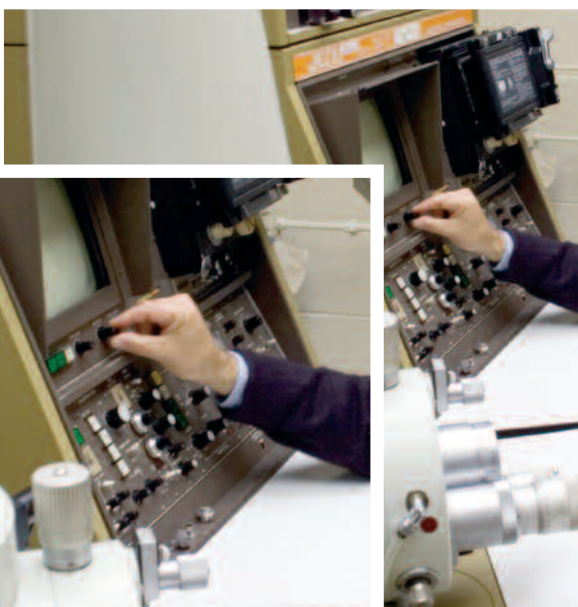
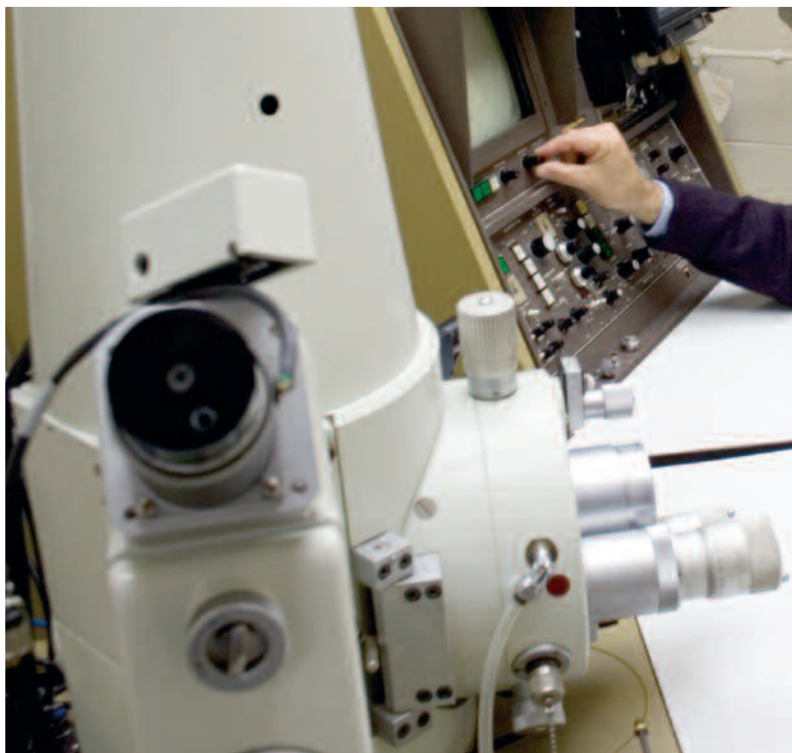


Window to a Tiny World



Left to right: Ali Razavi and Don Mencer will head the newly established Microscopy Center for faculty and student research.
PHOTO BY MARK GOLASZEWSKI

DONATION OF ELECTRON MICROSCOPES OPENS NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCH

By Jack Chielli

TWO SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPES (SEM) worth \$600,000 were recently donated to Wilkes University's newly established Microscopy Center. The powerful microscopes will open up a new path of research for students and faculty who can now experiment and learn on some of the most sophisticated equipment in the region.

Ali Razavi, associate professor of mechanical engineering, and Donald Mencer, associate professor of chemistry, have teamed up to head the Center, which will be located on the first floor of Stark Learning Center. The equipment will be particularly useful to faculty and students from chemistry, biology, pharmacy and engineering programs, Razavi explains. The microscopes give students and faculty an opportunity to experiment and learn on some of the most sophisticated equipment in the region.

Schott Optical Company, Duryea, Pa., and Fairchild Semi Conductor, Mountain Top, Pa., donated the equipment because of ongoing relationships with Razavi, who has done work for them in the past. "We are ecstatic that these two companies have decided to donate their equipment to Wilkes," Razavi said.

A scanning electron microscope forms topographical images by moving a beam of electrons across an object. Electron microscopes can produce high-resolution images of the surface of microscopic materials. The microscopes, which can magnify objects up to 200,000 times their size, are used in research and development of electronic devices such as computer microprocessors. And research on biological specimens helps scientists better understand microorganisms.

The microscopes will also be used by the university to build partnerships with area industries to stimulate economic development, Mencer says. In fact, Razavi and Mencer already have their first partnership, with Gentex Corporation of Carbondale, Pa.

"If Gentex needs to use this type of equipment, they either have to invest in a new SEM or travel out of the region to use one at another location," Mencer said. "Now they can come here. These types of projects provide valuable research and development experience in the form of real-world, hands-on work for our students."