

The Beacon - November 11, 2014



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THE BEACON

The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow.

In this issue:

Sexually transmitted diseases
run wild on college campuses

CEO of Apple comes out and
speaks about his homosexuality

The negative effect of unrealistic
body images presented by the media

Wilkes Colonels football team
prepares for Mayor's Cup game

Bridging the Gap

**Wilkes Veterans, past and future, share what Veteran's
Day means to them on page 12**

Photos courtesy of Michael McCleaf

News

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

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Beacon Briefs

Wilkes University Chorus Hosts Spaghetti Dinner

The Wilkes University Choral ensembles are hosting a Spaghetti Dinner on Nov. 9 from 5-7 p.m. in the Ballroom of the Henry Student Center. Members of the Wilkes University Choral Ensembles also will provide musical entertainment. Tickets are \$5 for students and seniors, \$8 for adults, and may be purchased in advance from any member of the Wilkes Chorus or the Wilkes Chamber Singers. Tickets will also be available at the door, and meals will also be available for take-out. All proceeds from the event go to support the Wilkes University Choral Ensembles.

Zebra hosts dodgeball tournament to benefit orphans

From 1 to 4 p.m. on Nov. 16, Zebra Communications, the student run PR agency at Wilkes University, will host a dodgeball tournament in support of the nonprofit organization, "Embrace a Child in Tanzania," which benefits four children orphaned by the AIDS virus. The tournament will take place at the UCOM recreational center located at 84 W. South St.

Wilkes students who choose to participate in the tournament will compete on a team of six players and will be placed into a bracket. Costing \$12 a person, teams will be able to take part in the rounds of dodgeball and receive an EAC shirt. A portion of the proceeds from the tournament will go towards providing

the necessities the four children need in order to continue their education.

Open to Wilkes University students, registration begins at 12:30 p.m. and lunch will be provided for all who attend. The public is invited to observe and party with Joshua Solarczyk, the DJ. For more information about forming a team, contact account team member, Amanda Kornak at amanda.kornak@wilkes.edu.

All three Wilkes bands scheduled to perform together

History will be made on Nov. 22, when all three Wilkes University band ensembles perform together for the first time at Wilkes University Band Night. The Jazz Orchestra, The Civic Band and The Marching Colonels present an evening of big band jazz, concert band and marching band music at 7 p.m. in the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts. The event is free and open to the public.

Mathias Klettenmayer to lecture in United Nations series

Wilkes University's United Nations Lecture Series continues at 4 p.m. on Nov. 13, when Matthias Klettenmayer, presents "The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals - A New Approach" in the Miller Room of the Henry Student Center. Klettenmayer is the sustainable development officer responsible for communication and outreach in the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development.

SG notes: constitution revisions

By Nicholas Durdan

Staff Writer

For its most recent meeting, Wilkes University's Student Government had a broader agenda than at the past few meetings.

Dr. Patrick Leahy, Wilkes University president, addressed the group and answered questions, including the possibility of a late night gym in Marts Center.

In its second week of litigation, the Psychology Club met for its constitutional revisions, adding two positions and two committees. The revisions passed Student Government with a vote of 32-0-10.

Student Government also heard from a group wanting to start a men's volleyball club. Main concerns included a practice location and an ability to play opposing teams. In addition, as an official university club, it could not discriminate. The final vote takes place at the next meeting.

The Ski Club is gearing for its annual trip to Vermont and requested money for buses for the trip. The group has done fundraisers, but given the high volume of students going, the amount the club is asking appears too steep given Student Government's current budget. Voting takes place next meeting.

The PPD organization is also seeking

funding for a tailgate event for the Wilkes vs. King's football game. The organization wants more people to attend games and a tailgate party seems like a good idea to drum up a potential crowd. The group is seeking \$1,135.

Student Government representatives said they hope the group looks for other sources of funds in addition to Student Government.

In dining service initiatives, a "no tray Tuesday" is being discussed. This initiative would mean having no trays every Tuesday to be greener and more environmentally friendly. An additional idea included no trays on the weekend given the lower volume of consumers.

In IT news, a color printer in Breiseth is being installed and wifi is being replaced in University Towers.

The current budget for Student Government is as follows: All college: \$216.72 and general: \$1,167.34 for a total of: \$1,384.04. More money could be reimbursed if certain taxes and receipts go through.

Student Government meets at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays in the Miller Room of The Henry Student Center.


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Narrowing in on new dean

By Justin Topa
Assistant News Editor

Wilkes University is in the process of finding the appropriate candidate to fill the position of Dean of the College of Science and Engineering.

Throughout the past week, Drs. John Schaumloffel, Michael Steele and Cecelia Wigal have presented to faculty and staff in hopes of earning the open position at the head of the College of Science and Engineering. Dr. William Hudson is scheduled to present on Thursday.

Steele, who presented on Tuesday, has been working within the higher education field since 1979. He is a graduate of Millersville University of Pennsylvania where he received a bachelor's degree in biology. He received his doctorate in biology with concentrations in ecology and behavior and has done postdoctoral research at North Carolina State University.

Schaumloffel, who presented on Thursday, has been working within the field of higher education since March of 1997. He holds a bachelor's degree in geology and chemistry from Castleton State College as well as a master's degree and doctorate from Washington State University in the field of chemistry.

Wigal presented on Monday and received a bachelor of science degree from Ohio Northern University, a master of science degree in electrical engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology, and a doctorate of philosophy in Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences from Northwestern University.

Hudson will present on Thursday afternoon. He holds a bachelor's degree from Metropolitan State College in Denver, Co., a master's degree and doctorate in electrical engineering from New Mexico State University.

There has not been any indication as to when a decision will be made.

Wilkes University will also be searching for a candidate to fill the position of Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences to replace Thomas Baldino, interim dean who is not expected to interview for the permanent position.

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The good, the bad and the horrifying: Colleges combat growing issue of STDs



Photo illustration by Pat Walther

Using condoms during sexual intercourse will significantly cut down on the risk of contracting STDs.

By Pat Walther
Staff Writer

Some things are uncomfortable to talk about. If one were to make a list of things people go out of their way to avoid discussing, it would most likely feature such topics as: the sex lives of one's parents, the ideology of the Westboro Baptist Church and U.S. involvement in the Middle East.

Reading down this theoretical list, it would be inevitable to come to the subject of sexually transmitted diseases, or STDs; something that most college students would refuse to believe they could be the unfortunate recipients of.

The time spent in college is one of growth, discovery and exploration. And for many students, this exploration can extend beyond their classroom walls and into their bedrooms. As it is, college campuses are breeding grounds for STDs.

According to Stanford University's Sexual Health Peer Resource Center, one in four college students have an STD. The Centers for Disease Control reports that although 15-24 year olds only account for 25 percent of the sexually active population, they are responsible for more than half of the new STD diagnoses each year.

So why are college students so prone to STDs?

It is easy to blame the hedonistic lifestyle that many undertake during their years spent earning a degree. Although, some believe this spread of disease is due to lack of education in relation to the subject at large. Myths about STDs are popular among students.

For example, many believe any and all STDs are visible to the naked eye, similar to herpes. This is simply not true with all STDs. As a matter of fact, human papillomavirus (HPV), the most common STD in the country, often presents no symptoms at all. If left untreated, HPV can cause unsightly genital warts and, far worse, cervical cancer.

Students should also be wary when engaging in sexual activity after consuming alcohol. Alcohol is universally known to lower one's inhibitions, so naturally, if somebody were intoxicated, it'd be easier to overlook the use of a condom. Over 45% of college freshmen who have been binge drinking failed to consider the usage of contraceptive aids, like condoms, when having sex, according to the CDC.

It's as easy to avoid catching STDs as it is to get them. Condoms are easily obtainable through the Health Services departments of many colleges and universities, Wilkes University included.

Along with complimentary condoms, Wilkes University offers periodic STD testing, also free of cost, where students can anonymously find out if they are the carriers of a number of different sexually transmitted diseases and can be treated accordingly with the utmost confidentiality.

This does not mean that anybody should be afraid of having sex. It just means precautions are best taken before doing so. Because sometimes, something as simple as applying a condom, which takes literal seconds to do, can save one from more trouble than they think.

For additional information or to receive advice, medical attention or STD screening, students can visit the office of Health and Wellness Services on the first floor of Passan Hall located on 267 South Franklin St. The office is open between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. All medical consultations at the Health Services Office, done by both the doctor and the nurse are free of charge.

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Wilkes students welcome the autumn season

By Annelise Przywara
Beacon Correspondent

The leaves are changing and the temperatures are dropping. Fall is in the air and many students at Wilkes University have welcomed the change in season.

"I'm a cool guy. I like cool weather," said Jake Schannauer, an undeclared sophomore.

With red, yellow, and orange trees hanging and falling from the trees, the campus greenway is no longer very green. Instead, piles of fallen leaves are the official sign that fall is here and winter is not far away. Kavan Rai, a sophomore psychology major, loves the fall foliage and how pretty the trees look this time of year.

Student Government Preseident Taylor Moyer agrees.

"My favorite part about fall on campus would have to be all the leaves changing colors because I think Wilkes is the most beautiful campus in the fall," said Moyer, a senior pharmacy major.

Overall, the fall colors are a favorite at Wilkes University. The fall season also marks a time for a variety of different food and drinks.

"I really enjoy the food and drinks associated with fall," said Chris Hartman, a sophomore pharmacy major, said. "For example, apple cider, pumpkin pie, and candy corn are some of my favorites."

Hay rides, bonfires, football games, hunting, apple picking, and carving pumpkins are some of the popular activities

Wilkes students like to take part in during the fall. In fact, some said the season wouldn't be the same without these events. For instance, it is a tradition for Zack Sullivan, a junior mechanical engineering major, and his family to go hunting together throughout the season.

Despite Christmas being just around the corner – Santa has already been spotted at some local malls – students enjoy the fall holidays.

"I enjoy Halloween and Thanksgiving," Hartman said. "I feel that Thanksgiving is an important holiday that's often overlooked because of Christmas approaching. Thanksgiving deserves more attention."

According to Moyer, Wilkes University's own clubs and organizations hold events geared specifically towards the fall season. Student Government offers Fall Fest for students to enjoy fall activities on campus. In October, Student Development hosted Autumn Fest and Commuter Council held a pumpkin carving social. Wilkes' Programming Board's Freak Week, a celebration of Halloween-related activities, was also well attended.

"I would say Fall Fest is popular among most students since there is usually a nice spread of different food vendors and entertainment," Moyer said. "Typically 400 students attend this event and the other events are also usually very successful."

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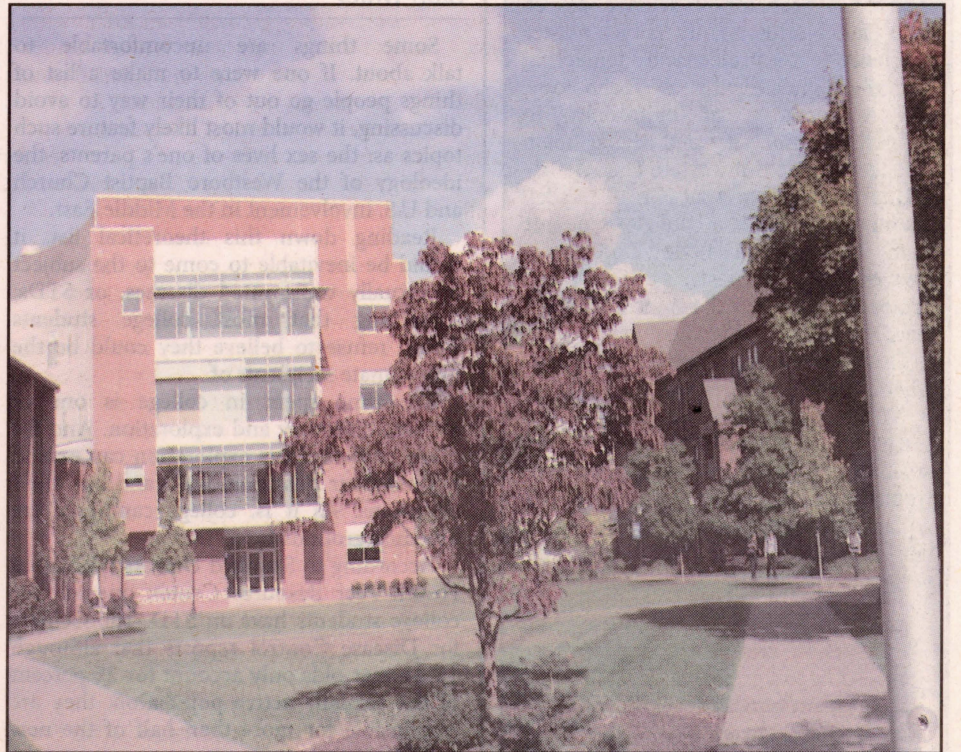


The Beacon/Purvit Patel

Fall is in full bloom as temperatures drop and the transformation of foliage begins. While students walk through the greenway on campus, a trip through the various trees, bushes and plants, is sure to entice heads to turn and serve as a reminder that the holidays are right around the corner. Above, students entering campus from the Student Union Building walk through some of the oldest trees on campus. Bottom left, foliage in a bright red catches the eyes. Bottom right, the center of our campus is in natural transformation.



The Beacon/Purvit Patel



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Wilkes University to host third annual Empty Bowls event

To help increase awareness and fight hunger, Wilkes University will play host to the third annual Empty Bowls event on Nov. 16.

For \$15, attendees will receive a handmade bowl, as well as soup, bread and a drink. For \$5, children under the age of 12 can also attend; however, the lower price does not include one of the bowls. Empty Bowls will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Wilkes' Henry Student Center ballroom.

"This program is important because it fosters a sense of community among the participating institutions and provides much-needed funding for area food banks," said Bridget Giunta Husted, director of Wilkes University's alumni relations.

Empty Bowls is held in conjunction with National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, and is also sponsored by King's College, Wyoming Seminary and Luzerne County Community College.

The program began as an international grassroots effort where potters and other craftspeople created the handcrafted bowls, according to a press release. The empty bowls serve as a reminder of all the people who do not have food to eat.

Locally, Empty Bowls was founded in 2012 by 1978 Wilkes graduate Jean Adams. Adams is also an instructor at Wilkes University. More than 1,000 bowls are created annually by Adams and her Wilkes students.

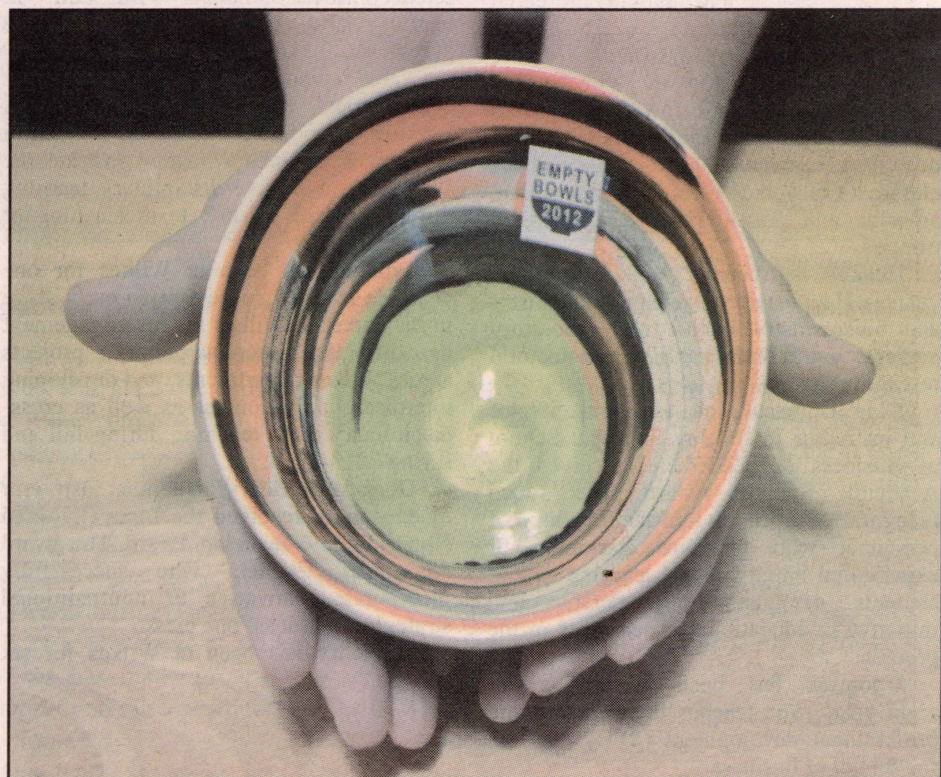
According to the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 15 percent of Luzerne County residents live below poverty level. That number is two points higher than the state average.

Just a mile or two from Wilkes University, the Weinberg Northeast Regional Food Bank distributed 4.8 million pounds of food to more than 160 agencies in the last year.

To register for the event, visit www.wilkes.edu/emptybowls. Bowls and tickets can also be purchased at the event or prior to at Marquis Art & Frame, 122 S. Main St., in Wilkes-Barre and at Earth & Wears on 68 Main St., in Dallas.

Pictured to the right: A sample of one of the pieces available for those in attendance of the event. All proceeds to benefit those in need within our community

Photo Illustration/The Beacon



Wilkes faculty and staff honored for their work

The Beacon
Staff reports

Seven Wilkes University faculty and staff members were recently honored for their work teaching and advising students.

The awards were presented by the university's Teaching Recognition and Effectiveness Committee.

Jon Ference, associate professor of pharmacy practice, and Gina Zanolini Morrison, associate professor of the division of global history and languages, were honored with the Carpenter Award.

The Carpenter Award is the highest award at the university and recognizes outstanding teaching by full-time faculty who have taught at the university for at least three years.

Ference, who has been at Wilkes for six years, teaches in the areas of cardiovascular therapeutics, women's health and information mastery. He also coordinates the pharmaceutical care lab clinical skills series, and serves as the director of pharmacotherapy education at the Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education - Family Medicine Residency Program.

Morrison, who has been at the university for 18 years, taught multicultural education for 10 years in the education department and now helps to prepare students pursuing the doctorate in educational leadership degree. She teaches courses in leadership, diversity and societal change, and qualitative research methods, among others.

Chris Henkels, an assistant professor of chemistry, received the Outstanding New Faculty Award. The award recognizes one new tenure-track faculty member who demonstrates outstanding initiatives in the classroom as well as excellence in teaching, advising and potential for leadership on campus.

Henkels has been at Wilkes for three years. He teaches general chemistry and biochemistry lecture and laboratory courses, and continues his post-doctoral research program.

Dina Udonsak, an assistant director and instructor in the Jay S. Sidhu School of Business & Leadership, received the Academic Support Award. The award recognizes full-time, non-faculty support personnel who facilitate classroom or experiential initiatives and learning among students, demonstrating leadership and initiative in educational experiences in the process.

Udonsak has been at Wilkes for eight years. She teaches the personal and professional development (PPD) class in the school of business.



Photo Courtesy of Vicki Mayk

The winners of Wilkes University's 2014 Teaching Recognition and Effectiveness (TREC) Awards are pictured, front row from left, Dorinda McHenry, adjunct education instructor; Dina Udonsak, instructor, Sidhu School of Business and Leadership; back row from left, Abas Sabouni, assistant professor of electrical engineering; Christopher Henkels, assistant professor of chemistry; Debra Chapman, biology education specialist; Jonathan Ference, associate professor of pharmacy practice; and Gina Zanolini Morrison, associate professor, global history and languages.

Debra Chapman, a biology education specialist, received the Outstanding Adviser Award. The award recognizes academic advisers who demonstrate excellence in academic advising.

Chapman has been at Wilkes for 33 years. She encourages enthusiasm for science in her students with hands-on learning labs and guest speakers in the classroom.

Abas Sabouni, an assistant professor of electrical engineering, received the Interdisciplinary Award. The award recognizes teachers who demonstrate the advancement of interdisciplinary learning through course pairing, team teaching or course projects.

Sabouni has been at Wilkes for one year. He has had success at an early stage in his career at Wilkes for his engagement in different interdisciplinary projects across Wilkes departments, and developing interdisciplinary courses as well as cross-disciplinary team teaching during fall and spring 2013-2014.

Dorinda McHenry, an adjunct instructor of education, received the Innovative and Nontraditional Teaching Award. The award recognizes teachers who successfully incorporate innovative or nontraditional strategies in at least one class.

McHenry has been at Wilkes for six years.

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Apple CEO comes out after the iPhone 6

By Austin Ely
Staff Writer

Tim Cook, one of the world's most innovative people and CEO of a company that brought upon a technological revolution in itself, publically announced that he was homosexual on Oct. 30.

The Apple CEO came out for the first time according to CNN via an essay that was published by Bloomberg Businessweek. In the essay, Mr. Cook wrote, "Let me be clear: I'm proud to be gay, and I consider being gay among the greatest gifts God has given me..."

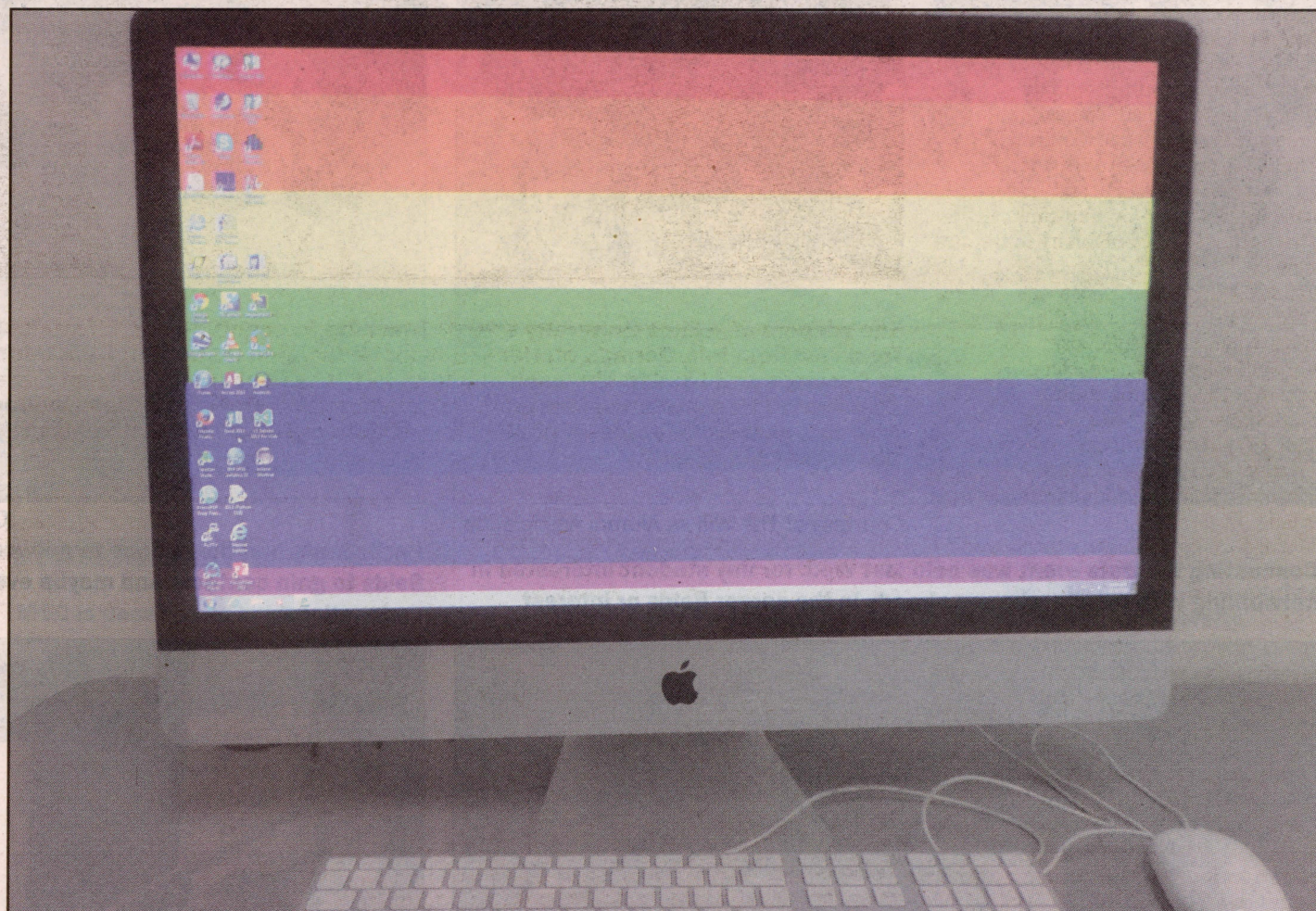
However, Cook's coming out is not as revolutionary as some may think. Many CEOs and higher-ups of companies have come out in recent years, such as Christopher Bailey of Burberry, Nick Denton of Gawker Media Group, Robert Greenblatt of NBC Entertainment, Robert Hanson of BP and even Nike's chief information officer Anthony Watson.

Although reports depict that many already knew that Cook was gay, his public openness brings yet another powerful figure to head the movement for equality.

How do Tim Cook and other CEO's and those high on the business hierarchy relate to the gay rights movement? Well, when Wilkes professor and advisor for the Gay-Straight Alliance Dr. Helen H. Davis was asked what Tim Cook's coming out meant for the LGBT movement she stated:

"It is wonderful when members of the LGBT community who are in important positions are open about their sexual orientation because it sends the message that being LGBT is not anything to hide. As is the case with any minority group, representation is powerful."

Davis went on to explain, "Tim Cook is CEO of one of the world's largest, most important companies. He is successful and widely respected; he also happens to be gay. Because of his position of power,



The Beacon/ Nicole Zukowski

Wilkes is a university that has publicly supported the LGBT community and has many groups to spread awareness.

he and many people who are LGBT choose not to be open about their sexual orientation in the workplace for many reasons."

The irony in this predicament is that many states have laws to protect members of the LGBT community.

"In Pennsylvania, for example, it is still legal to fire someone for being LGBT, so there is still potentially a lot at stake in coming out. By coming out, Tim Cook sends a positive message to his own employees, and hopefully to other companies and to the community as a whole," Davis said. "It is always important

to have positive role models. Also, the more people who are brave enough to come out, the more common and accepting it will hopefully become."

Cook has said that he and Apple plan to back LGBT rights for as long as he lives.

The fact that a figurehead of a powerful company came out as homosexual affects the whole business world.

It even hits home at Wilkes University. Wilkes has many groups that serve to support and raise awareness for the LGBT community.

One such group is the Gay-Straight Alliance.

"I think it means that students have another positive, successful role model, this time in a powerful business position," Davis said. "I hope that it gives them courage, strength, and hope that acceptance of the LGBTQA community will continue to grow."

Instances such as Cook's coming out helps to pave the way to not just gay rights, but the rights to all minorities on the path of equality.

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Connecting the dots to one's future career



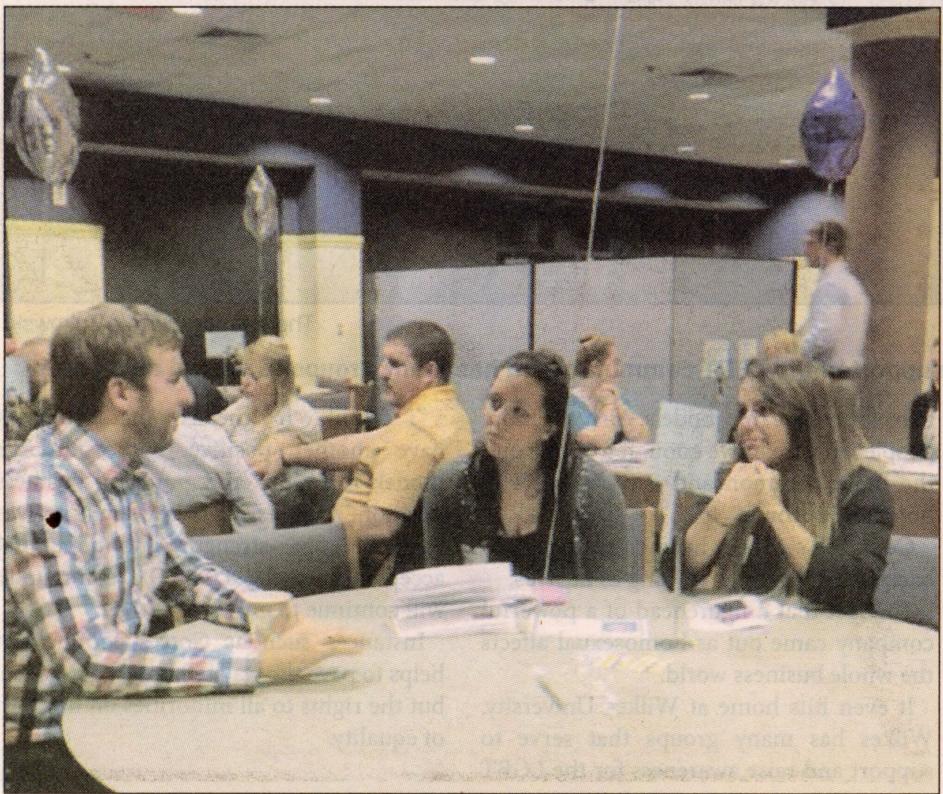
Courtesy of The Wilkes Alumni Association

Connecting the Dots event was held last Wed. for any student interested in networking with people who are already in the career fields or interest.



Courtesy of The Wilkes Alumni Association

Participants had the chance to network with professionals in different fields to gain contacts and maybe even make bonds that will form lifetime connections.




Courtesy of The Wilkes Alumni Association

Many students were able to speak on personal matters of professional development with career experts.



Courtesy of The Wilkes Alumni Association

Advice and stories are told to students to help them make good decisions in thier lives and future careers.

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More of what you missed at MSC's One World Party



The Beacon/ Rebecca Voorhees



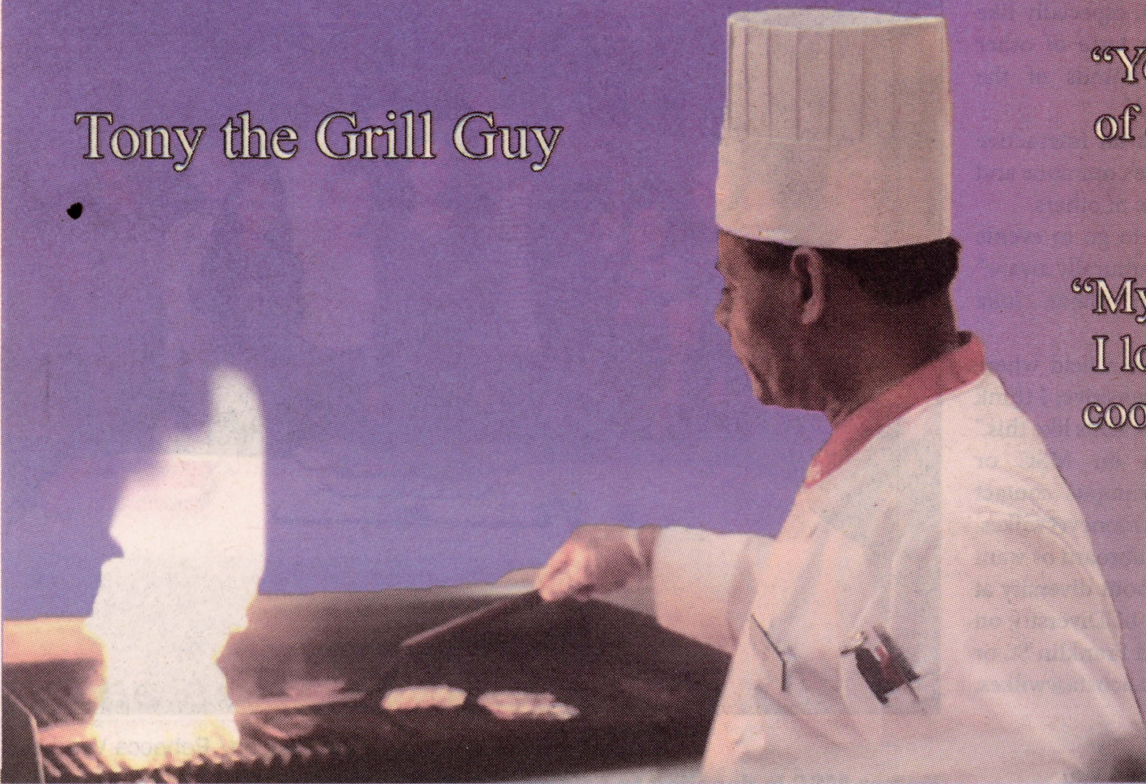
The Beacon/ Rebecca Voorhees

Wilkes MSC is decatted to holding events like the One World Party at Wilkes

Food from five different countries was given to people to try.

Humans of Wilkes

Tony the Grill Guy



"You are often considered somewhat of a celebrity here at Wilkes, what is your favorite part?"

"My thing is that I'm here for the kids. I love making new friends while I'm cooking on the grill and enjoying my job."

More than just the military: Wilkes ROTC

Common questions concerning the ROTC are answered

By Nicole Zukowski
Life, A&E Editor

Multitasking, time management and withholding a strong attitude are all characteristics that students involved with the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) at Wilkes have to balance on a daily basis.

Students who participant in the ROTC see it as a lifestyle choice.

"You have to have time-management skills. It is everyday actively focusing on your training," sophomore finance major, Matthew Winger, ROTC Public Affair Officer, said. "The ROTC is always in the back of your mind."

Wilkes University is one of eleven full partnership programs within the Royal Warrior Battalion. The Royal Warrior Battalion was recognized recently as being in the top 15% of all ROTC programs in the country. Wilkes offers an Army ROTC and Air Force ROTC.

Now that Wilkes has teamed up with Kings College, the ROTC is compatible with any major.

"We (ROTC program) have the truest diversity," Cadet 3rd Class Michael McCleaf, a junior chemistry major, said. "We have

people from all sides of the spectrum as far as student diversity goes. We have people from an array of majors and everyone takes part in different co-curriculars."

"You are a regular college student in every sense of the word. It is just another aspect of your life," Winger said. "It is almost like a club that you could get involved in."

A very active club in that sense. Dedication, endurance and perseverance are all needed.

"The ROTC permeates throughout all aspects of college. You think you have a switch for ROTC and a switch for regular college life but they kind of merge into one," Winger explains. "The ROTC integrates into your life."

The ROTC prepares students through a college-based program for training commissioned officers of the United States Armed Forces.

McCleaf describes the ROTC as a "four year internship program."

At Wilkes the primary focus of the ROTC is to develop leadership capabilities in students and train future leaders for the Army and the American public in general.

"It (ROTC) is building and preparing you to be a better leader for your job you get when you graduate college," Winger said.

The misconceptions of the ROTC

What do your days consist of?

Matthew McCleaf: "A lot of what we do in the Air Force ROTC is working with the community, in both a beneficial and active way."

What are some community service projects?

MM: "To name a few, volunteering at the local soup kitchen and at the Blue Chip Farm Animal Refuge."

Are there ever times where taking a fun approach on learning happens?

MM: "Actually we just had some interactive team-building events. We had fun paintballing and then we had a bowling social. We will take part in the Veterans Day parade, which we will be in our in-service dress."

One misconception about the ROTC is that you basically sign your life to the Armed Forces; is this true?

Matthew Winger: "There is nothing specifically saying you sign on the dotted line. It is complete volunteer. There is no jail time if you leave. We participate because we want to."

MM: "I always say the strong don't stay

and the weak leave. It has to do with finding out what you want. That's why I said this (the ROTC) is like a four year internship because you get to find out if this is what you really want to do. If it is the program will give you the opportunities you need."

Do all students in the ROTC have scholarships?

MW: "No, I hear that all the time but not everyone gets scholarships."

What would you say is the goal of the ROTC?

MM: "Other than preparing for your future career, Wilkes ROTC wants you to develop a life outside of the military so at the end of your career you have a sense of individuality."

What would you say is the largest change in your life since joining?

MW: "It changes your character. There is a certain character or set guidelines that you abide by: integrity, service, honesty and excellence."

For more information on Wilkes ROTC contact Matthew Winger at matthew.winger@wilkes.edu

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The Beacon Archives

Wilkes ROTC is committed to holding service events on and off campus.

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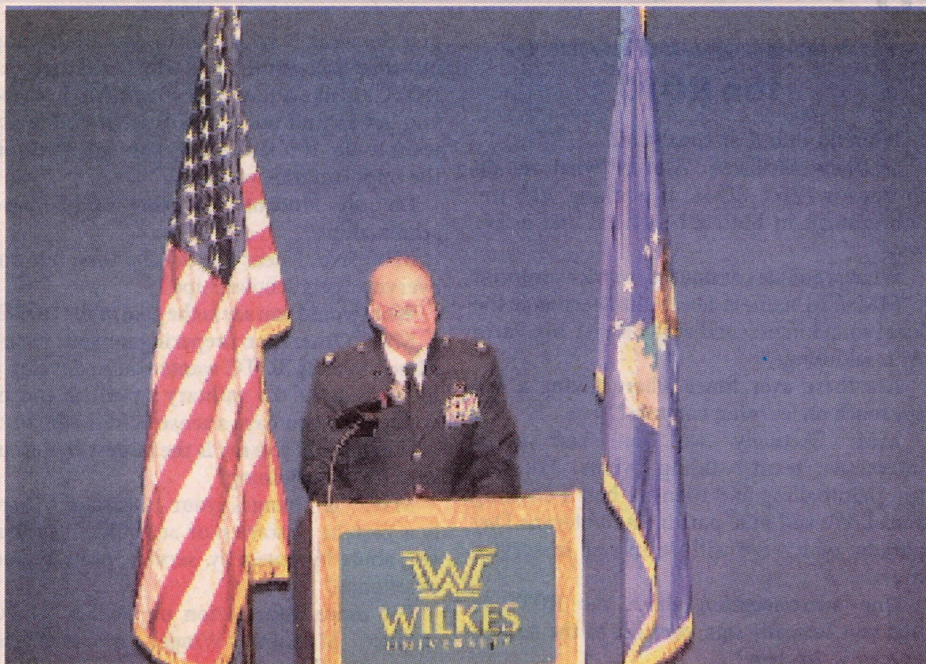


Photo Courtesy of Mark Kaster

Lt. Colonel Mark Kaster is a Wilkes professor who also serves as the Wilkes University Veteran's Counselor.

By James Jaskolka
Editor-in-Chief

In a fourth floor office in the Cohen Science Center, Mark Kaster answers a call from a young woman and prospective student from Virginia.

He listens to her concerns before rattling off information that has become standard for him: information about housing and textbook allowances, facts about the Post-9/11 GI Bill (which allows veterans to attend college for free) and the number for the nearest

VA (Veteran's Affairs) hospital. He comes across equally informative and considerate.

In addition to being a professor of environmental science and engineering, Kaster, a retired Air Force Lt. Colonel serves as the university's Veteran's Counselor. He connects to veterans -- current students and potential ones -- and helps them transition into a civilian atmosphere by helping "turn their benefits on" and showing them the resources they have at their disposal.

For Kaster, it's a rewarding job.

"In a way, I've taken the uniform off, but I'm still serving in this capacity," he said. "I consider it an honor that I can continue to serve my brothers and sisters that have served with me and help them to achieve their goals."

Kaster grew up on a farm in northwest Iowa. Every male in his family served in the military, so it was natural for him to continue the tradition. Kaster noted that without the aid of the military, he wouldn't have been able to attend college. This is a definitive factor in Kaster's job. It allows him to connect with veteran

students in a way that no other faculty member can.

"If you can think back to someone my age, a veteran going to campus...I wasn't certain I could do it. I'd been away from high school for two years," Kaster recalled. "So when today's vets come to me, and they say 'Colonel, can I do this?' I look across that table and say 'Yes, you can,' because I had the same feelings that they did. I know what they're going through."

Serving 26 years with the Air Force means Kaster does not take Veteran's Day lightly. On his desk, in front of the phone where he speaks to current and potential student veterans, Kaster keeps a water bottle, filled with sand he took from Normandy Beach during a family vacation: a constant reminder of those who gave everything for their country.

"We stand on the shoulders of those veterans who came before us and gave their life for this idea of America," Kaster said. "The ones who didn't make it are the ones who have sacrificed everything."

By James Jaskolka
Editor-in-Chief

Michael McCleaf is, in some sense, a small fish in a very large pond.

A Cadet 3rd Class in Wilkes University's Air Force ROTC program, McCleaf recognizes that there are much larger forces at work, forces that go above him and the role he plays for the military. In part, that's what he remembers on Veteran's Day:

"Veteran's Day is the understanding that even though everything I'm doing is so difficult for me...those vets have done what I've done, then they've gone into active duty," he

said. "They've done things harder than what I've done, and in real world situations, not just training in ROTC programs."

McCleaf also recognizes that while he is technically a bottom rung on the ladder, he still plays an instrumental role within the military.

"You can be the guy who orders supplies for the base and is a pencil pusher, but...you're helping, in the grand scheme of things, the entire military at large."

He said that's one of the biggest misconceptions about the military that he's come across: if you aren't a physically powerful person, you won't be of use to the military.

"Everyone has a different worth. It's about so much more than how many pushups can you do. It's about what academically can you bring to the table -- do you have something the Air Force can make use of on an intellectual level," McCleaf said. "It's not just about fighting wars. To try to simplify it with 'who's holding the bigger gun?' is to kind of grossly oversimplify and do a great disservice to a lot of people doing a really hard job outside the front lines."

McCleaf originally wanted to enter the Air Force as a way to pay for college, but quickly found it appealing because of its plethora of long-term career possibilities (personally,

McCleaf wants to work in combat rescue) and the lessons that were instilled in him:

"You have to try and push yourself to be better, to do your job better and lead better and make those above you happy," he said.

"To not strive for something is to not attain something. You get into the feeling where you can coast by and get the degree, or coast by and get to retirement...but at the end of the day, nothing's as easy as it looks. Unless you're striving and pushing every day to do your very best, you'll get sucked away with the tide."

By Pat Walther
Staff Writer

From 2006 to 2012, Jesse Goble's view of the world was from the deck of an aircraft carrier. He lived floating in the seas of south east Asia, a member of the United States Navy. Before he enlisted, before he devoted his life to the path of military service, he was just an average 30 year old who was vaguely bored and generally dissatisfied.

He just wasn't sure what he wanted to do in life. So, he sat down and wrote down the goals he had in mind. Goble recounts, "I

wanted to get out of debt, I wanted to see the world, I wanted to do something other than make money for somebody else and I wanted to finish my education."

With a grandfather who was a marine during World War II and a brother and a father who served separately in the Navy during the 1980s, the choice of joining the military was an easy one. "This way, I could put 90% of my income towards paying off my debts and stuff like that. I mean, housing, food, that's all taken care of," Goble explained.

His official title was electronics technician with a rank of petty officer second class. Goble would fix things on board like radar if it

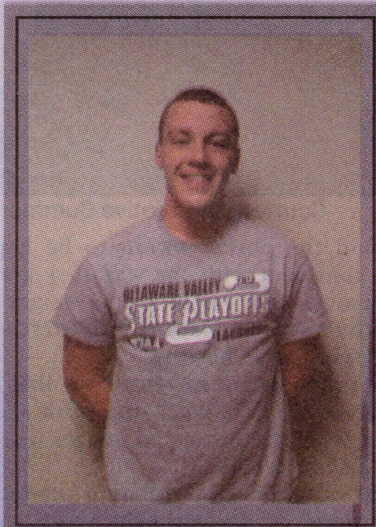
malfunctioned. "Everything you do is what you make of it. I joined the military thinking that with four hundred years of tradition, they'd have everything down pat. They know how to make you into a leader, they know how to do this and do that. I've had the pleasure of serving with some of the best leaders I've ever met, people I try to emulate in my day to day life now," Goble elaborates.

After his six years of service, Goble is finishing up his education at Wilkes University thanks to the help of the Veterans Affairs Council. He explains that he was apprehensive to come to a college after his military service, recalling the images of

veterans returning home to jeers and criticism during the Vietnam War. Instead, he found the faculty and students to be very respectful and the process of transition easier than he thought it'd be.

"I get thanked a lot," Goble says. "And it's weird. Because I'd feel almost egotistical accepting the thanks for doing something as self-beneficial as joining the military, especially when my family finds tradition in it. But, I really do appreciate all the support that I find here on campus. It makes me feel like I did something right."

And with a campus as supportive as that of Wilkes, that feeling is sure to be lasting.



The Beacon/Pat Walther

Undeclared Freshman Wyatt Sebring joined the ROTC program as a way to be a part of the military while still pursuing an education.

By Pat Walther
Staff Writer

Wyatt Sebring always wanted to fly. Instead of giving up the dream many abandon once they become accustomed to the nature of the world, he made his childhood fantasy practical. He would join the United States Air Force. The military had always had an indescribable draw to it, anyway. He planned to enlist right after he graduated.

Suddenly and violently, those plans were dashed. After breaking his fibula and tearing ligaments in his ankle during football, his senior year of high school was destined to end on a sour note. A surgery was necessary to fix the damage done, and there was no chance he'd be

ready for physical conditioning by the time he graduated.

Sebring would have to wait to enlist in the military. Or maybe not.

He learned of the ROTC program and realized he would be able to simultaneously join the military and further his education, killing the proverbial two birds with one stone. In addition to this, Sebring found that by enlisting in the ROTC program he would be eligible for various scholarships to keep the cost of school reasonable.

Deciding to attend Wilkes University, Sebring had to learn quickly how to balance his collegiate social life with the strict training regimen of the ROTC. "[People think] that we get yelled at constantly and are punished by doing physical exercise," Sebring

said. Much to the contrary, many of those enlisted enjoy the workout.

Now nearly half way through his first year of college, things like leadership, integrity, discipline and dedication have become second nature. Sebring, though currently undeclared, is looking to major in math or biology and minor in aerospace studies. Most importantly, he is staying true to his dream. "I want to be a pilot and fly cargo planes in the Air Force," he explains. "Afterward, I want to be an international airline pilot."

And with the current path he's on, it seems like the sky's the limit for Wyatt Sebring.

Opinion

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

Has the media overdone it with body images?

By Mandy Stickles
Assistant Opinion Editor

Playing, hanging out with friends or doing school work are the only concerns a child or adolescent should have.

Instead, many, even from an early age, worry about their body image and not being skinny enough or looking like the models on television.

Why do children and adolescents worry about these things? Because the media flashes it in their face every time they turn on the television.

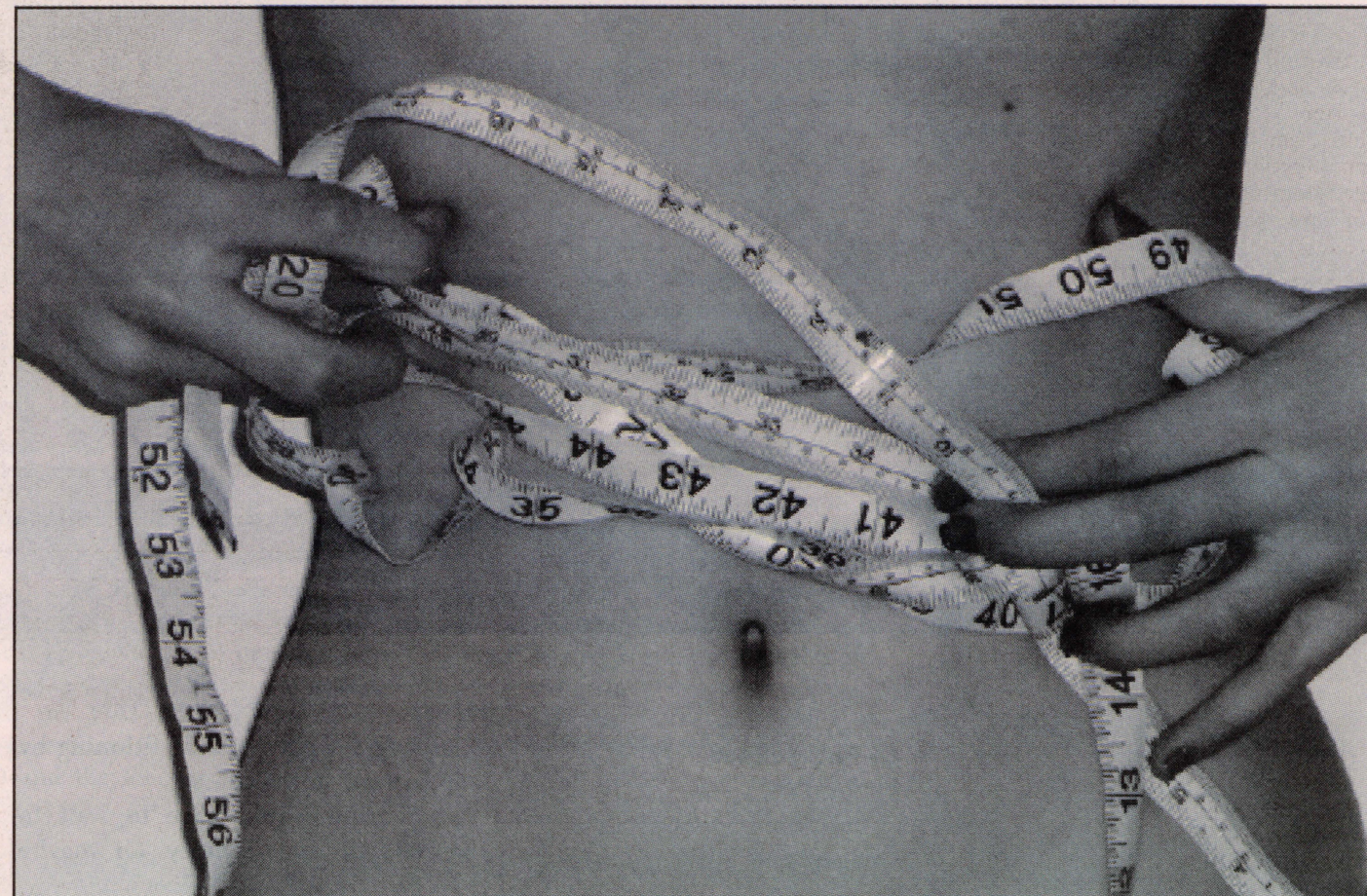
Staggering statistics from executives at Nickelodeon reveal that, on average, a child or adolescent watches up to 35 hours of television a week.

Media are known for showing Photoshopped images of models and passing them off as the 'ideal body image' when in reality, the images are nowhere near what the average body type is. However, children and adolescents do not constantly see the average body type portrayed in the media and are instead brainwashed to believe looking like a model is what is acceptable or normal.

These 'model-like' body images constantly being thrown at young children and adolescents lead to harmful effects. In turn, children and adolescents are hard on themselves for the way they look. This results in unhealthy dieting or trying various other negative ways to lose weight. Three huge effects are eating disorders, mental depression and physical depression.

The reported prevalence rate for anorexia nervosa is 0.48 percent among girls 15 to 19 years old. Between one and five percent of adolescent girls meet the criteria for bulimia nervosa. It is not only young girls though; boys are affected as well. While girls try to get the skinny model figure and practically waste away to nothing in the process, boys try to build muscle and get lean and built.

The media has not always portrayed male and females like they do now, however. Over several years the images of weight and size have drastically changed. The women's body size and shape has become revoltingly thinner and leaner,



Courtesy of Creative Commons

or in other words, 'skin and bones,' while the men's body size and shape has become stronger and muscular often portraying veins popping out of their body, implying supplement use being the norm.

The media not only broadcasts unrealistic body types, but also promotes weight loss pills, drinks, foods and several other 'weight loss products' to make people 'feel full' when they are starving themselves.

These 'get skinny quick' schemes can become exceedingly harmful for a person. These weight loss pills, drinks and food can have damaging effects to the body and may even land a customer that uses these types of products in the hospital. A number of weight loss pills have been recalled over the years due to putting customers in the hospital via

strokes, heart attacks, or other heart related issues.

Why put your body through that type of pain? How far are people willing to push themselves to get that 'ideal body image,' and at what cost?

Instead of the media pushing young children and adolescents to wanting the 'ideal body image' they should be encouraging them to eat healthy, exercise, and love the body they have. Nonetheless, it is impractical to think that media will change in that way; it is not about helping the people and giving them positive outlooks, rather than what will sell. And at the moment, overly skinny models is what sells.

Unfortunately, it is up to the consumers not to give in to these temptations of the body images portrayed in the media and

to find the power within to be happy and confident with the way they are. If a person is overweight, losing weight the healthy way is the way to go, by exercising daily and eating healthy.

It is important to remember that the media is not necessarily the truth and is filled with photoshopped images that do not display real life.

For additional information on eating disorders, or to get help, visit www.nationaleatingdisorders.org or call 1-800-931-2237. At Wilkes, visit <http://www.wilkes.edu/campus-life/student-affairs/health-and-wellness-services/counseling-services.aspx>



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Lena Dunham and toxic activism controversy

By Elyse Guziewicz
Staff Writer

Lena Dunham, a longtime beacon of the feminist movement, is at the center of another controversy.

Her book *Not That Kind of Girl*, published this year, has come under fire for passages that describe her performing sexually inappropriate acts with and on her younger sister Grace.

Her response has been less than apologetic, firmly denying the severity of the accusations and claiming them to be a normal if not universal experience for children. While it's true that many children have a sense of innocence that keeps them from understanding some actions perceived as sexual, what Ms. Dunham describes goes beyond this into the realm of disturbing.

Dunham tweeted that "I told a story about being a weird 7 year old. I bet you have some too," despite describing her actions as "anything a sexual predator might do to a suburban girl" in her memoir.

The majority of white feminists have been standing behind her, claiming critics are policing her sexuality.

The attitude these people have taken highlights an ongoing issue among many social movements. This can be described as toxic activism – when social justice activists create a negative or harmful space by supporting problematic behaviors in other members of their group.

Toxic activism is not just a problem in the feminist movement, although it does provide a place to start the discussion. Anyone involved in the movement has heard the call to be aware of the media we're consuming and to keep an eye out for problematic elements in film, television, and print.

Problematic elements include things like misogyny, racism, homophobia, rape culture, or other harmful stereotyping.

Too often, however, activists accept a celebrity as a feminist (or other interest

group) and immediately begin defending their every action. This is especially prevalent among privileged members of the interest group – in feminism: white, middle class women.

In turn, defense of problematic behaviors leads to two negative outcomes.

First, it helps perpetuate the issues activists are seeking to solve. In Dunham's case, defending her despite

her admission to sexually inappropriate behaviors sends the message that assault is okay as long as it's between women.

These ideas are what most feminists try to debunk, as assault should never be considered alright no matter the gender of the participants.

Second, it adds fuel to the fires of those that oppose the movement. Hyper-conservatives and Men's Rights Activists have taken this controversy and run with it, claiming all feminists to be hypocrites and abusers.

Clearly, this is overdoing it, but Dunham's lack of repentance and the feminist movement's defense of her actions hasn't helped the negativity and vitriol constantly being spewed by groups antagonistic to women's rights.

The idea that any person is immune to scrutiny and criticism creates a toxic environment for any marginalized person trying to involve themselves and opens the entire movement up to controversy.

It's better to point out flaws among ourselves than to have them brought to light by our enemies.

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**NOT
THAT
KIND
OF
GIRL**
A young woman
tells you what
she's "learned"
Lena Dunham



Courtesy of Creative Commons

Shambala gifts

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The Scarlet Letter- Examining Pop Culture's Love of a Classic

By Sara Pisak
Staff Writer

Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* is an undisputed classic. For generations, the text has been nothing short of required reading.

This leads me to ask myself the question, "What is pop culture's obsession with *The Scarlet Letter*?"

A reader may not realize they are pleasantly bombarded by today's modern entertainment industry with references to this classic text. Some of these references are subtly slipped into dialogues of television shows and lyrics of hit songs. Others are more blatant as these references are plots for entire films.

By exploring these references, I believe I found an answer as to why pop culture's obsession with *The Scarlet Letter* continues.

Starting with a nuanced reference, a few weeks ago if you were one of the more than a million people to buy Taylor Swift's new album 1989, you might have noticed the song "New Romantics" (Hawthorne himself was considered part of the Romantic Movement of literature) contains the lyric, "We show off our different scarlet letters. Trust me mine is better."

This particular lyric happens to be one of the most recent mentions of *The Scarlet Letter* in music. Although, I am positive many other songs from various artists have lyrics referencing Hawthorne's novel, this reference stands out as a positive representation of individuals competing to have the best scarlet letter.

Another recent understated allusion to *The Scarlet Letter* comes from the dialogue of the popular television show *Castle*. A section of dialogue from the episode entitled "Little Girl Lost," which if you have read *The Scarlet Letter*, can be viewed as an ode to Pearl herself.

The dialogue reads as follows: ALEXIS: My AP test is tomorrow. I was having nightmares about Hester Prynne. CASTLE: Ahh, the irony for you is not getting an "A" would cause you shame.

After this reference, the episode continues as if no mention of the novel has been made. In short, *The Scarlet Letter* is not the focus of the television episode. The reference to Hester Prynne paired with the name of the episode, *Little Girl Lost*, is an elusive gift to bookworms as a veiled reference to Hawthorne's text.

If a reader was looking forward to

more obvious modes of referencing *The Scarlet Letter*, they should look no further than Emma Stone's cult classic movie, *Easy A*.

The movie is loosely based and I use this term liberally, upon Hawthorne's text. Throughout the entire movie, Emma Stone's character, high school student Olive Penderghast, feels ostracized by her high school community. In an attempt to fit in, Olive draws inspiration from Hawthorne's novel and stitches a Scarlet "A" on her clothes. For Olive, trying to fit in backfires.

Olive is a visual representation of what *The Scarlet Letter* stands for: risking what others think of us in an attempt to find ourselves and stand up for what we believe.

In addition to the above references, there is also the completely inaccurate movie *Scarlet Letter*. The movie teams with historical inaccuracies, ignorance of the novel's original plot structure and Demi Moore bathing more than the average Puritan without modern plumbing.

All jokes aside, the movie, although dreadfully adapted, was filmed in 1995 helping propel pop culture's love of *The Scarlet Letter*.

Using these subtle and more obvious odes to *The Scarlet Letter*, "Why is pop culture obsessed with this text?"

The answer seems to be *The Scarlet Letter* is rooted in our colonial past. Hawthorne himself was both horrified and fascinated by the fact that he is a descendant of a Salem Witch Trial judge.

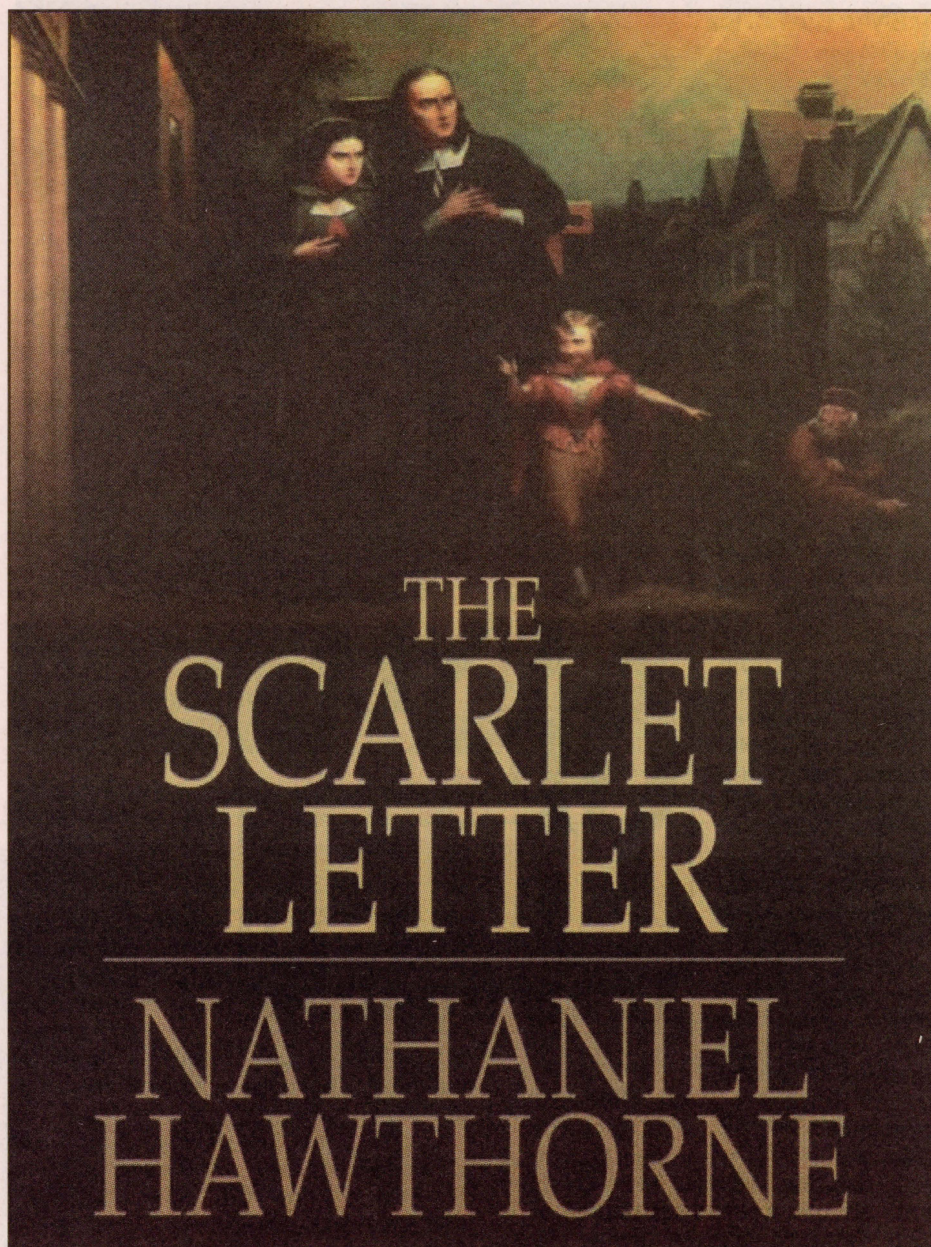
As a society, we, like Hawthorne, are also caught in the delicate cycle of embracing our past no matter how conflicted it may be, while forging our own future.

The text is centered on the fragile line we all walk. We all strive to stand out, to be unique and to stand-up for what we believe in but how far dare we go? How many lines can we cross without being viewed as an outcast such as Hester Prynne and branding ourselves with our own scarlet letter?

The Scarlet Letter is everything we hope for and everything we fear, all wrapped into one classic piece of literature.



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Courtesy of Creative Commons

Sara's Score:

AAAAA

Tove Lo is staying high...on the charts with "Queen of the Clouds"

By Eric Casey
Staff Writer

Tove Ebba Elsa Nilsson, also known as Tove Lo, is a rising star from Sweden. It appears that country is pumping out popular acts lately with the likes of Icona Pop, Nico & Vinz, and Lykke Li.

Her blend of dark pop and electronic music makes for an excellent blend and one of the most perfectly crafted albums of 2014.

As soon as you hear "uh uh" on the radio you automatically know what the song is. "Habits (Stay High)" is huge right now and completely inescapable. It's blasting out car radios, in the store, and even remixes of it in the bars and clubs.

When you dance to it in a sultry way or shout the main chorus do you even know what the song is about?

I mean it's not really deep, but it's not about "being high" in a smoking a certain substance kind of way. It's actually about her trying to get a high off of hedonistic acts and drinking to numb the pain from whatever breakup she went through.

She doesn't have a filter on her which gives the music a better connection to the audience who might have gone through what she did and doesn't need sugarcoating. I've been told I am the problem / and the problem is my honesty / when it's worst than how it seems / and I tell you all the wrong things.

Those lyrics from "The Way That I Am" really elucidates her debut album Queen of the Clouds which was released September 30th.

The album has so far peaked at #14 on the Billboard 200 albums chart to positive reviews. There appears to be three sections to the album because of the three interludes. It begins with an interlude called "The Sex", and following that are the songs "My Gun", "Like Em Young", "Talking Body", and "Timebomb."

They describe the rise of her relationship and a reckless side to her that knows no boundaries. Especially on "Like Em Young" where to her age is just a number and she's willing to sleep wherever to get that feeling of euphoric mindlessness.

"The Love" interlude follows with

songs called "Moments", "The Way That I Am", "Got Love", and "Not on Drugs."

This set allows her to express how she doesn't give a you know what about her personality and ways of doing things, as heard in her song "Moments."

"Rough around the edges, memories and baggage / you know me / never play the safe card, when I go I go hard / and now you know."

Her song "Not on Drugs" conveys part of her relationship when the breakup was actually happening. It feels like she's trying to tell him that sure she made mistakes in the past and likes to mess around, but that he's her only drug.

However, in recent interviews she has made it well known of her dark past of experimenting with drugs.

The song is likely to become her next hit especially since a video was made for it. "Baby, listen please I'm not on drugs, I'm not on drugs / I'm just in love / baby, don't you see? I'm not on drugs, I'm not on drugs / I'm just in love, you're high enough for me."

The last interlude "The Pain" features her hit song and other ones that express

her distress of losing someone and wanting to be with them.

It's best expressed in "Thousand Miles" with lyrics like, "Coming for you baby, I'm coming now / that's when I run / all of these thousand miles to get you back."

Tove Lo isn't going to be a one hit wonder. There are many fantastic songs on this album that have mainstream and alternative hit potential.

Although "Habits (Stay High)" has reached #3 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart, she's featured on EDM rising star Alesso's track "Heroes (We Could Be)."

The song has so far peaked at #72 on the Hot 100 and #27 on US Mainstream Top 40. Her package of "grunge pop" is certainly sticking around as it is a major trend this year with such artists like Lorde and Sia.

For now Tove Lo is likely to "stay high" on the charts for the remainder of the year.

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Can you justify buying downloadable content for video games?

By Frank Passalacqua

Opinion Editor

Back in the day when the Xbox and PS2 were the current generation of gaming hardware, consumers would pay one price for a game of their choice, and that was it. One price for one game that included everything the game developers sought it out to be.

Fast forward a few years circa 2006, the popular video game Halo 2 took online gaming to a whole new level. After much success, the developers released a free update that included map packs for people to download for free.

Fast forward to now.

DLC (downloadable content) is associated with almost every single video game that has been released for the past 6 or so years. This would not be a problem, if it were free. However, it is not.

What is the problem with this?

The problem lies in the fact that developers are purposely leaving things out of a game to make people spend money on what should have been a complete purchase. Things such as maps, characters, missions, etc., are all examples of DLC that can be purchased to extend your playability of a certain game.

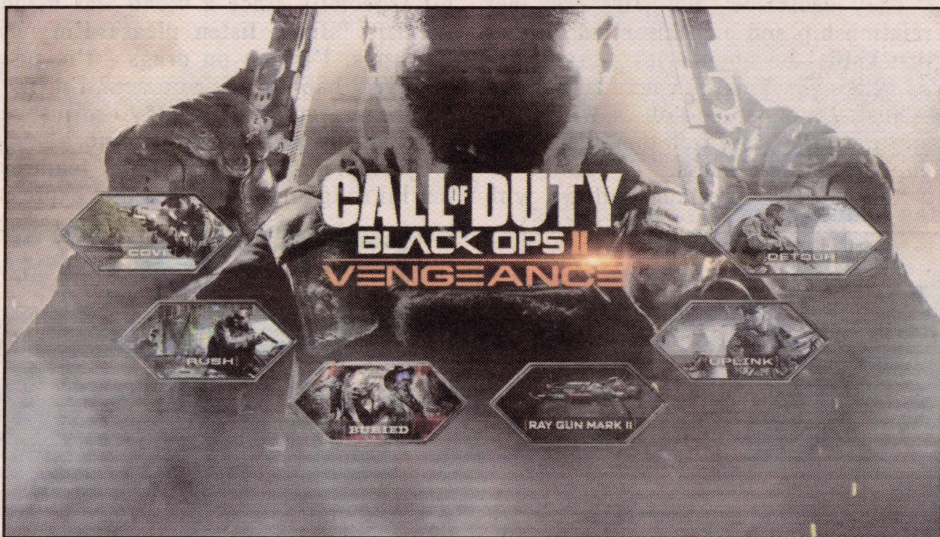
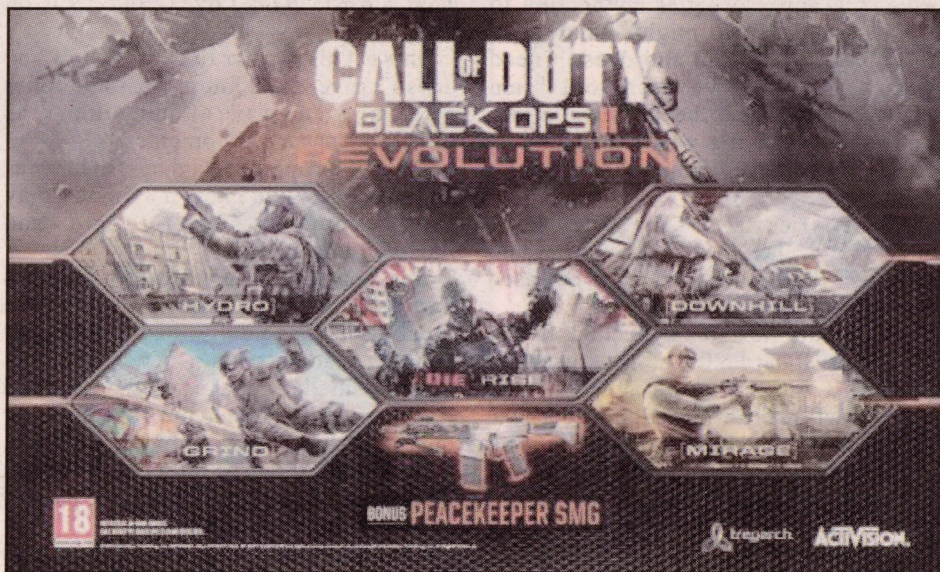
Why do developers do this to begin with? Because with every game they make, they make a small income after everything is said and done. They pay to ship the games out, the retailers to sell them, the packaging companies, the PR crew to advertise and publicize the game, and so on. By the time a single game is sold, they receive a small fraction of the price. DLC offers them a way to receive small chunks of money at a time, and the income goes directly to them.

Games such as Watch Dogs, Assassin's Creed, Battlefield, Call of Duty, Far Cry 4 and many more all announce DLC before the game is even released.

Let me break this down with a first hand example. The upcoming game Assassin's Creed Unity offers a "season pass" which includes "over 8 hours of bonus material" in two mini side campaigns, plus bonus missions and weapons.

If the game is not even released yet, how can developers justify not including this in the first place?

For games like Battlefield and Call of Duty, they too have a "seasons pass" type of deal, where over a span of a year or so, they will release map packs, usually ranging from 12-16 new maps for players to play online. This type of DLC costs \$50, plus the initial purchase of the game (\$60). Is \$110 for one game really worth it, or



Courtesy of Creative Commons

Call of Duty Black Ops II DLC "Revolution" and "Vengeance" are two of four map packs the game released, starting just two months after the game's initial release. The DLC contained five maps each, plus a bonus weapon and other perks for players online.

even ethical?

Then there is the other type of DLC which includes minor game add-ons that are completely optional and give a player a certain edge over others. I am referring to the life of "virtual coins" for some games.

NBA 2k15, Madden 15, and FIFA 15 are all games that rake in millions of dollars per year solely from players buying online coins for their "Ultimate Teams."

Ultimate Team in FIFA, for example, gives players the option to buy instead of earn coins, which unlocks player packs to complete their team. These coins are on a different scale from the earlier mentioned DLC, because it is not something the developers could have added to the game originally to make it complete.

The same applies in Call of Duty, yet again, where players can purchase weapon skins for a small price, usually \$1-5 for a pack of them. Totally up to the player.

In my opinion, deciding to spend your own money on virtual coins or skins is completely fine. It is your choice, and it does not add or take away from the core game itself.

A similar scenario would be buying a ton of extra songs on Guitar Hero, but we know that was just a phase in the past.

However, I do not agree with developers charging \$50 for maps, missions, etc that easily could have been including with the game.

If I pay \$60 for a game, I want the full game, the full experience. If I feel I have

played my \$60 worth and I want to extend the life of the game even more, than I can justify dishing out the extra money.

In the past, I have bought all the DLC for Skyrim because I could not get enough of it, and I have paid an extra \$50 for Battlefield 3 and 4 to receive "Battlefield Premium," a season pass that included perks, weapons, and 16 new multiplayer maps. Completely my choice, and I easily could have not purchased them.

To wrap this up, do we understand why developers do this? Yes, to make their money. However, can I see myself buying "extra" content before a game comes out? No, and you should not either.

I want a complete game worth the money I dished out for it. If developers are intentionally making an incomplete game to just make money in the future off releasing DLC, then there is a problem.

Have you purchased DLC for a game before? If so, tell us which game and DLC pack on Twitter @wilkesbeacon

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Sports

Want your sport covered? Contact the sports editor: Brandon.Gubitosa@wilkes.edu

Wilkes looks to knockout crosstown rival King's in Mayor's Cup



Kickoff is scheduled for noon as the Colonels host cross town rival King's in the 19th annual Mayors Cup game on Saturday

The Beacon/ David Graff

By Danny Van Brunt
Sports Writer

After a long season of hard work, the Colonel Football team's season is coming to an end. The team is continuing to work for the win over their rival team the Monarchs of King's University. The Mayor's Cup is held on November 15, hosted by Wilkes at Schmidt Stadium at 12 PM.

The senior defensive end, Tyler Thomas (#3), has an interesting perspective towards his last game. He, along with his team, has had this game on their minds

since last year when they fell to Kings on a last second touchdown. This game will be a tough fought game due to the rivalry, and he is up for the challenge. He knows the team is already out of the playoff picture, but the team wants to end the season on a high note then bring the trophy back to this side of River Street.

He states that this will be his last game ever in his football career. Never putting pads on again makes him want to leave every ounce of energy he has on that field. He speaks for the team to say that everyone will play that way. Since he has joined the team, a lot of faces have come and gone, some have dropped out, transferred or

quit the team. This leaves him with a strong appreciation of the individuals who have stuck out the four years with him.

He also claims that this season has been a very a long one. At times, it wasn't easy to keep his head up because of the people outside of the team who are so quick to critique the team in a negative way. He wishes he could have won the conference title in his last year, but he also was just content playing. At this time last year, he faced a season-ending injury that he thought to also be career-ending. Coming back strong this year is what he is most thankful for. He appreciates the opportunity he has received to play all these years. He left a quote for

the community, he said, "Win or lose, I just want to be able to tell myself at the end of the day that I did everything I could so that the Colonels could win. I promise you that you'll see #3 flying around the field."

This is an inspiring story from one of the starting players on the team. It is players like him that make a team want to play. The team and coaches will appreciate the communities' attendance at the game. They promise to put a show for all spectators.



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Wilkes cheerleaders eye national level competition

By Andre Spurell
Sports Writer

Although cheerleading is not recognized as a sport by the NCAA, it is easily one of the main sources of school spirit at sporting events and pep rallies. The Wilkes Cheerleaders have not set goals like winning National Championships or making the MAC Playoffs, but to be energetic, enthusiastic, and have fun together. As far as performance goals, the team looks to perfect the different aspects of cheerleading like dance, cheering, and gymnastics. They also hope to perfect certain actions individually like stunting, tumbling, roundoffs, backflips, and 360 ups for team goals.

The cheer team is lead by Coach Jessica Short, who got the job around tryouts last spring before graduating. The biggest goal the squad is trying to accomplish right now is to compete in Nationals. In order for the girls to do this, they have been fundraising like crazy. Some of these fundraisers include selling Gertrude Hawk

candy bars, bracks fundraising cups, selling t-shirts, doing a reunion at Homecoming with all the cheerleading alumni, selling eye black and old pom poms, an Applebee's fundraiser on November 16th, bake sales, and dollar snack boxes just to name a few in order to reach their goal of \$12,000. Through participating in all these fundraising projects, it is clear that the team is all about hard work and dedication.

When asked what she likes most about her group of girls, Short replied, "They are a great group. They can be really really silly at times...but they are also a really talented and passionate group. They're not all best friends outside of cheerleading but when they come in the room they are, which is nice." With this team's talent, passion, and dedication, they will hopefully be able to achieve their goal of reaching Nationals.



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Photo Courtesy of Jessica Short

Members of the Wilkes cheerleading team pictured at a recent game

Lady Colonels finish season

By Cara Basile
Sports Writer

Although the women's soccer team didn't clinch a post-season playoff spot it ended with an overall record above .500 with 11 wins and 8 losses.

The Lady Colonels finished their season strong with three straight wins against Manhattanville College, SUNY Cortland, and Eastern University. The women went 3-4 in conference play, holding them slightly short of playoffs, but were able to get a bid for the Eastern College Athletic Conference.

Certain goals were set and accomplished throughout the season like completing passes, winning balls and the shots on goal percentage. While these goals were achieved, Coach John Sumoski shared how they can still improve for the upcoming spring and fall season.

"Our players must become masters of their craft based on position and that takes time and repetitions and commitment on their own outside of their season," Sumoski said. "The goal setting process is a big part of our core value ambition and will help them go in a great direction."

Junior goal keeper Lisa Semetti hopes to improve the team's communication on the field. She also shared strengths of the 2014 season where team chemistry played a huge factor.

"I'm proud of the chemistry and friendship between the girls on the team," Semetti said. "Furthermore, I'm extremely proud of how well we were able to play against good teams and come out with a victory."

As the season comes to a close, the women can look forward to the future. With the loss of three core seniors, Alicia Roberts, Katie Hughes, and Kirsten Smith, each class will step up with new leadership roles along with new freshman coming in for the 2015 season.

"I'm looking forward to embracing my last season with my family," Semetti said. "I cannot wait to see how the hard work that the girls put in during the off season pays off during preseason and our fall season."

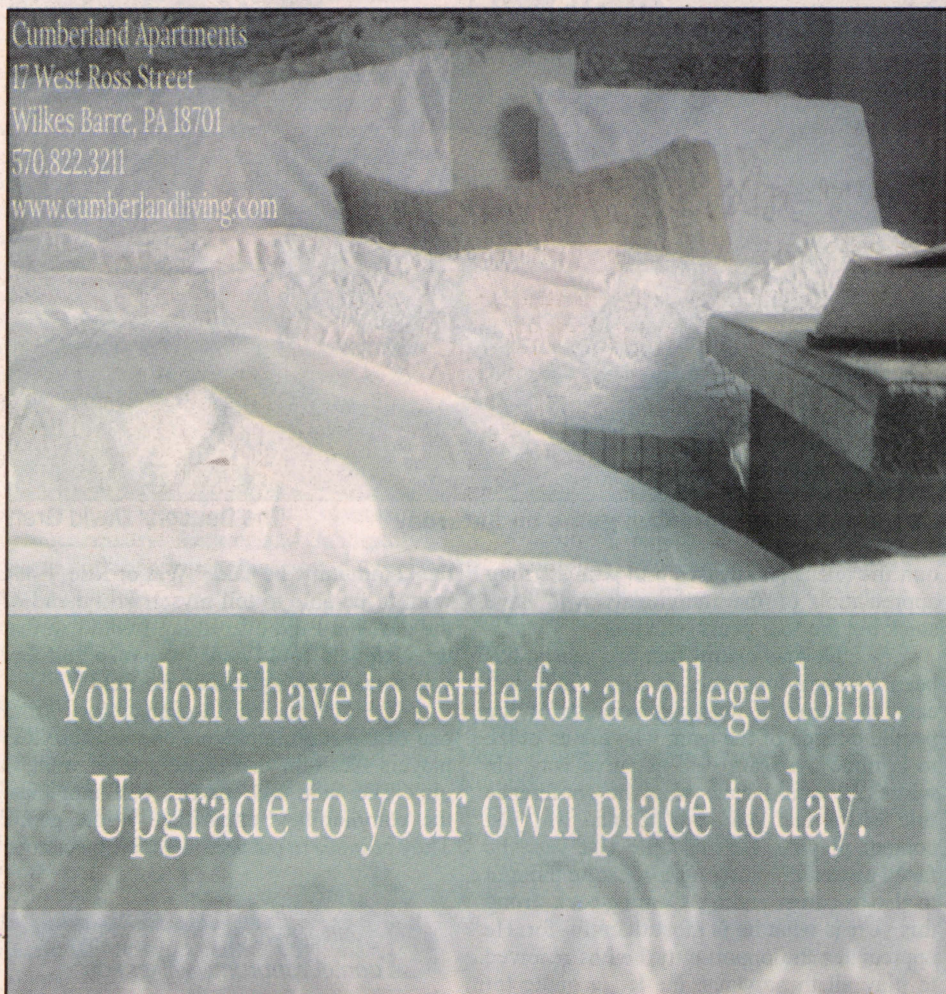
Aside from all the stats and percentages, athletes must always take a step back to remember why they love the game. Not only do the players have to be "all in" as the Lady Colonels chanted throughout the season, but coaches as well.

"I love the game and the great moments in it that our ladies create through hard work," Sumoski said. "Being someone that can support them on and off the field is important to me."



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Getting to know...

Jeremy Hartman

Senior football player

By J.T. Keer
Sports Writer

Q: What brought you to Wilkes University?

A: One of my close friends Paul Huch played basketball here and got me to transfer to play ball with him.

Q: What made you want to play football again after giving it up to play basketball here?

A: I missed game days and the awesome feeling of being out on the football field. A lot of the guys on the team helped influence my decision as well.

Q: Have there been any struggles trying to balance out the two sports since joining the football team?

A: Yeah for sure. I knew it was going to be difficult balancing them both out. I've done a good job doing the football work, memorizing our basketball plays, and keeping up with academics.

Q: How excited are you for your first Mayor's Cup game this weekend?

A: Very excited. Kings is a big rival in basketball too. It's always a game you circle when looking at the schedule.

Q: What has been the most memorable part of the season so far for you?

A: Albright was definitely one I'll never forget. Scoring three TD's in one game has to be the most memorable moment for me this year.

Q: What was the best football game you ever played in your life?

A: The three TD game is up there on the list. My last high school game I had a kickoff return for a TD and a couple rushing ones too.

Q: How is the team adjusting to the new coach?

A: Coach Metz has been a great addition to the program as well as the university. He brings a competitive and fast-paced style of play to both the offensive and defensive parts of the game.

Q: Where are you from?

A: Little Egg Harbor, NJ.

Q: How many siblings do you have?

A: Four siblings! An older brother, one younger brother, and my two sisters are the youngest.

Q: Do you all play sports?

A: We do. The oldest, Steve, played baseball at Crown College. Jake plays football at Bucknell. Elish plays field hockey at Stockton College. Noel is still in high school and plays field hockey, basketball and does track.

Q: Do you guys compete with one another at home?

A: Absolutely. Everything is a competition! Having two brothers so close in age, we always played sports together. Family game night gets pretty rowdy!

Q: What do you plan on doing after you graduate?

A: I'm hoping to stay with sports and become a grad assistant. I would like to become a coach someday.

The Beacon/Purvit Patel

Getting to know...

Tim Bousson

Senior football player

By Evan Willey
Sports Writer

Q: What is your biggest accomplishment in your sport?

A: My biggest accomplishment was to be given the chance to play football after high school because only about seven percent of student athletes get to make that transition.

Q: What one or two things do you currently do in your training that are keys to your success?

A: The one thing I currently do training-wise and always have done was run. Speed is the most important thing to me and it is a huge key to my success.

Q: What would be your ultimate achievement?

A: My ultimate achievement would be able to play at any level after college.

Q: What was the best advice you were ever given?

A: The best advice I was given was to never be complacent. "Complacency is the enemy of success."

Q: Do you have a saying or motto that you live your life by?

A: I don't really have a saying or motto that I live by, I just go out and play like I'll never get to play again.

Q: What are your goals for your current season? Were they achieved yet?

A: My goals for the current season were to win the MAC and to be an all-conference receiver. Unfortunately, winning the MAC won't happen this year and I'll have to wait to find out about the all-conference selection.

Q: Where do you draw your inspiration from?

A: I draw my inspiration from my parents, and also my teammates.

Q: What is your diet like?

A: I don't really have a diet, but I always eat a Big Mac meal the night before games.

Q: What is your most memorable moment here at Wilkes?

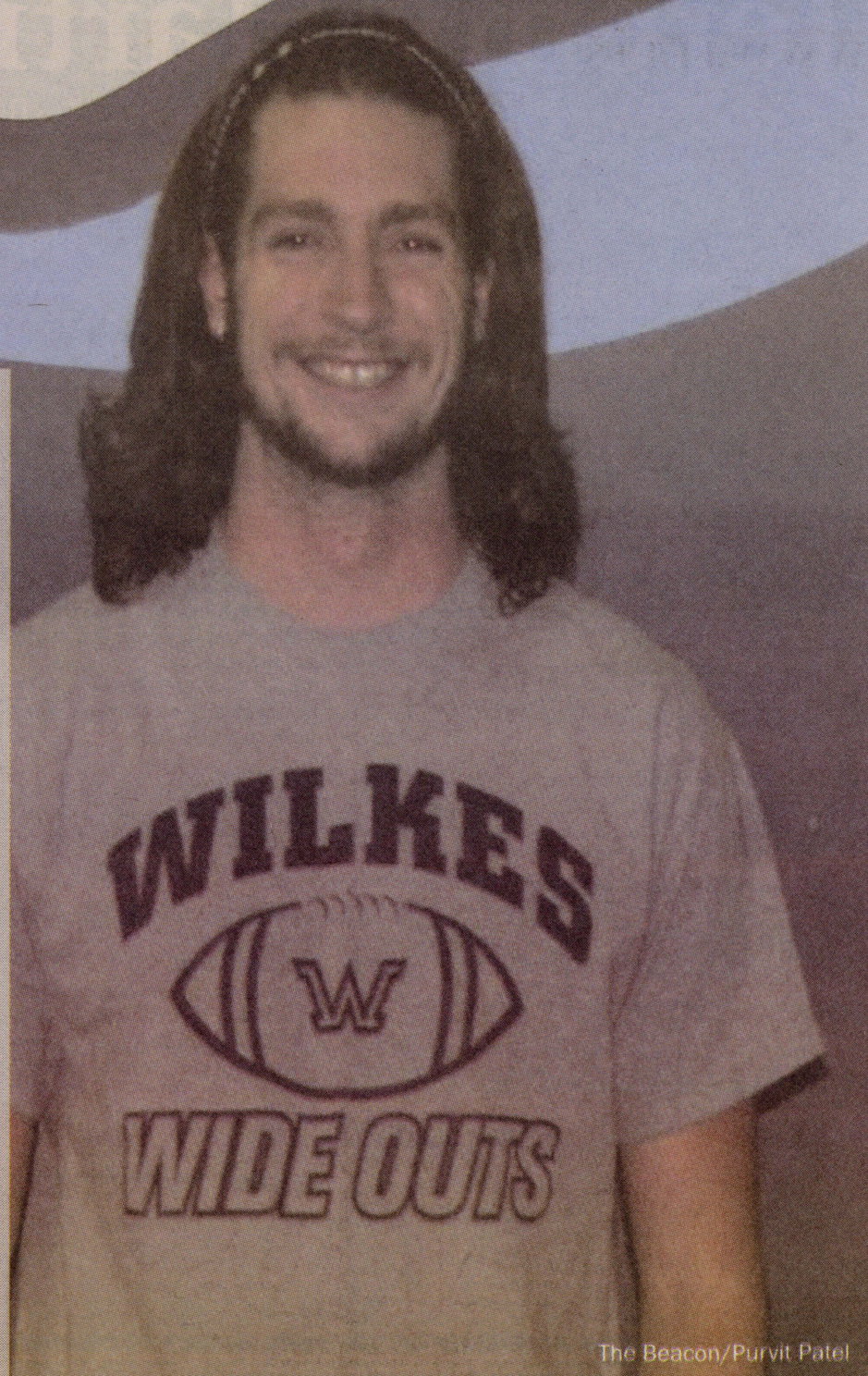
A: My most memorable Wilkes moment hasn't happened yet: Graduation day.

Q: What do you plan to do after college?

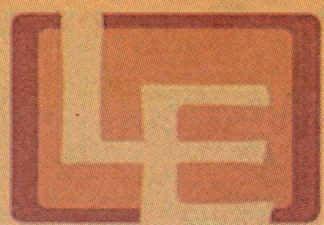
A: After college I plan to go to either the State Police Academy or join the Air Force.

Q: How do you set your goals?

A: I set goals by focusing on the big picture and then I look at the steps I need to take to get there.



The Beacon/Purvit Patel



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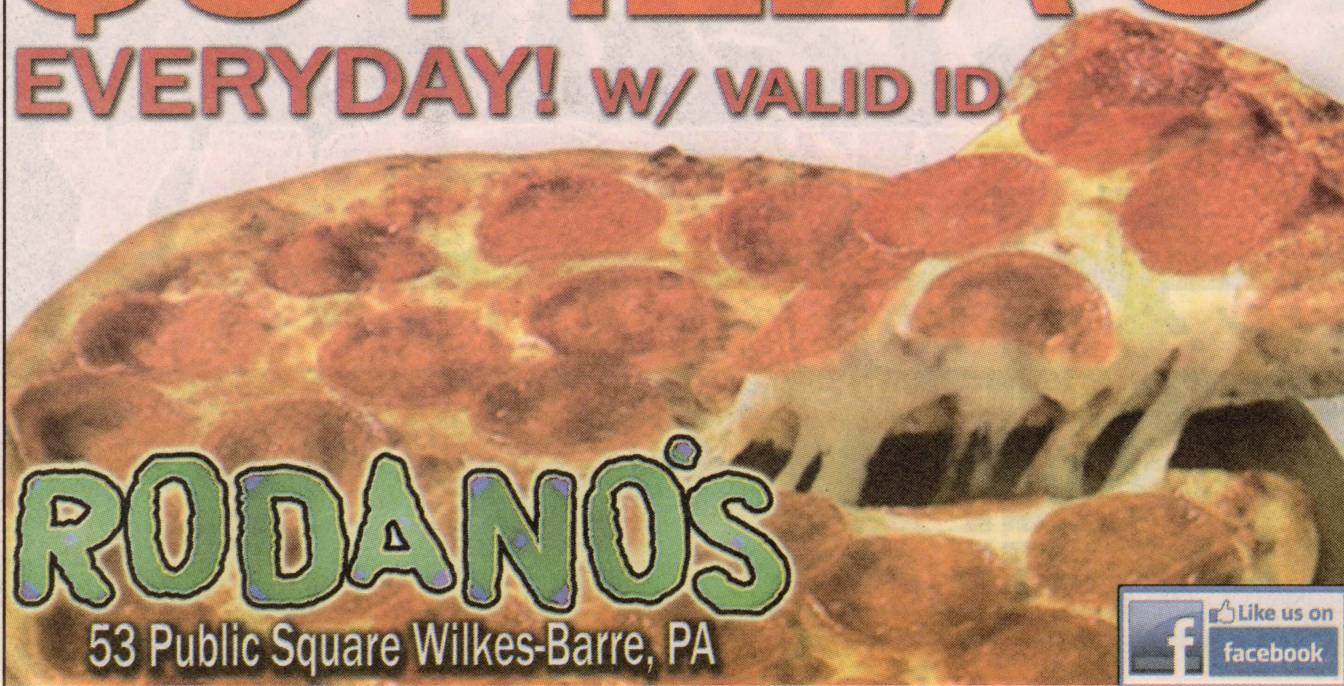
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