

## Vision for a College Town Continues With Law School Project

**T**he Wilkes University Board of Trustees' approval of the next stage of our law school planning initiative in June was a critical milestone on a journey that is likely to lead to the creation of northeast Pennsylvania's next professional school. The action recalls another event in Wilkes history that, at the time, carried both risks and rewards. In 1996, the University launched its School of Pharmacy with a vision for what it could mean for the region and for Wilkes. A decade has passed since we graduated the first group of pharmacists in 2000, and we are marking the program's 10th anniversary.



Daniel Breznak takes the pharmacist's oath as part of the annual white coat ceremony for Wilkes pharmacy students. The program celebrates its 10th anniversary this year.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL P. TOUEY

The pharmacy program has been a resounding success, surpassing expectations for enrollment. The quality of students competing for the 70 seats in each year's entering class remains high. Over 95 percent of our doctor of pharmacy graduates pass the pharmacy boards—the exams required to become registered pharmacists—on the first try. Our pass rate on these exams is higher than the state and national averages. Our pharmacy graduates uniformly receive multiple job offers at good salaries.

Seeing this success makes it easy to forget that many concerns were voiced about whether there was a need for another pharmacy school when we launched our program. We proceeded with plans at that time because the only pharmacy programs available in Pennsylvania were in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. University leaders believed that starting a school of

pharmacy would be a service to northeast Pennsylvania residents, a boon to the region's economy and an asset to Wilkes University. We were right.

Fast forward to 2009 and the recent decision to proceed with plans for a law school. Once again, we are in position to establish a professional school in northeast Pennsylvania where none currently exists. Our market research tells us that interest in a law degree, the juris doctor, is high.

Founding a law school at Wilkes is still another important step to revitalize the region, make Wilkes-Barre a major college town, and increase the competitiveness and diversity of the region's economy. And we fully believe this will be another significant step toward making Wilkes University a premier university in the Mid-Atlantic region.

I invite you to read more about plans for the law school initiative on page 3. As this new chapter in Wilkes history unfolds, alumni and friends of the University can follow its progress on the pages of this magazine and on our Web site.

**Dr. Tim Gilmour**  
*Wilkes University President*

### WILKES MAGAZINE

**University President**  
Dr. Tim Gilmour

**Vice President for Advancement**  
Michael Wood

**Executive Editor**  
Jack Chielli

**Managing Editor**  
Kim Bower-Spence

**Editor**  
Vicki Mayk

**Creative Services**  
Lisa Reynolds

**Web Services**  
Craig Thomas

**Electronic Communications**  
Christopher Barrows

**Graduate Assistant**  
Rachel Strayer

**Layout/Design**  
Quest Fore Inc.

**Printing**  
Payne Printery Inc.

### EDITORIAL ADVISORY GROUP

Anne Batory '68  
Brandie Meng M'08  
Bill Miller '81  
George Pawlush '69 MBA'76  
Donna Sedor '85

### ALUMNI RELATIONS STAFF

**Executive Director**  
Sandra Sarno Carroll

**Director**  
Mirko Widenhorn

**Associate Director**  
Michelle Diskin '95

### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

**President**  
Laura Cardinale '72

**First Vice President**  
Fred Demech '61

**Second Vice President**  
Rosemary LaFratte '93 MBA'97

**Historian**  
George Pawlush '69 MS'76

**Secretary**  
Bridget Giunta '05

Wilkes magazine is published quarterly by the Wilkes University Office of Marketing Communications and Government Relations, 84 W. South St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766, wilkesmagazine@wilkes.edu, (570) 408-4764. Please send change of address to the above address.

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.

# contents

## FEATURES

### 8 Things That Go Bump

Ghost legends highlight history of Wilkes historic buildings

### 12 Mixing Magic With Medicine

Dr. Michael Anger '77 brings sleight of hand to his work with diabetic children

### 14 A River Runs Through It

New River Common park brings beauty to the banks of the Susquehanna

### 16 Teaching the Digital Natives

Technology has changed 21st Century classrooms, students and teachers



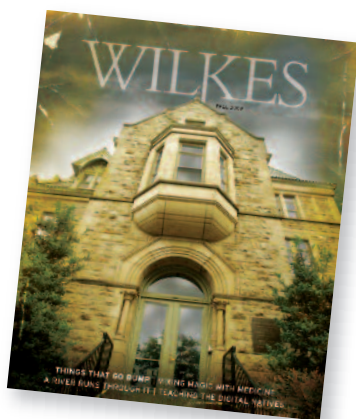
## DEPARTMENTS

2 On Campus

6 Athletics

18 Alumni News

20 Class Notes



Kirby Hall, one of Wilkes' historic locales, is one of several University buildings where a ghostly presence is said to be felt.

PHOTO EARL & SEDOR PHOTOGRAPHY

Have a story idea to share?

Contact us at [wilkesmagazine@wilkes.edu](mailto:wilkesmagazine@wilkes.edu) or *Wilkes Magazine*, 84 W. South St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18766.

