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THE BEACON

Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow.

Students to be moved into 77 West by October

By Sean Schmoyer
Asst. News Editor

On August 7, Residence Life informed 16 students that the housing they had intended to live in was not prepared for students to reside in for the beginning of the fall semester. Those students are temporarily being housed in Ross and Sullivan Hall, which are mansion and traditional-style housing, as opposed to the 77 West apartment style housing that they were expecting.

The three students in Sullivan are in a triple, and are all senior nursing students: Victoria Kraft, MaKayla Keister and Alexis Graves.

"I wish they could have informed us closer to the middle or beginning of summer than two or three weeks before we came back," said Kraft, "We also had furniture we were supposed to bring. I have not unpacked yet because I am not sure if I will just need to repack in a week or two."

"I feel the same way," said Graves. "They sent an email July 29 that confirmed our housing assignment and then a week later we get the email telling us that it is not done. That email did not tell us what the temporary assignment would be and we had to wait for phone calls to talk about it."

Deborah Scheibler, director of Residence Life, laid out the timeline for what created the delays in the housing.

The apartment building was purchased by Wilkes University in March/April of last semester, according to Scheibler. The process for finishing the purchase was



The Beacon/Sean Schmoyer

The 77 West apartments are set to be completed for students by early October.

delayed to the summer due to a Luzerne County internet breach in May.

"Since it is a private property unit it was not on our cable and internet connection. In order to run the cable you have to run from one side of the street to the other. To do that you have to cut asphalt and close roads. Other than IT, the building is ready to go but, because of the fire suppression system, security cameras and [internet connection issues] we cannot get a certificate of occupancy."

The work was done in cooperation with

third party contractors. In particular the parking lot behind the building is owned by an entity other than Wilkes. Residence Life stated that Wilkes was completely ready to handle the acquisitions but setbacks outside of Wilkes control prevented a smooth transition.

The October timeline is the realistic timeline, meaning that potentially students could be in earlier, but in the same way if

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Enhancing your network with the Handshake app

By Sarah Matarella
Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

The Center for Career Development and Internships hosted an informational pop-up geared toward the app, Handshake, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 6, on the Fenner Quadrangle.

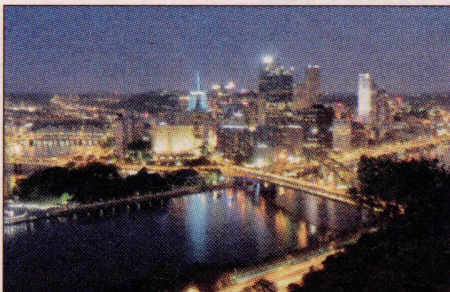
Handshake is a centralized app where undergraduate students can go for all things related to career and internship opportunities. Students can create a professional profile on it, upload their resume, view different highly rated companies and even more all at the palm of their hand.

"The app is great for any students looking to get experience in the professional world, and it makes it much simpler to discover opportunities in many industries. My personal experience has been a much easier process of discovering and applying to jobs which I might not have found otherwise, as well as information on the position, which can

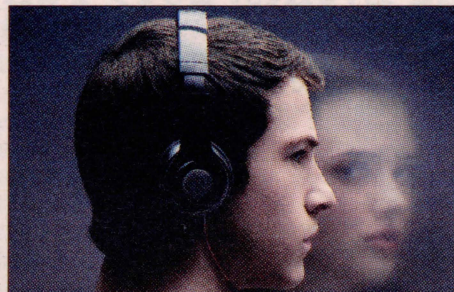
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Creative Colonel: Madison Kaminski, page 11



"13 Reasons Why" can do better for mental health and so can we, page 17



Controversial call controls fate of women's soccer game against RIT, page 20

News

Have a breaking story or a press release to send? Contact the news editor: Parker.Dorsey@wilkes.edu

Beacon Briefs:

Upcoming happenings on and around campus

Compiled by Sean Schmoyer

Join the Out of the Darkness, for a Walk to Fight Suicide

On Sept. 15 at Kirby Park, Out of the Darkness Greater is hosting a Walk to Fight Suicide. Those interested have the option of either being a walker or a volunteer for the event.

Walkers can register at afsp.org/NEPA and check-ins are at 11 a.m. Volunteers have the option of working from 9 to 11 a.m. or 3 to 4 p.m. and for walkers check-in is 11 a.m.

The walk will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. For more information about the walk should contact Anna Elkin-Wren at 570-262-9104. Those interested in volunteering can contact Michael Healey at 570-332-0290 to sign up for a time.

Shakespeare on the River

The Riverfront Parks Committee presents Shakespeare on the River which will be held on Sept. 12 at 6 p.m in the Northampton Street Amphitheatre Portal. This performance will feature Adam Long, Daniel Singer and Jess Winfield's "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare" (abridged). Admission is free and open to the public.

Student Government notes: Sept. 4 weekly meeting

By Sara Ross
Staff Writer

On Sept. 4, Student Government had its second meeting and started with a discussion about the updates to Henry's Dining Hall.

Members discussed how they appreciated the new improvements made to Henry's Dining Hall, as there are now more vegetarian options and a pasta station.

One of the first presentations was from the Student Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association (PPA). Members would like to attend an annual pharmacy conference at Seven Springs Resort. Last year, they won awards including the Membership and Communications Award along with the Scholarship Award. They are requesting \$1,680 to cover the hotel and registration costs for the trip.

The Alumni Relations Office came in for a second presentation to go over their plans for Homecoming weekend on Oct. 4 through 6. This year they are going to host an alumni and academic reunion during Homecoming. In a passing motion, they received the requested \$500 for 50 student tickets.


The American Medical Student Association (AMSA) came in for a second meeting in the hopes of starting an AMSA chapter at Wilkes. AMSA is a student-led national association that exists to cultivate, inspire, and inform medical students about organized medicine. The motion to approve AMSA was tabled due to unresolved questions and confusion about the club. AMSA must come back next week for a final vote.

Next up, was the approval of Student Government's Constitution update, to make

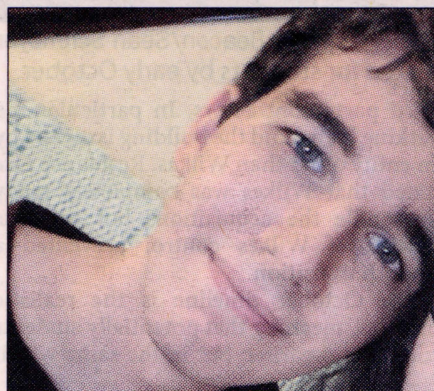
sure that no Student Government member may run for or hold two or more offices at one time. On top of this, was another approval for the request of \$3,600 to pay the salaries of the Club Hub workers.

There also was another vote to purchase 80 tables and 24 chairs for \$3,943.15 from Capital Projects to be more equipped for future events. The request was granted.

Some notes include MSC making plans to visit the African American Museum in Washington D.C. on Oct. 11 for \$5 per student. The Commuter Council is going on a trip on Oct. 9 and will be sending out a survey for students to decide where they would like to go.

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Joshua Naegle, 20 1998 - 2019



Joshua Naegle of Weatherly, Pa. passed away on Aug. 10 after a battle with depression. He was 20 years old.

Naegle was an accounting major going into his senior year at Wilkes University who continually made the university's dean's list every year. He was a commuter student who traveled from his home in Weatherly. He was known for having enjoyed his coursework at the university, specifically his classes in the subject of taxes.

He helped at the university's annual tax clinic, which provided tax services to students and the greater Wilkes-Barre public.

Naegle was employed at Walmart and had a future goal of becoming a certified public accountant after graduation.

In his free time he liked to read and play

video games.

He had a love for Barry Manilow, particularly the song "Mandy," as well as the late painter Bob Ross.

Naegle's friends described him as having a great sense of humor and "a joy to be around."

He is survived by his mother, Jenn Cooper; his father, Steven Naegle; sister, Elizabeth Rose Cooper; two brothers, Steven T. Naegle Jr. and Timothy Naegle; his maternal grandmother, Julia Cooper; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. A memorial service was held on Sept. 10 at 11:15 a.m. in the Student Center.

Counseling for those dealing with grief, or other problems, is available at Passan Hall by appointment.

Upcoming Events: 2019 Fall Semester

September

- 12 - Dip-N-Dots Giveaway (WUPB)
- 12 - SG Ballots open
- 12 - Exec Board Bonding (WUPB)
- 12 - Council of the Clubs (SG)
- 14 - Family Day
- 14 - Colonels March (SG)
- 17 - SG Ballots closed
- 18 - New SG Members announced
- 19 - Tacos & Trivia (WUPB)
- 26 - Bingo (WUPB)

October

- 3 - Future Night (WUPB)
- 3 - Homecoming Pep Rally
- 4 - Homecoming Dance
- 5 - Homecoming Game vs. Alvernia

November

- 17 - Fall Fest (WUPB)
- 21 to 25 - Casino Week (SG)
- 24 - Gen Board Bonding (WUPB)
- 28 - Mobile Escape Room & Laser Tag (WUPB)
- 29 - Cupcake Truck (WUPB)
- 1 - T-shirt Giveaway (WUPB)
- 1 - Scary Place (WUPB)
- 7 - Paint & Sip (WUPB)
- 14 - Wizards Basketball Game (WUPB)
- 21 - Winter Pom Hats Giveaway (WUPB)

December

- 5 - Holiday Bingo (WUPB)

WUPB denotes Wilkes University

Programming Board

CC denotes Commuter Council

SG denotes Student Government

MSC denotes Multicultural Student

Coalition

Want your event featured in the calendar?

Email: TheWilkesBeacon@wilkes.edu

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CDE Exotics moves to new location on South Main Street

By Parker Dorsey
News Editor

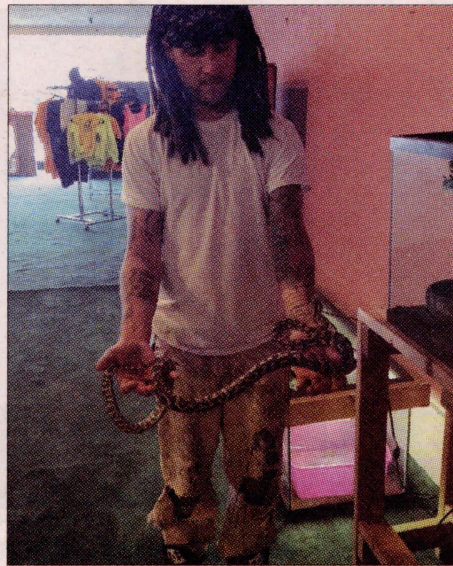
CDE Exotics is an exotic pet store in Wilkes-Barre. Formerly located in Hanover Township, CDE Exotics is relocating to a new location on South Main Street right next to Wilkes campus.

Cameron English, the owner, has spent the past 17 years as a veterinary technician, and the past nine years running his business.

He volunteered at the Mountaintop Veterinary Hospital while in eighth grade and worked there for 17 years before pursuing a degree in herpetology - specializing in the study of reptiles and amphibians.

"It would be nice to expose students to it. I think it would be a nice mental break from coursework to be able to go into a place like this. Any exposure to different kinds of animals is always interesting. You never know if that sets off an interest in a student they never knew they had," said Dr. Jeffrey Stratford, associate professor of biology at Wilkes University.

English wanted to offer something unique to the community, an exotic animal educational facility that offered a wide range of animals, various exhibits and house events geared toward education. He brings in reptiles and



The Beacon/Parker Dorsey English handling Blanche, a carpet python.

amphibians from all over the world and offers whatever information he can to whatever age level he is teaching. He wants stuff to interest the public but also to educate them at the same time. He said not enough people know about these things.

Stratford echoed this. "There's horrible examples of exotic animals being released into the environment and becoming invasive species. I think to combat that is, for one, you don't want to make potentially ecologically dangerous animals available, and you should educate people for those who really want to have those things. Don't dump this in the Susquehanna, please."

The building is nestled between both the Wilkes and King's college campuses. Despite being a primarily educational facility, English said that the proximity to the campuses was not the primary reason for the relocation.

"The size of the building gave us a lot of potential to grow and do things properly, such as proper caging and zoo exhibits. The fact that with both universities we're smack dab in the middle... it did come into play but at the same time would I be mad if we weren't? Not really, but I do value the education part of it," he said.

There are a lot of animals on display. English includes personal animals for educational purposes and almost all of them are rescues and surrenders. He wants to be cautious with the amount of animals because he does not have the employees to employ.

"The money's not there just yet. I'm going to keep it smaller and grow as I

need to. I don't want animals to suffer due to lack of individuals to care for them."

Last year three alligators were stolen from the store. Two of them were eventually found.

"For a lot of people having an alligator is a status symbol, and they have no idea how to take care of them... You could've stolen all my money and I wouldn't have cared. But you stole something that I don't sell."

"I don't sell them and I don't buy them. They're all rescues and surrenders. I hate selling animals. That's the worst part of my job by far. But to keep my feet on the ground and a roof over my head, that's what I need to do for now. The day I don't have to do it anymore will be a very nice day."

Not all animals are for sale, however. English is adamant that venomous snakes and lizards will never be for sale. Purchasing an animal requires a screening process where a buyer would need to sign a waiver agreeing they will not be irresponsible with the animal. Additionally, if the buyer is undereducated about an animal, they will likely not be able to purchase one.

"You're going to ask me any question you want and I'm going to tell you



The Beacon/Parker Dorsey Matilda, a blue and gold macaw.

applications that they can be used as pain medicine. While neurotoxins affect the central nervous system and cut off circulation to the brain, sublethal doses can be used in a positive way as pain medicine.

"Southern copperhead venom can be used to treat breast cancer, and we've had studies on this from the late 60's and early 70's. William Haast, my hero, used king cobra venom to treat polio."

In the tests he has done he noted that there are no side effects so far and no addictive properties. He believes that in the future they could be used as a viable alternative to opioids.

Until then, CDE Exotics will function as a local education facility. Some students on campus are excited for the new location to open.

"I think it's awesome. As long as people are getting the education to properly keep the animals and are treating them properly, I'm all for it," said Korbin Schlichter, senior mechanical engineering major at Wilkes University.

"My one beardie almost acted dog-like, behaved well and was a huge conversation piece. It's rewarding to keep them, and in all honesty they're no more difficult to care for than an aquarium."

English said he hopes the store will be open sometime this week.

"Come check us out and ask me some questions. Just enjoy yourself. All I ask is be respectful of the animals."



The Beacon/Parker Dorsey


Vegas, a sun conure, is one of several birds on display in the shop. Sun conures are typically native to northeastern South America.



Jekyll & Hyde, a two-headed snapping turtle.

everything I can about the animal prior to you purchasing it. If I can tell you're not ready for one, you're not going out the door with one that day. It's not about the money. You're not leaving without knowing nothing about them. We try to take every precaution possible and I can only do so much," he said.

Within 15 years English hopes to move to Alabama to purchase a venom medical research facility. He works with neurotoxins and researches the various

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Profile of a professor: Dr. Leesa Levy, visiting music

By Maddie Davis
Managing Editor

Dr. Leesa Levy is one of the 16 new faculty members to join Wilkes University for the 2019- 2020 academic year.

Levy is a visiting professor of music in the department of the performing arts.

At the university, Levy is in charge of directing two choral ensembles. She has taught individual voice lessons for the musical theatre program at the university since 2013.

Levy also teaches lessons through the Wilkes Conservatory, a program that teaches dance, music and instrumental lessons to community members of all ages.

Levy grew up in northeastern Pennsylvania, where she received her undergraduate degree in music education from Mansfield University. She then taught junior and senior high school music classes until she traveled south to the University of Texas at Austin to get her master's in vocal performance and pedagogy.

After receiving her master's, Levy relocated to Germany because she was, at the time, married to a United States Army personnel. There, Levy taught at the

Department of Defense and Dependent School System and the Franz Grothe Musik Schule in Weiden, Germany where she met her current husband.

After 13 years in Germany, she and her family moved back to the United States where she taught at Valley City State University in North Dakota. She later received her doctorate in vocal performance and literature at North Dakota University.

It was after she moved back to Pennsylvania with her family when she received an opportunity to work as an adjunct professor at Wilkes.

"When I was young, there were a few things I wanted to do with my life. On that list was to become a collegiate level music teacher," said Levy.

She further elaborated on what it means to her to be a music professor and talked about the connection she develops with her students of all ages.

"Making a difference in someone else's life is what it's about. In music, it is wonderful to be able to do that every day. Every day when you come to work you have the chance to do that," she added.

In her free time, Levy enjoys being




The Beacon/ Steffen Horwath
Visiting music professor, Dr. Leesa Levy, poses with the piano in her office.

outdoors and gardening, which allows her to be creative. She has also started taking online classes at the University of Massachusetts to get a certificate in arts administration. She hopes to be a benefit to the community by helping encourage the arts where she resides.

Levy loves to work in her community by becoming involved with her husband's

church and hopes to start a community garden in Scranton to benefit different food pantries in the areas.

She also enjoys listening to Celtic music and the famous composer Mozart.

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Profile of a Professor: Dr. Frances Turner, marketing

By Emily Cherkauskas
Staff Writer

Dr. Frances Turner, has joined the Wilkes University faculty team as an assistant professor in marketing in the Sidhu School of Business.

This semester, Turner will teach sales management and the market research and analysis courses.

As a new faculty member, Turner teaches a limited number of classes, so she spends the rest of her day assisting Wilkes in its effort to earn an AACSB accreditation for its business school.

Originally from Memphis, Tennessee, she left her hometown to attend Harvard in Massachusetts and earned an undergraduate degree in social studies.

"I wanted to focus on the whole idea that if people have to work for a living," Turner explained. "The workplace should be helping to enable, empower, and transform people into their best selves. They should be embracing the human being and making the working environment such that human beings grow."

After graduating, Turner discovered her love of collegiate teaching after spending some time teaching business in Silicon Valley and working for HBO in New York

City.

She eventually earned her Master of Business Administration from the University of Chicago, and later, her Doctor of Business Administration from the Grenoble de Ecole de Management in France.

Turner fell in love with Wilkes University after the first time she visited during her interview process.

"I was so impressed when I came to interview at the end of March," Turner explained. "The student who gave me the tour of the campus was so energetic and she so loved the school. She was telling me how she became enamored with the school. Then it just hit me. When she gave me the tour... and I was interviewing with professors, it was like—wow."

Despite this year being her first working at Wilkes University, Turner has already been leaving a strong impact on her students.

She has her own unique philosophy of how one should teach a class.

Turner believes that every single student of hers is unique and has taken on the responsibility of making her teaching environment and strategies be as unique as possible for each student.

"I'm not interested in students memorizing stuff," she said. "I rather

students learn to think about concepts that we are going over in class and actually apply it to situations in their lives."

In San Francisco she had a student who did not come to class often, was not attired properly and was under suspicion of consuming drugs.

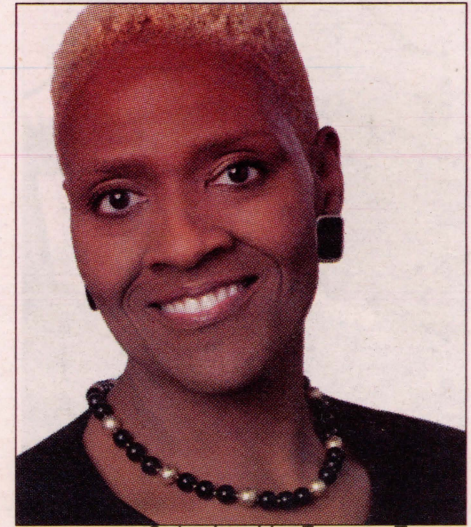
All of this led Turner to intervene and explain to the student that he desperately needed to improve his lifestyle before it was too late. The student managed to graduate, and the two did not see each other until years later. They reunited one day, and Turner noticed his professional attire and how he was working with other businessmen.

"You were the biggest influence on me while I was in school," she recalled what the student had said. "You inspired me to do better."

Outside of her professional field, Turner has discovered a special niche for crafting. She loves to handmake her own earrings and enjoys painting and drawing. She also has a passion for baking; her favorite homemade treats include German chocolate cookies, coconut cookies and oatmeal cookies.


As all of Wilkes University's faculty, staff and students begin the new school year, Turner has an important piece of advice for students.

"Do as much as you can," she said. "Take



Submitted by Frances Turner
full advantage of being in college. These four years... you will never have anything like this in your life, with being exposed to all of the activities, courses, and resources in one place like this.

"It is your time to shine, to make mistakes, and to enjoy."

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What we know about the likelihood of the Area 51 raid

By Parker Dorsey
News Editor

"Storm Area 51, They Can't Stop All of Us" is a Facebook event currently planned for Sept. 20 at Area 51, a United States Air Force testing facility in Nevada, to raid the site in search for extraterrestrial life.

The event was created by Matty Roberts, who confirmed it was comedic and disavowed responsibility for any casualties if people actually attempt to raid the military base.

"The FBI even showed up to the guy's house and then not long after it changed to a music festival/get together, though the town by Area 51 does not seem happy. Local areas are declaring states of emergency because they expect a lot of people in their tiny desert towns. The one article I saw only had a town of 98 people with no fire department, so even a 50,000 festival would overwhelm their emergency services," said Henry Hunsinger, adjunct history professor at Wilkes University.

Famous raids in history include the Storming of the Bastille and John Brown's Raid on Harper's Ferry. The Bastille was captured by over several hundred disaffected civilians and served as the catalyst for the French Revolution. Harper's Ferry resulted in the defeat of the two dozen man party by a company of U.S. Marines and served as a 'dress rehearsal' to the American Civil War.

"These events are incomparable. I think a better way to look at this could be the battle of Rorke's Drift, which put 156 defenders up against about 4,000 attackers. The defenders were better equipped and had a meager

defensive structure to help them and they won," said Delmar Guziewicz, former history major at Wilkes University.

"Defending an area is often far easier than attacking it, especially when the defenders have a military base as protection. Forts and bases are 'force multipliers' that effectively multiply the power of the army using it."

The government utilizing the military to quell uprisings and disturbances is no rare event. Perhaps the most chilling is the Tiananmen Square Massacre in 1989, which saw 3,000-4,000 peacefully protesting civilians gunned down by their government to protect government interests.

"This is not something that people will really put their lives on the line for. We've seen cases of where, for example, 'hey my family's starving and I'm so mad about the cost of bread. Marquis de Lafayette and the King can feed their families but I can't feed mine. I'm so angry so I'm going to storm the national assembly.' That's when your life is on the line," said Dr. Andrew Wilczak, associate professor of sociology at Wilkes University.

"As far as we know, our lives aren't on the

line for anything going on behind the scenes at Area 51," he said.

The idea of the interent causing someone to put their lives on the line over something

took hostages and said 'I'm here to free the children.' The FBI surrounded the place and essentially told the guy, 'Hey idiot, you just fell for something on the internet. No one is in danger. The only people in danger are the people who are now terrified because you, as a maniac, have shown up with an assault rifle,' and this dummy is just standing there throwing his life away," said Wilczak.

Even if the event does not occur, military personnel are still preparing with extra security in the case that it does.

"The US Armed Forces are not going to be able to be countered by any civilian force; once the civilians realize this we could expect some interesting yet unpredictable political discourse. It will certainly be marked in history books. Of course, this isn't a concern because it will never happen," said Guziewicz.

Meanwhile, protests are occurring in Hong Kong where people are putting their lives on the line. Wilczak noted that the thing about revolutions and collective actions is that you never know what's going to set them off.

"It would be funny if this turns into the civil rights or government abuse turning point of the 21st century. I can't even draw comparisons to anything equally stupid. Twenty kids show up and get wiped out and it gets turned into, 'Oh no, government authority is too much.' That's the only tiny sliver itty bitty light at the end of the tunnel of this otherwise completely stupid joke. With everything else happening, it would be completely pitiful," Wilczak said.



Graphic by Madison Hummer
not serious isn't anything new.

One notorious example was Pizzagate. Pizzagate was a viral right-wing conspiracy theory that cycled during the 2016 presidential election. It was a myth that claimed the Clinton family was running a child sex ring out of the basement of Comet Pizza in Washington D.C.

"A guy showed up with an AR-15 and

77 WEST, from front page

more delays emerge the October timeline has a chance of being extended.

In the email sent out in August it was recommended to students that they bring furniture at another time for the apartments in 77 West. The school is offering access to a moving company when the apartments open.

"I do not think they took into consideration that we have to furnish 77, because we do not know what is in the building," said Kraft. "Our families now have to come up here with our stuff because we had no room to store furniture. It becomes a hassle for them and us, they have the moving company but I live two hours away and our furniture is not on campus."

Graves added, "This is the reason why I think the \$250 is not comparable to the inconvenience that us and our families have to experience."

In return for the complications with 77 West, the students received the lowest

possible dorming cost available for the semester, resulting in a refund of \$250 for each student. Many students felt that while the amount was nice to receive if did not cover other complications the students have begun to run into during their time in Ross and Sullivan.

Julia Firestine, sophomore pre-pharmacy major says she feels anxious about the condition of the apartments.

"Dorm life was not what I envisioned all summer nor [what I] wanted to live in again when returning to school. 77 West seemed a promising housing option due to its individual rooms and kitchen space. The kitchen is a very important feature for me due to my restricted dietary needs."

"We planned on having space to cook in and therefore opted for the lowest meal plan," continued Firestine. "This means we cannot eat on weekends and are currently lacking adequate nutrition."

Kraft, Keister, and Graves all also took meal plans for the semester with the intention of cooking in kitchens at 77

West. The students are able to change their meal plan to one that costs more, however, if they do so they cannot change their plan back down once they are in 77 West. Students have also pointed out that the \$250 given to them by the university does not fully cover the extra food costs.

Scheibler said, "As soon as we know that we can occupy [77 West] we are going to reach out to facilities to contract with a moving crew. If they chose to move before that point or after that point they will be on their own and we will clarify that clearly."

According to Keister, requests to look at the apartment ahead of time were denied by the school.

"We have been trying to see what it looks like for three months to see what it is like and know what we can bring. Even our RA does not know," said Keister.

Without the certificate of occupancy the 77 West building is considered a construction zone, therefore, for the students' safety, Residence Life will not allow tours or physical viewings of the

building. When obtaining the property Residence Life did attempt to obtain blueprints, but anything that was given was incorrect. This means that students still lack knowledge of what their apartments look like, and the option of photos being taken and given to students is not in the plans.

The email on August 7 was the last communication about 77 West.

Scheibler emphasized the importance of student happiness to Residence Life. She asks that students with dorming issues email her at deborah.scheibler@wilkes.edu.

"This is the students' home, and it is very important to me that students feel comfortable and happy in their home," she said. "I am happy to talk to anyone and problem solve. How can we make it better? How can we be Colonel?"

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First-year students discuss choosing Wilkes University

Sean Schmoyer
Asst. News Editor

The 2019-2020 school year marks the 87th academic year at Wilkes University, and with it comes the brand new class of first-year students. The Class of 2023 and Class of 2025 have roughly 570 new students that come from 20 states, and 12 countries.

The number of students at Wilkes University now totals roughly 4,600 students. This year, the first-year students have 52 honor students and 18 students as a part of Wilkes EDGE, a program focused on helping first-year students make the transition to college life.

A vast amount of new students from a variety of new places and backgrounds means that there are more people on campus for other students to get to know.

Brooklyn Pedana is a first-year student who is undeclared. She found herself attending Wilkes thanks to the lacrosse team. Pedana is just one of many athletes on campus. Jason Burklow and Trevor DuBoff are both first-year wrestlers, and are a financial investments and business majors respectfully.

Burklow said, "I chose to come to

Wilkes because I am studying financial investments here, and I am wrestling here, so I knew wrestling would be a big part of where I would end up."

"I kinda fell in love with the campus, all the people here, definitely with the wrestling team and facility. It has been a lot of fun and I have met a lot of new people. Everyone seems closely knit together, and I think people are having fun, and I enjoy it here."

DuBoff said, "I chose to come to Wilkes because of the wrestling program, since I have gotten to Wilkes I have had a lot of fun at the welcome event where they threw out the stickers and shirts. I met a lot of people there."

"I have been having the best time of life since I have been here. It is already pretty tough waking up at like six to go on runs, practices and lifts everyday. But it is going to pay off at the end of the day."

"The first semester so far has been fun and I am glad I choose to spend my time here. I am looking forward to making new friends and figuring out what my major will be," said Pedana.

Brady Mitchell is a first-year business management major from Maine whose baseball coach recommended Wilkes to

him.

Mitchell said, "It is a college town which is really neat, and it is big enough to where it is a good size campus but small enough where it does not take 30 minutes to get to places. It is great and easy to meet people, everyone is super friendly and easy to approach. I am looking forward to trying to walk on the baseball team."

Burklow was one of many students to attend the wrestling match Monday in the Marts Gym. The match was between Yianni Diakomihalis and Zain Retherford to see who would make the spot on the Olympic team. It was a unique experience that first-year students got the chance to watch.

"That was really cool, I have been to a lot of college matches, but to see that in the Wilkes gym was incredible. I know a lot of people came out for that and it sold out within an hour," Burklow said.

More than 200 new students are athletes, bringing the total number of student-athletes to 550 on campus. Mitchell, DuBoff, Burklow and Pedana are just some of the athletes that make up the new first-year students.

There are more than just athletes on campus. The new first-year students also


consist of students who are local residents and commuters.

Ashley Slack, first-year communication studies major, said, "Wilkes is relatively close to my house and I love the communications program. Out of all the schools I was looking at I feel like Wilkes had the best programs for that major."

"So far I have really enjoyed the grilled cheese from Grillworks, and all of the students and professors have been very kind and welcoming."

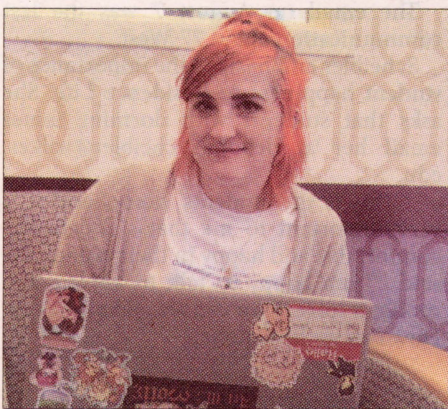
Ian Bartlow, a first-year computer science major, said, "My choice to come to Wilkes was mainly based on the benefits I would receive, combined with the close location to home. My experience on campus has been very good thus far, learning where things are was not too much of a challenge and everyone has been helpful and nice."

"I picked Wilkes because it was close to home, and now you appreciate how beautiful the campus is. It has been hectic but fun. My bio class has definitely been tough," said Deanna Wadzin, first-year nursing major.

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Brooklyn Pedana, Undeclared.

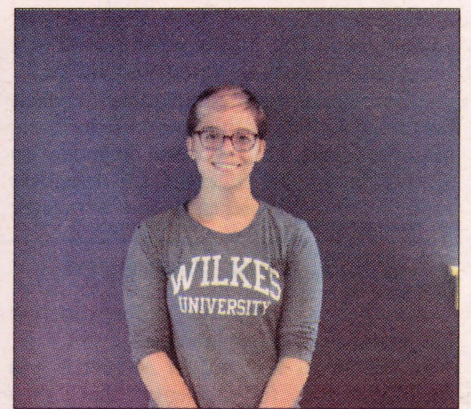


Ashley Slack, Communications Studies major.



From left to right: Brady Mitchell, Business Management major, Trevor DuBoff, Business major and Jason Burklow, Financial Investments major.

All Photos By: The Beacon/Sean Schmoyer



Deanna Wadzin, Nursing major.



Ian Bartlow, Computer Science major.

Life, Arts & Entertainment

The Sordoni Art Gallery showcases its newest exhibition, Rust Belt Biennial, with opening reception

By Anna Culver and Jordan Daniel
Staff Writers

The Sordoni Art Gallery recently ushered in its latest exhibit, Rust Belt Biennial, with an opening reception. The exhibit showcases photography from local regions of Pennsylvania to Michigan curated by Niko J. Kallianiotis and Yoav Freidlander.

The Rust Belt Biennial is a photography series that showcases works of multiple photographers who are from areas affected by the deindustrialization of the rust belt region. The pieces from the exhibit were described as haunting as it highlighted the situation that the rust belt is in.

"I believe that it was created to compare new memories and old histories, and maintaining the integrity and importance of both. This exhibit also focuses on the importance of photography and its effects on our society, whether it be political, social or cultural," said Jessica Morandi, junior graphic design major and intern at the Sordoni Art Gallery.

Heather Sincavage, director of the gallery, explained that the exhibit is unique because it brought together a number of artists who are committed to the communities, which have been left behind in the rust belt regions.

"There is one artist, Alyssa Eve Csuk, who decided to focus on the Bethlehem Hotel's past. Through her work it reveals what it

looks like now," said Sincavage. "It is a good representation of the exhibition."

The photography of the exhibit illustrated the hardships of the rust belt as it is facing a decline in blue-collar work. Sincavage shared that her favorite piece was by the artist Susan Copich.

"She is photographing a woman who has fallen down the stairs but the image depicts the challenges women face in the rust belt communities. It's haunting yet beautiful and I think women can relate to this piece," said Sincavage.

According to Jesse Elliott, senior finance and political science major, one of the most iconic pieces in the exhibit is titled "Farmer Bob" by the artist Joel Anderson. Elliot spoke about how this piece reflected portions of his own life growing up.

"He used to be a coal miner actually and he's now a farmer because he has black lung from his years in the coal mine. Especially for me, that is something that is kinda close because I live literally less than half a block down from a coal strip and my grandpa used to work in the coal mines and he had black lung himself. It is especially a story that I am really familiar with and being able to see it in a bigger setting like in the gallery was really cool to me," said Elliott.

Sincavage also shared there is no particular way to go through the exhibit. However,



The Beacon/Seth Platukis
Artist, John Sanderson, and his family posed by his featured artwork.

she and her colleagues have noticed how people tend to start at the desk area and move in different directions. Therefore, they intentionally placed two pieces by the desk that they believed relay what the Rust Belt is.

"People should attend this particular exhibit because it's truly reflective of us. Our region was built on coal mining and steel. It's a realistic look of our community and the ones that are still thriving today," said Sincavage.

At the reception, Kallianiotis and Freidlander shared a couple of words about their inspiration for starting this exhibition. Reception attendees were able to meet with the curators and other artists afterward.

"I'm fascinated by the photographs of people's faces. Their expressions give me a sense of confusion and vulnerability because of the bad situations they seem to be in. I cannot relate to those experiences so it makes me feel guilty because I cannot help them," said Anna DePaula, a reception attendee from Brazil visiting Wilkes-Barre.

For more information about the gallery, please contact Heather Sincavage at heather.sincavage@wilkes.edu or visit the Sordoni Art Gallery's website at <https://wilkes.edu/sordoniartgallery>.

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Heather Sincavage and artists welcomed the attendees into the new exhibition after the reception wrapped up.

Sordoni Art Gallery Events

Sept. 11, 5 p.m. | Rust Belt Biennial Artist Panel Discussion

Yoav Friedlander, Niko J. Kallianiotis, Ed Eckstein, founding member of Frame 37 and Jamie Longazel, founder of Anthracite Unite. The panel will be moderated by Heather Sincavage, Director of Sordoni Art Gallery. Discussion begins at 5 p.m.

Sept. 20, 5-8 p.m. | Art Block: Live Glass Blowing Demonstrations

Live hot glass demonstrations with the Keystone College Mobile Glass Studio, hands-on art making activities, music and more.

Sept. 25, 4:30 p.m. | Lecture: Undocumented Fears: Immigration and the Politics of Divide and Conquer in Hazelton, PA with Jamie Longazel,

Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York. and author of award winning book *Undocumented Fears: Immigration and the Politics of Divide and Conquer in Hazelton, Pennsylvania*.

Oct. 2, 4:30 p.m. | Lecture: Mining our History: What We Can Learn from Photos of the Past with Dr. Aimee Newell, Executive Director of the Luzerne County Historical Society in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

The city of Wilkes-Barre hosts 250th Founder's Day Celebration

By Kylie Dillon

Asst. Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor,

The gloomy weather did not stop the city of Wilkes-Barre and their residents from celebrating its 250th anniversary on Sept. 6 at Kirby Park.

For the celebration, local vendors lined the sidewalks of the field selling food and different handmade jewelry and clothing.

The city also celebrated the day by having carnival games with prizes, hot air balloon rides and different informational stands including one from the Wilkes-Barre Police Dept.

On top of these attractions, the David Blight School of Dance, Wilkes University's MEDUCA students and the Tom Petty Appreciation Band all performed throughout the day.

The celebration honored the anniversary of the Connecticut settlers who came to the area in 1769. Colonel John Durkee named Wilkes-Barre after John Wilkes and Isaac Barré, two British Parliament members who were in support of the colonies during the Revolutionary War.

Among the Wilkes-Barre citizens that attended the event, there were many Wilkes University students who crossed the Market Street Bridge to join the

celebration.

"I had a lot of fun, there was so much food. I've never even been to Kirby Park so it was cool to get off campus for a while," said Taylor Dillon, sophomore business management major at Wilkes University.

Several of the Panamanian students who attend Wilkes University came to support MEDUCA as they performed two traditional dances for the audience.

"I heard about this event from a friend, and I went to support the panamanian students," said Priscilla Rey, sophomore business management major at Wilkes University. "I thought it was so cool to see the different types of cultures and dances. It was different to see the kind of dances they do compared to american dancing."

Despite the weather being chilly, families seemed to generally enjoy the carnival-esque event.

The celebration was a great opportunity for families to connect with one another and enjoy a fun-filled day of food, games, and performances.

"I really like the Panamanian culture, and the vendors were selling different stuff which was lovely," said Juana Pimentel, sophomore hospitality major at Wilkes University. "It was really nice to see families together, because you don't always get the chance to see families together and I had the chance today."



The Beacon/Kylie Dillon

Wilkes University's Panamanian students, Abdiel Gonzalez and Yulieth Zambrano performing a traditional dance called "El Punto" on stage at Kirby Park stage.

Founder's Day was a celebration for the city of Wilkes-Barre and its residents. The celebration emphasized the city's history, which had stretched from the Revolutionary War.

It also provided an opportunity to

immerse Wilkes students with the history of Wilkes-Barre, and allowed them to interact with the local community.

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Each week the Wilkes Beacon staff picks adds a song to the Beacon Bumps playlist on Spotify. Check us out under the Spotify username, The Wilkes Beacon, or look to the side column for this week's list of songs.

Staff Picks

- Need You Around - Smoking Popes
- Cabrini Rudnicki / Editor-in-Chief
- My Honest Face - Inhaler
- Maddie Davis / Managing Editor
- Mistakes Like Fractures - Knocked Loose
- Parker Dorsey / News Editor
- Take the World By Storm - Lukas Graham
- Sean Schmoyer / Asst. News Editor
- Nostalgic - ARIZONA
- Sarah Matarella / LA&E Editor
- One Thing Right - Marshmello
- Kylie Dillon / Asst. LA&E Editor
- On the Road - Post Malone
- Neil Murphy / Opinion Editor
- Let's Fall in Love for the Night - FINNEAS
- Sammi Verespy / Asst. Opinion Editor
- You're Welcome - Dwayne Johnson
- Ben Mandell / Co- Sports Editor
- Dig Your Roots - Florida Georgia Line
- Kirsten Peters / Co- Sports Editor
- Do You Remember - Chance the Rapper
- Madi Hummer / Graphic Design Editor

APP, continued from front page

be very difficult to find from other sources," said Jesse Elliot, senior finance and political science major.

The pop-up event was geared toward raising awareness about the app, helping students create their Handshake profiles, and to increase the presence for the newly merged Center for Career Development and Internships as an essential resource on Wilkes campus.

Free t-shirts and information cards were handed out as well to any student who downloaded the app and created their profile.

"I have been trying to get Handshake here for the past two years. At a lot of the conferences that I go to, I notice that a lot of the bigger schools are using Handshake like

Temple University, St. Joseph's University and Lehigh University. When looking into it, I recognized ease of use for both students and employers as well," said Sharon Castano, director of Student Development.

Unlike similar apps such as LinkedIn, posts on Handshake are filtered based on the needs and wants both of universities and companies that are searching for prospective interns and employees. It gives employers the option to choose the schools that they want their posts to be shown to.

"The better that students create their profile, employers will be able to search for them. Handshake is very intuitive. The more information that they give it, the better the recommendations will be for the jobs," said Lisa Mulvey, career development coordinator and administrator for the Handshake app at Wilkes.

In the same regard, Wilkes can also choose which employers are qualified to be highlighted on their Handshake network. The Center also rates the employers based on ratings from other schools and upon the feedback given from students and alumni who are at or previously worked at these companies in the past.

Thus, if the Center sees that companies have a lower rating, they will look into it so that the students can have the more valuable experience possible at their internship or potential new job.

"I was able to find an internship instantly. I found an internship opening at GUARD insurance and I was the first to apply thanks to Handshake. I am now an intern at GUARD because of it...I would highly recommend every student at Wilkes to download this app," said Michael Bergamo, senior dual major in finance and sports management.

Castano also stressed that the Center is working hard to contact a variety of companies in different fields both locally and nationally to explain the benefits of being on Handshake. The ultimate goal is to get as many companies to get on board as possible.

"I'm trying to let students know what's going on currently. The larger companies are who you are seeing on Handshake first and that is happening because these companies have already been on Handshake for the past few years," said Castano.

Castano also mentioned that if students are in a certain industry Handshake might not be where they find all of their opportunities. Every student can still go



The Beacon/Sarah Matarella
Caitlin Klinger, senior sports management student and Moran DeAngelo, Student Development graduate assistant worked the table at the pop-up event.

to the center behind the SUB and meet directly with Castano to find industry-specific internships and opportunities if they cannot find one on the app.

Over 500 employers have already signed up on Handshake. Mulvey mentioned that the goal is to have at least 800 companies signed up by the end of the semester along with developing a larger pool of local companies for the students to have more convenient access too, especially for internships.

Students can also still utilize Handshake for other reasons as well. Both Castano and Mulvey explained that Handshake is meant to enhance your network. They said that it should be used in conjunction with sites like Indeed, LinkedIn and Glassdoor to maximize your potential to gain opportunities.

In addition, the Center for Career Development and Internships uses Handshake to inform students of when the


career and internship fairs are being held and which companies will be attending. Students will also be able to register for these events through the app as well.

"We will not have to send emails anymore, and there won't be a need for fliers around campus. Everything will be right on Handshake," said Mulvey.

Since students can upload their resume to their profile and the center has access to these profiles, feedback is provided on each of the resumes that are uploaded.

For more information about Handshake, contact Sharon Castano at sharon.castano@wilkes.edu or Lisa Mulvey at lisa.mulvey@wilkes.edu, or attend the next pop-up and information session on Oct. 14 in the Cohen Science Center.

The Handshake app is now available for free on Apple's App Store and the Google Play store.

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Courtesy of Miranda Zink

The app greets the student with their name and information about job listings catered to their needs.

Upcoming Events

Sept. 12 - Internship Orientation - 11 a.m. Miller Room

Sept. 17 - Career conversations - 11 a.m. F.M. Kirby Center

Sept. 19 - Baker Tilly Day - 11 a.m. UCOM 231

Sept. 26 - Using LinkedIn in Your Job Search - 11 a.m. UCOM 134

Courtesy of The Center for Career Development and Internship

Programming Board hosts Ping Pong & Pizza on the Fenner Quad

By Caroline Rickard
Staff Writer

Just like Sunday Night Football, Thursday night Programming Board events are back in action for this year.

On Sept. 6, one of Wilkes University's Megacouncil clubs, Programming Board, held its second program of the year with Ping Pong and Pizza on the Fenner Quad.

This past Thursday night was unlike previous events because it was held outside on the Fenner Quad. Most of their other events are held on the Henry Student Center's concourse.

Students of all years turned out for the event.

The Fenner Quad was filled with multiple ping pong tables, and refreshments tables were stocked with soft drinks and all-you-can-eat pizza. The event was also complemented by speakers playing popular music.

"We decided to host this event on the quad in order to encourage the laid back atmosphere we want the event to have," said Devin Lindley, a junior marketing and management major, and marketing chair on Programming Board.

The event echoed that goal with crowds of students taking a break from their

studies to mingle with their friends, play rounds of ping pong and listen to music. Students even had the chance to win prizes towards the end of the night.

"The purpose of this event is to take some stress off of our busy schedules for the night," said Erin Schaepe, a junior education major and public relations executive of programming board.

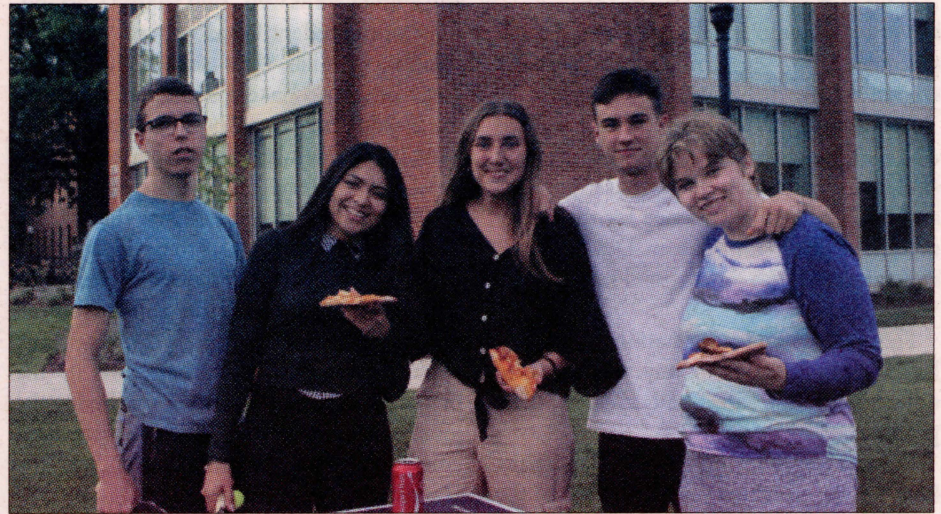
Programming Board events like ping pong and pizza are a great way to meet new people in the Wilkes community. These events normally bring in students from all class years, as well as students from a variety of majors across departments.

"This event is also unique because it isn't as structured as others are," said Lindley, "There isn't a specified order of events, students can come by and eat whenever they like."

Autumn Pedron, a junior education major, recommends that students should attend these kinds of events. She also noted her favorite part of the night was the buffalo chicken pizza.

"I definitely think this event is a good way to meet others from Wilkes, and is a chance to catch up with new friends in between classes," Pedron said.

Programming Board does much more



The Beacon/ Caroline Rickard


Friends (left to right) left- Losu Sanz Garcia, Leyre Soriano, Susan Balanco, Iñigo Anãtevia, and Valerie Helminen enjoyed the all-you-can-eat pizza at the event.

than host events like Ping Pong and Pizza. The group is also responsible for putting on the spring concert, which has brought in popular artists of all musical genres like AJR, T-Pain, Hoodie Allen and Bryce Vine. The Megacouncil also sells discounted movie tickets for students.

Programming Board will continue to host events every Thursday night at 7 p.m. throughout the entire academic year.

The next event will be a Dippin' Dots giveaway held on Sept. 12 during club hours from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first floor of the Henry Student Center.

For updates about events and giveaways, follow Wilkes' Programming Board on Instagram and Twitter @WilkesUPB.

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Self care with Sarah: Taking a step back and taking control

By Sarah Matarella
Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

Since a new academic year is upon us, one might be thinking about what they can do to improve their daily routine or themselves in general from last year. Taking control and actively thinking about what you can improve upon and what you need to accept can make a huge difference in your daily routine.

Whether you are a returning student who seemingly has their routine down to a science, or a first-year student who is making the transition from high school, improvements can always be made. This can be difficult especially if one is used to doing something or acting in a certain way.

"When I lived at home before coming to school, I would never really clean up after myself. I was just messy because no one else really saw, but then moving in with

someone made me realize like oh my gosh they can see my things and they can see the way I live. That was a huge change for me," said Yugadi Hullur, sophomore biology major.

Hullur went on to explain that she thinks that it would be selfish if she continued in her habits because it had the potential to negatively affect the people that she was living with.

Aside from affecting others, becoming stagnant in a routine or a certain behavior can cause dissonance within oneself if they realize that it is not beneficial to them.

"The most important thing is that you have to want to change for yourself and

not just because others want you to. Don't just sit around and accept something that doesn't make you your happiest self," said Julie Chropowicki, junior psychology major. "So, if it makes you unhappy, it probably needs to be changed."

On the other hand, it is also important to know when to accept things about yourself. Sometimes, people have the tendency to overthink about something that they might be doing or perceive that they are affecting others when they actually aren't.


Everyone has their own distinct traits, personalities and ways of living. Some of these aspects are things that people do not

even have control of. Therefore, accepting certain things about yourself is just as essential as realizing what you might need to work on.

"I would say always change when you can because change is good and is something that is almost inevitable. The only thing that would lead to having to be accepted is something you have no control over," said Chropowicki.

So, take a step back when you have free time to self reflect and analyze these differences. It can be difficult, but it has the potential to benefit you in the long run.

"Don't be a victim. If you don't like where you are, either get working to change it, or accept it and appreciate it," said Hunter Hughes, senior pre-med neuroscience major.

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The Beacon/Seth Platukis

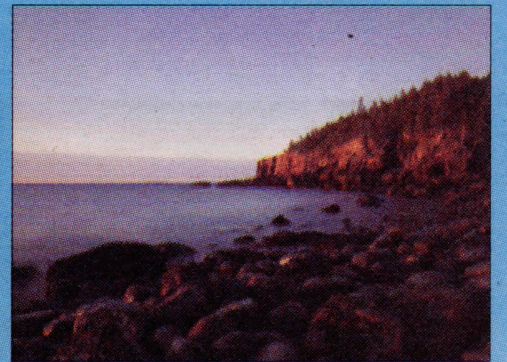


creative colonels

Creative Colonel of the Week:

Madison Kaminski, senior digital design and media art major with minors in marketing and psychology.

Colonel creativity: "My major is digital design and media art, so I do a lot of creative things through there. I'm also currently learning 3D design, web design and 2D app developments. In addition to that, I do photography and videography. I also play music," said Kaminski.




Discovering the talent: "Photography is the area I have been attracted to the longest," she said. "Even from a young age, I took to it early on. I stuck with it since I was about 11 and continued to develop my skills and interest in it. Especially within the last four or so years working on developing my skills a lot with it. I have a wide variety of different cameras I use, and over the years I've upgraded or just tried out new cameras."



Job vs. hobby: "For the most part, it is a fun thing I do. Every time I travel I have a camera on me. Mostly I take pictures of landscapes or cityscapes. Environmental is my favorite because there is a lot of creativity you can do there as well, but I definitely also shoot portraits, events, products and other corporate photography. Slowly, it's turning into a side job though. Over the past year, I have been doing more photography for work through internships and also on my own. I just shot my first wedding and I have a website that I post photos. I do Instagram a little, too, but not as much as I should," she said.

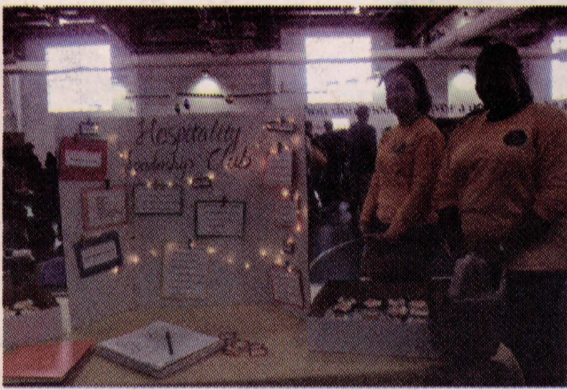
All Photos Submitted by Madison Kaminski

Solo vs. group activity: "This is definitely a solo thing, but sometimes I collaborate with other people to take pictures of them, or other businesses if they need photos," she said.

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CLUB DAY 2019

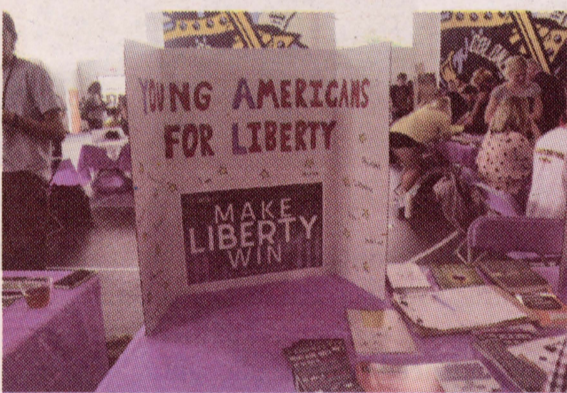
Wilkes University's Student Government hosted its annual Club Day on Thursday, Sept. 5 in the McHale Athletic Center in University Center on Main. A record high of 115 clubs, organizations, work study and volunteering opportunities registered for the event. Tables filled the MAC, with the center of the gym left wide open for performances from the Wilkes University Dance Team and Cheerleading Team. The radio station, 90.7 WCLH, kept the atmosphere alive with DJs on the microphone and music playing throughout the event.



The Hospitality Leadership Club, represented by Victoria Morrison, provides the opportunity to gain solid business and hospitality skills.



Represented by Vice President, Donald Ballou, and President, Allyssa Olear, the UNICEF club is focused on carrying out the mission of the United Nation Children's Fund through community service, advocacy, and fundraising.



The mission of the new club, Young Americans for Liberty, is to identify, educate, train and mobilize activists to 'make liberty win.'

"It couldn't have happened without the combined efforts of all Student Government members and Student Development. We had over 810 unique attendees captured on our app, The Colonel Guide. We are in the process of getting feedback for next year, which has been positive thus far."

- Alanah Guerrero, student body president



Represented by Dr. Helen Davis, the Gender and Sexuality Alliance is a club designed to create awareness for LGBTQ+ students and provide a place for members of the community and allies of the community to come together.



New to campus, the Games and Media Club promotes community through video games, board games, television shows and movies.



The Beacon/Parker Dorsey
Dr. Del Lucent, laijutsu club advisor, and Gillian Bohunko pose after a waza demonstration.



Represented by Vice Presidents, Matt Finnegan and Delaney Lukowski, the Politica; Society does an array of politically inclined activities such as movie nights, mocktail parties and trivia nights.



Courtesy of Amni Cola Yearbook
Programming Board's DeAndre DePass and Tyler Lackey hand out pennants advertising their club.

Photos: The Beacon/Breanna Ebisch

Page Layout: The Beacon/Madison Hummer

Opinion

Have an opinion or want to write a guest column? Contact the opinion editor: Neil.Murphy1@wilkes.edu

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2019-20

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Our Voice

Each week, *The Beacon's* editorial board will take a stance on a current issue.

Emphasizing athletics is a good way to entice potential students

Wilkes University has rebranded its athletic department in the last two years, between adding new sports, such as men's and women's ice hockey, and a near complete overhaul on most of the department's coaching staff. The latest upgrades made to the department have been in the Marts Center and most notably at the Ralston Athletic Complex, where new multi-sport turf fields are currently being put in.

Rumors have been swirling around the university that the recent upgrades are to hopefully draw more interest for incoming students. Here at *The Beacon*, we believe that investing money in the athletics programs at Wilkes and improving facilities is a good strategy to help draw more interest in the University.

Wilkes has had multiple coaches depart for numerous reasons over the last three years, whether it was for new jobs or stepping away for personal reasons. With the vacancies, Wilkes has put effort in to hiring the best candidates for its student athletes and the university.

The Marts Center has been upgrading the weight room over the last couple of years, and this summer had new blue turf installed in the "green room," resulting in it being renamed the "blue room." Gowilkesu.com also recently posted that the weight room has new/upgraded

technology.

As reported by *The Beacon* in the summer issue, the university is installing a new multi-sport turf field in the Ralston Athletic Complex. The field will primarily serve as a baseball field in the spring, but it can also host games for men's and women's soccer in the fall as well as field hockey and men's and women's lacrosse in the spring.

"I think it is a really good idea if the University wants to keep enrollment up during down years," Jose Tabora, senior quarterback of the Wilkes football team said. "The improved facilities are very attractive for athletes and for the university's non-athletes it can create a fun atmosphere at games and around campus."

The benefits of investing the money into athletics are clear for many student athletes, but for the students who do not participate in sports, Wilkes could potentially have an issue.

"I understand why Wilkes may want to improve their athletic facilities but it is hard to think about my tuition dollars contributing to programs that I have no part of," an anonymous student at Wilkes said.

While it is a fair question to raise, it is important to note that projects like this are not completely funded by

the university, but also from alumni donations.

It is also important to know that there are a lot of athletes that make up the Wilkes University campus. Many students are drawn to Wilkes from other states because of the athletic and academic opportunity.

"I heard about Wilkes when the coaches came out and recruited me," freshman football player Ryan Martel said. "I came for a visit and saw what Wilkes could offer me academically and I knew this was where I wanted to be."

It is important to note that while Wilkes is a Division III school, therefore meaning most athletes are likely not going to move forward with professional athletic careers, athletics still help draw interest to Wilkes.

The football team brought in over 45 freshman this year and that is just a fraction of the freshmen the athletic department brought in.

The money Wilkes is investing in their athletic department is similar to the trickle-down effect. The money invested in the fields, facilities and coaches will draw more interest for incoming students for years to come.

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All letters to the editor must be sent using one of the following methods:

Email: TheWilkesBeacon@wilkes.edu

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There is never a need for straight pride parades

By Sammi Verespy
Asst. Opinion Editor

As you may or may not know, there was a straight pride parade in Boston on Aug. 31. This is a stunt pulled off of feelings based in hatred and bigotry, not in activism for those who identify as straight.

Pride is not a threat to people who are not in the LGBTQIA+ community. Minorities celebrating their identity do not impose a threat or harm to another's identity.

Throughout the summer, specifically in June, people who are in the LGBTQ+ community celebrate pride. This is celebration of the freedom to express their identities and individuality.

One of the largest shows of this during the month are Pride Festivals or Pride Parades. They are a colorful display, mostly of the different flags representing such identities.

However, in Boston there was a counter movement brewing, planning a "straight pride festival/parade."

The organizer of this event, Mark Sahady, commented on Facebook saying that this event was planned "to make fun of the left's identity politics."

Later adding, "For (the left), everything is based upon identity. It is all about who is a victim and who is an oppressor."

If you are a victim then you get celebratory status and the oppressor is expected to defer their true feelings and allow them to do so."

This ideal is one that diminishes the LGBTQ+ communities and what they stand for at their core, acceptance and equality.

The opinions of the people in these straight pride rallies are based off of ignorance and discriminatory values.

These ideals are ones that encourage something that LGBTQ+ peoples have faced for centuries: oppression and discrimination.

Pride has been a way for this group to fight back and normalize their sexual and gender identities through showing the general public who they are and what they truly stand for.

If you look back at the history of LGBTQ+ communities, you will see why a pride festival is necessary for these communities and why a straight pride parade is not necessary.

LGBTQ+ communities do not have the same access to the basic things and freedoms that straight people do.

In fact, the right to marriage is one that they were restrained from up until a Supreme Court ruling in 2015.

We do not need to have a festival to teach about straight history, as those ideals are engrained into our society. We just know them since they are the cultural norm.

Take a look in your history books. Most all of history is written with straight white men in the forefront, with women and people of color scribbled in the margins. LGBTQ+ peoples are an endnote if they're lucky.

These straight pride parades are just another way for white men to undermine minorities again and shift the focus back onto themselves, something that they are great at.

Here is the thing, pride events are not a show to prove that they are better or more important than the majority, rather they are just assuming the position of an equal in society.

This is something that allows for the conversation that these minorities are deserving of recognition and happiness too.

Straight people already have recognition in society. There are no double takes by people walking down the street if they are holding hands, except maybe for a first grader who believes in cooties.

Straight pride parades are recognizing things that are already accepted in

society. With this acceptance, society acknowledges heterosexuals and deems them as normal.

So, why is there a need to create more awareness for a group that is already accepted?

A major claim of the far right is that because the gay community has made so much progress, pride is no longer necessary.

Last year, far-right site The Federalist published an article from Chad Felix Greene titled "I'm a Gay Man. Here's Why I Don't Celebrate Pride Month." In the article, Greene says about not needing Pride Month: "I no longer have those limitations. I am free to pursue any dream I wish."

His article mirrors the opinion of many members of the far right, of all sexual orientation.

I can jog your memory of a few cases: refusal to officiate weddings, discrimination during the adoption process, refusal to have cakes baked for their weddings.

While those are just a few large examples, there can also be examples seen in day to day life.

Outside of America, the status for LGBTQ+ community is even worse. In some countries, if there are even whispers that a person is gay they will be caned publicly, not only to punish the person but to also deter the general public.

In 2018, CNN reported that two gay women were caned in Malaysia after being caught having sex. This is just one of the many incidents that occur worldwide everyday.

Although interracial romances have been subject to discrimination in the past, *Loving v. Virginia* (1967) struck down state laws which banned interracial marriage. There has never been a court case that prevented discrimination of LGBTQ couples. In fact, there has been court cases that have actually supported those that discriminate against the LGBTQ based on religious beliefs. Straight people rarely receive the same violence, degradation, isolation, and unlawful acts that the LGBTQ community have been encountering well into the 21st century.

Straight people are not turned away from shops just because of their sexual preference or gender identity.

Straight people are not ostracized by their families because they have shared they are straight. In fact, straight people do not need to even explicitly tell their family they are heterosexual.

Straight people do not experience the type of fear LGBTQ+ members have when being seen in public with their partners.

They have never experienced the social isolation and bullying at school, workplaces and within families just because of who they are or what they love.

Straight pride is not and will not ever be something that we need in society. Every day is a celebration for the non-LGBTQ+ community.

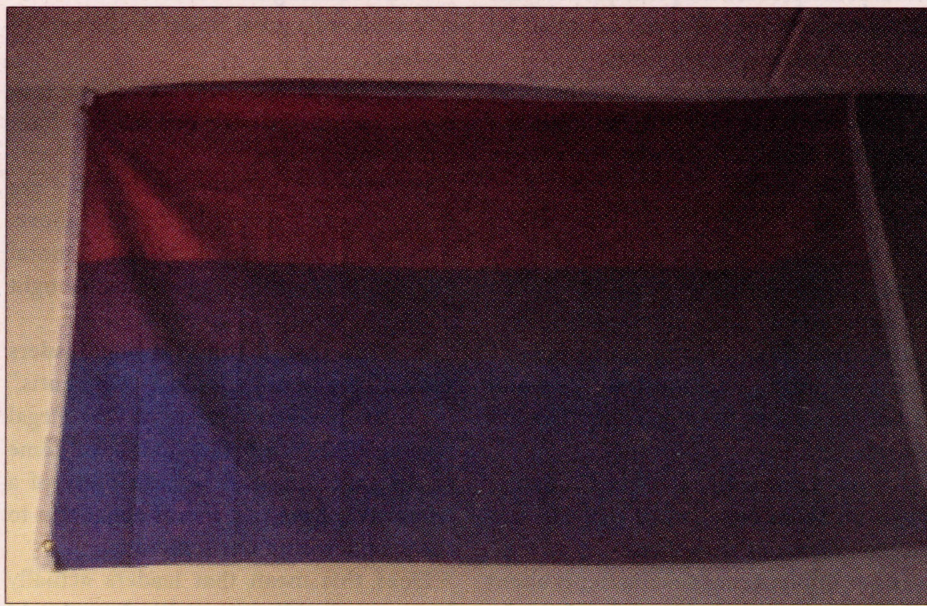
Pride is a time to allow for a push for visualization and acceptance of a minority group.

Because LGBTQ+ issues are such a hot button issue, it is very important to stay aware of your representatives policies and stances.

Be sure to read up on where they stand on these issues. Write to your congressional representatives and urge them to protect the rights of those who are considered disenfranchised.

We know that there are those who use their power to disenfranchise.

One day, those in the LGBTQ+ community can wake up one day not having to fear these sickening and hateful protests of their pride.



The Beacon/ Sean Schmoyer

At Wilkes University, the LGBTQ+ community has a strong presence. Pictured above: a bisexual pride flag from a student's dorm room.

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In Defense of the Great Admiral Christopher Columbus

By Dr. Frank Mazzaglia
Op-Ed Contributor

Great men in history have ardent admirers and virulent adversaries.

Modern revisionist historians follow the ramblings of former communist Howard Zinn and his fellow travelling socialists in their vicious campaign against Columbus.

Along with their hero, Karl Marx, they despised Columbus because he was a capitalist.

The research they presented came from links that were clearly marked "fables, legends, and myths".

No matter. The fake research served as their trusted source of information. What they really proved is that if you say something often enough, people will believe it.

It is out of their phony presentation of history that Columbus is accused of all kinds of atrocities without a single shred of evidence. Real scholars who have studied the Great Admiral's actual writings find no evidence to substantiate these charges.

One of the worst charges against

Columbus is genocide. However, genocide is the intentional and deliberate murder of a particular people. What the Turks did to the Armenians was genocide. What the Nazis did to the Jews was genocide.

Genocide is not the unintended clash of microbes.

Then, of course, there's the charge of introducing slavery to the New World.

In fact, slavery has existed in the world since the earliest days of civilization.

Hundreds of years before Columbus ever set sail from Spain, warlike Indian tribes were enslaving other captured Indians. Long before Columbus arrived, slavery and cannibalism were rampant among Indians.

Columbus didn't know where he was when he introduced the New World to the Old World. But for that matter, neither did anybody else at the time.

The three things that adversaries really hold against Columbus is that he was Italian, he was Catholic, and he was a

capitalist.

It's the same creepy stuff that motivated the once wildly popular Klu Klu Klan (sic) in their hate campaign toward Catholics and immigrants.

There is one difference. Italian Americans and their many friends have finally begun to organize and to tell the real Columbus story.

The fake revisionist historians have had a huge head start, but in the end, as it always does, truth will win out.

Stop and ask yourself a question. Where would we be without Columbus?

Long Live the Great Admiral Christopher Columbus!

Dr. Frank Mazzaglia is the Chairman of the Board of the Italian American Alliance in Massachusetts and he holds multiple degrees from Boston College, Boston State College, Suffolk University and Harvard University.

"The three things that adversaries really hold against Columbus is that he was Italian, he was Catholic, and he was a capitalist."

Do you have opinions? Do you wish you had a platform to share them? Contact Neil Murphy to write about it and get it off your chest.

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What is a leader? Do they have moral obligations?

By Neil Murphy
Opinion Editor

What do you think of when you hear the word "leader?" By definition, a leader is a person who leads or commands a group, organization or country.

The definition is fitting, but what really makes a leader? Try and think of values and characteristics of a potential leader.

When I think of what a leader is and what they should embody, I think of confidence, commitment, passion and accountability.

One of the biggest things that should come to mind is honesty and integrity. What does integrity mean?

Integrity refers to the quality of being honest as well as having strong moral principles.

I'm certain that most people can agree that leaders should have honesty and integrity. Let's break this down further.

What exactly are moral principles? Moral principles are the principles of what are right and wrong that are accepted by an individual or a social group.

There are plenty of examples to demonstrate what they are. For example, a moral principle we have in our society is telling the truth.

With many examples of what moral principles are, we can also see many examples of individuals in power who do not demonstrate these moral principles.

To give a classic example of someone who doesn't demonstrate moral principles, look at President Donald Trump.

Trump constantly lies and doubles down on them once called out. He also isn't tolerable in the slightest.

For example, he made comments about Jewish-Americans who vote for the Democratic Party, who allegedly show "either a total lack of knowledge or great

disloyalty."

It's astounding how someone like him is considered a great leader in the eyes of his base.

With that being said, let's delve into moral obligations. Do our leaders have moral obligations?

We know what moral principles are as they were previously defined above. According to the definition, moral obligations are the compulsions brought on by our sensitivity to one another.

A term that I think strong leaders should keep in mind is "In loco parentis." In loco parentis refers to the legal responsibility of a person to take on some of the functions and responsibility of a parent. We have that moral obligation to the people within our society.


Does this mean that leaders actually have moral obligations? Leaders should know that they have to make decisions that benefit the greater community.

If leaders are making decisions for everyone who they are leading, they need to have facts and reasons for why they make a certain decision.

Leaders need to be held accountable for the actions they make, just like everyone else. They need to be held to the same standards as everyone else.

We choose leaders because of their ability to lead and their ability to make the right decisions for the greater good and that represented what the majority would want.

In conclusion, leaders do have moral obligations and they should live up to them. Individuals in power should be held responsible for not living up to moral obligations. In loco parentis should be the basis of how leaders should act.

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“13 Reasons Why” can do better for mental health and so can we

By Sarah Weynand
Staff Writer

The following article contains mentions of several triggering subjects, though not graphically described. If the mention of self-harm or any kind of abuse causes feelings of depression and/or anxiety, please tread carefully and practice emotional self-care. If needed, please contact a trusted friend, family member, mentor or utilize our campus resources at Passan Hall.

Persistent activism is one of the most admirable and important things our current society has to offer. The perseverance we possess to educate others, old and young, about topics such as mental illness & sexual assault awareness, the treatment of the LGBTQA+ community, substance abuse, etc., is one to admire.

We desire to start conversations, however tough they may be, to correct the injustices circulating our nation.

While persistence and awareness are necessary, it's also essential to keep the sensitivity and fragility of these subjects in mind, especially when speaking to our society's adolescents. We need to be both honest and careful with our youth at these delicate times.

Teenagers and young adults are often told that their emotional turmoil is one of many “growing pains” that they'll experience in life.

That may be true for some, but that doesn't make their pain any less worthy of attention.

A “typical” growing pain like being bullied, losing a friend, hearing cruel rumors being spread, or even failing a test could make one feel deep feelings of sadness and even worthlessness.

When we notice someone going through a difficult time and turning to unhealthy behaviors and/or thoughts, the protective side of us panics and we want to shake them, tell them to snap out of it, or deliver an anecdote about our second cousin's friend who died awfully from addiction or suicide.

We feel that the only way to get across how serious these issues are is to vividly display the worst-case scenario because then they'll understand. If you've done this I understand. Many therapists would

understand. It's okay to be scared for a loved one.

When misogyny, racism, homophobia, addiction and suicide enter the minds of our youth, it's natural to want to stress the severity in every way possible in order to get the conversation started.

This mentality can change quickly from activism to carelessness, especially when the message is meant to reach millions of teenagers in a public, informational and entertaining manner.

If the moral must be taught, should there be limits to the explicitly activists and advocates can portray? Do the ends justify the means?

That thin line is what the producers of the show “13 Reasons Why” crossed when including graphically described and visualized examples of substance abuse, suicide and sexual assault.

There's hardly enough time in the day to dissect every moment of the show, but let this be a start.

One of the most controversial shows in the Netflix Original collection came out with its third season on Aug 23, 2019.

“Thirteen Reasons Why,” originally a young adult novel by Jay Asher, is the

story of a teenage girl's tragic suicide and the cassette tapes she left to the people she believes are the reason why.

There are topics that the show has tried to do justice and that had good intentions in including, but the danger seems to outweigh the helpfulness.

After educating themselves on the dangers the scenes had caused, they removed the irresponsible and explicit death scene three years after it premiered.

The first and second seasons had potential to start productive conversations

but failed to do so responsibly.

The latest season tried to do better. It revolved around the death of the show's main antagonist, Bryce Walker, a jock who got away with serial sexual assault because his future “shouldn't be ruined,” a loose reference to the injustice of cases like Brock Turner.

Aside from some problematic aspects surrounding Walker that somewhat excuse his actions while trying to take responsibility, the third season had a few pivotal moments in which its goal of starting a conversation is achieved by means of showing a conversation.

There's a moment when Tyler Down, a male character who had been sexually assaulted the previous season by another antagonist, finally releases his anguish.

He feels safe enough to confide in the main protagonist, Clay Jensen, because Clay carefully prods for information and gives Tyler total control of the situation.

He does not push, he does not blame, he does not condescend. He shows real concern and asks permission before physically

comforting him.

That moment is true, ethical activism. The conversation is a difficult one and may still upset some viewers, but in a different, more compassionate way than the show has before.

It shows hope of how things can get better when you begin to talk about difficult things.

Better yet, it demonstrates how you can be the one to make a friend feel safe and cared for even when they're suffering greatly.

By no means does this scene undo all the pain the show may have caused in the past, but it's an effort. The show can definitely do better in its upcoming fourth and final season, and we can, too.

If you or anyone you know is going through a hard time, reach out a hand. You can use it to connect to another or to wrap yourself in a big hug. Love yourself, love others, and keep going. Do better.

To many of us, mental health is a very serious issue. Most of us in our lives experience very distressing situations. None of us are alone in the journey we call life.

With that being said, there may be many of us that experience these situations whom are very nervous about going to speak to someone about our difficulties.

Not being able to talk about things that are bothering us is something that creates a ton of stress for us. Stress, as we all know, is not healthy for our bodies at all.

With all of this negative stress affecting our bodies, this could lead to some very negative consequences down the road, long term.


For those of you who may be reading this that are in need of information on resources of mental health, you can contact a variety of individuals.

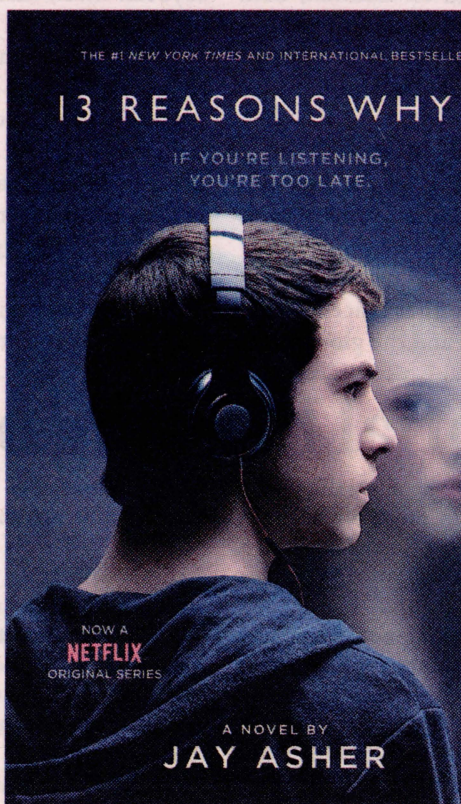
If you are experiencing thoughts of depression and/or suicide, please call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-8255.

If you are a victim of any kind of domestic violence, please call the National Domestic Violence Hotline. You can reach them at 1-800-787-3224.

If you are a student at Wilkes University, you may want to go to Passan Hall, which is completely free for Wilkes students. Our campus has individuals on site who are here for students and staff if they are experiencing any kind of distress going on.

Having this kind of information not only for yourself, but for others, can be valuable. Nobody truly knows what goes on in an individual's mind but them. However, that doesn't mean you can't be a healthy support system for that person if they ever need you to be.

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Fire and blood: Bolsonaro and the Amazon Rainforest

By Christopher Smith
Staff Writer

Jair Bolsonaro, the 38th president of Brazil, recently rejected a stimulus package from the G7 countries that would have provided him with \$20 million to counter the forest fires that are plaguing the Amazon.

Granted, it is no surprise that Bolsonaro would refuse such aid, as he had already promised during his presidential bid that he would cut down the rainforest at a much faster rate than previous presidents.

These forest fires aren't the ones that Smokey the Bear warned you about either. They are deliberate forest fires in an attempt to do slash-and-burn agriculture for business opportunities within the country of Brazil, which is entirely selfish on Bolsonaro and other business moguls.

Although illegal, farmers all across Latin America do the practice because it guarantees a much more fertile crop.

These fires have grown out of control and have brought us to where we are now. Agriculture also contributes to

deforestation because land has to be cleared to expand farms.

So much of the forest has already been lost to deforestation, in fact, that scientists fear that irreparable damage has been caused.

This is bad because it has been discovered that the Amazon basin maintains its own microclimate, due to the trees trapping moisture from the rain, and this microclimate is being destroyed.

It maintains a microclimate for a great number of life. There are many different types of animals and plants that call that rainforest home.

If that isn't enough to mention, then how about the many tribes of indigenous people in the rainforest? If this forest is destroyed, these tribes have to be displaced.

Very soon, the Amazon will be a dry savannah (unable to be farmed). Lowering carbon emissions won't reverse this, but ending the deforestation will.

Now you may ask, what is this agriculture for in the first place? It is to support both Brazil's and the global meat

industry.

According to the Observatory of Economic Complexity (OEC), six percent of Brazil's total exports are chicken, beef and pork combined.

Now that number may not seem like much, as Brazil's largest export are soybeans. They comprise fourteen percent of Brazil's total exports.

So how is meat to blame when soybeans clearly make up most of Brazil's agriculture and exports?

According to the North Carolina Soybean Producers Association, 80 percent of soybeans are converted to soybean meal, most of which is used to feed animals.

When you do the math, you find that about a fifth of Brazilian agriculture exports are devoted to their meat industry.

An industry that Bolsonaro seeks to expand to the detriment of the Amazon rainforest, the largest rainforest in the world.

As I conclude this, I would first want to recommend researching how these fires

are affecting the indigenous people.


I also want to point out that there is little we can do as Americans. I can't say stop eating meat because they mostly export their agricultural products to China and Europe.

However, I could tell you to write to your representatives and protest to the President to let them know that you do not think the United States should tolerate this deforestation.

I would lastly recommend that you go out and vote for an administration that is concerned about how these issues affect the world and will actually hold those who are destroying our world accountable.

If you have an administration that isn't concerned about how these issues will affect the world, what kind of precedence will that send to other world leaders?

If this were to happen in their own country, then perhaps they would not be acting the same.

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Gene therapy: a potential blessing or a potential curse?

By Neil Murphy
Opinion Editor

When you hear "gene therapy," what do you think of?

More times than not, many people would associate gene therapy with science fiction. I definitely wouldn't say that it's far fetched.

Gene therapy is a very exciting topic to discuss. This is especially due to its controversy. Is it good or bad? Let's find out together.

Science is turning out to be limitless with each passing day. We have breakthroughs in every field all the time but we never really hear about them. That alone is very sad.

However, I can almost guarantee that gene therapy will gain tons of media coverage.

Why is that? Well just think about it. If gene therapy proves to be a success, you will then have limitless opportunities.

The central dogma states that DNA makes RNA, which makes genes, which then creates proteins. Genes are like

blueprints. Why is this so special?

Proteins actually do most of the work in cells and are required for the structure, function and regulation of the body's tissues and organs.

They also assist making new molecules by interacting with genetic information stored in DNA. See how this all comes together?

If you can gain access to these blueprints in the body, you can control how much you want to express them.

There's a lot of good with that, right? Huntington's disease could get cured. Cancer could even get cured. These are all wonderful opportunities.

Things may seem so peachy, but there are also very big complications that can come with gene therapy. I know what you're thinking: how? Well, let me explain.

Think of the process of gene therapy like receiving an organ from a donor. A lot of times, when people receive an organ from a donor, things go incredibly well. It's as if it was like they never lost the organ in the first place.

However, in some very rare cases, there

can be side effects. In some circumstances there can be incompatibility issues.

When there are incompatibility issues, immune responses can cause inflammation and attack the organ.

The very same thing could happen in gene therapy. If the copy of the gene gets put back in, immune cells could attack it and cause inflammation. That alone is very scary.

Researchers also say that the new working gene can produce too much of a chemical, enzyme, etc. In the body, too much and too little of something can be very bad for your health.

It is also thought that if you insert a copy of a new gene into the wrong spot, you can potentially cause mutations to an individual's genetic code. This can result in different problems, with one potential harm being cancer.

Obviously, if we are trying to promote something healthy for the individual, we don't want to have a risk of something causing even more harm. Sounds pretty redundant, don't you think?

This is why gene therapy is such a hot

button issue. Is it a blessing or is it a curse? Can we really master our own genetic code, the very thing that we're born with?


The answer will come with time. I know it seems like a cop-out answer, but that's the truth.

We all want to fixate on something that sounds wonderful. Something that may make a lot of our problems end very fast.

The fact of the matter is that we don't fully understand gene therapy. For all we know there are more harms than benefits, even though it doesn't look like it right now.

With time and more research, we can definitely determine if genetic therapy will end up being our saving grace or a potential downfall.

We want what's best for people. If this turns out being bad, why keep it? There truly isn't any good reason to. This doesn't mean to be cynical, it just means to stay skeptical.

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Sports

Want your sport covered? Deserve to be Athlete of the Week? Contact the Sports Editors: Benjamin.Mandell@wilkes.edu or Kirsten.Peters@wilkes.edu

NFL: Star WR Antonio Brown schemes his way out of Oakland

By Ben Mandell
Co-Sports Editor

The last month has painted one of the National Football League's best receivers as a "villain" and a "prima donna." Antonio Brown demanded a trade from the Steelers, a widely respected organization, who sent him to the Raiders.

Brown's time with the Raiders was notably short-lived, even though he seemed like a good fit with quarterback Derek Carr and head coach Jon Gruden. Brown's tenure started with him becoming the league's highest paid receiver and getting a guaranteed \$30 million.

Things quickly turned sour between the Raiders and the star receiver. This started with Brown missing mandatory training camp walkthroughs because his helmet reached the ten-year-old point, meaning he wasn't allowed to use it anymore. Brown filed a grievance, despite the NFL's rule established for player safety. Brown lost his case after multiple attempts, and finally came back to practice with a new helmet.

The issues with the organization started last week when the Raiders general manager Mike Mayock fined Brown for not being at practice. Brown then decided to post the letter sent to him stating the fine on his Instagram. This led to a heated altercation between Mayock and Brown at practice.

Brown threatened Mayock, stating, "I could punch you in the face." He then turned, punted a football and left the team facilities. Mayock later held a press

conference on the issue, taking less than a minute to say that Brown was not on the premises.

Rumors swirled around the team, and it seemed that Brown would almost definitely be suspended by the team.

Brown reported the next day, apologized and the team opted not to suspend him.

It appeared that Brown's stunts were going to be a thing of the past, but

he recorded a phone call with Gruden and shared it to Instagram as well. Gruden was heard telling Brown he was the most misunderstood man in football, and that he needed to stop the antics and just play football. Gruden immediately put out the fire on this, saying he was amused by the

stunt.

That same day word got out that Brown was being fined for his actions with Mayock, and he was frustrated. The Raiders were also trying to void Brown's \$30 million in guaranteed money. Brown used his platform and posted on his Instagram once again on Saturday. This time, he demanded to be released. The Raiders granted his release. In a press conference, Gruden said, "We've exhausted everything."

Brown didn't even suit up for a game with Oakland, and the situation seems like he didn't want to be a part of the Raiders. Chris Mortenson released a report on Sunday that Brown sought out advice from social media experts.

Brown was trying to find the fastest way to get released from Oakland.

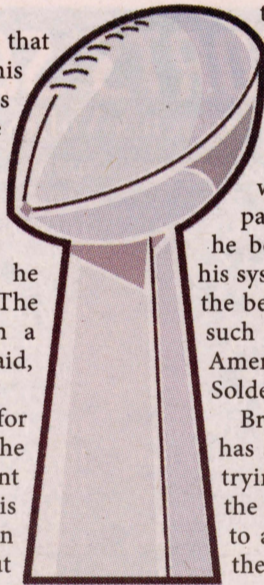
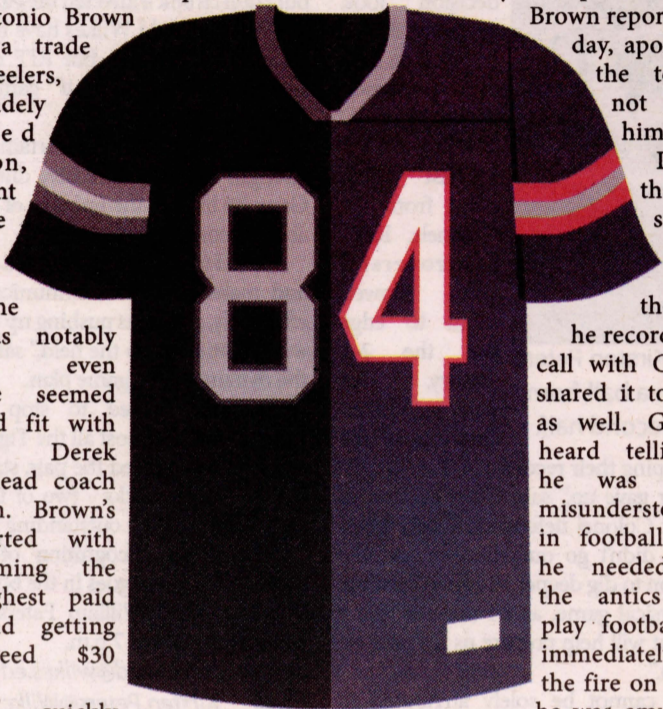
Shortly after Brown's release, he agreed to terms with the Patriots. ESPN's Adam Scheffer reported Sunday that the Patriots tried to trade for Brown in March when he initially demanded a trade from Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh had refused to send him to New England, but Brown and the Patriots found a way to make the match.

There are questions raised about Brown going to New England. He has always been a player who is worried about his brand, and he has been obsessed with social media the last few years.

New England's success has stemmed from buying into head coach Bill Belichick's system. The Patriots are always all about the team, and they have had a lot of success with it. The story with the Patriots and Brown will be about the relationship between Belichick and Brown. Brown didn't have a good relationship with Mike Tomlin and his time with the Raiders was short because of his antics. If Belichick can reel Brown in and get him to buy into "the Patriot way," then the Patriots may be the most dangerous team in football. Belichick does have a history of bringing in star, prima donna wide receivers and having success. Most notably, he brought in Randy Moss and the Patriots won every game until the big game, where they lost to the New York Giants.

If Brown continues to do his own thing and worry about his brand, then he may not be a Patriot for long. Belichick has cut ties with multiple players in the past, whether that be because he believes they do not fit into his system or whether they are not the best financial fit for the team, such as Chandler Jones, Danny Amendola, Wes Welker and Nate Solder.

Brown is a wild card here. He has said in the past that he isn't trying to change who he is, but at the same time, he can't continue to act the way he is if he is on the Patriots with Belichick.



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Beacon Picks

FOOTBALL

Will Antonio Brown fit in New England?

Ben Mandell Co-Sports Editor	No.
Kirsten Peters Co-Sports Editor	Yes.
Kevin Singhel Asst. Sports Editor	Yes.
Maddie Davis Managing Editor	Yes.
Parker Dorsey News Editor	No.
Madison Hummer Design Editor	No.

Join the conversation
with Ben on Twitter

@benmandell55.

WSOC: Questionable goal stifles Colonels, leads to 2-1 loss

By Ariel Reed & Kirsten Peters
Staff Writer, Co-Sports Editor

EDWARDSVILLE, Pa. -- On Sept. 7, Wilkes was defeated by the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) Tigers in a brutal contest where a call by the officials decided the fate of the game.

In the first half, the Colonels struggled to overpower RIT's offensive line. RIT pressed the Colonel defense, led by juniors Niamh Harkins and Catherine Gregoire, for the vast majority of the half.

"I felt that we hung in there against a very tough opponent," said Harkins. "We had our opportunities to put points up on the board, but sadly some shots didn't fall."

One of these opportunities occurred when freshman forward Kiele Reifenhahl had control of the ball. Her powerful shot attempt rang in a smidge too high at the 37-minute mark of play. This was Wilkes' best attempt to score in the first half, leaving the Colonels scoreless after 45 minutes of battling the Tigers.

However, the same could not be said for RIT. Two minutes after Reifenhahl's attempt, the Tigers' Abbey Saia had a shot attempt of her own - one that found the back of the net and gave RIT the 1-0 lead before time expired.

Heading into the second half, Wilkes was determined to not go down without a fight. Thirteen minutes later, sophomore midfielder Emily Bidelspach netted a shot from 20-yards.

This goal proved to be a momentum shifter, allowing the Colonel offense to click and find a groove. As a result, Wilkes began firing off some incredible shots. In fact, sixty-three percent of Wilkes' shot attempts occurred after

Bidelspach's goal.

Despite the Colonel shift to a more aggressive approach, Tiger goalie Alyssa Salls was unrelenting in her efforts to hold Wilkes to one goal.

These two chippy teams battled for the next goal until the 81st minute of play, when

Wilkes believed the shot had been blocked and RIT believed Grossman had scored.

The million dollar question: did Grossman's shot cross the goal line?

After a wild deliberation between the referees, they decided to count what would eventually become the game-winning goal.



The Beacon/Kirsten Peters

Sophomore Emily Bidelspach tied the game at 1-1 on a ball from 20-yards out that beat the Tigers' goalie early in the second half.

Wilkes' goalie Samantha Cecere stepped out of the goal to pounce on the ball shot by RIT's Kayla Grossman.

However, Grossman continued to battle for the ball, chipping away at Cecere's grasp. With Cecere on the ground, a Wilkes defender stepped into goal. The ball deflected off her upper thigh, bounced off the crossbar and landed again in the hands of the Cecere.

Boos were heard from the Colonel stands, with fans questioning why the decision took so long if the ball had, in fact, visibly crossed the goal line.

Despite a last stitch effort from the Colonels, RIT's controversial goal allowed them to edge out the 2-1 victory. This was Wilkes' first loss of the

season, dropping their record to 1-1-1.

"We never gave up," said Gregoire, one of the standout Colonel defenders. "Even when certain calls didn't go our way, we had the determination to dig deeper and keep fighting. It was a physical game, and I think it was a good test that will help prepare us for later on in the season."

This loss cannot be solely attributed to

the questionable call over the Tigers' second goal, as there were three controversial calls during the game that could have shifted the momentum in the Colonels' favor.

Although the Colonel fans would like to blame the game on the officials, head coach John McNichol asserted that these controversial calls should not have impacted Wilkes' ability to play.

"Any time there is inconsistency, both teams have to deal with it," said McNichol. "We scored a nice goal with the pressure we were under. Sure, there were some inconsistencies, but I don't think it affected the game too much."

Not only could Wilkes have benefited from some different calls, but RIT could have as well, making the "what-if" game a sticky one to get wrapped up in.

One thing was for certain though: the strength of junior defensive duo Harkins and Gregoire limited the number of goals RIT was able to score.

"I tried to stay connected as a defensive unit and make sure we communicated our runs effectively, as well as pushing up together when we transitioned up the field," said Gregoire on the dynamic duo's game plan.

The two helped to stop the forward progression of almost all the Tigers' attacks.

McNichol praised the pair, stating, "They're fantastic centerbacks - two of the best in the region. They do an outstanding job."

Despite the recognition of the Colonel defense, the game goes in the books as a loss.

Wilkes faces William Paterson University tomorrow night at 7 p.m.

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Cross Country

(Men & Women)

8/30 @ Misericordia Invite, 4th & 3rd
9/15 @ Queensborough Invite, 10 a.m.
9/20 @ Elizabethtown College Short Course Invite, 5:45 p.m.
10/5 @ Paul Short Invite (Lehigh), 9:30 a.m.
10/12 @ Golden Eagle Invite (St. Joseph's), 9:30 a.m.
10/19 @ Hood College Invite, 9:30 a.m.
11/2 MAC Championships (Hood), 11 a.m.
11/9 ECAC Championship (Mount Saint Mary), TBA
11/16 NCAA Mid East Regional (Lehigh), 11 a.m.

FALL SPORTS SCHEDULES

Women's Volleyball

8/30 vs. PSU-Hazleton, W 3-0
8/31 @ Penn, L 3-0
8/31 @ Clarks Summit, L 3-2
8/31 @ Lycoming, L 3-2
9/3 @ Lancaster Bible, L 3-1
9/5 @ Marywood, L 3-2
9/7 vs. Albright, W 3-0
9/7 @ Wilson, W 3-1
9/10 vs. Keystone, 7 p.m.
9/14 vs. Cedar Crest, 10 a.m.
9/14 vs. PSU-Harrisburg, 2 p.m.
*9/18 @ Stevens, 7 p.m.
9/21 @ Clarks Summit, noon
9/21 @ Rutgers-Camden, 2 p.m.
*9/24 vs. FDU-Florham, 7 p.m.
9/27 @ Wesley, 6 p.m.
9/28 @ John Jay, noon

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Field Hockey

8/30-31 @ CHC, W 2-1 (OT)/ L 4-1
9/4 vs. Keystone, W 3-1
9/7 vs. Widener, L 2-1
9/11 @ Cedar Crest, 5 p.m.
9/14 vs. Alvernia, 5 p.m.
9/18 vs. Moravian, 4 p.m.
9/21 @ Wilson, 1 p.m.
9/23 vs. Bryn Athyn, 7 p.m.
9/25 @ U. of Scranton, 7 p.m.
*9/28 @ Eastern, TBD
10/2 vs. Elizabethtown, 7 p.m.
*10/4 vs. DeSales, 7 p.m.
*10/12 @ FDU-Florham, TBD
10/15 @ Marywood, 4 p.m.
*10/19 vs. Stevens, 5 p.m.
*10/23 @ King's, 7 p.m.
*10/26 vs. Delaware Valley, 1 p.m.
*10/30 vs. Misericordia, 7 p.m.
*Denotes MAC Freedom match

FH: Wilkes drops to 2-2 after controversial loss against Widener

By Kevin Singhel
Asst. Sports Editor

EDWARDSVILLE, Pa. -- On Saturday evening, Wilkes' field hockey team attempted to secure two wins in a row and improve to 3-1 on the year with a home contest against the Widener Pride.

The Colonels were coming off a 4-1 victory against the Keystone College Giants on Wednesday. However, beating non-conference foe Widener was going to be a tall task. Widener was sitting at 2-0, and had just previously completed an 8-0 thrashing of Drew University.

The game was marred by penalties and questionable calls, something that proved to be a major theme throughout the entire game. In fact, the first green card was issued just four minutes into the game.

Each team had their fair share of opportunities in the first quarter, but neither side was able to convert these opportunities into points on the board. The first quarter ended in a stalemate, as Wilkes and Widener finished 0-0. Freshman goalkeeper Vanessa Damgaard had an exceptional game in the net, racking up five saves throughout the contest.

The Colonels were the first team on the board, as a shot from junior forward Ali Dunn found the back of the net with 8:18 remaining in the second quarter. The shot came off of an impressive feed from freshman forward Morghan Murphy, giving Murphy her first career assist.

However, the Colonels' lead would be short-lived, as Widener was able to find an equalizer

later in the quarter. The Pride's Gianna Perna was able to find the back of the net after a scramble for a loose ball, tying the game before the end of the half.

The Pride ramped up the aggression in the third quarter, creating several offensive opportunities. However, the Colonel defense

stood strong, frequently repelling Widener's offensive bursts. Widener had several shots and penalty corners, but the Wilkes defense remained impenetrable in the face of the pressure. It was a perfect example of a defense bending but not breaking, as Wilkes succeeded in keeping Widener out of the net.

Wilkes' ability to communicate. "The communication was there," said Damgaard. "We didn't fall apart and we were still together the entire time."

The defense continued their unbreakable nature, and held the Pride scoreless for another quarter.

It was a heartbreaking goal for the Colonels, but they gave a resilient response. Wilkes even almost tied the game in the final minute, but Widener's defense was able to keep the Colonels out of the net.

There were several close and questionable calls made on the field, something that clearly had an effect on the game. In total, four green cards were issued while three yellow cards were given out.

Despite this, Damgaard noted, "We didn't let the calls get to our heads." She stressed the importance of shaking off the calls and getting the ball back.

Head coach Erin Moran iterated similar sentiments, emphasizing the importance of mental toughness.

"Things like this are going to happen," said Moran. "It's a mental game so we need to continue to get back in and focus on what our game plan is and get back to that."

With the loss, Wilkes fell back to .500 on the season, as they now sit at 2-2 while Widener improves to a perfect 3-0.

Despite the tough loss, the team remains optimistic about its future prospects.

Coach Moran stated, "I think the team is improving everyday. Even though this is a tough loss, they've learned a lot from it. Moving forward, they're going to be excited to see the next opponent and get some redemption."

Wilkes has the opportunity for redemption on Sept. 12 when they travel to Cedar Crest College for their next contest.




The Beacon/Kirsten Peters

Sophomore defender/midfielder Lauren Shiplett attempted three shots and one shot on goal in Wilkes' disappointing 2-1 loss to Widener.

stood strong, frequently repelling Widener's offensive bursts. Widener had several shots and penalty corners, but the Wilkes defense remained impenetrable in the face of the pressure. It was a perfect example of a defense bending but not breaking, as Wilkes succeeded in keeping Widener out of the net.

Damgaard credited the stout defense to

Unfortunately, the Colonels stout defense finally broke in the middle of the fourth quarter when the Pride scored the go-ahead goal. Jackie Daniels dribbled through several Wilkes defenders and then weaved a beautiful shot toward the top-right corner of the goal. The shot gave the Pride a 2-1 lead late in the game, and things looked bleak for the Colonels.

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FALL SPORTS SCHEDULES

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Men's Soccer	Football	Women's Soccer
8/30 vs. PSU-Berks, W 4-1 9/2 vs. McDaniel, L 1-0 (2 OT) 9/7 @ Moravian, L 2-1 (OT) 9/11 @ Clarks Summit, 4 p.m. 9/14 @ Haverford, 2:30 p.m. 9/18 vs. Susquehanna, 7 p.m. 9/21 vs. Keystone, 1 p.m. 9/25 @ U. of Scranton, 4 p.m. 9/28 @ Immaculata, TBD *10/5 vs. FDU-Florham, noon 10/9 @ Hartwick, 7 p.m. *10/12 @ Stevens, 6 p.m. *10/16 @ Misericordia, 7 p.m. *10/19 vs. Eastern, 3 p.m. *10/22 vs. King's, 7 p.m. *10/26 @ DeSales, 3 p.m. 10/29 vs. Penn, 7 p.m. *11/2 @ Delaware Valley, 1 p.m. *Denotes MAC Freedom match	9/7 @ Hartwick, W 38-21 9/14 vs. Lebanon Valley, noon *9/21 @ Lycoming, 1 p.m. *10/5 vs. Alvernia, noon *10/12 @ Albright, 1 p.m. *10/19 vs. Delaware Valley, noon *10/26 @ Misericordia, 1 p.m. *11/2 vs. FDU-Florham, 1 p.m. x*11/9 vs. Stevenon, noon y*11/16 @ King's, noon *Denotes MAC match x-Senior Day y-Mayor's Cup	8/30 vs. PSU-Berks, W 2-1 9/4 vs. Ithaca, TIE 0-0 9/7 @ RIT, L 2-1 9/11 vs. William Paterson, 7 p.m. 9/14 vs. Bard, 4 p.m. 9/18 @ Susquehanna, 7 p.m. 9/21 vs. Arcadia, 3:30 p.m. 9/24 vs. U. of Scranton, 7 p.m. 9/28 @ Marywood, 1 p.m. *10/5 vs. FDU-Florham, 3 p.m. *10/12 @ Stevens, 3 p.m. *10/15 @ Misericordia, 7 p.m. *10/19 vs. Eastern, noon *10/23 vs. King's, 7 p.m. *10/26 @ DeSales, noon 10/29 @ Oneonta, 3 p.m. *11/2 @ Delaware Valley, 7 p.m. *Denotes MAC Freedom match



Getting to know...

Kyle Bentz

Senior Soccer Player

The Beacon: Male Athlete of the Week Aug. 25 - Aug. 31
Why Kyle Bentz was selected: Bentz proved to be Penn State Berk's Achilles heel, scoring both the first and the last goals of the contest to dominate the Nittany Lions 4-1 in Wilkes' season-opener on Aug. 30.

Name: Kyle Bentz
Year: Senior
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Hometown: Camp Hill, Pa.
High School: Camp Hill HS
Position: Center Forward

If you had to choose one thing about your program that you could improve, what would it be?

Honestly, with the new field almost being done over at Ralston, I can't think of any gripes I have with the program.

Driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?

I wanted to enroll in a school where I could pursue my goals in engineering as well as continue to play soccer at the collegiate level.

Most influential person(s) in your life?

I have to say both of my parents. They have supported me through the ups and downs of college and are my biggest fans on and off the field. I love them and can't thank them enough for all they've done.

Post-graduation plans in terms of a career?

Hopefully, I will already have a job in my field lined up after receiving my degree.

If you could have dinner with a famous person from the past, who would it be?

Eating dinner with The (Brazilian) Ronaldo would be awesome. In my opinion, he's the greatest to ever play the game of soccer.

Favorite building on campus?

That's a tough one, but I'd have to go with Stark. I spend most of my time in that building and the new upgrades for the engineering department look great.

Favorite Professor?

Dr. Zhu. He's been my advisor and I always have enjoyed his classes.

What came first? The chicken or the egg?

The chicken.

Favorite meal to eat on campus?

Chicken Caesar wraps from the POD.

Hopes for this season as a Colonel?

I hope we can receive a berth into the MAC playoffs and then hopefully onto NCAAs.

A quote you live your life by?

"Everyone has a plan until they're punched in the face." - Mike Tyson

When/Why did you first begin playing?

I started playing soccer when I was really little, probably because soccer and baseball are usually some of the first sports people try. I ended up loving it, and however many odd years later, here we are.

What does "Be Colonel" mean to you?

"Be Colonel" is to simply be the best one can be even when no one's around to see.

Anyone to give a shout-out to?

Just one shout-out to my brothers back at home base: let's keep it classy this year, fellas.

Favorite thing to do during practice?

Scrimmaging. Competing within the squad is one of the best ways to get stronger and better as a team and as an individual.

-Compiled by Kirsten Peters, Co-Sports Editor

Editor's note: Athlete of the Week selections are determined by the sports staff each week. At the end of the academic year, we will post a reader poll on Twitter @WilkesBeacon to crown an "Athlete of the Year."

The Beacon/Kirsten Peters

Getting to know...

Kiana Jedlicka

Sophomore Soccer Player

The Beacon: Female Athlete of the Week Aug. 25 - Aug. 31

Why Kiana Jedlicka was selected: Jedlicka proved to be crucial in the Colonels game play during their season-opener against Penn State Berks, kicking a laser into the net to give Wilkes a 2-1 victory.

Name: Kiana Jedlicka
Year: Sophomore
Major: Special Education
Hometown: Poughquag, NY
High School: Arlington HS
Position: Left Wing

Other interests or hobbies off of the field?

Outside of playing soccer, I enjoy skiing, hiking and walking my dogs.

Most influential person(s) in your life?

The most influential person in my life would have to be my Opa (grandfather) because he is the hardest working person I know.

If you could have dinner with a famous person from the past, who would it be?

Daniel Radcliffe.

Favorite professor?

Dr. Richards.

Coke or Pepsi?

I'd choose seltzer.

Favorite meal to eat on campus?

Anything from Which Wich.

A quote you live your life by?

My favorite quote from Disney's "UP" is, "I may not have gone where I intended to go, but I think I have ended up where I needed to be."

What does "Be Colonel" mean to you?

To me, "Be Colonel" means to work hard and be respectful on the field, in the classroom and everywhere else.

Anyone to give a shout-out to?

The Wilkes women's soccer team and my roommates Emma and Cathy.

-Compiled by Kirsten Peters, Co-Sports Editor

Driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?

I loved that Wilkes offered a good education program and that I was still able to play soccer.

Post graduation plans in terms of a career?

I plan to get a job as a special education teacher closer to home.

Favorite building on campus?

The SUB.

What came first? The chicken or the egg?

The egg.

Hopes for this season as a Colonel?

I hope to win the MAC conference championship.

When/Why did you first begin playing?

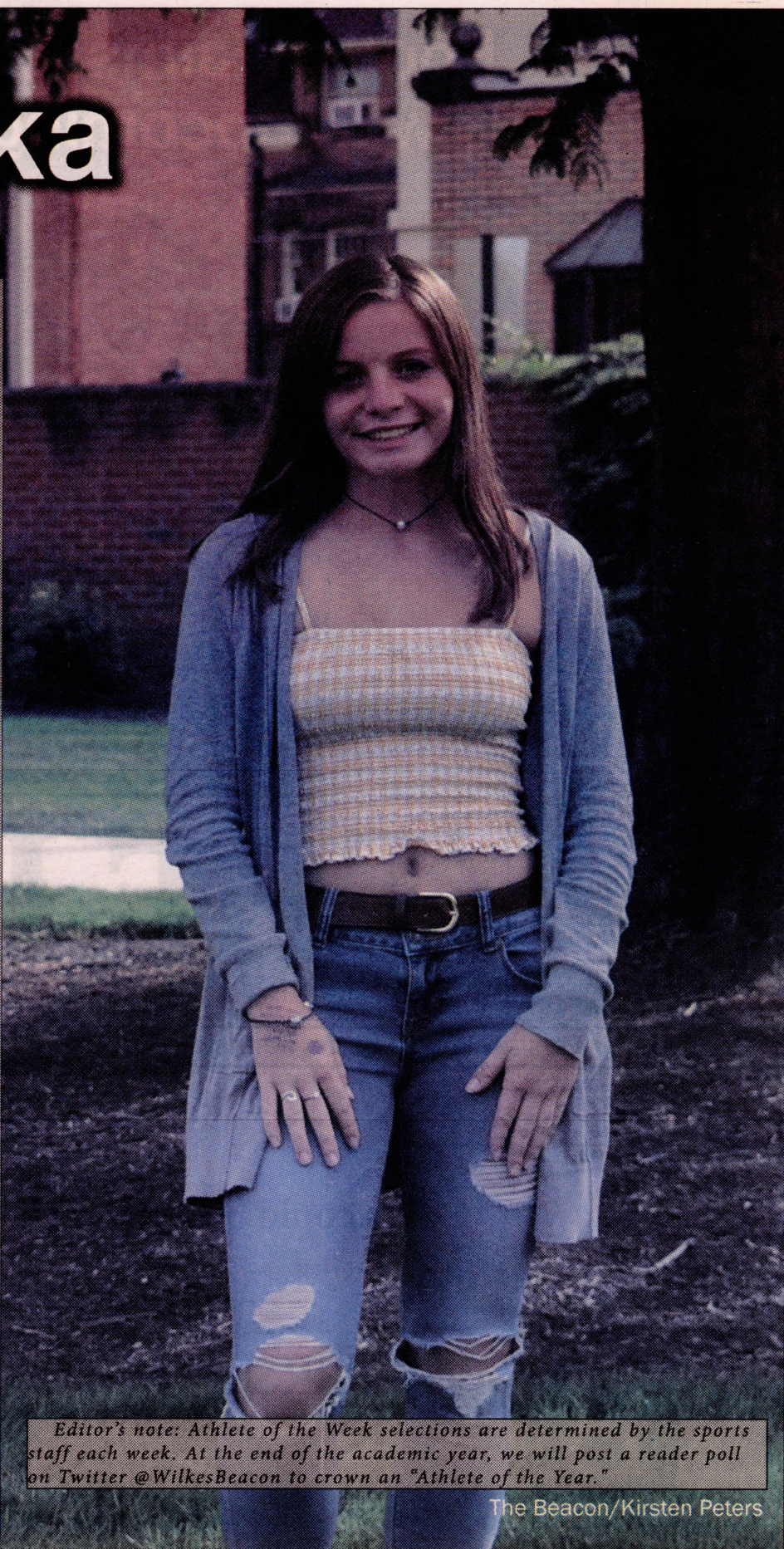
I started playing soccer when I was four. My parents made me and I ended up falling in love with it.

Favorite thing to do during practice?

I love doing shooting drills or 11 v. 11.

If you had to choose one thing about your program that you could improve, what would it be?

We could watch more film to help correct our mistakes in games.



Editor's note: Athlete of the Week selections are determined by the sports staff each week. At the end of the academic year, we will post a reader poll on Twitter @WilkesBeacon to crown an "Athlete of the Year."

The Beacon/Kirsten Peters



**Football aims to start season 2-0
with upcoming home opener**

**Lebanon Valley @ Wilkes
Schmidt Stadium
Saturday, Sept. 14 @ 12:00 p.m.**

Make sure to check out the next issue of The Beacon
for coverage of the game.

The Beacon/Kirsten Peters



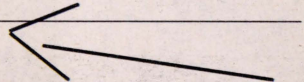
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