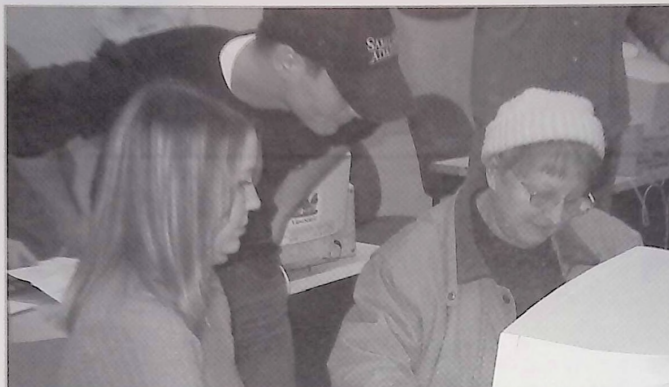


MARCH 2006



JUNIOR ACCOUNTING MAJORS CORRINE KOZEMKO AND JUSTIN JOHNSON HELP PREPARE TAX RETURNS FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY.

Accounting Majors Provide Tax Preparation Assistance

Junior accounting majors offered free tax help to the public through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, a cooperative effort by the Internal Revenue Service and individual states to provide income tax assistance to low-income individuals and the elderly. Held each Saturday in February in Breiseth Hall, the students prepared more than 200 basic federal and state tax returns and served approximately 100 clients. Coordinated by Cynthia Chisarik, associate professor of accounting, Wilkes has provided this community service for 20 consecutive years.

Executive Director of Joint Urban Studies Center Named

Scranton native Teri Ooms has been named executive director of the new Joint Urban Studies Center, a collaboratively funded organization that will mobilize the resources of local colleges and universities to support economic revitalization in Wilkes-Barre and other regional cities. As executive director, Ooms will work with government officials, community mem-

bers and economic development partners to conduct research and develop inclusive plans that lead to smart economic growth. In addition, she will design leadership development and community service opportunities for students from each of the partner institutions. Ooms returns to Northeastern Pennsylvania from Riverside, California, where for six years she served as executive director of the Inland Empire Economic Partnership and the Inland Empire Tourism Council. She has also served as its president and chief executive officer since 1997. Ooms managed the organization's eight operating divisions and multiple contracts and grants. The Center will open on March 20. Wilkes will manage it and serve as a temporary location until permanent office space can be established in downtown Wilkes-Barre.

Students Help Empower Women With Science

For the second consecutive year, the biology department is sponsoring Women Empowered by Science (WEBS), a series of one-hour labs designed to foster an interest in the sciences for girls ages 10-12. More than 40 sixth-grade girls from three local elementary schools visit campus each month and participate in labs con-

ducted by Wilkes faculty and students such as simulating an oil spill by adding coconut oil to water, studying earthquakes using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology, making lip balm and shampoo and extracting DNA from fruit. The WEBS program runs through April.

Wilkes Hosts College Students From Japan

Eight education majors from Tamagawa University in Japan recently spent two weeks on campus attending classes and serving as teaching assistants at local elementary schools. Experiences such as a shopping trip to outlets in the Poconos, walking tours and the opportunity to stay locally with Wilkes faculty and staff immersed the students in American culture. Daily schedules included English as a second language (ESL) instruction, lunch with a Wilkes student partner, attending a Multicultural Education class and opportunities to read to elementary school students. The TU students also offered lessons in Japanese lettering and origami to fifth grade students of Wilkes alumnus, Tom Duffy '98 M'03. Coordinated by Dr. Diane Polachek, chairperson of the Education and Psychology Department, Wilkes has partnered with Tamagawa since 1990 to offer cooperative educational opportunities for students at each school's campus.



TAMAGAWA UNIVERSITY STUDENT CHIE YUI HELPS FIFTH GRADERS LEARN THE ART OF ORIGAMI.

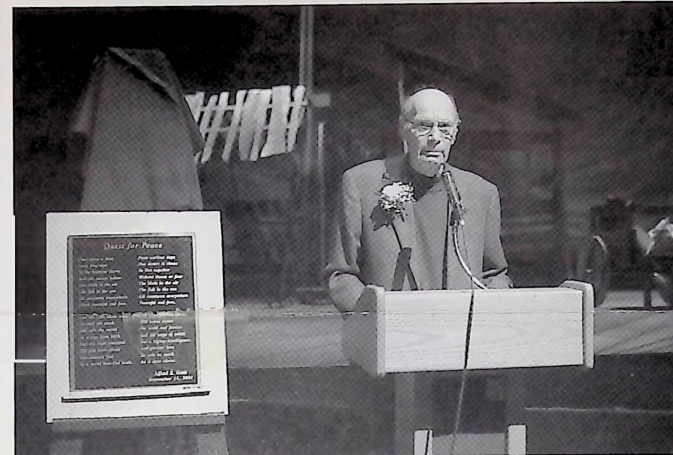
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Groh Honored for Contributions to the Arts

A packed house of nearly 350 friends, family and colleagues of Alfred Groh, professor emeritus of English and theatre arts, gathered for a reception in his honor prior to curtain of *Fiddler on the Roof*, a play he directed at Wilkes 30 years ago. University Provost Maravene Loeschke presented Groh with a plaque recognizing his more than 40 years of service to the University and his contributions to the arts. Groh began teaching at Wilkes in 1947 and has directed more than 80 theatrical productions. He was also a major influence in securing a new fine arts facility in the mid-60s that is now the Dorothy Dickson Dart Center for the Performing Arts. Groh, a passionate advocate for the arts in the Wilkes-Barre community, was also the founder of the Fine Arts Fiesta, a week-long outdoor celebration of the arts now in its 49th year. An accomplished poet, Groh wrote "Quest for Peace" and recited it during a re-dedication of the Peace Pole on September 11, 2003. Excerpts from his poem will be placed near the Peace Pole, located on the Fenner Quadrangle.

New Black History Stamp Unveiled at Wilkes

The United States Postal Service (USPS) unveiled the new Black History Stamp during a diversity training workshop for Wilkes deans and chairpersons held recently in the Henry Student Center. The stamp celebrates the distin-



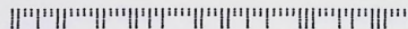
PROFESSOR EMERITUS AL GROH GIVES REMARKS DURING A CEREMONY IN HIS HONOR.

guished legacy of African American scholars, artists, scientists and achievers. Also during the program, Provost Maravene Loeschke was honored with a plaque for her work in promoting diversity throughout the University and the community by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Diversity Education Consortium (NEPDEC).

Communications Major Lands Internship at ABC News

Junior communications and English major Gabe LeDonne will intern at ABC News in New

York City this summer. LeDonne will rotate between the editorial and production departments, gaining experience in tape operations, day-of-air research, program direction and graphics. LeDonne will also have the opportunity to shadow producers, pitch story ideas and coordinate and attend interviews. LeDonne is the managing editor of *The Beacon*, a resident assistant and a coordinator for the writing center. He is also involved in "Wilkes World," a new television program produced on the Wilkes television network.



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Kingston PA 18704

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An Evening Honoring Alfred S. Groh

February 20, 2004

Alfred Groh was born on March 10, 1921 in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

After serving in World War II, he came to Wilkes University in 1947, then Bucknell University Junior College, to teach English and be Director of Theater. Although he officially retired in 1987, Alfred has always been a passionate advocate for the arts and a vital part of Wilkes University and the Wilkes-Barre community. In addition to his teaching, Alfred has directed over 80 productions over a period of 40 years. In 1977 he married Jane Lampe, former Wilkes University Dean of Students. They live in Kingston.

Mr. Groh was a major influence in the securing of a new fine arts facility. The center opened in 1965 and was later named the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for Performing Arts. In 1978, Mr. Groh was named Director of Cultural Affairs and the theater major was established. The Kiwanis Club of Wilkes-Barre gave him an honorary membership in recognition of his directing sixteen Wilkes/Kiwanis plays and musicals from 1954 to 1976. In 1956, under Alfred's vision the Fine Arts Fiesta was born. This year will be the 49th year for the festival.

In 1949, he wrote the book and directed the 1949 all male musical, "All in Fun," starring the Wilkes Lettermen. In 1957, he wrote the libretto for the music drama "Man Against The Sky," performed in conjunction with the 25th anniversary of Wilkes College. His collection of poems, "Winter Songs," was set to music by Professor Emeritus Rosendo Santos and premiered by the New Jersey Children's Choir in 1993. For many years the campus and community have enjoyed Alfred's poetry. He has published two collections.

Tonight we honor and we say thank you to Alfred Groh for the four decades of richness he has brought to the University. Alfred Groh is a man of quiet integrity, vision, character, generosity and courage. A love of humanity and a desire to better the human condition is the core of his theater, his poetry, and his life. He remains one of our greatest treasures.

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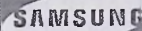
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Al Groh Honored for Lifetime Service to Wilkes

By [Monica Cardenas](#)

Published: Monday, February 23, 2004



Honored for his lifetime commitment to the Wilkes Community, Al Groh received recognition for his many contributions to the campus at Friday's performance of "Fiddler on the Roof."

At yet another astounding performance of *Fiddler on the Roof* on Friday night, Mr. Alfred S. Groh, Professor Emeritas of English and Theater Arts, was recognized for his tireless contributions to Wilkes and the Darte Center for Performing Arts.

Groh, who graduated from Wilkes in 1941, has been committed to the University for more than sixty years.

"He's what they call a 'Golden Colonel,'" said long-time friend and Associate Dean of Student Affairs, Dr. Barbara King.

Prior to the evening's performance, which was to a full house

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comprised of many former students and Wilkes friends, a short ceremony led by Provost Maravene Loeschke highlighted Groh's many gifts. In her address, Loeschke called the audience's attention to the vast list of plays and one acts that Groh had directed during his years at Wilkes. She noted that Groh had a strong desire to acknowledge the masters, but also bring to life the lesser known playwrights who also made important statements about life.

In addition to Groh's teaching and directing, Loeschke added, he has two loves: writing poetry and his wife Jane, who is the former Wilkes Dean of Students. The two sat holding hands in the front row during the presentation and the play. Throughout her remarks, Loeschke quoted from one of Groh's poems. In addition, Dick Gillespie, Adjunct Professor of Theater delivered Groh's poem, "On the Arts." Finally, Vice President for Enrollment, Mike Frantz, acknowledged Groh's impact on him when Groh delivered a poem on peace during the campus September 11 dedication of the peace pole. Frantz unveiled the University's gift to Groh which was to put his poem on a bronze plaque that will be placed next to the peace pole near the library.

According to Bruce E. Phair, Director of the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center and former student of Groh, "Al was instrumental in getting the whole theater program and Center for the Performing Arts off the ground."

Groh served at Wilkes from 1947 to 1987 as both a Professor of English and as director of many plays and one acts. Since his retirement, he has remained an active through a variety of Wilkes departments and organizations ever since. However, his time at Wilkes was innovative and imperative to the development of the arts at Wilkes.

Before the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center was established, there was no theater department at Wilkes. In order to make up for this missing link to the arts, Groh established Cue and Curtain, a club that allowed students to perform.

According to King, he was director of the first theater at Wilkes, which was located behind Chase Hall. Groh also directed musicals at the Irem Temple on North Franklin Street and was responsible for the concert and lecture series, which brought such names as David Brinkley and Pearl Bailey to Wilkes.

In addition, Groh oversaw the funding and construction of the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center in the early to mid-60's. Not only is he responsible for raising money from the community and assisting with the design of the Center, but according to King, "He tells wonderful stories about his arguments with contractors over how many bathroom stalls should be included." He was deeply involved in every aspect of this cultural landmark and served as managing director from 1965 until his retirement.

But retirement was not the end of Groh's at Wilkes. He is an avid sports fan and follows the Colonels very closely. In addition, he continues to be a supporter of the theater now.

"He keeps in contact with students, and remembers what parts they played in particular plays, the scenery, and even who painted the

scenery," said King of Groh. "He is wise, but quiet. He knows what he believes and lives by what he believes. I don't think you can ask for more than that."

She adds, "He has always been and is truly a teacher. Al is one of the most patient, non-judgmental people that you would ever meet."

"Gentle is the word that always comes to mind," said Dr. J. Michael Lennon, Chairperson of Humanities and Professor Emeritus, English, describing Groh. "He writes very warm poems. He is a great wordsmith."

King agrees. "His poetry is very heartfelt and introspective."

Thoughtfully, she added, "much like Al."

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