

The Beacon - September 15, 2015



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THE BEACON

The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow.



The Beacon/Purvit Patel

Above: Colonels observe a moment of silence before their home game on September 11, where they went on to defeat the Delaware Valley Aggies 12-7.

Wilkes updates smoking policy: page 3

Dangerous drug on the rise in Wyoming Valley: page 12

Students speak on construction: page 16

Football season preview & game coverage: page 20

News

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2015-16

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Beacon Briefs

Wilkes University Blood Drive - September 15th

There will be a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sept. 15 in the Henry Student Center first floor lounge. Donors will receive a coupon for a free medium iced coffee and donut from Dunkin Donuts or a coupon for \$2.50 off ant 32oz container of Turkey Hill All Natural Gelato.

Calling All Off-Campus Students

A meeting about the Community Liaison program will be at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 15, in Breiseth 107. Questions can be directed to Gretchen Yeninas at X4107 or gretchen.yeninas@wilkes.edu.

SG Notes: Homecoming changes; Leahy visit

By Gabby Glinski
Asst. News Editor

Week 1 of 2

Student Government held its first meeting of the 2015-2016 school year on Sept. 2, in the Miller Room of the SUB.

Dean John Stachacz gave the IT and Library report. The air conditioning project in the library will be completed by January. Thanks to the Provost, this year, Wilkes has a large book budget available for new materials for the library. The WiFi project is ongoing and will be completely finished in a few weeks. Wilkes bough all Cisco modems in the area, adding 256 wireless modems to dorms. WiFi was added to each room in Towers and Evans. Another ongoing library project will

be the renovation of the circulation desk. The IT help department will be moved to the first floor of the department.

Kara Serfass presented the proposal for the homecoming weekend activities; pep rally, homecoming game and homecoming dance. This year's festivities will be carnival themed. Homecoming Dance ticket sales started Setp. 11.

The new community enforced smoking policy was reviewed. The policy enforces smokers must be 20 feet from all buildings, vents, windows and entry ways.

The new student government website is now launched. To find all forms and resources regarding student government, go to www.wilkes.edu/studentgovernment.

Week 2 of 2

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

Last week, representatives from the Alumni Office, Jacki Lukas and Bridget Giunta, requested \$500 from Student Government. The money will go toward student tickets for Homecoming so they can attend events and network with alumni. Student Government allotted the full \$500.

Kara Serfass, presented her Homecoming proposal in regards to the Homecoming Pep Rally, Dance, and Football game for the second week. \$457.44 for the game and \$17,979.61 for the dance was passed and allocated. After discussion, \$17,534.11 was allocated to the Pep Rally. The vote passed with 19-1-3.

Allie Grudeski proposed her plan for Bubble Bash, which is an event that will replace Fall Fest. The motion passed and \$4,000 was allocated.

Anthony Fanucci presented the proposed budget to cover the cost of Club Day. The request of \$5,500 was passed.

Dr. Patrick Leahy stopped by the meeting to answer questions and deal with any concerns students had. Many of the concepts dealt with the new food services such as the

slow speed of "Which Wich," the uncertainty of finding something enjoyable to eat in the cafeteria, high prices in the "P.O.D.," and Gambini's Café not being opened on the weekends.

Leahy was also asked about the large area of grass next to Fortinsky and if there are any plans for it. The idea of making it a parking lot was brought up .

Sarah Bedford, commuter council president, added on to the parking topic by saying how she would like to see improvements in parking, especially for commuters.

Nia Williams brought up concerns about energy efficacy and usage. She said that simple actions such installing energy efficient light bulbs and having proper insulation on windows will save energy.

Valerie Woods asked if campus will be more biker friendly and requested that bike racks be added outside of the residence halls.

The council reviewed the Treasurer's report. The current budget is as follows: All College: \$47,000.00, General Funds: \$24,456.00, Conference: \$5,000.00, Spirit: \$2,000.00 for a Student Government total of \$78,456.00.

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Smoking policy leads to changes on campus; students, faculty react

Smokers to stay 20 feet from buildings; health awareness, precautions

By Toni-Ann Pennello
Staff Writer

Wilkes has undergone a few changes entering the 2015 fall semester including changes to on-campus dining as well as the building of the gateway. Another change that many students and faculty are aware of is the enforcement of a new smoking policy.

This new policy prohibits smoking within 20 feet of any university building, window or ventilating system. This policy is intended to promote a healthier environment for students and faculty by eliminating all secondhand smoke that could be inhaled by people entering or exiting buildings, according to the statement shared by President Leahy through email. There has also been a hut installed next to Breiseth Hall where smokers can sit, providing shelter for them during inclement weather.

It is unclear whether this new policy is indicative of a future, stricter policy for smoking on campus. However, it might raise some controversy among non-smoking and smoking students and faculty.

Senior Integrative Media major and smoker Annie Stauffer has no problem with the new smoking policy.

"I don't mind it at all," Stauffer said. "I can understand nonsmoking students not wanting to have smoke blown in their faces," she said. "I think that there are a lot of smokers who could be way more considerate."

Dr. Michael Garr, a sociology professor who enjoys smoking pipes and cigars, agrees that smokers should be considerate.

"I think it's a fairly good policy. I think smokers need to be considerate of nonsmokers.... I have no problem with the smoking policy, what I have a problem with is the rationale behind it. That this is being done for the health of students," he said.

He went on to explain that there are many things that can be done to improve the health of our students, but that he feels tobacco use is the only thing that receives zero tolerance.

"Smoking has become a moral issue... clearly there is evidence that smoking cigarettes and secondhand smoke are harmful, and certainly indoor smoking bans are needed...



The Beacon/ Gabby Glinski

Wilkes' new community enforced smoking policy prohibits smoking within 20 feet of any university building, window or ventilating system. This policy is intended to promote a healthy living environment for students and faculty by eliminating all secondhand smoke that could be inhaled at the entrances of buildings. The university recently installed a smoking hut, located between Sturdevant Hall and Breiseth Hall, which provides shelter for smokers during inclement weather with inclosed seating.

however, as for outdoor smoking bans, smoke dissipates much too quickly for it to be harmful to other people," he explained.

Despite those feelings, Garr thinks the policy is ultimately good because even he finds himself bothered when leaving a building if someone is smoking directly outside.

Even Thomas Krutsick, a freshman pharmacy major who is strongly opposed to smoking, feels that the new smoking policy is fair. "No smoking on campus at all would be nice, but that wouldn't be as feasible because it is still the smoker's right. I think this policy

is a nice compromise," he said.


Dr. Deborah Tindell, a professor of psychology who does not smoke, feels that the policy isn't quite harsh enough.

"I think universities ought to be nonsmoking. I think the policy maybe is not even as strict as it could be," she said. "I think we owe it to our students to demonstrate an environment that has good healthy behavior, and I think we owe it to our nonsmoking students to create a safe environment for them."

Tindell feels that as a professor it is her duty to promote the health of the students at

her institution. However, she is still realistic that not all students will cease smoking.

"I think as long as there are smokers you have to provide some kind of access, otherwise there's no way to implement the policy effectively. So there will probably need to be someplace on campus that would be appropriate," she said, in regard to a possible future where smoking freely on campus is banned.

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Students reflect on honors program, Barre Hall housing

By Sarah Bedford
News Editor

The Wilkes University Honors Program has begun, encouraging and motivating 29 first year students to be successful.

The program is centered on the university's values of mentorship, scholarship, diversity, innovation and community.

This year, students have been accepted who represent the various schools within the university.

The Resident Assistant of Barre Hall, Valerie Woods, explained that this was a large part of bringing back the honors program.

"Part of having an honors program at Wilkes was to represent each major," Woods explained.

While academics are critical to the programs success, the students will also be attending programs within the year.

Joseph Strzelecki, pre-pharmacy, explained that there are events already planned for the students and it helps to have a welcoming group of peers.

"The program so far is very good. The people in the house are all very friendly and supportive," Strzelecki said. "We have a lot of upcoming events planned that seem very interesting and I cannot wait to get started."

Mechanical engineering major and lacrosse player, John Weitzel, agreed adding that Barre Hall is quite luxurious.

"The house is amazing. I knew it would

be nice, but until I got here... I didn't know how nice. The luxury of having a full kitchen, nice bathroom, and living space on top of a huge bedroom is something few students anywhere get to enjoy, especially freshmen," Weitzel explained.

"Living there is such a privilege."

While different schools of academia are represented, various countries and states are as well.

Dr. Mark Allen, Interim Director of the Honors Program, explained that three countries are represented and five states.

Woods noted that each student has something to offer not only to the program, but the university as well.

"Each personality is so different," Woods said. "There are so many different backgrounds... it's a very diverse group and they work well together."

Woods explained that in addition to having various majors, numerous extra curricular activities are also represented such as student athletes and band members.

However, some students are still adjusting to college life but are eager to join the Wilkes community.

Julie Nong, a pre-pharmacy major explained, "I'm still trying to get used to my classes, but I'll be looking around when it comes time for Club Day. So far I really like the idea of being a mentor in the future, and maybe even an RA."

Madalyn Pfaff, nursing, agreed saying, "Coming from a graduating class of 143, the



Photo Credit/Gabby Glinski

Barre Hall, the Honors Program housing, houses up to 30 students. Each luxury apartment has a full kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and living space.

idea of having classes with 50+ people was very daunting. However, all of my professors have made this transition quite smooth and I am, so far, enjoying all of my classes."

Woods explained that while she is still getting to know the students through hall meetings and one-on-one sessions, she's begun to see their personalities shine through.

"I think they're all really super awesome

students," Woods said. "They have leadership abilities and social skills... They are intelligent."

Currently, the program is only available to first-year students.



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Gateway renovations to be completed Oct. 2, dedication to be held

Alyssa Mursch
Social Media Director

On the afternoon of Oct. 2, President Patrick F. Leahy will kick off homecoming weekend by dedicating the new visually-appealing and safety-enhancing Gateway in a formal ceremony.

After months of work, the \$1 million project will be coming to an end. Wilkes University was given a \$600,000 Pennsylvania Department of Transportation multi-modal grant, which was then matched by \$400,000 from the University.

Chip Prescott, the university's chief operating officer and supervisor of all facility projects, explained the goals behind this project.

They include creating a safe and attractive corridor from South Main Street to the center of campus, enhancing the university's presence on South Main Street and developing a corridor that will improve

pedestrian traffic from Towers to the central part of campus.

"The creation of the campus gateway will do more than provide a new and visible entrance to the Wilkes campus. Urban universities often struggle to create a cohesive campus on city streets. The gateway accomplishes that by seamlessly linking the parts of our campus separated by South Franklin Street with a beautifully landscaped area," said Leahy in a university news release.

Prescott also described the specific features that the gateway will include.

"A wide, safe path for pedestrian traffic, new security cameras to enhance safety, new crosswalks on South Main Street and South Franklin Street," said Prescott, also adding that the crosswalk on South Franklin will be raised in order to provide additional safety.

Marketing Communications Director Vicki Mayk, who has been in charge of publicizing the project, shared her thoughts on the gateway.

"It really unites the two main parts of our

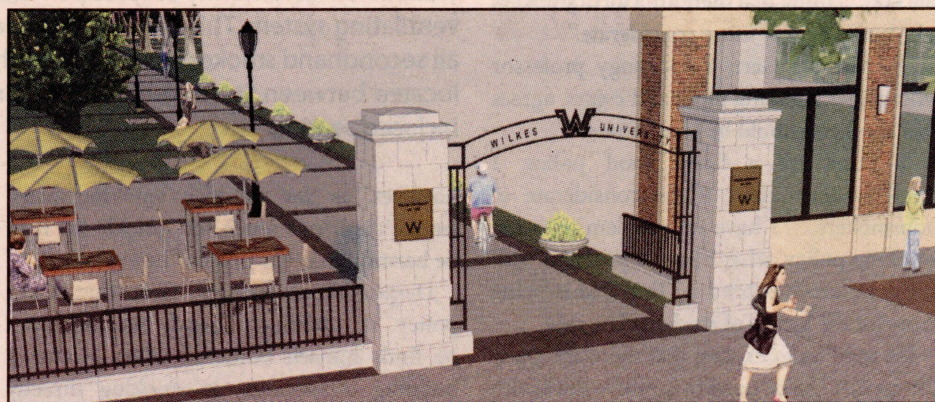


Photo Credit/Joanne Fasciana

Gateway construction is to be completed by Oct. 2, homecoming weekend. Above is the perceived design after construction is complete.

campus so that it feels more cohesive," she said.

The gateway is expected to be completed shortly, adding yet another new feature for

alumni to explore when they come back to Wilkes for homecoming weekend.

Anatomy of an Administrator: Dean Rhonda Rabbitt

Future image of education at Wilkes, breaking boundaries

By Dian McKinney
News Copy Editor

Rhonda Rabbitt, the new dean of the College of Education, has some words of wisdom for up-and-coming education students and definite plans the college.

Rabbitt is in charge of the undergraduate, masters and doctoral areas of education. She chose to pursue a career at Wilkes University because the institution encompasses "a small-campus feel, but has the big University opportunities."

"I look at my big role here as the new dean as (starting to build) those relationships within the school of education so that we are all on one same team" and gather the abilities "to reach out to the local schools and communities" surrounding the Wilkes-Barre area.

Rabbitt also commented in depth about the "warm and caring" nature of the faculty and staff on campus. Rabbitt said she was shocked by the polite and welcoming nature of the individuals on campus.

She said that "everybody on the campus that I have encountered is in the present moment... I have never felt like [the faculty] they didn't have time for me."

Regarding the future of American education, Rabbitt elaborated on the breaking down of boundaries between elementary, middle, and high school; different subject areas; and students of different race and culture. In achieving this goal, Rabbitt

encourages future educators to begin approaching these problems that are so obvious in society and school systems.

Rabbitt said that educators need to eliminate "the falsities and boundaries we set up so that we can work to help each other instead of against each other."

Having acquired a bachelor and master's degree in Spanish, she especially believes that "instead of realizing the powerful potential that [Spanish speakers] bring to a classroom to develop bilingual people all around, we put down a false boundary and we say, 'No language other than English in this classroom.'"

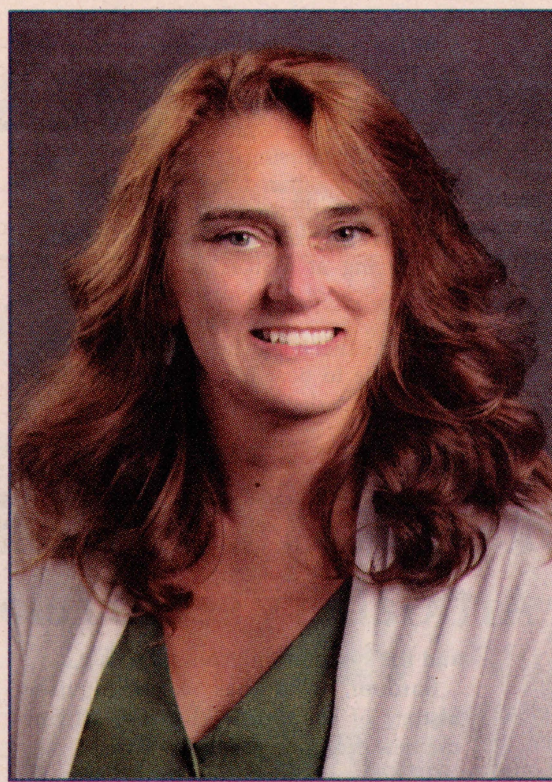
When giving personal recommendations and information to future educators, Rabbitt elaborated on the importance of being authentic and honest in front of your students in order to manage a very open-minded and comfortable educational environment.

Rabbitt comments on educators who "put on their teacher hat." In other words, referring to teachers who put on an authoritative and more formal identity in front of their students.

Rabbitt said these teachers are just "fooling themselves" in their efforts, adding that being genuine in front of students helps foster honest, respectful, collaborative and helpful relationships.



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Courtesy of Marketing Communications

Dean Rabbitt commented about the "warm and caring" nature of the faculty and staff on campus elaborating that "everybody on the campus that I have encountered is in the present moment... I have never felt like [the faculty] they didn't have time for me."

Have an administrator or faculty member you want to see highlighted in the Beacon?

Contact
Sarah Bedford
or
Dian
McKinney.

University's Veterans Council receives \$10,000 grant

Courtesy of Wilkes University

Wilkes University's Veterans Council has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the VetCenter Initiative grant program, a partnership between Student Veterans of America (SVA) and The Home Depot Foundation to renovate a center for veterans on campus.

A space in Conyngham Hall has been designated as a veteran resource center, and will serve as a focal point for veteran's activities on campus.

Student Veterans of America chapters across the country competed for this award, with the 50 best plans receiving

grants to turn these plans into reality.

Since 2008, Student Veterans of America (SVA) has helped those returning from military service obtain the resources, support and advocacy needed to achieve success in higher education and after graduation.

"This grant means a lot for our club," said Wilkes University Veterans Council President Kellie Pelko. "To receive it is an honor and confirmation that all our hard work paid off last semester."

"In short, this grant means a future for our club. It means we can grow and reach more veterans that need help. Our club

worked hard to get this grant because we know it will draw people to our cause. It will give veterans on campus a place to relax and feel safe."

Retired Col. Mark Kaster, Wilkes' veterans outreach coordinator, said the award affirms the University's commitment to veterans.

"Wilkes creates a culture that connects our students to veterans and our veterans to students," he said.

Wilkes has previously been honored for its work with veterans by earning the Military Friendly Schools designation five times.

The recognition, presented to 15 percent of all colleges and universities, honors those schools doing the most to make campuses a welcoming place for veterans returning to school. The award is presented by GI Jobs magazine.

The Wilkes University Veterans Council is open to all students wishing to become involved with assisting and raising awareness about the University's growing veteran community. All are welcome.

For information on Wilkes University's Veterans Services, visit <http://www.wilkes.edu/academics/office-of-the-registrar-recorder/veterans-services/>

School to be renamed Passan School of Nursing, dedication Program receives \$3.3 million donation from local philanthropist

By Sarah Bedford
News Editor

The Wilkes University school of nursing will be renamed the Passan School of Nursing after receiving a gift of \$3.3 million from John J. Passan, a local businessman and philanthropist according to an announcement made by Dr. Patrick Leahy Friday morning.

This is the largest gift or grant in Wilkes' history and will be used to create a dedicated endowment for the school, the annual proceeds of which can be used by the dean in any way that advances the prominence of

the nursing school.

At the 3 p.m. dedication ceremony Oct. 21, the nursing school will officially be renamed the Passan School of Nursing in honor of John J. Passan.

Junior nursing major, Hailley Malenovitch, shared her excitement over the announcement.

"I am really excited to hear that the School of Nursing at Wilkes is being renamed Passan School of Nursing," Malenovitch said.

"I think that it is an honor for the program to be able to bear Mr. Passan's name and it serves to distinguish the students and


faculty that are part of the program. Also, it is nice to know that someone cared enough about the education of the students at the university to provide such a generous gift in the first place."

Carol Keup, a current member of the Board of Trustees and Passan's niece, visited campus this spring where Carol was impressed with the work of the undergraduate and graduate program nursing faculty and staff.

The campus community is invited to attend the dedication ceremony on Oct. 21 where Passan and Keup will be in attendance.

Passan founded Valley Distributing & Storage Co. of Wilkes-Barre and has been supportive of many causes throughout Northeast Pennsylvania, including providing previous philanthropic support to Wilkes.

The 267 South Franklin Street building, which currently houses the Office of the Dean of Students, Health and Wellness Services and Residence Life, bears his name.

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Moving for arts sake: Wilkes' Sordoni Art Gallery set to relocate for fall 2016

Courtesy of Wilkes University

University announced recently plans to relocate the Sordoni Art Gallery to South Main Street and bring national and internationally known art exhibits to downtown Wilkes-Barre. Beginning in fall 2016, the gallery will move to 141 South Main St. with an entrance on the new Campus Gateway.

The move is part of a gallery revitalization plan that aims to enrich the arts experience on campus for faculty, staff, and most importantly, students, while contributing to the cultural life of Wilkes-Barre and the Wyoming Valley.

"The plans to re-imagine the Sordoni Art Gallery reflect Wilkes University's commitment to become one of the finest small universities in the country," Wilkes President Patrick F. Leahy said. "This decision is a win-win because it enhances the student experience as well as the quality of life in Wilkes-Barre."

The decision also supports Wilkes' strategic plan, which calls for helping to revitalize downtown Wilkes-Barre.

The three-part plan for the gallery came at the encouragement of Andrew J. Sordoni, III whose family established the gallery at Wilkes in 1973.

As a member of the Task Force appointed by the president to consider the gallery's future, he challenged the University to develop a strategy that would better serve both Wilkes students

and the surrounding community.

Sordoni, who has a distinguished history of supporting the arts, affirmed the new direction for the gallery.

"From my experience in the arts, this is extraordinary stewardship. We are going to better serve our students, our community and posterity."

The first step in the plan calls for creating a permanently dedicated multi-million-dollar endowment that will be used to bring high-quality art exhibits from nationally and internationally known artists. To create this endowment, Wilkes will sell selected pieces of the collection – a process known as de-accessioning.

The sale of art will be combined with the existing endowment to create funds needed for a substantial permanent and dedicated endowment, which will improve the academic experience of our students, faculty and staff, and enrich the arts experience of our community.

The collection contains 1,500 works of art, of which approximately 65 comprise the majority of the monetary value. The respected auction house Sotheby's will assist in selling the collection, which is estimated to yield around \$1.3 million. No works by Wilkes art faculty will be sold.

Advising the administration and the Task Force is Dr. Stanly Grand, former director of the Sordoni Art Gallery.

The second part of the plan calls for

hiring a highly qualified faculty member to run the art gallery and enhance University arts programming. This faculty member will curate traveling shows, develop academic programming, integrate the gallery into the campus arts community, and help identify new funding sources to enhance the gallery.

The final step calls for the Sordoni Art Gallery to be moved to a premier location on campus that will better serve both students and members of the Wilkes-Barre community.

In fall 2016, its new location will be 141 South Main Street, at the intersection of South main and the Wilkes Gateway, a major thoroughfare on campus.

The building will house both the gallery and the communication studies department, and is adjacent to the Sidhu School of Business, further advancing this area as Wilkes' newest academic corridor.

The gallery will be larger than the current gallery in Stark Learning Center, and outfitted for high-end arts exhibits and include versatile spaces for teaching and entertaining.

With entrances on South Main Street and the Gateway and on-site parking, this new location will make the gallery more accessible, more visible and more functional as an academic resource and a downtown enhancement.

Local attorney to speak at Thursday's Constitution Day

By James Jaskolka
Editor-in-chief

Wilkes University will celebrate Constitution Day on Thursday by hosting a lecture by local attorney Al Flora Jr. Entitled "Gideon's Trumpet and the Constitutional Right to Counsel: Has Justice Failed the Poor?", the lecture will take place at 11 a.m. in Breiseth 107. Flora is a private-practice attorney who has worked in northeast Pennsylvania for 37 years. In that time, he has argued appeals before the U.S. Supreme Court and handled over 2,000 criminal cases.

Flora has received national attention for his high-profile cases in the region. Among those he represented are George Banks, who killed 13 people in 1982, and Mark Ciavarella, Jr., who was charged with bribery and extortion as a Pennsylvania state juvenile court judge in the "Kids for Cash" scandal.

Constitution Day is a federal observance that commemorates the implementation of the United States Constitution on Sept. 17, 1786. It was this day that representatives from the Constitutional Convention, including George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, signed the document in Philadelphia.

For more information on the lecture, contact Kyle Kreider, associate professor and chair of political science, at kyle.kreider@wilkes.edu.

Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have a story or want your event to be featured? Contact the Life, A&E Editors: Nicole.Zukowski@wilkes.edu or Justin.Topa@wilkes.edu

New dining options tasty to some; others question if selections limit some students

By Jen Baron
Staff Writer

There are many changes taking place on the Wilkes campus, but one major change that college students are particularly focused on and drawn to is the food.

After two weeks since fall classes began, students have had time to settle in and experience the new campus dining options.

Changes include Aramark replacing Sodexo as the university's food service provider, Which Wich and Grille Works coming to Rifkin Café, and P.O.D. and Greens to Go taking over for Stark Cart. Starbucks will also soon come to Gambini's Café.

Student feedback at this early stage is important because it will make visible what is going well and what may need some extra attention.

Dominique DelPriore, a sophomore with a major in early childhood education, commutes every day to Wilkes. She has a meal plan, which she uses frequently during her long days on campus.

When DelPriore was asked about the new dining service she said that the gluten free foods, which used to be a whole section of the cafeteria, are virtually nonexistent.

DelPriore cannot eat gluten because she has Celiac's Disease, which she describes as being similar to a severe gluten allergy.

"I would like there to be more gluten free options and I would like to see gluten free foods labeled so I know whether or not I could eat it," she said. "That would give me a much better eating experience."

Something DelPriore appreciated about last year was that rice was always available, which is something she would

like to see return.

Similar to DelPriore, Kiersten Torre, a sophomore political science and international studies major, is also limited in her dining choices. Torre is a vegetarian and said that although her options were limited last year, they are even more limited this year.

"There are days when I go into the cafeteria for dinner and my only options are cereal or a bagel because there is meat at every station."

Similar to DelPriore's opinion, Torre would like to see an expansion in vegetarian dining options.

When asked about what she liked about the new dining services, Torre said she enjoys how meal swipes can be used at different places, aside from the cafeteria.

John Vols, a junior mechanical engineering major, said that he and many other students have classes scheduled at odd times, so he does not always have the opportunity to eat at ideal meal times.

When this happens around 3 p.m., the only option he really has is salad since many of the stations are switching over food during these off times.

Vols also commented that he would like to see the service at "Which Wich" and "Grille Works" be quicker.

Both places appear to be popular among the student body causing a longer wait in service lines.

In addition, Vols said that he definitely tastes and sees an improvement in the quality of food being served.

While there are adjustments that need to be made, the general consensus is that the dining services and options are headed in the right direction.

Aramark has made it known that the




The Beacon/Austin Ely

With the switch of food services, Wilkes has many new dining options. As seen above, one of the more popular options, Which Wich, offers students an array of different sandwich combinations.

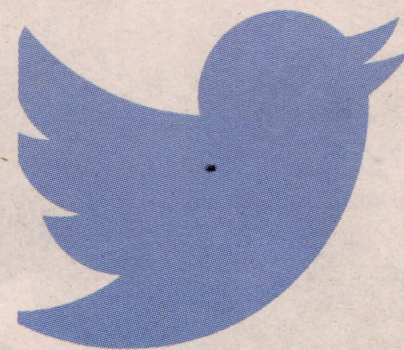
company is more than willing to hear student feedback. One could tweet to @HearMeAramark with any questions, concerns, or something new to see on campus.

Representatives from dining services could either not be reached for comment for this story or were unavailable for interviews.

 @wilkesbeacon
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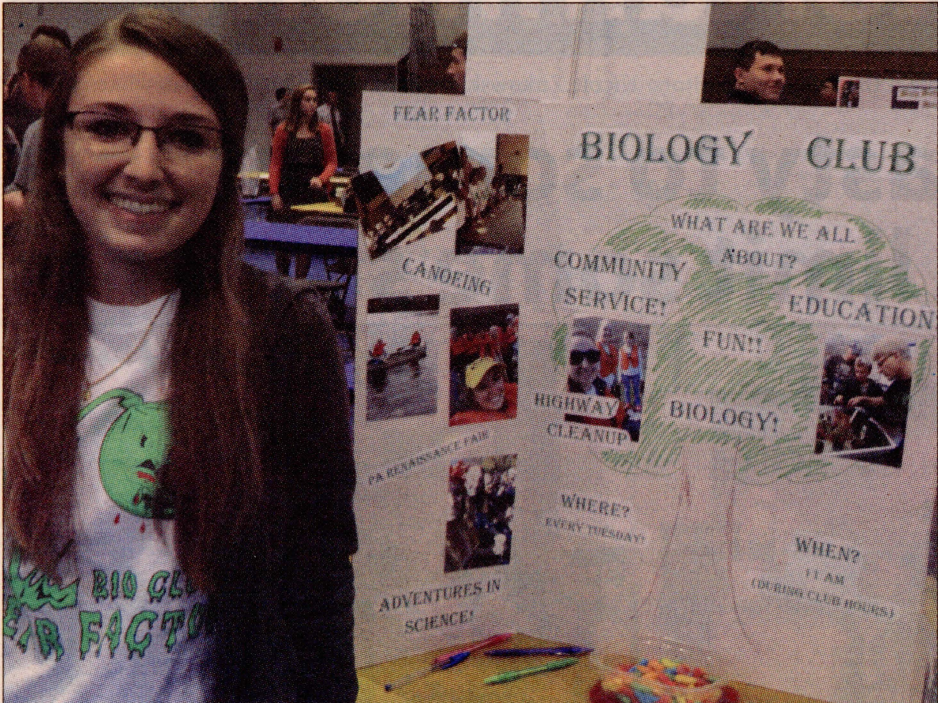
What do you think of the new dining options?

Tweet and let us know!



@wilkesbeacon

Club Day showcases student organizations



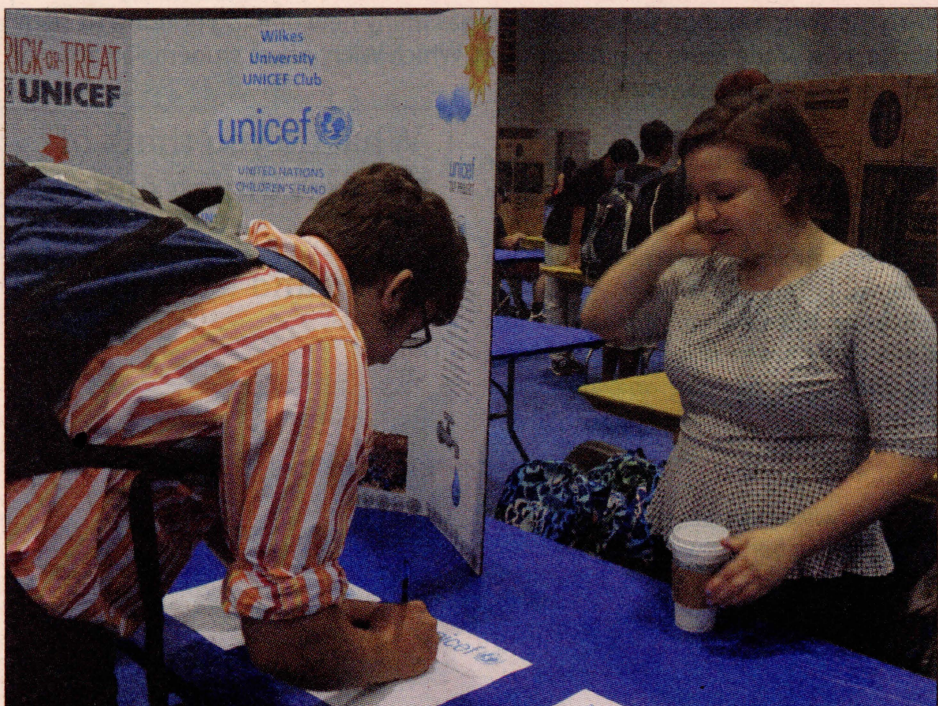
The Beacon/ Rebecca Voorhees

Autumn Peck is an executive member of the Biology Club. She was one of dozens of students who participated in Club Day on Sept. 10. Although rain forced the event to move into the gymnasium, attendance was steady.



The Beacon/ Rebecca Voorhees

The Pharmacy Club had one of the most packed tables of all during the 2015 Club Day. Members handed out recycled prescription bottles filled with sweet and colorful Skittles.



The Beacon/ Rebecca Voorhees

Tim Marchakitus walked up to the UNICEF table during Club Day and Dian McKinney helped him sign up for a good cause. UNICEF is a children's rights and emergency relief organization.



The Beacon/ Rebecca Voorhees

Hundreds of students attended Club Day, which took place in the Arnaud C. Marts Center on Wilkes' campus. Aramark, the university's new food service provider, also provided a variety a food for students to enjoy.

P.O.D. replaces Stark Cart and lounge; some students feel misplaced

By Nicole Zukowski
Life, Arts & Entertainment Co-Editor

Ever run out of milk and not feel like running 20 minutes to the store to go buy it?

That problem is now fixed with the new convenient store on campus. Located on the first floor of the Stark Learning Center is the P.O.D. Market.

There, you can find fresh food and produce along with many daily essentials. The P.O.D. Market tries to provide customers with quality, a wide selection and value in each purchase.

Inside the P.O.D. Market is Greens On Go, which offers fresh, health and quick eating options.

"It (The P.O.D.) is as convenient as the Stark Cart was," Grace Cadigan, a junior biology major said. "If I want to grab a coffee or snack before class, I still could, so that's good."

The appeal to the P.O.D. Market is the variety of goods and fast service.

"It's a good size for a store and there's a large selection," pharmacy major, Sarah Brozena said. "I went to Which Wich first and there was a huge line. Greens on Go is so much quicker."

Convenience and variety comes at a cost,



The Beacon/ Austin Ely

To provide a more convenient way for students to shop, SLC now houses The P.O.D., a mini convenient store outside of lecture hall 101. The store is equipped with snacks and other items one might find at a mini-mart.

though, as many students are finding out.

"The prices are a little high compared to going to regular stores," Cadigan said. "Many students used to use this area to study when it was a lounge but now we don't really have anywhere to go."

Brozena agreed with that comment adding, "There needs to be more of a sitting area."

Although most like the 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. hours of operation for the P.O.D., some students said they wished it was open on

the weekends along with Greens On Go staying open later. Their current hours are 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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WUPB hosts bingo and gives creative prizes to winners



The Beacon/Rebecca Voorhees

WUPB executive members Kasey Knapp and Jessica Huck wear the "I Love Thursday Night" T-shirts that the WUPB handed out during Club Day.



The Beacon/Rebecca Voorhees

Bingo Night was held by the WUPB on Sept. 10. The lounge room was filled with anticipation as students hoped to win a prize.

OPINION: New year, new changes at Wilkes

By Emily DeAngelis
Design Editor

The triumph of Wilkes University is its progress. Many small colleges are complacent; they continue to do what they have always done and remain in stagnation. Wilkes is unique in many ways, but it has set itself apart from many small schools by continuing to grow not just in its numbers, but in its physical appearance and countless offerings for students. Its commitment to student success really shows through the changes that took place while students were home for the summer; every decision that was made created a purposeful effect on the student population now and in the future.

1. The Gateway Project

Admit it, an expensive project like this had the student body skeptical. Now in full effect, the Gateway is an integral part of campus connecting Wilkes to the

downtown and creating convenience for residents and commuters alike. At night, the open lighted pathway feels much safer than it did previously. During the day, the campus is much more open and unified, and the addition of more landscaping helps to keep Wilkes feeling suburban despite its urban location. Now we just need those sprinklers to stop splashing students on the way to class and it will be a perfect addition to our already stunning campus greenway.

2. New Tennis Courts

Wilkes is finally upgrading its tennis facilities. Although junior doubles player, Dom Parfianowicz, is still waiting in eager anticipation to try out the new courts, he and his fellow teammates are all extremely excited to have new courts for their upcoming season. The old courts had cracks and dead spots, it was time for an improvement and Wilkes has risen to the occasion.

3. Barre Hall

This semester has seen great improvements to Wilkes, notably, the largest amount of residential students ever on campus at 1,095. To accommodate this number and the new honors program, Barre Hall was renovated and now houses 29 students in the first Learning through Leadership Community (LLC) on campus. Resident Assistant in Barre Hall, Valerie Woods, is excited about the community that the hall is already forming. The students all met at orientation and had the advantage of getting to know one another before officially moving onto campus.

4. Secondary Education Major

Constantly growing, Wilkes has added to its list of offerings a new major in secondary education. For more information, see Anne Thomas' note in *The Beacon's* summer issue.

5. Dining Services

Aramark has taken full swing of the food offerings here on campus. With fresher and more cost effective options, students seem generally much happier with the change. Rather than paying in full dining dollars like Rifkin last year, Greens to Go, Which Wich and The Grill allow you to swipe a comparable meal price and take the remainder of the meal off dining or flex accounts.

6. Public Safety

Public Safety is constantly evolving to fit student needs. Over the summer, the department added several new officers to its hybrid force. Furthermore, at the desk of Evans and Towers after 10 p.m., there will always be a PSO.


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Photo Courtesy of Austin Ely

The new Gateway Project has provided students with a safe and aesthetically-pleasing walk from one side of campus directly to the other.



Photo Courtesy of Austin Ely

Barre Hall has been reopened to accommodate a very special group of new students. The 29 students make up the first Learning through Leadership community.

Expression through physical appearance

Misconceptions of body ink in today's professional world

By Austin Ely
Staff Writer

In this series, Austin Ely will explore different topics about expressing one's self through a physical form of body art.

What do we see when looking at another person?

Of course we see their face, their eyes, their hair, their attire, their expression and even their skin. The amount of clothes a person wears limits the amount of skin they show.

In professional settings, people who have body art such as tattoos and piercings have been and may continuously be generalized.

However, according to an article on Forbes entitled, Tattoos No Longer A Kiss of Death in the Workplace, the idea that a person is hired for the experience and not their appearance is becoming more prominent in corporate America.

Unfortunately for many students,

especially those on the verge of graduating who have tattoos that are in plain view, there are misconceptions in which our society has established that causes businesses, leaders and employers to view tattoos and body art in a negative light.

When used appropriately, body art in general allows people to gain insight and connect with those around them, whether they have some body art or not.

However, some misconceptions that stem from body art forms, specifically tattoos, are that people with tattoos cannot find professional jobs, people with tattoos are unable to be professional and even that people with tattoos are of lower intelligence.

According to an article posted by The New York Times called Keeping Their Art to Themselves and according to a survey done by the Center for Professional Excellence in York College of Pennsylvania that showed 61 percent of human-resource managers saying that having a tattoo would



Photo Illustration/ Alexandra Devarie

Visible tattoos in a professional work setting sometimes comes with negative stigmas of unprofessionalism prompting the employee to cover skin for work.



Photo Illustration/The Beacon Archives

Many people wear clothing that covers more skin to hide an ink they might have. This hampering of personal expression is to avoid the stigma of tattoos.

hurt an applicant's chances.

With that being said, according to a Pew Research study called Millennials: Confident, Connected, Open to Change, done in 2010, 23 percent of Americans have a tattoo and 40 percent of millennials have a tattoo.

This means that despite the fact that some corporate leaders and managers are beginning to look past the tattoos, treating them as forms of expression and hiring based on experience, the misconceptions and judgments are still things those with ink must worry about.

One must also consider the profession they are going to be seeking a job in.

Jeffrey Ochs is a sophomore undeclared science major, with the goal of finding a career in the health industry. If Jeff wore a short sleeve shirt part of his tattoo is visible.

"I feel like some positions in the professional world are patient or customer oriented," Jeff elaborated by saying, "Some

businesses simply want their customers or patients to see 'clean' and professional looking employees."

He uses the word "clean" in a sense that he thinks some of the public still considers tattoos connected to some sort of criminal or taboo activity.

Within the coming years as more young adults are seen getting some kind of body modification the amount of acceptance can only increase.

Employers will or have already started to realize that professional and skillful people are a product of experience and knowledge and that something like tattoos do not dictate a person's worth as a professional in their field.



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Story by James Jaskolka | Design by Nicole Kutos

Across the Wyoming Valley, people with glazed eyes are staggering before falling violently onto the sidewalks.

They are collapsing under the Market Street bridge, projecting hallucinations on the concrete before passing out.

They are dazed. They are half-conscious.

They are on spice.

Last month, the campus community received an email warning of a dangerous new drug trend, with nearly 40 reported cases in August, according to Public Safety Director Chris Jagoe.

Synthetic marijuana, also known as 'spice,' is on the rise in the area, with 20 overdoses in the first week of August alone, Wilkes-Barre Police Chief Robert Hughes said in a statement to WNEP.

The drug killed 15 people in the first half of 2015, according to a CBS news article by Amy Kraft.

Spice is a dried plant mixture sprayed with chemicals that are supposed to simulate the effects of marijuana, according to drugabuse.gov.

Sold in gas stations and head shops until Pennsylvania's 2013 "blanket law" made selling any synthetic drug illegal, the drug has since made its way onto the streets.

Typically marketed as a safe alternative to marijuana, spice is often used by people who need to pass drug tests. However, Jagoe warns that the drug is both dangerous and misleading.

"Calling spice 'synthetic marijuana' is like calling lighter fluid 'synthetic vodka.' You wouldn't drink it," he said.

Jagoe said the drug is produced in "less-than-sterile" conditions. He called it "garage chemistry," and compared it to crack cocaine or heroin.

"It's not marijuana, it's junk," he said. "You don't know what you're getting."

The drug is known to cause high levels of anxiety and paranoia, hallucinations, and in some cases, psychotic episodes.

Alexandra C. is a 20-year-old student at Luzerne County Community College. She began using spice at 17 as a way to bypass the random drug testing at her job. Her recreational use quickly turned into a

habit, until she was using daily for three months.

"I started losing my mind," she said. "Pot has an antipsychotic in it, and spice does not. It made me psychotic."

Alexandra began to lose her grip on reality. It started as paranoid episodes, where she said she became convinced that people could read her mind.

Eventually, auditory and visual hallucinations became regular, even when she wasn't using. She said she would often hear heavy, ominous breathing outside her door at night. Toilets in public bathrooms began flushing all at once. She began seeing people in the shadows of her room and car.

At the peak of her hysteria, Alexandra said she had convinced herself there was "a war between good and evil" inside her that was being orchestrated by the head shop clerk who was selling her spice.

Alexandra was eventually admitted to First Hospital in Kingston, where she was diagnosed with a drug-induced psychosis.

She still struggles with the effects of her spice use.

"To this day, I still have paranoid episodes," she said.

Worse than the continued paranoia and memory loss may be the path that spice led Alexandra on. After quitting spice, she began smoking marijuana again, but found she was missing something. This prompted Alexandra to turn to harder drugs, including heroin.

She believes that she was genetically predisposed to addiction, but said spice was the catalyst.

"It opened me up to everything else that addiction has to bring," she said.

Although Alexandra enrolled in a 28-day-program and recently celebrated one year completely substance-free, she warns of the dangers of both spice and addiction.

"It's not a safe alternative to marijuana," she said. "And if people think they have a problem, they should get help."

Jagoe said students who see people that appear to be under the influence should contact Public Safety or local authorities. Warning signs include staggering, excessive sweating, agitation and slurred speech.

Opinion

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

Why it makes more sense to be a cat person

By Mandy Stickles
Opinion Editor

Are you a dog person or a cat person?

Dogs are great when you want a companion to play with and perhaps to get some fresh air with. However, when it comes to a more complex and intellectual animal, cats will always triumph over dogs.

It has crossed the minds of several cat owners over the years what their cat might be thinking. Across the room lies the quiet sleeping cat, so majestic and peaceful without a care in the world; or so we thought. But cats are stronger, more intelligent and less domesticated than people might perceive them to be.

Sure, dogs might be extremely obedient once trained well, but getting a dog to that point is a lot of work for humans. Not to mention how needy they are and look for constant affection from their owner.

Personally I am a cat person. I lways have been and I always will be. Call me a crazy cat lady if you must. I will embrace my cat obsession and own it.

My cat definitely has a unique personaility. While sitting down for dinner most nights I prepare for battle between my cat and trying to keep the food on my plate. Honestly I think he enjoys the hunt and the thrill of it all.

He is definitely a physio cat in every type of way but that is what makes him such great company.

The reason for this manic behavior is because cats were never truly meant to be domesticated.

Cats are the descendants of the North African/Middle Eastern wildcat *Felis lybica*. This started the association with cats about 10,000 years ago, according to Psychologist John Bradshaw, who has been studying the behavior of domestic cats and dogs for over 25 years. However, the domestication of cats did not come until about 2,000 BC and has hit a few bumps in the road with the feline behavior over the centuries.

What really separates cats from the domesticated dog or any domesticated animal for that matter is their ability to plan their own mating time and not have it determined by their owners.

However, cats do cherish the relationship and bond they have with their owners. Cats treat their owners as if they were the mama cat.

Bradshaw points out a few key signs and concepts a cat might show to their owners if they feel comfortable and happy with them: At first meeting a cat will go up to a human with their tail straight in the air and rub up against them to make sure they are not hostile. Purring is associated with feeding and if a cat kneads their owner it relates back to how they used to get milk from their mother.

Do not let the love and affection cats show to their owner be mistaken for a needy or helpless animal that need to survive on human care.


Cats can go hours on end without needing care from their owners and many times prefer to be alone. Let's not forget that cats are a part of the lion and tiger family and were sufficient hunters for their own meals not long ago and still enjoy the thrill of the hunt even today.

Ashley Potkulski, a fellow cat lover and junior theater major, shared an interesting story pertaining to her own cat.

"People underestimate the intelligence of cats. One evening we were all busy cooking our own dinner and suddenly we all watched in amazement as my cat gets up, walks into the kitchen where we keep his food and began to try and open the cabinet. To our surprise he was able to get it open and than proceeded to try and get his food bag open. I was completely stunned," said Potkulski.

Even when we think our cats might not be paying attention and just lay around all day, they do stunts like that that make us wonder.

As much as humans have tried to domesticate cats over the centuries there will still always be a part of them that want to be wild and free. However, do not let their hidden undomesticated side fool you either. Cats may not always show love and affection to their owners on command, but they will always stay loyal and cherish the bond between cat and human.

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The Beacon/Mandy Stickles

Cats may make it look like they need their owners to survive, but cats are more than capable of taking care of themselves. They allow themselves to be domestcaited by the humans.



The Beacon/Mandy Stickles

Do not let their looks deceive you, cats are more intelligent than they let on.

Bareface or full-face: Makeup in the workplace

By Allison Rossi
Staff Writer

Why are we judged by our outer appearance the most? Why, especially is it in the work force, one is first judged on their clothing, hair, and exterior features?

People are judged on their everyday appearance even before others get to know them. First impressions say a lot about an individual but should they? First impressions are relevant in a dating setting, social setting, and the most important of them all, the work place. Bosses are most likely going to choose the individual that looks the most professional. The quality or value of an individual's

work and work ethic should not be solely based on someone's outer qualities.

In most professions, women are required/persuaded to wear make up to work. Some of these professions are education, law, secretaries and even some part time, minimum wage jobs. The knowledge teachers are providing to enlighten students' lives should not be undermined due to one's makeup. Clients, lawyers, and others in the justice system should not look or diminish a lawyers argument because of how long their eyelashes are or what shade of lipstick they are wearing that day. A job interviewer should not force someone to wear make-up if they do not want to.


It is one thing if women want to wear makeup but they should not be required to in order to be taken seriously in the world; whether in a social environment or a professional environment. According to the Huffington Post, out of three thousand women 91 percent of them would cancel a first date if they did not have makeup on, 31 percent said they that they would not exercise at a gym if they were barefaced.

There is a difference between being professional and needing to meet the requirements of today's society. Have we as a generation taken professionalism to the extreme?

The Detroit Free Press stated factors that could be preventing ones

career success: "On the appearance side, employers cited provocative clothing (44%), wrinkled clothes or shabby appearance (43%), piercings outside of traditional ear piercings (32%), clothing that's too casual for the workplace (27%), visible tattoos (27%), an unprofessional or ostentatious haircut (25%), unprofessional or ostentatious facial hair (24%)."

Women of high status and intellect are a great attribute to society and that have successful careers should be able to wear make-up if they want to and not be required to do so.

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SEPTMBER 27TH
NOON - 8PM

COME ONE COME ALL
& SAVOR THE FLAVOR OF
5 FIRKINS &
20+ FALL CRAFT
BEERS ON TAP

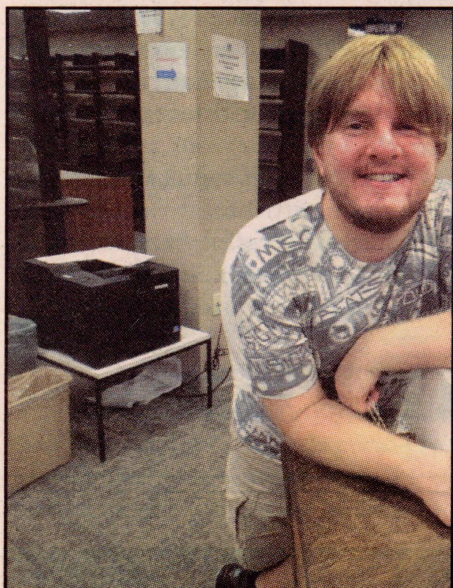
Hourly Prizes - On-Site Sampling
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BEER BOYS
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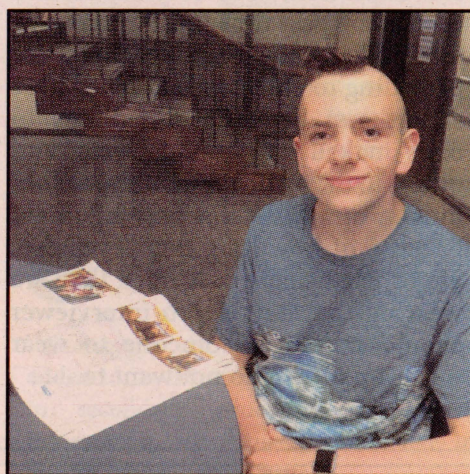
Colonels Talk Back

“How do you feel about construction for the new Gateway?”



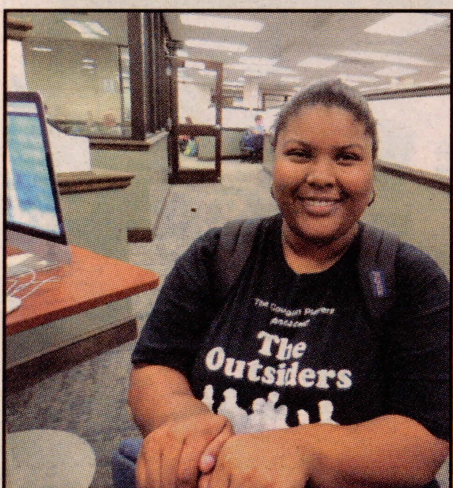
Adrian Thomas, Sophomore

“It brings campus closer to the square. Though, I think Wilkes could’ve fixed the central air in the basement of the library.”



Ian Valles, Freshman

“It will lead into positive outcomes on campus. As a commuter, it makes it a little harder to get around campus, but once its finished, I’ll have a better path to classes.”



Ashley Grayson, Freshman

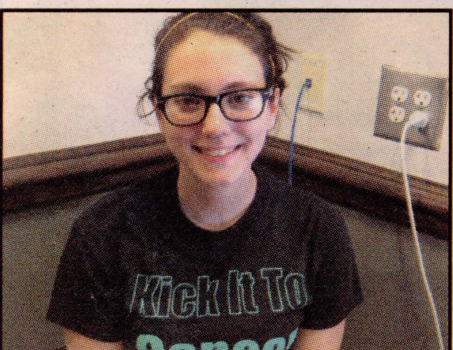
“Now I don’t have to worry about traffic or distracted drivers while hurrying to class.”



Badel Alotaibi, N/A

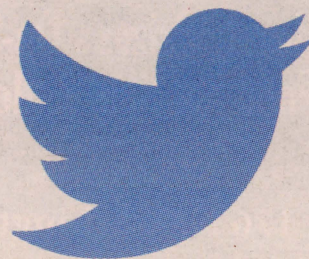
“Construction is good, but I think they could’ve added air conditioning to some buildings.”

By Rebecca Voorhees
Staff Writer



Phoebe Yost, Freshman

“I think that it’s a good idea, although it’s inconvenient at the time. It will definitely cut walking time in half.”



What do you think?
Let us know!

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Go Set A Watchman: A classic in its own right

By Sara Pisak

Assistant Opinion Editor

Author's Note: Plot details are divulged: Spoiler Alert.

I am sure many readers such as myself have been hoping, praying and even begging that Harper Lee would publish a second novel. Lee has only published one work, the literary classic, *To Kill A Mockingbird* which was first published 55 years ago. On July 14, 2015, the literary community was granted their elusive wish when Harper Lee released her second novel, *Go Set A Watchman*.

Several news outlets, including *Entertainment Weekly*, have reported *Go Set A Watchman* has sold over 1.1 million copies in its first week of print. These skyrocketing sales records give the novel the distinction of being the fastest-selling book in HaperCollin's publishing history. Considering the flurry of press surrounding this historic release, I wanted to offer my own review and insights on this significant literary achievement.

The timeline of events surrounding the publication of *Go Set a Watchman* is as unique as the text itself. *Go Set a Watchman* was originally written by Lee before her classic work *To Kill Mockingbird* but the story itself chronologically takes places after the events of *To Kill Mockingbird* unfold. Deciding against the work, Lee shelved the piece and began work on *To Kill A Mockingbird* instead. It was not until late 2014 that Lee's lawyer discover the original *Go Set a Watchman* manuscript attached to an old typeset of *To Kill A Mockingbird* stored in a safe deposit box. The skewed timeline of composition has led some readers to consider the work a sequel of *To Kill A Mockingbird*, while others consider the text an early draft of what became *To Kill A Mockingbird*.

Excitement about the work's discovery and the impending publication soon spread. However, quickly after the release many news outlets expressed disappointment as well as a narrow-minded reading of the text. In another opinion piece in this issue of *The Beacon*, I discuss the controversy surrounding *Go Set a Watchman* and the media coverage of its release.

If I had to classify *Go Set A Watchman*, I would categorize the piece as a separate entity; not a rough draft or sequel. However, *Go Set A Watchman* has fallen prey to the sequel category since some of *To Kill A Mockingbird*'s characters return. Scout and Atticus are still the main focus of Lee's new work. However, Jem, a major protagonist of Lee's earlier work, has died. Sadly, no mention of the famous Bo Radley is made

within the second work.

While *Go Set A Watchman* examines events from *To Kill A Mockingbird* in retrospect, a reader who (God forbid) has never read the classic text would not be left out of the loop while reading *Go Set A Watchman*. Given Lee's context of previous events and a reader's inclination to critical thinking, *Go Set A Watchman* can be viewed correctly as a separate entity.

The media frenzy surrounding *Go Set A Watchman* focuses on Atticus' recent racism and few articles mention the major factor that allows *Go Set A Watchman* to step out of *To Kill A Mockingbird*'s shadow: Scout's emergence as a hero. Thus furthering *Go Set A Watchman*'s classification as a separate work. Clearly, Atticus' defense of Tom Robinson brands him as the hero of *To Kill A Mockingbird*. However, in *Go Set A Watchman* Lee does exactly what she has built her literary career upon: she turns the tables on the reader in order to break societal stereotypes.

In *Go Set A Watchman*, Atticus is no longer the knight in shining armor. When Scout confronts Atticus about his changing views, she is shocked, horrified, and betrayed. The reader cannot help but share her feelings as both Scout and the reading public see their hero tarnished. As the reader sympathizes with Scout, he or she begins to see Scout as the hero of the text. Scout follows her conscience and ignores the "collective conscience" of the town and her father. As Scout adheres to her morals, the reader begins to follow their own conscience. The reader views Scout in terms of her own humanity instead of associating her with Lee's other characters.

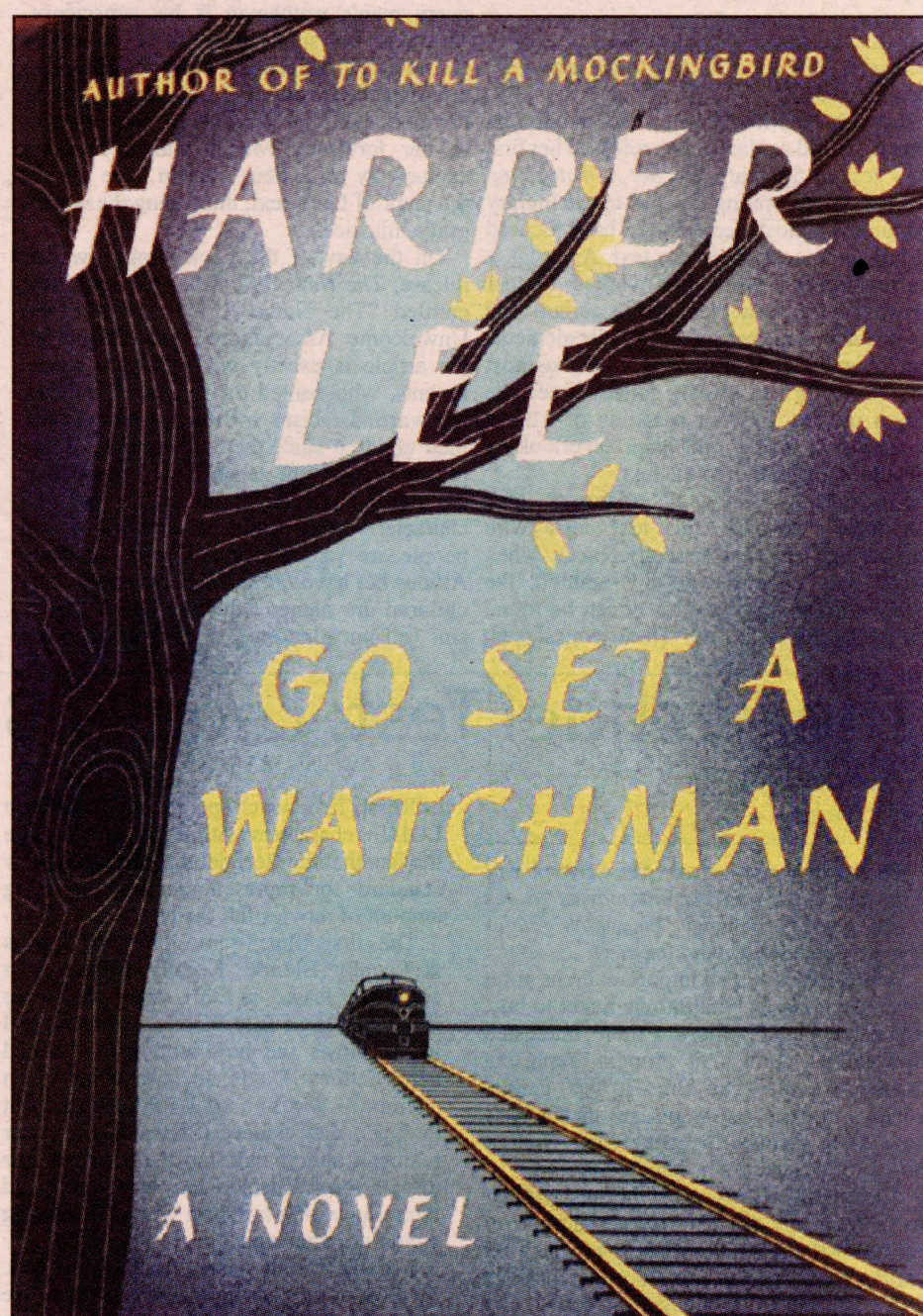
Allowing the reader and the character to simultaneously follow their own consciences, not only connects a reader to a character but is the basis of Lee's literary career. In *To Kill A Mockingbird*, Atticus' defense of Robinson establishes him as the cornerstone of the morality, thus bonding him with the readers. *Go Set A Watchman* allows Lee to create the same type of link but this time with Scout.

Go Set A Watchman is not a rehashing of a previous classic but a classic in its own right as Scout teaches the reader more about themselves and more about the truths of those we love and idolize than a simple sequel or retelling. The shocking twist of Scout's development as a hero and the realization that *To Kill A Mockingbird*'s Atticus is not the cornerstone of morality but a human with faults, allows the reader to appreciate *Go Set A Watchman* as its own benchmark.



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Courtesy of Sara Pisak

Sara's Score:



Go Set A Watchman: The media missed the mark

By Sara Pisak
Assistant Opinion Editor

Author's Note: Plot details are divulged: Spoiler Alert.

July 14, 2015 marked a historic day for the literary world as Harper Lee released her first new text in 55 years, *Go Set A Watchman*. Instead of celebrating this gift to the literary community, most media outlets have focused solely on one aspect of the text. As usual, a narrow-minded focus has worked to tear down this significant text and its author, thus overlooking or ignoring the broader elements and overall theme of the text. I believe most of the media has grossly failed to see the larger picture, by their branding of Atticus Finch as a racist and their overlooking Scout's contribution to the text.

Go Set A Watchman addresses race relations. Personally this text deals with answering to one's conscience when faced with adversity. In my opinion, the overlooked point of the novel can be found on pages 264 and 265. These pages read,

"Every man's island, Jean Louise [Scout], every man's watchman is his conscience. There is no such thing as a collective conscience." Atticus is merely the backdrop bringing the theme of Scout staying true to her morals and her "watchman" (conscience) to the forefront. Media outlets focusing exclusively on Atticus' racism have missed the mark of Lee's text, thus doing the work a grave injustice.

On the day of the book's long awaited release, *The New York Times* ran an article entitled "The Name Atticus Acquires an Unwelcome Association." The subject of the article is exactly what the title states. Parents, who named their children Atticus, are worried racism will be associated with their children since the text's release. Some parents even went as far as changing their children's name from that of the beloved character. After some research, I found people are so preoccupied with the name Atticus but have failed to show concern that children are named after the seven deadly sins (all but gluttony), or if those who are

named after Disney villains will be guilty by association. *The New York Times* solitary focus on the name Atticus further devalues Lee's idea of one's watchman.

In fact most articles associated with the release of *Go Set A Watchman* contain derivatives of "Atticus Finch is an overt racist." This exact phrase can be found in the article, which appeared in *The New Yorker*, entitled "The Atticus We Always Knew." While a great deal of articles critiquing *Go Set A Watchman* make no mention of the main protagonist Scout and her search to break free of the world's "collective conscience." It is not until the very end of "The Atticus We Always Knew" does interviewee Mary Murphy state, "The character of Scout [...] is an innocent, and she's trying to find her own way in this very imperfect time." After scouring articles surrounding the book's release, it seems that someone has finally taken it upon themselves to state, that the world is imperfect, those heroes we admire are not perfect either and it is up to our own watchman to develop a sense of morality.

Personally, the only article I could find portraying the full story of the text appeared in *National Public Radio* under the title, "Go Set A Watchman' Is A Revelation On Race, Not A Disappointment" written by Errin Whack. Whack speaks of Atticus' racism and his thoughts on the race movement advancing too quickly. However her main focus is on Scout as an emerging hero, and how the truths of life can be hard to accept as these truths often fall within a gray area of morality. Whack is so far the only author to make mention of the biblical verse from Isaiah 21:6 that contains Lee's watchman idea.

Looking past the one-sided, unjust media portrayal of *Go Set A Watchman*, I will continue to adore Harper Lee as an insightful human being as well the author of TWO revolutionary literary works. The media should accept *Go Set A Watchman* for what it is, a long awaited gift from a beloved author.

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The Bechdel Test: Legally Blonde passes the test

By Em Leonick
Staff Writer

Each week, staff writer Em Leonick will analyze classic and current movies to see if they pass the Bechdel Test, which gauges female representation in film.

Representation is an important focus point when deciding on what movie ticket to buy. There are people who are more interested in watching films that properly represent aspects like gender in films. In fact, gender equality in films is so important special tests have been created to gauge how well or poorly representation is handled in films.

The Bechdel Test is one of the most popular ways to gauge adequate representation of women within film. The test is named after comic book artist Alice Bechdel, who, in 1985, introduced this gauge in a comic strip titled "The Test." The test consists of only three criteria for a film to meet:

1. The movie has at least two women in it
2. The women must talk to each other
3. They need to talk about something other than a man.

In later years, there have been more rules and criteria added to the test such as whether or not the writers give these female characters names. There have also been spinoff tests based on the Bechdel Test, such

as Russo Test, which specifically focuses on LGBT+ characters within movies. Despite the fact that the Bechdel test sets such a low standard for representation, a surprising amount of movies fail the test.

The first film I am going to discuss is *Legally Blonde*. *Legally Blonde* is a comedy released in 2001, and stars Reese Witherspoon as Elle Woods, a sorority girl who follows the boyfriend who dumped her (Matthew Davis) to law school in an attempt to win him back, only to find out he has a new fiancée (Selma Blair). After realizing she is fighting a lost cause, she instead throws herself into law school and interning with a law firm who is defending a murder defendant.

Legally Blonde passes the Bechdel Test. As most of the cast are women and there are more than two, there is dozens of instances where they talk to each other. While the plot begins with Elle deciding to follow her ex-boyfriend to law school to win him back, few conversations in the movie center around a man. By the standards of the Bechdel Test, *Legally Blonde* is a good representation of women.

Outside the Bechdel Test, there are still things to consider when it comes to representation. *Legally Blonde* is great at representing traditionally feminine

things, such as Elle's aptitude for fashion and hair care, as strengths rather than weaknesses and the butt of jokes. Despite the fact that the film's plot has plenty of opportunities to pit women against each other, they rarely fight. However, representation in this film is not without its faults. *Legally Blonde* has virtually no named women of color within the film, and the ones who are serve as stand-ins. They have no names and only a few minutes' worth of screen time within the film.

While *Legally Blonde* passes the Bechdel Test and makes positive strides towards representing women as real people and not plot progression tools, it still falls short in representing types of women.

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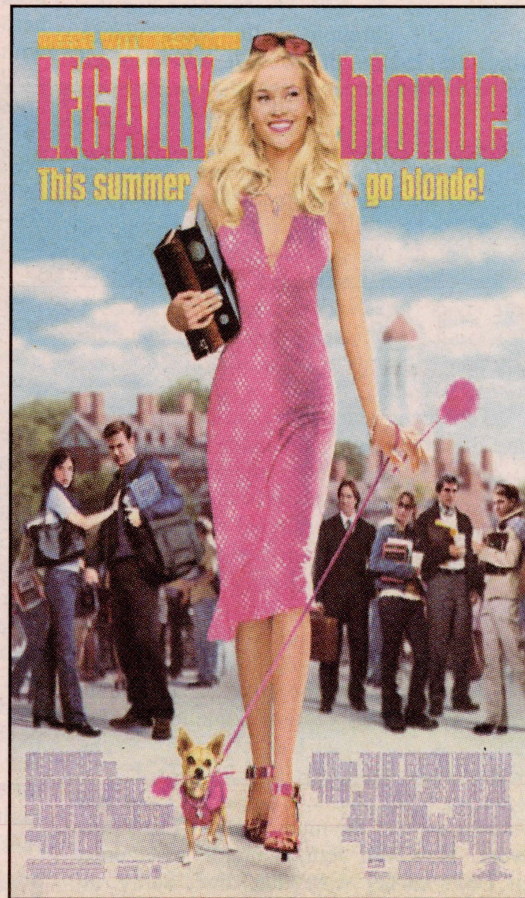


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Sports

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Coach Trey Brown speaks on upcoming season

By Rachel Leandri
Sports Editor

Having accepted the position in February 2014, Trey Brown, Wilkes University's head football coach, is making his mark within the football program foreseeing progress that can only become stronger.

"There is no reason why Wilkes University cannot be an elite football team in this specific league," said head coach, Trey Brown.

Better acquainted with his staff and team, Brown's plan of action for this football season requires a highly competitive attitude to conquer last year's outcome of only two wins.

"To avoid that type of disappointment, we have been really practicing through certain bad habits that would previously cause mistakes to happen," Brown said. "With hard work put forth and the competitiveness to win, those mistakes will not appear on game days which will pay off on the scoreboard."

In order to assure this type of work ethic, preseason entails a lot more than just showing up to practices. Consisting of 25 on-field practices before the first game, players must perfect their schemes as their talents are evaluated. Aside from the physicality of preseason, meetings involving lots of positional review and online content are necessary to attend, study and learn from.

Preseason also brings the team together in terms of bonding and camaraderie.

"What people witness is a real closeness that the football team shares," Brown said. "However, that closeness is between various guys from various backgrounds; not always because they play the same positions. I feel these guys really care about one another a great deal matter what grade level or position on the team."

Though numbers are a bit lower in



Coach Trey Brown preparing before last Friday night's game against Delaware Valley.

The Beacon/Purvit Patel

terms of players this year, Brown has found that other changes made from the previous season have been nothing but positive.

"What has changed from last year is that we definitely practice better," Brown said. "The framework of our schedule and the overall effort from the team is better. We now dress the same in the weight room looking more like a team and we simply just carry ourselves better in my opinion."

Aside from the team, Brown endured his own obstacles to overcome. Figuring out future expectations, it hit hard that his team just went two and eight. With so much going on throughout his first year, he felt he needed to pick his battles and put

his beliefs into what he was doing.

"When I first got hired, I wanted to know my team and then I wanted to start being a team both on campus and on the field," Brown admitted. "Some of that I had to tend to, and other goals I couldn't get to right away. This year is different in the way that the things I fretted about kind of took care of themselves because now people know what they have to do and they are motivated to get it done."



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For coverage
of the first
home game,
turn to page
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Colonels upset Aggies With touchdown late in the game

By Danny Van Brunt
Asst. Sports Editor

The men's football team at Wilkes hosted its first Friday night game in history and was victorious against the Delaware Valley Aggies 12-7.

The game was played on September 11; the announcer asked the audience to take a moment of silence to honor the devastation that occurred in the 2001 attack on the World Trade Center. Soon after, the marching band played the Star-Spangled Banner as the sun peeked over the hills in the distance.

The sun fell quickly and the Friday night lights came on. The Aggies won the coin toss and chose to start on defense. This decision allowed them to receive the ball after halftime.

The Colonels opened the game very well, but turned over the ball to the Aggies.

The Aggies threw a few passes which gained the team substantial yards. A hand-off to the running back led to the first touchdown of the game followed by a field goal. Wilkes needed to overcome the 7-point deficit.

Wilkes received the kick-off and moved down the field, passing and running the ball. A failed pass on third-down led them to punt back to the Aggies.

The Colonel defense held the Aggies without a conversion. After the Colonels got the ball back, they moved down the field, but had to punt once again. They held the Aggies scoreless on their drive.

The Colonels gained momentum on a second-down sack and a third-down interception. A big toss to the red zone

brought the Colonels in good position to score. Tensions arose after a series of penalties, but the team still managed to score. The field goal was missed, which brought the score to a disappointing 7-6.

The game was fought back and forth. The Colonels recovered a fumble; the Aggies tossed a far pass but missed a field goal.


The Colonels became nervous when the Aggies marched down the field and were looking in the end-zone. Suddenly, the Aggies quarterback missed a snap and moved the ball back 24 yards. They attempted to punt and messed up, giving the Colonels great field position.

The Colonels, very excited, began moving the ball. The whole team pushed the running back to the first down. After, Wilkes' quarterback threw a bullet on fourth-down to keep the drive alive. With the defense on their heels, they threw a screen pass and ran the ball in for the second touchdown. The two-point conversion failed and brought the game to 12-7.

A nail-biting finish, with a wide variety of penalties, drove the home stands crazy. The final play in the red-zone was a failed pass. The crowd erupted with excitement.

This win was a very emotional one. The crowd gave a standing ovation as the team stormed the field.

Wilkes travels to Williamsport, PA to play Lycoming College on Sat. 9/19 at 1:30. Go to GoWilkesU.com for further information on the football team and other teams at Wilkes University.

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The Beacon/Purvit Patel

Colonels march down the stairs before last Friday's game.

The dilemma of being a collegiate athlete: Professional fantasy drafts

By Jared Powell
Sports Writer

As the summer comes to a rapid close and the fall begins to creep in, the smell of football on the weekends is now as strong as the players themselves. The opening weekend for the NFL and collegiate sports is among us. All of the fantasy draft fans are doing their last minute lineups before each game kicks off every weekend -- except for collegiate athletes.

For those who may not know, athletes that play in the NCAA are not allowed to gamble on other sports in the NCAA. This

includes fantasy football within the NCAA. These regulations do not only restrict one from their sport, but for all sports the NCAA sponsors. If caught in a collegiate gambling case, one may be stripped of eligibility for all sports.

Student-athlete Neojoe Lugas said, "I usually join a few leagues, especially with college football. I think it's better than the NFL, but since I am a dual sport athlete here I can no longer join."

Collegiate athletes do not have the same problem when it comes to professional sports -- they are allowed to join these fantasy leagues. However, it would be good to proceed with caution -- do not jump into a


money league if you do not take it seriously.

Some would call these leagues easy money, but others struggle from week to week. The easiest way to struggle is by not setting your league each week. This means from week to week, before your player takes the field, you must first make sure he is actually playing. Things like injuries and bye weeks must be checked often to ensure your player is competing that week. In addition, suspensions are becoming more relevant -- another thing to keep up with.

At the end of each weekend, you go head to head with a team in your league. Your players rack up points depending on how good of a game they had, and at the

end of the season, your record gives you a playoff seed and you play from there to find a winner. Usually first, second, and third place gets a prize, and anything after that loses money.

Fantasy drafts are known for their fun and innocent way of making money. Many people do these for fun, or join free leagues that do not cost or win money. Money leagues are in place to add a competitive edge between a group of friends (or random people) by testing their knowledge of

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Field hockey looks to make a playoff run this season

By Andre Spruell
Asst. Sports Editor

Winning two out of its first three games this season, the Wilkes University women's field hockey team is off to a solid start in their 2015 campaign. Despite losing four seniors this year, this close knit group of ladies is looking to build off their early successes in hopes of making a run in the playoffs.

The Lady Colonels' early success can be attributed to the players working out this summer to stay in shape and working hard so they would not come into the pre season out of shape and would have a leg up on their competition.

In their first game of the season, the Lady Colonels captured a home win over Keystone College with a resounding 7-1 win, behind a hat trick, an assist from sophomore forward Marissa Surdy, and three assists from junior forward Taylor Ryan.

After the statement win, the field hockey team traveled four days for a weekend

tournament in Selinsgrove, PA, where they knocked off Susquehanna University 2-1 in overtime. However, they suffered a defeat in the championship game at the hands of Kean University with a score of 2-1.

Under the leadership of junior midfielder Maura Anistranski and senior midfielder Lexi Thompson, the Lady Colonels are poised to make a deep playoff run and capture the championship rings in the MAC.

With the multitude of talent that this team possesses and with the leadership and chemistry of their two captain midfielders, the Lady Colonels is a team to watch out for. This close-knit group of women has many more games remaining on the schedule, which gets more difficult as time goes on due to the conference games they will play beginning the last week of September.

Check out the Lady Colonels' next home game, which takes place on September 19th at 12:00 PM as they take on Alvernia University at Schmidt Stadium.



Courtesy of GoWilkesU.com

The Lady Colonels at Arcadia University last week.

Big changes for swim teams

By: Evan Wiley
Sports Writer

2,500 yards in at practice. The CYC has more lanes in the pool for the team to spread out.

With this additional space, Coach Mark Barnes hopes to get in at least 6,000 yards of practice. With more availability of space to practice, Wilkes has an a stronger advantage when competing against other schools.

The CYC also provides more deck space for the team to do more dryland workouts, or workouts outside of the pool. Their pool and deck area are both the appropriate temperature for the team's needs and potential success.

Senior Mandy Stickles is beyond excited that the team was able to make this move into a better location.

"The whole team, including our coach, is more than pleased about moving our location to practice in," Stickles claimed. "We have worked hard all summer."

Both the men's and women's swim teams are moving practice locations. The swim team started in Wilkes-Barre's family YMCA, but have chosen to take their practices elsewhere -- to the Catholic Youth Center (CYC).

A major issue was that the YMCA pool temperature was very warm. Swimmers complained that the pool was always too hot to swim and compete in. It was recorded that the pool was sometimes 90 degrees. The YMCA also didn't afford the swim teams the necessary space they needed.

Head Coach Mark Barnes stated, "By changing our practice facility to the Catholic Youth Center, we will be able to have proper practices. We will be able to work harder as a team with the great facility that they offer. The biggest excitement is that we will be able to host home meets this coming season."

The CYC has more to offer all around. In the YMCA, the team was only getting

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Getting to know...

Edwin Metzger

Senior Soccer Player

By Purvit Patel
Sports Writer

From Carlisle, Pa., Edwin Metzger is a 2012 Graduate of Carlisle High School. Metzger came to Wilkes to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineer and is a midfielder for Men's Soccer team.

Q. What was the driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?

A. I knew that the engineering program at Wilkes was a very good one, and the fact I knew I would be playing soccer helped my decision.

Q. What are your plans in terms of soccer after college?

A. I hope to at least play in a Men's Rec. League team.

Q. What are your hopes for your final season as a Colonel?

A. I hope that we will make the MAC playoffs and be over .500.

Q. When/Why did you first begin playing Soccer?

A. I started playing soccer when I was five years old. Most kids try soccer when they are young, and I stuck with it.

Q. If you had to choose one thing about Wilkes' Soccer Program that you could

improve, what would it be?

A. I would improve the locker room, because it is way too small for our whole team.

Q. Do you have other sports/interest/hobbies off of the field?

A. Fishing, hunting, and hanging out at 78.

Q. Who would you say is the most influential person in your life?

A. My father is the most influential person in my life -- because he is the man!

Q. Do you have any advice for the freshmen student athletes beginning their freshman seasons and semesters?

A. Know how to organize your time with school and sports. Make sure that you put school in front of sports.

Q. How do you feel about the changes being made to campus this year? What do you like or dislike?

A. I feel that the changes to the campus are helping the school out. The Gateway Project really opens up the campus from towers to the Greenway.

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The Beacon/Purvrit Patel

Getting to know...

Taylor Wright

Senior Soccer Player

By Purvit Patel
Sports Writer

Taylor Wright comes from Yardville, NJ. A graduate of Steinert High School, Wright chose Wilkes for its exemplary Psychology program and the ability to play as a midfielder for Wilkes' Women's Soccer program.

Q: What was the driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?

A: While in-between many different schools, Wilkes stood out in a unique way. I met with many administrators/professors who all seemed overly willing to help each and every student in their path to success. This was a special attribute that Wilkes held unlike many other schools.

Q: Post-graduation plans in terms of soccer or a career?

A: Immediately post-graduation, I plan to attend graduate school. In terms of soccer, I would like to acquire a position as a Graduate Assistant, where I would coach.

Q: What are your hopes for your final season as a Colonel?

A: This season we have one vision and that is to win The MAC.

Q: When/Why did you first begin playing Soccer?

A: I first began playing soccer when I was 5 years old. I was such a tomboy when I was little, always wanting to play football or baseball -- this was all due to the fact that I grew up with a brother who was so close in age. My mom always told me that I played soccer because it was the only happy medium between football and cheerleading.

Q: If you had to choose one thing about Wilkes' soccer program that you could improve, what would it be?

A: Other than the terrible field conditions, there isn't much that I would change about the program. Here at Wilkes, the soccer

program is run in a respectable, organized fashion.

Q: Do you have other sports/interest/hobbies off of the field?

A: Off the field, I really enjoy playing tennis, as well as spending times with friends, and especially family.

Q: Who would you say, is the most influential person in your life?

A: I have two extremely influential people in my life: my mother and father. They are quite the set of parents -- these two are my biggest fans, and I hope to be half the woman my mother is one day and have the same work ethic that my father has. They are extremely supportive and I love them a lot!

Q: A quote you live your life by?


A: "The best revenge is massive success" - Frank Sinatra. I am a huge competitor and I always have been; this quote by Frank Sinatra is so simple but has a ton of meaning behind it.

Q: Do you have any advice for the freshmen student athletes beginning their freshman seasons and semesters?

A: My advice to the freshman student athletes is to have the most fun playing while they can, because time flies and four years is over before you know it! Give your best effort on the field and in the classroom.

Q: How do you feel about the changes being made to campus this year? What do you like or dislike?

A: Although the changes to the campus aren't complete yet, it seems to be an investment that many people are going to be pleased with.

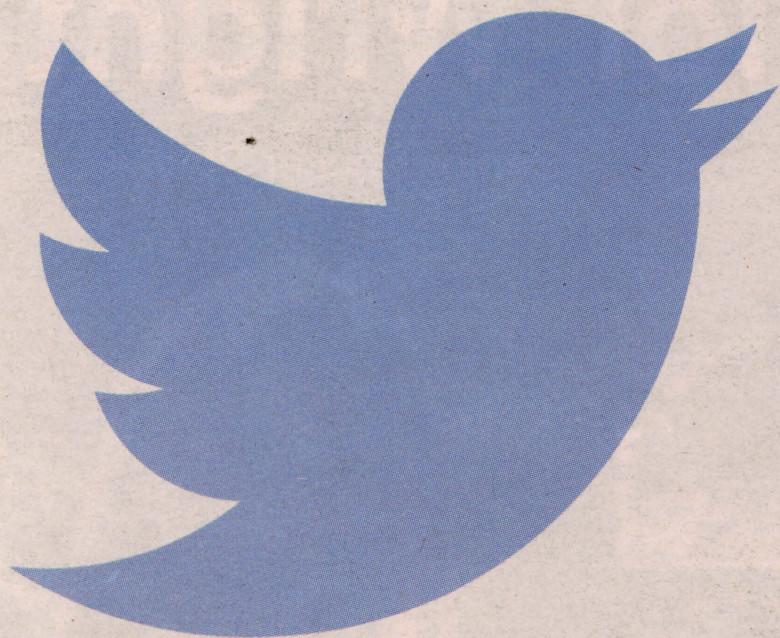
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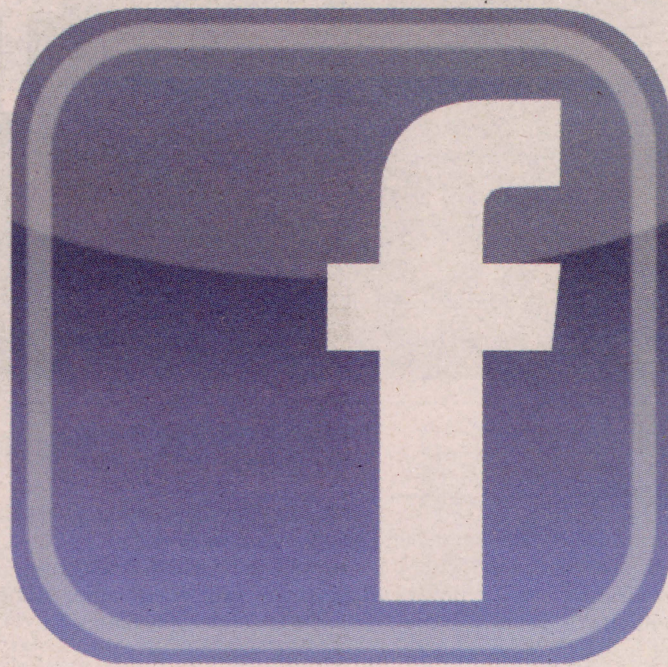
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