



THE BEACON

Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

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

Wilkes lifts mask mandate, exceptions still exist



The Beacon/Emily Cherkaskas

John Voitek, carpenter in facilities, removes mask requirement signage from the Stark Learning Center. After months of required mask usage, the university has lifted its mask mandate. Masks are still required in certain situations, however. For the complete story, see Page 3.



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News

Have a breaking story or a press release to send? Contact the news editor Maddy Kinard: Madelynn.Kinard@wilkes.edu

Student Government notes: March 16 weekly meeting

By Zach Paraway
News Staff Writer

Student Government began in traditional fashion with a call to order and roll. The treasurer's report stated that there is a total of \$67,175 across all SG accounts.

The first order of business was a request from Paige Gallagher, advancement coordinator. She asked for the help of SG with Giving Day. Giving Day, which occurred on March 22, is a campus wide event that seeks to raise money for the university. Gallagher asked for volunteers to help run events for the day.

The second order of business was a club report from the ski and snowboarding club. The presentation was given by

president and P3 pharmacy student Zachary Niemiec.

The third order of business was a constitution change from the Table Tennis club. The presentation was given by president, first-year chemistry major, Saurabh Patel. The first constitution was made with the founding for the club in October, but changes have been made as the club finishes out its second semester.

The major changes include opening the club to all members of the university, including staff and faculty; a change in the mission statement to put more of a focus on teaching the game and welcoming others; and finally the adding of a presence handler.

The fourth order of business was a fund

request from the Dance Marathon board. The dance marathon will take place on March 26. It will be a 6-hour event held in the MAC. The funds raised will go to Janet Weis Children's Hospital in partnership with Children's Miracle Network. The presentation was given by Donald Ballou, senior communication studies major, who asked for \$2,000 from SG to purchase general items and supplies. This will be voted on this week.

The fifth order of business was week two of two for a budget request from the Spring Fling committee. The presentation was given by Danielle Morris, junior digital design and media arts major, and AJ Rubino, sophomore communication studies major. Spring Fling is on April 8 at

the Mary Stegmaier Mansion.

Finalized this week was food, which will be buffet style and cost \$35 per person, and decorations, which went down in price due to the mansion being able to donate some centerpieces. The final request price was \$12,400. The motion was passed and a budget request was approved.

The last order of business was an update on some of the constitutional changes made of the constitution committee. The only major change that will take effect immediately is the closer monitoring of SG members' social media pages.

The next SG meeting will occur March 23.

Beacon Briefs: Upcoming campus events

Compiled by Beacon News Staff

Dance Marathon

Wilkes's Dance Marathon is returning for its second year, hosting an in-person six-hour event on March 26, from 2 to 8 p.m. in the McHale Athletic Center.

The event is open to students, faculty, and staff along with members of the community.

The event will feature music, DJ's, food, drink and a multitude of different events such as volleyball and dodgeball tournaments, WAE hours and different arts and crafts.

To donate, find Wilkes's donor drive by searching "Dance Marathon at Wilkes University 2022" and click "donate to this event." From there, general donations can be made.

Submit work to Manuscript Society

Manuscript Society is accepting submissions for the 2021-22 edition till 11:59 p.m. on April 17.

Submissions are open for undergraduate

and graduate students, faculty and staff and alumni.

The society accepts poetry, essays, short stories, photography, art and digital art. Short stories have a limit of five pages. The limit is five submissions per person.

To submit original work or ask any questions, email magazine@wilkes.edu

Buy a Tote Bag

Looking for a new bag? Green Giants tote bags are an affordable, sustainable and durable alternative to plastic and are being sold for ten dollars each.

The bags come in two designs: the Wilkes logo and blue butterflies.

Students looking to purchase one should watch out for anyone selling them in the Student Union Building, the Simms Center, or DM them on Instagram @greengiantstotobags to place an order.

Ninety percent of proceeds go to Little Eric's Foundation, a local organization that funds pediatric cancer research.

Memorial Concert Honoring Professor Emeritus Steven Thomas

A memorial concert honoring Steven Thomas, late music professor, will be held at 4 p.m. on May 1 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 35 South Franklin St.

The public is invited to attend and will be required to follow St. Stephen's protocols for masking and social distancing.

Alumni who would like to sing the two pieces should arrive at St. Stephen's at 3:15 p.m. for a combined rehearsal. All singers must be fully vaccinated and wear a mask per the venue's protocols.

If you would like to attend or perform, register through the March 18 Wilkes, Today email.

Online Buddhist Meditation Returns

Interested in practicing some sitting and walking meditation with others?

The sessions will be offered each Tuesday and run for about 40 minutes. No experience is needed and anyone interested is welcome.

For more information or the link for the virtual sessions, contact Linda Paul, associate professor of philosophy, at linda.paul@wilkes.edu.

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12 - Final Exams End

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

Wilkes lifts mask mandate, exceptions still exist

By **Maddy Kinard**
News Editor

Following an email from President Greg Cant, new masking mandates went into effect, March 17. With the announcement came a new mask-optional policy for the campus, with some exceptions.

First, anyone on campus can still wear a mask if they feel more comfortable doing so. Cant also laid out four addendums to the change in guidelines: Masks are still required in medical and testing facilities on campus; anyone experiencing symptoms or awaiting a test result must wear a mask; anyone who has tested positive in the last 10 days must wear a mask; and if an individual has been exposed, they must wear a mask around others for 10 days.

The university continues to recommend that those traveling in university transportation wear masks along with individuals participating in large-scale events (like commencement or lectures). It is also encouraged that those on campus continue to keep masks on them in the event they may need one.

Assurance testing and the tracking of positive cases will still continue as it will be important now more than ever to keep the momentum in reducing the spread. Those that are unvaccinated will still be required to report to assurance testing.

Additionally, faculty and staff are allowed to still require mask-wearing in their classrooms, lectures, labs or offices. Students are also required to

follow protocol in the locations of their internships, field hours, clinical experiences, sporting events and anywhere else.

Since the beginning of the pandemic in 2020, the university has been following CDC regulations while primarily considering the climate of the community and Luzerne County. As the county was still dealing with influxes of cases, the campus remained masked.

As Luzerne County progressed from medium to low risk and campus case positivity remained low after spring break, masks have now become optional in university buildings with classroom mask guidelines up to the discretion of the professor.

“Personally, I feel like allowing students and faculty to decide whether to wear a mask or not, is a step in the right direction,” said junior nursing major Olivia Wood.

Sophomore education major, Lily Goense noted she’s excited to see some of her classmates and professors’ faces.

While this is a great relief to many students and the overall campus community, the university is still prepared to reintroduce indoor masking should the health and safety climate change again and require it.

“However, I think that students and staff now know the precautions they must take to stop the spread, so any rise will no doubt be handled efficiently,” said sophomore mechanical engineering major, Matthew Benedito.



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Messages about the Spring 2022 Semester

- » [March 16, 2022 - Masks Optional Policy](#)
- » [Jan. 7, 2022 - Spring 2022 Semester Opening Information](#)
- » [Dec. 20, 2021 - 2022 Spring Semester Start Considerations](#)
- » [Dec. 13, 2021 - Return testing requirements for the spring semester](#)
- » [Nov. 11, 2021 - Students - Semester COVID Vaccination Policy](#)
- » [Nov. 11, 2021 - Faculty & Staff - Spring Semester COVID Vaccination Policy](#)

Information can be found at wilkes.edu under **COVID-19 Planning messages**

Two-year COVID timeline

- | | |
|--|--|
| March 6, 2020 - New procedures on campus | Aug. 18, 2020 - Student Behavior During COVID-19 |
| March 11, 2020 - Preparations for remote classes and events | Aug. 24, 2020 - COVID-19 Campus Dashboard Available Online |
| March 12, 2020 - Announcing the suspension of face-to-face classes | Sept. 4, 2020 - Campus Update on Quarantine and Isolation |
| March 16, 2020 - Revised procedures and recommendations for students | Sept. 28, 2020 - Spring 2021 Semester Plans |
| April 1, 2020 - Spring commencement ceremony will be delayed | Nov. 2, 2020 - End of Semester Health Reminders |
| April 20, 2020 - 73rd Annual Spring Commencement Rescheduled for Saturday, Sept. 12, 2020 | Jan. 15, 2021 - COVID-19 Testing for Returning Students |
| June 5, 2020 - Health and Safety Campus Protocols | Jan. 19, 2021 - Revised Return Testing Timelines for Students |
| July 25, 2020 - Middle Athletic Conference (MAC) and the United Collegiate Hockey Conference (UCHC) | July 26, 2021 - Upload Your Vaccination Status |
| July 29, 2020 - Colonels Combat COVID: A Guide to Returning the Fall | Aug. 4, 2021 - Masking Update |
| | March 16, 2022 - Mask-Optional Policy Effective 3/17/22 |

Nominations open for student, staff and faculty awards

By Taylor Dillon
Staff Writer

Each year, the Center for Global Education and Diversity receives award nominations for students, faculty, administration, staff and board members at Wilkes. The nominees are individuals who have shown considerable effort toward raising multicultural awareness.

Listed on the Today@Wilkes email, there are five categories for nominations.

The Global Scholar and Citizen Award is a student demonstrating significant contributions toward raising

international awareness at Wilkes through involvement in campus and community activities promoting cross-cultural awareness.

Other awards include: the Diversity and Inclusion Student Award, the Executive Diversity Award, the Diversity Faculty Award and the Diversity Staff Award. Those awards honor a member of the student body, board of trustees, faculty and staff, respectively, who has contributed to improving the diversity climate on campus.

Nominations are due by April 15.



All nominations are due online by Friday, April 15, at:
www.wilkes.edu/multiculturalawards

Wyoming free library searches for virtual guest readers

By Sydney Umstead
News Staff Writer

The Wyoming Free Library is holding an opportunity for virtual readers to join them in the celebration of National Library Week.

Every year, National Library Week takes place from April 3 to 9. The commemoration began in 1958 as a way to honor libraries. The website for the American Library Association, or ALA, states that the goal for the week this year is for people to find new ways to connect with their local libraries.

“Libraries give us access to books that we would normally never come across in our daily lives,” said Emma Stout, first-year political science and criminology major. “I always went to the library as a kid and loved to see all the different genres of books that I had access to.”

Despite the decline in the usage of libraries, people still see their importance, especially on campus. Sophomore mechanical engineering student Tess Edwards commented on

how libraries can provide students with study places, internet and book resources—something that not all students will have access to at their homes.

With the pandemic, the staff at the library wanted to find a way to still connect to the community. In 2021, they held their first virtual reading and decided to continue it this year. Any age group is welcome and encouraged to participate by reading their favorite children’s books.

“The pandemic made it difficult to hold in-person programs, so the library decided to hold a virtual event with great success,” said John Roberts, executive director at the Wyoming Free Library.

The library cards at the Wyoming Free Library can be used to access various different resources. Patrons can download items such as eBooks, magazines and newspapers.

“The library is a safe haven for children and adults alike to discover new interests or divulge in old ones,” said Sunny Wallace, junior English major.



Graphics by Zoey Rosensweet

Wyoming Free Library hours:

Monday, Tuesday and Friday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

In-person career and internship fair returns to Wilkes

By Cassidy Taylor
Staff Writer

On March 17, the first in-person career and internship fair was held since March of 2019.

The fair was held inside the McHale Athletic Center and featured 95 organizations from business, industry, education, technology, social services, health care and graduate education. The organizations shared information about their opportunities for students.

This was an opportunity for first-year students to seniors to inquire about or apply for jobs, internships, grad schools or summer positions.

“We had the spring fair of 2020 planned to be in person, but it was canceled the day before,” said Carol Bosak, director of career services. “That’s when the covid numbers were really high. Employers were canceling and the school said it was too risky.”

Staff and students are equally happy to finally have an in-person fair again.

“I am so happy that it is in person this year because the virtual ones just aren’t the same,” said senior psychology major AJ Quadarella.

Quadarella was also satisfied with the variety of opportunities found at this year’s event. She was able to talk to places outside of her intended career field and have great conversations. Representatives from one company offered her an application.

Aside from the opportunities available from the many organizations at the fair, there are also on campus opportunities for students to get more involved in the Center for Career Development and Internship office.

The center helps students to attain their educational and career goals by hosting resume workshops, interview preparation, networking opportunities, alumni mentoring and more.

Emma Dunbar, senior psychology major and Sarah Pavlick, junior marketing major, work in the Center for Career Development and Internship office as a Colonel Career Peer Ambassador.

“We help students edit their resume or if they need help finding internships we can help,” said Dunbar. “We have resume editing workshops, events and the career



Attendance was strong at the recent in-person career and intership fair.



From left, AJ Quadarella, Leah Karassik and Salvatore Scotto pose for a photo at the recent career and internship fair.

Pavlick discussed her favorite part of being a peer ambassador so far was helping to plan events, such as the open house in the fall, and being able to watch the success of her efforts.

In order to become a peer ambassador, students must be at least a sophomore, familiar with Microsoft office applications, knowledgeable in social media and eligible for federal work-study.



Photos: The Beacon/Cassidy Taylor
Justin Glidden in charge of the colonel peer ambassador program.

If you missed the career fair, or would like to have the opportunity to speak with more employers, the Center for Career Development and Internships is holding a virtual fair on March 29 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.. Students can register and see the list of organizations on www.joinhandshake.com or through the handshake app on their phone.

The virtual fair was planned for organizations who faced restrictions due to

COVID-19, or for those who were unable to travel at all.

“Since we are using virtual platforms for career fairs, we now have organizations coming from the mid Atlantic region,” said Bosak. “It’s good to be flexible and use technology, but it’s nice to have the face to face back again. You get more of a feel of who somebody is, what they’re looking for and what their personality is like. It is good to be back.”

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Life, Arts & Entertainment

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

Students share their alternative spring break experiences

By Morgan Rich

Life, Arts & Entertainment Staff Writer

From March 3 to March 12 more than 30 students traded their free time during spring break in exchange for an alternative spring break program at the Carolina Tiger Rescue in North Carolina, the disaster recovery habitat in Tennessee or Give Kids the World in Florida.

The leadership, education, advocacy and partnership alternative break program (LEAP-AB) provides volunteer service opportunities that are coordinated by student leaders. LEAP-AB also gives students opportunities to learn about and act on social justice issues through immersion experiences.

"I signed up for spring break because I love learning new things," said Emilee Barnhardt, senior nursing major. "Outside of school I volunteer often. I am a volunteer firefighter for my town. This was my first time going on a trip like this."

Many students across numerous majors and volunteer experiences volunteered and showed interest in the alternative spring break trips. Students had to apply through an application process to get accepted to attend these trips.

"I signed up for this trip as a way to grow both as a person and also with my skills related to the outdoors," said Andrew Sabol, first-year mechanical engineering major. "I don't always volunteer for stuff like this often. I just started volunteering and doing stuff like this during this semester so this was my first time going on a trip like this with the school."

The trip to the Smoky Mountains left on March 4 before arriving in Brevard, N.C. two days later at their first campsite.

After that, they set up camp, and on March 7 the group went backpacking eight miles up Cold Mountain from the Art Loeb Trail. The next day, they hiked back down and headed to the campsite.

On March 9, the group packed up camp and drove to Asheville, N.C. where they

stayed in a hostel and did laundry, went grocery shopping and explored the town. The next day, the group visited Biltmore Estates and went to another campsite in Smokemont, which is in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

On March 11, they hiked up to Mount LeConte and the next morning they watched the sunrise from the mountains before driving back home.

"My favorite parts were just all the new experiences that I got to have," said Mel Fouts, junior environmental engineering major. "I was able to backpack for the first time and tent-camp for longer than I have in the past. By doing this, I met a lot of awesome people and tried a lot of things for the first time."

The trip was open to all students and was provided through Wilkes Adventure Education (WAE). Early on in the semester, a meeting was held for those who were interested and then there were weekly meetings until the departure date. During the meetings, the students would pack gear for the trips.

"My favorite part of the spring break was being able to learn and experience something while being in the outdoors," said Sabol. "The overall experience was a combination of tent camping, hiking, backpacking, which some people went on. I didn't go backpacking as it was my first trip with WAE."

The LEAP-AB allows students to explore a diverse array of topics including urban education, disaster response, child welfare and more. LEAP-AB also allows students to build responsive relationships with community partners across the country and internationally, as well.

"I think it is beneficial for students to attend trips like this because it can get people out of their comfort zones into what we call 'the growth zone,'" said Fouts. "You only realize what your full potential is when you push yourself a bit. You also get to meet so many new people that you wouldn't otherwise."

Barnhardt also believes the trip was extremely beneficial for other students to create new friends, memories and amazing times.

Students who are interested in future alternative spring breaks should talk to WAE coordinator Jill Price or other WAE members to find out about different

programs and trips that are available.

"Any student interested should know that it is well worth it," said Fouts. "The trip may seem intimidating at first, especially if they are used to going home over spring break. The new experiences are nearly once in a lifetime and quite unique to Wilkes University."



Courtesy of Mel Fouts

Mel Fouts, junior environmental engineering major and Edison Fowler, alumnus of the class of 2020, are hiking on Mt. LeConte.

Dollar store recipe: Nutritious apricot oat bars

These apricot oat bars are a perfect snack for breakfast or after class. They are a tasty and healthy treat that can be frozen for up to one month.

Ingredients:

1 cup flour
1 cup uncooked quick oats
3/4 cup light brown sugar
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/3 cup butter
2 cups apricot preserves

Directions:

First, preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit and spray a 9x12 baking pan with nonstick cooking spray. Set the baking pan aside.

Next, combine the flour, oats, brown sugar, salt and cinnamon in a medium bowl and mix well.

Place the butter in a small bowl and microwave on high for one minute or until completely melted. Pour the butter into the medium bowl and stir until the mixture is crumbly.

Reserve 3/4 cup of the crumb mixture and press the remaining mixture evenly into the pan. Bake for five to seven minutes or until lightly browned.

Next, spread the apricot preserves onto the crust and then sprinkle the remaining crumbs evenly onto the preserves.

Bake for 25 minutes or until golden brown and then let cool.

Once completed, cut into bite-sized squares and serve.

Enjoy!

Allergens: Fruit

By Morgan Rich

Life, Arts & Entertainment Staff Writer

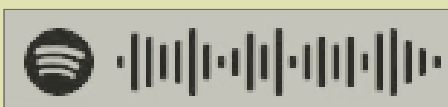


The Beacon/Morgan Rich

These bars are the perfect on-the-go snack and do not take long to make.

Beacon Bumps

Each week, the Wilkes Beacon staff adds a song to the Beacon Bumps playlist on Spotify. Check us out under Chris Gowarty's Spotify or check out this week's picks right now!



Emily Cherkauskas, Editor-in-Chief:

Times We Had - Barlito

Ariel Reed, Managing Editor:

Psycho - Maisie Peters

Liz Cherinka, Social Media Editor:

Pool House - The Backstreet Lovers

Maddy Kinard, News Editor:

The Actor - alt-J

Jordan Daniel, LA&E Editor:

Rare Hearts - The Growlers

Bre Ebisch, Opinion Editor:

Awaken (Feel Alive) - Big Wild, Surfaces

Lindsey Scorey, Opinion Asst. Editor:

You And I - Lady Gaga

Christopher Gowarty, Sports Editor:

Everything She Wants - Wham!

Baylee Guedes, Sports Editor:

maybe - Machine Gun Kelly, Bring Me The Horizon

Jason Eberhart, Sports Asst. Editor:

One Shining Moment - David Barrett

Zoey Rosensweet, Lead Layout Designer:

Marlboro Nights - Lonely God

Wilkes alumni band, cuddledrug, releases ‘Bed of Thorns’

All proceeds from “Bed of Thorns” benefits mental health awareness

By AJ Rubino

Life, Arts & Entertainment Staff Writer

On March 14 local Wilkes alumni band, cuddledrug, released their second album “Bed of Thorns” to benefit mental health and addiction recovery. The indie-alternative pop-rock group’s album sales and merchandise proceeds will go towards their fundraising efforts.

According to a press release, there are multiple phases of the album. The first phase of the album assists the Gift of Hope Fund at Geisinger Marworth Addiction Treatment Center.

Located in Scranton, the center helps low-income, under-insured and uninsured people to seek the treatment they need. In 2020, as stated by Marworth’s website, 382 patients benefited from the Gift of Hope.

“Mental health and addiction recovery should not be a death sentence for someone,” said 2017 Wilkes alum, producer, drummer, pianist, guitarist and vocalist, Derek Jolley.

The band is back again to raise efforts for this cause.

As stated in a press release by guitarist and vocalist, David Heinz: “Mental health has been stigmatized for so long and as a band we’ve tried so hard to change how people think about getting help.”

The new album includes 13 tracks that were recorded both at JL Studios in Olyphant, Pa. and the band’s own studio located in Larksville.

In 2019, the band released an EP titled “Bed of Roses.” The EP includes only three songs, however, one song in particular is about gender equality and the idea of masculinity dictating how one lives their life.

The line in the song Jolley focused on was “Watch me leave this bed of roses.”

“It talks about how there actually is a lot of good in really dark situations,” said Jolley.

The answer to “Bed of Roses” is the newly released album. The band agreed that there was always going to be a follow up to the EP.

“As one of the creators of the album, “Bed of Thorns” is the opposite of the



Courtesy of cuddledrug

Pictured from left to right are some of the cuddledrug band members, Patrick Walton, bass; David Heinz, guitar and vocals; Frazee Sutphen, album art, guitar and vocals; Derek Jolley, producer, drums, piano, guitar and vocals and Dylan Jolley, auxiliaries. Not pictured from the band are Nate Harbaugh, saxophone; Adam Harbaugh, trumpet; John Shimp, trumpet; Tye Sutphen, live performer; Kevin Adams, guitar solos; Ashton Znaniecki, creative consultant; Brian Keith Bidding, logistics and Danny Washington, engineer.

EP,” said Jolley. “The album seeks the idea of the bad in every good situation.”

In pop-culture, musicians are best known to drop their new music on a Friday. However, cuddledrug becomes the exception by dropping the album on a Monday.

“The whole theme of this dichotomy of mental health and about everything we do is how there’s good in the bad and bad in the good,” said Jolley. “We released the album on Pi Day because the idea came full circle. I have my own struggles with my own identity and I am constantly advocating for mental health access. Even as dark as the album we

released last year was mourning a friend of ours that took his own life.”

In reference to the last album released last year, the band raised money in support for the National Suicide Prevention line and mental health. The band hopes to do a live performance in the future depending on the severity of the ongoing pandemic.

“I love playing music with my friends and family members but it is extra important to me personally that we strive so hard to try to make a difference, even if it’s only a small one,” said bassist, Patrick Walton.

People can help support the band by

purchasing an album and all proceeds made from the album release will benefit their cause. Also, cuddledrug is selling merchandise, which can be found on their website at cuddledrug.com

More information about Marworth’s Addiction Recovery and Treatment Center can be found at their own website at www.marworth.org or at a center near you.

The band can be found on Instagram @cuddledrug and digital versions of their music can be found on all music streaming sites.

[@cuddledrug](https://www.instagram.com/cuddledrug)

Liz's Craft Column: Customizable no sew spring bunnies

An affordable spring time craft that is sure to add fun to your space

By Liz Cherinka

Social Media Manager

This craft is a no sew bunny decoration. This decoration is perfect for spring time and it is easy because there is no sewing involved. The bunnies can be customized to be any color. This craft is affordable because it only requires a few supplies, which can be found at most stores. These bunnies are sure to make any space more festive.

- One crew sock of any color
- Rubber bands
- Scissors
- Rice
- Black marker
- Cup

1. First, grab the crew sock and the cup. Put the bottom closed end of the sock into the cup and wrap the open end around the opening of the cup. This will make pouring the rice into the sock easier. Pour about one pound of rice into the sock. The sock may need to be adjusted as more rice is added so remove the sock from the cup, shake the rice down, then put the sock back into the cup and continue.



Graphic by Jack Malatesta

2. Once all the rice is added, remove the sock from the cup. Straighten the sock out so that the rice is evenly distributed and then tie a rubber band around the top of the sock where the rice ends.

3. Section a small portion of the sock with the rice in it and tie another rubber band around it. This will create the head of the bunny. Then, on the designated back of the bunny grab a tiny part of the sock and wrap another rubber band around. This will create the bunny tail.



4. Lay the bunny on its back flat on a table. Cut the majority of the remaining sock off, leaving about 3-4 inches left on top of the rubber band.

Make a cut straight through the remaining portion up until the rubber band, leaving enough space so the rubber band does not slip off.

From the inside of each side, start on the top and make a curved cut down to the middle. This will make the "bunny ear" shape. Arrange them to appear as ears, either floppy or standing up.



5. While the bunny is still on its back it is time to draw the face. Make two eyes and then an "X" for the mouth or nose. The placement is up to preference but it is best mostly centered.

Once the face is finished, the bunny should be evident. Display it anywhere for a fun, spring touch to any space.



Liz's difficulty rating:



CREATIVE COLONEL

Creative Colonel of the Week: Alana Andreoli

By Jordan Daniel

Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

The Creative Colonel this week is Alana Andreoli, senior earth and environmental science major. Andreoli is a super crafty person and recently learned how to make her own candles.

"I have an active mind and during summer and winter breaks I have a lot of downtime," said Andreoli. "I have anxiety and during those downtimes I prefer to take the anxiety and put it to use through crafting."

Andreoli changes what craft she wants to master every summer and winter. She only began to learn how to make candles during this past winter.

"I enjoy making candles because it is something new to try and it allows me to

work through my anxiety," said Andreoli. "Plus, wax can bend and be molded a bit, which is fun."

She does not create complex candles, which require dipping or silicon molds. She taught herself how to make candles by watching brief videos and by using a kit instruction. However, now she tweaks it to fit her own needs.

In order to create her candles, Andreoli uses a heat source, measuring cup or final container for the wax, wicks, wick stickers, soap dye liquid colors, paraffin wax and soap scents, which can be intermixed with candle scents because they are similar to each other. Since winter break, she has made a total of 23 candles.

"I do not make as many candles now that I am really into the middle of the semester and busy with my senior capstone," said

Andreoli. "It can take anywhere from 30 minutes to days depending on if I add scents, varying colors or shape changes."

Although she is not making as many candles as she used to, some people were fortunate enough to receive some of the first candles she ever made. Those people were her friends, family members, roommate and a few people her roommate brought to their apartment.

"I would definitely get another candle from her because I know she puts thought into each and everyone of them," said Lauren Johnson, senior biology major.

The candles Andreoli makes are not only special because she creates them on her own but when she makes them to give to people she takes in consideration what sort of candle the person will enjoy. For instance, most of her candles are unscented

for people with scent sensitivities or allergies to fragrances.

As of now, Andreoli does not sell her candles or any of her other crafts. Nevertheless, she plans to do so in the future.

"I would purchase crafts from Alana because I know she puts care into her work, pays attention to detail and will not sell a product that doesn't meet her quality standards," said Abigail Wiernik, Penn State senior business major.

**Want to nominate
someone for Creative
Colonel?
Contact LA&E Editor:
Jordan.Daniel@wilkes.edu**



Courtesy of Alana Andreoli

Alana Andreoli with her favorite candle "creamsicle," which is orange scented.



Courtesy of Abigail Wiernik

Alana Andreoli gifted this candle to Abigail Wiernik. Wiernik says it sparks joy.



MARCH MADNESS



These brackets were finalized last week before publishing. Will our brackets stand the test of time?

EMILY CHERKAUSKAS

MICHIGAN ST.

TCU

As former LA&E editor, I know nothing about basketball. However, as editor-in-chief, I was invited to join in picking my final four, as is tradition in The Beacon when picking our top sports teams for championships. Therefore, I decided to call upon my niche for design and choose my final four based on what colors and logos looked the nicest.

In fourth place, we have Texas Southern, with its gorgeous deep maroon and white. Next, we have North Carolina with an eye-catching baby blue. Michigan State was the runner up, the Spartans donning an elegant and solid pine green.

In the end, my true winner is TCU, sporting a mystical royal purple, making them stand out from all other teams.

UNC

TX. SOUTHERN

PREDICTED WINNER:
TCU

ARIEL REED

Texas Tech may appear as a bit of a reach, but if you look at their path to the top, they have arguably one of the easiest routes there. The only competition they have is Gonzaga and Chet Holmgren, a foe they can easily conquer. The Zags have almost fallen in close match-ups to their opponents, and Texas Tech will be one of them. After that, handling a matchup against Iowa will be a cakewalk. As I always say, never bet against a team from Texas—the basketball down there is different.

TEXAS TECH

TENNESSEE

PREDICTED WINNER:
TEXAS TECH

BAYLOR

IOWA

BAYLEE GUEDES

GONZAGA

ARIZONA

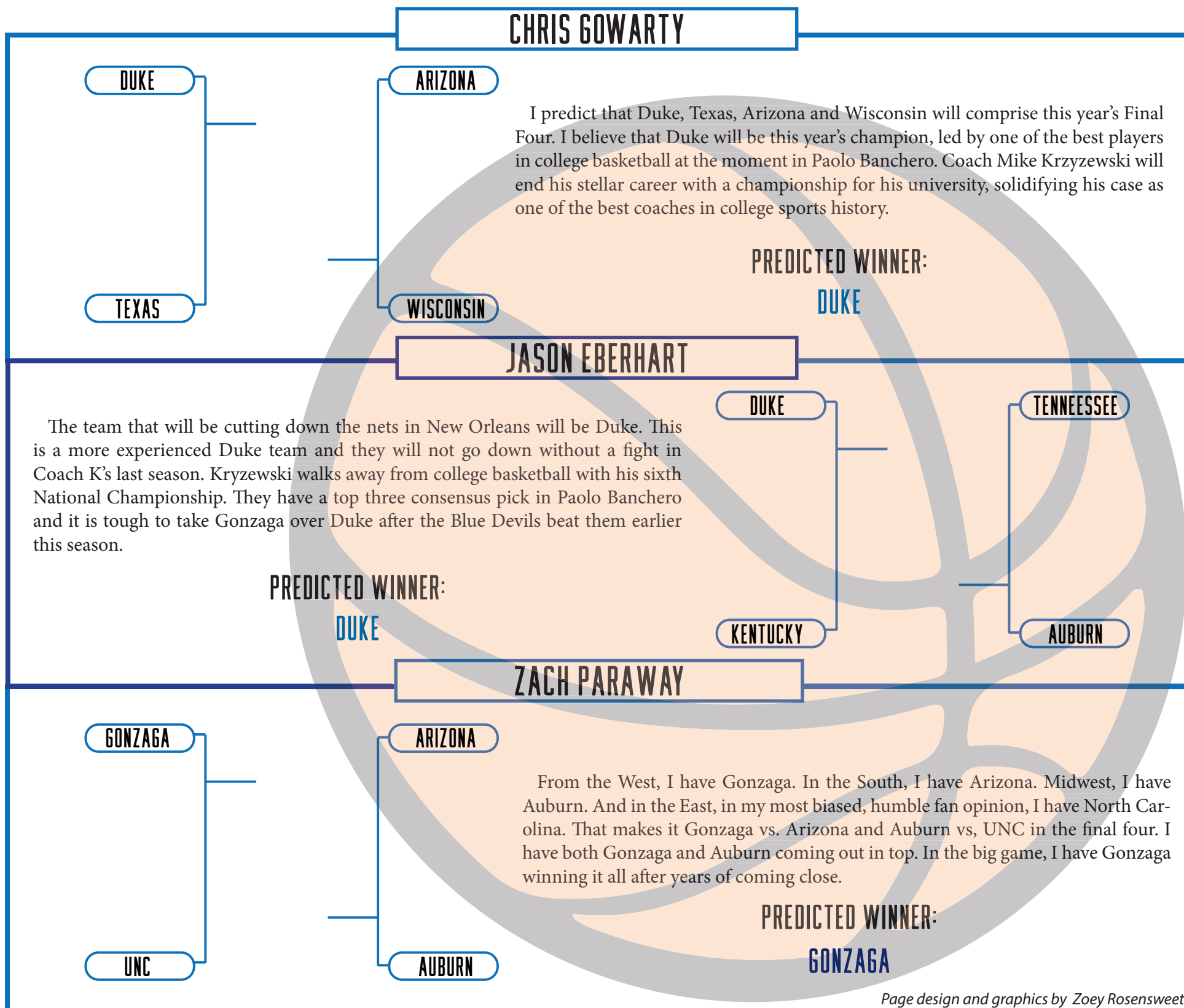
The men's basketball bracket is fairly top-heavy this year. However, a team that towers over the others is Gonzaga-- literally. Chet Holmgren, standing at a towering 7', dominates the boards. The man is a walking bucket and virtually unstoppable down low. Holmgren not only dominates on offense, but the man is a shot swatter down low. He ensures that people earn their paint points. Not to mention that Drew Timme is a fiend who is looking to clinch a championship within his career.

KENTUCKY

KANSAS

PREDICTED WINNER:
GONZAGA

FINAL FOUR PREDICTIONS



Opinion

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

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141 S. Main Street
Clayton and Theresa Karambelas
Media & Communication Center
Wilkes University
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Our Voice

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

Wordle and the chokehold it has on society

Five letters. Six guesses. And only a couple of colorful hints.

How can a game so simple captivate the world in such a short amount of time?

Well, Wordle did exactly that. The online game was launched in October 2021 by Josh Wardle, a Brooklyn-based software developer, who designed it for the amusement of his significant other.

The first couple of weeks, Wordle had a couple hundred users, if it was lucky.

Now in March, 300,000 people play it daily, and Wordle recently sold the game to The New York Times for well over a seven-figure sum.

Wordle's success and growth has been exponential. New people play it every single day.

The thing that keeps the returning players coming back is the thrill of getting the new word each time they play it.

The game is not complicated. All generations can play it; it is easy to get a hold of and takes just a few minutes everyday.

Rarely do people fail.

However, the words are just difficult

enough, and it tests the brain just enough that it keeps the titillation of the players high without them getting frustrated.

There have been some days where people have gotten stumped by the tricky words Wordle has used.

If someone can explain what "swill" or "rupee" means off the top of their head, then credit to them.

However, then Wordle will give you words like "month" and "today" that make the user appreciate not having to use too many brain cells to figure out the answer.

Every person's brain thinks just a little bit differently, and Wordle fully encapsulates that.

There is certainly room for creativity in this minigame with a dictionary's worth of 2,315 words.

People can use any of those five-letter words to try and figure out today's answer, but the beauty of it is that there is only one correct answer, but hundreds, if not thousands, of different ways to get to that answer.

Even outside of the Wordle is a unique type of game that allows each and every

user to have a different experience when playing it.

In fact, it has become so addicting that when the new word is dropped at midnight, some people have to stay up each night at midnight before they can even think about going to bed.

On the other hand, others wake up and do the daily Wordle first thing in the morning before they shower or brush their teeth. Some do it randomly throughout the day.

The popularity of such a simple online word game seems almost imaginary.

So many people need this part of their life every single day.

After all, Wordle is such a game that allows the user to be in total control of what they are doing.

To be fair, much of the last two years has not been up to the common person.

Wordle, even though just a tiny word game once a day, allows people to get a little control back into their life.

We would like to remind you, though: Have you finished today's Wordle yet?

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

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

Email: Emily.Cherkauskas@wilkes.edu or Ariel.Reed@wilkes.edu

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

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

Unmasking the WilkesU mask finder: The truth revealed

By Lindsey Scorey

Opinion Asst. Editor

Editor's note: Due to the nature of this story, various sources that were interviewed and/or cited in this article already knew of the identity of wilkesumaskfinder.

The Instagram page @becolonel, a social media account intended to post relatable memes about Wilkes students, has become a campus-wide conversation starter.

Since its launch in the fall of 2021, the page has amassed more than 700 followers.

Another Wilkes related account, @wumaskfinder, spent months documenting the random places masks were left on campus.

With many Wilkes students, faculty and staff following the pages and their activity, @becolonel and @wumaskfinder have still managed to remain anonymous while running these accounts, until now.

Can we get a drumroll, please?

The face behind the mask is sophomore political science and history major Kaelin Hughes.

Hughes is quite involved on campus and has managed to keep their social media endeavors private still.

In a way, this was a creative decision to stay anonymous for so long, not only to cause intrigue but to additionally make the account feel more universal to all students and their experiences.

"A lot of my close friends who know who I am always bring up how others talk about the memes or the masks, and



it's honestly so weird being so known," said Hughes. "However, it's also fun."

Matt Haubert, junior business administration and management major, initially found BeColonel to be interesting because of the fact that the memes were funny and relatable to nearly everyone on campus. He noted that even if he did not relate to them personally, they were still funny and enjoyable.

"BeColonel is a great page that brightens people's days because the humor is relatable and not made at

anyone's expense," notes Haubert.

While many anonymous pages lean toward spreading drama and negativity, BeColonel is not sought out to insult or harm anyone, but rather spread some funny commonalities. Hughes has even made note on Instagram stories that she does not affiliate with any drama accounts that may have spread previously.

BeColonel's posts pertain to recent events or topics circulating around campus. For instance, finals season or inside jokes associated with each dorm.

Hughes also accepts submissions to their account, an addition to the already current content.

"I'm very happy to be able to take suggestions and curate memes that bring the Wilkes community together," said Hughes. "Whether it's about SUB food, the struggles of a specific major or experiences in general at Wilkes, it's an amazing way to be a 'voice' for those experiences."

Since it is a student-run account for colonels past and present, it makes sense that Hughes caters to her followers.

Her mask account is current and funny, but it is also a genuine commentary on the wasteful discarding of masks on campus and beyond.

Even President Greg Cant follows @wumaskfinder.

Leah Karassick, junior biochemistry major, felt as though @wumaskfinder's posts were a funny means to taking a break from the busy tasks of the day.

She also noted that it was a lighthearted way to make the seriousness of the pandemic and COVID restrictions more enjoyable.

These accounts prove that being unproblematic while talking about humorous and applicable topics on a college campus is possible and can actually amass a large following.

"I'm excited that both @becolonel and @wumaskfinder have grown to what they are now, and I'm excited for what's to come," said Hughes.

I hope students continue to enjoy the fun posts and social media usage wherever possible and as always, don't forget to discard masks appropriately and embrace the motto "Be Colonel."



186
Posts

393
Followers

3
Following

Masks @ Wilkes

free masks around campus go and get them
not affiliated with the university
DMS ARE OPEN



69
Posts

738
Followers

2
Following

wilkes memes

be strong, be meme, be colonel
not affiliated with wilkes university

Why have Squishmallows become the latest popular trend?

Analyzing the cute and colorful plushies

By **Sydney Allabaugh**
Staff Writer

Squishmallows, a brand of soft and simplistic plush toys, have been flying off the shelves.

Since their release in 2017, founder Kelly Toys Holdings LLC has sold more than 100 million Squishmallows. Although these plushies are marketed toward children, teen and adult collectors have also contributed massively to their success.

What makes Squishmallows so popular?

One major contributing factor to their success is their cute and identifiable design. Although there are many different types of Squishmallows between animals, foods and other creatures, two features are present on

them all: their simple expression and round and huggable shape. This iconic design distinguishes Squishmallows as a brand and separates them from their competitors.

Not only are Squishmallows simply just cute, but they are also fun and relatable. Each Squishmallow has a name, personality and interests—like video games, science and athletics. The relatability and personification of the toy adds an extra emotional connection between the consumer and the plushie.

Over the past two years, Squishmallow collectors have taken their interest to online communities on TikTok and other social media platforms. Adult fans share their collection and notify fellow fans of new characters.

This increases interest in certain plushies and exposes the brand to those

unfamiliar, further popularizing them and expanding the community.

With a growing fanbase and more than one thousand characters to collect, Squishmallow fans may struggle to find their favorite ones in store. Some Squishmallows are harder to find than others, which increases the demand. Fans may wait in long lines or pay hefty resale prices for their favorite characters.

Additionally, the high demand and low supply of Squishmallows may cause fans to buy out of impulse as they may not have the opportunity to buy it at another time.

The design, relatability, community, collectability and demand all contribute to the growing adult audience. Some claim Squishmallows are comparable to a new generation of 1990s toy craze Beanie Babies.



Only time can tell if Squishmallows will increase in value over time, but right now, these cute and huggable characters have won over hearts—and wallets—of many.

Conan Gray's talent and musicianship shining on new tour

By **AJ Rubino**
Life, Arts & Entertainment Staff Writer

American singer-songwriter Conan Gray kicked off his tour on March 1 and is still in the beginning of the long road ahead of the highly anticipated world tour.

I had the experience of attending one of his shows at The Fillmore in Philadelphia on March 13, and I do not regret it for the world.

Waiting in line before the concert was an experience unlike others I have had. This time, I went an hour and a half earlier than the time doors opened, to find myself in a decently long line. I figured I would give myself that extra half hour to get a good spot in line. I was not satisfied with my placement.

I was honestly surprised about the length of the line, considering it was 30 degrees outside and half of the crowd did not wear a coat.

However, I found people in front of me with blankets and whole meals, casually sitting on the ground.

I vividly remember a group of teens sitting on the ground with their meals from Wawa and I kept staring at the bag of sour

cream and onion chips they let go stale. It was pretty disappointing in my opinion.

The doors opened at 7 p.m. and I never ran into a venue faster in my life. I ended up standing with a few people I met in line. During the hour in between the wait, I found myself on Facetime with my mother and the crowd greeting her. It was funny

because she was so confused as to what was happening, but I felt that I became one with the crowd at that moment.

The opener was Bulow.

In all honesty, I only knew “You and Jennifer” by the group, but I never not enjoy an opener because it helps broaden my horizons when it comes to my music

taste.

Most of the songs were very romance related. Not in a “heartbreak revenge story” like Conan himself, but in a “I have a crush on your father” kind of way.

I cannot make this up. The song was actually about having a crush on the best friend's father.

After the opening act, Conan Gray finally appeared. He opened with “Wish You Were Sober” and I could not have asked for a better opener from him.

My favorite song that he performed was “Astronomy” and I think I fell more in love with that man. The visuals, the choreography, his voice all made me feel like I was entering heaven.

The concert ended with his newer songs and I enjoyed how the crowd picked up on the emotional lyrics and melodies of the song.

Gray had us wrapped around his finger. One minute he had us laughing and then the next moment I was crying.

Overall, I would do it again, preferably in warmer weather. These winter concerts are messing with my body and my fits, but it was worth it every time.



The Beacon/AJ Rubino

Conan Gray performs at the the Fillmore.

Are the new NFL overtime rules a necessary addition?

By Zara Lantzman

Opinion Staff Writer

On March 16, the Indianapolis Colts, Philadelphia Eagles and the Tennessee Titans all proposed rules changes to the current overtime format in the NFL.

The Eagles and the Colts proposed the rule change of each team getting a guaranteed possession in overtime. The Titans proposed the rule change of each team getting a possession in overtime unless the team with the first possession scores a two-point conversion.

Both of these proposed rule changes can make a huge difference and would make overtime so much better.

I personally like the Eagles and Colts' proposed rule change more due to the fact that it is a guaranteed possession. If these rule changes get implemented, the only thing that needs updating is the time in overtime.

According to the NFL, coin toss winners are 10-1, with a 90.9 percent chance of winning overtime.

Is this fair?

Contact opinion editor: Breanna.Ebisch@wilkes.edu to offer your take.

Overtime would need to revert back to 15 minutes instead of 10 minutes. I can see way more ties with this new format if they keep it at 10 minutes.

It is devastating to watch your team bring the game to overtime, only to lose the game because of a coin toss. The coin toss decides who gets possession first and many times the team that receives the ball usually scores in that first possession, resulting in a win.

There was a lot of discussion about the overtime rules after the Buffalo Bills and Kansas City Chiefs divisional game

this year.

The Chiefs won the coin toss after they brought the game to overtime and the Bills never had a chance to fight back with their own possession due to the Chiefs scoring.

Teams in the NFL constantly propose rule changes, but most do not warrant a discussion. This rule change is warranting a discussion. The NFL's Competition Committee will officially submit the new rule change next week in the committee meeting. Fans and teams are so tired of the current format. It has

a genuine shot of going through.

In 2017, the league changed the time from 15 minutes to 10 minutes to improve player safety.

According to NFL Football Operations, the current regular-season overtime rules gives a possession to each team unless the team with the first possession scores a touchdown, then the game is over.

If both teams end up with the same score after the 10 minute period, the game ends in a tie.

Postseason overtime rules are a bit different. It follows the same format of possessions except it is a 15 minute period instead of 10 minutes.

The game can never end in a tie. If the score is tied at the end of the first 15 minutes, another 15 minutes will be added on.

These rules clearly need updating to make the NFL more fun and fair.

The many joys and surprises of watching reality TV

By Rudy Urenovich

Staff Writer

I'd be lying if I said the majority of my spring break did not consist of me lying in bed with a charcuterie board watching reality television.

This is how I spend most of my vacations, weekends and school nights. So I guess you could say I probably like reality television more than the average person.

I think I, and I am sure many of you as well, are captivated by the whole universe of reality entertainment for multiple reasons.

It really is a huge portion of television when you think about it. I consider the reality TV umbrella to cover shows spanning from the "Real Housewives" franchise to dating shows, like the "Bachelor/Bachelorette," to those shows that follow people living in the Alaskan wilderness.

I apologize for that a fact that I am unable to give a specific title of an outdoors reality show. I'm sure you know which side of the reality TV spectrum I

fall under.

I think in a way these shows are almost comforting. They typically follow real people and their day to day lives, usually detailing their personal relationships and professional endeavors.

The fact that they are real people, not fictional characters, though sometimes they obviously are playing fictionalized versions of themselves, makes them all

the more attainable and endearing.

Oftentimes we see a bad side to reality stars. This makes them more human.

In fictional TV, characters are sometimes portrayed as being so superhuman or unrealistic that people either slavishly adore them or totally hate them.

There's a middle ground for reality stars. They are like the borderline toxic

friends or relatives we cannot help but love.

All that taken into account another, somewhat contrasting, ideal that makes reality television so entrancing, is how at times it ironically seems so unrealistic. I'm talking about scenes of romance and fights over the smallest things.

When watching it, as viewers we cannot believe people really act a certain way. This in a sense almost makes us feel somewhat superior to the stars of reality shows, who get paid criminally large sums of money to act a fool.

We take solace in the fact that we know we would never act that way, or let something so small and insignificant bother us to such an extent.

I then tell myself they must have some deep-rooted insecurities to behave or react in such a manner, and think "Hey, their life isn't perfect either."

Also let's be honest—the screaming matches are almost always the most iconic scenes.

In a way, this is what makes it more entertaining, and rides the line of brutal reality and entertainment.

Graphic by Jack Malatesta



Hulu's 'Fresh': Actually fresh or a breath of stale air?

A thriller's attempt at commentary on modern-day love

By Hannah Simerson
Staff Writer

Hulu subscribers have been abuzz with their thoughts and praise of the platform's newest original movie, "Fresh."

The thriller film follows Noa as she struggles to find a connection via modern-day online dating.

After stumbling upon Steve in a grocery store aisle, the pair quickly hit it off. Trouble ensues when Noa realizes that not everyone shopping in the produce section is who they say they are.

What it did wrong

"Fresh" bit off more than it could chew- no pun intended.

The film tried entirely too hard to be what its title suggests: something new in the thriller genre.

However, not only did it not do this, but it also actually fell into the same tropes of every thriller movie that I have ever seen.

The film was also entirely predictable. Aside from one twist, I anticipated everything that happened.

This really ruins the movie-going experience for me, as I want to enjoy and

embrace the plot rather than following the outline.

Although its plot was predictable, it was even more unbelievable.

To lure one woman far into the woods after knowing her for all of two weeks is unreasonable, but to do so as one's career as Steve does is simply outlandish.

Us women are not following you to some cabin in the woods with no cell service- we have seen that movie and we know how it ends.

What it did right

Don't get me wrong, "Fresh" was a lot of fun. The twists, albeit predictable, kept me wanting more.

The film itself was solid and entertaining and the concept was a lot of fun (although it certainly has been done before).

"Fresh" is

simply a good movie that tried too hard to transform a genre.

The only aspect of "Fresh" that lived up to its title was the jarring title sequence halfway through the film's runtime, something newer to cinematic audiences because of the change in chronological organization.

Audiences make it past formalities with the characters and the plotline has been established (so they think) by the time

the title is first displayed.

However, the pre-title "Fresh" and post-title "Fresh" are two very different entities, thus making both distinct and proving the delayed title sequence to be a smart move.

I do love a good final girl, however, and "Fresh" offers up three dominating women that had me on the edge of my seat rooting for them.

The final act of this film offers up possibly one of the most epic revenge plots ever.

The strong female heroines steal the show from any horror Steve could offer up.

Go women!

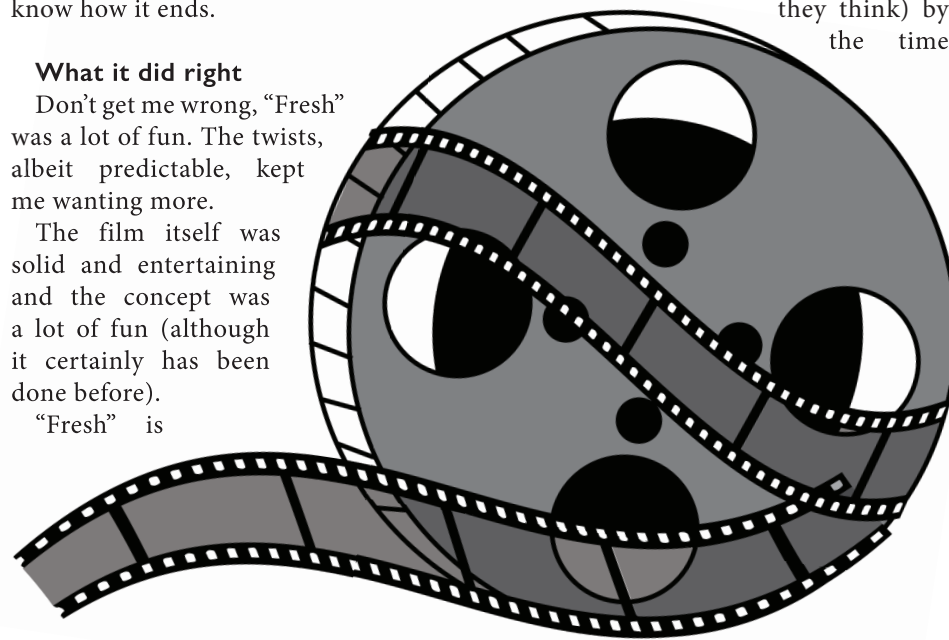
Hannah's rating

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed my viewing of "Fresh".

Would I ever watch it again? Never say never, but I cannot see it happening anytime soon.

"Fresh" earns a solid six out of ten stars.

An entirely forgettable, but decent film, I only wish it played better in its genre rather than trying to transform it.



Graphic by Zoey Rosensweet

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Coach of the Year: Tyler Hynes, driven by those around him

By Baylee Guedes
Co-Sports Editor

Tyler Hynes, men's ice hockey head coach, received the 2022 Coach of the Year award during the final week of the winter season. The award was presented to Hynes as he led his team and first graduating class to a record of 20-5-1 on the year.

"It was special (to get the award)," said Hynes. "It is a staff award though, because there are a lot of great people around this program. One person can not hold it all up."

Hynes attributes all of his success to those around him, encapsulating the definition of a true leader.

"Lucas Bombardier was awesome as my assistant, he came in and just really elevated our program and continues to do so," said Hynes. "Our athletic trainer Tyler Brady has helped me so many times and chipped in when most trainers would not in those situations. There are so many things that have to go right to be recognized for that (award)."

Before his coaching career at Wilkes, Hynes played hockey at Albany Academy. He worked his way up in the junior leagues and then completed four years at the Division I Union College as a three-time ECAC Hockey All-Academic honoree.

From being coached by Brad Shaver in his early hockey career, Hynes was inspired and wanted to leave an impression on future skaters.

"(Shaver) impacted me growing up," said Hynes. "He helped me structure my life and streamlined my priorities. That kind of changed my trajectory and if I could be a little piece of that to somebody else, then I am doing my job."

Hynes began his career at Wilkes as the assistant coach in 2018, the year the program began. He became the head coach in 2019 and currently holds the position.

In his first year as head coach,

Hynes and the Colonels won the MAC Championship as they held a 6-0 record in the conference.

"Following our first year when our previous coach took a different job at another school, we know as a group that Coach Hynes was going to be the perfect man to take the job," said senior Michael Gurska. "We have had the utmost confidence in him from the day he took over and I am happy to say that after my time here is done, we will continue to be great friends."

Hynes was honored with the MAC Co-Coach of the Year award and then he led his team to the United Collegiate Hockey Conference (UCHC) Championship Series, that particular season ended with 19 wins.

In three seasons as head coach, Hynes has led Wilkes to an overall 46 wins with 19 losses and one tie. The Colonels have appeared in the UCHC tournament for these three seasons, as well as their first season with Hynes as an assistant coach. The ice hockey program collected two MAC Championships along with one second-place title under Hynes, but appeared in the top two all four years of the program.

"Hynes did a tremendous job leading this group," said senior Jay Gallagher. "But at the end of the day, he is an even better person and that is what I will remember most about playing for him."

To Hynes, the awards and statistics are important, but the bond between the players and the coaching staff is what leads to success.

"My coaching philosophy is to touch the heart before you take the hand," said Hynes. "Connect and build a relationship if you want people to follow you as their leader."

"Coach Hynes has taught all of us what it means and how important it is to be a great teammate," said Gurska. "He has helped guide our culture to be more concerned with the day-to-day process,



The Beacon/Baylee Guedes

Head coach Tyler Hynes gets back to working in his office as the ice hockey season concluded.

this mindset has helped us become successful because we focus on the small details and habits necessary to win, and that has led to strong results."

This year marked Hynes' third season as head coach. The accomplishments from this season will be remembered as this was Hynes' first graduating class and the Colonels collected the honor of winning the MAC Championship game on the program's first senior night.

"(Winning the championship) was really special because of the group that won it," said Hynes. "The seniors and the leaders that we had, I know they deserved it because I see what they do every day."

Unfortunately, the season came to an end as their run at the 2022 UCHC

Championship ended as they lost in the final round, but Hynes and his team are looking to capitalize on the experience.

"We got to practice for another week and build our program for the future," said Hynes. "A lot of the guys who may not have gotten a chance to play this season got to attend that game, see it, and absorb that environment. They will be ready to go now that the torch is passed, it is their time."

Hynes looks forward to the offseason as he and his team will be able to support other Wilkes athletic teams and have time to prepare for the 2022-23 ice hockey season.

All stats are from gowilkesu.com and gomacsports.com

SOFT: Colonels start the season strong with 4-2 record

By Christopher Gowarty
Co-Sports Editor

The softball team got their first taste of the season during the 2022 Fastpitch Dreams Spring Classic. In the six games played in Myrtle Beach, S.C., the Colonels went 4-2 to open up their season.

On the first day of the Classic, the Colonels faced off against Cairn University and Penn State Mont Alto in a doubleheader. The Colonels swept the doubleheader, defeating Cairn 9-1 and Penn State Mont Alto 10-2.

Senior pitcher Rhia Aurand was the victor against Cairn, allowing just four baserunners with seven strikeouts in her five-inning complete game.

In the game against Penn State Mont Alto, junior pitcher Hope Mullins earned the win by throwing a complete game of her own. She allowed two earned runs in five innings while striking out 9. Senior shortstop Erin Cabry went 3-for-6 with one double, one RBI and five runs scored between the two games.

“As a whole, we’re very pleased with how we performed offensively,” said head coach Jackie Klahold. “The players were disciplined in their plate appearances and worked on attacking the zone when good pitches would come.”

The second day of the Classic was



The Beacon/Ariel Reed

Senior Jessie Smith prepares to swing against Lycoming College on Senior Day, April 17 2021.

another doubleheader for the Colonels. In the first game, Wilkes defeated NC Wesleyan 10-0 thanks to another complete-game victory for Aurand. She threw seven, shutout innings with seven strikeouts to stifle the Battling Bishops.

Senior designated player Emma Stauffer went 2-for-3 with one walk and two RBI in the contest. In the second

game of this doubleheader, Wilkes suffered their first loss of the trip to Kean University by a score of 6-3. Mullins went 3-for-4 with one RBI and Cabry went 2-for-3 with one run scored in the loss.

“Coming from a not-so-great performance last season, we really wanted to turn it around this year,” said

Aurand. “We gained two new pitching coaches this season, Coach Jordan and Coach Kristen, and they did an excellent job preparing us by helping us increase our strike percentage, improve our mental game on the mound and work on our pitching endurance.”

After a two-day hiatus, the Colonels played their third and final doubleheader of the Classic. In the first game, the Colonels faced Penn State Abington and won 11-3.

Wilkes got off to a hot start in this matchup by scoring five runs in the first, giving them all the offense they would need to win the game.

Senior first baseman Jessie Smith supplied the big blow in the inning by bringing in three runs via a bases-clearing triple.

In the second game, the Colonels lost their final game of the Classic in an 11-5 defeat to Thiel College. Sophomore third baseman Hayden Calaman went 2-for-3 with one RBI and one run scored against Thiel.

“I think the main contributing factor to our victories was that we went out there and played as a team to our level and had fun doing it,” said Stauffer. “We were all super excited to have the opportunity to play in warmer weather and be able to play on the dirt again.”

Spring Training Team Statistics

Average

.371

Runs Scored

48

Runs Per Game

8

Extra-base Hits

12

Win-Loss Record

4-2

Earned Run Average

3.89

Strikeouts

35

Innings Pitched

36

BB: Colonels nearly undefeated during spring training trip

By Christopher Gowarty

Co-Sports Editor

The baseball team came close to a nine-game sweep during their spring training trip to Fort Pierce, Fla. In nine games against six different opponents, the Colonels went 8-1 to improve their season record to 10-1.

The Colonels began their trip on March 5 against Maritime College. This game began a recurring theme of lopsided victories for Wilkes as they defeated the Privateers 14-3.

"I thought our pitchers worked ahead in the count for the most part and pitched to contact," said head coach Kevin Gryboski. "Our hitters were aggressive early on in the count and hunted the fastball."

First-year Chase Vrabel contributed to the offensive onslaught going 4-for-5 with two doubles, one RBI and three runs scored. Senior JT Hibsichman earned the victory, tossing six shutout innings with six strikeouts while only allowing two hits.

"Our game plan was and is to throw strikes and let the defense get outs," said Hibsichman. "If we limit walks and free bases, good things happen."

On the second day of the trip, the Colonels swept Norwich University in a doubleheader winning by scores of 7-4 and 13-0.

Senior Tony Molitoris earned the



The Beacon/Ariel Reed

Senior Darren Kerdesky gets mobbed by his teammates at home plate after a game-tying home run against Misericordia on March 18.

victory in the first game with five and two-thirds innings allowing just one run and striking out three. First-year Aiden Murphy shined brightly in the second game, throwing a complete-game shutout with 15 strikeouts to earn his first collegiate victory. Graduate student Nick Pronti was the offensive standout in the doubleheader, going 4-for-5 with three doubles, five RBI and two runs scored.

"I see a huge difference in this team than any other team I've ever been a part of here at Wilkes," said senior Mike Patrizio. "The right group of guys returned and the new

guys coach brought in all get together and love playing and being around each other."

The fourth game of the trip resulted in a dramatic 11-5 victory against Drew University, with the Colonels scoring all 11 runs in the top of the ninth inning.

First-year Mike Show had the game-winning hit with a two-run single, putting the Colonels on top 6-5 giving them the lead for good. Patrizio went 3-for-5 with two runs scored, one RBI and one stolen base in the contest.

The Colonels faced Gettysburg College in the fifth game of the trip, defeating the

Bullets 13-2. Graduate student Brandon Reno went two-for-four with three RBI, one walk and one home run, marking the Colonels' first long-ball of the year.

On the fifth day of the trip, Wilkes faced the Marywood Pacers in their second and final doubleheader of the week.

In the first game, the Colonels won 4-3 thanks to another solid outing from Hibsichman as he gave up just one run in five innings earning the victory. In the second game, the Colonels' eight-game win streak was snapped as the Pacers won 11-5.

In their eighth game of the trip and their second against Drew, the Colonels won yet again with a score of 5-1.

Murphy earned his second victory of the trip with another stellar outing, throwing six innings while only allowing one run and striking out 10 batters. As the designated hitter, first-year Zack Luksic went 1-for-4 with his first collegiate home run.

In the final game of the trip, Wilkes defeated Messiah College 14-4. Junior Darren Kerdesky contributed heavily to the offensive outburst, going 2-for-4 with 3 runs scored, four RBI and his first home run of the season.

"The players need to come to practice every day and be ready to work," said Gryboski. "The season is a grind and we have a tough schedule ahead of us."

Spring Training Team Statistics

Average

.338

Win-Loss Record

8-1

Runs Scored

86

Earned Run Average

3.13

Runs Per Game

9.56

Strikeouts

59

Extra-base Hits

39

Innings Pitched

72

Getting to know...

Aiden Murphy

First-Year Baseball Player

The Beacon: Male Athlete of the Week Feb 23. to March 16

Why Aiden Murphy was selected: During the Colonels' spring training trip, Murphy earned two victories on the mound. His first win was a seven-inning, complete game shutout with 15 strikeouts versus Norwich University. In his second win against Drew University, Murphy threw six innings only allowing one earned run while striking out 10 batters.

Name: Aiden Murphy

Year: First-Year

Major: Business Management

Hometown: Mountaintop, Pa.

High School: Wyoming Seminary

Position: Pitcher

Favorite thing to do during practice?

My favorite things to do during practice are putting balls in the pitching machine and shooting fly balls to the outfielders.

Driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?

Wilkes was the best bang for my buck with how convenient everything at the school is, especially the great coaching staff. The baseball team has been nice as well.

Other interests or hobbies off of the field?

In the summer I enjoy wakeboarding on Harvey's Lake and working out.

Post-graduation plans in terms of a career?

I plan on either starting a business or finding a good company to work in.

Favorite building on campus?

My favorite building on campus is the SIMMS Center (formerly UCOM).

Favorite professor?

My favorite professor is Professor Lampman.

Favorite memory as a Colonel?

My favorite memory as a Colonel was coming back in the top of the ninth inning against Drew in Florida where we were down five runs, and came back to win the game.

Most influential person in your life?

The most influential people in my life are the ones who helped raise me.

What does "Be Colonel" mean to you?

"Be Colonel," to me, means to work hard all the time.

Hopes for this season as a Colonel?

As a team, we have the collective goal of winning the MAC—that holds true for me as well.

- Compiled by Ariel Reed, Managing Editor

When/Why did you first begin playing?

I started playing baseball around 3 or 4 because my dad got me a glove and I started learning the game.

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

The Beacon/Ariel Reed

Getting to know...

Emma Stauffer

Senior Softball Player

The Beacon: Female Athlete of the Week Feb. 23 to March 16

Why Emma Stauffer was selected: In six games during the Colonel's spring training trip, Stauffer earned a .563 batting average by hitting safely nine times in 16 at-bats. She also drove in eight runs to go along with an OPS of 1.151.

Name: Emma Stauffer

Year: Senior

Major: Pharmacy

Hometown: Media, Pa.

High School: Penncrest H.S.

Position: Third Base/DH

Driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?

I chose Wilkes due to the opportunity to continue to play softball while also maintaining a rigorous academic curriculum. The smaller class sizes and great NAPLEX passing rate also played a role in my decision to come to Wilkes.

Post-graduation plans in terms of a career?

After graduation in two years, I hope to apply and match for a residency at a hospital closer to my home. After my first year of residency, I plan to complete a second year of residency specializing in cardiology pharmacy.

Favorite memory as a Colonel?

My favorite memory as a colonel was my white coat ceremony. I loved being able to receive my white coat in front of my parents, grandparents, and supportive teammates.

Hopes for this season as a Colonel?

My hope for this season as a colonel is to go out there every game, play my best and have fun. I hope that our team is able to make it to the MAC championship and win.

When/Why did you first begin playing?

I first began playing softball when I was 6 years old. I knew I had found the sport that was meant for me.

Favorite thing to do during practice?

My favorite thing to do during practice is to scrimmage ourselves. We have a relatively larger team, which makes inter-team scrimmages exciting and competitive.

Other interests or hobbies off of the field?

Off the field, I love to spend time with my family, especially my grandparents. I also enjoy spending my summers down the shore and going boating and fishing with my family.

Favorite building on campus?

My favorite building on campus would be Stark Learning Center.

Favorite professor?

My favorite professor is Dr. Kimberly Ference.

Most influential person in your life?

I would have to say the most influential people in my life are my parents and all of my grandparents.

What does "Be Colonel" mean to you?

"Be colonel" to me means bringing respect, servant leadership, advocacy, teamwork, and gratitude into every aspect of your life.

- Compiled by Ariel Reed, Managing Editor



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The Beacon/Ariel Reed

WREST: Two colonels finish year at NCAA championships

By Jason Eberhart
Asst. Sports Editor

Two members of the wrestling team wrapped up their individual seasons at the NCAA Championships. First-year Austin Fashouer and junior Colton Babcock both went to the Championships for the first time in their careers.

Both Fashouer and Babcock were looking to earn Wilkes's first All-American honors since 2015. Although they did not finish top eight to earn those honors, Fashouer and Babcock deemed their seasons as successful.

The two of them and their coaching staff traveled to Cedar Rapids, Iowa to compete in the NCAA Championships that were held at Alliant Energy Powerhouse.

"The venue was pretty awesome," said Babcock. "Just the way they had the arena set up. They gave us medallions and water bottles. You had to use your pass to get in. It was pretty official and cool."

Babcock went up a weight class this season to join the 184-pounders. He lost a close back and forth 13-9 matchup in the first round to Lucas Salmon of Baldwin Wallace University.

He then fell for the second time in the consolation bracket to finish the tournament. Babcock finished his year with an overall record of 30-5.

Fashouer was as impressive as a first-year could be in the college wrestling world. He went toe-to-toe with everyone he stepped on the mat with all season long in the 125-pound class.

"My mom was my biggest supporter," said Fashouer. "She passed when I was a freshman in high school, and I have a tattoo on my back to push me all the way through."

Fashouer used that motivation all the way to the NCAA Championships. He trailed 6-3 going into the third set, but Fashouer used a quick escape and a takedown to tie the match at six all.

Unfortunately, his opponent, Justin Lopez from Johnson & Wales, was awarded an escape point just as time was expiring to earn the win.

Fashouer would lose in the consolation round to conclude his outstanding



Photos: The Beacon/Ariel Reed

Top: Junior Colton Babcock tries to get his opponent to submit on Senior Day against Scranton University.

Bottom: First-year Austin Fashouer takes down his opposition during a match against the rival Royals.



first year as a collegiate wrestler with a record of 32-6.

Babcock and Fashouer are looking to use this experience of competing at the highest level later in their careers.

While this was Babcock's last year wrestling, he knows the lessons he

learned on the mat will help him as he looks to join the State Police Academy.

Fashouer now understands what it takes to reach the All-American level he is striving for and the improvement to make heading into his sophomore year.

"Austin and Colton had great years,

and although they did not get All-American status, we are proud of the way they represented the Colonels all year long," said head coach Jon Laudenslager. "They wrestle a style we like to coach, and wrestle extremely hard."

All stats were found at gowilkesu.com.