Vice President’s Welcome Back

Dear Returning Student:

All of us on campus are eager to welcome you back to campus for the start of the fall semester. When classes begin on Monday, August 29, more than 700 new students (575 first-year students and 130 transfers) will be joining you for the start of the new academic year.

The 2011-12 academic year is indeed an historic one for Wilkes. As President Gilmour will retire at the end of June 2012, the University has begun its search for only its sixth president. A search committee has been appointed and has already started its work. Two students – Christa Filipkowski and Alexandra Madaya, are capably representing you on the search committee. You can learn more about the Presidential Search and provide input by visiting the Committee’s web site at http://www.wilkes.edu/presidentialsearch/.

Below you will find information and updates related to the start of school. Please take a few minutes to read through this material. Should you have any questions and are unclear about whom to contact, please be in touch with the Office of Student Affairs at Passan Hall (267 South Franklin Street, 570.408.4100).

Please feel free to share this update with your families and let them know that our annual Family Weekend is scheduled for November 5/6.

We look forward to seeing you soon and extend our very best wishes for a great fall semester. Should you have any questions with which I can help, please call me by dialing 570.408.4114.

Sincerely,

Paul S Adams
Vice President, Student Affairs
Residence Halls

There will be close to 820 students living in residence halls for the upcoming year. Renovations have taken place in the North End Halls. You will find new bathrooms and light fixtures in Weiss, Catlin, Rifkin, and Sterling Halls! First year students will reside in Roth Hall, Evans Hall and other traditional style houses to better serve the needs of that population.

Jaimie Osborn has been named resident director for Evans Hall. A graduate of DeSales University, Jaimie is pursuing her MBA at Wilkes.

There will be three learning communities offered to first year students. One is leadership based, another focuses on foundations in diversity, and the third works with students on sustainable living; all learning community students will reside in Evans Hall.

- **Move-In for Resident Students**
  Move-in for returning resident students is contingent upon where they are placed. Students residing in University Towers will pick up their keys on the first floor of their building. As for the other residence halls, rather than reporting directly to the assigned building, students should pick up their keys at the Office of Residence Life, Passan Hall 3rd floor. Passan Hall is located at 267 South Franklin Street (directly across from the Marts Gymnasium). Refer to: [http://www.wilkes.edu/pages/4238.asp](http://www.wilkes.edu/pages/4238.asp) for a detailed move-in schedule.

  Move-in for **first year** resident students will be on Thursday, August 25th from 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM. or Friday, August 26th from 8:00 AM until Noon. Students should pick up their keys from the Information Desk located on the first floor of the Henry Student Center.

  Please note that the first available meal for returning student this fall will be lunch on August 25th.

Wilkes Emergency Contact System

In an ongoing effort to rapidly deploy accurate information to campus in emergency or urgent situations, Wilkes uses a text message alert service called *e2Campus*, a leading self-service, web-based, mass notification network that empowers schools to reach thousands of people anywhere, at anytime. The University asks all new faculty, staff and students to **register** their cell phone numbers for text message alerts for the *e2Campus* service.

Please register your cell phone number at [http://wilkes.edu/pages/2611.asp](http://wilkes.edu/pages/2611.asp). When registering, you must have your cell phone with you to receive the text message validation code necessary to complete registration.
University College—“The Center for Student Success!”

Here are some important things happening this fall at University College, The Center for Student Success:

**Tutoring**
If you want to get ahead in a class, take advantage of our peer tutoring. You can sign up directly for a tutor at http://tutortrac.wilkes.edu/TutorTrac/Default.html for many classes. For more information on tutoring, contact Mr. Alberto Prado (alberto.prado@wilkes.edu).

**Study Skills Workshops**
University College will be presenting a series of study skills workshops throughout the first six weeks of the semester (dates/location TBA). These interactive workshops are designed to teach students how to better manage academic demands and become stronger students. The topics to be covered include an introduction to academic success, strategic time/task management, goal setting and motivation, note-taking, preparing for and taking exams, and relaxation and test anxiety. In addition to the group workshops, students can make an individual appointment with Ms. Katy Betnar (katy.betnar@wilkes.edu), learning specialist, to identify and develop appropriate strategies to improve their learning.

**Major/Minor Fair**
Not sure about your major? Reconsidering the one you chose? Come check out the Major/Minor Fair on October 11th from 11-1 in the Ballroom. Every department on campus will be available so you can find out more about a particular major or minor.

**Disability Support Services**
If you have a documented disability and are in need of academic accommodations, please contact Ms. Sandra Rendina (sandra.rendina@wilkes.edu), coordinator of Disability Support Services (DSS). The DSS office is located in Conyngham Hall, Room 311. The documentation guidelines and related information can be found at http://www.wilkes.edu/pages/2222.asp.

**Early Alert**
Your professors have the opportunity to share any concerns they have about how you are performing in their class starting the third week of the semester. This comes in the form of an “Early Alert” message. You will receive an email with the professor’s concerns, and a copy will also be sent to your advisor and University College. Expect to hear from us so we can help you improve!

**Your Advisor**
It is important to visit your advisor’s office in the first few weeks of school to re-connect after the summer break. You will want to keep your advisor informed of anything that may affect your educational plan. You will also want to be sure your advisor knows about your progress or any difficulties you are facing. You should re-establish your relationship which is important as your Advisor will guide you through your college curriculum.
Center for Global Education and Diversity

The GEDI staff invites all students to visit the Center and to participate in the cultural and international activities sponsored by the Center. There are activities already scheduled for the fall and look for others advertised in today@wilkes:

- **Study Abroad** continues to generate great interest among many students and we invite students who are interested in studying abroad to come in and discuss their interests with us and explore various destinations and financing options. We now have study abroad opportunities in various parts of the world including Europe, Asia, Africa, Central and South America and Australia. For more information about specific programs, come to our study abroad fair which will be advertised in today@wilkes or contact Dr. Fonjweng at godlove.fonjweng@wilkes.edu or at X2065. Also check out the study abroad website at (http://www.wilkes.edu/pages/2945.asp) and keep in mind that the study abroad application process takes 3 to 6 months.

- The **Office of Diversity Initiatives** will host a **Welcome to our Neighborhood Social** to welcome our multicultural community. Everyone is welcome. Join us on Tuesday, August 30 from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm in the Miller Room (second floor SUB) for snacks and refreshments.

- **The Global Coffee Hour** is held every Wednesday from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm in the Savitz Multicultural Lounge (second floor SUB). This is an informal way for American and international students from various parts of the world to meet and learn about various world cultures. We sometimes have presentations and as the name suggests we always have coffee, as well as other refreshments and games. For more information, contact Georgia Costalas, email: Georgia.costalas@wilkes.edu or at x7854

- **Conversation Partners** present an opportunity for Wilkes students to pair off with an international student. Conversational partners meet regularly to learn each other’s languages and they may meet once in a while for coffee, to have a meal together or to attend a Wilkes event. For more information or to sign up to receive event e-mails contact Kimberly Niezgoda, email: kimberly.niezgoda@wilkes.edu x 4170

**Off Campus Students**

If they haven’t already done so, students residing off campus (in apartments, not at home) are asked to provide their off campus address and telephone number to Dean Barbara King at the Office of Students Affairs (barbara.king@wilkes.edu or 408-4107). This does not substitute for the Wilkes Emergency Contact System or vice versa. A meeting for all Off-Campus students will be held on Thursday, September 1st, at 11:00 am, in the Ballroom. Your rights and responsibilities as an apartment dweller will be covered.
Athletics

• **New Staff**
  - Meredith Alexis, Head Coach Volleyball
  - Harry Armstrong, Assistant Football Coach
  - Christopher Heery, Head Coach Women’s Basketball
  - Vince Scalzo, Sports Information Director

• **Opening Season Contests**
  - Cross Country vs. Misericordia 9/1 - Kirby Park
  - Men’s Soccer vs. Rosemont 9/1 - Home
  - Volleyball vs. Cabrini 9/2 - Away
  - Football vs. Susquehanna 9/3 - Away
  - Field Hockey vs. Geneseo 9/3 - Home
  - Women’s Soccer vs. Rutgers-Camden 9/3 - Away
  - Women’s Tennis (Home Tournament) 9/10 - Home
  - Men’s Tennis (Muhlenberg Tournament) 9/11 – Allentown

• **Fall Intramural Opportunities**
  - Flag Football September 12th – (1 game per week)
  - Outdoor Soccer September 19th – (2 games per week)
  - 3 on 3 Basketball Tourney/League October 22 - 23
  - Dodge ball Tournament November 5th - 6th
  - Billiards Tournament December 3rd - 4th
    (Intramural dates subject to change based on participation and venue availability)

*For complete schedules and additional sports information visit: http://www.gowilkesu.com/

Information Technology Updates

New and enhanced Information Technology Services and support are available to all students this year.

• **Wi-Fi on Campus**
  WI-Fi wireless access to the Internet and campus resources is now available throughout most residence halls and academic buildings on campus. Instructions for using the WI-Fi campus network will be available in each residence hall and in the new on-campus Help Desk in the lower level of the Farley Library.

• **Technology in the Residence Halls**
  All campus residence hall rooms are equipped with wired Internet connections. In most residences, there is one wired connection per student in each room.
buildings where there is only one connection, a hub to link more than one computer is available through Residence Life. Please note that students may only use the hubs provided by the University.

- **On-Campus Help Desk and Telephone Support**
  The Help Desk has moved on campus this year and will be open in the lower level of the Farley Library beginning on Friday, August 26. Walk in to the Help Desk for help connecting your laptop, other devices, or for general assistance. The On-Campus Help Desk will be open Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 6:00pm.

  Telephone support remains available 24/7, weekends and holidays included! For telephone support dial XHELP (4357) from any campus extension, 570-408 HELP (4357) from off campus, or toll-free 866-264 1462.

- **Student Run Computer Clinics**
  The Student Run Computer Clinic has moved from University Towers. The Clinic is now integrated into the On-Campus Help Desk in the Farley Library. Clinic hours will be posted on Friday, August 26.

- **Illegal Downloading**
  The Motion Picture Association and the Recording Industry have partnered with major ISPs to monitor, alert, and thwart digital piracy activity. Students who are participating in illegal downloads of music and films, and about whom the University is made aware, will be subject to disciplinary action.

**Required Health Insurance**

Like last year, in an effort to ensure all students are adequately covered by medical insurance, the University requires proof of coverage from all full time students. If students are unable to obtain medical coverage through other means they will be required to participate in the University’s Student Accident and Illness Insurance Program (provided through a third-party contract). An annual premium of $552 will be charged directly to the students’ accounts. The University is requiring all students to enroll or waive on-line at www.niagarernational.com. The full plan brochure, program features, and claims forms are also available at this link. Students who do not waive by September 30, 2011 deadline, will not have an opportunity to waive coverage and the annual cost after this deadline. International students without health insurance coverage may enroll in this program.

**Parking Permit Information for Fall**

All Fall 2011 parking permits expire on December 31, 2011. Students may pick up parking permits at anytime in Public Safety. The student rate for a permit is $120 per semester for on-campus parking and $40 per semester for parking at Ralston Field.
Payment, via student account debit, for parking permits must be made at the distribution location when picking up the permit. Staff at the Student Services desk in UCOM cannot accept parking permit payments.

Parking enforcement (outside of handicapped and flagrant violations, e.g. parking on sidewalks) will be suspended from Monday, August 22, through Sunday, September 4th. Approved Resident and Commuter students have until Sunday, September 4th, at 6:00 p.m. to pick-up their parking permits. Permits are renewed each semester.

Any individual with past due parking tickets will have to make restitution prior to receiving any new parking permit. Per the current University Parking Policy, tickets may only be challenged through appeal to the Traffic Council.

### Ralston Field (First Come, First Served):

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, August 28&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Public Safety Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, August 29th</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Public Safety Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, August 30&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Public Safety Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, August 31&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Public Safety Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, September 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Public Safety Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, September 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Public Safety Office</td>
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Second Round: Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup> to Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, Public Safety Office / 148 South Main Street

Third Round: Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> to Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, Public Safety Office / 148 South Main Street

### Offices Open on Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>

On Sunday, August 28th, the Student Service Center and Controller’s Office at UCOM, Residence Life and Student Affairs will be open from 12:00 PM until 3:00 PM. The Barnes and Noble Bookstore will be open from 10:00 AM to 11:00 PM on Saturday and from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Sunday.

### New Staff and Faculty for 2011

- **Rafael Garcia**  
  Assistant Professor  
  Spanish

- **Michael Garzella**  
  Assistant Professor  
  Education

- **Kathleen Houlihan**  
  Instructor  
  Business Administration

- **Elizabeth Johnson**  
  Assistant Professor  
  Education

- **Keith Johnson**  
  Visiting Assistant Professor  
  Sociology

- **Christian Laing**  
  Assistant Professor  
  Biology; Math & CS

- **Jennifer McMicken**  
  Pharmacy Resident  
  Pharmacy Practice

- **Mary Jane Miskovsky**  
  Assistant Professor  
  Nursing (DNP)

- **Erin McHenry-Sorber**  
  Assistant Professor  
  Education

- **Matthew Sowcik**  
  Assistant Professor  
  Mgmt. (Leadership Studies)

- **James Coker**  
  Director  
  Admissions

- **Erica Acosta**  
  Associate Director  
  Center for Global Ed. & Diversity

- **Meredith Alexis**  
  Head Coach  
  Volleyball
Student Leaders for 2011

- William Eggleston – Student Government President
- Nicholas Wierman – Off Campus Council President
- Bethany Sharpless – IRHC President
- Cortny Sasserson – Commuter Council President
- Kristofer Rivers - Student Government Vice President
- Samantha Schuler - Student Government Recording Secretary
- Samantha Bickert - Student Government Treasurer
- Kevin Hopper - Student Government Corresponding Secretary
- Ian Foley - Student Government Parliamentarian
- Jessica Short – Programming Board Chair
- Shadae Gates – MSC President

Programs and Events

Upcoming Campus Events
- Club Day, Campus Greenway Sept 8th
- Fall Fest 2011 Sept 15th - 17th
- Party on the Square Sept 21st
- Homecoming Sept 23rd - 25th
- Intern Fair, Ballroom Oct 20th
- Casino Night Nov 4th
- Family Day November 5th

Student Development Trips
- Kayaking Trip Sept 10th
- Urban Bike Tour (NYC) Sept 18th
- NY Yankees vs. Tampa Bay Rays Sept 20th
- Dorney Park Oct 1st
- Rickett’s Glenn Fall Foliage Hike Oct 8th
- Jim Thorpe Fall Trip - Fall Train Ride & Haunted Tour Oct 29th
- Paintball at Skirmish Nov 12th
- Scranton Cultural Center In the Heights Nov 12th
- Great Wolfe Lodge Indoor Water Park December 3rd
- New York City Show Dec 10th
- Sunday Night Football Games Ballroom Sept 5th, Oct 30th, Nov 20th, Dec 4th
Fall Leadership Programs

- The **Step Up Rock Wall and Ropes Course** offers experiential learning experiences to Wilkes University students, faculty, staff and local high school students. There are a wide variety of programs that focus on teamwork, communication, goal setting, problem solving, conflict resolution, trust building, group bonding, leadership, mentoring as well as individual and cultural similarities/differences. The course is a great tool that fosters personal and professional development and is available by appointment.

- **Intercollegiate Leadership Wilkes-Barre** is a competitive seven-month program designed to assemble a diverse group of college student leaders to develop new leadership skills, to discuss campus issues and to explore economic, social, cultural and political trends in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Students are chosen from participating colleges and universities including Keystone College, King's College, Luzerne County Community College, Misericordia University, Penn State Wilkes-Barre, and Wilkes University. Applications are available at the Information Desk and will be accepted until Friday, September 2nd.

- **Passport to Leadership** is a multi-faceted program designed for students to learn about the diverse aspects of leadership from professionals in a variety of disciplines. The program is built around informative training sessions and online leadership assessments designed to give students the skills needed to resolve common challenges they may face in a leadership, academic or professional role. For more information on how to participate email studentdev@wilkes.edu

- **The National Society of Leadership and Success** (Sigma Alpha Pi) is a national honor society that provides students with leadership training and certification through various workshops, speakers, and collaborative projects. Membership in the society includes access to online job banks, custom letters of recommendation, scholarships and awards. The program is recommended for everyone, as you have until the fall semester of your senior year to complete the requirements, which include:
  - Attendance at three speaker sessions (seven offered yearly)
  - Completion of three Success Networking Team meetings
  - Completion of one Leadership Training Day
  *Please note that there is a one time, lifetime membership fee of $75, which must be paid before you can become a member.

- **Alternative Spring Break (ASB)** is an opportunity for students to travel domestically as well as abroad to perform community service during spring break. Participating in ASB helps others and gives students an opportunity to learn more about themselves and their peers. Six months prior to departure, ASB participants must attend weekly meetings and dinners to plan major fundraisers and build a strong, supportive team. Applications are available at
www.wilkes.edu/communityservice and are due by 4 p.m. on September 24th.

- **Leadership Assessments** are available to help students determine their leadership strengths and weaknesses. The test takes approximately twenty to thirty minutes to complete and is available online.

For more details on any of the aforementioned programs, please contact studentdev@wilkes.edu or visit us on Facebook (search Wilkes Student Dev)

**Facilities Improvements**

Three major projects took place this summer:

- In preparation for the addition to Stark Hall, utilities (electrical power, voice and data lines) were routed to within the building site footprint for the new facility. This project is completed and the restoration of the area disturbed is underway.

- The construction of a new pressbox at Ralston Athletic Complex that will service both the football and soccer fields is underway. Demolition of the home side bleachers where the pressbox will be constructed is currently taking place. All work is scheduled to be completed by mid-September, prior to the first home football game.

- Weiss, Catlin, Rifkin and Sterling Residence Halls were renovated. Improvements included the following:
  - Interior Painting
  - Electrical/Lighting Upgrades
  - Floor Covering (hard surface only)
  - Bathroom Improvements
  - Fire Suppression System (sprinklers)

  Except for the fire suppression systems all work is completed prior to the student’s return. Fire suppression work will continue during the fall semester.

**Required Notifications**

**Graduation and Persistence Rates**

Please note that, consistent with federal legislation, information pertaining to graduation and persistence rates, campus crime statistics, as well as policies and regulations pertaining to these matters, are available at the Office of Admissions, the Registrar’s Office, the Office of Student Affairs and the Athletics Director’s Office.

**Notice of Nondiscrimination**

Wilkes University offers equal opportunities in all admission and employment policies, practices and programs. Wilkes is committed to providing a welcoming environment for all members of
our community and to ensuring that all educational and employment decisions are based on individuals’ abilities and qualifications. Consistent with this principle, and in compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and all other applicable laws, Wilkes University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender identification and expression, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, marital status, domestic partnership status or status as a veteran in any policies, practices or programs including, but not limited to: employment policies and practices; education and admission policies; scholarship/loan programs, athletics, and extracurricular activities.

Any questions or concerns should be addressed to the University’s Title IX Coordinator:
Joseph Housenick
Human Resources Director
Wilkes University
84 West South Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766
T (570)408-4631
joseph.housenick@wilkes.edu

or Deputy Coordinator:
Phil Ruthkosky
Associate Dean for Student Affairs
Wilkes University
84 West South Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766
T (570)408-4108

Student Handbook Availability

The 2011-2012 Undergraduate Student Handbook is available online at http://wilkes.edu/PDFFiles/handbook2011and12.pdf

In the Handbook, you can find important resource information as well as the most current policies and procedures at the University.