

2010 Undergraduate Student Update

Vice President's Welcome Back

Dear Returning Student:

With each passing day of August the campus is more and more ready for the start of classes on Monday, the 30th. When you return around 650 new full time students will join you this fall at Wilkes.

I am happy to report that on June 24, 2010, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) voted to reaffirm Wilkes University's accreditation through 2020. This is a confirmation that Wilkes has met all 14 accreditation standards as stated in the Middle States publication, "The Characteristics of Excellence". In the exit report written by the visiting team from colleges and universities all over the Middle Atlantic region, the team wrote, "Wilkes University is providing a quality education to its students on the local campus as well as around the globe." The team goes on to say, "Wilkes is to be commended for its undergraduate student mentoring initiatives which are perceived to be very successful by students." And, they close with, "The Team is of the mind it has visited a strong quality institution." For more information about Middle States and the Wilkes Self Study process, please visit <http://course.wilkes.edu/msa/>.

Upon your return we hope you can take the time to travel across the river to the Ralston Field Athletic Complex to view the upgrades being completed during the next few weeks. An artificial playing surface and lights have been installed at the former football game field. High demand has spurred these much-needed renovations to transform a single-sport field to one that will accommodate five intercollegiate sports -- football, women's lacrosse, women's hockey and men's and women's soccer -- and the men's club lacrosse team. The field will also be used for intramurals. This summer the University is completing the first of three phases to the project. A new bleacher system and a new building at the field entrance that will house concessions and comfort facilities.

We look forward to welcoming you back to campus and extend our very best wishes for a great fall semester. Should you have any questions, we hope you will free to contact me by dialing (570) 408-4114.

Sincerely,

Paul S. Adams
Vice President, Student Affairs

Residence Halls

There will be close to 825 students living in residence halls for the upcoming year. We have acquired a few more apartments at University Towers, bringing the total to 330 residents. The majority of first year students will reside in Roth, Evans or other traditional style houses to better serve the needs of that population.

Justin Astrin has been named resident director for University Towers. A graduate of Kings College, Justin is pursuing his MBA at Wilkes.

There will be three learning communities offered to first year students. One is leadership based, another focuses on foundations in diversity, and the third works with students on sustainable living.

- **Move-In for Resident Students**

Move-in for returning resident students is contingent upon where they are placed. Students residing in University Towers will pick up their keys on the first floor of their building. As for the other residence halls, rather than reporting directly to the assigned building, students should pick up their keys at the Office of Residence Life, Passan Hall 3rd floor. Passan Hall is located at 267 South Franklin Street (directly across from the Marts Gymnasium).

Optional move-in for first year resident students will be on Thursday, August 26th from 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Check-in for all the transfer students and the remaining first year students will be on Friday, August 27th from 8:00 AM until Noon. Students should pick up their keys from the Information Desk located on the first floor of the Henry Student Center.

Please note that the first available meal for returning student this fall will be lunch on August 26th.

Wilkes Emergency Contact System

In an ongoing effort to rapidly deploy accurate information to campus in emergency or urgent situations, Wilkes uses a text message alert service called *e2Campus*, a leading self-service, web-based, mass notification network that empowers schools to reach thousands of people anywhere, at anytime.

The university asks all new faculty, staff and students to **register** their cell phone numbers for text message alerts for the e2Campus service.

Please register your cell phone number at <http://wilkes.edu/pages/2611.asp>. When registering, you must have your cell phone number with you to receive the text message validation code necessary to complete registration.

University College—“The Center for Student Success!”

Here are some important things happening this fall at University College, *The Center for Student Success*:

Tutoring

If you want to do well in class, take advantage of peer tutoring. You can sign up directly for a tutor at <http://tutortrac.wilkes.edu/TutorTrac/> for many classes. For more information on tutoring, contact Albie Prado (alberto.prado@wilkes.edu).

Study Skills Workshops

University College will be presenting a series of study skills workshops throughout the first six weeks of the semester. These interactive workshops are designed to teach students how to better manage academic demands and become a stronger student. The topics that will be covered include an introduction to academic success, strategic time/task management, goal setting and motivation, note-taking, preparing for and taking exams, and relaxation and test anxiety.

In addition to the group workshops, students can make an individual appointment with Katy Betnar (katy.betnar@wilkes.edu), learning specialist, to identify and develop appropriate strategies to improve their learning.

Major/Minor Fair

Not sure about your major? Reconsidering the one you chose? Come check out the Major/Minor Fair on October 19th from 11-1 in the Ballroom. Every department on campus will be available so you can find out more about a particular major or minor.

Disability Support Services

If you have a documented disability and are in need of academic accommodations, please contact Sandra Rendina (sandra.rendina@wilkes.edu), coordinator of Disability Support Services (DSS). The DSS office is located in Conyngham Hall, Room 311. The documentation guidelines and related information can be found at <http://www.wilkes.edu/pages/2222.asp>.

Early Alert

The Faculty have the opportunity to share with you any concerns they have about how you are performing starting the third week of classes. This comes in the form of an “Early Alert” message. You will receive an email with the professor’s concerns, and a copy will also be sent to your advisor and University College. Expect to hear from us so we can help you do better!

Your Advisor

It is important to visit your advisor’s office in the first few weeks of school to help you reconnect after the summer break. What to talk about? Update your advisor on your summer break. Did you hold an internship? Did you have a job related to your major? Tell them how classes are going. You can re-establish your relationship, which is important as your Advisor will guide you through your college curriculum.

Important Dates

September 3rd—last day to add a new class

October 19th—Major/Minor Fair, 11-1 in the Ballroom

November 5th—last day to drop a class

Center for Global Education and Diversity

The GEDI staff invites all students to visit the Center and to participate in the cultural and international activities sponsored by the GEDI Center. We especially invite you to participate in these activities which are already scheduled in the Fall, and to look for others advertized in today@wilkes:

- **Study Abroad** continues to generate great interest among many students and we invite students who are interested in studying abroad to come in and discuss their interests with us and explore various destinations and financing options. This year many students are travelling to Australia and Europe while others are exploring opportunities in other parts of the world. For more information, come to our **study abroad fair** which will be advertized in today@wilkes or **contact Dr. Fonjweng at godlove.fonjweng@wilkes.edu or at X2065**. Also check out the study abroad website at (<http://www.wilkes.edu/pages/2945.asp>) and keep in mind that the study abroad application process takes 3 to 6 months.
- The Office of Diversity Initiatives will host a **First Year Networking Event** to welcome diverse freshman and transfer students to campus. Join us on August 30 from 5:30pm to 7pm in Savitz Lounge for hors d'oeuvres and refreshments.
- The **Global Coffee Hour** is held every Wednesday from 3PM - 5PM in the Savitz Multicultural Lounge (second floor of the Henry Student Center). This is an informal way for American and international students from various parts of the world to meet and learn about various world cultures. We sometimes have presentations and as the name suggests we always have coffee, as well as other refreshments. For more information, contact Georgia Costalas, email: **Georgia.costalas@wilkes.edu or at x7854**
- **Global Partners** is an opportunity for Wilkes students to pair off with an international student. Global Partners meet once in a while for coffee, to have a meal together or to attend a Wilkes event, or they may meet regularly, perhaps to learn each other's language. For more information or to sign up to receive event e-mails contact Georgia Costalas, email: **Georgia.costalas@wilkes.edu or at x7854**

Off Campus Students

If they haven't already done so, students residing off campus (in apartments, not at home) are asked to provide their off campus address and telephone number to Dean Barbara King at the Office of Students Affairs (barbara.king@wilkes.edu or 408-4107). This does

not substitute for the Wilkes Emergency Contact System or vice versa. A meeting for all Off-Campus students will be held on Tuesday, September 2, at 11:00 am, in the Ballroom. Your rights and responsibilities as an apartment dweller will be covered.

Required Health Insurance

Like last year, in an effort to ensure all students are adequately covered by medical insurance, the University requires proof of coverage from all full time students. If students are unable to obtain medical coverage through other means they will be required to participate in the University's Student Accident and Illness Insurance Program (provided through a third-party contract). An annual premium of \$577 will be charged directly to the students' accounts. The University is requiring all students to enroll or waive on-line at www.niagaranational.com. The full plan brochure, program features, and claims forms are also available at this link. Students who do not waive by September 30, 2010 deadline, will not have an opportunity to waive coverage and the annual cost after this deadline. International students without health insurance coverage may enroll in this program.

Parking Permit Information for Fall

All Spring 2010 parking permits expired on May 31, 2010. Students may pick up parking permits at anytime in Public Safety.

Payment, via student account debit, for parking permits must be made at the distribution location when picking up the permit. Staff at the Student Services desk in UCOM cannot accept parking permit payments.

Parking enforcement (outside of handicapped and flagrant violations, e.g. parking on sidewalks) will be suspended from Monday, August 29th, through Sunday, September 5th. Approved Resident and Commuter students have until Sunday, September 5th, at 6:00 p.m. to pick-up their parking permits.

Any individual with past due parking tickets will have to make restitution prior to receiving any new parking permit. Per the current University Parking Policy, tickets may only be challenged through appeal to the Traffic Council.

Ralston Field (First Come, First Served):

Sunday, August 29 th	3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.	Marts 213
Monday, August 30 th	8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.	Public Safety Office
Tuesday, August 31 st	8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.	Public Safety Office
Wednesday, September 1 st	8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.	Public Safety Office
Thursday, September 2 nd	8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.	Public Safety Office
Friday, September 3 rd	8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.	Public Safety Office

New Staff and Faculty for 2010

Jessica Ashford	Pharmacy Resident	Pharmacy Practice
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Danielle Shannon	Pharmacy Resident	Pharmacy Practice
Caroline Maurer	Chair/Associate Professor	Education
Salvatore J. Agosta	HHMI Postdoctoral Fellow	Biology
Xiaoli Zhang	Assistant Professor	Mechanical Engineering
Loran Lewis	Assistant Professor	Communication Studies
Linda A. Winkler	Dean/Professor	College of AHSS
Dana Burnside	Director of Teaching Commons/Assistant Professor	Education
Todd Peachey	Professor, Air & Space Studies	
Hiro Ababon	Assistant Professor, Air & Space Studies	
David Everitte	Assistant Professor, Air and Space Studies	
Kurt Eisele	Visiting Asst. Prof. Education	
Sara Pisarchick-Rech	Assistant Professor	Integrative Media Arts

Student Leaders for 2010

- Ben Beidel – Student Government President
- Peter Melle – Off Campus Council President
- Christina D’Ippolito – IRHC President
- Cortny Sasserson – Commuter Council President
- Christina Filipkowski - Student Government Vice President
- June Lor - Student Government Recording Secretary
- William Eggleston - Student Government Treasurer
- Kevin Hopper - Student Government Corresponding Secretary
- Nicholas Hartranft -Student Government Parliamentarian
- Jeffrey Simpson – Programming Board Chair

Offices Open on Sunday, August 29th

On Sunday, August 29th, the Student Service Center at UCOM, Residence Life and Student Affairs will be open from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM. The Barnes and Noble Bookstore will be open from 10:00 AM to 11:00 PM on Saturday and from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Sunday.

Upcoming Campus Events

- Club Day, Campus Greenway, Sept 9
- Party on the Square, Sept 22nd
- Comedian, Kevin Hart, Sept 30th at 9:00 pm in Marts Gymnasium
- Homecoming, Oct 1-3
- Family Day, Oct 30th
 - Intern fair, Oct 21st Student Center Ballroom
 - Casino Night , Nov 12th

Student Development Trips

- Hiking Trip, Sept 2nd
- Kayaking Trip, Sept 11th
- Philadelphia Zoo, Sept 12th
- Phillies vs. Mets Game Sept 24th
- Urban Bike Tour (NYC), Sept 25th
- Great Adventure, Oct 9th
- Hickory Run State Park – Boulder Hike and Disc Golf, Oct 19th
- Jim Thorpe Fall Trip (Bike riding), Oct 23rd
- Terror Behind the Walls, Philadelphia, PA, Oct 29th
- Paintball, Oct 31st
- The Bodies Exhibit, Nov 6th
- Appalachian Hiking Trip, Nov 13
- Scranton Cultural Center, Legally Blond, Nov 30th
- New York City Show, Dec 4th

Fall Leadership Programs

- The **Step Up Rock Wall and Ropes Course** offers experiential learning experiences to Wilkes University students, faculty, staff and local high school students. There are a wide variety of programs that focus on teamwork, communication, goal setting, problem solving, conflict resolution, trust building, group bonding, leadership, mentoring as well as individual and cultural similarities/differences. The course is a great tool that fosters personal and professional development and is available by appointment.
- **Intercollegiate Leadership Wilkes-Barre** is a competitive seven-month program designed to assemble a diverse group of college student leaders to develop new leadership skills, to discuss campus issues and to explore economic, social, cultural and political trends in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Students are chosen from participating colleges and universities including

Keystone College, King's College, Luzerne County Community College, Misericordia University, Penn State Wilkes-Barre, and Wilkes University. Applications are available at the Information Desk and will be accepted until Friday, September 4th.

- **Passport to Leadership** is a multi-faceted program designed for students to learn about the diverse aspects of leadership from professionals in a variety of disciplines. The program is built around informative training sessions and online leadership assessments designed to give students the skills needed to resolve common challenges they may face in a leadership, academic or professional role. For more information on how to participate email studentdev@wilkes.edu

- **The National Society of Leadership and Success** (Sigma Alpha Pi) is a national honor society that provides students with leadership training and certification through various workshops, speakers, and collaborative projects. Membership in the society includes access to online job banks, custom letters of recommendation, scholarships and awards. The program is recommended for everyone, as you have until the fall semester of your senior year to complete the requirements, which include:
 - Attendance at three speaker sessions (seven offered yearly)
 - Completion of three Success Networking Team meetings
 - Completion of one Leadership Training Day*Please note that there is a one time, lifetime membership fee of \$75, which must be paid before you can become a member.

- **Alternative Spring Break (ASB)** is an opportunity for students to travel domestically as well as abroad to perform community service during spring break. Participating in ASB helps others and gives students an opportunity to learn more about themselves and their peers. Six months prior to departure, ASB participants must attend weekly meetings and dinners to plan major fundraisers and build a strong, supportive team. Applications are available at www.wilkes.edu/communityservice and are due by 4 p.m. on September 24th.

- **Leadership Assessments** are available to help students determine their leadership strengths and weaknesses. The test takes approximately twenty to thirty minutes to complete and is available online.

For more details on any of the aforementioned programs, please contact studentdev@wilkes.edu

“Animals and Pets at the Ralston Field Complex” policy adopted.

This summer the University adopted the policy listed below for animals and pets at the Ralston Field Complex. Please refer any questions to Public Safety or the Department of Athletics. The policy will be enforced with the start of the 2010 Fall Semester.

Policy on Animals at the Ralston Field Athletic Complex

Wilkes University is concerned with providing a welcoming environment for everyone who visits the Ralston Field Athletic Complex. To protect the health and safety of our community members, animals not aiding individuals with disabilities are prohibited from the Ralston Field Athletic Complex (including Artillery Park). Individuals, who bring animals to the Ralston Field Complex in violation of this policy, even when the animal is restrained, will be required to remove the animal from campus immediately.

Damage to property that is the direct result of a pet or animal will be the sole responsibility of the owner of the animal.

To report a violation of this policy, notify the Office of Public Safety at 408-4999.

Required Notifications

Please note that, consistent with federal legislation, information pertaining to graduation and persistence rates, campus crime statistics, as well as policies and regulations pertaining to these matters, are available at the Office of Admissions, the Registrar's Office, the Office of Student Affairs and the Athletics Director's Office.