

New Leadership Takes Helm of Association

By the time you receive this issue of *Wilkes* magazine, your alumni association will have confirmed its new leadership. With a plan for succession in place, it is easier for successful (and busy!) alumni to make the commitment to serve as an officer. The maximum length of service from point of entry in the process (second vice president) to service as president is six years. Each term of office is one year, and each officer may be re-elected once.

After two years in the role of first vice president and the development and implementation of the organization's strategic work plan, George Pawlush '69 has sought and secured the presidency.

Following two years as second vice president, Terrence Casey '82 will assume the position of first vice president. Upon the recommendation of the nominating committee and confirmation of the board at its March 23 meeting, John Wartella '84 assumes responsibility as second vice president. As development committee chair for the past year, Wartella brought new levels of participation to the board.

Stay tuned as the next class of directors is selected. This group of at least seven alumni will serve a three-year term ending in 2010 and will carry out the work of the association. All board members serve on various committees and task groups to develop programs and benefits for Wilkes alumni. Consideration is given to the demographics of the constituency as candidates are selected to reflect the alumni population.

Outgoing President Colleen Gries Gallagher '81 inaugurated a new era for the association. Her management of the strategic work plan and deployment of able volunteers to the myriad processes and tasks has resulted in a strong, focused and motivated organization. With the adoption of the amendment to the bylaws, she assumes the position of historian for the coming year.

If you are interested in serving as a member of the board or its committees, e-mail us at alumni@wilkes.edu.

— By Sandra Carroll



George Pawlush '69

George Pawlush Aims to Build Relationships

Incoming Alumni Association President George Pawlush '69 knows Wilkes. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University, where he began his 38-year profes-

sional career. He has served Wilkes as sports information director and public relations director.

Pawlush now is vice president of public relations and community affairs at Greenwich Hospital, Greenwich, Conn. Prior to joining the Greenwich senior management staff in 1996, he held senior public relations positions at Danbury Hospital, Yale-New Haven Hospital and Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center in Wilkes-Barre.

"Throughout my entire professional career, I have been involved in building relationships," Pawlush says. "As president of the alumni association, I will try to enhance our relations with University administration and faculty, and with alumni. Working together, we can be a force for getting out the good word about Wilkes. We have alumni doing wonderful things throughout the world. I believe there are some great stories to be told. I feel these stories can inspire new support for our University. I plan to do everything possible to make this happen."

George's wife, Carol '79, and son George IV '98 are both Wilkes graduates. The Pawlush family also includes two other grown children, Tim and Tina.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND HOMECOMING 2007

Don't forget to mark your calendars for Homecoming 2007, Oct. 5 to 7. Expect some very special events, including:

- Dedication of the Karambelas alumni pergola.
- Celebration of the life of Dean George Ralston.
- Commemoration of the founding of the University 75 years ago.
- Recognition of the contributions of the Army Air Corps 6th College Training Detachment to the strength of its host college, our antecedent institution, Bucknell University Junior College.

Those are just a few highlights of the weekend! Oktoberfest will again coincide with homecoming weekend, so Wilkes-Barre will be an even livelier town than usual. The Crew Club will host another regatta, bringing a number of other schools to the area. Make your reservations early so you have the hotel of your choosing. Be sure to mention your Wilkes alumni affiliation to receive special rates.



Explore Exotic Locales with Fellow Alumni

Tropical Costa Rica

Departs Nov. 7, 2007

Price per person: twin, \$1,999; single, \$2,499



Highlights

- San José • Poás Volcano
- Thermal Spa Resort • Caño Negro Refuge • Monteverde Cloud Forest • Guanacaste

Join fellow Wilkes University alumni as they travel to Costa Rica

for nine days. This trip includes round-trip air travel from Allentown, Pa., hotel transfers, air taxes and current fuel surcharges. Eight breakfasts, two lunches and seven dinners are included. Fuel charges are subject to change until trip is paid in full. Cost does not include insurance of \$120 per person.

For more information on any of these trips, contact Michelle Diskin '95, associate director of Alumni Relations, at (570) 408-4134 or michelle.diskin@wilkes.edu.

French Riviera

Departs March 2, 2008

Price per person: twin, \$1,849; single, \$2,249



Highlights

- Nice • Flower Market • Chagall Museum
- Grasse Perfumerie • St. Paul De Vence • Ventimiglia • San Remo • St. Tropez • Cannes • Antibes • Picasso Museum • Villefranche • Rothschild Villa and Gardens
- Monaco Oceanographic Museum

The price of this eight-day trip includes round-trip air travel from Newark, N.J., air taxes, hotel transfers and current fuel surcharges (subject to increase until paid in full). Six breakfasts and four dinners are included in the cost. It does not include insurance of \$120 per person.

Alumni Association Revises Election Bylaws

The nominating committee of the Alumni Association has completed the process of reviewing the association bylaws and proposing revisions to bring them into alignment with best practice.

The revisions passed by more than the required two-thirds vote of the board of directors, which is composed of 39 members. Thirty-two members voted, with 81 percent of the voting members voting “yes.” The result of these changes provides all officers with one-year rather than two-year terms, with the option of succeeding themselves for one additional consecutive term. With these approved changes, now confirmed by the Board of Trustees at its April 13 meeting, officers will be put forward as a slate by the committee for a confirmation vote of the board of directors. The same will be true of the

incoming “class” of directors; competition among candidates/nominees now takes place at the committee level. The Alumni Association will continue to invite alumni to nominate themselves and others in *Wilkes* magazine and online at The Colonel Connection.

“Too many times we lose key volunteers due to the competitive election process, and that is what we are trying to avoid,” explains Sandra Carroll, executive director of the Alumni Association and Alumni Relations. The best volunteers have busy lives and can’t imagine themselves committing to a 12-year stint in office. “This effectively limits their commitment to a total of six years from start to finish.”

The new process also saves the university time and more than \$10,000 in printing and postage costs. This move makes sense as there is a low response rate on the mailed ballots (about 1 percent). “We thank everyone who was involved with the process of the revision to the bylaws, and we look forward to your nominations in the months ahead,” Carroll concludes.



Chair Position Description:

The chair of each of the five standing committees is responsible for organizing and monitoring the work of their groups/subgroups and reporting progress on projects and priorities to executive committee and at board meetings as appropriate. The work of each group will determine the frequency of meetings.