

**1963**

**Philip Siegel** has accepted the position of Peter S. Knox III distinguished chair in accounting at Augusta State University. He was on the accounting faculty at Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, and was to begin his new position in August 2009.

**1965**

**Bill Schwab** and his wife, Donna, will be married 30 years in December 2009. They spent their careers working in

education in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District. Bill retired as principal of Coughlin High School in 2002, and Donna retired in 2004. Now they are traveling as much as they can. They have spent a month driving around Alaska, cruised the Greek Isles, taken the old American Orient Express train from Idaho to New Mexico, and driven snowmobiles through northern Quebec.

**1968**

**Helen Dugan Worth**, director of the Office of Communications and Public Affairs at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, has been named to the laboratory's principal professional staff. The appointment recognizes the highest professional stature and is equivalent to achieving a tenured faculty appointment. She led media relations for such programs as the near-earth asteroid rendezvous

mission that landed the first spacecraft on an asteroid. She lives in Columbia, Md.

**1970**

**Kenneth Gordon** recently retired after more than 38 years as an analytical chemist with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. He lives in Philadelphia with his wife, Karen. They just celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary. The couple have a daughter, Jill, age 29.

## Voda Turns Past into Prose

When Mary Beth Kennedy Voda '66 retired from teaching English at Wyalusing Valley Area High School, it was her husband who suggested she rediscover her passion for writing. A mother of two grown children with an English degree from Wilkes, Voda had been waiting for an opportunity to write about "interesting people who have done interesting things with their lives." For Voda, those interesting people look a lot like family.



In her book *From Shoebox to Saltbox*, Voda described "a young family's love affair with an old saltbox house." The family is her own. She wrote about her struggle as a city girl adjusting to country life and the challenges of home renovation. "With two kids at home and my husband working, we tore that house apart and put it back together," she says. Why take on such a challenge? "It needed us as much as we needed it," she explains.

Another success for Voda was an *American History* magazine article titled "A War in Letters." It recounted the experience of Voda's father, World War II Marine Corps Pvt. Tom Kennedy, during the battle of Iwo Jima. The article has led to multiple speaking engagements for the author throughout the Northeast.

Voda has published several other articles, including one written for *Pennsylvania Heritage* magazine on political activist Cornelia Bryce Pinchot, wife of Pennsylvania's 1922 governor, Gifford Pinchot. She also wrote and performed a 22-part radio series on Pennsylvania women for local Public Broadcasting affiliate station WVIA. Her inspiration, she says, comes from family, particularly her father and grandmother. "I come from a family of storytellers," she says.

Voda continues her love affair with words and is currently working on a children's book, *Dixie Smiles*. She makes her home in Wyalusing, Pa., with her husband, John.

— **By Rachel Strayer**

Mary Beth Kennedy Voda '66 poses with an edition of *From Shoebox to Saltbox* at an author's event. PHOTO COURTESY TONY MUSSARI

## Nicholas Inducted Into National Teachers Hall of Fame

Les Nicholas '81, a teacher at Wyoming Valley West Middle School, was prepared to watch an Earth Day program with his class on April 22, 2009, in the school's auditorium. When he arrived he found the entire school waiting—as well as his family and a representative from the National Teachers Hall of Fame.

Nicholas was selected as one of the best teachers in America and was one of five teachers inducted to the Hall of Fame this year. The awards ceremony took place in June at Emporia, Kan. This is not the first award bestowed upon Nicholas. His other honors include being named a 2005 Disney Teacher, the 2004 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year, 2005 University of Pennsylvania Educator of the Year, and a 2008 First Freedom Award winner.

Nicholas graduated from Wilkes College with a triple major in English, German and education. He went on to earn his master's degree in educational leadership from the University of Pennsylvania in 1985. He has worked in the Wyoming Valley West School District teaching journalism, advanced journalism, broadcast journalism and English for the last 28 years.

Lindsey O'Brien, a former student, describes the teaching style that has made Nicholas an award-winner: "Mr. Nick's industrious work ethic never fails



to seep into the habits of his students. Because one of Mr. Nick's many catch phrases is 'Make it first class or third, but never second,' students quickly realize they cannot cut corners because if something is worth doing, it is worth making excellent."

Nicholas says that he emphasizes involving students in the learning process.

"Often we educators are imposing too many restrictions on them. I find that if the kids make decisions, then things like discipline become non-issues. You've got to be a little clever in how you do that," he says.

Nicholas will be permanently honored with a plaque at the Wyoming Valley West Middle School and with a display at the National Teachers Hall of Fame Museum, in Emporia.

— **By Andrew Seaman, Wilkes University senior**

*Les Nicholas will deliver the first lecture in the 2009-2010 "Issues in Education" speakers series on Sept. 17 at 4:45 p.m. at Wilkes University. His topic will be "Becoming a Teacher."*


### 1972

**Karen (Baldoni) Bernardi** joined the real estate firm Prudential Poggi & Jones. She had a successful 33-year career in education as an elementary teacher before graduating from the Pennsylvania Real Estate Academy and obtaining her real estate license. She lives in West Pittston, Pa., with her husband, Raymond, and has three sons.

### 1980


**Shepard Willner** completed all of the requirements for the Toastmasters International Distinguished Toastmasters Award. This distinction, presented in the form of a medallion, was given at the May 2, 2009, District 27 Spring Conference at George Mason University. The award is achieved by only 2 percent of all members.

### 1984

**Reunion Oct. 9-11**  **Dr. Daniel J. Glunk** received the Susquehanna Council of Boy Scouts of America 2009 Distinguished Citizen Award. The award honored his achievements, which include being the first Pennsylvania Medical Society president from Lycoming County in more than 100 years.

### 1985

**Timothy Williams** successfully defended his doctoral dissertation in educational leadership at Immaculata University. He is the director of instruction for the Manheim Township School District. He resides in Lancaster County, Pa., with his three children.

**1989**  
**Reunion Oct. 9-11** 

**Robert Faille** graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a master's degree in technology management. The program is co-sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania and Penn Engineering.

**Ronald E. McHale Jr.** of Mountain Top, Pa., recently joined First National Community Bank as a senior financial consultant. He has 20 years experience in the bank brokerage industry. He resides in Mountain Top with his wife, Donna, and their son, Tyler.

**1990**  
**John Paul Corcoran Jr.** has been appointed an adjunct professor of law at Duquesne University School of Law in Pittsburgh.

**Keith Silligman** has been appointed to the newly created role of executive director with the Omaha

Ambulatory Surgery Center and MidWest Pain Clinics in Omaha, Neb. Keith, wife Nancy, and their two children, Ashley and Christopher, have lived happily in Omaha for the last eight years.

**1991**  
**Victor James Mosca** married Denise Diane Gilbert on May 10, 2008. He is self-employed. The couple reside in Kingston Township, Pa.

**1996**  
**Karen (Bednarczyk) Cowan** and her husband, Scott, announce the birth of their second daughter, Eden Elizabeth, born on March 4. Eden is welcomed by her big sister, Grace Evelyn. The family resides in Winter Garden, Fla.

**John Decker** and his wife, Mandy, announce the birth of their first child, Luke Charles, on April 24, 2009. The couple reside in Orlando, Fla.

**STRIKE UP THE BAND**



Any member of the Wilkes community, student or alumnus, is invited to play with the Wilkes Pep Band at home games, Homecoming and other fall activities around campus. Rehearsals are **Monday afternoons, 4 to 5:30 p.m., and home game Saturdays, 9:30 to 11 a.m.** Pep Band shirts and jackets are provided, as well as brunch after rehearsal on home game days. Call Philip Simon, (570) 408-4437, for more details.


**LOOKING FOR CAREER ADVICE?**

Are you thinking of changing careers or facing a transition due to the current economic situation? Wilkes is here to help. There are a number of resources available to alumni, including the services of the Wilkes Career Services Office.

Find out what's available to you at [http://community.wilkes.edu/career\\_resources](http://community.wilkes.edu/career_resources).



**1997**  
**Meredith (Cabrey) Nascimento** and her husband, Christian, welcomed their second son, S. Christian Jr., on March 27, 2008.

**1999**  
**Reunion Oct. 9-11**   
**William John Weidner** married Terri Ann Gallagher on Sept. 6, 2008. He is employed as a certified public accountant by Decker Accounting LLC, Wilkes-Barre. They reside in Hanover Township, Pa.

**2000**  
**Laura Burns** married Daniel DiMarzo on Nov. 1, 2008, in Westport, Conn. The couple resides in East Norriton, Pa., where Laura works as a marketing director for a telecommunications company. She is the daughter of **Robert Burns Jr.** '82 and Wilkes employee Anita Burns.

**Jennifer Kennedy** and Nicholas Wadas were married on Aug. 23, 2008. The groom is employed by Allied Services as an occupational therapist and by Wilkes University as

the head cross country coach. They reside in Dallas, Pa.

**2002**  
**Ronald Metcho** is an associate attorney with the law firm of Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Goggin and Coleman. He resides in Philadelphia.

**2003**  
**Kyla Campbell-Bubb** is a reporter and weekend morning anchor for WBRE in the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton television market. She married Nathan Bubb on Oct. 13, 2007. The couple reside in Drums, Pa.

**2004**  
**Reunion Oct. 9-11**   
**Emily Bly** graduated from the University of North Texas in December 2008 with a master of music degree in musicology. While at the University of North Texas, Bly was a member of Pi Kappa Lambda honor society in music.

**2005**  
**Stephanie Dickert** and **Joshua Hall** were married on June 6, 2009. Joshua is an officer in the U.S. Air Force

## Butchko Influences Community Revitalization



Butchko appears at a property dedication for a senior housing development constructed by NeighborWorks of the Blackstone River Valley, a region encompassing parts of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Michael Butchko '96 has a hand in rejuvenating distressed communities across the United States through his work with NeighborWorks America. He serves as deputy director of field operations for the Washington, D.C.-based organization. As a nonprofit organization created by Congress, NeighborWorks distributes funds to create opportunities for people to live in affordable homes. NeighborWorks also provides technical assistance and training for community-based revitalization efforts.

Butchko began working in the public policy office of the organization in 2000. Recently, his job has given him first-hand experience with the foreclosure crisis impacting the housing industry. NeighborWorks administers the National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling program authorized by Congress.

Through May 31, 2009, more than 405,000 homeowners have received foreclosure counseling through the program. According to Butchko, in many of the communities impacted by NeighborWorks support, the local organizations started to see foreclosures rise in their communities before anyone else.

Butchko graduated from Wilkes with a degree in political science. He went on to earn a master's degree from the University of Rochester in public policy analysis. He says Wilkes and the mentoring he received from faculty like political science professor Thomas Baldino prepared him well for a career that has given him a front-row seat in the political arena.

Butchko has had the opportunity to see the complete political process in action. In the past, he was charged with making his organization's case in front of Congress in order to continue receiving funds.

He says working with members of Congress was a dream come true for a political science major.

"Working with Congress was always exhilarating. It's akin to being a sports fan: You know the players, and you're just thrilled to be in that action," says Butchko.

He also says that it is great to work for an organization like NeighborWorks.

"NeighborWorks America has a commitment to nonprofits across the U.S. that assist America's most underserved communities," he says. "I'm proud to have spent the last nine years of my professional career working for such a terrific organization."

— **By Andrew Seaman, Wilkes University senior**

and will be transferring to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, in July of this year. Stephanie is currently working on a master's in counseling with the expectation of completion in fall 2009.

**Bridget McHale MBA'07** married **Josh Turel Pharm.D. '07** on May 9, 2009. Bridget is employed by Wilkes University as a coordinator in the Sidhu School of Business. Josh is employed by PharMerica pharmacy as a staff pharmacist. They reside in Dallas, Pa.

**2006**  
**Jami Lynn Shuleski** and **Matthew John Koch '02** were married Sept. 27, 2008. She is employed as a software developer by Keystone Automotive Operations, Exeter, Pa. The couple reside in Forty Fort, Pa.

**2008**  
**Joseph Magyar** married **Nina Marie Dumas** on Aug. 30, 2008. He is employed at the State Correctional Institution at Mahanoy, Frackville, Pa. They reside in Wyoming, Pa.

## Graduate Students 2001

**Raymond Bernardi, Pharm.D.**, joined the real estate firm Prudential Poggi & Jones. He is a licensed pharmacist and a realtor. He lives in Duryea, Pa., with his wife, Jessica, and son, Dominic.

**Shanna Lee (Henninger) Dawson, Pharm.D.**, and her husband, James, would like to announce the births of their two children. Kevin Francis Dawson was born Oct. 31, 2006, and Mallory Jean Dawson was born Feb. 8, 2009. They reside in Nazareth, Pa.

**Kevin Michael Polifko, Pharm.D.**, married **Susan Elizabeth Pellock '05, Pharm.D.**, on Aug. 16, 2008. She is employed as a lieutenant in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Office of Regulatory Affairs,

Harrisburg, Pa. He is employed as a pharmacy supervisor for CVS, Harrisburg, Pa. They reside in Harrisburg.

## 2006

**Jennifer Lee Bernick, MS**, married Jeffrie Edward Welby on June 28, 2008. Jennifer is in her final year of coursework

## From Accounting to the FBI

From a young age, Karen Bednarczyk Cowan '96 always dreamed of working in law enforcement. So when it came time to pursue a major at Wilkes University she chose ... accounting?

"As a high school student I researched the type of people the FBI would hire, and their top candidates at the time were people with accounting degrees," explains Cowan, an intelligence analyst on the Joint Terrorism Task Force in the FBI's Tampa, Fla., division.

With her accounting degree and minors in finance and management in hand, Cowan went on to earn a master's degree in educational leadership and policy studies from Virginia Tech. "The FBI rarely hires young adults fresh out of college," Cowan says. "I remember being told on my first day at the FBI Academy that one in 12,000 people who apply to the FBI are offered a position."

On the Joint Terrorism Task Force, Cowan became a member of the FBI's Evidence Response Team. She identifies documents, collects and preserves evidence supporting FBI cases. "The ERT provides assistance in any area of evidence collection management from traditional search warrants to complex crime scenes. As a member of this team, I received a high level of training to ensure evidence is collected in such a manner that it can be introduced in courts throughout the United States and the world. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to work a number of warrants and crime scenes, including those involving missing children."



Karen Cowan's accounting degree was a stepping stone to an FBI career.  
PHOTO BY SCOTT COWAN

The best part of her career, she says, is the uncertainty of the tasks each day will bring. She often has to reprioritize her workload quickly. That's also the most challenging aspect.

Cowan lives in Winter Garden, Fla., with husband Scott and daughters Grace and Eden.

— By Shannon Curtin '07 MBA'09

for her doctorate in educational leadership. She teaches fourth grade in Lake Lehman School District. They live in Dallas, Pa., with their black lab, Marley.

### 2007

**Craig Czury, MA**, is the author of “Kitchen of Conflict Resolution,” a collection of poetry published by FootHills Publishing.

### 2009

**Kerrie Stephanik, MS**, and Seaton Angley were married on June 21, 2008. She is an English teacher at Hazleton Area High School. The couple reside in Conyngham, Pa.

## In Memoriam

### 1945

**Dr. Matthew M. Mischinski** of Pinehurst, Pa., died May 9, 2009. He was a physician and a diplomate of the American Orthopedic Society and the American Society of Emergency Physicians. He was a graduate of Wyoming Seminary in Kingston, Pa., Bucknell University Junior College and Temple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia. He served his country during World War II as a first lieutenant in the Army Air Corps. He was a B-17 pilot and completed 35 missions over Europe.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Eleanor

Mischinski; sons, Richard Mischinski, Austin, Texas, Paul Mischinski, Winston-Salem, N.C., Mark Mischinski, Telford, Pa., and Carl Mischinski, Indian Trail, N.C.; sister, Loretta Dunn, State College, Pa.; eleven granddaughters and one grandson.

### 1948

**William J. Rule** of Exeter, Pa., died May 25, 2009. He attended Temple University, Wilkes College, and Legion College at Indiantown Gap. He enlisted in the Army Signal Corps in December 1942 and was honorably discharged in 1946. He has been a legionnaire for over 60 years and was employed at Foster Wheeler Corporation for 25 years.

He is survived by his daughters, Linda T. Cook, Alamo, Calif.; and Sherry L. Emerhaw, Dallas, Pa.; a grandson and several nieces and nephews.

**John Francis Washko** of Morrisville, Pa., died June 5, 2009. He was a veteran of World War II, having served in both the Army and Army Air Corps. He saw active duty in the European theater and was awarded the Purple Heart. He graduated from Bucknell University Junior College with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. Washko was employed at General Motors in Ewing,

N.J., for 45 years, retiring as a senior mechanical engineer.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Florence Kozik Washko; his daughter Susan, Charlottesville, Va.; son John, Canton, Conn.; daughter Judy; and a granddaughter.

### 1949

**The Rev. Michael Mokris** of Kingston, Pa., died April 22, 2009. He graduated from Bucknell University Junior College and received a master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He was a World War II veteran, serving in the U.S. Army. Mokris graduated from Saints Cyril and Methodius Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, Pa. He was ordained into the holy priesthood in 1961, serving in eastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania. He retired from SS. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church, Lopez, Pa.

Surviving is his sister Margaret Jankik, Miami, Fla.

**Cyprian Rapczynski** of Toms River, N.J., died on April 29, 2009. He was a graduate of Bucknell University Junior College and was employed as the vice president of exports at Associated Metals and Minerals Corp., New York City. He was a Navy veteran of World War II. Surviving are his wife, the former Romaine Smar, and son Allen.

### 1952

**Adeline ‘Addie’ Stein** of Yuma, Ariz., died May 15, 2009. She attended Wilkes College from 1950 through 1952. She is survived by her husband of 56 years, Carroll “Bert” Stein Jr., Yuma, Ariz.; a daughter, Linda Fallert, Pine Valley, Calif.; a son, Jeffery Stein, Yuma, Ariz.; sisters, Christine Stankevicz, Luzerne, Pa. and Betty Kazokas, Courtdale, Pa.

### 1953

**Robert “Barry” Jordan** of Oceanside, Calif., died April 17, 2009. He attended Wilkes College, Elizabethtown College and Lincoln Chiropractic College, where he received his doctor of chiropractic degree in 1954. He interned at Spears Chiropractic Hospital in Denver, Colo.; spent two years in the medical corps of the U.S. Army; and entered private practice in Wilkes-Barre. He later began a career in sales. After moving to California, he owned a roofing business until his retirement.

He is survived by his brothers, Wayne Jordan, Binghamton, N.Y.; Donald Jordan, New Castle, Del.; sister Joyce Jordan, Hummels Wharf, Pa.; children Kimberly Kenyon of Maryland, Brenda Jordan of California, Susan LaNunziata of Exeter, Pa., Scott Jordan of Thornhurst, Pa., Brett Jordan of California, Gregg Jordan of Florida and 10 grandchildren.

**1957**

**John S. Klimchak** of Hanover Township, Pa., died March 16, 2009. He was a World War II veteran, serving in the U.S. Coast Guard and receiving numerous medals for his service. He was a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5267 and a 4th Degree Knight in Our Lady of Czestochowa Council 3987. Klimchak worked at the American Chain and Cable Company, Wilkes-Barre, and was a member of the United Steel Workers of America. He also worked at the Highway Trailer Company, Hazleton, Pa., as personnel manager.

Surviving are son John Klimchak, Waldorf, Md.; daughter Pat LaPorte, Lancaster, Pa; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and sister, Josephine, Berlin, Md.

**Dr. Anthony W. Kutz** of Dallas, Pa., died April 22, 2009. He was a veteran of the Korean Conflict, serving with the U.S. Army in the military police and received his bachelor's degree in biology from Wilkes College. He furthered his studies at Temple University, graduating from Temple Dental School in 1961. He was a dentist for more than 45 years. He is survived by his wife of almost 52 years, the former Pauline Pelczar; daughter Mary Murphy, Mountain Top, Pa.; son Dr. John Anthony, Clarks Summit, Pa.; and five grandchildren.

**Gerald B. Lefkowitz** of Baltimore, Md., died March 22, 2009. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran of World War II, serving as a staff sergeant with the Eighth Air Force. He was co-owner of The Pittston Corset Shop, founded by his father in 1929.

He is survived by his wife, Dolores (Rubin) Lefkowitz; children Diane Celmer and Susan Bellomy, both of Baltimore, David Lefkowitz, Oregon, Marc Lefkowitz, Manchester, Md.; brother Saul "Pinky" Lefkowitz; seven granddaughters; and one great-grandson.

**Bernard Rubin** of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., formerly of Wilkes-Barre, died March 29, 2009. He served in the U.S. Army and was self-employed as an accountant prior to retiring. He was a member of the former United Orthodox Synagogue, Congregation Ohav Zedek and other civic and religious organizations.

He is survived by his beloved wife, the former Helen Schainuck; loving children William Rubin, Dr. Keith Rubin, Davida Rubin Baker, Faye Rubin Orefice; and six grandchildren.

**1958**

**Dorothy L. Owens** of Kingston, Pa., died May 27, 2009. She graduated from Wilkes and was employed as a teacher at the Franklin Street Elementary School, Plymouth,

Pa., until her retirement in 1975. She was a member of the Holy Family Parish, Luzerne, Pa. and the Retired Teachers Association.

In addition to her husband, William, of 42 years, she is survived by son Mark; sisters Carol Batrone, Kingston, Pa., and Barbara Swartwood, Wilkes-Barre; and brother Edward Thomas Jr., Plymouth, Pa.

**1962**

**George Gavales** of New York City, N.Y., died April 4, 2009. He is survived by his loving companion of 17 years, Jacalyn Brown; his daughter, Lisa Gavales-Connors; granddaughter, Linda Alice; and brother Emmanuel.

**Ruth M. (Connelly) Walker** of Wilkes-Barre died May 21, 2009. She was a graduate of King's County Hospital School of Nursing and Wilkes. She worked first as a nurse and later as an associate administrator of long-term care for the Pennsylvania State Department of Health.

Survivors are her husband, William Walker; stepchildren, Jeff and Wendy Walker (Miller); and two grandchildren.

**1971**

**Ronald James Kamage, Esq.**, of Inkerman, Pa., died on May 16, 2009. He was a graduate of Wilkes College and Widener Law School. He was in private law practice in Kingston, Pa.

He is survived by his wife, the former Darlene Wilde, Inkerman, Pa.; and brother, George Kamage, Pittston, Pa.

**1973**

**Marlene C. Zvirblis** of Mountain Top, Pa., died March 25, 2009. She was employed at the United Penn Bank, Wilkes-Barre, and worked for the federal government. Zvirblis was a member of the Gold Prospectors Association of America, Susquehanna Chapter; the Delaware Valley Paleontological Society; and the Mid-America Paleontology Society. She was also a member of the Polish Women's Alliance and St. Jude's Church, Mountain Top, Pa.

Surviving are her husband, Anthony G. Zvirblis; and a brother Richard Strobel, Granada Hills, Calif.

**1977**

**John J. Sharkowicz** of Wanamie, Pa., died April 18, 2009. He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army, having served from 1956 to 1958. He was employed as an industrial engineer with the Office of Surface Mining in Wilkes-Barre from 1977 to 2006. He was a member of Corpus Christi Parish/St. Adalbert's Church, Glen Lyon, Pa.

Surviving is a sister, Wanda Stralka, Oxon Hill, Md.

## Remembering Charles N. Burns Sr., M.D. '37

Charles N. Burns Sr., M.D., of Kingston, Pa., died April 21, 2009. During a long and distinguished medical career, he also played a significant role at Wilkes University as alumnus, friend and mentor to both students and faculty in the biology department.

In 1987, Wilkes University named the campus bell tower in his honor, as well as presenting him with an honorary degree. A scholarship is also given annually in his name at Wilkes. His positive influence was felt in many other ways.

Michael Steele, Fenner chair of research biology, remembers his contributions and professional leadership.

"Dr. Burns was a superb mentor to many of us in the biology department at Wilkes, regularly sharing his passion for medicine and his research on prostate cancer, and frequently involving our faculty and students in these endeavors," Steele says. "In fact, many of the students who worked with him followed in his footsteps by pursuing careers in medicine or medical research. He was a dear friend of the biology community at Wilkes and will be deeply missed."

He was a graduate of Wyoming Seminary class of 1933; Bucknell University Junior College, class of 1937; and Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, Pa., class of 1941. He interned at Mercy Hospital, Wilkes-Barre, where he met his wife, Mary Agnes Quigley, R.N. Drafted into the Army Medical Corps at 28, he participated in the Battle of the Bulge as a battalion surgeon with the 104th Infantry Division. He was awarded the Bronze Star

and separated from the Army in 1946, after attaining the rank of major.

In 1950, he became chief of urology at Crile VA Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. Returning to Wilkes-Barre in 1953, he joined his uncle, Peter P. Mayock, M.D., in the practice of urology. In 1981, his son, Dr. Charles N. Burns Jr., became affiliated and they practiced together until the retirement of Dr. Burns Sr. in 2006. Prior to retirement, he was involved in basic research on prostate cancer at Wilkes University.

Linda Gutierrez, assistant professor of biology at Wilkes, recalled her first meeting with Burns as a colleague in cancer research.

"I met Dr. Burns in 2005, and I still remember how his eloquence and bright persona impressed me at first," says Gutierrez. "I shared with him the belief and passion in finding a cure for cancer through basic and translational research." She continues, "Dr. Burns was a high-caliber physician, a sharp researcher and remarkable mentor for all of us here at the department of biology."

He is survived by his son, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.



The late Charles N. Burns Sr., M.D.'37, left, was mentor and friend to generations of students and faculty. He is pictured with former Wilkes President Christopher Breiseth at the 1987 dedication of the Burns Bell Tower named in his honor.

**1980**

**Bette Lynn Gardner** of Tunkhannock, Pa., died June 2, 2009. She was employed as a social worker at St. Michael's School until retirement. She was a member of the Tunkhannock United Methodist Church, the Tunkhannock Borough Council, and the Tunkhannock Community Ambulance Association, serving as an emergency medical technician and board secretary. She was also an EMT and CPR instructor for the American Red Cross and Emergency Medical Services.

She is survived by her husband of 45 years, Bruce Gardner; sons David Gardner, Manchester, N.H.; Stephen Gardner, Tunkhannock; Paul Gardner, Courtdale, Pa.; daughter Terri Velez, Colorado Springs, Colo.; sister Heidi May King, Cheyenne, Wyo.; eight grandchildren and two great-granddaughters.

**1986**

**John Michael Phillips** of Berwick, Pa., died May 17, 2009. He graduated from King's College, Wilkes-Barre, with an associate's degree and a bachelor's degree in business administration. He continued his education at Wilkes University, graduating with a master's degree in business administration. He was the owner and operator of Phillips Financial Services, Berwick.

Surviving are his brother, Peter Phillips, Fort Meyers, Fla.; and sister Carolyn Williams, Aurora, Ohio.

**1989**

**Amanda J. Picketts** of Wilkes-Barre passed away March 25, 2009. She was employed by Sallie Mae in Wilkes-Barre. Surviving are her mother, Irene Solonski, Wilkes-Barre; husband David J. Picketts; daughter Avery Picketts; and sister Amy O'Hara, Charlotte, N.C.

**Friends of Wilkes**

**Constance Kline Umphred** of Naples, Fla., passed away April 7, 2009. She graduated from Moravian Seminary in 1951 and Wheaton College in 1955. Upon graduation from college, she taught at Dedham Country Day School in Massachusetts. She served on the Union Terrace Parent Teacher Association as president and on the board of trustees of Moravian Academy. She later served on the boards of Muhlenberg College, Wilkes University, Sordoni Art Museum, Allentown Art Museum, Allentown Community Concerts, United Way of Lehigh County, and the Wilkes-Barre YMCA. She was a founding member of Wilkes-Barre's Luzerne Foundation and president of the McCole Foundation.

She is survived by her husband, William '52, Naples; sons David W. Leh, Stroudsburg, Pa., and Edward K. Leh, Short Hills, N.J.; daughter, Lorraine Pearson, Basking Ridge, N.J.; and eight grandchildren.



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