

*All
College
Assembly*



Wilkes College

October 21, 1976

Message From The President

This day will be recorded in the history of Wilkes College as one on which the title of Professor Emeritus was granted by authority of the Board of Trustees to 26 persons who have given so much to the development of Wilkes College and the many young people who have studied here.

I consider it a personal privilege and honor to have the opportunity, as one of my first official acts as the third president of Wilkes College, to offer this special and long-overdue recognition.

I am sincerely sorry that of the 26 being honored, there are 10 who will receive the award posthumously. It is my hope that their loved ones will gain some measure of comfort and satisfaction in knowing that they will long be remembered.

This day also marks the recognition of individuals who have contributed so much as members of the "Wilkes College Family." They, too, have added so much to the building of Wilkes College and its contribution to the education of thousands.

The awards being made today are small in size but large in significance. They are symbolic of the highest regard and respect that a concerned and grateful institution of higher learning can extend to individuals who are responsible for its achievements.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the thousands of people for whom you have served, I offer my congratulations and appreciation for what we have been privileged to acknowledge today.

ROBERT S. CAPIN
President

Professors Emeriti — Posthumously

PROFESSOR MARY E. CRAIG

Serving from 1943 to 1955 as a faculty member and chairman of the English Department, she gained the affection and admiration of thousands of students and colleagues for her ability to transmit her love of literature and excellent writing to those who had the privilege of having her in the classroom.

PROFESSOR LEONARD CONNOLLY

A native of Ashley, he taught in that town's public school system and served as principal of Ashley High School before moving on to graduate school and then into the Armed Forces during World War II. He joined Wilkes College as a veterans' counselor and in May 1960 accepted an appointment in the History Department, where he served until his retirement in 1968. He is remembered as a congenial man of quiet dignity, respected for the habitual generosity of his response to others.

PROFESSOR E. SHELDON CURTIS

Highly regarded for many years as one of the outstanding faculty members in accounting, he served for many years in government accounting work and then engaged in private practice before joining the Wilkes faculty in 1952. He was an inspiration to those who studied under him and during his many years of teaching he prepared hundreds who are now working in the accounting field.

PROFESSOR PAUL GIES

He came to this institution in the mid-1940's from his position as associate professor of music at Bucknell University and established the music department at what was then Bucknell Junior College. He continued as chairman of the department when Wilkes College was established in 1947 and at the time of his death in 1948 he had established himself as a strong community leader in the field of music.

Professors Emeriti — Posthumously

PROFESSOR VORIS B. HALL

One of the early faculty members at Bucknell Junior College and later Wilkes College, he played a vital role during the World War II era when he established a special program tailored to the needs of U. S. Army Aviation Cadets who were assigned to the college for pre-flight training. In the post-war era, he was looked upon as one of the most valuable members of the Science Division of the college.

PROFESSOR EDWARD N. HELTZEL

He served as a part-time member of the Engineering and Mathematics Departments of Bucknell Junior College and Wilkes College while a member of the faculty at Kingston High School. He became a full-time member of the Wilkes faculty in 1946 and served until his death at the age of 59 in 1967.

PROFESSOR HUGO V. MAILEY

Professor Mailey joined the Wilkes faculty as chairman of the Political Science Department in 1946 and immediately began the establishment of the Institute of Regional Affairs. A branch of the College, the Institute touched every municipality in Luzerne and contiguous counties in its service to governmental and civic officials. At his death in 1971 at the age of 55, Professor Mailey was recognized as an authority on regional affairs and was constantly in demand as a consultant to local governmental bodies.

Professors Emeriti — Posthumously

PROFESSOR SAMUEL A. ROSENBERG

He came to Wilkes in 1948 as the first chairman of the Department of Commerce and Finance. In addition to rapidly making his department one of the most respected in the field, Dr. Rosenberg became involved in off-campus activities in the service of labor and business in a way that brought considerable credit to Wilkes College. He developed innovative approaches in the accounting program at the College and his devotion to and respect for students earned him a lasting place in the hearts of thousands who are now working in the professional field. His efforts in labor and business earned him respect throughout the state and much of the Northeastern portion of the nation.

PROFESSOR NADA VUJICA

She came to this country in 1947 with her husband, Dr. Stanko Vujica, and became a member of the Wilkes College Library staff. She brought with her a reputation as a widely known author of short stories and poetry in her native Croatia. Appointed head librarian in 1952, she continued to distinguish herself as one who worked diligently on behalf of students and faculty who sought her assistance in the library. She died in 1971.

PROFESSOR STANKO M. VUJICA

He served for 28 years as a member of the Wilkes College faculty and as chairman of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies. Highly respected by the thousands of students and colleagues who were privileged to have been associated with him, he retired as chairman in 1975, but continued to teach on a part-time basis until his death this year while delivering an address in Canada.

Professors Emeriti

PROFESSOR ALFRED W. BASTRESS

Professor Alfred Bastress earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees at Pennsylvania State University and his Ph.D. at Yale University. He joined the Wilkes College faculty in 1948 as Professor of Chemistry and Chairman of the Chemistry Department. Previously, he held faculty positions at The American University of Beirut, College of Alaska, and Pennsylvania State University. During World War II, he was associated with the U. S. Government Quinine Project in South America. During his 17-year tenure as department chairman, program quality was increased, new laboratory facilities were designed and occupied, the faculty was strengthened and a graduate program introduced. In addition to his many faculty activities, he also served as the first Dean of Instruction at Wilkes from 1951 to 1959. He retired from active teaching in 1967, and currently resides in Arizona. In recognition of his contributions, the Chemistry Department established an annual Professor Alfred W. Bastress Award for proficiency in chemical research.

PROFESSOR CATHERINE H. BONE

Professor Catherine Bone holds a B.S. and M.S. degree from Pennsylvania State University. She taught her first classes at Bucknell Junior College on a part-time basis in 1942, and after a distinguished 27-year career in the Forty Fort School System joined the Wilkes College faculty in 1946. As a high school chemistry teacher, she earned the reputation of constantly producing students who were highly qualified for advanced training in the sciences. During her 20 years at Wilkes, she worked with several thousand students, and many of them still maintain personal contact as a result of her concern and interest in their development. She also was involved in the chemical education of nurses, both in the local hospitals and in many Western Pennsylvania hospitals associated with Pennsylvania State University. An ardent supporter of college and community activities, she was also an active member of the Faculty Women's Organization. In recognition of her many contributions, the Chemistry Department established an annual Professor Catherine H. Bone Award for academic excellence and chemistry proficiency.

Professors Emeriti

PROFESSOR FRANK J. J. DAVIES

Professor Frank J. J. Davies was educated at Yale University. He came to Wilkes College in 1947, after a distinguished career in teaching and in administration at Peckville Military Academy, Asheville School, and Eastern Military Academy. He was appointed Chairman of the Department of English in 1955, and served until 1965. His courses in World Literature introduced hundreds of students to the values and traditions of Western culture. His career at Wilkes corresponded with the formative years of the College, and his contribution as teacher and scholar and man to its intellectual and spiritual tone is a matter of record and legend.

PROFESSOR ELWOOD DISQUE

Professor Elwood Disque holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Dickinson College and enjoyed a successful post baccalaureate preparation for college teaching by studying several years at prestigious German universities from 1931-35 as well as at the Alliance Francaise in Paris. He joined the faculty of Bucknell Junior College in 1935 and served brilliantly through the establishing of Wilkes College in 1947 until his retirement in 1975. His versatility and roots in the classical tradition enabled him to teach English and Latin as well as his specialty in German language and literature during his formative years as a faculty member. As Chairperson of the Department of Foreign Languages for 20 years, he appropriately earned the sobriquet of "a chairman's chairman." As purveyor and transmitter of German language and civilization, Professor Disque effectively communicated his affection for European civilization to generations of Wilkes students. Expertise in his specialty led to his appointment as a cryptanalyst for the Signal Intelligence Corps of the United States Army during World War II. Upon his discharge from the Armed Forces, he resumed his highly successful teaching career at Wilkes.

Professors Emeriti

PROFESSOR RUTH W. JESSEE

Professor Ruth W. Jessee holds a diploma in nursing from Minnequa Hospital, Pueblo, Colorado, the Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts degrees from the Teacher's College of Columbia University, and Doctor of Education from the University of Pennsylvania. After a highly successful career in nursing, she joined the Wilkes College faculty in 1952, retiring in 1972. Noted as a pioneer in nursing education, her efforts and personal sacrifices laid the groundwork for the baccalaureate program in nursing education at Wilkes College. Her commitment to higher education has been a source of deep inspiration to myriads of students who have benefited from her instruction. The author of a significant textbook still widely utilized in nursing education, Professor Jessee continues to enjoy a national reputation as a prominent figure in the development and administration of the licensure of nursing practitioners.

PROFESSOR BRONIS JOSEPH KASLAS

Professor Bronis J. Kaslas received a baccalaureate degree in law from the University of Lithuania at Kaunas in 1935. Continuing his studies at the University of Strasbourg in France, he was awarded the Master of Arts degree and Doctorate from that institution in 1938 and 1939, respectively. Upon completion of his doctoral studies, he was appointed to the faculty of his alma mater, and subsequently joined the faculty of the University of Strasbourg where he continued in residence until 1946 when he came to America. In 1949, he joined Wilkes College as instructor in history, advancing to full professor and chairman of the Department of History upon the retirement of Dr. Harold Thatcher. During his long service at Wilkes, he continued his scholarly efforts, publishing numerous articles in both foreign and American journals. His first book-length study, entitled "The Baltic League," was published in 1939. Since that time, he has written several volumes treating the diplomatic history of the Baltic states. In 1969, he resigned the chairmanship of the Department of History so that he might devote himself more fully to research, an activity which he has pursued with vigor and marked success since his retirement in 1975.

Professors Emeriti

PROFESSOR GRACE C. KIMBALL

Professor Grace Kimball received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Rochester and a Ph.D. from Cornell University. She engaged in bacteriological research at Schenectady Hospital in New York, and continued such work at Evansville Hospital while teaching at the University of Evansville. The recipient of a research award, she spent four years investigating periodontal diseases at Western Reserve University of Cleveland. For a number of years, Dr. Kimball taught at the University of Akron before joining the faculty of Wilkes College in 1964. She retired in 1975. While at Wilkes College, she became interested in the autotrophic bacteria of mine waters. She is a member of Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society of North America. In recent years, Professor Kimball has become especially interested in the study of architecture. During most of the years she was a member of the faculty of the Department of Biology at Wilkes College and advisor to the majors in medical technology.

PROFESSOR CHARLOTTE V. LORD

Professor Charlotte Lord holds a Bachelor of Science degree in English and Dramatic Art from New York University, a Master of Arts degree in English from Bucknell University, a Master of Arts degree in Italian from Columbia University, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in English from the University of Pennsylvania. She has also studied at a number of other colleges and universities, including McGill, the Università di Firenze, the Università di Siena, Cornell, Syracuse, and North Carolina. She was a Fulbright Exchange Professor in Rome for one year. She taught at GAR High School, Meyers High School, and Abington Senior High School, and has served her community and country as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Wilkes-Barre Little Theater, as Co-ordinator of Educational Television for the Wilkes-Barre City Schools, and as Ensign and Lieutenant in the United States Naval Reserves. Professor Lord came to Wilkes in 1962 and continues to serve with great distinction as Emeritus Professor of English. Her vast knowledge of the arts, her dedication to the human spirit, her ability to inspire, and her commitment to the young have established her as a teacher who is not only admired but loved.

Professors Emeriti

PROFESSOR EDITH SUPERKO NAMISNIAK

Professor Edith Namisniak was born in Nanticoke and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bucknell University, and a Master of Arts degree from the University of Michigan. Professor Namisniak taught at Nanticoke High School from 1916 to 1933 and during the early forties taught at Forty Fort High School. She joined the faculty of Wilkes College in 1946 when the College was still known as Bucknell University Junior College and she retired in 1963. During her teaching career, she studied at Syracuse University, Columbia University, Cornell University, The Pennsylvania State University, the Douglas Lake Field Station of the University of Michigan, the University of Wisconsin, and the University of Colorado.

Together with her husband, she travelled extensively, visiting every state in the union, Canada, and Mexico. Additionally, she has travelled and studied in Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Many students attest that Edith Namisniak was the teacher who inspired them to become teachers, to display an enthusiasm for research, and to understand the idea of being completely absorbed in the pursuit of knowledge.

PROFESSOR J. PHILIP RICHARDS

Professor J. Philip Richards is a graduate of the College of Fine Arts, Syracuse University. At the start of his career, he studied with a number of internationally known artists such as William Von Schappel, James Fitzgerald, and Edward Dalburg. Before Richards came to Wilkes College in 1962, he had distinguished himself in a variety of endeavors as a professional artist and teacher of painting and drawing. Some of his involvements included starting a private studio school and gallery in Wilkes-Barre, and teaching for a number of years in the Dallas school system and the Everhart Museum in Scranton. Professor Richards has made a number of academic contributions to Wilkes College, primarily as the Director of Exhibitions for the Sordoni and Conyngham Galleries. In addition, he has continued to bring recognition to the College by being represented in many private and museum collections and a winner of national and regional awards for his paintings.

Professors Emeriti

PROFESSOR RUTH T. ROBERTS

Professor Ruth Roberts holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Goucher College, and also studied English in the graduate schools of Cornell University and the University of California. She brought to Wilkes extensive experience in teaching and in business. She taught English for five years at Wyoming Seminary, and served the College as secretary to the Director of Public Relations and then as Director of Publicity. She accepted a faculty appointment in the English Department in 1955, teaching composition and business writing with great distinction until her retirement in 1973.

PROFESSOR HAROLD W. THATCHER

Professor Harold Thatcher completed his undergraduate study at Columbia University in 1919, and received the Master of Arts degree from the same institution in 1926. After several years of teaching in private schools, he received his doctorate from the University of Chicago in 1935. That fall, he was appointed to the faculty of the University of Maryland where he was quickly advanced to the rank of professor of history, a position he held from 1937 until 1942. In the latter year, he took a position as historian with the Quartermaster General's Office in the Department of War, continuing in that capacity until the fall of 1947. Dr. Thatcher came to Wilkes College as professor of history and chairman of the Department of History in 1947, and remained in the service of the college until his retirement in 1966. A frequent contributor to the professional journals and active participant in public causes, he soon came to be affectionately regarded as an institution within an institution. A meticulous scholar known for his incisive and pungent judgments, he won the respect of colleagues and students for his devotion to standards of excellence, humane idealism, and earnest concern to make use of his talents for the improvement of his school, community, and country.

Professors Emeriti

PROFESSOR CROMWELL E. THOMAS

Professor Cromwell Thomas holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Washington and Lee University and dedicated his life to service as a teacher. He began his career at Wilkes College in 1937, when it was known as Bucknell Junior College, and subsequently guided the formation of Wilkes College in 1947. By the time of his retirement in 1975, Professor Thomas had planted the seeds which to this day have generated into one of the best engineering programs. Shortly after joining the College, Professor Thomas organized and supervised the War Services Training Program. The purpose of this program was to train young men in engineering fundamentals to prepare them as engineers and aviators for the Armed Forces. This program marked the beginning of engineering education in Northeastern Pennsylvania, and firmly established engineering as an academic discipline at Wilkes College. Countless numbers of young people have repeatedly attested to the strong influences of Professor Thomas on their personal lives and careers. He remains widely known and respected in the region for his professionalism in engineering education as well as his services to the Society of Professional Engineers, to his State and Country.

PROFESSOR STANLEY H. WASILEWSKI

Professor Stanley H. Wasilewski holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Pittsburgh and a Master of Science degree from Bucknell University. Following an extremely rewarding career as a high school mathematics teacher in Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, Professor Wasilewski joined the Wilkes College faculty in 1945 at a time when the College was known as Bucknell Junior College. He was recognized as an outstanding teacher until the time of his retirement in 1969. The College was fortunate, however, in retaining his services as a part-time professor for an all too short time thereafter. A prime mover in the successful beginning of both the summer and evening schools, Professor Wasilewski was held in high esteem by faculty and students alike. Remembered as a demanding but extremely patient professor, Stan, as he was affectionately known, was also in great demand as a speaker at meetings of high school mathematics organizations. In such a capacity, he helped to spread the excellent reputation currently enjoyed by Wilkes College today among mathematical circles in the State of Pennsylvania.

Professors Emeriti

PROFESSOR PAUL R. WERNER

Professor Paul Werner holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Susquehanna College and a Master of Arts degree from New York University. He was lured from his position as high school teacher of commercial subjects at Forty Fort High School to Wilkes College in 1946 to assist the transition from Bucknell Junior College to Wilkes College. His teaching effectiveness and ability contributed greatly to the Wilkes Commerce and Finance Department in its formative years. He subsequently built his specialty, Cost Accounting, to a level where the excellence of the subject as taught at Wilkes became recognized by international accounting firm recruiters. Interestingly, one-half of the top administrators at Wilkes felt his influence, and their mastery in financial affairs years later may be fairly attributed to the penetrating thoroughness of his instruction. Always available to advise his students with their diverse problems, he also saw fit to devote time and energy to many years of service as Forty Fort borough auditor and as an instructor in the American Savings and Loan Institute.

PROFESSOR ROBERT A. WEST

Professor Robert West holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bucknell University and a Master of Arts degree from Columbia University. While a mathematics teacher in Wilkes-Barre, he concurrently taught part-time at Wilkes College and at its predecessor institution, Bucknell University Junior College. After an illustrious career as a mathematics teacher and vice principal at Coughlin High School in Wilkes-Barre, Professor West was enticed to Wilkes College in 1962 on a full-time basis, serving with great distinction until his retirement in 1972. He continued at Wilkes College the reputation he had earned as a master teacher, and that skill earned him the title at Wilkes as a "teacher of teachers." In addition to his myriad academic contributions, he led the annual United Fund Drive, served as chairman of the Athletic Committee, and rendered extraordinary service to community activities in the Wyoming Valley. To this day, Professor West remains known as one of the guiding spirits of faculty commitment in community and church affairs.

20-Year Service Awards

(Medallions and Service Pins)

RUTH V. BISHOP	College Services
JOHN J. CHWALEK	Administration
GEORGE F. ELLIOT	Faculty
WELTON G. FARRAR	Faculty
BENJAMIN F. FIESTER	Faculty
MILDRED GITTINS	College Services
ALFRED S. GROH	Faculty
EUGENE L. HAMMER	Faculty
ARTHUR J. HOOVER	Administration
WILLIAM JERVIS	Maintenance
JOSEPH H. KANNER	College Services and Faculty
GEORGE F. RALSTON	Administration
JOHN G. REESE	Faculty
CHARLES B. REIF	Faculty
THOMAS R. RICHARDS	Faculty
ROBERT C. RILEY	Faculty
FRANCIS J. SALLEY	Faculty
ROBERT E. WERNER	Faculty
JOHN P. WHITBY	Administration

10-Year Service Awards

(Service Pins)

CHARLES R. ABATE ✓	Administration
DORIS BARKER	Administration
MICHAEL J. BARONE	Faculty
FREDERIC E. BELLAS	Faculty
JAMES P. BERG	Faculty
JAMES J. BOHNING	Faculty
CURWIN BROMFIELD	Maintenance
DALE A. BUEHLER	Faculty
ROBERT S. CAPIN ✓	Administration
RICHARD B. CHAPLINE	Faculty
CHESTER E. COLSON	Faculty
JULE COOK	Staff
NANCE CORDY	Staff
CHESTER CORRELL	Maintenance
HAROLD E. COX	Faculty
CECIL CRISPELL	Maintenance
JAMES G. DeCOSMO	Faculty
ROBERT H. DeYOUNG	Faculty
FRANCIS J. DONAHOE	Faculty
BOYD L. EARL ✓	Faculty
THEODORE J. ENGEL	Faculty
HERBERT GARBER	Faculty
WILLIAM R. GASBARRO	Faculty
GEORGE GERA	Faculty
STANLEY S. GUTIN	Faculty
STANLEY J. HOLDEN	Faculty
THOMAS N. KASKA	Faculty
STANLEY B. KAY	Faculty

10-Year Service Awards

(Service Pins)

ANN KESTER	Staff
ANDREW KMETZ	Maintenance
FREDERICK J. KROHLE ✓	Faculty
MILDRED MARINI	Staff
REGINA MESCHINI	Staff
JAROSLAV G. MORAVEC	Faculty
UMID R. NEJIB	Faculty
LOUIS NEUMAN	Staff
LEOTA NEVIL ✓	Faculty
ROBERT E. OGREN	Faculty
ANN MARIE PARRY	Staff
ALICE RADER	Staff
PHILIP L. RIZZO	Faculty
RALPH B. ROZELLE	Administration
JOSEPH H. SALSBURG	Faculty
DORIS SARACINO	Faculty
ROLAND C. SCHMIDT, JR.	Faculty
JOHN SEROKA	Maintenance
KUO-KANG SHAO	Faculty
J. GEORGE SILES ✓	Faculty
HARRY SMITH	Maintenance
RICHARD E. SOURS	Faculty
RUTH SPEAR	Staff
WILLIAM R. STINE	Faculty
STEPHEN SUBYAK	Maintenance
HOWARD A. SWAIN	Faculty
PHILIP TUHY ✓	Faculty
JOHN YANCHIK	Maintenance

PROGRAM

PROCESSIONAL Wilkes College Band

WELCOME Attorney Joseph J. Savitz
Chairman, Board of Trustees

NATIONAL ANTHEM Wilkes College Chorus and Audience

INVOCATION George F. Ralston
Dean of Student Affairs

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESIDENT Attorney Joseph J. Savitz

ADDRESS Robert S. Capin
President, Wilkes College

INTRODUCTION OF PROFESSORS EMERITI Richard P. Soter
Dean of Academic Affairs

Assisted by: President Capin

Board Chairman Savitz

Student Government President Gina O'Brien

Student Government Vice President Stephen Esrick

PRESENTATION OF SERVICE AWARDS Andrew Shaw, Jr.
Assistant to the President
for Management and Operation

ALMA MATER Wilkes College Chorus and Audience

RECESSIONAL Wilkes College Band

(The audience is requested to remain standing until the platform party has left the gym)



ALMA MATER

Wilkes, our Alma Mater,
We pledge our hearts to thee,
Honor, faith, and courage,
Truth and loyalty.
In our work and in our pleasure,
Guide us as a friend;
We shall always love thee,
Loyal to the end.

Thou shalt lead us onward
In search of finer things.
May we find the wisdom
That thy spirit brings.
May our deeds of love and service
Ever swell thy fame —
Wilkes, we stand to greet thee!
Glory to thy name.

— Words and music by Eleanor C. Farley

