

"The longest journey begins with a single step."



WILKES COLLEGE 1972



ARNAUD C. MARTS

FIRST STEPS

Although the development of the College appears as a continuum to the casual observer, this development really results from stages of growth; each succeeding stage is a product of the stages that preceded it. At Wilkes, there have been a series of first steps resulting from previous achievements, the opening of new opportunities and the formulation of new plans. Among the successive "first steps," the following have been selected for your consideration:



GILBERT S. MCCLINTOCK

- 1932 — FIRST STEP #1** — The invitation extended to Bucknell by Wyoming Valley educators to establish a Junior College in Wilkes-Barre. At that time, Wilkes-Barre was the greatest center of population in the nation having no local college for men and women.
- 1933 — FIRST STEP #2** — The rental of a building on Northampton Street and the opening of classes with 195 students enrolled.
- 1936 — FIRST STEP #3** — The decision of Arnaud Marts, president of Bucknell University, to maintain the Junior College even though it was a financial drain to Bucknell.
- 1937 — FIRST STEP #4** — The acquisition of the first properties, Chase and Conyngham Halls, and an appeal to the community for funds with which to adapt these buildings to College use.
- 1938 — FIRST STEP #5** — The creation of a local Board of Trustees responsible for the growth and operation of the Junior College. Bucknell offered independence to the College whenever its resources were sufficient.
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ANDREW J. SORDONI

- 1942 — FIRST STEP #6** — During the war students were in the armed services and enrollment fell to a low of 111 — 40 men and 71 women — and the men stayed in college for only one term. During these critical years, the college participated in the training of civilian pilots via the Civilian Pilot Training Program and the training of air crewmen via the Army Air Corps Aviation Cadet Program.
- 1943 — FIRST STEP #7** — The development of a ten-year plan and a public appeal to the community for the establishment of an endowment of \$500,000. This sum was the minimum required by the State for the chartering of an independent four-year, non-denominational college. The \$500,000 was obtained by the end of 1946.
- 1947 — FIRST STEP #8** — Wilkes College was chartered by the State as an independent non-denominational College. Bucknell transferred all Wilkes-Barre properties and all Junior College assets to the Wilkes College Board of Trustees. Dr. Eugene S. Farley became the first president of Wilkes College, and Atty. Gilbert S. McClintock first chairman of the board.
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EUGENE S. FARLEY

1950 — FIRST STEP #9 — The announcement of the second ten-year plan. All goals of the first plan had been attained by this time.

1955 — FIRST STEP #10 — The announcement of new goals for the twenty-fifth anniversary of the College. These goals included a science building, a library, the acquisition of more houses in the area selected for College growth, and enlargement of the small endowment.

1958 — FIRST STEP #11 — A gift of \$1,000,000 was made to finance construction of a science building. At the suggestion of the donor, this building was named for Admiral Harold R. Stark. In 1960, Stark Hall was completed and the donor gave more than \$500,000 for endowment of the science program.



ADMIRAL HAROLD R. STARK

1960 — FIRST STEP #12 — The initiation of a graduate program in chemistry and physics. This program was promised to RCA provided the firm establish a plant in the Wilkes-Barre area.

1964 — FIRST STEP #13 — Stark Hall was enlarged to provide space for research and graduate instruction. \$600,000 required for the construction of this addition was given by friends, and \$400,000 was granted by A.R.A. under provisions of the Flood-Douglas Bill for regional development.

1965-1968 — FIRST STEP #14 — Completion of the buildings recommended by the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Committee. These included: (1) the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts — 1965, (2) the dining hall and men's dormitory — 1966, (3) the Eugene Shedden Farley Library — 1968.



DOROTHY DICKSON DARTE

1969-1970 — FIRST STEP #15 — Preparation of the third long-range program for development. This plan projects likely developments to 1983, the fiftieth anniversary of the College.

The first phase of this step was the initiation of an appeal for \$3,000,000 with which to construct a Learning Center to replace Conyngham Hall which was destroyed by fire on December 28, 1968 and to provide additional space for new courses and programs in environmental science, electronics and materials engineering, and a comprehensive program in the health sciences. This building also calls for the installation of electronics equipment that will permit the use of modern methods while simultaneously maintaining a personal exchange of ideas between faculty and students. The campaign goal of \$3,000,000 was reached but the lowest bids for construction of the new learning center were \$5,860,000.

A critical decision was required at this time. Should the College, in accordance with long-established policy, delay construction until all funds were available or should it proceed with construction in the hope that sufficient funds would be forthcoming while the building was still under construction? Because \$800,000 in grants and insurance depended upon the start of construction in 1971, the Board of Trustees determined to start construction. They did so, however, with the understanding that construction would halt when all available funds were exhausted.

If funds are obtained in time, the entire structure will be completed by September, 1973. If the necessary funds are not obtained before that time, completion of the building will be delayed until funds are available.



ANNETTE EVANS

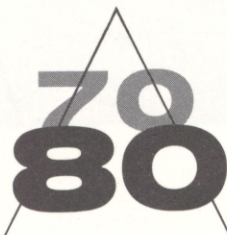
1972 — FIRST STEP #16 — After plans had been formulated at Wilkes, now under the presidency of Dr. Francis J. Michelini, for the introduction of a five-year program in biomedical science, Dr. Ralph Rozelle, Director of the Graduate Division, learned that Hahnemann Medical College was developing a somewhat similar program. As both proposals required cooperation between at least one undergraduate and one medical college, the two institutions joined forces to adopt a plan in medical education that will:

- (a) shorten by two years the time required to earn an M.D.,
- (b) reduce the costs of medical education,
- (c) increase the number of doctors graduating from Hahnemann without an extravagant enlargement of their facilities and faculty.
- (d) provide greater services to the physicians of Northeastern Pennsylvania,
- (e) encourage younger physicians to practice in the area and thus reverse the existing condition wherein more doctors are retiring than are coming to the area,
- (f) serve as a prototype for other medical colleges that are concerned by the ever-increasing costs of medical education and the need for enlarged medical services.



FRANCIS J. MICHELINI

So
we seek your help
as we take one more "first" step toward
the improvement of our educational programs,
the enlargement of
our services to the community
and
the support of scholarships
that enable
qualified students of limited means
to develop those talents
that will
enrich the future of
our society



*and each new journey begins
where the last journey ended.*

WILKES COLLEGE
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18703

