

## First Annual Diversity Awards Honor Achievements

Wilkes recently held its first annual Diversity Awards Ceremony and Banquet to recognize members of the community who work toward making the campus an increasingly inclusive community.

Among those recognized were student diversity ambassadors who have made significant contributions to multicultural programming at Wilkes. The ambassadors assess and publicize events and offer support to campus students.

For their work, the students each received a Kente stole handcrafted with a gold dust pattern, the symbol of honorable achievement, wealth, royalty and spiritual purity. Kente stoles represent African cultural heritage.



Members of the University's Diversity Task Force also received Kente stoles.

Joseph Francisco, professor of physical chemistry at Purdue University, discussed the history of African American chemists.

Above: Giselle Pedraza, Eva Blanco and Dayana Rodriguez, members of Angeles en la Tierra (Angels on Earth), performed at the awards ceremony.

Left: Palak Sutaria, Nitasa Sahu, Frantzydyn Pamphile, Tracy Garcia, Jennifer Jones, Jasmine King, and Valerie Martinez display their Kente stoles.

Not in the photo: Ashish Javia, Krystian Tavarez and Cindy McCoy. PHOTOS BY CURTIS SALONICK

## “Focus the Nation” Highlights Global Warming

Global warming was the hot topic as Wilkes University participated in a national event called “Focus the Nation.”

Wilkes was one of 1,000 schools across the country to participate in the weeklong winter event that included a national teach-in and a webcast of *The 2% Solution*. Last year, Wilkes underscored its commitment to sustainability when President Tim Gilmour signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, which outlines steps Wilkes will take to achieve a higher level of climate neutrality.

As part of the climate change event, Wilkes hosted a green fair with information and exhibits by regional organizations actively engaged in research and education about global warming and reduction of carbon emissions.



A green fair was part of a weeklong series of educational events on global climate change. PHOTO BY SHANNON CURTIN



## Runners Heat Up the Winter

The Running Club raised \$1,500 during its fourth annual Relay for Heat on Saturday, Feb. 23.

That brings the group's four-year total to \$8,500 to help the Commission on Economic Opportunity's Martin Luther King Fuel Fund. Students, faculty, staff and community members participated in the 100-mile relay along the dikes in Kirby Park.

While most Americans spend 5 percent of their income on energy, low-income households spend more than 20 percent. Consequently, many Luzerne County residents seek crisis assistance for heating during the winter months.

Alumnus Fred Gedrich '73, right, joined in the 100-mile relay. Running Club advisor Will Terzaghi is in the center.

PHOTO BY CURTIS SALONICK

## The Write Stuff: Sports Journalist Wins Scholarship

Carlton Holmes, a senior communication studies major from Newark, N.J., won a Freedom Forum-NCAA Sports Journalism Scholarship. The national contest honors only eight students each year and is one of the most competitive of its kind. Through a grant to the NCAA, the Freedom Forum gives \$3,000 scholarships to college juniors planning careers in sports journalism.

Holmes is the first sports journalism student from Wilkes to receive this level of recognition. He is an executive staff member for student radio station WCLH-FM 90.7 and sports editor of *The Beacon*.

In 2006, Holmes won the College and University Public Relations Association of Pennsylvania Communications Internship Award for Students of Color, a competitive scholarship to be used for an internship of the student's choosing. That award allowed Holmes to intern with WBRE-TV, the local NBC television news affiliate.

In addition to his internship at WBRE, Holmes was one of only two sports interns at New Jersey's *Star-Ledger* daily newspaper. Holmes served as a summer sports reporter, interviewing athletes and covering the National Basketball Association draft.

As a Freedom Forum-NCAA Sports Journalism Scholarship winner, Holmes joins the ranks of students from universities such as Yale, Columbia and Penn State. To be eligible for the scholarship, students must enter their senior year during the 2008-09 academic year with a major in journalism or sports journalism, or they must have campus sports journalism experience.

Andrea Frantz, associate professor of communication studies, nominated Holmes for this scholarship and provided a faculty recommendation. "I have been impressed over and over again by what this young man has to offer the field. I can think of no student with whom I have worked who is more deserving."



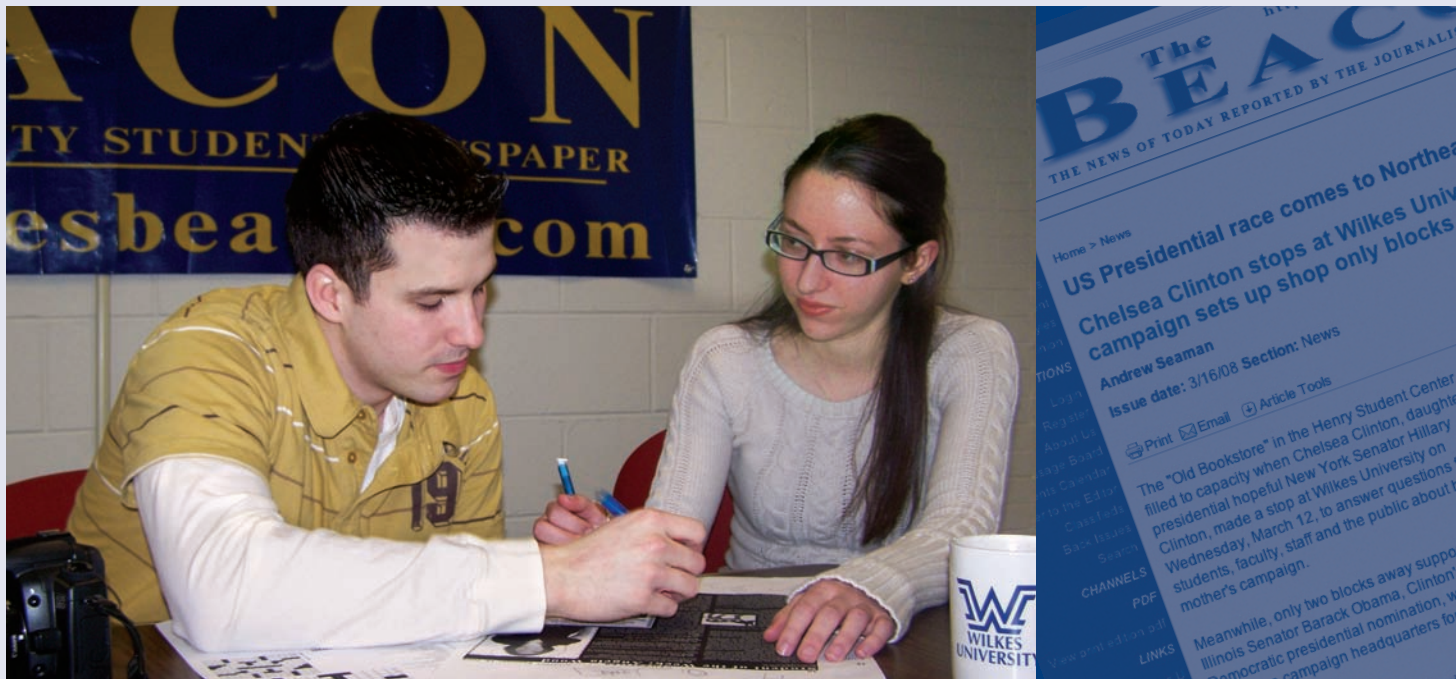
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- Andrea Frantz

Carlton Holmes covers action on the court as sports editor for *The Beacon*. The aspiring sports journalist was recently named one of eight students from across the country to receive the Freedom Forum-NCAA Sports Journalism Scholarship.

PHOTO BY GINO TROIANI

## Beacon Staff Wins Honors



Student journalist Jamie Gwynn, left, took first place for news photo at the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association Keystone Collegiate Press Awards luncheon in March. Christa Sgobba, right, took second place for personality profile. PHOTO BY CARA KOSTER

## Pharmacy Students Win Statewide Competition

Pharmacy students in the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy recently won a state competition that tests knowledge of over-the-counter and self-care treatment options.

The Self-Care Championship was held at the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association Midyear Meeting in Camp Hill, Pa., from Feb. 8 to 10. More than 130 students, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians attended.

Student teams from Pennsylvania's six pharmacy schools competed in the Jeopardy-like competition. The Wilkes team of professional pharmacy students Todd Weibel, third-year; Melissa Sweigart, fourth-year; and Shannon Carr, fourth-year, beat teams of pharmacy students from Temple, University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, University of Pittsburgh, Duquesne and Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine. The winning Wilkes team received a traveling trophy and monetary award.

The Self-Care Championship is endowed by Proctor & Gamble and jointly supported by the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations



Professional pharmacy students, from left, Melissa Sweigart, Todd Weibel and Shannon Carr competed in a Jeopardy-style contest. COURTESY OF PENNSYLVANIA PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION

and the Nonprescription Medicines Academy.

Pennsylvania is one of 16 states participating in the NASPA/NMA Student Pharmacist Self-Care Championship.

## Environmental Engineering Goes Green With Infrared

For many area businesses, going green just became easier.

Wilkes' environmental engineering department recently purchased thermal imaging cameras and other monitoring equipment to conduct energy audits. The department offers the audits and can help develop environmental management systems for clients of the University's Small Business Development Center. The infrared cameras assess temperature variations caused by building cracks, heat loss and moisture.

Marleen Troy, chair of environmental engineering and earth sciences, says students who develop skills in energy conservation will be well-served when they enter the job market. The cameras, a \$20,000 investment, are also used

by the Division of Engineering and Physics for research and classroom demonstrations.

Funds for the equipment came from a Pennsylvania engineering education grant with matching support from alumni.



Marleen Troy and John Luff, a junior environmental engineering major, test a thermal imaging camera.

PHOTO BY SHANNON CURTIN

## READERS RESPOND

Thanks to everyone who took time to complete the *Wilkes* magazine online readership survey.

According to those who participated, you're most interested in articles profiling successful alumni. Next in line come campus improvements, new academic programs, student achievements, social issues, faculty achievements and athletics, respectively.

Some other highlights:

- An article featuring memories of Dean George Ralston was most memorable, hands-down.
- Eighty-nine percent of readers responding report at least scanning the annual Report of Gifts.

- Sixty-seven percent prefer to submit Class Notes via e-mail (which you can now do by e-mailing wilkesmagazine@wilkes.edu).
- Comparing 2007 and 2006 surveys, the redesigned magazine reaped large gains in the number of alumni rating it "good" or "excellent."

Photography ranked highest in satisfaction, with 89 percent of respondents rating it "good" or "excellent"; writing and design both came in at 85 percent.



We e-mailed nearly 7,000 alumni, with 464 completing the online survey. We're listening to your input and working hard to make this magazine a must-read. If you have an idea for an article or would like to comment on any of our content, please e-mail wilkesmagazine@wilkes.edu, or write to Editor, *Wilkes* Magazine, 84 W. South St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18766.

