2008 Alumni Scholarship Awarded and Coach Sheptock Honored

The Annual Alumni Scholarship Award Dinner took place on April 5, honoring Wilkes head football coach Frank Sheptock.

“Coach Sheptock has been an inspiration to the players, the program and to the community for more than 12 years,” according to Fred Demech ’61, chair of this year’s event. Sheptock’s father, Frank Sheptock Sr., and President Tim Gilmour, among others, spoke of his accomplishments.

The event was attended by many of Frank’s family, friends, past and present players and alumni. “We are pleased that so many people came to share in Frank’s recognition. It shows the impact Frank has had during his time at Wilkes,” says Sandra Carroll, executive director of alumni relations.

Each year, the Wilkes University Alumni Association awards the alumni scholarship to a current student who has had a sibling or parent who graduated from Wilkes. Applicants need a grade point average of 3.0 or higher. This year’s recipient is Andrew Durako, who is majoring in accounting.

This event allows the Alumni Association to raise the level of the scholarship to more fully fund tuition expenses.

Alumni Enjoy ‘An Extra Night in Florida’

Alumni gathered at the Bay Colony Beach Club in Naples on Feb. 29 for a reception hosted by Wilkes’ community partner, M&T Bank.

Terry Casey ’82, first vice president of the Alumni Association and vice president of M&T Bank private investment group, welcomed alumni and friends. The program featured University President Tim Gilmour, Wilkes-Barre Mayor Tom Leighton and Barnes & Noble Vice President and University Trustee Bill Miller ’81.

The president shared his vision and plans for Wilkes. Leighton spoke about the strong partnership between Wilkes and the City of Wilkes-Barre in revitalization and explained steps the city has taken. He invited attendees to come back and experience the many new restaurants and businesses that have come to downtown Wilkes-Barre.

One of these is the Barnes & Noble College Booksellers store that opened on Main Street in 2006. Miller, also a member of the Alumni Association board, spoke about the success of the first-ever main street Barnes & Noble shared by two universities, Wilkes and King’s College. The store engages the community through events featuring local authors and artists.

The Florida event brought Wilkes and its host community to life for those with deep Wyoming Valley roots who happen to have a current Florida address. Special thanks to Don Wilkinson ’58.
Plan now to visit campus for the historic celebration of the 75th anniversary of Wilkes, from its earliest years as Bucknell University Junior College, to Wilkes College, to Wilkes University. This year’s Homecoming begins Friday, Oct. 3, and continues through Sunday, Oct. 5.

You’ll have plenty of opportunity to mix and mingle with your classmates. Don’t miss the Friday golf tournament, followed by an auction of Dean George Ralston’s famous ties, which have been generously donated by his wife, Helen Ralston ’52. On Saturday, take advantage of an opportunity to be back in the classroom for short courses taught by alumni and professors.

Your support of the Wilkes football team is always appreciated. This year, you can help celebrate the accomplishments of the Golden Horde—those football teams that hit the field from 1965-1969—and Coach Rollie Schmidt at the game.

Many other activities are planned for your return to campus, so save the date and come back to experience and hear about the many changes on campus and in revitalized downtown Wilkes-Barre.

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Kerrs Host Fellow Alumni Near Boston

Alumni joined hosts John and Renate (Dargel) Kerr, both class of ’72, for a Feb. 20 dinner at the Walpole Country Club, located near Boston.

Provost Reynold Verret and deans Paul Browne, Dale Bruns, Darin Fields, Bernard Graham and Michael Speziale talked about progress Wilkes has made and University plans. Special guest Helen Ralston ’52 also joined the festivities.

“It was exciting to meet fellow alumni in the Boston area and have the opportunity to spend time with our deans and each other,” says John Kerr.

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Checked Out The Colonel Connection Recently?

Updates to The Colonel Connection online community continue to improve communications to and among alumni.

You can now pull in Real Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds and widgets like YouTube and Flickr, and you can pull information into a dynamic profile from these sites. Create your own blogs and receive comments, and create an extensive friends list to include friends of friends.

The Colonel Connection can show the latest postings in your social networking sites. Remember to post recent photos, submit class notes or become a mentor. You can also find a classmate, update your information and find out about upcoming alumni events and programs. Log on at community.wilkes.edu.