Daniel Klem, Jr. a graduate of Wilkes College in 1968 and Professor of Biology at Muhlenberg College, where you have taught since 1979 and where you have specialized in ornithology and avian conservation, you have spent more than two decades inspiring students with a love of learning and research as well as an abiding concern for the health of the earth and all its creatures. Your special interest involves the encounter between birds and humans in general, and the unfortunate daily encounter between birds and plate glass windows in particular causing billions of bird deaths a year. You personally have brought this issue to the attention of an international community of scientists and lay people concerned about endangered species and about the ecological balance between human beings and the other creatures of the earth and sky. Given this interest in birds as indicators of environmental health and to establish an environmental ethic as a national trait, you were invited in 1992 to study the ornithology of the Republic of Armenia. From the global cooperation this project has inspired, two books have been published on birds in Armenia, with a third volume on its way. Most important, the project promises to sustain continued education and research including teaching conservation knowledge and a conservation lifestyle to the young, as well as deepening interest in birds in a part of the world where little was previously known.

How did you come to these interests and to this influential role among world environmentalists? Born nearly fifty-three years ago in Kingston to Daniel and Lillian Mary Perlis Klem, themselves children of immigrants from Eastern Europe who had come to the Wyoming Valley to mine anthracite coal, you and your two younger brothers were encouraged to pursue your education. You graduated from Kingston High School in 1967 and after persuading Admissions Dean John Whitby that you were worth the risk, you entered Wilkes College. You acknowledge that both academically and socially you grew up at Wilkes. Your mentor and friend, Dr. Charles B. Reif, who joins us today in bestowing this honor upon you, challenged and guided your interests and your talents to become a scientist. Your hope in 1968 after graduating from Wilkes was to enter graduate school in Boston to study marine science, learning about the creatures of the sea. But the Vietnam War diverted all that. As the son of a U.S. Navy veteran from World War II with a deeply patriotic attitude, you enlisted in the U.S. Army and found yourself in 1969 as a commissioned Military Intelligence Officer. Although only a second lieutenant, you assumed a major's responsibility as head of security of the 311th Army Security Agency Battalion stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. You guarded sensitive information and investigated counterintelligence operations in the Western United States before being sent with the 101st Airborne Division to command an intelligence unit in combat in the northern part of South Vietnam. While you received several commendations, the major one was the Bronze Star Medal for heroic leadership of your unit in combat.

Whenever you could come home on leave, you visited Wilkes and during one of these visits you met your future wife, Renee Mucci, a 1970 Wilkes graduate. In 1971 you married and began studying for a master's degree in Biology at Hofstra University which you received in 1973. Then on to Southern Illinois University at Carbondale where you received your Ph.D. in Zoology in 1979 and established your absorbing interest in the lethal hazard of plate glass to birds, a focus that has allowed you to become a world specialist on avian conservation and biodiversity in general. On only two occasions at Hofstra and SIU were you ranked lower than first in any course, a feat you attribute to your superb Wilkes education. You joined the Muhlenberg College family in 1979 and have been there ever since, fostering among your students the same love of learning and of research that you acquired at Wilkes. While you have received several awards for
teaching, including the Lindbach Award for Teaching Excellence in 1984, your true rewards come from the accomplishments of your students. Hundreds of fortunate students have worked with you on special research projects, whether at biological field stations on the Delaware Bay or at the Conrad W. Raker Biological Field Station and Wild Life Sanctuary of at the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Kempton, Pennsylvania. Just two months ago one of your students, a history major who graduated in 1984, wrote you from Bosnia where he is on active duty with the Stabilization Forces: "I have got to tell you that your gift as a professor is remarkable. After I took your class, it opened up a whole new world to me."

Your students discover your dedication to your professional field; your editing of major peer referenced journals; your extraordinary number of research grants (most of which have involved student researchers); your service on numerous boards and commissions dealing with wildlife, their environment and people; your numerous publications, many in collaboration with others; your frequent speaking around this country and throughout the world; and not least your judging of junior high school science projects, encouraging future scientists as you were encouraged. Your colleagues at Hawk Mountain testify to the extraordinary dedication and intelligence you have brought to this bird sanctuary in your active service over the years. Model teacher, researcher, public educator, and parent to Heather Anne, Robyn Lynne and Daniel Joseph Klem, your alma mater is very proud of your efforts to leave the Earth in better health than you found it. It is a personal privilege for me, by the virtue of the power vested in me by the Board of Trustees of Wilkes University and by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to bestow upon you, Daniel Klem, Jr., the degree Doctor of Science, Honoris Causa, with all the rights and privileges appertaining thereto.