

he Beacon - April 11, 2017



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THE BEACON

The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow.



It's toe-tapping time for the Annual Spring
Concert

Full story on page 7

The Beacon/Jesse Chalnack

News

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

Beacon Briefs

First Floor SLC Hallway Closed for Construction

Since the end of the day on Friday, March 10, the first floor east hallway of Stark Learning Center has been closed for RACP construction. The hallway will remain closed until further notice when construction is completed. In addition, the first floor west hallway is now wheelchair accessible. For use of the freight elevator, please contact Facilities at 570-408-2349 for access and assistance.

Recycle Inter-Office Envelopes

The mailroom is accepting inter-office envelopes to be recycled in order to help reduce office expenses. Departments with an abundance of the envelopes are encouraged to drop them off at the Mailroom so other departments may use them.

Air Force ROTC to Host Open House

The Wilkes University Air Force ROTC (AFROTC) program will be hosting an Open House from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on April 20 in UCOM 126/127.

The event will provide students the opportunity to observe an AFROTC class, meet with AFROTC staff members and Air Force Officers for a Q&A, and learn more about AFROTC opportunities and scholarship benefits, including post-grad career options.

Students from Kings, Misericordia, University of Scranton, Marywood, Bloomsburg, East Stroudsburg, PSU (Wilkes Barre, Scranton and Hazleton) and LCCC are eligible to participate in the AFROTC program.

The event is open to all college students in any major. If interested, students can RSVP via email by April 14 at boland.det752@gmail.com.

Wilkes University Student Government notes

By Kimberly Hein
LAE Editor

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

The Ski and Snowboard Club reported that they went on their annual ski trip to Killington. They have been pre-selling long and short sleeve shirts that have been actively selling. They are also in the process of creating a new logo. They meet every three to four weeks for their meeting. They hope to attract more members for Fall 2017.

The Asian Cultural Society reported that it put on events such as a New Year celebration, dumpling festival to teach students how to make dumplings. They have a Facebook page which they said will help the international office attract more students from different country.

The Nursing Student Organization reported that they have a meeting the second and fourth week of each month. They held plenty of fundraisers throughout the year. They held a stethoscope summer sale where they sold discount stethoscopes. They held a welcome back pizza party with a test taking strategies presentation, held by Dr. Harrington so first year students had more confidence going into their first test.

They plan to hold a medical-related movie night, sip & paint event. They already held blood drives on campus.

ENACTUS presented week two of two for a fund request. They requested \$4,000 from Student Government in order to fund a trip to a national competition. When there, they will present a 17 minute memorized presentation

based on their community service projects and impacts to the Wilkes-Barre community.

The motion to allocate \$150 per non-graduate student going to the conference for ENACTUS's 11 non-graduate students up to \$1,600 with any unused money coming back to Student Government passed 22-3-0.

The Neuroscience club presented week 1 of 2 for a fund request. They requested a total of \$167.40 from Student Government to send students to the 8th Annual Lehigh Valley society for neuroscience undergraduate research conference and to buy paint brushes for their ongoing community service project.

Kuwait Club presented for a club recognition request. The club's goal will be to educate the campus. Another goal is to gain recognition so that they can use it as a way to encourage other students from Kuwait to attend Wilkes University.

The Student National Pharmaceutical Associate (SNAPhA) presented week one of two for a fund request. The request was for \$2,500 to use toward a conference where they will be attending workshops to improve leadership skills, develop pharmacy resolutions, network with other student pharmacists, attend residency workshops, and compete in the Clinical Skills Competition.

The club has volunteered its time at the Greater Hazleton Clinic by pre-packing medications and helping translate for the practitioners to their patients. They have also created a Zumba-Thon for students at a local elementary school that taught the students about diabetes prevention.

90.7 WCLH presented week one of two

for a fund request of \$300. The money will be used for a "Metal Monday Showcase," which will be a concert taking place in the Ballroom of the Student Union Building. The concert will have three big metal bands and is currently set to take place in the Summer of 2017. The profit will be gained from ticket sales, and half will go to WCLH and the other half will be donated to colon cancer research in honor of a heavy metal artist who suffered from colon cancer.

Kappa Psi presented week one of two for a fund request for \$3,000. They had a regional conference on campus last month. They volunteer with the Big Event and they brought about Pharm-a-thon which is a Thon at Wilkes.

Student Development presented week one of two for their Orientation Welcome Weekend. Student Development requested student government for \$1,500 to sponsor an event at Welcome Weekend such as a photo booth and inflatables.

Rotoract Club presented week two of two for a club recognition request. The motion to approve her for club recognition passed 19-0-6.

The faculty and staff member of the year was announced and will be available for students to vote on April 12.

Presidential nominees are Cody Morcom and Dylan Fox. Students are encouraged to vote starting April 12.

The treasurer's report is as follows: All college: \$2,531.82, Conference: \$0.00, General: \$2,842.17, and Spirit: \$0.00 for a Student Government total of \$5,373.99.

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Washington Post, Pulitzer Prize winning author to visit Wilkes

Renowned journalist Joby Warrick to give keynote lecture at Bigler Conference on April 28

By Sarah Bedford
Editor-in-Chief

Washington Post reporter and two-time Pulitzer Prize winning author, Joby Warrick will serve as the Keynote Speaker at the 17th Annual Tom Bigler Journalism Conference on April 28.

Warrick joined the Post in 1996 covering issues such as national security, the environment and the Middle East and currently covers topics related to terrorism. His first book, "Black Flags: The Rise of ISIS" was awarded a 2016 Pulitzer Prize for nonfiction. He received his other Pulitzer prize in 1996, sharing it with two colleagues, for Public Service.

In keeping with the theme of the conference, "The Changing Face of Journalism," Warrick will discuss the ways in which the field has changed since his start as well as how students can make themselves marketable in their careers.

As is a concern for many students looking to enter journalism, Warrick explained that the field is nowhere near dying, as that was also a concern when he started in the 80s.

"The economic model for this industry is in trouble and we all know that and we all talk about it. It's mostly because we used to have advertisers who would pay a lot of money to put their ads in our newspaper pages or on TV, and people would buy classified ads or pay for newspaper subscriptions, but now people are so used to getting everything for free that they don't want to pay for anything," Warrick said. "And people don't want to pay for advertisements anymore because they could just put stuff on Craigslist."

"But the upside to that is that there are many more ways to practice journalism, so instead of having just one newspaper in your town and a couple of news stations with news shows, there are an infinite number of opportunities to express yourself through blogs, online magazines so the variety is endless which is a good thing right now," he added.

With 21-years under his belt at the Post, Warrick has covered many topics, some of which he now has used in his books.

"It never was my passion to be an author someday. After I got to the Washington Post, I thought 'I may get opportunities, I may consider it,' but I never knew I was ever going to take that on unless I was in love with the subject to spend that much time with... and the perfect opportunity happened with my first book on an incident that I covered and it was a fantastic story," Warrick said.

Warrick explained that his favorite story

was not, however, what sparked into a book but was a catalyst for social change.

"It was a series of stories I did in 1999, and the reason it is my favorite is because it was the clearest case of exposing of something wrong, that people didn't know had happened, and then having this tremendous result," Warrick said. The series detailed a group of community workers who created the components of nuclear weapons in the 1950s and 1960s. This exposed them to toxic chemicals and hazards.

"The government deliberately lied to them and kept this information secret from them for years and years and a lot of them got sick and didn't know why. So, what my series of stories was able to do was to show definitively that these exposures took place," he said, adding, "We found huge spikes in leukemia and other kinds of cancer related to radiation. So after working on these articles the government was forced to take action and Congress passed a law, and for the first time these workers were compensated for the wrong that happened to them."

Warrick explained that the program ended up paying approximately \$2 billion in benefits in the last 18 years. To him this was a unique opportunity which allowed him to use his craft to benefit the greater

"We (journalists) are an essential part of a democratic society and we have to do our job."

-Joby Warrick

good. "One of my proudest moments from that time, after the law passed and the compensation program was approved, (was that) I got a handwritten note from Ted Kennedy, the senator from Massachusetts, thanking me, saying that 'it was because of your reporting that this happened.'"

president criticizes the media and we're used to it. We have an adversarial role, so we have to keep remembering we're not here to support the administration no matter what their party is or if we agree with them philosophically or not," Warrick said. "It's to ask hard questions and to hold



Courtesy of the Washington Post

Joby Warrick, Washington Post reporter and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, who will give the keynote lecture at the 17th Annual Tom Bigler Journalism Conference on April 28. Warrick will be discussing the way journalism is evolving and some ways that students can keep up.

While students entering the field will be exposed to the rapid changes of journalism, Warrick explained that veteran reporters are also in a new era under the Trump administration.


"We're kind of in a strange, new world, particularly here in Washington. Every

them in account for the decisions they make and that's always been our job. We were criticized by the Obama administration and Bush, it's just always been the environment. This is the first time we were really accused of being adversaries in the sense that we're enemies of the people. It kind of blows our minds a bit because we see ourselves as voice for the powerless."

While it's a learning curve for all, Warrick said it's critical for reporters to continue to do their job.

"We are an essential part of a democratic society and we have to do our job."

When asked if his college self would believe that he would make it this far in his career, Warrick laughed while saying, "Well, on the details absolutely not, I don't think I would have, especially the Pulitzer prize, especially two, I would not believe it. But on the other hand, I think I was convinced even back then that I was going to succeed somehow."

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Wilkes students 'slay' to benefit high school prom attendees

By Toni Pennello
Asst. News Editor

On April 7, Wilkes students had the opportunity to walk the runway while helping members of the community.

"Slay Your Way to Prom," which took place in the gymnasium at UCOMM at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, was organized in order to partner with Cinderella's Closet to provide donated prom dresses to high school students who would not be able to afford them otherwise.

Cinderella's Closet is an organization that provides used formal clothing to residents who do cannot afford to buy them new. They have a north east Pa. chapter, located in Scranton.

High school students who attended the event were able to bring one dress home for free as an "added perk" for attending, said Erica Acosta, associate director of diversity affairs. All of the dresses left over after the event, she said, would be donated to Cinderella's Closet.

The event was originally spearheaded by Justin Davis of AmeriCorps PACC VISTA, but the buck was passed to Acosta due to unforeseen circumstances.

According to Acosta, he was very upset that he was unable to attend, and he did much of the legwork involved in the event.

Acosta added that the event received help from many other groups, including the Multicultural Student Coalition, Wilkes Civic engagement, the Hispanic Affair Advisory Council and Caring Communities, among others.

"It's going to be going to a great organization to really help the community," said Megan Boone Valkenburg, coordinator of student development. "(Prom is) one of these great, fun events that teens really like to go to, but they're so super expensive.

"It puts at a disadvantage and it makes them feel not part of their school when they can't afford to spend 3, 4, 5 thousand dollars on a dress... just for a few hours," she said.

Acosta and Valkenburg agreed that they would be happy if even just one high school student walked away from the event with a dress.

"The goal is, if we can even help one family member with a dress I'll be happy. Hopefully with all the donations that we were able to collect we can impact other families in obtaining their dream dress," Acosta said.

One seeker of that dream dress was Dori Lee, a junior at Coughlin High School.

"I'm having a hard time finding a good prom dress, so I came here," Lee said. "It's nice what they're doing for the community because a lot of people here can't afford



The Beacon/ Toni Pennello
Freshman biology major Danay Rosa shows off a donated dress.



The Beacon/ Toni Pennello

Left: Freshman business major Abie Pessima decided to volunteer because of her love of fashion and makeup. She added that even though she was helping the community, it did not feel like she was doing community service as she strutted down the runway in beautiful dresses.

Right: Freshman mechanical engineering major Suzi Cook volunteered because she "loves prom." Cook agreed that the volunteer work did not feel like community service because the students were "having fun." High school students who attended the event and liked a dress they saw on the runway were able to bring one home at no cost.

(prom clothes) because they're all being paid minimum wage."

Lee was especially surprised by the selection of dresses available at the event.

"They look like dresses that would be at bridal stores... I went to other dress drives and they didn't have anything in my size," she said.

The students who participated in the event were, in no particular order, Maria Dima, Nilo Mominzada, Suzi Cook, Yahaira Colon, Ana Castillo, Danay Rosa, Ashley Rosa, Abie Pessima and Ymari Williams. The students were joined by Andrew Oddguns and Mitzi Fauntayne, mister and miss NEPA Pridefest 2016, respectively.

The master of ceremonies at the event was Junior Kayla Walker, Multicultural student coalition secretary, who will be president of the club next year.

*For more photos
from "Slay Your
Way to Prom," visit:
thewilkesbeacon.com*



The Beacon/ Toni Pennello

Dr. Skleder weighs in on changing Dean's List requirement

By Danny Van Brunt
Sports Co-Editor

Many full-time Wilkes University students feel that they ought to be recognized for their academic achievements every semester. Students work to not only to pass their classes, but also to get the best grades possible. At the end of each semester, students receive validation for their hard work by finding their name on the Dean's List.

The Wilkes University's Dean's List has two requirements. The first requirement is to be a full-time student, which means that the student has to carry at least 12 credits during the semester. The second requirement is a 3.4 grade point average. These requirements have not been changed for a quite some time.

The Dean's List for the previous fall semester features a long list of students who were honored for their academics. Our neighboring school, King's College, has a 3.5 grade-point average requirement and their list from last semester has significantly less students than ours. Marywood University and the University of Scranton have a 3.5 requirement as well, while Misericordia University has a requirement of 3.55.

"I am finishing up my third year at Wilkes, and the Dean's List requirements were in place before I started here. The academic standards of the University are the province of the faculty. At some point this decision was made by the faculty," said Senior Vice President and Provost Dr. Anne Skleder.

Skleder recognizes that the decision is not completely hers, but she is interested in the topic. Policies at Wilkes are always open for discussion, yet Dr. Skleder had no prior discussion with any faculty or students about the topic before the interview.

"I will always support looking into any of our policies and procedures, and in this case it is policy. For me to personally weigh in, I would like to see the rationale and data behind it first. Also, these policies vary from institution to institution. I have been with many different institutions, and it is always up to the faculty of the institution to make that decision. However, I would be happy to be engaged in a discussion about it," said Skleder.

Students should be aware of the requirements of Wilkes so they can aim for the academic achievement of making the Dean's List. Like Skleder said, this policy can be changed at any point in time by the faculty, but Dr. Skleder does not have a keen interest in changing this long-standing policy.

"I do not feel strongly about changing the

requirement because I have not looked into the research nor have I had any discussion on the topic. I would welcome the dialogue," said Skleder.

If the requirements were changed to a higher grade point average, returning students may notice the difference, but new students will not be affected. There are only a few students who would even be aware of the requirements before they start their college career. There are plenty of more important factors.

"I do not think that students choose an institution because of the Dean's List requirements. I personally didn't know the requirements for my school before I attended college, and I do not think it

important for some students," said Skleder.

On top of the Dean's List is the Latin Honors Society. There are ten different societies to choose from, and they correspond with the various majors available at Wilkes.

"Our Latin Honor System at graduation is something that students can also strive for, which goes beyond our Dean's List requirements. It is certainly a distinction that some students strive for, and it is a very good tradition," Skleder said.

Some people look at grades and grade point averages as superficial. In some cases, students with great grades can lack the skills needed in the work force, and vice versa. It all comes down to what is intrinsically

Employers are looking for students who do well and get good grades certainly, but they are also looking for students who excelled in other kinds of areas like leadership, and et cetera. Medical and law schools may look at grades more than other programs, but most programs recognize that a varied experience is what matters, which is what occurs in and outside the classroom.

There is the chance in the future that this policy could change, along with many other policies. Students like Senior Nikki Zula would be concerned if the requirement was increased.

"It would definitely matter for the students of Wilkes University. If it were increased to 3.5, I would feel pressured to get better grades. We should be proud of grades like 3.5, but if students need to strive for 4.0s then students may become stressed to make the Dean's List," said Zula.

"There are significant other ways (for students) to distinguish themselves beyond these grade related distinctions. These include excellent internships, publishing with faculty as we just saw last week at the Research and Scholarship Symposium, getting co-ops, being leaders on sports teams, clubs and organizations, and being mentors to each other,"

- Dr. Anne Skleder

is an important factor. Our students are focused on the quality of the programs, the credentials of the faculty, the opportunities for co-curriculum, the location, support they get from coaches, advisors and etc. These are the factors that influence students to make a decision," said Dr. Skleder.

Regardless if Wilkes will raise their requirement from 3.4 to 3.5 or even 4.0, Wilkes needs to keep its Dean's List.

"I think it is important that we have a Dean's List. I think it is important to recognize excellence. This is an institution, as you may have heard from Dr. Leahy, of excellence and we have spent a lot of time talking and working on that. So, I think to the extent that it helps students strive for excellence, it is a good thing. It can be motivating and rewarding for some students, but it may also not be that

valuable to a student.

"The most important reasons for striving for excellence should be internal. Achieving more than you thought you could achieve and achieving for your own satisfaction. I think our faculty would hope that is the major reason, and I hope it is the major reason all students strive for excellence, rather than external rewards," said Skleder.

"There are significant other ways to distinguish themselves beyond these grade related distinctions. These include excellent internships, publishing with faculty as we just saw last week at the Research and Scholarship Symposium, getting co-ops, being leaders on sports teams, clubs and organizations, and being mentors to each other. I think that all of these opportunities are great for students who want to show an employer that they are well-rounded.

Latin Honor Societies of Wilkes University

ALPHA CHI (Upper division students)
PI KAPPA DELTA (Forensics)

ALPHA KAPPA DELTA (Sociology)
PI SIGMA ALPHA (Political Science)

ALPHA SIGMA LAMBDA
(Part-time Students)
PHI ALPHA THETA (History)

BETA BETA BETA (Biology)
PSI CHI (Psychology)

CHI ALPHA EPSILON (Act 101 Students)
RHO CHI (Pharmacy)


DELTA MU DELTA
(Business and Accounting)
SIGMA PI SIGMA (Physics)

ETA KAPPA NU (Electrical Engineering)
SIGMA TAU DELTA (English)

KAPPA DELTA PI (Education)
SIGMA THETA TAU (Nursing)

LAMBDA PI ETA (Communications)
SIGMA XI (Scientific Research)

OMICRON DELTA EPSILON
(Economics)

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Students share mixed feelings about Stark renovations

By Cabrini Rudnicki
Staff Writer

Most have noticed the closed off hallway in Stark Learning Center by now and have noticed the threatening yellow 'caution' tape draped over the doors. Early in the year, a press release was released notifying students of incoming renovations, but what is actually happening behind the scenes?

Recently, the university has begun a campus-wide improvement project, expected to total more than \$10 million. The renovations will include the new Karambelas Media Center, which is to hold the Sordoni Art Gallery, as well as the Communication Studies Department and a number of its student-run organizations. The university also has plans to modernize Waller Hall, upgrade Schmidt Stadium and the Ralston Athletic Complex, implement more noticeable signage and improve the general infrastructure of the campus as a whole.

In the Stark Learning Center, major improvements are planned to enhance the student body's learning experience. New classrooms will be added and old classrooms will get new carpeting, paint jobs, furnishing and technology.

While construction proceeds, a major hallway on the first floor is blocked, and many students have to take new routes to get to their classes.

The student body has a diverse opinion on the construction, with some finding it an aggravating obstacle in their day.

Joseph Earl, a freshman environmental engineering major, misses the efficient route the hallway gave when going through Stark to his dorm, Evans Hall.

"We want our long cut back," he said enthusiastically when asked for comments on the construction. The 'long cut' being student-body-slang for the hallway.

Other students, such as Neil Murphy, a freshman psychology major, while thankful for the university's improvements, questioned the construction timeline.

"It's been under renovation, to serve us better, for three quarters of the semester. How much longer will it take?"

Still, other students are indifferent to the hallway. One student, Marlon Sanchez, a sophomore computer information systems major, doesn't find the hallway intrusive to his daily routine.

"I don't really take that way, but if they are trying to make it look better, by all means!"

Regardless of whether a student finds



The Beacon/Purvit Patel

the blocked off hallway to be a major inconvenience or an after thought, everyone is excited to see the new classrooms, which are expected to be finished after this summer.



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Colonel Charity Challenge to raise funds for local women's shelter

By Isaiah McGahee
Staff Writer

Author and philanthropist Tony Robbins once said, "life is a gift, and it offers us the privilege, opportunity, and responsibility to give something back by becoming more."

Students at Wilkes University have an opportunity to give back to their community, whilst becoming more. Wilkes University will host its annual Colonel Charity Challenge on April 23. The challenge will allow students to sharpen their competitive edge, while allowing them to have a good time in the process. The proceeds will benefit Ruth's Place, which is the only women's shelter in Wilkes-Barre.

Ruth's Place, a program of Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania, is dedicated to providing shelter and case management services for women experiencing homelessness while honoring the dignity of each guest. Using evidence-based practices, the program provides safe, temporary and short-term emergency

shelter for women experiencing homelessness in Luzerne County.

The shelter also coordinates and collaborates with other service providers and volunteers to assure the provision of services that address their basic physical, financial, health and spiritual needs. Finally, they assist sheltered guests to form and follow a permanent housing plan to quickly achieve stable, long-term housing.

Ruth's Place is a faith-based program founded by the Methodist Urban Ministry in 2003. It operated as Ruth's Place: House of Hope, Inc. from 2008 to 2013. In July of 2013, Ruth's Place merged with Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania.

"The Colonel Charity Challenge will be a series of small competitions. In the past, they've included activities ranging from tug-of-war, shuttle-runs, obstacle-runs, tire flips and several other events. Teams will be competing in small groups for points, and there will be prizes for the winners" said John Sumoski, the shelter's event coordinator.

"The specific goal is to raise money for a good cause... But also to encourage

teamwork in the process. Obviously, that is a secondary goal, however," Sumoski said.

The event's success in the past has Sumoski excited and encouraged for this year's challenge.

"In the past, we've had a great turnout," he said. "We expect the same for this year."

In the past, the Colonel Charity Challenge has benefitted Brian Urbanas of Bart & Urby's and his fight against Multiple Sclerosis, Make-A-Wish, Embrace a Child in Tanzania, Children's Miracle Network, the Bo Tkach Memorial Fund along with several other causes.

Students are encouraged to sign up and participate in the event. Teams of four women or men are being sought after. The cost of registration is \$20 per team. More information in regards to signing up for the Colonel Charity Challenge is available online at www.wilkes.edu. The deadline to register is April 14.



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**To sign up for the
Colonel Charity
Challenge:**

Visit www.wilkes.edu.

**Deadline to
register:**

April 14

Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have a story or want your event to be featured? Contact the Life, A&E Editor: kimberly.hein@wilkes.edu

Dance Program “breaks a leg” in preparation for Annual Spring Concert

By Kimberly Hein

Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

The Annual Spring Concert will be held by the Dance Department in the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center at 8 p.m. on April 22. The event is free to the public and made up of both faculty and student-choreographed pieces. The faculty pieces have been created throughout the past semester's classes including genres such as ballet, tap, jazz and modern.

Lynne Mariani, instructor of modern and jazz said, “The faculty spends most of the winter break coming up with ideas for dance pieces and selecting music. The students begin learning choreography for the dance concert early in the semester.”

She continued to say that they not only choreograph the dances, but they create lighting plots alongside the lighting designer, select and order costumes, and they put together the program information.

Professor Sean Harris explained his involvement in preparation for the show. In the beginning of the semester, he meets with his students to analyze their skill levels in dance and in particular tap dancing.

“Once I do that, I try to create a piece that will complement their skill level. After hours of listening to various musical selections as well as channeling artistic creativity, I present my idea to the class and I begin to choreograph a piece that represents the music as well as the performers.”

After that is done, they discuss costuming, rehearsal schedules, lighting, staging, facial expressions and more.

“After our final full dress rehearsal, my students are ready to perform the piece. What is unique about tap dancers, is they are not only dancers but also musicians playing percussive phrases with their feet. It is quite challenging,” Harris continued.

Senior nursing major, Madison Myers said, “Dancing at Wilkes has given me the opportunity to challenge myself and try different styles of dance with different teachers. I’ve made really great friends through dancing at Wilkes.”

She continued to talk about how she took



The Beacon/Gabby Glinski

Instructor Lynne Mariani's Modern 2 Class strikes a pose for this year's piece entitled “Grant Me Serenity.”

the dance composition course this semester where she created her own dance.

“It was very challenging to create my own piece this semester. I never considered myself a choreographer so being able to challenge myself and create a dance was really rewarding in the end. Choreographing my piece entailed a lot of time and effort. It wasn't easy for me. I had to schedule time out of my week to come up with choreography. It took overcoming scheduling conflicts and working with my dancer's dance ability,” she said.

Myers is very excited for her friends and family to see her work. She's also excited to dance at the concert since this might be her last time ever dancing at a recital.

Junior pharmacy major, Rachel Lazevinck said she's excited for every aspect of the show.

She is a dance minor due to her love for the art of dance. She explained that dance has been a huge part of her life since she was very

young, and to be able to continue her love for dance at Wilkes is what she wanted to do.

Dancing at Wilkes has given her a place to be herself and express herself. She admits that the dance program has challenged her a lot and she is doing things that she never thought she would be able to do.

“Lynne motivates me to do more and more every time I am in class. I have accomplished so many new things here at Wilkes through dance and I am excited to see what else I will learn and how much I will grow within the next few years,” Lazevinck said.

Mariani said that her favorite thing about the dance concert is watching the students' excitement.

Lazevinck said, “The week leading up to the show I have so much adrenaline all week and it is such an exciting week. I am excited for everyone to see what we have all been working on this past semester. All of my friends and family wonder why I spend so

much time at the DDD and I am excited to show them why and what I have been doing.”

The cast of the dance concert involves all of the students registered and taking dance classes for the Spring Semester in any of the following, Ballet, Jazz, Tap or Modern/Contemporary. If students are interested in adding a dance class to their schedule, they can sign up for a course or they can audit one of the courses.

“I always welcome anyone who would like to observe any of my classes to see if they're interested,” Harris said.

Lazevinck suggested that any student who loves pushing themselves to do things they don't think they can accomplish to pick up a dance minor or a dance class.

“It is a great way to express yourself and have a lot of fun doing it,” she said.

Harris said it best when saying, “Dancers are the athletes of God” and the Spring Concert is our Championship Game.”

RECIPE OF THE WEEK:

Breakfast Bowl

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 eggs
- 2 tbsp. milk
- 2 sausage links
- 1 cheese stick

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Add eggs and milk to a microwave-safe cereal bowl.
2. Beat until blended.
3. Add cooked sausage links and sliced cheese stick.
4. Microwave on high for 45 seconds and then push cooked edges toward center.
5. Microwave again for about 45-60 seconds.

Enjoy!!



Design by Nicole Kutos

Recipe from: incredibleegg.org

*Do you have a favorite
dorm room recipe that's
convenient for college
students always on the go?*

*Submit it to Amanda
Bialek, LA&E Assistant
Editor*

amanda.bialek@wilkes.edu

THIS MONTH, EARN UP TO...

\$250

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BRING YOUR WILKES ID
AND GET AN EXTRA \$10 ON
YOUR FIRST DONATION!!

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Mega Council & Student Body President Nominees

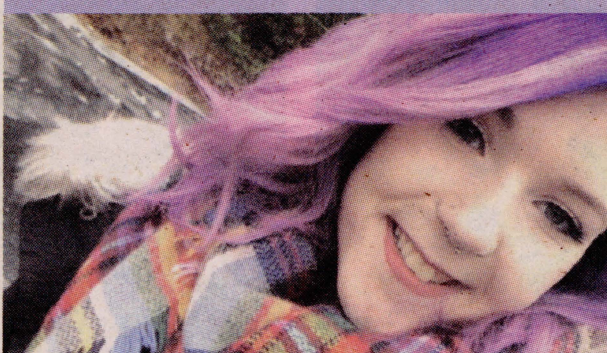
Student Government President



Cody Morcom

Major: Pharmacy
 "This position means everything to me. It serves as an opportunity to improve the lives of my fellow Colonels and ensure that they have the best possible experience while at Wilkes University."

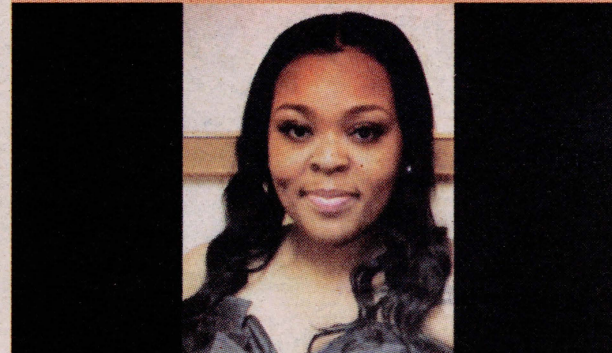
Programming Board President



Emily Taylor

Major: Biology
 "To me, this position would give me the ability to plan and create events that the entire student body would find enjoyable. I want to be able to judge what kind of events students here like the best and bring those events to campus."

Multicultural Student Coalition



Kala Walker

Major: Sociology
 "This position to me means leadership. With this leadership role, I will guide the executive board into another semester spreading multicultural awareness on the Wilkes University Campus."



Dylan Fox

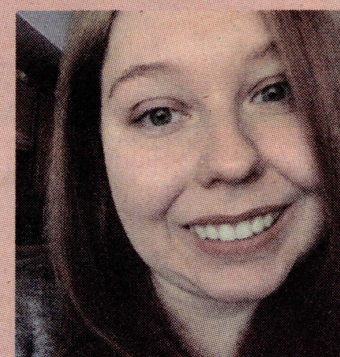
Major: Pharmacy
 "Being the Student Government President means representing, listening, and supporting individuality and diversity at Wilkes, while being fully devoted to our community of colonels."



Kya Lewis

Major: Management & Marketing
 "I want to be president because I feel my success and accomplishments have only prepared me for this task and if I'm elected I will only continue the greatness that Programming Board has brought the campus and student body!"

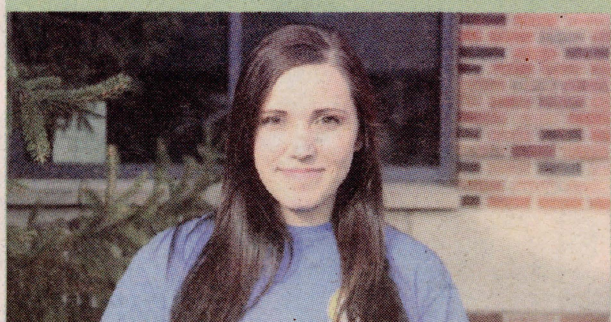
Commuter Council President



Sarah Stoss

Major: psychology major.
 "This position means the world to me. As an active member of the commuter council for the past three years I have seen the commuting body of Wilkes University grow and thrive, and I want to play a larger role in ensuring the voices of my fellow commuters are heard."

IRHC President



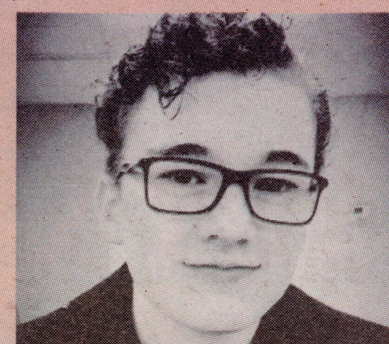
Lyndsey Shay

Major: Political Science and International Studies (pre-law).
 "To me, this position means being more involved in the Wilkes community. I really want to plan some cool activities to get everyone involved and be there to listen to other students ideas and be able to work with them."



Leticia (Lety) Patino-Flores

Major: Political Science and Secondary Education
 "I really want to be President of IRHC to make an impact at the university. It is so easy to get involved and now I want to get others involved and participating in our events."



Samueldelm (Delmar) Guzewicz

Major: History and International Studies.
 "I am excited to take. It gives me the opportunity to represent a portion of the student body that is often overlooked, and it can be a major step towards achieving my goal of becoming a foreign diplomat."

The Color Wars: A celebration of culture and spring



The color war is based on a Hindu story in which a god kills a devil. The people celebrate the devil's passing with bright colors, "As the spring is coming up, we're celebrating with everyone together and having bright colors," stated Rima Avasatthi, vice president of the Hindu Spirituality Club. The approximate 30 participants were able to throw powdered colors, play with waterguns and dance to music in celebration of culture and spring.



Above: Members of the Hindu Spirituality Club serve fresh bread with spicy chickpea dipping sauce and mango smoothies before the color war. Below: Israel Rodriguez, right, throws orange powder at John Vols, left.

Photos by The Beacon/Gabby Gliniski



Wilkes Senior Kevin Schiel wins College Tabletop award

By Amanda Bialek
Asst. Life, Arts and Entertainment Editor

From being in a band to working in the restaurant industry, senior Kevin Schiel has always been drawn to making something creative. His passion for experimenting with food dishes inspired him to pursue his artistic talent in a different field at Wilkes University.

"In high school, I was always the kid that doodled and made flash animations on the school's boggy computers," Schiel said.

His interest in graphic design led him to studying Integrative Media, Art and Design at Wilkes.

"It wasn't until I was 24 and in a committed relationship that I found I needed to do something with my life, and working in the restaurant industry was burning me out," Schiel said. "With all of this in consideration, graphic design seemed to be the perfect fit for me, so I began going to school at Luzerne County Community College four years ago and here I am now."

Schiel's interest in space and sci-fi themes gave him the idea to create a card game for his Projects 2 course.

This course is designed as a portfolio building class where students have a variety of hands-on experiences and learn important skills such as keeping a schedule, time management and presenting and receiving feedback from a creative team.

"It's a critical component to have real world working environments reflected in our courses," Eric Ruggiero, associate professor and chair of Integrative Media said.

Students work on deadlines, create real world production schedules and have access to a community feedback forum, according to Ruggiero.

Through the design community, students are able to receive feedback on synergy, colors, typography and all other different components, Ruggiero said.

Schiel has always liked card and tabletop games and felt this project would use a broad range of design skills in a unique way.

"To utilize skills in illustration, layout and typographic design, I felt that it would be a great idea to take both the design aesthetics and philosophies that I have discovered and learned throughout my student career to create something

different that stands out," Schiel said.

There were multiple cards that needed to be designed for the game.

"I sketched out most of the cards before I took them into Adobe Illustrator, traced and colored them, then added the information over the tops," Schiel said.

The process consisted of hand drawing, turning the drawings into digital components, laying them out and finally getting his designs into print formats.

"It's a constant iteration of evolution to the final result," Ruggiero said.

The end result was a strategy card game called Planets the Game. It is a space themed game where players draw from a single deck. The card game has a total of 84 cards and two to six players can play at a time. Individuals assume the roles of alien overlords and can play, attack, defend and conquer planets. There are three different types of alien species players can employ. The first player to control six planets wins the game.

"I wanted to create a strategy game and have always liked trading card games like Magic the Gathering, but also like the casual feel of some party games, like Uno," Schiel said. "I took the characteristics I liked from different games and married them in a totally new way."

Schiel recently won the College Tabletop award at the Pennsylvania Consortium on Video Games at Harrisburg University for Planets the Game. This statewide competition is an opportunity for game developers and educational programmers to showcase their creative talents. Schiel also received the 2017 American Advertising Federation award for an animated infographic he designed.

"Kevin alone has set the bar high for himself and the projects that he's doing," Ruggiero said. "He achieves his goals in super quantity and super quality. We are really proud of Kevin and what he has done."

Interested in Planets the Game? Visit planetsthegame.com to preorder a copy.



The Beacon/Jesse Chalnack
Kevin Schiel created the Planets card strategy game that focuses on planetary conquest. The deck contains 84 cards and accommodates 2-6 players.

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2017 WOMEN'S Softball

ROSTER

1	NICOLE CUMBO	JR.	P
2	HANNAH MILLER	FR.	UTL
4	GRACEN STAUNTON	FR.	P/UTL
6	GABRIELLE MOLITORIS	FR.	INF
8	ERIKA GERACE	FR.	P/UTL
11	HALEY WELKER	SO.	UTL
12	MIA LUSSIER	JR.	OF
17	MELENA GIULIANO	FR.	INF
19	CAITLIN BROWN	SO.	INF
21	AUBREY CATALDI	FR.	UTL
22	SARAH GIBSON	FR.	UTL
23	SARAH BIRCHMEIER	JR.	UTL
32	KALIYAH MOORE	FR.	UTL
34	CELINE PODLESNEY	FR.	P/UTL
35	SHATAYA BUXTON	FR.	UTL
44	CHRISTINA GAMBINO	JR.	P/INF

SENIOR



7

UTL

Jenna Graziano

SENIOR



9

OF/C

Lacey Bixler

SENIOR



26

OF

Abby Paskas

2017 MEN'S *Baseball*

ROSTER

1	BRADY WING	SO.	OF
2	JARRET CLYMER	JR.	OF
3	JAMES BROWN	SR.	OF
4	JORGE GONZALEZ	SO.	INF
8	ALEX PALMER	SO.	OF
9	JEREMY YZEIK	FR.	P
10	ERIC BEIDEMAN	FR.	C
11	TRAVIS WOOLFENDEN	SO.	P
12	JESHURUN SESTITO	FR.	INF
13	KEATON ALLISON	SO.	C
14	ALEX HALLADAY	FR.	INF
15	TYLER WALTHER	FR.	C
18	ZACH METZ	SO.	P
19	JAMES ZAJAC	JR.	P
22	ADAM MARTINESE	FR.	UTL
23	MATT REINERT	FR.	OF
24	JACK FISCHER	SO.	INF
25	NOAH DURNIN	SO.	P
26	JOE CHAMPI	JR.	INF
27	DAN EICHER	JR.	INF
30	ANDREW STAMBAUGH	SO.	P
31	JARED DANCSECS	FR.	C
32	JEFF ROEDEL	SO.	CINF
34	MATT AMARAL	FR.	P
36	MATT MARANCA	SO.	P
38	JASON TISA	FR.	P
39	MATT DACEY	SO.	INF
42	RAMON BAZAN	SO.	P
46	NICHOLAS POYER	SO.	P
48	NICHOLAS CAPOZZI	SO.	INF

SENIOR



0

INF

Tanner Smith

SENIOR



5

OF

Joshua Slocum

SENIOR



6

P

Matthew Reese

SENIOR



16

P

Quinn Kelly

SENIOR

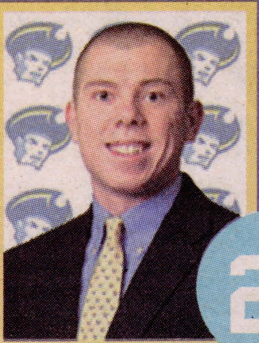


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Alex Kramer

SENIOR




20

P

Matt Kaster

SENIOR

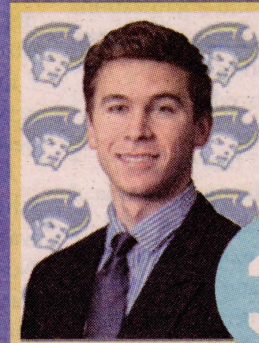


28

P

Johnny Tan Jr.

SENIOR



35

P

Chris Nixon

Opinion

Have an opinion or want to write a guest column? Contact the opinion editors: mark.makowski@wilkes.edu or andre.spruell@wilkes.edu

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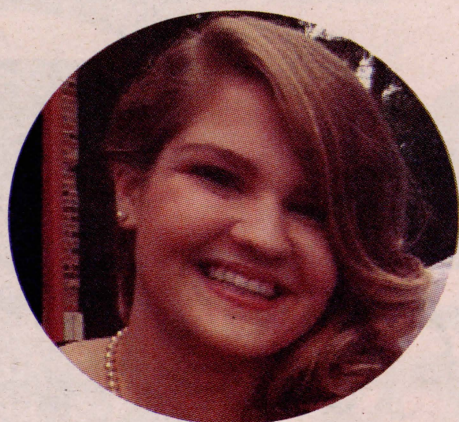
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Our Voice

The only thing that matters; reflecting on my college years



By: Sarah Bedford
Editor-in-Chief

When I started college almost four years ago, I had a plan. I was going to be the next Megyn Kelly. I had hoped that some major network would be impressed with my wit and charm and I would be the first thing people tuned into each weekday morning as they sip their coffee. I would wow the masses with my political knowledge and my ability to hit world leaders and political wanna-bes with the tough questions.

Then I changed my mind. I was going to be a writer--that's somewhat still the plan. After I joined all the clubs and organizations I could fit in my schedule, I quickly learned that I could combine writing with my new goal of working in higher education. So, I set my mind to that.

I entered college with tunnel vision. I wasn't going to get caught up in drama, I wasn't too concerned with being "cool"--I mean, not that I exactly exude popularity. But I wasn't focused on any of that. I met the girl who would become my best friend on my first Tuesday/Thursday class--Dr. Hupchick's 8 a.m. HST101 course, back when the Darte Center was this weird mix of yellow and orange on the inside and there was a random piano in the corner of the classroom and what appeared to be clapboard on the walls that had a few too many penciled in doodles.

With my new friend group, we all would chat in the SUB lounge about our future plans. I would laugh and say I needed to find a nice, Republican and/or Catholic engineering major or pharmacy major to marry. The Mrs. degree was in part the plan but not the primary degree. Wouldn't you know it I would be introduced to the treasurer of College Republicans (who happened to be a Catholic and an engineer!) and now this summer we'll be celebrating our third anniversary.

I felt like I really had it all. And I did. Good grades. Good friend. A nice boyfriend. Until my sophomore year.

I became very ill the fall semester of my sophomore year. I was having complications with my diabetes after a severe low. I also was sick and needed gallbladder surgery. I had a lot on my plate between a double major, co-curriculars, work. I was stressed and I couldn't mentally and physically take the pressure of missing school for illness and missing out on the things I had started to love.


Flash forward to my junior year, I was still sick and now looming before me was senior year. I ended up having to drop my double major, drop out of some of my extracurriculars. I was depressed because I finally had it all. But I didn't because I actively chose to put literally everything else besides my health first.

As senior year began, I was getting better. I had the medical answers I needed and I was on the path to rebuilding myself up. Now my stress wasn't why I always felt ill but what am I going to do with my future. I think freshman year Sarah decided to grace me with her anxieties once again because I knew its getting time to make a choice.

My choices are a lot different now. I know I won't be Megyn Kelly. In part because my body can't take the long hours and the stresses of the limelight. (Okay--maybe I still hope to be Megyn Kelly a little.)

If I learned anything in my college experience is that you have to take care of you. While grades are important, resume builders are a must, a social life will keep you grounded and sane, if you don't take care of what your body, mind and on some level spirit needs, your future is only relative.

I recently did my senior survey and I was asked what advice I would give to a new student. I would tell anyone starting any chapter in life-- take care of you, have your goals and have your plans but don't be afraid to go off the beaten path. As I write this, I have absolutely no idea what will happen to me after I shake hands with the president and provost and hug my friends goodbye. Right now, everything seems just a too impossible to attain. But I know things will eventually fall into place. I worked way too hard to believe it's all for not.

 @wilkesbeacon
sarah.bedford@wilkes.edu

Each week a Beacon editor will take a stance on a current topic.

Note: The views expressed are those of the writer.

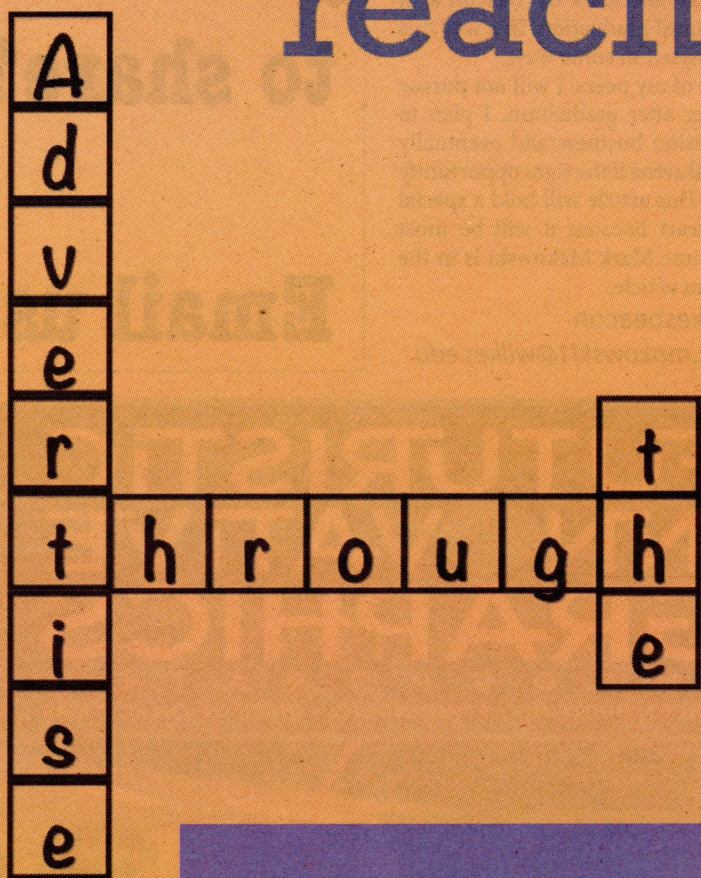
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The road ends here: Looking back on college

By: Mark Makowski
Opinion Co-Editor

This is my last article I will ever write for the Beacon, and with graduation coming up in May. There's a sports phrase that reminds me of this point in time, "the road ends here." This is used in college basketball during the final four and national championship game.

It's a very simple phrase, these teams have taken a path through the tournament defeating every they faced and are now at the end of the road looking to seek a championship. In a way this reminds me of my college career.

Looking back on my five year of studies, it was a challenge, nothing ever came easy and if it did, I don't think I would be at this point where I am now. These years have some of the best and most stressful of my life, and entering the job market will also bring the same things along but in a different setting.

Overall I am glad to have spent the last two years at Wilkes. I have had great classmates and great friends that will be close to me for the rest of my life.

Another thing that I will remember are the great professors, and not so great ones (although there were few of these) that I have met along the path to obtaining this degree.

Wilkes is a school where you really do have a one-on-one relationship with all of your professors. Through this you realize you are not just a number, you are an actual student that has different learning styles and abilities.

Honestly for as corny as it may sound I still remember the first time coming to Wilkes to scheduling my classes for the fall 2015 semester. Every time I think back to this moment I also remember how the Communication Studies Department used to be headquartered in Capin Hall.

Its disappointing that I will not be see the new communications building which will be ready this fall (hopefully). But it will be a great opportunity to stop by the building as a graduate and I hope that some of my closest friends enjoy the building next year before their own graduations.


But looking back on my studies at Wilkes I live with no regrets. Every extracurricular activity I participated in, including the

Beacon was a great learning experience for my future that I am very excited to enter after May 20 and see what I make of myself.

This is a cross roads for several different reasons. Next year the Beacon will see several different faces. They will possess different approaches to writing as well as their own styles. They will be rough around the edges but by the time junior and senior year arrives, they'll be ready to bring out their best tools and succeed.

I am feeling a little sad as I start to reach the end of my last article for the Beacon with a month to go until graduation. In a way this is the end for myself in some ways.

Unlike some of my peers, I will not pursue a writing career after graduation. I plan to enter the television business and eventually into the political arena if the right opportunity presents itself. This article will hold a special place in my heart because it will be most likely the last time Mark Makowski is in the by line of a print article.

 @wilkesbeacon
mark.makowski1@wilkes.edu

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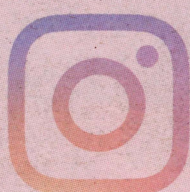
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Colonels Talk Back

Students “hop” into the spring holidays

Interviews by
Peyton Neishman
peyton.neishman@wilkes.edu

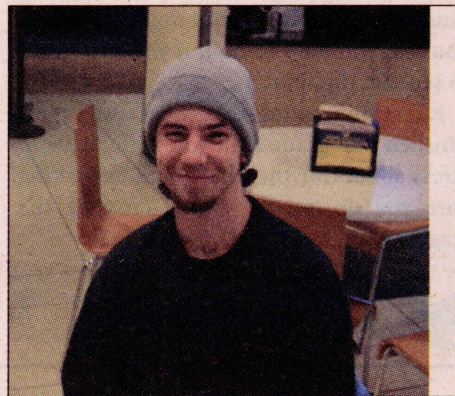
Photos by
Jesse Chalnack
jesse.chalnack@wilkes.edu

The Beacon asked Wilkes University students about their plans and family traditions for the upcoming holiday break.

Want to be in the next Colonels Talk Back? Email peyton.neishman@wilkes.edu.

David Heinz
Sophomore
Engineering

“My plans for the upcoming break are to just spend time with my family, catch up on some homework, and also I will be bringing an exchange student home for the holiday. I also want to go mountain climbing if I get the chance to.”



Caitlin Klinger
Sophomore
Special Education

“I am just really excited to go home and see my family. We will go to church as a family and then we go to my dad’s house for a big lunch/dinner.”



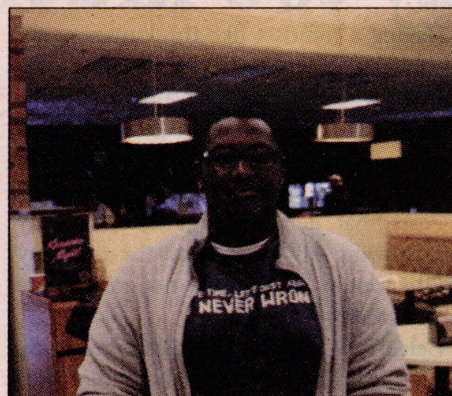
Sierra Musa
Sophomore
Spanish

“My plans for the upcoming break include my family and I going to my aunts for a holiday dinner. We all play board games and spend time bonding and catching up with each other.”



Aneal Knowles
Accounting
Sophomore

“My plans for the break are just relaxing and spending time with my family back home. We usually have a family get together but I’m not sure what the exact plans are this year. I will have all my homework done before break so I have more time to do other activities.”



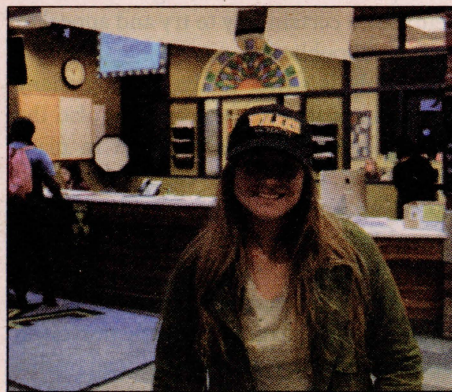
Steven Ramos
Sophomore
Engineering

“My plans for the upcoming break are just to go home and spend time with my family. I will be working for most of it and also have to catch up on some homework.”



Allison Rossi
Junior
Education

“For this upcoming holiday break we are having a family dinner at my aunt’s house. I will also be just relaxing and catching up on some homework.”



The ups and downs of capstone season

By Olivia Macdonald
Opinion Writer

It is that time of year, graduation season, but more importantly, capstone season. No matter the major, Wilkes University usually always requires some sort of graduation requirement.

Some students get lucky and just have to do one or two internships that get them ready to go into the field but others have to work long hours on a final project, or capstone. In my opinion, these projects do not display what we have learned in our years at Wilkes which is unfortunate because of how many long hours we put into our studies.

I feel like other majors are well prepared to go into the field to which they have been studying, pharmacy majors know how to make pills and engineering majors know how to practically build robots but the ones who need to put a PowerPoint presentation together are not really getting ready to go into the workforce.

I am jealous of those who have required internships to graduate because they are

getting legitimate field experience to put on a resume while my fellow criminology majors and I are sitting on a computer looking at data from the 1980.

Other majors deal with the same complications which in some aspects is not fair since I feel nowhere close to going into the "real world".

Other than just being extremely jealous of those who do not need to do a capstone in general, they also do not need to feel the stress of this one project determining if you are allowed to graduate or not.

You could have a 4.0 in your major but fail the capstone and not be able to even cross the stage. Being a senior, it is already a stressful time to find a job and realize that life is starting let alone worrying about the extra stress of a capstone.

If you are a senior just remember to stay focused on the end goal rather than focusing on the amount of shots you can fit in before May 20. Senior Tanner Geake, was one of the first students to present his senior capstone and says.

"It is definitely a big relief that it's over since it was the source of my stress... it was

very interesting to do my own research and understand what our professors do," Geake explains. "All in all, I'm just happy it is over!"


Lots of people are now presenting in the month of April and they know how much time it takes to complete one of these projects, no matter the major.

One of my professors always says that if you use the time that you are stressing about doing the project to just do it, procrastinating will never be a problem.

I try to listen to that advice, but we all know that Netflix and ice cream sometimes sounds like a lot better of a way to occupy our time.

Life is not always fair... no matter how much you complain about doing a project, you still will have to do it if you ever want to see that diploma.

Just think, after that final project is finished and graded, all you really have to stress about (for the time being) is making sure you do not trip while crossing the stage!

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olivia.macdonald@wilkes.edu

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Do media play too much of a role in our lives?

By Shannon O'Connor
Opinion Writer

From social networking sites to news channels and daily shows, we rely on the media to inform us of all that is happening around the world.

We don't want to know just anything. We want to know that latest makeup trends, which celebrities are dating each other, the best dieting tricks and what clothes we should be wearing.

In this day and age this may sound completely harmless; however, it is actually more damaging than you may have originally thought.

Many are speaking out against sites such as Instagram and Facebook and how they cause society to perceive our lives and bodies as dull, boring, and not what they should be.

Adriana Mariella of Elite Daily states "I'm always saying, 'I just want to be her,' or 'His life is so cool' because no matter how much I love my own life, someone's will always be better looking on Instagram."

Having a mindset like this causes many in modern society to have a negative view on their way of life, relationships and body. They fail to realize the images and posts they are seeing on social media should not determine their lives.

Posts that depict things like a skinny girl showing off her abs or the buff guy chilling out by the pool are not an accurate representation of real life.

Celebrities like the Kardashians that are known for their professional looking posts are simply that, professional photo shoots. These photo shoots are designed to make them look a certain way to try and appeal to the general public.

Not only is social media causing many to have a negative self-esteem, but also the unrealistic expectations they put in place are causing things like eating disorders, depression, and sometimes suicide.


Jane White, a clinical hypnotherapist states, "However, it is unhelpful that we often chose to compare ourselves to the idealized body images frequently portrayed in newspapers, magazines and social media.

The implication is that looking a certain way is the only way to assure acceptance and success in today's society."

It is now commonly encouraged for those that are easily sucked into the lies found on social media, to start straying away from the apps like Instagram and Facebook. Research has shown that those that live without the presence of social media in their lives are considered happier than those engulfed in it.

If you are one of the many that feel negativity about yourself because of social media, know that you are not alone. However, you need to know, you're life is perfect just the way it is.

You don't need someone on Instagram telling you differently. So step away from your phone or computer and see all the potential you have on your own.

 @wilkesbeacon
shannon.oconnor@wilkes.edu

Average Daily Time Spent on Social Media

1. YouTube: 40 Minutes
2. FaceBook: 35 Minutes
3. Snapchat: 25 Minutes
4. Instagram: 15 Minutes
5. Twitter: 1 Minute

Source: <http://www.socialmediatoday.com/marketing/how-much-time-do-people-spend-social-media-infographic>

Sports

Want your sport covered? Contact the sports editor: taylor.ryan@wilkes.edu or daniel.vanbrunt@wilkes.edu

Local officials encourage Wilkes students to "get in the game"

By Luke Modrovsky
Asst. Sports Editor

When the Colonels take the field, there is always a third team with them - the officiating crew. The third team plays a crucial role in facilitating games, but fewer and fewer people are getting involved.

At the high school level, the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) offers people as young as 18 years old to get involved as sports officials. There are many opportunities an official can take. High-ranking roles include the MLB, NBA, NFL and NHL. Some of the officials working in the professional ranks first got their start at the high school level.

If not participating at the collegiate level, college students can continue to participate in athletics through officiating. In order to get involved at the high school level, new recruits must pass a rules test.

From there, students can decide how high they wish to advance and set goals, similar to other careers.

According to a PIAA press release, prospective officials can now take the rules test online. Students can even take the test from the comfort of their own dorm room, while enjoying a game on television.

"PIAA is excited for the next chapter of officials testing," stated PIAA Executive Director Dr. Robert A. Lombardi. "We believe that online testing will help with the recruitment of officials and also ease the registration process for prospective candidates. Athletics are an integral part of the educational process and would not exist without quality officials."

Answering 75 of the 100 questions correctly qualifies as a passing score.

Tom Chipeco currently referees boys' lacrosse, football and soccer. Looking around his soccer chapter, He said the average age of officials in 55, the oldest in the state. But every sport is hurting when it comes to number of quality officials, including his newest sports, boys' lacrosse.

"If you are involved in sports and want to continue enjoying

that thrill, camaraderie, rush, enjoyment of the game, please join us in officiating it," Chipeco said. "Most importantly, we can use your help. We are very short of officials. New officials just are not coming in, and our ranks keep getting older every year."

Chipeco said there are numerous opportunities across the board, but no place like lacrosse.

"Whether you are playing or officiating the sport, it teaches lessons that you need for your life: working hard, preparation, execution, making mistakes, correcting yourself, getting better, not getting down on yourself, handling criticism and many more," Chipeco said.

For official Greg Zumchak, he saw the need for officials in boys' lacrosse and joined. Already working four prior sports, Zumchak only needed the boys' lacrosse specific training, not necessarily on how to officiate as a whole.

Zumchak said the league is planning to expand to three person crews for varsity lacrosse next year.

But leagues can only expand crew sizes if they have a large enough pool of officials to do so.

Rules guru Jay Rowan has worked basketball, football, softball and soccer. While he has retired from basketball and soccer, he continues to officiate football and softball for his love of athletics.

"I keep officiating because I love the team

work each and every game," Rowan said. "I enjoy helping officials get better and hopefully reach those goals."

Zumchak echoes Rowan's sentiment, stating that he enjoys his time both on and off the field.

"I enjoy officiating for the exercise and friendships I have developed with fellow officials," Zumchak said. "Officials come from all occupations and it is an excellent way for a young person to network with people to learn about opportunities off the playing field."

Rowan, a chapter rules interpreter in multiple sports, works very closely with younger officials to ensure they are progressing.

"If they have goals that are just the high school level, that is great," Rowan said. "I want every official I work with to reach his/her goals which will then make me feel like I had something to do with their success."

Kaskey, a fixture in the local Wyoming Valley Conference, officiates baseball, basketball, football, soccer and softball. He first joined the opportunity after seeing his children play baseball and softball. Little did he know he would eventually become working not just baseball and softball, but the other three sports as well.

"I needed to know the rules so I could teach them the right way to play the game by the rules," Kaskey said.

He encourages others to join the ranks, stating that he got his start in Little League and progressed upward.

"Not only do we need umpires to take over when we retire, we need umpires who are passionate about the games they umpire in," Kaskey said. "Young people who played the



The Beacon/Luke Modrovsky

Umpire Greg Zumchak checks equipment prior to a recent high school softball game.

game should want to give something back to the game. The (high school) Baseball Rules Book is 88 pages long. It takes time for them to get familiar with all of the rules and interpret the rule as it was written."

When push comes to shove, officials are sometimes on the receiving end of criticism.

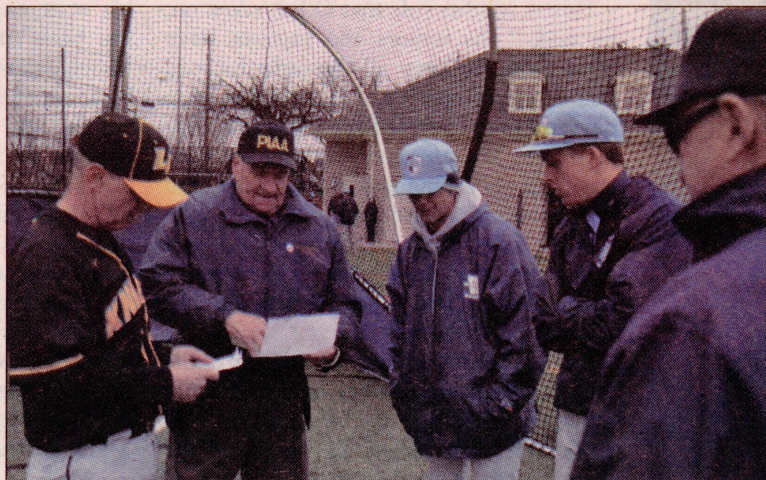
"I very rarely ever take criticism personally," Zumchak said. "Most of the time people yell at the uniform and not the individual."

"After 40 years of officiating in five sports you take a lot of grief from fans, players and coaches," Kaskey said. "But at the end of the day, you know someone learned something from you. It could be a rule or some kind of lesson life that they can carry on in life, like sportsmanship and fair play. That makes it all with worthwhile."

Chipeco said while no one gets rich officiating, there are financial benefits to the job.

"I use my officiating money to supply my cooking and craft beer needs," Chipeco said. "This year I am saving for a Dry Aging machine for beef or a Freeze drying machine. You can save money for a vacation, hunting trip, skiing trip, anything else you enjoy."

"But at the end of the day, you know someone learned something from you," Kaskey said.



The Beacon/Luke Modrovsky

Home plate umpire Harry Kaskey, center-left, reviews the line up card at a plate conference with coaches.



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Johnny Jan Jr.: Up to the plate for one last season

By Taylor Ryan
Co-Sports Editor

Stepping up to the plate for his final season, out of Germantown, Maryland, welcome senior, Johnny Jan Jr.

Johnny Jan, or J.J. has been representing Wilkes on the baseball field for his four years here. As his time as a Colonel comes to and end, we reflect on the four years he has had, the memories made, and the teammate and individual JJ is.

Starting back in his sophomore year of high school at Northwest High School, JJ was sought out by the former Wilkes baseball coach, Matthew Hollod. After the first contact was made, they both kept in touch and when it was time for JJ to graduate to high school, Wilkes presented the best fit and opportunity for him, and that started his four year long journey here.

Many collegiate athletes do not always have the plan to continue their athletic career at the collegiate level, but for JJ he knew as soon as he started playing the game.

We caught up with the senior starter, and got some background on how his career started, and how his collegiate career began. We asked if he had always known if he would be playing collegiate baseball, JJ answered promptly, "yes, ever since I was a little kid my dream was to play collegiate baseball and I would do

anything to continue playing the game I love."

And that is exactly what he has done.

JJ has worked hard to become an individual on the team that is able to make an impact during each of his four years here, and now as a starting senior, his role and impact is more focused on leadership, and ensuring that the team has the right head on their shoulders as the program continues.

"Being a senior leaves you with this unwritten responsibility, while you are so focused on the current season, you also start to think about the next, and the guys that still have some years left. After playing for four years, it isn't just like you stop and leave the program. As a senior, I want to have a successful season but I also keep in the back of my mind, how I can help set the team up for success in the seasons that follow."

This speaks on the huge accomplishments as a leader that JJ has seen develop during his time on and off the field.

While the snow, rain and bitter cold may have shifted the Colonel's baseball season, some may say it has been a good change for their season.

Junior, Matthew Dacey, even called it a blessing in disguise. "I think it has been a blessing in disguise. The extra time has allowed for a couple guys to get their arms and swings to where they need to be. Obviously, it is tough to keep getting



Photo Courtesy of Ben Kramer

#28 Johnny Jan Jr. lines up the pitch, ready to strike out the batter

cancelled but I think the team is using the snow/rain in our advantage."

Although for many of the team members and coaching staff this can be frustrating and tough with all of the scheduling, but keeping a positive attitude is absolutely needed, you must be able to keep everyone focused and centered in on the future big conference games.

This is another role that JJ has taken on, he said, "the seniors and captains have been trying to keep all the guys focused on the big picture. It's always hard to keep having games canceled and more and more practices. We are just working to keep having a good time now matter what, and keep working towards our goal."

While the season continues to get prolonged, JJ looks at what he has already accomplished and some things he has learned along the way.

As a student athlete you learn skills that you must implement into your daily schedule in order to be able to stay successful. We asked JJ some of the thing he has learned over the duration of being a student athlete, he said, "Being a student athlete has taught me a lot about life. Whether it's about time management, being able to work with a team to achieve

a goal, or not to take things too seriously and to have fun."

He continued with, "one of the most valuable lessons that I have learned is not to take everything too seriously whether its school, sports, or life and to never say no to an opportunity."

This came with our next question, JJ has been a key component of the team since his start back in the 2014 season, and has been successful in his major Sports Management, so we asked what would be some pointers he would give freshman coming into Wilkes as students athletes. JJ thought on, saying, "there's a lot I would tell them, but most importantly I would tell them enjoy every second of college because it's going to go by fast, and I know everyone is going to tell you that, but believe me they are all right."

After graduating with a sports management major, JJ plans to move back home to begin his career, and work up to his dream job as a General Manager for a Major League baseball team.



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Photo Courtesy of Ben Kramer

Senior pitcher, Johnny Jan Jr. focused on the player up to bat

Wilkes brings in Dr. Joel Fish for Division III Week

By Ashton Gyenizs
Sports Writer

April 3 marked the beginning of Division III Week. This week provided an opportunity for anyone associated with Division III athletics to celebrate the impact of sports and the student-athletes on their campuses.

To kick-start the week, Wilkes University brought in guest speaker and sports psychologist Dr. Joel Fish.

"I want each and every one of you to walk out of here thinking you are glad I came," said Fish as he started his lecture for Wilkes' athletes.

Fish is a very established sports psychologist who has been giving lectures for 25 years to athletic programs across all collegiate divisions. He has also worked with professional athletes from teams such as the Philadelphia 76ers, Flyers and Eagles.

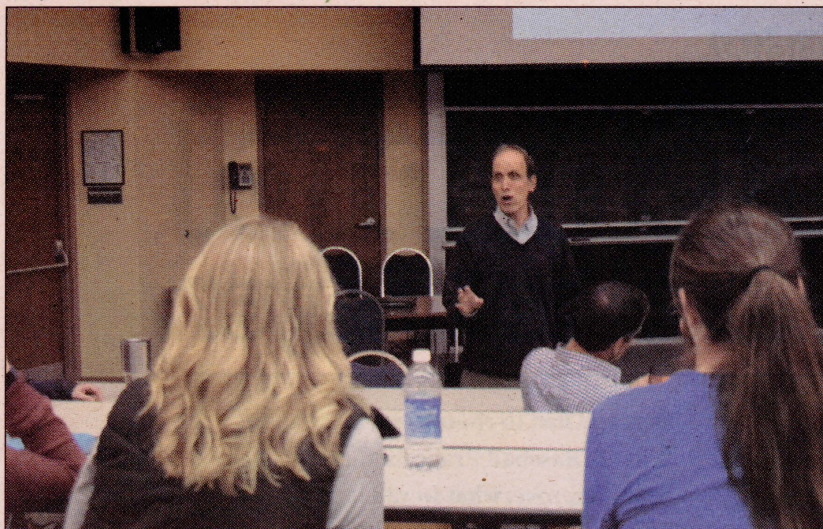
His lecture focused on unique ways in which athletes of all calibers should look at the way they compete in order to be mentally ready for competition. He touched upon many key points for athletes of all kinds to consider when they step on

their respective court, field or mat.

"The interesting thing for me is that we could be having the same conversation there [at the professional level], that we just had at Wilkes," Fish said. "The stage they play on is bigger, but confidence, composure, concentration and communication are all skills to improve on."

Fish argued that in the moment, during competition, the same emotions going through the mind of a Division III wrestler will go through the mind of a basketball player in the NBA. Competition brings out all sorts of emotions that every athlete deals with and must overcome.

Division III Week Panel Host and Head



The Beacon/Ashton Gyenizs
Dr. Joel Fish lectures Wilkes athletes on the psychology behind sports.

Women's Soccer Coach, John Sumoski, assisted in getting approval for the grant for guest speaker, Joel Fish.

"I believe it's very important to celebrate the principles that we are all about: 'dedicate, develop, discover,'" said Sumoski. "It's an opportunity to help develop our

student-athletes so that they can dedicate something new to their experience."

During an interactive part of his presentation, Dr. Fish asked for an athlete to volunteer and attempt to balance a broom on their hand for 15 seconds. The catch was that the volunteer could only look at the end of the broom where it was balancing. The student failed quickly, but after being allowed to make one small adjustment of looking at the top of the broom, the student-athlete was able to balance it with ease.

Fish explained how even the smallest adjustments can change the way you compete for the better. Picking your head up after a failure can go a long way. The broom metaphor was a strong way to close out his lecture as a majority of what he spoke about regarded how athletes need to maintain their composure, control their own emotions and not worry about pressure.

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Getting to know...

Joe Champi

Junior Baseball Player

By Purvit Patel
Sports Writer

Name: Joe Champi

Year: Junior

Major(s): Sports Management Major

Hometown/High School: Dupont,
Pennsylvania/ Pittston Area

Position: Third Base

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

A. Being able to play baseball here. Wilkes was one of only two schools to recruit me and I visited here first and liked it so chose here.

Q. Post Graduation Plans in terms of a Career?

A. I hope to be working on the business side of baseball.

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

A. I hope to continue playing well and make playoffs.

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

A. First starting playing when I was young because it was something to do with my dad and when you're a little kid that's pretty much all you want to do.

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

A. I enjoy football and music a lot.

Q. If you had to choose one thing about Wilkes' Baseball Program that you could improve, what would it be?

A. I would choose for the facilities to be improved.

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

A. Love to play and watch basketball. Also like to hangout with friends.

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

A. My grandma definitely. She always influences me to be the best person I could be.

Q. A quote you live your life by?


A. "Life's too mysterious to take too serious." —Mary Engelbreit

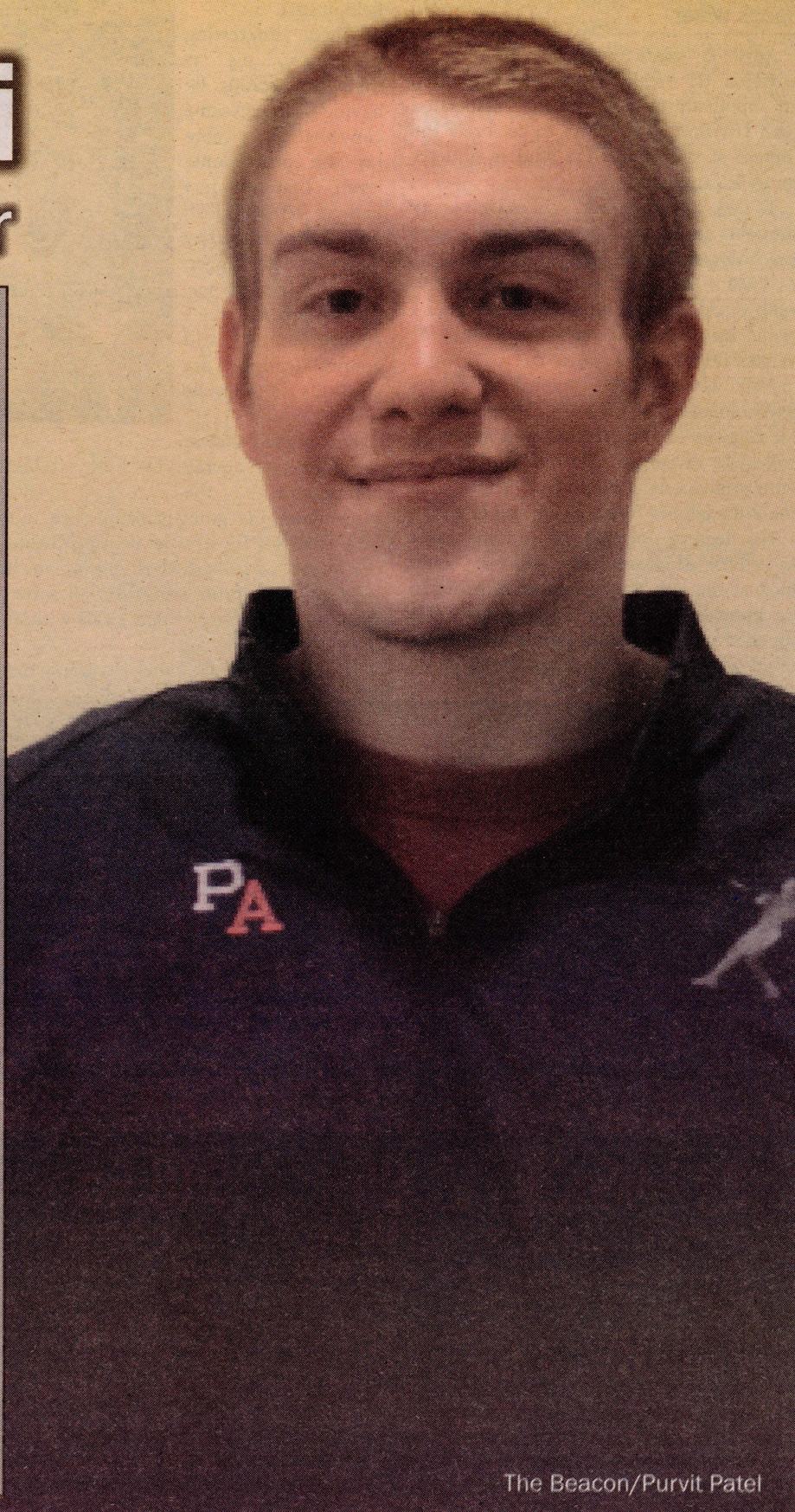
Q. What does "Be Colonel" mean to you?

A. It means to always give whatever it is you happen to be doing your absolute best.

Q. If you could have dinner with a famous person from the past, who would it be?

A. Tupac

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The Beacon/Purvrit Patel

Getting to know...

Christina Gambino

Junior Softball Player

By Purvit Patel
Sports Writer

Year: Junior
Major(s): Biology
Hometown/High School: Basking Ridge, NJ. Ridge High School
Position: First Base, Pitcher

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

A: The biology department and how well rounded a biology degree here was. It would set me up to go on to whatever professional school I wanted. Also, the softball facilities are pretty amazing.

Q: Post Graduation Plans in terms of a Career?

A: I plan on going to graduate school to get a Masters in Athletic Training, and one day work towards a PhD in Athletic Training or Sports Medicine.

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

A: Regionals. As the season continues our goal of making the conference playoff for the first time in nine years, is getting closer and closer, and as we continue to work hard we are striving to reach new limits. We are a young talented team with strong leadership from the returners, the sky is the limit for us.

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

A: Softball/Baseball runs in my family. My dad was a big time high school baseball coach in NJ, and my brother grew up playing the game. I just followed the trend and loved it. I worked hard to keep up with my older brother and had amazing support from my mom and dad. I grew up watching the Yankees, and College Softball

on TV and became a student of the game very early.

Q: If you had to choose one thing about Wilkes' [Sport] Program that you could improve, what would it be?

A: Finding the right food to eat before a game is sometimes difficult, especially on the weekends. If the University could provide an early healthy breakfast or meal before a long day of games that would be the most helpful.

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

A: During the fall, I intern with the Athletic Trainer at Coughlin High School.

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

A: My brother definitely is. He showed me what it means to be an all-around person. He was a student athlete who was able to play basketball in college, while graduating with amazing honors. He is my best friend and encourages me to be at my best everyday.

Q: A quote you live your life by?

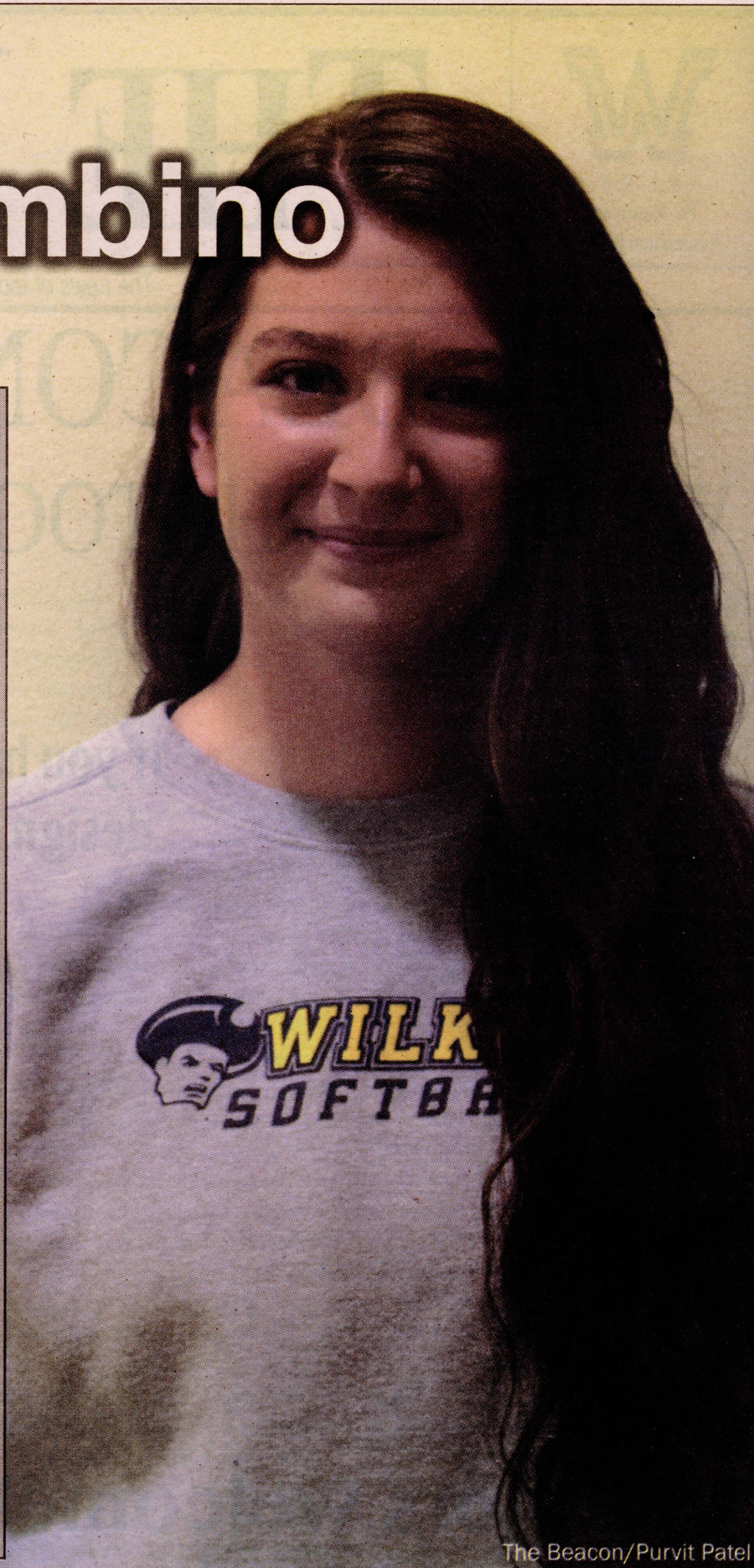
A: "Keep trying. Stay humble, Trust your instincts. Most importantly, act. When you come to a fork in the road, take it." -Yogi Berra

Q: What does "Be Colonel" mean to you?

A: To always play for the name on the front of the jersey not the name on the back. As a student athlete, you represent so much more than yourself, you represent your teammates and your school on and off the field.



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