Wilkes Students Earn National Honors

Two Wilkes students were awarded national honors in summer 2009, showcasing the University’s ability to prepare its students to excel in their fields.

Wilkes integrative media graduate Chelsey Gosse ’09 of Allentown, Pa., received a gold award at the June Promax/BDA conference in New York City for her print design “Clogged Cranium.” The event, held annually, bills itself as “the largest entertainment, marketing, promotion, and design event” in the world. Her fellow 2009 Wilkes integrative media graduates served as interns at the event. They were accompanied by Eric Ruggiero, director of the integrative media program at Wilkes.

Andrew Seaman, a senior communications studies major from Forest City, Pa., was the winner of the Robert D.G. Lewis First Amendment Award from the Society of Professional Journalists. The award honors a student SPJ member who has demonstrated outstanding service to the First Amendment through the field of journalism. Seaman organized an essay contest that reached thousands of Wilkes-Barre area high school students and presented two workshops with former Wilkes professor Andrea Frantz at the College Media Advisers Convention in New York City.

Seaman is currently working with the Student Press Law Center to help coordinate a First Amendment agreement that would allow college students to report on matters without fear of school censorship. Seaman spent the fall 2009 semester interning with USA Today in Washington, D.C.

National Science Foundation Grant Will Encourage Minority Participation in Graduate Study

An undergraduate research and mentoring program will be established at Wilkes under a $700,000 grant awarded to the biology department by the National Science Foundation. The program, to be directed by biology professor William Terzaghi, builds on the mentoring experience that is a hallmark of a Wilkes education by pairing students with faculty on year-round research projects. The program’s goal is to increase the number of under-represented minority students who pursue graduate study in biology. A cohort of four students will be recruited in each of the first four years of the grant.

Grant funding will be used to support each of the participants for two years. Over a five-year period, 16 students will participate in the program. The program launches in summer 2010.

Participants will be recruited from current Wilkes undergraduates and through partnerships with Luzerne County Community College, the Community College of Philadelphia and Gloucester County Community College in New Jersey. Those selected will enter the program in the summer after their sophomore year and join teams of undergraduate students working on year-round research projects mentored by eight participating Wilkes faculty.

Participants will follow individual study programs designed to foster success in graduate school. Students will develop oral and written communication skills and will learn interpretation and analysis of primary literature, experimental design and data analysis. Preparation for the Graduate Record Exam will also be included. The biology department will work with the Center for Global Education and Diversity to provide academic and co-curricular mentoring.
The Outstanding Leaders Forum featuring Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel was to take place on Nov. 17—after Wilkes magazine went to press. Wiesel, famed for humanitarian work, is the author of *Night*, his acclaimed book about his experiences surviving the Holocaust. Read about this event online, with photos, a story and video and audio clips of Wiesel’s presentation. Visit www.wilkes.edu/OLF.

Poetry in Transit Begins Third Year

Poetry in Transit, the project that brings classic and original poetry to bus riders in Luzerne County, Pa., launched its third year in August. Poetry in Transit was started in 2007 by Michelle Anthony, Wilkes University associate professor of English, who continues to coordinate the program. Thirty-three new placards showcase the work of 26 northeast Pennsylvania poets. Their work is featured on bus placards highlighted with original artwork and photography designed by Mark Golaszewski, a former Wilkes University employee. The poems are seen in the space usually reserved for advertising. Among the writers are Wilkes employees and students and alumni from the graduate creative writing program. Pictured above is the work of Amy Kaspriski, a student in the graduate creative writing program.