Alumni Gather Throughout Florida

Florida alumni met in Boca Raton, Orlando and Naples in February. In Boca, Carolyn ’58 and Jack Basler hosted a dinner for alumni in the area. Wilkes President Tim Gilmour updated everyone on the latest happenings at Wilkes.

On Saturday, Feb. 21, 30 alumni and friends met at the Rainforest Café in Orlando for the inaugural activity of the Central Florida regional group. This was the first time in a number of years that an event was held in the Orlando area, and alumni enjoyed getting together and catching up with each other. Photos are available on The Colonel Connection at http://community.wilkes.edu/. Charlie Robinson ’57 chairs the central Florida group and is working with other alumni to plan future events. To find out more about the regional group, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@wilkes.edu.

Alumni and friends in the Naples area attended the fourth annual event at the Bay Colony Beach Club, hosted by Wilkes’ community partner M&T Bank. President Gilmour updated attendees on plans for the law school and a science, health and engineering building. Plans for both continue to move forward, albeit more slowly due to the current economic climate. He stressed the importance of continued support for Wilkes, as this allows the University to provide financial aid to students.

Special thanks to Don Wilkinson ’58 for this wonderful venue.
**ALUMNI HELP RECRUIT NEW COLONELS**

Who can better articulate the benefits of a Wilkes education than the alumni? That’s why the Alumni Association has become more involved with admissions efforts this spring.

For years, the annual Alumni Scholarship Dinner has rewarded a current legacy student—a student whose grandparent or parent attended Wilkes. Now the Alumni Association is actively working with the admissions office on a variety of projects.

This spring, some successful Wilkes alumni wrote letters to admitted students to share their experiences and explain the benefits of a Wilkes education. At VIP Day, an open house for accepted students, an alumni panel gave prospective Colonels and their parents insights into their time on campus and their success, much of which can be attributed to Wilkes. A similar panel is planned for upcoming open houses.

The Alumni Association also hosted a Legacy Reception at VIP Day for admitted legacy students. Alumni and their children enjoyed meeting each other and reconnecting to the Wilkes of today.

The Alumni Association looks forward to welcoming these important prospective students as alumni in a few years. For more information on these programs, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@wilkes.edu or check The Colonel Connection.

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D.C./Baltimore Regional Group Starts Up

If you now call the Washington, D.C., or Baltimore, Md., areas home, you can enjoy regular get-togethers with fellow Wilkes alumni. A new regional group has met twice so far this year.

In January, about 20 alumni gathered at James Hoban’s Irish Restaurant & Bar in Dupont Circle. They had an opportunity to meet and catch up with each other and also reconnect with Paul Adams ’77, vice president of student affairs, and with Addy Malatesta, director of athletics. This was the first activity of the D.C. regional group, a group of alumni who are helping to plan events for the more than 700 alumni in the greater D.C./Baltimore area. The group will plan informal get-togethers, more formal activities, and family-friendly events. Ron Miller ’93 chairs this regional group.

Alumni gathered March 23 in Baltimore with a reception at the James Joyce Irish Pub & Restaurant. This was another opportunity to reconnect and get to know some of the other Wilkes alumni in the Washington or Baltimore area. If you are interested in more information on the D.C./Baltimore regional group, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@wilkes.edu.

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Scholarship Luncheon Proves Meaningful to Recipients and Donors

More than 200 student scholarship recipients and scholarship donors gathered March 26 at a special luncheon to meet each other—sometimes for the first time.

Each year, this scholarship luncheon gives students a chance to personally thank the supporters of the scholarships and give the donors a chance to hear about the recipients’ successes. This year, Wilkes offered 167 endowed scholarships and 20 annual scholarships.

Without financial assistance, many students wouldn’t be able to attend Wilkes, as they depend on this financing. Affordability is a team process. It takes students and parents willing to stretch themselves, but it also takes generous donors willing to make Wilkes students their primary philanthropic choice.

If you are interested in more information on funding or contributing to a scholarship, please phone (800) WILKES-U Ext. 4309 or visit The Colonel Connection at http://community.wilkes.edu.