

THE BEACON

Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow.

Students speak freely in open forum on race

By Sean Schmoyer
Co-News Editor

A virtual open forum on race and the curriculum was held to gauge student interest in potential new academic offerings relating to diversity and inclusion. It also gave students the chance to express to faculty and administration how the current curriculum addresses and teaches issues of race and diversity.

Associate Professor Dr. Mía Briceño; Chair of Global Cultures, Dr. Chris Zarpentine; and recent graduate Morgan Burton '20 hosted and acted as moderators for the forum.

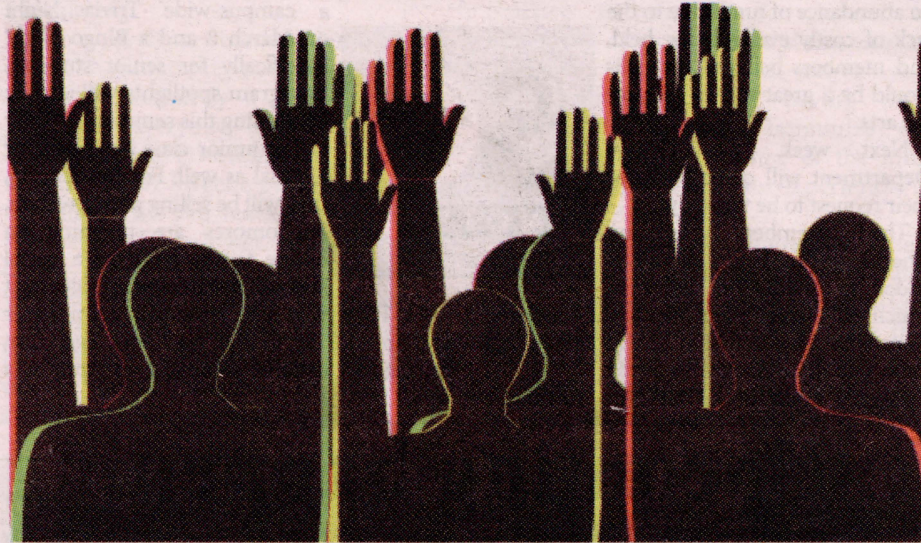
"My hope for the forum was for students to attend, and I would have liked to see a few more students there," Zarpentine said.

Zarpentine also expressed that in the future, faculty along with Burton hope to incorporate small group activities and sessions to continue the discussion that started at the forum.

Katie Ermeus, first-year political science major, asked faculty members and fellow students how they would approach situations where tension between students over issues of race reached levels of aggressive arguments.

Dr. Jonathan Kuiken, associate professor of history, responded.

"That is a question that professors try to grapple with and need to grapple with," said Kuiken. "How do we find that balance in our classrooms between having an



open and frank discussion without closing down opinions and conversation, and how to realize when we reach that borderline of it turning from a conversation into a confrontation."

Kuiken continued that he often tries to de-escalate situations and that he makes an attempt to have students talk after class about issues that others may disagree with or that may upset others. He identified that professors need students to help keep conversations moving in positive directions and point out if a situation has gone too far.

After, Dr. Helen Davis addressed that the general education board at Wilkes

has plans to try to improve on general education courses by adjusting the curriculum to include more lessons on diversity, race and culture. A possible solution proposed during the forum was to have courses include classifications in similar ways as the women's and gender studies minor.

Also mentioned during the forum was whether the nursing and pharmacy programs at Wilkes had any courses that focus on racial bias, and if not, if that would be implemented into those fields of study.

RACE, page 4

Becoming a pandemic statistic: A firsthand COVID-19 story

By Breanna Ebisch
Co-Opinion Editor

"It only takes one bad apple to spoil the bunch."

The meaning of this timeless saying has never been clearer than what we are currently experiencing with the battle against COVID-19.

After a year and hundreds of thousands of tragic deaths later, the raging and deadly virus has affected millions of people around the world, but also on an especially drastic level in the United States.

While many are continuing to take the necessary precautions to stay safe, there are others who blatantly disregard the recommendations, either for the beliefs in their "personal freedoms" or a simply not caring about anyone but themselves.

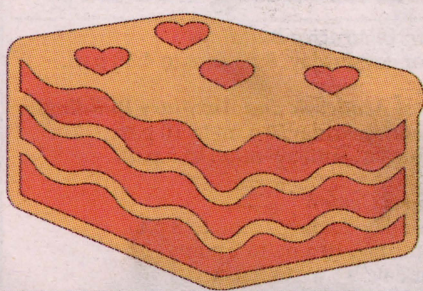
Due to the failure of other people to follow the necessary precautions and regulations, I unfortunately returned home for a much needed and longer than usual winter break between semesters, only to become one of more than 27 million people who have contracted COVID-19 in the U.S.

COVID FIRSTHAND, page 15



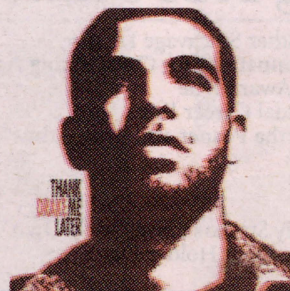
Courtesy of Megan Magoon

Wilkes ROTC training program adjusts to COVID-19, page 6



The Beacon/Anna Culver

Cooking up some Lasagna Love with Second Lady Fetterman, page 7



Courtesy of Genuis.com

Review of Drake's "Thank Me Later" album, page 18



The Beacon/Kirsten

MBB: Wilkes notches first win in overtime against Arcadia, page 21

News

Have a breaking story or a press release to send? Contact the news editors: Sean.Schmoyer@wilkes.edu and Sara.Ross@wilkes.edu

Student Government: Feb. 17 weekly meeting notes

By Maddy Kinard
Staff Writer

On Feb. 17, Student Government held its third virtual meeting. An external request from the Wilkes University Theatre Department was presented, along with a discussion about upcoming class fundraisers/socials and overviews from committee representatives.

To start, the Theatre Department presented a fund request for three speakers, two subwoofers and five cables. In total, the cost comes to \$10,000, covering incidentals. The speakers that the department has now are quite old, and because of COVID-19, there are no live shows, so they can not charge admission or make money to put towards this purchase.

Classes broke out into breakout rooms and came back mostly agreeing that this purchase would benefit many people. SG has an abundance of funds due to the lack of costly events being held, and members believed that this would be a great way to support the arts.

Next week, the Theatre Department will come back for their request to be voted on.

Then, members voted on whether or not majors should be added to graduation diplomas, which will then be taken back to the education committee for discussion. It was agreed that majors on diplomas are preferred.

Classes again broke out into 10-minute

breakout rooms to discuss upcoming fundraisers and class socials for the semester.

The senior class is planning two online events: a campus-wide Trivia Night on March 8 and a Bingo Night specifically for senior students. Instagram spotlights will also be continuing this semester.

The junior class has plans for a social as well. For fundraising, they will be selling phone wallets. Sophomores are planning an online family feud for a social and will restart magnet sales next

week. First-years have yet to pick a fundraiser and are looking to plan an Easter Egg Hunt throughout campus sometime in April as a social.

Closing comments included a SLAM representative sharing how if a student would need to leave the state, they would need to provide a negative COVID-19 test 72 hours before returning or receive a test from Passan Hall and quarantine until the results came back. The pandemic has also affected this summer's first-year student orientation. It will be held as six one-day sessions to limit person-to-person contact.

Finally, the library committee representative explained how all databases are still up and running; however, interlibrary loans are not functioning and will continue that way for the foreseeable future.



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Beacon Briefs: Upcoming happenings on campus

Compiled by Sara Ross

Focus on Yourself and Improve Your Wellness

A group of pharmacy students from the Foundations P1 class created, "How to Focus on Yourself to Improve Your Wellness."

This website educates college students on implementing wellness strategies into their lifestyles to avoid burnout. Some of these tips include maintaining a sleep schedule, exercising frequently, eating healthy, planning out one's day and limiting technology usage.

For a variety of healthy tips, visit <https://sites.google.com/wilkes.edu/team3b2020-2021/home>.

An Evening with Baratunde Thurston

The Office of Student Development and Mega-Councils will host "An Evening with Baratunde Thurston," a Leadership Speaker Series event, at 7 p.m. on Feb. 25.

Thurston is a writer, activist, comedian and Emmy-nominated host. He has worked for "The Onion," produced for "The Daily Show," advised the Obama White House and written The New York Times best-seller "How to Be Black." In 2019, he delivered the Ted Talk, "How to Deconstruct Racism, One Headline at a Time."

This event is virtual with a 30-minute presentation, which will be followed by a question and answer session. To sign-up and

receive the Zoom link, visit <https://forms.gle/Nk1fPTW7jFSpncsN9>.

Support the Ultimate Frisbee Club

The Ultimate Frisbee Club is selling custom discs for \$15 on their online store to help fund jerseys for their club.

All orders will be distributed via the on-campus mail room. Purchased discs will be delivered to the student's mailbox in the mail room once discs are available. If students who made a purchase do not have a mailbox on campus, the Ultimate Frisbee Club will reach out to deliver students' orders.

Send any questions about the fundraiser to Adrian Malave at adrian.malave@wilkes.edu.

Safe Hours at the Sordoni Art Gallery

While seeing the new exhibit at the Sordoni Art Gallery, the gallery wants to ensure the safety of all its visitors. If interested in seeing "Brutal Beauty: The Transformation of Women in Mythology," reserve time during their "Safe Hours." This is a time that will allow visitors to have the whole gallery to themselves.

Safe Hours are Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon. Contact Karley Stasko at karley.stasko@wilkes.edu to reserve a slot.

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Upcoming Events: Spring 2021 Semester

February

24 – MLK Day Celebration
24 – Virtual Concert Series with SNL Comedian
24 – NEPA Survey Due
25 – Baratunde Thurston Lecture
26 – Scales Dissertation Defense

March

1 – "End Hunger in 30 Days" Challenge
3 – Virtual Concert Series with Country Music Duo
4-6 – IMPACT Conference
5 – Proposals due for Women's & Gender Studies Conference
5 – Society of Student Nurses Fundraiser with Online Store Closes

10 – Heather Sincavage Lecture
11 – Nominations for Outstanding Adult Learner Award Due
18 – Virtual Career Fair
24 – Martha Posner and Amy Arbus Lecture

April

6 – Karley Stasko's Create Your Own Macrame Plant Holder Event

May

15-22 – Final Exam Period

Want your event featured in the calendar?
Email: TheWilkesBeacon@wilkes.edu

Building Hours

Administrative Buildings

Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Most Academic and Auxiliary Buildings

Monday-Friday: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday: noon to 5 p.m.

Marts Center

Monday-Friday: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Sunday: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Farley Library

Monday-Thursday: 7:45 a.m. to midnight
Friday: 7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday: 11 a.m. to midnight

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UCOM: A vaccination center for community members

By Genny Frederick
Asst. News Editor

While positive cases of COVID-19 are still high throughout the country, a more positive statistic continues to rise at Wilkes University.

COVID-19 vaccination numbers have continued to escalate since the first vaccine was administered in December 2020, and now, the CDC reports that more than 57 million total doses have been provided.

While healthcare workers across the country continue to distribute vaccines, the Wilkes community is also doing its part to provide vaccinations in a variety of ways.

The university worked with the City of Wilkes-Barre's health department to hold vaccination clinics in the University Center on Main at Wilkes' campus.

"When vaccinations started to become available in our area, the Department of Health reached out to us to see if we could help with a suitable location," said Justin Kraynack, assistant vice president of operations and compliance.

Henry Radulski, director of the Wilkes-Barre City Health Department explained why UCOM was used as a distribution center.

"To facilitate the dispensing of the vaccine in a mass immunization setting during a pandemic, it requires several components to be successful," said Radulski. "Finding a location that is centrally located and is spacious enough to provide social distancing while providing vaccines at a rate of up to 100 people per hour is essential."

With the Wilkes-Barre Department of Health is receiving 2,000 doses of vaccinations per week, UCOM is an appropriate size to accommodate the traffic of those receiving the vaccine.

Kraynack expanded on why Wilkes was so willing to offer their facilities to the vaccination effort.

"Above all, it is vitally important that we at Wilkes University are good neighbors and community members," said Kraynack. "It is vitally important that we support our Department of Health, healthcare professionals, science and medical experts and all those working on the front lines to combat this pandemic."

While Wilkes is ready to support those on the front lines of the pandemic, many members of the Wilkes community are

also on the front lines themselves.

Students in the Passan School of Nursing have been administering the vaccine to members of the Wilkes-Barre community, as well as to members of their communities at home.

Jess Turnitza, a student in the Passan School of Nursing's Class of 2022, was able to administer the vaccine and felt personal connections with those she was vaccinating.

"On some days, we would administer to over 250 community members," Turnitza said. "It's definitely a great feeling to help out. Everyone had a story with COVID-19 and how it had impacted their lives. I'll never forget a patient who sat in my chair who had tears forming in her eyes saying, 'Thank you,' as several of her family members died from COVID. She was grateful to do her part and get hers."

Not only did Turnitza give the vaccine, but she also received the vaccine. She is one of the 132 members of the Wilkes community who are now vaccinated.

Nursing students were not the only ones who have been receiving and administering vaccines.

Members of the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy have also been diligently working within their pharmacies and internships to administer the vaccine.

Dr. Nicole Pezzino, director of community outreach and innovation as well as assistant professor of pharmacy practice in the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy, discussed some of this work.

"If you know me, I am a very proud pharmacist, but having these opportunities to help immunize our community has been some of the most rewarding and meaningful experiences of my career," Pezzino said.

"We are helping our community access these vaccines to help our vulnerable populations and healthcare workers. Our state recently had a waiver in place that allowed students to immunize, and it is absolutely incredible to me to see what we can do as pharmacists and future

pharmacists when we are empowered."

Pezzino also shared that to-date, over 6,100 vaccines have been administered by students in the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy.

While the rising vaccination numbers do not ensure a swift end to the pandemic, these slowly growing numbers continue to be a beacon of hope for a post-pandemic future.

Radulski reflected on the help Wilkes University has offered to the community.

"The City of Wilkes-Barre is extremely grateful for our relationship with Wilkes University, and we look forward to working together on future endeavors, as we both are in pursuit of a healthier community," Radulski said. "Although we still have a pandemic hill to climb, however, thanks to Wilkes-University, the hill is not as steep, and it will help us reach the top sooner than we hoped."

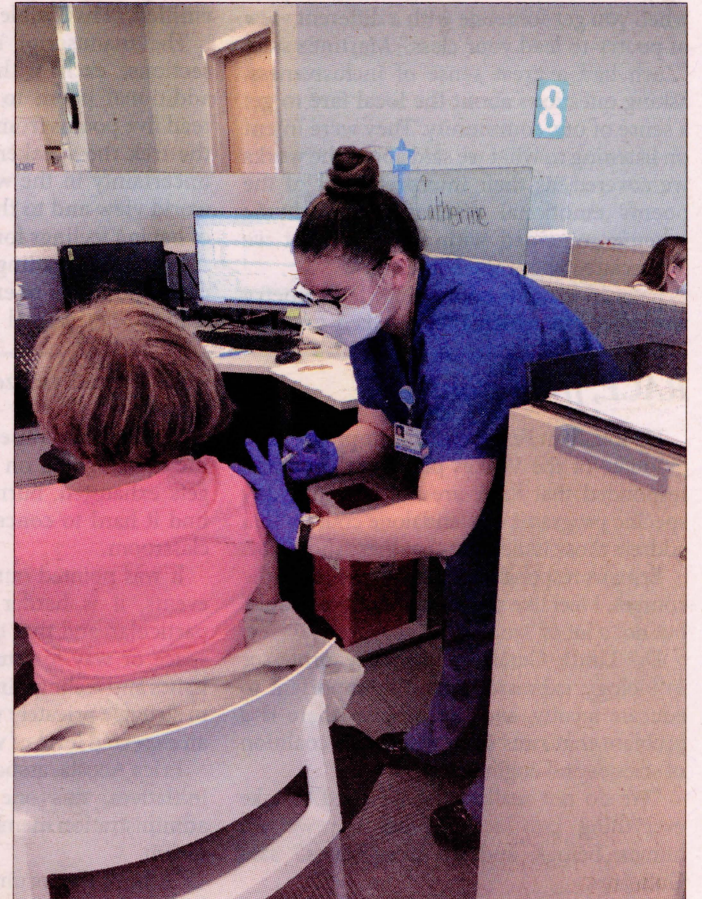


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Photos courtesy of Dr. Nicole Pezzino
Jocilyn Steigerwalt, second-year pharmacy student, prepares a dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.



Catherine Tuman, a student in the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy, administers a COVID-19 vaccine through her work with Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center.

First visiting poet Zach Linge delivers reading for students

By Genny Frederick
Asst. News Editor

On Feb. 17, the English Department held the first lecture of the Allan Hamilton Dickson Spring Writers Series and welcomed Zach Linge to campus.

Linge is a doctorate student of poetry at Florida State University and is also the editor-in-chief of the Southeast Review, the national literary magazine run by graduate students of Florida State University. Linge's poems appear in AGNI, Best New Poets 2020, New England Review, Poetry and more.

Linge's visit to campus consisted of three different sessions, in which they interacted with students as a companion in the study of poetry, a teacher in the art of poetry and a poet to admire.

The first session of Linge's visit was in a senior-level Modern American poetry class, where the works of Paul Lawrence Dunbar and Alexander Posey were discussed.

Darren Martinez, a senior English major, enjoyed the session and Linge's insights.

"It's always an interesting change of pace when you get someone with a different view of poetry to lead your class," Martinez said. "Zach had a great sense of inclusiveness, asking questions about the local fare to get a sense of our community. They were intent on listening to what we said about the works we covered, as their interpretations of the poem's emotional resonance and rhyme scheme coincided with a lot of what we appreciated about the content."

Later in the afternoon, Linge led a poetry workshop, in which they worked one-on-



Dr. Michelle Anthony and Zach Linge during the evening poetry reading on Zoom.

The Beacon/Genny Frederick

one with students on poems that they had submitted earlier this year.

That evening, Dr. Michelle Anthony, chair of the English Department, introduced and welcomed Linge, while commenting on the success of the sessions earlier in the day.

"Over Zoom, during this pandemic, those sessions have had their own stunning logic of delight," said Anthony.

Linge read from their manuscript entitled, "His Visible Bones."

The manuscript is laid out with three sections, each with 15 poems, plus an additional poem to close the work. They read five poems from each section, detailing the trek the speaker moves through, from uncertainty in the world, to a newly sober world view and to the mortifying sensation of having feelings for someone else.

Both the reading and the manuscript conclude with a poem titled, "Rhema."

Linge explained the larger meaning

behind the title of this poem.

"In some apostolic traditions, it's tied to a spirit's ability to move a person," Linge said. "I am intrigued by the idea of listening and being quiet enough to hear something larger than oneself speak. This is the poem where I finish the book, and I listen to what it tells me."

The structure of this reading was particularly moving to Dr. Thomas Hamill, associate professor of English.

"The poems were richly varied and complex, and I found the progression through the poems and through the speaker's negotiations of different phases of identity, self-awareness and self-reflection to be compelling – and often arresting," Hamill said. "I also really appreciated how Linge framed and contextualized these dynamic transitions throughout their reading and performance of the pieces."


After the reading, Linge answered

questions from the audience and discussed the current state of poetry.

"There are so many different things happening in this field right now – so many fantastic, amazing, surprising ways that people write. It constantly challenges me, constantly makes me reconsider my assumptions about poetics," Linge responded. "I feel challenged and grateful to be writing when I am."

Linge's works can be found on their website zachlinge.com or poetryfoundation.org, and a recording of the reading can be found on the WilkesUVideo YouTube channel.

The English department will hold two more writers as part of the Allan Hamilton Dickson Spring Writers Series. If interested in attending, watch for WilkesToday emails.

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RACE, from front

Dr. Jonathan Ference, associate provost and graduate of the Wilkes pharmacy program, responded that there are not currently any specific programs or standalone courses that address those issues, but that there should be.

Ermeus responded, "When it comes to the courses, I feel like there is a lot of 'we should' but not a lot of 'we will.'"

Dr. Linda Gutierrez, associate professor in biology, expressed that it is important to educate faculty, and she believes there is a problem that runs deep within the coalition of science and engineering.

"We do not realize that we need to take everything into account because we are human beings, and we have biases," said Gutierrez.

"Even when we are talking about science, we have biases," she said. "I believe that we have to be pushed by the administration to have some mechanism to make our faculty

wake up and realize how important these things are."

Students also raised concerns that with all the events going on in the world, everyone gets exhausted, burned out and may often find it hard to concentrate or function in a classroom.

It was pointed out that with many recent events, it is harder for black students in particular, and that the campus lacks a clear space or way for students to address those issues and feelings. Instead, they are often left to struggle privately while trying to maintain an expected level of work.

Erica Acosta, associate director of diversity initiatives, was one of many faculty and administration members in attendance at the forum.

"I think the forum went well, and I think we need to hear from students and faculty about race in the curriculum," said Acosta. "The more we educate ourselves on such topics is the only way to create lasting and

impactful change in our communities. The only way we can break down the unknown is by unpacking and seeing what it looks like for everyone."

Additionally, the forum highlighted the ongoing discussion in the Global Cultures Department to work on incorporating a new minor, and eventually maybe a major in Africana Studies on campus.

Dean Paul Riggs of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences discussed the major hurdles of implementing new programs.


"The main challenge at the moment is providing enough courses to populate a new program," said Riggs. "The faculty have been working on that, but it seems clear to me that new faculty will be needed at some point. The other challenge is estimating the demand for the program and whether it will be successful. We hope so, but it is hard to be sure."

Zarpentine added that there is an immense importance for students to realize that

courses about diversity and culture impact everyone and need to be taught to every student, regardless of their major or planned career.

"It is very easy to feel like racial discrimination is something that happens to someone else, and if you are white, that is generally true," said Zarpentine. "I think it is easy to lose track of the fact that discrimination against people of color – whether you are participating in it or not, whether you approve of it or not, whether you are even aware of it or not – is a reality that benefits you if you are not the victim. So, whether you think it is your business or not, it is your business."

The Beacon's center spread focuses on student reactions to the possibility of an Africana Studies major or minor. Check out pages 12 and 13 for more information.

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Graphic by Mia Walker

Wilkes University prepares for second annual Giving Day

By Sara Ross
Co-News Editor

A day filled with giving back to the Wilkes community, the second annual Giving Day, 24-hour fundraising event, is scheduled for March 11 and will be adjusting to a more virtual format.

This year, Chief Development Officer Margaret Steele is responsible for the planning and shares that the event will be functioning through social media with students and staff posting images throughout the day. Steele provides insight on the purpose of Giving Day.

“Giving Day’s main focus is to encourage giving to the area people in Wilkes love most, whether that be a certain school, department or athletic team,” said Steele.

Further, to ensure that the university’s Giving Day stands out, it falls on its own day in March. Across the nation, Giving Day celebrations are typically held on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. However, as Steele explains, this will allow Wilkes to host its own event “without all the noise.”

Donations can be provided to the following departments and schools on campus: Athletics; School of Education; College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; College of Science and Engineering; Farley Library; Nesbitt School of Pharmacy; Passan School of Nursing; Sidhu School of Business and Leadership;

Student Life and Student Scholarships.

In addition, donors can contribute gifts in honor of someone, such as past or current faculty members. Throughout Giving Day, Steele enjoys watching the donations roll in live and adds them onto their leaderboard to keep track of how much each program has received.

Mary Simmons, associate director of alumni relations, emphasizes that while donations are wonderful to receive, she does not want this to discourage anyone from participating, especially when it comes to snapping photos for social media. Simmons has been in charge of covering Giving Day’s social platforms.

“My main responsibility is to develop the main communications schedule to promote Giving Day to alumni, as well as to ensure that the website is updated and functional,” said Simmons.

Students are encouraged to submit photos with the hashtags #Give2Wilkes, #OneDay

and #OneWilkes via Instagram and Twitter for Giving Day’s photo challenge. Ten students’ images will then be announced as winners of the challenge on March 12 and may even receive a gift.

Giving Day’s schedule will kick off at 8 a.m. and continue until midnight on March 11. Most of the activities held will be captured through social media, including a live message from Wilkes University’s President, Dr. Greg Cant.

“There will be fewer large groups of people gathering around campus, and we will be doing smaller social media cameos that are live on Giving Day,” said Steele.

Due to a virtual format, Giving Day will lose having student-athletes raising money on the second floor of the Henry Student Center, which was Simmons’ favorite aspect.

Regardless, Associate Director of Athletics Philip Wingert is still looking forward to Giving Day and how it promotes

positive connections with previous generations of Wilkes students.

“Wilkes enjoys a rich tradition with a large, dedicated alumni following who enjoy hearing what’s happening in their areas of interest and learning what’s new at Wilkes,” said Wingert. “It’s an opportunity for younger coaches to introduce themselves and start establishing relationships. For others, it’s a chance to reconnect with familiar alumni from years past.”

According to Wingert, the university continues to receive donations of all sizes, from a few dollars to millions of dollars. Associate Dean of Student Development Philip Ruthkosky adds to this statement by claiming that this is an experience that can make a difference in the lives of all students.

“It affords us the opportunity to share stories about our students and celebrate their amazing accomplishments and perseverance, both inside and outside of the classroom,” said Ruthkosky.

Steele and Simmons reflect these sentiments as well and are counting down the minutes waiting for Giving Day to arrive. For more information, students should visit wilkes.edu/givingday to learn additional information about the day’s activities and how to get involved.



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Graphic by Zoey Rosensweet

JOIN THE BEACON.
Contact: Kirsten.Peters@wilkes.edu

Get involved on campus in Spring 2021 and broaden your resume!

Beacon News is looking for writers, editors, photographers and graphic designers. Not interested in journalism? The staff has openings for an advertising manager or a distribution manager. First-year students and all majors are welcome.

Wilkes ROTC training program adjusts to COVID-19

By Sara Ross
Co-News Editor

Even during the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, members of Wilkes University and King's College Army ROTC have been keeping up with their training at Kirby Park.

A major aspect of ROTC is conducting physical training, which is held three to five days a week. Due to COVID-19 regulations, the army cadets are trying to keep their training outside as much as possible.


At Kirby Park, ROTC utilizes the track and fields to work on training for the Army Combat Fitness Test events. They also use the levee for running and ruck marches.

When there is inclement weather,

the cadets will go indoors at the King's College gym for training. Whether inside or outside, all members are required to wear masks and practice social distancing during formations.

Throughout their training, Army ROTC cadets prep for missions and how to execute successful operations in the classroom. This is taught during leadership labs through Army 8 Troop Leadership Procedures or TLPs.

Then, many of these missions are practiced out-in-the-field at Kirby Park, which provides them with practical, hands-on experience to help them develop as future Army officers.

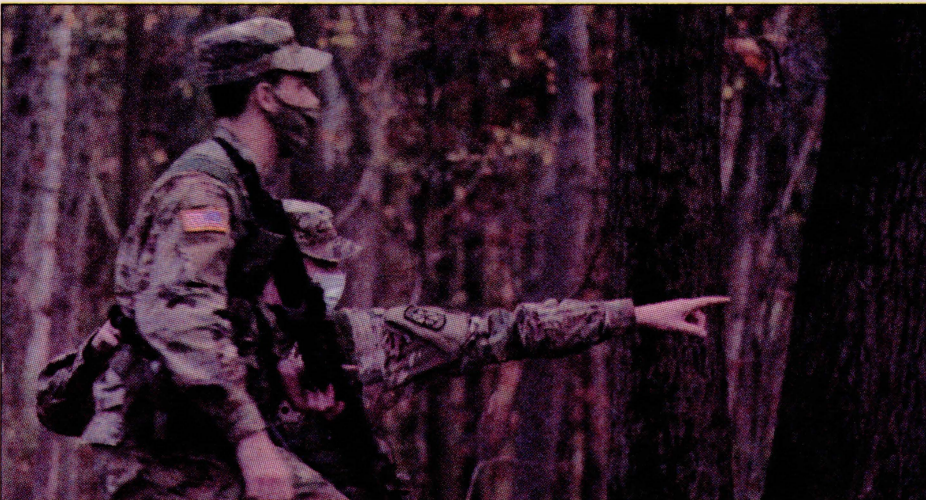
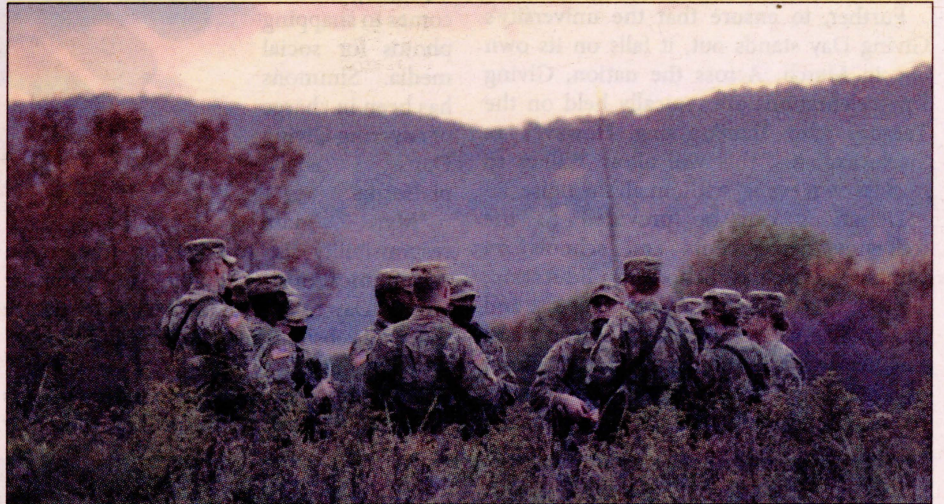
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Cadet Battalion commander Megan Magoon leads formation and salutes Wilkes University professor of military science, Lieutenant Colonel William G. White.



Photos from left to right: On the left, Cadet John Pezzolanti leads the Charger Company along with Cadets Gideon Barrer and Ryan McCombs at closing formation during the fall field training exercise, which is a mix of both Wilkes and King's ROTC members. Then, on the right, cadets from Wilkes prepare for their mission.



Cadet Pezzolanti, along with Cadet Seth Hanchett, prepare and organize their battle positions for night time defensive operations during their Army ROTC training.



Photos courtesy of Megan Magoon and John Pezzolanti
Cadet Matthew Rojas, a future active duty infantry officer, instructs underclassmen cadets on the importance of weapon safety in the field.

Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have any events or artists to be shared? Contact life, arts & entertainment editor: Emily.Cherkauskas@wilkes.edu

Farley Library celebrates Black writers with a digital catalog

By Emily Cherkaukas
Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

Black History Month has been especially important for students and faculty this year, as the words of historic Black speakers and writers has resonated among the population. The Farley Library is also celebrating Black History Month by creating an entire collection of books by Black authors.

The collection, titled “Black Excellence,” seeks to educate and raise awareness of the Black community.

Its description states, “This month and every month we celebrate the history, experiences and contributions of Black Americans.”

“Black Excellence” was digitally organized by Heather Bowman, electronic resources librarian, and Erica Acosta, associate director of diversity initiatives, for the Center for Global Education and Diversity.

“We’ve tried to highlight a range of Black voices,” Bowman said. “There are books by Black men and women, historical and contemporary figures, nonfiction writers and novelists and poets.”

Acosta was inspired to create the collection back in October 2020 after observing Lehigh University’s library. They celebrated every heritage month through their own library’s resources.

“I thought it was a pretty cool idea to do the same,” Acosta said. “That was when I reached out to (Bowman) to see if we were able to do something like that.”

Luckily for Acosta, the library was able to organize the diverse collection of books and do so with ease.

Black Excellence: Suggested Reading

February is Black History Month. This month and every month we celebrate the history, experiences, and contributions of Black Americans. On this list you'll find scholarly books, essays, novels, and poetry.



The Beacon/Emily Cherkaukas

The “Black Excellence” collection, which can be accessed through the Farley Library’s homepage, holds a wide range of books by Black authors

As the co-chair of the Council on Diversity, Inclusion and Equity, Acosta already had a list of books organized. CODIE had created the resource tool kit over the summer in order to support Black Lives Matter, allowing for further education on those who were interested.

“This tool kit is for those of us that want to expand our knowledge and awareness about topics related to racial, diversity, equity and social justice,” Acosta said. “There are books, articles, podcasts and YouTube videos to assist us in this learning process.”

Out of that tool kit, Acosta shared the list of books with Bowman, who made the collection display, making sure to add a variety of genres and topics for the collection’s inclusion.

Some examples from the collection of books include historical staples, such as “I Know Why

the Caged Bird Sings” by Maya Angelou, “The Autobiography of Malcolm X” by Malcolm X and “Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community” by Martin Luther King, Jr.

The collection guide also contains some more modern titles, such as “White Fragility” by Robin Diangelo and “How to Be an Antiracist” by Ibram X. Kendi.

Another unique example from the collection is “The Brief History of Seven Killings” by Marlon James ‘06, who is a graduate of Wilkes’ graduate in creative writing program.

As a digitized guide, the “Black Excellence” collection is fully available online.

For those interested in checking out the collection, it can be found through the Farley Library’s homepage at www.wilkes.edu/academics/library/index.aspx and by clicking on the “Research Guides” link under the

“Resources” section. “Black Excellence” can be found within the wide range of guides offered by the library, wherein if it is clicked, it will offer the collection.

All books are available for check-out from the library for anyone who is interested in reading from the collection. Call numbers and ISBNs are listed along with the books, allowing for easy referrals to the books.

By having the “Black Excellence” guide now permanently sitting with the 104 other unique research guides curated by the library, Bowman and Acosta see strong benefits for students and faculty engaging with the guide.

“Reading about others’ lived experiences is a good way to expand our knowledge, understanding and empathy,” Bowman said.

According to Suzanna Calev, archivist and public services librarian, the university has had a long history of engaging with the Black community.

“Wilkes had a relationship with Hampton Institute, now Hampton University, in Virginia in the 1930s and ‘40s where students from their institute could come to Wilkes and take classes here,” Calev said.

Although not much history has been discovered and organized into an official collection, Farley Library’s faculty, student workers and interns are continuing to go through inventories of oral history interviews and currently unprocessed collections.

With this work, the library hopes to bring more historical diverse figures to the well-deserved spotlight.

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Cooking up some Lasagna Love with Second Lady Fetterman

By Judah Nicole Lyles
Staff Writer

This semester, what we need, more than anything, is a little love – and Lasagna Love is the best way to get (and give) it.

Lasagna Love is an organization that was founded upon the notion of bringing love back into the world. Founded by Rhiannon Menn, mother and founder of Good to Mama, a self-care blog for mothers like herself, the Lasagna Love organization gives everyday people the

opportunity to look out for others.

“Around April, I started feeling just super helpless,” Menn told Sheinelle Jones on TODAY. “There were so many moms that I knew who had lost childcare, who had lost jobs. They were just feeling stressed out. And so literally one day, I was just like, ‘I’m gonna make extra meals.’”

In May 2020, Lasagna Love was a small initiative for Menn to help out in her San Diego community. It quickly grew into a booming organization that delivers over 4,000 meals a

week to food insecure families. Lasagna Love is now active in all 50 states and has recently extended its reach into Puerto Rico.

In today’s society, empathy is something that is greatly needed. With the COVID-19 pandemic causing unemployment rates to skyrocket, many do not realize that this is only one of the many pandemics plaguing the world, and food insecurity is one of them. The Food Trust is an organization dedicated to addressing food insecurity and food deserts in the United States and is dedicated to

giving all people access to nutritious, healthy food. Based out of Philadelphia, they work nationally to make these resources more available for the average person. Their mission is motivated by the staggering amount of food insecurity in America.

“According to the United States Department of Agriculture, 29.7 million Americans live in communities where a healthy diet is out of reach,” the Food Trust states on its website.

LASAGNA, page 11

Spicy and savory: Moody Foodie's unique chickpea taco bowl

By Anna Culver
Staff Writer

A hot and savory dish that offers a variety of spicy tastes with a set of diverse add-ins to your liking.

Ingredients:

- 1) 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2) 15 ounces chickpeas (1 can, drained and rinsed)
- 3) 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 4) 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 5) 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 6) 1 teaspoon cumin
- 7) Rice (Note: Rice doubles in size once fully cooked)

Customizable add-ins:

- 1) Bell peppers
- 2) Cucumber
- 3) Lime juice, for taste
- 4) A scoop of sour cream

Cooking the hot ingredients:

Start cooking your rice, and keep an eye on it as you start working on your chickpeas.

Heat up olive oil in a medium pan. Wait for the oil to start simmering and add in your chickpeas. Stir occasionally until cooked slightly golden brown.

Adding the rest of your ingredients:


Add in your soy sauce, garlic powder, chili powder and cumin. Then, cook the combined ingredients for about three to four minutes, or until golden brown. Take your rice and add your chickpeas.

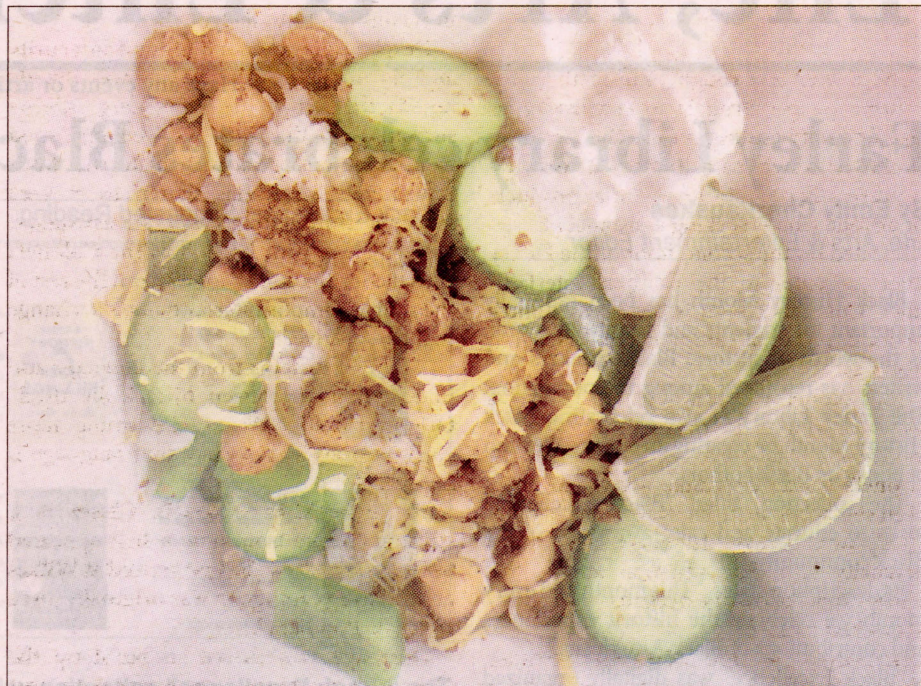
Customizations:

Add-ins are customizable. I added bell peppers and cucumber with lime juice and sour cream for taste.

Feel free to adjust the add-ins based on your tolerance of spicy ingredients. Depending on your additional ingredients, your dish will make the perfect aesthetically-pleasing meal.

Allergies: Dairy, soy, grain and gluten

 Anna.Culver@wilkes.edu
Graphic by Anna Culver



The Beacon/Anna Culver

This delicious dish is bound to awaken anyone's taste buds with its variety of flavors, especially with each individual's unique customizations.





BEACON BUMPS

Each week, the Wilkes Beacon staff adds a song to their 2020-2021 Beacon Bumps playlist under Chris Gowarty's account on Spotify. Look below for this week's list of songs.



<p>Kirsten Peters, Editor-in-Chief: A Woman Like You - Lee Brice</p> <p>Sean Schmoyer, Co-News Editor: Way Less Sad - AJR</p> <p>Sara Ross, Co-News Editor: Solo - Samsa</p> <p>Genny Frederick, Asst. News Editor: Gloria - Them, Van Morrison</p> <p>Maddy Kinard, News Staff Writer: Not Allowed - TV Girl</p> <p>Emily Cherkauskas, LA&E Editor: That Easy - YELLOW DAYS</p> <p>Jordan Daniel, Asst. LA&E Editor: City Girls - Chris Brown, Young Thug</p> <p>Breanna Ebisch, Co-Opinion Editor: Tuesdays - Jake Scott</p>	<p>Dylan Mehl, Co-Opinion Editor: Bad Things - Machine Gun Kelly</p> <p>William Billingsley, Asst. Opinion Editor: Fashion Zombies - The Aquabats</p> <p>Ariel Reed, Sports Editor: Crazier Things - Chelsea Cutler</p> <p>Chris Gowarty, Asst. Sports Editor: Deeper - Freddie Gibbs</p> <p>Baylee Guedes, Sports Staff Writer: Coco - 24kGoldn ft. DaBaby</p> <p>Mia Walker, Lead Designer: Please Me - Cardi B and Bruno Mars</p> <p>Steffen Horwath, Staff Photographer: Stuck On You - Giveon</p> <p>Liz Cherinka, Social Media Manager: Love Story (Taylor's Version) - Taylor Swift</p>
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Colonel's Closet giving out food and supplies to anyone in need

By Emily Cherkauskas

Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

The winter is a rough time of the year, as some people struggle to stay warm or have difficulty finding meals. The Colonel's Closet has sought to help those in need by routinely offering out its essential products for anyone who is seeking assistance.

Located on the second floor of the Henry Student Center in the Campus Interfaith office, Colonel's Closet is a stocked storage for food, personal care items and cleaning products.

The Colonel's Closet is operated by Kristin Osipower, who is also the campus' interfaith coordinator. She took on the position as Colonel's Closet coordinator back in 2016 when she became the interfaith coordinator.

Osipower iterates that the issue of food insecurity is a dire situation among the demographic of college students — a highly-researched fact.

According to the National Institute of Health, food insecurity on college campuses is a serious issue in the United States. If a student is facing food insecurity, they suffer from "poorer health and have higher rates of depression, lower grades and more academic challenges than their

counterparts" who have better accessibility in retaining a fully-fledged diet.

Despite the wide issue of food insecurity and its negative effects, Osipower openly noted that there is a strong stigma surrounding the idea of seeking food from generous donors, which she finds unfortunate, as it has shown to prevent students from getting desperate assistance. Nevertheless, with her job as the Colonel's Closet coordinator, Osipower and the rest of the staff at campus interfaith hope to change that perspective.

"Some of it stems from the language and images that have been historically used," Osipower said. "We are becoming more conscientious as a society that language is impactful."

The growth in Colonel's Closet is a striking change from how it first appeared to Osipower when she first arrived at Wilkes around five years ago. It was originally just a small shelf in her closet.

Osipower was driven to build up the Colonel's Closet into something greater that a wide range of students can use. She sought out donations, including a refrigerator from Al Beech Food Pantry in Kingston.

The process of ordering from the Colonel's Closet is rather easy. Anyone interested in

ordering from the pantry can visit www.wilkes.edu/studentpantry, where they will be automatically directed to the online form.

Wilkes Student Body President Kevin Long urges anyone in need to submit a form online for supplies, reminding us that no student will ever go hungry at Wilkes.

"The Colonel's Closet truly is a special program that shows the commitment to taking care of our Colonel Family here on campus and making sure one another is always in good health," Long said.

First, the person ordering from Colonel's Closet is required to agree to the terms regarding the order times and pick-up deadlines. Then, that person is required to offer the last four digits of their WIN number, which will be used as the order number and their name, which will be kept confidential.

Once those sections are filled in, the person ordering can select from a list of various items that they need.

The pantry contains the staples, including canned vegetables and fruit, soups and stews, rice, instant potatoes, pasta and cereal. A refrigerator also holds perishable products, such as dairy, juice and produce. Colonel's Closet also offers laundry detergent, soap, shampoo and toothpaste

for anyone needing cleaning supplies and hygienic products.

After placing an order, Osipower will send a confirmation email once the order is filled. Any orders placed between Monday through Thursday are estimated to be filled within 48 hours. If an order is placed between Friday through Saturday, the order will be filled on the following Monday.

Once an order is filled, it must be picked up within two business days. If the order is not picked up from the Colonel's Closet, then the items within that order will be returned to the shelves of the pantry.

The Colonel's Closet is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Mondays through Fridays. When coming to pick up an order, wearing a mask and engaging in social distancing is required.

If one is considering ordering supplies, it is important to note that the office is a safe, no-judgement area on campus. As in the words of Campus Interfaith's message: "We are here to help, support and explore with you new ideas, living experiences, choices and horizons. We are here to help you live up to your full potential."



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Women's and Gender Studies Conference seeking proposals

By Liz Cherinka

Social Media Manager

Wilkes University and King's College Women's and Gender Studies Conference is now accepting proposals for this year's event.

Proposals are due on March 5 through a form submitted online. This form can be accessed through the Wilkes Today email announcements.

Students, professors, faculty, staff and community members are able to participate. Presentations can come in a range of formats, such as panel discussions, videos, performances and presentations about other service opportunities.

People who have worked on any projects, poems or short stories that showcase a hardship faced or about any identity that can be marginalized are encouraged to submit their work this year.

Dr. Jennifer Thomas, director of women's and gender studies at Wilkes, urges individuals to participate "if you want an audience who is going to be kind and encouraging."

The theme for this year's conference is "Women in the Public Sphere: Stepping Forward," which encourages participants to look into women going beyond their typical roles in many areas of society, such as leadership in business and government.

According to Valerie Kepner, director of women's studies at King's, "The main inspiration for this year's theme is the topic of Dr. Gwendoline Alphonso's featured lecture on March 30 and also the election of the first female vice president."

Kepner explained the theme was suggested by two of her colleagues, and she "ran with it."

Thomas agreed that the conference's theme of "Women in the Public Sphere" has "something to do with the fact that we have a woman vice president and a woman of color," which is a stride in the rights for women and holding prominent roles.

Another figure of inspiration was Stacey Abrams, a woman who encouraged many people to vote in Georgia. Her actions helped tie the themes from last year and this year into one, demonstrating that women are changing the narrative.

Last year's theme was focused around the anniversary of the women's right to vote and encouraging people to vote. Although the event was unable to happen due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the keynote speaker will remain the same with Alphonso, who is an associate professor in the department of politics at Fairfield University.

Alphonso's lecture is titled, "Making the Impossible, Possible? – Gender, Family, Race and The Promise of Democratic Inclusion in 21st Century American Politics." She will be discussing the importance of voting for women, as well as many women who have run for political office and their combined impact on the 2020 election.

This year's conference, with the exception of the Keynote Address that will be on March 30, will be held on April 8 and 9. Due to COVID-19, the conference will take place virtually via Zoom.

Thomas is optimistic that more individuals will be able to attend due to the conference's virtual format. Sometimes family and friends of students cannot attend because they live too far away, but now that the event is virtual, it makes attendance

more accessible.

Kepner also expects more participation in the conference due to the virtual format.

"Students will be able to log in from their dorm rooms or homes without having to go out and brave weather conditions to present and/or support their peers who are presenting," said Kepner.

According to Thomas, the conference has been going on for at least 15 years, and Wilkes joined forces with King's in 2012.

The inspiration for the conference was rooted in the need for a capstone project as a women's and gender studies minor, which makes this minor unique, according to Thomas, as most minors do not require a capstone.

While the students do not need to present their capstone at the conference anymore, they are still welcome to, and they are also welcome to present other projects.

The conference encourages anyone interested in presenting to submit their proposals this year via the online form.



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Liz's Craft Column: Do-it-yourself plant-free potted paper cactus

By Liz Cherinka
Social Media Manager

This potted paper plant DIY is perfect for those who want to have plants but seem to kill every single one they own. The aesthetic qualities of cacti are great, but the actual task of keeping them alive is the hard part. This craft saves the trouble of taking care of a living thing and makes it into an easy DIY.

This craft is perfect for dorms that may not have any large windows or space that allows for plants, and it only requires a few materials. The supplies are at least two sheets of light green cardstock paper, at least one sheet of pink cardstock paper, scissors, hot glue and a small terra cotta pot. These materials can be purchased at any craft store, such as Joann Fabrics or Michaels, as well as Amazon or Walmart.

To start, grab the terra cotta pot. Trace a circle using the top of the pot onto the green paper. Then, trim this circle to fit nicely into the pot but not too snug that it cannot be removed.

Fold the circle in half, trying not to sharply crease the edge, and make a cut in the center about as long as one half of the small rectangle on the bottom of the cactus pieces. When the circle is unfolded, the slit will be the length of the whole, unfolded rectangle's width.

Repeat this by folding the circle the other way. This will create an "X" in the middle of the circle.

Now, to make the form of the cactus, grab the green paper and fold it in half vertically, or "hot dog" style. On the creased edge, draw half an oval with a dip on the top and a little rectangle on the bottom. The rectangle will hold the paper in place in the circle, and the dip on top will resemble the typical concave in the top of an actual cactus. This technique of drawing half the image on one side is something used in elementary school but is actually beneficial when both sides need to be identical.

The shape drawn for the cactus is free to be as tall or as short as preferred — it just depends on whether the cactus will be a tall and thin one or a short and stumpy one. Make sure that when unfolded, it will not be much larger than the circumference of the pot.

Before cutting the half oval out, add the spikes. Draw little triangles or two triangles that connect on one end, almost like a square that dips in, on the edge of the oval.

Now, cut the half oval and spikes out of the paper. Once it is all cut, erase any pencil marks and unfold it.

You will need two of these, so grab another piece of green paper, fold it in half vertically and trace the cut out section of the other paper onto the crease side of the other one, like a stencil.

Cut out the second one, erase the pencil marks and then unfold it.


For the final steps, it is time to create the actual cactus. Slightly bend the cactus pieces so that the rectangle on the bottom slides into half of the "X" on the circle. Repeat this for the other cactus piece.

The cactus shape should become clear after this step, and it should be secured in by the slits in the circle.

The top of the cactus may be separated a bit because they are not held together as well. To fix that, a flower will be added on top similar to the flowers on a cactus. Cut a small flower of any shape out of the pink paper, making it large enough to cover the four corners of the green paper on the top.

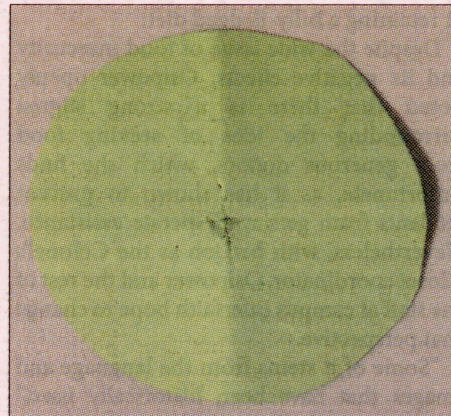
Slightly bend the edges of the flower in order to give it a "blooming" look. Put hot glue onto the bottom of the flower and place it on top of the cactus, using the glue on it to also attach the edges of each cactus piece together.

After placing all pieces into the terra cotta pot, you should now have a paper cactus.

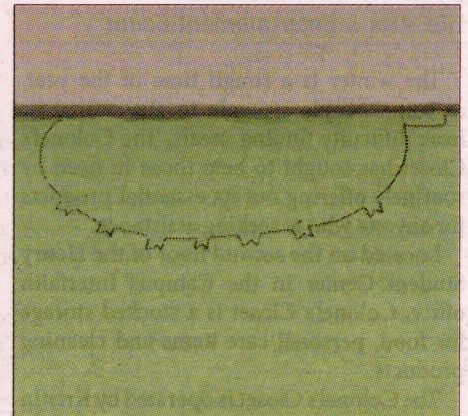
 Elizabeth.Cherinka@wilkes.edu
Graphic by Anna Culver



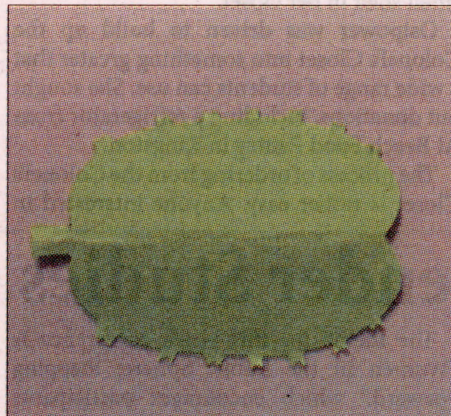
Liz's Craft Rating: One out of five yarn balls. Although the craft is affordable and does not require a lot of materials, there are many steps to follow, which may be a bit challenging for beginning crafters and requires



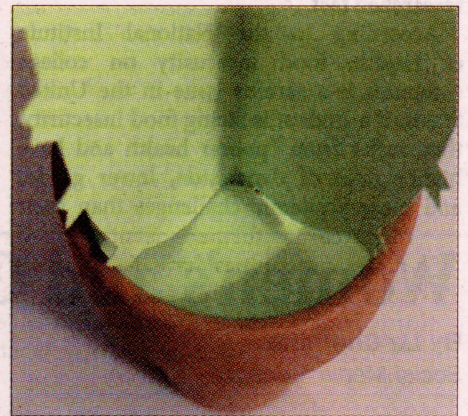
1) Using your terra cotta pot, trace a circle on a green piece of paper. Make sure the circle fits the pot nicely. Cut it out, then fold it in half both ways, cutting small slits in the middle of the folds to create an "X."



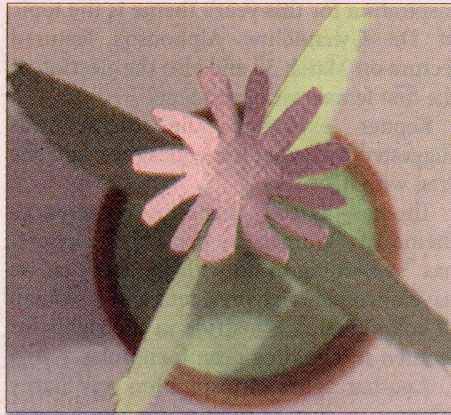
2) In order to draw the cactus, fold a green piece of paper and draw the shape of your preferred cactus. Make sure to add the spikes of the cactus, which should be wide enough for you to cut out.



3) Once you are finished drawing your cactus, cut it out. Repeat steps two and three, which will leave you with two pieces of the cactus shape.



4) After cutting out your three shapes, place the circle in the terra cotta pot. Bend the cactus pieces, and slide them into the "X" of the



5) To better seal the top, draw a small flower shape on a piece of pink paper and cut it out. Hot glue the flower to the top of the cactus.



6) After attaching all pieces, you now have a paper potted plant. Place your new "plant" decoration wherever you desire, as it does not

Photos: The Beacon/Liz Cherinka

Congressional Hunger Center hosts “End Hunger in 30 Days”

Uniting against hunger strife by raising awareness

By Jordan Daniel
Asst. Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

The Congressional Hunger Center is conducting an “End Hunger in 30 Days” challenge beginning on March 1. This challenge involves a 30-day course regarding the issue of hunger in the United States.

According to the Congressional Hunger Center’s website, they are “a global non-profit organization dedicated to the principle that access to nutritious, affordable and culturally appropriate food is a basic human right.”

The challenge consists of participants receiving daily email prompts and 30-minute miniature lessons that touch upon the basics, drivers of hunger, anti-hunger policy and effective advocacy.

“The challenge is meant to educate participants about the scope of food insecurity in the U.S., including the roots of food insecurity, current programs that address the issue and how to become

involved in food insecurity advocacy,” said Kristin Osipower, Wilkes’ interfaith coordinator. “The ‘challenge’ is meant to be personal.”

There will be various videos, readings and action items for participants to take part in. Everything can be done at the participant’s convenience.

The “End Hunger in 30 Days” challenge is a great opportunity for those to teach themselves about hunger-related topics in the U.S. The more people who inform themselves on this issue will hopefully push them toward finding a solution.

“I hope that this is an engaging and manageable mode of education for our community to learn about food insecurity,” said Osipower. “Given the breadth of topics that will be included, some of this content may translate well as an accompaniment for academic coursework. I also hope it inspires some people to become more involved with the issue, either on campus or in the local community.”

There are already quite a few students

who would like to participate in this challenge. Many believe it is a great learning experience and wish to share the information with others so they can join in.

“I have never heard of a challenge like this before, but I think it is a great opportunity and idea,” said Tori Duffy, a sophomore pharmacy major. “Hunger is a big issue not only in the United States but in a lot of other countries in the world. I would learn a lot by participating in the end hunger challenge, and after educating myself on some of the topics, I could share what I have learned with others to get a conversation going and maybe help find ways to stop world hunger.”

Although some might not be familiar with “End Hunger in 30 Days,” Osipower believes this challenge was conducted in the past and received good reviews from participants. Therefore, another challenge was introduced for this year.

“Since it is a challenge for a good cause and the registration is free, of course I will sign up for it,” said Duffy. “I am really


interested in learning more about what it is I can do to help prevent or stop hunger that is occurring across the globe. Hopefully, more people would want to do the same.”

The more people become aware of world hunger, the more ways solutions will be found to solve the matter. The Congressional Hunger Center has high hopes that many will join their challenge.

Their website states, “If we truly want to end hunger in the U.S., it will take all of us, from all sectors and all walks of life, joining together to make hunger a political priority. We invite you to take the End Hunger in 30 Challenge and see how you fit into the movement to end hunger.”

Anyone interested in the challenge can register for free by visiting www.endhungerin30.org. Anyone is welcome to register, such as faculty, staff and students.

More information can be found about the challenge at www.hungercenter.org.

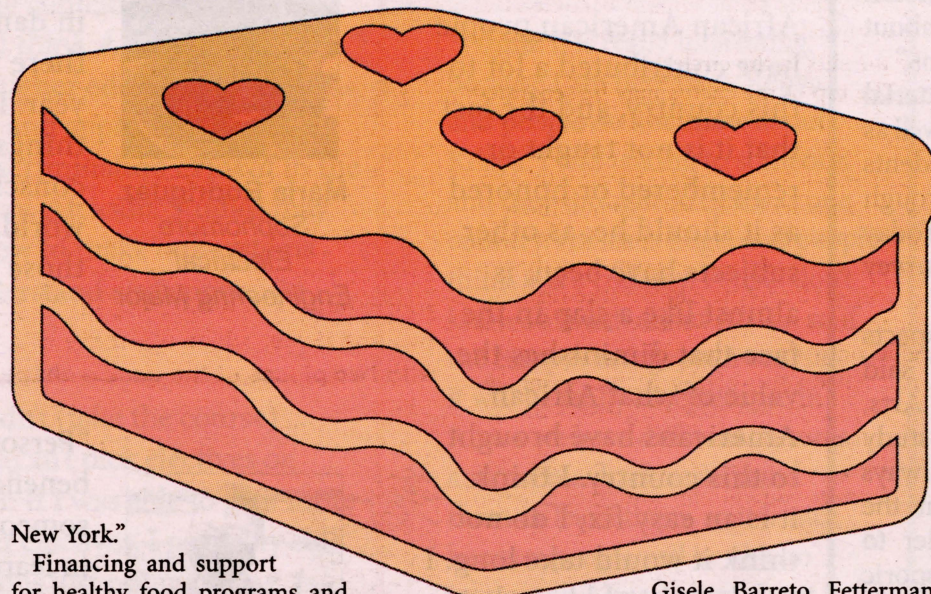
 @wilkesbeacon
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The website further details, “Lower-income communities have fewer grocery stores and other healthy food retail outlets that provide a wide selection of affordable, nutritious foods. This problem impacts residents in both urban and rural areas — especially those living in communities of color.”

With these staggering statistics referring to Americans’ food insecurity prior to the pandemic, it is easy to see how food insecurity has quickly come to the forefront of issues in today’s society. Menn’s initiative is one of many attempts to bring fresh food to communities in need. The Food Trust brought attention to the value of bringing healthier food into lower income communities and leveling the playing field by launching their 2004 Pennsylvania Fresh Food Financing Initiative.

“The FFFI proved that, with public sector incentives, grocers and other healthy food retailers could overcome the higher costs associated with locating and operating in underserved areas and open profitable stores,” according to the Food Trust. “The success of this model in Pennsylvania has influenced the design and the creation of similar programs in other states, including California, Colorado, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, New Jersey, Michigan, Ohio and



New York.”

Financing and support for healthy food programs and initiatives in lower income areas are steadily growing as time progresses, but in the meantime, if people can help their neighbors out, why not take the opportunity to? This is where Lasagna Love becomes an option. Lasagna Love is made up of over 18,000 volunteers, or Lasagna “Mamas” and “Papas,” and the organization is consistently growing and looking for new recruits.

If the initiative itself is not enough motivation for you, take the word of the Second Lady of Pennsylvania. Second Lady

Gisele Barreto Fetterman, founder of the non-profit For Good PGH, which advocates for diversity and inclusion, and co-founder of 412 Food Rescue. 412 Food Rescue redistributed over 2.5 million pounds of food in its first two years of operation.

Fetterman was introduced to the Lasagna Love organization through a Pittsburgh Lasagna Mama and has been advocating for the organization ever since. This organization is after her own heart, as it focuses on providing food and resources

for food insecure areas, as 412 Food Rescue does. Fetterman also has a soft spot for communities of color, as she is a Brazilian-American activist who stands avidly against discrimination.


Fetterman is in strong support for the Lasagna Love organization.

“I love efforts that help make this world feel just a little bit smaller and that brings people together. Food is love! What better way to show someone love than by making something delicious for them?” said Fetterman. “I hope it long outlives this pandemic. So many families feel alone and scared during this time and to be cared for by a stranger (who maybe becomes a friend) is a gift to both the recipient and the donor.”

For those who may not be the most skilled in the kitchen, have no fear — the second lady is right there with you.

On the topic of if she had a go-to lasagna recipe, Fetterman answered honestly, “I don’t, as someone who is tragic in a kitchen, I googled, ‘easiest lasagna recipe.’ I’ve since developed a little confidence and skill around my lasagna art.”

Go to the Lasagna Love website and sign up to be a Lasagna Mama or Papa now. Spread a little love while you have the chance.

 Judah.Lyles@wilkes.edu
Graphic by Anna Culver

AFRICA IDENTITY DIASPORA ETHNICITY ABOLITIONIST SOCIALIZATION CULTURE DISCRIMINATION SLAVES

Compiled by Sean Schmoyer
Co-News Editor

At the recent forum on race and the curriculum, a major discussion point was implementing more courses about race, diversity, inclusion and culture.


The Department of Global Cultures is considering adding an Africana Studies program, which would likely start as a minor to gauge student body interest.

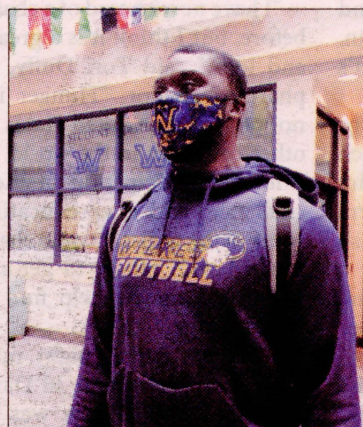
“Back in the fall of 2019, a bunch of faculty in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences were talking informally about ideas of doing a better job about diversity in our curriculum,” said Dr. Chris Zarpentine, chair of the Department of Global Cultures. “There had been a couple of suggestions – an African American minor was suggested, and African Studies includes the broader African diaspora. Other programs we talked about were race and ethnicity studies programs.”

Two objectives are ensuring the material covers topics of interest for students as well as benefits their studies and livelihood. Students can give feedback to the department through the Google Form available on Wilkes Today titled, “Share Your Thoughts in Our Survey on Race and the Curriculum.”

“Africana Studies flexibly covers all aspects of Africa and the African diaspora,” said Dean Paul Riggs of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. “The study of the African American experience is always at the center of Africana Studies, but the more broader category makes it easier to include courses on Africa or on diasporic communities outside the United States.”

The Beacon spoke to students about their thoughts pertaining to an Africana Studies course; how and why it could be beneficial if one should be implemented; and if they would be interested in taking such courses.

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Photos: Breanna Ebisch & Sara Ross
Page Design/Layout: Mia Walker
Mia.Walker@wilkes.edu



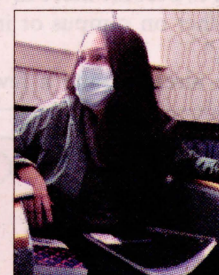
Richard Ermeus
Senior Marketing Major

“I think people should be interested because African American people have contributed a lot to this country, and the fact that it is not taught or remembered or honored as it should be, as other subjects have been, is almost like a slap in the face that diminishes the value of what African Americans have brought to this country. I think it is an easy fix, I do not think it would take long. I think it should have been done a long time ago, and with it being Black History Month the issue has risen to the surface, but it should have been dealt with a long time ago.”



Kira Davis
First-Year
Biology Major

“I think that is great for diversity awareness and is great to give students who come from those backgrounds more recognition and give them representation in the school. I would definitely take it as an elective because it plays into my major and would help me understand both the biological aspects and their healing remedies and could help students in the medical field as well.”



Maria Rodriguez
Sophomore
Electrical
Engineering Major

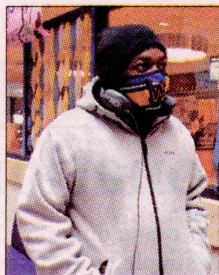
“It is interesting. We are in a period where the lives of black people are in danger. Here in the United States, there was the Black Lives Matter last year. I think it is good to include things like that in a class to get people conscious of what is happening in the world. I would take it because I love those topics.”



Nathan Pitcher
Junior Political
Science Major

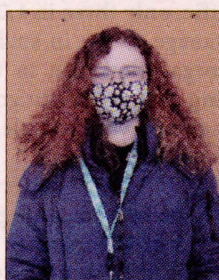
“Personally, I think it would be a really beneficial opportunity, especially for someone like myself who is interested in learning about other cultures. The best way to learn is to be exposed to that kind of material, especially in a safe environment. I think having the opportunity to talk with professors or other classmates who have backgrounds, culturally, where you can show that you do want to know about them would be an eye-opening experience for students.”

MINORITIES NATIONALISM RACE CLASSES POLITICS CUSTOMS AFROCENTRISM JUSTICE HISTORY MUSIC



Dwight Mitchell
Junior English
Major

“I think it is necessary because there are a lot of people on campus who do not know what they are saying, how they are saying and how that affects people, but I do not want to force people into it. I feel it is necessary, but I do not think it should be mandatory.”



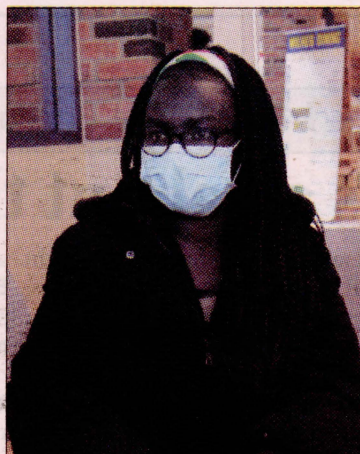
Kara Beerley
First-Year
Psychology Major

“I think Wilkes should consult the right people before creating a curriculum, so as not to spread any misinformation and make sure that the content covers what is most important. I think Africana Studies is common across higher education because of its importance and application to today. With so much discrimination evident in the United States today, Africana Studies may give insight on how to make our systems better and to understand and appreciate other cultures.”



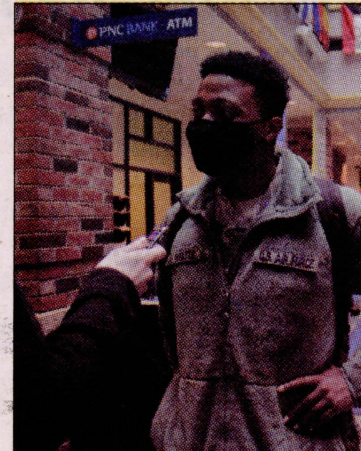
Nicole Middleton (left) & Grace O'Toole (right)
Sophomore Pre-Pharmacy Majors

“I probably wouldn't (take the course) ... after this year, we can't pick electives or anything like that. If I was able to pick more open and broader electives, I probably still wouldn't take it. It is just not my thing. I would definitely recommend it to others if they were interested in it,” said Middleton. “I think that if we were allowed to take more electives, there are a bunch of other things I would rather take ... I could see how others would want to take it if they were focusing on doing pharmacy in different cultures or different areas,” said O'Toole.



Joyce Mwangi
First-Year
Environmental Engineering
Major

“I think it is really interesting because I am here from Kenya, and people do not know about Kenya. I was talking to someone, and they thought Africa was one country. Africa is huge, and people think it is a country. People don't know so much about Africa, so if the campus brings such courses, it will be really nice because in Africa we have different cultures and people don't understand them or learn them, so it is nice because people will be able to interact and learn more about these cultures ... People want to learn more about other cultures. From what I have had, American is more of an individualistic culture, and it is trying to move to a more connectivist type of culture. So maybe by incorporating this, they will be able to achieve this.”



Uriah Hyatte
Sophomore Nursing Major

“One hundred percent. I would love to figure out more about myself and where I came from. If that meant me taking a class in African American study, I would. I would encourage my friends to take the courses. If I could educate my friends to learn more about who I am and where I came from, they would know more about me and understand me a little bit better and where I come from ... As you go up the ladder in higher education, you see all types of race, all types of color. If you can understand who you are sitting next to in class, it will be easier to sit next to that person without having those predetermined thoughts that you've gained growing up or at home. If you can learn about them, who they are or where they came from, I feel like it will be easier to learn next to them. And when it comes to peer review and things like that, you'll see them more as an equal.”

Opinion

Have an opinion or want to write a guest column? Contact co-opinion editors: Breanna.Ebisch@wilkes.edu and Dylan.Mehl@wilkes.edu

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2020-21

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Our Voice

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

It's all about the delivery with organ donation

You are driving home one night. All is well, and nothing seems amiss. But without warning and all of a sudden, you lose consciousness at the wheel and crash into a building.

Fortunately, this building is actually the local hospital, and nobody was injured (except for yourself).

Unfortunately, things do not look so good for you. Your body doesn't seem as if it was seriously injured in the crash besides some cuts and scrapes, but you still have yet to regain consciousness from your sudden collapse. It does not look good for you, and hours go by.

As it turns out, you are already dead.

Thus, it is with grim determination that the doctors and other medical professionals have to move quickly, because the clock is ticking. Not for you (anymore), but rather, for your organs.

First, the doctors have to get in contact with your next of kin. Not just to notify them of your untimely passing, but to also obtain legal authorization for the donation of your organs.

Although great haste must be made in the organ donation process when it involves the deceased (you), these doctors and other professionals are not careless oafs — they will verify that you are dead.

Multiple times.

And many years before your untimely

death, you were asked if you wanted to become an organ donor when you first got your license — something you declined back then and never gave another thought.

This brings us to the hours following your passing, in which the decision now falls to your next of kin, who may or may not be in a stable emotional state to make such a major, time-sensitive decision on behalf of someone that just a few hours ago was alive and well.

Because as it turns out, much like a will, the decision to be an organ donor or not is best done well in advance of your actual demise.

However, the key distinction between a will and the decision to donate your organs is the simple fact that the decision to donate your organs must be decisively made before it is too late.

And without a preemptive (and legally binding) authorization from yourself or that next of kin's positive authorization, your organs are doomed to ultimately follow you into the grave, utterly useless, which brings us to the crux of the issue: our opt-in organ donor system.

This system is rather self-explanatory, you must deliberately opt-in if you wish to be considered for organ donation. Although the notion of organ donation is consistently viewed favorably by over 90 percent of Americans, only 50 percent are

actually signed up as organ donors.

Alas, it is not as simple as checking a box, forgetting about it and dying.

No, you also have to die in the correct manner.

That is, dying in such a way that actually allows for your organs to be donated, rather than being found in a cabin in the middle of the woods days after the fact.

To be more specific, only three in 1,000 donors actually manage to die in such a way to allow for organ donation in the first place, according to organdonor.gov.

Thus, not every donor will be able to donate.

Still, we believe that it is far better to have the chance to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others after we have passed on from this mortal coil. Because after all, if our hearts should be given a chance to beat again for another, our lungs a chance to breathe for someone else and our corneas able to restore the gift of sight to those who have lost it, who are we to refuse?

"Certainty of death. Small chance of success. What are we waiting for?"

— Gimli, son of Glóin

To sign up, visit organdonor.gov.



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COVID FIRS^THAND, from front

Since last March, when the pandemic first started, my family and I have been doing nothing but following all of the protocols to keep ourselves and others safe.

In my home state of New Jersey, we were on full lockdown for almost three whole months and lost many of the ordinary privileges of daily life that still have yet to be fully restored.

Properly wearing masks in public, adhering to state and local mandates, becoming good friends with disinfectants and staying home became normal parts of our new routine.

Many of the trips and big events I was looking forward to got postponed and life completely changed in the most unexpected way.

So, in all honesty, I never expected to get COVID-19. Of course, like everyone else, I was fearful of the possibility, however remote.

And being a completely healthy 20-year-old, I was much more worried about carrying the virus and spreading it to others who are considered high risk, my parents included.

Although I knew my chances of survival were higher than other age groups, and I would (probably) be O.K. in the long run, there was never a time where I blatantly put myself in a situation that would increase my chances of contracting the virus.

But as the saying goes, it only takes one bad apple.

After the carelessness of one person exposed my younger brother, suddenly COVID-19 was within the walls of our home instead of being a headline on the news, and it almost seemed to be inevitable that the rest of us would start showing symptoms.

And not even a day after my brother's positive test result came back, I woke up the next morning with several symptoms just as my parents did as well.

And that was only the beginning.

The next two and a half weeks would look different for all of us in terms of battling the virus, but one thing was certain, it was miserable in every sense of the word.

Compared to my family members, my case was by far the mildest and was much different than I had expected based on the information being shared throughout the pandemic.

Besides having a low-grade fever for about a week, the symptoms I experienced showed themselves in various ways during the time I was sick.

I lost all sense of taste and smell early on, was constantly tired even after a good

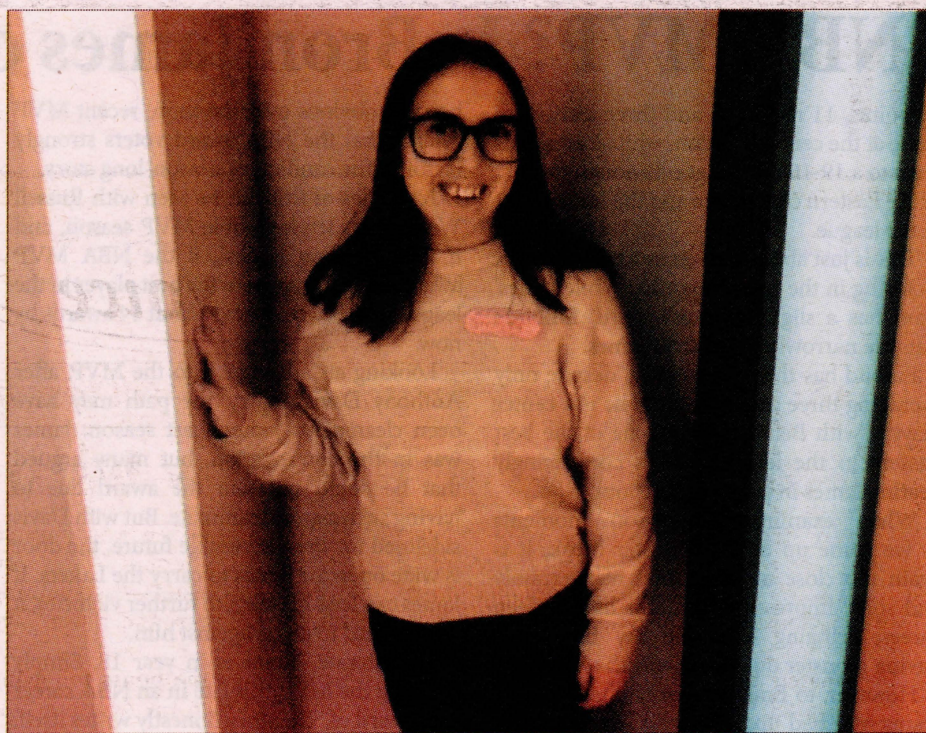


Photo courtesy of Breanna Ebisch

night's sleep or even doing the simplest task. Walking the dogs around the block would leave me desperately trying to catch my breath like never before.

That wasn't all, as I also had a raging headache that never went away along with constant body aches even if I wasn't doing anything. And the easily identifiable runny nose and sore throat also added to the now daily struggle of living with COVID-19.

The symptoms were all the ones countless medical experts had pointed out from the beginning.

Despite the fact that everyone experiences them differently, seeing everyone in my immediate family have to fight through the virus only brought on more pain, anxiety and worries than anything I have ever gone through in arguably my whole life.

This virus is something that no one deserves to go through.

And while a concerning amount of the American public have either continued on with life as normal or have decided to ignore the safety precautions during a worldwide pandemic, COVID-19 is very much still rampant in this country and just as dangerous as it was upon its arrival early last year.

In many cases, it seems as if people believe the current situation will just dissolve on its own, but we see on a daily basis that this is not the case.

The continued ignorance and utter disregard for human lives over the last year by far too many people are the reasons we are still experiencing the effects of this virus

more than any other country in the world.

As someone who followed all the rules, did everything correctly and has a good moral compass, I still ended up contracting the virus and lived through the agony it presents.

No one is immune to this pandemic, and unfortunately, there are still individuals out there who simply do not care, which only continues to endanger more people than necessary.

Now, just a little over two months since my positive test and initially recovering from COVID-19, I am experiencing a whole new set of obstacles that are paired with the virus.

Because there is still very little known about the virus as a whole, the long-term effects are even more of a mystery and differ from person to person. Like the varying degrees of the symptoms we all experienced while sick, the healing process was not the same for myself or my family members.

Medical experts have found milder cases of COVID-19 to result in more prolonged long-term symptoms. Everyone else in my family has more or less returned to normal, with maybe one minor symptom that has stuck around after the infection of the virus.

I, on the other hand, have seemed to collect a wide variety of long-term symptoms, and the list keeps growing almost daily. My sense of taste and smell still has not returned, and may not for up until a year.

Even walking across campus has begun to leave me out of breath — something that

never occurred before.

Brain fog (which includes difficulty concentrating or thinking) plagues me everyday throughout classes or assignments and seemingly random bursts of a rapidly beating heart are only a few of the effects I continue to experience even now.

Not to mention the psychological issues of having COVID-19, such as anxiety and depression, which are also wrapped up into the long-term effects of the virus.

So, a new title I have obtained through this all is becoming a "COVID-19 Long Hauler."

Essentially, there is a very good chance these particular aspects of my body will never return to normal and remain in this new altered state for the rest of my life.

As if having COVID-19 was not terrifying enough, the long-term effects are a whole other concern to take into consideration. And although this may seem minor in the grand scheme of things, it only amplifies how serious this virus is in more ways than we know.

For as young as I am, one of my many worries should not be health concerns linked to a virus that I did everything in my power to avoid getting.

My story is only one of more than 27 million in America, let alone the unbelievable amount worldwide — all unique in their own ways.

And while there are many who cannot recount their experience with COVID-19 because they tragically lost their lives, it is more important than ever to recognize how serious this virus continues to be even a year later.

We cannot afford to let up on our efforts, especially now that multiple vaccines are available and things seem to be slowly improving with a new president in office. An end is near, but this cannot become a reality without the cooperation and determination of the public.

The only thing I can recommend to everyone after going through this experience is to please follow the mandates in regards to safety, show compassion for others and do your part to protect yourself and everyone else. It may not seem hard to some, but this is why our country is still stuck in the worst of this pandemic.

Everyone's lives are, and always will be, more important than a trip, crowded event or risky situation in terms of this virus.

I am now a statistic in the most recent pandemic in history — don't let yourself become one as well.



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Who should be NBA MVP? LeBron James or Joel Embiid

By Dylan Mehl
Co-Opinion Editor

As we head toward the midway point of the NBA season, it is only fair to start to speculate over who will win the league's most valuable player award. Like most years, it is a two to three man race, depending how you look at it; however, two candidates do stand out – LeBron James and Joel Embiid.

In his 18th year, James is no stranger to the MVP conversation, as he already has four awards to his name. For Embiid, on the other hand, this is the strongest case he has had thus far in his career. Both men are undoubtedly the leaders of their respective team and off to great starts. So how does one pick a winner?

There are a couple of things it is safe to say that the NBA's MVP voters take into consideration when picking a winner – stats, team success, season moments and story.

Starting with James, he is yet again averaging 26 points, eight rebounds and eight assists, which seems to be a regular occurrence for him at this point. James has the Lakers, at the time of writing, at a 22-7 record, which is pretty good for second-best in the league, only trailing the Utah Jazz.

As for Embiid, he is currently averaging

30 points, 11 rebounds and three assists per game at the center position, while leading his team to a 19-10 record, good enough for first in the Eastern conference and the fourth-best in the league.

This is just about as even as it can be when factoring in the two categories. While James' team has a slightly better record, Embiid's stats are narrowly better than James'.

Embiid has the edge in stats, despite only averaging three assists because he is a center playing with Ben Simmons, one of the best passers in the league, and is convincingly beating James in points and rebounds.

When examining in-season moments as we come up on the All-Star break, it is again too close to call. James has certainly had some impressive moments hitting deep threes, bringing back the sky hook and having monster dunks in his 18th season.

However, to Embiid's favor, when the two teams matched up, it was the 76ers taking a narrow 107-106 victory over the Lakers. In that matchup, both players shined with James having 34 points to Embiid's 28. When the second stage of the NBA schedule is released, it is certainly a matchup to look out for.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, is the story behind the candidates. It has

become obvious over the more recent MVP awards that the NBA award voters strongly factor in the candidates' season-long story.

Examples of this can be seen with Russell Westbrook's triple-double MVP season, and if we are being honest, if the NBA MVP award was truly given to the best player in the league, James would have about 14 awards by now.

Looking at James' path to the MVP, after Anthony Davis' injury, the path may have been cleared for James. Last season, James was in the conversation, but many argued that he could not win the award due to having such a great teammate. But with Davis sidelined for the foreseeable future, the door is wide open for James to carry the Lakers. If James can lead his team to further victories, it will be hard to argue against him.

To reiterate, James is in year 18. Simply winning the MVP this late in an NBA career is unheard of. The story honestly writes itself: James carrying the Los Angeles Lakers, a big market team to a one or two seed in year 18. However, Embiid's story is not too shabby either. Embiid is a foreign-born player, and the league has been pushing world diversity over the last few seasons.

This has especially been the case with their

traditional USA vs. the World game at Allstar Weekend, with Luka Doncic winning rookie of the year and Giannis Antetokounmpo winning back-to-back MVPs.

Embiid also has the uniqueness of being a dominant center in a shooter's league. The center position has not won an MVP award in a long time, as the last center to do so was Shaquille O'Neal back in 2000. Embiid also has the marketability of playing for a big market team in Philadelphia. Taking everything into consideration, betting odds currently have the right guy favored in James for this season's MVP.

The narrative that sets James over the top is the fact that this season he would be Batman without his Robin, for a good majority. While Embiid's playing is great, he does have Simmons alongside of him, whereas James is putting up similar numbers, winning at a high rate, in his 18th year and generally carrying the Lakers without Davis.

James' case is too much to deny, without even mentioning how this brings James one step closer to Michael Jordan, which is a story the NBA is dying to tell.



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The countless environmental dangers of fast fashion

By Breanna Ebisch
Co-Opinion Editor

From the moment a new trend hits the runways during one of the prestigious fashion weeks held around the world, millions of pieces of identical clothing make their appearance in huge retail stores. Although the style may only be "in" for a short period of time, people are sure to buy the pieces that will make them fit-in with the rest of society.

But at what cost?

Fast fashion is an ever-growing problem that is harming the environment in detrimental ways that many consumers are not even aware of. Thrift shopping has become popular once again in a push to encourage people to purchase secondhand clothing, which helps eliminate some of the problems that fast fashion presents. By giving perfectly good clothing another home, instead of buying entirely new garments or tossing them, the environmental impact is somewhat lessened.

But what exactly is fast fashion?

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, the definition of fast fashion

is "an approach to the design, creation and marketing of clothing fashions that emphasizes making fashion trends quickly and cheaply available to consumers." While clothes are quickly produced to be available as soon as a new trend arises, and in turn made much more affordable for consumers to purchase, the long-term effects of producing these garments are a major contributor to climate change. Sadly, not many are aware of this fact.

Business Insider reported, "On average, people bought 60 percent more garments in 2014 than they did in 2000. Fashion production makes up 10 percent of humanity's carbon emissions, dries up water sources and pollutes rivers and streams."

When people think of climate change or environmental issues, the idea that purchasing certain clothing items may be contributing to the problem is almost never a thought. However, it is more clear than ever before that the fashion industry is a large factor of several environmental issues, and the problem only continues to grow.

In a world where there are countless harmful practices that are directly linked

to damaging the Earth's environment, fast fashion is one of the most dangerous, but it can be easily solved or avoided. Choosing to not buy clothes off the rack at big retail stores is already a good step forward and is one way to actually help the planet.

Thrifting and secondhand shopping has found a new place in society and also helps reduce the damaging effects that fast fashion produces.

Countless brick and mortar thrift stores exist across the country, from well-known chains such as Goodwill and Salvation Army. Locally-owned businesses are also appearing in communities just as often in an effort to combat the fashion industry's harmful contributions to the environment.

With the help of technological advancements and the Internet, several apps such as Depop, Poshmark and ThredUp make it easy to thrift and save the planet from the comfort of your home.

So instead of purchasing clothes from stores that actively participate in fast fashion to provide customers with cheaper prices and quickly-made garments that are responsible for harming the environment in multiple

ways, consider buying secondhand clothes in any way you can.

Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries notes that the five most important benefits of thrifting are "reducing waste, curating a one-of-a-kind wardrobe, scoring high-quality clothes at low prices, finding a new DIY project and supporting your community." Thrifting or shopping secondhand is not only helping the planet, but it also has several other impacts that are better in the long run.

The complete stoppage of fast fashion is neither going to happen overnight nor easily. But with the continuous efforts of conscious, environmentally-aware shopping done by billions worldwide, the damage that has been done could be reversed over time.

On an individual level, your contribution to the dangers of fast fashion are more important than you believe.

By being more aware of the effects your actions have on the environment with each purchase you make, you too can make a difference.



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Where does the GOP go after second impeachment trial?

By Liam Flynn
Staff Writer

Former Republican President Donald Trump's historic second impeachment trial ended with his acquittal by senators acting as jurors in the proceeding.

Seven Republicans joined Democrats in voting to convict Trump, but support from 67 senators, or two-thirds of the chamber, would have been required for a conviction.

The Republicans in favor of conviction were: Bill Cassidy of Louisiana, Richard Burr of North Carolina, Susan Collins of Maine, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Mitt Romney of Utah, Ben Sasse of Nebraska, and Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania.

Trump faced a single impeachment charge – incitement of an insurrection – for his role in urging a mob to attack the Capitol complex on Jan. 6. The trial concluded in just five days, with both sides choosing not to use the full time allowed by the agreed upon trial rules.

The trial briefly appeared to be headed toward introducing witnesses before an agreement between the defense and House managers avoided dragging out the process.

Trump was impeached by the Democratic-led House last month, a week after the insurrection, and just days before he left the White House. He is the first president in U.S. history to be impeached by the House twice and the first to be tried for impeachment after leaving office.

In a narrowly-divided Senate, the outcome of the trial, which lasted a little less than a week, was largely expected, although it nearly was extended potentially by weeks.

Impeachment managers began Saturday with a surprise, saying they had decided to call a witness, Washington Republican Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler.

After the defense rested, Herrera Beutler issued a statement that detailed how then-president Trump had gotten into a shouting match with Republican House Leader Kevin McCarthy during the riot, telling him, "Well, Kevin, I guess these people are more upset about the election than you are."

The heart of the argument that Trump's defense team had put forth was that the Senate did not have jurisdiction to take up the trial of a former federal official. That was certainly part of it, which was a message that resonated with the overwhelming majority of GOP senators.

In a vote on the first day of the trial, for example, 44 Republicans voted to say it was unconstitutional for the Senate to try a president after he left office.



That was despite a 145-year-old precedent in which the Senate voted that it was constitutional to hold a trial for an impeached and former Cabinet official in today's day in age.

The constitutionality argument allowed many Republican senators to sidestep the merits of the case against Trump. That was despite the fact that the lead impeachment manager, Representative Jamie Raskin, closed his side's arguments by imploring senators that the constitutionality of the trial had been resolved by the earlier vote.

Trump's lawyers, however, did not stick to a narrow constitutional argument. Instead, they accused Democrats of using the impeachment process for partisan gain and of trying to disenfranchise the people who voted for Trump's reelection.

The defense declined to provide evidence of what the president knew about the violence, when he knew it and what he did about it.

The Democratic House impeachment managers argued that the former president, who addressed a rally outside the White House ahead of the insurrection, was "singularly responsible" for the violence on Jan. 6.

They relied, in large measure, on video to prove their case, including never-before-seen Capitol security footage.

The videos shown on the Senate floor during what was, at times, an emotional trial, brought back the vivid images of the Capitol violence to the very place it happened.

The video demonstrated how close rioters came to then-Vice President Mike Pence and members of Congress. The impeachment managers also argued that the video showed clearly that the mob of pro-Trump supporters were ultimately there for the president, of which many believed they were there at the president's behest.

The impeachment managers, however, made a broader case than Trump's Jan. 6 comments would otherwise imply. They argued that Trump laid the groundwork for false grievances for his supporters before, during and after the election, culminating in the Jan. 6 riot.

The impeachment managers also emphasized Trump's long history of repeatedly condoning, tolerating and encouraging violence throughout his time in office.

Trump's legal team argued that his Jan. 6 rally speech was protected by the First Amendment, a contention that impeachment managers labeled ludicrous.

This, after all, was an impeachment trial, not a criminal proceeding. An impeachment trial is a political process intended to judge whether an official was upholding their oath of office and a standard of conduct.

With his second acquittal, Trump now plots his next steps in political and public life.

Yet, he is also contending with potential legal trouble stemming from a New York grand jury investigation and a newly-announced criminal probe in Georgia, that is in addition to Trump's mounting debt and devalued assets. The former president's net worth also dropped \$1 billion in early 2020, according to Forbes.

Trump has been able to spin difficulties in his business and personal life before the country waits to see if he has a next, and perhaps final, act.

This verdict closes the book on the Trump presidency, although the Senate, by not convicting and barring him from holding public office in the future, left open the possibility that Trump, a 74-year-old Republican, could run again for president.

Change is especially hard for conservatives, but change is also essential, especially when things are not going well.

After losing the White House, both houses of Congress and watching the president attempt to incite an insurrection, it is fair to say things are not going too well for the Republican Party.

While Republicans have made notable gains with rural voters, broader political demographic changes will soon make it mathematically difficult for Republicans to again be a national majority governing party, absent a willingness to embrace change.

Party leaders and activists will now, predictably, debate whether an improved version of Trump populism, some updated version of Reagan conservatism, better outreach or more celebrity candidates is the way forward.

Those options might rearrange the political furniture, but they do not represent real change. Republicans should remain committed to conservatism and populism, but we now also need to also embrace modernism.



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Graphic by Mia Walker

Drake album review series: "Thank Me Later" 7.7/10

By Dylan Mehl
Co-Opinion Editor

Introduction

Drake has become one of rap music's most well-known names, elevating the genre into mainstream culture with his combination of rap, pop and R&B music. Over his illustrious career, he has put out five studio albums, and in 2021, he plans to release number six: "Certified Lover Boy."

Many changes have occurred in Drake's personal life, professional career and music style in the decade that has passed since his first album. He has gone from a 23-year-old artist fresh off of "Degrassi" to a 34-year-old man with a son.

With Drake now regarded as one of the best artists in the world and certainly one of the most popular based on streaming numbers, and with a new album on the way, I think that this is the perfect time to take a look back at the making of the superstar known as Drake.

"Thank Me Later" – 7.7 out of 10

Drake's first ever studio album, "Thank Me Later," dropped on June 14, 2010 and debuted number one on the Billboard music charts, selling 447,000 copies in its first week. This was certainly the start that the artist was hoping for, as there was no better spot to start at.

The reason behind the instant success of the album can perhaps be attributed to his most recent mixtape, "So Far Gone." The mixtape was released the year prior, featuring hits like "Best I Ever Had" and "Successful." However, the question remains: Did the album debut at number one because of the hype around Drake's mixtape? Or the actual quality of the project?

In short, the answer is a little bit of both. While this album features some of Drake's most recognizable tracks in "Find Your Love" and "Over," it is clear that this is Drake's first studio album. His rapping is not yet quite as polished, and he bounces around several themes both musically and lyrically, rather than keeping a consistent transition of ideas.

Drake begins the album with the introduction track "Fireworks," which features excellent vocals from singer Alicia Keys. In this track, Drake details his sudden burst into fame and everything that comes along with it, using fireworks as a metaphor for the speed of his success.

The next two tracks, "Karaoke" and "The Resistance," feature Drake discussing the issues with becoming famous, and the changes they caused in his life. He experienced the loss of relationships and the realization that

a change was occurring in him as a person. While the storytelling in these two songs is exceptional, the rapping is at times stagnant.

"Over" is one of Drake's better tracks on this project, as his rapping is much more polished, along with providing some killer metaphors. We see a much more confident Drake in this song, as the fame has certainly gotten to his head. With lines like, "I did it overnight, it couldn't happen any quicker" and "It wouldn't

compare two different women. In the former, he discusses the fancier women he now deals with in his new lifestyle and how high-maintenance they can be. Despite this, through a catchy melody and a chorus that will be stuck in your head all day, Drake tells us he is still infatuated with these women.

In "Shut It Down," Drake's whole world comes to a halt as he meets the perfect girl. This girl, however, is not like the others. He

features some of the best rapping on the whole album from Jay.

The duo of Drake and Lil Wayne produces another great record on this album in "Miss Me," which features a somewhat confusing message. Despite the realizations Drake had in his last two songs, it seems as if his mentality has not changed, as he is back to bragging about his success and saying that he hopes those he left behind will miss him. While it is neither a good or bad mentality for Drake to have, it presents a confusing message to his audience, including those last two tracks if nothing was going to change. Wayne provides a strong feature here, as these two elevate each other in this song.

"Cece's Interlude" serves its purpose as the mood is shifted, and Drake jumps back into his struggles with women as yet another woman turns him down due to the lifestyle he is living.

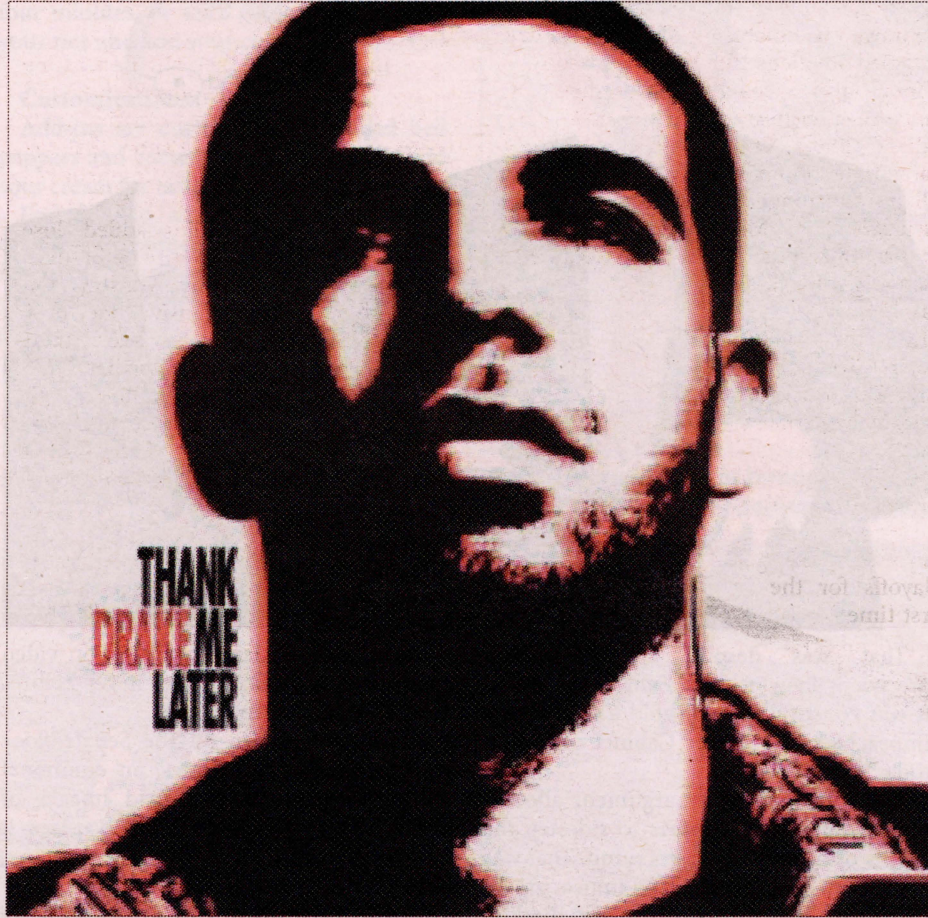
Certified platinum three times and produced by Kanye West, "Find Your Love," is easily the most recognizable song on this album — and for good reason. The sound is unique, the singing from Drake is some of his best and the lyrics are highly relatable as Drake details the struggle of feeling like he is always picking the wrong women.

While in terms of the album, you can argue that this is a toxic mentality from Drake, as he is refusing to accept the fact that many women see a flaw in his lifestyle. As a stand-alone record, "Find Your Love" is a great song and my favorite off of the album.

To close out the album, Drake provides us with a record in "Thank Me Now" that is the perfect closing track. Detailing where he is at in life, seemingly coming to terms with the fact he is not currently ready for love, Drake instead looks ahead at his potential future success. The artist predicts his future superstardom and leaves his fans waiting for more as we see a glimpse of how good of a rapper he will become in this song.

"Thank Me Later" is not a project to blow one away by any means, but it does provide great insight for how Drake's career started. It is clear that this is Drake's first album with the inconsistencies in mood, rapping and flow, but the potential for a megastar is written all over the project, especially in the songs "Over," "Thank Me Now" and "Find Your Love."

While this album does earn an average score of a 7.7 out of 10, it is a beautiful precursor for an album that is looked at as Drake's classic in "Take Care."



be the first time throwing hundreds when I should be throwing hundreds, bitch I run it," we can clearly see a shift in his perspective.

"Show Me a Good Time," "Up All Night" and "Fancy" are all jumbled together, in that they describe the central idea of Drake now fully being immersed in the celebrity lifestyle. A Kanye West-produced track in "Show Me a Good Time" has West's fingerprints all over the sound, previewing what we would later hear in West's own album "808s & Heartbreak."

Nicki Minaj comes in on "Up All Night" to provide some excellent rapping that greatly improves the quality of the song, as Drake details the luxury lifestyle of rap group Young Money.

"Fancy" and "Shut It Down" feature as a bridge for the album, as we see Drake

is not infatuated with her because she fits the fancy mold he is used to, but in fact the opposite. In this sad story as told by Drake, this woman ends up turning down Drake because of the lifestyle he is now part of.

In the track "Unforgettable," Drake shows off his versatility as an artist with a great R&B record, featuring Young Jeezy. The woman from the previous song brings Drake to a realization, that being he may have to become more grounded in his current lifestyle and revert away from getting caught up in fame.

"Light Up" is the next song on the album and one of the better tracks this project has to offer. In the song, Jay-Z provides a great feature in which he "godfathers" Drake and teaches him various lessons about the rap game, including what it can do to you if you are not careful. The track is methodical and



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Sports

Want your sport covered? Deserve to be Athlete of the Week? Contact sports editor: Ariel.Reed@wilkes.edu

Star-studded offseason moves shake up MLB power dynamics

By Chris Gowarty
Asst. Sports Editor

On Feb. 17, pitchers and catchers of all 30 MLB teams reported to their spring training facilities, officially marking the end of the 2020-21 offseason.

Through trades and free-agent signings, teams have made their improvements in order to compete for the long 162 game season.

In the National League West, the San Diego Padres made many moves in hopes of giving the Los Angeles Dodgers a run for their money at the division title, which the Dodgers have now won eight years in a row.

On the same day in December, the Padres made two separate trades to bring in 2018 AL Cy Young award winner Blake Snell from the Tampa Bay Rays and 2020 runner-up for the NL Cy Young Yu Darvish from the Chicago Cubs.

As if a starting rotation with Snell, Darvish, Chris Paddack and Dinelson Lamet was not enough, San Diego also acquired Joe Musgrove from the Pittsburgh Pirates for more depth. As for their bullpen, they signed relievers Mark Melancon and Keone Kela to one-year deals.

For the offense, the Padres signed utility infielder Jurickson Profar and Korean superstar Ha-Seong Kim. They have also extended their superstar shortstop Fernando Tatis Jr. to a 14-year, \$340 million contract, the third largest in the sport.

To counter all the moves the Padres made, the Dodgers added bullpen help through a trade for Corey Knebel and signing Tommy Kahnle and Blake Treinen.

Los Angeles also added arguably the biggest free agent of the entire offseason, as they signed 2020 NL Cy Young award winner Trevor Bauer to a record-breaking three-year deal worth \$102 million.

Through the contract, Bauer is slated to earn \$40 million in 2021, which would give him the highest single-year salary that a baseball player has ever received. He could break the record again in the second year of his deal with \$45 million, if he does not opt-out of the contract.

Los Angeles also brought back Justin Turner, their starting third baseman, on a two-year, \$34 million contract.

In the National League Central, the St.

Louis Cardinals acquired one of the top third basemen in all of baseball, Nolan Arenado, from the Colorado Rockies in the biggest blockbuster trade of the offseason. The move was notable for St. Louis, as they struggled on offense the past few seasons.

They also brought back their franchise battery pack in Yadier Molina and Adam Wainwright. Both players will be returning to the Cardinals – Molina for his 18th year and Wainwright for his 16th season.

In the National League East, the New York Mets, backed by new majority owner Steve Cohen and President of Baseball Operations Sandy Alderson, completed many trades and free-agent signings in hopes of making the playoffs for the first time

since 2016. They began their offseason by signing relief pitcher Trevor May, a solid addition for an underachieving bullpen that has had problems since the Mets went to the World Series in 2015.

They also added a new backstop in James McCann by signing him to a four-year, \$40.6 million contract; however, arguably the biggest move the Mets made this offseason was acquiring shortstop Francisco Lindor and starting pitcher Carlos Carrasco from the Cleveland Indians.

The superstar switch-hitter Lindor not only adds a large power presence to a lineup that is already strong, but he also gives them a serious upgrade on defense, which has been another area of weakness for multiple years.

The addition of Carrasco, and other pitchers such as Taijuan Walker, Jordan Yamamoto and Joey Lucchesi, solidifies

a rotation that already contains Jacob deGrom, Marcus Stroman, David Peterson and Noah Syndergaard, who is expected to return midseason from Tommy John surgery.

In response, other NL East teams like the Philadelphia Phillies and Atlanta Braves made their own moves to show that the division will be competitive.

To fix their bullpen woes, the Phillies added Jose Alvarado, Archie Bradley, and Tony Watson. On the offensive side, they brought back their star catcher J.T. Realmuto with

a five-year, \$115.5 million contract, which makes him the highest paid catcher ever in the sport, based on total and annual value.

The Braves brought back 2020's NL home run and RBI champion Marcell

Ozuna with a four-year deal worth \$64 million.

They also signed veteran starting pitcher Charlie Morton, a sturdy piece to an already solid rotation.

In the American League West, the Los Angeles Angels added a new shortstop to the squad by acquiring Jose Iglesias from the Baltimore Orioles.

They improved their bullpen, which had an MLB-worst 14 blown saves in 2020, by adding relievers Raisel Iglesias and Alex Claudio.

The Angels also added starting pitching depth through signing Jose Quintana and trading for Alex Cobb. They solidified their outfield by trading for Dexter Fowler from the Cardinals, as well as earning a new catcher by signing Kurt Suzuki.

In the American League Central, the Chicago White Sox added two new arms to their club, as they traded for starter Lance Lynn from the Texas Rangers and signed Liam Hendriks in free agency.

They signed Hendriks to a four-year, \$54 million contract, the fifth largest ever given to a relief pitcher. They also brought back outfielder Adam Eaton on a two-year deal, who was originally on the White Sox from 2014-16.

In the American League East, the Toronto Blue Jays made many moves, proving that they are now in win-mode for the 2021 season.

They re-signed starting pitcher Robbie Ray to a one-year deal and traded for Steven Matz to improve their rotation. They also added Kirby Yates to their bullpen, who fought injuries through 2020 but was dominant in 2019, as he posted a 1.19 ERA in 60.2 innings.

To bring depth to their infield, they signed Marcus Semien, who finished third in the AL MVP voting in 2019. The Blue Jays also signed this offseason's biggest offensive free agent George Springer to a six-year, \$150 million contract, the largest contract in franchise history.

Also in the AL East, the New York Yankees brought back their star second baseman D.J. LeMahieu, who was the 2020 AL batting champion (.364 average) and third place finisher for AL MVP. He comes back to the Bronx on a six-year contract worth \$90 million.

To fill the void left by starting pitcher Masahiro Tanaka, who is going back to play in Japan, the Yankees acquired Jameson Taillon from the Pirates and signed two-time AL Cy Young award winner (2014, 2016) Corey Kluber to a one-year contract.

As spring training finally arrives, these players will be tested in their new or returned positions as MLB comes back to a full-length season.



Christopher.Gowarty@wilkes.edu
Graphic by Mia Walker

MVB: Confidence in underclassmen leaves Czopek optimistic

By Chris Gowarty
Asst. Sports Editor

It has been nearly a year since the men's volleyball team last played a competitive regular season game, with their last match in March of 2020 against King's.

Before last year's season came to an abrupt end, Wilkes held a respectable 10-9 record, but they had struggled in the early competition of its Middle Atlantic Conference portion of the schedule, going 1-3.

Despite the circumstances from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Colonels have been preparing for the new changes brought upon the MAC.

"We've practiced all fall and again this spring wearing masks to prepare, knowing we might be playing masked," said head coach Joseph Czopek. "And yes, all teams must be masked."

The transition for the players was challenging at the beginning, but they have now gotten used to the new piece of equipment that all MAC volleyball players are required to wear – masks.

"It was difficult at first due to the breathing restriction, but we persevered through the uncomfortableness to have it normal now," said Czopek. "We take many water and air breaks as we ramp up our playing."

Despite the inconvenience, wearing a mask is worth it, as long as they get to go out and play.

"Adjusting to it has honestly been very easy," said sophomore setter Zach Shay. "As a team, we are just doing whatever we can to follow Wilkes' rules so that we can have a season."

Entering this season, the Colonels are without one of their former leaders, in Cole Hefner, who graduated from Wilkes last school year.

"He constantly gave 100 percent at practices and matches to try and elevate our team to where it needed to be," said senior defensive specialist Joey Gayton. "Off the court, he always wanted to make us stronger, either in volleyball or in our academics. Myself and the other senior, Andrew Potter, need to pick up where he left off and become the leaders that

inspire the next generation of Wilkes volleyball players."

Despite the team being mostly first-year players, there is confidence that the Colonels will perform well this upcoming season. Expectations are high for the older players to help the first-years adjust to the new setting of volleyball at the collegiate level.

"Being a fairly young team, I'm looking for my upperclassmen to teach the freshmen our team culture," said Czopek. "As a growing program, a few of the freshmen will be seeing starting roles. The mixing of seasoned players with rookies will be a key to our success."

The team is trying to stay positive, even with the uncertainty that the global pandemic could bring.

"With the season the way that it is, we are keeping each other motivated by playing like it could be the last day because any day could be the end," Gayton said. "We want to be able to look back and say we did the best we could and gave it our all so that we could be proud of the season we did have."

The Colonels begin their season on Feb. 24 at 7 p.m., as they take on Alvernia University at home at the Marts Center. A live stream of the game can be found at gowilkesu.com.



The Beacon/Ariel Reed

The men's volleyball team will begin their season this evening against Alvernia with multiple first-year athletes on the court.

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▶▶▶▶▶ **WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULES** ◀◀◀◀◀

Men's Basketball	Women's Basketball	Men's Ice Hockey	Women's Ice Hockey
02/11 @ DeSales, L 99-55	02/11 vs. DeSales, L 79-55	02/19 vs. Utica, W 3-2	02/19 @ Alvernia, POSTPONED
02/12 vs. DeSales, L 77-43	02/12 @ DeSales, L 68-44	02/20 @ Utica, L 11-5	02/20 vs. Alvernia, POSTPONED
02/18 vs. Arcadia, L 86-79	02/25 vs. FDU-Florham, 7 p.m.	02/26 @ Stevenson, 7 p.m.	02/26 @ Chatham, 3 p.m.
02/19 @ Arcadia, W 97-93	02/26 @ FDU-Florham, 7 p.m.	03/05 @ Nazareth, 5 p.m.	02/28 vs. Chatham, 3:30 p.m.
02/25 @ FDU-Florham, 7 p.m.	03/04 @ Delaware Valley, 7 p.m.	03/06 vs. Nazareth, 5 p.m.	03/05 vs. Manhattanville, 5 p.m.
02/26 vs. FDU-Florham, 7 p.m.	03/05 vs. Delaware Valley, 7 p.m.	03/14 @ Manhattanville, 5 p.m.	03/06 @ Manhattanville, TBA
03/04 vs. Delaware Valley, 7 p.m.	03/11 @ Misericordia, 7 p.m.	03/19 vs. Elmira, 5 p.m.	03/12 vs. Utica, 5 p.m.
03/05 @ Delaware Valley, 7 p.m.	03/12 vs. Misericordia, 7 p.m.	03/20 @ Elmira, 7 p.m.	03/13 @ Utica, 2 p.m.
		03/26 vs. Neumann, 5 p.m.	03/19 @ Elmira, 6 p.m.
		03/27 vs. Chatham, 7 p.m.	03/20 vs. Elmira, 3:30 p.m.
			03/26 @ Nazareth, 5 p.m.
			03/28 vs. Nazareth, 3:30 p.m.

MBB: Marshall's hot hand propels Wilkes over Arcadia in O.T.

By Ariel Reed
Sports Editor

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. – Wilkes picked up its first win of the season over Arcadia on Saturday, 97-93, in a thrilling Middle Atlantic Conference game that needed more than 40 minutes to determine a winner.

Junior guard Drake Marshall exploded offensively for the Colonels, carrying the offense during a career night. He scored 35 points, 23 of which came after the first half.

“(Marshall), as a freshman, was mentored by some really good seniors, so he saw what that looked like on a good team. Last year, he emerged as our third perimeter scorer,” head coach Izzi Metz said. “We knew coming into this year what he was capable of.”

In the first half of the contest, the scoring went back-and-forth between Wilkes and Arcadia. The Colonels headed to their bench at the end of the first half, trailing by a score of 41-35.

After falling in a close battle to the Knights the night before, Wilkes needed a big second half to pick up its first win of the season.

The game's intensity picked up in the second half, with both sides answering the other.

“You have to know that when you go up, you are either going to get fouled or get a bucket,” Marshall said. “I go up every time



The Beacon/ Ariel Reed

Junior guard Drake Marshall sunk a foul line jump shot over an Arcadia defender in Wilkes' 97-93 victory at home on Saturday night.

with the intent to get a bucket.”

Almost all of Marshall's second half and overtime points were in the paint, where he finished through several Arcadia defenders.

When Marshall could not get to the rim, junior guard Donovan Breeding stepped up and wreaked havoc down low.

“I have been working all season to step

up into a big role,” Breeding said. “I am an undersized big, so I had to read what was given and figure out a way to make it work.”

The back-and-forth battle of jump shots brought both teams to life, and Marshall's confidence grew as he stepped up into every shot.

“I felt the rhythm, and coach trusted me

to make shots,” said Marshall. “I knew I had to hit them.”

Fueled by Marshall's impressive shooting, the Colonels were able to tie the score up with 7.4 seconds left in the game.

Arcadia's Da'Kuan Davis had the ability to end the game with a jumper at the buzzer, but senior forward Derek Heiserman and senior guard Landon Henry had other plans, as they slowed Davis' attack and sent the game to overtime.

For the first four minutes of overtime, the teams were locked in, keeping the game close or tied. A pair of free throws from Henry gave Wilkes the final push to secure the four-point win for the Colonels.

“Our guys have been working hard, and we have been force-feeding and teaching a lot of information in the few weeks we have been on campus,” said Metz. “When you win a game like we did tonight in overtime, it's more special because the guys can see that their hard work has been paying off.”

The Colonels return to the court on Thursday and Friday at 7 p.m. for another home-and-home series – this time against FDU-Florham.

Wilkes will play at home in the Marts Center on Friday night. A live stream of the game can be found at gowilkesu.com.



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WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULES

Men's and Women's Swimming

Both men's and women's swimming will be competing virtually this season due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This means there are no official dates set for contests. The swimmers will race in their home pools and upload their times virtually for scoring.

Men's Volleyball

02/24 vs. Alvernia, 7 p.m.
02/27 @ Stevens, TBA
02/27 @ Stevens, TBA
03/03 @ Alvernia, 7 p.m.
03/06 vs. Stevenson, noon
03/06 vs. Stevenson, 2 p.m.
03/10 vs. Misericordia, 7 p.m.
03/13 @ Arcadia, TBA
03/13 @ Arcadia, TBA
03/17 @ Misericordia, 7 p.m.
03/24 @ Eastern, 7 p.m.
03/27 vs. Widener, 11 a.m.
03/27 vs. Widener, 1 p.m.
03/31 vs. Eastern, 7 p.m.
04/03 @ Messiah, 1 p.m.
04/03 @ Messiah, 3 p.m.

Wrestling

02/20 vs. Delaware Valley, W 29-19
03/07 vs. Alvernia, noon



Getting to know...

Drake Marshall

Junior Basketball Player

The Beacon: Male Athlete of the Week from Feb. 10 to 17

Why Drake Marshall was selected: Against DeSales, Marshall was the most consistent Colonel on the offensive end, averaging 12.5 points through Wilkes' first two games of the 2021 season.

Name: Drake Marshall
Year: Junior
Major: Investment Finance
Hometown: Gainesville, Va.
High School: Patriot H.S.
Position: Shooting Guard

when the competitive juices are the highest and everybody is going at people's necks. It is really fun. If you get exposed, you are going to hear about it, and if you are cooking, you are also going to hear about it.

Driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?

When I came on my visit to Wilkes, the basketball team and coaches were very welcoming. I immediately felt at home. I also love the campus.

Other interests or hobbies off of the field?

I like lifting and chilling with the boys.

Post-graduation plans in terms of a career?

I am really interested in real estate, specifically investing in real estate, so I could see myself doing something along those lines. I also enjoy learning about the stock market, so maybe something in that field.

Favorite meal to eat on campus?

If you haven't had Sue's omelet at the SUB, then I suggest you go try it because it is my favorite meal.

What color/flavor of Gatorade is your favorite?

A nice cold lemon lime - it just hits different.

Favorite memory as a Colonel?

I have tons of great memories as a Colonel, so I cannot pick just one.

If your life was a movie, who would you want to play you and why?

Robert Downey Jr. If you know, you know.

Hopes for this season as a Colonel?

This season, I want to win the rest of our games, that is all I want. Winning is everything to me, as I am an extremely competitive person.

Favorite professor?

Dr. Shoakang Wang (Ken).

When/Why did you first begin playing?

I began playing super young, probably around seven. I immediately fell in love with the game, and I am still in love with it. I do not know what I would do without basketball.

What does "Be Colonel" mean to you?

To just be a dawg and try your hardest at everything you do in life. Have that winner attitude.

Favorite thing to do during practice?

My favorite thing to do during practice is definitely 5 v. 5 scrimmaging. This is

Anyone to give a shout-out to?

I would like to shout-out my roommates Donovan Breeding, Sean Collier, Heath Hoovler and Jake Robel. They are my dawgs!

- Compiled by Ariel Reed, Sports Editor

The Beacon/Ariel Reed

Getting to know...

Maddie Kelley

Senior Basketball Player

The Beacon Female Athlete of the Week from Feb. 10 to 17

Why Madalyn Kelley was selected: On Feb. 12, Kelley had a team-high 17 points in Wilkes' loss to DeSales in their second game of the season. She also posted 10 points in the opening game the day before.

Name: Maddie Kelley
Year: Senior
Major: Nursing
Hometown: Dallas, Pa.
High School: Dallas H.S.
Position: Guard

Driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?

I was motivated to attend Wilkes University because I knew it would be a great university to obtain my nursing degree as well as to continue athletics.

Post-graduation plans in terms of a career?

I have accepted a registered nurse position in the pediatrics unit at Geisinger Medical Center.

Favorite memory as a Colonel?

My favorite memory as a Colonel would have to be beating King's or FDU during my sophomore year.

Hopes for this season as a Colonel?

I hope to win a lot more games over the next few weeks and continue to build a strong foundation for the team.

When/Why did you first begin playing?

I do not really remember when I began for certain, but I think my parents just signed me up when I was about five years old, and I have loved playing the sport ever since.

Favorite thing to do during practice?
My favorite drill to do during practice is 11-man.

Other interests or hobbies off of the field?

Besides playing basketball, I love spending time outside, especially with my dogs.

Favorite meal to eat on campus?

My favorite meal is cake pops from Starbucks.

What color/flavor of Gatorade is your favorite?

My favorite Gatorade has to be red/fruit punch.

If your life was a movie, who would you want to play you and why?

I would want Jennifer Aniston to play me because she is funny.

Favorite professor?

Mrs. Cook is my favorite professor.

What does "Be Colonel" mean to you?

To me, "Be Colonel" means to be the best you can be every single day!

Anyone to give a shout-out to?

My team :)

- Compiled by Ariel Reed, Sports Editor



The Beacon/Ariel Reed

MIH: Wilkes avenges championship loss in opener against Utica

By Kirsten Peters
Editor-in-Chief

The 2021 season had an historic opening for Wilkes, as the Colonels defeated reigning United Collegiate Hockey Conference champions, Utica. After two years plagued with rivalry against the Pioneers, Wilkes earned a 3-2 victory before falling in the second game to split the home-and-home series.

Wilkes has now defeated every team in the UCHC at least once after their opening night triumph at the Toyota SportsPlex over Utica, the only team which Wilkes had not beaten heading into their third season. The Colonels win also snapped a 20-game winning streak for Utica.

However, Wilkes' struggles on the road carried over from last season, as the two teams went back at it just one day later, with Utica running the score up late in the third period to win, 11-5.

"It was definitely a bittersweet weekend," said Donald Flynn, newly appointed Wilkes captain. "We've been chasing them for a while now, but there is a reason they're viewed as one of the top teams in the country. That's where we believe we can be, and we've proven that we can play with them, but now it's time to be consistent. We're definitely looking forward to seeing them again soon."

For the first game, Flynn's sweater donned the "C" after the team's players and coaches had selected him as a captain.

"It's just a huge honor," said Flynn.

"Anytime your teammates view you like that, it's a special thing. I'm extremely grateful for their trust, and I'm going to continue to give them everything I've got and make them proud."

Flynn and his line, which was comprised of Nick Fea and Angelo Marquart, had a solid weekend. The three combined for six points – a goal and two assists for Flynn, a goal and an assist for Fea and a goal for Marquart.

"I was proud of the way (Flynn) handled himself and kept his cool," said head coach Tyler Hynes. "Other teams highlight his line, and that's one of the keys to stopping us is you have to stop them."

In the first game, Wilkes had a message to send to Utica with their physical play.

Phil Erickson scored the first goal for Wilkes, but Utica had an answer in the second period to tie the contest, setting up a dramatic third period performance.

Tyler Dill, a transfer from Utica, broke the ice in the final frame with a hard wrist shot that found the back of the net. Tyler Barrow followed Dill with an insurance goal, which later proved to be the game-winner after Utica made it a one-goal game in the third period.

"I'm doing whatever it takes for the team to be successful," said Barrow. "Every time I step on the ice, I'm trying to create plays and play to the best of my ability."

Additionally, Michael Paterson-Jones was stellar in goal for Wilkes, turning aside 26 of the 28 shots he faced.

Despite the historic 3-2 victory on Friday



Photos: The Beacon/Kirsten Peters

Tyler Barrow (left) and Tyler Dill (right) celebrate Dill's third period goal in Wilkes' win.

night, Utica flipped-the-script in game two with a sizable win on home ice over the Colonels. Even though the final score was lopsided, 11-5, the contest was closer than the score indicates.

Wilkes struck first with another goal from Barrow, this time in the first period. Unlike Friday night, Utica found a way to score two goals before the period ended.

The Colonels had an answer to Utica's two goals with two goals of their own. Marquart buried the first on a delayed penalty call.

"I saw (Flynn) was carrying the puck up, and I had a little bit of space to skate into on the left side," said Marquart, reflecting on the goal. "He made a great pass off the wall, and I was able to catch it with some speed and just get a shot off."

The goal for Marquart was significant for him on an individual level and for the team, as he missed most of last season due to multiple injuries, including a torn tricep that required surgery.

"It's been a long road to get to this point, but I'm really just grateful to be in this position and playing with this group of guys again," said Marquart. "I have a really great support system between my family, friends and coaches, and they all kept me going and on the right path."

Wilkes' biggest threat, Flynn, scored on the ensuing and well-executed power play to help the Colonels retake the lead.

"I thought (the power play) did a good job moving the puck around," said Hynes. "That unit has been together for a while now, and I

think with them, when they aren't right, the puck isn't moving enough, but when they are right, the puck is moving, their feet are moving and it's a lot of fun to watch."

Utica found a way to turn the tide of the game after that, storming back with four goals in the period and putting the Colonels down 6-3 as they went into the third period.

"One thing that happened as I think back to all of their goals was we just lost battles right around our net – either they led directly to the goal or helped them keep possession and score," said Hynes.


Wilkes scored early in the third period, thanks to a goal from Devon Schell, but the Pioneers were unfazed and continued to pile on goal after goal, as they scored five more times in the period.

Wilkes scored once more when Fea took advantage of an untimely change for Utica.

Near the halfway point in the third period, Hynes opted to take Paterson-Jones out of the net and put in first-year Luc Fox.

"I wanted to see how (Fox) reacted and how he would do in that environment," said Hynes. "I think it was a good point to give (Fox) some experience, and we did that. For (Paterson-Jones), I think it was time to reset and start thinking about this week of practice and the future."

The future for Wilkes entails a road game against UCHC and Middle Atlantic Conference rival Stevenson in a rematch of last season's semifinal.

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All-American junior forward Donald Flynn was recently named a captain alongside Michael Gurska prior to Friday's contest against Utica.