

# WILKES

SPRING 2019

## Looking Back, Looking Forward

WILKES PRESIDENT  
PATRICK F. LEAHY REFLECTS  
ON SEVEN YEARS LEADING  
THE UNIVERSITY

## Recalling Seven Years at One of the Finest Small Universities

On September 15, 2012, I had the honor of being installed as Wilkes University's sixth president. Soon after beginning my tenure, I worked closely with members of the campus community to create a plan that would position Wilkes as one of the finest small universities in the country. This vision placed equal emphasis on the words *small* and *university*, instead of viewing them as mutually exclusive descriptors. At Wilkes, we offer a unique experience that celebrates the integration of the words *small* and *university*—one that blends a close-knit, mentoring culture with academic opportunities often found at much larger institutions.

Over the past seven years, we have worked to more fully develop into a doctoral university by making significant investments in academics, research, and the campus. We have added 25 new academic programs, including the launch of the University's first Ph.D. To encourage research, we created a \$1 million fund that supports scholarly endeavors of faculty members. In many cases, faculty work hand-in-hand with undergraduate students to complete this important work,

which is celebrated annually at the Research and Scholarship Symposium. More discovery is happening at Wilkes than ever before, resulting in the University's first six patents.

Unprecedented improvements have also been made to the campus, totaling a remarkable \$100 million. The beauty of the Wilkes campus has never been more apparent, and investments in academic labs and classrooms have enhanced the learning environment.

And, our enduring commitment to the arts continues. The Sordoni Art Gallery has experienced a resurgence, with an expanded location, new leadership, and an endowment to

support exhibitions. The Marching Colonels, the region's only collegiate marching band, adds spirit to campus and community events. And, through the generosity of the Maslow Family, Wilkes' graduate program in creative writing will continue to grow for years to come.

In January, these efforts culminated in a milestone achievement for Wilkes University—earning doctoral university status from the Carnegie Classifications. Wilkes is now part of a list (albeit a long one) of the finest universities in the country, and we are one of the smallest on the list.

It has been a privilege to play a role in the evolution of this incredible institution and I am confident that more progress lies ahead. Thank you all for your support and dedication to Wilkes University.



**Dr. Patrick F. Leahy**  
Wilkes University President



President Patrick F. Leahy speaks at Sordoni Art Gallery's opening, one of the highlights during his tenure.

### WILKES MAGAZINE

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





# contents



Putting students first has been the hallmark of Patrick F. Leahy's presidency at Wilkes. He will leave the University in July. PHOTO BY MARK MCCARTY

## FEATURES

### 8 Looking Back, Looking Forward

Patrick F. Leahy, Wilkes' sixth president, reflects on achievements during his tenure.

### 14 #24atWilkes

A look at the University through the lens of social media captured by students, faculty and staff.

### 20 Game Changers

Athletics Hall of Fame inductees recall their experience as student athletes.

### 24 Gateway to the Future Campaign

A new project will enhance the Ralston Athletic Complex for student athletes.

### 26 Health Care for a Changing Planet

Ruth McDermott-Levy '82 researches environmental impacts on patient health.

## DEPARTMENTS

### 2 On Campus

### 28 Alumni News

### 29 Giving Back

### 30 Class Notes

Have a story idea to share?

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## Wilkes Earns Doctoral University Designation

Wilkes University has been categorized as a doctoral university in the revised 2018 Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, the highest classification for institutions in the country. Of approximately 80 private institutions in Pennsylvania, Wilkes is now one of just 14 with this designation.

“The change in classification places Wilkes University in the rightful company of some of the finest universities in the nation, completing our evolution from a two-year junior college in 1933 to a national doctoral university in 2019,” says University President Patrick F. Leahy. “Our unique mix of academic programs and robust degree conferrals across bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral levels set us apart from other private institutions, both regionally and nationally. We are proud of the students we serve and look forward to continued growth.”

The doctoral/professional university category includes institutions that award at least 20 research doctoral degrees or 30 or more professional-practice doctoral degrees. In 2016-17,

Wilkes awarded 122 doctoral degrees across three programs: the doctor of pharmacy, with 69 graduates, the doctor of nursing practice, with 30 graduates and the doctor of education with 23 graduates. In the 2017-18 academic year, the total grew to 165. This represents nearly three times the doctoral degrees of any other institution in northeast Pennsylvania, making Wilkes the leading doctoral university in the region.

Wilkes will award the university’s first doctor of philosophy degrees in 2020. The Ph.D. in nursing welcomed its first class in Sept. 2017. There are currently 33 nurses enrolled in the program.

The Carnegie Classification has been the leading framework for recognizing and describing diversity among U.S. higher education institutions since 1970, when the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education developed the method of classifying colleges and universities to support its program of research and policy analysis. The classifications, derived from empirical data on colleges and universities, reflect changes among institutions and are used in the study of higher education.

The number of doctoral degrees awarded at Wilkes’ three commencement ceremonies held in January, May and September grew to 165 in the 2017-2018 academic year.





## Eugene Roth '57 to Receive President's Medal at Founders Gala 2019



Eugene Roth '57 will receive the President's Medal at the Founders Gala 2019. The President's Medal is bestowed annually on an individual whose personal and professional life reflects the highest aspirations of Wilkes University. Roth, who is an attorney at Rosenn Jenkins & Greenwald, LLP, in Wilkes-Barre, will be

presented with the award at the event being held June 1 at the Westmoreland Club. Proceeds from the event benefit the First Generation Scholarship Fund.

"Gene is a fierce supporter of our core mission: to provide educational opportunities to all who show potential. His support is evident in his leadership and generosity, but is also demonstrated in the way he supports our students," says Wilkes President Patrick F. Leahy. "A first-generation college student himself, it is incredibly fitting to have Gene Roth as this year's President's Medal recipient."

Roth, who has the distinction of being the longest-serving attorney at his firm, rose through the ranks from law clerk to partner during his 60-year tenure. A prominent figure in northeast Pennsylvania, he frequently has been recognized for his professional, civic and community efforts with awards from the United Hebrew Institute, the Boy Scouts of America and the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce.

Roth served under each of the University's six presidents during an association with Wilkes that began when he was a student. He first served as vice president of his undergraduate class, then as president of the alumni association and eventually as a member of the University's board of trustees, a role in which he continues to serve. He was the chairman of the board from 1993 to 1998, helping to establish the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy.

His philanthropic support is apparent across campus, especially in Lawrence W. Roth Hall, a standout residence for first-year students, and the Max Roth Center, home to the Center for Global Education and Diversity. Roth and his wife, Connie, established the Lawrence W. Roth Memorial Scholarship in memory of their son. It is granted annually to a Wilkes student with an interest in the law, politics or community service.

## Wilkes Launches Search for Seventh President

Wilkes has launched a search for its next president following the announcement that President Patrick F. Leahy will leave the University on July 30, 2019.

Leahy was Wilkes' sixth president and joined Wilkes in 2012. He announced in December that he will leave the University to become president of Monmouth University in New Jersey. His tenure has been a period of significant growth with transformational improvements to campus, the addition of academic programs including the University's first Ph.D., and achieving designation as a doctoral university. For a story summarizing the highlights and accomplishments during Leahy's seven years as president, please turn to page 8.

A Presidential Search Committee has been formed with members representing all constituents in the Wilkes community. It will be chaired by Dan Cardell '79, chairman of the University board of trustees. The committee includes faculty members Karim Medico Letwinsky, doctoral department chair and associate professor, and Eric Ruggiero, associate professor of digital design and media art; senior administrators Jonathan Ference, associate provost, and Janet Kobylski,



assistant vice president of finance and treasurer; students Hunter Hughes and Caroline Rickard; and board of trustee members Laura Cardinale '72, Dan Klem Jr. '68, Chuck Cohen, Randy Mark '81 and Bill Miller '81.

The University has contracted with the

Boston-based executive search firm Park Square to assist in identifying candidates for the position of president. Forums were conducted on campus in March in preparation for the search. Faculty, staff and students had opportunities to attend and provide comments about the kinds of skills and characteristics that would be valuable in leading Wilkes.

It is expected that the search will continue into 2020. Finalists for the position will be brought to campus during the 2019-2020 academic year.

## Paul Adams '77 MS '82 Named Interim President



Wilkes alumnus Paul Adams '77 MS '82 has been appointed interim president of the University, effective Aug. 1, 2019. Adams, who serves as Wilkes' vice president for student affairs, will lead the University during the search for a new president.

Adams' appointment was approved in February by the University's board of trustees. In announcing Adams' appointment, Dan Cardell '79, chair of the board, said, "Paul brings a wealth of institutional knowledge to this position. He has studied or served under five of our six presidents, is a two-time alumnus and has dedicated his life and career to the success of our students. I can think of no one better than Paul Adams to lead Wilkes as we recruit our seventh president."

Adams has served as vice president of student affairs since 2002. In that role, he leads areas that enrich student life, including athletics, health and wellness, residence life and student development. The latter encompasses areas that include career development and internships, student activities, campus interfaith, community service, e-mentoring and orientation.

Adams joined the university in 1979 as director of housing. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in education at Wilkes and holds a doctorate in organizational leadership and curriculum instruction from the University of Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of Harvard University's Institute for the Management of Lifelong Education. Adams is married to Jean (Reiter) Adams '78, who is an instructor in the University's art department.

Adams will return to his role as vice president of student affairs when a new president assumes office.

## Pharmacy Student Earns Top Ten Finish in National Patient Counseling Competition for Second Year

Third-year student pharmacist Dylan Fox knows the importance of compassion and empathy when working with patients. It helped him earn his second top ten finish in the National Patient Counseling Competition at the American Pharmacists Association national meeting in March. Every pharmacy school in the nation attends the conference and Fox competed against students representing 140 other institutions. A Denver, Pa., native who also is majoring in Spanish, Fox also placed in the top ten nationally in 2018.

For the first round of the competition, Fox counseled a patient on the use of levothyroxine, commonly known as synthroid, which is used to treat thyroid conditions. His second round of counseling included a breast cancer patient being prescribed the nausea medication compazine.

He credits his success to the preparation he receives in the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy.

"The program at Wilkes sets all of the pharmacists and graduates up to be prepared patient counselors and very effective at what they do," he explains.



Third-year student pharmacist Dylan Fox has been a top ten finisher in the National Patient Counseling Competition for two consecutive years. PHOTO BY SARAH BEDFORD.

## FULLY ONLINE MBA IN THE SIDHU SCHOOL OF BUSINESS BEGINS IN FALL 2019

Aspiring business leaders wishing to advance in their careers or experienced managers looking to grow their communication, professionalism and decision-making skills can now do it in a completely online MBA program at Wilkes. The University announced that it will offer the Master of Business Administration degree fully online starting in fall 2019.

The online MBA emphasizes leadership. The program can be completed in two years. Accelerated, seven-week courses allow students to focus on one course at a time while completing two courses during each academic semester. New online MBA students will be accepted in the fall, spring and summer semesters.

Wilkes also offers the MBA in a weekend format. Students in the weekend program attend face-to-face classes on the second Saturday of each month. Supplemental coursework and assignments are conducted online between class sessions. The weekend MBA program offers tracks in global business, leadership and management.

Wilkes offers two dozen online and low-residency master's and doctoral programs in fields like creative writing, education and nursing. For more information about the online MBA, visit [www.wilkes.edu/MBAonline](http://www.wilkes.edu/MBAonline).



## Wilkes Doctoral Student Named Pennsylvania Educator of the Year

Marilyn Pryle's week begins and ends with teaching. The Wilkes doctor of education student teaches English at Abington Heights High School, but when the final bell rings on Friday, she hasn't finished teaching.

Pryle leaves her traditional classroom and switches gears, teaching English at the Lackawanna Children's Library in Scranton, Pa. Pryle started an English conversation group two years ago for refugees from Congo and Uganda. The group meets every Sunday and on any given week may have 15 volunteers and up to 30 refugees.

Her dedication to education in both traditional and community settings led to Pryle being named Pennsylvania's 2019 teacher of the year. Now she's in the running for the national teacher of the year award which will be announced in April 2020. The state Department of Education and the state chapter of the National State Teacher of the Year sponsor the Teacher of the Year program. It honors public school teachers in kindergarten through 12th grade who have made outstanding academic contributions.

"I am completely honored to receive this award and to represent the excellent, hardworking educators of Pennsylvania. During the SAS Conference, I had a chance to meet the other eleven finalists and they are all exceptional teachers," Pryle says.

Ty Frederickson, who has taught Pryle as an assistant professor in Wilkes' doctor of education program, says the recognition is well deserved.

"Marilyn's work to build relationships between groups of students and this population of Syrian and Ugandan refugees exemplifies the caliber of her character and her commitment to teaching and learning well beyond the school day," Frederickson says. "She uniquely understands that her responsibilities as an educational leader are to all people, not only those students within her classroom, and she acts according to this understanding."

Pryle was nominated by students, parents, peers and members of the community for her achievements both inside and outside the classroom. She has been an educator since 1992, beginning at St. Xavier School in Kathmandu, Nepal. After teaching at East Middle School in Braintree, Mass., she taught in higher education settings before finding her place at Abington Heights High School in Clarks Summit, Pa.

Summing up her teaching philosophy, Pryle states, "Every student brings unique gifts. The teacher's work is to create a space for each to grow—to wonder, to risk, to connect. To

become more fully oneself, and more deeply human: This is the purpose of education."

She received bachelor's and master's degrees in education from the University of Scranton and a master of fine arts in creative writing and literature from Emerson College.

Pryle has shared her passion for teaching by authoring seven books, six of which are with Scholastic, Inc. The books are written for educators, providing strategies for teaching writing.

"I always say that I'm in it for the long game—I want students to be confident, engaged readers and writers for their whole lives, not just during my class," she adds. "I try to find any way possible to show them the power and joy of being active readers and writers."

**"She uniquely understands that her responsibilities as an educational leader are to all people, not only those students within her classroom, and she acts according to this understanding."**

— Ty Frederickson, assistant professor, doctor of education program



Marilyn Pryle, right, discusses writing with Abington Heights High School student Sabriya Seid.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF MARILYN PRYLE

## Super Seniors go to the Head of the Class

Cue “Pomp and Circumstance.” May marks the end of the academic year at Wilkes—and time for spring commencement. Although it would be impossible to spotlight all of the impressive members of the Class of 2019, these six students, representing each of Wilkes’ schools and colleges, illustrate the Wilkes experience and highlight the bright future in store for members of the graduating class. For more stories about 2019 graduates, visit [news.wilkes.edu](http://news.wilkes.edu), look under the student life menu for “Super Seniors.”



**Lauren Bezek**  
**Bachelor of Arts, Mathematics**  
**and Secondary Education Minor**  
**School of Education**  
**Hometown:** Kingston, Pa.

**Activities and Achievements:**

Bezek was a counselor at both the Women Empowered by Science summer camp and the SHINE day camp at Wilkes. She also served as the Kirby Scholar in STEM education at the University’s Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship. Bezek completed research with Vee Ming Lew, associate professor of math and computer science. She was a tutor for the math department and also tutored middle- and high-school students.

**Noteworthy:** Bezek was chosen to complete a week-long field experience in education in Arizona.

**Favorite part of the Wilkes experience:** “The highlight of my time at Wilkes has to be the relationships I have built with my professors and the opportunities these relationships have granted me....I know I would not have had many of the opportunities that I am so thankful for without my professors and Wilkes University.”

**Future Plans:** Bezek plans to pursue a master’s degree in either mathematics or STEM education.



**Nicholas Fitzpatrick**  
**Bachelor of Science, Chemistry**  
**College of Science and Engineering**  
**Hometown:** Jenkintown, Pa.

**Activities and Achievements:**

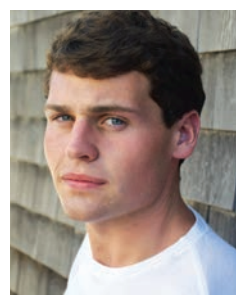
Fitzpatrick has done research with Megan Youmans, assistant professor of chemistry. He also was part of a research team with Amy Bradley, associate professor and chair of chemistry. Fitzpatrick attended numerous conferences and national meetings including the

American Chemical Society where he has presented on behalf of the Chemistry Club. He has been a teaching assistant for organic chemistry, analytical chemistry and general chemistry labs since his sophomore year.

**Noteworthy:** Fitzpatrick is president of the Chemistry Club and has established the club as an American Chemical Society Green Chemistry chapter.

**Favorite part of the Wilkes experience:** “The highlight of my time at Wilkes has been all the research and laboratory experience I have gained. I have had the wonderful opportunity of working on multiple research projects and running various instruments that you would never get to use as an undergraduate at another institution. I feel this experience really prepared me for my graduate education, and gave me a huge advantage over other applicants.”

**Future plans:** Fitzpatrick will pursue a Ph.D. in organic chemistry at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.



**Justin Gaskill**  
**Bachelor of Fine Arts,**  
**Musical Theatre**  
**College of Arts, Humanities**  
**and Social Sciences**  
**Musical Theatre Major**  
**Hometown:** Somers Point, N.J.

**Activities and Achievements:**

Gaskill has performed in 16 mainstage productions with Wilkes University Theatre, four dance shows, six black box productions and many choral concerts. Gaskill also knows how to work behind the scenes, doing set construction, costuming, stage management, props running crew, lighting and painting.

**Noteworthy:** Gaskill had lead roles in five Wilkes productions.

**Favorite part of the Wilkes experience:** “The highlight of my time here at Wilkes was all of the training I received within the field I am studying. I got so much personal attention



because of the smaller class sizes that I really grew and found where I belong within this crazy, hectic career path.”

**Future plans:** Gaskill will be a full-time resident actor with the Charleston Stage Company. He will be featured in a minimum of seven shows, including playing the leading role, Ren McCormick, in “Footloose.”



**Dannielle Hickok**  
**Bachelor of Science in Nursing,**  
 History minor  
**Passan School of Nursing**  
**Hometown:** Fleetville, Pa.

**Activities and Achievements:**  
 Hickok is a member of Sigma  
 Theta Tau National Nursing Honor  
 Society and the history department's

chapter of the Phi Alpha Theta National Honor Society. She participated in the NCLEX challenge bowl at the Student Nurses Association of Pennsylvania convention. NCLEX is the examination for nursing licensing. Hickok completed her senior research on the implementation of specialized diabetic nurse educators to improve patient outcomes and decrease diabetes related hospital readmissions.

**Noteworthy:** While attending school full-time, Hickok balanced a part-time job and being a mother of two.

**Favorite part of the Wilkes experience:** “The highlight of my time here at Wilkes has been being initiated into a career field together with a group of wonderful individuals that share in the belief that nursing is truly a life vocation.”

**Future plans:** Through her clinical placements, Hickok has developed an interest in emergency medicine and hopes to work in an emergency department. She also hopes to enroll in the Passan School's Family Nurse Practitioner master's degree program.



**Alex Ponce**  
**Doctor of Pharmacy**  
**Nesbitt School of Pharmacy**  
**Hometown:** Oley, Pa.

**Activities and Achievements:** Ponce served as president of the National Community Pharmacists Association and the chair of Generation Rx. He also participated in Industry

Pharmacists Organization, American Pharmacist Association, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, the honor societies Phi Lambda Sigma and Rho Chi. He coordinated 33 different community service events. Ponce did research with Ka

Lok Hong, assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences, and Thomas Franko, assistant professor of pharmacy practice.

**Noteworthy:** Ponce planned a medication take-back event in spring 2017. Since then, he has coordinated two additional take-back events collecting more than 250 pounds of unwanted, unused, or expired medications.

**Favorite part of the Wilkes experience:** “My favorite aspect of Wilkes University is the supportive faculty and family-like learning environment. I also felt as though I was supported with whatever I wanted to do in addition to being pushed to become the best that I can be.”

**Future plans:** Ponce will complete a pharmacy residency at the University of Maryland in Baltimore.



**Mingzhu Yue**  
**Bachelor of Business**  
**Administration, Marketing**  
**and Management**  
**Bachelor of Science,**  
**Hospitality Leadership**  
**Sidhu School of Business**  
**and Leadership**  
**Hometown:** Zhengzhou, China

**Activities and Achievements:** Yue was the president of the Asian Cultural Society and vice president of the Hospitality Leadership Club at Wilkes. She completed three internships, which included traveling to China, working with local digital marketing agency LSEO and with the Best Western Genetti Hotel in Wilkes-Barre. She does research about the hospitality industry with HyeRyeon Lee, assistant professor, with whom she has presented research papers at conferences in Fort Worth, Texas and Las Vegas, Nev.

**Noteworthy:** With fellow Sidhu student Kacee Diehl, Yue won the award for Best Undergraduate Research Proposal Presentation from THEREPS, a tourism, hospitality, event conference for researchers, educators, practitioners, in April 2019.

**Favorite part of the Wilkes experience:** “I know Wilkes-Barre is a quiet city, and Wilkes University is not a big school; however, the people here make this place warm and lovely. I am so glad that I chose to study at Wilkes.”

**Future plans:** She plans to earn her master's degree in hospitality management after graduation. As Wilkes magazine went to press, she already had been offered a scholarship from Boston University.



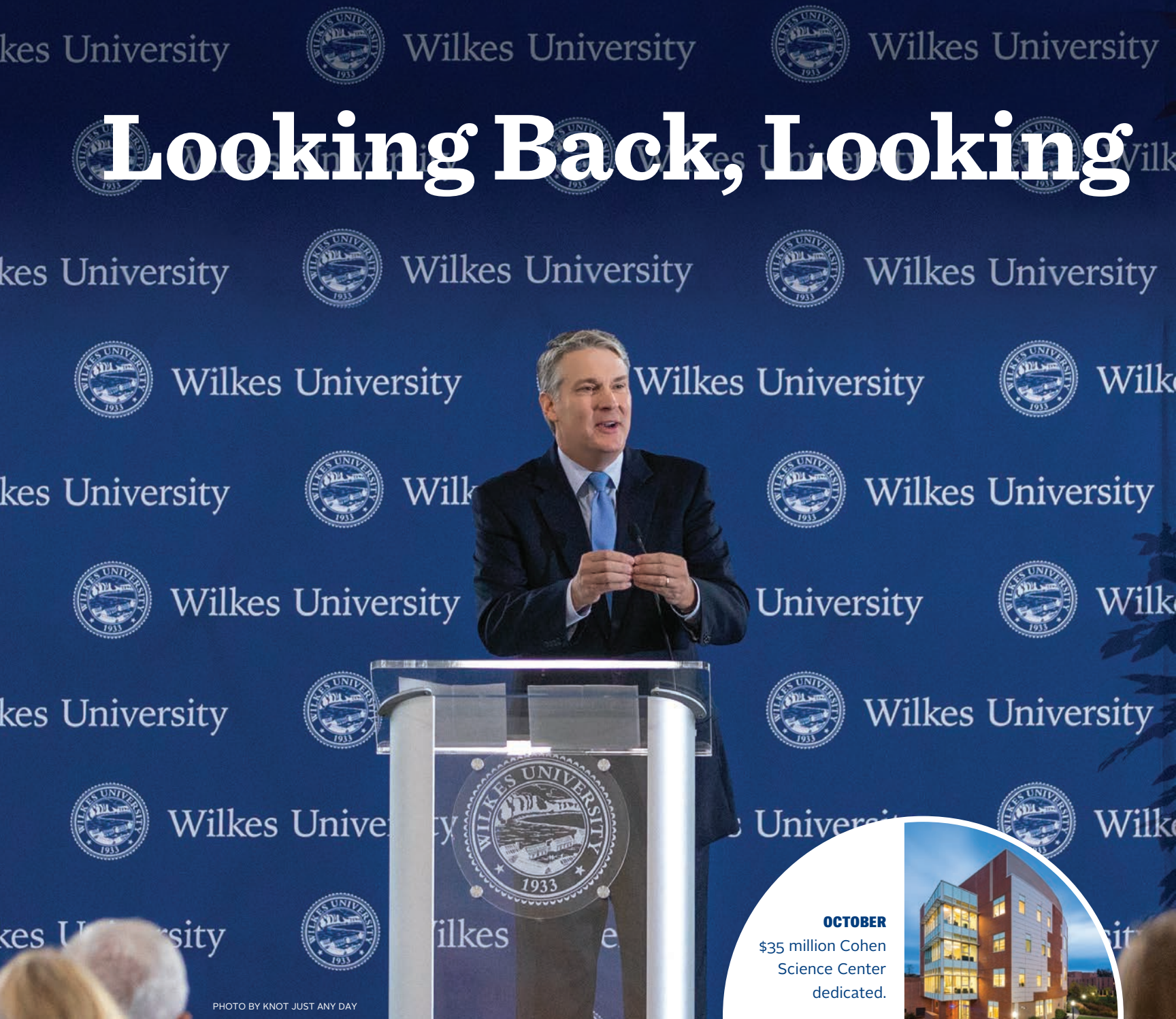


PHOTO BY KNOT JUST ANY DAY

**OCTOBER**  
\$35 million Cohen  
Science Center  
dedicated.



**2012**

**SEPTEMBER**

Patrick F. Leahy is installed as Wilkes' sixth president during three-day event built around the theme "Looking Back With Pride, Looking Forward With Confidence."



**2013**

**SEPTEMBER**

Nursing Simulation Center opens.





# Forward

## Wilkes President Patrick F. Leahy Reflects on Seven Years Leading the University

By Vicki Mayk MFA'13

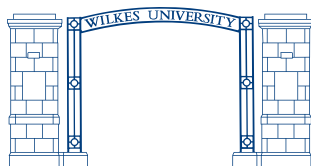
Ask Wilkes President Patrick F. Leahy how he would like to be remembered at the University and a wry smile crosses his face.

"It's humbling to think that people would remember me at all," Leahy quips.

His self-effacing comment doesn't accurately reflect the many accomplishments during his seven-year tenure as president. When Leahy announced that he will leave Wilkes at the end of July 2019 to become president of Monmouth University, a private university on the north Jersey shore, it offered a chance for faculty, staff and alumni to note the many milestones at Wilkes under his leadership.

The timeline on these pages highlights, year by year, achievements reached during the Leahy presidency. They include more than \$100 million in campus improvements, the establishment of an honors program, the introduction of 25 new academic majors, the launch of a \$1 million faculty research and scholarship fund and the start of Wilkes' first Ph.D. program in the Passan School of Nursing, Wilkes' fifth terminal degree. Perhaps the most significant moment came in January 2019, when Wilkes achieved doctoral university status, placing it among the nation's most prestigious institutions.

*Wilkes* magazine sat down with Leahy to reflect on his years leading Wilkes. In the following question-and-answer session, he talks about his fondest memories.



### JUNE

Gateway to the  
Future Strategic  
Plan launched.

### SEPTEMBER

New home of the Sidhu  
School of Business and  
Leadership dedicated in  
University Center on Main.



2014

### JUNE

Inaugural Founders  
Gala raises \$250,000  
for First Generation  
Scholarship Fund.  
The late Joseph  
Savitz '48 was the first President's medal honoree. In  
2018, the gala raised \$820,000, bringing the total raised  
to \$2.3 million since event's inception.



### AUGUST

The Marching Colonels, the  
region's first collegiate  
marching band,  
debuts.



**There have been many accomplishments during your tenure at Wilkes. Are there ones of which you're most proud?**

**Leahy:** I hope during my time that we have accelerated our evolution toward becoming a doctoral university. Wilkes was evolving in this way, and we anticipated the shift was coming and decided we were going to double down on our efforts. To do that, we grew the programming in our master's and doctoral programs, including the addition of our Ph.D. program in the Passan School of Nursing. We delivered graduate programming to a national audience. In addition, I'd like to think we've done more impactful research in the last seven years, as evidenced by the fact that we now have six patents that we have issued to protect ideas that might have commercial application. And, obviously, we have made considerable investments in our campus. We took a school that was continuing to evolve and really focused on developing it into an albeit small, nonetheless, bona fide doctoral university.

**You would appear to have achieved that goal, given the fact that the University's Carnegie classification was changed to doctoral university. How will that impact Wilkes moving forward?**

**Leahy:** I am extremely proud that we've achieved that designation. It more adequately reflects the range of ways that we at this university serve students. Educating undergraduate students remains at the heart of what we do. But, offering master's and doctoral programs is an extension of our mission

of providing worthy students with a first-class private education. And I think receiving doctoral university status is important because I want to be sure that our faculty and staff members are properly recognized for their contributions to the University. Moving forward, the new designation has the potential to impact Wilkes practically because it places us on a list of the greatest universities in the country.

**In addition to seeking doctoral university status for Wilkes, supporting first-generation college students has been another priority since the beginning of your presidency. Why was establishing the Founders Gala so important and why has it been such a success, raising \$2.3 million to date?**

**Leahy:** I felt strongly that, once a year, we ought to have a first-class black tie fundraising event that could re-set the expectations of people both on and off campus to a level of excellence and demonstrate that Wilkes University can support that kind of a fundraising event. Part of the reason it's been so successful is because of the purpose of the event, which is to raise money for first-generation students. Serving those students was such an important part of our founding and now, 85 years later, it's still an important part of who we are. Using that event to raise money for first-generation students resonated with so many constituents of the University, and that is why it has been successful.



#### SEPTEMBER

The Wilkes University SHINE Program of Luzerne County launches with seven afterschool centers.

#### SEPTEMBER

Neurotraining and Research Center opens.



#### NOVEMBER

Michelini Hall is named in honor of Wilkes' second president, Francis Michelini.

2015

#### SEPTEMBER

Honors Program is established.

#### OCTOBER

\$1.7 million Karambelas East Campus Gateway is dedicated.



#### NOVEMBER

Wilkes is Ranked 25th in the Nation by *The Economist* for the value its education brings to graduates.



**In addition to raising the bar related to academic programs, you also provided the impetus for major co-curricular and extra-curricular changes on campus. Under your leadership, Wilkes added seven varsity sports. Why was that important?**

**Leahy:** There are many reasons why I think expanding athletic programs is so important. It really is a strategic move. One reason is that it has allowed us to attract students from a much wider geographic area. For example, you have no choice but to recruit ice hockey players and lacrosse players from a wider area because playing those sports happens outside of this region. Having those sports allowed us to grow our recruiting footprint and to bring more student athletes to campus. And we love having student athletes here at Wilkes because the evidence proves that athletes typically retain and graduate at higher rates than our student body as a whole. Plus it's just fun to have more athletic competitions and more students representing the University. It also gives us more opportunities to build school spirit.

**During your time here, you have often been quoted as saying you cannot have a true university without an enduring commitment to the arts. How has that commitment manifested itself during your presidency?**

**Leahy:** I hope that it is evident in a lot of ways. The most obvious example of our commitment was the multi-pronged strategy around the re-invention of the Sordoni Art Gallery. We made a big investment in a new space and made it more accessible to both the campus and the Wilkes-Barre community. We also began building a permanent exhibition endowment and hired a new director and assistant director for the gallery. But there are other examples of which I am proud. One is the addition of the only marching band in all of northeast Pennsylvania, an expansion to our musical program. And over the years we've made big investments in the Maslow Family Graduate Program in Creative Writing. First, we made major renovations of the home of the creative writing program, Cox Hall. Then we secured a major financial commitment to name the program after the Maslow family. At Wilkes, emphasis is placed on the liberal arts, even for students in our professional programs. I'll repeat something now that I stated when I began as president—I believe strongly that even our engineers should read Shakespeare.

## FEBRUARY

Wilkes launches historic partnership with the Republic of Panama.



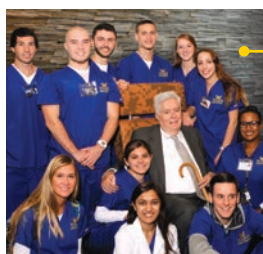
## MAY

President Patrick F. Leahy speaks at U.N. as Wilkes is a founding sponsor of Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises Day.



2016

2017



## MAY

John J. Passan makes \$3.3 million gift to establish the Passan School of Nursing.

\$1 million Faculty Research Fund is established and first symposium is held to celebrate.

## AUGUST

Inaugural President's Awards for Excellence are presented.

## JUNE

Creative Writing Program receives leadership gift to become the Maslow Family Graduate Creative Writing Program.





## AUGUST

Karambelas Media and Communication Center is dedicated providing a new home for the communication studies department.

## AUGUST

The Wilkes Educational Gateway to Excellence (Wilkes EDGE) launches. The program helps support students in the transition from high school to college.

## AUGUST

Wilkes enrolls the largest and most well-prepared first-year class in its history.

## NOVEMBER

South Campus Gateway is completed.



2017

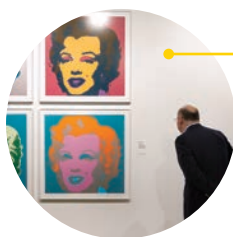
2018

## SEPTEMBER

University's first Ph.D. program established in Passan School of Nursing.

## SEPTEMBER

The Mark Engineering Center is dedicated in Stark Learning Center, launching a new era for Wilkes' engineering programs.



## OCTOBER

Sordoni Art Gallery opens in its new home with the exhibit "Andy Warhol, 15 Minutes: From Image to Icon." It sets a record for attendance, drawing 3,028 visitors.



**For a moment, let's switch gears from your professional accomplishments. Your wife Amy and your four children have been a visible presence here during the last seven years. Are there moments at Wilkes that you will remember as a family?**

**Leahy:** The first that I remember was at the family holiday party the year that I became president. Our four kids at the time were 5, 7, 11 and 13. All six of us put balloon hats on and were walking out of the event across campus when somebody snapped a picture of us and said, "Things are going to be a lot different around here, aren't they?" So, from that point on, I hope the family has been an important part of the University community. Another event that stands out was a few years later when Vice President (Joe) Biden visited campus. We picked the kids up early from school so that they would have a chance to meet him. My son, Brian, who was probably 9 at time, said, "Dad, can we get a selfie with the vice president?" and just as the Secret Service said, "No selfies," Vice President Biden kindly interrupted him and said, "It's OK. Let's let him take a picture." So I have a priceless picture of my family, the six of us, with Vice President Biden.

**What is the biggest lesson you'll take away from the experience of being Wilkes president?**

**Leahy:** The experience has affirmed something I said when I first became the president of Wilkes: In our line of work, it is always best to put students first. One example that comes to mind is when I traveled to the United Nations for the first time in 2017 to speak at the International Council for Small Business's Micro-, Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises Summit. When I was introduced on the floor of the United Nations, a roar went up in the audience from more than 30 students that we brought along to experience an insider's look at the United Nations. It prompted other university presidents who were there to say, "Wow, I didn't know you could bring your own cheering section." Here at Wilkes, our first thought when the invitation arrived for me to speak was to consider how many students we could bring. They said 10, and we brought 30.





## OCTOBER

Gateway to the Future Campaign launched with \$55 million goal.

## JANUARY

Carnegie Classification awards Wilkes doctoral university status.

## MAY

Ground is broken for Bruggeworth Field at Ralston Athletic Complex.



2019

Men's and women's ice hockey become the 22nd and 23rd varsity sports, bringing the total added under Leahy's tenure to 7.



## APRIL

Number of patents awarded through Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship totals 6.

## JUNE

Phases 2 and 3 of the neighborhood enhancement project begins. The project will be completed in August.

## Is there a moment when you were most proud to be the president at Wilkes?

**Leahy:** There are really three. The first is when the campus community gathered to do the ice bucket challenge in honor of our dear friend and colleague, the late Jim Merryman (professor of anthropology). We put the call out to do the ice bucket challenge, which was a pretty popular thing at the time, and I suspected there might be 20 or 30 people, and there were probably 200 who showed up. We filled up the entire front of the library with people dressed in shorts and t-shirts and bathing suits. We all did the ice bucket challenge to raise money for ALS research in honor of our friend Jim Merryman.

The second time was when we gave Mr. (John) Passan an honorary degree and we recognized him at commencement. He was sitting there on the stage and—without any prompting—each nursing student went over to Mr. Passan and thanked him for his support of the school of nursing when they crossed the stage. They did it with such genuine appreciation. Then, a number of non-nursing students stopped

to thank him for his support at Wilkes before they came to me to receive their degrees. As president, I found it very moving to have students who understood how important his support was.

And quite honestly, one of the times I felt really proud to be president was when we had commencement in fall 2018. I remembered that one of our graduates had come all the way from Hawaii to receive her degree. It was the first time she'd ever been on campus because she was a graduate nursing student who earned her degree 100 percent online. So on a whim, I said at commencement, "It dawns on me that some of you in our graduating class are visiting Wilkes University and Wilkes-Barre for the very first time. In order to welcome you more formally, I'd like to ask anyone who is here for the first time in our graduating class to please stand." I was amazed at the number of students who stood—it was half of the class. I turned to (vice president for student affairs) Paul Adams and said, "Now, that's a 21st century university."





# #24atWilkes

Campus Life Captured on Social Media  
for 24 Hours at Wilkes





In the Ballroom of the Henry Student Center, students gather to play bingo—a prelude to Casino Night, one of the year's biggest campus events taking place the next day. Upstairs at Henry's Food Court, others grab food at Late Night, so named in students' unique shorthand to refer to the time from 7:30 to 11 p.m. when they can get a snack to fuel a midnight study session.

Crossing West South Street in front of the student center, a pair of students enters the Fenner Quadrangle. Crossing in front of the John Wilkes statue, one of them turns, raises her phone and snaps a picture of the statue silhouetted against the night sky. Over its shoulder, the brightly lit student center sends out welcoming light through the eyes of all of its windows. The picture becomes one of dozens that students, faculty and staff snap in a 24-hour period and post to social media, capturing campus life.

In the digital age, the story of life at Wilkes University plays out online over and over again every 24 hours. This spring, Wilkes magazine invited the campus community to share their images from 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 14 until 8 p.m. on Friday, March 15. Using the hashtag #24atWilkes as they posted on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter, the University community's photos caught impressions of campus life, from a coffee at Starbucks to baseball practice. Some used it to record their day, hour by hour. Others composed images to reflect on what Wilkes means to them.

On these pages, *Wilkes* magazine shares a sampling of the photos posted to social media during 24 hours at Wilkes.







**Above:** The clock read 10:02 p.m. when criminology major Lindsay Becker snapped this photo of John Wilkes on her walk back to her residence hall following Late Night.

**Below:** Communication studies major Caroline Rickard caught middle level education majors Kyleigh Smeltzer, left, and Kierstin Parricelli, showing their BINGO cards during a Casino Week event.

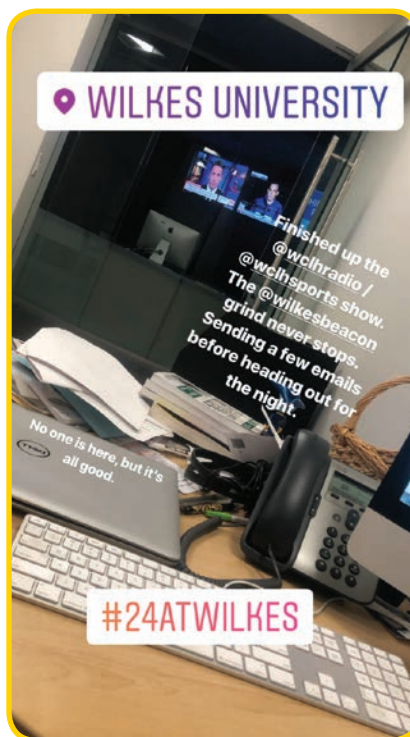


#### From top to bottom:

Communications officer Zach Patterson was answering calls for service on the 3-11 p.m. shift in Public Safety.

The clock on the Campus Gateway strikes midnight in a photo by student photographer Seth Platukis.

Communication studies and sports management major Luke Modrovsky, editor-in-chief of *The Beacon*, shares part of his day through an Instagram story. To the right, Ryan Balliet, a sports management and marketing major, Keeps it Locked at WCLH 90.7 radio.





**Right:** Environmental engineering major Khrista Baran posted this Facebook photo saying she finds balance at Wilkes.

**Below:** A group of students takes full advantage of the new study spaces inside the Mark Engineering Center.



**Above:** Engineering majors Kyle Rosler, left and Dayton Benjamin crunch numbers in the basement of the Farley Library.

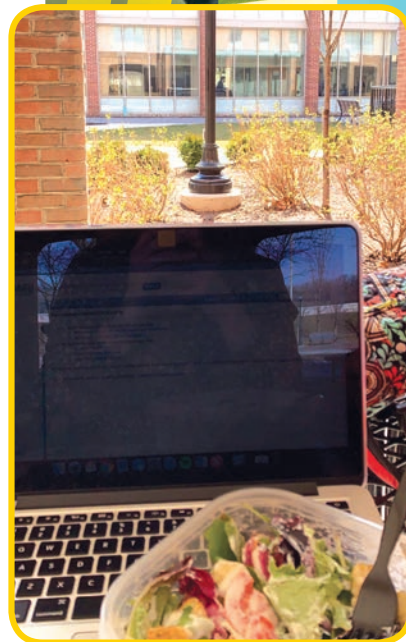
**Left:** Joshua Bradley, political science and international studies major, shares the view from his balcony in Towers.





**Right:** Biology Professor Ken Klemow shared his view of students in his Biology 122 class in Stark Learning Center, room 101.

**Below:** Sophomore catcher and financial investments major Nicholas Malatesta smiles for the camera as he prepares for a game on the Colonels baseball team. Number 24, senior second baseman and accounting major Jack Fischer, is at bat. Baseball photos were shared by communication studies student Kirsten Peters.



**Right, from top:**

Student pharmacist Katelyn Jimison snaps a picture of her lunch and laptop while completing school work looking out on the Fenner Quadrangle.

Communication Studies major Caroline Rickard has a swinging time on a hammock outside of Capin Hall.





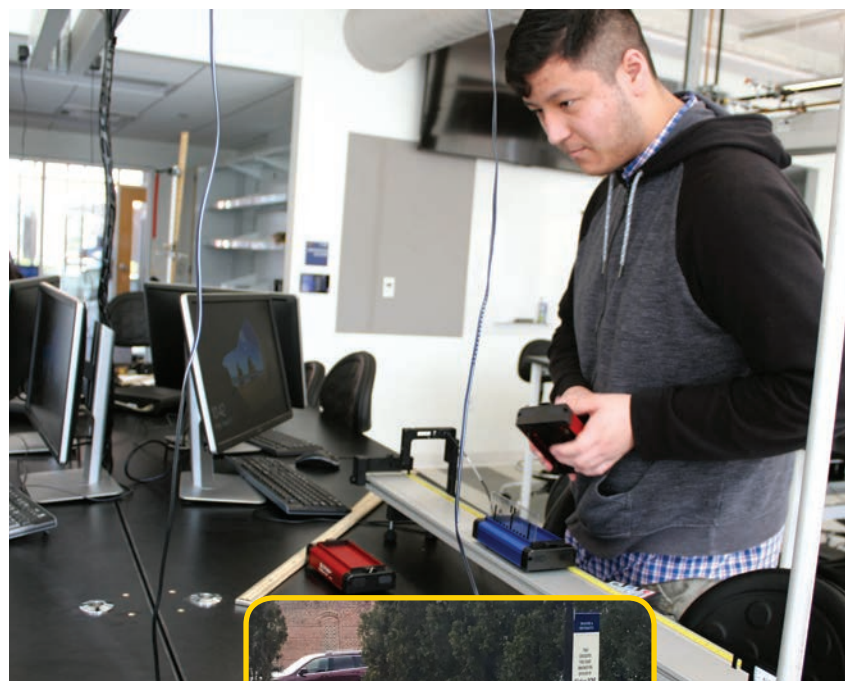


**Clockwise from top right:** Electrical engineering major Kris Smetana sets up labs in the Mark Engineering Center.

Student pharmacist Patrick Speakman leads a campus tour.

The moon shines over campus during the overnight shift with this photo by facilities night supervisor Jim Gabriele.

Wilkes Adventure Education students Seth Hanchett, top row left, and Teddy Marines, top row right, highlight teamwork and fun with local Girl Scouts in Troop 30304. Student Allie Gundlah is second from right in the first row.





# GAME CHANGERS

## Athletics Hall of Fame Inductees Reflect on Their Experience as Student Athletes

Being a student athlete defines the Wilkes experience for generations of University alumni. The 2018 inductees to the Athletics Hall of Fame reflect on their most memorable moments and the lessons learned on the playing field that they've applied to life after Wilkes.



Members of the Wilkes 2018 Athletics Hall of Fame class at the induction ceremony are pictured, from left, Carrie Chipeco Singer '98, Kyle Follweiler '08, Ed Burke '70, Nadine Taylor Prutzman '07, MS '13, Ted Sokolowski '72 and Joe Folek '88.



## Ed Burke '70

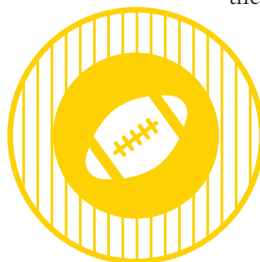
### FOOTBALL

**WHERE HE IS NOW:** Burke resides in Dallas, Pa., and runs a coin and metal detector business. He was a teacher in the Wyoming Valley West school district. He retired after 35 years.

**COLONELS SPORTS CAREER:** During three seasons as an offensive tackle, Burke was part of legendary coach Rollie Schmidt's Golden Horde from 1965-1969 which won 32 straight games capturing three Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) titles. Burke was named Most Valuable Offensive Lineman by the MAC in 1968. He was also selected honorable mention All-American and All-State in 1969. Burke was named to the MAC All-Century Team as well as being inducted in 2013 to the Luzerne County Hall of Fame.

**MOST MEMORABLE WILKES MOMENT:** "My memories from my collegiate days center around Ralston Field and the 32-game win streak we had during those years. The friendships formed during those years last until today."

**HOW ATHLETICS CHANGED HIS LIFE AFTER COLLEGE:** "My experience on those teams allowed me to coach high school football for several years in the Seventies."



## Kyle Follweiler '08

### FOOTBALL

**WHERE HE IS NOW:** Follweiler resides in Germansville, Pa., and is the owner of Kyle's Kars Sales and Service.

**COLONELS SPORTS CAREER:** One of the best tacklers to ever suit up for the Colonels, Follweiler played linebacker for four seasons. He was a four-time First Team All-Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) honoree, while also earning Rookie of the Year honors in 2004. Follweiler was named MAC Defensive Player of the Year three times, racking up more than 400 tackles over his career. Follweiler's accolades continued on the regional and national level as he was named All-Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) four times as well as Rookie of the Year in 2004 and Player of the Year in 2006. Follweiler also excelled on the baseball diamond. He was named All-Freedom three times while standing second all-time in runs scored with 143, sixth in at-bats with 470, second in hits at 185, fifth in doubles with 35, fifth in home runs with 22 and sixth in RBI's with 123.

**MOST MEMORABLE WILKES MOMENT:** "Winning the MAC title in football and baseball in 2006 and 2007."

**HOW ATHLETICS CHANGED HIS LIFE AFTER COLLEGE:** "Athletics gives you structure and discipline that isn't duplicated in other hobbies and ventures. It helps you set goals and work to progress towards achievements."

## Joe Folek '88

### BASEBALL

**WHERE HE IS NOW:** Folek resides in Swoyersville, Pa.

**WHAT HE DOES NOW:** Folek teaches special education at Meyers High School in Wilkes-Barre.

**COLONELS SPORTS CAREER:** A four-year letter winner as a student, Folek enjoyed a highly successful career coaching the Colonels baseball team, accumulating 338 wins and finishing as the all-time winningest coach of the program. He began as an assistant coach with Wilkes in 1994 where he helped lead the squad to the Middle Atlantic Conference championship. In 1996 Folek took over as head coach where his teams recorded more than 20 wins in 10 of his 17 years at the helm. In 2007 the Colonels captured the Freedom Conference championship going 24-12, earning the school's second-ever NCAA Tournament appearance. Two years later Folek led the squad to a school-record 29 wins and a Freedom Conference and ECAC Southern Region postseason berth.

**MOST MEMORABLE WILKES MOMENT:** "Being fortunate enough to play baseball at Wilkes for Coach Duliba and Coach Bavitz, and then having them give me my start in the coaching profession by asking me to join the Colonel staff. This led to being able to team up with Coaches Bavitz, Youngblood and Klinetob and accept the head coaching position which got our brand of "old-fashioned hard-nosed baseball" off and running. Right along with this would be my Dad (Walter), a former Colonel himself, taking me to my first alumni game at Artillery Park as a kid in the early 1970s."

**HOW ATHLETICS CHANGED HIS LIFE AFTER COLLEGE:** "I met some of the greatest, most dedicated and loyal people I have ever met in my life. My teammates, coaches, and especially my players have had a major impact on my life and continue to do so today and in the future."



## Nadine Taylor Prutzman '07, MS '13

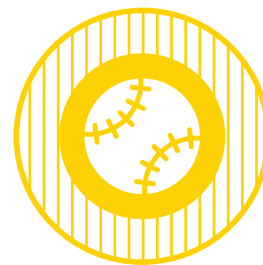
### SOFTBALL

**WHERE SHE IS NOW:** Prutzman currently resides in Archbald, Pa. She is a special education teacher at the Western Wayne Middle School.

**Colonels sports career:** Prutzman helped lead the Colonels to 83 wins and the 2006 Freedom Conference championship and NCAA tournament. She was named All-Freedom Conference three times including Player of the Year as a junior in 2005. She also was named First Team All-ECAC South, First Team All-Region and Second Team All-American in the same season. Taylor was also recognized on the Middle Atlantic Conference All-Century Team in 2013. She ranks seventh in runs scored with 79, seventh in hits with 131, eighth in doubles with 25, third in triples with 8 and fifth in stolen bases with 38, all while playing in the Colonels outfield.

**MOST MEMORABLE WILKES MOMENT:** “My favorite memory at Wilkes University would have to be meeting my future husband in Evans Hall. We both lived on the fourth floor. He was a sophomore and I was a freshman. We will be celebrating 9 years of marriage in November 2019. We welcomed a son, Talon, in November 2013 and a daughter, Taylor, in June 2016.”

**HOW ATHLETICS CHANGED HER LIFE AFTER COLLEGE:** “Athletics impacted my life after college in many ways. My success as a student athlete at Wilkes only made me a stronger individual in confidence and in determination. Being an athlete means you practice to make it perfect and that is exactly what I put into my everyday teaching style with my students, as well as to my two children. Learn from your mistakes and work hard every day.”



## Ted Sokolowski '72

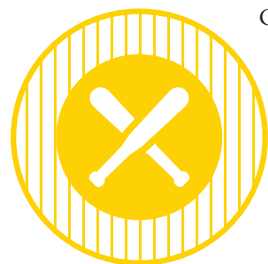
### BASEBALL

**WHERE HE IS NOW:** Sokolowski resides in Nanticoke, Pa. He retired from Nanticoke Area school district, where he taught for 38 years in the elementary school.

**COLONELS SPORTS CAREER:** One of four pitchers in Colonels history to reach 20 wins, Sokolowski earned Middle-Atlantic Conference (MAC) Most Valuable Player honors in 1972. He finished his career with a 21-7 overall record on the mound standing ninth all-time in winning percentage (.750) and second in wins. Sokolowski made his mark throughout the Colonel pitching record book, standing second in innings pitched with 227, third in games started with 32, fifth in complete games with 16 and eighth with an earned-run average of 2.26.

**MOST MEMORABLE WILKES MOMENT:** “Playing baseball, we won a championship and intramural basketball. I had some good friends.”

**HOW ATHLETICS CHANGED HIS LIFE AFTER COLLEGE:** “I played a lot of baseball, basketball and hardball after (college)—it was a big part of my life until I couldn’t do it anymore.”



## Carrie Chipego Singer '98

### FIELD HOCKEY

**WHERE SHE IS NOW:** Singer resides in Forty Fort, Pa., and is a chemist for the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority.

**COLONELS SPORTS CAREER:** Singer was an integral part of a Colonels field hockey program that won three straight Freedom League championships, two ECAC Mid-Atlantic Championships and made one NCAA tournament appearance. Her finest year came as a junior where she led the team with 35 points on 14 goals and seven assists earning Most Valuable Player honors at the ECAC Championship. Singer was a two-time First Team All-Freedom League selection in both her junior and senior seasons and earned National Field Hockey Coaches Association All-American honors as a senior in 1997. For her career Singer finished with 79 points on 31 goals and 17 assists.

**MOST MEMORABLE WILKES MOMENT:** “I loved going to away games and driving in the van with everyone. We always had such a great time singing songs on the radio and sometimes getting lost along the way to the game.”

**HOW ATHLETICS CHANGED HER LIFE AFTER COLLEGE:** “I really loved the game so much, I ended up teaching seventh and eighth grade field hockey for Wyoming Valley West for ten years. I had so many girls! A few went on to play collegiate sports.”





## 1994 Baseball Team

The 1994 Wilkes baseball team captured the MAC Championship after beating nationally ranked Elizabethtown College in a best-of-three series earning a berth in the ECAC Southern Region Championship Tournament. Wilkes took game one 9-1 and then claimed the title in game three with a 6-5 victory.

The Colonels finished the season 19-14 under head coach Bob Duliba and assistant coaches Jerry Bavitz and Joe Folek. Five different players earned all-conference honors led by conference Most Valuable Player Bill Noone and his seven wins and 1.60 earned-run average. Duliba was also named conference Coach of the Year.

Team members include: Chris Carver, Geoff Little, B.J. Mushinsky, Keith Adamski, Dave Meyers, Bill Blanck, Chris Tyukody, Bob Klinetob, Mike Wassel, Tony DeCesare, Dave Macedo, Grant Yoder, Aaron Stoker, Rob Michaels, Steve Klem, J.J. Grube, Dave Kelly, Kevin Gryboski, Steve Endres, Chris Tobias, Clarence Baltrusaitis, Dave Kaschak, Joe Balay, Robert Horensky, Mark Youngblood, Bill Noone, Ryan Flynn, and Tom Whille.



Members of the 1994 baseball team gathered for a team photo at the Athletics Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

The following alumni are representing the 1994 baseball team for this story:

### Steve Klem '94, MS '08

**WHERE HE IS NOW:** Klem resides in Kingston, Pa., with his wife Lauren and two sons, Trevor and Jesse. He is a teacher at Wyoming Valley West High School where he teaches Advanced Placement psychology and American law.

**MOST MEMORABLE WILKES MOMENT:**

"There are three memories I will never forget. [These include] the Saturday afternoon when we won the 1994 MAC Baseball Championship, playing baseball in Florida to start our season and my student-teaching experience which encompasses working with the many talented faculty members within the education and content area of my teaching certificate."

**HOW ATHLETICS CHANGED HIS LIFE**

**AFTER COLLEGE:** "The lessons that were taught by the coaching staff at Wilkes have shaped my ability to work as a team member and never feel that what other people call impossible is impossible."

### Bill Noone '95

**WHERE HE IS NOW:** Noone resides in Exeter, Pa., and is the director of product management with Prudential Retirement.

**MOST MEMORABLE WILKES MOMENT:**

"Winning the 1994 Middle Atlantic Conference Championship. Also meeting my wife Tammy Swartwood '96."

**HOW ATHLETICS CHANGED HIS LIFE**

**AFTER COLLEGE:** "Athletics at Wilkes has made a significant and positive impact on

my life over the years after graduation. From the friendships I have maintained with teammates, coaches and many other Wilkes athletes, to the experiences and lessons from the coaches, I am now able to leverage that in my own coaching at the youth sports level."

### David Kaschak '94

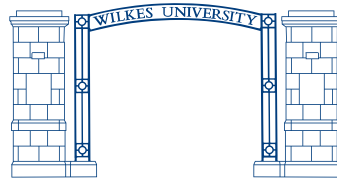
**WHERE HE IS NOW:** Kaschak resides in Sewell, N.J., where he is a sales executive for Aetna.

**MOST MEMORABLE WILKES**

**MOMENT:** "Winning the 1994 MAC Championship."

**HOW ATHLETICS CHANGED HIS LIFE**

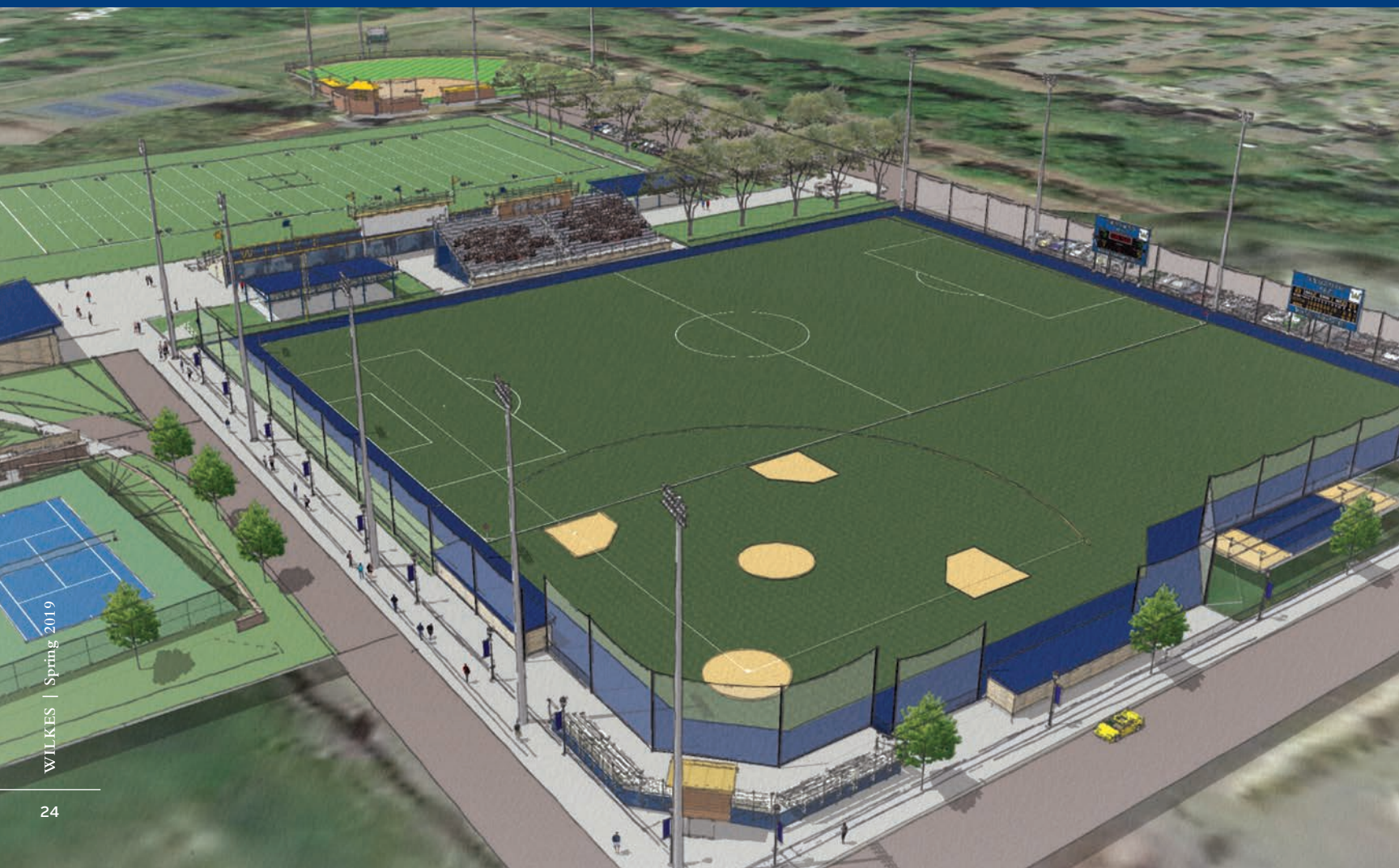
**AFTER COLLEGE:** "Athletics taught me how to deal with different personalities and work towards a common goal."



# Gateway *to the* Future

CAMPAIGN

## Ralston Athletic Complex Project Will Enhance Experience of Student Athletes





## The Gateway to the Future Campaign continues its goal of enhancing Wilkes University “brick by brick” with a project launching this summer at the Ralston Athletic Complex.

A multi-use field is planned that will transform the experience of student athletes with improved playing fields that will allow better scheduling of games and practices. It also will provide playing surfaces that will be better able to withstand the kind of weather that often accompanies a soggy spring in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Bruggeworth Field at the Ralston Athletic Complex, made possible by an initial leadership gift of \$1 million from Wilkes alumnus Robert Bruggeworth '83, will include a baseball field and a second, multi-purpose turf field that will be used by five sports: men's and women's soccer, men's and women's lacrosse and field hockey. The Gateway to the Future Campaign seeks to raise an additional \$1 million for this project as part of its overall campaign goal. Gifts of all sizes are being sought to support the project. Naming opportunities are available for press boxes, scoreboard, spectator areas and a pedestrian gateway to Schmidt Stadium.

The new facilities will provide a competitive advantage for the teams using the fields. The Colonels baseball team will be able to play outside earlier in the season. Other teams playing on the multi-purpose field will no longer be dealing with practice and game cancellations because bad weather has rendered a field unplayable. The artificial turf and improved drainage will mean that student athletes can still compete there.

The more than 500 student athletes playing in the University's 23 varsity sports teams as well as the many who participate in intramurals benefit directly and indirectly from this planned project. With the addition of Bruggeworth Field, more teams can simultaneously be practicing or competing at the new facility and in the existing space in Schmidt Stadium. Scheduling problems—often a challenge for student athletes—will be greatly eased by the availability of expanded facilities.

The Bruggeworth Field project is the beginning of phased improvements to the Ralston Athletic complex that will continue over the next decade.

For more information about supporting the Gateway to the Future Campaign and its goals for the Ralston Athletic Complex, please contact Margaret Steele, chief development officer, at [margaret.steele@wilkes.edu](mailto:margaret.steele@wilkes.edu) or 570-408-4302.



Opposite page: An artist's rendering shows Bruggeworth Field at the Ralston Athletic Complex. It will include a baseball field and a multi-purpose field that will be used by five sports.

This page from top: A new baseball field will replace the current one at Artillery Park. Center, men's and women's soccer will be among the sports playing on the new multi-purpose field. Bottom, a rendering shows the proposed pedestrian gateway leading to Schmidt Stadium.



### Naming Opportunities at Bruggeworth Field

Gifts of all sizes are welcome to support the Ralston Athletic Complex project. The following are among the available naming opportunities:

- Baseball press box
- Multi-use field press box
- Scoreboard
- Two spectator areas
- Pedestrian Gateway to Schmidt Stadium

# Ruth McDermott-Levy '82 Studies Health Care for a Changing Planet

By Koren Wetmore



Ruth McDermott-Levy '82's research on health care and the environment often takes her outdoors. She is pictured on the Belmont Plateau near Philadelphia, not far from where she teaches at Villanova University. PHOTO BY DAN Z. JOHNSON

Ruth McDermott-Levy '82 arrived in Finland in summer 2018 during the third heatwave in what would become the nation's hottest year on record. Finland's average temperatures have already risen 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial temperatures—exceeding the 1.5 degree Celsius maximum set by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and double that of the rest of the globe.

It was an auspicious start for a scholar who came to discuss the impacts of climate change on patient health.

She soon discovered her subject was new to many nurses in Finland.

“That was surprising, because Finland is way ahead of us on living sustainably,”

she says. “Once nurses started talking about environmental health and our changing climate, however, they could see its relationship to their patients and they wanted to learn more.”

While others debate the reality of climate change, McDermott-Levy, associate professor and director of the Center for Global Public Health at Villanova University, is training nurses to discern and address its effects on patients.



“In Oman,  
the oil fields  
are far from  
where people  
live, so there  
are only  
occupational  
exposures.  
Here, fracking  
occurs in a  
community’s  
backyard.”

## Sewing Seeds Early

Early on McDermott-Levy had a passion for the outdoors and an interest in people. When the first Earth Day launched in 1970, she saved all her “nickels and pennies” and bought seedlings for everyone she knew. The experience sparked a curiosity about the connection between people and their environment. Yet she didn’t see how to translate that into a health career.

Her first clue came while studying nursing at Wilkes.

“I took care of people who had black lung disease from working in the mines, and saw patients with health problems related to air quality in their neighborhoods.”

More clues arrived after graduation, when she worked in hospital and home health-care settings. There she saw how environmental exposures contributed to heart and respiratory diseases.

But it wasn’t until her graduate work that things really started to gel. Between earning her master’s degree in nursing in 1996 and her doctorate in 2008, both from Villanova University, McDermott-Levy participated in multiple trips abroad as a Villanova faculty member. She guided students in service projects in Peru and Nicaragua, where she witnessed the impact of poverty and geography on health-care access. There were places where, if you needed care, you had to “walk two or more days” to get to services.

She also spent six years serving as academic advisor to Omani nurses studying at Villanova and as an external reviewer for the University of Niswa. The work involved trips to Oman, and led to a visit to the Islamic sultanate and the Omani oil fields.

It was an experience that proved informative when fracking for oil production began in Pennsylvania. “In Oman, the oil fields are far from where people live, so there are only occupational exposures. Here, fracking occurs in a community’s backyard,” she says.

## Finding Her Focus

She returned to school in 2013 to pursue her master’s degree in public health, with an emphasis on environmental and global health. As part of her studies, she examined the effects of fracking on the people in northeastern Pennsylvania. She also became the co-chair of the Pennsylvania State Nursing Association’s environmental health committee.

“The health impacts of fracking are awful. As committee co-chair, I had to address those issues. The more I studied fracking and the impact of fossil fuels, it naturally led to the climate change piece.”

Now the activist-scholar uses every tool at her command to educate and equip the next generation of nurses to address the health impacts of climate change.

She co-edited an open-access ebook, “Environmental Health in Nursing,” published by the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments (ANHE). She serves as co-chair of the ANHE Education Workgroup and a member of its fracking and climate change workgroups.

She lectures nationwide, writes articles—she’s currently working on a piece about climate change impacts on older adults with former Wilkes Professor Anne Marie Kolanowski—and continues to do research here and abroad.

Her recent trip to Finland was funded by a 2018 Fulbright-Saastamoinen Foundation Health and Environmental Sciences Award. Her work there included teaching and research related to the impacts of climate change on human health. Her study results will inform the creation of future nursing curricula, including an online course for students at Villanova and the University of Eastern Finland.

Like the seedlings shared in childhood, McDermott-Levy’s efforts carry a promise for the future. “This younger generation thinks differently than we do. My job is to give them the foundation and skills to look critically at the science, and then step out of their way,” she says. “We haven’t found the solutions to these complex problems that affect human health yet. I’m trusting they will.”



## SAVE THE DATE FOR THE RALSTON MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

The Second Annual Ralston Memorial Tournament to benefit athletics at Wilkes University will be held on Monday, Sept. 9, 2019, at the Wyoming Valley Country Club in Wilkes-Barre. For more information, contact Margaret Steele, chief development officer, at [margaret.steele@wilkes.edu](mailto:margaret.steele@wilkes.edu) or 570-408-4302.

## Alumni Association Open Board Meeting

Are you interested in learning more about the Alumni Association? Participate in our open meeting on Friday, May 31, 2019, at 1 p.m. Whether you join us on campus or call in to the meeting, you'll get a firsthand look at how our board of directors works with campus partners to provide programs for the alumni community. At the meeting, we'll review our goals and discuss future opportunities for the upcoming fiscal year. If you are interested in participating, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at [alumni@wilkes.edu](mailto:alumni@wilkes.edu) or 570-408-7787.

## Email Information

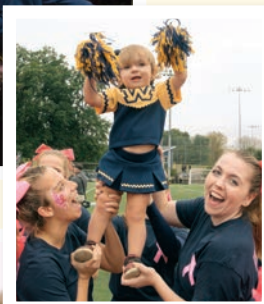
As a benefit of being a member of the Wilkes Alumni Association, we offer an email address for life. In the coming months, we will be transitioning active alumni email accounts which currently end in @wilkes.edu to end in @wilkesalumni.com. If you currently use your @wilkes.edu email address and would like to continue to have an email account hosted by Wilkes, please watch your @wilkes.edu inbox for more instructions on this process in the future. For any questions, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at [alumni@wilkes.edu](mailto:alumni@wilkes.edu) or 570-408-7787.

## Contribute to Wilkes, Support its National Ranking

By contributing to Wilkes University as an alumnus, you can do more good than you may realize. The number of contributions made to Wilkes are considered in awarding national rankings. If alumni collectively participate, no matter the size of the gift, you can make a big difference in Wilkes University's national ranking. For more information about the many ways your contributions can be put to use at Wilkes, contact Margaret Steele, chief development officer at [margaret.steele@wilkes.edu](mailto:margaret.steele@wilkes.edu) or 570-408-4302.

## Save the date for HOMECOMING 2019 October 4-6!

Class years ending in 4s and 9s,  
get ready for your class reunion!  
[www.wilkes.edu/homecoming](http://www.wilkes.edu/homecoming)





## Lab Dedication at Homecoming 2019 Will Honor the Legacy of Umid R. Nejib

The late Umid R. Nejib left a lasting legacy at Wilkes as the man who created the University's engineering department and the program's four-year curriculum. Now that legacy will be celebrated at Homecoming 2019 when a lab will be dedicated in the Stark Learning Center to forever commemorate his impact at Wilkes.

"He truly was one of those people who bled blue and gold," says Barbara King '80, Nejib's wife who worked at the University for 35 years and retired as associate dean of student affairs. "He just loved the place."

Alumni, faculty and students who knew him return that affection, frequently affirming, "Wilkes University is better because he was here."

Nejib, the founding dean of the School of Science and Engineering and professor of electrical engineering, joined Wilkes in 1965 and died in July 2002. He was originally hired temporarily to develop the engineering program and stayed for 37 years. Later in his career, he took on a new challenge to lay the groundwork for the establishment of the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy.

King said that teaching was his true passion and he was always proud of his students. He was committed to the type of education that Wilkes provides, which incorporates technical skills with a liberal arts education.

"He was so passionate about engineers who were educated in the liberal arts tradition," King says. "He came from a



Umid R. Nejib

background where he had all of the advantages of liberal arts learning, so that was very important to him."

Because Nejib also came from a background where women were very influential, educated and successful, it was a point of pride for him to have both men and women in engineering from the start of the program.

"Even from the very first class of engineering graduates, in 1973, he was always proud that there were women in the class," recalls King.

Walter Placek '61 joined Wilkes as a faculty member around the same time that Nejib arrived at the University. The two were colleagues who became friends and worked together for more than 30 years.

"He enjoyed doing all that he did," recalls Placek. "When he was teaching, it was obvious that he enjoyed teaching. When he was chairing a meeting, he liked that too."

Placek says that Nejib held various positions at Wilkes, but he specifically remembers how his late colleague respected and supported his fellow faculty members in his role as chair of the engineering department. "When he asked you to do something, he would provide you with the resources to follow through."

King says that because Nejib was a modest man, he did not expect recognition for his work. She says that he would be surprised to have a lab named after him but it is an honor nonetheless.

Placek agrees, saying that naming the lab is appropriate recognition, but Nejib cared more about the success of the school.

"He wanted to do a good job," says Placek. "He would prefer the degree, the program, the building, and the facility, to be successful. That, to him, would mean more than having a lab named after him."



**JOIN US AT HOMECOMING 2019** as we celebrate and honor Dr. Umid Nejib's legacy at Wilkes by dedicating the Engineering Flex-Lab in the Mark Engineering Center, located on the first floor of the Stark Learning Center.

A donor plaque will be placed in the engineering lab recognizing individuals who contribute in honor of Dr. Nejib. For more information about making a gift in his honor, please contact Margaret Steele, chief development officer at [margaret.steele@wilkes.edu](mailto:margaret.steele@wilkes.edu) or call 570-408-4302.

## Mark Hunter 'o6's Research Career Takes Him to Stanford's SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory

Ask Mark Hunter 'o6 what he does as a staff scientist at the Linac Coherent Light Source at SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory at Stanford University, and you feel like you've taken a step into a scientific future that's still evolving. The work at the lab centers on X-ray lasers that can help scientists better understand how chemical reactions occur, uncover the 3-D molecular structure of an enzyme that transmits African sleeping sickness, and study microscopic components of air pollution at the nanoscale. And that's just a few examples.

Hunter's primary role at the Menlo Park, Calif., facility is helping external scientists use the LCLS for biomedical science experiments. He also is continuing his own research into novel ways of doing structural biology at the LCLS.

Since its founding in 1962, the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, maintained by the U.S. Department of Energy, has supported ground-breaking research that led to three Nobel Prizes in physics and the 2006 Nobel Prize in chemistry. For Hunter, a Wilkes chemistry graduate who earned a doctorate in chemistry in 2011 from Arizona State University, his current role started with his doctoral dissertation related to protein crystallography using X-rays, a technique used for determining the atomic and molecular structure of the molecules comprising a crystal by means of X-ray diffraction. Hunter's research focused on X-ray lasers found at the lab where he now works.

"Much of our knowledge about the chemical structure of matter has ultimately been derived from crystallography, in which you grow a three-dimensionally ordered agglomerate of a sample—similar to a crystal of table salt—and then probe it using X-rays or electrons," Hunter explains.

However, traditional X-rays can damage the samples. Enter the X-ray laser technology available at the Linac Coherent Light Source and the research that was the basis of his dissertation.

"The new X-ray lasers seek to avoid this damage by having pulses so short that the material doesn't have time to respond to the X-rays before you collect all the necessary information—damage-free data collection," Hunter continues. "And what the large team that I was part of showed was that, yes, you can use these techniques at X-ray lasers and avoid the damage caused by traditional X-ray sources."



Mark Hunter 'o6 pauses outside the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory where he is a staff scientist at the Linac Coherent Light Source. PHOTO COURTESY MARK HUNTER

Hunter's career path included time as a research associate—a postdoctoral appointment—at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and then at LCLS at the Coherent X-ray Imaging beamline, where he had conducted most of his experiments as a graduate student. Promotions to associate staff scientist and staff scientist followed.

"I had a great experience at Wilkes and due to the caliber of professors and mentors I had, I grew much more as a person than can be understood through grades for courses alone," Hunter states. "The research opportunities at Wilkes definitely helped my resume, and the ability to start research at an early stage in the undergraduate degree is very important."

He cites Wilkes chemistry faculty Donald Mencer and Amy Bradley and math professor John Harrison as incredibly important mentors. He says Henry Castejon, now chair of the mechanical engineering department, provided him with "tough love."

"Dr. Castejon always made sure to let me know when I wasn't performing up to my potential, and that perspective has helped me greatly once I left Wilkes and ventured forth along my career," Hunter says.

– By Vicki Mayk MFA '13



## Undergraduate

### 1960

**Bruce Miles** of Stamford, Conn., **Jerome Pauley** of Shickshinny, Pa., and **Robert Martin '61** of Wall Twp., N.J., along with their classmates, the late **Larry Choper** and **Boyd Hoats**, were members of a popular singing group in the late 1950s called the Crewnecks. On Oct. 30, 2018, the CBS television show "NCIS" featured their song "Rockin' Zombie," which they recorded in 1959. The group sang extensively at college functions during that time.

### 1969

**REUNION: OCT. 4-6**

**George Pawlusch MS '76** of Cheshire, Conn., was inducted into the Connecticut American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame in January 2019. He served as Connecticut state baseball chairman and tournament director from 1999 to 2005.

### 1970

**Caleb McKenzie** of Hoboken, N.J., was reelected to a second term as the 92nd president of the Illuminating Engineering Society of New York City. McKenzie and his brother, Jeff, sponsor the Beryl and Cromwell E. Thomas Engineering Scholarship at Wilkes. He is also co-chair of the Richard Kelly Grant and the chair of the Illuminating Engineering Society of New York City Merit Scholarship. McKenzie

is a principal at US Lighting Consultants, an international lighting consultancy based in New York City.

### 1977

**Jim Burnett** and **Deborah Hynoski Burnett** of Derwood, Md., celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on Sept. 2, 2018, with a trip to the Galapagos Islands. They were accompanied by their son, Tony, who recently earned his doctorate in molecular biology at Duke University. Jim is employed as a senior principal systems engineer at the MITRE Corp. in McLean, Va. Debbie recently retired from her position as an editor with the American Geological Institute to devote her time to writing a book based on her father's letters to her mother during World War II.



**1962**

**Florence (Billings) Finn** of Dallas, Pa., was inducted into The Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame in August 2018. She taught in the Lake Lehman School District and coached basketball, junior high field hockey and softball. Finn has been retired for 22 years.

### 1978

**Doreen Wickiser Dzoba MS '00** of Orlando, Fla., retired from teaching after 36 years. She taught at St. Jude School in Mountain Top, Pa. for 28 years. Her last 8 years of teaching were in Orange County, Fla. She lives in Florida with her husband, Tom Dzoba.



**1975**

**Thomas Pezzicara** of Holland, Pa., welcomed his first grandson, Enzo Christopher Pezzicara, on Oct. 12, 2018.

**Alan France** and **Sheree (Kessler) France '79** of Center Valley, Pa., are celebrating their 39th wedding anniversary. They have also



**1977**

**Linda Abbey '77** of New York, N.Y., and **Nicholas Adler '00** of Bloomfield, N.J., recently worked on "Goalkeepers" for the Bill Gates Foundation. The event brings together leaders from around the world to accelerate progress toward ending poverty and fighting inequality. Adler is an associate house manager at Frederick P. Rose Hall in New York City. Abbey is the vice president at Great Performances in New York City.



**1980**

Recently, several 1980 graduates met to remember their days at Warner, Gore and Slocum halls. Pictured from left to right: **Steve Pavlick '81**, **Joe Ferrara**, **David Arrigoni '80**, **Richy Maurer '82**, **Nick Gard '80**, **John Haffner '80**, **Craig Jackson '80**. Missing from the photo are: **Peter Pagano '79**, **Ken Lesniak '80**, **Bill Manley** and **Jack Manley**.



1985

**Donna (O'Toole) Sedor** of Larksville, Pa., was named executive director of The Arc of Luzerne County, the leading agency fighting for the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She previously was the director of development for the Women's Resource Center of Scranton.

welcomed a grandson, Alan Bird. Alan France is the president of France, Anderson, Basile and Company P.C., a CPA firm in the Lehigh Valley, and was recently elected as president of the Lehigh County Historical Society. Sheree retired from teaching in 2015.

1980

**Shepard Willner** of Arlington, Va., retired from the federal government on Sept. 28, 2018, after 35 years of federal service.

1986

**Paul Cummings** of Cohoes, N.Y., co-authored the article "A solvable conjugacy problem for finitely presented semigroups satisfying  $C(2)$  and  $T(4)$ " appearing in the April issue of the mathematics journal *Semigroup Forum*.



2005

**Brian and Katherine (Green) Fischer** of Factoryville, Pa., welcomed twins on Aug. 23, 2018. Lucas and Reid Fischer were welcomed home by big brothers Jack and Everett and big sister, Lia.

1988

**John Coble** of Reading, Pa., was appointed as a new commissioner by the Middle States Association Commission on Elementary and Secondary Schools.

Coble is a middle school English teacher at St. Francis Academy, Philadelphia.

1995

**Alexandria Marchel** of Sandy, Utah, opened Primrose

Clothiers, a high-end consignment shop near Salt Lake City, Utah.

1996

**William Boyer, M.D.**, of Allentown, Pa., was appointed chief academic officer/designated institutional official at Hahnemann University Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa.

1997

**Shawn Harden** of Semora, N.C., has been promoted to senior associate at Dewberry, a professional services firm.

2000

**Nicholas Adler** – see 1977

2008

**Christopher Mayerski** MBA '10 of Springfield, Pa., became the director of graduate admissions at Wilkes University on Nov. 12, 2018.



2011

**Britney Hazleton** of Dallas, Pa., and her husband, Michael, welcomed their first child, Madelyn Elizabeth Hazleton, on April 15, 2018.



2011

**Jacqueline Lukas** of Courtdale, Pa., married Kevin Eovitch on Nov. 3, 2018.



2012

**Nicole Kaufman** of Scranton, Pa., and her husband, Mark, welcomed baby boy Robert Joseph Kaufman to their family on Sept. 20, 2018.



## Jenna Strzelecki '07, MBA '09 Becomes Business Owner with CrossFit Anthracite

When most people wake up for work, Jenna Strzelecki '07 MBA '09 has already opened up her gym, CrossFit Anthracite, taught a class and got coffee for the other coaches at the gym. Then she is off to her day job at Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine. Later, when her colleagues are calling it a day after eight hours at the office, she is back coaching and encouraging gym members.

Strzelecki's full-time job is working for Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine in Scranton as the director of curriculum development and assessment. For the past ten years, she has been responsible for managing and providing oversight for all aspects of the medical school curriculum. She added a second job in 2013 when she became part owner of what was DK Cross.

"After two years of getting my MBA at Wilkes and being busy, owning a business in addition to a demanding day job seemed like a piece of cake," she laughs. "Owning a business was always a dream of mine. Being your own boss is something I think a lot of people dream of but they are afraid the risk will outweigh the reward. Opening the gym with a business partner at first eased some of those risks, which was a great start to jumping into the world of business ownership."

In February 2018, she bought out her partner and reopened the gym under the name CrossFit Anthracite as the sole owner.

Her passion and dedication to succeed along with her business knowledge allowed Strzelecki to continue fulfilling her goal of bettering people's lives through health and fitness. At the gym, she is also the head coach. She earned her Level 1 CrossFit Certification in 2012 as well as her Level 2 and Kids CrossFit certifications, allowing her to lead members and fellow coaches.



"I loved being able to impact people's lives in a healthy and positive way," says Strzelecki, who earned her bachelor's degree in business with a marketing concentration. "The gym is not necessarily my passion, but helping people realize their potential is my passion. I share my love for CrossFit and the gym with people to help them better themselves."

Maintaining a routine and intricate schedule helps her to balance her two jobs. Strzelecki credits her MBA from Wilkes for the confidence, knowledge and skills needed in making important financial business decisions and "ensuring the everyday operations of the business were handled professionally and to highest standards possible."

"My MBA at Wilkes taught me to understand what it takes to make a mark in the ever-changing world of owning and operating a business," she explains.

She knows her schedule is hectic but she is confident in her abilities to handle anything thrown her way.

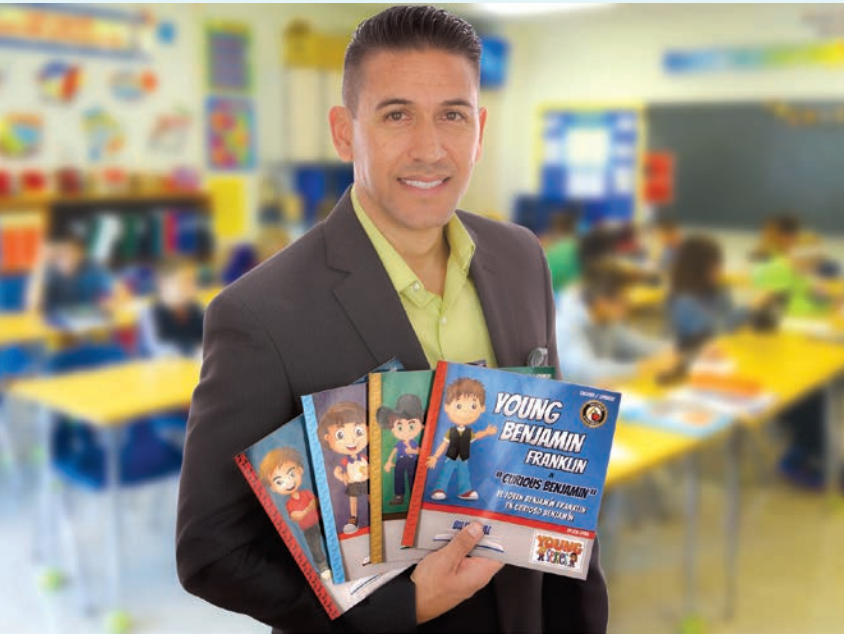
"If you want something badly enough you make time for it. You make time for what matters in your life no matter how hectic your days become and how late your nights go," she says. "I am fortunate to work with two great teams that allow me to easily navigate both jobs."

– By Samantha Stanich MA'18

**"...Helping people realize their potential is my passion. I share my love for CrossFit and the gym with people to help them better themselves."**

– Jenna Strzelecki '07, MBA '09

# Levi Leyba MBA '16 Creates Bilingual Books for Children



Levi Leyba MBA '16 became inspired after writing a research paper in one of his Wilkes MBA classes on childhood literacy and its relationship to educational and economic success. Once he completed his degree, the Mesa, Ariz., native took that inspiration and created a publishing business, writing and illustrating bilingual children's books. Part of that plan was to donate books to students in need.

With guidance from his Wilkes mentor, retired business professor Anthony Liuzzo, he set forward. "Dr. Liuzzo helped me with my final research paper setting up the guidelines that I

should follow to properly research the topic of early childhood literacy. Without his experience and knowledge, I'm not certain that the type of research I made myself do would have resulted in publishing bilingual children's books," Leyba says.

The books, now known as the "Young Series," are helping Leyba connect with Spanish and English language learners and low-income communities to make a difference in children's lives.

"The 'Young Series' are bilingual children's books that promote childhood literacy and parental involvement," Leyba explains. Right now, titles include stories about young Susan B. Anthony, John. D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie, Abraham Lincoln and Benjamin Franklin.

"The stories introduce each character, announce a problem or situation that each character must overcome, and close with a resolution to the earlier mentioned obstacle," he adds. With the Amazon sale of each "Young Series" book, Leyba donates a book to a child in a low-income community.

"In 2012 I started a 501(c)3 non-profit called Guardian Angel Council," Leyba says. "Through my charity, I have partnered with Title I elementary schools that help with the distribution of books to those who need them the most....with every book purchased, one will be donated. I do this with Guardian Angel Council and its Book for Book program."

A Title 1 elementary school has large concentrations of low-income students and receives additional funding to assist in meeting educational goals for students. Though his target age group is preschool through sixth grade, Leyba explains that there is value in adults reading the series, too.

"Through my research, I learned that when someone wants to learn the English language, the first thing they do is check out children's books from the local library," he says. "So, in reality, any age-group can benefit from these bilingual books if they are interested in learning English and Spanish."

Leyba also serves as an adjunct faculty member in business at Mesa

Community College and on the board for A New Leaf, a 46-year-old community nonprofit organization, providing a broad spectrum of support services to help individuals and families in crisis.

– By Sarah Bedford '17, MA '19

**"The 'Young Series' are bilingual children's books that promote childhood literacy and parental involvement."**

– Levi Leyba MBA '16





2013

**Dustin Hough** of Chambersburg, Pa., and **Lauren Wood** of Kingston, Pa. married on Sept. 13, 2018 at Sand Springs in Drums, Pa.



2013

**Jessica Short** of Scranton, Pa., and **Nadine Taylor Prutzman '07 MS '13** of Scranton, Pa., ran into each other on Future Day at Western Wayne School District. Short works at Western Wayne School District and is the cheerleading coach at Wilkes University. Prutzman is a special education teacher at Robert D. Wilson Elementary School and a member of the Wilkes Athletics Hall of Fame.



2018

**Madison Scarfaro** of Whitehall, Pa., recently graduated from Wilkes and has become a field staff member for the Marsy's Law for Pennsylvania team. Marsy's Law would ensure that victims of crime have the same co-equal rights as those who were accused or convicted. The law has been passed unanimously by Pennsylvania's Senate and House. The law must be approved by the voters of Pennsylvania in a ballot referendum before it can be added into the constitution.

2012

**Mary Siejak** of Hanover Twp., Pa., was honored as a 2019 Distinctive Woman by the *Times Leader* in Wilkes-Barre. Siejak is an individualized instruction teacher at Good Shepherd Academy and a ballet instructor at the Degnan Ballet Center at the Conservatory at Wilkes University.

2015

**Angela (Cairns) Choate** of Camp Hill, Pa., welcomed her second child, Theodore James, with husband Joshua Choate on Nov. 2, 2018.

## Graduate

1976

See **George Pawlush** in Undergraduates 1969

2000

See **Doreen Wickiser Dzoba MS '00** in Undergraduates 1978

2008

**Holly (Miller) Courter MBA** of Wilkes-Barre Twp. welcomed a daughter, Delaney Jane, with her husband, Josh, on Feb. 21, 2018. The couple also have a six-year old daughter, Peyton.

2010

See **Christopher Mayerski MBA**, Undergraduate 2008

2013

**Christina Force Ed.D.** of Berwick, Pa., received the Michael and Bree Gillespie Faculty Fellowship from the department of business education at Bloomsburg University. She earned her doctorate from Wilkes in educational administration. Force serves as the adviser of Pi Omega Pi, the business education honor society, and is a member of the national executive board. She is the vice president for both the Pennsylvania Business Education Association and Phi Kappa Phi. In addition, she organizes the Husky Dog Pound, a shark tank-like event for Bloomsburg University students and high school students.

## MARLON JAMES MA'O6 RELEASES NEW NOVEL TO CRITICAL ACCLAIM

Marlon James MA 'o6 has released "Black Leopard, Red Wolf," the first book in a trilogy that has been described as an African "Game of Thrones." The book's release has garnered media attention from *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Time*, *Vanity Fair*, *Variety* and in dozens of



other media outlets. James also was interviewed on *Late Night With Seth Meyers*. The film rights for the novel have been optioned by Michael B. Jordan's Outlier Society and Warner Bros.

In April 2019, James was named to *Time* magazine's list of "100 Most Influential People." He is listed in the category of "Pioneers."

Legendary author Salman Rushdie wrote the *Time* tribute to James, calling him "one of the most important voices of his literary generation." Talking about "Black Leopard, Red Wolf," Rushdie describes the book as having "echoes of Tolkien, George R.R. Martin and *Black Panther*, but highly original, its language surging with power, its imagination all-encompassing. Marlon is a writer who must be read."

James has been on the fast track to literary stardom since his novel, *A Brief History of Seven Killings* won the Man Booker Prize in 2015. As the first Jamaican to win the international prize, the award put James in the company of such notable authors as Rushdie, Hilary Mantel, Philip Roth and Alice Munro.



PHOTO BY EARL & SEDOR PHOTOGRAPHIC

#### PICTURE PERFECT: GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING PHOTOS FOR CLASS NOTES

*Wilkes* magazine accepts photos of alumni weddings and to accompany class notes reporting achievements and milestones. To ensure that we can use the photos submitted, please follow these requirements:

1. Email jpeg or tif files to [wilkesmagazine@wilkes.edu](mailto:wilkesmagazine@wilkes.edu) or upload as an online class note submission on the alumni website at [www.wilkes.edu/alumni](http://www.wilkes.edu/alumni).
2. Digital photos must be at least 4 by 6 inches at 300 dpi or 1200 pixels by 1800 pixels. If you are sending a photo from your smart phone, choose full size or the largest size when prompted to specify the size you wish to send.
3. Please identify everyone in the photo, starting from left to right. Identify both alumni and non-alumni in submitted photos. Include class years for alumni.



# In Memoriam

**1939**

**Chester Weinstock** of Tierra Verde, Fla., died on Aug. 30, 2018. He was a graduate of Bucknell University Junior College.

**1940**

**Charles Fehlinger** of Montoursville, Pa., died on Aug. 24, 2018. Fehlinger was a World War II veteran who served in the Army Air Corps. He retired from Conrail.

**1943**

**William S. Myers** of Green Valley, Ariz., died in 2017.

**1948**

**John Gorski** of Front Royal, Va., died on Oct. 27, 2018. Gorski retired as an advisory systems engineer with IBM.

**1949**

**Dorothy "Pinky" Wilkes Lewis** of Staten Island, N.Y., died on Dec. 22, 2018. Lewis continued her education at Wagner College and was a chemist at Seaview Hospital. She was a member of the American Society for Clinical Pathology for over 50 years.

**Jerome Mintzer** of New York, N.Y., died on April 10, 2015. He was a certified public accountant for more than 50 years and a World War II veteran.

**Stanley Siberski** of Newtown Square, Pa., died on Feb. 21, 2017. Siberski served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

**Frank Sromovski** of Wilkes-Barre Twp., died on Dec. 6, 2018. Sromovski was an Army veteran of World War II. He and his late wife owned and operated Frank's Market in Wilkes-Barre Township for many years.

**1950**

**William Kiselis** of Kingston, Pa., died on Nov. 3, 2018. Kiselis retired from the Social Security Administration.

**John Nixon Shoemaker** of Wyoming, Pa., died on Aug. 5, 2018. Shoemaker served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He was the owner of Shoemaker Card and Gift Shops and Shoemaker Hardware. He was a member of many organizations, including Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce, the Wyoming Business Club and served on the board of directors of the First National Bank of Wyoming.

**Edward Teno** of Plymouth, Pa., died on Oct. 24, 2018. He was a World War II veteran of the U.S. Army. He was employed by RCA Corp./Harris Corp. as an electrical engineer for many years.

**1951**

**Theresa (Jendrezjewski) Bates** of Bangor, Pa., died on Aug. 4, 2018. She was employed by the research department at Perelman School of Medicine, and later worked for RCA in New Jersey and Mountain Top, Pa.

**1952**

**John Murtha** of Silver Spring, Md., died on June 26, 2017.

**1953**

**William Veroski** of Lancaster, Pa., died on July 25, 2018. He served in the U.S. Navy where he became a naval aviator. He then was an engineer for Goodyear. He later was the city engineer for several communities, eventually retiring as the County Sanitary Engineer for Fairfield County, Ohio.

**Thomas Vojtek** of Virginia Beach, Va., died on Dec. 27, 2018. Vojtek was a retired Navy captain. He earned a juris doctorate from Temple University Law School and was a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

**1954**

**Robert Bhaerman** of Pickerington, Ohio, died on July 30, 2018. He taught at the University of Delaware, Ohio State University and the State University of New York system. He also was associate dean for research and graduate studies in the College of Education at Wayne State University. He was director of educational research for the American Federation of Teachers and coordinator of school-based service-learning for Learn and Serve America. He authored or co-authored more than 100 books, chapters, articles, monographs, reports and guidebooks.

**Stanley Knapich** of Sweet Valley, Pa., died on Nov. 12, 2018. He earned a master's degree and doctorate from the Pennsylvania State University. He specialized in plant taxonomy and published on that topic as well as on aesthetics in biology. He was biology professor and chairperson of biology and medical technology at Misericordia University.

**1955**

**Ruth (Wilbur) Bretz** of Upper Providence, Pa., died on May 21, 2013. Bretz was a past member of the Rose Tree Media School District School Board and former president of Elwyn Institutes Parent Staff Association.

**Robert C. Dickshinski** of Nanticoke, Pa., died on Dec. 22, 2018. Dickshinski served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. He had a long career with American Chain and Cable, Wilkes-Barre. He was last employed by Smith-Miller Associates.

**Clarence Florkiewicz** of Tallmadge, Ohio, died on Nov. 7, 2018. Florkiewicz served in the U.S. Air Force and retired from the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company with 35 years of service designing specialty tires.

**Aldona Lillian “Pat”**

**Hojecki** of Carteret, N.J., died on March 29, 2018. Hojecki joined the Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary in 1971 and remained a life-long member, holding the post of secretary for over 20 years. She was a member of the Robert Wood Johnson Hospital Rahway Auxiliary for over 28 years where she volunteered for over 2,900 hours.

**Frances (Haver) Moran**

of Wilkes-Barre, died on Oct. 2, 2018. Moran did accounting for Moran & Flynn Iron Works, Jay Dee Shoe Store and United Penn Bank. She was employed at Bell Telephone Co. in various departments until her retirement and was a lifetime member of the Bell Pioneers.

**1957**

**Walter Bednar** of Wyoming, Pa., died on Oct. 14, 2018. He began his teaching career in New Jersey before moving to the Southern Lancaster County School (Solanco) System in Quarryville. In 1967, he became a business teacher at Luzerne County Community College. He was also a certified public accountant.

**Luciana (DiMattia) Suraci** of Clarks Green, Pa., died on Oct. 22, 2018.

**1958**

**Robert Augustine** of Wyoming, Pa., died on Aug. 31, 2018. Augustine served in the U.S. Army. He worked for Consolidated Cigar and also was an agent for Prudential Life Insurance Co.

**Carol (Hallas) McGinley** of Tunkhannock, Pa., died on Oct. 31, 2018. McGinley was a certified public accountant, a teacher at Lackawanna College and a tax preparer at H&R Block.

**George Morrash**

of Wilkes-Barre, died on Dec. 8, 2018. Morrash worked as a clerk typist for the federal government and later served as a U.S. Marine in World War II. He was recalled to serve in the Korean War in 1951. He retired from the Social Security Administration after 42 years of service.

**William “Willy” Players**

of West Pittston, Pa., died on Nov. 11, 2018. He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. Players taught geometry, trigonometry and calculus for 35 years at Wyoming Area High School.

**Joseph Todryk** of Wyoming, Pa., died on Sept. 18, 2018.

Todryk was a teacher and principal for more than 25 years in the Tunkhannock Area School District.

**1959**

**Charles Gender** of Glen Burnie, Md., died on Feb. 15, 2018. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1951–1955. He retired from the Anne Arundel County Public School system after many years of service.

**David John Edwards**

**Morgan** of East Brunswick, N.J., died on Dec. 26, 2017. He was a U.S. Navy veteran and served honorably during the Korean War. Morgan

earned his master's degree in education from Newark State College in New Jersey. He taught in the Old Bridge, N.J., School District for 37 years, retiring in 1997.

**John Neddoff**

of Dallas, Pa., died on Oct. 29, 2018. He was in the restaurant business with his brothers and sisters for over 50 years, with local eateries the Peerless Lunch and Neddoff's Restaurant.

**Arlene Tanalski**

of DeSoto, Texas, died on Aug. 12, 2018. Tanalski taught elementary school for more than 40 years in Stratford, Conn., Cleveland, Ohio, and Dallas, Texas. She also had her own Montessori School in DeSoto, Texas.

**1960**

**Carl Henning** of Bridgton, Maine, died on June 6, 2017. Henning served in the U.S. Coast Guard. His work focused on research and development of diesel fuel injection equipment.

**Gerald J. Killian**

of Mountain Top, Pa., died on Sept. 9, 2018. He had a private practice in optometry for over 50 years and was a member of the American Optometric Association. He participated in the Low Vision Clinic of Allied Services, Scranton, Pa.

**Marilyn (Warburton)**

**Lutter** of Washington, D.C., died on Nov. 29, 2018. Lutter was employed as a social worker for over 30 years. Her career

included work with an adoption service, at the Moss Rehabilitation Hospital in Philadelphia, Pa., and serving as director of social services at the Hospital for Sick Children in Washington, D.C.

**1961****Thomas D. Shaffer**

of Murieta, Calif., died on Dec. 12, 2018. Shaffer worked for Bethlehem Steel Corp. as an engineer in its Chicago plant. After moving to California, he and his wife were top-selling realtors in the Sacramento/Rancho Murieta area.

**1962**

**Samuel Book** of Cabin John, Md., died on May 13, 2016.

**William Ruzzo**

of Wilkes-Barre died on Sept. 22, 2018. Ruzzo earned his juris doctorate from the University of Bridgeport and was a criminal defense attorney. In addition to his private law practice, he was a member of the Luzerne County Public Defender's Office.

**1963****Gary E. Frank**

of Harvey's Lake, Pa., died on Aug. 10, 2018. Frank was an optometrist at Dr. Brown's, a family business, and at Northeastern Eye Institute.

**1965**

**James Reid** of Exeter, N.H., died on Sept. 17, 2018.

Reid owned and operated a successful insurance business in Dover, N.H., and was active in commercial real estate investing throughout his career.



**1966**

**Ernest John Krute** of Conneaut Lake, Pa., died on March 25, 2018. Krute was a financial officer for the Economic Progress Alliance of Crawford County.

**Harry Wilson** of Tunkhannock, Pa., died on Aug. 3, 2017. He was employed by the Tunkhannock Area School District for 35 years, first as a social studies teacher and later as a middle school guidance counselor.

**1968**

**Stuart Jed** of El Cerrito, Calif., died on Dec. 16, 2016. His career in management spanned 40 years directing both urban and rural health-care facilities across the country. He founded Delta One, a Bay Area management firm specializing in revitalization of hospitals on the verge of bankruptcy.

**John Prego** of Willow Grove, Pa., died on Feb. 4, 2019. Prego was a U.S. Navy veteran, serving during the Vietnam War. He was a member of The Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

**Thomas E. Rokita** of Shavertown, Pa., died on Sept. 11, 2018. An all-star athlete at Wilkes, Rokita was inducted into the Wilkes University Athletics Hall of Fame in 1989 and was inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame in 2014. He was also head tennis coach and head soccer coach at

Wilkes College. He taught at Wyoming Seminary and was the head soccer coach there. He later became the athletic director at Lake-Lehman School District.

**1969**

**Paul Kane** of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., died on Aug. 18, 2018. While at Wilkes, he played linebacker for the Golden Horde football team. Kane was employed by Hanover Area High School as a social studies teacher for 33 years. While at Hanover Area, he was the assistant football coach. He was also the assistant football coach at Wilkes and was the assistant wrestling coach at West Side Central Catholic High School.

**Robert Kopec** of Swoyersville, Pa., died on Oct. 20, 2018. He worked as a certified public accountant.

**Rosalie Mazur** of Plymouth, Pa., died on Dec. 2, 2018. Mazur received her master's degree in clinical psychology in 1972 from University of New York at Buffalo, N.Y.

**Eloise Griffiths Orsi** of East Windsor, N.J., died on September 12, 2018. She worked in child care.

**Joseph A. Stallone** of San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, died on Jan. 15, 2019. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. He later had a career as an artist with specialties in ceramic sculpture and decorative painting.

**James B. Thomas** of Plymouth, Pa., died on Dec. 3, 2016. Prior to his retirement, Thomas had been employed by UGI Corp. as a supervisor and by John Connolly & Sons. He was also a representative for Plymouth Borough to the Westside Landfill Authority.

**John Turner** of Shavertown, Pa., died on Feb. 21, 2019. Turner retired in 2005 from Dallas High School after teaching history for 36 years. Turner created the first fire science associate's degree program at Luzerne County Community College, where he taught both fire science and history courses for over 25 years. He authored the Pennsylvania Firefighter Certification Exam and taught local level training programs to firemen throughout northeastern Pennsylvania. He served on the Luzerne County Emergency Management Team and most recently served as the Kingston Township Emergency Management coordinator.

**1970**

**David Bogusko** of Bel Air, Md., died on Nov. 26, 2018. He served in the Marine Corps Reserve from 1970 to 1976. He worked as a school psychologist in the Harford County Public Schools in Maryland.

**1972**

**Anthony Calore** of Oak Ridge, N.C., died on Feb. 4, 2019.

**David Furman** of Fayetteville, N.Y., died on June 28, 2018. Furman retired as chief financial officer of Dey Brothers in Syracuse. He also was a financial consultant.

**Robert D. Jarrett** of Plymouth, Pa., died on Aug. 12, 2018. Early in his career, he worked as a research chemist for Diamond Shamrock Corp. in Ohio and was awarded several patents for advancements in the medical field. He later worked in the laboratory of the former Mercy Hospital in Wilkes-Barre and as an instructor in the Biology Department of Luzerne County Community College.

**David Richards** of Forty Fort, Pa., died on Jan. 7, 2019. Prior to his retirement, Richards was a supervisor for the Veterans Administration Office in Philadelphia.

**Daniel L. Son** of Mountain Top, Pa., died on Nov. 26, 2018. Son received his medical degree from the University of Guadalajara. He began his surgical career at Hahnemann University Hospital, where he served as a senior instructor of urology. He served in various capacities within the Hazleton/St. Joseph Medical Center and most notably was the chairman and chief of surgery. He also practiced at several hospitals in the region, including the Greater Hazleton Health Alliance and was a sole practitioner in the Hazleton/Drums area.

**1975**

**Pauline (Hayes) Lawson** of Garland, Maine, died on November 26, 2013. Lawson was a retired elementary school teacher from the Hazleton School District, Hazleton, Pa.

**Emerson Logan** of Mountain Top, Pa., died on Jan. 6, 2019. Logan was employed by the *Sunday Independent* for 25 years, and subsequently by *The Citizens' Voice*, the *Hazleton Standard-Speaker* and *The Scranton Times-Tribune*.

**1981**

**Melissa Molinaro** of Hazleton, Pa., died on May 23, 2017. Molinaro was employed as a same-day surgery nurse for Lehigh Valley Hospital-Hazleton.

**1983**

**Richard Martin** of Westminster, Md., died on Oct. 18, 2018. Martin studied special education for the deaf at Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C. He later was employed by Tricon Construction Inc., Crofton, Md., where he served as chief administrative officer and chief information officer for many years.

**1984**

**Theodore Dalpiaz** of Berwick, Pa., died on Jan. 1, 2018. Dalpiaz started his career with United Engineers in Philadelphia. He also worked for Southport Nuclear Station in Southport, S.C. He later

worked for PPL Electric at the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station for 30 years.

**James Scales** of Myrtle Beach, S.C., died on Jan. 5, 2019.

**Marguerite "Peggy" (McCormick) Tolan** of Wilkes-Barre, died on Oct. 8, 2018. Tolan was director of nursing at Valley Crest Nursing Home when she retired in 2000.

**1987**

**Philip Cyriax** of Whitehall, Pa., died on July 23, 2018. Cyriax served as a claims adjuster for multiple insurance companies.

**Mary Therese (Koval) Pitcavage** of Swoyersville, Pa., died on Sept. 15, 2018. She retired after 29 years of service as a math teacher and director of community service at The Wyoming Seminary Upper School.

**1989**

**Thomas C. George** of Bethlehem Twp., Pa., died on February 23, 2017. He worked for Minerals Technologies in Easton, Pa., until retiring.

**1990**

**Dominick Aritz** of West Pittston, Pa., died on Jan. 12, 2019. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. Artiz worked as an electrician and was a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 163.

**1993**

**Cindy Haefele** of Plains Twp., Pa., died on Dec. 13, 2018.

**Ann Marie O'Donnell** of Nanticoke, Pa., died on July 25, 2018. She was a reading specialist with the Greater Nanticoke Area School District.

**1994**

**Bonita (Rynkiewicz) Mosley** of Bear Creek Twp., Pa., died on April 27, 2018. She was employed by Blue Cross of Wilkes-Barre as a data analyst for 24 years.

**1996**

**Philip J. Calabro** of Clifford Twp., Pa., died on Sept. 28, 2015. Calabro was a maintenance supervisor at Tredegar Film Products. He also served in the National Guard.

**2001**

**Joseph Cortegerone** of Exeter, Pa., died on Sept. 21, 2018.

**2002**

**Barbara Benesky** of Dallas, Pa., died on Oct. 4, 2018. Benesky worked for Nanticoke Special Care Hospital from 1976 to 2004.

**2004**

**Anita Legge** of Mountain Top, Pa., died on Feb. 22, 2019.

**2009**

**Patricia Ann (Trisha) Fenton** of Jessup, Pa., died on June 18, 2018. She worked at HRSI, Scranton as a health care receivables specialist.

**2014**

**S. Ryan Kojza** of Scranton, Pa., died on Oct. 2, 2018. Kojza worked as a supervisor for United Parcel Service.


**2015**

**Daniel Ruth** of Slatington, Pa., died on Aug. 8, 2018. He was an airman at Ellsworth Air Force Base and belonged to the 37th Bomb Squadron.

**2018**

**Lauren Lewis** of Moscow, Pa., died on Nov. 19, 2018. She was employed by Walgreens Pharmacy.





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# Wilkes University

Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766

## calendar of events



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### May

- 1-18 "Ukiyo-e to Shin Hanga: Japanese Woodcuts from the Syracuse University Art Collection," Sordoni Art Gallery
- 18 Spring Commencement, McHale Athletic Center, University Center on Main
- 20 Summer Presession Begins
- 20 Summer Full Session Begins

### June

- 1 Founders Gala, Westmorland Club, Wilkes-Barre
- 1-2 "The Little Mermaid" and "Waltzes From Vienna," Degnan Ballet Center at the Wilkes Conservatory 7:30 p.m., Dorothy Dickson Darte Center
- 2 Summer Presession Ends
- 10 Summer Session I Begins
- 10 Nine-Week Session Begins
- 11-Aug. 4 Liz Godley, Sordoni Art Gallery
- 16-20 Maslow Faculty Reading Series, 7 p.m. Sunday, Barnes & Noble, Public Square; Monday-Thursday, Dorothy Dickson Darte Center
- 30-July 1 New Student Orientation

### July

- 8-Aug. 23 Summer Creative Writing Workshops
- 12 Summer Session I Ends
- 14-15 New Student Orientation
- 15 Summer Session II Begins
- 15-18 Advanced Placement Summer Institute for High School Teachers, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- 19 Admissions Open House for prospective students
- 21-27 Women Empowered By Science Summer Camp

### August

- 13 Nine-Week Session Ends
- 16 Summer Full Session Ends
- 16 Summer Session II Ends
- 23-25 Welcome Weekend
- 26 Start of Fall 2019 Semester
- 27-Oct. 5 "Rust Belt Biennial," Sordoni Art Gallery

### September

- 8 Summer Commencement, Marts Center
- 9 Ralston Memorial Golf Tournament, Wyoming Valley Country Club, Wilkes-Barre
- 29 Collegiate Marching Band Festival

### October

- 4-6 Wilkes Homecoming 2019
- 10 Fall Recess Begins
- 10-12 Norman Mailer Conference
- 14 Classes Resume
- 18 Earth and Environmental Science Day
- 15 Lecture, Pete Souza, speaking about the exhibit of his photographs, "Two Presidents, One Photographer," 7 p.m., Dorothy Darte Center
- 22-Dec. 8 Pete Souza, "Two Presidents, One Photographer," Sordoni Art Gallery

For details on times and locations, check [www.wilkes.edu](http://www.wilkes.edu) and [www.wilkes.edu/alumni](http://www.wilkes.edu/alumni) or phone (800) WILKES-U.