

# The DALLAS POST

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Dr. David Wright, associate professor of history and chairman of the history department at Misericordia University, has published a book on musical rock lyrics.

## MU prof puts 'rock' into history lessons

By REBECCA BRIA  
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He's a history professor, but not a boring, old man who looks like he fought in the Civil War.

David C. Wright, Ph.D., an associate professor and chair of the history department at Misericordia University, can be found in his office dressed casually, yet professionally, wearing an earring and with his long, gray hair pulled back into a ponytail. Upbeat music without words quietly plays in the background and multiple framed pictures of children line a shelf.

Wright presented "The Phenomenology of Loss and Yearning: Nostalgia in Rock Music Lyrics" in November at the 18th Annual Mid-Atlantic Popular/American Culture Association Conference in Philadelphia.

The paper examines rock music lyrics over the course of decades from the 1960s to the present. He specifically looked at themes of loss, yearning and nostalgia and found it to be widespread in the music. Wright says music often becomes a hit because of its nostalgic lyrics which include loss of home, love, time, death and things one never even had. Anticipatory nostalgia, or thinking about losing what one has now, also runs rampant in the lyrics.

Wright focused on rock music to maintain concentration in one area and chose rock because it is popular and widespread. He selected lyrics from musicians such as Neil Young and Don Henley and was surprised when he didn't find much nostalgia in Bob Dylan lyrics.

While at the conference, Wright presented his work for 20 minutes, receiving good response and great discussion. He was encouraged when he heard

people in other presentations referring to his presentation.

The professor is in the stages of expanding his paper on nostalgia in music lyrics to include other genres of music and more recent examples of music. He plans to submit his revised work for publication to the "Journal of Popular Music."

Although Wright is not a musician, he did play the saxophone at one time and listens to almost every type of music except for metal and "commercial country." He even likes techno, though he explains there are different types and what he listens to is not the kind of music played at clubs.

Wright is thinking about teaching "The History of Utopia," "The History of African American Music" and "The History of Rock and Roll Music" but has been holding back for one reason.

"I'm a little concerned because when you get into popular culture areas, young people are impatient with what they don't like," Wright said.

Although Wright has not shared his paper with his students, many of them know about it and find it neat that their professor has written about rock music.

"I think they think history professors write about wars," Wright said. "I've never written anything about war. History's about everything people have done."

Stacy Orr, a senior history major at Misericordia, wants to read her professor's paper.

"Everybody likes rock music," Orr said. "It's interesting."

Wright presented "Gibson's 'Sprawl Trilogy': Utopian Sparks amidst the Dystopian Ashes" at the 32nd Annual Meeting of The Society for Utopian Studies in To-

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### SUPER BOWL

According to www.nfl.com, the New York Giants have not been in the Super Bowl since Super Bowl XXXV in 2001 when they were defeated, 34-7, by the Baltimore Ravens. The team has not won the big game since it beat the Buffalo Bills, 20-19, during Super Bowl XXV in 1991. The New England Patriots won Super Bowl XXXIX in 2005 when they conquered the Philadelphia Eagles, 24-21.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Peter Klein, of Dallas, an ardent Giants fan, shows off his favorite sweatshirt.

## A 'Giant' fan

Pete Klein is rooting for New York today

By REBECCA BRIA  
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### IF YOU WATCH

Super Bowl XLII at University of Phoenix Stadium, Arizona  
Sunday, Feb. 3  
FOX Television  
6:30 p.m.

Today is the day football enthusiasts have been anticipating for the past year: Super Bowl Sunday. Pizza eateries will be extremely busy with take-out orders and supermarkets and beer distributors will be crowded in the hours and days before the game. Homes, bars and restaurants in the Back Mountain will be full of eager fans and party-goers, each cheering for one team.

But just what team will that be?

Peter Klein, 68, of Dallas, will be rooting for the New York Giants. Having seen between 30 and 40 Giants games in person, Klein may be one of the biggest New York Giants fans in the area.

"I never liked the Eagles or the Steelers," he said.

Originally from Kingston, Klein first took an interest in football while a student at Kingston High School. He was a fan of the Cleveland Browns until he moved to New Jersey in 1960 and lived only 35 miles from Yankee Stadium, the previous home of the Giants. The Giants quickly

became Klein's favorite team because they were the closest to him and, at that time, tickets were often available.

Klein saw his favorite Giants game in the early 1960s when the Giants hosted the Cleveland Browns. Sleet had fallen the night before and the stadium seats were covered in ice, a blessing for Klein who enjoys games played in bad weather. The Giants won that game, 17-10.

"I was a Giants fan at the time and was still a Browns fan," Klein said. "I got to see my favorite two teams play. And it was in gnarly conditions."

While working for Bell Labs in New Jersey, Klein lived at an Air Force base along the coast of California for one year. Because not everyone could get NFL games on their televisions those days, he and some co-workers, who were also Giants fans, found a place to watch the games.

"On Sundays, we knew that in San Bernardino they had television that carried NFL games," he said. "We used to drive there, take a hotel room, watch the game in the morning and drive home. We would drive 70 miles inland just to watch the Giants on Sundays."

When the team moved into Giants Stadium in 1976, Klein saw one or two games that season but tickets soon became hard to come by as season ticket holders bought out all of the seats in the stadium.

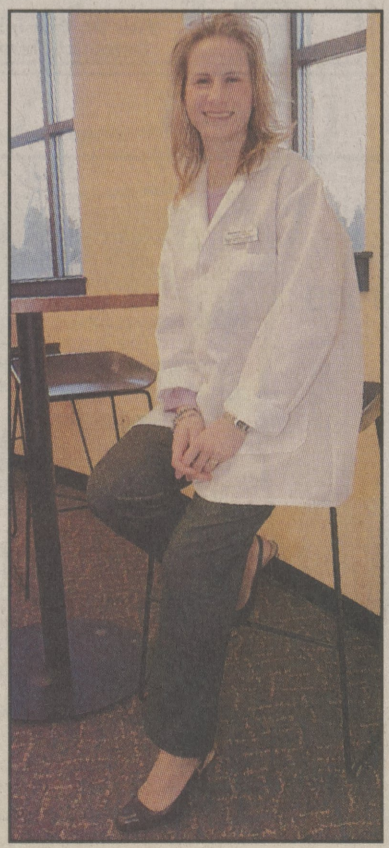
Luckily for Klein, his daughter, Pam Patterson, of Morristown, N.J., is also a diehard Giants fan. Patterson was offered two season tickets from a neighbor who had four and, for five or six years, would take Klein to the games when her husband was not available.

Klein moved to Connecticut in 1993, but still lived just 40 miles from Giants Stadium. When he moved back to the Wyoming Valley after retiring five years ago, most of his Giants memorabilia went in the trash but he's still a huge Giants fan.

His favorite Giant these days is

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Kristen Billek, whose family had owned Trucksville Pharmacy for over 50 years, announced recently that the pharmacy has closed. Billek is the Experiential Coordinator at Wilkes School of Pharmacy.



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## After 50 years, Trucksville Pharmacy closes

Billek family had owned business since 1982 when Neil Billek purchased it.

By REBECCA BRIA  
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After over 50 years of service to the Back Mountain Community, the Trucksville Pharmacy has closed.

According to Kristen Billek, owner and pharmacist, the pharmacy closed its doors for the last time on January 15.

"It wasn't a quick decision; it was a long process between myself and my family," Billek said.

Billek, 35, of Kingston, says the family decided to move on before it was forced to. Family members have re-

"It wasn't a quick decision; it was a long process between myself and my family."

Kristen Billek  
Pharmacist

ceived multiple phone calls and cards at home wishing them well.

Trucksville Pharmacy opened more than five decades ago by Harry Holak, who lived across the highway in Trucksville. Billek's father, Neil Billek, purchased the pharmacy from Holak, his cousin, in 1982.

Having grown up in the pharmacy, Billek wanted to be a pharmacist for as long as she can remember. In 1990,

she graduated from Wyoming Valley West High School and went on to pharmacy school at St. John's University in New York. Everything seemed to be falling into place. But things were about to change.

In September 1996, just three months before Billek graduated from pharmacy school, Neil Billek died. To the surprise of many customers, Billek walked into the pharmacy to work the day af-

ter her father died. "I felt my father had such a connection with the community that that connection came down onto myself," Billek said.

With the support of its strong customer base, the Trucksville Pharmacy continued on. The pharmacy was run by fill-in pharmacists until Billek came on board full-time in mid-1997. Billek's mother, Ann, became the backbone of the pharmacy and Billek's sister, Sarah, ran the front counter. Sarah was at the pharmacy so much, she kept a crib in the back room for her daughter, Anabell, now 6 years old. Billek's other sister Abby and brother Drew, live out of town but

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