

*Wilkes University
Alumni Scholarship Fund
Dinner Dance*

*Tribute to Dr. Robert S. Capin '50
Saturday, April 5, 2003*

Name(s) _____

Guest(s) _____

Total number attending _____

☐ I/We will attend

☐ Fish ☐ Chicken

☐ Enclosed is my reservation payment of \$ _____

☐ I/We are unable to attend

Please accept my contribution of \$ _____

R.S.V.P. by March 28th, 2003
1-800-WILKES-U (945-5378) ext. 4130
alumni@wilkes.edu
Make checks payable to Wilkes University

The Alumni Association of Wilkes University presents:

Alumni Scholarship Fund Dinner Dance

*Tribute to Dr. Robert S. Capin '50
President Emeritus*

Saturday, April 5, 2003

Robert S. Capin, Ph.D.

"In pursuing the goals we have established for ourselves, each of us has the obligation to apply our talents to the best of our ability. There is no substitute for excellence."

Robert S. Capin

For those who know him best, Dr. Robert S. (Bob) Capin personifies excellence. A husband, father, grandfather, educator, leader, and friend, Bob has thoughtfully dedicated his life to making the lives of those around him more substantial. The students and alumni of Wilkes University are thankful to be included in this special group.

A gentle spirit with a brilliant mind, Bob's journey to Wilkes began in 1947, when he transferred as a newly married World War II veteran to Bucknell University Junior College with his bride, the former Libby Smulovitz. After earning his Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from Wilkes College in 1950, Bob entered the world of public accounting—first working as a public accountant for the firm of Lavenhol and Horwath until 1955, then as comptroller for Sitkins Metal Trading from 1955-1956, and finally as a self-employed CPA from 1959-1974 (while earning his MBA in Labor Management from Lehigh University in 1969).

Inspired by his former teachers, Drs. Charles Reif, Sam Rosenberg, Hugo Mailey, Stanke Vujica, Mary Craig and others, Bob returned to Wilkes in 1955 as a part-time faculty member in the Evening School. Four years later he was invited to join the faculty full-time, deriving great joy and satisfaction from teaching his students and consequently influencing their lives. During this time, Bob established friendships that remain to this day.

At all times, Bob's commitment to Wilkes was evident. In 1965, he became director of the Evening and Summer College, while also serving as the school's registrar and teaching at least one accounting course each semester. Taking his cue from then-President Dr. Farley, Bob re-instituted the summer school, an initiative that laid the foundation for his future in administration.

As dean of Academic Affairs from 1974-1975, Bob and then-President Dr. Michelini helped campus with the Herculean effort of recovering from the Flood of 1972. Soon after, he was named acting president (while simultaneously serving as dean), and finally took over the presidency of Wilkes College in 1975, a position he held until 1984.

Under Bob's leadership, Wilkes employed prudent management practices, enabling itself to operate in the black for a nine-year run. He implemented and piloted two successful multi-year, multi-million-dollar capital campaigns, the financing and construction of a new residence hall, and the extensive refurbishment of many historic campus facilities.

On the academic side of the house, Bob assisted in the development of the MBA program and the specialization of Accounting, the advancement of the Wilkes-Hahnemann medical program and the Nursing School. Another significant achievement was the re-accreditation granted to Wilkes by the Middle States Association of College and Universities.

In recognition of his countless contributions, Dr. Capin was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Wilkes in 1983 and was named the institution's first president emeritus. Over the years, former students and colleagues have seen fit to immortalize the name of Dr. Robert S. Capin in various ways on campus. In 1994, Wilkes renamed the building located at 165 South Franklin St. as Robert S. Capin Hall. In 1992, efforts got underway to establish the Robert S. Capin Endowed Teaching Chair in Accounting. And, the Robert S. Capin Endowed Scholarship in Accounting provides much-needed assistance to freshman accounting majors.

Even to this very day, Bob continues to apply his talents to the best of his ability, providing an excellent education to today's Wilkes students and offering expertise as an advisor to the current administration.

A native of Harrisburg, Bob and wife Libby have a son, David '82; two daughters, Deborah and Ellen; and grandchildren Jeffrey, Mark, Rea, Joshua, Aaron, Shira, Abigail, and one more due to arrive on June 20th.

Community Connections

After his tenure as Wilkes College president, Bob re-joined the world of public accounting, earning the distinction of partner in the prestigious firm of Parente, Randolph, Orlando, Carey, and Associates until 1989. Even with his hectic work schedule, the needs of his fellow man never drifted far from his sight.

Bob not only faithfully serves Wilkes, but also his community. He has held several leadership roles within the Jewish Federation, Jewish Community Center, Ethics Institute of NE Pennsylvania, Jewish Family Service, Economic Development Council of NE Pennsylvania, Osterhout Library, Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Wyoming Valley, Philharmonic Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Wilkes-Barre Law and Library, National Advisory Committee for the Allergy and Infectious Diseases Council, Hoyt Library, and Ohav Zedek Synagogue.

It's no wonder why Bob's accolades include the *Outstanding Community Leadership Award* from Temple Israel, *Community Service Award* from B'nai B'rith Lodge, and *Man of the Year Award* from Wilkes-Barre Lions Club.

On this special evening, please join the members of Bob's Wilkes University family in thanking him for all he has done for our school, our community, and our society.



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