Dear Returning Student:

I am pleased to welcome you back to campus for the 2014-15 academic year, and be able to share with you some exciting pieces of news about the University.

The University is in the process of completing a renovation to the University Center on Main (UCOM). UCOM will become the new home of the Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and Leadership. When completed, the building housing Wilkes’ Sidhu School will be a state-of-the-art business school. It will include a financial market trading room that simulates a New York Stock Exchange trading floor complete with an electronic stock ticker. The business school project also will include seven smart classrooms, faculty offices, meeting rooms for students and student club space. The move consolidates classrooms and components of the business program, currently located in several buildings around campus. The recreation center and Gambini’s Café will remain in the current location in the University Center.

Second, this fall the University launches its marching band under the leadership of Dr. Phil Simon. Wilkes will be the first college or university in Northeastern Pennsylvania with a marching band and become one of the few schools participating in Division III athletics in Pennsylvania with a marching band. We estimate 35 students will be members of the “Marching Colonels” this fall. Also, this summer the University announced that men’s lacrosse will be reinstated as an intercollegiate sport beginning with the 2015-16 academic year. This month the University anticipates completing the search for a new men’s head lacrosse coach.

In addition, our residential population has grown once again, requiring that we open new residence halls for the forthcoming academic year. Pearsall Hall (former home to the Nursing Department) will become a first-year student hall, and we will open Henry Hall at 77 West Northampton Street as a residence for returning students.

Below you will find information and updates related to the start of the fall semester. Please take a few minutes to read through this material. Should you have any questions and 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 Day is scheduled for November 1.

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 Moves to Hybrid Force Under New Leadership

The University announced in June that it would begin arming some of the public safety officers on campus. The decision to arm public safety officers grew out of recommendations made by Margolis Healy & Associates, a nationally recognized consulting firm specializing in college and school security issues. Wilkes hired the Vermont-based firm in 2012 to conduct an evaluation of its public safety function. Arming officers was among a number of recommendations made by the firm. Wilkes has already implemented many of the report’s other recommendations including: 1) adding dedicated dispatchers to the public safety department; 2) increasing visibility for officers patrolling campus; 3) an enhanced security camera system; and 4) hiring a new public safety director. Wilkes also held campus meetings with students, faculty and staff to gather opinions and answer questions about arming officers.

Wilkes’ new Director of Public Safety Christopher Jagoe, who joined the University in March 2014, concurred with the recommendation to arm officers. Jagoe came to Wilkes after more than 20 years as an officer with the University of Maryland in College Park, Md.

The officers will not have arrest powers. The University will maintain its close working partnership with the Wilkes-Barre Police Department. Wilkes-Barre Mayor Thomas Leighton welcomed the University’s decision.

Anne Skleder Begins Serving as Provost

Anne Skleder comes to Wilkes from Cabrini College in Radnor, Pa., where she has served as provost and vice president for academic affairs and professor of psychology since July 2010.

In announcing the appointment, Wilkes President Patrick F. Leahy cited Skleder’s more than two decades of higher education experience. “Dr. Skleder is a dedicated and extremely knowledgeable member of the higher education community who has had many years of successful experiences as an academic leader,” Leahy said. “She embraces Wilkes' unique mentoring culture and our belief in the benefits of a liberal arts education. I am very pleased to have someone of Dr. Skleder's caliber join me as the senior member of my administrative team and as someone who will help lead the implementation of our ambitious strategic plan.”

Skleder was selected for the position following a national search. “I am very excited to join the Wilkes community, clearly a dedicated and vibrant university focused on student success. It will be an honor to serve as the new provost,” Skleder said.

Before joining Cabrini, Skleder was dean of Chatham College for Women at Chatham University in Pittsburgh, Pa. She also served Alvernia University in Reading, Pa., in a number of administrative positions, including vice provost, associate vice president for academic affairs and enrollment management, department chair of psychology, director of the Honors Program, and founding director of the Center for Community Engagement.
Skleder received her doctorate and master’s degree in social and organizational psychology from Temple University and her bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Pittsburgh.

**Residence Halls**

There will be close to 1,040 students living in residence halls for the upcoming year. Pearsall Hall has been reopened in order to accommodate the 400 first year students who will be living on campus.

Hanna DiFresco has been named resident director for Evans Hall. A graduate of Wilkes University, Hanna is pursuing her Master’s Degree in Bioengineering.

We are happy to open the doors to Henry-Northampton Hall to Wilkes students this year, offering more apartment style options for our returning residents.

For a second year, Fortinsky Hall will be the home to our Sophomore Year Experience. Forty-seven of our sophomore students will occupy this building which is equipped with single, double, and triple rooms and three lounges. Fortinsky is a perfect environment to get MORE out of your Sophomore Year!

• **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 22nd 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 22nd.*

**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 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), 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 7th from 11:30 a.m -1:00 p.m. 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 Ms. 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**
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 reconnect 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**

Last year 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**, 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://www.wilkes.edu/pages/5340.asp. 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 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 Thursday, August 28th, at 11:15 am, in the Ballroom. Your rights and responsibilities as an apartment dweller will be covered.

**University Dining Service Changes**

Exciting changes to Campus Dining will greet you when you return this fall.
- **Rifkin Café Grab and Go To Continue for Resident Students** - In an effort to make it more convenient for resident students during those “high volume” lunch hours the grab and go program will continue in Rifkin Café from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Resident students can use a regular card swipe to grab lunch on the run.

- **Henry’s Facelift and Menu Expansion** – Signage in the serving area of the facilities has been replaced to provide a more aesthetically appealing environment. An additional serving station will be dedicated to gluten free options.

- **Off Campus Dining Options** – The FLEX dollars off campus program is being reviewed and changes will be made with respect to the off campus merchants who participate. It is expected that more alternatives will be available for students to use FLEX dollars. More information will be made available as the semester approaches.

**Athletics**

- **Opening Season Contests**
  - Cross Country @ Misericordia 8/29 - Away
  - Men’s Soccer vs. Gettysburg 8/29 - Home
  - Volleyball @ Penn College 8/30 - Away
  - Field Hockey Tournament 8/29 - Home
  - Women’s Soccer @ Moravian 8/29 - Away
  - Football vs. Muhlenberg 9/6 - Home

- **Fall Intramural Opportunities**
  - Flag Football (1 Game/Week) September
  - Soccer (2 Games/Week) September
  - 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament Oct. / Nov.
  - Billiards November
  - Volleyball November
  (Intramural dates subject to change based on participation and venue availability)

*For complete schedules and additional sports information visit: [http://www.gowilkesu.com/](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 110mb to 260mb. 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**
  Wireless access to the Internet and campus resources is available throughout most residence halls and academic buildings on campus. Planning is underway to further extend and enhance the campus wireless capabilities. Instructions for using the Wi-Fi campus network are available on the IT Help tab in the MyWilkes Portal and at the on-campus Help Desk in the lower level of the Farley Library.

• **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. Should additional wired connections be needed in rooms, a hub to link more than one device is available through Residence Life. Please note that students may only use the hubs provided by the University.

• **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 xHELP (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](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 backup 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**

All residential students, international students and student athletes will still be required to have insurance, either through a family employee plan, private insurer, or through a voluntary plan. Proof of insurance is to be on file in the University’s Health and Wellness Office.

All full-time undergraduate students enrolled at Wilkes University are eligible to enroll in an insurance plan underwritten by the Nationwide Insurance Company on a voluntary basis at an annual cost of $2,145. Graduate students who are enrolled with 3 or more credits have the option to enroll in this program at an annual cost of $3,178.

To enroll in the Wilkes University Student Health Insurance Plan, go to www.chpstudent.com, select Wilkes University from the drop down box and click on the Enroll tab and proceed as directed. The open enrollment period for the Annual term ends on September 30, 2014 and January 31, 2015 for the Spring term.

**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 August 19. If a pass is not claimed by Friday, August 29, at 4:30 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 August 19. 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 24th**

On Sunday, August 24th, the Residence Life and Student Affairs Offices will be open from 12:00 PM 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.
Student Leaders for 2014

- Taylor Moyer, President Student Government
- Christian Victoria, Vice President Student Government
- Alexander Grudeski, Recording Secretary Student Government
- Kaitlyn Wolfe, Corresponding Secretary Student Government
- Anthony Fanucci, Treasurer Student Government
- Cameron Low, Parliamentarian Student Government
- Himil Desai, President Inter-Residence Hall Council
- Sarah Bedford, President Commuter Council
- Charles Hanford, President Off Campus Council
- Kayla Rooney, President Multi-Cultural Student Coalition
- Thalia Garzon, President Programming Board

Programs and Events

Upcoming Campus Events

- Week of Welcome Aug 25th – 29th
- Club Day, Campus Greenway Sept 4th
- Colonel’s March Sept 6th
- Leadership Conference Sept 14th
- Volunteer Fair Sept 16th
- Homecoming Sept 25th – 27th
- Fall Fest 2013 Oct 2nd – 4th
- Intern Fair, Ballroom Oct 16th
- Family Day Nov 1st
- Casino Week Nov 11th – 14th
- Holiday Shopping Event Dec 2nd

Student Development Trips*

- SD Tuesdays – Every Tuesday from 11:00am – 1:00pm
- Wilkes Adventure Education Trips/Events
- A Night at the Bloomsburg Fair
- Philadelphia Christmas Show
- Sunday Night Football Games, Ballroom

*Please visit www.wilkes.edu/studentactivities for dates and times and newly added events!

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 5th.

- **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 19th.

- **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:

- Drug and Alcohol Prevention
- Wilkes University Biennial Review of Drug and Alcohol Prevention

**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 2014-2015 Undergraduate Student Handbook is available online at:

http://sbtportal.wilkes.edu/Include/StudentHandbook.pdf

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