



# THE BEACON

*The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow.*



## Bent, Not Broken

### Wilkes athlete overcomes back injury

Sophomore Josh Farrell discusses his broken back and playing sports again, page 19.

The Beacon/Brandon Gubitosa

# News

Have a breaking story or a press release to send? Contact the news editor: [sarah.bedford@wilkes.edu](mailto:sarah.bedford@wilkes.edu)

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## Beacon Briefs

### Glow Run

The "Just Glow With It" Glow Run 5K will take place on April 17 starting at the UCOM building and finishing at the Riverfront portal. Registration begins at 8 p.m. The race will begin at 10 p.m. Registration is \$5 for students and \$10 for non-students. All proceeds will go to the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention. Any questions, email [samantha.davidson@wilkes.edu](mailto:samantha.davidson@wilkes.edu) or [michelle.kuzma@wilkes.edu](mailto:michelle.kuzma@wilkes.edu).

### 10th Week Withdrawal Reminder

Beginning March 30, a student may only withdraw from a course with the written approval of the Dean of the School in which the course is being taught, and the instructor. Course withdrawal forms are available on-line or at the Student Services Center.

### Wilkes Candidate for Leadership Wilkes-Barre, 2015-16

Anyone interested in being the Wilkes nominee is asked to submit a letter of interest that addresses the following question: "How do you think the Leadership Wilkes-Barre program can help you fulfill your aspirations as a leader at Wilkes and in the Greater Wilkes-Barre area?" If a candidate in previous years, the selection committee asks for reconfirm of interest by submitting the aforementioned letter. Send letters of interest via email to [Paul Adams](mailto:paul.adams@wilkes.edu) at [paul.adams@wilkes.edu](mailto:paul.adams@wilkes.edu) by the end of the day on April 3.

### Career Planning for Jrs. & Seniors Offered

Juniors and seniors may join this one credit elective class held on Wednesdays, 12:00-12:50 p.m., CRN 30906. Course aids in career planning, resumes, application letters, interview skills and professional networking.

## SG Notes: Glow Run funds allocated; requests, APS, LKS, HAWC; Mock Trial

By Taylor Ryan  
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Wilkes University's Student Government held its weekly meeting.

First, all of the new board members for fall 2015 were initiated.

The first request came from APS, The American Psychological Society. In week one of two, the request was for \$323 to cover their registration fees and bus trip for one student to attend the National Conference in New York City.

The next request was from Lambda Kappa Sigma, LKS. This is a pharmacy fraternity on campus. They have requested funding for their upcoming conference this summer in St. Louis, Missouri. The total fund request is \$395 per person, and 11 members will be attending, coming out to a total of \$4,345.00. Student Government will cast their final vote in the next meeting.

Another week one of two request was from the Health and Wellness Club on campus, HAWC. They are putting on a late night lift from 6:30-8:30 p.m. held at the YMCA. There will be trainers there to help instruct students on proper techniques and to teach demo classes. The club is requesting \$850 for promotional items, in order to get more students involved and for the trainers. This is an attempt to expand the club and get more of the underclassmen involved. The event

will be held on April 27.

The last new fund request came from a new club looking to form on campus. This is a Mock Trial Club that has requested Student Government recognition. They currently have 40 members involved. This would be beneficial for all student but specifically students that may be interested in law school in their future. This will give students opportunities to get more familiar with the court room and real life experience. Student Government will cast their final vote in the next meeting.

Some follow up content from last week's meeting, the second annual Glow Run will be held April 17 to help promote suicide prevention on campus. This new organization had asked Student Government for funds to go towards supplies, generators, and other items that will be used to put on the event. Student Government has motioned to allocate the Glow Run the full \$2,709 to be put towards their event.

The council reviewed the Treasurer's report. The current budget is as follows: All College: \$4,724.60; General Funds: \$7,227.14; Conference: \$1,835.00; Spirit: \$1,250.00 for a Student Government total of: \$15,036.74



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# On the Campaign Trail: Beth Gilbert reaches out to locals with meet up

By Pat Walther  
Asst. News Editor

Wilkes junior Beth Gilbert held a meet and greet on March 25, 2015, during her ongoing campaign for Wilkes-Barre city council. The event was held at the Tavern on the Hill located on East Northampton Street.

Gilbert, a life-long resident of Wilkes-Barre, chose this spot because it's a well-known watering hole in the district she wants to represent. Either coincidentally or otherwise it has a close proximity to her home.

"I live basically right across the street," Gilbert laughs. "I just wish it wasn't a smoking bar."

While Tavern on the Hill has the feel of the titular bar on the television show Cheers, on this night, the small and smoke-dense space is packed with supporters of Gilbert along with other locals campaigning for various political positions. There's a mayoral candidate here, a county council candidate there, and the constant buzz of conversation enveloping it all.

This bar and the community that has grown in and around it stand as a good representation of what Gilbert wishes to bring to the city of Wilkes-Barre if elected.

"I think there's been a large focus on the downtown area. Because of that the neighborhoods and surrounding areas feel rather left out," Gilbert says. "I would like to bring back community events – you know, block parties, cleanups, those kind of things."

Along with her plans to renew the sense



Photos by Pat Walther

City council candidate, Beth Gilbert, recently held a meet and greet with constituents in Tavern on the Hill in Wilkes Barre

of community in Wilkes-Barre, Gilbert wants to make politics "about the people" again.

"My number one task as councilwoman is to make city government more interactive, which would in turn make Wilkes-Barre a better place," Gilbert said.

The interactive element is in the least admirable. But one critic who wished to remain anonymous questioned how this will happen.

"I think it's unrealistic. People won't just come to you with problems just because you put yourself out there," The source said.

When asked what she could do to "get the ball rolling" to create an open dialogue

with residents, Gilbert was confident in using social media to reach out.

"I will definitely utilize social media," Gilbert said. "I've had a great response from social media so far, so I can only see it helping in the future."


While the stresses of running and being the face of a campaign seem like plenty of work itself, Gilbert also has to balance out 30+ hours of work a week and her various classes at Wilkes.

"I don't really know how I find time for it all," Gilbert admits. "I usually wake up around 5:30 to 6 in the morning. That's when I do the majority of my school work."

This hectic schedule does take a toll on the twenty year old.

"A lot of people can stay up all night writing papers and doing homework, but as soon as it hits ten or eleven, I pass out immediately," Gilbert laughs.

As Gilbert progresses through her campaign, the Beacon will be covering her actions every step of the way.

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## Senator Ted Cruz announces his bid for president in 2016

By Pat Walther  
Asst. News Editor

On March 23, 2015, Texas senator Ted Cruz announced his intent to seek the Republican nomination for president in 2016. He is the first major Republican to declare his candidacy for President of the United States.

Cruz was first elected to the United States Senate in 2012. Prior to his senatorial campaign, Cruz served as Solicitor General of Texas from 2003 to 2008.

A graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Law School, Cruz came to national attention during the government shutdown of 2013. According to news outlets such as Politico and the New York Times, the Texas senator played a large role in convincing fellow Republicans to stand against the Affordable Care Act, commonly known as

Obamacare, which led to the federal government being shut-down.

Known as a staunch proponent of pro-life values and gun-rights, Cruz is the first person of Hispanic nationality to serve as a US Senator from Texas.

Cruz was born in Canada and, because of that, has faced criticism as to whether or not he is eligible to serve as President of the United States.

Section one of Article two



Courtesy of cruz.senate.gov

of the United States Constitution states: "No person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President."


Cruz is still technically allowed to take the office of president because he was a US citizen at birth; his mother was a US citizen who lived in the US for more than ten years, as required by the Nationality Act of 1940.

Eric Hammond, a member of the Wilkes University Campus Republicans, likes Cruz and is happy that he declared his candidacy.

"Cruz's strict interpretation and unwillingness to compromise on constitutional issues is the main reason I like him," Hammond said. "He is also a proponent of a simplified tax code with less exemptions and more fair rates."

Cruz is currently polling strong among contemporary Republicans in national surveys conducted by CNN, Fox News and other mainstream media outlets.

Rand Paul, a Republican senator from Kentucky, is due to announce his candidacy for president in the following few weeks.

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# Anatomy of an Administrator: Erica Acosta

## Expanding diversity from classroom to service

By Toni Pennello  
Staff Writer

Erica Acosta is the Associate Director for Diversity Initiatives at Wilkes. Her job, by her own definition, is “to create programming, not only for students but for faculty and staff, on diversity and inclusion, multiculturalism, and awareness of other cultures.”

She is also an advisor for the study abroad program.

“I help students create that global experience – to make it more obtainable, and make the process a lot easier for students to study abroad,” she said.

Studying abroad has many different benefits from person to person, according to Acosta, but she feels that it is a great way for students to learn a new language, become more culturally aware, and see the different traditions in other countries. She believes studying abroad gives one “that experience of knowing who you are as an individual, not only in the states, but outside the states in other places.”

Acosta is originally from Brooklyn, New York, but has strong ties to her Dominican background. She frequently visits the Dominican Republic to do community service.

“I’m excited that Wilkes has an alternative spring break, conveniently, to the Dominican Republic. I get to go back and help my community. I also encourage students to come with me and see the culture, and also the education system in the Dominican



The Beacon/Gabby Glinski

Erica Acosta is proud of how much she has accomplished explaining that it helps that she has had great support from friends and family.

Republic. I get a little bit of both worlds,” she explained.

Acosta received her Bachelor’s degree in Spanish from SUNY Buffalo, and her Master’s in Organizational Management from Misericordia University. She has been in the field of Diversity and Inclusion for six years.

She is very proud of how far she has come at such a young age.

“I didn’t think I would make it this far so

quickly in life, I’m hitting 30 soon. I like my job, I like where I’m at, I like that I work with such a supportive group of people. I think that’s one of my biggest accomplishments – being able to get the degrees I have with the support of family and friends. It’s a big accomplishment, especially growing up in Brooklyn,” she said.

As far as Women’s History Month goes, Erica Acosta has a strong opinion.

“I like that we have a month, but I feel like

we should be valued more than a month. I feel like, without women you can’t make the world go around... with that said, I like it because we need to value each other a little bit more, and applaud each other in our accomplishments along the way. It should be Women’s month all year round, but the fact that we get recognized for a month is a step going forward.”



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Have a  
professor or  
administrator  
you’d like to see  
featured in The  
Beacon? Contact  
Toni Pennello or  
Sarah Bedford.

## ASME Car Show to be held April 19, benefits Wounded Warriors Project

By Sarah Bedford  
News Editor

The ninth annual American Society of Mechanical Engineers, ASME, Car Show is set to take place on April 19.

The event will benefit the Wounded Warriors Project which has been the beneficiary for the past few years.

According to ASME Vice-President, Corey Hohol, senior mechanical engineering major, the goal this year is to prepare the up-and-coming underclassmen to take over the event.

“We want to hand the show over to the students,” said Hohol. “So, I’m excited to see the underclassmen take on a bigger role.”

This is important as the club is holding

their yearly board elections later this semester.

This year, much of the planning was done within the clubs, aside from sponsorships from local business.

These sponsors help to provide prizes to vehicles of various categories. This year, categories include “Top Three Pre-War Domestics, Pre 1944”, “Top Five Post-War Domestics, 1944-1960”, “Top Five American Muscle, 1961-1972”, “Top Five Domestics, 1973-1999”, “Top Five Euro. Imports”, “Top 1 Euro. Stock”, “Top Three 21st Century Domestics, 2000-present”, “Top Five JDM/Asian Imports”, “Top Three Truck/SUVs” and “Top Three Low-Riders”.

There are also specialty awards that individuals may enter such as the “Best Student Car”. Students interested must place

their university student ID visibly on their windshield to be considered.

Typically, judges view the cars in pairs. This year, a “celebrity judge” will be joining the ranks.

The YouTuber known as Mr. R, who operates the channel, “RegularCars” will be acting as a judge this year.

The channel has over 152,000 subscribers with content centered on the reviewing of various vehicles such as the 1990 Lexus LS400, 1999 Chevy Blazer, and point of view videos featuring cars such as Jaguar XJ6.

Much like previous events, the car show will feature catering from Leggio’s, musical entertainment as well as the Dyno which for \$35, individuals can also hook up their vehicle to measure their vehicles torque and horse power.

For the first 100 individuals to enter the car show, they will receive a dash plaque and everyone will receive a grab-bag and t-shirt.

The ASME Car Show is to take place on April 19 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the SUB and adjoining lots. Preregistration is \$10 and registration the day of is \$15. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

The rain date is scheduled for April 26.

For more information, visit the ASME Car Show Facebook page where the preregistration link is available or contact Zachary Tomasura at zachary.tomasura@wilkes.edu or Hohol at corey.hohol@wilkes.edu.



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# Get lucky and win big at Wilkes' upcoming Casino Night

By Gabby Glinski

News Photographer and Staff Writer

Casino Week holds some of the largest campus events of the semester. Students can play games, win tickets and enter for prizes.

Casino Week consists of three major events from April 7 to April 10. Texas Hold 'Em takes place April 7, bingo is held April 8, and the last night, April 10 is Casino Night. Casino Night is the longest event, lasting 2-3 hours long and consists of a number of games including wheel games, bingo, blackjack and roulette.

Instead of using money, students are given a set amount of chips at the door

and try to earn more chips through playing games. The chips are then exchanged for raffle tickets and the tickets can be used to win a variety of prizes.

This semester, Casino Night prizes will vary from tickets to a Phillies/Yankees game to formal men's wear to Michael Kors items. Popular items from last semester, like the Macbook Pro, iPad, GoPro, HDTV and the DSLR camera will be included in the prize loot due to popularity. All of the items are updated to recent versions.

"The prize that has gained a lot of attention this semester is the kayak! It's hard to miss this large prize as it sits in the SG office window within the Student Center," stated Anthony Fanucci, student government treasurer, on the biggest prize

offered. Fanucci encourages everyone to check out the variety of prizes being displayed in the student government office in the SUB.

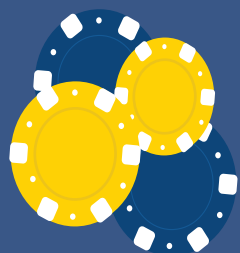
"Casino Night will operate in a similar fashion to last semester but we are preparing for large crowds by adding extra staff," says Fanucci about the changes in Casino Night from last semester. Fanucci stated, in addition to the members of student government, staff and faculty members are invited to participate as dealers.



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Anyone who has any questions or wants to volunteer for any of the various Casino Week events can contact Anthony Fanucci at [anthony.fanucci@wilkes.edu](mailto:anthony.fanucci@wilkes.edu)

## Casino Week:



April 7

Texas  
Hold 'Em

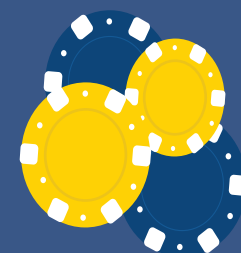
April 8

Bingo

April 10

Casino  
Night

Prizes on  
display in  
the Student  
Government  
Office.



## Brian Greene, scientist and author, to deliver lecture at Wilkes

By Sarah Bedford

News Editor

Theoretical physicist and bestselling author Brian Greene will give a lecture on April 26, as part of the Rosenn Lecture in Law and Humanities.

Greene's lecture, "Science Matters: Inspiring the Next Generation of Maverick Thinkers," starts at 7:30 p.m in the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts. The event is free and open to the public, and will be followed by a book signing.

Greene, a leading theoretical physicist -- a string theorist -- whose efforts to

make science more accessible act as the focus in his upcoming Rosenn lecture. The presentation will incorporate such multimedia elements.

Greene is known for his participation in the TED Talks conference series and his guest appearances in popular media, including the CBS sitcom "The Big Bang Theory" and major motion pictures such as "Frequency" and "The Last Mimzy." He has been a guest on "The Late Show with David Letterman," "Late Night with Conan O'Brien," "Charlie Rose," "Nightline," and "The Colbert Report."

Greene's bestselling books "The Elegant Universe" and "The Fabric of the Cosmos"

have been adapted into Emmy and Peabody Award-winning NOVA specials on PBS. His illustrated novella, "Icarus at the Edge of Time," was adapted as a film and symphonic performance in collaboration with composer Philip Glass in 2010.

A summa cum laude graduate of Harvard University and a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, Greene is a professor in physics and mathematics at Columbia University. His work has been published in Wired Magazine and The New York Times. He co-founded The World Science Festival in 2008, drawing an audience of nearly 500,000 people to its week-long offerings. In 2014, the festival launched World

Science U, a series of free online courses led by Greene.

With his colleagues, Greene is responsible for the discovery of new properties of string theory known as mirror symmetry and topography change. He has lectured in more than 25 countries at both a general and a technical level.

For more information on the Max Rosenn Lecture Series in Law and Humanities, contact Rebecca Van Jura at 570-408-4306 or [rebecca.vanjura@wilkes.edu](mailto:rebecca.vanjura@wilkes.edu).



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# SUMMER CONCERTS

## TOYOTA PAVILION

MAY 28  
DAVE MATTHEWS

MAY 30  
GANG OF OUTLAWS DOWN

JULY 7  
MIRANDA LAMBERT

JULY 18  
VANS WARPED TOUR

AUGUST 4  
ROCKSTAR MAYHEM  
FESTIVAL

AUGUST 10-13  
PEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL

AUGUST 24  
CHICAGO & THE DOOBIE  
BROTHERS

## F.M. KIRBY CENTER

APRIL 12  
MKTO

MAY 25  
ADAM LAMBERT W/ NEON  
HITCH & THE CAB

MAY 25  
ADAM LAMBERT W/ NEON  
HITCH & THE CAB

JUNE 2  
TONY BENNETT

JUNE 9  
NORTHEAST PHILARMONIC

JUNE 28  
ZAPPA PLAYS ZAPPA

Graphics by Moe Woodard

## Weather Beat: March 31- April 3

Tues.



54°  
36°  
PM Showers

Wed.



54°  
36°  
Partly Cloudy

Thurs.



59°  
42°  
PM Showers

Fri.



60°  
36°  
Partly Cloudy

Forecast as of March 26 taken from [weather.com](http://weather.com)

# Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have a story or want your event to be featured? Contact the Life, A&E Editor: [Nicole.Zukowski@wilkes.edu](mailto:Nicole.Zukowski@wilkes.edu)

## Women Empowered by Science hosts local students

By Justin Topa  
Asst. Life, A&E Editor

On March 21, WEBS hosted sixth grade girls from around the Wyoming Valley to gain hands-on learning experience about the reproductive system and the engineering behind wind tunnels.

Women Empowered by Science, or WEBS, is an organization developed to maintain female interest within the science field through hands-on learning and experiments.

Professor Debra Chapman is the director of WEBS. She said she sees the importance of keeping girls engaged.

"Research shows that boys and girls are equally interested in science up until middle school," Chapman said. "At some point around middle school age, we tend to lose a lot of girls for a variety of reasons. One of the main things we try to do with the WEBS program is to maintain the interest in science that these girls already have."

The girls who attended on Thursday represented Hanover Area, Wilkes-Barre,

Wyoming Valley West and Holy Rosary school districts. They spent half of their visit isolating gametes from purple sea urchins to better understand the reproductive system and the rest of the time exploring the engineering behind wind tunnels. The students and their teachers said they were very thankful for the opportunity.

"This is just amazing," Lisa Casey, a sixth grade teacher at Holy Rosary said. "They do more here than they could ever hope to in the classroom and we can't wait to go back to school and tell everyone about it."

Chapman explained that all involved shared a great enthusiasm for the event and the implications it can have for the future of the students. Grace Cadigan, biology major, was one of the student volunteers who agreed.

"When I was a little girl, I wished for a program like this. It's a really cool way to get you excited for the future," said Cadigan.

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The Beacon/Justin Topa

Matthew Yatison helps two sixth grade students from Holy Rosary, Duryea, as they remove the eggs of a sea urchin for closer examination.

## Charity Challenge to benefit Embrace A Child, Make-A-Wish

By Cara Basile  
Staff Writer

The Embrace a Child in Tanzania account team of Zebra Communications is partnering with the Student Athletic Advisory Committee to host the Charity Challenge. This will be a fundraising event that will benefit the Make-A-Wish foundation and Embrace a Child which is a charity that sponsors orphan children in Tanzania.

The event will consist of teams of four competing in competitive activities throughout the day. The teams will participate in athletic challenges such as a relay races and truck pushes. The Charity Challenge is going to be April 12, at the

Ralston Athletic Complex.

"This is a unique and fun opportunity for students of Wilkes to get involved in an event benefitting two different charities," senior Stephanie Hahn shared. "We also want to invite students of Kings, Misericordia, and Luzerne County Community College to come out and participate in this event."

Many of the Wilkes athletic teams are encouraged to come out and bring their "A Game" against fellow classmates and friends. Not only are athletic teams encouraged, but anyone who is willing to compete all for a good cause. Some students are looking to go against friends on opposite sports teams for a fun

challenge.

"I'm most excited to compete against Jared Powell and his team," men's basketball player Alec Wizar said. "Cameron Hinkel and I are excited to prove that we are the superior athletes in Wilkes Communications department."


On behalf of the football team, Powell claims he is just as excited to take on his fellow Communication Studies majors.

"I know Cam and Alec will be participating in the events, and I plan on taking them, and their respective teams, down," Powell said. "I know they are both as competitive as I am, so I will be looking forward to the event!"

Apart from the competitions and a day

filled of challenges, the main idea to the event is to get a lot of students involved to support great charities like Make-A-Wish and Embrace a Child. SAAC has had success in the past working this fundraiser, and the Zebra account team is excited to be part of it this year.

"Participating in an athletic event to raise money for good causes is extremely effective because it offers competition and enjoyment, but it also gives participants the chance to help others," Wizar said. "Win-win situation."

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# Health and Wellness Fair at Wilkes



The Beacon/ Rebecca Voorhees



The Beacon/ Rebecca Voorhees

Wilkes students had the chance on March 24 to talk with professionals in the health and wellness field. There were also many free samples for students who stopped by.

Organizations all over the area were represented at the fair, held in the Henry Student Center Ballroom.



The Beacon/ Rebecca Voorhees

One health living method, juicing, was explained at the High Point Greens Juicing Company's table during the Health and Wellness Fair.



The Beacon/ Rebecca Voorhees

Wilkes pharmacy students had a chance to participate in the fair while still taking advantage of all the learning opportunities at the different tables.

# Advice for thrifting from an avid shopper

By Josephine Latimer  
Staff Writer

The experience you get while thrifting is unlike any other. There's a certain feel to it which is almost indescribable.

You're bombarded by racks of clothes, usually separated by type.

Lines of sweaters that seem to go on for miles, denim shirts, jeans from dark washed to acid washed from the mid-eighties.

Sections dedicated to plain tees, collared t-shirts, button downs.

It may throw many people off if they have never gone thrifting before.

They could get overwhelmed, not know where to start.

Discouragement is part of the process in finding things worthwhile while at a thrift store. The key is to not let it overtake you.

Go into the experience with an open mind, anticipating frustration at not knowing where to start. The best way to thrift is to just dive right in.

Once you find yourself in a place where your mind is clear of expectation, everything will fall into place.

Things will practically jump out at you, things that you are unexpectedly drawn to. A lot of it may be a bust but how could you go wrong when the prices are so cheap?

My most recent thrifting experience I bought three shirts and three skirts all for \$10.94.



Courtesy of Creative Commons

Second-hand stores typically have rows of clothes separated by the type of artifact. One could find about any type of clothing piece needed. If clothing is not wanted, thrift stores sell books, knick-knacks, and even furniture sometimes.

Because of the growing popularity of vintage clothing, many big time stores are cashing in on this craze, upping their prices due to the increased demand of this style.

The clothing I got while thrifting are most likely being sold for twice the price of what I got them at.

Do not discredit thrift stores because of

reservations you may hold, especially if you're strapped for cash.

It may not even be clothing you're looking for. There are plenty of interesting furniture and knick-knacks you could find as well for a very reasonable price.


It's the perfect place to go if you're looking to furnish your apartment.

Thrift stores provide a wide variety of

unique things that have character to them.

The things you find in thrift stores are not simply manufactured and sold for twice as much as what they're worth.

If you're the type of person who is wary of going, I would highly recommend giving it a shot, you may surprise yourself.

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## Mathematics professor and a murder plot

By Jackie Kurovsky  
Staff Writer

What do a math professor, a murder plot and an underground tunnel system all have in common?

These can all be found in "The Tunnels", a short story by Wilkes Emeritus mathematics professor Dr. Steven Tillman that has been published on *Mysterical-E*, an online journal centered on mystery.

Tillman's story focuses on a math professor and his girlfriend who unexpectedly find themselves targets of a murder plot. They seek escape through

a system of tunnels, hence the title, underneath a snowy New York campus.

Tillman said the story's concept originated from a few chapters of his first unpublished novel. Some aspects were also drawn from his personal experiences.

"When I was a student at Brown there was a small tunnel system under part of the campus," Tillman said. "That gave me the idea of putting a tunnel system under the entire campus of my story locale, and use it to have the protagonist escape the bad guys."

Tillman's interest in writing sparked

when his retirement in 2012 left him with much free time. While he mainly writes novels, Tillman said, "The Tunnels" was his first major success.

"I thought that as long as I'm writing, I may as well try to get something published," he said.

Tillman hopes to one day have a novel of his published, a process which he said is very frustrating. He has been unable to get a literary agent, which is necessary to publish a novel.

"An agent is not necessary for short stories," Tillman said. "Having 'The

Tunnels" accepted for publication was very satisfying."

Tillman is an avid reader of mystery and science fiction. Some favorite authors of his are John Sandford, David Weber, and the late Robert B. Parker.

Those interested in reading Tillman's story can go to [www.mysterical.com](http://www.mysterical.com), and select "The Tunnels by Stephen Tillman" under the "Current Issue" section.

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# Ambitious lifestyle of a Wilkes Colonel

By Gabby Glinski  
Staff Writer

Hungary, Romania, Arizona, Portland—these are only a few places that Lyssa Scott has traveled to.

Scott's adventurous lifestyle is more than touring. She likes to explore all there is to a place and experience new settings. Scott can be considered Wilkes' most adventurous student.

"Every time I can put a stamp in my passport I'm pretty much happy" stated Scott when she shared her love of traveling.

When she travels, Scott likes to dive into the culture and explore the road less toured. She likes to experience the small things that the local people would do every day and to participate in outdoor activities.

For example, Scott went to New Hampshire for a college event and picked apples on the side. She also went ziplining in Romania.

"I try to not get hotels, I try to see how people really live. It's like taking something that maybe most people would just get a hotel, do their business, and fly home and doing something worthwhile instead," Scott stated.

The furthest Scott has traveled was her missionary trip to Romania. When Scott was 16 years old, she went to Romania with a team of 12 students and two leaders for ten days. The mission was to teach English and American customs to Romanian students. Scott and her fellow youth group members enjoyed teaching the Romanian students about sports, music and American holidays.

Scott also participated in teaching the students how to play capture the flag, dodge ball, man hunt and other various backyard American games.

Besides her missionary work, Scott enjoyed several other key moments in her trip. Scott went ziplining, played soccer in an abandoned communist village, played man hunt until midnight, and experienced questionable foreign plants. After her missionary work she toured Hungary and Budapest.

Scott shared her gained spiritual experience through her trip to Romania and Hungary. Scott's father passed before her trip. Scott explained that after her father passed away, she had this sense



Courtesy of Lyssa Scott

Lyssa Scott is known across campus for her love of adventuring and all things outdoors.

where she didn't know if he was in heaven or hell or if she was going to see him again. Scott was able to find peace with her internal struggle through a hiking trip in Romania.

Scott explained that the humor and friendship that she found on top of the mountain gave her the understanding that she needed.

"I felt like everything was going to be alright; like god was living through other people, encouraging me and telling me that everything was going to be okay. I came home and I felt like it was the beginning of me being okay again."

Scott began her traveling lifestyle with a program called Hijacked when she was 13 years old. The trip gives the participant a list of what to pack but doesn't tell them where they are going. Scott says she ended up traveling to New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Connecticut all within a week.

Every morning Scott would pack up camp and go to another place. It was her first taste of adventure where she needed a real sleeping bag that wasn't from Kohl's.

"I would love to go rain-foresting. That

opportunity doesn't just come up like it does to go to Europe," Scott shared when asked about her dream destination.

Her number one place to visit would be South America. In the meantime, Scott says that she already has two road trips planned for the summer.

Jill Price, director of the Wilkes Adventure Education program and Scott's close friend and travel partner gave her insight on why it is important for students to travel.

"Traveling unveils the sights you can't see sitting home. It opens a student's mind to learning new ways. It inspires the student to be reliable upon oneself, and gain confidence in the ability to become comfortable outside of her comfort zone."

Lyssa Scott is a junior integrative media major at Wilkes. She also has a minor in Art and is hoping to pick up another minor. On campus, Scott is the editor of Amnicola yearbook, involved in WCLH radio, and is an avid member of the Wilkes Adventure Education program. She frequently goes rock-climbing and enjoys photography.



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## Adventure Education at Wilkes

**The Wilkes Adventure Education program is hosted by Wilkes University.**

**The program offers safe and fun ways to be adventurous on and off campus.**

**The group hosts a Bike-Share program in which students can rent free bikes, rock wall and ropes courses, and adventure series where students can engage in various outdoor activities for a reduced cost.**

**They also host interactive events such as zip-lining, glamping, hiking trips and much more.**

# 8 Things to Binge Watch on Netflix

By Emily DeAngelis  
Staff Writer

1. House of Cards- No surprises that this is number one on our list. Susan Paoletti from the Education Department enthusiastically recommends this Netflix original which follows Kevin Spacey as Frank Underwood, a democrat from South Carolina who serves as the majority whip on his ruthless quest for power. It is the first web only television series to receive Emmy nominations (receiving 9 total) over other online only favorites like Orange is the New Black.

2. The Office- Freshman Biology major Casey Krause notes, "It's a good laugh, not many shows have the ability for their viewers to feel so close to the characters." If it's characters and charm aren't enough to convince you, the show is set in Scranton making it a local must now that you reside in NEPA.

3. Grey's Anatomy- Nursing majors agree, Grey's Anatomy is the way to break from studying without really breaking. Freshman Jackie Scheffler and Sara Adelfio note, while it may be educational, sometimes they just need time away from school work to enjoy, "McDreamy and McSteamy." If you don't know what that means, it won't take more than an episode to find out. You'll be hooked immediately.

4. Dexter- Sean Kelly, associate professor of English, recommends the series that follows a Miami Metro blood-spatter analyst Dexter Morgan as he solves murders and commits them too. Why watch? Perhaps it's Dexter's seemingly relatable "dark passenger," or apparently normal life that make him such a complex character that we just have to keep watching. Not to mention that almost every episode ends with a cliff hanger that makes turning it off almost impossible.

5. Weeds- Inspired by big names such as the Sopranos and directed by Jenji Kohan, producer of Sex in the City, Weeds is flawless from start (with its loveable theme song "Little Boxes") to finish. It's especially good for a quick binge or watch between classes, because episodes typically take no longer than thirty minutes.

6. Breaking Bad- A hit from the start, Breaking Bad has grown tremendously in popularity. The show follows a chemistry teacher, Walt, as he is diagnosed with cancer and his radical decision to cook meth to provide for his family when he is no longer able to. Why watch? Either we watch because we sympathize with Walt or idealize his efforts to protect his family. Regardless, this one is difficult to step away from. Although the series has ended, it lives on in a companion show, Better Call Saul. Talk of a spin off focused on Walt's companion, Jessie, has been about but nothing conclusive has been released yet.

7. Blue Mountain State- Perhaps this is wishful thinking, or maybe freshmen like Mike Melograno just like to think big. The three seasons of this show follow a DI football team as they progress from a losing record to competing for a national championship.

8. Parks and Recreation- Sophomore English major Chris Santo admits to a Parks and Rec binge over winter break. At first, it seems just like many other work place sitcoms (Workaholics, 30 Rock) but its characters and small town charm set Amy Poehler's sardonic comedy apart from others.



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## HUMANS OF WILKES UNIVERSITY



The Beacon/Danny Lykens

**What's the craziest thing you've seen happen while running trivia night?**

**"One time a girl lost her toenail in a physical challenge."**

-Vince "The Trivia Master" Insalaco

# Multicultural Student Coalition hosts talent show



The Beacon/Rebecca Voorhees

On Thursday March 27th, the MSC hosted their annual Talent Show. Beverages and prize tickets were available at the door.



The Beacon/Rebecca Voorhees

Freshman Courtney McMonagle was the first to perform. She sang a song titled "The Island."



The Beacon/Rebecca Voorhees

Lenai Galarza and Danica DeMesa exchanged smiles as they performed "Rather Be."



The Beacon/Rebecca Voorhees

Sophomore Tori Rudovitz showed off her baton skills with a twirling routine.

WILKES UNIVERSITY PROGRAMMING BOARD PRESENTS...

A promotional image for a 'MIXTO' event. Two men are standing side-by-side, holding lit sparklers. The man on the left is wearing a black jacket over a black shirt with white heart patterns. The man on the right is wearing a black jacket over a black shirt. The word 'MIXTO' is written in large, glowing, orange-yellow letters across the center of the image, with the sparklers appearing to be part of the letters. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

# MIXTO

AT THE KIRBY CENTER

SUNDAY, APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup>

DOORS 6<sup>PM</sup>, SHOW 7<sup>PM</sup>

TICKET SALES BEGIN MARCH 24

WEEKDAYS, 10<sup>AM</sup>– 2<sup>PM</sup>, 5<sup>PM</sup>– 7<sup>PM</sup>

STUDENT: \$10

FACULTY/STAFF: \$20

GENERAL PUBLIC: \$30

# Opinion

Have an opinion or want to write a guest column? Contact the opinion editor: [frank.passalacqua@wilkes.edu](mailto:frank.passalacqua@wilkes.edu)

## New "Hello Barbie:" Is she a clever technological innovation or a terrifying disaster waiting to happen?

By Mandy Stickles  
Assistant Opinion Editor

A new and improved Barbie.

Who needs friends now that Barbie can physically talk back?

In a recent toy fair in New York, Mattel launched its newest brand in Barbie, called Hello Barbie. This new and improved doll can now have 'intellectual' conversations with the player of the doll.

Hello Barbie is able to do this through voice-recognition software that allows the doll to listen to the child talking and give responses related to what the child just told the doll.

The doll also remembers what the child says and can refer back to that information at a later date if the child brings up something related to a topic they have discussed in the past.

What has parents in a tizzy is the ability for the doll to connect to WiFi. Similar to what iPhones have with iCloud. The information given to Hello Barbie goes into a cloud and travels through servers allowing the speech to be remembered and processed to help Barbie give a proper response.

Parents are worried that the information they are receiving will not be handled in a proper manner. For good reasons parents do not want their children's personal thoughts and feeling being put out there for the world to hear.

The Washington Post reports, "Mattel and ToyTalk, the San Francisco-based startup that created the technology used in the doll, say the privacy and security of the technology have been their top priority. Mattel is committed to safety and security, and Hello Barbie conforms to applicable government standards," Mattel said in a statement.



Courtesy of Creative Commons

Parents and even Mattel come to similar cross roads, whether it is deciding when to use newer advances of technology in their product or whether it is parents deciding when and how much technology based toys and gadgets should be allowed in a child's life. Both individuals need to decide when it is too much and when it is not enough.

Technology is growing rapidly and if companies like Mattel want to stay afloat in the marketing world they need to conform in some ways, in incorporating new types of technology in their products.

"The data [collected from Hello Barbie] is never used for anything to do with marketing or publicity or any of that stuff. Not at all. The audio files the doll collects will be used only to improve the product," said ToyTalk chief executive Oren Jacob in the Washington Post.

The doll creates a new and innovative way for children to interact with their

toys. Parents are becoming busier whether it be in the workforce or their daily day to day lives and cannot always engage in intellectual talk with their children. Having Hello Barbie allows children to talk to their doll about their day, their thoughts or feelings and now with new technology the Barbie can respond back and allow the child to engage in stimulating conversation. Something they may have missed out on that day if they did not have the doll.

This is not to say that the child should only rely on the doll to have conversations with, but every now and then if the child's parents are busy and their childhood friends are not around the doll gives the child the opportunity to talk to "someone" and discuss their thoughts for the day.

It is understandable for parents to be wary of Hello Barbie and the technology and power it has with releasing their children's voices and intimate thoughts

into the unknown "cloud" of the cyber world. However, parents do get to have a say and a sense of control of what is being said to their child's doll.

Parents can choose if they so desire to receive daily or weekly emails with the ability to see the audio files of what their child is saying to Hello Barbie. If there is something a parent does not like or want their child to be saying they can then address the matter to their child. It allows the parent to be fully aware of what is going on.

Parents can also look at this new technology savvy doll as a way to better understand their child. A child may feel more comfortable discussing something with their doll rather their parents.

With the ability for the parents to monitor what their child is saying it could better help with communication overall between the parent and child.



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Tell us your thoughts.

Is Hello Barbie a clever new toy or an all-around bad idea?

Email

[amanda.stickles@wilkes.edu](mailto:amanda.stickles@wilkes.edu)  
with your comments

# Letter to the Editor

To the Editor,

Because a campus club has been promoting attendance at Ringling Brothers Circus next weekend, I think it's important for all of us to consider where our money is going if we support this circus.

Animal circuses are the source of much suffering and Ringling Brothers Circus is no exception. Keeping animals like elephants, tigers, bears, and horses in train cars or trucks and transporting them all over the country creates physical frustration and causes mental and emotional problems in the animals. They are deprived of their natural social groups and cannot run, play, hunt, or graze. All these animals have strong natural drives which must be frustrated and suppressed for the circus to operate (for

example, elephants in the wild generally roam a good 25 miles per day).

Animals also suffer by being trained to do unnatural acts. Such training all too often involves beatings, gouging with hooks, and other painful methods. Some even die as the result of the "training."

Circus promoters tell us the animals are given food and medical care. Food and medical care are desirable things to have, but, in themselves, they do not make for a good life or even an acceptable one. People in prison are given food and medical care.

Most of us agree that, while difficult to fulfill, the Golden Rule provides us with an excellent guide for our actions. This rule, of course, tells us to treat others as we would want them to treat us. Which of us would

want to be stolen from our mothers at birth? Beaten until we performed unnatural acts for the pleasure of others? Kept in small, confined spaces and only let out to perform those unnatural acts? Only individuals who can honestly answer those questions in the affirmative should patronize circuses that use animals. The rest of us should be doing everything we can to close them down.

When we pay Ringling Brothers to attend their circus, we are paying people to cause misery on our behalf. For more information on what circuses are really like for the animals, check out the many sources of information readily available on the Web. You might start with Mother Jones' excellent piece on elephants titled "The Cruellest Show on Earth." <http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2011/10/ringling-bros-elephant-abuse>

com/environment/2011/10/ringling-bros-elephant-abuse

Let's spend our entertainment dollars elsewhere.

Dr. Linda Paul

Associate Professor of Philosophy

**We welcome your thoughts and ideas  
If you or someone you know would like  
to submit a letter to the editor, please  
submit to:**

**James Jaskolka, Editor-in-Chief  
[James.Jaskolkabutler@wilkes.edu](mailto:James.Jaskolkabutler@wilkes.edu)**

# The torturous side of looking good: When perfection equals pain

By Allison Rossi  
Staff Writer

Animals are tortured, horrified and massacred on a daily basis. Most humans do not think of this in their everyday life; women usually think more about their appearance on a daily basis.

A typical morning for women may begin as follows: She goes to the mirror in the morning and stares at herself and gets her outfit ready for the day. She then applies her Revlon foundation and her Maybelline mascara but there's something else missing. She realizes she forgot her Mac lipstick. She then applies a thick coat of her ruby red lipstick to make her lips plump and luscious.

Thoughts rushed through her head this morning about how pretty and good she looked. The thought that did not cross her head, however, was how many animals died due to the cosmetics she wears everyday to make her feel beautiful.

Beauty is pain is an absolutely true statement. PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) explained that cosmetic companies such as Revlon, Maybelline, Mac, Bobbi Brown, Clinique, and L'Oreal endure pain to animals on a daily basis.

According to dosomething.org, more than 100 million animals are subjected to animal testing in United States labs each year. These animals are burned, crippled, poisoned and abused in various horrid ways. Animal abuse in the United States needs to be abolished.

These animals are not only corrupted by cosmetic companies but by drug testing and other scientific studies. Many say that animal testing is beneficial for the well-being of the public but that is not the case.

The statement "If we didn't use animals we would have to test new drugs on people" is mentioned a lot. Other frequent statements are "Medical students have to dissect animals" or "The studies the animals are enduring aren't painful they numb the animals"

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) stated that 92 percent of all drugs that are shown to be safe and effective in animal tests fail in human trials because they do not work and they are dangerous.

Half of the small amount of drugs that are eligible for human use are relabeled due to the side effects that were not detected on the animals during the experiments.

Contrary to popular belief, medical students are not required to dissect animals. In fact prestigious colleges

such as Yale, Harvard and Stanford do not have animal dissections during their students medical training.

The Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine noted: "Out of the 141 allopathic and 30 osteopathic medical schools in the United States, all but three schools have eliminated the use of animals in medical student courses. Almost all the remaining schools have only one or very few animal lab courses, and the number of schools still using animals continues to decline each year."

Even under the protection of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) animals are still subjected and forced to endure being poisoned, burned, starved, brain damaged, restrained, crippled and other ways of unethical torture.

On top of what they are put through, these animals have no pain relief either.

Animal testing in the United States and around the world can be stopped in its tracks with one simple solution: the consumer. If a massive amount of people begin to boycott companies that resort to animal testing they will be forced to change their ways of the creation of their products.

We have more of a voice than one thinks. We, the consumers, can put an end to this unethical horrific journey of

animal testing. Speak up for the animals that cannot speak for themselves.

The ruby red Mac lipstick does not justify the ruby red blood shed of these innocent animals.



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# One man's thoughts: How to succeed in life by really trying

By Luke Zack  
Contributing Writer

*Editor's note: In an effort to include more student voices in the Beacon, we are welcoming guest writers to submit articles like the one featured here. If you'd like to submit an article, you can contact the editor-in-chief at james.jaskolkabutler@wilkes.edu. We reserve the right to edit any submissions.*

Approaching your goals, whatever they maybe, can be a painful experience. We all have goals, ambitions, and dreams we would like to fulfill, but we might only intermittently work towards them. We only work towards them when we feel inspired or when life permits us to.

Let's face it, human nature tends to make us inconsistent and direct us to take the path that is already well-traveled with the least resistance. Because of this, when you set a goal, there will be days when you feel like quitting. But stepping up when you feel this distress is what will allow you to succeed.

Success requires staying on course and not letting the urgencies of life get in the way. Being successful is about having discipline to commit to what is important to you. It's about continuing when you feel like stopping, not because you want to work more, but because your goal is that important to you. Those who are successful work on their goals, even when it is inconvenient, and they never regret it.

This is the life to live. One that is full of action and devoid of remorse. Stop playing the role of the victim and letting life just happen. Only through your persistence, fearlessness, and discipline does the world yield to your efforts.

You must create your own health, success, and therefore happiness. No one else can do this for you. So, here are my eight tips for your future success.

## 1. Take time to identify your goals, and align your life to them.

Decide what you really want to be good at. Physically, write your goals down on paper and look at them once a month. Once you

know what you truly desire, you will act with coherence and integrity in the world.

## 2. Take action in everything you do.

Success hates idleness, in all forms. So instead of being a weightlifter, be lifting. Instead of being a student, be studying. Knowledge is useless without action.

## 3. Constantly live beyond the edge of fear and discomfort.

Your growth will be optimized when you live just outside your comfort zone. Make fear your friend so that you eventually become desensitized to it. This takes guts to put into practice, but don't let insecurity cause you to doubt yourself.

## 4. Remove "failure" from your vocabulary and replace it with "feedback."

Realize that failure is just the cost you pay to be right later. See each failure as the feedback that makes you that much smarter to get you closer to your goals.

## 5. Set schedules for your actions and stick to them.

Remember, average speed will yield above average results. Progress, no matter how slow, is still progress.

## 6. Use your imagination.

Neurons in the brain cannot distinctly determine between imaginary or real life. Take full advantage of this. Imagine yourself achieving your goals and include the obstacles and struggles you must overcome in order to achieve your aspiration.

## 7. Limit your television watching.

It is a huge distraction that is preventing you from achievement. You do absolutely nothing when you are watching TV, it is equivalent to being asleep. TV takes away from social interaction, something you need to cultivate to further your success in work, school, love, and life.

## 8. Do not judge or put down people that are better than you.

Positively support the success of others and steal from their habits freely. Ask them questions and learn from them.

I do not have this all figured out, but I am doing my best to walk the slow march toward greatness, with all of you. so. Let's make a stand to never succumb to mediocrity, starting today.

# When Ruby Met Sapphire: The normalization of same-sex relationships in children's programming

By Elyse Guzewicz  
Staff Writer

As far as good kids' cartoons go, it's a pretty slim picking.

Most are either geared toward very young children and frustrating for adults, or so filled with physical/vulgar humor they're not really funny anymore.

As far as socially aware kids' cartoons go: Well, I could probably count them on one hand. It's difficult to get controversial media marketed toward children, and most censors won't allow anything beyond subtext.

Recently, a few cartoons have come out with LGBT characters; still, most only feature men in same-sex relationships and many only confirm the characters' sexuality in off-camera interviews.

2014 was a victory year for female-female relationships. It began in the early months, with the popular anime/manga Shingeki no Kyojin, or Attack on Titan. The creator confirmed that two female characters, Krista Lenz and Ymir, were

romantically involved with one another, and that their interactions were meant to be read as romantic.

However, Shingeki no Kyojin is not marketed toward children, as it is violent and deals with some mature themes. The main consumers of the show and comic are teenagers and young adults.

This declaration was followed by the confirmation of a previous romantic relationship involving Princess Bubblegum and Marceline in the children's show Adventure Time.

Many fans had suspected that they had a history, but no evidence has been shown to date in the show itself. The Adventure Time comics feature brief mentions and subtext involving the relationship, but no clear explanations of the relationship.

Last December, the cartoon Legend of Korra finished its final season. Fans had been questioning the nature of relationships between the title character and a close friend (Asami Sato). In the final episode, Korra and Asami walk into the spirit world hand in hand, mimicking the marriage scene from minutes earlier.

Two days later, creators Michael

Dante DiMartino and Brian Konietzko independently confirmed that the scene was romantic, later explaining that the two were married later in life and lived happily ever after.

This is the first major instance of a female-female relationship being explicitly shown onscreen in a cartoon marketed toward children. The age range for Korra was listed for children about 7-14: significantly younger than Shingeki no Kyojin.

However, within the last month, a contender for "best representation" has entered the ring. Steven Universe, a Y-7 show from Cartoon Network, released an episode where one of the major characters, Garnet, was (spoiler!) shown to be a fusion of two female-coded characters known as Ruby and Sapphire.

(I say female-coded as the gems have been confirmed to have no gender. Both characters refer to themselves with female pronouns.)

The scene features Ruby searching for Sapphire in a prison ship. At their reunion, they embrace and Sapphire kisses Ruby's

eyes. For anyone refusing to see, the creators confirmed the nature of Ruby and Sapphire's relationship as romantic.

Steven Universe is a quality show beyond this amazing step in female/non-binary LGBT representation. The animation is lovely, and it features a wide range of racial features and body types.

It's done in lovely colors and portrays positive messages and relationships between the main character and his friends and parental figures — particularly his father, which is often rare in TV shows.

We're making bold moves toward normalizing same-sex relationships: an important step in ending the stigma surrounding othered sexual orientations.



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# Hagberg's "It's All In Your Head" biographical, haunting

By Sara Pisak  
Asst. Opinion Editor

Eva Hagberg's text *It's All in Your Head* is a short novel which I admittedly cannot wrap my mind around. Being perfectly honest with my audience, I have no clear cut opinion of this work. I am used to more of a black and white approach to my opinions surroundings texts. I find comfort in the fact I can both love and loathe aspects contained within the same text because I understand clearly what elements I like and dislike. Hagberg's text is somewhat of a grey area for me and I assume for numerous other readers because it lacks any definitive information, leaving a reader not quite sure of their own emotions. This can be either the beauty or the downfall of Hagberg's text.

Hagberg recalls her life story starting with her recovery from years of hard drinking and damaging drug use in 2008. Hagberg begins her career as a New York City architecture critic until one morning she awakes with dizziness. *It's All in Your Head* chronicles the next five years of the author's life as her unrelenting symptoms worsen. Hagberg seeks medical care from several professionals with each specialist insisting test results indicate she is "normal." The medical diagnosis Hagberg receives is "it's all in your head."


Hagberg believes the professionals' opinions and leaves busy New York for Portland, Oregon where she begins homeopathic therapy consisting of yoga, acupuncture, long relaxing walks and behavioral therapy. Hagberg continues therapy until February 2013 when an MRI reveals a tumor on her brain and blood tests divulge alarmingly high tumor markers, which are both indicators of cancer. Hagberg begins another excursion into the world of possible treatment options and brain biopsies. Sadly the author's account abruptly concludes with the idea that she has only imagined the long sought after diagnosis and her problems are still only in her own mind. The text terminates midway as a reader is not privy to what happens to Hagberg, although thankfully her website informs readers she is in good health.

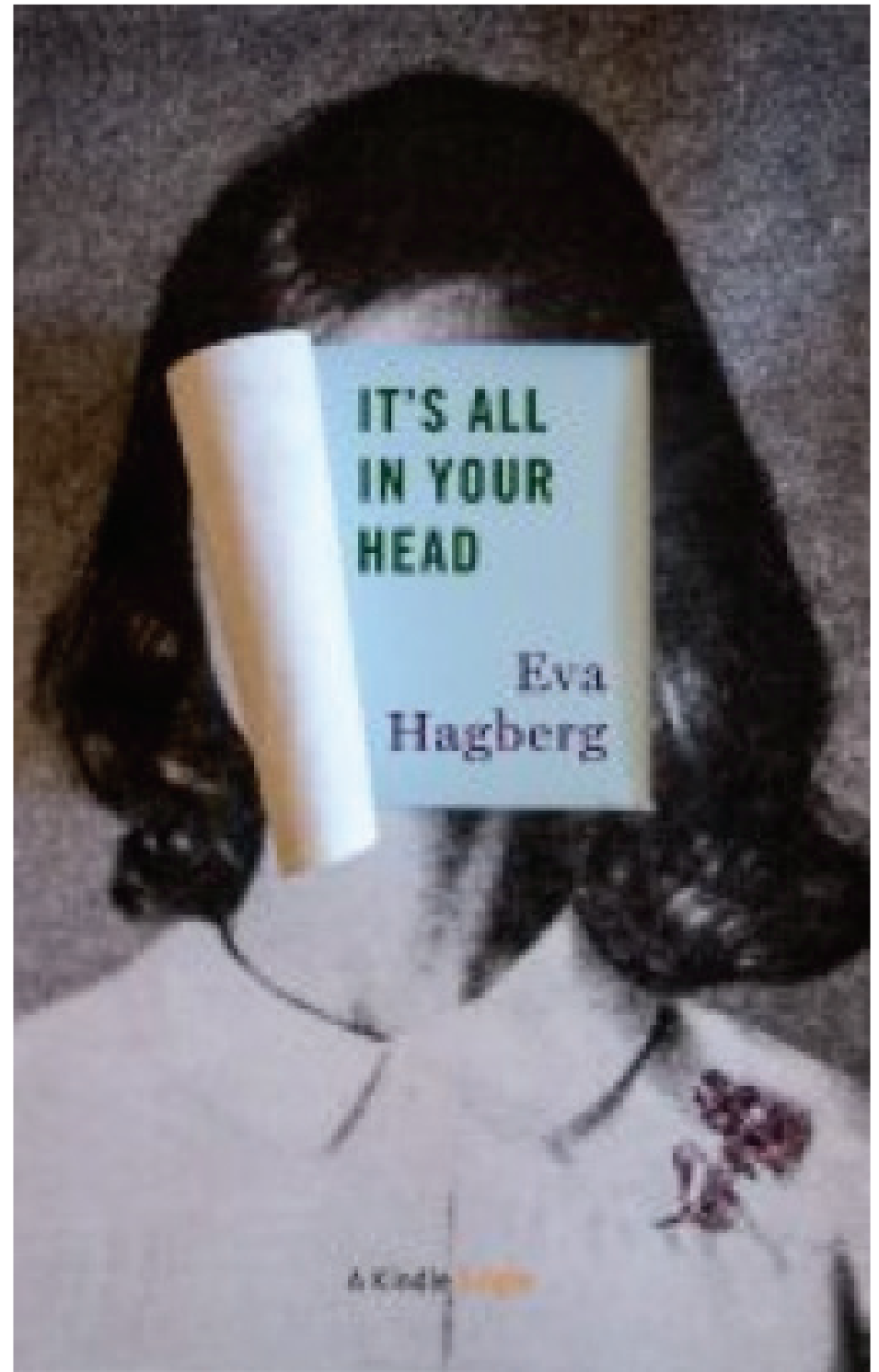
This unexpected ending, leads to some confusion when it comes to understanding what elements of *It's All in Your Head* a reader gravitates towards or shrinks away from. The reader has no solid ground to build a relationship with Hagberg nor does the reader

comprehend what aspects, if any, are imagined or real. A reader of *It's All in Your Head* is meant to feel the frustration of questioning the occurrences in the text and their own feelings. It cannot be expected for a reader to understand and formulate an opinion on events in which the author herself is not confident of their occurrence. If Hagberg's intended effect is to have the reader feel as insecure, unsure and frightened as the author then her work is brilliant and she has without doubt succeeded. In addition to the adjectives above, the reader is also left alienated, isolated and without any sort of closure. A reader cannot be blamed as they close the pages of this text for not wanting to return to the work a second time.

However, a reader cannot fault Hagberg for sharing her life story or for creating the feelings the text produces in each unique reader. As is the case with many novels, not every reader can validate their own life experiences through the work of an author. Hunter S. Thompson's *Hell's Angels* is a perfect example as not every reader has been part of a notorious motorcycle gang; not every reader shares Thompson's experiences but readers still keep coming back for more. Therefore, the same can be said about *It's All in Your Head*, not everyone (Thank God!) will share Hagberg's life story of an undiagnosed medical condition. The text maybe isolating and lack a closing but this is still Hagberg's life. Furthermore, if she is brave enough to reveal her experiences then a reader should be respectful even if they are unable to form an attachment to Hagberg and her work.

The bottom line is I still do not have a firm grasp on my emotions towards *It's All in Your Head*. There are two things I know for sure: First, this book produces without a doubt an eerie, haunting influence, which leaves the reader as much as the author questioning if "it's all in their heads." Second, I am still discussing this book weeks after first reading the work. After all, do not all authors strive to be remembered and to act as a catalyst for discussion?

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Courtesy of Creative Commons

## Sara's Score:



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# Sports

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## Wilkes sophomore overcomes past back injury

By J.T. Keer  
Sports Writer

Josh Farrell from Lancaster County, Pa never had to deal with many hardships. With a good mom and dad and a younger sister, Josh had everything that he needed. Projected as a starter, on the offense side of the ball, his sophomore year of high school, Josh had everything going his way.

Rarely playing on defense leading up to the season, Josh was thrown into the fire at outside linebacker the last few plays of his scrimmage for Pequa Valley. Josh split the guards and was clipped from behind into the ball carrier. His back folded like a chair. He got up, walked off the field and went to the locker room. When he picked up his bag to go home, he lost all feeling in his legs. His parents took him to the hospital and Josh thought he was paralyzed for about 20 minutes.

"I just sat there and kept thinking that I needed to wiggle my toes," Farrell said. "I really kind of thought that my life was over. If I was paralyzed, I would have lost everything and never would have been able to accomplish anything I wanted to in life. I was so scared."

At the hospital, Josh found out that he had suffered a bilateral Pars fracture of the L4 on the butterfly wings of his spine. They were both fractured all the way through. Nobody wanted to do the surgery because he was under the age of 18. The first 3 doctors he visited all told him no and informed him that he would never be able to play sports again following the surgery. According to the doctors, there was a 40 percent chance that he would be paralyzed for the rest of his life if the surgeon accidentally hits a nerve.

Finally, Josh found a doctor that was willing to perform the surgery. Although it was unlikely, the doctor offered him the option of being in a body cast for three months to see if the bones would heal. After the three months had gone by, the bones had not healed and Josh was given the option of whether or not to play basketball with the broken back. Knowing that he may never be able to play sports ever again after the



The Beacon/Brandon Gubitosa

Josh Farrell currently plays for the Wilkes football team, despite suffering a severe back injury a few years ago.

surgery, Josh jumped at the opportunity to play, even though he had a broken back.

After basketball was completed, Josh was finally able to get the surgery on May 10, 2011. He was given a 5 percent chance of ever returning to sports following the surgery. During the surgery, there were two metal bars put in his back to connect his spine and two layers of muscle tissue were removed. When looking at his back,

there are two marks where the rods connect. Grant Rogers, a member of the football team, noticed the marks but never had asked why they were there.

"I would have never guessed by the way Josh plays that he ever would have suffered an injury to his spine," Rogers said. "I saw the marks, but I didn't think it could possibly be that serious."

Following a successful surgery and

taking two and a half months to learn how to walk again, Josh needed 2 doctors to sign off for him to play football. In a struggle of a search, his parents found him 2 doctors that would sign the dotted line. He played his whole junior year and had a completely healthy season. He even had the fortitude to play both sides of the ball.


"I really didn't think I was going to be able to come back to sports; which is why I took the chance to play basketball before the surgery," Farrell said. "After the surgery, I felt that it was God's plan to get me back out onto the field."

Josh had been working hard all summer for his senior year of football, the day before the first game, he found out his mom, Debbie, had stage three breast cancer. He would go to the hospital every day after practice and continued to succeed on the field using his mom as motivation. With lots of support from his teammates, he was named captain his senior year and the offense was designed around him. His team continuously rallied around him and even dedicated a game to his mom during the season. Even though they fell short, Josh scored two touchdowns that Friday night. Debbie couldn't have more proud of her son.

"It brought tears to my eyes when my son scored those touchdowns," Debbie said. "I remember when he scored; he pointed right to the stands where I was sitting. I knew that hard work he put in was all for me. I could not be more proud of him."

Josh then went onto make first team offense and defense on his All-League team. He was recruited by every school in the Middle Atlantic Conference and wound up coming to Wilkes University. Upon attending Wilkes University, Josh's mom successfully won her battle with cancer a few weeks into his first season.

Josh is currently a sophomore at Wilkes University and is majoring in Marketing and minoring in Integrative Media. His back is healthy and his mother is cancer free.

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# Women's lacrosse looks to continue their success

By Cara Basile  
Sports Writer

With an impressive record, the women's lacrosse team continues to move forward as the season progresses. Big wins against Alfred University (18-8), SUNY Canton (19-14) and Houghton College (19-16) allow the team to hold a strong edge against their competitors.

The team is having great success, and individual players are performing to the best of their abilities. Senior Carley Smith and Freshman Kellie Kalada were named Freedom Conference Women's Lacrosse Players of the Week. Smith has been given this honor for the second time this season, while Kalada is new to the accomplishment.

"To this honor, I am beyond happy, and so are my teammates, coaches and family," Kalada said. "However, just because I got player of the week doesn't mean I do not have to work hard. I'm going to work hard for the entire season, but I have my team

and coaches to thank. They help me improve every day."

Kalada brings a lot to the team as the goal keeper for the Lady Colonels. As a freshman, this is a huge responsibility to take on, but she believes she is ready for the challenge.

"My mindset in goal first is to keep that ball out of my net, but lacrosse is a high scoring sport I'm bound to get shot on and scored on first," Kalada said. "The thing is to move on and save the next ball. Second to have vision all over the field, for instance, letting my defense know when someone is behind them."

The team is averaging 18 scored goals per game along with 40 assists. Upon returning from Easter break the women will take on the number one rankers in the conference, Fairleigh Dickinson College at Florham and local rivals King's College which will be held at Schmidt Stadium April 8.



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## Big turnout for intramurals

By Andre Spruell  
Sports Writer

Enjoy playing sports and being active but do not have all the skills to make a university team? Then the thing to do is play intramurals.

The sports currently offered through intramurals here at Wilkes are indoor soccer, basketball, volleyball and floor hockey. Out of all the sports offered indoor soccer seems to be the most popular among the students, boasting an impressive 18 teams. "In my eyes it has been a great turnout this Spring for Intramurals," stated first year Intramural Coordinator Stefan Thompson, who is also the assistant coach for the Wilkes University Men's Basketball team.

"This is my first year being the Intramural Coordinator so I cannot compare this Spring's turnout to last Spring's turnout. I have saw that there is a greater turnout and interest level in the Spring semester compared to the Fall semester," Thompson said.

The big turnout of students is encouraging because it is great way for students to stay active while playing with their friends, and even making new friends as a result. Thompson also added, "Most importantly, I think it is beneficial for students to interact socially. Often times students' relationships are limited, in terms of people maybe only interacting in the classroom or the dining hall, I feel intramurals give students another outlet to get to know one another."

When asked if more students should play intramurals, Thompson replied, "Absolutely! The greater the turnout of students creates more avenues of interaction and I believe builds a greater sense of Wilkes University pride and togetherness."

If you ever thought about joining intramurals but was on the fence about it, the decision has been made easier, join now.



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# Colonels split double header with Eastern University



Sophomore pitcher Christopher Nixon delivers a pitch for the Colonels.



Senior infielder Bobby Schappell is ready for the ball to be hit his way.



Freshman outfielder Jay Clymer swings at a pitch to start off the game.



Sophomore outfielder James Brown advances to first after drawing a walk.

Getting to know...

# Brendon Blachowski

Senior Tennis Player

By Evan Willey  
Sports Writer

Brendon Blachowski is a senior Tennis player. He is majoring in Environmental Engineering. Some of Brendon's awards include The Colonels Elite, Freedom Conference MVP, 5 Time MAC Singles and Doubles Champion, 2 Time Second Team All-Conference.

Q: Why did you choose Wilkes?

A: When I was searching for schools, very few offered both an environmental engineering major and a prestigious DIII tennis program. Once coach reached out to me and I visited Wilkes, I was sold.

Q: How long have you been playing tennis and how did you start playing?

A: I've been playing ever since I can remember. My mom is also a tennis player so she got me into it the day I was able to pick up a racquet. My dad on the other hand is a basketball/volleyball guy, but he picked up tennis pretty easily. I still haven't beaten him to this day...but I think it's time we have our first rematch in over ten years!

Q: Do you have any lucky charms you bring with you?

A: I don't have any lucky charms, but I do have some weird superstitions like bouncing the ball exactly three times before a first serve and two times before a second serve. I'm also known for using the same racquet with a pink grip for matches since I've convinced myself it's brought me good luck ever since I

started using it.

Q: What do you plan on doing after Wilkes?

A: I'm currently searching for jobs that will lead to opportunities in water resources engineering and sustainability management in the Greater Philadelphia Area.

Q: What is one thing you will never forget about college?


A: If I had to choose one thing, it'd be our trips to the NCAA National Championships. It's an amazing experience competing against some of the best teams in the country and I'll always cherish those memories. Winning both my doubles and singles matches sophomore year to advance us to the Round of 32 at nationals was probably one of the coolest memories. Of course I'll never forget all the friends I've made along the way that made my last four years unforgettable.

Q: If you could trade places with one celebrity who would it be and why?

A: Kit Harington because who doesn't love Game of Thrones!? Season 5 can't come any faster!

Q: What are some of your favorite before and after foods?

A: I usually eat fruits like bananas and oranges before matches, but I can always go for a celebratory homewrecker burrito from Moe's afterwards.

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Getting to know...

# Alanna Denauski

Sophomore Tennis player

By Grant Rogers  
Sports Writer

Alanna Denauski, currently a sophomore, came to Wilkes for a business management degree and for the tennis team. Alanna is from Robbinsville, New Jersey where she attended Robbinsville High School. She was a member of the tennis team primarily but also ran track for a few years. Her tennis team made the state tournament every year when she was there.

Q. What brought you to Wilkes?

A. I really liked Wilkes's campus and how small it is. I also wanted to play tennis in college and it had all of the majors I was interested in. It was a perfect fit.

Q. What do you plan on doing with your major once you graduate from Wilkes?

A. I plan on finding a job in a management position or in human resources. I also hope to receive my MBA post graduation.

Q. When did you start playing tennis and how did you pick up the sport of tennis?

A. I started playing when I was 8 years old. I picked up tennis by my mom just simply signing me up for lessons. I came to like it really quick and kept playing year round. It became my favorite sport.

Q. Who is your role model in your life?

A. My role model is my dad. He has always been my biggest supporter. He's the one that would stay up with me until midnight doing math homework or

helping with research projects. He's never missed more than a few of my tennis matches since high school. He always makes the time to come 2 hours just to see me play. My dad is the most kindhearted, genuine and patient person I know and the person I aspire to be.

Q. What are your expectations for the rest of this season?

A. We have had a great season so far! We have a couple tough matches coming up but everyone has been hitting well. I hope we were able to keep the momentum going and continue to have another fun and successful season!

Q. How exciting is it that you and the tennis team are going for Wilkes's 9th straight Freedom Conference Championship?


A. It is definitely very exciting for our team to be competing for our 9th straight Freedom Conference Championship. It is really rewarding to see our team succeed and do well.

Q. Who is your favorite athlete?

A. Roger Federer

Q. What has been your favorite memory since being at Wilkes?

A. My favorite memory since being at Wilkes is going to Nationals last year in Maine. We were able to play with some competitive teams. It was a great experience and a lot of fun!

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