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1965

Dr. Catherine D. DeAngelis has announced that she will retire in June 2011 as editor-in-chief of the Journal of the American Medical Association. She plans to return to Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine to develop a center for professionalism in medicine and related professions, including nursing, public health, business and law.

1966

Reunion Sept. 23-25

Dwight E. Giles Sr. and his wife Josephine celebrated 65 years of marriage on June 2, 2010.

1969

David Palmer retired from The Newark Museum after 30 years as a designer and director of exhibitions. He recently opened a new painting studio in Bangor, Pa., where he practices iconography in the Russian style.

1970

Dave Bogusko see 2004.

1975

Ann M. Bartuska is deputy under secretary for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Research, Education and Economics mission area.

1978

Kevin McCall accepted a new position as manager for production planning with Nobel Biocare in Yorba Linda, Calif. Nobel Biocare is a leader in innovative restorative and esthetic dental solutions. Clark F. Speicher, retired colonel of the U.S. Air Force, recently accepted the position of business development manager with Lockheed Martin MS2, Mission and Sensors Systems business unit in Liverpool, N.Y. Clark resides with his wife, Merry, in Sherrill, N.Y.

1980

Barbara E. King and R. Michael Paige were married on Sept. 26, 2010. The bride is associate dean of student affairs at Wilkes. She has worked for the University for 31 years. The groom is a partially retired professor of international and intercultural education at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities campus. They live in Dallas, Pa.

1982

Maurita (Gries) Elias and Robert Elias celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on Oct. 19, 2010. The couple reside in Dallas, Pa.

1989

Maria DiCredico married Robert Waegerle on Sept. 25, 2010.

1990

Brian Curran was elected to the New York State Assembly on Nov. 2, 2010. Curran was expected to join the New York State Assembly on Jan. 3, 2011. Curran has been an associate partner at the law firm of Nicolini, Paradise, Ferretti and Sabella for the past 10 years and was recently the mayor of Lynbrook, N.Y.

1991

Reunion Sept. 23-25 🏊

Christopher R. Arabis and his wife welcomed a son, Jackson Robert Arabis, on Oct. 11, 2010.

1994

Tracy Zabrenski is director of revenue cycle at Moses Taylor Hospital. She previously filled a similar position at Geisinger Health System for 12 years.

1995

Jackie Coolbaugh and Garth Andrade were married on Nov. 20, 2010. Both are employed with the Dallas School District and reside with their two children in Dallas, Pa.

Anthony D. Mazzatesta is project manager in the environmental engineering group for RETTEW, an engineering design firm in Lancaster, Pa. He resides in Kulpmont, Pa.

1996

Reunion Sept. 23-25 🏊

Edward Benjamin Hoffman see Graduate Students 2006.

1997

Regina (Frappolli) Dunphy and her husband welcomed their fourth child, Patrick, in July 2009. He joins 9-year-old sister Isabella and brothers Michael, 6, and John Paul, 5. The family lives in Florence, N.J.

1998

Charles J. (C.J.) Copley was named one of Northeast Pennsylvania Business Journal's "Top 20 Under 40" for 2010. He is executive vice-president of sales and marketing at Golden Technologies, a manufacturer of home health care equipment.

Brian Kaschak received the Teaching Excellence Award from the Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church. Kaschak is a history teacher, assistant wrestling coach, and varsity boys' baseball coach at the Upper School at Wyoming Seminary College Preparatory School, where he is also dorm head of Carpenter Hall and the director of the summer English as a second language program.

Shannon (Stair) Bushong and her husband, Brandon, announce the birth of their second son, Sheldon Ross, born Sept. 28, 2010. Sheldon joins big brother, Winston. Bushong recently obtained her doctorate in physical therapy from the University of Scranton and works for Christiana Care Health System in Wilmington, Del.

2000

Greg Riley started an online music sales and consignment shop, www.instrumentcloset. com. The online store specializes in the sales of new and consigned instruments online from all over the world. The web address was printed incorrectly in the last issue of *Wilkes* magazine.

Air Force Maj. Deirdre Gurry '99 Meets Woman Who Paved the Way

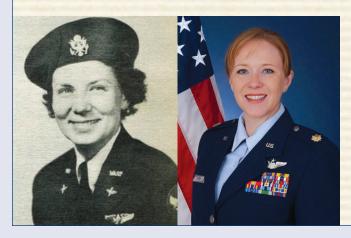
Maj. Deirdre Gurry '99 is part of an elite group: As a pilot in the U.S. Air Force, she's one of only 4.5 percent of flyers who are female. Gurry is a C-17 Globemaster pilot, flying test and delivery missions as the Government Flight Representative to Boeing in San Antonio, Texas, for the Defense Contract Management Agency.

A mechanical engineering major at Wilkes, she was a member of the Air Force ROTC detachment when she was tapped for flight training. After graduating from Wilkes, she went to pilot training at Columbus Air Force Base in Mississippi. Since then, Gurry's service has included assignments as a T-37 flight instructor at Columbus Air Force Base and a C-17 aircraft commander and flight instructor at McChord Air Force Base in Tacoma, Wash. She also has been deployed to Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom, serving as a cargo pilot ferrying servicemen and supplies in and out of combat zones.

"One of the most amazing feelings was when I was bringing a bunch of Army troops out of the war zone on their way home," recalls Gurry, a native of Bushkill, Pa. "As soon as we were airborne, they were cheering."

Equally touching, she says, are the children of Afghanistan and Iraq. "They are really happy we are there," she says, recalling that many service men and women bring coloring books and other gifts for the children when they are deployed.

One of Gurry's most memorable assignments came in March 2010 when she helped honor some of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) of World War II. The WASP were formed in 1942 as civilian volunteers so that male





Air Force Maj. Deirdre Gurry '99, above left, presents the Congressional Gold Medal to Mary Reineberg Burchard, honoring her for her service as a WASP in World War II.

pilots could be released for combat duty. When they were deactivated in 1944, their service was deemed confidential and they received no benefits or recognition as veterans.

In 1977, Congress finally acknowledged their contribution and granted them veteran status which led to honorable discharges in 1979. On July 1, 2009 President Obama awarded them the Congressional Gold Medal, and on March 10, 2010 more than 200 of them attended the ceremony in Washington D.C.

One of the WASP, Mary Reineberg Burchard, was unable to attend the Washington ceremony. Her daughter arranged for her to receive her medal, in a special ceremony in Long Beach, Calif., and Gurry was asked to present it to her. Burchard, a native of York, Pa., was a test pilot at Marana Air Base in Tucson, Ariz. Several other WASP attended her award ceremony. Gurry says she felt like she was meeting her heroes. "Their dedication, commitment, courage and strength laid the groundwork for the opportunities afforded to us today. There are no words that can express the amount of gratitude they deserve," she says.

- By Vicki Mayk

Left: Mary Reineberg Burchard in her WASP uniform, and Maj. Deirdre Gurry '99 her modern-day counterpart. Photos courtesy Deirdre Gurry.

Individuals sometimes lose touch with old college chums. Not Anthony DaRe '00 and Kerianne Geist '00. The business administration majors first partnered in their classes at Wilkes. Ten years later, they are working together again.

The opportunity came with the 2010 expansion of DaRe's company, BSI Corporate Benefits. BSI stands for balance, strength, and integrity, words that DaRe attributes to his parents. Founded in 2003, the company advises clients about insurance benefits, laws, and procedures, and negotiates the best deal for each client's needs. When DaRe expanded the Michigan-based business to the East Coast, he called his old friend.

Though living and working in different parts of the country for a decade, the pair kept in touch. Geist, who worked in marketing and project management for Rita's Italian Ice and Leo Burnett, was excited to tackle a new challenge with an old comrade. She is now managing director for BSI in Bethlehem, Pa. DaRe has also moved to the east coast office.

He lives with his wife, Adrienne, and daughter, Lila, in Easton, Pa. Geist resides in Doylestown, Pa.

"We joke that it really does feel like we're back at Wilkes working on a project," laughs DaRe, whose brother Michael DaRe '03 also graduated from Wilkes. "But now the project is real."

They welcome new projects, like dealing with health-care reform. "It's challenging because it literally changes by the hour," says DaRe. "I'm very excited to be at the forefront of working on successful solutions." Successes have included the work DaRe did on behalf of Central Columbia School District in Bloomsburg, Pa. It was featured on CNN's *The Situation Room*.

Geist and DaRe credit Wilkes with preparing them for demanding careers. Both juggled athletics with their academic schedules, finding guidance and encouragement from their Wilkes mentors, such as head football coach Frank Sheptock and their advisor, Professor of Business Anne Heineman Batory.

"Their help didn't stop when we stepped out the door after Wilkes," Geist says. "They would drop what they're doing to help us, even now. How many other colleges have professors who would do that?"

Geist and DaRe are thrilled to be once again living close to their alma mater, along with many of the friends and mentors they acquired at Wilkes.

"To be closer to our college friends—and to our school it's just been a fantastic transition," says DaRe. "The majority of our friends, they're our Wilkes friends. They're our Wilkes family."

- By Rachel Strayer

Kerianne Geist '00 and Anthony DaRe '00 in the Bethlehem, Pa., offices of DaRe's company, BSI Corporate Benefits.



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Donna Talarico MFA '10 was hired as web content editor in the office of marketing and communications at Elizabethtown College in Elizabethtown, Pa.

2002

Matthew M. Yencha see 2004.

2003

Stacey Veronica Rutt M.S. '06 and Gene Matthew
Molino were married on Oct.
17, 2009. The bride is a third-grade teacher in the Wyoming
Area School District. The
groom is associated with the
law offices of Vough and
Associates and also serves as a
judicial law clerk. The couple
live in Exeter, Pa.

2004

Melissa Jurgensen is the director of marketing for GrooveCar Inc., one of the nation's largest loan aggregators. She is responsible for advertising, employee communications, trade event support and public relations.

Melissa Joy Mendygral and Michael Richard Dutrow were married on May 29, 2010. The bride is a settlement agent for Pennsylvania First Settlement Services. The groom is a pharmaceutical sales representative for Strativa Pharmaceuticals. The couple reside in Hanover Township, Pa.

Kate (Gowisnok) Menta and her husband, Jarrod, announce the birth of their second child, Luciana Grace, born March 19, 2010. Luciana joins threeyear-old sister, Sofia Elizabeth.

Sarah (Bogusko) Yencha and Matthew M. Yencha '02 announce the birth of their son, Lukas Peter, born Dec. 3, 2010. The family resides in Easton, Pa. Grandparents are Dave Bogusko '70 and his wife, JoAnne, of Bel Air, Md., and Edward and Bernice Yencha of Wilkes-Barre.

2005

David Randall Paden see Graduate Students 2009.

2006

Reunion Sept. 23-25 🏊

Sarah Diane Kopko and Michael Joseph DeFrancesco were married on Sept. 5, 2010. The bride is employed part-time at The Dough Company. The groom is chief financial officer of Animal Scan, LLC, and the president and chief executive officer of The Funding Zone LLC, both in Allentown, Pa. The couple reside in Bear Creek, Pa.

Sara Toole was named one of Northeast Pennsylvania Business Journal's "Top 20 Under 40" for 2010. She is the planning and analysis manager at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs.

2007

Chris Applegate won the 2010 INBF New York State Bodybuilding and Figure Championships. He won the men's open middleweight class and the overall show.



Kandice Avery '06 and Thomas Joseph Bross were married on June 12, 2010. The bride is a respiratory sales representative for Merck Pharmaceuticals. The groom is a business analyst for The Boeing Company, Ridley Park. The couple reside in Swarthmore, Pa.

Staff Sgt. Matthew John Emelett and Grace Elizabeth Hughes were married on Nov. 1, 2009. The groom is serving in Afghanistan as a mental health specialist. The bride is a secondary education math and science teacher at Green Mountain Valley School in Waitsfield, Vt.

Adrienne Richards

accompanied the national Thanksgiving turkey to the White House in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 24, 2010, for the traditional presidential turkey pardon. Richards is the public relations manager

for the National Turkey Federation. This is her second year participating in the turkey pardon. She was featured in the Fall 2010 issue of *Wilkes* magazine.

Nicole Spagnola and Jason Marconi were married on July 30, 2010. The couple reside in Bear Creek, Pa.

2008

Amy Sekol is completing her third year as an elementary music teacher for the Scranton School District. She is also a licensed Zumba instructor. Sekol lives in Throop, Pa.

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2009

Alison Woody is communications coordinator at the non-profit agency United Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern Pennsylvania in Scranton, Pa.

2010

John Gill was hired for the Civil Unit/GIS discipline at Borton Lawson, an architecture and engineering design firm in Wilkes-Barre.

Michael Piotti accepted a position as a resident nurse at Cooper University Hospital in Camden, N.J.

Graduate Students 1990

Anthony F. Torquato MBA is the chief credit officer at LandMark Bank of Florida in Sarasota, Fla. He has been working in the banking industry for over 23 years.

2005

Vanessa G. Velikis Pharm.D. and Eli G. Phillips Jr.
Pharm.D. '06 were married on April 17, 2010. Both bride and groom are assistant professors of pharmacy practice at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas. The couple reside in San Antonio.



Mary E. Balavage '10 and Catlin W. Simmons were married on Sept. 18, 2010.

Wilkes Wedding Bells

Beginning with this issue, *Wilkes* magazine is accepting photos of alumni weddings. If wedding bells rang for you in the last year, please share your photos with us. We will accept your photos up to one year after your nuptials. Please follow these requirements:

- E-mail jpeg files to wilkesmagazine@
 wilkes.edu. Digital photos must be at
 least 4 by 6 inches at 300 dpi or 1800
 pixels by 1200 pixels. Please note that
 we will not be able to use photos that do
 not meet these minimum requirements.
 Non-returnable prints can be sent to:
 Vicki Mayk, editor, Wilkes magazine
 Marketing Communications Dept.
 Wilkes University, 84 W. South St.
 Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766.
- 2. NOTE: Do not write on the back of photos when submitting prints. Identify people in photos on a separate piece of paper, stating who is pictured left to right.
- The bride or groom must be a Wilkes graduate (undergraduate or graduate degree).
- 4. Photos of a wedding party may be submitted if at least one bridesmaid or groomsman is an alumnus. Identification, including class year, must be provided for everyone in the photo.
- 5. Group photos of all Wilkes alumni attending a wedding may be submitted. Identification, including class years, must be provided for everyone in the photograph.

Wilkes magazine reserves the right to edit photos for space purposes if non-alumni are pictured.

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Sandra Mary Cawley M.S. and Edward Benjamin
Hoffman '96 were married on
July 10, 2010. The bride is a
special education teacher for the
Lake-Lehman School District.
The groom is a logistics analyst
for Keystone Automotive
Operations. The couple reside
in Plains Township, Pa.

Joseph Iracki MBA see Graduate Students 2009.

Eli G. Phillips Jr. Pharm.D. see Graduate Students 2005.

Stacey Veronica Rutt M.S. see 2003.

2007

Paige Elizabeth Oxley
M.S. and Christopher Paul
Swales were married on
Oct. 15, 2010. The bride is
employed by Community
Health Centers of Pinellas
Inc. The groom is employed
by Morgan Stanley Smith
Barney. The couple reside in
St. Petersburg, Fla.

2008

Erica Perugino M.S. and Eric Greco were married on July 21, 2010. The bride is a first-grade teacher for the Hanover Area School District. The groom is self-employed as the owner of Greco Construction. The couple reside in Forty Fort, Pa.

2009

Patricia Eichorn M.S. and Joseph Iracki MBA '06 were married on June 26, 2010. The bride is employed by the Crestwood School District. The groom works for Koehler-Bright Star LLC. The couple reside in Wilkes-Barre.

Dawn Leas M.F.A. published her first chapbook of poetry, *I Know When to Keep Quiet*, released in November of 2010. The chapbook was published by Finishing Line Press and is available at www. finishinglinepress.com or www.amazon.com. Leas teaches middle school English at Wyoming Seminary Lower School in Forty Fort, Pa. She lives with her husband and two sons in Shavertown, Pa.

Courtney Ann Peters M.S. and David Randall Paden '05 were married on July 10, 2010. The bride is a special education teacher for the Stroudsburg Area School District. The groom is an electrical engineer for Smith Miller Associates in Kingston, Pa., and is the owner of DRP Realty, LLC. The couple reside in Swoyersville, Pa.

2010

Thomas D. Longenecker M.S. is building one of the largest solar arrays in Pennsylvania in the Carlisle Area School District. It is the largest in any public school district in the state, made up of 5,178 solar panels and showcasing four types of technology for educational purposes on 6.2 acres of land.

Donna Talarico MFA see 2000.

In Memoriam

1945

Donald A. Frederick Jr., Hanover Township, Pa., died Oct. 17, 2010. He was a World War II U.S. Army veteran as well as the owner and operator of M.S. Frederick & Son Funeral Home in Wilkes-Barre and Frederick Fine Furniture in Plymouth, Pa.

1948

Gomer E. Jones, Albrightsville, Pa., died Oct. 25, 2010. He was a World War II U.S. Army veteran and scout executive for The Boy Scouts of America.

1952

Thaddeus C. Putkowski, Nanticoke, Pa., died Nov. 1, 2010. He was a member of the Pennsylvania Optometry Association for 52 years and was self-employed.

1954

James T. Atherton, Wilkes-Barre, died Dec. 10, 2010. He was a U.S. Army veteran as well as a coach and educator at various academic institutions.

Joseph Mioduski, Nanticoke, Pa., died Nov. 21, 2010. He was a World War II U.S. Navy veteran and worked as a chemist for Okanite Wire Co. and Eberhard Faber Co.

1955

James (Jim) Neveras, Drums, Pa., died Nov. 13, 2010. He was retired from a career in banking and sales.

1959

Michael J. George, Plantation, Fla., died Oct. 19, 2010. He was employed at Slamen & Slamen CPA firm until 1981.

1963

Nancy Amelia Palazzolo, Babylon, N.Y., died Oct. 31, 2010. She was a retired employee of the Suffolk County Department of Social Services.

1967

Frank M. Yencharis, Spokane, Wash., died Oct. 7, 2010. He worked as a civilian for the Department of the Army as a human resources officer for 32 years.

1968

William R. Swartwood, Falls Church, Va., died Nov. 14, 2010. He served in the U.S. Army during Vietnam and retired from his position as an accountant and psychologist for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Inspector General after 35 years.

1969

Carol H. Klimchak, Plymouth, Pa., died Dec. 7, 2010. She was an operator for Bell Telephone Co. for 15 years as well as a second-generation owner and operator of Raub's Restaurant in Plymouth.

In Memoriam

Friends of Wilkes

Josephine C. Fiascki, Forty Fort, Pa., died Nov. 30, 2010. Prior to her retirement, she was the manager of the acquisitions department in the Farley Memorial Library at Wilkes University. Donald H. Glatzel, New Milford, Pa., died Sept. 23, 2010. A longtime benefactor of Wilkes, he was employed as an engineer at IBM and served with the Columbia Hose Company for over 40 years, spending some of the time as fire chief.

Norris Church Mailer, Brooklyn Heights, N.Y., died Nov. 21, 2010. She was a model, actor, painter, novelist, and playwright. Mailer served on the Wilkes Creative Writing advisory board. A scholarship in her name was established in the creative writing program by her late husband, the author Norman Mailer.

Wallace F. Stettler, honorary doctor of humane letters, Dallas, Pa., died Oct 21, 2010. He was the ninth president of Wyoming Seminary, retiring after 23 years, and served as president emeritus until his death.

Emeriti Faculty

Thomas N. Kaska '57 of Alden, Pa., died on Dec. 17, 2010. He received his bachelor's degree from Wilkes University and earned his doctorate at Duquesne University. Kaska returned to Wilkes as a professor of English, where he taught for 30 years until his retirement in 1997. Wilkes professor emeritus of English Benjamin Fiester '55 recalls that Kaska was "universally admired."

"When he taught Shakespeare," Fiester recounts, "his students thought so much of him that they bought him a first folio edition (of Shakespeare's works) when it was published by Yale."

Kaska is survived by his wife of 54 years, Eilene (George) Kaska; his daughters, Judith Fox '85, Lora Williams '84, and Beth Kaska '86; his brother, Henry; grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Hilda A. Marban of Beverly Hills, Calif., died on Sept. 19, 2010. Marban was professor emerita of foreign languages, teaching Spanish until her retirement from Wilkes in 1986. A political refugee from her native Cuba, she held doctorates from the University of Havana and the University of Virginia. Survivors include her son, Dr. Eduardo Marban '74.

Philip L. Rizzo of Germantown, Md., died Nov. 21, 2010. Rizzo was a professor of literature and linguistics at Wilkes and was named professor emeritus upon his retirement in 1987. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II, serving as a sharpshooter

and mortar expert for the glider infantry. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania, where he also earned his doctorate in British and American 19th- and 20th-century literature. He also taught courses at the University of Maryland University College and Montgomery College and was the author of several works of fiction.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Marcia Blanco Rizzo '71; his son, Louis; and his brother, Joseph.