of its participants. Future plans for the program include: networking events, luncheon forums and alumni panel discussions.

The pilot program will launch in spring 2005 as part of the Personal and Professional Development Program in the Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and Leadership. University-wide implementation is slated for fall 2005.

## The Alumni Survey Says...

As part of an image and branding study conducted by Carnegie Communications, Wilkes University and its Alumni Association asked alumni to share their opinions and suggestions in February 2004. From the more than 25,000 alumni on record, 5,000 were randomly invited to participate in the survey. The results from the 566 respondents were included in Carnegie's report to the University, presented in August.

Some highlights:

- 77% of the participants responded that they read *Universe* on a regular basis.
- 94% of the respondents chose "I am thankful for the experience I had at Wilkes" as the reason for supporting the University financially.
- 70% indicated they "definitely or probably would" recommend Wilkes to prospective students.

Some suggestions for the Alumni Association:

- Offer more online continued learning and professional development programs.
- Establish alumni chapters.
- Hold more family oriented gatherings.
- Formalize a mentoring program.

## BUJC Alumnae Reunite

In August, the BUJC ladies met for their annual luncheon in the Henry Student Center Ballroom. This year's luncheon was held in honor of Dr. Norma Sangiuliano Tyburski, who passed away on September 22, 2003.

Approximately twenty-five women gathered to reminisce about, and honor, our beloved "Sangy."

Dr. Paul Adams '77, vice president for student affairs, also updated the women on the new and exciting changes taking place at the university.

## Alumni Give Freshmen a Warm Welcome

When Wilkes University's largest freshman class in 22 years arrived on campus for the start of the fall 2004 semester, they were greeted and welcomed to the Wilkes Family with a lunch sponsored by the Alumni

Association Board of Directors. During the lunch, the Fenner Quadrangle was filled with laughter and excitement as the students were given their first taste of college life. For the remainder of the day, students attended lectures and seminars. The movie *Shrek 2* was shown in the evening so students could relax and unwind.

## A Taste of Italy!

Join the Wilkes Alumni Association and friends June 15-24, 2005, to experience the wonders of Italy — from Venice to the Island of Capri. This unique trip offers all the advantages of group travel plus the freedom to pursue personal interests — shopping, sightseeing, dining. The cost is \$1,875 per person, based on double occupancy, and includes taxes. A \$250 deposit is required to reserve your spot.

The first 25 people to register will receive \$50 off the total price. Connecting arrangements can be made no matter where you live.

Visit our web site at:

[www.wilkes.edu/alumni/events/italy.asp](http://www.wilkes.edu/alumni/events/italy.asp) for more information. Space is limited, so register soon! !!!

If you would like to receive monthly e-mails with news and events happening at Wilkes University, send your e-mail address to [alumni@wilkes.edu](mailto:alumni@wilkes.edu), or complete the enrollment form at [www.wilkes.edu/alumni/info](http://www.wilkes.edu/alumni/info).



Wilkes University would like to thank all alumni, friends, and family who came back to campus for Homecoming 2004, and made the weekend a great success. We enjoyed sharing your memories — providing opportunities to relive old ones while making new ones.

## Homecoming '04 at a glance

Photos by Michael P. Touhy





## Frosh fuel growth spurt

BY KALEN CHURCHER '97  
Photos by T. Adams & B. Miller/PhotoStory

Freshman enrollment highest in 16-years as Wilkes reaches its 2010 goal.

**E**VEN BEFORE THEY RECEIVED their schedules, this year's freshmen had already made their mark on Wilkes University. At 568, freshman enrollment is the highest the university has seen in 16 years.

"This year, for the first time in at least anyone's mind around here, we closed applications in early May," said Michael Frantz, vice president for enrollment services.

Typically, 10 to 20 percent of freshman enrollment is gathered between May 1 and the start of classes, Frantz explained. But this year, procrastinators lost big when Wilkes officially capped enrollment. Even transfer student applications were closed the first week in June.

With applications up 12 percent since last year, and 58 percent since 2000, there was no shortage of quality candidates, and *quality* is the key word. Consider this: the average Wilkes applicant scored 1065 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test. That's nearly 40 points higher than the national average.

Engineering, health sciences, business, and nursing programs have witnessed some of the largest enrollment spikes, with increases of 44, 33, 30, and 22 percent, respectively.

Dr. Mary Ann Merrigan, director of the university's department of nursing, attributes the program's success to a number of factors. For example, a national nursing shortage virtually guarantees each graduate a job, making

the field very attractive. However, the individualized attention the university affords its students makes Wilkes very appealing to high school juniors and seniors.

Even with rising numbers that have forced the department to convert office space to laboratories, personalized attention and encouragement remain staples for Merrigan and her faculty. From nursing camps that offer hands-on experiences for high school juniors, to accelerated programs that allow nurses to achieve their baccalaureate or master's degrees, Merrigan stresses the importance of becoming invested in all students — potential, current, and former.

"I think we've found that students don't really know what nursing is



THE STRATEGIC PLAN CALLS FOR A NEARLY 10% INCREASE IN THE RETENTION RATE.

about," Merrigan explained. "They're at these camps and ... they see the varied opportunities that nurses have.

"I believe the faculty and I are very responsive to these students. I try to send a personal note to all the [high school] students."

Despite enrollment increases, Sara Grab, a junior pre-pharmacy major, believes university professors strive to meet everyone's needs.

"They may have more classes to instruct, but they still find the time to help students with any problems or concerns. Even in large classes, my instructors know my name, which is something that I find to be important in a class."

Frantz stresses that once students choose to attend Wilkes, the university's recruitment process does not stop. Instead, it transforms itself into a retention program that can often be as intricate as the recruitment

process. Frantz credits Freshman Foundation courses with helping students adapt to college living and learning. An aggressive maintenance program continues to upgrade computer laboratories and other university equipment, and expand university housing.

Sturdevant Hall was partially converted into student housing a few years ago. This year, residential space was added on River and Ross streets, including two new floors in Slocum Hall. The university has also established housing agreements with two apartment facilities that sometimes place students and Wilkes-Barre's senior citizen population as immediate neighbors — a situation Frantz says has been enlightening for both age groups and has fostered a great sense of community.

As the university moves forward in its strategic plan, upping retention

"They may have more classes to instruct, but they still find the time to help students with any problems or concerns. Even in large classes, my instructors know my name, which is something that I find to be important in a class."

SARA GRAB, JUNIOR PRE-PHARMACY MAJOR

rates remains a priority. In 1999, the freshman-sophomore retention rate was 73 percent. This year, administrators have set a lofty goal of more than 80 percent, one Frantz is confident can be achieved.

"If retention is going up, I think it's fair to say the students are satisfied with the services."

Fulfilling promises made during recruitment is crucial to maintaining a satisfied student body. Among those promises is the assurance that qualified professionals will instruct courses. Both Merrigan and Frantz tout the expertise of Wilkes' full-time faculty and praise adjunct professors who have been rolled into the university system to ensure that class sizes remain small despite the increased student population.

"In 2001, we set a goal to have an undergraduate enrollment of 2,200 [full-time students] by the end of 2010," Frantz said, adding that the goal has already been achieved. "Right now, we're thrilled to death. Now the discussion is, do we want to level off or do we want to continue to grow."

As those discussions persist, Wilkes continues to ensure that students will receive the individualized attention and support necessary to successfully complete their educations. ■

# A family affair

BY LAURA SNYDER

For these parents — a child who follows in their footsteps is the ultimate compliment.

SAM GIUNTA '72, POLITICAL SCIENCE, AND DAUGHTER BRIDGET GIUNTA '08, COMMUNICATION STUDIES. Making Wilkes a family affair has not only kept Bridget and Sam Giunta connected to each other, but has also brought them both closer to the University.

"The fact that my dad is an alum has made me feel more connected to Wilkes as a student," says Bridget. "We compare stories about what Wilkes is like for me now to what it was like for him in the late '60s and early '70s."

Her involvement in the school, as a student, a dancer, and an active member of

campus reintroduced her dad and mom (also a former Wilkes student) back to Wilkes.

"We were fringe players before [she enrolled]," says Sam. "But now we keep pretty close to the Wilkes community."

With that renewed connection comes a newfound respect. "Now I get to see the benefits she's getting because of her Wilkes education. She brought me back to being a part of Wilkes."

DR. MARIE ROKE-THOMAS '83, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PHARMACY, AND DAUGHTER LINDSEY KLISH '09, PHARMACY. Being a Wilkes legacy wasn't a part of Lindsey Klish's plans.

"After high school, I wanted to be as far away from Pennsylvania as I could get," she says with a laugh. "I was getting out of the Valley."

But after seeing how rewarding it was for mom Marie Roke-Thomas to earn her degree at Wilkes — and after catching some of the enthusiasm from Marie's students when she became a professor at Wilkes — suddenly, "it wasn't even a question of whether or not to come here."

Already following in the footsteps of other Wilkes grads in her family — two uncles are also alumni — Lindsey and her mom both enjoy being part of a growing legacy in the School of Pharmacy.

"It makes me very proud to have her here and be a part of that," says Marie. "It's a feeling of accomplishment."

GARFIELD JONES '72, BUSINESS, AND SON MATT JONES '05, ENGLISH. Matt Jones' first shot at a Wilkes legacy didn't stick. He was a freshman commuter student and it just wasn't working for him. So he spent some time at Villanova, and later, Penn State, before realizing Wilkes is where he belongs.

"It was the only school where I didn't feel like another number being processed through a machine," he says. "I've had the best teachers anywhere I've been at Wilkes."

That's an opinion shared by dad Garfield, who says some of his favorite memories of Wilkes are of the professors. "I've had some great life teachers," he says. "Wilkes certainly paid me back, and is now helping to catapult Matt into what

will hopefully be a full and satisfying life of his own."

Now both father and son enjoy sharing a history at Wilkes. "That we walk the same walks — even though it's a generation apart — is a source of satisfaction," says Garfield.

SANDRA SHERUDA, '70, HISTORY, M.ED. '74 AND SON, DEREK SHERUDA, '05, BUSINESS. Wilkes is a family tradition for Sandy Sheruda and her son, Derek.

"My whole family went to Wilkes," she says. "My father, Henry Walters, graduated in 1949 with my uncle, Dave; my brother, Hank, graduated in 1972, and my sister-in-law, Linda, in 1974."

Having his family tree stretch back so far gives Derek a sense of history — and a sense of humor. "Mom tells me stories about Wilkes College and how different it is now. I kid her about maybe knowing John Wilkes."

Being part of a legacy hasn't sunk in yet for Sandy, who's looking forward to having a

family picture taken at graduation this spring — to put with the one taken at her commencement ceremony in 1970. "I think it's really going to hit me when he gets his diploma in May."

But she'll still have a few more years to reflect on it; Derek is already planning to stay at Wilkes for his MBA. (1)

"It was the only school where I didn't feel like another number being processed through a machine. I've had the best teachers anywhere I've been at Wilkes."

MATT JONES



## True students of their games

BY MIKE FERLAZZO  
Photos by Walter Ruzi

NCAA Division III philosophy modeled at Wilkes

**T**HE NCAA DIVISION III membership recently approved seven reforms to have their school athletic programs better reflect the Division III philosophy, which places the highest priority on the overall quality of the educational experience and successful completion of all students' academic programs.

That's no problem at Wilkes, where the school's academic and athletic programs work in harmony to make it a model Division III institution. Consider its "report card" over the last four years:

- Wilkes is the only institution in the nation that has produced two Josten's Trophy winners — awarded to the Division III Player of the Year in basketball who best exemplifies the motto "Service Above Self." — *Dave Jannuzzi* in 2001, and *Whitney Bull* in 2003.
- *Brett Trichilo* was the 2003 recipient of the Melberger Award as



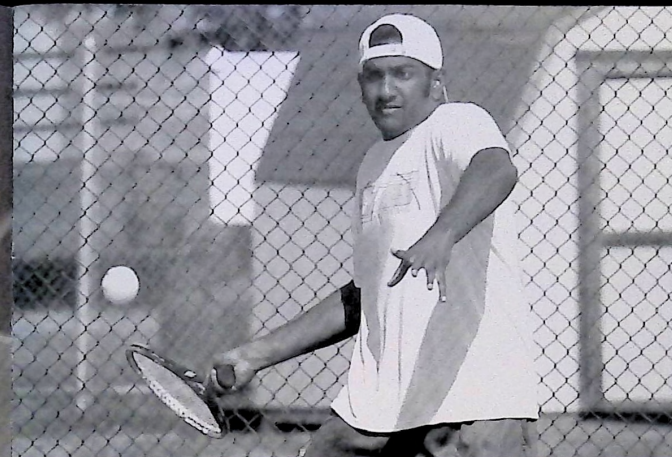
JAN NUNEMACHER WAS A FIRST-TEAM ALL-FREEDOM CONFERENCE SELECTION AS A CATCHER FOR THE SOFTBALL TEAM IN 2004.

Division III football's National Player of the Year.

- The Middle Atlantic Corporation (MAC) has recognized a male and a female student-athlete from Wilkes as the Scholar-Athlete of the Year at the annual Sportsmanship Awards Luncheon.
- 37 student-athletes named Academic All-American by national coaching associations, and six College Sports Information Directors of America, (CosIDA) Academic All-Americans.
- 181 Wilkes student-athletes named to their various MAC All-Academic teams.

Community service also continues to grow among coaches and student-athletes.

"Our approach is that while we want to be very competitive on our fields and courts, our student-athletes are also very balanced in their educational experiences. We believe that's been a key to our success in our graduation rate and student satisfaction," says Addy Malatesta, director of athletics and a former head field hockey coach. "Our student-athletes graduate feeling that they were not only successful in the win-loss column, but that they also contributed to the school and the community. Those are important values to us — and we don't feel it's made us any



MADHAN SRINIVASAN '05 IS A THREE-TIME FIRST-TEAM ALL-FREEDOM CONFERENCE SELECTION.

less competitive. Our message is that our student-athletes learn that they can have it all, and do it all."

That message helped attract athletes like three-time first-team All-Freedom Conference men's tennis player Madhan Srinivasan, who found that it's not just a recruiting line.

"It's real tough as an athlete who's a science major with labs and work. They [labs] occur in the afternoon. But most of the professors are understanding and allow you to sometimes make things up on Saturdays," says the senior biology major and Wyoming Seminary graduate, who has also served as Student Government Association treasurer. "They [some professors] come in on their free time to help you to make it up. One of the biggest things of coming to a small school is the one-to-one aspect [with faculty and staff] that you can't get at bigger schools."

Junior Jan Nunemacher earned first-team all-conference honors last year in softball as a utility player who played several positions — not surprising given the number of things she juggles off the field. Also a MAC All-Academic selection as an elementary education major with a minor in English, the Wyoming Valley West graduate has

served as vice president of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) and worked both on-campus and off-campus jobs.

"I actually like the fact that I can play a college sport — and still have a life. I still go to school, can play softball, and still go out with my friends. Some of my [high school] friends play on the Division II level, but I'm happy where I am. I have the opportunity to get in other things here," says Nunemacher, who had enrolled at a Division II school, but changed her mind after meeting Wilkes Head Coach Frank Matthews. She reports that Matthews encourages players to miss practice for class conflicts, since he knows his players are ultimately here for the education.

And the faculty are ultimately here for student-athletes like senior Josh Turel — a pharmacy major from Pittston Area who was a second-team all-conference baseball catcher last spring.

"I think it's nice that I'm in a smaller class in the pharmacy program — something like 65 students. Each professor pretty much knows you by name, and keeps track of you, and tells coach how you're doing. You're not just a number — and that's not just a cliché," says Turel, who also served on the SAAC and is doing an internship at



JOSH TUREL IS TWO-TIME ALL-FREEDOM CONFERENCE HONOREE AND SERVES AS A TEAM CAPTAIN FOR THE BASEBALL TEAM.

nearly Konicki Pharmacy.

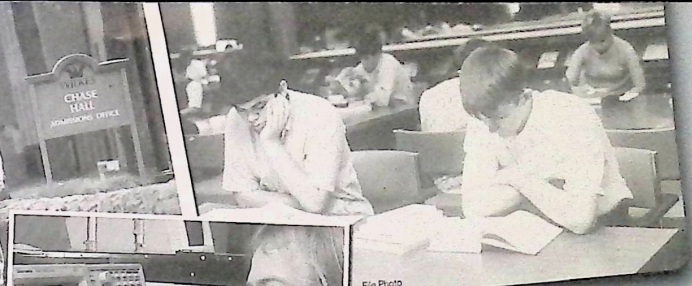
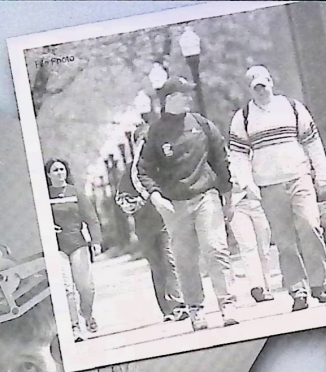
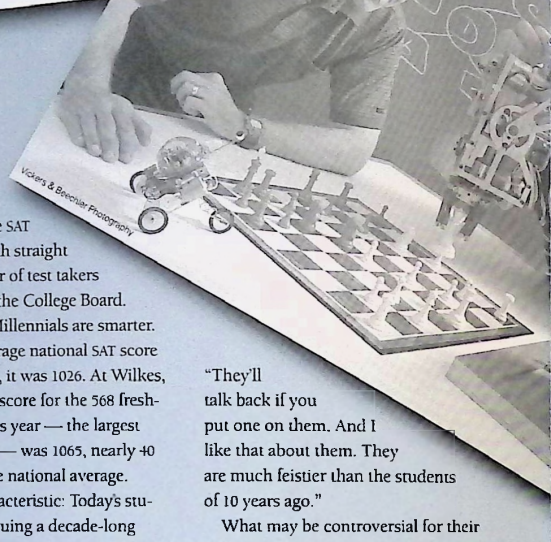
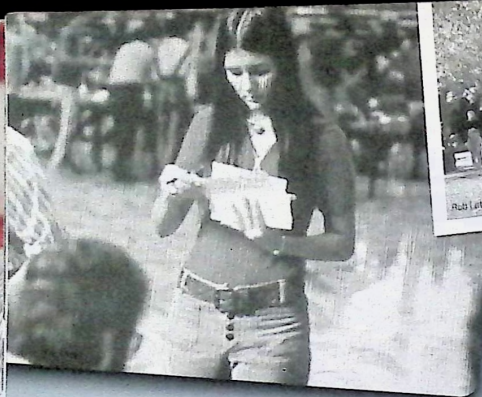
That hasn't changed much since Hall of Famer Brooke Yeager was a standout wrestler before graduating in 1964. Yeager placed second in the 123-pound weight class at the small college nationals his senior year, earning a berth in the NCAA Division I Championships. He learned a valuable lesson off the mats from that experience when Dr. Charles Reif made him complete a paper before he left for the match. While Yeager wasn't happy about having to complete the assignment at the time, he claims it ended up being "the best advice" he could have gotten, since he was too tired upon his return.

Now on the biology faculty at Luzerne County Community College, he has advice for today's Wilkes student-athletes.

"I think the liberal arts schools — like those in Division III — give you the chance to experience some different views on the world. They need to take advantage of those opportunities," says Yeager, who was also an assistant coach on Wilkes' national championship wrestling team and is a collegiate wrestling official. "I didn't like all those [liberal arts] courses I had to take, but some of those courses were probably much more meaningful than others. I had a great experience at Wilkes."

And at Wilkes, athletics is all about the educational experience. **W**





Photo

"There is a work ethic," says Crahall. "What we say, and what employers and internship directors say about our students, is their work ethic is superior. They come in with skills, which I would expect from any student,

but what they bring that they didn't expect was the initiative, the drive, and the ability to say, 'I've finished; what can I do now?' Our students know in this economy they better show a portfolio of work that will make them look like they've had one or two years of full-time experience, or they're not getting a job."

Lennon agrees, saying one unique characteristic of this generation is agility — in terms of career planning and preparing for jobs that, in some cases, don't yet exist.

"They understand that the world of work has changed markedly," says Lennon. "They have brothers and sisters and parents who have lost jobs, gained jobs, created new jobs. They are — as Americans have always been — mobile and flexible. But this generation is more so. They are more willing to travel, more willing to try new things, more willing to learn new skills, more willing to be involved in new kinds of professional positions than just a few years ago."

Gone are the days when a student wanted to be an accountant. Today, Lennon says they want to be accountants with minors in international affairs or Spanish, because they might be living overseas. "I have noticed an uptick in the number of students taking minors,"

They, too, are the most racially and ethnically diverse generation in American history. One in five, say Howe and Strauss, has at least one immigrant parent: one in 10 has at least one non-citizen parent.

And there are plenty of them. By one estimate, 81 million — making them bigger than the Boomer generation. Record numbers want college educations and, among those, more college-bound students are female. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, an estimated 15.9 million were enrolled in U.S. colleges this fall, up 1.2 million from five years ago. Next year, there will be an estimated 16.7 million college students; by 2013, the number attending public and private schools of higher education will swell to 18.1 million, says the U.S. National Center for Education Statistics.

Translation: more competition for precious seats. Already, applications for admission to many schools, including Wilkes, are at record levels. At Wilkes, they increased 12 percent this past year alone. That mirrors an all-time high of more than 1.4 million high school stu-

dents taking the SAT last year, the 14th straight year the number of test takers increased, says the College Board. As a group, Millennials are smarter. In 1980, the average national SAT score was 994; in 2004, it was 1026. At Wilkes, the average SAT score for the 568 freshmen starting this year — the largest class since 1988 — was 1065, nearly 40 points above the national average.

Another characteristic: Today's students are continuing a decade-long trend of record volunteerism. Wilkes' students volunteered 29,000 hours of community service last year. And, says the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI), drinking, smoking, and partying are declining. Millennials, say Howe and Strauss, like rules.

While demographers try to characterize each generation with broad strokes of a brush, the Baby Boom Echo group can be resistant to stereotyping.

"They don't like labels," says Dr. Jane Elmes-Crahall, professor and chair of communication studies at Wilkes.

**"They don't like labels. They'll talk back if you put one on them. And I like that about them. They are much feistier than the students of 10 years ago."**

**DR. JANE ELMES-CRAHALL,  
PROFESSOR AND CHAIR OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES**

"They'll talk back if you put one on them. And I like that about them. They are much feistier than the students of 10 years ago."

What may be controversial for their parents, they can take for granted. As an example, Crahall notes a class on controlling spin in public relations and news in which 11 students joined an ongoing focus group for the Democratic National Convention.

"When asked, 'Should same-sex marriage be a topic or legitimate issue in the campaign,' they said, 'Absolutely not.' They were not of all the same political view, but they said, 'That's their business and [they] would vote against anyone who made that a presidential campaign issue.' They were adamant about it. They don't see things as controversial as their parents do," says Crahall. "They say, 'We're past that.'"

After a long period of political apathy by American youth, the Millennials are becoming politically active. HERI found that more than a third of last year's freshmen felt that keeping up-to-date with political affairs was a very

important life goal. That was up from an all-time low of 28 percent in 2000, and a reversal of a three-decade trend of plummeting political interest among freshmen.

While that is a far cry from the 60-plus percent registered by 1966 freshmen, Dr. J. Michael Lennon, professor of English and chair of the division of humanities at Wilkes, says this generation can't help but be more politically aware.

"What's happened overseas since September 11th has made everyone more politically active. You can't teach a course without September 11th or the war in Iraq coming up," he says. "They have relatives in the service or relatives who died in the Twin Towers. They're much more aware of the world around them."

But Dr. Brian Redmond, professor of geoenvironmental sciences at Wilkes, wonders why he isn't seeing fire-in-the-belly passion for things like the environment. "In the '60s, people were very, very passionate about the environment. Up into the '70s, they were very worked up about it. Today, there seems to be

less passion in the field." SAT data showing high school student degree preferences illustrate the point. "Environmental science has practically dropped off the map. Fewer and fewer people consider something like that," says Redmond. But he remains optimistic. "There are pendulum effects. Things become popular, they fade, they come back again."

Many accounts suggest that this is a generation focused on work-world realities. A tough economy that's producing fewer jobs has dashed the one-time notion of job entitlement. Yet they remain optimistic. They believe they have a good chance of achieving the same standard of living as their parents — if they arm themselves with new and varied work skills.

"They are well aware the economic context is such that they may actually not be looking at a job at graduation," says Crahall. As a result... "they're working harder in different ways."

More than ever, students are emphasizing the value of practical hands-on experience in their fields. One example: Zebra Communications, a student-run public relations agency at Wilkes, provides professional services to area government, non-profits, and small businesses.



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**DR. J. MICHAEL LENNON,**  
PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND CHAIR OF THE DIVISION OF HUMANITIES

says Lennon. "They want more than one arrow in their academic quivers these days. They're much more interested in double majors, or minors, or even two minors that can be a marketable asset in a dynamic and changing workplace."

And what a workplace it is. It can change in a blink. Major corporations disappear — gobbled up by competition or failing on their own. Dot coms, they know, went dot gone. But new business and economic opportunities emerge at the same speed.

"Where was Google three years ago? It was just one in a pack and now they're one of the largest corporations in the world," says Lennon. "Today's students are seeing history speed up. Things don't remain in place as long as they did 10 or 15 years ago, when there was a lot more stability. There was a time when you went to work for a firm; you could expect to stay the rest of your life. They don't have that expectation anymore."

But Redmond cautions that today's students can, at times, be too focused on going through the paces of getting a degree and subse-

quent employment.

"I tried this once. In the middle of an astronomy lecture, I made the comment that the moon is made out of green cheese. So help me, half the class wrote it down," he says. "There is an attitude on the part of some that, 'I'm in this class, I need to pass this class and I really don't care what you say. I will write down what you say and I will parrot back whatever you want so I can pass this course and get a good grade.' I try to discourage that."

Still, no generation is as technologically adept as this one. Not long ago, Wilkes and others provided students with e-mail, word processing, and spreadsheet training. No more. Schools now assume that today's students are technologically mature about their electronic connection to the world. But that prowess challenges the nation's schools to stay ahead of the technology curve and, at the same time, meet the expectations of today's students, says Dr. Paul Adams '77, vice president for student affairs at Wilkes. "Students come to campus and expect to plug in their laptops."

Increasingly, students deem state-of-the-art technology infrastructure, around-the-clock library services, better living

space, more help at learning and writing centers, and counseling to help them cope with their busy lives as basic services. Prospective students look at campus amenities — like free laundry available at Wilkes — as factors in their application decision processes.

As a result, "We are clearly providing more services today than we did 20 years ago," says Adams. "We are constantly raising the bar to be more attractive, and trying to add value and distinguish ourselves from the competition, while creating the best possible education environment for our young people."

One example: Students wanted a place to call their own and the 48,000-square-foot Henry Student Center, built in 1999, quickly became the hub of student activity. It will soon undergo expansion to accommodate the need for additional dining and recreation space.

Have instructors changed the way they teach? Yes and no.

"Teaching hasn't really changed since Socrates sat on one end of the log and a student sat on the other end. That's still the ideal way to do things," says Lennon. "We have learned to use technology as a useful supplement to teaching. We can't do without e-mail or web sites to post material. We can't do without the technology. But even as we developed plans for an online master's degree, we insisted that students come to campus for two two-week periods, two years in a row, so we can see them face-to-face, press the flesh, socialize, break bread together, and get to know them. There is no substitute for presence."

Elmes-Crahall thinks today's stu-

dents learn differently:

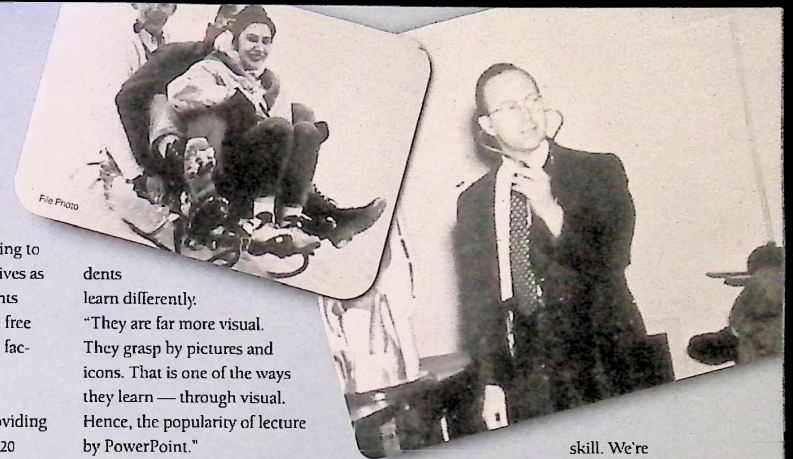
"They are far more visual. They grasp by pictures and icons. That is one of the ways they learn — through visual. Hence, the popularity of lecture by PowerPoint."

She, too, is seeing a comfort in group process, including my own, is learning that teams and ensembles teach each other far more than a lot of traditional sources. They are comfortable and thrive in group process. But they inform themselves in a solitary way and far more through the Internet — and that can be problematic."

That, she says, can affect interpersonal communication.

"Their formal mode of delivery is in writing. Formal writing and public speaking both continue to erode because Internet-speak is not what you need to succeed professionally or, I would suggest, even personally," says Crahall. "You don't learn listening skills on the Internet. You don't learn how to edit on the Internet. You probably don't learn plagiarism ethics on the Internet because they tend to see it as a grand public domain they own."

But Crahall says there is an advantage to working well in group process because the workplace is increasingly becoming a group environment — television crews, account teams. "Being comfortable in a group process is an essential

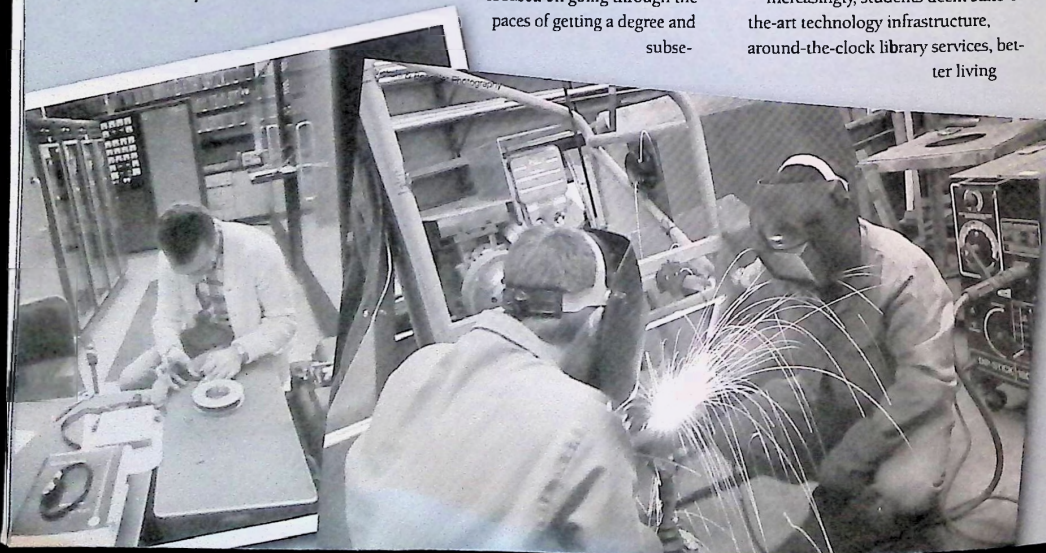


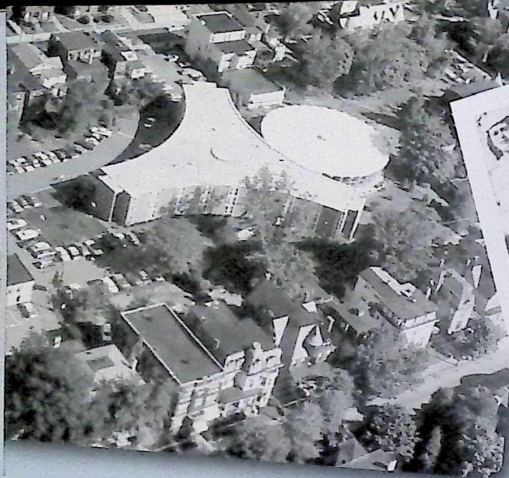
skill. We're

beginning to figure out as a culture that there is a lot to be said for getting along with groups and respecting the diversity that comes with it. This generation is further ahead in that regard than many realize."

As the data illustrate, more students than ever are going to college. "Students know one thing — and this generation believes it more than any other — if you don't have a college education you will be relegated to low-earning wages the rest of your life. You're going to be at the bottom of the economic chain," says Lennon.

Driving the point home: Over the course of an adult's working life, high school graduates can expect, on average, to earn \$1.2 million; those with bachelor's degrees, \$2.1 million; and people with master's degrees, \$2.5 million, according to the Census Bureau.





They, too, recognize that they will need more education than bachelor's degrees to succeed in the workplace. "It's almost impossible to talk to a student now who hasn't thought about the possibility of a master's degree," says Lennon.

The concept of life-long learning, he thinks, is coming to fruition in part because this generation appreciates the necessity to keep up or be overrun by an even more sophisticated generation that will follow them. "Life-long learning, which we educators had hoped for forever, now seems to be a reality."

As the Millennials march forward to claim their piece of the economic pie, and place in history, they, like all generations, will face unique challenges. One challenge for a generation characterized as busy all the time, is slowing down.

"One problem is learning to manage their time and prioritizing," says Crahall. "Right now, all their enthusiasm goes to issues and causes and each other. They can burn out pretty fast. I don't remember ever sitting down with a group of college seniors and saying: You have too many jobs. It's okay to be a student for a while. Many hold multiple jobs, volunteer in the community, play a sport, and carry a full credit load. I admire that, but I'm hoping they don't turn out to be the burn-out generation."

No doubt the September 11, 2001 attacks, and subsequent War on Terror, shook their sense of security and, ultimately, may be the key factors shaping their generation.

"It's sensitized everyone to the rest of the world and made life seem much more fragile, much more precious, and much more dangerous," says Lennon.

"The '90s were a cocoon. There were things going on in the world, but they said, 'Yeah, but so what?' They don't say that anymore. They realize there is no hiding and the American island is no longer a fortress and bad things can happen — anywhere."

How they respond to the cards that history deals them, say generation authorities Howe and Strauss, will determine whether the Millennials can be another "great generation" and dominate the story of the new century the same way the G.I. Generation dominated the last one. They, though, are optimistic.

"Whatever the peril, whatever the challenge — economic, political, military, social, environmental — do not expect years of 1960s-style picketing, protesting, yelling, and arguing. Instead, expect 1930s-style energizing, organizing, teaming, and doing," they say.

Time, ultimately, will tell. ❏

**"We are clearly providing more services today than we did 20 years ago. We are constantly raising the bar to be more attractive, and trying to add value and distinguish ourselves from the competition, while creating the best possible education environment for our young people."**

**DR. PAUL ADAMS '77,**  
VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS



## This is SportsCenter

BY NOAH P. REED '05  
Photo courtesy of ESPN

### Lavan celebrates first Emmy win

Tom Lavan, a 1999 Wilkes University graduate in Communication Studies, recently earned a Studio Technical Emmy through his job with ESPN. In his five years since graduation, Lavan has worked for both WBRE-TV in Wilkes-Barre and ESPN.

So what is a Studio-Technical Emmy? "It's an all-behind-the-scenes award. [It acknowledges] everything it takes to get the show on the air: the filming, audio and video production, and light shading," explained Lavan.

Lavan recently sat down with a correspondent for The Beacon, Noah Reed. The following Q & A was the result of that conversation.

**NOAH REED:** What particular show did you win the Emmy for?

**TOM LAVAN:** "This is SportsCenter." It was an all-behind-the-scenes show on what I do at ESPN every day.

**NR:** How exactly did you get your job at ESPN? Was it luck or through an internship?

**TL:** Being at the right time and at the right place. Or some would say, "networking." I was working at WBRE at the time, and I overheard the conversation of someone in the hallway who said, "Yeah, I work at ESPN now." I stopped what I was doing and questioned the woman [about] how I could get a job there as well. The woman gave me her name and address, and told me to send her my resume, and she would get it to ESPN. Four days later, Tony Valentino from ESPN called me. The very next day I flew to Boston for a three-and-a-half-hour interview. Four more days later, I had my job.

**NR:** What particular shows at ESPN have you produced?

**TL:** I mostly do the six o'clock SportsCenter, but I do the NFL Primetime,

NFL Sunday Countdown... You name it, I've done it. Every show is a different format and a different sport, so it's always something different. I don't think I will ever get bored with it.

**NR:** What do you believe leads to the success of so many graduates such as yourself?

**TL:** There is so much to say, but the classes at Wilkes were great. In my Advanced Video class, there were eight students. You could gain a good relationship with your professor and an opportunity for hands-on, closer working. The professor actually knows your name.

**NR:** What would you suggest that Wilkes do to better prepare its soon-to-be graduates?

**TL:** I believe that the students have a bigger responsibility than the University does. Students should take more control of their futures. Internships will allow you to learn the necessary skills, and to find out which field you really enjoy.

**NR:** Finally, Tom, where is your Emmy sitting? Over your fireplace? On your desk at work?

**TL:** Actually, I haven't decided yet, but I'm sure that I will put it somewhere interesting. ❏

# CLASSnotes

## 1949

*Arthur Dalessandro* was honored for 50 years of membership in the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association of Luzerne County. Arthur is a retired Luzerne County judge.

## 1953

*Attorney Sandor Yelen* has been elected to his 23rd consecutive term as president of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Alumni Chapter of The Penn State Dickinson School of Law.

## 1959

*Thomas E. Reese* was honored at an open house in Dallas, Pa. for his 36 years of service as the Dallas Borough tax collector.

## 1961

*Bob Martin* participated in a chorus of more than 180 voices performing Beethoven's Mass in C Major with the New England Symphony at Carnegie Hall, New York City.

## 1963

*David Siegel* is teaching at the Florida Atlantic University Graduate School of Business. David resides in West Palm Beach, Fla.

## 1964

*L. Barry Witt* owns Barry Witt Associates, an event-management company. Barry resides in Bonita Springs, Fla. with his wife, Susan.

## 1965

*Robert Vincenti, Jr.* is the service director of the intensive case management unit at the Children's Service Center, Wilkes-Barre. Robert resides in Plains, Pa. with his wife, JoAnn. They have two sons, Robert and David.

*David Walker, J.D.*, is a risk management administrator for the Mercury Air Group in Los Angeles, Calif. He resides in Tustin, Calif. with his wife, Arlene.

## 1967

*Richard L. Kramer* is the principal of the Tax Management Group in Pittston, Pa. Richard was also elected president of the Jewish Family Service of Greater Wilkes-Barre. He resides in Edwardsville, Pa. with his wife, Ruth.

*Don Reese* is a professor and head of the department of business and computer services at Mohawk Valley Community College, Utica, N.Y.

*Carole Thomas* retired from teaching in the Groton School System after 37 years. Carole resides in Mystic, Conn.

## 1968

*Elizabeth S. Slaughter* is a psychologist with The Guidance Center in New Rochelle, N.Y. She resides in New Rochelle with her husband, Sylvester and her children, Anton and Christina.

## 1969

*Joseph Frappolli* is the director of student services at Florence Township Memorial High School, Florence, N.J. Joseph resides in Florence with his wife, Donna.

*Sandra (Vici) Touw, M73*, received the Educator of the Year Award from Marywood University. Sandra resides in Dallas, Pa. with her husband, Peter.

## 1971

*William Schultz* was the recipient of the Essence of Humanity Award from the United Way of the Capital Region. William is a computer systems analyst

in the Pennsylvania State Labor and Industry Department.

## 1972

*Alice Davis* is a second grade teacher at Tuscarora Elementary School. She was featured in the Addison Post, Addison, N.Y., for her dedication to teaching.

## 1973

*Ethel Sherman* is the conductor of the Liberty Hose Company No. 2 Band, Lykens, Pa.

## 1974

*Jean (Vadeboncoeur) Churchill* is a first-grade teacher in the Auburn Public School District. Jean resides in Auburn, Maine with her husband, Mark, and children, Olivia and Victor.

*Bernard Fagnani* is a registered investment advisor and full-time instructor at Penn State University.

*Drusilla Laughman* was nominated for the 2004 DisneyHand Teacher Award, which recognizes creativity in the classroom. Drusilla is a language arts teacher at Tamaqua Area High School.

*James R. MacNeal* is a specialty gases product manager with Linde Gas LLC in Independence, Ohio. James resides in Burton, Ohio with his wife, Marjorie, and their three children, James, Jennifer, and Scott.

## 1976

*Edward Boshia* is a social studies teacher in the Chesterfield County Public School District. Edward resides in Chesterfield, Va. with his wife, Sandi, and two daughters, Emily and Danielle.

*Harold Roberts* is the senior vice presi-

dent of agribusiness underwriting with Penn Millers Group, Wilkes-Barre.

*Marie (Lucas) Stolarick* had artwork appear on the CD cover of a Canadian singer. She was also featured by the *Times Leader* as Artist of the Week. Marie resides in Nanticoke, Pa.

## 1977

*Donald Mitchell* is the director of finance at the Ridgeview Institute in Smyrna, Ga. Donald resides in Powder Springs, Ga.

*Franklin Rosenberg, M.D.*, is the President of the Connecticut State Society of Anesthesiologists. Franklin works for Woodland Anesthesiology Association in Hartford, Conn. He is also a clinical assistant professor of anesthesiology at the University of Connecticut Medical School.

## 1978

*W. Richard Grosdidier, J.D.*, is vice president of DZ Bank AG in New York City. He resides in Basking Ridge, N.J. with his wife, Linda, and sons, Ryan and Philip.

*David A. Jolley* has earned re-accreditation by the Public Relations Society of America. David is the Geisinger Health System vice president for public relations. He and his wife, Susan, have two children, Derek and Dylan.

*Caryn (Axelrad) Shapiro* is a production manager for Scimedx Corporation, a diagnostic manufacturer. She resides in Lake Hopatcong, N.J. with her husband, Peter, and their two children, Adam and Benjamin.

## 1979

*Christine Wanich Bradway* earned her

Ph.D. in nursing from the University of Pennsylvania. Christine is now an assistant professor at the University of Pennsylvania. She resides in King of Prussia, Pa. with her husband, Robert, and son, Adam.

*Reginald Fatherly* presented his watercolor glazing technique to the Bald Eagle Art League at City Hall, Williamsport, Pa.

*Denise Ann Gogola* is the choral director of the Holy Trinity Chamber Choir, Hazleton, Pa. Denise is the vocal music teacher at both Holy Trinity and Transfiguration schools.

## 1980

*Paul Kerrigan* is directing with the Young People's Theater Workshop in southeastern Pennsylvania.

*Patricia Klotz* is a research coordinator at the University of Washington Trauma Center, Seattle, Wash.

## 1981

*Glenn Coopey* is an aerospace science instructor in the Gilbert Unified School District in Gilbert, Ariz. Glenn resides in Mesa, Ariz.

*Robert Jeffrey Harper* is an associate with Booz Allen Hamilton, Falls Church, Va. Robert recently retired from active duty with the United States Air Force after 22 years of service. He resides in Triangle, Va. with his wife, Heidi, and their three children.

*Edward Mollahan* is a senior vice president with JP Morgan Chase in Brooklyn, N.Y. Edward resides in Andover, N.J. with his wife, Monica, and their children, Deirdre and Sean.

## Yeager flying in the face of danger



Thomas Yeager is a fighter pilot with the United States Air Force, currently serving at RAF Lakenheath, England.

He graduated from Wilkes University in 1996 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history. While at Wilkes, Tom was a member of the ROTC program and the football team.

After graduating from Wilkes, he attended three years of flight training and became a fighter pilot. Tom has been flying a F-15E Strike Eagle for the past 6 years and has supported Operations *Enduring Freedom* and *Iraqi Freedom*.

He recently had the honor of flying the Missing Man Formation on the 60th Anniversary of D-Day over Normandy, France.

Tom states that his Wilkes degree "ultimately helped me to be commissioned as an officer in the Air Force and eventually earn my pilot wings." He credits much of his success to the academic and athletic experiences he had at Wilkes.

*Douglas Phillips* is a senior director with Pfizer, Inc. Douglas resides in Gales Ferry, Conn. with his wife *Valerie (Van Dyke)* '82, and their two children.

**1982**

*Robert Capin* is a senior vice president and financial advisor at Morgan Stanley, Scranton, Pa. Robert resides in Kingston, Pa.

*Robert Cochran* is jazz director and staff announcer at WMPG, Portland, Maine. Robert is also a freelance cartoonist.

*Regina Morse* is the assistant director of nursing at Citrus Health and Rehabilitation in Iverness, Fl. Regina resides in Beverly Hills, Fl.

*Roberta Price* was named to the board of directors of the American Cancer Society Pennsylvania Division, Inc. Roberta is a clinical nurse for oncology at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

*Meredith (Cunningham) Sweeney* is a special educator in the public school system in Maryland.

*Bruce Williams, D.O.*, is the president of the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons. Bruce and his wife, Julie, reside in Blue Springs, Mo.

*Alan D. Wirtman* is vice president of Travelers Insurance. Alan resides in Allen, Texas with his wife, Cindy, and their children, Corey and Brittany.

**1983**

*William D'Addato* is a controller and board secretary of Hishi Plastics U.S.A., Inc. in Lincoln Park, N.J. William resides in Rockaway, N.J. with his wife, Laura, and three children, Daniel, Allison and Pamela.

*Rita K. Ives* had her advanced oncology nursing certification renewed by the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation. Rita is a clinical nurse specialist of oncology at Mercy Hospital, Wilkes-Barre.

*Sheri (Teats) Matter* is the vice president of nursing for Pinnacle Health Hospital, Harrisburg, Pa. Sheri resides in Liverpool, Pa. with her husband, Robert, and daughters, Ashley and Andrea.

*Susan Poirier* volunteers at the Southeastern Community Blood Center in Tallahassee, Fla.

**1984**

*Dr. Donna (Nitha) Brunelli* is an assistant professor of biology, human anatomy, and physiology at Allegany College of Maryland. She resides in Friedens, Pa., with her husband, Timothy, and her daughter, Elizabeth.

**1985**

*Billy Adams* was the grand marshal of the Memorial Day Parade in Stroudsburg and East Stroudsburg, Pa. boroughs. Billy served 26 years in the United States Army Signal Corps as a chief warrant officer.

*David Kovalski* is an engineering consultant with Booz Allen Hamilton, Los Angeles.

*Ann (Devlin) Pocpperling* is a communications project manager for Blue Cross of Northeast Pennsylvania. She resides in Shavertown, Pa. with her husband, Dwayne, and two children.

**1986**

*Robert E. Fisher* is the president and

CEO of Brookville Hospital, Brookville, Pa. Robert resides in Bradford, Pa. with his wife, Jill. The couple has three sons, Andrew, Aaron and Jonathan.

*Timothy Page* is a communications officer with the United States Air Force at the Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. Timothy recently returned from six months in Iraq. He resides in Crestview, Fla. with his wife, *Carol (Steleovich)* '90, and their children, Kevin and Christyn.

**1987**

*Vincent Dominach* is the borough manager of Bristol, Pa.

*Kimberly (Tohach) Kellar* is the manager of dialysis services at Kennedy Memorial Hospital, Voorhees, N.J. Kimberly resides in Woolrich, N.J. with her husband, James, and their two children.

*Donna Lopez* is a home service coordinator for Long and Foster Real Estate, Inc. in Fairfax, Va. She resides in Germantown, Md. with her husband, Juan, and two sons, Nicholas and Timothy.

*Jean Ann Pollard* married Chris Rhodes. Jean Ann is a reading specialist for the Amherst County Public School System. The couple resides in Bedford, Va.

*Kevin Salus* is a key accounts manager with Teris Waste Management. Kevin resides in Lewisville, N.C.

**1988**

*Cynthia Ayers* and her husband, Brian, own a Subway Restaurant in Mountaintop, Pa.

*Edward Gallagher* is the vice president

of New Century Bank in Phoenixville, Pa. Edward resides in Phoenixville with his wife, Amy, and two children, Kennedy and Mac.

**1989**

*Kimberly Broadwell* and her husband, David, announce the birth of their son, Owen, on June 3, 2004. Kimberly is a newspaper reporter with *The Westfield Leader* and the *Scotch Plains Times*.

*Eugene C. Cunard* is vice president of Pennstar Banks Trust and Investment Division. Eugene resides in Upper Askam, Pa. with his wife, Karen, and their two children.

*Rob Faille* and his wife, Kristine, announce the birth of their son, Brendan, on June 2, 2004. Rob is a lead investment systems analyst with the Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company in Horsham, Pa. They reside in Newtown, Pa. with their daughter, Jessica.

*Richard McHale* owns JP McHale Pest Management, Inc. in Buchanan, N.Y. Richard resides in Lagrangeville, N.Y. with his wife, Lisa, and two children, Devin and Riley.

**1990**

*John Evans* is the vice president of finance with Pulte Homes, New England. John resides in Grafton, Mass. with his wife, Lori, and two daughters, Jillian and Abigail.

*Kathy Harris* is a call-center representative with Prudential Financial. Kathy resides in Mountaintop, Pa. with her husband, Reverend Kenneth, and their children, Patrick, Rebecca, and Jessica.

**1991**

*Mari Noel Araya* is a nurse paralegal with Wicker, Smith, O'Hara, McCoy, Graham, & Ford, P.A. Mari resides in Fort Lauderdale, Fl.

*Ernest (Buddy) Batha, Jr.* is a sixth grade teacher in the Franklin Township School District. Ernest resides in Somerset, N.J. with his wife, Jessica.

*Jim Bell* and his wife, Katherine, welcomed their first son, Charlie, on May 21, 2004. The family resides in Laurel Springs, N.J.

*John P. Bonin* married Tara Condon. John is a northeastern U.S. regional sales and national accounts manager with S&G Flowers, Downers Grove, Ill. The couple resides in Wyoming, Pa.

*Joseph Eby* is a fellow in plastic surgery at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn. He resides in Nashville with his wife, Emily.

*Mary Gould* is serving as the chief of communication plans at the Combined Air Operations Center, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar.

*Sandra Thomas Terefenko* is an OB/GYN in Bethlehem, Pa. She resides in Center Valley, Pa. with her husband, Eugene, and two children, Emma and Zachary.

**1992**

*Brett Beshore*, M95, is the station manager of the WPEN radio station in Philadelphia, Pa. Brett resides in Telford, Pa. with his wife, Maryann, and two children.

*Brian DeCesare*, M01, opened BnB International Cigars and Accessories in

Chestnut Hill, Pa.

*Shelley Herb* teaches in the Line Mountain School District. Shelley resides in Sunbury, Pa.

*Christopher Spencer* married Christina Lee. Christopher is a certified public accountant with Matlowski Corporation, P.C.

*Matthew J. Sützel* is a funeral director and partner of Walter R. Christ Funeral Home, Laureldale, Pa. Matthew and his wife, *Rebecca (Simon)* '94, reside in Wyomissing, Pa. with their children, Sarah, Jacob, Ethan, and Matthew.

*Jason Williams* is president of the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants' Northeastern Chapter. Jason resides in Tunkhannock, Pa. with his wife and two children.

**1993**

*Kelly (Erickson) Bartnicki* and her husband, Joseph, announce the birth of their son, Joseph. They reside in Hackettstown, N.J. with another son, Hunter.

*Ann Marie O'Donnell* earned her master's of education in reading, and reading specialist certification, from Bloomsburg University. Ann Marie resides in Nanticoke, Pa.

*Pamela (Babula) Stuart* resides in Daniels, West Virginia with her husband, Eric, and children, Brett and Lauren.

**1994**

*John Dorunda* is a family physician at Naval Hospital in Guam. John resides with his wife, Jenine, and two children.

*Teri Granahan* won Funniest New Talent Comic in New York City. Teri resides in Port Chester, N.Y.

*Jennifer (Barbas) Fasching* is a branch manager with SunTrust Bank in Charlotte Hall, Md. Jennifer resides with her husband, Heath, in Lusby, Md.

*Dr. David Hutz* specializes in internal medicine with the Geisinger Medical Group, Mountaintop, Pa.

*Mark Paczewski* married Jennifer Reese on November 28, 2003. Mark is a business manager at Erley Chrysler Jeep in Moosic, Pa. The couple resides in Dallas, Pa.

*Steven Polliard* is an associate professor of aerospace studies at Northern Arizona University. Steven resides in Flagstaff, Ariz. with his wife, Bonnie, and two daughters.

*Anthony Salerno* is a manager of accounting for Jaguar & Land Rover North America, a division of Ford Motor Company. Anthony and his wife, Jodi, reside in Newport Coast, Calif. with their sons, Michael and Matthew.

*Suzanne (Stanshi) Scheible* is a process controls engineer with Scheible Engineering, Inc. Suzanne resides in Andover, N.J. with her husband, Bob, and daughter Hannah.

*Mark G. Wade* married Samantha L. Eyles. Mark is a programmer/analyst with Systems Planning and Analysis, Inc. in Alexandria, Va. The couple resides in Springfield, Va.

### 1995

*Edward J. Ciarimboli* joined the

Fellerman Law Offices in Kingstou. Edward earned his law degree from Duquesne University School of Law.

*Michael Durkin* married *Lisa Ann Tomaine, Pharm.D.* '02. Michael graduated from MCP-Hahnemann with a degree in medicine. Lisa is a clinical staff pharmacist. The couple resides in Allentown, Pa.

*Darla Gallagher, M'00*, married Gerald Sechleer, Esq. Darla is a first-grade teacher at Fairview Elementary School in the Crestwood School District. The couple resides in Penn Lake, Pa.

*Arada (Kunyosying) Halder* and her husband, Kallol, announce the birth of their first child, Priya, on June 8, 2004. They reside in Houston, Texas.

*Edward "Phat Ed" Hutter* is a sheet-metal worker in Hopatcong, N.J. Phat Ed recently became a journeyman.

*Andrew Lesh, M'01*, is a marketing manager with United Receptacle in Pottsville, Pa. Andrew resides in Pine Grove, Pa. with his wife, Tamara, and their children, Mackenzie, Mariah and Mitchell.

*Heather May* is a staff member at Inner Harmony Wellness Center. Heather is a registered dietician.

*Christina Ortiz* is a clinical social worker for the Department of Veteran Affairs in East Orange, N.J. Christina resides in Hoboken, N.J.

*Deborah M. Shurtleff* earned chartered life underwriter and chartered financial consultant designations from The American College. Deborah is the chief

financial officer at DGR Insurance. She resides in Tunkhannock, Pa.

*Tim Williams* is a second grade teacher in the Clark County School District, Las Vegas. Timothy earned his master's of education from Lesley University, Cambridge, Mass.

### 1996

*Bill Boyer* received his Psychology for Soccer Level I certificate from the English Football Association. Bill is head coach of the Eagle FC '84 Phantoms boys' premier team based in Harrisburg, Pa. and resides in Ashland, Pa.

*Kathryn Easley* married Shawn Evans. Kathryn is a first-grade teacher in Virginia. The couple resides in Warrenton, Va.

*Marian Kovacsics* is conductor for the Hazleton, Pa. Chorale.

*James Savage* is hospital admission and registration coordinator at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital, New London, Conn. James resides in Gales Ferry, Conn. with his wife, Marchelle.

*Ally Sleiman* is an executive officer in the United States Army. Ally also competed in the 2004 Olympic Team trials in Greco-Roman wrestling. He resides in Fort Carson, Colo. with his wife, Lee Ann, and two children, Jenna and Nathan.

### 1997

*Ray Heblen* is the assistant vice president at Wayne Bank. Ray resides in Archbald, Pa. with his wife, Lisa, and son, Grady.

*Jessica Goodwin, M'99*, resides in North Carolina with her husband, Jeffrey, and their children, Kacey and Benjamin.

*Lee Meyers* graduated from a three-year family practice residency program at Williamsport, Pa. Hospital.

*Erica Milkovitz* is a customer service representative for the Duryea Insurance Agency of Hunterdon, N.J. Erica resides in Phillipsburg, N.J. with her husband, Robert, and her son, Allan.

*Melissa Rickard* is a 1st Lieutenant serving as a United States Army nurse practitioner in Germany.

*Joseph Vilcheck* earned his master of arts teaching education degree from California University of Pennsylvania. Joseph is an environmental consultant in Pittsburgh, Pa.

### 1998

*Valerie Kris (Jones) Chivinski* is an elementary school teacher in the Danbury Public School District. Valerie resides in Torrington, Conn. with her husband, Ron.

*Jonathan Dougher* is a material design engineer with Norwich Aero Products, Inc. Jonathan resides in Norwich, N.Y. with his wife, Carly, and daughter, Margaret.

*Amber Elsesser* is an adjunct professor in education at Millersville University. She teaches graduate-level education classes throughout Mifflin County, Pa. She also teaches second grade in the Lewistown Area School District.

*Kristen (Cookus) LaBuda* is a second-grade teacher at the Green Ridge

Elementary School. Kristen resides in Mt. Holly Springs, Pa. with her husband, Matthew.

*Lisa Anne Nicewinski, M'02*, married Louis Ciampi, Jr. Lisa is an English teacher at Dallas Middle School. The couple resides in West Pittston, Pa.

*Dr. Michael Petruska* married Dr. Jennifer Adami. Michael received his doctorate of optometry degree from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry. The couple resides in Richmond, Va.

### 1999

*Bridget (Finnerty) Moran, M'03*, is a special education instructor in the Forest City Regional School District. Bridget resides in Forest City, Pa. with her husband, Thomas.

*Joseph Morris* is the assistant vice president of PNC Bank, Scranton, Pa.

*Aaron Sherburne* and his wife, *Lauren (Castelli) '00*, reside in Pequannock, N.J.

*Nicole Sklancy* married John Evans. She is employed by Kraft Nabisco. The couple resides in West Nanticoke, Pa.

*Andy Snyder* is a social studies teacher in the Pocono Mountain School District. He resides in Factoryville, Pa. with his wife, Sarah, and son, Aiden.

### 2000

*Kevin Baker* and his wife, *Jocelyn (Morales) '01*, announce the birth of their first child, Kayla Grace, on January 24, 2004.

*Adam Burdett* is a music teacher and band director in the Pittston Area School District. Adam resides in

Kingston, Pa.

*James Caffrey, M'03*, is a facility engineer with the Veterans Medical Center in Wilkes-Barre. James resides in Hughesstown, Pa., with his wife, Stephanie, and their two children, Jimmy and Meghan.

*Maura Cascy, Pharm.D.*, is a senior staff pharmacist at Lancaster General Hospital. Maura resides in Elizabethtown, Pa. with her husband, Liam '01, and their two daughters, Madeline and Chloe.

*Kelly A. Donlin* married John Malachefski. Kelly works for Fleet Boston Financial, Bethlehem, Pa. The couple resides in Breinigsville, Pa.

*Jason Evans* is a television producer with Banyan Productions. He has produced for The Learning Channels (TLC) *The Dating Story* and *Trading Spaces*.

*Matthew Himlin* married Dora Lam on June 19, 2004.

*Lisa Marconi* is a safety and health assistant with United States Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Lisa resides in Wilkes-Barre.

*Wendy-Ann (Shiro) Oresick* is a reading specialist in the Bristol Township School District. Wendy earned her master's in reading education from King's College. She resides in East Fallowfield, Pa. with her husband, Michael, and son, Tyler.

*Kathleen (Terrenoire) Sachse* graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Kathleen resides in

Bridgeville, Pa. with her husband, Brett.

*Holly (Fields) Schramm* earned her master's in special education from Marywood University. Holly resides in Binghamton, N.Y. with her husband, William, and son, Alexander.

*Allison Smalley, M01*, is a third-grade teacher in the Orange County Public School District. Allison resides in Orlando, FL.

*Carmela Marie Smith* is a medical transcriptionist with the Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center. Carmela resides in Moscow, Pa. with her husband, Thomas.

*Hilary Surak* is a project scientist for HRP Associates, Inc. of Lower Paxton Township, Pa.

*Kimberly Vance* is a business education teacher at Pocono Mountain East High School. Kimberly is also head coach for varsity swimming and assistant coach of the soccer team. She resides in Mount Pocono, Pa.

*Jason Weaver* is a mechanical engineer at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Philadelphia, Pa.

### 2001

*Raymond Bernardi III* married *Jessica Lynn Sinkovich* on September 27, 2003. Raymond is a chief pharmacist for the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Minersville, Pa. Jessica is a staff pharmacist for Rite Aid Pharmacy, Scranton, Pa. The couple resides in Mountaintop, Pa.

*Lisa Bitler* was the secondary-level honoree as Educator of the Year in the

Penn Manor School District, Martietville, Pa.

*Lisa Donaldson* married Daniel Batchelor. Lisa is a senior client-care specialist with ATX Communications in King of Prussia, Pa. The couple resides in Bellmawr, N.J.

*Megan Frey* married *Jason Sheakoshi, Pharm.D.* 02. on July 31, 2004. Megan is a special education teacher at Scranton High School, Scranton, Pa. and Jason is a pharmacist with Weis Pharmacy. The couple resides in Clarks Summit, Pa.

*Calandria Hiller* married Brian Miller. Calandria is attending Temple University School of Dentistry, Philadelphia. The couple resides in Mountaintop, Pa.

*Carol Ann D. Pope* is a special education teacher assistant for N.E.I.U. #19 in Archbald, Pa. She resides in Forest City, Pa., with her husband, William, and sons, Mitchell, William and Shane.

*Matthew Reitnour* is an assistant in the Athletic Communications Department at Canisius College in Buffalo, N.Y. Matthew earned his master's degree in sports administration from Canisius in May of 2004.

### 2002

*Gregory Barrouk* is the personal aide for Wilkes-Barre mayor Tom Leighton.

*Andrea Lee Bryant* married Eugene Visneski. Andrea works for Bloom Early Education, Forty Fort, Pa. The couple resides in Jenkins Township, Pa.

*Monica DeAngelo* is an environmental

engineer with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in Washington, D.C.

*Allison Fink* is an English teacher at Coughlin High School, Wilkes-Barre. Allison is also the drama advisor and directs plays.

*Danielle Gratalo* is a pharmacist at Wegmans. Danielle resides in Avoca, Pa.

*Lance Mabry* is serving overseas to support the Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Lance is an information services flight commander out of the Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins, Ga.

*George E. Milcvich, Pharm.D.*, is a pharmacy practice resident at AEMC Hospital in Philadelphia, Pa.

s sixth-, and seventh-grade students at Wyoming Area Catholic, Pittston, Pa.

*Brenden Ruh* is a district sales manager for Total Repair Express. Brenden resides in Hillsborough, N.J.

*Allison (Mecca) Tomczyk* and her husband, *Paul '99*, announce the birth of their first child, Aidan Paul, on June 28, 2004. They reside in Scranton, Pa.

### 2003

*Christina Baigis* is an English teacher in the Northwest Area School District.

*Michael Liam Dolan* is a project engineer with Archer Western Contractors in Springfield, Va. Michael resides in Telford, Pa.

*Mark Dudinyak* joined RKR Hess

Associates in East Stroudsburg, Pa. Mark resides in Hazleton, Pa.

*Dale Heller* is a press agent with Sam Rudy Media Relations in New York City. Dale's client, the Broadway musical *Avenue Q*, recently won a Tony Award for Best Musical.

*Kerry Ann Karpinski* married Kevin Higgins. Kerry Ann is a nurse at GHS Health Care. The couple resides in Upper Askam, Pa.

*Megan Kopicki* married John H. Marx III on August 9, 2004. Megan is a seventh- and eighth-grade learning support teacher in the Crestwood School District. They reside in Hershey, Pa.

*Johnell Nidoh* is a regional account representative for The Lion Brewery. Johnell resides in Dupont, Pa.

*Steven Sefton* is a controls engineer with BOC Edwards. Steven resides in Eden Prairie, Minn.

### 2004

*Kate Gowisnok* is an English teacher at the Wyoming Area Secondary Center, Exeter, Pa. Kate resides in Swoyersville, Pa.

*Gabrielle Lamb* is a youth marketing director for Ideaworks, Inc.

*Jeanna Miller, Pharm.D.*, is a pharmacy practice resident at the Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, Ga.

*Jessica Pezolano* is an assistant media specialist with Radio Direct Response, Media, Pa. Jessica resides in West Chester, Pa.

*Nicholas Romanowski* is a project engineer for Koehler-Bright Star, Inc. in Hanover Township, Pa.

*Krystal Testa* is a social studies teacher in the Morris Hills Regional School District, Rockaway, N.J. Krystal resides in Newton, N.J.

## Master's Milestones

### 1985

*Robert E. Fisher* was appointed President and CEO of Brookville Hospital, Brookville, Pa.

*David Kalinowski* and his wife, Rose Marie, announce the birth of their daughter, Lauren Rose. They reside in Mountaintop, Pa.

### 1989

*Susan Castle* was named Exchangeite of the Year by the Plymouth-Whitemarsh-Conshohocken Exchange Club. Susan resides in Blue Bell, Pa., with her husband, Steve.

### 1991

*Judith Ellis* was named the 2004 Athena Award recipient by the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry. The award is presented to an individual who has devoted time and energy to the community. Judith is the manager of government, corporate, and foundation relations at College Misericordia.

### 2001

*Jeffrey Nietz* received a Doctor of Philosophy degree in education from Kennedy Western University in

California.

### 2002

*Brian Seely* is the assistant principal at Bloomsburg High School, Bloomsburg, Pa. Brian resides in Drums, Pa. with his wife and two children.

### 2003

*Kellyann (Langan) Mordosky* is a senior consultant for Aetna, Inc. in Middletown, Conn. Kellyann resides in Manchester, Conn.

### 2004

*Victoria Burse* is a high school German teacher in the Whitehall-Coplay School District. Victoria resides in Whitehall, Pa.

*Chris Venna* is the principal of Shamokin Area High School.

## Trustee Milestones

*Frank M. Henry* was recognized for his dedication and leadership at a dinner hosted by the Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA. Frank was presented with an original watercolor painting of the YMCA.

## Honorary Degree Milestones

*Dr. Wallace F. Stettler* was awarded the 2004 Distinguished Community Service Award from the Anti-Defamation League of Greater Wilkes-Barre Society. He resides in Dallas, Pa.

## In Memoriam

## 1946

*Jane Walksman Roth* died March 25, 2004. Jane was chairwoman of the Women's Division of the United Jewish Appeal and a club champion at Fox Hill Country Club. She is survived by two daughters and a son.

## 1949

*Ronald Savage* died March 19, 2004. Ronald was a Navy veteran of the Korean War and was employed for many years by InterMetro Industries. He is survived by his wife, Ruth, and two sons.

## 1951

*John M. Fink* died July 26, 2004. John was a United States Army veteran of World War II. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy.

*Gertrude Pash* died August 1, 2004. Gertrude was a literacy volunteer in Morris County, N.J. and the Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, Chatham Township, N.J. She is survived by her husband, Durant, two daughters, and a son.

## 1954

*Edward Davis* died July 10, 2004. Edward is a member of the Wilkes University Athletic Hall of Fame and the Northeastern Region Pennsylvania Hall of Fame. He worked as a teacher for seven years and later as a construction estimator. He is survived by his wife, Lorraine, and three daughters.

## 1955

*Richard Ridge* died July 12, 2004. In retirement, Richard volunteered at the

North Penn Senior Center, Lansdale, Pa., where he helped prepare tax returns. He is survived by his wife, Kathryn, two sons, and a daughter.

*Loretta D. Ritzje* died June 1, 2003 in Bakersfield, Calif., where she lived since 1982. Loretta worked for Penn State, Wilkes-Barre as a librarian for 25 years.

*Captain John Cashmere* died January 9, 2004. John served in the United States Navy for 28 years. After leaving the Navy, John worked as an independent financial adviser and planner in Bethesda, Md. He is survived by three sons and four grandsons.

## 1957

*Ann Elizabeth Kauffman* died December 20, 2003. She is survived by her husband, Clyde, and two daughters, Heather and Lisa.

## 1958

*Joseph Cebula* died August 10, 2004. Joseph was employed for 26 years as a computer programmer with GTE/Verizon and achieved the rank of major during his career in the United States Army.

*John Griffiths, Jr.* died July 9, 2004. Following service in World War II for the Army Air Force in England, John was an accountant. He is survived by his son and three daughters.

*Harry Moyle* died August 7, 2004. Prior to retirement, Harry was a regional vice president of the Small Loan Business Center for United Penn and Mellon Banks. He is survived by his brother and two nieces.

*Reverend George Pickett* died August 13, 2004. George was ordained at Meade Street Baptist Church, Wilkes-Barre. He served for many years as the Protestant chaplain of the State Correctional Facility, Jackson Township, Pa. He is survived by his wife, Caroline, a daughter, and a son.

## 1960

*Robert B. Jones* died in January of 2004. Robert is survived by his spouse.

## 1962

*Raymond Cherpak* died January 20, 2004. Bill was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II and was a music teacher in the Wyoming Valley West School District. He is survived by his wife, Patricia, daughter, *Angela Kishbaugh '95*, and a grandson.

*John Pohladowski* died August 10, 2004. John was a veteran of the United States Air Force. Prior to retirement, he was a teacher at the Wyoming Valley West Elementary School. He is survived by his wife, Janet.

## 1963

*Zelda Salamon* died August 3, 2004. Prior to retirement, Zelda was a teacher at the Wyoming Valley West High School for 33 years. She is survived by five daughters and ten grandchildren.

## 1965

*Thomas Joseph Palfey* died September 25, 2003. He taught elementary school in New Jersey and in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District for almost 40 years. He was honored in two Who's Who in American Teaching publications. He is survived by his wife, Catherine Regan, sons Thomas and

Grant, daughters Catherine and Regan, six grandchildren, sister Dolores Koznetski, and nieces.

*Edward E. Reese*, Medina, N.Y., died January 10, 2004 after a courageous three-year battle with cancer. He earned an MBA from the University of Buffalo in 1981 and worked for the State of New York as a drug and alcohol counselor. For the last 15 years he was financial officer for the Office of Drugs and Alcohol. He retired, after 33 years, in February of 2001. Ed will be remembered by those whom he helped, for his concern for those in need, and for his love of gardening. He is survived by his wife of 39 years, *Arlene Siano Reese '65*, and three children, Edward, Randal, and Tanya.

*John Ladomirak* died June 27, 2003. John was a supervisor at the RCA Corporation, Mountaintop, Pa. He is survived by his son, Benjamin.

## 1971

*John F. Slifcoe* died January 13, 2004. John was a United States Navy veteran of the Vietnam War and was later employed as a vocational counselor. He is survived by his mother.

## 1974

*Michael Donald Murphy* died July 13, 2004. Michael was a member of the Wilkes-Barre Area School Board for 12 years, the Wilkes-Barre Recreation Board, the Luzerne County Board of Education and the EM. Kirby Board of Health. He is survived by his wife, Theresa, four children, three grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

*Joseph Pavill* died July 8, 2004. Prior

to retirement, Joseph was self-employed as a painting contractor. He was also a member of the Disabled American Veterans. He is survived by his wife, Loretta, a son, and four daughters.

## 1979

*John Griffith* died August 16, 2004. John owned and operated ITP Exhibit and Display, Inc., where he was project manager. He is survived by his wife, Cynthia, and his two children, Jake and Riley.

## 1983

*Mary Ann Fedor Ditus* died in November of 2003. Mary Ann was a registered nurse at the Lehigh Valley Hospital. She is survived by her husband, David, and son, Drew.

## 1986

*Criscyde Shillers* died in May of 2003.

## 1992

*Jonathan P. Ben* died November 12, 2003. Jonathan resided in Danielson, Conn.

## Master's In Memoriam

## 1991

*William Sharkoski* died June 22, 2004. He is survived by his wife, Sandra, his son and daughter, and three grandsons. He resided in Mocanaqua, Pa.

## David Frey remembered

David Frey, of Wilkes-Barre, was a special education teacher at Jackson Township Middle School, New Jersey and employed at the Stuttgart State Opera, Germany. He also served as technical director at the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for Performing Arts at Wilkes.

David graduated from Wilkes in 1968 with a Bachelor of Arts degree and served as editor of *The Beacon*, Wilkes University's student-run newspaper. He was also active in the theatre department.

He was the recipient of the 2003 Human Rights Award. In addition, he was co-administrator for the Peace Center and a partner in Frey, Neidert & Weir Farms, Nanticoke, Pa. He was also involved in the Citizen's Drug Policy Forum and a member of the local NAACP executive committee. David served on the boards of the Kirkridge Center, Bangor and the Pennsylvania Council of Mediators.

David is survived by his wife, *Nancy (Leland) '68*, sons William L. and Ethan W., brother Herbert, nieces, and a nephew.

## Friends

*Edith Beckendorf* died March 22, 2004 at the age of 106. Prior to retirement, Edith was employed at Wilkes-Barre Lace, C.W. Post College, Long Island, N.Y., and Maternal Health of Pennsylvania, Wilkes-Barre.

*Gertrude Biernacki* died July 11, 2004. She was a secretary for the Hanover Area School District. She is survived by two sons and one daughter.

*Frances Brayshaw* died December 1, 2003. Prior to retirement, Frances was the chief financial officer of R.C. Brayshaw Printing Company, Warner, N.H. She is survived by her husband, Richard, and five children.

*Thelma (Deane) Berger* died November 12, 2003. Thelma was the curator of the Maslow Art Collection, Wilkes-Barre. She is survived by her husband, Louis, a daughter, and a son.

*William L. Conyngham* died January 19, 2004. William was a Trustee Emeritus of Wilkes University. After serving in active duty in the United States Navy, William spent the next 50 years as secretary-treasurer of Eastern Supply Company and Hillside Farms, Inc. He is survived by his five children and 12 grandchildren.

*Peter E. Edford, Jr.*, died July 10, 2004. He was a chemistry technician for the Duplan Silk Mill and later a structural steel worker. He is survived by his two daughters, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

*Thomas Graham, Jr.* died April 1, 2004.

Thomas served as president of Graham's Office Supplies and Equipment, Inc. He was also past president of the Westmoreland Club. He is survived by his life partner, Jeannie, and their son.

*Howard Greenberg* died January 21, 2004. Howard served in the United States Air Force Reserve and was the owner of Kay Wholesale Drug Co., Wilkes-Barre. He is survived by his wife, Vivian, and two daughters.

*Jean Marseco* died February 5, 2004. She is survived by her husband, Anthony, three children, and six grandchildren.

*Gloria McCartney* died August 14, 2004. Gloria served in the United States Navy as a W.A.V.E. with a rank of petty officer during World War II. She is survived by two sons and a daughter.

*Abram Nesbitt III* died December 27, 2003. A memorial service was held at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Wilkes-Barre, in June.

*Senator Frank J. O'Connell* died January 31, 2004. Frank owned and operated the Kingston House and Columbia Catering, and served in the Pennsylvania Senate for eight years. He is survived by his son and two daughters.

*Anthony Perugino* died January 12, 2004. He owned and operated Perugino's Villa and Tony Perugino's Restaurant. He was past president of UNICO and was a judge at boxing matches. He is survived by his son, Anthony, Jr., three grandchildren, and

three great-grandchildren.

*Nathan Schiowitz* died August 25, 2004. Nathan served in World War II as a captain with the Air Transport Command. He later funded the restoration of what is now Schiowitz Hall on the Wilkes University campus. He is survived by sisters and a brother.

*Doreen Sims* died August 12, 2004. She was employed as a secretary for Golden Business Machines, Kingston, Pa. She is survived by her parents, husband, Joseph, and two daughters.

*Dolores Taren* died August 4, 2004. Dolores was co-owner of Pillow Talk, a well-known lingerie shop in Kingston, Pa. and was one of the founders of the Wilkes-Barre Chapter of the National Association of Italian American Women. She is survived by two sons and four grandchildren.

*Dorothy Tosh* died August 15, 2004. For more than 20 years she was an executive secretary with the Pennsylvania State Employment Bureau in the Wilkes-Barre office. She is survived by a son and three daughters. (1)

## The path to happiness

BY DAVE RUSSO '93



WHEN I WAS ASKED to be a guest writer for the *Afterthoughts* column, my first thought was, "Oh no, the student loan servicing center found me!" My second thought was, "Dam, a homework assignment!" Then I did some self-reflection: No matter what generation you grew up in, you are told to choose your career for love, not money. Yet, how many people actually do this? You go to college, and say, "I wanna be a doctor! What, twelve years of college? How about a nurse's aide?"

The point is, you didn't want to be a doctor: someone told you that you did. These types of decisions will follow you throughout your life. How many people do you know who are happy in their lives (relationships, jobs, lifestyle)? Here I am, ten years removed from college, thinking about my decisions. I am not married; no mortgage; no kids. This may seem like a negative lifestyle to some.

As a stand-up comedian, I travel, entertain strangers, and rarely set my alarm clock. Negative, or positive? Sure, sometimes I think I would love to live like the Joneses, but this is the path I chose! Life of the uncle/godfather.

It took some time for me to go against the norm, giving up the 9-5, company car, and expense account. Yet, I see a payoff in the end. Heck, how many people even heard of Ray Romano until five years ago? He had been on the stand-up circuit for more than 20 years.

My friends, true and ultimate happiness takes sacrifice and a little mental instability.

Once again, because of this column, I am reflecting on my path in life. Like anyone reading this, I've had my crosses to bear — deaths in my family, relationships ending, bad haircuts. Through it all, I have learned to accept me for me. Until you can accept who you are and, more importantly, like who you are, you will never find true happiness in your soul! Struggles are part of life and life is a struggle. The next time you wish you were, or wish you had done something different, don't look back. Look forward and make it happen! Live like a champion today, every day! (1)

*Dave Russo graduated from Wilkes in 1993 with a B.A. in communication studies. He is a professional stand-up comedian who performs regularly in New York, Los Angeles, Atlantic City, and Las Vegas. Dave thanks Dr. Jane Etnes-Craball and Coach John G. Reese.*


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