

## Wilkes Partners With New Medical College in Pipeline Program

The Commonwealth Medical College has entered into memorandums of understanding with Wilkes University and Luzerne County Community College to develop the region's first pipeline to careers in medicine program. Initially, the program will target rural, disadvantaged, women, minority and first-generation students in Luzerne County, Pa.—specifically in Wilkes-Barre and Hazleton.

“Creating the region's only health-related pipeline program will have multiple and key benefits throughout our communities, as well as on a national level. This initiative will pave the way for us to grow the pipeline so it eventually reaches students at the middle and high school levels,” says Robert D'Alessandri, president and dean of TCMC.



The Pipeline to Medical Colleges Initiative is a pilot project designed to engage community colleges, four-year colleges and universities and medical schools in a coordinated effort to identify



Officials from Wilkes, The Commonwealth Medical College and Luzerne County Community College announced a new pipeline program in a news conference at Wilkes. From left are: Robert D'Alessandri, president and dean of TCMC; Maria Suarez, special assistant to the president for diversity and community affairs at Wilkes; Tim Gilmour, Wilkes president; Ida L. Castro, vice president of social justice and diversity for TCMC; Thomas P. Leary, president of LCCC; Dana Clark, vice president of academic affairs at LCCC; and Ronald Williams, a vice president of the College Board.

and support community college students from rural areas, along with students underrepresented in medicine who are likely to practice in those regions, and who show an early interest in the field. The pilot was created in response to a request from the College Board, a not-for-profit membership association whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity.

Robert Wright, chairman of TCMC's board of directors, says, “Our region is obviously facing a major problem in terms of its need for more highly educated individuals to fill the void of scientists, physicians and other health care professionals. Economic growth related to TCMC's creation and

“  
Creating the region's  
**ONLY** health-related  
**PIPELINE PROGRAM**  
will have multiple and key  
**BENEFITS** throughout  
our communities...  
– Robert D'Alessandri,  
president and dean of TCMC”

development can escape the region's residents unless we are adequately prepared to increase student science proficiencies, develop a highly skilled workforce to support economic development and improve the quality of life for an increasingly diverse community.”

Ida L. Castro, vice president of social justice and diversity for TCMC, is leading the efforts. Her work includes addressing three important regional needs:

- the demand for more primary care doctors, especially those who will practice in urban and rural areas of the United States,
- the necessity of training more individuals from groups that are underrepresented in medicine, such as students from low-income backgrounds and specific ethnic minority groups,
- the need to find financially viable strategies to support students during the course of their undergraduate and medical education.

Wilkes President Tim Gilmour says, “This initiative supports Wilkes' effort to guide students from all areas and demographics along a path of lifelong learning. This exciting partnership complements the grant we've received from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute to redesign our science curriculum and expand programs for middle-school and Latino girls. Through this collaboration between our new Center for Global Education and Diversity and the TCMC's Office of Social Justice and Diversity, our institutions will work together in support of efforts to help the region grow.”

## Wilkes Launches One+OneMBA: India Program

Patiala

Graduate students in India can now earn a Wilkes University MBA through a unique new program that allows them to complete one year in their home country and one at Wilkes.

One+OneMBA:India offers MBA candidates a more affordable way to earn a U.S. degree than attending a program requiring two years abroad. Rather than open a campus in India, Wilkes collaborates with Punjab School of Management Studies at Punjabi University to provide the India portion of the program.

Thirty-four first-year Wilkes students began studying business administration on Punjabi University's campus in Patiala, India, in fall 2008. This fall, those students will come to the Wilkes campus for their second year of study. While other U.S. universities are offering programs in India, Wilkes' One+One program is unique in offering a year in each country.

The city of Patiala lies in northwest India. Jay S. Sidhu MBA '73, president of the Wilkes board of trustees, is a native of Patiala and encouraged the collaboration. The Reading, Pa., businessman's generosity launched the Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and Leadership at Wilkes University in 2004. Punjab School of Management Studies faculty teach courses for Wilkes. While Punjab School of Management offers its own MBA, many Indian students desire the prestige of a U.S. degree, says Paul Browne, dean of Wilkes University's Sidhu School of Business and Leadership. "The U.S. MBA improves career prospects among Indians interested in working for international firms or for Indian firms that aspire to do business internationally. Completing one year in their home country significantly lowers their costs while providing a yearlong experience in American society, culture and business practices."

Wilkes' American MBA students gain the option to study in Patiala, as well. "The program works both ways," notes Anthony L. Liuzzo, director of the Wilkes MBA program and a professor of business and economics. "The opportunity for cross-cultural learning will enrich the experience of both American and Indian students. It should also make them more marketable in a global economy."

### TEACH ONLINE WITH A NEW MASTER'S DEGREE

Wilkes University School of Education launches a new online master's degree program in online teaching.

Educators and other professionals who aspire to use technology for training and instruction over the Internet can learn the latest technology and best practices for providing effective online instruction. Coursework is suitable for the private or public sectors of academia, the corporate world or government. Wilkes offers the program in partnership with Performance Learning Systems Inc., an educational services company with whom the

university has offered graduate education courses for 25 years.

"Demand for online instruction continues to grow as people look for more cost-effective and convenient ways to access and provide high-quality training," says Michael Speziale, dean of the College of Graduate and Professional Studies. "This program will develop experts with the skills needed to facilitate real learning in an online environment."

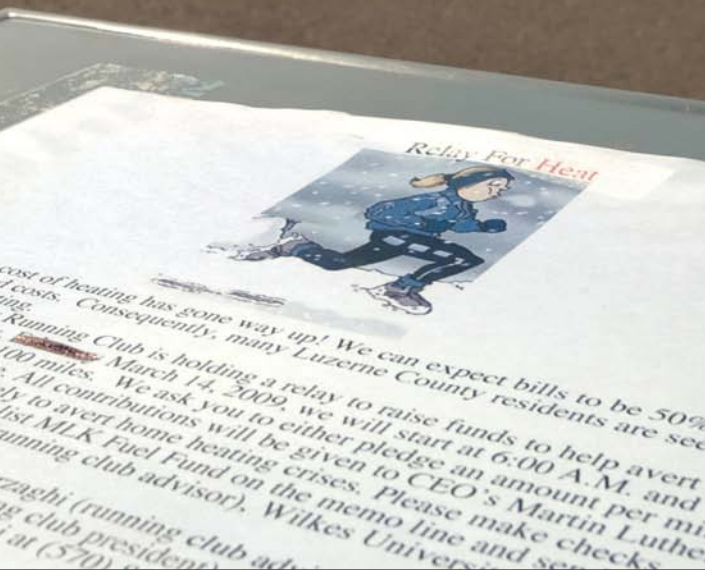
The online teaching degree is a 30-credit program that can be completed in less than two years. It applies the latest research to prepare graduates in instructional design, assessment, research, advanced technology and building collaboration into e-learning courses.

For more information about the degree program, call the Graduate Education office at **(800) WILKES-U Ext. 4671**, or visit [www.wilkes.edu/GradEd](http://www.wilkes.edu/GradEd).



Silvia Elias, laboratory manager in the Department of Biology, runs a leg of the fifth annual Relay for Heat. Runners covered 100 miles between 6 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 14. Eight Wilkes students, three faculty and staff members, five members of the community and four Wilkes alumni raised nearly \$2,000. Alumni were Emily Bilbow '05, Fred Gedrich '73, Eric Luther '04 and Jared Shayka '06.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL TOUEY



## Nobel Peace Prize Winner to Present Outstanding Leaders Forum Lecture

Elie Wiesel, Nobel Peace Prize winner and humanitarian, will present the sixth annual Outstanding Leaders Forum lecture on Tuesday, Nov. 17.

Wiesel's personal experience as a Holocaust survivor led him to use his talents as an author, teacher and storyteller to defend human rights and peace throughout the world.

An ardent supporter of Israel, Wiesel was among the first to defend the causes of Soviet Jews, Nicaragua's Miskito Indians, Argentina's "Disappeared," Cambodia's refugees, the Kurds, South African apartheid victims, famine victims in Africa, prisoners in the former Yugoslavia and most recently victims of genocide in Darfur.

Soon after receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986, Wiesel and wife Marion established The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity. Its mission is to combat indifference, intolerance and injustice through international dialogue and youth-focused programs that promote acceptance, understanding and equality. The foundation runs programs domestically and internationally.

Wiesel's memoir, *Night*, has been translated into more than 30 languages and has sold more than 5 million copies worldwide. A native of Romania, he was 15 when his family was deported to Auschwitz, where his mother and younger sister perished. He and his father were transported to Buchenwald; his father died shortly before the camp was liberated in 1945.

He was founding chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, which created the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Wiesel has served as Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities at Boston University since 1976.

For more information on the Outstanding Leaders Forum, watch The Colonel Connection or contact Rebecca Van Jura at (800) WILKES-U Ext. 4306 or [rebecca.vanjura@wilkes.edu](mailto:rebecca.vanjura@wilkes.edu).



Elie Wiesel

## Beacon Editor Named National Student Journalist of the Year

The Society for Collegiate Journalists named Wilkes rising senior Andrew Seaman as its 2009 Arthur H. Barlow National Student Journalist of the Year.

According to the SCJ Web site, the award honors a student chapter member who has represented the spirit of the First Amendment by making an outstanding contribution to student journalism. It includes a \$500 scholarship.

Seaman, of Forest City, Pa., led *The Beacon* as editor in chief for the 2008-09 academic year and served as a producer for Wilkes World, a news magazine television production. He has also interned at WBRE-TV, *The Washington Times* and *USA Today*.



Beacon advisor Andrea Frantz, left, and Editor Andrew Seaman discuss the newspaper's Web site.

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT POPULATION CONTINUES TO GROW**

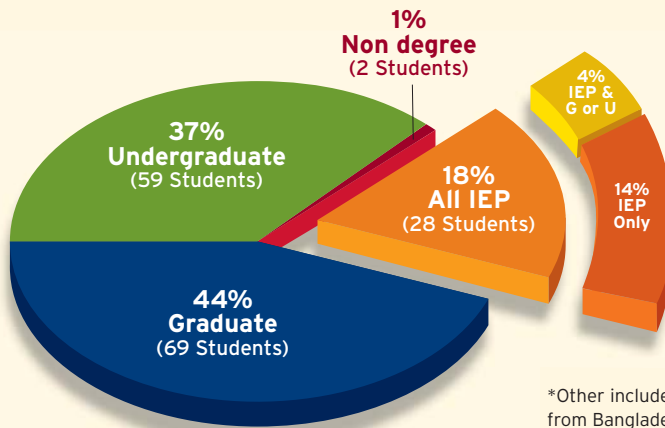
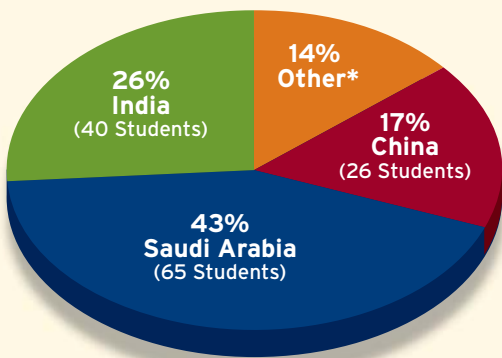
The number of international students at Wilkes University continues to grow, totaling 158 in fall 2008. Engineering attracts the most students, followed by business and education.

Maria Suarez, special assistant to the president for global education and diversity, says the University's Intensive English Program accounts for some growth. The program prepares international students for study in the United States. Some of those students stay at Wilkes to complete an undergraduate or graduate degree.

International students bring a diversity of perspectives to their studies, notes Georgia Costalas, associate director of international student initiatives. "That adds something very necessary to today's education."

And it gives both domestic and international students a better understanding of the world.

**HOME COUNTRIES OF WILKES INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS, FALL 2008**



**DEGREE PROGRAMS OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS, FALL 2008**

\*Other includes one student each from Bangladesh, Benin, British Virgin Islands, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Jordan, Kenya, Niger, Kuwait, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam; two students from Nepal; and five from Rwanda.

**Wilkes Garners Legislative Honors for 75th Anniversary**

Both the U.S. Congress and Pennsylvania House of Representatives honored Wilkes University in celebration of its 75th anniversary.

Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski '67 sponsored the House resolution. Clayton '49 and Theresa Karambelas, Carl Santana '09, Jamie Gwynn '09 and David Sborz '09 were seated on the House floor as the resolution was read into the Legislative Record in January.

The University also received a Certificate of Special Recognition from U.S. Rep. Paul E. Kanjorski.

Gathered for the reading of a House resolution honoring Wilkes were David Sborz '09, Clayton '49 and Theresa Karambelas, Speaker of the House Keith R. McCall, Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski '67, Carl Santana '09 and Jamie Gwynn '09.

