

Education for a Smaller, Flatter World

The ability to work in, respect and learn from diverse cultures is growing daily as people become more mobile, communications move at light speed, and the world grows smaller and flatter. To help prepare our graduates for this new world, Wilkes is working harder than ever to ensure its students receive a broad, multicultural experience.

Under a recommendation approved by the Board of Trustees at its December meeting, the University will establish a Center for Global Education and Diversity to oversee planning, direction and coordination of the University's efforts to become a regional leader in these areas. Besides supporting students, staff and faculty of diverse backgrounds, the center will strengthen international opportunities for all students.

Today, the University hosts its largest contingent of international students ever. In fall 2007, 46 students from 10 countries outside the United

States were among our undergraduates, with 49 in graduate programs. The largest groups come from India and Saudi Arabia, with the continents of Europe, Africa and Asia represented. Their presence demonstrates Wilkes' commitment to providing an outstanding education to students of all races and backgrounds, and to exposing domestic students to a broad range of cultures and social networks.

One innovative program lets international students experience Wilkes and earn college credits here toward a degree in their home country. For example, Punjabi University, in India, will send Punjab students to the Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and Leadership for the second year of their MBA studies. Wilkes students have visited India, as well.

Many of our alumni work to promote peace and health through their work and volunteerism. Our cover story highlights the efforts of four of these alumni, diverse in both

professional life and cultural background. Their impact reaches from Central and South America to the Middle East and all the way to China.

As our mission states, Wilkes seeks to educate our students for lifelong learning and success in a constantly evolving and multicultural world through a commitment to individualized attention, exceptional teaching and academic excellence. Our alumni demonstrate that a Wilkes education provides our graduates with the awareness and the capacity to thrive in an increasingly global world.



Above: Jennifer Edmonds, left, assistant professor of business at Wilkes, compares U.S. and Indian currency with other visitors to the Rock Garden in Chandigarh, India, in fall 2007.

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Wilkes University is an independent institution of higher education dedicated to academic and intellectual excellence in the liberal arts, sciences and professional programs. The university provides its students with the experience and education necessary for career and intellectual development as well as for personal growth, engenders a sense of values and civic responsibility, and encourages its students to welcome the opportunities and challenges of a diverse and continually changing world. The university enhances the tradition of strong student-faculty interactions in all its programs, attracts and retains outstanding people in every segment of the university, and fosters a spirit of cooperation, community involvement, and individual respect within the entire university.