

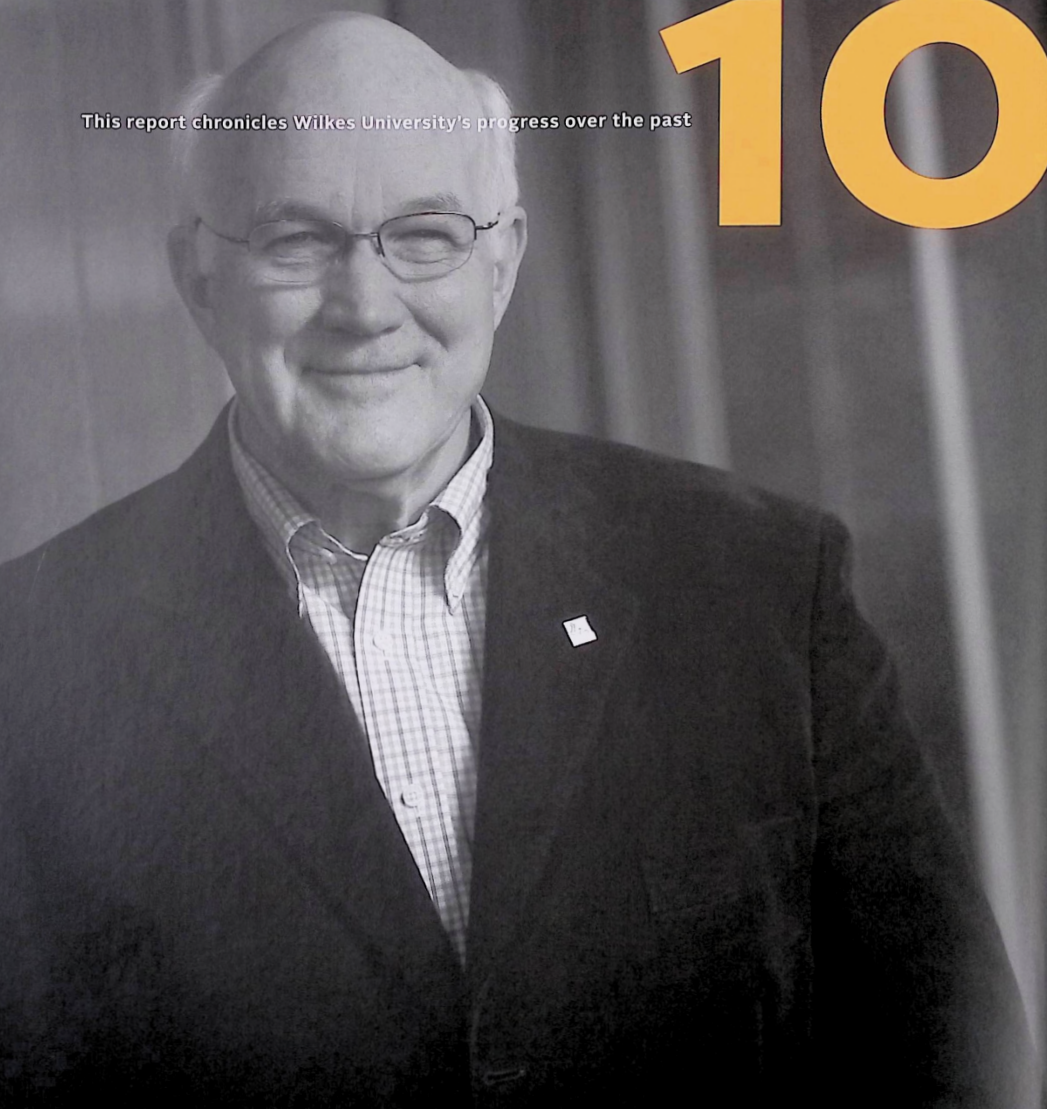
A DECADE OF GROWTH



WILKES UNIVERSITY 2001-2011
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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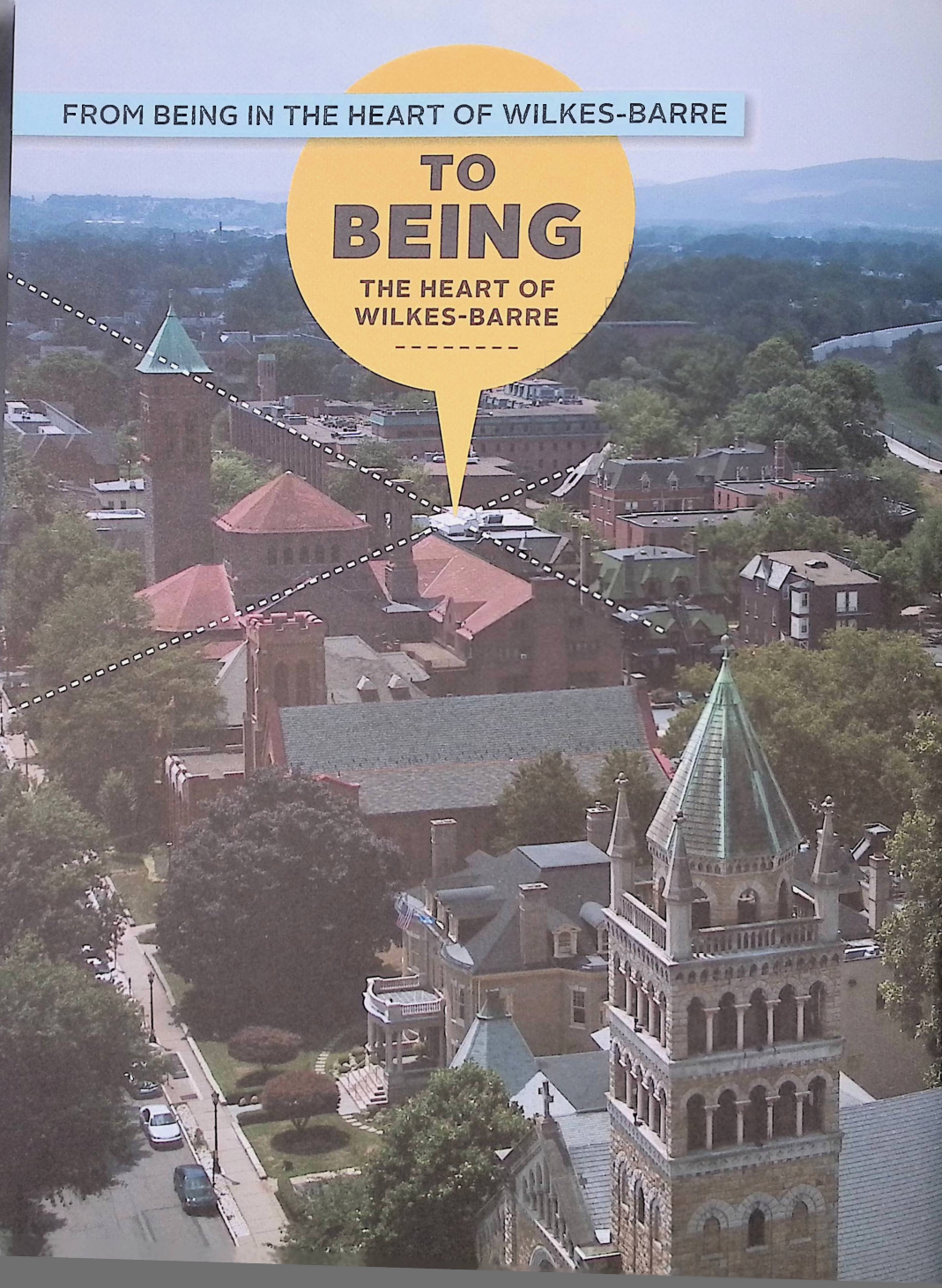
This report chronicles Wilkes University's progress over the past



YEARS

It is about the efforts of smart, hard-working faculty, staff, students and alumni who have made huge contributions to Wilkes and, more importantly, to its promise for the future. Throughout this report, you'll meet some of these great people.

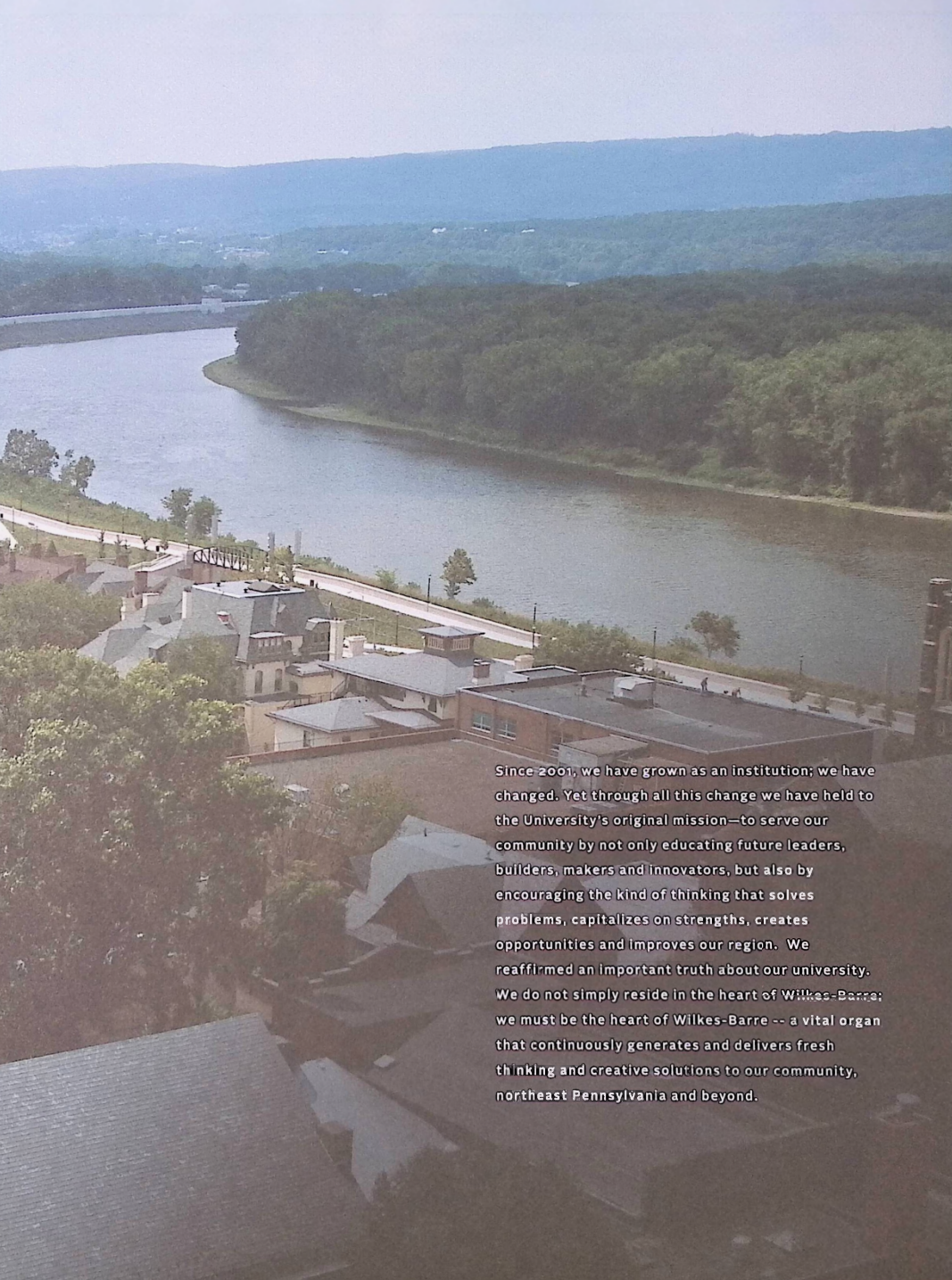
This past decade has been a time of significant progress at Wilkes. But in the institutional history, it will best be remembered as a prelude to a time of even greater organizational achievement and a time when Wilkes would become the premier higher education institution in northeastern Pennsylvania.

An aerial photograph of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, showing a mix of historic and modern architecture. A large yellow speech bubble is centered over the town, with a dashed line pointing to a specific building. The background shows rolling hills under a clear sky.

FROM BEING IN THE HEART OF WILKES-BARRE

**TO
BEING**

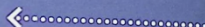
THE HEART OF
WILKES-BARRE



Since 2001, we have grown as an institution; we have changed. Yet through all this change we have held to the University's original mission—to serve our community by not only educating future leaders, builders, makers and innovators, but also by encouraging the kind of thinking that solves problems, capitalizes on strengths, creates opportunities and improves our region. We reaffirmed an important truth about our university. We do not simply reside in the heart of Wilkes-Barre; we must be the heart of Wilkes-Barre -- a vital organ that continuously generates and delivers fresh thinking and creative solutions to our community, northeast Pennsylvania and beyond.

Wilkes had much going for it. The University had some of the most beautiful residential architecture you could find on a college campus, a majestic river that ran alongside this period architecture, and Wilkes-Barre's downtown less than a block away. Inside, what was happening academically was even more impressive. It was a university with the heart of a liberal arts institution—small size, personal engagement, and teaching students to think critically and view issues from multiple viewpoints.

LOOKING BACK ON HOW WE FIRST LOOKED



But it was also a school with the intellectual muscle of a comprehensive university—strong research and applied sciences in programs such as nursing, engineering, pharmacy, biology, chemistry. Students were engaged in meaningful ways with their community, tackling tough issues.



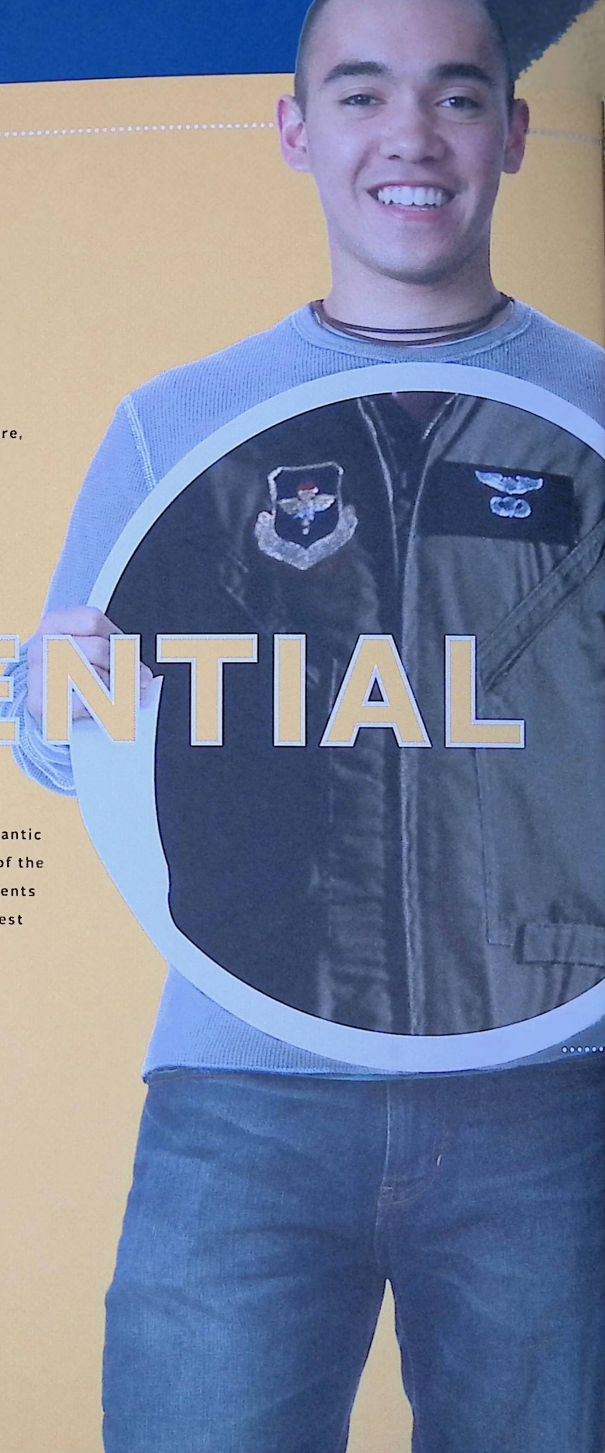
.....FORWARD



When all of this was put together—the architecture,
the location, the campus, the duality of its
academic programs and the great capacity of its
people—there was

PURE POTENTIAL

In fact, we had the makings of what could become
more than just a premier university in the Mid-Atlantic
region. We had the foundation for the university of the
future. A place educating and challenging its students
to think, build, innovate, heal, protect, lead and best
serve the surrounding community.



VISION 2010: A PLAN OF ACTION

To realize this potential and lead the way to a major revitalization of our region, there was work to be done. So we created our first strategic plan, "Vision 2010," with an ambitious set of goals:

- 1 GROW**
undergraduate enrollment and double graduate enrollment.
- 2 STRENGTHEN**
and increase faculty to preserve our tradition of mentorship as we grow.
- 3 IMPROVE**
the campus wherever possible to capitalize on its unique setting and architecture.
- 4 PLAY**
a key role in the much-needed revitalization of downtown Wilkes-Barre.
- 5 ENRICH**
the academic experience so that we are always on the forefront of discovery and innovation.

WITH THIS PLAN IN HAND WE DID WHAT
PEOPLE IN THE **WYOMING VALLEY** ALWAYS DO.

→ WE GOT TO
WORK

LIKE MANY OF OUR STUDENTS, YOU COULD CALL US AN

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION RANKED WILKES UNIVERSITY

To grow the University's enrollment, in both undergraduate as well as graduate programs, we initiated a handful of strategic initiatives. For one, we made it more affordable to more students by increasing the number of endowed scholarships.

We expanded our recruitment efforts by identifying and targeting new geographic locations in Pennsylvania as well as New York, New Jersey and Delaware. We joined the Yellow Ribbon program to increase opportunities for returning veterans.

WE NOW HAVE

170

**ENDOWED
SCHOLARSHIPS**

AND 20 ANNUAL
SCHOLARSHIPS.

G.I. JOBS MAGAZINE
DESIGNATED
US A

MILITARY FRIENDLY SCHOOL,

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR EMBRACE
OF AMERICA'S VETERANS AS
STUDENTS

OVERACHIEVER.

A **FASTEST-GROWING UNIVERSITY** FROM 2004 TO 2009.

We then made our university more globally friendly by opening the Center for Global Education and Diversity, increasing our diversity on campus, as well as increasing opportunities for our students to go abroad. The center supports under-represented and international students and encourages multicultural experiences with events like Family Heritage Day and global coffee hours.

DIVERSITY
INCREASED
FROM 6.9% TO
12.2%

THE NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS GREW FROM 26
STUDENTS REPRESENTING 4
COUNTRIES TO 103 STUDENTS
REPRESENTING 21 COUNTRIES.

AS A RESULT OF THESE

COMBINED EFFORTS,
OUR FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT
UNDERGRADUATE
ENROLLMENT

(TAKING INTO ACCOUNT BOTH FULL- AND
PART-TIME STUDENTS)

GREW

A STARTLING

28%

OUR GRADUATE ENROLLMENT,
ON THE OTHER HAND, DIDN'T GROW. IT

EXPLODED.

GRADUATE
FULL-TIME
EQUIVALENT
ENROLLMENT
INCREASED
155%

The story behind this exponential graduate growth is a bit different. This came mostly from Wilkes University's effort to take a long, hard look at present and potential student populations and identify needs we could address through affordable programs. The result was:

THREE NEW TERMINAL DEGREES:

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing (M.F.A.)
Doctor of Education (Ed.D.)
Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.)

FOUR NEW MASTER'S DEGREES:

Creative Writing (M.A., M.F.A.)
Instructional Media, in cooperation
with Discovery Education (M.S.)
Engineering Management (M.S.)
Mechanical Engineering (M.S.)





MORE STUDENTS



MEANS MORE MENTORS

Wilkes has always been known above all as a university that values personal engagement -- a place where students receive one-on-one mentoring from a dedicated faculty member who takes the time to get to know them and helps them uncover their full potential. So as we added students it was only natural to add faculty. And if we were going to hire new faculty, it made sense to go after the top caliber possible. We created the Initiative to Value Our People and invested \$5.5 million to raise salaries, paying our faculty and staff what they deserved and making us more attractive in the marketplace.



HOW MUCH HAVE WE
ENRICHED THE
ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE?



ABOUT \$15 MILLION

Our goal was not only to get bigger, but better. To become a leader on the forefront of education and research in northeastern Pennsylvania. We've attracted top talent, and our faculty grew from 106 to 157 full-time professors. And in addition to raising the number, we raised the collective bar of teaching quality as everyone strived to enrich the academic experience even more.

Those faculty have raised millions in local, state and federal funding over the last 10 years to enrich and grow our academic offerings. The National Science Foundation took notice of our excellent science programs and awarded us several grants, including:

\$210,880 to our biology department to purchase six plant growth chambers, allowing us to conduct more sophisticated plant research in sub-disciplines ranging from molecular biology to physiology and ecology. With this money we plan to grow the area's top minds in the natural sciences.

\$173,391 for our chemistry department to support research in the transport properties of complex liquids, ultimately making them a lot less complex to our students and faculty.

\$200,000 for the purchase of a 400-MHz Nuclear Magnetic Resonance spectrometer, the largest in the region, to conduct research on the structures of compounds.



WE'RE NO LONGER ON THE CUTTING-EDGE OF SCIENCE.

WE'RE EXPLORING THE NEXT FRONTIER.

.....

The prestigious Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) recognized us as "one of the nation's best undergraduate institutions" with a \$1 million grant to creatively engage students in the biological sciences. The money is now funding new initiatives and new faculty members to work at the interfaces of biology, physics and mathematics to better integrate these disciplines into the life sciences. HHMI awards these grants by examining the number of graduates who are accepted into medical schools and doctoral science programs over a 10-year period. Currently Wilkes health science graduates have a 91 percent matriculation rate into medical schools and health science and doctoral programs.

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Our growth and success extends beyond the sciences and can perhaps be best seen in the world of business and leadership. One of the biggest additions to our University in the past 10 years was the opening of the Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and Leadership in 2004, established with a gift from Trustee Sidhu (MBA '73) and Sovereign Bank, which he headed. The school blends the foundations of business with the skills of leadership and forward thinking innovation. We have since graduated a new breed of entrepreneurs who have started and managed their own business ventures as undergraduates. We have also hosted an impressive roster of world leaders, including Madeline Albright, Eli Wiesel, Colin Powell and Rudy Giuliani, as part of The Sidhu School's Outstanding Leaders Forum.

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THE FIRST STEP TOWARD A BETTER BUSINESS WORLD

IS DEVELOPING BETTER BUSINESS LEADERS.

STRENGTHENING

OUR ABILITY TO EDUCATE UNDERGRADUATES

Across the entire University, we have also further strengthened the way we educate and learn by establishing the Mentoring Task Force. What this means is dedicating more than \$2 million over five years to ensure that every student has access to high-quality mentoring relationships that enhance their educational experience. Mentoring is what Wilkes has always stood for and it is what makes Wilkes a liberal arts institution at heart. It's the key ingredient that turns knowledge into success. How do we know this?

**WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF
THINGS THEY'RE DOING?**



STARTING FROM HIS
FRESHMAN YEAR,

DEREK NYE '11

HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO
WORK ONE-ON-ONE WITH

DR. LINDA GUTIERREZ

on a critical medical school research project investigating Ulcerative Colitis. This led him to an enriching study abroad program at Paris' Sorbonne. After graduation he headed back to Paris to a prestigious research fellowship at the **PASTEUR INSTITUTE.**

BIOLOGY STUDENT

**RACHEL
CURTIS '10**

HAD A CHANCE TO TRAVEL TO
COSTA RICA AND SPEND A
SEMESTER LIVING AND
STUDYING IN THE
RAINFOREST.

Immersing herself in the Spanish-speaking culture, she was able to add valuable input into the study and tracking of indigenous poison tree frogs. Her trip was both academically rewarding and a rewarding adventure. How do we know this? Rachel was kind enough to share her experience as she blogged almost daily about her time here. She is now back and working at Wilkes while she considers M.D.-Ph.D. programs.

BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION
ALUMNA

TRACY
GARCIA '10

GAINED THE KNOWLEDGE
AND CONFIDENCE SHE
NEEDED TO LAND
A JOB WITH

KRAFT FOODS

thanks to her experience beginning freshman year with the Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and Leadership's Personal and Professional Development Program. The sales service associate credits the program with teaching her proper business practices and guiding her to work effectively in group settings.

LEAVE IT BETTER, BIGGER AND



GREENER

THAN YOU FOUND IT.

Historic. It's usually the first word that comes to mind when you look around our campus. The buildings of grandeur, fitted with period fireplaces, warm hardwoods and intricate moldings speak to the history of our region when it was a bustling hub of the coal industry. However, places with such period history require periodic renovations, which is why we completely restored two of our historic residence halls to preserve their original charm and character. But our campus improvements went much further.



A GREENER CAMPUS

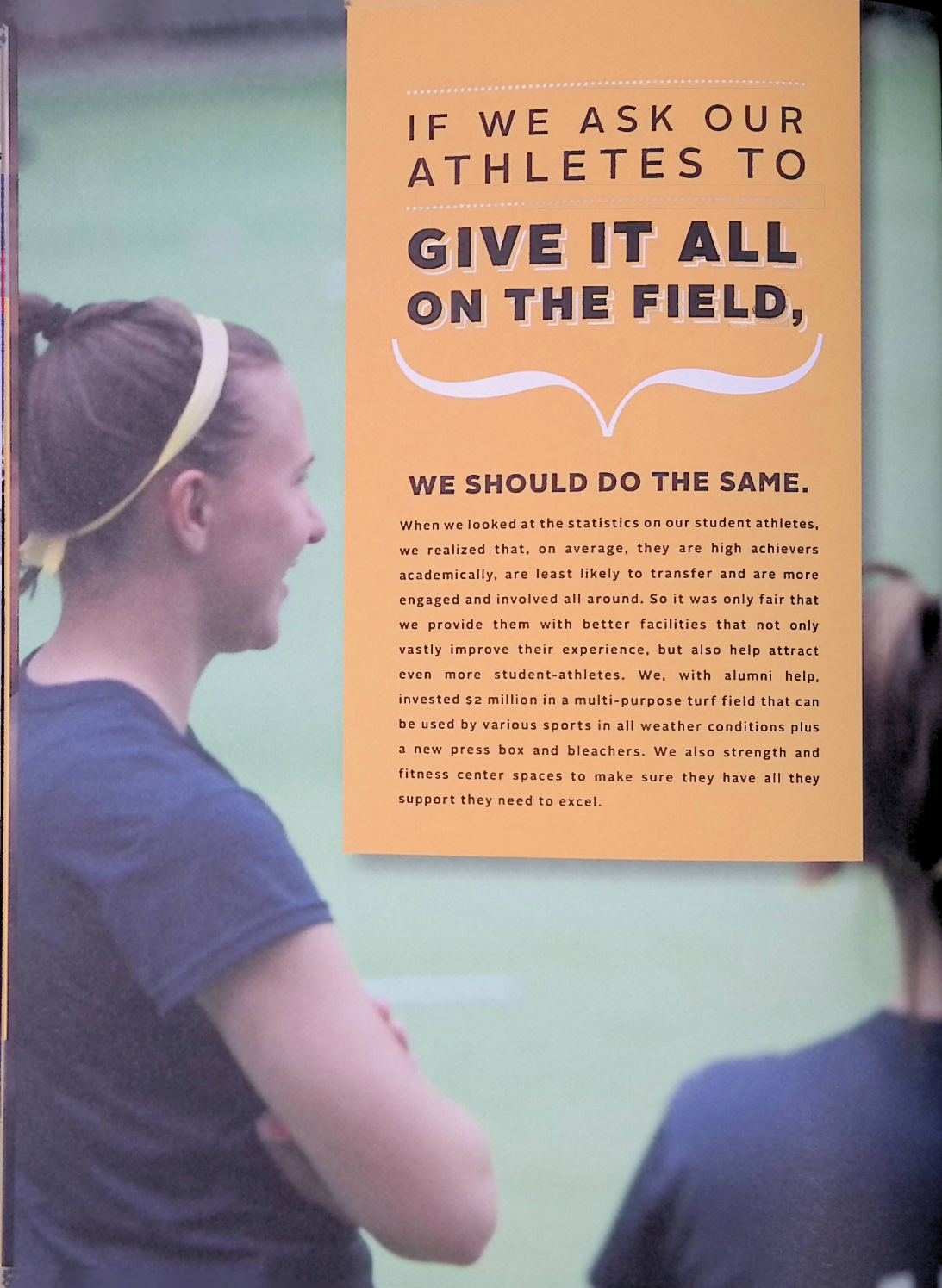
Patty Gilmour, President Gilmour's wife, has made the greening of campus landscaping her mission. Committed to environmental sustainability, she encouraged eliminating use of fertilizer, herbicides and pesticides on campus. And she introduced native plants that attract wildlife and require less maintenance and water. Her dream of a meditation labyrinth on campus was made possible by a gift from Trustee William Miller '81, and is located behind Kirby Hall.

Mrs. Gilmour returned a parking lot behind Evans Hall to green space and wetland. She converted a parking lot between Farley Library and the Fenner Hall Rose Garden into the Wilkes Garden. The expanded garden includes native plants with colorful blooms to attract bees,

butterflies and birds. Benches and a fountain, gifts from the classes of 2009 and 1969, respectively, complete this urban oasis that has become a popular quiet area for students, faculty and staff.

A LIBRARY IS A GREAT PLACE TO RETHINK.

With so much knowledge available at our fingertips, what is the purpose of a library anymore? Well, it needs to be more than a place to simply store volumes of books. It needs to serve as a space to congregate, to exchange ideas, and to interact, which is why we are undertaking extensive renovations that both modernize and redefine space in our Farley Library. The lower level has become the Alden Learning Commons, complete with a new Writing Center, Teaching Commons and group study rooms equipped with the latest technology. Renovations are continuing for the remaining floors, as technology continues to change the way libraries are used.



IF WE ASK OUR
ATHLETES TO

**GIVE IT ALL
ON THE FIELD,**

WE SHOULD DO THE SAME.

When we looked at the statistics on our student athletes, we realized that, on average, they are high achievers academically, are least likely to transfer and are more engaged and involved all around. So it was only fair that we provide them with better facilities that not only vastly improve their experience, but also help attract even more student-athletes. We, with alumni help, invested \$2 million in a multi-purpose turf field that can be used by various sports in all weather conditions plus a new press box and bleachers. We also strength and fitness center spaces to make sure they have all they support they need to excel.

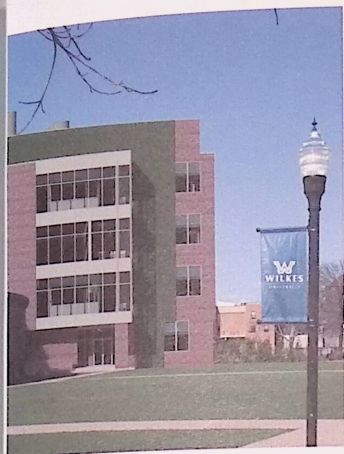


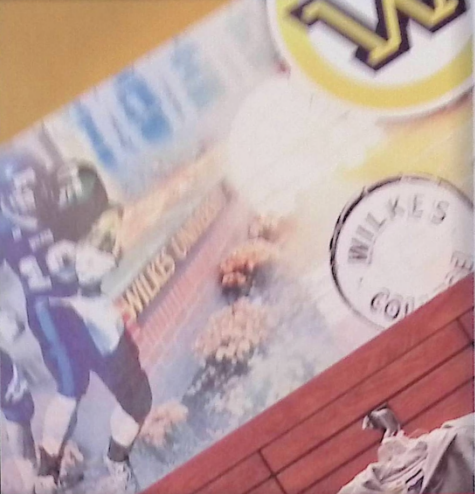
WHEN WE BREAK GROUND ON
THE NEW SCIENCE BUILDING,

IT WON'T BE THE LAST TIME.

The recent grants from the National Science Foundation speak to Wilkes' position as a leader on the forefront of scientific exploration in northeastern Pennsylvania. The Howard Hughes Medical Institute's grant affirms that we have been consistently graduating leaders in the sciences for the past 10 years. We now sit at a pivotal point, not just for the future of our university, but also for the future of northeastern Pennsylvania. We are at the point where we can take this success and multiply it exponentially. We are taking full advantage of this opportunity by beginning construction of a \$35 million state-of-the-art science building that has the potential to catapult Wilkes University from a leader in just northeastern Pennsylvania to one of the top 100 science programs in the country. This new building is designed to inspire collaborative, interdisciplinary learning so future generations can explore scientific frontiers, generate ideas that enrich society, and create new avenues of economic development for our region.

The building's entire third floor will be devoted to student and faculty research on scientific, engineering and health sciences issues important to the region and that will contribute to its economic development. The recently founded Institute for Energy and Environmental Research for Northeastern Pennsylvania will also be housed in the building. The institute already is an important player in helping northeastern Pennsylvania obtain objective, scientifically based information about natural gas drilling and development and track the impact of the drilling on the quality of the region's water.





BRIGHT MINDS. BETTER CITY.



Perhaps one of the biggest changes realized by Wilkes University over the past 50 years came in the form of a revitalized relationship with the City of Wilkes-Barre—a relationship that has redefined Wilkes University from simply being in Wilkes-Barre to being a vital part of it. And as a result of this relationship, we now have a more active, lively downtown with new restaurants and a new modern movie theatre complex. Wilkes University had long wished to form a partnership with the city and when Mayor Thomas Leighton took office, we, together with Father Thomas O'Hara, president of King's College, began discussions on how to turn the city of Wilkes-Barre around. We started with the development of a Barnes & Noble bookstore now shared by both universities.

From the success of that endeavor, Wilkes University then made an even bigger impact on the city by purchasing a vacant building and repurposing it into administrative offices and indoor athletic practice facility now known as the University Center on Main, or UCOM. With this one strategic acquisition, we were able to open up our campus and integrate it into the city. We added to this with the purchase and renovation of the University Towers, which, in addition to more student housing, has a new, fully equipped Nursing Simulation Center. Students now view downtown as part of campus, and the increased traffic is spurring new business, which is bringing more outside visitors. When you walk down South Main Street today, you can see this impact in the many faces out enjoying the city again.

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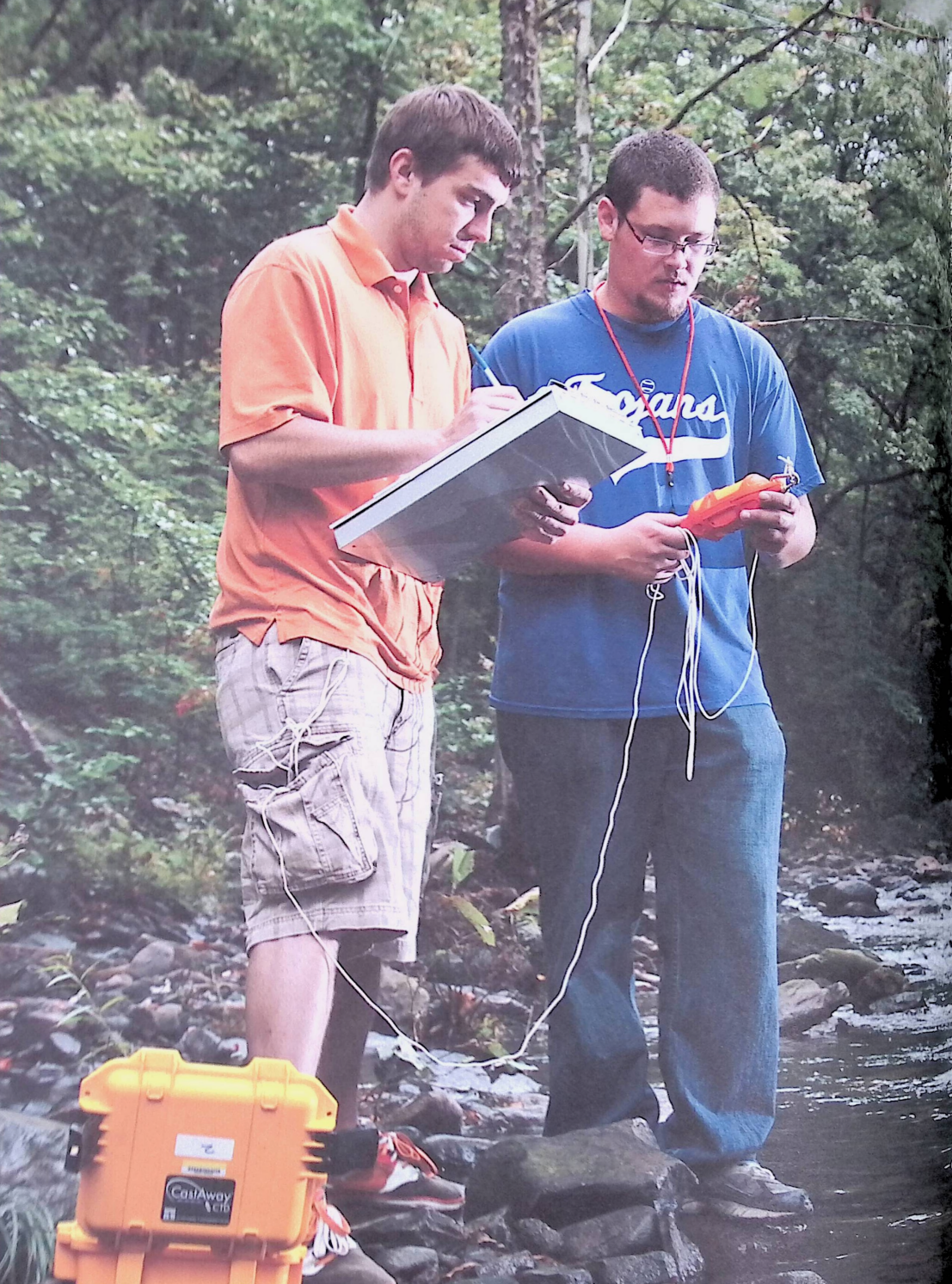
AN INVESTMENT IN THIS BANK YIELDED A LOT OF GREEN

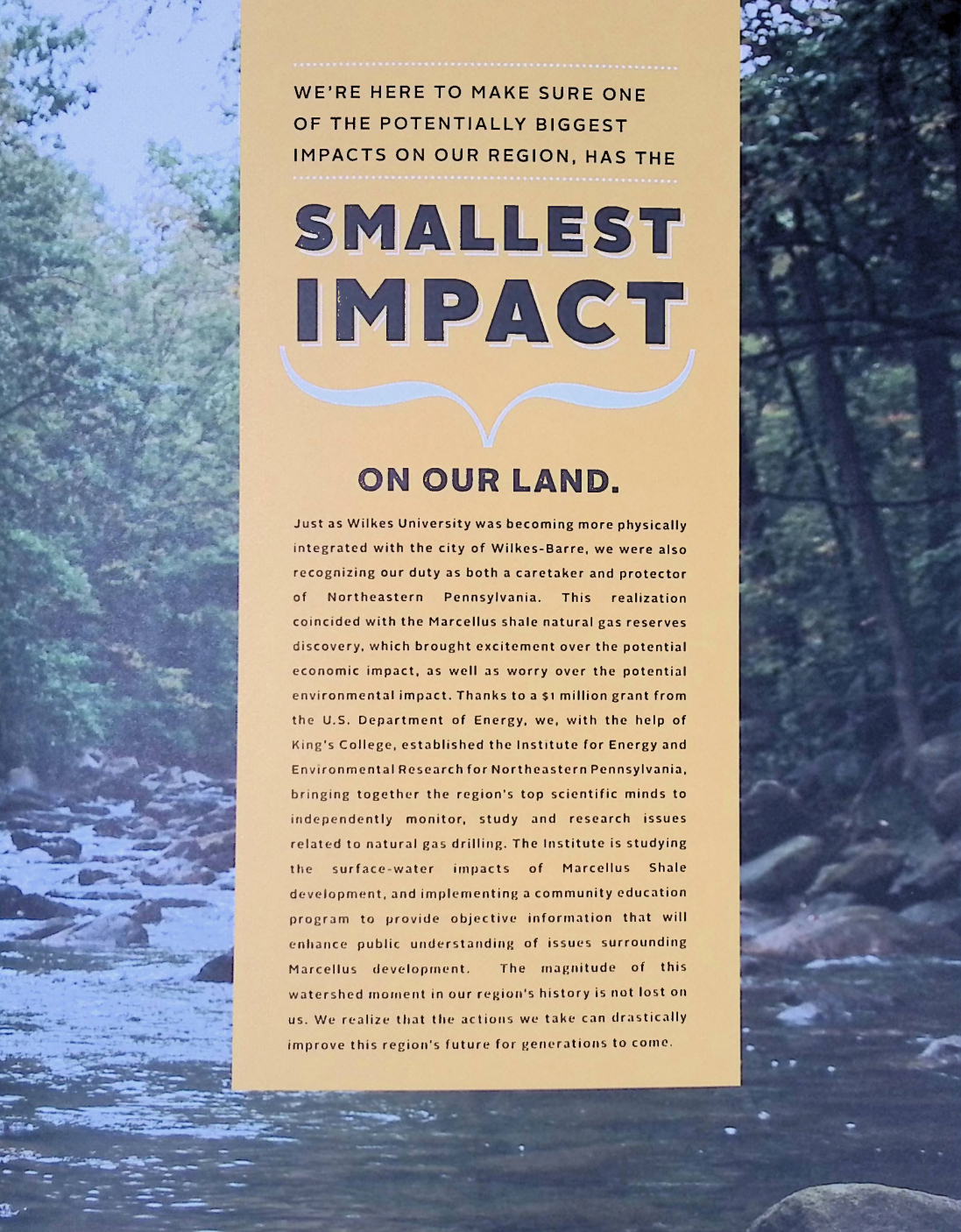


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Another key component of the revitalization of Wilkes and the city was the Susquehanna River Common project. Opened since 2009, this \$23 million project transformed the river's bank into a magnificent riverfront public park with ample green space for walking, biking or relaxing, adding yet another facet to this transforming city and enhancing the University's front yard.

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WE'RE HERE TO MAKE SURE ONE
OF THE POTENTIALLY BIGGEST
IMPACTS ON OUR REGION, HAS THE

SMALLEST IMPACT

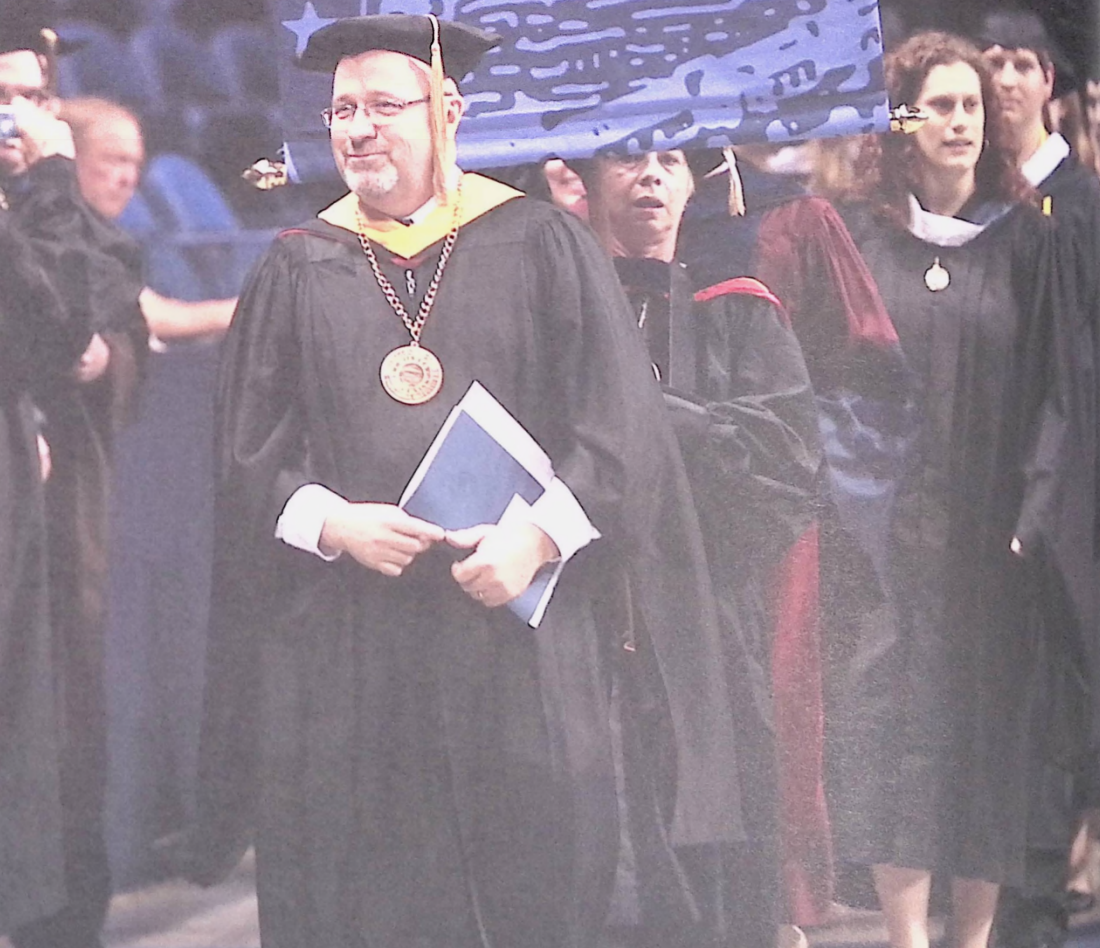
ON OUR LAND.

Just as Wilkes University was becoming more physically integrated with the city of Wilkes-Barre, we were also recognizing our duty as both a caretaker and protector of Northeastern Pennsylvania. This realization coincided with the Marcellus shale natural gas reserves discovery, which brought excitement over the potential economic impact, as well as worry over the potential environmental impact. Thanks to a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, we, with the help of King's College, established the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research for Northeastern Pennsylvania, bringing together the region's top scientific minds to independently monitor, study and research issues related to natural gas drilling. The Institute is studying the surface-water impacts of Marcellus Shale development, and implementing a community education program to provide objective information that will enhance public understanding of issues surrounding Marcellus development. The magnitude of this watershed moment in our region's history is not lost on us. We realize that the actions we take can drastically improve this region's future for generations to come.

Arts,
Humanities, &
Social Sciences

BUT IN THE END, IT'S ALL ABOUT
GREAT PEOPLE WHO WANT TO

MAKE A



DIFFERENCE

And that's what Wilkes is all about: great people—students, faculty, staff and alumni making a huge difference. They have accomplished so much over the past 10 years, they know that they have only begun. The best is yet to come!

I close with thanks to all those members of the Wilkes community who have worked so hard to bring us to where we are today. Some have been featured in this report, but there are many, many more. Their great work is deeply appreciated.





WILKES UNIVERSITY

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