Alumni Scholarship Dinner Honors Sheptock

The Annual Alumni Scholarship Awards Dinner will take place April 5, 2008, in the Henry Student Center Ballroom. Each year at this event, the Wilkes University Alumni Association awards the annual scholarship. To be eligible for the scholarship, you must have a family member who graduated from Wilkes.

The event this year honors head football coach Frank Sheptock. “The committee chose Coach Sheptock as honoree for his generosity of spirit, intelligence and his loyalty to Wilkes University,” says Fred Demech ’61, chairman of this year’s event. In the past, this event has raised more than $5,000 for the scholarship fund.

“We are hoping this year we can double that amount,” Demech says.

If you have any questions regarding this event, please contact Michelle Diskin, associate director of alumni relations, at (570) 408-4134 or michelle.diskin@wilkes.edu.

Widenhorn to Join Alumni Staff

We are pleased to announce that Mirko Widenhorn joins the staff of the Office of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving as director of alumni relations and annual giving programs. He comes to Wilkes from the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium, where he most recently was head of student affairs and communications manager.

He is eager “to join the Wilkes community and work closely with alumni on a wide range of programs. Wilkes is such a dynamic place that I look forward to helping bring more and more alumni back to the valley,” he says.

At the beginning, he will focus on relationship building through regional networks, alumni in admissions, graduate school programming and lifelong learning opportunities for alumni.

Born in Germany, Widenhorn moved to Indiana at age 9. He holds a bachelor’s degree in political science, French and German from Drew University in Madison, N.J., where he also worked as an assistant director of alumni relations. He earned a master’s degree from the College of Europe in European political and administrative studies.

Please make a point to meet and welcome him either electronically or the next time you’re on campus. His e-mail is Mirko.Widenhorn@wilkes.edu.
Alumni Association Steps Up Activities

With the advent of the new team of volunteer leaders, the Alumni Association’s key initiatives of mentoring and relationship building are up and running under the leadership of President George Pawlush ’69. Traditional association activities benefit from new energy generated as the University approaches its 75th birthday in 2008.

Plans are under way to breathe life into geographic networks of Colonels. Witness the Washington, D.C., holiday gathering hosted by Bill Hanbury ’72 to introduce Provost Reynold Verret. Winter events were also planned for Doral Arrowwood, Rye Brook, N.Y., before the men’s basketball game against Manhattanville; and a deans’ visit to Boston, complete with dinner hosted by John Kerr ’72. The traditional Naples, Fla., gathering was to bring together Wilkes-Barre Mayor Tom Leighton, President Tim Gilmour and Bill Miller ’81 (trustee and Barnes & Noble vice president) to dynamically demonstrate how the partnership between the University and the city have benefited both beyond expectations.

Outreach to concentrations of alumni (and parents) focuses on bringing the good news from campus and Wilkes-Barre to those who have left the valley. For those who remain nearby (our alumni base’s single largest population concentration), several new initiatives are in the works, including an event at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs, revitalization of The Colonels Club and special Wilkes entertainment opportunities at the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts. Watch these pages or check The Colonel Connection Web site (community.wilkes.edu) for details on upcoming events.

If you have interest in being part of an alumni association committee, please complete and return the tear card in this magazine. Newcomers are always welcome.

Plan to Celebrate Wilkes’ 75th Anniversary

It has been a journey of alternating success and hardship as the University has adapted and reinvented itself to meet new challenges. Today, its future is brighter than ever as the institution continues to expand in terms of academic excellence, prestige, resources and enrollment. Some would say it has been a bumpy ride, but all would agree it has been an interesting process.

In 75 years, Wilkes has educated thousands of alumni who have succeeded in securing positions of leadership in an endless array of organizations around the world. There will be many opportunities for you to share your memories of Wilkes as festivities unfold. We will kick off the official anniversary in September 2008 at our convocation celebrating the beginning of another academic year. As commemorative festivities are planned, you will be invited to the excitement that will last throughout the year.

New events will be organized, and traditional ones, such as Homecoming and the Athletic Hall of Fame, will bear the mark of the 75th in this special year. As the campus engages students, faculty, staff and alumni in planning, the spectrum of the 75th “touch” will be boundless. If you have a special memory or memorabilia you would like to share for the occasion, please let us know via the tear card within this issue. Stay tuned for more information!