Commanding Presence

Col. Deborah (Marquart) Liddick ’88
Leads Air Force Basic Military Training at Joint Base
San Antonio-Lackland, Texas
Wilkes Matters

Since becoming president of Wilkes, I have emphasized time and again the integral role this institution has played in northeast Pennsylvania. Wilkes has always answered a need. In the midst of the Great Depression, Wilkes was founded as Bucknell University Junior College to educate the men and women of this community, many of whom were first-generation college students. In the University’s earliest days, these men and women were the sons and daughters of immigrant coal miners. Wilkes continues to educate the men and women of this community, the sons and daughters, fathers and mothers, of a variety of this region’s constituents.

Wilkes also has always supported its surrounding community. Many of its degree programs have helped to bolster the local economy by drawing industry to the region. Wilkes instituted a degree in electrical engineering in the 1960s which helped to bring RCA, now Fairchild Semiconductor, to the area. Later, in 1996, Wilkes launched our School of Pharmacy, drawing companies like CVS Caremark to the region. These are just two examples of the many I could cite to demonstrate this school’s commitment to and belief in the region.

These examples tell us one indisputable fact: Wilkes matters. Wilkes matters to its students, both current and past. Wilkes matters to its community and to this region.

It is time to celebrate the unique role of our University. This June, we will commemorate Wilkes’ distinctive history while also beginning a new endeavor for the future of our University. On June 7, 2014, the inaugural Founders Gala will take place. This event will celebrate our proud history while also raising money for the First Generation Fund, a new initiative established to support our continued mission of educating first-generation college students. About half of our incoming freshmen still identify themselves as the first generation of their family to attend a four-year institution of higher learning. The First Generation Fund will support Wilkes’ ongoing tradition of educating these young people from this community and beyond.

As part of the Founder’s Gala, I will award the President’s Medal to honor an individual who has helped enhance the student experience here as well as advance the University’s mission. The inaugural award will honor Joseph Savitz ’48, a member of the first official class to graduate from Wilkes College. Joe has been a trustee of the University for more than 25 years, chaired the board from 1975-1978, and earned the title of trustee emeritus. Joe Savitz epitomizes the mission of Wilkes: a successful individual who has made giving back to the University and the surrounding community a priority.

I invite alumni and friends of the University to join us as we honor Joe and celebrate our extraordinary University—its history and its future.

Dr. Patrick F. Leahy
Wilkes University President
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Have a story idea to share?
Contact us at wilkesmagazine@wilkes.edu or Wilkes magazine, 84 W. South St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18766.

Wilkes magazine is available online at www.wilkes.edu/wilkesmagazineonline
Phage Hunting is Focus for Wilkes First-Year Students

It’s Tuesday afternoon in the Cohen Science Center and students in Christian Laing’s first-year foundations class are discussing new viruses named Pebbles, SVS7 and Two Ks. The strangely named viruses are actually groundbreaking discoveries made by members of the class. Fifteen freshmen—including pre-pharmacy students, undecided majors and others—are engaged in scientific research that has led to the discovery of previously undiscovered viruses known as bacteriophages. Students have the privilege of naming their discoveries.

The phage hunting class was developed by Laing, assistant professor of mathematics, biology and computer science, and Kenneth Pidcock, associate professor of biology, through their participation in the Howard Hughes Medical Institute’s Science Education Alliance. The two Wilkes faculty members received a membership grant from HHMI to participate in the alliance, which comprises 26 colleges and universities across the United States. Member schools all focus on teaching students biological techniques via hands-on research. At Wilkes, it’s being done in this class for freshmen in their first semester.

“The class works the same way that science works,” Laing explains. That means each student engages in the scientific process that begins with collecting soil samples, putting the soil through an enrichment process and then plating the samples on petri dishes. The students then track the growth of the viruses. Bacteriophages are viruses that infect bacteria.

The students concentrated on a unique group of viruses that fall under Pidcock’s area of expertise as a microbiologist: viruses associated with the bacteria streptomyces. The viruses associated with this bacteria have the potential to be used as an alternative treatment against some bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics. This focus makes the group unique among Science Education Alliance schools. The alliance schools have isolated about 4,000 new viruses in this research.

Laing uses a step-by-step process to introduce the class to the aseptic techniques needed for scientific research. The multi-step approach to isolate the viruses is a lesson in the painstaking work that scientists must use.

“They need to isolate and purify the samples, and they need to do it at least three times to be sure they have a pure phage, a pure virus,” Laing says. “They’re getting to know the science behind the big picture.” The long process ends when the DNA of the virus is sent to a genomics center that sequences the genomic DNA—the final confirmation that the virus is a newly discovered phage.

Sergey Svintozelskiy, a freshmen biology major from Wilkes-Barre, says the research focus separates it from traditional laboratory classes he’ll be taking. “This is more the way it really works in science. Here, everyone is working at their own pace,” he says.

Freshman Emily Gicewicz, a pre-pharmacy major from Albany, N.Y., says, “I really like the fact that we are doing techniques that most people won’t be doing until they’re upperclassmen. And I like that it’s really cutting-edge research. You won’t get to do that in many other classes.”

Students in the class are continuing their work in the spring 2014 semester.
Wilkes Senior Dominick Costantino Receives National Public Relations Scholarship

Dominick Costantino, a senior communication studies major, received the 2013 Betsy Plank Scholarship from the Public Relations Society of America. Costantino, a resident of Hanover Township, Pa., is the first Wilkes student to receive a national public relations scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to a junior or senior college student preparing for a career in public relations who has demonstrated academic achievement, leadership, practical experience and commitment to the field. It was presented in October at the society’s international conference in Philadelphia. The society is the premier professional organization for the public relations field.

He is a dean’s list student and board co-chair of Zebra Communications, Wilkes’ student-run public relations agency. Several of the accounts Costantino handled at Zebra were named Account of the Year. In addition, he serves as co-chair of the annual Tom Bigler High School Journalism Conference and is a member both of the Public Relations Student Society of America and the National Society of Leadership and Success. His internship experience includes positions at WBRE TV in Wilkes-Barre and in the corporate communications department at Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania. He was named Intern of the Month at Wilkes during both internships.

Communication studies student Dominick Costantino is the first Wilkes student to receive a national public relations scholarship from the Public Relations Society of America.

PHOTO COURTESY ZEBRA COMMUNICATIONS

Marching Colonels, New Women’s Sports Debut in Fall 2014

Wilkes will launch the first collegiate marching band in northeast Pennsylvania and add two new intercollegiate sports—women’s golf and women’s swimming—in fall 2014.

The band will be directed by Philip G. Simon, who is in his 10th year as director of instrumental studies at Wilkes. The band is expected to debut at the Colonels’ first home football game in fall 2014. It will perform in drum corps style and will include wind and percussion musicians and color guard.

Women’s golf and women’s swimming—both NCAA Division III intercollegiate sports—will begin competition starting in the 2014-15 season in the Middle Atlantic Conference. The expansion will increase the number of intercollegiate offerings at Wilkes to 18, with eight men’s sports and 10 women’s sports. Assistant football coach Harry Armstrong will coach the golf team. The University is in the process of hiring a part-time swimming coach.

Locations for practice and competition for both teams are being negotiated. The Wilkes men’s golf team plays home matches at the Huntsville Golf Club in Shavertown, Pa., ranked as the fifth best golf course in Pennsylvania by Golf Digest. Wilkes is negotiating with the nearby Wilkes-Barre YMCA for use of the pool there.

ON THE MENU

The location of the dining hall may have changed from the Dining Commons to the Henry Student Center, but food remains central to the college experience for Wilkes students. Vegetarian and other healthy dining options have been added to the menu over the years, but traditional fare like pizza, burgers and pasta remains among the most popular. Here’s a snapshot of the volume of food served up weekly at Henry’s Food Court.

OVER 2,000 MEALS

ARE SERVED EVERY DAY ACROSS THE CAMPUS DINING FACILITIES

1,700 HAMBURGERS

ARE PRODUCED WEEKLY BY THE GRILL IN THE CAFETERIA

7,400 LBS. OF FRENCH FRIES ARE DEVORUED EACH WEEK

1,900 CUPS OF SOUP WERE MADE PER WEEK IN THE 2012-2013 ACADEMIC YEAR

4,800 LBS. OF WHOLE APPLES ARE EATEN EACH SEMESTER

1,900 CUPS OF SOUP WERE MADE PER WEEK IN THE 2012-2013 ACADEMIC YEAR

PHOTO COURTESY ZEBRA COMMUNICATIONS
Sidhu School Offers Degree Program in Sport and Event Management

The Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and Leadership will offer a new undergraduate degree program in sport and event management starting in fall 2014. The program will allow students to develop expertise in business and event management applied to the world of sport and recreation. It requires students to complete multi-disciplinary and sports management courses as well as an internship in the sports and event management field. Internship opportunities include positions with the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins hockey team, the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders minor league baseball team and sports management positions with the Pocono Dome and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The program will allow students interested in sports, music or theater to plan, analyze and operate a sports or event-centered entity. Potential careers in the sports and event management industries include sports medicine, education, venue management, event planning and communications. For more information, visit www.wilkes.edu and click on the Jay S. Sidhu School link under Academics.

Kimberly Ference Pharm.D.’03 Named Pharmacist of the Year

Kimberly Ference, assistant professor of pharmacy practice, was named the 2013 Pharmacist of the Year by the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association (PPA). The award is presented to the pharmacist who demonstrates dedication to the profession, contributes time and effort to the various professional organizations, furthers the profession through community service, and embodies those qualities which exemplify the profession. Ferrance currently serves as the faculty advisor to the student chapter of the pharmacists association.

This is the second consecutive year a faculty member from Wilkes has been honored with this award. Last year, Adam Welch, associate professor of pharmacy at Wilkes, received the award.

Wilkes University pharmacy students who nominated Kimberly Ference for Pharmacist of the Year pose with her at the awards ceremony. Pictured from left to right: Courtney Graham, Sara Bellanco, Kimberly Ference, Eliza Daubert and Sarah Maheady.

Frank Sheptock Resigns As Colonels Football Coach

Wilkes University head football coach Frank Sheptock has resigned from his position as coach of the Colonels to accept the position of director of athletics at Berwick Area School District in Berwick, Pa.

Sheptock came to Wilkes in 1990 under former head coach Joe DeMelfi and served as defensive coordinator and assistant head coach from 1992 to 1995. He became the seventh head coach in the program’s history in January 1996. He led the Colonels to a 107-81 record, including two NCAA and seven ECAC postseason berths during his tenure, winning a Middle Atlantic Conference championship in 2006 when Wilkes finished a school-best 11-1. He is the school’s most winning coach, surpassing the legendary Rollie Schmidt.

“Frank has spent the majority of his professional career as a head coach and changed the face of Wilkes football and introduced so much more than ‘playing football’ to the student athletes he coached,” says Wilkes Athletics Director Addy Malatesta.

The University is conducting a search for Sheptock’s replacement.
Wilkes senior Ashley Ream recalls it was cold and windy as the sun began to disappear behind Back Mountain. The Women’s Field Hockey Freedom Conference championship game was tied at one goal apiece as Wilkes and rival Misericordia University went into overtime.

“I remember thinking we had to keep going and keep scoring. I encouraged everyone to keep the momentum going,” Ream says. “We had to win!”

And win they did: 2-1. Immediately following the Nov. 9, 2013, game, Ream learned she had been named most valuable player and a first team all-conference field hockey player for Wilkes.

Ream is a mid-fielder from Manheim, a small southern Pennsylvania town near Lancaster, surrounded by farm country. Growing up, it was Ream’s two older brothers who introduced her to sports and, coupled with the support of her parents, she pursued soccer, swimming and field hockey in high school.

“I knew I was better at field hockey,” says the elementary and early childhood education major. Her skill has been proved at Wilkes, where, for the past two seasons, Ream has averaged 2.7 shots per game.

Last September Ream and the field hockey team also scored off the field in their community service contributions. For the second consecutive year, the team was awarded the Sandrino Plutino Community Service Award, given to the varsity sports team contributing the most community service. Each member of the team performed 24 hours of community service.

Ream especially remembers volunteering at Ruth’s Place, an emergency homeless shelter for women. “It was a completely new experience,” she recalls. “We brought food and cooked dinner as the residents told their stories of adversity. The experience helped me better appreciate what I have.”

The team also volunteered at Hillside Farms, working in the garden, on the farm and at the annual Christmas tea and tour of the cottage.

“We are a team, and will always have each other for support,” says Ream, an elementary and early childhood education major who has a 3.79 grade-point average that earned her a spot among the Colonels Elite, the Wilkes honor society for athletes. She says psychology classes have been the most difficult part of her curriculum at Wilkes. Her favorite classes have been neuro psych and education classes where she observed at various local elementary schools, including Heights-Murray, Dodson, Dallas and Lake-Lehman.

Ream will student teach in the fall and hopes to land a job as either a substitute or regular teacher. She credits the encouragement from language arts and early education literacy professor Diane Polachek in helping her reach her goal. “I really enjoy working with kids,” says Ream.
Col. Deborah (Marquart) Liddick ’88 Leads Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland During Time of Change

By Vicki Mayk
When Col. Deborah (Marquart) Liddick ’88 learned she was assigned to command Air Force Basic Military Training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, shortly after sexual misconduct scandals there made national headlines, she said just two things to her commanding officer.

“I’m ready, sir,” Liddick recalls telling the four-star general. “The only other question I asked was, how soon? He said, ‘Within days.’ ”

Since assuming command at the base in September 2012, Liddick has been charged with carrying out the 46 recommendations made for improvement following an investigation by Chief of Air Force Safety Maj. Gen. Margaret H. Woodward. The investigation followed a scandal cited as one of the largest in military history. It included some 31 female recruits reporting infractions, ranging from rape to inappropriate relationships. At least 34 military training instructors were investigated, and to date 26 have been convicted by court-martial. Four received disciplinary action and two are still under investigation.

“Certainly it was a challenging job coming in and, looking back, it hasn’t been the easiest job,” she says. “It’s helped that I am someone who believes in doing things by the book. If you are fair and consistent and you train folks to understand the rules and meet your expectations, and hold them accountable, you are going to succeed.”

Lackland is where every U.S. Air Force enlisted recruit completes basic training. Annually more than 35,000 active-duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members begin their training there.

Liddick quickly defines her fundamental role heading a group with more than 5,500 officers and airmen at base where every recruit in the U.S. Air Force receives training.

Liddick traces her interest in an Air Force career to when she was still a student at Carle Place High School in her hometown of Westbury, located on New York’s Long Island. “I didn’t have anyone in my immediate family in the military,” she recalls. “I was at one of those college fairs and I picked up a brochure from the Air Force Academy.”

Entering the service academy became her goal and her congressman nominated her. She was not accepted. “I was crushed,” she says. Completing a college Air Force ROTC program became her backup plan, and the choice led her to Wilkes. Three factors played a role in her decision to go there.

“It had ROTC, I could play field hockey and it was a small school, far enough from Long Island that I couldn’t come
home on the weekend to do my laundry, but close enough that I could come home on holidays,” Liddick says, chuckling. She and her father, Frank Marquart, a retired New York City firefighter, visited campus and met women’s field hockey coach Gay Meyers.

“She was a huge role model for me,” Liddick says of Meyers, who died in 2011. “She was the main reason why we picked Wilkes. She walked us around campus and my father and I felt she would be a good mentor for me.”

Liddick majored in math—one of the majors qualifying her for an Air Force scholarship. She was one of only three math majors in her graduating class. “Out of the three people, I was not the smartest,” she quips, adding, “Getting the math degree was one of my biggest challenges in life. But it gave me the confidence that I could do anything.”

The small classes allowed her to receive personal attention. “It was like being tutored individually,” she says. She cites that kind of personal attention as one of the positives of attending Wilkes. “No one is there to make you fail. All of the faculty are there to make you succeed. The whole experience at Wilkes was great. Wilkes was really the foundation. Who I am today is because of Wilkes.”

Some of her fondest memories involve playing field hockey and living in McClintock Hall, where having just 12 hall mates gave the living experience a family feeling. “We used to say it was worth the walk,” she says, referring to McClintock’s position on South River Street two blocks from the center of campus.

Maria (Saracino) Mooney ’88 was a friend from McClintock. Although Mooney remembers that she and Liddick were “normal college kids going to campus parties,” she offers a

Wilkes alumnus Col. Mark Rado ’80, deputy to the adjutant general of the U.S. Army, grew up on Long Island with Liddick and attended the same high school. Rado, who also has spent his career in the military, has a special understanding of what it takes to be promoted. “You have to work your butt off to make colonel in the Air Force,” Rado states. “If you’re not a pilot, you have to be a great leader.”

Above, Liddick presents Tech. Sgt. Nathia Jacks with her military training instructor hat, which is a symbol of completing the military training instructor training. Liddick has instituted new procedures for training the instructors. Right, Liddick, seen in her formal military portrait, is part of only 1 percent of all Air Force personnel to achieve the rank of colonel.

PHOTOS COURTESY LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE
description of her friend that would indicate her future success. “If I were to pick three words to describe her, they would be focused, goal-oriented and determined,” Mooney says.

Mooney’s mother, Doris Saracino, then Wilkes athletic director, also remembers the “tall redhead” on the Wilkes field hockey team. “She was the most committed person I’ve ever seen,” says Doris Saracino. “Whatever she did, she was greatly committed.”

It’s a trait that has stayed with Liddick, professionally and personally. “I’m a goal setter,” Liddick states. “I like to set goals for myself and for the organization. If you set goals, good folks will rise to that expectation. If you want to achieve something, it’s good to set goals. For example, I want to get 100 percent on my PT (physical training) test. That’s my goal. I’m in the high 90s. If I set the goal of being in the 90s, then I’d probably only be in the 80s.”

Her goal-oriented mindset carries over to activities she pursues in her spare time. “I run half marathons, three or four times a year. I just ran the San Antonio Rock and Roll Half Marathon. I have all my medals on my wall. I run for myself, to keep myself motivated, to keep myself in shape.”

She remembers setting high goals for herself when she left Wilkes. Confident that she wanted to make a career in the Air Force, she says, “I went in as a second lieutenant and, because I believe in setting goals, I wanted to be a general.” She chose a technical career path, training in aircraft maintenance and munitions. Liddick says she’s never focused on the fact that she’s a woman in the male-dominated military. “I consider myself an officer in the U.S. Air Force first,” she states. “I’m someone who’s a maintenance officer who just happened to be female.”

A maintenance officer has a behind-the-scenes role with a high level of responsibility. She has supervised staff assembling munitions and maintaining aircraft both in the United States and on deployments overseas. When she was assigned to Hill Air Force Base in Utah, she supervised crews building bombs that were loaded on airplanes used in operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

She also has been deployed overseas a number of times. Liddick served in Desert Shield and Desert Storm as a munitions officer with an F-16 fighter wing; NATO Operation Deny Flight as an A-10 squadron maintenance officer; and operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom as an expeditionary maintenance squadron commander with a B-1 bomber group.

“We’re going to make sure that they’re properly trained and ensure that they’re safe while they are doing it,” she says without hesitation. “You have to make sure that everyone is safe under your command. That’s your job as a commander.”
“No one is there to make you fail. All of the faculty are there to make you succeed. The whole experience at Wilkes was great. Wilkes was really the foundation. Who I am today is because of Wilkes.”

Liddick does not find deployments difficult. “When I was deployed with my unit, it was easier because you can be focused on the mission. At home, there are more distractions: maybe your spouse is sick, or you’re figuring out who is going to pick up the groceries,” she says. “When you’re deployed, you can completely focus. My spouse was at home. He had to deal with paying the bills and shoveling the snow.”

Liddick’s husband, Terry, is a wildlife biologist and pilot with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, where his responsibilities include tracking migration of ducks and setting dates for hunting season. The couple married on July 4, 2000, in Las Vegas. Picking the date was easy: “I knew I would have the day off work,” Liddick says. Her husband is a native of Berwick, Pa., less than an hour from the Wilkes campus, but the two didn’t meet until she was stationed in Utah. Their assignments frequently separate them, but, Liddick says, “Absence does make the heart grow fonder. I think we appreciate each other more.”

The separations will end in 2014, when Liddick retires from the Air Force. They will move to the home they built in Spearfish, S.D., in the area where Terry Liddick conducts his wildlife work.

When Liddick was promoted to colonel in 2009, her husband was among those she thanked publicly for their support and encouragement. She is among the few in the Air Force who achieve the rank. Less than 1 percent of airmen are promoted to colonel, and the honor is bestowed less frequently to non-pilots.
Wilkes alumnus Col. Mark Rado ’80, deputy to the adjutant general of the U.S. Army, grew up on Long Island with Liddick and attended the same high school. Rado, who also has spent his career in the military, has a special understanding of what it takes to be promoted. “You have to work your butt off to make colonel in the Air Force,” Rado states. “If you’re not a pilot, you have to be a great leader.” Liddick, he says, has displayed leadership since her high school days.

Liddick emphasizes that she isn’t accomplishing her goals alone. “I always go back to my field hockey experience and my ROTC experience at Wilkes,” she says. “It’s a team effort. I learned the importance of teamwork. I cannot do this job—or any job—alone.”

When she first took command at JBSA-Lackland, there were 11 officers on her leadership team. Now there are 51, from captains to majors. In addition to those officers, the base now also has more senior enlisted leaders like chief master sergeants. Such a team has been necessary to help initiate the many changes needed at JBSA-Lackland, many of which have involved changing the culture at the base. “It’s a slow process,” Liddick acknowledges. “I’ve been here 14 months, and every day we make progress.” She pauses. “I say it’s like turning the Titanic, slowly.”

In addition to implementing 46 recommendations made after the Air Force investigation, Liddick has initiated changes of her own. Previously, the military training instructors—referred to as MTIs—who train recruits had completed their own training in one of seven squadrons. “People weren’t being trained the same way,” Liddick explains. “I established a trainer squadron that everyone is assigned to, so that everyone is learning the same rules, learning the same tasks, in the same way.”

She does not focus on the challenges of change. Instead she finds satisfaction in the job that is the primary focus of her command: ensuring the success of the new flights of airmen who enter the training program every eight weeks. She enjoys the day in, day out routine of monitoring their training. “I say that every day is different, but every week’s the same.” She is actively involved in the process, welcoming each new class of 400 to 800 airmen, participating in physical training with them every day, attending some of their classes, and officially welcoming them to the Air Force. “On Friday, we have parade, where I get to salute each of them and administer the oath of enlistment.”

What she enjoys the most, perhaps, is watching the growth that is possible for individual recruits during that time.

“ I had one female trainee tell me, ‘Ma’am, I failed all my life. I failed at college and I failed at home. I came here to basic military training, and I succeeded. I can’t wait to tell my dad,’ ” Liddick relates, adding, “When we graduate 600 airmen, to see them stand there—they look about 2 inches taller than when they arrived.”
Wilkes became its own institution on a cloudy June day in 1947. On the day that would be remembered as Charter Day, President Eugene S. Farley, who was grasping a banner-wrapped and flower-flanked podium, welcomed a crowd of people who gathered near Chase Hall. The school’s chorus erupted in Mozart’s “Ave Verum” as the clouds parted.

There is no sign or marker to commemorate the event or inform passersby about its specifics. At many other institutions, the details of the historic moment when Bucknell University Junior College became chartered as Wilkes College might be forgotten. At Wilkes, however, historic moments are photographed, written about, analyzed and archived in the pages of the school newspaper.
This year marks the 80th anniversary of the publishing of the first issue of Bucknell University Junior College’s student newspaper: The Bison Stampede, the publication that today is The Beacon. In those eight decades, the newspaper has chronicled current events, campus events, student concerns and campus controversies.

Many of the students who spent part of their academic careers reporting, writing and editing for the paper look back on that time as a period when they gained invaluable career skills and made lifelong friends.

“It gave me the confidence to pursue a career in this business,” Paul Domowitch ’77 says. “After I left there, I just felt I knew what I was doing and that I was heading in the right direction. And no matter where I ended up, I’d be fairly successful.”

Domowitch, who served as The Beacon’s sports editor, is now a professional football columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News.

Humble Beginnings
Like Bucknell University Junior College, the newspaper started on the third floor of a building along West Northampton Street in Wilkes-Barre, where several students planned the publication.

The first issue of The Bison Stampede was published on Oct. 4, 1934, and is nothing like The Beacon, today’s student paper. It was published twice a month and had only four, three-column pages with a handful of witty articles and poems. The staff wanted to grow, however. “The opportunities for participation of the individual in producing this publication will be many,” the editors wrote in the first issue.

Their fellow students rose to the challenge. Over 25 reporters joined the handful of editors by the newspaper’s third issue on Nov. 1. Within a year, the paper had added an extra column to every page and began publishing photographs of the class presidents and team captains. They also sold advertising to local businesses, such as the YMCA Luncheonette on West Market Street and the Mayflower Chocolate Shoppe on Public Square.

By the beginning of the 1936 school year, however, The Bison Stampede vanished “into the wilderness,” as Wilfrid H. Crook, the faculty adviser, wrote. “In these modern days of air-mindedness a bison stampede is as out of place as its contemporary the covered wagon.”

Over the next 11 years, the newspaper took on the name Bucknell Beacon. The paper covered the college’s expansion, the start of World War II and the use of atomic bombs on Japan.

In 1947, the newspaper took on a new name—like the college it served. Appropriately, the school and newspaper were named after John Wilkes, an English journalist from the 1700s. Wilkes fought for the right to publish a newspaper criticizing the country’s king.

Since its name change, the paper has reported on visits to campus by former and future presidents, well-known entertainers and some of the most important and influential people in modern times. The bulk of the reporting, however, has always been devoted to Wilkes itself—the academics, athletics and activities.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 80 YEARS OF WILKES’ STUDENT NEWSPAPER
World events and campus events graced the pages of Wilkes’ student newspaper during its 80 years of existence. From its days as The Bison Stampede to its more modern incarnation, the paper is a primary historical document chronicling events of the day, student life and the history of the University.

SEPT. 27, 1957
Stark Learning Center was dedicated and was heralded on the front page.

NOV. 7, 1957
Former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt visited Wilkes to speak at its weekly assembly in a program sponsored by the Collegiate Council for the United Nations.

PHOTOS BY EARL & SEDOR PHOTOGRAPHIC
there was a touchy subject at the college itself, we would go after it.” Those touchy subjects include the early and rocky start of an academic program and a cheating scandal. “If people are screwing up, harming other people or not doing what they should be doing, bringing that to light can bring about positive change.”

Julie Melf ’05 says writing for The Beacon gave her the opportunity to meet and learn about members of the Wilkes community. “I was assigned to do a story on a cafeteria worker who passed away at the school,” she says. “He was an elderly guy who smiled and everybody liked him. It was just going to be a story about him passing away.”

Instead, Melf discovered that the gentleman held raffles while he was alive for the students who were his closest friends. The raffle winners were sent on trips, such as cruises. “Nobody really knew this guy did all this,” she says. “It was great to honor and pay tribute to him.”

Melf was the assistant news editor at The Beacon and is currently a news manager for WNEP-TV, the local affiliate for ABC in the Scranton and Wilkes-Barre area.

Covering a growing college—especially one with an ever-expanding athletics department—takes up a lot of a student’s time. “That was pretty much my life in college. I spent a lot more time doing that than studying and going to class,” Domowitch says. “I still remember driving up for a wrestling match to East Stroudsburg in the middle of a blizzard.”

He made it to the match with the help of cinderblocks in his car’s trunk for traction. Of course, there’s more to putting out a newspaper than going to events and writing. “We had to sell our own ads and all copy had to be submitted by Tuesday...
Teamwork
Beyond reporting the news and managing the paper’s day-to-day business, the reporters and editors formed close bonds.

For Melf, the newspaper staff was a lot like family. When she couldn’t attend graduation with the rest of her class, the newspaper stepped in. “They decided that they we were going to have a private graduation ceremony in The Beacon’s office before I left. It was incredible,” she says. “I felt like it was the perfect graduation, because I fell so much in love with The Beacon and the staff was like a family. It was great to have them to send me off.”

Domowitch says the times he spent working for The Beacon were some of the best of his Wilkes career. “The relationships I made then were really special,” he says. “It was a close staff and those kinds of times you always remember.”

Edwards says the newspaper’s staff was a lot like a team. “You had a team and you had to make sure the team was working effectively,” he says.

Conversation Starter
The newspaper’s reach goes beyond its office. In addition to creating a close-knit group of reporters, editors and mentors, the paper is also a conversation starter for students, faculty, staff and alumni.

Miller says most students and professors read the paper during his time at Wilkes. “It’s sort of a record of what’s happening at the school,” he says, adding that the paper continues serving that purpose. “I think it starts a conversation.”

In addition to sparking discussion, Melf says the paper holds people accountable. “We were like the watchdog of the community,” she says. “Not to sound cliché, but it’s what we did. We took those roles seriously. If we saw someone doing something that wasn’t right, we wrote about it.”

Edwards says the newspaper’s reporters are put in the middle of everything on campus and become resources and familiar faces for students. “I just remember certain times when I was walking on campus to a building and someone would stop and say, ‘I read your story and it was great.’ ”

“I think it’s a great platform for student ideas and opinion and I was happy to be a part of it. I’m thankful for it,” Edwards adds. “I hope it always exists.”

BEACON ALUMNI
Celebrate this milestone at a reunion during Homecoming, Sept. 26-28, 2014.

Andrew M. Seaman is a journalist for Reuters in New York. He covers medicine, health, science and research for the world’s largest news agency. He served as The Beacon editor-in-chief during his time as Wilkes.
Architectural lighting designer Caleb McKenzie ’70 dramatizes shopping centers, skyscrapers and soccer stadiums

By Geoff Gehman

Caleb McKenzie ’70 is discussing his lighting design for the upper exterior of the St. Regis Hotel in Manhattan, a beacon of luxury for over a century. He considers the Beaux Arts building “a little jewel box,” so he decided to polish the gems. He lit the ornate cornices and whimsical windows with an elegant wash of metal halide, creating the gentle illusion of a colossal candelabrum.

“You want the effect to be interesting but not overwhelming,” says McKenzie in his office, nearly 20 blocks from the St. Regis. “You want to make people look but not stare. It’s not the Washington Monument. And it’s not Las Vegas either.”

Showcasing without showing off has been McKenzie’s mantra during his 30-plus years as a designer for T. Kondos Associates, an architectural lighting design firm that has created lighting for everything from the 101-story Taipei Financial Center to Arena Corinthians, the new World Cup soccer stadium in Brazil.
Two very different projects illustrate McKenzie’s style, which he calls “thoughtful drama.” He is jazzing up the Intercontinental Santo Domingo hotel with light-emitting diode (LED) lamps that turn suspended glass tubes into chandeliers. Crumpled fabric bags are lit from below using a form of indirect lighting called cove lighting. He lightened the darkness in the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Manhattan by placing brighter, more efficient bulbs in old chandeliers and by adding new copies of the original fixtures. In the church’s lobby he used a cove of low-voltage, warm-color lamps to accentuate icons set in gold tiles, magnetizing their mystery.

Sometimes his projects are beset with problems: poor installations, budget cuts, ribbons of red tape. He spent a decade on the cathedral project, waiting for designs to be approved and funds to be raised. He ended up working with three bishops and two priests, one of whom is the father of George Stephanopoulos, the television journalist and former presidential strategist.

For McKenzie, the last decade has been a roller coaster of revolutions in technology and taste. Architects have enriched and complicated his job by designing extraordinary glass structures; the 101-story Taipei Financial Center, for example, resembles a stack of 101 lanterns. A growing demand for cheaper, greener energy has led him to use lamps with fewer watts and more power. Restricted by costs and codes, he works overtime and a half to create subtle sparkle.

“Ten years ago we had to sell the look and the intent,” says McKenzie of T. Kondos Associates’ work. “Now architects and owners come to us for ideas outside the box. They may not understand the new lamping or how color changes on buildings. But they like our American look, our big ‘Wow!’ factor.”

McKenzie has become a bigger fixture in his field. He was elected recording secretary of the New York section of the Illuminating Engineer Society and also co-chairs the organization’s Richard Kelly Grants, which are awarded to budding visionaries. He relishes the freedom to work on pet projects: a Paris-style bistro café and market. PHOTO BY DAN Z. JOHNSON

See a gallery of buildings from around the world with lighting designed by Caleb McKenzie ’70 and hear tips on factors to consider when choosing your own lighting for home or office. Go to www.wilkes.edu/wilkesmagazineonline.
SPORTACULAR

Wilkes University Athletics Hall of Fame Inductees Honored for Winning Ways

The latest group of alumni inducted into the University’s Athletics Hall of Fame was honored on Jan. 25 during a special half-time ceremony at a Colonels basketball game.

1997-98 MEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM

The 1997-98 men’s basketball team is the only team to play in an NCAA Tournament Final Four game. The team finished the season with a 26-5 record and a Freedom Conference title. Last year, The Citizens’ Voice recognized the team as one of the top 25 greatest teams in Wyoming Valley history.

Gaboric is a four-year letter winner in field hockey and basketball. She was named Wilkes Field Hockey Player of the Year in 1963 and Wilkes Player of the Year in basketball in 1965. In 1964, she earned Wilkes Athlete of the Year and Beacon Athlete of the Year honors.

During four seasons playing point-guard, Williams led the Wilkes team to a 99-18 overall record. He was part of two conference championship teams and is the only player to have played in two Elite 8s and a Final Four game in the NCAA Tournament. He ranks in the top 10 in four statistical categories.

PATRICIA DAVIS GABORIC ’67
FIELD HOCKEY/WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

JAY WILLIAMS ’98, PHARM.D.’00
MEN’S BASKETBALL
Holloway played the forward position and ended her career averaging a double-double in points and rebounds. She finished seventh all-time on the University’s scoring list. She ranks in the top 10 in seven statistical categories, holding the record for career rebounds and free throws attempted. She was named the 2002-03 Jostens Division III Player of the Year.

Schroat finished his career with a 49-4-7 dual record, standing seventh all-time on the University’s dual record list. In his senior year, he finished second at the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association. He was the 1989 Wilkes Open champion at 150 pounds and named to the Wilkes Super 16.

Ninotti set three pitching statistics records and ranks second in all-time innings pitched and wins. She was a four-time All-Freedom Conference performer and finished her career with a 1.48 earned run average, striking out 229 batters and recording 13 shutouts.

Davis was a four-time First Team All-MAC midfielder and led the Colonels to their first and only conference championship in 1975. He earned First Team All-ECAC honors as a sophomore, set the record for goals scored and won 80 percent of his face-offs during his career. He was selected to the New Jersey Chapter of the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame.

Read extended bios and complete statistics for the 2014 Athletics Hall of Fame inductees in the online version of Wilkes magazine. Go to www.wilkes.edu/wilkesmagazineonline
Alumni and Students Make Connections for the Future Through Internships

Remember what it was like to be a student at Wilkes? In addition to all of the fun, there was the inevitable stress that came with selecting a career and developing skills necessary for you to excel post-graduation. Now imagine being able to help guide a student through this challenging process and help him or her find success. When you offer a student an internship opportunity or access to your professional network you’ll do just that.

“Our alumni are a great asset and very willing to make career connections. I think that they find it just as rewarding as the student they are helping,” says Sharon Castano, who coordinates the internship program at Wilkes. “We are always looking for quality internship opportunities, especially in accounting, sports management, biology and criminology, particularly within governmental agencies.”

Here’s how you can help:
• Inquire about internship opportunities within your organization.
• Ask yourself if a specific project at your company would provide valuable experience for a student interested in entering that field.
• Share these opportunities with the alumni office.

If your organization doesn’t offer internships, consider providing an opportunity for students to shadow you or other members of your company for a day. This experience can be just as useful, especially for underclassmen who are still exploring career options. For more information, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (570) 408-7787 or sharon.castano@wilkes.edu.

Connecting the Dots

More than 30 alumni and 80 students came together for a night of networking at the annual Connecting the Dots event. This opportunity, as well as internships and the mentoring program, are all ways in which alumni can make a difference in preparing Wilkes students for the future.
Paying It Forward

Alumni/Student Mentoring Program Provides Opportunity for Susan Maier Davis ’85 to Impact Nursing Students

Mentoring current Wilkes nursing students is a cause for celebration for Susan Maier Davis’ 85—a celebration of her mentees’ success. “There is no greater feeling than hearing the excitement in their voices when they call to tell you they passed the boards and became an RN, got their first job as an RN or ‘survived their first night’ as a charge nurse,” says Davis, who is senior vice president of operations for SMV Management Co., and a veteran nursing executive. “I could not be more proud of their success and know that each of them will continue to make a positive impact in the lives they touch as well.”

For the past three years, Davis has been part of the Wilkes experience for nursing students who have participated in the University’s alumni/student mentoring program. The initiative, which was established in 2009, aims to provide meaningful relationships between alumni and students and prepare these students for the professional world. Alumni and students matched via the mentoring program interact a minimum of four times each semester. This can be done in person or via phone calls or email. Students are required to complete assignments related to their interactions with their mentor. The alumni office sponsors mixers to introduce alumni and mentees and the meetings may be arranged via Skype or Facetime if mentors live too far to attend in person.

According to Davis, being a mentor is “the ability to positively touch and make a difference in the life of a student. For me, it is making an investment in the future of nursing by helping the next generation of nurses be successful through shared opportunities of learning and growth together.”

Davis’s current mentee, Gina Lemoncelli, a junior nursing major from Scott Township, Pa., describes their relationship: “I have learned from Susan that the sky is the limit. She has shown me that anything is possible in nursing and the opportunities available to someone are endless.”

Davis says that she became a mentor because she appreciates the strong education she received at Wilkes and is grateful for the mentors who gave her advice. She cites Lee Terry from the English department and Jan Steelman from the nursing department for their roles. She credits Terry with igniting a passion for learning that ultimately prepared her for the rigors of graduate school. She recalls Steelman’s ability to teach her students how to think critically and use the nursing process to care for patients with dignity and respect.

“When you mentor a student, you will have the chance to use the knowledge, skills and experience that you learned at Wilkes and professionally to help impact the life of a student in ways that will be invaluable for both of you. Being a mentor gives me the chance to ‘pay it forward’ and act as a coach to help students develop skills, meet their goals and maximize their potential with confidence,” she says.

Carly Cappello ’13, one of Davis’s former mentees, echoes her belief in “paying it forward.” “I am definitely hoping to mentor a student in my future. They are at such a critical time in their lives where they still need guidance…,” Cappello says.

Davis notes that she also benefits from the relationships she develops with her students. “Mentoring is not a one-way relationship. My mentees have helped my knowledge grow as well by sharing thoughts on new graduate programs, technology and changes in the nursing program at Wilkes. They inspire me with their enthusiasm, dedication and passion towards nursing and their drive to be the best nurses possible.”

Susan Maier Davis MS, RN, CRRN ’85, Laurel, Md.
Senior Vice President of Operations, SMV Management Company LLC
Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Wilkes
Master’s Degree in Health Care Administration, University of Maryland, University College

Being a mentor gives me the chance to ‘pay it forward’ and act as a coach to help students develop skills, meet their goals and maximize their potential with confidence.”
Coaching a Community

Dressed in his signature navy pants, white shirt and tie, Joe Frappolli ’69 coached the Florence High School football team to a 46-0 win. It was Frappolli’s 400th game, capping 40 years as head coach at the Florence Township, N.J., school. “I never looked at the numbers,” Frappolli says. “It didn’t hit me until I walked onto the field and saw ‘400’ on the banners.”

Frappolli adopted his coaching dress from his mentor and former Florence High coach, Joe Papp. He explains, “I wear the shirt and tie out of respect for the profession and the game, but also to remind me to keep my mind when others on the sidelines start losing theirs.”

Under Frappolli’s leadership, the Florence team has won over 280 games, 20 division championships and six state titles. He takes no credit for those achievements. “The students won the games. Our success is due to the dedication of the student athletes, the fan base and the families.”

He was inspired to become a coach by legendary Wilkes football coach Roland Schmidt, on whose Golden Horde team he played quarterback, defensive back and on special teams. Frappolli meets with former teammates at least once a year to catch a Wisconsin Badgers basketball game coached by teammate Bo Ryan ’69.

At Wilkes, Frappolli studied history and worked with Harold Cox, professor emeritus of history, organizing the University archives. After graduation, he contemplated pursuing a graduate degree when his former high school offered him a teaching position. He accepted and also pursued a relationship with his girlfriend, Donna. They were married just before he became the school’s head football coach after two years as an assistant.

Frappolli says that each year brings new players and challenges. “Nothing ever stays the same. We’ve seen a degree of success because we adapt and adjust. This is what makes you successful in marriage, in your family and at your job.”

He sees his job as more than just coaching football. He uses his Wilkes education to instill values and encourage his players to give back to their community. Each year the Florence football team takes part in the Food for the Needy Program, a holiday gift drive and Read Across America. The team also holds a free youth football clinic for underprivileged children.

Mary Ellen Cassidy, a former student who worked as his secretary at Florence for 13 years, confirms his humility and ability to inspire. “He has brought pride to our little town but would never take credit for any accolades. ‘There is no ME in TEAM,’ he says after every game as the community gathers around the team’s huddle to hear his words of wisdom.”

– By Francisco Tutella
**Undergraduate Degrees**

**1964**

**REUNION: SEPT. 26-27**

Alan Gubanich—see 1977.

**1966**

Timothy Swanson received the Joseph C. Donchess Distinguished Service Award from Wyoming Seminary College Preparatory School for the exceptional community service he performed at the school during his 44-year career.

**1977**

Karen Szychowski Rogowicz Dussinger, her husband, Joe, and their standard poodle, Carlos, were on their way back home from a month long cross country trip to visit national parks when they ran into fellow Colonel Alan Gubanich ’64, his wife and two dogs in Brigham City, Utah.

**1979**

**REUNION: SEPT. 26-27**

John Ralston is the culinary services director of the Orchard Cove retirement community in Canton, Mass., and was recently honored by the community with a scholarship in his name. As culinary services director, Ralston oversees a team that produces between 450 and 500 meals per day.

**1982**

Maurita (Greis) Elias and her husband, Robert, celebrated their 10th anniversary as owners of the Woodhouse Day Spa in Kingston, Pa. Prior to opening the spa in 2003, Elias owned two Party City franchise locations. After seeing the day spa in Victoria, Texas, Elias sold her previous businesses and bought the chain’s first franchise. She and her husband are company shareholders and helped founder Jeni Garrett expand the business.

**1990**

Joseph C. Smith was installed as the 81st president of the Pennsylvania Podiatric Medical Association on Nov. 9, 2013, during the association’s House of Delegates Banquet in King of Prussia, Pa. Smith is a podiatric physician at Berks Foot & Ankle Surgical Associates, Inc., in Reading and a veteran of the first Persian Gulf War.

**1993**

Christopher Scalese joined best-selling author Jack Canfield and a select group of America’s leading experts to co-author *Dare to Succeed: The World’s Leading Experts Reveal Their Secrets to Success in Business and Life—and Dare You to Succeed!* On the day of release, the book reached best-seller status in eight Amazon.com categories. Scalese contributed a chapter titled “Want To Be Set For Retirement? Walk The Road Less Traveled.” He is president and founder of Fortune Financial Group, a financial planning firm which helps clients achieve their ideal retirement.

**1995**

William Noone was inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame. While attending Wilkes, Noone was a member of the MAC Championship baseball team and was named MAC Freedom League most valuable player. He was drafted by the Philadelphia Phillies and was inducted into the Wilkes University Sports Hall of Fame in 2005.

**2000**

Michael Schreiber and Kyle Masteller ’02 make up one-third of the hip-hop boy band, The STOP Boys. Their music can be found on iTunes, Spotify and other online outlets.

**2002**

Beth Danner Kinslow and husband Milt now reside in Anchorage, Alaska.

**2008**

Heather Amanda Gatto and Christopher F. Cuff were married June 1, 2013. The
Wilkes is Shared Legacy for Mother and Daughter From the Bahamas

A Wilkes education is a legacy shared by many alumni and their children. But when Italia Wells-Davies ‘80 of Nassau, Bahamas, brought her daughter, Simone, to campus this fall, the mother and daughter may have achieved first-time status among Wilkes’ many legacy families.

The pair may be the first mother and daughter from another country to both attend Wilkes. Although University records don’t definitively confirm this, they are surely among very few legacy families not from the United States.

Italia Wells came to Wilkes after attending the College of the Bahamas, a community college, for two years. The president there had been in talks with Wilkes administrators about establishing a teaching exchange. “After enquiring one day about prospects of continuing my education he promised to make contact with his friends. A few days later, he called me into his office and said that I could get a scholarship,” Wells-Davies recalls.

For the daughter of a single mother, it was a tremendous opportunity. She traded the sunny climate of her native country for the more variable temperatures of northeast Pennsylvania. Her roommate, Doreen Walker ’81, who lived with her in the Sterling Hotel, was from California. “We got up every morning from the end of September and looked to see if it had snowed,” she says, chuckling. Later the two moved on campus to Chesapeake Hall, now part of Roth Hall.

Wells-Davies earned her degree in English literature and returned to the Bahamas where she entered the civil service and became a schooleacher. She met and married Stephen Davies, an Episcopal priest, and they had three children—Simone and older brothers Bryant and Stephen. Wells-Davies, who has a master’s degree from Kent State University, spent 25 years teaching in public schools before joining the Anglican Episcopal Diocese as its deputy director of education. In that role, she was responsible for human resources for the Anglican Central Education Authority, covering four schools on three islands in the Bahamas. In July 2013, she became the authority’s director.

Daughter Simone also attended the College of the Bahamas for her first two years. She first planned on attending college in Tampa, Fla. But the more she considered what Wilkes had to offer, the more interested she became in attending her mother’s alma mater. She enrolled at Wilkes as a psychology major.

Wells-Davies moved Simone into student apartments at 41 West, located on the corner of West Franklin and Northampton streets. “I can look out the window and see where I lived,” Wells-Davies says.

– By Vicki Mayk

Were you a Wilkes international student whose child has attended or graduated from the University? Let us know your story: Write to us at Wilkesmagazine@wilkes.edu
Educational Odyssey Takes Couple from Hawaii to Heartland

When someone thinks of visiting Hawaii, images of palm trees and beaches usually come to mind. For Kaitlin (Taber-Miller) Karpinski ’08 and Steve Karpinski ’08 MS ’10, going to the island paradise yielded opportunities to help at-risk students reach their potential.

During their junior year at Wilkes, the Karpinskis visited friends who are teachers on the islands. Kaitlin recalls the students there being described as “lazy” and disinterested in learning. “Hearing those perspectives was concerning to me, especially because they were talking about kids who didn’t have the same opportunities as their more affluent peers,” she says. It inspired her to teach there.

After graduating, she and Steve enrolled in Teach for America, an organization dedicated to eliminating educational inequality by enlisting high-achieving recent college graduates and professionals to teach for at least two years in low-income communities throughout the U.S. Kaitlin, a musical theatre graduate, received her teaching certification through the program. Steve has a bachelor’s degree in elementary and special education and a master’s in instructional technology. From 2008 until summer 2013, they taught at Waipahu High School in Waipahu, Hawaii, on the island of Oahu. Both taught special education students, and Steve headed the school’s special education department.

Kaitlin credits Teach for America with helping her develop professionally. “They really gave me a framework to view education and that was the most valuable aspect of my experience,” she says.

In July, the couple started the next leg of their careers as educators at Lighthouse Academies in Gary, Ind. Lighthouse is a network of charter schools in seven states and the District of Columbia which prepares students in grades K-12 for college through a rigorous, arts-infused program. Kaitlin serves as a director of teacher leadership for mathematics, art, music and physical education at Lighthouse College Prep Academy. Steve received a promotion in early fall and is director of student services at Gary Lighthouse Charter School. Comparing Indiana to Hawaii, Kaitlin says, “While the particulars of our work here in Gary look very different from the educational landscapes of Hawaii, our passion for ending educational inequity remains the same. I’m struck by the potential of our scholars here in Gary. I see their bright futures with absolute clarity.”

– By Christine Lee

Lee is a senior communication studies major.
In Memoriam

1944  
Loretta Farris, Wilmington, Del., died Aug. 14, 2013. She was a teacher at Wyoming Seminary, Crestwood High School, Wyoming Area Senior High School, and also taught in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District.

Ruth T. (Tischler) Voelker, Shaverton, Pa., died July 3, 2013. She was a member of Pi Mu Epsilon national mathematics honor society.

1946  
Jean E. (Lampert) Lewis, St. Davids, Pa., died April 14, 2013. She worked for Merck, Sharp and Dohme.

1947  

1948  
Reese E. Pelton, Dallas, Pa., died Aug. 22, 2013. He taught at Wilkes University, various local public schools and Luzerne County Community College. Pelton was also a musician and leader of a swing and dance band, the Reese Pelton Orchestra.

1949  
Edmund A. Sajeski, Arlington, Va., died June 11, 2011. Sajeski served in the U.S. Army and was a World War II veteran. He worked for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

1950  
Martin “Marty” E. Blake, Milton, Ga., died April 7, 2013. After serving in the U.S. Army, Blake spent his career in the sports industry and was the director of scouting for the National Basketball Association.

Anthony Urban, Jr., Bethlehem, Pa., died March 15, 2013. He was a veteran of World War II. Urban worked as a chemist and metallurgist for Bethlehem Steel.

1951  
Leonard (Bart) Bartikowsky, Warminster, Pa., died Oct. 19, 2013. Bartikowsky was a Navy veteran of World War II and the Korean War. He served as vice president of his family-owned jewelry business.

1952  
John D. Brna, Rosemont, Pa., died Feb. 14, 2013. He served in the U.S. Army and was a World War II veteran.

Dr. George F. Scheers, Hazleton, Pa., died Oct. 7, 2013. He served in the U.S. Army and established a medical practice.

1953  
Thomas F. Minemier, Whitehall, Pa., died July 5, 2013. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard.

1954  
Hendrick Marr, Harford, Pa., died Oct. 18, 2013. He served in the U.S. Army and taught music at Mountain View School in Kingsley, Pa.

Alden F. Wagner Jr., Lancaster, Pa., died Jan. 23, 2013. Wagner was a Navy veteran of the Korean War. He worked for Pennsylvania Power and Light.

1955  
John J. Kearney, Cherry Hill, N.J., died Oct. 11, 2013. He was a veteran of World War II and the Korean War. Kearney also was a teacher at North Hanover Township School at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., for 33 years.

1956  
Dr. Stanley Abrams, Portland, Ore., died July 1, 2012. He was a clinical and forensic psychologist.

Dr. John Sherwood Sr., Wilkes-Barre, Pa., died Oct. 13, 2013. He was a veteran of World War II. Sherwood practiced family medicine for over 30 years.

1957  
Joseph A. Loftus, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., died Oct. 1, 2013. Loftus served in the U.S. Army and was a veteran of the Korean War. He was employed by Atlantic Refining and the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

1959  
Theresa E. Abate, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., died Sept. 22, 2013. She worked as a registered nurse and director of nursing at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

Helen Grace (Miller) Burke, Duryea, Pa., died July 25, 2013. She taught at Holy Rosary School.

Barr Gartley, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., died Aug. 29, 2013. He served in the U.S. Navy and worked for the Pomeroy’s department store chain.

Charles A. Sorber, Austin, Texas, died Oct. 18, 2013. He was an academic administrator for the University of Texas and also served as the dean of the School of Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh.

1960  
Richard E. Barber, Madison, N.J., died April 10, 2013. He was a mechanical engineer for Allied Signal/Honeywell.

Leonard M. Hendricks, Williamsburg, Va., died Sept. 13, 2013. Hendricks was a veteran of the Korean War. He worked in the hospitality industry.


1961  
Jean Ruth (Belles) Harry, Williamsport, Pa., died July 1, 2013. She taught modern art at Holy Rosary School.

1962  
Stanley C. Bigoski, Kingston, Pa., died Sept. 16, 2013. Bigoski was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was the controller for Chaucer Press in Pittston, Pa.
Remembering Doris Bartuska ’49

Although she was 84 when she died, Doris Gorka Bartuska’s obituary quipped that she was “39 and holding.” The phrase embodied her characteristic humor. Recognized as a pioneer for women in medicine—and one of Wilkes’ first female graduates to become a physician—Bartuska’s work stimulated national interest in a woman’s health agenda with emphasis on prevention and treatment of osteoporosis and smoking, including smoke-related disease.

Bartuska ’49, who died Aug. 4, 2013, recalled what it was like when she first attended Wilkes, which was then Bucknell University Junior College. “There were only two women on campus,” she said. “Myself and Dorothy Pickering. I was a student in the fine arts program, taking classes in voice, piano and organ.”

Then her life forever changed. “It was in college that I realized that a career in science or medicine was a goal which I had never imagined,” Bartuska said during an interview for the “Changing the Face of Medicine” website sponsored by the U.S. National Library of Medicine. “I was always optimistic and interacted with other people. I joined the pre-med club, visited hospitals and medical schools, and my career path became obvious.”

Bartuska served as president of the Philadelphia County Medical Society, president of the medical staff at the Medical College of Pennsylvania, president of the Philadelphia Endocrine Society and president of the American Medical Women’s Association. She was also a founding board member of the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists and one of the first female voting members of the house of delegates at the American Medical Association.

She was the 2008 recipient of the Pennsylvania Medical Society’s Distinguished Service Awards, which recognizes a physician who has demonstrated a lifetime of significant achievement as judged by his or her peers. She became the 23rd Pennsylvania physician to win this highly prestigious award, and joined a distinguished list of previous recipients, including Jonas E. Salk and C. Everett Koop.

Her dedication as a teacher was recognized with numerous awards that honored her devotion to academic excellence, mentoring, patient care and leadership as a role model for women in medicine, including an honorary degree of Doctor of Science from Wilkes in 1997. After receiving the Master of the American College of Endocrinology award in 2009, Bartuska recalled that she was overwhelmed. “There’s something about the feelings you get when your peers recognize you. It’s the icing on the cake.”
The passing of Sidhu School of Business and Leadership Associate Professor Ted Engel on Nov. 1, 2013, was an occasion for colleagues past and present to reflect on his impact during more than 40 years at Wilkes.

“‘Good morning, Dick,’ was how he greeted me nearly every morning as he arrived in his office in Breiseth Hall. We are both morning people,” says Sidhu School professor emeritus Richard Raspen ’67, MBA ’77, who recalls first meeting Engel in 1973 as a Wilkes graduate student. “He would enter the classroom and write several points on the chalkboard of things he wanted to cover… and he covered all of them.”

“He was a gentleman and a gentle man who had an amazing vocabulary,” associate dean and associate professor of the Sidhu School Justin Matus says. “Ted dispelled the theory that finance people are not the most literate through his great use of adjectives.”

Engel was born in Pittsburgh but spent most of his youth in Florida, earning both a bachelor’s and master’s degree from the University of Miami. During his tenure at Wilkes, he served as dean of the School of Business, Society and Public Policy, chair of the commerce and finance department, and became the first dean of the Wilkes School of Business.

“The Sidhu School’s accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs was a direct result of Ted’s perseverance,” says Raspen. “The ACBSP recognized Wilkes as a quality academic institution that met the standards of a national accreditation and raised the bar. It was through Ted’s association in the 1980s that put us on the map.”
Join Wilkes University and President Patrick Leahy to celebrate the University’s heritage of educating first-generation college students. Proceeds from this new event will support the First Generation Fund, recently established to provide additional scholarships to make a Wilkes education attainable for first-generation students.

The President’s Medal will be awarded at the gala, acknowledging someone who has helped enhance the student experience and advance the University’s mission. The inaugural award will be presented to:

Joseph Savitz, Esq. ’48

For sponsorship and ticket information, contact Susan Dantona Jolley at susan.jolley@wilkes.edu or call (570) 408-7832.

To learn more about the Founders Gala, see President Patrick Leahy’s message on the inside front cover of Wilkes magazine.
February

1 through May 11  A World Apart: The Legacy of George Gabin, Sordoni Art Gallery
12  Alumni Event, Wilkes Pocono Center, Bartonsville, Pa., 6 p.m.
13  Gardner Education Forum Series: Child Abuse and Mandatory Reporting, featuring Karen Lindsey, Victims Resource Center, Mart Center, Room 214
14–15, 21–22  The No-Frills Revue, theatre production, 8 p.m. Darte Center
16, 23  The No-Frills Revue, theatre production, 2 p.m. Darte Center
19  Alumni Event, Boca Raton, Fla.
20  Gardner Education Forum Series: The Dances: A Documentary of Music of the 60s and 70s in the Wyoming Valley, featuring William Bachman, instructor of communications at Penn State, Wilkes-Barre, Marts Center, Room 214
25  Allan P. Kirby Lecture Series: Jack Uldrich, “Why Future Trends Will Demand Unlearning,” Darte Center, 7:30 p.m.

March

1–9  Spring Recess
5  Family Business Alliance Lecture Series: “Leadership Lessons Learned from Lincoln,” featuring Matthew Pinsker, Dickinson College, Henry Student Center, 5 p.m.
12  Gardner Education Forum Series: EDUtainment, featuring Bryan Svencer, 4th grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary School, East Penn School District, Marts Center 214, 4:30 p.m.
22  VIP Day 2014
28  2014 Wilkes University Engineering Olympics

April

3–5  Check Out Chekhov: An Evening of One Act Plays, 8 p.m. Darte Center
6  Check Out Chekhov: An Evening of One Act Plays, 2 p.m. Darte Center
17–21  Holiday Recess
23  Family Business Alliance Lecture Series: Economic Summit, featuring Sam Fraundorf, President of Wilmington Trust Investment Advisors, Henry Student Center, 5 p.m.
27  Max Rosenn Lecture, Sen. Richard Lugar, Darte Center, 7:30 p.m.
30  Classes End

May

8  Alumni Event, Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, Railriders
17  Commencement, Marts Center