

## Teacher

(continued from page 1)

Over the years Wilson has seen people's everyday lives get busier and traditional home lives change. "Today children try to be more grown up. But there are a lot of nice kids and we are lucky to have a good school system," she said.

After she was praised for her good work by Misericordia, Wilson and her husband, Lynn Rothrock, went to eat at Pickett's Charge in Dallas. A former student, whom Wilson had not seen since she taught the woman in fifth grade, approached their table. "She told me that she was writing a paper about me," explained Wilson. The former student had to

write a paper on her most memorable teacher for a communications class.

Wilson's husband was proud of his wife's honor. "I think it's great. She deserves it. I think teachers would like to be more respected these days. They do a lot of work," said Rothrock.

Wilson said she is impressed by the future teachers she has seen. "They are very hard working and always willing to give extra time. I'm impressed with their knowledge of technology," she said. "Also, their enthusiasm is good for the profession. We need that. It's refreshing."

## 2000

(continued from page 1)

should know.

Misericordia also checked with special-interest groups to get their opinions on what a well-rounded education program should include. And real working teachers provided a great deal of advice and input.

All this happened despite the fact that Misericordia has a 100 percent passing average on the National Teachers Exam and by all accounts is already doing a good job. "Good enough is never good enough," explained Rogan.

After years of research, analyzing feedback and revising curriculum, the education department presented Teachers 2000 primary improvements last week to a classroom full of students, faculty and representatives from King's College, Wilkes University, Penn State University and Luzerne County Community College. Rogan asked for more feedback from everyone and expressed Misericordia's desire to work with the other colleges in the future.

The most dramatic changes include requiring all education majors to also major in a specific content area. This has always been required for secondary education majors.

"It will give the teachers that much more expertise in one area," said Rogan, who explained that core classes help students maintain a level of expertise in other subjects.

In the past, Misericordia's education classes were set up more randomly. With the installation of Teachers 2000, the curriculum will be more integrated, articulated and without repetition.

For example, Misericordia faculty will play off the same set of goals. They will build syllabi together so there is no repetition and one class leads into the next. A student will go from a learning and development course, to learning how to create a curriculum, to practicing teaching.

The work will become more rigorous with tests and projects for each course. "We want all of the

*"Our goal is to be the best teaching education program in the state."*

Joe Rogan  
College Misericordia

objectives taught to the mastery level." Rogan told the group of 30 people. "Learners must respect what they learn."

Class management courses, which currently are general in nature, will become specific. If a student is learning special elementary education, their management course will look specifically at that area of study.

There also will be a much greater emphasis on teaching with technology. As technology in schools increasingly becomes a more integrated part of learning, Misericordia believes new teachers should hit the ground running. Technology will be taught beginning in the freshman year.

Also, to ensure the education majors are serious about becoming teachers, there will be a checks and balances system. At the end of freshman year, students will take a retention test, talk with teachers, write an essay and interview with Rogan to help them decide whether they really want to become a teacher.

With Teachers 2000, students will end up with 700 hours of field experience. Students will complete group and independent projects to help them learn how to work on their own and to build portfolios.

Also, a competency exam at the end of sophomore year and other exams will help prepare students for the National Teachers Exam.

"Hopefully this is the beginning of a new teachers program," said Rogan. "Our goal is to be the best teaching education program in the state. I know we're small, but I think we can pull this off."



POST PHOTO/KYLIE SHAFFERKOEETTER

## Rolling strong at 90

Ruth Evans, formerly of Dallas, recently celebrated her 90th birthday. Mrs. Evans and her husband, also 90, currently live in Wilkes-Barre. She remains active as one of the top women bowlers on the Thursday Afternoon Girls, which meets every week at Back Mountain Bowl.

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