THE LEGEND CONTINUES

Above: Former residents of Weckesser Hall caught up on old times. From left, Shirley (Guiles) Shannon ’72, Linda Bowers ’69, Gina White ’70, and Marjorie (Schaffer) Victor ’69. Back right, Dolores (Draganchuk) Sheppard ’71. All photos by Michael P. Touey

Below: The Class of 1959 achieved Golden Colonel status as they marked their 50th reunion. Members of the class attending reunion are, from left, Thomas Sable, Charles Butler, Reggie “Matt” Mattioli, Robert “Wayne” Walters, Carl Juris, Robert Thomas, J. Rodger Lewis, Robert Payne, Helen (Miller) Burke, Donald Devans, Janice (Reynolds) Longo, Frederick Hills.

Above: “Sangy’s Girls” from Bucknell University Junior College gathered for lunch with Tim and Patty Gilmour. Standing, from left, Charlotte Cutler ’42, Jean Iba ’45. Seated, from left, Lillian Mayka ’38 and Marion Frantz ’39.
Above: members of ROTC lead off the Homecoming parade.

Left: Al Groh ‘41, accompanied by wife Jane Lampe Groh, was honored at the Ancestral and Golden Colonels breakfast with a tribute plaque for his contributions to Wilkes.

Above left: Two Wilkes University students get in the spirit of Homecoming festivities.

Above, right: Marking the tenth anniversary of the first pharmacy class are back from left, Ron Davis Pharm.D. ’02, David Wolovich ’00; Front (left to right): Misty (Weidner) Davis Pharm.D. ’04, Rachel (Hammond) Wolovich Pharm.D. ’04.

Right: Maura Casey Pharm.D. ’00, a member of the first pharmacy graduating class.

Above right: Members of the Nursing Students Organization in the Homecoming parade.

Left: It was time for fun at the tailgate tent for, from left, Tom Rooney ’84, Ruth McDermott-Levy ’82, Ali Qureshi ’96, JJ Fadden ’98, and Roya Fahmy ’83.
The Alumni Association has launched a pilot mentoring program with students majoring in communication studies or psychology. This semester, around 40 Wilkes students are being matched with alumni mentors. The goal of the program is to provide students with another resource during their student career that will be beneficial in helping them to network, and also provide advice on research projects and possible internships. The program benefits from one of Wilkes’ greatest assets, which is the expertise and success of its graduates in a broad range of fields. It is of immense value to our students to bring that expertise on campus in the form of student mentoring.

The mentoring committee, one of the nine Alumni Board committees, has been working with both programs for nearly a year. Communication studies and psychology alumni were contacted this summer to see if they would serve as a mentor to a current student. According to Allyn Jones ’60, chair of the mentoring committee, “The response was overwhelming. Over 100 alumni expressed interest in mentoring a current student. Given this response, the Alumni Association is looking forward to expanding the program in the coming years to accommodate more alumni mentors.”

Debbie Tindell, associate professor of psychology and coordinator of the psychology mentoring program, adds, “This program provides exciting opportunities for our current students to make connections with those who have the experience and knowledge to guide them. This provides a unique advantage to our students, giving them access to advice and guidance beyond what they can receive from faculty. I believe this will not only be advantageous for our current students, but should also be a rewarding experience for the alumni mentors.”

For more information on the mentoring program, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (570) 408-7787 or at alumni@wilkes.edu.

Bridget E. Giunta ’05 Joins Alumni Relations Office

Bridget E. Giunta ’05, a communication studies graduate, has joined the Office of Alumni Relations as associate director. She was previously a member of the Wilkes Alumni Association board of directors, Undergraduate Alumni Relations Committee chair, and secretary of the alumni board. Giunta “looks forward to working more closely with current students and recent graduates to keep them connected to Wilkes.”

Her work with undergraduate students includes the development of the Connecting the Dots career exploration program.

Prior to joining the Alumni Relations staff, Giunta served as the administrative coordinator for the City of Wilkes-Barre, where she was responsible for the public relations and media coordination of all city departments. She was also responsible for planning events, including the annual Downtown College Town Party on the Square event. Giunta is a member of the 2008 class of Leadership Wilkes-Barre and is a member of Without Walls Dance Co.

First Events for Recent Alumni Held

Recent Wilkes alumni, which include graduates of the last 15 years, enjoyed their first event on Aug. 20 at Bar Louie at Mohegan Sun in Wilkes-Barre. They had a chance to get together, compare notes and network, while enjoying food and fun. At Homecoming, the Recent Alumni Party capped off Saturday’s activities. For ’04 and ’99 graduates, it was the opportunity to celebrate their five- and 10-year reunions. The undergraduate relations committee of the Alumni Board is planning more events for recent alumni throughout northeastern Pennsylvania, so be on the lookout for the next event.

The recent alumni party was held for the first time at Homecoming 2009. Catching up on the good times at Wilkes are, seated, from left, Kelly Marion ’05 and Sara Toole ’06; Standing left to right, Sharon Granahan ’05, Bernadette Rabel ’05, Elena Archer ’05, Eddie Seber, Jennifer Trate ’06, Ed Buck ’08, Katie Morton ’05.