1949
Doris Gorka Bartuska of Philadelphia, emeritus professor of medicine (endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism) at Drexel University College of Medicine, received the Woman in Medicine Award from the Trust Fund of the Alumnae Association of Woman’s Medical College/Medical College of Pennsylvania at the Faculty Development Awards Day program on June 1, 2007. The citation reads: “In recognition of her outstanding contributions and untiring devotion to teaching, mentoring, patient care and leadership, as a role model for women in medicine.”

1959
Stephen Poleskie recently published a book titled The Balloonist, about Civil War balloonist T. S. C. Lowe. He has taught or has been a visiting professor at 26 colleges and art schools throughout the world, including the School of Visual Art in NYC and the University of California, Berkeley. During the 1980s and ’90s, Poleskie was known in the United States and Europe for his “aerial theater” performances. A champion aerobatic flyer and artist-writer, Poleskie is professor emeritus at Cornell University.

1973
Joseph Grilli, M.P.A., D.P.A., has been named vice president of training institutes, external affairs and planning at Luzerne County Community College. Grilli resides in Jenkins Township, Pa., with his wife, Lisa, and two children.

1974
Christine (Donahue) Mayo recently became full-time assistant professor of voice at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, Ark., where she resides with her husband, George.

1991
Susan (Adamchak) Smith and her husband, Dan, recently welcomed their third child, Riley Samantha. She joins brothers Jordan and Tyler. Susan is a human resources manager at a pharmaceutical company. The family resides in Springfield, N.J.

1994
Kermit (Alphonso) Douglas and Matt Smallcomb (’03) performed with their musical group, The Collective, at Susquehanna University. The event was featured in a 2007 edition of Diversity Digest, a Susquehanna University publication.

Heather Petruzelli, an adjunct voice teacher in the Wilkes Department of Visual and Performing Arts, was soprano soloist in May with the Astoria Symphony and Central City Singers. The performance of Mendelssohn’s masterpiece Elijah took place at Church of St. John the Baptist, New York, N.Y.

1997
Richard “Hank” Kutz recently completed a residency in general surgery at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H. Next year, he will complete a master’s degree in public health at Dartmouth Medical School, focusing on surgical outcomes and continuous quality improvement in health care. He will then continue training in the Harvard Plastic Surgery Residency Program in Boston, Mass. Hank currently resides in New Hampshire with his wife, Kate, and 1-year-old daughter, Lauren.
$500,000 Gift Endows Scholarship

Dr. Richard B. Kent ’55 of Malvern, Pa., recently honored his late wife with a $500,000 gift commitment to Wilkes University. It is one of the largest one-time gifts in Wilkes history.

The Edith M. Kent Scholarship will go to a student from the greater Wyoming Valley Area enrolled in the medical science field. Recipients should demonstrate academic ability, good moral character and financial need.

Sandra Carroll, interim vice president for development and alumni relations at Wilkes, says, “Dr. Kent is quite humble. We’re grateful that he chose to make a gift of this magnitude at Wilkes, where it can truly transform lives and the institution.”

“I come from a very humble start in life, and I’ve been very fortunate,” Kent explains. “I always thought I’d like to give something back to my college, and it’s a wonderful way to honor my late wife.”

Commuting allowed him to attend Wilkes economically, and he recalls close ties with faculty. “Dr. Charles Reif was a mentor and a strong role model for me.” He also treasures memories of playing baritone horn with the band, stoking an affinity for art and music he’s enjoyed throughout life.

A board member of the Kennett Symphony who seeks out opera houses wherever he travels, Kent urges young people to round out their education. “I emphasized my science studies so greatly I missed some of the humanities courses and some of the arts courses I should have taken. There’s a whole other life out there.”

Originally from Newport Township, near Nanticoke, Pa., Kent attended the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and served in the U.S. Navy before training in ophthalmology and establishing a practice in West Chester, Pa. Now a professional corporation, Vistarr Laser and Vision Centers employs five ophthalmologists and two optometrists. His family includes four children, two stepchildren and seven grandchildren.

Kent originally shied from publicity regarding his generosity, preferring to give anonymously. “However, I changed my mind on the hope that the article might inspire others to consider a memorial contribution to Wilkes or some other worthy cause. If this happens, then it was a worthwhile choice.”

Rivercrest Reunion: Alumni recently reunited during festivities at RiverCrest Golf Club, located in Montgomery County, Pa. In the first photo are, from left: Eubank “Ted” Travis-Bey Jr. ’65, Lonnie Coombs ’70 and son Adam Cooms (beginning classes this fall), and Matthew McCaffrey ’94 M’97. In the second photo are, left to right: Jeff Churba ’89, Jason Griggs ’90, Andy Harris ’89 and Edward J. Gallagher ’88.
A-List members who gathered in Parsippany, N.J., back in March were: row one: Janet Condon Diefenbacher '75, Susan Hansen '77, Frania Polakowski Holloway '76, Bruce Davis '78, Nick Holgash '78, Donald Mock '75, Arlene Rostrun Acocada '75, Gary Gieschen '75; row two: Michael De Vincentis '88, Anthony De Vincentis '79, Gary Paich '76, Billy Winter '76, Jack Brabant '76, John Zimmerman '76; row three (balcony): Thomas Pezzicara '75, Matt McCaffrey '97, Anthony Shipula '78, Dave Taylor '84, Nigel Gray '79, Arthur Daniels '77 and Mary Ann Zielinski Holgash '79.

A-List 71-79 Reunites Wilkes Classmates

As homecoming 2005 approached, two alumni opened an alumni directory in hopes of persuading as many old classmates as possible to get together. The effort yielded more than a healthy turnout at the reunion. It rekindled friendships dormant for 30 years.

"It’s just like 30 years melted away," explains Michael De Vincentis ’88 of Pequannock, N.J. ("Michael D," as he’s known, attended Wilkes during the ’70s, and later received his history degree after earning his last credits in New Jersey.)

Now known as the A-List 71-79, the group expanded to include students from throughout the ’70s. The 30 or so alumni continue to stay in touch via e-mail, an online social network and occasional gatherings. E-mail “birthday alerts” distributed to the A-List feature both vintage and current candid photographs of the honoree. Discussion topics run the gamut from family to work updates. In March, 21 alumni attended an informal event in Parsippany, N.J., with some traveling more than two hours to meet up with friends.

They majored in psychology, engineering, accounting and chemistry, among others. Today, the graduates include teachers, scientists, public relations professionals, medical personnel, engineers, optometrists, white- and blue-collar professionals, documentary film makers and parents spread across Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, Florida, Illinois, Texas, California and even Belize, Central America. “For a bunch of people from a small college, we all did pretty well,” says De Vincentis.

“Most of our kids are grown up and in college themselves,” De Vincentis says. Such freedom gives the alumni time to reconnect with college friends. “It just recharges your batteries and brings you back to a time when you had less cares and worries. When we’re together, it’s like we’re back on campus again.”

De Vincentis posts A-List updates at the website http://wilkespics4u.multiply.com/. He can be contacted at MichaelDvg@hotmail.com.
Fashion Designer Transforms Her Letterwoman’s Jacket

Kathleen Haughey Maggio ’75 couldn’t bear to part with her 1971 letterwoman’s jacket from her days on the Wilkes field hockey team. So the fashion designer transformed it into an exaggerated baseball-style jacket. “We all have things in our closets or drawers that we can’t bear to get rid of. Although I no longer wore my letterwoman jacket because the collar had frayed and the silhouette was out of style, I kept it and my hockey stick for sentimental reasons,” the Bucks County, Pa., native explains. She purchased a cardigan at a thrift store and got busy with her scissors. “It now accompanies me to the gym, inspiring me to get back into the shape I was in during my Wilkes days!”

Maggio, who has lived in New York City since graduating from college, included the project in *Altered Clothing: Hip Fixes and Transformations with a Needle and Thread*, released last year. The craft book includes numerous ideas for updating old or outdated clothing.

“An editor, who’d been given my name by a colleague, called and asked if I would be interested in writing a book about remodeling clothes. I’ve been sewing since I was 9 and frequently alter my own designs as well as store-bought clothes (new and vintage). It was a perfect fit,” she explains. Maggio included her memento from days on the Wilkes field hockey team in a book on how to update outdated clothing.

Maggio studied art at Wilkes and earned a degree in fine art from Moore College of Art and Design, Philadelphia. She has designed girls’ dresses, maternity clothes and christening gowns. She teaches pattern making, draping and construction to juniors in the bachelor of fine arts program at Parsons School of Design, New York City. Her husband, photographer Tim Maggio, shot photos for the book. She also has a daughter, Evie, 28.

Meredith (Cabrey) Nascimento and her husband, Christian, welcomed their first son, Charles Nicholas, on July 3, 2006.

2002

**Reunion Oct. 5-7**

Ronald Metcho graduated from the MBA program at the University of Rhode Island. He is an attorney and resides in Philadelphia.

2004

Amee Mehta will begin a residency in internal medicine at Staten Island University Hospital.
In Memoriam

1935
Dr. Eugene Joseph Gillespie passed away Sept. 18, 2006, in Atlanta, Ga., his home for the last 45 years. He retired from the U.S. Public Health Service after 25 years as associate director of the U.S. Communicable Disease Center in Atlanta. He then became the director of health planning for the state of Georgia, and subsequently medical director for Prudential Insurance Company.

1962
Jozia Mieszkowski, 67, of Seminole, Fla., formerly of Wilkes-Barre, died Thursday, May 31, 2007. A native of Wilkes-Barre, she was a graduate of Wyoming Seminary, class of 1957.

She owned and directed the Wilkes-Barre Theatre School & Company from 1966 to 1980. She then became dance director at the Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, Miss., from 1980 to 1995. In 1995, she moved to St. Petersburg to start a new career in activities at the Masonic Home in Florida, where she stayed until her retirement at age 62.

1988
John F. Kepics, 40, Linglestown, Pa., died May 8, 2007, of leukemia. A standout baseball player at Wilkes, he was a pharmaceutical sales representative for Forest Pharmaceuticals for the last 13 years.

He is survived by his wife, the former Debbie Fedor; mother, Edythe Kepics; sister, Mary Louise Harris; and nieces.

Faculty
Robert W. Partridge of West Chester, Pa., former history professor and baseball and soccer coach at Wilkes, died May 4, 2007, at the age of 88. Partridge graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1941. Later, he earned a master’s degree in education from Harvard University.

During World War II, he rose to the rank of lieutenant and served as gunnery and catapult officer on the light cruisers Topeka and Columbia.

He began his teaching and coaching career at Wilkes College in 1945. In 1955, Partridge joined the faculty and coaching staff at Kent School in Kent, Conn. He taught history and English before becoming director of athletics, retiring in 1990.

Partridge is survived by his wife, Louise; daughter, Carol Pierce; son, Glenn; four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Richard Thomas Rees ’62, 69, of Lakeland, Fla., died May 25. Born in Kingston, Pa., he graduated from Kingston High School and served in the U.S. Marine Corps. Rees held a bachelor of science degree from Wilkes, with a major in history and a minor in English. He also held a master’s degree and doctorate in Educational Administration from Rutgers University.

Following a career as a high school teacher, coach and administrator, he spent 10 years as a professor at Montclair State University and Wilkes University.

Since 1980, Dr. Rees was involved in health care human resource education and development. He was president of Rees and Associates Inc., a private consulting firm centering on learning technology, leadership development, team development and educational efficiencies, especially in small to mid-sized organizations.

He is survived by wife Linda Weatherill Rees, son David William Rees, daughter Diane Lynn Rees Mikolon, all of Lakeland, Fla.; mother Anne Rees, sister Margaret A. Fetch of Kingston, Pa.; brother Morgan R. Rees of Naples, Fla.; and two grandsons.

Submitting Class Notes

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