

Wilkes University News

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\$3,000,000 GIFT NAMES WILKES UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PHARMACY FOR ABRAM NESBITT II

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WILKES-BARRE- A family name associated with quality health care and philanthropy in Northeastern Pennsylvania since 1912, has named the area's only school of pharmacy. **The Nesbitt School of Pharmacy at Wilkes University in honor of Abram Nesbitt II** was announced this morning at a news conference by University officials and Mrs. Geraldine Nesbitt Orr.

Mrs. Orr named the school in honor of her first husband who died in 1980. As part of the naming project, she has given the University **\$3,000,000.** The gift is the largest one-time gift in the 66-year history of Wilkes University.

"Our family has always had an interest in the health of our community, this allows us to re-establish the Nesbitt name and identify with one of the area's newest health care initiatives," said Mrs. Nesbitt Orr.

The gift is part of the \$30,000,000 Endow the Future campaign at Wilkes. Announced last September, the capital campaign has raised \$22,558,000 to date and is scheduled to continue until the end of 2001.

"The opportunity to have the Nesbitt name permanently associated with Wilkes University gives us great pride and satisfaction," said Dr. Christopher N. Breiseth, president of Wilkes University. "The Nesbitt School of Pharmacy at Wilkes University will graduate its first class of Doctors of Pharmacy in May 2000. It is fitting that the name Nesbitt will go with every class of Doctors of Pharmacy to graduate from the University."

The School of Pharmacy is one of two schools at Wilkes University. In August 1995, after a thorough review process, Wilkes University was granted provisional approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the program in pharmacy leading to the degree of Doctor of Pharmacy. Parallel to the approval process required by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Wilkes began a formal accreditation process by applying to the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education (ACPE) for pre-candidate status. In July 1996, pre-candidate status was granted, the next step in the accreditation process by the ACPE. This status was granted after a complete review of the School and the University. This is the accepted and recommended route to full accreditation, that can only come after the first class graduates in May, 2000.

The School of Pharmacy occupies the first and third floors of the Stark Learning Center. The first floor houses the new Pharmacy Information Center and Computer Lab, Model Pharmacy, and offices. The remodeled third floor includes the new Anatomy and Physiology Lab, Pharmaceutics Lab, three Research Labs, conference rooms, offices, and accessory rooms.

The Nesbitt family began their involvement with health care in 1912, when Abram Nesbitt I donated the land for the West Side Hospital. Abram Nesbitt I and his brother Samuel helped build a new hospital on the west side in 1928. In 1929, the name of the hospital was officially changed to Nesbitt Memorial Hospital.

The School of Pharmacy is named for Abram Nesbitt II, a man who continued his family's dedication to improving life in the Wyoming Valley. He attended Wyoming Seminary and later graduated from Princeton University in 1930. Upon returning to the valley after graduation, he began serving on the Governing Board of Directors of Nesbitt Memorial Hospital and served as its president until his death in 1980.

His commitment to health care was also evident when he and George Bell started Blue Cross with the cooperation of area hospitals. Abram Nesbitt II later served as secretary of the board at Blue Cross for many years.

During his career he also served on the boards of Springbrook Water Company, Second National Bank (now PNC Bank), Wilkes-Barre Railway Company, Forty Fort Cemetery Association, Hoyt Library and as vice president of the Board of the Wyoming Valley Historical Society.

Unable to serve in the armed forces due to a health problem, Mr Nesbitt served as home service secretary for the American Red Cross during World War II.

An avid sportsman, Mr. Nesbitt enjoyed skill shooting, tennis and golf. As a golfer he was a member of Pine Valley Golf Club in New Jersey and Seminole Golf Club in Palm Beach, Florida.