Dear Returning Student:

With the start of Wilkes’ 84th fall semester, we will be welcoming to campus the second largest first-year class in our history. This large incoming class has helped to create our largest ever on campus residential population. Close to 1100 students will reside on campus this fall.

Your return to campus will find us applying the finishing touches to the Campus Gateway Project that will link South Main Street with the Fenner Quadrangle. And, the Marts Center lobby has received a “make-over featuring a new paint scheme, new video monitors and logos. Aramark has replaced Sodexo as our campus food service and has been busy creating new food venues in the Stark Learning Center and at the Rifkin Café. The University is opening Barre Hall as a residence hall for the first time in almost a decade to house our new undergraduate honors program. In addition, our IT infrastructure has been enhanced, creating increased bandwidth and more wireless access points across the campus.

The University is delighted to welcome to campus three new academic deans. Dr. William Hudson is the new Dean of the College of Science and Engineering. Dr. Paul Riggs is the new Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. And, Dr. Rhonda Rabbitt is the new Dean of the School of Education. Their arrival this summer adds to our anticipation for the start of the new academic year.

All of these changes make for an exciting start to the fall semester. Please take a few minutes to read through the following material that will help you prepare for the upcoming academic year. Should you have any questions and you are unclear about whom to contact, please be in touch with the Office of Student Affairs at Passan Hall (267 South Franklin Street, 570.408.4100).

Please feel free to share this update with your families and let them know that our annual Family Weekend is scheduled for October 24/25.

We look forward to seeing you soon and extend our very best wishes for a great fall semester. Should you have any questions with which I can help, please call me by dialing 570.408.4114.

Sincerely,

Paul S Adams
Vice President, Student Affairs
Wilkes Public Safety Continues to Improve and Enhance Visibility and Communication on Campus

Under the leadership of the new Director of Public Safety, Chief Chris Jagoe, The Department of Public Safety increased the number of certified police offices to 13 to bring the total number of Public Safety Officers to 21.

In addition to fully staffing our parking enforcement function, The Department of Public Safety will have building security officers staffing Evans Hall and the Towers during the evening and late night hours of the semester. These officers will enhance our overall high visibility and protection for the campus and our higher capacity residence halls.

The Communications Center is now fully staffed with 6 Communications Officers. These employees will manage all calls for service coming into Public Safety and maintain the necessary communication for our officers on patrol as well as refer calls to other emergency services. Additionally, our Communication Officers will monitor the CCTV cameras located throughout campus to help provide enhanced security coverage for the Wilkes Community.

Residence Halls

There will be close to 1,090 students living in residence halls for the upcoming year. Newly renovated Barre Hall is reopening as the Honors Residence Hall housing thirty students.

Stephen Enders has been named resident director for Evans Hall and Kevin Abraham has been named resident director of University Towers.

• Move-In for Resident Students
  Move-in for returning resident students is contingent upon where they are placed. For detailed move in information please visit, www.wilkes.edu/moveinday.

  Move in for first year resident students will be on Friday, August 28th from 6:00 AM until 12:00 PM. 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 students this fall will be lunch on August 28th.

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 any time. 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://www.wilkes.edu/emt. When registering, you must have your cell phone with you to receive the text message validation code necessary to complete registration. Please know that you may also add a second phone number if you wish for a family member to be aware of text alert notifications.

**New Library Website**

Farley Library is pleased to announce that our website transition is now complete. The library homepage is still located at www.wilkes.edu/library, but the urls for many of our other pages have changed. If you attempt to access a library webpage and receive an error message, please visit the library homepage and use the links listed there.

If you need help working with the new website, all of our reference librarians (ask.librarian@wilkes.edu, ext. 3215) are happy to assist you.

**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 get ahead in a class, take advantage of our peer tutoring. You can sign up directly for a tutor at http://tutortrac.wilkes.edu/TutorTrac/Default.html for many classes. For more information on tutoring, contact Dr. Alberto 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 (dates/location TBA). These interactive workshops are designed to teach students how to better manage academic demands and become stronger students. The topics to 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 Ms. Katy Betnar (katy.betnar@wilkes.edu), Director of University College Learning Center, to identify and develop appropriate strategies to improve their learning.

**Disability Support Services**
If you have a documented disability and are in need of academic accommodations, please contact Ms. Katy Betnar (katy.betnar@wilkes.edu). The Disability Support Services is located in Conygham Hall, Room 215. The documentation guidelines and related information can be found at http://wilkes.edu/academics/colleges/university-college/disability-support-services-dss/.
**Early Alert**
Your professors have the opportunity to share any concerns they have about how you are performing in their class starting the third week of the semester. 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 improve!

**Your Advisor**
It is important to visit your advisor’s office in the first few weeks of school to re-connect after the summer break. You will want to keep your advisor informed of anything that may affect your educational plan. You will also want to be sure your advisor knows about your progress or any difficulties you are facing. You should re-establish your relationship which is important as your Advisor will guide you through your college curriculum.

**GPA Adjustment Policy Reminder**

Two years ago a new policy went into effect that may help students who change their major. The GPA Adjustment Policy is a policy and procedure for a student to request removal of substandard grades in majors/programs for which they are clearly not suited. Removing grades of less than 2.0 may help the student gain confidence in his/her academic ability, choose another academic career path, increase their GPA to be removed from Academic Probation or Ineligibility, and, possibly, reinstate financial aid. This action will only be permitted if the student agrees to the specific conditions. The complete policy and procedure and the form are available from the Registrar in the Student Services Center. The student MUST change majors/programs. This can include changing between declared majors/programs, changing from declared majors/programs to “undeclared”, or changing from “undeclared” to declared majors/programs. The student MUST receive permission from the Department Chair of the new major to invoke this policy or the Executive Director of University College if switching to undeclared. The Chairperson of the Department into which the student desires to transfer has the decision-making authority to accept the new change of major. If the Chairperson of the Department refuses to accept the student, or if the student decides upon “undeclared,” the student may contact University College personnel and request a change to “undeclared” status. The student may initiate the GPA Adjustment Policy anytime during his/her current academic career. A returning student may apply the Policy to previously completed courses with no time limit. The student may only apply a maximum of 18 credit hours of courses to the GPA Adjustment Policy during his/her academic career at Wilkes. The student must follow the Director of Financial Aid’s Federal Guidelines regarding the maximum number of acceptable credits earned each academic year and minimum GPA. This implies that the Policy may be applied more than once during his/her academic career at Wilkes as long as the student follows the Federal Guidelines and change majors/programs a second time.
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 Center. There are activities already scheduled for the fall and look for others advertised in today@wilkes:

- **Study Abroad** is life changing but requires planning to take place. We invite students who are interested in studying abroad to come in and discuss their interests and explore different opportunities and financing options. We now have study abroad destinations in various parts of the world including Europe, Asia, Africa, Central and South America and Australia. For more information about specific programs, come to our [study abroad information sessions](http://wilkes.edu/about-wilkes/centers-and-institutes/center-for-global-education-and-diversity/index.aspx), which will be advertised in today@wilkes or contact Erica Acosta at erica.acosta@wilkes.edu or at X7856. Also check out the study abroad website at [http://wilkes.edu/about-wilkes/centers-and-institutes/center-for-global-education-and-diversity/index.aspx](http://wilkes.edu/about-wilkes/centers-and-institutes/center-for-global-education-and-diversity/index.aspx). The study abroad application process takes 3 to 6 months.

- The **Office of Diversity Initiatives** will host a **Welcome to our Neighborhood Social**. Everyone is welcome. Join us on Thursday, September 4th from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the Savitz Room (second floor SUB) for snacks, refreshments and games.

- The **Global Coffee Hour** is held every Wednesday from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm in the Savitz Multicultural Lounge (second floor SUB). American and international students gather to learn about world cultures in an informal setting of conversation and playing board games. Occasionally there are themed presentations and there is always coffee and other refreshments. For more information, contact Georgia Costalas, email: Georgia.costalas@wilkes.edu or at x7854

- **Conversation Partners**: Add some global experience to your life right here at Wilkes! Meet one on one with an international student to chat over coffee, a meal or during an activity. We will help you get started and provide instructions. Note that employers look for college graduates with global perspectives, or experience working with English as a Second Language (ESL) students. For more information or to sign up to receive event e-mails contact Kimberly Niezgoda, email: kimberly.niezgoda@wilkes.edu or at x4170

**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 Gretchen Yeninas at the Office of Students Affairs (gretchen.yeninas@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 Thursday, September 3rd, at 11:15 am, in the Ballroom. Your rights and responsibilities as an apartment dweller will be covered.

**Scholarship Opportunity**

The Office of Student Affairs will be implementing a new Community Ambassador Program for the 2015-2016 academic year. The mission of the program will be to foster a more cohesive off-campus student population, promote responsible and safe behavior among off-campus students, improve relationships with local residents in the Wilkes-Barre community, and create a conduit between off campus students and the University.

**Position Description**

Community Ambassadors (CAs) will maintain the following responsibilities:
- Serve as a resource for Wilkes students and community residents living on their block/street.
- Plan and host annual neighborhood meetings.
- Disseminate resources and marketing materials to off campus students pertaining to campus activities, neighborhood events, and drug/alcohol information.
- Plan and implement non-alcoholic programs and events to build community among off campus students.
- Represent off-campus students on designated university committees.
- Meet with WBPD annually to discuss local ordinances, party issues, and neighborhood crime.
- Attend periodic meetings with Student Affairs staff.
- Complete a six-hour sexual violence bystander intervention training program offered in collaboration with the Victims Resource Center.
- Attend Student Government meetings as a non-voting member.
- Other duties as assigned.

**Position Benefits**

- Colonel Ambassadors will receive a $500 scholarship per semester.

**Position Requirements**

To be considered for the position, students must meet each of the following criteria.
- Junior/senior status; full-time undergraduate status
- Living in off-campus residence
- No record of University disciplinary infractions

**Application Process**

Interested students must submit the following materials.
- A letter of interest explaining why the student is interested in the position and what impact he or she hopes to have on campus.
- Interview with Student Affairs

**University Dining Service Changes**
Exciting changes to Campus Dining will greet you when you return this fall.

- **Rifkin Café Renovations offers 2 brand new concepts:**
  - **Grille Works** - Grille Works offers simple but favorite foods such as burgers, fries, chicken sandwiches and much, much more!
  - **Which Wich** - Which Wich Superior Sandwiches offers more than 50 varieties of customizable, toasted “wiches,” from the signature Wicked sandwich, loaded with five meats & choice of three cheeses, to unique items such as Thank You Turkey with stuffing and cranberry sauce.

- **New and Improved Stark Learning Center featuring Greens To Go & P.O.D. Market**
  - Greens To Go is a salad concept featuring your favorite salads, like Caesar and Buffalo Chicken, or you can create your own salad with a combination of our fresh ingredients!
  - The P.O.D. Market is the one stop shop for all of your convenience needs on campus!

- **NEW! Meal Plan Equivalency available** - In an effort to make dining more convenient we will be implementing Cash Equivalency this fall! Cash Equivalency is a cash amount that is credited towards the purchase of food items in the Rifkin Food Court at Which Wich and Grille Works, as well as Greens To Go in the Stark Learning Center. A "meal" is deducted from a student's meal plan balance and a cash equivalent value is applied toward the total cost of items purchased. Any outstanding balance can be paid for with Dining Dollars, Flex, cash, or credit card.
  - Breakfast - $4.75
  - Lunch - $6.00
  - Dinner - $6.00

- **Henry's** – New stations to satisfy every taste from Field and Fork, offering a display of local farm stand produce to EVOO which is not your ordinary pizza spot. Here you will find crisp pizza with bubbly cheesy goodness amongst other varieties. Henry's has something for everyone from fresh, seasonal vegetables featured on the salad bar to comfort foods that will remind you of home!

- **Off Campus Dining Options** – The FLEX dollars off campus program will continue and it is expected that more alternatives will be available for students. More information will be made available throughout the semester as updates are available.

### Athletics

- **Opening Season Contests**
  - Cross Country @ Misericordia  9/1  - Away
  - Men’s Soccer @ Gettysburg    9/1  - Away
  - Volleyball @ Marywood        9/5  - Away
  - Field Hockey Tournament      9/5  - Away
  - Women’s Soccer @ Moravian    9/1  - Away
  - Football @ Muhlenberg        9/4  - Away
Fall Intramural Opportunities

Flag Football (1 Game/Week) Sept.
Soccer (2 Games/Week) Sept.
Indoor Soccer (2 Games/Week) Sept - Nov
Billiards Nov.

(Intramural dates subject to change based on participation and venue availability)
(Students who are interested in discussing other ideas for intramurals can contact Stefan Thompson at stefan.thompson@wilkes.edu)

*For complete schedules and additional sports information visit: http://www.gowilkesu.com/

Information Technology Updates

New and enhanced Information Technology Services and support are available to all students this year.

- **Increased Campus Internet Bandwidth**
  Campus Internet Bandwidth has increased from 260MB to 340MB. The rapid proliferation of mobile devices, greater use of video, our transition to a cloud-based email system, and other hosted services strained our Internet capacity. The upgraded speed will support the campus’ use of all of these technologies, which will certainly continue to increase.

- **Wi-Fi on Campus**
  In an effort to better define our wireless networks and provide the best access to all users on campus, the wireless has been modified over the summer from two to four separate networks. When you look to access wireless on campus, you will see the following networks:

  - **Student.wilkes.edu** – This is the newest wireless network and is meant solely for current students. It will provide faster speeds than the guest network and a more secure connection. There is no special configuration needed, but students do need to login with their Wilkes username and password.
  - **Wilkes.edu** – This connection is now meant only for faculty and staff use. It is a secure, internal connection that requires an updated configuration and Wilkes credentials. Instructions for connecting to this network can be found on the ITS website or by calling the Help Desk.
  - **Guest.wilkes.edu** – This is the most open connection on campus and requires a generic password for access. (The password can be found in the IT Help tab inside the MyWilkes portal.) This connection is meant for visitors to campus and for student devices that are not capable of connecting to the student network (i.e. gaming devices). Guests who wish to access this network should obtain the password from a Wilkes employee who grants them permission from IT.
• **Events.wilkes.edu** – This is a special connection that can be requested for a specific building for an event that requires an outside group to have access to the wireless network. This request should be made through the Help Desk. This connection will only appear in those specific areas during the event and will have a special password just for that group.

• **Technology in the Residence Halls**
  Newly renovated residence halls are being equipped with robust Wi-Fi only and most other residence hall rooms are equipped with wired Internet connections with one wired connection per student in each room as well as Wi-Fi in the buildings.

• **On-Campus Help Desk and Telephone Support**
  The Help Desk is located in the lower level of the Farley Library. Walk into the Help Desk for help connecting your laptop, other devices, or for general assistance. The Help Desk will be open seven days a week:

  Monday-Thursday: 8:00am – 9:00pm
  Friday: 8:00am – 4:30pm
  Saturday: 9:00am – 5:00pm
  Sunday: 12:00pm – 8:00pm.

  For telephone support, dial HELP (4357) from any campus extension, 570-408-HELP (4357) from off campus, or toll-free 866-264-1462.

• **Student Run Computer Clinic**
  The Student Run Computer Clinic is integrated into the On-Campus Help Desk in the Farley Library. The clinic will assist students with technical issues they have with their personal computers and mobile devices including virus and spyware removal. Students interested in working at the Computer Clinic as part of the Wilkes work-study program should inquire at the Help Desk.

• **Illegal Downloading**
  The Motion Picture Association and the Recording Industry have partnered with major ISPs to monitor, alert, and thwart digital piracy activity. Students who are participating in illegal downloads of music and films, and about whom the University becomes aware, will be subject to disciplinary action.

• **Google Accounts**
  The University transitioned all of its email accounts to hosted Google accounts. This means you have the full resources of Google at your disposal when you login to your email at: http://ewilkes.wilkes.edu. Included in the benefits is over 30GB of personal file storage through the Google Drive application. This is a great place to back up your assignments and access them from multiple locations. You can also share documents with multiple individuals for group work.

• **IT Website**
Find answers to many of your IT questions and helpful links, including the link to download free campus virus software on the IT Website: http://www.wilkes.edu/its.

**Required Health Insurance for Resident Students, International Students and Student Athletes**

University policy requires that all students living in university owned housing or participating in an intercollegiate athletic program must show proof of health insurance in addition to the completed health form before receiving keys for housing. Wilkes University does NOT offer any type of student health plan, it is up to the individual to obtain health care coverage privately. In an effort to help the student find an affordable health insurance policy the following link may be used as a resource http://www.individualhealthquotes.com/listings.jsp.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the office at 570-408-4730.

**Parking Permit Information for Fall**

Those who have been issued an on-campus parking pass for the fall semester may pick it up at Public Safety, beginning Monday, August 24th, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. If a pass is not claimed by Friday, September 4th, at 3:00 pm, it will be forfeited. The application remains open on the Wilkes webpage and students may still apply.

Ralston Field passes will be available at Public Safety on Monday, August 24th. No application is necessary, but year, make and model information is required. For detailed information regarding parking, please see the Student Handbook.

**Offices Open on Sunday, August 30th**

On Sunday, August 30th, the Residence Life Office will be open from 12:00 PM until 3:00 PM. The Barnes and Noble Bookstore will be open from 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM on Saturday and from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Sunday.

**Student Leaders for 2015-16**

- Anthony Fanucci, President Student Government
- Alexander Grudeski, Vice President Student Government
- Katelyn Jimison, Recording Secretary Student Government
- Kara Serfass, Corresponding Secretary Student Government
- Cody Morcom, Treasurer Student Government
- Purvit Patel, Parliamentarian Student Government
- Keri Diehl, President Inter-Residence Hall Council
- Sarah Bedford, President Commuter Council
- Erica Chambers, President Multi-Cultural Student Coalition
- Valerie Woods, President Programming Board
Programs and Events

Upcoming Campus Events

- Week of Welcome
  - August 31st - September 6th
- Club Day, Campus Greenway
  - September 10th
- Spring Concert on the Riverfront
  - September 25th
- Homecoming
  - October 2nd - 4th
- Intern Fair, Ballroom
  - October 22nd
- Family Day
  - October 24th
- Casino Week
  - November 10th - 13th

Campus Activities

- WUPB Weekly Programming - Every Thursday Evening
- Adventure Education Hot Yoga - Every Tuesday Club Hours
- Trips hosted by Student Development
- Regular Programming hosted by Mega-Council


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.

- **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.

- **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 or visit us on Facebook and Twitter.

**Required Notifications**

**Notice of Nondiscrimination**

Wilkes University offers equal opportunities in all admission and employment policies, practices and programs. Wilkes is committed to providing a welcoming environment for all members of our community and to ensuring that all educational and employment decisions are based on individuals’ abilities and qualifications. Consistent with this principle, and in compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and all other applicable laws, Wilkes University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender identification and expression, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, marital status, domestic partnership status or status as a veteran in any policies, practices or programs including, but not limited to: employment policies and practices; education and
admission policies; scholarship/loan programs, athletics, and extracurricular activities.

Any questions or concerns should be addressed to the University’s Title IX Coordinator:

Justin Kraynack  
Wilkes University  
84 West South Street  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766  
T (570)408-4554

or Deputy Coordinator:

Philip Ruthkosky, Ph.D.  
Associate Dean for Student Affairs  
Wilkes University  
84 West South Street  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766  
T (570)408-4108

**Graduation and Persistence Rates**

Information regarding graduation and persistence rates as required by the Students’ Right to Know Act is available at the Office of Student Affairs, the Registrar’s Office, the Office of Admissions and the Athletic Director’s Office. Consistent with law, this information is disseminated according to regulations.

**Federal and State Act Compliance**

The Office of Public Safety at Wilkes University prepares and distributes the “For Your Safety” annual safety and security report. This document is prepared in compliance with Act 73 of 1988 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, 20 USC 1092(f). This report is available in hard copy format upon request during normal business hours at the Office of Public Safety, 148 S. Main St.; the Office of Admissions, Chase Hall, Reception Area; and the Office of Student Affairs, Passan Hall, Reception Area. An electronic copy of this report is available on the University website. Additionally, daily logs and crime logs are available for review during normal business hours at the Office of Public Safety.

Any questions regarding this report and the specific requirements of the Acts that govern its production can be addressed to the Office of Public Safety, ext. 4984

**Drug and Alcohol Program Information**

The links below provide important information regarding the drug and alcohol information. They include: effects associated with drug and alcohol use and abuse, federal, state, and local laws and campus policies; and resources for those seeking professional help. Please take a few moments to review these important documents:
Voter Information

The University encourages all students to take seriously their responsibility, as citizens, to vote. Voter registration information is available online at www.voterreg.org.

It takes only minutes to register!

Student Handbook Availability

The 2015-2016 Undergraduate Student Handbook is available online at:

http://wilkes.edu/undergraduatehandbook

In the Handbook, you can find important resource information as well as the most current policies and procedures at the University.