

Toward a Greener Wilkes

FROM THE BANKS OF THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER to the Pocono Mountains and beyond, northeastern Pennsylvania abounds with natural beauty. These assets are important to promoting a quality of life that will allow us to attract and retain the talent to drive the region's economic renaissance.

Much work has been done to address the scarring of our landscape over the last century and a half, but so much more must be done. Wilkes University wants to help lead the effort in this region.



This issue's cover story provides just one example of how Wilkes trains students to appreciate the environment and forge a brighter future. For a decade, budding biologists have worked to catalog plant life in nearby Kirby Park. This area offers city dwellers an easily accessible, natural habitat in the midst of the busy city. Its riparian forest is home to numerous plant and animal species and a valuable open-air classroom for Wilkes students. Learn about their efforts and how you can access their key in an article beginning on page 8.

This is only one example of environmental initiatives at Wilkes. We plan "A Year of the Environment" for the coming academic year, in which all academic programming, including the freshman seminar, will focus on the topic. We plan to design a green building to house our science, engineering and health science programs. Our vision is to make this building a showcase of environmentally friendly design principles and a model of energy conservation and use of renewable resources. This state-of-the-art building will be a key piece in our efforts to build a green campus.

Wilkes recently launched an Institute of the Environment to expand educational and research opportunities in that area for our students and faculty. Projects will include our geospatial watershed research program on the Upper Susquehanna-Lackawanna American Heritage River.

Finally, as we improve the landscaping of our campus, we are making every effort to plant native species well-adapted to the climate in this region and that require a minimum of water and chemicals. These efforts highlight our commitment to the ecology of our region as we practice and teach sound stewardship.

Above: An online key developed by students allows visitors to Wilkes-Barre's Kirby Park to identify plants like this foxtail.

PHOTO BY MARK GOLASZEWSKI

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Gilmour".

Dr. Tim Gilmour
Wilkes University President

WILKES UNIVERSITY

President
Dr. Tim Gilmour

Vice President, Development and Alumni Relations
Marty Williams

WILKES EDITORIAL STAFF

Executive Editor
Jack Chielli

Associate Director, Marketing Communications
Christine (Tondrick) Seitzinger '98

Wilkes Editor
Kim Bower-Spence

Manager, Graphic Design
Mark Golaszewski

Web Services
Craig Thomas

Manager, Athletics Administration
John Seitzinger

Graduate Assistant
Cindy Taren M'07

Layout/Design
Quest Fore

Printing
Payne Printery Inc.

EDITORIAL ADVISORY GROUP

Anne Batory '68
David DiMartino '01
Brandie Meng M'08
Bill Miller '81
George Pawlush '69
Donna Sedor '85

ALUMNI RELATIONS STAFF

Executive Director
Sandra Sarno Carroll

Associate Director
Michelle Diskin '95

Alumni and Advancement Services Manager
Nancy A. Weeks

Alumni Relations and Annual Giving Manager
Lauren Pluskey '06

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President
Colleen Gries Gallagher '81

First Vice President
George Pawlush '69

Second Vice President
Terrence Casey '82

Historian
John Pullo '82

Secretary
Beth Danner '02

SUMMER 2007

Wilkes University is an independent institution of higher education dedicated to academic and intellectual excellence in the liberal arts, sciences and professional programs. The university provides its students with the experience and education necessary for career and intellectual development as well as for personal growth, engenders a sense of values and civic responsibility, and encourages its students to welcome the opportunities and challenges of a diverse and continually changing world. The university enhances the tradition of strong student-faculty interactions in all its programs, attracts and retains outstanding people in every segment of the university, and fosters a spirit of cooperation, community involvement, and individual respect within the entire university.