

Memorandums from President Michelini to
faculty and administration, 1972 July

WILKES COLLEGE

REPORT TO THE FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION

It doesn't seem possible that we are now 4-plus weeks into the post-flood cleanup period. We are getting so used to the day-after-day mud and water that it seems normal. We know it is not however; and this report is to bring you up to date on current status of rehabilitation.

One of the first post-flood problems that required action was immediate commitment of electrical and mechanical contractors to remove all electrical motors and open all electrical control systems. The magnitude of this task on a campus of 58 buildings with the complexity of equipment in buildings like Darte Hall, Stark Hall, the CPA, the Library, and the all-electric men's dorm and dining hall is staggering. Restoration of power to buildings so that fans and other equipment for cleaning and drying out can be utilized is still a major problem. Many temporary power units have provided the only light for cleanup.

The next major step was furniture removal and muck-raking. Growths of mildew on furniture and walls occurred almost instantly, and floors with carpeting develop an odor all their own. This job required manpower. There is no way to describe the amount of work performed by volunteer faculty, administration, and students in this dirty, physical effort. The turning point came with the assignment of 70 men from Company A, 1st Battalion, 103rd Armor of the National Guard from Johnstown and Ligonier, Pennsylvania, who lived in the new men's dorm, second floor, and have worked unbelievably long hours in the dirtiest, most physically demanding jobs you can imagine. Wilkes College will always be in their debt.

The third major aspect then became mechanical with all heating ducts and systems requiring washing out. Electricians are frantically trying to dry out equipment areas and mechanical contractors are trying to wash out mud. The two jobs conflict but somehow are getting done.

The fourth commitment is to general contracting for a variety of jobs. After struggling with the library, it became necessary to hire Sordoni Construction Company to clean out the basement area. A caterpillar tractor payloador was run into the basement by removing an area well wall and some window pillars. This pushed books and mud into a pile at the window level which was then removed by another machine to trucks.

We are now reaching the stage of high-pressure, disinfectant washing, followed by fungicidal and virucidal disinfecting with a fogging machine.

Re-equipping and refurnishing plans are also under way. The Library, Physics, and Engineering Departments have all been encouraged by offers from other colleges and universities, and corporate offers of assistance are also promising.

The Board of Trustees met on Friday, July 14, to review the actions taken and progress made. A number of resolutions were passed relating to the financial obligations being incurred, the actions taken relating to legislation that would make possible Federal assistance, presently not available to private educational institutions, and the approval of a Flood Emergency Campaign approaching Foundations, Corporations, and Alumni.

Of immediate concern to the Faculty is Board action taken to suspend indefinitely all faculty regulations on tenure, loads, and appointments, effective immediately. An immediate reevaluation of our policies and practices had to be made, and the following policies will be implemented in September, 1972.

1. All loads will be calculated at 12 hours with no distinction between graduate or undergraduate courses.
2. Overtime will be averaged over both semesters in cases where an underload may occur in one semester.
3. All tenure decisions are suspended until proper assessment can be made by a faculty/administrative committee of the ramifications of such commitments to the future of the College. This committee will be appointed shortly.

Dean Tappa will be consulting with all Department Chairmen relative to revised planning of all program needs, and will answer any questions you may have in terms of the personal effect of these decisions upon you.

At the present time, we are making every effort to obtain funds from public and private sources to cover the expenditures that had to be committed for the College to be functional in September. It does not appear that our financial position will be sufficiently clear by December 1 to permit any salary increases for the 1973 academic year. We must anticipate salary freeze at present levels for the 1973-74 academic year.

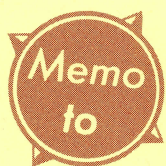
It is obvious to all that the College is in a most serious period of challenge that will require unusual effort and dedication by everyone. We cannot afford the luxury of partial commitment to our responsibilities but must expect service above and beyond any normal effort. Many have already demonstrated this commitment, and this has seen us through the initial period of crisis. If we are to emerge from this disaster stronger and more effective as an independent college, this same dedication must be a characteristic of every individual. This commitment will be a determining factor in student attitudes and in student recruitment for 1973-74.

I know you will join in responding to this challenge.

Thank you.

July 25, 1972

Francis J. Michelini



Friday, July 28 ('74)

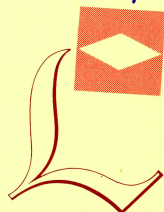
Dear Mike:

Attached is a copy of a letter sent to the Am. Inst. of Physics for publication (hopefully) in their Physics Today journal.

Also sent same to 4 dozen well-known physics departments, from New Hampshire to California.

Will attempt to keep you posted on any 'successful' replies.

Sincerely,
Fred Bellas



LLEWELLYN & McKANE Inc.

Manufacturers of Fine Printing

P. O. Box 507 ■ 31 New Hill St., Wilkes-Barre, Penna. 18703

Phones (717) 822-8181 ■ 822-8182

P.S. Thanks for sticking to your guns by keeping our summer courses going. It is a big psychological boost!

flood file

WILKES COLLEGE
WILKES-BARRE
PENNSYLVANIA 18703

HURRICANE AGNES HITS PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

The Physics Department at Wilkes College is located in The Stark Hall of Science, which is only five-hundred feet away from the banks of the usually sleepy Susquehanna River, which on June 23 rose to over forty feet in wake of the rain dropped by Hurricane Agnes.

The basement of Stark Hall (housing our accelerator lab, ESR lab, atomic and nuclear labs, x-ray and crystallography labs, machine shop, equipment storage rooms, and the physics clubroom for undergraduate students) was completely submerged. The water reached a height of seven feet on the first floor (housing our E & M labs, electronic labs, optics lab, introductory physics labs, equipment room, computer center, a dark room, and ten professors' offices). The devastation was tremendous and to a large degree, complete.

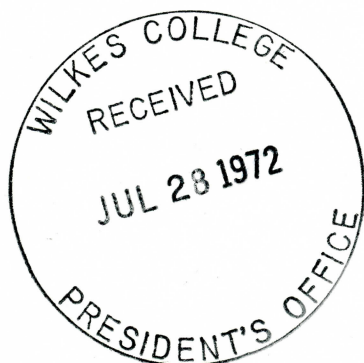
In addition, all the physics texts and our holdings in some eighty-three different physics journals, which were located in the college's brand-new Eugene Sheddon Farley Library, were completely lost.

This means we must start anew in building up our department, which was called by a well-known physicist of international repute to be "the best equipped small college physics department east of the Mississippi River". We have already begun the rebuilding task with undaunted spirit (even to the extent of offering a pair of physics courses this summer) and if any readers have any replacements to offer in any of the above, we shall be most glad to hear from them.

Sincerely,

Fred Bellas

Fred Bellas
Chairman, Department of Physics
Wilkes College
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18703
(717) 824-4651



July 25, 1972

American Council on Education
Higher Education & National Affairs
One Dupont Circle
Washington, D. C.

ATTENTION: Editor

Dear Sir:

In the July 14, 1972 issue, Vol. XXI, Number 27, reference was made to the disastrous flooding caused by Hurricane Agnes in Northeastern Pennsylvania and the damage suffered by Wilkes College.

Wilkes College was especially hard hit since our institution is comprised of 58 buildings, all of which were flooded to some level of the first floors. Damage was extensive and will, to the best current estimate, be in the area of \$10,000,000.00.

However, none of our facilities were destroyed, and we feel our obligation to the area that has suffered such devastation is to act with aggressive optimism to create a new community from this disaster. We have emphasized that "people" are the key ingredients of education and that warped floors and doors do not affect the quality of education. "People" are also the key to any viable community, and we are determined to survive as a community.

By establishing cleaning priorities, we reconvened our summer session on July 5, and without power or services, with great inconvenience of curfew and entry and exit limitations, were extremely gratified by a 90% attendance rate.

I would appreciate some reference to our commitment to the future and a correction of the reference to the destruction of our performing arts building which will be functional when we begin our 1972-73 academic year on September 25, despite the damage sustained by mud and water.

American Council on Education

Page 2

July 25, 1972

Many sister institutions, public and private, have been most kind in their offers of help. Our library was particularly hard-hit with all Library of Congress holdings from PR to Z lost, as well as the entire collection of over 1600 current titles of serials and periodicals.

Any assistance in encouraging contributions of library materials in these or any other categories would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Francis J. Micheline
President

FJM/jac

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the faculty and administration

FROM: Francis J. Michelini, President

DATE: July 10, 1972

Our first task following the devastation to the campus caused by the recent record flooding of the Susquehanna was to restore Wilkes College and erase any doubts in the minds of those who question our ability to snap back and build an even greater institution of higher learning.

My reason for communicating with you at this time is to first apologize for not having been able to personally inquire earlier about the welfare of you and your families. I am sure you understand why from the news stories, which have told of the \$10-million damage and our efforts to rehabilitate sufficient facilities to enable us to resume classes. The long hours and heavy toil by many volunteer faculty, administrators and students enabled us to accomplish this.

At this time, also, I want to inquire as to your welfare and see what the college can do to help ease any burdens caused by this disaster. One thing we may be able to do is provide temporary housing during an emergency period while you are finding other permanent quarters.

You are familiar with our available living accommodations and dining facilities. The first floor of the New Men's Dormitory and all dormitories were damaged and are undergoing cleaning. The dining hall will not be ready for serving for quite some time. However, I have conferred with Donald Jost, director of housing and Dean Jane Lampe concerning the possibility of providing some rooms for those who need such accommodations. I regret we cannot offer food service. Those who might be interested are asked to register with Mr. Jost or Dr. Donald Tappa, dean of academic affairs, at Weckesser Annex. The response will dictate the extent of the assistance we can provide.

Attached is a copy of my letter to all students outlining our plans for the fall semester. With your support I have every reason to feel that out of our present crisis will come an institution and a college family that will be among the finest anywhere.

My sincere wishes that your losses are small and my prayers are with you and yours for a quick recovery and better future. Know that we stand ready to lend whatever assistance we can provide.

ar

WILKES COLLEGE
WILKES-BARRE
PENNSYLVANIA 18703

July 10, 1972

TO ALL WILKES COLLEGE STUDENTS:

As you no doubt know, the Susquehanna River Valley experienced one of the Nation's most devastating floods in terms of people affected and property damaged. Wilkes College was flooded in all buildings generally to the first-floor level. Major efforts have been under way for the past two weeks in cleaning up flood damaged areas, and summer school classes resumed Wednesday, July 5.

Significant damage in terms of dollar value occurred to furnishings and floors; however, the following note from one of our Alumni with a \$200 contribution speaks eloquently to describe what makes a college:

"June 26, 1972

Dear Dr. Mike:

Wilkes College is more than buildings and books that can be battered. It's more than walls and floors that can be warped. Wilkes is people and spirit and as long as both survive, so will Wilkes. Hang loose, Dr. Mike, we'll make it.

Best,
Marion Klawonn
Class of '59"

Our Alumni, on their own initiative, have already commenced fund-raising activities to assist in the reactivation of damaged facilities. During the remainder of the summer, major efforts will be made, with the cooperation of many people and institutions, to replace much of what has been damaged. By September, a few warped doors and floors will constitute the few reminders that Wilkes College experienced a flood in June. However, some changes in the calendar have been made in order to give us more time to prepare for the opening of classes in the fall. Attached is a revised calendar for 1972-73.

We are exploring every avenue with the State and Federal Governments regarding increased financial assistance to those students whose families have suffered damage from the flood.

Information will soon be available regarding re-application for financial aid. Students who were not previously eligible for financial aid may now find that family losses from the flood render them eligible for such assistance. Students who were previously receiving aid may now be eligible for increased assistance. Please contact our Financial Aid Office should these circumstances affect you. All members of the Administration stand ready to consult with and advise you concerning your educational plans.

To All Wilkes College Students

-2-

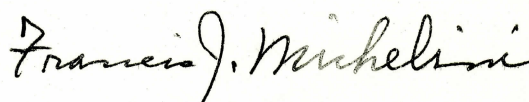
July 10, 1972

We look forward to seeing you in September and meeting the new challenges that are always part of life and that often serve to bring out the very best in people.

If you would care to volunteer one or two weeks to help in the cleanup of our buildings, we would ask you to drop a post card showing the dates you are available either to Donald Jost or Mike Barski, c/o Wilkes College, so that we can arrange to provide housing.

Thank you all for your encouragement, understanding, and support.

Sincerely yours,



Francis J. Michelini
President

FJM:mc

REVISED CALENDAR FOR 1972-73

Freshman Orientation	Friday	September 22
	Saturday	September 23
	Sunday	September 24
Registration for Upperclassmen	Sunday	September 24
Classes Begin	Monday	September 25
Thanksgiving Recess	November 23 through 26	
Christmas Recess	December 23 through January 7	
Examinations	January 15 through 25	

WILKES COLLEGE
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

To: All Administrative Department Heads
From: Francis Michelini
Date: July 12, 1972

Following the flood disaster, all Wilkes College employees were asked to report to work to assist in the cleanup operation. My sincere thanks to those who responded and devoted themselves to the massive task of cleanup, many volunteering their services without compensation. My sympathies lie with those who were personally so seriously affected by the flood that they could not be with us.

Regular pay checks have been distributed to all staff employees through June 30. However, future checks will be pro-rated on the basis of the actual number of days worked only.

Confirmation of hourly and daily work is the responsibility of each department head, and reports must be submitted each week to Alex Pawlenok.

Each department head is asked to please recognize the need for honest and objective evaluation of employees reporting for work, as well as the responsibility of assigning jobs to these employees. It is necessary that all employees share in the work load in whatever capacity is deemed necessary.

It is not fair for those who have unselfishly devoted their time and efforts to "Operation Snapback" to see others who have not been working receive the same compensation. Therefore, we must insist on this accounting of performance before our next payroll is approved.

Please communicate this information to Mr. Pawlenok as soon as possible, in writing. Thank you.

FJM:mc

J. Weckesser

WILKES COLLEGE
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18703

MEMORANDUM

July 19, 1972

TO: Department Heads
FROM: Don Tappa

A meeting of Department Heads will be held on Tuesday, July 25, at noon, in the Board Room of Weckesser Hall to discuss policy changes decided upon in view of our current situation.

DWT:npc

MEMORANDUM

To: The Deans, Second Floor Weckesser
From: Francis Michelini
Date: July 14, 1972

Mr. Whitby and Mr. Raspen will need to be housed on the second floor of Weckesser for a few weeks and I would appreciate it if you would make the following arrangements.

Mrs. Hobrock will share Miss Lampe's office; Mr. Moss will share Mr. Ralston's office; Mr. Raspen's staff and Mr. Whitby's staff will occupy Mr. Moss's office; Mr. Whitby will occupy Mr. Rome's office; and Mr. Raspen will occupy Mrs. Hobrock's office.

Thank you.

FJM:mc

copies to: Mrs. Hobrock
Miss Lampe
Mr. Moss'
Mr. Ralston
Mr. Raspen
Mr. Whitby

MEMORANDUM

To: The Deans, Second Floor Weckesser
From: Francis Michelini
Date: July 14, 1972

Mr. Whitby and Mr. Raspen will need to be housed on the second floor of Weckesser for a few weeks and I would appreciate it if you would make the following arrangements.

Mrs. Hobrock will share Miss Lampe's office; Mr. Moss will share Mr. Ralston's office; Mr. Raspen's staff and Mr. Whitby's staff will occupy Mr. Moss's office; Mr. Whitby will occupy Mr. Rome's office; and Mr. Raspen will occupy Mrs. Hobrock's office.

Thank you.

FJM:mc

copies to: Mrs. Hobrock
Miss Lampe
Mr. Moss'
Mr. Ralston
Mr. Raspen
Mr. Whitby

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the faculty and administration

FROM: Francis J. Michelini, President

DATE: July 10, 1972

Our first task following the devastation to the campus caused by the recent record flooding of the Susquehanna was to restore Wilkes College and erase any doubts in the minds of those who question our ability to snap back and build an even greater institution of higher learning.

My reason for communicating with you at this time is to first apologize for not having been able to personally inquire earlier about the welfare of you and your families. I am sure you understand why from the news stories, which have told of the \$10-million damage and our efforts to rehabilitate sufficient facilities to enable us to resume classes. The long hours and heavy toil by many volunteer faculty, administrators and students enabled us to accomplish this.

At this time, also, I want to inquire as to your welfare and see what the college can do to help ease any burdens caused by this disaster. One thing we may be able to do is provide temporary housing during an emergency period while you are finding other permanent quarters.

You are familiar with our available living accommodations and dining facilities. The first floor of the New Men's Dormitory and all dormitories were damaged and are undergoing cleaning. The dining hall will not be ready for serving for quite some time. However, I have conferred with Donald Jost, director of housing and Dean Jane Lampe concerning the possibility of providing some rooms for those who need such accommodations. I regret we cannot offer food service. Those who might be interested are asked to register with Mr. Jost or Dr. Donald Tappa, dean of academic affairs, at Weckesser Annex. The response will dictate the extent of the assistance we can provide.

Attached is a copy of my letter to all students outlining our plans for the fall semester. With your support I have every reason to feel that out of our present crisis will come an institution and a college family that will be among the finest anywhere.

My sincere wishes that your losses are small and my prayers are with you and yours for a quick recovery and better future. Know that we stand ready to lend whatever assistance we can provide.

