



HOMECOMING 2026

OCT. 9-11, 2026

WELCOME HOME!

**We proudly roll out the carpets for you
homecoming alumni of Wilkes College.**

To you graduates who revisit your alma mater we say welcome and thank you.

Welcome back to the scenes of your under-graduate days.
Welcome back to the memory-filled campus and ivy-covered halls.

Welcome back to your alma mater, unchanged in spirit, though improvements and additions have altered its countenance.

Wilkes welcomes you wholeheartedly and thanks you, too.

Thanks you for the spirit which you have shown in your under-graduate days and which you show today. Thanks you for your faithfulness and remembrance and for causing Wilkes to be proud of you. Thanks you for your aid in making Wilkes a growing school and for helping build a foundation of tradition and progress. Wilkes will never ignore your spirit and support. Many under-graduates on campus today will know none of you homecoming students. Yet, through your presence and enthusiasm we foresee spirit instilled in all undergrads. And through your contagious spirit we envision even more successful homecoming celebrations in the future. The homecoming celebrations of today are the foundations for those of future years. Thank you for making those foundations strong!

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME:



Greetings, Wilkes Alumni & Friends,

On behalf of everyone at Wilkes, it's my honor to welcome you to Homecoming 2026. Our faculty, staff and students are thrilled that you have chosen to spend the weekend with us. This Homecoming is special for me, as it is my first as President.

Since joining the Wilkes community on August 1, my family and I have become well acquainted with the campus, met some really amazing people, and started to explore the region. But getting to know Wilkes really means getting to know its people, especially our alumni. I've had the chance to meet many graduates in my two short months at Wilkes – at Colonels athletic events, in the northeastern Pennsylvania community and making a difference here on campus. In each conversation, deep pride in our past and enthusiasm for the University's future immediately becomes evident.

This weekend, I am eager to learn more about you and your Wilkes experience. What was Wilkes like when you were a student? Who were the people and where were the places that made a difference to you? And, looking ahead, where do you see your *alma mater* making a difference? How do you want to be involved in the life of our University? While you're here, I encourage you to ask our students some of those same questions about learning, living and growing at Wilkes today.

Thank you to the alumni office and Alumni Association Board of Directors for creating a wonderful program of events for us to enjoy. Please be sure to stop and say hello throughout the weekend and welcome back!

Sincerely,
James Cousins
President, Wilkes University

P.S. To stay connected and learn more about all our innovative academic programs, student spotlights, tremendous achievements and latest news, please visit news.wilkes.edu. To view the latest issue of the Wilkes magazine, please visit wilkes.edu/magazine.

ALUMNI BOARD WELCOME:



Welcome Alumni!

As the new president of the Alumni Association, it is my privilege to welcome you back to campus for Homecoming. This weekend, hundreds of us gather to relive fond memories, discover what's new, reconnect with old friends and celebrate the enduring spirit of Wilkes.

I am particularly honored to celebrate the Class of 1976 on their landmark 50th reunion. This resilient class began their Wilkes journey by facing the unprecedented fury of Hurricane Agnes during their very first week, which brought historic flooding to the Susquehanna River basin and our campus. Four years later, they capped off their college years alongside our nation's Bicentennial celebration. To the Class of 1976: welcome home for this truly once-in-a-lifetime milestone.

Our attendees this year span an incredible range of generations, from the Class of 1951 to our newest alumni from the Class of 2026. While each of our individual campus experiences was unique, the foundation of a Wilkes education and the warmth of this community bind us together.

While you are celebrating this weekend, I have one quick favor to ask: look around and think about who is missing. Which of your friends haven't been back to campus in a while? Who haven't you seen in years? Reach out to them. Share the exciting things happening at Wilkes today and encourage them to join us next year.

And if they can't make it back to campus, let's bring Wilkes to them. I want to hear your ideas on how we can best serve our alumni wherever they are—whether through virtual programming, regional gatherings, or new initiatives. As your Alumni Association President, my goal is to ensure our graduates stay connected.

Have a wonderful Homecoming weekend, and please be sure to say hello when our paths cross!

Warmly,
John Sweeney '13
President, Wilkes Alumni Association

P.S. Have you updated your contact information? Be sure to stay in touch and receive updates from the Alumni Association and Advancement/Alumni & Constituent Engagement team at Wilkes. [You can review and update your information here.](#)

GET SOCIAL WITH WILKES ALUMNI

WILKES' OFFICIAL ALUMNI WEBSITE: WILKES.EDU/ALUMNI

If you're on social media (Facebook, Instagram or Snapchat) we would love to see your posts! We are trying to get more involved with social media in order to connect with all of our Colonels.



Our Facebook page has more than 4,000 followers! Like us to stay up to date with the most current Wilkes alumni information!
facebook.com/WilkesAlumni



Follow us at [@wilkesualumni](https://www.instagram.com/wilkesualumni) and check out photos from campus happenings and old yearbooks. We'll even re-gram if you tag us or use some of our hashtags. We now have more than 2,000 followers!



Join the more than 3,000 Wilkes Alumni in our [LinkedIn Group](#)! Just search "Wilkes University Alumni" and request to join.

USE HASHTAGS DURING HOMECOMING WEEKEND

Promote your Wilkes spirit and make it easy for us to re-post your awesome photos and memories!

#WILKESHOMECOMING

#WILKESU

#WELOVEWILKES

#FAMILYOFCOLONELS

#FOREVERCOLONEL

#WILKESREUNIONS

SUBMIT YOUR LATEST NEWS

Get married? Have a baby? Get a promotion? Start a new job? Let your classmates from Wilkes know about it by submitting a class note! Email your news and photos to alumni@wilkes.edu for publication in the monthly e-newsletter and alumni magazine.

TELL US YOUR WILKES LOVE STORY

Some of the best love stories start with Wilkes! If you and your sweetheart met at Wilkes, share your story with us and we'll include it in our February e-newsletter. Just fill out our online form at community.wilkes.edu/wilkessweethearts.

PASS DOWN THE WILKES LEGACY

Make blue and gold a family tradition! Sign up your children or grandchildren for the Colonel's Kids Club. Club members (newborns to 12 years of age) will receive a birthday card from the Colonel each year. Sign up for the Colonel's Kids Club online at community.wilkes.edu/colonelskidsclub.

SUPPORT WILKES UNIVERSITY

ANYTIME

Just visit
wilkes.edu/give

ANYWHERE

Support the area
of your choice

ANY AMOUNT

Always makes an impact
when you give to Wilkes

10 THINGS TO DO DURING HOMECOMING 2026

Enjoy **food and beverages** with alumni, students and families at the The Tent on the Hill before the big football game versus Lycoming College.

1

2

Join us for a **walking tour of campus** guided by our current students. You'll see the newest additions as well as our historic spots!

Gather with us at The Down Pour for our event kickoff before embarking on a **self-guided Downtown Wilkes-Barre Establishment Tour**.

3

4

Bring your Colonel pride to the courtyard and ignite Homecoming Weekend with music, spirit and non-stop energy at our **Pep Rally!**

Get your limited edition **Homecoming 2026 t-shirt**. On sale while supplies last for just \$15.

5

6

Bring your colonel spirit and **support our athletic teams**. Football, women's volleyball, men's and women's swimming, and men's and women's soccer compete at home on Saturday. Alumni are invited to support the alumni games hosted by men's and women's lacrosse and softball on Friday night.

Raise your glass and kick off Homecoming weekend at **Wilkes-toberfest: Pints With Professors**—where good brews, great food and even better company come together!

7

8

Don't miss out on participating in one of our **College Connections!** Connect with students, faculty and fellow alumni while learning about new departmental research and programs!

Use **#WILKESHOMECOMING** when you post on Instagram, Facebook or X.

9

10

TAKE THE HOMECOMING 2026 SURVEY!

While you are still on campus for the festivities of Homecoming weekend, or once you arrive home afterwards, please **click here** to take the survey. We value your input to improve the event every year.

**CLICK
HERE**



NAMETAG FLAG GLOSSARY

Throughout Homecoming weekend, you'll see some other Wilkes Colonels with flags for their name tags. Each of these flags are special and signify a certain relationship with Wilkes. Find out what all our name tag flags mean by brushing up on our glossary!

BOARD MEMBER: Reserved for our Alumni Association Board of Directors.

REUNION CLASS: If you're a member of a class ending in 6 or 1, it's your class reunion this year!

DEAN: Reserved for the deans of our three colleges.

FACULTY: Our faculty members proudly sport their faculty flag to show their connection to our students, current and former.

FUTURE COLONEL: When you bring your children or grandchildren back to campus for the fun, we give them these flags to inspire their Wilkes journey!

GOLDEN ALUMNI: Members of the 50th reunion class – this year, the class of 1976 is celebrating their golden anniversary.

COLONEL COMMUTER FOR LIFE: For Wilkes alumni whose dorms were mobile as they came and went to campus, but know the journey was part of their Wilkes experience.

FIRST- GEN PROUD: Celebrates those who are the first in their family to attend college.

JOHN WILKES SOCIETY: Wilkes donors who contribute \$1,000+ within a fiscal year (June 1 to May 31).

MARTS SOCIETY: Alumni, friends and benefactors who have included Wilkes in their estate plans through a bequest or other charitable estate planning arrangement.

PARENT: The parent of a current Wilkes student.

DONOR: Wilkes donors who have made a gift since June 2025.

STAFF: Wilkes Advancement staff members or student team members.

TRUSTEE: Members of the Board of Trustees.

COLONEL BY ASSOCIATION: Welcoming those who have joined the Wilkes family through their significant other!

RETIRED STUDENT ATHLETE: Proudly wore by our alumni whose uniforms are retired, but know that their Colonel Pride and the lessons they learned last a lifetime.



THROUGHOUT HOMECOMING WEEKEND:

OF PLACE AND PASSAGE: ACTIONS AND IMAGES

BY STEPHAN KOPLOWITZ

SEPTEMBER 1 - OCTOBER 18, 2026

@ THE SORDONI ART GALLERY



Of Place and Passage: Actions and Images by Stephan Koplowitz explores the creative practice of internationally acclaimed choreographer and interdisciplinary artist Stephan Koplowitz, whose work transforms architecture, landscapes, and public spaces into sites of movement, perception, and encounter. Bringing together photography, video, installation, and archival materials, the exhibition reveals the interconnected processes through which performance is conceived, documented, and remembered.

Rather than treating photography and moving image as records of completed performances, Koplowitz uses them as integral choreographic tools—ways of observing, composing, and reimagining the relationships between bodies, place, and time. Across the exhibition, visitors encounter works that trace the evolution of ideas from intimate studies of movement to ambitious, large-scale performances unfolding across cities, waterways, and architectural landmarks.

Organized around themes of seeing, repetition, reflection, and the choreography of public space, Of Place and Passage invites audiences to experience movement beyond the stage. The exhibition offers a rare opportunity to explore the breadth of Koplowitz's artistic practice while considering how performance continues to shape the ways we perceive our built and natural environments. Through image, motion, and spatial experience, the exhibition encourages viewers to look closely, move thoughtfully, and discover choreography embedded within the everyday.

For more information, visit wilkes.edu/sordoniartgallery.

THROUGHOUT HOMECOMING WEEKEND:

WILKES UNIVERSITY THEATRE PRESENTS... SPEECH AND DEBATE - A PLAY BY STEPHEN KARAM OCTOBER 8-11, 2026

Tony Award-winner Stephen Karam's *Speech and Debate* is a snappy dark comedy, sarcastic yet sincere—a genuinely hilarious and genuinely emotional story of misfit teens who explore sexuality, identity, and personal power as they learn to deal with misunderstanding and dismissal from the adult world.



To buy tickets, visit the box office in the Dorothy Dixon Darte Center.

**BE SURE TO STOP BY THE CAMPUS STORE TO GET SOME NEW
SPIRIT GEAR @ COLONEL CORNER, LOCATED INSIDE THE
HENRY STUDENT CENTER, FIRST FLOOR**

Hours:

Friday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

You can always shop from home as well: Wilkes alumni can use code *PRIDE26* for 10% off purchases on our spirit shop website wilkes.bncollege.com

ON-CAMPUS DINING

LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO EAT ON CAMPUS?

HENRY'S FOOD COURT

HENRY STUDENT CENTER, THIRD FLOOR

Buffet-style dining

Friday: 7 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Sunday: 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.

RIFKIN CAFÉ

HENRY STUDENT CENTER, FIRST FLOOR

BURGERS + FRIES

Monday-Friday: 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday: Closed

WHICH WICH SANDWICHES

Monday-Friday: 10:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Saturday: Closed

Sunday: 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

STARBUCKS

SIMMS CENTER ON MAIN, FIRST FLOOR

Monday-Friday: 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

P.O.D. MARKET

STARK LEARNING CENTER, FIRST FLOOR

Monday-Friday: 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

GREENS TO GO

Monday-Friday: 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday: Closed

ALUMNI BENEFITS

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE MANY BENEFITS OFFERED BY YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION!

SHORT-TERM HEALTH INSURANCE AND LIFE INSURANCE

Long- or short-term protection with great rates and fantastic features. Medical insurance is offered for those temporarily without coverage, such as the unemployed and recent graduates, and for special situations, including travelers and students.

Visit meyerandassoc.com/ma/wilkes or contact the program administrator at 800-635-7801.

LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE

Cover the future costs of care, including assisted living or nursing facilities.

Visit meyerandassoc.com/ma/wilkes for more information.

WILKES ALUMNI LICENSE PLATE

Do you own a vehicle registered in Pennsylvania? Show your Wilkes pride by purchasing a license plate that features the words "Wilkes Alumni" and the legendary flying "W" emblem.

Contact: alumni@wilkes.edu or 570-408-7787

CAREER SERVICES

Whether you're polishing your interviewing skills or updating your resume, remember that the Wilkes Career Services office is a valuable resource.

Contact: careers@wilkes.edu or 570-408-4060

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

We are ready to pack our bags and go on adventures with alumni around the world!

Next year, in partnership with Collette Travel, we are offering trips to the French Riviera (February 18 - 26), Turkey (April 24 - May 7), and Alaska (July 28 - August 9).

Contact: alumni@wilkes.edu or 570-408-7787



2027 ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

SPOTLIGHT ON THE FRENCH RIVIERA / TREASURES OF TURKIYE /
ALAKSA DISCOVERY LAND & CRUISE

MEET THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

John Sweeney '13
Philadelphia, PA
BS Accounting, Business
Administration

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Neal McHugh '86
Point Pleasant, NJ
BS Earth & Environmental Science

SECRETARY

Jeffrey Bauman '09
Duryea, PA
BS Biology

HISTORIAN

Matthew Berger '02
Exeter, PA
BS Business Administration

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR

Bill LePore '94
Phillipsburg, NJ
BS Computer Information Systems

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Dominick Ammirato '17
West Bradford, PA
BBA Business Administration

Bonnee Breese Bentum '93
Secane, PA
BA Communications Studies

Terri Burdo Smith '78
Kingston, PA
BS Nursing

John Chernesky '68
Kingston, PA
BS Psychology

Noreen Collins '00
Duryea, PA
BA Sociology

Parker Dorsey '20
Pittston, PA
BA Communication Studies

Phil Erickson '22, MBA '23
Yatesville, PA
BS Financial Investments, MBA

Richard Ermeus '21, MBA '23
Philadelphia, PA
BBA Business Administration, MBA

Rob Falls '09
Harvey's Lake, PA
BA Mechanical Engineering

Lindsay Farley Gettinger '73
Cumberland, RI
BA Psychology

Tara Giarratano Morrison '17
Shavertown, PA
BA English

Corey Hauser, Esq. '18
McLean, VA
BBA Business Administration

Kristin Hake Klemish '04
Dallas, PA
BA Communications Studies

Gerard Hetman '08
Scranton, PA
BA Communications

Doug Lane '89 MBA '96
Kingston, PA
BA Business Administration, MBA

Mauri Lawler '85
Jamison, PA
BA Psychology & Sociology

George Pawlusch '69, MS '76
Cheshire, CT
BS Business Administration,
MS Education

Lauren Pluskey McLain '06, MBA '10
Plains, NY
BA Communications Studies, MBA

Col. Mark Rado '80
US Army, Retired
BS Business Education

Sandy Akromas Thomson '76
Mississauga, ON
BA Education

Mary Beth Voda '66
Wyalusing, PA
BA English

Paran Woloski PharmD '12, MBA '22
Plains, PA
Doctor of Pharmacy, MBA

EX-OFFICIO

Ellen Stamer Hall '71
Huntington Mills, PA
English

FACULTY

Kalen Churcher '97
Associate Professor -
Communications and Media Studies

Joyce Victor '87, MHA '91, MA '07,
MS '10
Associate Professor of Nursing
BS Biology, Physics

CURRENT STUDENTS

John Tondora '27
Student Government President

Michael Santini '27
Senior Class President

OFFICE OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT STAFF

Kim Roeder
Director, Alumni & Constituent
Engagement
570-408-7826
kimberly.roeder@wilkes.edu

Ashlee Williams MA '23, MFA '24
Associate Director of Alumni &
Constituent Engagement
ashlee.williams@wilkes.edu

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2, 2026: Wilkes Alumni Book Club Author Chat

NOVEMBER 13, 2026: Wilkes Wrestling Reunion

NOVEMBER 14, 2026: Wilkes Men's & Women's Volleyball Alumni Day

NOVEMBER 17 - FEBRUARY 21, 2027: Unfinished Histories: Jane Haworth and the Celebration of Equality at the Sordoni Art Gallery

NOVEMBER 24, 2026: Wilkes Women's Basketball Game Day & Get Together

JANUARY 16, 2027: Wilkes Men's Basketball Game Day & Get Together

JANUARY 30, 2027: Wilkes Men's Ice Hockey Alumni Social

FEBRUARY 21, 2027: Wilkes Football Alumni - Student Networking

FEBRUARY 27, 2027: Wilkes Men's & Women's Lacrosse Game Day & Get Together

MARCH 23 - AUGUST 8, 2027: Uprooted: sitework at the Sordoni Art Gallery

APRIL 17, 2027: Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

APRIL 26, 2027: Ralston Memorial Golf Tournament, Wyoming Valley Country Club



Check out what Homecoming 2026 has in store for you!
[Click here](#) for the full schedule!

ADMISSIONS

- 01 Chase Hall

ATHLETIC FACILITIES

- 02 Bruggeworth Field
- 03 Marts Center & Henry Gymnasium
- 04 Munson Field House
- 05 Schmidt Stadium
- 07 Softball Field
- 08 Tennis Courts
- 09 McHale Athletic Center

RESIDENCE HALLS

- 10 40 West (YMCA)
- 11 Michelini Hall
- 12 Catlin Hall
- 13 Doane Hall
- 14 Evans Hall
- 15 Fortinsky Hall
- 16 Pearsall Hall
- 17 Rifkin Hall
- 18 Ross Hall
- 19 Roth Hall
- 20 Schiowitz Hall
- 21 Slocum Hall
- 22 Sterling Hall
- 23 Sturdevant Hall
- 24 Sullivan Hall
- 25 University Towers
- 26 Waller Hall
- 27 Weiss Hall

ACADEMIC BUILDINGS

- 28 Bedford Hall
- 29 Breiseth Hall
- 31 Ceramics Studio
- 32 Cohen Science Center
- 33 Harold Cox Hall
- 34 Darle Center for the Performing Arts
- 35 Hollenback Hall
- 36 Kirby Hall
- 37 Alumni & Advancement
- 38 Eugene S. Farley Library
- 39 Stark Learning Center
- 09 Simms Center on Main
- 56 Karambelas Media and Communications Center

ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDINGS

- 30 Capin Hall
- 41 Colonel Corner Campus Store
- 43 Conyngham Hall
- 44 Annette Evans Alumni House
- 46 Henry Student Center
- 47 Miner-Moat House
- 48 O'Hop Hall
- 49 Passan Hall
- 51 Public Safety Office
- 52 Max Roth Center
- 53 Facilities Building
- 54 Weckesser Annex
- 55 Weckesser Hall
- 57 Miller Hall
- 58 Sordoni Art Gallery
- 59 Career Development and Internships

PARKING LOTS

- #1 170 S. Franklin St.
- #2 187 S. Franklin St.
- #3 84 S. River St.
- #4 110 W. River St.
- #5 236 S. River St.
- #6 274 S. Franklin St.
- #7 Barnum Pl./W. South St.
- #8 169 S. Main St.
- #9 10 E. South St.
- #10 148 S. Main St.
- #11 141 S. Main St.
- #12 302 W. Northampton St., Edwardsville

P PARKING

