



WILKES UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

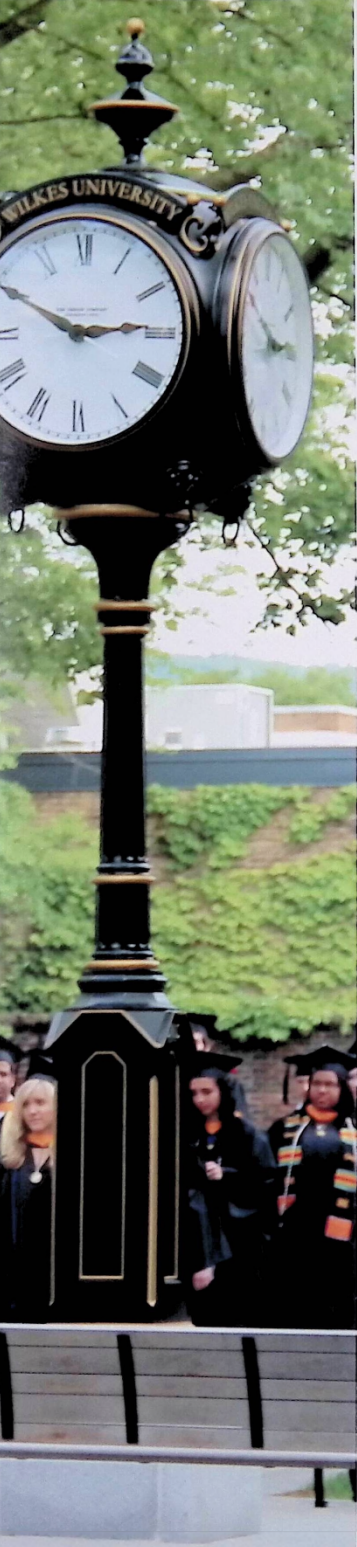
June 2016–May 2017



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Dear Friends:

This year, 2017, marks 70 years since our founding as an independent Wilkes College. In that long history, there has never been a better time at Wilkes!

Today, we offer more academic programs (70), more athletics programs (23), and more clubs (90) than ever before. These activities now serve more students (5,635) from more states (45) and from more countries (24) than ever before. In this past academic year Wilkes conferred 1,521 degrees, placing us in the top 11 percent of all private colleges and universities nationwide in total degrees conferred.

We continue to be faithful to our founding mission of providing academic opportunity to all who show promise, regardless of their backgrounds. This past year at the undergraduate level 51 percent of our students were first-generation, 36 percent were Pell Grant eligible, and 27 percent were diverse—a combination of numbers that is quite uncommon for a private university. You see, we at Wilkes believe talent is everywhere, and it is our job as educators to find it in our students and help them unleash it.

We continue to make unprecedented investments in our campus here in downtown Wilkes-Barre: \$50 million over the past five years and \$50 million more over the next five years. In the next 15 months alone we will complete five major projects: 1) the new Clayton & Theresa Karambelas Media and Communication Center; 2) an expanded Sordoni Art Gallery; 3) an extensively renovated Stark Learning Center; 4) a companion south campus gateway; and 5) pedestrian improvements in our downtown neighborhood. If you think the campus looks good now, just wait a year or so.

As an evolving research university, there is also more innovation and entrepreneurial activity happening at Wilkes than ever before. Cutting-edge discovery in the big issues of our day—early cancer detection, wound therapy, Alzheimer's, minority voting patterns, global climate change—is taking place right here on campus.

In addition, we are raising more money to support these efforts than ever before. In just this past year we gained \$20 million in commitments to our Gateway to the Future Campaign, and recent support from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania totals more than \$10 million. We are well on our way to meeting our \$50 million campaign goal.

Finally, we have never been a more important part of Wilkes-Barre and northeast Pennsylvania. Just by being located in this area we generate over \$200 million in economic impact annually. In addition, Wilkes provides countless services to the community to aid its economic, social, and cultural development. I was extremely proud to tout these outreach efforts during a speech at the United Nations on May 11 when Wilkes became a founding sponsor of International Micro-, Small-, and Medium-sized Enterprises Day, one of just six American colleges or universities to be invited to do so.

I invite you to have a look at a typical year at Wilkes University. What energizes me the most at Wilkes is not everything we have done over the past year or five years, but everything we can do together over our next five years and beyond.

There has never been a better time at Wilkes! Thank you all for being a part of it.



Dr. Patrick F. Leahy
President

AN EMERGING NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

There has never
been a more exciting
time to be part of
Wilkes University.

With the advent of a new doctor of philosophy program in nursing, an increasingly national and international student body and a growing commitment to research, the University is aiming to become one of America's next great private universities. From its founding in 1933 as Bucknell University Junior College to the time it achieved University status in 1990, Wilkes has moved steadily toward a place of national prominence.



Bucknell University
Junior College is founded

Wilkes offers its first
graduate program

1933

1947

1961

1990

Wilkes College is incorporated

Wilkes achieves University status

Wilkes already meets the definition of a national university in the number of degrees conferred and its program mix. With a combined undergraduate and graduate enrollment of 5,635, the University serves as many graduate students as undergraduates. It is one of a handful of institutions conferring more than 400 bachelor's degrees, 500 master's degrees and 100 doctoral degrees each academic year. In 2016-2017, Wilkes awarded 1,521 degrees: 583 bachelor's degrees, 816 master's degrees and 122 doctorates.

Those numbers place Wilkes in very good company. It is in the top 11 percent among national private universities in total degrees conferred. In Pennsylvania, there are only five other private institutions that confer as many degrees in each category: University of Pennsylvania, Drexel University, Carnegie Mellon University, Villanova University and Duquesne University.

Wilkes' position as a truly national institution is further affirmed by the fact that it enrolls more students from more states and more countries than ever before. This past year, students came from 45 states and 24 foreign countries.

This growth may make Wilkes eligible to transition into a new group within the Carnegie Classification, which is a framework for categorizing colleges and universities in the United States. As a "Doctoral Research University - Modest Research," Wilkes would take its place among some of the country's finest institutions, more adequately reflecting its program mix.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The 2,400 students enrolled in bachelor's degree programs in 2016-2017 came from 34 states and 17 countries.
- Students enrolled in master's degree programs in 2016-2017 total 2,684 and came from 40 states and 12 countries.
- The 551 students enrolled in doctoral programs came from 24 states and 9 countries.

The Nesbitt School of Pharmacy opens, offering the University's first doctoral degree (Pharm.D.)

Online degrees are offered and the University's first research doctoral program begins (Ed.D.)

Wilkes is eligible to change its Carnegie Classification to Doctoral Research University - Moderate Research.

1996

2004

2006

2015

2019

The Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and Leadership is established

The Passan School of Nursing is established with plans to develop the University's first Ph.D. program

WILKES IS FOUNDING SPONSOR OF UNITED NATIONS DAY

Wilkes University took its place on the world stage at the United Nations in May 2017 as a participant in the Micro-, Small- and Medium-sized Enterprise Knowledge Summit.

President Patrick F. Leahy was among education, government and business leaders from around the world speaking at the event, sponsored by the International Council on Small Business to celebrate the U.N.'s adoption of a resolution establishing Micro-, Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises Day. Wilkes' participation in the event underscored University initiatives to bring an increasingly global focus to campus.

Micro-, Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises Day will be observed annually on June 27. The knowledge summit brought together entrepreneurial experts with a focus on using micro-, small- and medium-sized business to accelerate global job creation and improve standards of living.



More than 50 members of the Wilkes community traveled to the United Nations for the Knowledge Summit. This group included students from North America, the Middle East, and Central America.

Participating institutions share a strong commitment to entrepreneurial education and to promoting entrepreneurial activity and small business. Speaking at the U.N., President Leahy outlined the ways that higher education in general—and Wilkes in particular—has supported development of small business through education, research, and service.

Citing development of more programs to educate the next generation of entrepreneurs, he noted that Wilkes has been a leader as the first in northeastern Pennsylvania to offer a major or minor in entrepreneurship. Colleges and universities, by virtue of their missions to make original contributions to knowledge, are uniquely positioned to support micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises worldwide.

Wilkes' commitment and expertise in this area are further reflected by the programs and services offered in support of business and entrepreneurial activity via the Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship and its Enterprise Center, the Small Business Development Center, the Family Business Alliance and the Institute for Public Policy and Economic Development. These organizations housed within the University provide a level of support to small business unmatched by other colleges and universities.

Among the most significant contributions that Wilkes makes to fostering the growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized businesses is via its efforts to be a good partner to its host city of Wilkes-Barre. Wilkes' contributions are helping the city to develop into a 21st century college town—a place where entrepreneurs and small business owners can locate, innovate, and thrive.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Wilkes was part of a select group of colleges invited to participate in the Micro-, Small- and Medium-sized Enterprise Knowledge Summit at the United Nations that included George Washington University, Babson College, Santa Clara University and others.
- Fifty Wilkes students from the United States, the Middle East, and Central America accompanied President Patrick Leahy to the United Nations.
- Wilkes' involvement in supporting small business continued when President Leahy participated in the 62nd World Conference of the International Council on Small Business in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



President Leahy signs the Charter of Founding Members of the U.N. Micro-, Small-, and Medium-sized Enterprise Day on behalf of Wilkes University.



CREATIVE WRITING BEGINS NEW ERA

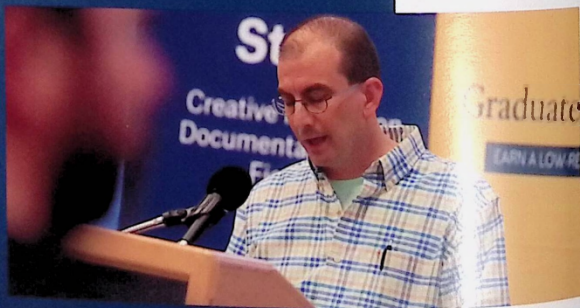
While Wilkes University has helped creative writers craft great stories for the last 12 years, its creative writing program tells its own great tale that started, quite simply, with a suggestion box.

In the early 2000s, Wilkes placed boxes around campus to solicit ideas from the University community. The idea for a graduate creative writing program ended up in the hands of Wilkes administrators Bonnie Culver and J. Michael Lennon. They spent two years developing the low-residency program. Wilkes became the first program in the country to offer online courses combined with two weeks of on-campus residency.

Since its founding, the program has conferred 485 Master of Arts and Master of Fine Arts degrees, hosting students from 41 states, as well as Australia, Canada and Jamaica. Thanks to area businessman and philanthropist Richard Maslow, it is starting a new chapter. A long-time supporter through his family's foundation, Maslow gave creative writing a transformative gift to support the mission of crafting the next generation of writers. In honor of his support, the program is now the Maslow Family Graduate Program in Creative Writing.



From left, Bonnie Culver, creative writing program director, Wilkes trustee Melanie Maslow Kern, and President Patrick F. Leahy shared the announcement of Richard Maslow's gift to the program.



Novelist and fiction faculty member Jeff Talarigo reads from his forthcoming novel, *In The Cemetery of the Orange Trees*, being published by Etruscan Press.

NOTABLE CREATIVE WRITING ALUMNI



Nonfiction faculty members Laurie Jean Cannady, left, and Beverly Donofrio share insights at the creative writing program residency

**Marlon James M.A. '06**

His novel *A Brief History of Seven Killings*, published by Riverhead Books, won the 2015 Man Booker Prize for Fiction and was a *New York Times* Notable Book.

**Taylor Politics M.F.A. '11**

His novel *The Rebel Wife*, published by Simon and Schuster, was a Top 10 pick by *O*, the Oprah Magazine and received honorable mention at the San Francisco Book Festival.

**Morowa Yejidé M.F.A. '12**

Her novel *Time of the Locust* was a finalist for the PEN Bellwether Prize and was longlisted for the PEN Bingham Award. It was published by Atria Books, a division of Simon and Schuster.

The gift may be used at the discretion of the program director. Possible uses include student scholarships and travel stipends, additional advertising, a fund to support student and faculty filmmaking, and additional programming for students and the community at large.

The Maslow gift is a testimony to a program that was inspired by its first advisory board member, the late Pulitzer Prize-winning author Norman Mailer. Following Mailer's counsel, Culver and Lennon are adamant that students both learn how to write and how to live the life of a professional writer. That meant including coursework on topics such as business matters and query letters. The professional emphasis continues with internships and networking offered with partners that include Etruscan Press, SenArt Films, the James Jones First Novel Fellowship, Kaylie Jones Books/Akashic Books, Northampton House Press, Blue Moon Plays and River and South Review

With an international reach, programming that continues to evolve, faculty and alumni who produce acclaimed work, and now a gift that serves as a permanent endowment, the Maslow Family Graduate Program in Creative Writing has plenty of stories left to tell.

HIGHLIGHTS

Faculty, students and alumni in the Maslow Family Graduate Program in Creative Writing have:

- published over 100 novels, memoirs, nonfiction works, articles, poems and short stories;
- produced over 40 new films;
- published over 30 chapbooks or poetry collections;
- produced over 50 plays;
- started four new journals or publishing companies.

PHARMACY CELEBRATES

20 YEARS

When Wilkes University's Nesbitt School of Pharmacy enrolled its first class 20 years ago, it did more than establish a new degree program.

With the launch of the doctor of pharmacy as the University's first terminal degree, it set Wilkes on the path to becoming a doctoral university. As Wilkes continues its evolution as one of the nation's finest small universities, the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy provides an outstanding professional education and a commitment to research.

The pharmacy program's impact has extended beyond the University. With 73 percent of graduates choosing to remain in the state of Pennsylvania and average starting salaries at \$110,000, the program also has had a significant impact on the regional and state economy.

Under the leadership of founding dean Bernard Graham, who stepped down from this position in May 2017, the school marked its 20th anniversary during the 2016-2017 academic year with the dedication of a new state-of-the-art care lab. The new lab reflects the program's ongoing commitment to meet industry standards in training pharmacists for new roles in today's health-care environment. The student pharmacists are trained to take their place on patient-care teams with doctors, nurses and other health care professionals. The program

also prepares its students to meet new challenges in health care, such as the opioid addiction epidemic and infectious diseases like the Zika virus.

Education extends beyond classrooms and labs, with 30 percent of the program devoted to externship experiences. Thirty percent of pharmacy students are also involved in research. Not all research is related to the development of new drugs or analyzing their efficacy. Students also assist pharmacy faculty in analyzing health-care systems, processes and trends to determine where pharmacy can impact improving patient care.

Even before graduation, Nesbitt students emerge as leaders, from presenting at state and national conferences to working to raise the profile of the pharmacy profession in Pennsylvania. Second-year pharmacy student Eileen Friery was awarded the U.S. Public Health Service Award for contributions to promote public health issues. Friery is the fourth Nesbitt School of Pharmacy student to win the honor in the past five years. In addition, Jennifer Smith PharmD '17 was named an outstanding pharmacy student in the state by the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association.

HIGHLIGHTS

- More than 1,200 students have earned the doctor of pharmacy degree since the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy graduated its first class in 2000.
- Nineteen 2017 pharmacy graduates were matched with residency programs for advanced training, reflecting a 76 percent match rate that's significantly higher than the national average of 69 percent.
- The Nesbitt School of Pharmacy boasts a 98 percent on-time graduation rate and a 96 percent five-year average first-time pass rate for the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination.

ARTS INITIATIVE TAKES SHAPE

HIGHLIGHTS

- The new Sordoni Art Gallery will host its grand opening and ribbon-cutting on October 6 on Homecoming Weekend with "15 Minutes: From Image to Icon," featuring works by pop culture icon Andy Warhol.
- "Between Tongue and Teeth" by Angela Fraleigh will be featured in January 2018, exploring gender relationships by putting a contemporary spin on Renaissance paintings.
- The gallery's first season in a new location wraps in April 2018, with a showing of "Selections from the Sordoni Collection of American Illustration and Comic Arts."



Wilkes has long had a commitment to the visual and performing arts as integral to a University education. The Sordoni Art Gallery has been a mainstay of the visual arts scene in northeastern Pennsylvania since 1973, showcasing the work of students, faculty and professional artists.

A three-part plan for the gallery's future is positioning it to play an even more significant role for both students and the community at large.

PART ONE: **Relocate the gallery**

The Sordoni Art Gallery is being relocated to South Main Street and will share an address with the new Clayton and Theresa Karambelas Media and Communication Center, home to the Communication Studies Department. The location boasts higher visibility and greater accessibility to the campus community and the general public, and highlights the school's dedication to downtown revitalization.

The gallery's move comes with hearty approval from Andrew J. Sordoni, III, whose family established the original gallery more than 40 years ago. The new gallery will feature twice the space of the original, as well as state of the art security features, fire suppression system and storage facilities. The updates will allow the Sordoni to host high profile, traveling shows.

PART TWO: **Create a permanent endowment**

The change in location is just one part of the Sordoni Art Gallery's reimagining and renewal. The University also created a permanent endowment dedicated to hosting high-profile exhibits by nationally and internationally known artists. The first such exhibit — "15 Minutes: From Image to Icon"— features the work of Andy Warhol.

PART THREE: **Hire a full-time faculty member as gallery director**

The final brushstroke was the hiring of a full-time, tenure-track faculty member to run the gallery and enhance arts programming. Heather Sincavage was hired as gallery director and assistant professor in July 2016 with a mission to develop academic programming, curate traveling shows, identify new funding sources and integrate the gallery into the arts community.

Sincavage is committed to curating unique shows, ensuring that the Sordoni stands apart from other galleries. She's also dedicated to connecting with and engaging the community—both on campus and in the region—through art. She already has plans in place for hands-on workshops and collaborations with other departments on campus. While she puts the finishing touches in place, the Sordoni Art Gallery's potential continues to grow.



Collection of Haverford College Department of Fine Arts

“You can’t be a true university without an enduring commitment to the arts.”

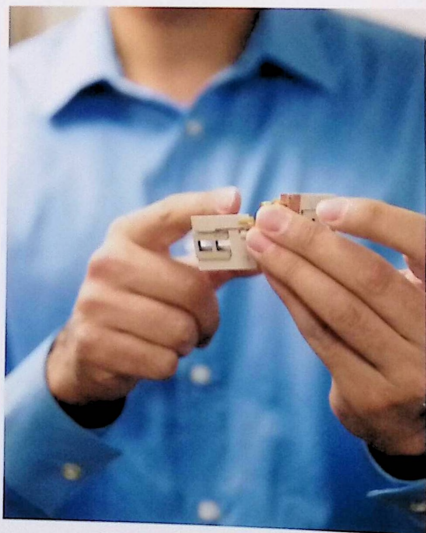
– Dr. Patrick F. Leahy

THE FINAL WORD ON BREAST CANCER DETECTION



Detecting breast cancer at a very early stage is the goal of Abas Sabouni as he researches microwave imaging. "I would like to call it breast cancer imaging because we are generating an image and not just detecting," says the associate professor of electrical engineering and physics.

Sabouni, who joined the faculty in 2013, was selected to present the 2017 Paul A. O'Hop Final Word Lecture. He addressed "Future Technology for Breast Cancer Imaging, Detection and Monitoring Treatment."

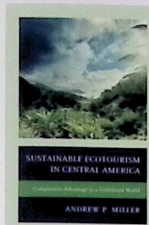


The lecture concluded the University's first Scholarship Symposium, held March 28 to 30 to celebrate outstanding faculty research throughout Wilkes' spectrum of disciplines. Because scholarship is one of Wilkes' core values, President Patrick F. Leahy committed \$1 million in 2016 to create a Research and Scholarship Fund. The fund provides financial support to faculty for their work as scholars and creative practitioners. Faculty, students and grant recipients share their work at what will be an annual symposium.

Sabouni's lecture outlined how microwave imaging for breast cancer detection relies on the contrast between the electrical properties of tumors and normal breast tissue. The high water content of malignant breast tissue causes scattering of microwave signals that is significantly stronger than that for normal fatty breast tissues that have a lower water content. The technique provides information in the form of quantitative images about different tissues at different states which can be used for diagnosis. The technique has many benefits, including the fact that it is non-ionizing, requires low-power levels of illumination, is low cost and may not require the breast compression that is used in mammography.

The late Paul O'Hop established the Final Word Lecture to foster the exchange of ideas and dialogue among Wilkes faculty, staff and administrators and to showcase the talents and scholarly abilities at the University. O'Hop retired from Wilkes in 2001 after serving 16 years as vice president of business affairs and auxiliary enterprises.

Implications of Ecotourism



Andrew Miller, associate professor of political science, published the book, *Sustainable Ecotourism in Central*

America: Comparative Advantage in a Globalized World. Published by Lexington Books, the book is Miller's third and his second full-length examination of ecotourism in Costa Rica and its implications for other Central American states.

Improving Care for Low-Income Patients

Kathleen Hirthler, associate professor and chair of graduate nursing, and Gene Lucas, assistant professor of graduate nursing, established an integrated electronic health record system and a behavioral health and wellness center for patients at Volunteers in Medicine, a free clinic for low-income families in Luzerne County, Pa. The nurse practitioners were contributors to a \$430,000 grant funding this and other projects at the center.

Pain Therapy On Ice

Troy Everetts '17, an entrepreneurship major in the Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and Leadership, is launching Mt. Everetts, a line of Italian ice infused with cannabis

(CBD) oil. Combining the oil, which is non-hallucinogenic, with flavorful ice has benefits for individuals with chronic pain and for cancer patients. Everetts worked on plans for his product in a course for students hoping to launch businesses after graduation.

Visual Art and Performance



Heather Sincavage, director of the Sordoni Art Gallery and assistant professor of art, created a series of live performance and performance-

to-video works entitled *a measure*. The works were completed in Maine, Iowa, and during a 2016 international artist's residency at Sim in Seljavegur, Reykjavik, Iceland.

Destroying Kidney Stones

Collaborative research by Adam Van Wert, associate professor of pharmaceutical science, William Terzaghi, professor of biology, and Del Lucent '03, assistant professor of physics, may lead to a preventative treatment for kidney stones. Most kidney stones are caused by excess calcium oxalate. The professors are redesigning the DNA of enzymes that destroy oxalate to produce a dietary supplement. They are also modifying probiotic *E. coli* to express the enzymes to destroy oxalate in the digestive system. Undergraduates in pharmacy, biology and biochemistry and graduate students in bioengineering have been a key part of their research – earning the trio the University's Interdisciplinary Teaching Award in 2016.

Assessing Teacher Efficacy and Burnout

Lori A. Cooper, assistant professor of graduate teacher education, studied the effects of using a classroom management program called Conscious Discipline®. The program helps adults learn how to react positively to stress and conflict and help children learn those skills. Focusing on elementary school teachers in two Detroit, Mich., charter schools – one that used the approach and one a control group – she studied whether the method helped teachers to feel more effective and reduced burnout levels. She found little difference between teachers using Conscious Discipline® and those who did not. Differences in school leadership and school climate between the two schools accounted for the difference – in itself a telling result.

Saving Newborns in Tanzania

Linda A. Winkler, professor of anthropology, was a finalist for the Innovation Prize at the 2017 Global Health and Innovation Conference at Yale University. Winkler's project introduced kangaroo mother care, a World Health Organization-endorsed method of care for premature and low-birth-weight babies, and breast feeding education to reduce infant mortality at Nyakahanga District Hospital in rural Tanzania. Senior nursing student Shana Noon '17 assisted Winkler with the research and presentation.



Studying The Impact of Pipelines

Kenneth Klemow, professor of biology, is studying plant regrowth on a section of the Transco interstate pipeline owned by Wilkes following expansion of the pipeline corridor in 2016. The study will examine whether pipeline corridors represent a pathway for invasive plant species to spread into areas not otherwise impacted by those species. Klemow also is studying the rate of revegetation, and whether the corridor might serve as a source of pollution for streams that cross the site.



Detecting Alzheimer's Early Onset

Gregory Harms, associate professor, bioengineering, and chair of the physics department, is researching ways to detect the early onset of Alzheimer's disease in mice. The findings, using a technique too invasive for diagnosing the disease in humans, pinpoints a time when neural dysfunction can first be observed. The results will be important used in relation to blood-borne biomarkers that can be used to detect early onset of the disease in humans.

Assessing Anti-Cancer Properties

Ajay Bommareddy, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, is investigating the anticancer properties of alpha-santalol, a component of sandalwood oil, for prevention and treatment of prostate and breast cancer. After identifying the details associated with cancer cell death caused by alpha-santalol using cellular models, findings are confirmed using mice. Using animal models assesses the safety and toxicity of a compound prior to its use in humans.

Evaluating Human Balance

Yong Zhu, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, is conducting research to design a low-cost portable device that can assess the impact of many conditions on postural stability and human balance, such as aging, diabetes and brain injury. Measuring the displacement of the center-of-pressure of an individual while standing is an important tool used in biomechanics to assess stability and human balance. Zhu's device would capture increases in the swaying of a subject standing on a platform. It also would decipher subtle variances a person uses to control posture. The device would have applications among physical and occupational therapists, among others.

Grappling With Trash Cleanup

Wilkes summa cum laude entrepreneurship graduate Britton Heim '17 developed a business concept during his capstone

entrepreneurship course related to his family's trash hauling business, Heim Disposal, located in Sunbury, Pa. The concept used specially designed large garbage bags that would be used for trash pickup from smaller projects, such as small home renovation projects. The bags are picked up on the client's timetable, not the company's. Although originally developed to be part of the family business, Grapple Gang is now its own enterprise with a business plan to work with large garbage companies on a referral basis. Wilkes' Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship advised Heim as he developed his plan. Grapple Gang is now beta testing its service.



Improving Hearing Devices

Fader Plugs, LLC, a client company of the Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship at Wilkes, has developed a hearing device that controls decibel reduction and lowers sound levels in a highly functional and fashionable design. The company's patented, cutting-edge design revolutionizes the idea of ear plugs, allowing the user to control noise reduction without having to remove the hearing protection device from their ear. The Allan P. Kirby Center provided advisory support to the company, including legal counseling that led to patent filing for the device.

Adjustable Wheelchair Earns Patent

Edward Bednarz '01, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, and a client of the Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship at Wilkes, was awarded a patent for his adjustable wheelchair design. Called the Vari-Chair, Bednarz' design adjusts to any width, collapses and easily goes back to its original size. Because it adapts to patient size, it eliminates the need to replace a chair due to weight gain or loss.

Preventing Falls Among The Elderly

LoriAnn Pajalich, assistant professor of nursing, piloted a project to prevent falls and fall-related injuries in cooperation with the Geisinger Health System among older adults. Aging community members are at risk for falls and fall-related injuries whether at home, in hospitals or in long-term care facilities. The fall prevention program designed by Pajalich increased patient awareness and educated them about preventing falls and has implications for impacting public health policy among the aging population.

Examining Feminism and Social Injustice

Psychology faculty Jennifer Thomas, associate professor, and Ellen Newell, assistant professor, conducted research examining whether identifying as a feminist can inspire students to engage in behaviors to reduce prejudice, discrimination, and social injustice. The studies also assessed the health benefits and risks associated with participating in these actions. The pair conducted two studies. The first found that among people who have faced sexism and discrimination, identifying as a feminist can spark the desire to take activist actions to help reduce sexism. The second demonstrates that taking activist actions designed to reduce sexism and discrimination can be a source of stress for feminist women, and may be less stressful for non-feminist women. Thomas and Newell presented their findings in two poster presentations with a team of student research assistants at the 2017 conference of the American Psychological Association.



RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP MOVES WILKES TOWARD NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Michael A. Steele, professor and chair of biology and the H. Fenner Chair of Research Biology, opened the University's first Scholarship Symposium in March with a lecture examining the value of research and scholarship activities, including those involving undergraduates. The professor was selected to open the symposium as the winner of the 2016 President's Award for Excellence in Scholarship. He is one of the leading authorities internationally on the process of rodent-mediated seed dispersal.

In his lecture, Steele discussed the importance of research for a small university. Steele, who has mentored more than 200 students in research during the course of his career, explained how those activities help to define Wilkes' profile and mission, distinguishing it among 20 percent of universities nationwide. He also discussed how strengthening and continuing the University's tradition of research and scholarship will help move Wilkes toward national recognition, including changing its Carnegie Classification to Doctoral Research University - Moderate Research.

“We are building a first-class, traditional residential campus, integrated into our host city of Wilkes-Barre.”

- Dr. Patrick F. Leahy



2013

Nursing Simulation Center



2015

Karambelas East
Campus Gateway

\$50 MILLION

2013

Cohen Science Center



2014

Sidhu School of Business & Leadership





2017

Karambelas Media & Communication Center and Sordoni Art Gallery



2018

South Campus Gateway

\$50 MILLION

2016

New and Improved Residence Halls



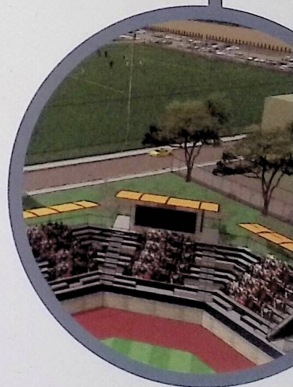
2018

Stark Learning Center Renovation



2019

Ralston Athletic Complex Renovations

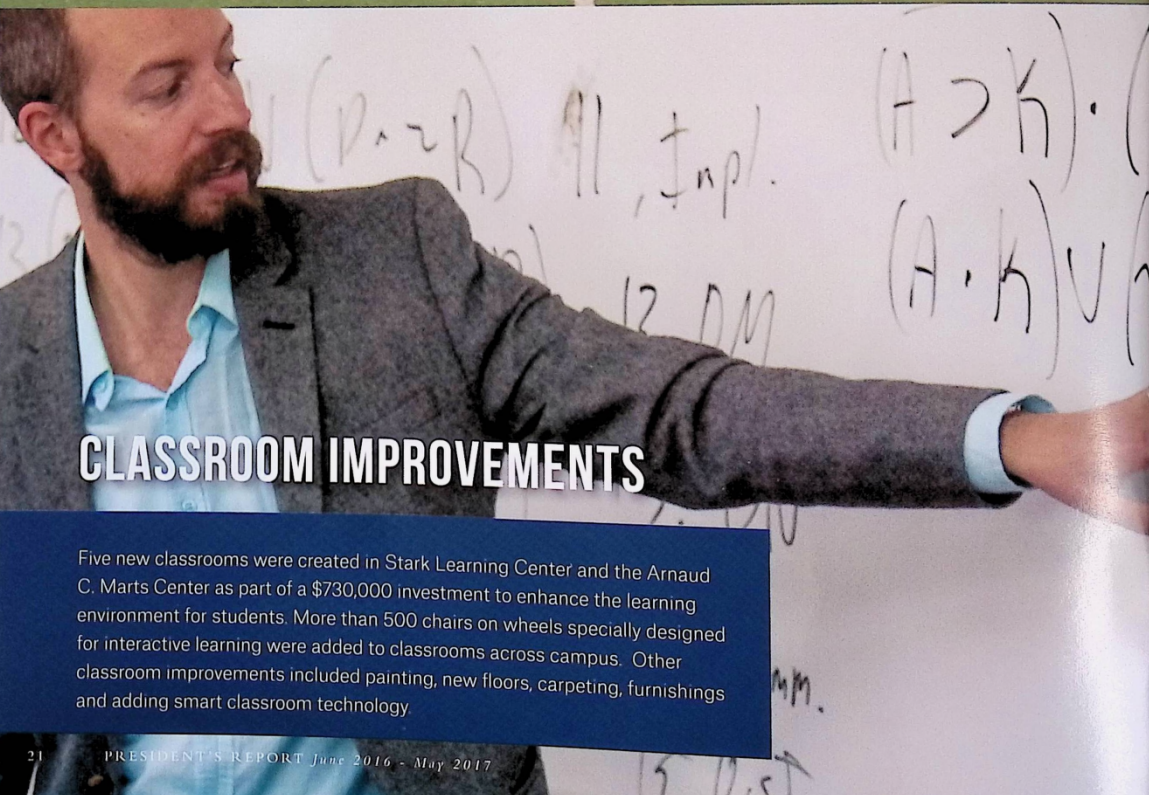


A photograph of the Ralston Athletic Complex bleachers. The bleachers are white with a black top rail. Above the bleachers, a white structure with a yellow top edge features the text "RALSTON ATHLETIC COMPLEX" in yellow and black lettering. The background shows green trees and a clear sky.

SCHMIDT STADIUM ENHANCEMENTS

More than \$1 million was invested in new bleachers, bathrooms and other amenities in Schmidt Stadium at the Ralston Athletic Complex, enhancing the experience for attendees at athletic events. The work is a prelude to a project that will make the facility one of the finest Division III athletic complexes in the northeast. Planned expansion and renovations will add an additional turf field, a new baseball stadium, a pedestrian plaza and more.

COLONELS

A photograph of a man with a beard and a grey blazer over a light blue shirt. He is pointing his right hand towards a whiteboard. The whiteboard is covered in handwritten mathematical formulas and symbols in black ink, including $(P \rightarrow R)$, 91 , Imp. , $(A \supset K)$, $(A \cdot K) \vee$, 12 , DM , and $mm.$

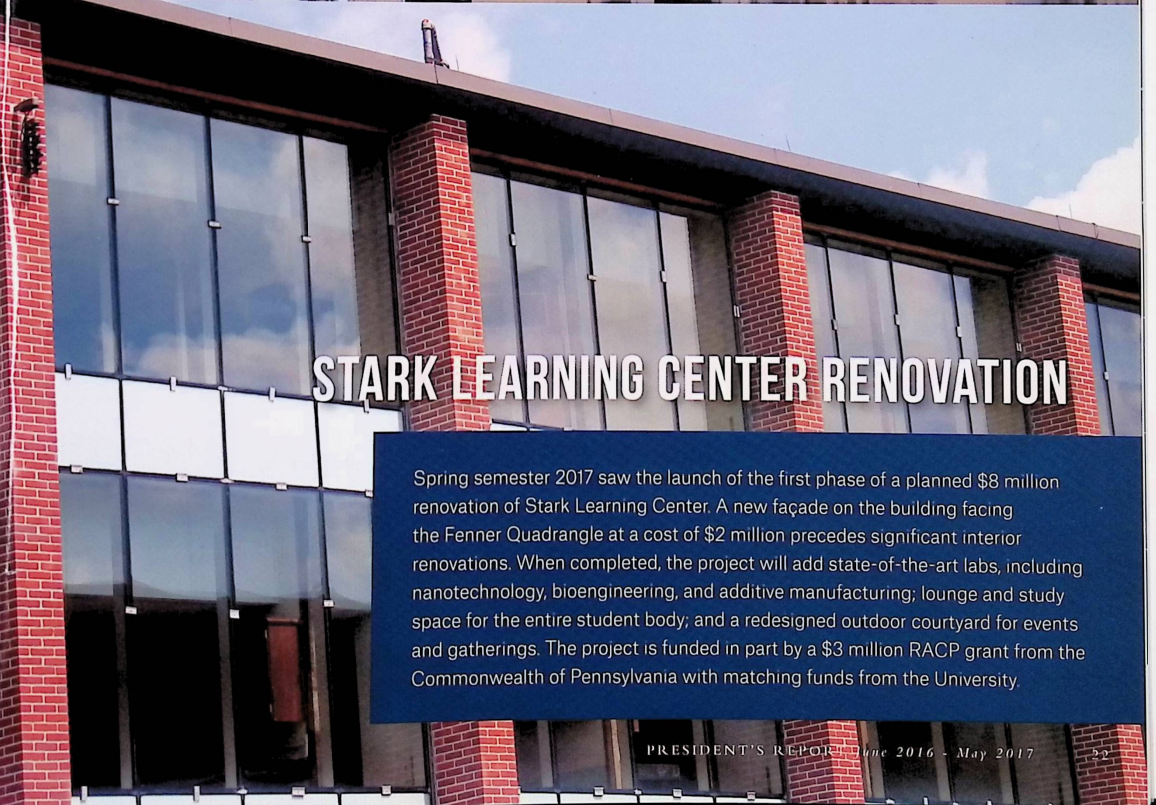
CLASSROOM IMPROVEMENTS

Five new classrooms were created in Stark Learning Center and the Arnaud C. Marts Center as part of a \$730,000 investment to enhance the learning environment for students. More than 500 chairs on wheels specially designed for interactive learning were added to classrooms across campus. Other classroom improvements included painting, new floors, carpeting, furnishings and adding smart classroom technology.



CAMPUS SIGNAGE PROJECT

The past academic year saw the completion of the first phase of a three-part project to improve building and directional signage on campus. A \$120,000 investment has added attractive building signs, bringing a uniform look to campus. Corner signs and directional signage will complete the project in the coming year.

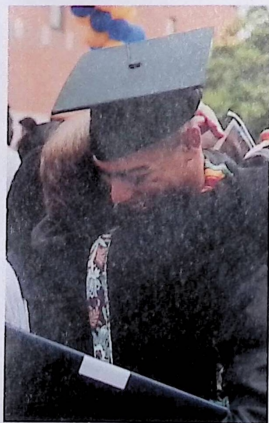


STARK LEARNING CENTER RENOVATION

Spring semester 2017 saw the launch of the first phase of a planned \$8 million renovation of Stark Learning Center. A new façade on the building facing the Fenner Quadrangle at a cost of \$2 million precedes significant interior renovations. When completed, the project will add state-of-the-art labs, including nanotechnology, bioengineering, and additive manufacturing; lounge and study space for the entire student body; and a redesigned outdoor courtyard for events and gatherings. The project is funded in part by a \$3 million RACP grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with matching funds from the University.

WilkesEDGE Supports Student Success

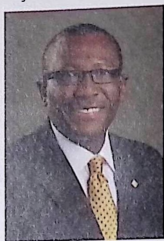
First-year Wilkes students needing additional support will find it in an innovative program called the Wilkes Educational Gateway to Excellence, or WilkesEDGE™. Developed to ensure that students who need the most support receive it, WilkesEDGE™ is an optional program offered to help students succeed. Select students will be offered additional opportunities for learning and growth during their first year at Wilkes. These opportunities include a smaller academic course load of 11 credits during the first semester, which will help them ease into the rigors of academic life. The program also includes weekly meetings with a WilkesEDGE™ program mentor, regular meetings with an academic advisor, and a



dedicated WilkesEDGE™ financial aid counselor. Students in the program also are guaranteed employment on campus because it offers both financial support and an additional way to acclimate to the Wilkes community.

Abel Adekola Brings New Leadership As Dean of Sidhu School

Abel Adekola became dean of the Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and



Leadership at the start of the 2016-2017 academic year, immediately setting priorities to raise the school's profile

from a regional business school to a national business school. Among his first goals is gaining accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

A native of Nigeria, Adekola comes to Wilkes from the University of Wisconsin-Stout, where he was dean of the College of Management. He brings a rich background in international business, including time as a Fulbright Scholar to ISM University of Management and Economics, Vilnius, Lithuania. He also received a Vietnam Faculty Development in International Business Program Fellowship in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Ice Hockey Added to NCAA Sports Offerings

The University announced that men's and women's ice hockey would be added as NCAA varsity sports. The ice hockey teams are affiliated with the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins, the American Hockey League affiliate of the Stanley Cup champion Pittsburgh Penguins. The relationship will allow Wilkes to practice and compete at

the Toyota SportsPlex at Coal Street Park in Wilkes-Barre. The addition of the two ice hockey programs increases the number of intercollegiate sport offerings at Wilkes to 23. The University announced the hiring of Brett Riley as the men's coach. Both the men's and women's teams will debut in the 2018-2019 academic year. Wilkes will field one of only four NCAA Division III men's ice hockey programs and one of five women's programs in Pennsylvania.

Latin American/Caribbean Initiative Grows

The newest chapter in Wilkes' historic partnership with the Republic of Panama began in January 2017 with the arrival on campus of 16 undergraduate students. The students were selected from education centers throughout Panama to come to the University to complete bachelor's degrees. The eight men and eight women were selected based on academic merit and an interview process. They will spend their first year in a preparatory program that includes the Intensive English Program, Wilkes' nationally accredited program that teaches language skills to non-English speakers, and taking other academic courses to prepare for their undergraduate fields of study. After that, they will enter a four-year



undergraduate course of study leading to a bachelor's degree. The students' study in the United States is funded by the Panamanian agency IFARHU.

Wilkes also launched a partnership in which Wilkes provides English training for a specific purpose with a concentration in international relations for the Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores (MIRE). The 2016-2017 academic year also saw the continuation of Wilkes' participation in the MEDUCA-Bilingual Panama Program. The program brings cohorts of teachers to colleges and universities in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom to study English and learn education best practices. Nearly 100 teachers have studied at Wilkes under the program.

Senior Digital Design and Media Art Student Wins Regional and State Honors

Wilkes University does more than get students ready for their careers. It also helps students get noticed in their fields before graduation. Senior digital design and media art major Kevin Schiel '17 is proof. He won the College Tabletop Award at the Pennsylvania Consortium on Video Games. Schiel designed a tabletop card game called Planets. In the game, players draw from the same deck as they build up their hands and try to block others from taking over planets.

Schiel also won the Gold Award in the 2016-2017 American Advertising Awards - Student Division in the American Advertising Federation's District Two for an animated infographic for Pfizer Inc., one of the world's premier biopharmaceutical

companies. To earn top honors in the television advertising category, Schiel created an animated graphic video tracking the process a drug



goes through to win Food and Drug Administration approval. Both award-winning projects began as assignments in his Projects II class for integrative media at Wilkes.

After School Program Continues to SHINE

The Luzerne County SHINE Program at Wilkes University completed its second year of enriching the educational experience of youngsters in pre-K through grade 8 in five school districts. SHINE - which stands for Schools and Homes in Education - opened its eighth after-school center at Lee Park Elementary School in the Hanover Area School District. The program now serves more than 500 students in its after-school centers and in its home visitor program. SHINE employs a STEAM-based curriculum, focusing on activities in science, technology, engineering, the arts and math. In addition to promoting academic success and career awareness among students, it offers support to families.



Awarding Excellence

President Patrick F. Leahy presented the inaugural President's Awards for Excellence during fall convocation. Faculty and staff members who personify excellence in each of the University's five core values are celebrated via a new program.

The 2016 recipients were:
Scholarship: Michael Steele, H. Fenner Chair of Research Biology, for advancing knowledge through discovery and research to better educate students
Innovation: John Carlin, director of network and technology infrastructure, for promoting programs, ideas and sustainable practices related to rebuilding a computer network.
Community: Addy Malatesta, director of athletics, for efforts in appreciating and collaborating with mutual respect to foster a sense of belonging on campus.
Mentoring: Lt. Col. Mark Kaster, lecturer in environmental engineering and earth science and veterans' counselor, for nurturing individuals to act on their abilities while challenging them to achieve great things.
Diversity: Helen Davis, associate professor of English, for her work in embracing differences and uniqueness through sincerity, awareness, inclusion and sensitivity.

Founders Gala Raises \$440,000 for First-Generation Students

At Founders Gala 2016, hundreds of members of the Wilkes community came together in support of first-generation college students. As a result, \$440,000 was raised to benefit the First Generation Scholarship Fund, which aids Wilkes students who are the first in their family to attend a four-year college.



Clayton '49 and Theresa Karambelas, who are among Wilkes University's most loyal and ardent supporters, were presented with the prestigious President's Medal at the event. Their generosity to Wilkes is seen in the projects they have supported: the Henry Student Center atrium, Dorothy Dickson Darte Center digital marquee, greenway pergola, Cohen Science Center grand staircase and the Campus Gateway. The latest testament to their generosity is the Clayton and Theresa Karambelas Media and Communication Center, home of the communication studies department.

Gateway to the Future Campaign Reaches Milestone

Commitments to Wilkes' \$50 million Gateway to the Future campaign have reached the \$30 million mark. Launched in tandem with Wilkes' strategic plan of the same name, Gateway to the Future will support major capital projects including the renovation of Stark Learning Center, construction of a south campus gateway and enhancements to Ralston Athletic Complex, as well as raise significant support for scholarship and research.

Upward Bound Receives \$1.9 Million Grant

The Upward Bound program at Wilkes University is celebrating 50 years of helping Luzerne County high school students achieve academic success. A \$1.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education - the largest in the program's history at Wilkes - will ensure it continues this mission for the next five years. The grant will help fund the program, which prepares high school students for college. The Upward Bound program at Wilkes serves 125 students from northeast Pennsylvania and is the longest-running Upward Bound program in the state.

Transformational Gift Names Creative Writing Program

Wilkes University has received significant financial support to benefit its graduate creative writing program. Given by local businessman and philanthropist Richard Maslow, of Dallas, Pa., and Naples, Fla., the gift will be used to enhance the creative writing program through innovative classes and workshops, student scholarships, faculty development, and expanded programming for the community at large. In Maslow's honor, the program was renamed the Maslow Family Graduate Program in Creative Writing.

Wilkes Awarded \$1 Million to Enhance Pedestrian Safety

The sidewalks surrounding sections of campus will be more pedestrian-friendly thanks to a \$1 million Pennsylvania State Transportation Alternatives Program grant awarded to Wilkes. These improvements will include the renovation of sidewalks along South Main Street from West South Street to Northampton Street and the addition of trees along this route. This investment complements other pedestrian safety enhancements the University has undertaken on South and South Franklin streets.

Joseph Donald Stephens, D.D.S., Global Scholars Award Funds Students' Study Abroad Experiences

The new Joseph Donald Stephens, DDS, Global Scholars Award provides students with scholarships to pursue their education in another country. The award was established by Panos Kalaritis '77 and his wife, Deborah Stephens Kalaritis '78, in honor of her late father, who also was a Wilkes alumnus.

The first awards were presented to two Wilkes students in spring 2017. Ana Castillo is a nursing major with a double minor in Spanish and women's and gender studies. She traveled to Spain for a six-week program in summer 2017 to complete her Spanish minor and improve her Spanish language skills in health-care terminology. Junior biology major Dillon Davis began a two-month internship in May 2017 at Southampton University in England. He assisted a doctoral student who is studying retinal pathophysiology with a focus on age-related macular degeneration.

McHale Athletic Center Dedicated in University Center on Main

Wilkes recognized a generous gift from Gerard McHale '67 by naming the McHale Athletic Center in the University Center on Main in his honor. McHale, who serves on the University's Board of Trustees, contributed \$500,000 to Wilkes' Gateway to the Future campaign. In a dedication ceremony held in June



2017, McHale recalled the support he received as an undergraduate and first-generation college student. He cited the late Robert Capin '50, Wilkes' third president and a professor of accounting, as an important influence during his student years.

McHale is a certified public accountant in Florida and New York and is certified in financial forensics, with substantial success in recoveries under Ponzi schemes and mass consumer fraud.

\$1.7 Million in Support Funds Scholarships

Wilkes students will enjoy expanded learning opportunities outside the classroom because of a \$1.7 million bequest to the University from the estate of Wilkes-Barre native George W. Bierly. The Bierly Fellowship at Wilkes University will support a semester-long experience for a student and may include internships, study away or study abroad trips, or undergraduate research, with awards ranging from \$500 to \$5,000. The Bierly Fellowship honors Bierly, a successful businessman and community leader who graduated from Bucknell University Junior College, the institution that became Wilkes University, in 1940, and earned his bachelor's degree in engineering from MIT in 1943.

137,900,000 Total dollars in the University's annual operating budget

34,900,000 Total dollars distributed as institutional financial aid

9,968,000 Amount spent on campus improvement projects

9,548,919 Dollar amount committed from philanthropic support, pledges and government sources

1,000,000 Amount committed to create the Faculty Research and Scholarship Fund

440,000 Dollars raised at Founders Gala 2016

96,000 Hours of service provided to the community by students, faculty and staff

7,372 Miles traveled to study abroad in Spain and England by the first two students receiving the Joseph Donald Stephens, D.D.S. Global Scholars Award

5,635 Students enrolled in all programs

1,521 Total bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees conferred in 2016-2017

1,058 Number of panes of glass installed in the Stark Learning Center renovation

- 569 Number of elementary and middle school students who have participated in the Luzerne County SHINE program at Wilkes University
- 550 Number of new classroom chairs designed for interactive learning that have been added across campus
- 99 Number of Panamanian teachers who have come to Wilkes in the MEDUCA Bilingual Panama program since its inception
- 72 Total number of degree programs
- 60 New building signs erected on campus in first phase of signage project
- 51 Percentage of Wilkes students who are the first in their family to attend college
- 45 Number of states that Wilkes undergraduate and graduate students call home
- 24 Number of home countries of Wilkes students (in addition to the U.S.)
- 11 Percentage of private schools nationwide with a total degree production higher than Wilkes
- 5 Number of terminal degree programs offered at the University with the addition of the Ph.D. program in nursing
- 1 Number of private universities with the opportunities of a large research institution, the mentoring culture of a liberal arts college and educational offerings that are open to all who show promise – Wilkes University



In, Of, and For the Community

Wilkes University is committed to being a force for positive economic, social and cultural development in our region. In fact, Wilkes' operations generate more than \$200 million in economic output for our host community. In addition, Wilkes manages a myriad of outreach initiatives, including thousands of hours of service provided by Wilkes faculty, staff and students, and expert consulting made available to established businesses and entrepreneurial startups in the region. From programs like SHINE aimed at our community's youngest residents to the sophisticated services provided by the Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, the University's impact is substantial.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Wilkes faculty, staff and students provided 96,000 hours of service last year. The U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics values this service at \$2.26 million.
- County and city government is supported with over \$145,650 in direct contributions.
- 3,500+ public school students in the region benefit from programs sponsored by Wilkes, including Science in Motion, Adventures in Science, Passport to Science, Women Empowered by Science and art and reading camps.

LUZERNE COUNTY SHINE PROGRAM AT WILKES UNIVERSITY

The after-school program makes a positive impact on students in five participating school districts using a curriculum that develops skills in science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM)

- 569 students' lives touched
- 1,000 home visits conducted
- 19,789 meals served
- 1,007 family members attended Family Nights

UPWARD BOUND AT WILKES UNIVERSITY

The program, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, supports low-income students and those who may be the first in their family to attend college. Wilkes' program is the oldest program in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

- 125 students from 8 Luzerne County high schools participate
- 1,200 alumni have gone on to higher education success

THE ALLAN P. KIRBY CENTER FOR FREE ENTERPRISE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Supported 42 client businesses – 24 run by Wilkes students, faculty and staff and 18 helmed by community clients.
- The quality of the center's business incubator was affirmed when it became a member of the Ben Franklin Technology Partners Business Incubator Network, one of the largest such networks in the country.
- Client businesses were supported by a team of regional volunteer business mentors and by the Kirby Scholars, specially selected Wilkes upperclassmen who served as consultants to businesses.
- The center was instrumental in the founding of Wilkes-Barre Connect with the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry, an initiative aimed at fostering entrepreneurship in the region.

THE INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AT WILKES UNIVERSITY

- The Institute completed more than two dozen research reports that supported initiatives for new and existing businesses, nonprofits and projects in the education and health care sectors.
- It provided the blueprint for Wilkes-Barre Connect, launched by the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry to support new companies, startups and existing businesses.
- Institute Executive Director Teri Ooms was named the Chamber's first Innovator of the Year in 2016.
- The annual Lackawanna and Luzerne County Indicators Report tracked data and trends critical to the region's future.

FAMILY BUSINESS ALLIANCE

- The Family Business Alliance supported 31 family business members with educational programming, networking opportunities and member benefits that included reduced tuition at Wilkes University for family business owners, their family members and employees.
- Susan Reilly was introduced as the alliance's new executive director.
- The alliance formalized a partnership with Penn State Worthington Scranton that will allow it to expand its reach to Lackawanna County and Northeast Pennsylvania.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

- The SBDC provided businesses with 2,936 hours of one-on-one consulting services that helped clients access \$7,210,250 in capital, allowing 27 businesses to open, creating 123 jobs.
- Existing businesses working with the Wilkes SBDC saw \$4,763,049 in sales increases.
- More than 300 individuals in its five-county territory attended over 30 educational programs.

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Senior Vice President/Provost

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Vice President for Student Affairs

Dr. Abel Adekola

Dean of the Jay S. Sidhu Business School

Dr. Bernard W. Graham

Dean of the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy

Joseph Housenick

Assistant Vice President and

Chief Human Resources Officer

Dr. William B. Hudson

*Dean of the College of
Science and Engineering*

Janet M. Kobylski

*Assistant Vice President of
Finance and Treasurer*

Thomas S. MacKinnon

Vice President of University Advancement

Loren D. Prescott Jr.

Vice President of Finance and General Counsel

Dr. Rhonda Rabbitt

Dean of the School of Education

Dr. Paul Riggs

*Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities
and Social Sciences*

John C. Stachacz

*Dean of the Library and
Information Technology*

Dr. Terese M. Wignot

Associate Provost

Michael J. Wood

Assistant to the President for External Affairs

Dr. Deborah A. Zbegner

Dean of the Passan School of Nursing

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Associate Professor of Political Science

University Staff Advisory Council

Jamie R. Miller, *Chairperson*

Assistant Director of Residence Life

Student Government

Allie Grudeski

Student Government President

“There has never been
a better time at Wilkes.

Thank you for
being a part of it.”

- Dr. Patrick F. Leahy



WILKES UNIVERSITY

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www.wilkes.edu

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