

Wilkes University

Alumni Journal

July/August 1995 • Volume 3, Number 2

Something for everyone at Homecoming '95

If you miss Homecoming this year, you'll be missing a lot.

Planned for October 13-15, 1995, the weekend will offer events for alumni of all class years and academic disciplines.

The festivities will kick off on Friday with the annual alumni golf tournament at Mill Race Golf and Camping Resort in Benton, Pa. Shotgun start for the captain and mate format tournament is at noon, and nearly 100 alumni are expected to participate. Pre-registration and \$65 payment are required for this event.

Communications department alumni will gather on

Friday night for a 5-7 T.G.I.F. open house in Capin Hall. Alumni can tour the newly renovated Capin Hall and the new television studio, located in the lower level of Stark Learning Center. Later that evening is the annual Friday Night Frolic in the Annette Evans Alumni and Faculty House, a chance for alumni of all class years to mingle and share memories with classmates. A light buffet and refreshments will be provided by the Alumni Board.

On Saturday, the Department of Accounting will host a Leadership Forum in Accounting and Finance from 8:15 to 11:45 a.m. Keynote speaker for this landmark event will be CNN senior

business correspondent Stuart Varney, anchor of the network's "Business Morning" and "Your Money" programs. Varney's address will focus on "Shareholder Value—Accountability and Communication." Following the presentation, an alumni panel will discuss the topic. The forum is approved for Continuing Professional Education credit in Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey. For more information about this event, contact Sandy Rybak in Wilkes's School of Business Society and Public Policy at 1-800-WILKES-U, extension 4725.

Later that day, the Alumni Association has planned a Return to the Hill



Celebration at the Munson Fieldhouse, overlooking Ralston Field. The event is centered around several athletic events, including a men's soccer match-up with Delaware Valley at 11 a.m., and women's soccer and women's tennis matches

with Drew University at noon. And at 1 p.m., the Colonels football team will take the field opposite cross-town rivals, the King's College Monarchs.

After the game, members of the Wilkes family will
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Alumni return for Eighth Annual Reunion Weekend

For alumni who returned to Wilkes in May to celebrate Reunion Weekend, the eighth annual event was a chance to visit their alma mater and catch up with old friends.

Members of the classes of 1935, '40, '45, '50, '55, '60, '65, '70 and '75 returned for the weekend, which kicked off on Friday with a faculty alumni reception in the Annette Evans Alumni and Faculty House. Alumni mingled with current and former faculty, including George Ralston, Dr. Robert Capin '50, Dr.

Carl Charnetski '70, Dr. Charles Reif, Welton Farrar and Edwin Johnson.

On Saturday morning, alumni and trustees who work for IBM Corporation helped celebrate the dedication of the newest IBM computer laboratory in Stark Learning Center, which was partially funded through their matching gift contributions. Math and computer science professor Dr. John Koch led alumni in a tour of the internet and a demonstration of the Wilkes home page on the World Wide Web.

At another computer workshop, Dr. Joseph Bellucci, director of Wilkes's Teacher Education Center, demonstrated CD-ROM technology to alumni educators.

Saturday afternoon, alumni gathered on the lawn near the Burns Alumni Tower and Carillon for the All Class Family Picnic. The barbecue featured grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, refreshments and lots of reminiscing. Several friends from the class of 1965 were reunited and posed for a reunion picture by the clock tower.

Nearby, alumni, students and faculty from the music, theatre and dance department held a reception in honor of Theresa Rudolph, who retired after 20 years as the department's secretary.



Ethelda '67 and William Bergstrasser, Virginia '50 and John '50 Nelson and Alma Omichski '51.

Evening events centered around the Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner, held in the Arnaud C. Marts Sports and Conference Center, where alumni athletes were inducted into the Wilkes Athletics Hall of Fame (See article, page 6).

The weekend concluded on Sunday with a Reunion Memorial Service at the Burns Alumni Tower and Carillon and the Golden Colonel Brunch, hosted by President and Mrs. Breiseth in Weckesser Hall. Members of the class of 1945 were honored guests, along with members of the class of 1935, who celebrated their 60th reunion.

Alumni gather at the picnic. At far right, members of the class of 1965, from left, James Jenkins, Ted Travis-Bey, Leslie Tobias Jenkins, Holly Rapp Cornell, Judy Sisco Shotwell, Donald Ungemah, Edward Comstock, and Gary Popovich.



Profile

Before the newest Wilkes graduates walked away with their degrees from the 48th annual spring commencement ceremonies in May, they were taught one final history lesson by two of America's most distinguished writers.

Under sunny skies at Ralston Field, the more than 400 seniors listened as Norman Mailer and Geoffrey Ward delivered separate speeches which prodded them to look back before forging ahead.

Delivering the principal address, Mailer spoke of the profound effect the Cold War had in shaping the futures for past generations of college graduates.

"We had the dubious benefit of a Cold War which established all the signs," he said. "It was very easy for us to function as a nation. We had an enemy and they were Godless and materialistic, and they were determined to destroy us. And so it was very simple for 98 percent of Americans to find their way in social structure."

With the downfall of the Soviet Union, Mailer said, Americans have redirected their rage toward themselves, heightening the acrimony among groups and enclaves. But, he added, the lack of a common enemy makes society less structured, allowing today's graduates to find innovative ways to proceed.

"You are going out into a world where all the sign posts have become weather vanes and people are no longer certain of which route they can take," he said.

"You will go forth on the rare position of being pioneers—in the spiritual sense—because you are going into a new and undiscovered frontier. It is the frontier of the last of this century, and the 21st century to come where all the guide rules of the 19th and 20th century have been used up."

Ward, principal writer of the PBS series "Baseball," stressed to the



Photos by C. Salonic

Graduates challenged to examine past

graduates the need to examine American history to determine where they fit in.

"It is time, now, I think, for us to try to put together a new story of America—more inclusive than the old, more frank about our failures, more clear-eyed about the cost of even our greatest successes," he said. "But a story nonetheless, which all of us can share, in which each of us at last can find a part to play."

Each speaker was awarded an honorary doctor of humane letters degree.



Vice President for Academic Affairs J. Michael Lennon, renowned writer Norman Mailer and President Christopher N. Breiseth prior to Commencement exercises.



Above: Dr. Jeffrey S. Yablon '80 receives the Distinguished Young Alumnus Award from Alumni Association President Colleen Gries Gallagher '81. Left: The graduate processional. Below: A sea of mortar boards.



Dr. J. Michael Lennon, vice president for academic affairs, presided over the ceremonies. The Rev. Monsignor Alexander T. Kulik, pastor, St. Mary's Church of the Maternity, gave the invocation and the Rev. Harriet Santos, pastor of the United Methodist Church in Shavertown, delivered the benediction.

Greetings were brought by Eugene Roth '57, president of the Board of Trustees, Stefan Clauson, a member of the class of 1995 and Dr. Robert W. Bohlander, associate professor of psychology, who cautioned the graduates to expect "an unending series of changes."

"Not one of you will experience life exactly the way you are planning today," said Bohlander. "This is not good or bad; it simply is."

Graduates Daniel C. Williams and Christie Lynn Meyers received the Mable Scott Wandell and Sterling Leroy Wandell Award, presented to the male and female graduates attaining the highest academic average. Wendy Ann Keiner, Ronald Stabinsky and Leila Hadj-Chikh received the top

awards in each of the three school divisions. Theresa L. Malasavage and Damien Sher were commissioned as second lieutenants in the United States Air Force, and Devin O'Leary Licklider was commissioned as an officer of the United States Marine Corps.

Chad A. Lojewski was recipient of the Alumni Award for Leadership, which recognizes the member of the graduating class who has made the strongest contribution to student life and the student activities program.

Dr. Jeffrey S. Yablon '80 was awarded the Distinguished Young Alumnus Award and Thomas A. Killino, M'73, a sixth-grade teacher at Riverside Elementary East, received the Inspirational Teacher Award. He was nominated by his son and former student, Thomas J. Killino.

Said the elder Killino, "For me and for my family, this truly is a Kodak moment."

For a complete transcript of Norman Mailer or Geoffrey Ward's remarks, contact the Wilkes University Relations Office at (717) 831-4770.