1955
Roland Featherman of East Stroudsburg, Pa., has been appointed by Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell to serve on the Governor’s Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities.

1958
Reunion Oct. 3-5
Ronald A. Olson, M.D., is an ophthalmologist at Eye Centers of Florida, Naples, Fla. Previously, he served on the ophthalmology staff at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, Wilkes-Barre. Prior to that, he was in private practice for 25 years in West Pittston, Pa. He and wife Leona (Baiera) Olson ‘62 have lived in Naples for five years. Their son, Christian J. Olson, and his wife, Kimberly, reside in Pompano Beach, Fla.

1963
Reunion Oct. 3-5
Robert Bomboy, former English department faculty member, is the author of Smart Boys Swimming in the River Styx: A Novel of Love and War.

1979
Daniel J. Cardell, C.F.A., is president and chief investment officer of Wayne Hummer Asset Management, a subsidiary of Wintrust Financial Corporation. Cardell, with 25 years of investment management experience, will lead an expansion of the firm’s investment strategies. In addition to his position at Wintrust Financial Corporation, Cardell teaches finance to MBA candidates at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Cardell and wife Anne Marie (Booth) Cardell ‘79 reside in Palatine, Ill., with their two children.

1985
Sean Connolly was appointed to the board of the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank. Connolly is a public relations consultant and lives in Camp Hill, Pa., with his wife, Beth Ann, and children Colleen and Patrick.

1987
Paul Isaac is enrolled in the master of science program in pastoral care and counseling at Neumann College in Aston, Pa. The program combines psychology, psychiatry, theology and spirituality. He also continues to participate in long-distance races, including marathons, and hopes to qualify for the Boston marathon.

1995
Alexandria (Marchel) Zuranski is a claims assistant for a local Social Security field office. She resides in Albany, Ga., with her husband, Chris.

1996
John E. Schwear Jr. and his wife, Lisa, welcomed their second child, Erica, born on Nov. 16, 2007. She joins a brother, John Eugene III. The family resides in Drums, Pa. John is a vice president with the M&T Bank Business and Professional Banking Group.

1997
Brian P. Morrison is a principal of Cocks, Szpanka and Taylor CPAs accounting firm in Reston, Va. CS&T is ranked among the top certified public accounting firms in the northern Virginia and greater Washington, D.C., metropolitan regions.

ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP DINNER PLANNERS: Members of the planning committee for the annual Alumni Scholarship Dinner were, from left: Rosa Khalife-McCracken ’79, Fred Demech ’61, Andrea Petrasek ’69, Katie Cappelloni ’08, Mirko Widenhorn and Michelle Diskin ’05.
Frappolli is South Jersey’s Winningest Coach

Joe Frappolli’s official title is director of student services at Florence Township Memorial High School. But to most residents of Florence, N.J., he’s better known as simply “Coach.”

Frappolli ’69 has been leading the Florence Flashes high school football team for the past 34 years and is currently South Jersey’s All-Time winningest coach, with an overall record of 236-101-5. He has chalked up 17 championship seasons and twice won four consecutive Freedom Division Championships, including a current streak of seven championships in a row.


The Florence native attributes much of his success as a coach and educator to his experiences at Wilkes. The history major fondly recalls playing on the Colonel football team, where he was part of the “Golden Horde.” That team won four Middle Atlantic Conference championships and had a 30-plus game winning streak.

The former quarterback, receiving back, defensive back and kick returner also played on one of two teams inducted into the Wilkes Athletics Hall of Fame. He was Unsung Player of the Year in 1968.

Upon graduation, Frappolli returned to his hometown to teach history and government for 17 years before becoming a guidance director and later athletic director. He became head football coach in 1974, after earning a master’s degree in student personnel services at Trenton State College.

“...I wanted to teach and coach and help (students) achieve the greatest victory they would ever achieve: what they will do with the rest of their life,” he says. The biggest challenge he and his 12-member coaching staff now face is to “overcome the ‘me-first’ attitude of many young people, and getting them to recognize the importance of ‘team first’ instead.”

Frappolli acknowledges that coaching is not just about knowing how to play a sport. “It’s how you achieve in getting your players to learn what you’ve taught them and then put it to work.” Frappolli feels lucky to be able to put to use some of the same theories and principles learned at Wilkes. “We try to emphasize the fundamental values or pillars of good character.”

– By Shannon Curtin ’07
2000

Nicholas Adler, resident choreographer and theatre instructor for the Conservatory Theatre Department at Wilkes, has accepted a position as the performance manager for Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City. In this new position, Adler will be in charge of managing any one of the three main performance venues, the largest of which seats upward of 1,600 people.

Nelson M. Braslow, M.D., is the executive vice president of medical affairs and chief medical officer of MVP Health Care. He is responsible for leadership of MVP's medical affairs division, including oversight of all clinical staff, medical policies and protocols. MVP Health Care has locations in upstate and central New York, New Hampshire and Vermont.

LeDonne Covers Finance from London

It’s easier to teach a writer how financial markets work than to teach a financial expert to write well. That premise, which launched Gabe LeDonne’s financial reporting career, has now taken the 2005 communications studies and English graduate to London.

LeDonne started his career with financial news service SNL Financial after completing his dual degree. LeDonne worked as a reporter at SNL’s head office in Charlottesville, Va., covering the financial market for two years before he was sent to London, where he currently works as senior industry editor.

His increased responsibilities include getting SNL’s European and Asian news coverage up and running. “While a good bit of my job is still reporting on our coverage universe in Europe and Asia, I’m also working to build contacts and sources here, and trying to establish SNL’s name as a news agency.”

LeDonne has been meeting with executives and trade groups and attending conferences and industry events. Building a division of a company from scratch is a challenge, but LeDonne finds it exciting. “It’s been really fascinating learning about the differences in how companies and markets operate in Europe and Asia. Every country has its own system. Some aspects are quite similar to the U.S., other aspects are drastically different.”

LeDonne enjoys living overseas. “I have always wanted to live abroad – it’s been a longstanding ambition. I really love living in London; it’s a wonderful and culturally diverse city.”

Another perk to living in London is the ability it provides LeDonne to travel. “Since I’ve been here, I’ve visited a few places – Edinburgh, Paris, Athens and the French Riviera – and I have trips coming up later this year to Seoul, South Korea, Stockholm, Munich and Frankfurt.”

LeDonne does miss seeing friends and family, but a few of them have already visited, and many more are planning to do so. He doesn’t know when his job might return to the United States. ”I’m keeping an open mind about it. These last nine months have just flown by, and there are still lots of things I want to do.”

- By Shannon Curtin ’07

His London-based reporting position gives LeDonne, shown here in Monte Carlo, opportunity to travel throughout Europe.
Shakespeare, Chaucer, Reebok, Adidas, Super Bowl. Such was the career path of Eddie White ’80, whose days of studying English at Wilkes led to a career in sports information and marketing — and now talk radio.

The Wilkes-Barre native recently left his full-time position as vice president of team properties and sports marketing for Reebok and Adidas to be a public relations consultant for the brands. Working out of Indianapolis, White oversaw a staff of more than 30 people who serviced teams from the National Football League, National Basketball Association, Women’s National Basketball Association, NBA’s D-League and NFL’s Europa.

White continues to work one-on-one with senior executives of each league, as well as the head coach from every team. The job has taken him to 20 Super Bowls, most of the time concentrating on organizing the pregame show and national anthem.

His work as a sports industry insider opened up a new venture for White. He recently became co-host of an evening sports radio show. He and Indianapolis Star sports columnist Bob Kravitz talk about local and national sports topics on “Kravitz & Eddie” on the ESPN affiliate in Indianapolis.

One of his most recent highlights was covering the Big Ten Men’s Basketball Championships in Indiana and his interview with fellow Wilkes graduate Bo Ryan ’69, head coach of No. 1 seed Wisconsin. They spoke every day during the tourney, and most of the talk on air consisted of memories of Wilkes and the Wyoming Valley. To listen in, go to the station’s web page (1070thefan.com) and click on the Bo Ryan podcast.

His position with Reebok-Adidas takes him all over the country, but White began his career in the sports industry closer to home. Upon graduation, he became sports information director at Wilkes. He then moved to assistant sports information director at Notre Dame.

White also served as director of public relations for the Miami Dolphins, where he was directly involved with designing the press box for Dolphin Stadium. After four years with the Dolphins, White became involved in public relations, advertising and marketing programs for the Logo 7/Logo Athletic apparel company, which was purchased by Reebok. That was later bought by Adidas.

In 2001, White received the Wilkes Alumnus of the Year award. He resides in Carmel, Ind., with his wife and son.

- By Shannon Curtin ’07
Curtin Bags 12-Point Elk

While many Americans were scrambling with last-minute Christmas preparations, Shannon Curtin ’07 and her father, Dennis, traveled cross-country in pursuit of elk.

The pair left Berwick, Pa., Dec. 16 in a Dodge Ram diesel pickup, arriving 32 hours later in Dulce, N.M. Their Apache guide, Eldridge, who also serves as a game warden and conservation officer, took them scouting the night before the hunt. The next morning, the trio struck out at 6:30 a.m. into brushy, open gamelands dusted with snow.

Just before 7:30 a.m., they spotted an elk. Eldridge bolted from the truck and took off running, with Curtin behind him. “My first shot I got off while he was running,” she recalls. “I’m trying to load and run at the same time.” Curtin, who as a high school senior was top shooter in the Eastern Pennsylvania league and second in the state, rested the rifle over Eldridge’s shoulder as she squeezed off her final shot, and the 700-pound elk dropped. Its 12 points — six on each side of the rack — and 32-inch spread make it an average-size animal for that region.

Her dad took his elk the next morning, as daughter slept in. “We were expecting to be out for two or three days,” recalls Curtin, who began shooting at age 4 and hunting at age 12. The next couple days, the pair watched a lot of Discovery channel on television as they waited for the local grocer to butcher, package and freeze the meat. They arrived home about 3 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

Curtin, currently a Wilkes MBA student and graduate assistant in Marketing Communications, commissioned a local jeweler to craft the ivory teeth into a necklace for her mother and earrings for her. But her biggest prize? “Traveling across the country with my dad was a great experience, one I’ll remember for the rest of my life.”

— By Kim Bower-Spence

In Memoriam

1938
Ilaria (Sterniuk) Zubritzky M’76, 88, of McKee Rocks, Pa., died on Dec. 14, 2007. A native of Dearborn, Mich., Zubritzky’s family moved to Wilkes-Barre when she was a toddler. Zubritzky attended Bucknell University Junior College and graduated with a degree in English and French from Bucknell University in 1941. In 1976, she earned a master’s degree in English literature from Wilkes University.

Following her marriage to the late Paul Zubritzky in 1941, the couple moved to McKees Rocks, Pa., where she worked as a substitute teacher for McKees Rocks, Stowe and Sto-Rock school districts. Zubritzky served more than 50 years as a volunteer at Ohio Valley General Hospital, including three terms as president of its Ladies Auxiliary/Ladies Aid Society. In addition, she put in more than 50 years for the Ohio Valley College Club, raising funds for scholarships for Montour and Sto-Rox students, and served as regional vice president and alumni board member for Wilkes University and chaired reunion committees for Bucknell.

Zubritzky is survived by sons Peter and Paul M. Zubritzky, and daughter Hillary.

1942
Wallace F. Perrin of Abington, Pa., died on Oct. 26, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Shirley.

1944
Daniel E. Williams, 83, of Wilkes-Barre and southern New Jersey, died on Jan. 18, 2008. Williams, a retired educator and guidance counselor, was born in Wilkes-Barre and graduated from Meyers High School in 1942. He attended Bucknell Junior College and enlisted in the Navy upon graduation in 1944, where he served as a member of the Navy Medical Corps during World War II.

Following his military service, he returned to Wilkes College under the G.I. Bill and was part of the first group of Wilkes College students to engage in practice teaching in the Wilkes-Barre city schools. He later received a master of science degree in education from Bucknell University and taught social studies in schools in Pennsylvania, Germany and New Jersey.

He retired in 1982 as director of guidance and special services for Blackhorse Pike Regional School District, New Jersey. Williams dedicated his life to preserving and promoting Welsh-American culture and heritage.
He was a lifelong member of the St. David’s Society of Wyoming Valley.

Surviving are several cousins, including Gilbert A. Clark, Forty Fort.

1959

Samuel M. Davenport III, 77, of Kingston, Pa., died on Dec. 11, 2007. Born in Kingston, Davenport was the son of the late Samuel M. Davenport, a long-time trustee and board member at Wilkes University, and Harriet Mensch Davenport. Davenport graduated from Kingston High School in 1948 and completed post-graduate studies at Wyoming Seminary in 1949, later obtaining his bachelor’s degree from Wilkes College and master’s degree from Bucknell University.

Davenport worked as a teacher in the Lake-Lehman School District and was later employed by Wilkes University as the alumni director. He is survived by a brother, Bill Davenport, and a sister, Barbara D. Neville.

1961

John O. Turner, Ph.D., 68, a resident of Shavertown, Pa., and Wilkes-Barre, died on Feb. 15, 2008. Born in Wilkes-Barre, Turner was the son of the late John W. and Elizabeth Oliver Turner. He was a graduate of Coughlin High School and received a bachelor’s degree from Wilkes.

He served as laboratory director of the Kirby Health Center, Wilkes-Barre, and then manager of the Kirby Health Center. He later became chief health officer of the City of Wilkes-Barre, where he remained for 36 years. He received a special commendation as Wilkes University Alumnus of the Year in 1995.

Surviving are his wife; sons Douglas and Gregory; daughter Allyson Burak; sister Joan Turner Brode; a granddaughter; and several nieces and nephews.

1963

Harvey Rosen of Riverdale, N.Y., passed away recently. Rosen, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., completed an economics degree at Wilkes before starting his career at IBM. After traveling with IBM to Alaska, California and New York City, Rosen started his own technology negotiation firm, K&R Negotiation Associates, in 1994.

During his time at Wilkes, Rosen held records for the most free throws made in a game and the best single-season free throw percentage. He is survived by his wife, Alice; sons Matthew and Lonnie; daughter Sarah; sister Martie; and three grandchildren.

1991

Richard McCleve, 59, of Lady Lake, Fla., died on Dec. 18, 2007. Born in Newark, N.J., McCleve spent his younger years playing guitar in a rock band around New York City before working at shoe manufacturer Endicott Johnson Corp. in Binghamton, N.Y. He soon became vice president of the company.

He moved to Orlando in 1992 and served as the manager of retail merchandising at Walt Disney World for several years before accepting an offer from MGM Grand in Las Vegas as vice president of retail development. McCleve also served as the senior vice president of development for the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville before beginning his own consulting firm, R.B. McCleve and Associates, in Orlando, Fla.

He is survived by his ex-wife, Pat McCleve; daughters Heather and Stephanie; mother Edna McCleve; brothers John and Roger; and five grandchildren.

Friends of Wilkes

Friend and long-time benefactor of Wilkes University, Frank H. Hughes, 77, died Thursday, Sept. 20, 2007, in the Hospice Unit at Heritage House, Wilkes-Barre. Born Nov. 27, 1929, in Paterson, N.J., to Frank and Elsie Dick Hughes, he also resided in Ridgewood, N.J., and Bermuda before settling in Kingston. He was a 1947 graduate of Wyoming Seminary and Lafayette College, Class of 1951, and held a master’s degree from Lehigh University in administrative engineering.

Hughes served in the U.S. Army Chemical Engineering Corps from 1953 to 1955.

He worked at Robbins Door and Sash Company of Wilkes-Barre, and from 1971 until his death he was president of Wyoming Valley Motors of Kingston and Larksville. He was a member of the board of directors of the First Eastern Bank, the First Peoples National Bank, the Guard Financial Group and its bank and insurance subsidiaries, and the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority.

He was a member of the Church of Christ Uniting, Kingston, the Westmoreland Club, the Wyoming Valley Country Club and the Huntsville Golf Club.

Hughes loved to travel and enjoyed many summers at Bear Creek Village. He loved golf and was proud of scoring a hole-in-one at the Wyoming Valley Country Club on May 19, 1977.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Jean Robbins Hughes; sons Frank Robbins Hughes of Kingston and William Shonk Hughes of Park City, Utah; daughter Betsy Hughes Phillips of Summit, N.J.; four grandchildren, Andrew and Christina Hughes of Kingston, and Caroline and Leslie Phillips of Summit, N.J.
Trustee Ronald D. Tremayne ’58 passes away in Fla.

Wilkes University lost a dear friend when Trustee Ronald D. Tremayne, 71, of Dallas, Pa., died April 3, 2008, in Fort Myers, Fla.

Tremayne ’58 served as a member of the board of trustees since 1989, and he had also served on the University’s alumni council. The Alumni Association honored him and brother William Tremayne ’57 at its 2006 Alumni Scholarship Dinner Dance for their many years of outstanding service and commitment to the university and community.

“Ron was a long-standing friend of Wilkes who will be greatly missed,” says President Tim Gilmour. “Ron, more than anyone else, focused us on the needs and condition of our students. This legacy will be a lasting one that we will all carry on.”

Adds Jack Miller ’68, chair of the board of trustees:

“Ron was a committed and valued trustee. He was truly a student advocate, serving as vice chair of the Academic and Student Environment Committee.”

Born in Nanticoke, Tremayne attended Nanticoke High School. After graduating from Wilkes College, he became associated with IBM Corp., where he worked as an executive in sales and marketing for nearly 30 years, retiring in 1987.

He and his wife, the former Joyce Fink of Nanticoke, returned to the Wyoming Valley following his retirement. Tremayne served as chairman of the Crippled Children’s Association in Scranton and as chairman of the Boy Scouts Explorers of Central New York. An avid golfer, Tremayne was active with the Irem Golf Association and the Irem Chanters, a men’s choir. He was a member of the Firwood United Methodist Church, Wilkes-Barre, and its choir. He was also a member of the Nanticoke Masonic Lodge. The Tremaynes would have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this year.

In addition to his wife, Tremayne is survived by two daughters, Kathy Menzies, Wilkes-Barre; and Karen Wright, Harleysville, Pa.; four grandchildren; and brother William, Piscataway, N.J., also a Wilkes trustee.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Wilkes University Alumni Scholarship Fund, 84 W. South St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18766.

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