

## Alumni Connect With Students to Offer Career Advice

More than 80 alumni and students participated in the second annual Connecting the Dots event on Nov. 13.

Students spoke to alumni about potential careers, the current job market, and the transition from Wilkes into the working world. Alumni attendees included Andy Mehalshick '83, anchor for WBRE-TV; Jeff Moisey '99, vice president of strategy and client relations at JumpFrog Marketing; and Bill Slavoski '79, a special agent with the U.S. Secret Service. A complete list of participants can be viewed at <http://community.wilkes.edu/CTD2008>.



Andy Mehalshick '83 of WBRE-TV discusses his career with students. PHOTO BY MIRKO WIDENHORN



Rosemary LaFratte '93 MBA '97, left, answers questions about her work experience and offers tips to current students.

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“The Alumni Association’s Connecting the Dots event provides a valuable networking opportunity for current Wilkes students,” says Bridget Giunta '05, secretary of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and chair of the Undergraduate Relations Committee – the alumni committee responsible for organizing this event. “In this informal setting, students can comfortably ask questions and receive advice from our talented alumni, who represent a wide variety of professional perspectives and experiences. Both the quality of the conversations on the night of the event and the feedback from participating alumni was outstanding, and we look forward to hosting the next Connecting the Dots event.”

### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SETS NEW PRIORITIES

The Alumni Association Board of Directors used its September meeting to conduct a planning exercise to set its activities for the coming year. As a result of this planning process, the board focused on four areas that need to be addressed in the coming years:

- identifying and establishing a mentoring vehicle for alumni, including alumni-to-alumni and alumni-to-student mentoring;
- fostering identity with Wilkes based on affinity group/department/major, with a concentration on alumni one to 10 years “out”;
- developing and strengthening regional clubs in support of area alumni;
- conducting an alumni survey to determine how best to serve our alumni.

Each of the alumni committees of the board has adopted one or more of these items as focus areas, and new events and initiatives will be forthcoming. Stay tuned and check the latest news and progress on **The Colonel Connection** (<http://community.wilkes.edu>).

## Alumni Web Site Sports New Look and Features

Have you seen the redesigned alumni online community yet? Its streamlined look highlights features of The Colonel Connection, including the online directory, photo albums and the latest Wilkes news. If you use Facebook, you can use The Colonel Connection to log in. Share the Wilkes events you're attending, your online class notes and much more with your Facebook friends.

The Colonel Connection now also has networks. You'll see your current networks, as well as suggested networks for you to join. Take advantage of this feature to extend your networks, whether professional, Wilkes-related or just fun. You'll see your friend's/classmate's updates, new photos, and class notes; plus, you'll be able to post on their white boards.

Be part of the new Colonel Connection at [community.wilkes.edu](http://community.wilkes.edu)! The makeover is part of a redesign of the entire Wilkes Web site.



## Alumni Scholarship Banquet to Honor Helen Ralston '52



Helen Ralston will be honored for her heart of blue and gold.

Save the date Saturday, April 25, to honor Helen Ralston '52. She is our 2009 Alumni Scholarship honoree.

A force in her own right, Ralston still brings the Wilkes family together. Regularly called upon to lead or perform the alma mater and National Anthem at University functions, she rallies the Ralston crew for family and Wilkes gatherings.

Mark your calendar now to celebrate her contributions and accomplishments.

For details and reservations, go to <http://community.wilkes.edu/2009Scholarship>. Or call (570) 408-RSVP (7787).

## Catching up in Boston

Alumni in the Greater Boston area met for the second time this year at the Algonquin Club on Oct. 30. Alumni representing classes from the late 1960s to 2004 enjoyed excellent food and fellowship. They also heard about the latest campus happenings, including Homecoming, the Golden Horde Reunion, as well as the Alumni Association priorities for the coming year.

Gathering in Boston were, front row from left: Gerald Missal '68, Sarah Karlavage Roccio '99, Deborah Landry '02, John Kerr '72; back row from left: Nick Taylor, David Seely, Janet Seely '70, Sarah Brandt '04, JJ Fadden '99 and Tony Cardinale '72.

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