

News

Have a breaking story or a press release to send? Contact the news editor Amanda Montgomery: Amanda.Montgomery1@wilkes.edu

Student Government notes: Sept. 27 weekly meeting

By Zach Paraway
Contributing Writer

Student Government had its fifth meeting for the semester on Sept. 27. SG currently has \$47,345.84 in its account.

The first order of business was a presentation given by Dr. Greg Cant, university president. Over the last year, Cant has led a team with the interest of changing the mission statement and values of the university, which have not changed in over 15 years.

This process has been worked on since fall of 2022 and took about six months to come with a full mission statement. He came to present it to SG before showing it to the whole student body.

The statement was changed to put more emphasis on the empowerment of students and take away emphasis from the classroom from teaching to a more modern take of teaching for new and upcoming generations.

The new statement also put more emphasis on the school as a university

with graduate students as well as undergraduate students. This also came with changes to the values of the school, turning the old five into seven.

The second order of business was a fund request from the Wilkes Wilkes Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA). GSA serves the campus community in the promotion of conversation and of the rights for all people that may identify outside of heterosexual. The presentation was given by Morgan Steiner, junior political science student. The request is for GSA and its guests to be able to attend the Mid-Atlantic LGBTQ+ conference being held Nov. 3-5 in Bloomsburg, Pa.

The conference would help students send work for the conference in the form of papers, projects and workshops. It also gives many of the members a chance in order to present formally and gain that experience. The request was for \$1,000 and the vote was passed for the full amount.

The third order of business was a

revision of the Programming Board Constitution presented by club president, senior Kim Wheeler. This is the first time the constitution was updated since 2016. This was to cover things such as name changes, revisions to job titles, voting processes, new rules and includes a change to the mission statement.

The fifth order of business was a presentation for Casino Week, presented by Jaci Bickel. This was a week one of two for the fund request. Casino Week, formerly Casino Night, has been a tradition at Wilkes for years. The presentation was given with activities taking place over five days for the week of Nov. 6-10. However, most of the plans presented will be changed as a vote was taken and SG decided to scale back Casino Week, back to Casino Night. This request will be worked on and voted on next week.

The final order of business was an internal presentation given by Michael Nowak, senior electrical engineering

student and vice president of SG. This was for a fall event getaway for members of the student community. The trip would see them travel to Roba's farms, the Taste of Autumn and a scavenger hunt. This would occur over fall break from Oct. 16-20 and give many students a chance to have an activity to break up the semester as it comes right before midterms. The cost and fund request for this trip went down from \$3,600 to \$2,800. This was voted on and approved for the full amount.

SG will meet again on Oct. 4.

Beacon Briefs: Upcoming campus events

Compiled by Beacon News Staff

Scholarship Opportunity for Students of Polish Descent

The Polish Room Committee Scholarship (\$3,000 top award) welcomes applications from Luzerne County residents. To be considered, applicants must write a brief description of their Polish heritage and what that heritage means to them.

Applications can be emailed to allison.naumann@wilkes.edu with the subject line "Polish Heritage Scholarships."

Deadline for applications is Oct. 13 at 4:30 p.m.

BACCHUS Alcohol Awareness Walk

The Alcohol Awareness Walk will take place on Oct. 24 from 11a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Fenner Quad. Food will be provided.

Kappa Psi Paint and Dip

Kappa Psi is hosting a paint and dip night on Oct. 30 from 6-8 p.m. in the Jean & Paul Adams Commons (JPAC) on the second floor of the Henry Student Center (HSC). Admission is \$5 per person collected upon arrival. This event is open to the school but will be capped at 50

responses.

Sign-up form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf7s9CMJrJfnbhT15vGacPt9qPevcQKKz8lNpRkxauM30TzRg/viewform?usp=sf_link

Chemistry Club Krispy Kreme Fundraiser

The chemistry club is selling Krispy Kreme donuts until Oct. 19. Distribution is from Oct. 24 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in CSC 101.

Boxes are \$12 and orders can be placed at <http://wilkes.edu/chemistryclubdonuts>. Contact emily.purcell@wilkes.edu with any questions.

Table of Contents

News.....	2
Life, A&E.....	7
Opinion.....	14
Sports.....	19

Upcoming Events:

October
8 - Statue of Liberty Boat Tour NYC
12-15 - Fall Break
19 - Couch Potato
23-27 - Freak Week
28 - Dorney Haunted Park

November
2 - Silent Disco
9 - Giveaway

Want your event featured in the calendar?

Email: Amanda.Montgomery1@wilkes.edu

What's happening in the Honors and Scholars Program?

By Morgan Steiner
Contributing Writer

Honors and Scholars Program is a four-year program that allows students to take challenging honors courses, provides them access to special programs and speakers, and lets them register for classes before all other students.

While many students are familiar with the program, not every student knows about the Honors Program Student Committee (HPSC).

"The honors office was looking for ways to offer leadership and real-life valuable experiences for our students where collaboration, communication, creativity, and workplace skills could be used during their four years here with us at Wilkes," said Jennifer McLaughlin, the HPSC assistant director.

Members of the HPSC executive board use these skills to host academic, social and service oriented events during the year.

"HPSC is different from other clubs on campus because of its commitment to instilling the values of the Honors Program onto our honors students," said Kaelin Hughes, senior political science and history major and the president of HPSC.

"The program is committed to leadership, scholarship, community, along with other values, and our job as a board is to provide those opportunities for these students through our different opportunities."

Leadership skills are not the only benefit to joining HPSC.

"They earn a participation point for being on the team and they also earn additional funding for experiences such as study abroad, research, and internship opportunities for each term served," said McLaughlin.

Honors students are required to earn two of these participation points every academic year to remain in good standing. They can earn these points at HPSC events.

"I learned that HPSC means a lot to me and I want it to be successful!" said Hughes. "We are leaders within the program, and it is extremely important to me that our events reflect quality leadership and encourage other honors students. I learned that I am a capable leader and can successfully run and encourage a board of students dedicated to the same values as I am."

HPSC is not open to all students because of the club's focus on the Honors Program. However, some events are open



The HPSC Executive Board

to everyone. One of Hughes's favorite events, a semester-long donation drive for Give Kids the World, a non-profit based in Florida, is open to all students and faculty. Other events are more specialized.

"I think my favorite [event] is, and always will be, the registration night event that HPSC organizes each semester," said McLaughlin. "At this event, older honors students can earn a point by helping younger students register for honors courses."

Other honors events have students learning about the Sordoni Art Gallery, playing trivia or enjoying a trip to Lahey's Family Fun Park.

As the semester progresses, HPSC has more planned, including a "Name That Tune" event for honors students on Oct. 20 and the annual registration night on Oct. 29. Those who are interested in attending events should keep an eye on WilkesToday for more information.

Photo: The Beacon/Morgan Steiner

Who's so Honors? Student spotlight: Bhavika "Nikki" Dawar

By Morgan Steiner
Contributing Writer

Bhavika "Nikki" Dawar, a junior biology and pre-medicine honors student, embodies #thatssohonors. Dawar recently applied for the Guthrie Scholars program, a clinical semester experience at Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, Pa.

This experience is highly selective, with seats going to students at two universities: Binghamton and Wilkes. Applying for clinical experiences might seem daunting, but for Dawar, it was simple.

"The application was done over the summer of entering my junior year," said Dawar. "I had to send in my Curriculum Vitae (CV) along with three letters of recommendation. It was a very manageable application."

Over the summer, Dawar participated

in the Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine Research internship. Dawar also has a minor in chemistry, and is an honors small group coordinator. In between all these internships, extracurriculars and experiences, she still finds time to study for her Medical College Admission Test (MCAT).

"My biggest advice for anyone wanting to apply to the program or apply to any other internship, is to never doubt yourself," said Dawar. "Hearing 'no's' may be a part of the process; however, that first yes is probably the greatest feeling in the world. So never hesitate to test the waters and apply for something that may seem out of reach."

To keep up with what's going on in honors and to hear about more amazing opportunities, like Dawar's, follow @wilkeshonors on Instagram.

Photo Courtesy Nikki Dawar



Nikki Dawar upon her acceptance to Wilkes University.

Programming board gives out hoodies for homecoming

By Morgan Steiner
Contributing Writer

Programming board gave away Wilkes University hoodies for their Thursday event. The table opened at 11:30 a.m and eight minutes later, more than 100 hoodies had been given away.

Members of the campus community welcomed the giveaway and found the change of pace exciting compared to their usual Thursday night events.

"I love pop up events," said Adrianna Aziz, sophomore pharmacy major. "I think they're a great opportunity for the community to get involved and immersed

in Wilkes culture."

Members of the general board were also excited about the giveaway.

"We don't have to hopefully get bingo or get a raffle ticket to win," said Aiden Allen, sophomore history and secondary education major. "Everybody gets something."

There were several changes in the way this giveaway functioned compared to those of years past. First, instead of branding the hoodie with "programming board," the sweatshirt instead promotes the school.

"Wilkes University" was written in bold across the front, followed by the programming board logo which goes down the arm.

"I do like this item," said Aziz.

Her sentiment was echoed by Natalia Williams, a first-year Spanish major and

general board member.

"They're so cute and it's nice because it'll get colder outside," said Williams.

Another change was implementing numbers. As students got in line, they were given a number with their spot in line. Their WIN numbers were collected and they handed the number back in. This was to ensure that no students were skipping the line.

In addition, the giveaway was moved to the second floor which is a rarity for giveaways.

"[The event was] very well organized and it ran really smoothly," said Williams.

The new changes were very well received, by members of the community and the programming board.

"(It) gets some energy into the crowd. It really gives people a chance to get free Wilkes swag if they can't afford it," said Allen.



Executive and general members of the programming board pose with their new hoodies to celebrate a job well done.



From left to right, first-year students Jada Michel, Ashlyn Smith, Ella Villani, Elena DiScullio and sophomore Mackenzie Edgar were the first in line after the event moved upstairs.



Photos: The Beacon/Morgan Steiner
The crowd awaiting the giveaway on the first floor of the student center. Students lined up during club hours to secure their own hoodie.

Colonel Cupboard hosts bingo and collects donations

By Emma Broda
News Staff Writer

Upperclassmen resident assistants hosted Colonel Cupboard Bingo for students last week, on Sept. 25. Students gathered to play bingo, but also to make donations to the Colonel Cupboard.

Colonel Cupboard is a pantry at the university with food, personal care items and household items for students to take as they need.

In return for donations, students received extra bingo boards to raise their chances of winning. Donations included items such as cereal, rice, shampoo, hand soap and toothbrushes.

"I don't come from a super food secure household, so I will go to the cupboard, but I like to give as much as I can too," said Kayla Bicskei, junior English major.

Everyone is encouraged to take full advantage of the Colonel Cupboard, but as Bicskei mentioned, giving back to the community through donations at events such as Colonel Cupboard Bingo is also

very important.

One of the resident assistants who hosted the bingo, Shelby Brazes, senior criminology and psychology major, expressed that she also uses the Colonel Cupboard and loves it.

The prizes included baskets such as a fall basket, a movie night basket, a self-care basket, a Wilkes basket and a sports basket.

Throughout the bingo games there were also rounds of food, nutrition and food pantry related trivia. Each student who answered a trivia question correctly, won another bingo board to play with and increase their chances.

"I'm passionate about bingo, everyone should come, it's awesome," said Bicskei.

Students attended hoping to win prizes and to have fun playing bingo with friends. The evening was eventful, full of laughs and suspenseful "sudden death" rounds.

It was a fun night spent with friends, and students also were able to learn information about nutrition and how they can donate to their community.



Starr Sandt, junior psychology and sports management major, and Nolee Anna Grabowski, junior business management major marketing minor, calling bingo.

Photos: The Beacon/Emma Broda



Veronica Codjoe, sophomore undeclared, and Courtney Charlera, junior nursing, comparing their bingo cards together.



From left to right, bingo winners E Alexis, Sydney Allabaugh, Kayla Bicskei, Bri Johnson and Ud Uwawuike holding their respective prizes.

Dr. Mona Pearl joins Wilkes as assistant professor

By Amanda Montgomery

News Editor

Dr. Mona Pearl joins Wilkes this fall as assistant professor of management in the Sidhu School of Business and Leadership. Her focus is on international business.

Pearl received her undergraduate degree from Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago, Ill. She then received her graduate degree and doctorate degree from DePaul University also in Chicago.

She moved to Wilkes-Barre from Chicago, but was born and raised in Romania.

"After living in big cities my whole life, I was looking for a smaller place where people are kind of more human," said Pearl.

Pearl's journey into academia began with a strong foundation in business, earning her doctorate and spending the majority of her early career in the corporate world. As she delved into teaching as an adjunct professor, she discovered her passion for education.

Choosing Wilkes was a deliberate move for Pearl, who sought a smaller community with a focus on international business.

"Some of the jobs that I did as a student were translations, cross-cultural training for companies and then I

decided there is something in it," said Pearl.

With a rich background in international business, Pearl shared her multilingual abilities, speaking German, French, Spanish and Romanian. Her cross-cultural experiences and skills became evident when she assisted T-Mobile in entering the U.S. market.

"This is when I started to realize that what I take for granted, some of the skills, may have more value than I even understand," said Pearl.

Outside the academic realm, Pearl, despite her busy schedule, enjoys hiking and reading, with a past interest in poetry. Revealing a lesser-known aspect of her life, Pearl explained the balance between her analytical left brain, which drove her corporate success, and her artistic right brain, appreciating poetry,

music and the arts.

"It's like the children's story, Bob the Builder," said Pearl. "Bob is to the rescue, so that's the left side of the brain. On

the other hand, it's poetry, it's music, it's the arts and culture. And this is something that people can't grasp that exists in one person."

Reflecting on her teaching career, Pearl expressed satisfaction in witnessing students' growth over a semester. She aims to make a lasting impact on students'

lives through experiential learning, fostering collaboration on international projects.

Looking ahead, Pearl plans to continue expanding her experiential learning initiatives, engage in research and contribute to the community through service. Her commitment to making a difference and preparing students for a globalized world is evident in her goals

for the future.

"I've traveled the world and worked with some of the largest companies," said Pearl. "I've been to I don't know how many countries and lived in I don't know how many countries so I'm kind of looking to stay put."

When asked about her proudest achievement, Pearl acknowledged her journey of building a life and career in the U.S. as a female immigrant. Coming to the country in her 20s, she emphasized the importance of perseverance and not settling for less in life.

Pearl offered valuable advice to students, emphasizing the pursuit of happiness, passion and not succumbing to external pressures.

"Find out what makes you happy, what you want," said Pearl. "Follow it. Don't give up. I know many people say that, but when you get to a certain stage in life, I'm really happy about not giving up on my passions."

Her words resonated with a call for self-determination and not settling for a life that doesn't align with one's true aspirations.

"Don't let others determine where you're going, what you're doing, because you don't feel secure," said Pearl. "You have choices that you can choose. Don't let someone push you into the corner, and then you're stuck for the rest of your life."



Photo courtesy Dr. Pearl

We're Looking For News Writers!

Join our team and build your resume

If you are interested, contact Amanda Montgomery at
amanda.montgomery1@wilkes.edu

Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have any events or artists to be shared? Contact Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor: Zara.Lantzman@wilkes.edu

Wilkes swim team hosts a duck toss fundraiser

By Cassidy Brumagin
Contributing Writer

The Wilkes University swim team hosted a duck toss fundraising event on Oct. 1. The event took place at the Wyoming Valley Catholic Youth Center (CYC) in Wilkes-Barre.

Students and members of the Wilkes community were offered the opportunity to purchase rubber ducks to toss at targets in the pool in hopes of taking home a prize. The fundraising event cost \$5 per duck, and participants were able to purchase as many ducks as they pleased.

Anyone who purchased a duck was assigned a number that coordinated with a duck that would be thrown into the pool in hopes of hitting the target. Participants were offered the opportunity to attend the event themselves and toss a duck or have their assigned duck thrown for them for a volunteer attending the event.

Within the CYC pool were numerous intertubes which served as the targets for the rubber ducks. Once the ducks were thrown, the ones that managed to make it into the targets were then collected, marked down by number and prizes were distributed accordingly.

The CYC, located at 36 S. Washington St., hosts the home pool for the Wilkes University swim team. The atmosphere was complete with swimmers, hundreds of rubber ducks, pool toys and candy.

Featured in the pool were targets shaped like flowers, sharks and more. After the ducks were all thrown, members of the team put their skills to the test to swim around the pool collecting all of the ducks to clear the lanes for following events.

At the conclusion of the event, 19 participants walked away with prizes. The prizes varied from gift cards to local restaurants, ShopRite, Sheetz, car wash coupons, tanning salon packages and

more. Some of the largest prizes included five \$50 gift cards to various businesses and a car wash package for five premium car washes, valued at over \$50. The prizes were all donated by businesses wanting to support the university and the swim team. Prize winners ranged from students, to parents, to long-distance relatives to supporters of the swim team.

The prizes were distributed to the winners at random. Each duck that made it into the target received a prize; however, the prize assigned to each duck was up to chance. The numbered ducks were thrown at random to give a fair chance to those who wished to participate in the fundraiser but could not make it to the event themselves.

Both men's and women's swim team members worked to sell as many ducks as possible. In total, more than 200 ducks were sold and thrown at the fundraiser. The ducks came in all sorts of colors and patterns. There were ducks made to look like dogs, pirates, Christmas trees, aliens and unicorns, just to name a few.

The duck toss was part of a two-day "Swim-a-Thon" hosted by the team. The event featured relays every hour, games and live updates through Instagram and Facebook.

The fundraiser was combined for both men's and women's swimming teams. The money raised will go toward paying for the teams' training trip, end of year banquet and any supplies that may be needed throughout the season.

Particularly, the team is hoping to purchase new swim blocks for the pool.

This training trip is an annual event. The trip takes place in Florida every January. Members of the swim team are working on fundraising with events such as this to raise money for the team to attend and have the opportunity to swim down South.

In addition to the duck toss, the swim team has hosted apparel sales to

raise funds. A smaller apparel sale may reopen soon for the team.

In addition, an alumni meet will be held in January which will feature basket raffles.

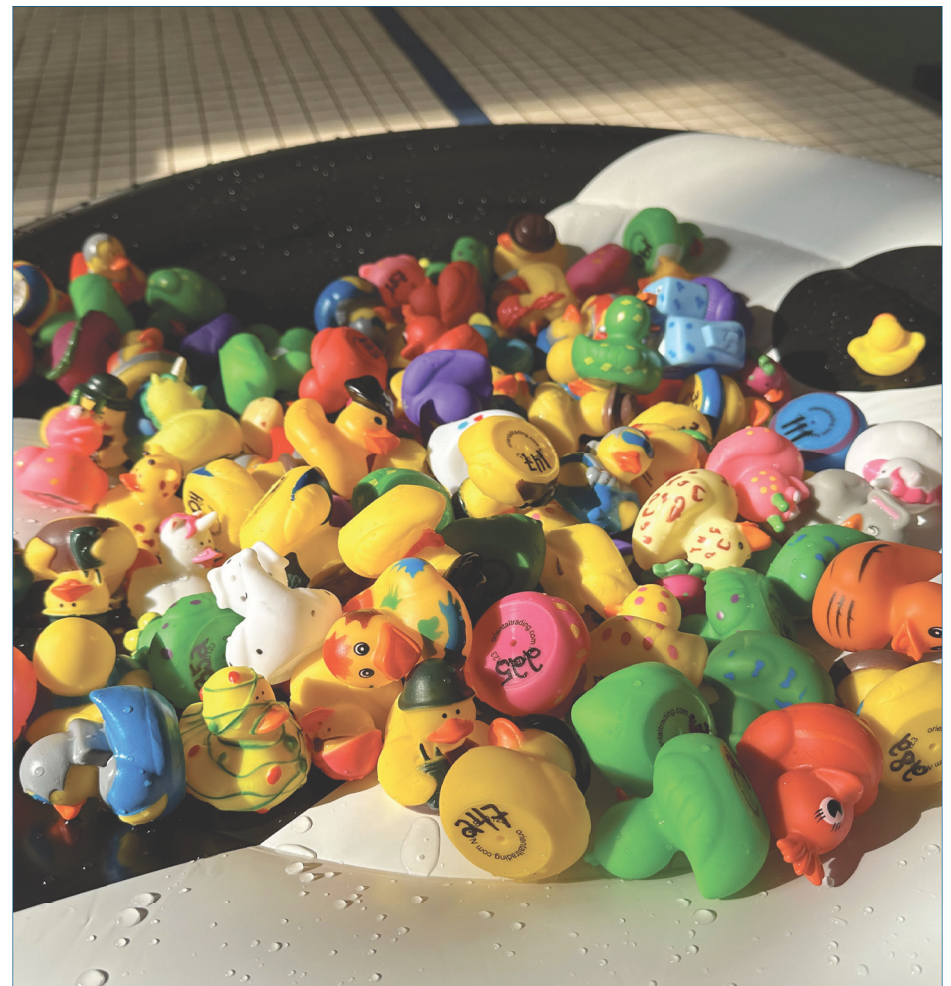
Overall, the team has an ongoing donation page set up at reachingourgoal.com with a goal of \$10,000.

Wilkes Swimming will open its 2023-2024 season on Saturday, Oct. 14. The first meet will be held at the CYC at 1 p.m.

The men and women will face the University of Scranton, Moravian

University and Lebanon Valley College. The following meet the team will travel to Messiah University in Grantham, Pa., for a tri-meet with Messiah and Mount Saint Mary College at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 21.

Members of the swim team will compete in nine swimming events throughout the season. Three home meets are scheduled at the CYC for the Colonels this season prior to the season wrap-up at the Landmark Conference Championships.



The Beacon/Cassidy Brumagin
The ducks that were numbered and later tossed into the pool to win prizes.



Club of the Week: *Chemistry Club*

By Anthony Cazun

Asst. Life, Arts and Entertainment Editor

Wilkes University is known for its scientific departments and programs, lauded in many fields. This merit is also reflected within extra curricular activities, as the Chemistry Club gains just as much well deserved praise.

The Wilkes Chemistry Club is a multifaceted club that focuses on giving students an authentic and educational - yet fun - scientific experience, primarily within chemistry. This includes performing fun and exciting experiments and attending events.

“So far this semester, the club has hosted numerous experiments and events including mini-lava lamps, chromatography flowers, an embroidery session and a

game night,” said Reagan Weldon Peri, sophomore geology major.

All of the listed events have already occurred within the current semester, making chemistry club a certainly active organization. The club will also enjoy more upcoming events that cover a wide range of activities.

“We plan to do many more fun events this semester and further in the future, including a trip to Roba’s Family Farm on Oct. 20, a Women In STEM panel, an ice skating trip, a Krispy Kreme donut sale and more,” said Peri.

These events not only entertain club members and keep them engaged within the department. It also entices those not initiated into the scientific sphere, allowing for a dichotomy between fun and education that not just chemistry majors enjoy, but any major on campus can too.

“A big misconception about our club

is that we only cater to STEM majors,” said Peri. “This is not the case. We welcome people of every major, class, etc. to join us.

“Do not worry, we will not bore you with any lectures or homework. We want every meeting and event to be enjoyable and lighthearted.”

It should be known that the club is easily accessible, harboring a safe and fun atmosphere that anyone can enjoy.

“Our goal is to spread the knowledge of chemistry through educational and fun events and increase communication/strengthen relationships between the chemistry department and Wilkes students,” said Peri.

The chemistry club hosts general meetings every other Tuesday during club hours. These meetings often involve fun experiments of some kind.

However, the larger events hosted

by the club typically occur during both club hours and during the night, allowing for greater participation and higher availability.

The chemistry club is a club that promotes fun, exploration, education and companionship. Every stride the club takes involves nearly all of those qualities. The club’s mission of allowing all kinds of students to stretch their limbs of curiosity and experimentation is what makes chemistry club so special.

“If you like fun experiments, developing yourself professionally, social events, outreach to the community and getting to know professors in the chemistry department, chemistry club is for you.” said Peri.



Each week, the Wilkes Beacon staff picks their favorite song of the week. Our very own Zara Lantzman has put together a Spotify playlist where you can scan it and listen to the Beacon’s staff

Morgan Rich, Editor-in-Chief:

Home To Another One - Madison Beer

Amanda Montgomery, News Editor:

Blue Copper - Quarters of Change

Emma Broda, News Staff Writer:

zombie girl - Adrienne Lenker

Zara Lantzman, LA&E Editor:

that’s how you make a villain - emyln

Anthony Cazun, LA&E Asst. Editor:

1,000,000 - Nine Inch Nails

Cally Williams, LA&E Staff Writer:

Michael Who Walks by Night - Strawberry

Switchblade

Sydney Allabaugh, Opinion Editor:

KEEP IT SOUTHERN - BROCKHAMPTON

“Freeze,” Opinion Staff Writer:

Zaibastu - Exyz

Adam Grundt, Sports Asst. Editor:

MY EYES - Travis Scott

Lara Mullen, Designer:

Unintended - Muse

Liz Cherinka, Social Media Manager:

Foolish One (Taylor’s Version) - Taylor Swift

Graphics/Lara Mullen

Creative writing workshops offered this month

By Cally Williams

Life, Arts, and Entertainment Staff Writer

Creative writing is one of the many programs available to study at Wilkes. This week, a special workshop will be offered on different areas in creative writing.

Taught by Shanta Lee, Ross Klavan, Robin McCrary and Barbara J. Taylor, this six-session workshop will cover several topics and offer several options for courses.

From a course on screenplay writing to nonfiction creative writing, there is something for every aspiring writer. Registration for this workshop ends on Oct. 5 and costs \$120. Some of the classes will be online and others in-person at Wilkes.

Lee will teach the course, “Dazed and Seduced: Eroding the Line Between the Monster and Ourselves Across Genres.” Lee’s course will address the theme of monsters in literature, and will run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesdays online starting on Oct. 4 and ending on Nov. 8.

In this class, students will discover and

explore monsters from different cultures and stories and how they are viewed.

Students will be challenged to think about who the real monsters are...the ghastly creatures or the humans that interact with them?

Lee is an award winning writer, artist and photographer. She has written several books and collections of poetry and has even written a short film. Her collection of poetry, entitled “GHETTOCLAUSTROPHOBIA: Dreamin of Mama While Trying to Speak Woman in Woke Tongues,” won the the 2020 Diode Editions full-length book prize and the 2021 Vermont Book Award.

“NOT THIS AGAIN: Getting Your Film Beyond the Usual” is another class offered in the workshop. This course will examine alternative ways to write screenplays, taught by writer, screenwriter and voice actor, Ross Klavan. In the workshop, students will be watching and examining scenes from movies, participating in group discussions and doing writing exercises.

“Most film writing courses are very

rigid and formulaic,” said Klavan.

In his class, students will learn the standard screenwriting formula, then disperse into some different methods and think outside the box.

“Teaching is always a strangely moving, terrific, sometimes frustrating experience,” said Klavan. “It is great to see people learn. Teaching about film, you’re not only offering an education in writing but in a way to see things.”

Klavan has written many screenplays. His most well known screenplay being that for the film “Tigerland” which was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award. Klavan currently lives in New York City and his course is online on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The course began on Oct. 3 and ends Nov. 14.

For those interested in writing a novel, Barbara J. Taylor is offering a class accurately entitled, “So You Want to Write a Novel.” This class will cover techniques and strategies for writing, organizing ideas and plot, developing characters and more.

Taylor was born and raised in North Eastern Pennsylvania. She likes to set her novels in Scranton and is currently working on the final book of her trilogy. It will be released in the Spring of 2024. Some of her Scrantonian characters include “miners, evangelists, vaudevillians, gangsters, seers and a prostitute or two.”

Her course will run every Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m., starting on Oct. 5 and ending on Nov. 9. It is in-person at Wilkes.

A class on creative nonfiction will also be offered, entitled “Illness, Health, Creative Nonfiction.” This course will be taught by writer and teacher Robin McCrary. This class in the workshop will have students write about illness through many different viewpoints. McCrary’s class will be in two online sessions on Oct. 7 and 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

“There is much to learn from stories themselves, and much to learn about looking deeply into stories,” said McCrary.

McCrary decided to teach this course to show how creative nonfiction writing can help writers and readers understand illness and wellness from the viewpoints of patients to healthcare workers.

“This privilege of narrative and insight together gives us tools about how we might do things better in our futures, toward those who might benefit from these insights,” said McCrary.

McCrary is a public health humanist and author, and he has written several journals and essays. McCrary teaches writing studies and health humanities at Syracuse University and served as low residency faculty at Wilkes.

McCrary’s first major was psychology, but he decided to pursue writing after receiving advice from a professor. McCrary has written many pieces, but his favorites are “Two Cities” from his book “Island in the City” or “Seeing Red (Or, The Red Caps are Coming).” Some of his work has been published in various academic journals, including “Assay: A Journal of Nonfiction Studies” and “Essay Daily.”



Want to register for one of these creative writing courses?

If interested in registering for these non-credit courses, contact Dawn Leas at dawn.leas@wilkes.edu for more information

Graphic by Morgan Rich

Fall In Love...

With Being A Writer

- boost your resume
- work with a team
- voice your opinions

Contact Kalen Churcher at kalen.churcher@wilkes.edu or Morgan Rich at morgan.rich@wilkes.edu

PROGRAMMING BOARD'S FALL EVENTS

9/14 Minute to Win It

9/21 Cooking Class

9/28 Giveaway

10/5 Hoedown Throwdown

10/19 Couch Potato

10/23-27 Freak Week

11/2 Silent Disco

11/9 Giveaway

11/16 Fast Food BINGO

11/30 Break-FEST

12/7 BINGO

HOMECOMING WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTED BY **COLONELS VICTORY** **OVER JUNIATA, 63-14**

By Adam Grundt and Sam Mullen
Assistant Sports Editor and Staff Writer

The Colonels recorded their first Landmark Conference victory in a rout of Juniata College on Saturday afternoon, kicking off a weekend of games held on Homecoming Weekend at Schmidt Stadium.

The team opened up the game with a nearly three-minute, five-play drive that ended with a two-yard touchdown run by first-year running back JayJay Jordan. The offense then followed

that up with a 75-yard touchdown pass by junior quarterback Isaiah Rodriguez to first-year receiver Juju Fears to put the Colonels up by 14 points to end the first quarter.

The Colonels then opened up the second quarter with a drive spanning four minutes that ended in a 26-yard touchdown pass to junior wide receiver Devin Higgins to put the team up 21 points. Later in the quarter, Jordan again ran for a 44-yard





touchdown to put the Colonels up by four touchdowns. The first half was finished off by a 70-yard touchdown pass from Rodriguez to sophomore wide receiver Justin Moore, putting the Colonels up 35-0 at the break.

The team picked up right where they left off in the third quarter after a score by Juniata. JayJay Jordan found the end zone for the third time on the day with an 18-yard touchdown to put the team up 42-7.

Junior Xavier Powell then found the end-zone with a 33-yard touchdown to put the Colonels up 49-7. Juniata answered right back with a touchdown of their own to bring the score to 49-14.

Sophomore running back Ben Contella was the next Colonel to find the endzone with 12 minutes left in the game. Contella ran 11 yards to the end zone after being set up by a 55-yard reception by freshman J'Vier Johnson.

The Colonels finished their offensive onslaught with a touchdown throw by Powell to first-year wide receiver Trevor Fisch, which brought the score to 63-14.

With this victory, the Colonels won their first game in the Landmark Conference. Quarterback Isaiah Rodriguez led the way on offense with 308 yards passing on 13 completions with three touchdowns. JayJay Jordan led the running game with 77 yards on eight carries and three touchdowns of his own.

In the game, the team shattered the school record for offensive yards with 725, a record that previously stood at 677 yards.

Sophomore linebacker Tallen Murray led the defensive unit with 14 tackles. Murray

currently leads the Landmark Conference in tackles with 51 through four games. Junior defensive lineman Angel Ramos finished the day with two sacks resulting in 31 yards lost by the Juniata offense.

Even with the win this past weekend, Coach Drach said the players will “continue to be competitive and keep looking forward to the next game.”

In addition to the Colonel’s football team playing in their first Landmark Conference game, the Wilkes field hockey team hosted a Landmark Conference game of their own at Schmidt Stadium Saturday night.

Despite the team’s valiant effort late in the game, the Colonels fell to Moravian College 4-3 in their third conference game of the season. The offense was led by juniors Lexie Nevel, Morgan Millard, and Olivia Gayoski. All three Colonels scored goals in the match, with Gayoski’s goal coming late to pull the team within 1. The unit ultimately fell short in the match, bringing their Landmark Conference record to 1-2.

“The team played really well together, and fought till the end,” said Nevel. “All we need to do now is take that loss as a lesson and keep pushing forward and continue to take the things we learn at practice into the games.”

Senior Bridget Rosenfeld after Saturday’s game stated “With every loss [the girls] are gaining more strength and skill and



are getting amped up to play Juniata,” said junior Bridget Rosenfeld. “Being new to the Landmark, teams are underestimating us. We will continue to prove why we belong in the Landmark.”

The Colonels field hockey team takes on Marywood University on Monday, Oct. 2 in Scranton, Pa. They resume Landmark Conference play on Saturday, Oct. 7 when they host Juniata College at Schmidt Stadium.

The football team travels to Williamsport, Pa. on Saturday, Oct. 7 to take on Lycoming College in their second Landmark Conference game of the season.

For more information on football, field hockey, and all of the Colonels’ sports teams, please visit gowilkesu.com.



Opinion

Have an opinion or want to write a guest column? Contact opinion editor: sydney.allabaugh@wilkes.edu.

Editorial Staff 2023-24

MANAGERIAL STAFF

Editor-in-Chief - Morgan Rich
Social Media Manager - Liz Cherinka
Adviser - Dr. Kalen Churcher

SECTION EDITORS

News - Amanda Montgomery
LA&E - Zara Lantzman
Opinion - Sydney Allabaugh

ASSISTANT EDITORS

LA&E - Anthony Cazun
Sports - Adam Grundt &
Samantha Mullen

DESIGNERS

Designer - Lara Mullen

SECTION STAFF WRITERS

News - Emma Broda
LA&E - Cally Williams
Opinion - "Freeze"

**Want to join The Beacon?
Several positions are open!
Contact :**
kalen.churcher@wilkes.edu or
morgan.rich@wilkes.edu

141 S. Main Street
Clayton and Theresa Karambelas
Media & Communication Center
Wilkes University
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766
Phone - (570) 408-5903
www.thewilkesbeacon.com

Want to advertise in *The Beacon*?
Contact: Kalen Churcher at
kalen.churcher@wilkes.edu or
Morgan Rich at morgan.rich@wilkes.edu



The Beacon
Est. 1936
Pa. Newspaper
Association Member

Our Voice

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

Is homecoming royalty still a valued tradition?

Homecoming is a big tradition, not just here at Wilkes University, but at many colleges and high schools in the United States. While the football game is a big part of it, so is the homecoming dance and homecoming court.

This year, Wilkes moved from having a homecoming king, queen, prince and princess to homecoming royalty and junior royalty.

This creates an opportunity for students who may not fit within the gender binary to feel included in a tradition. Additionally, it contributes to the dissembling of heteronormativity as it shows that there can be more to a royal pair than just a king and a queen.

Seeing the university being more inclusive and shifting from the old traditions of a gender-specific homecoming court is great, but even with having new homecoming royalty, some still don't like the idea of homecoming court.

Having a homecoming court is a great tradition, but it sometimes feels like a popularity contest. It is easy to predict who will make it onto the court, and it always seems to be the more popular

students. If someone unpredictable makes it onto the court, it may seem like a joke or that votes were cast out of pity.

High school courts can be the same way. The most popular girls and boys make it to the court. Or, sometimes, high schoolers use their vote for the court as a pity vote, typically as a joke, which is cruel within itself.

Granted, many Wilkes juniors may not even have had the opportunity to be on a homecoming court in high school due to COVID-19.

What if you make it to the court and don't get picked? What if you are paired up with someone else in class you barely knew?

College homecoming royalty is very different from high school. It still has the main court being seniors, but it also allows for other underclassmen to be included with junior royalty.

It's great how we are allowing anyone whether male, female or nonbinary to be included into homecoming court rather than having the typical king and queen. It's pretty clear that many of the students around campus also agree

with this change.

In high school, it seems like the main focus is the homecoming dance and who will be named king and queen. But in college, it's more about alumni coming back to their alma mater and seeing how the university has changed since they left.

It is also a great time for former student athletes to play against current players from their respective sport.

It's a fun tradition to be held during the beginning of the school year but should it should just be a high school tradition not a college one.

Not only can royalty be seen as a harmful popularity contest, but it also simply seems like an unnecessary part of a college homecoming, as it is not necessarily valued among students.

Although the switch from homecoming king and queen to homecoming royalty is a step in the right direction, we have surpassed the need for a homecoming court at Wilkes.

We should instead focus on coming together as a campus community.

Letter to the editor policy: *The Beacon* welcomes letters to the editor from differing viewpoints. Letters must contain contact information, including name, city, state and phone number. Phone numbers will not be published but may be used for verification purposes.

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

Email: morgan.rich@wilkes.edu

Phone: (570) 408-5903 (Voicemail: 30 seconds or less, please.)

Mail: 84 West South Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18766 Attn: *The Beacon*

Video game spotlight: “Castle Crashers” review

By “Freeze”

Opinion Staff Writer

Amidst all of the recent news about Wilkes homecoming, I can only imagine that a great many of you are hoping for something different. Allow me to relay yet another experience for you to immerse yourself. This week, I shine the spotlight on a lesser known title.

Let’s take to the castles!

Despite its age, “Castle Crashers” remains a beloved game among players. It is a game where “four brave champions” set out to retrieve a stolen magical item and save the King’s daughters. A person can band together with three others in order to progress the campaign and beat up the enemies, which range from the classic thieves to humanoid bears and yellow aliens. Not to mention, there are a variety of items, pets and a special super-sandwich powerup that drive further the comical theme.

The first thing to love about this game is the low learning curve. There is almost no skill required to enjoy the game, which is what makes it great for anyone that just wants a good time. The mechanics involve jumping, moving right and left, using light and heavy attacks, casting magic spells and occasionally spamming arrows so your opponents can’t stand up.

Any of these mechanics can be sequenced randomly or combined to produce more effective results against the enemy. A person can just mash buttons on their controller and still perform well. This system, which is intentionally simplified, is common in games like “Castle Crashers.” The genre is known as “Beat Em-Ups,” where the objective is, you guessed it, to beat the enemies up.

In fact, “Castle Crashers” enables players to beat up one enemy for potentially an infinite amount of time even after their health is depleted. This occurs when you mash aerial combos against the edge of the screen with an opponent in your reach. Nobody quite knows why the developers chose to leave this in the game. Perhaps they enjoyed beating their enemy to a pulp as much as the rest of us.

The reason “Castle Crashers” stands out is because of its character and weapon system. There are seven starter knights, as well as

unlockables to total thirty-one playable characters. Each character has unique magic, such as fire, lightning, poison and ice (my favorite of course), while the rest of their mechanics are universal.

It’s important to note that different types of magic work better with certain weapons. Each weapon has unique stats that pertain to the four main attributes: strength, magic, defense and agility, which can be upgraded as characters progress and earn XP. Each playable character’s progression is unique, so players are inclined to use them equally. There are also pets, called Animal Orbs, that give players support in combat, health, defense, magic and even looting. All of these elements of character building allows players to find their unique touch to the game.

A special game mode, “Arena,” adds to the party experience of Castle Crashers. Players and their friends can enter the doors of the arena and battle each other to the death, all while earning gold and XP for use in the campaign. This is a great place to practice new combat skills, and an even better place to destroy your friends.

“Castle Crashers” offers the perfect comedic vibe that people look forward to when playing with their friends and family. The gags and small details alone make it a great experience. The soundtrack of this game is highly recognizable and very catchy. Did you know that “Jumper” is not originally from “Geometry Dash?” The song was originally composed by Waterflame for a level in “Castle Crashers.”

As mentioned before, “Castle Crashers” is a fairly old game, as it was published in 2008 by small developers under the name “Behemoth.” A remastered edition of the game, which features multiplayer and co-op, was released for consoles including Xbox, PlayStation and Nintendo Switch. This version of the game was essentially the “completed” form of the original title.

Even now, this game is a topic of discussion among professionals. The current world record speedrun of this game was achieved only two months ago by a player named Cream, who dethroned a four-year record by just under one minute.

The Return of The Red Raven: An original story

By Leah Smith

Contributing Writer

PART 4. A horn screeched behind Rick, which snapped him back to the driver’s seat of his car and his view of the road. Rick drove forward past a greenlight as his mind finally processed where he was. He was only two right turns away from the police station and got there without further interruption.

He parked his car across the street, grabbed the box of VHS tapes and locked the doors. He carefully walked across the street, his eyes criss-crossing the road and the box. A young and lanky officer held the door for Rick and gave him a pleasant greeting.

“Detective Greenblatt told me you’d be here. My dad was a big fan of yours.”

“Well, that’s really kind. How is your father now?” Rick couldn’t help but ask.

The lanky officer led Rick inside of the station, stopping in front of the main desk where Isabelle told him to meet him.

“My dad’s alright, for a retired dementia-ridden old fart I guess,” the officer answered.

“That’s rough, I’m sorry to hear about that. Do you think he would want an autograph?” Rick asked.

“I’m not sure if he’ll remember you, but as a conversation starter for the next time I see him, sure,” the officer answered honestly.

The officer handed Rick a small notepad and pen from his blue pants pocket. Rick started to write down an iconic quote from “The Red Raven” but realized he didn’t catch a name. The officer realized that when Rick raised his head.

“Just put ‘To Edgar and Nathan.’ He would appreciate you adding my name too.”

“You’re Nathan I assume?” Rick asked.

“My dad isn’t that cruel to name me Edgar,” Nathan smiled.

Isabelle walked down from the hallway and crossed her arms when she caught up to the two of them. “Just couldn’t help yourself, could you?” Isabelle shook her head.

“Don’t take it that way, detective. It’s for me and my dad,” Nathan defended Rick, who was speechless but understanding in Isabelle’s comment.

“I understand, but I don’t want him to be tempted to start his own Red Raven Convention in the station just because he

has someone who remembers the show that isn’t in retirement. We are here for serious reasons and I won’t let him or anyone else involved in this case get distracted.”

Nathan and Rick didn’t say anything in response. Isabelle took their silence as an agreement and led them up to the hallway she came from. The hallway was a dense corridor full of doors crowding up the small space. They reached the end of the hallway at a door that was located on the right side.

Isabelle unlocked the door with a key from her pocket and held it open for Rick and Nathan. The would-be interrogation room was small and painted with dark green walls. There was a table with a small, square, black television and VHS player on top.

Rick placed the box on top of the table and handed Isabelle the first tape, which contained the first episode of “The Red Raven,” which was titled “The Alphabet Murders.” Isabelle took the tape from Rick’s hand and pushed it through the VHS slot. Nathan turned the lights off as all three of them took their seats in front of the screen.

As the episode played, Rick looked over to Isabelle and smiled at her. He wanted to remind her of the days he remembered when she was a little girl. The days when she watched the show repeatedly and always told him how much she admired him as a superhero. She didn’t look back at him once. When the episode concluded, Isabelle took out the tape and placed it back into the box.

“Did you two get anything from that?”

“The murderer used alphabet blocks as weapons and went through letters A, B, and C until he was discovered by the Red Raven. Rudy Jenkins was the killer and was arrested,” Nathan summarized.

“Right, and if the murderer were to strike again and murder someone with a wooden block with the letter ‘B’ then, we would have reason to suspect that they have taken inspiration from the show,” Isabelle concluded.

“So, there is a connection,” Rick said.

“Not exactly, and until there is, your assistance is no longer needed,” Isabelle affirmed.

Rick stood up and asked, “Why don’t I stay with you?”

To be continued...

The outrage over Senate dress code regulations is silly

By **Sydney Allabaugh**
Opinion Editor

After more than a week of heated debates over a potential change in the Senate dress code, the Senate came to an agreement: Suit jackets and slacks are here to stay, but is it for the best?

On Sept. 18, Majority Leader Chuck Schumer announced that the Senate would no longer be enforcing a dress code on the floor. This decision was likely inspired by Pennsylvania Sen. John Fetterman as he frequently had to vote from doorways as his clothing decisions, like wearing shorts, prevented him from being on the Senate floor.

This relaxed dress code decision outraged Democratic and Republican senators alike, with many arguing that dressing casual is disrespectful to constituents. Their concerns were addressed on Sept. 27, when the Senate passed a resolution that requires business attire to be worn on the floor, which, according to the resolution document, means men must wear a coat, tie and slacks.

Although senators believe that they owe their constituents formality, is it even something that citizens value?

As a culture, we have been straying

away from dress codes and embracing more casual wear in our daily lives. In K-12 schools, students are less likely to be given uniforms or forced to wear polos and slacks. At work, it has been more common to wear jeans and leggings instead of a dress or a suit. In universities, students have been going so far with casual dress that they wear slippers and pajama pants to class.

We are not only just embracing casual wear, but we are taking it one step further by actively opposing restrictive dress codes. Many argue that dress codes are outdated. Others believe dress codes are discriminatory in some way as they may not be equally enforced, commonly with women's appearances being overly policed. Although this likely not the case in the Senate considering there were not even specific attire regulations for women mentioned in the resolution document, the point remains: many people do not like being told what to wear.

If, as a culture, we are slowly embracing more casual dress - even in the workplace and other formal settings - and are beginning to oppose attire regulations, it seems silly to be so concerned about the Senate dress code, especially if senators would likely

continue to wear business professional attire regardless of whether there was a rule in place.

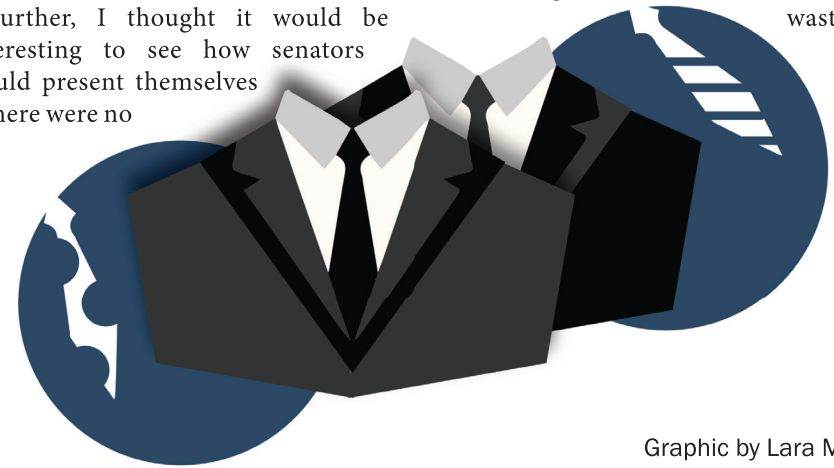
This is not to say that I do not believe that politicians owe constituents respect and consideration. It is quite the opposite. I just do not see appearance as all that important in determining whether someone may be an effective and considerate representative.

In the case of Fetterman, as someone who is his constituent, his appearance and casual clothing choices have always been a nonissue to me. If anything, I think it is refreshing to see a politician not only act as if he is an average citizen but to look like one, too.

Further, I thought it would be interesting to see how senators would present themselves if there were no

boundaries. Potentially, they could wear something to make a political statement. Maybe there would be changes in our perceptions of what a senator can look like. Or, the most likely option, senators would continue to dress in business attire anyways and all the outrage would be over nothing.

All the energy that has gone into deciding whether senators should have a dress code could have been better directed elsewhere. If they are anything like me, U.S. citizens have bigger concerns they want to be addressed by the Senate than whether they should have a dress code. Time spent on something so trivial is time wasted.



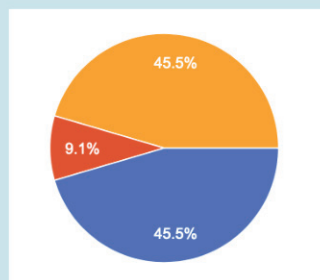
Graphic by Lara Mullen

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS:

What is your favorite place to eat on campus?

- Which Wich
- Greens to Go
- Burgers + Fries
- Henry's Dining Hall



THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you think Senators should have to follow a dress code?

SEE NEXT ISSUE
FOR RESULTS



LET US KNOW

How politics have ushered in the collapse of the nation

By Bryce Greco
Contributing Writer

As the Republican debates continue and the nation prepares for the upcoming presidential election next year, something is worrying me and many other Americans. With every year, it appears that the country has become more heavily divided.

At this point, I believe the U.S. is beyond a state of repair. The American Empire may collapse just as many empires have before, and our generation may be the ones to witness it.

Anyone who studies history knows what kills empires: divisive politics, economic failures, fallen culture. In modern day America, politics have become a wedge between everyone in society. What once was a matter of opinion now defines one's entire life. If you are a Republican, you socialize with Republican friends, watch Republican news, follow Republican leaders. If you are a Democrat, you socialize with Democrat friends, watch Democrat news and follow Democrat leaders.

The states of America is no longer a united front. Rather, it seems to be caught up in a civil war of sorts. But this time, there is no Mason-Dixon Line to draw battle lines.

Neighbors turn against neighbors. Family dinners turn into vile screaming matches over whatever topic the two parties have decided to recently fight over. Friendships crumble. Relationships end.

Politics are only the beginning of America's troubles. The economy is in shambles. Institutions such as healthcare and education are failing the populous. What it means to be "American," what once defined our culture, is now lost to the tides of political war. America's time as an empire is through.

This is, in my opinion, not a fixable condition. Politicians on both sides of the spectrum have become so massively corrupt. A former president is being charged as a criminal. Insider trading leaves the politicians rich and the people poor. The "swamp" of Washington D.C. is deeper and murkier than ever imagined, filled with Republicans and Democrats together. There is no miracle candidate, no saving grace. No one can save us.

Our generation shall likely be the one

to witness this fall. Our generation is, according to many reports, very pro-government, but what we fail to see is how the government is failing us.

While billions of tax dollars are funneled into America's tyrannical military industrial complex to destroy societies overseas, we are left with a dysfunctional healthcare system in our homeland. While politicians find new ways to make the rich richer (and make themselves richer in the process), we are left to beg for financial aid.

Gen Z has placed trust into a dystopian, tyrannical government that has proven time and time again to be a failure. With no one to stand against the horrors of politics, America's empire will continue to grow until it caves in upon itself. Our generation may very well be the one to witness the collapse.

If the empire is nearing its end, what are we to do in the interim? I believe the greatest weapon we have at our disposal is an unlikely one: books. There have been

countless initiatives, whether through schools or the government itself, to ban books of a certain dystopian genre. The best way to learn about our fallen society is to read about similar societies.

Authors have long predicted America's end, and their predictions may become reality, which is exactly why our leaders want to ensure you will never be able to read them. George Orwell, Phillip K. Dick, William Gibson, Ray Bradbury all have excellent works that will open your eyes and mind to the dystopia that we live in.

The American Empire has fallen. We are witnessing it every day. So, take a stand against the powers that be, those who have kept us all in the gutter to see themselves rise.

Stray away from modern politics.

Stop participating in a system that is continuing to fail you.

The government, the politicians, the rulers of this nation care for only themselves.

No one is coming to save you. All that is left is to save yourself, before America joins the many other empires that have already succumbed to their fates.

Graphic by Lara Mullen

Campus Suggestions: Why you should attend campus events

By Samara Carey
Contributing Writer

Welcome back to "Campus Suggestions," a column in which I tell you my thoughts and feelings about things on campus... and I try to convince you to feel the same way that I do.

Today, I will be discussing the reason why you (and your friends) should be going to school events and joining different clubs on campus. Now, this may just be the e-mentor in me coming out, but I truly think that there are many amazing organizations located right in the middle of campus and they are not getting the love that they deserve.

With that being said, I am determined to get everyone reading this article to join and or attend at least one different event held on campus this semester!

For starters, despite what some people say, sporting events on campus are fun and

a great way to show school spirit. Ignore the fact that the football team has only won one game this season. The other fall sports teams are killing it when it comes to winning their games. That being said, attendance is still very low and we should be supporting our fellow classmates.

Up next, as cliché as this may sound, you have the potential to meet new people and also have the ability to create new opportunities for yourself every time you join a new club or wander into a school-held event.

Following that, even if you don't want to join a club, chances are they are giving out free stuff at their events (shout out to Programming Board), and who doesn't like free stuff? I know for myself, I have met so many amazing people from joining various clubs on campus, and chances are I wouldn't have been able to have that chance if I didn't

step out of my comfort zone and join.

Another reason that I stand very firmly behind this is the fact that even if you hate the event or hate the club that you joined, you can always leave it and never turn back. After all, it is college and this is the perfect time in your life to experience new things and to learn and differentiate yourself from your old interests.

To help support my claim regarding how amazing all the different clubs on campus are, there are well over 50 clubs that you can choose from. Even I will admit, there may be too many clubs available on campus. This is because of the fact that I never even heard of some of them. For example, what is the fly fishing club? Well, now you can find out for yourself and witness whatever it is that they do outside of campus.

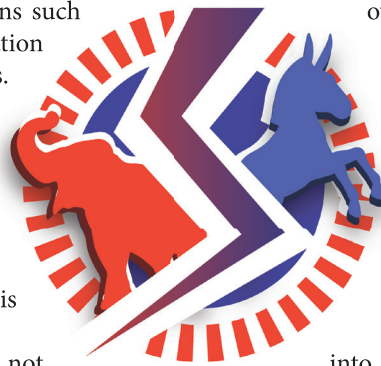
Our recent homecoming brought so many events to campus, including a pep rally,

football game, dance and various giveaways. This was the perfect opportunity to show school spirit and support the teams and clubs that represent our school.

To make you feel less pressured and to feel comfortable about stepping out of your comfort zone, you can always reach out to friends or family and see if they will join you for a night out.

Besides that, not to mention the e-mentor program again (that you should all totally join by the way), but ask your mentor to join you if you're a first-year student. Chances are your mentor would love to and would love helping you reach out to different things in our community.

While I understand that it's hard to sometimes get into the school spirit due to the stress and weight of the classes, it is still important to try and think positively and make the most out of your college experience.



The end of the WGA strike is a win for art as a whole

By Shawn Carey
Contributing Writer

After an almost five-month-long protest, the Leaders of the Writers Guild of America (WGA) have authorized its members to return to work following a preliminary agreement between the union and Hollywood executives. The 2023 WGA strike is officially over. While there is much more to be discussed regarding the deal, this is still a massive win.

It was also recently announced that the Screen Actors Guild - American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) and Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP) met with studio heads for negotiations on Monday, Oct. 2. While nothing was officially said, it is believed that the WGA helped set up this meeting in some way.

With the Hollywood shutdown being almost over, it seems like it won't be long until shows and movies will be able to start production again. "The Batman: Part II," "Community: The Movie," "Abbott Elementary," "Thunderbolts" and "The Tonight Show" are just some of the projects that were put on hold. While it's exciting to see these projects picked back up, we shouldn't forget why they were stopped in the first place.

Screenwriting has always been a somewhat difficult profession. Not only is there the actual writing aspect of it, but an additional list of complications to worry about. Writers have to keep in mind the project's budget, available filming locations, run time, the scripts of other writers and much more. As you can imagine, this is no easy feat.

With that being said, it seems like studio executives have a hard time understanding this. It's sadly not uncommon to hear stories about scripts being rushed out due to unreasonable deadlines and work days lasting more than eight hours. Work overload happens all the time in Hollywood; however, writers tend to be the ones

who experience it the most. Sadly, this isn't anything new and has been going on for decades.

Poor wages and benefits also tend to be an issue. More often than not, writers don't tend to have a set salary. Payment tends to be based around the type of script being written, project size and budget and position. Additionally, there seems to be two different ways of payment depending on the project. While weekly is the most common, a

"Writers Guild Strike." On Jan. 16, 1960, the WGA called a "two-pronged" strike against both film and television production. The president at the time attributed his main reason behind calling the strike to only receiving residuals for the first six reruns of a show.

We may be used to seeing reruns now, but at the time they were a pretty new concept. Starting in 1955 the show "I Love Lucy" became the first television

increase in residuals from streaming. In this age of nonstop media consumption, it only makes sense for writers to want to earn more.

The rise of AI also played a role in the strike. Writers feared that with AI getting more and more advanced that it would start writing show scripts for them, eventually taking their jobs. It should be noted that the WGA isn't entirely against the use of artificial intelligence. They believe AI should only be used as a tool for research and script development.

As you have probably noticed these strikes tend to start up whenever an advancement in home media technology happens. While I only mentioned four of the strikes, rest assured that the same goes for the other half.

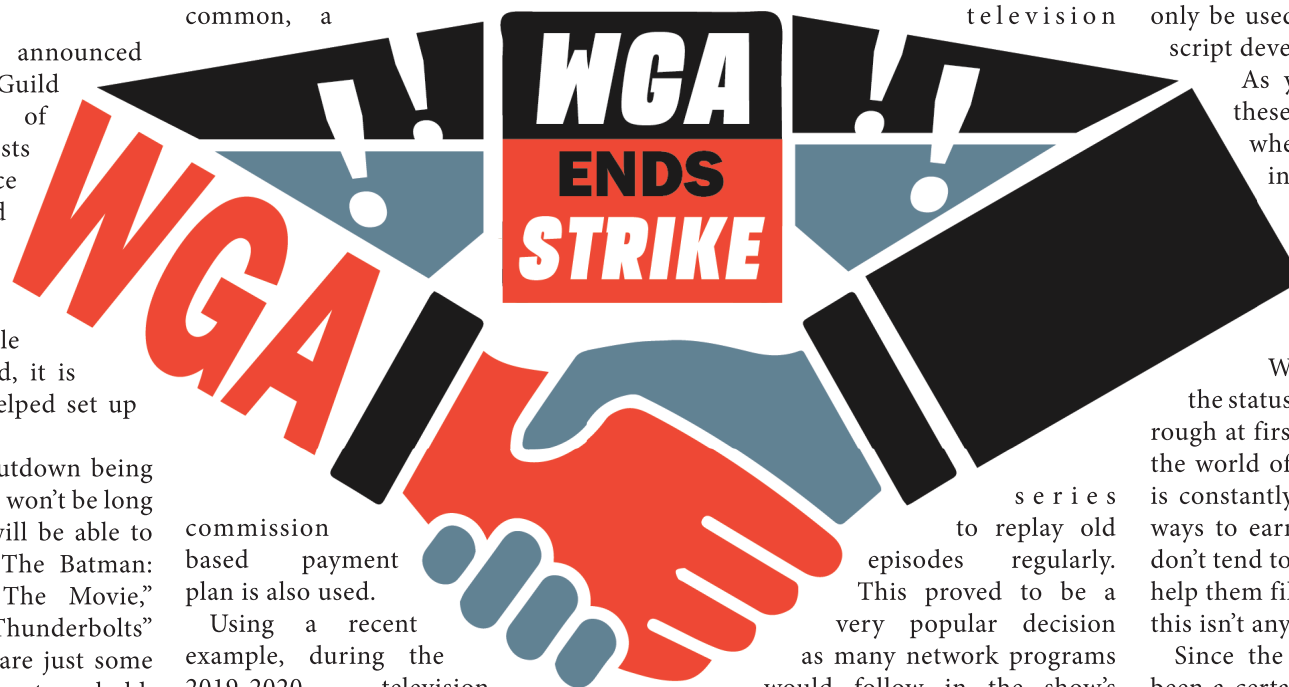
Whenever there's a change in the status quo things tend to be a little rough at first. This is especially true for the world of entertainment. Hollywood is constantly looking for new and easy ways to earn revenue. Oftentimes they don't tend to think about the people that help them fill their pockets. Once again, this isn't anything new.

Since the start of cinema there has been a certain level of greed associated with the art form. This greed doesn't originate from the filmmakers. However, it comes from the people selling the art. This goes for all types of creative work.

Picture this. You spend your entire life putting your entire heart and soul into creating something meaningful, something you can be truly proud of, only for some big shot businessman to slap a price tag on it. If your line of work requires even an ounce of creativity, you can be sure that this will happen.

It's pretty difficult for most artists to fight against this greed, which is why I believe the writers' strike was fantastic. It shows that it is possible to fight for your passion, no matter what you're up against. The strike ending on the writers' terms is not only a win for them, but for every person willing to fight for their art.

Graphic by Lara Mullen



commission based payment plan is also used.

Using a recent example, during the 2019-2020 television season, "Variety" reported that the average story editor makes around \$7,000 a week. If we use the commission payment method, writer-producers earn a minimum of \$42,000 for each 60-minute script, or \$28,000 for each 30-minute script. As great as this sounds, most Hollywood writers aren't at the story editor or producer level. They are instead staff writers, the lowest rank.

Keeping all of this in mind, it should come as no surprise that the WGA has a history of striking. There have been a total of eight strikes in the past, all happening for a number of different reasons. While the problems I previously mentioned played a factor in them, there tends to be a larger era-specific issue behind the strikes.

Let's take a look at the very first

series to replay old episodes regularly. This proved to be a very popular decision as many network programs would follow in the show's footsteps soon after.

After a 148-day strike, a deal was reached. Five percent of the total earnings from pre-1960 reruns of a show would go to pensions, healthcare and other funds that helped writers. 63 years later, this rule is still in place to this very day.

The 2007-08 Writers Guild of America strike provides a somewhat more recent example of era-specific problems. The strike primarily sought increased residual rates for DVD sales and jurisdiction over and residuals from new releases of older media. The strike that took place in 1985 happened for a pretty similar reason, except it was over VHS and LaserDisc sales.

If this sounds familiar, that is because one of the key reasons behind the most recent strike happens to be wanting an

Athlete of the Week

Hannah Landis

Senior Women's Soccer Goalkeeper

The Beacon: Female Athlete of the Week

Landis recorded two shutouts to help the Colonels to one win and one tie. She made five saves in a 1-0 victory at Albright College, and recorded five more saves in a 0-0 tie against Susquehanna. Landis totaled 10 saves for the week and had a perfect 1.000 save percentage.

Major: Nursing

Hometown: Red Hill, Pa.

High School: Upper Perkiomen

What had been your favorite sports memory from your time as a Colonel?

Beating FDU-Florham in overtime to earn us a spot in the MAC semi-finals.

What is your favorite professional sports team (any sport)?

Philadelphia Eagles.

What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?

Spend time with my friends and family.

What is your favorite part of being an athlete at Wilkes?

My favorite part of being an athlete at Wilkes is that you get to make lifelong friends and memories all while pursuing a degree.

What sports movie is your go-to for movie night?

"Miracle."

If you did not play your current sport, what sport would you have wanted to play?

Volleyball or lacrosse.

What has been your favorite sports memory overall?

My senior night in high school.

What is your favorite post-game meal?

Wawa.

How do you feel about being selected as the Athlete of the Week?

I feel very honored for the opportunity and I am excited to see what is in store for the rest of the season.

Compiled by Adam Grundt, Asst.Sports Editor



The Beacon//Sam Mullen

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."

**Interested in
writing for
sports?**

**CONTACT
Adam Grundt
adam.grundt@
wilkes.edu**

**Does your
team have a
milestone to
celebrate?
Does a team
member have
something to
celebrate?**

**Let our
sports team
know. You
may be
featured
in the next
Beacon!**

STUDENT HOUSING
for 2024-2025

OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 14, 2023
from 12 - 2 PM



*Scan this QR code
to sign up for the
Open House!*

**COME GET A TOUR OF OUR UPSCALE,
CLEAN, ALL-INCLUSIVE MANSIONS!**

Sign-up for housing as singles, doubles, triples or quads. We offer the best in affordable off-campus housing, and are only steps away from your classes!

Tour begins at 281 South River Street.

ZN PROPERTIES *feature...*

- multi-bedroom, shared mansion-living
- 3.5 bathrooms
- fully-furnished
- all-inclusive rent (all utilities, WIFI)
- fully stocked kitchen with appliances, pots and pans, dishware, etc.
- living room
- dining room
- full laundry facilities
- secure entrances



Contact us: 570-592-3113 | znpropertiesllc@gmail.com