

"Foundations for Tomorrow"

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WILKES COLLEGE
WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

A Measure of Appreciation

The only true means of expressing our appreciation to those who have helped us create Wilkes College is through our service to students and community. Our words of thanks are hollow unless they are translated through the students of Wilkes College into ideals and into action.

We recognize the increasing challenge that has been imposed upon us by the vision, the generosity, and the faith of our friends. We will ever seek to keep the goal clearly before us so that your faith may be justified in the years ahead.

In this little booklet we endeavor to express our appreciation in words even as we outline the policies that will guide us in our work throughout the years.

FRIENDS OF WILKES COLLEGE:

On behalf of the trustees of Wilkes College I am happy to welcome you to the dedication of the new gymnasium. The support the community has given, since Bucknell University opened a junior college here in 1933, has made possible the splendid progress that has been achieved. In 1938 a group of local trustees were entrusted by the University Board to handle the affairs of the junior college. As you well know, the people of Wyoming Valley immediately evidenced their approval and interest in the establishment of a junior college independent of Bucknell. This plan was approved by the trustees of the university, who at all times gave their full support to such an enterprise and heartily backed our efforts and endeavors with very real understanding and wise guidance.

Finally, our plans expanding as we grew, the decision was made to erect a four-year college instead of a two-year junior college and, because of the generous contributions and help given by the friends of the College, we finally raised the endowment necessary to receive a charter, acquired sufficient buildings for the educational work, and in 1947, Wilkes College received from this commonwealth its charter. Our accreditation, however, was properly dependent upon our agreement to build a gymnasium necessary for a full program. This has been done, as you see, and not only done, but entirely paid for and we are pardonably proud to be able, this day, to dedicate this building for its use in our educational program and for its help to our students to give them a well rounded and properly balanced physical and mental education.

*Gilbert S. McClintock,
Chairman, Board of Trustees.*

Foundations for Tomorrow

The following address was given by Dr. Eugene S. Farley, President of Wilkes College, during the dedication of the new quarter-million dollar gymnasium on December 1, 1950.

It is gratifying on this occasion to welcome friends who have made possible the construction of this building. Your friendship and generosity have not only given the students of Wilkes College a gymnasium; you have also provided a recreation and social center which has already tremendously enriched the student life. In addition, you have enabled the college to take one more step in its development. You have provided an essential building, and have broadened the activities of the student body.

Because you have shown so much interest in the College, I wish, at this time, to discuss with you certain plans and policies of the college. We all recognize that Wilkes College is in its infancy, and that its greatest growth lies ahead. We believe this is true because the College seeks to attune itself to the needs of our times, and to adapt itself to the needs of the community, the state, and the nation. At this time these needs are great. Never have intelligence and informed judgments been more required of Americans than at this time. They are essential to our survival as a free people.

From 1945 to 1949 the College was taxed to admit as many students of outstanding ability as it could accommodate. Today the College must choose between reduced enrollment or reduced standards. The necessity of making such a decision is, however, not new. From the very beginning we have had to decide whether the college could serve all high school graduates, or whether it could render better service by admitting only those of superior ability and achievement. In the midst of the last depression it was decided that the College could serve its students and its community best if it adapted its program to students of ability and ambition. This judgment was based upon experience which showed that colleges endeavoring to serve all fail to serve any; work that challenges superior students is overwhelming to students of lesser ability. It is quite apparent, therefore, that a college cannot be everything to all people. It must decide what it can do best, and then adhere to it.

A Community-Minded College

This does not mean that Wilkes College wishes to develop a narrow program. On the contrary, because of its position in the community, and of its desire to serve the community, it seeks to develop the broadest possible program. A city college cannot live apart from the community which supports it, and which it serves. It must constantly keep in touch with the needs and problems of the community, and must always seek to promote the welfare and interests of the community. It must offer whatever services are needed and demanded.

Wilkes College was founded as Bucknell Junior College in the midst of depression, and during a period when it seemed that prosperity in Wyoming Valley was on the wane. It has made its greatest growth since it became apparent that the well-being of Wyoming Valley need not wane if men and women have the vision and the resolution to strengthen old industries while they bring new industries into the community. Studies that have been made at the College, and by the Chamber of Commerce, show that this is a community in transition. Whereas, prior to the depression, Wyoming Valley depended almost entirely upon one industry, today it depends upon many industries, and the number of these industries increases from year to year. It is interesting to note that since the Industrial Fund was organized in 1938 to attract new industries, the increase of employment outside of the mines has been slightly greater than the decrease of employment in the mines. These facts give clear evidence that this is a community in transition, and that a new era of well-being and prosperity is possible.

The College has participated in this transition. It has offered new opportunities for education, and has been one of the new and thriving industries that is making possible the change in our Valley. The two colleges of Wyoming Valley create better living conditions, and thus attract and hold people to this community. After all, no modern community can grow which does not create conditions and institutions that offer the best of opportunities for oncoming generations. I can speak of this with some feeling, as after my

father's death, my mother moved to a college community that her four children might have the privileges of a college education. All of us know that this is not a lone instance. It merely illustrates the desire of parents to give their children the privileges of an education.

In the future it is our aspiration to render enlarged services to the community. As our faculty expands we will be in a better position to render services to social agencies and to industry. It is natural for social agencies to turn to educational institutions for special services; it is increasingly the tendency of industry to turn to local colleges for technical assistance. The presence of local colleges makes available technical services which small industries cannot maintain. We look forward, therefore, to the time when increased facilities at Wilkes College may enable the College to cooperate with industries of this community in improving their products, and increasing the efficiency of their production. Of course, the College cannot envision improvements that industry will make; it can merely assist industry when its own vision shows the value of these technical services.

Self Development

The College has recently announced an athletic policy to which it has long adhered. We trust that this policy meets with your approval. It recognizes the value of activities but seeks to maintain a proper balance between studies and activities. Activities are encouraged, but every effort will be made to subordinate intercollegiate athletics to the welfare of the student

and the maintenance of intellectual standards. It is our hope under this policy to keep foremost in our minds the best interests of the student. We believe that the College can thrive only when it serves the individual student.

We must always remember that the college was founded so that new opportunities might be opened to young people of this area who could not obtain the benefits of a college education were these opportunities not brought to their door. In many instances, the creation of educational opportunities within the community is not enough. There are always a number of outstanding young people who must carry responsibilities which would ordinarily preclude a college education. A few of these can accept the new opportunities for education only if they receive a bit of encouragement and assistance.

It has always been our aim to help those who seek to help themselves. We do not believe that we are rendering a valuable service when we do for persons that which they should do for themselves. We do believe, however, that we are rendering a significant service when we give people sufficient encouragement and hope to assist them in formulating a plan of self-improvement. To this end it has ever been the policy of the College to assist students who wished to improve themselves through education, but who lack funds. That we might render such service, we have provided work; we have offered scholarships; and we have sought assistance from friends that the College might render greater assistance to outstanding young people

of limited means. This policy, we believe, encourages independence of character, constructive vision, and personal integrity. It cultivates those personal qualities that are the great need of men in our time.

It is also evident that nothing which is done by the College in these critical days can be isolated from the world situation. All of us are conscious of the test that lies before us, and are aware that if Western civilization and democratic ideals are to survive, we as individuals must cultivate those inner resources that are the bulwarks of our individual lives, and of our national existence. We recognize with increasing force the necessity for seeing our problems clearly and facing them with courage. It is all too apparent that the only real security that we can know in these troublesome times must be based upon the strength and integrity of the individual. In our disturbed world, tranquility will be known only to those possessing faith in their cause and a reserve of inner resources sufficient to the demands of our times.

The Search for Truth

In this period of crisis we must know ourselves. We must know the ideals for which we stand. We must determine the sacrifices that we are willing to make, and we must judge how far our determination and courage will carry us in the strife that now divides this world. We know that we must evaluate ourselves and our society if we are to meet the test that lies before us.

We must also know our opponents. We cannot oppose them successfully if we are unaware of their

ideals, their thinking, and their values. If our cause is to win, we must know also their institutions, and their practices. If we do not know and understand them, we will not be able to meet them intelligently, and we may defeat ourselves by our ignorance, and our consequent unreadiness.

Their ideals are in conflict with our own. They have no respect for the individual, except as the individual is a cog in a national or international machine. They believe that only through communal action can men attain the security that is sought by all men. They are not restrained by respect for the individual, but have demonstrated their willingness to destroy all who oppose their concept of life. They are unwilling to await the testing of their ideas and institutions by time and circumstances. They fear the searching mind and the light of truth. They erect the Iron Curtain because they fear that men who know the privileges of freedom and the appeal of other ideals may not sustain the doctrines and ideologies that they force upon countless millions.

Knowing ourselves and our opponents, we must then plan a course that we can follow intelligently and persistently. We can never overcome Communism by hatred; all too frequently hatred destroys the individual or the society that is obsessed by it. We must strengthen ourselves as individuals, even as we strengthen our society. We must be strong morally, spiritually, economically, politically, and militarily; but we must heed the warning of General Dwight D. Eisenhower that a

nation that places its hope in military might alone becomes ultimately "a corpse in armor."

Attacking the Crisis

We must make a positive attack on all the problems that beset us. We must never be placed on the defensive by a negative approach. We must be aware of the meaning of freedom and of the price that must be paid for it. We must know, as our forebears before us have known, that freedom and democracy can be enjoyed only by those who are willing to pay their price.

The liberal institutions of this country have been established by men and women believing that free access to ideas is essential to a free exercise of the mind. These institutions have been mistrusted by some who cannot place their faith in the ability of men to arrive at truth through the testing of ideas by time and reason. They do not see that freedom to deal with ideas is essential to the development of character and intellect. As agents of democracy, liberal colleges have placed their faith in the ability of young people to grapple with opposing ideas, and from the intellectual processes involved in this conflict, to cultivate sound personal and social standards.

There is much to encourage the belief that our people have been strengthened by this intellectual freedom, and that even in the midst of our present confusion our young people possess those personal qualities that will enable them to understand our dilemma, and to come to sound conclusions. As we look around the world

today, we find that where men have been free, they have successfully opposed Communism, Fascism, and all forms of Totalitarianism. On the contrary, where the minds of men have been bound, and where men have been denied access to conflicting ideas, their imaginations have been seized by the claims of Communism. We must, after all, recognize that Communists have presented an alluring though deceptive front to the oppressed and exploited peoples of this planet. The mind that has too long been denied access to ideas and to truth is in no position to evaluate the claims of those who offer escape from misery. Men without hope are unprepared to assess the motive or to foresee the ultimate end. It is our job to present the truth and to make it more attractive than the promises of the Totalitarians.

Wilkes College is definitely involved in this struggle for freedom. The College has been created by men and women who believe in freedom of thought. It is committed to the cultivation of dynamic minds. It is hoped that our students will always seek truth and understanding. We have faith in the spiritual resources of free men; we believe that by adherence to democratic processes we can release the dynamic powers that are inherent in all individuals. We are convinced that in releasing these powers we are serving our nation and our civilization in their period of greatest crisis.

Your vision and assistance have made possible the development of Wilkes College. We are indebted

to you. We hope that you may feel a lasting satisfaction in the use to which your funds have been put. Your generosity has made possible the development of a college. It is our hope, and I trust it is yours, that this Collego will open new vistas to its students, and encourage them to develop those human and spiritual resources that are the bases of a way of life that free men have come to treasure.

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