

Celebrating the Class of 2008

More than 4,000 family and friends filled the Wachovia Arena on May 17 for the 61st annual spring commencement.

President Tim Gilmour conferred 330 bachelor's, 307 master's and 71 doctor of pharmacy degrees. Former N.J. governor and chairman of the 9/11 Commission Thomas Kean delivered the keynote address. Kean is a friend and former colleague of Wilkes Trustee William Tremayne '57.

Four graduates were honored with distinguished awards for academic excellence and leadership. Accounting major Karl Kemmerer, biochemistry major Brynn Beaver and English major Angelina Teutonico received the Mabel Scott Wandell and Sterling Leroy Wandell Award for attaining the highest grade point averages in the graduating class. Beaver and Kemmerer both graduated summa cum laude with a 4.0 average, and Teutonico graduated summa cum laude with a 3.99.

The Alumni Award for Leadership went to Kaitlin Taber-Miller, who graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of arts in musical theatre. Taber-Miller served as an e-mentor and orientation leader and participated in two alternative spring break service trips abroad and to hurricane-ravaged New Orleans.

Three Wilkes graduates were commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Air Force. Each graduate completed training at Wilkes' Air Force ROTC Detachment 752. Lt. Michael Lewis became the first recipient of the Wilkes Flyboys Distinguished Graduate Award; he also received the AFROTC Distinguished Graduate Award.

Graduates celebrated with more than 4,000 friends and family at Wachovia Arena. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL P. TOUEY



The answer to **CORRUPTION AND OPPORTUNISM** is not to turn away or to complain about our problems but to ensure that the best and the most qualified and the most compassionate **BECOME OUR LEADERS.**

– Thomas Kean



The Sounds of Wilkes

The Wilkes University Chorus and Civic Band recently recorded a CD of traditional Wilkes songs.

These songs, often played and sung at graduation and sports events but never before recorded, include the *Alma Mater*, *Wilkes is in Town Again*, the *Touchdown Song* and the *Homecoming Song*. A number of Wilkes alumni joined current Wilkes students in the production of the recording.

The CD, which also includes recordings of other recent performances by the University Chorus and the Chamber Singers, will be available for purchase during Homecoming 2008, Oct. 3 to 5.

For more information on the CD, please e-mail alumni@wilkes.edu.

PHOTO BY CHRISTINE TONDRICK

Law School Initiative Takes Step Forward With Hiring of Dean Loren Prescott

Loren D. “Chip” Prescott Jr. took the reins as dean of the Wilkes University Law School Planning Initiative on June 1.

Prescott, formerly vice dean and professor at Widener University School of Law, Harrisburg, Pa., leads efforts to investigate feasibility and



Loren “Chip” Prescott. PHOTO BY MARK GOLASZEWSKI

develop plans for northeastern Pennsylvania’s first law school. Preliminary plans call for enrolling between 80 and 100 first-year students in fall 2010.

“If feasible, the addition of a law school represents a great opportunity for the revitalization of Wilkes-Barre and the region. Wilkes’ mentoring culture is uniquely suited to training a new generation of attorneys skilled in the practice, not just the theory, of law,” said President Tim Gilmour. “Chip Prescott brings both experience and vision to this initiative.”

As dean, Prescott will complete an in-depth market analysis of enrollment trends, look at parameters for a law school library, and develop a trailblazing curriculum. He is scheduled to submit plans for trustee consideration in April 2009.

“The Wilkes Law School Initiative provides Wilkes University with a unique opportunity to serve the legal community in northeast Pennsylvania as it participates in the debate over the future of legal education,” Prescott says. “I look forward to working with my new colleagues at Wilkes and with the bench and bar in NEPA as we continue to pursue this important new project at Wilkes.”

Job demand for lawyers remains strong, with starting salaries dependent on where and in what fields one practices, according to the Association of Legal Career Professionals. In addition, 90.7 percent of 2006 law school graduates for whom employment status was known were employed as of Feb. 15, 2007. The overall median starting salary reached \$62,000, while the median compensation for private practice was \$95,000.

Prescott began his career as a certified public accountant, receiving a bachelor’s degree in business administration from University of Washington. He earned his juris doctor degree from Willamette University College of Law and a master of laws degree in taxation from University of Florida College of Law. He is currently a doctoral candidate in public administration at Penn State University.

For more information on the law school initiative, contact Prescott at law@wilkes.edu or (800) WILKES-U Ext. 3220. Updates on progress will be posted at www.law.wilkes.edu.

Mystery Newspaper Inspires Online Archive

Did you know that the first campus newspaper was called the *Bison Stampede*? Neither did University archivist Harold Cox until last year, when he sorted through the meticulously organized files of the late Norma Sangiuliano Tyburski, dean of women for Bucknell University Junior College. In “Sangy’s” files was one copy of the mysterious newspaper.

Cox decided to investigate if additional copies existed. “I had my doubts after talking with George Ralston,” says Cox. “Even he hadn’t heard of the *Bison Stampede*.” Cox then contacted his Bucknell University counterpart, who confirmed the existence of the newspaper and had in her possession all 13 printed copies.

Inspired by the discovery, Cox set out to archive all editions of the *Wilkes Beacon*. Six months later, Cox launched an online, searchable database that

contains portable document format (pdf) files of nearly all *Beacon* editions from 1936 through 1970. His goal is to archive the remaining issues from 1971 to 2000. Since 2001, the *Beacon* has been automatically archived online.

To help build the archive, Cox asks any alumni or friends of the university who may have old issues of the newspaper to contact him at

harold.cox@wilkes.edu. To browse and download editions of the *Bison Stampede* and *Beacon*, visit <http://beaconarchives.wilkes.edu>.



Prestigious \$1 Million Grant Will Bolster Biology at Wilkes

“Super labs,” new faculty, and a beefed-up curriculum preparing students for emerging science careers are among improvements biology majors will soon notice, thanks to a \$1 million grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

“Anyone graduating with a Wilkes biology degree can take pride in this award,” says Mike Steele, chair of biology and primary author of the grant. “This recognition by HHMI shows Wilkes is continuing to develop and grow.”

HHMI invited 224 of the country’s top colleges and universities to apply for the science education funding and awarded only 48 grants “to the nation’s best undergraduate institutions,” according to HHMI.

Wilkes will use the grant to strengthen students’ abilities in mathematics, physical sciences and computer science so they can integrate these disciplines into life sciences. New “super labs” will immerse students in research for 10 days between their sophomore and junior years.



Students will have more opportunity for laboratory and research experience thanks to a \$1 million grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. These students are tracking songbirds along the Susquehanna River. PHOTO BY KIM BOWER-SPENCE

“There is nothing like this in the area,” Steele says. “This kind of requirement is very unusual at the undergraduate level.”

Eileen Sharp, coordinator for health sciences professional programs, adds: “The science research and laboratory opportunities available for Wilkes students helps them learn strong critical thinking and problem-solving skills so necessary in a health care career and gives them an advantage over students applying to health professions programs from other undergraduate institutions.”

Madeleine Albright and Environmental Innovator Highlight Fall Lectures

The nation’s first female secretary of state and an environmental innovator will each present lectures at Wilkes University this fall.



Madeleine Albright. PHOTO COURTESY OF WASHINGTON SPEAKERS BUREAU

- Madeleine K. Albright, U.S. secretary of state in the Clinton administration and principal of global strategy firm The Albright Group LLC, will present the annual Outstanding Leaders Forum lecture at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 18, in the F.M. Kirby Center. Forum proceeds provide scholarships for promising business students at the Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and Leadership.
- Electrical engineer Martin Eberhard re-invented the electric car into a sexy roadster that has the likes of Arnold Schwarzenegger and Larry Page lining up to buy one, even with its six-figure price tag. The car went into production earlier this year. The founder and former CEO of Tesla Motors delivers the Allan P. Kirby Lecture in Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 1, in the Darte Center. The Kirby lecture is free and open to the public.

For more information on either lecture, contact Rebecca Van Jura at (570) 408-4306 or rebecca.vanjura@wilkes.edu.

NEW TRUSTEES JOIN BOARD

The University Board of Trustees has elected four new trustees:

- **The Rev. Michael E. Brewster** is senior pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church, Wilkes-Barre. Brewster became pastor of Mt. Zion in 2004, after serving as interim pastor for one year.
- **Daniel J. Cardell '79** is an investment manager from Chicago. A chartered financial analyst, Cardell was recently named president and chief investment officer of Wayne Hummer Asset Management.
- **Carol Kotlowski Keup '89** of Kingston, Pa., serves as chief executive officer of Valley Distributing and Storage Company, a privately owned third-party logistics provider with 90 employees in Wilkes-Barre and Scranton.
- **Hedy Wrightson Rittenmeyer '72** of Plano, Texas, is a member of the board of directors of The Bridge Breast Network, a nonprofit organization. She is also helping start a therapeutic horsemanship center in Nicholson Township, Pa.

Trustee **Jay S. Sidhu M'73**, former chairman and CEO of Sovereign Bank, currently chairs the board.