Alumni Mentor Current Generation of Wilkes Students

Wilkes is known for the one-on-one mentoring relationships students have with their professors. The Alumni Association has expanded this tradition of individualized learning by bringing alumni mentors together with current students.

Since the alumni-student mentoring program’s inception in 2009, over 200 alumni and about 300 students have been matched according to interest and expertise. The program has been integrated into the psychology, communication studies, business and education departments and includes both undergraduate and graduate alumni. This collaboration is coordinated by a committee of alumni volunteers, faculty and staff members from the alumni relations and career services offices.

Deborah Tindell, associate professor of psychology, has been involved with the mentoring initiative from the start. “I have always encouraged students to contact professionals in their chosen field to gain more experience, but it can be difficult to make that initial connection. With this program, our students have a readily available source of advice from mentors who have already indicated a willingness and desire to help,” she says.

Mentors and mentees discuss interview preparation, the job search and graduate school applications; however, oftentimes, these talks turn to life after Wilkes.

Al Melusen ’85, a senior staff advisor and attorney with the U.S. Department of Labor, is one of the alumni mentoring students. “I remember what a trying and anxious period of time it can be as you are launched into the ‘real world’ from the comparatively protected environment of the University. Many of the questions we discuss are basic, practical issues that you take for granted when you have been working for 10 or 20 years. But as these young people are getting started, the mentoring program gives them someone else to turn to besides mom and dad,” says Melusen, who has worked with two students over the past three years.

Allison Roth ’11 appreciated such advice when she was a senior in the communication studies department in spring 2011. Paired with Kristin Klemish ’04, a communications professional, Roth describes their relationship as “an instant connection.”

“She gave me insight into the job world and answered all of my questions regarding job applications and interviews. We also bonded over college life. Kristin reminisced about her years on campus and we chatted about classes and professors,” says Roth.

According to Tindell, the biggest benefit of the mentoring program can’t be measured. “When a person finds a true mentoring relationship, it can last a lifetime and provide a great deal of support and satisfaction for both the mentor and mentee,” she says.

Both Melusen and Klemish encourage other alumni to get involved with the mentoring program. “The time commitment is not overwhelming, and you will be surprised how much you have to offer others and how rewarding an experience it can be,” says Melusen.

To learn more about the mentoring program, visit community.wilkes.edu/mentoring or contact Mary Simmons in the Office of Alumni Relations at mary.simmons@wilkes.edu.
Thank You to Our Alumni Hosts

During spring and summer 2011, Wilkes enjoyed the hospitality of alumni along the East Coast. Our hosts included Jason ’90 and Tammy Griggs in Limerick, Pa. (pictured); Jan Seeley ’70 in Boston, Mass.; and Phil ’76 & Carol Gusgekofski ’76 Besler on Long Beach Island, N.J.

“I was amazed to learn that there were 350 alumni living within 30 miles of me in Montgomery County, Pa., says Griggs. I thought that there was no better way to let people know that Wilkes alumni are all around us than to hold an alumni event. I cannot wait to do it again, bigger and better than last time.”

To view photos from these events, visit www.wilkes.edu/alumni. If you’re interested in hosting an alumni event where you live, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (570)408-7787 or alumni@wilkes.edu.

Paul Wender ’69 Presents First Catherine H. Bone Lecture in Chemistry

The inaugural Catherine H. Bone Lecture in Chemistry will be presented by Paul Wender ’69, Bergstrom Professor of Chemistry at Stanford University. The lecture is on Thursday, Oct. 27, 2011 at 7 p.m. in Stark Learning Center 101. Wender will speak about Molecular Frontiers and Future Transformative Therapies for AIDs, Alzheimer’s, and Resistant Cancer.

Wender has pioneered new methodologies for design and construction of naturally occurring and synthetic complex organic molecules. His contributions cover a broad range of chemistry, including synthetic organic, organ metallic, medicinal, and agricultural and photo-chemistry; cancer biology; and computer application in synthesis and drug design.

The event is free, but registration is required. For more information call 570-408-4306.

Calendar of Events

• Connecting the Dots: Wednesday, Nov. 9
• Athletics Hall of Fame Day: Saturday, Nov. 15
• Dave Russo ’93 Comedy Show: Thursday, Dec. 8
• Naples, FL event: March

HOMECOMING 2011 PHOTO GALLERY

Whether you frequented the party tents, shared a pint with a professor or cheered on the Colonels, Homecoming was the place to be last month! Thank you to everyone who came back to campus for the festivities. See who was there by visiting www.wilkes.edu/alumni and mark your calendars for next year’s celebration: Sept. 28, 29 and 30, 2012.