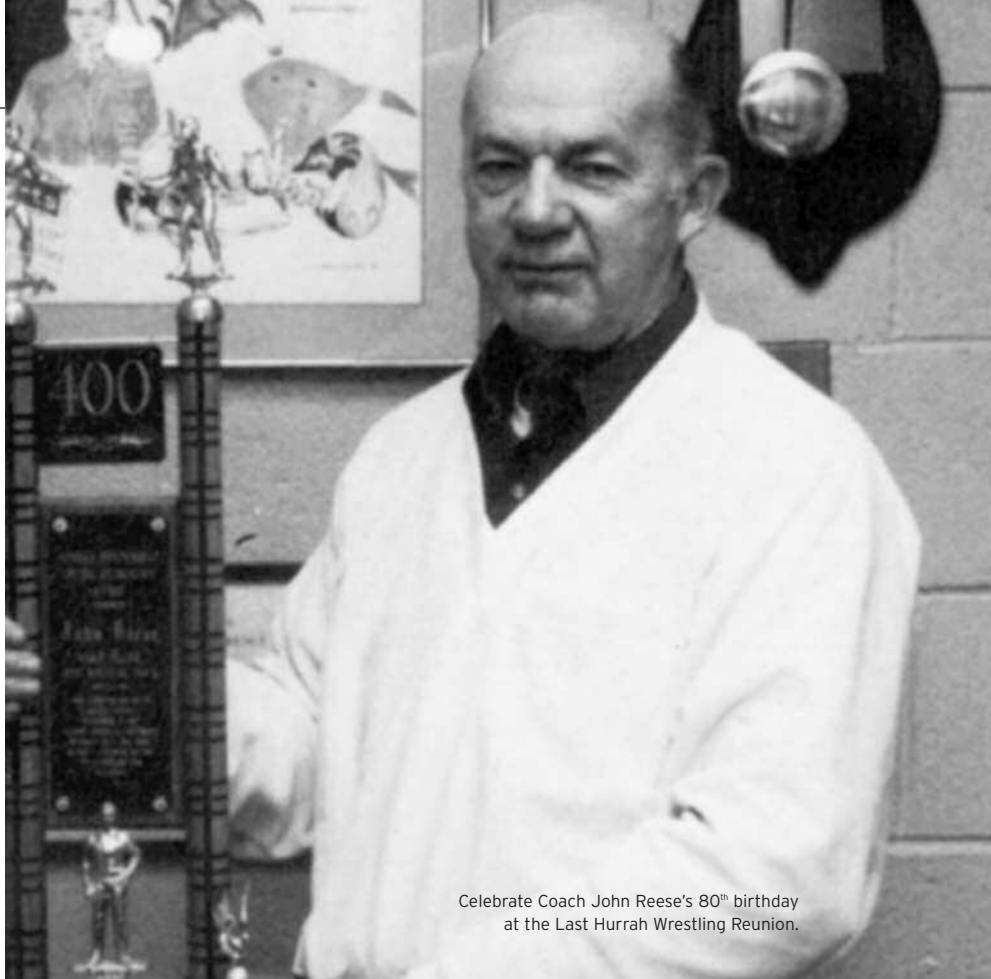


## Wrestlers to Gather May 26-27 for 'Last Hurrah'

Legendary Wilkes University wrestling coach John Reese will host the Last Hurrah Wrestling Reunion on Saturday and Sunday, May 26 and 27, in the Marts Center.

The reunion, which coincides with Coach Reese's 80th birthday, will begin Saturday at 4 p.m. with a meet-and-greet and cocktail reception. Following the reception, dinner will be served in the Marts Center, with a storytelling session scheduled for later in the evening. The event concludes Sunday with a brunch from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The reunion is free and is open to former wrestlers and fans of the program. For more information on the event, please contact current Wilkes head coach Jon Laudenslager at (570) 408-4035 or [jon.laudenslager@wilkes.edu](mailto:jon.laudenslager@wilkes.edu).



Celebrate Coach John Reese's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Last Hurrah Wrestling Reunion.

## Alumni Association Meets Its Goals

After a full year of activity, the Wilkes University Alumni Association has made real progress toward its three initial goals:

### Improve communications to alumni.

- Completed are a readership survey and redesign of "Wilkes" magazine to include full color.
- The Colonel Connection, the Wilkes online community (<http://community.wilkes.edu>), has been launched and includes online transaction capability.

### Develop programs and services that stimulate and re-engage alumni.

- The association introduced a networking component to alumni events and programs.
- Alumni programs/visits have been scheduled in areas with populations of alumni. See back cover for upcoming locations.

### Enhance use of technology to improve alumni relations and the alumni services' support process.

- "Neighborhoods" based on alumni affinity groups (for example, residence halls, sports, clubs) have been developed.
- The online community includes self-service directory/e-mail/message board capability.

The work accomplished in committee reflects an enormous commitment of time and energy on the part of committee chairs and members and is the direct result of Alumni Association President Colleen Gallagher's pledge to move the organization forward in new and positive directions. For example, through the leadership of Chair John Wartella '84, the Development Committee assured that the Alumni Board achieved 100 percent participation in the Annual Fund. The Affinity Committee, shepherded by John Serafin '90, worked tirelessly to develop several new benefits for alumni. These include long-term healthcare insurance, a student loan consolidation program and AFLAC insurance.

Beyond this work is the underlying "buzz" that comes as the result of many alumni being engaged in activities of benefit to the organization, to Wilkes and to alumni in general. The association hosted an open meeting at Homecoming 2006, and plans are in place to do so again in October 2007. If you are interested in a leadership role or committee membership, please complete the tear card in this issue of the magazine or e-mail [alumni@wilkes.edu](mailto:alumni@wilkes.edu).



## The Colonel Connection Relaunches — With Prizes!

Since the launch of The Colonel Connection in July 2006, almost 3,000 people from the Wilkes community have logged into the new online community to see what this website is all about. What is it all about, you ask?

The Colonel Connection is the new MySpace and Facebook at Wilkes. It is the university's very own Wilkes social networking space, strictly geared toward Wilkes alumni, students, parents, faculty/staff, friends and family of the university. The Colonel Connection works just like MySpace and Facebook. It is a virtual neighborhood where you can find old friends, share your news, chat online, post your resume, search job openings, share class notes, create a photo gallery and network with classmates and friends from all over the world.

The community is a great place to find a former classmate or professor and reach out to them. Jonathan Henry '03 says he found a friend he hadn't talked to since his junior year. "I was looking for a friend I hadn't talked to in years and e-mailed her through the community and found out she had moved to Oklahoma. If it wasn't for the community, I don't think I would have ever found her."

If you haven't already, sign up now. The more members who log in and update their information, the more useful the site will be to users. A prize will be given to the 100th person who registers to this online community. There also will be a weekly scavenger hunt called "Catch the Colonel," where the first person to find the "hidden colonel" on The Colonel Connection website will win a prize for that week.

Anyone who has not yet signed in should have recently received a postcard with instructions on how to do so. To check out The Colonel Connection, go to <http://community.wilkes.edu>. For more information on how to login into The Colonel Connection, contact the alumni office at (570) 408-4331 or e-mail [alumni@wilkes.edu](mailto:alumni@wilkes.edu). Stay tuned for more good news.

## Explore Exotic Locales with Fellow Alumni

### Northern Italy

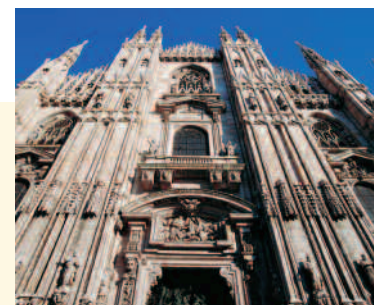
Departs June 21, 2007

Price per person: twin, \$2,799; single, \$3,049

#### Highlights

- Stresa • Como • Lugano • Milan • Bergamo
- Cremona • Cinque Terre • Parma • Busseto

Wilkes University alumni will travel to Italy for nine days. This trip includes round-trip air travel from Philadelphia, hotel transfers, air taxes and current fuel surcharges. The cost also includes seven breakfasts and four dinners. Fuel charges are subject to change until trip is paid in full. This amount does not include insurance of \$120 per person.



### Tropical Costa Rica

Departs Nov. 7, 2007

Price per person: twin, \$1,999; single, \$2,499

#### Highlights

- San Jose • Poas Volcano • Thermal Spa Resort
- Cano Negro Refuge • Monteverde Cloud Forest • Guanacaste

Join fellow Wilkes University alumni as they travel to Costa Rica for nine days. This trip includes round-trip air travel from Allentown, Pa., hotel transfers, air taxes and current fuel surcharges. Eight breakfasts, two lunches and seven dinners are included. Fuel charges are subject to change until trip is paid in full. Cost does not include insurance of \$120 per person.

### French Riviera

Departs March 2, 2008

Price per person: twin, \$1,849; single, \$2,249

#### Highlights

- Nice • Flower Market • Chagall Museum
- Grasse Perfumerie • St. Paul De Vence
- Ventimiglia • San Remo • St. Tropez
- Cannes • Antibes • Picasso Museum
- Villefranche • Rothschild Villa and Gardens
- Monaco Oceanographic Museum



The price of this eight-day trip includes round-trip air travel from Newark, N.J., air taxes, hotel transfers and current fuel surcharges (subject to increase until paid in full). Six breakfasts and four dinners are included in the cost. It does not include insurance of \$120 per person.

For more information on any of these trips, contact Michelle Diskin, associate director of Wilkes University Alumni Relations, at (570) 408-4134 or [michelle.diskin@wilkes.edu](mailto:michelle.diskin@wilkes.edu).