

File Gro

I CELEBRATE THE EDUCATION OF THE MIND

*In Commemoration of the
50th Anniversary of Wilkes College*

1933 - 1983

I celebrate the education of the mind
That, even when it knows with certainty
What conclusions it will find,
Takes constant delight
In proving to itself
That it is wrong or it is right.

The important thing is knowing
That the mind cannot be set
Or predetermined in its judgment.
Not ever, not now, not yet.
And to stretch the mind's dimension
And to seek surprise
Is to take the journey
That leads us to be wise.

Wilkes College holds to its mission
In this its fiftieth year,
Still open to new ideas
Wherever they appear,
Its spirit sound and active,
Its voice compassionate and clear,
Still facing challenges
Without prejudice or fear.

ALFRED S. GROH

September 12, 1982

ON BECOMING A UNIVERSITY

BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY JUNIOR COLLEGE—1933

WILKES COLLEGE—1947

WILKES UNIVERSITY—1990

They come to us
Marked by the world,
Prepared and unprepared, serious and alert:

All who enter
Have been taught
Education is the key
To raise their sights
Beyond their expectations
Of what the good life can be:
To change the environment,
To modify behavior,
To keep the mind ever free.

Unwilling to live with
Peace or justice that lies
Disabled or inert,
Unable to accept
A mind closed to freedom
Or silent for fear of being hurt.

We confer
All the rights and privileges
Institutions of higher learning grant:
Your right to think,
To be, to do,
To harvest what you plant,
To strive for truth,
To speak for truth
And when you're wrong, recant.

The values
That informed us
Remain fundamentally the same,
Our mission unchanged
With the changing
Of our name:
Do you strike the match
To light the candle
Or to watch the flame?

Alfred S. Gresh

THE MAN OF HONOR

*Preented to Dr. Eugene S. Farley
Who Retired As the First President
Of Wilkes College In 1970*

The world's salvation
From paralyzing doubt
Is the man of honor
Whose mind reaches out
To explore itself
In a new source
And advance its margins
Beyond their present course.
The world of doubt
Will be changed, as it can,
Not by the rhetoric
But by the man.

Alfred S. Groh

PORTRAIT OF A BUILDING
DOROTHY DICKSON DARTE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
EDWARD DARLING, JR., THEATER
WILKES UNIVERSITY

This is the house
Where Shakespeare and Chekhov play
And when they're in town
Where Arthur Miller and Philip Barry stay
And John Keats and Robert Edmond Jones
Define tomorrow's future every day
Where tomorrow's future is already on its way.

Williams, Wilder, Ionesco,
Albee, Beckett, Giraudoux, Shaw,
Gershwin, Menotti, Sondheim—
On the boards they're a box office draw,
And actor, director, and crew,
No longer separate forces,
Discover the creative spirit
In imaginative and unimagined sources.

I have lived in this house
With friends such as these—
Genuine, truthful,
Always hard-to-please,
I have lived in this house
Where the stage is set
For wondrous things to happen
When all commitments are met
And the curtain rises and falls
On scenes I will not forget.

What begins as a thought
On the printed page
Becomes a script
For a life on the stage
That becomes a show
Performed or read
And begins again
In someone's head.

On the stage
A character never dies
And comes to life again and again
Before an audience's eyes...
A majestic creation
The arts immortalize.

This is the house
Where poets and artists stay
And actors, musicians, and dancers
Define tomorrow's future today
And where tomorrow's future is already on its way.

This is the house
When I am gone
Images of magnificence
Build upon.

ALFRED S. GROH
October 14, 1995

Presented to Dorothy Darling
With Affection and Appreciation
From A Grateful University
In Tribute
To Her Devoted Brother Eddy
For His Friendship and Service
In This Theater's Early Years

INAUGURATION OF A COLLEGE PRESIDENT

This is the day
Of changes
When the college
Rearranges
The way it was
And everyone
Has the chance to say
What the college does
And in truth has done

This is the way
It changes
When the college
Rearranges
Alliances
In the sciences
The humanities
And the arts

This is the way
It starts

With a vision
And a prayer
And a harvest of dreams
With a challenge
From the past
To explore new themes
And new ideas
About what the college is
Not just what it was
But what in truth it does

*although
"Inauguration" poem
was written for Chris
Briseth, April 15, 1985,
you and Tim are surely
in the Farley tradition.*

A college's strength
Lies in what it professes
Its mission to be
And the way it addresses
Those in need
And helps them
To help themselves
Grow and succeed
Independent and free

Leadership makes
Changes
That matter
And never forsakes
Those who are troubled
For those who flatter

This is the day
Of changes
When the President
Rearranges
The way it was
For the way it is
For what in truth it does

When the college
No longer yours or his
Becomes ours
A truth
No one can bend
A reality
That will send
A clear signal
Cooperation will extend
To alliances
In the sciences
The humanities
And the arts

This is the way
A new day
Starts

Alfred S. Goren