

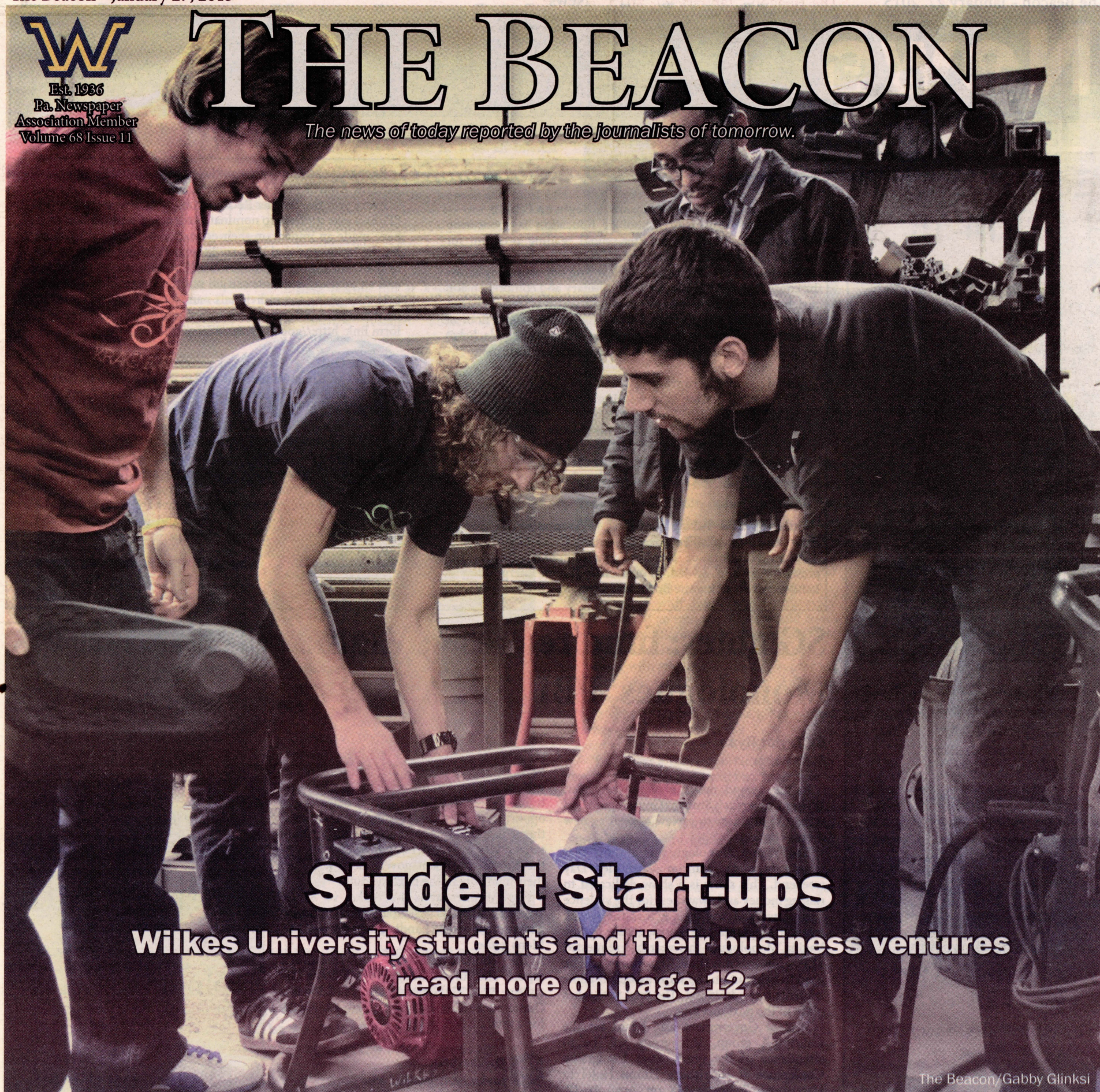
The Beacon - January 27, 2015



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THE BEACON

The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow.



Student Start-ups

**Wilkes University students and their business ventures
read more on page 12**

The Beacon/Gabby Glinksi

News

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

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130 S. River St.
First Floor, Conyngham Hall
Wilkes University
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766
Phone - (570) 408-5903
www.thewilkesbeacon.com

Beacon Briefs

Adventures in Reading Program to Begin on Feb. 18

The Wilkes University School of Education is sponsoring Adventures in Reading, an after-school reading program for children in grades Pre-K through five. Teacher Education candidates will present innovative learning opportunities across the content areas with a focus on vocabulary and comprehension enrichment. The series of seven sessions, which is free of charge, begins on Wed. Feb. 18 from 4 to 5 p.m. on the second floor of Breiseth Hall. Contact Dr. Diane Polachek at diane.polachek@wilkes.edu for more information and registration forms.

Sexual Jeopardy Program

The BACCHUS Club is sponsoring a program called "Sexual Jeopardy" on Tues. Feb. 3 from 9 to 10 p.m. in the Henry Student Center Ballroom. They are looking for student, staff and faculty to participate in 4 teams with 5 participants per team. There will be a question/answer exchange. Contact Health Services at ext. 4730 to participate. Prizes will be distributed to the winning team.

Guest Speaker Adam Nordfors - Presentation on Energy Flow in Landscapes Featuring Bowman's Creek Restoration

Adam Nordfors of Nordfors Environmental Design will present at 11 a.m. on Jan. 27 in Cohen 102 on Energy Flow in Landscapes featuring the Bowman's Creek Restoration Project.

Recognize an Innovative and Non-traditional Teacher and Advisor Awards

Every year the Teacher Recognition Effectiveness Committee (TREC) asks students to nominate instructors and advisors who have made an impact on their education by nominating them for the Innovative and Non-traditional Teaching Award as well as the Outstanding Advisor Award. To nominate an instructor and an advisor, students can fill out the electronic ballot link below by giving the individuals name and a brief reason as to why this person deserves this award and submit it. Electronic form link: <http://goo.gl/forms/8ZQu66AABP>

White Out

Wilkes vs Kings White Out on Jan. 28. Women's basketball at 6 p.m. and men's basketball at 8 .m. at the Marts Gym. Free shirts at 7:30.

Job Opportunities for Young Educators in the Lehman/Dallas Area

The Lake Lehman Early Learning Center and Before/After School Age Programs is reaching out to local colleges and universities to find education majors that are looking to make a difference in the lives of children and gain education and teaching experience as well. Any interested candidates can apply at www.hildebrandtlc.com

SG notes: fund requests; Vagina Monologues, PBL/FBLA

By Taylor Ryan
Staff Writer

In the second meeting of the semester, Wilkes University's Student Government had some old business to review as well as new events coming up.

The Vagina Monologues is a show that is put on every year on Valentine's Day weekend. This show is a show dedicated to raising money and awareness for the violence against women and girls across the world. Jennifer Magnotta, the representative for the Vagina Monologues this year has requested \$1,000 towards this show. This money will be used to help put on the show as well as allow students free admission. The final vote takes place in the next meeting.

Student Government also heard for the PBL/FBLA group. This group will be in attendance of the yearly State Leadership Conference at Harrisburg Hilton Hotel in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on April 10-12.

The group has requested \$2,000 to cover the registration fee for the 25 members that will be in attendance. This leadership conference will provide the students with workshops, training seminars and networking opportunities. If a student places at this event they will have to opportunity to continue on to the National Leadership Conference over the summer. Student government will cast their final vote in the next meeting.

Next Wednesday is the Wilkes vs. Kings Women and Men's basketball games. Student government will be handing out tshirts at the Men's game.

The council reviewed the Treasurer's report. The current budget is as follows: All college: \$216.72, General Funds: \$12,500.00, Conference: \$5,000.00 and Spirit: \$2,000.00 for a total of: \$66,586.37.



@wilkesbeacon
taylor.ryan@wilkes.edu

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Saying goodbye to a Colonel; family, campus community reflects on life of "Eddie" Elgonitis

By Sarah Bedford
News Editor

The Wilkes University campus community said goodbye to a longtime Colonel on Jan. 9. Edward Elgonitis, 76, affectionately called Eddie by students, faculty and staff, passed away following an illness.

Those who knew Eddie described him as having a "larger than life" personality.

Eddie was employed by Wilkes for roughly 40 years first in the maintenance department and after retirement, returned to the university in Sept. 2004 part time working in the mail room where he interacted with many students.

James Yeninas, the university's mailroom supervisor, explained that Eddie was able

to connect with students in such a way that made him unique.

"I think it's because he took an interest in them," Yeninas said. "He knew lots of them by name, what their major was, what activities or clubs they were in but most of all he made them laugh. He would joke with them, tease them and I think in general just brightened their day."

Head Football Coach Trey Brown found that Eddie had a similar effect even among staff, poking fun at Assistant Head Coach Matthew DiBernardo.

Brown recalled Eddie saying, "All your coaches are great, but keep this guy (DiBernardo) out of here," he explained, laughing.

A loyal supporter of Wilkes athletic events,



All Photos Courtesy of Elgonitis Family

Taryn Talacka, niece, explained that her uncle's large heart and lively personality is what she will remember most about him. "At every family gathering we had, Eddie's favorite thing to do was lead the chicken dance," Talacka said. "He would stand in the middle of a circle made up of his family, and he would lead the whole dance... I think that's how I'll always remember him, as the life of the party."



Eddie, pictured above with family, was an avid supporter of Wilkes athletics, attending every home game this past fall according to Head Football Coach Trey Brown. Eddie could be found "on the hill" as a stable fixture during the game. This type of fan was something Brown had not seen at other universities as Eddie had truly been a "one of a kind" individual.

Eddie could be found "on the hill" at most home football games, according to Brown.

"My time with Eddie was short...every time I would go into the SUB I would come by the second floor to talk," Brown said. "He was excited to see someone stopping by."

Along with athletics, Eddie also supported Wilkes Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society.

Bethany Sharpless, pharmacy, has worked closely with the university's Relay for Life event and grew close to Eddie as well.

"Eddie was a very important part of Relay the last few years, and will be a huge hole in our hearts as this year's event comes up."

Jenn Schlegel, elementary education, and Jessica Drebot, criminology, shared some of their memories of Eddie from the event as well.

"My favorite Relay memory of Eddie was always his survivor laps," explained Schlegel. "He was always giving everyone a high-five or a fist bump as he made a lap. He always had a smile on his face. Last year for Relay Eddie also shared his story with us at the Survivor Ceremony and he brought me to tears. Eddie truly was a wonderful man and he will be missed at Relay this year."

"Having Eddie as one of the survivor speakers last year was especially meaningful to me because he meant so much to the Wilkes community. I can never forget the

small lessons that Eddie taught me or the survivor lap that I was able to push him around in the wheelchair," Drebot said. "He was always such a happy man and that brushed off on everyone that he came into contact with."

Taryn Talacka, Eddie's niece, shared similar sentiments about his kindness and enthusiasm saying, "His heart had no boundaries" and at family affairs, he was "always the life of the party" leading the "chicken dance."

Talacka explained that Eddie never needed to bring up his love of the university as his Colonel pride was always in step.

"He didn't have to mention Wilkes--the university was written all over him. He wore Wilkes shirts and sweatshirts every day. I don't think I ever saw him wear anything else. He truly loved the school, students, and faculty. He wore Wilkes clothing with pride!"

The university will hold a memorial service at 11:15 a.m. on Jan. 29 in the Henry Student Center Ballroom. Anyone who has photos of Eddie is welcome to send them to Melissa Howells, melissa.howells@wilkes.edu to include in a display.

@wilkesbeacon
sarah.bedford@wilkes.edu

Profile of a Professor: Dr. Karen Frantz-Fry, education

By Jennifer Baron
Staff Writer

Part of the promise of the Teacher Education Program at Wilkes University is that faculty members in the department will take huge steps in preparing students for a successful career in teaching through dynamic, comprehensive programs. Dr. Karen Frantz-Fry, Assistant Education Professor, is no exception to this standard.

Frantz-Fry grew up in central Pennsylvania and wanted to teach ever since she could remember. At first, her career choice was specific because she wanted only to teach deaf individuals.

However, an experience in high school allowed her to expand her interest area. Her high school had a program that allowed students to go into a special needs classroom and assist the teacher. She went in as a volunteer during her study halls.

The work she did with those students is what helped Frantz-Fry narrow down, and at the same time expand, her decision to teach not only deaf students, but also students with special needs. The inspiration for her career can be traced right back to the students and the teacher of that classroom.

While talking about the students she stated, "the way that they reacted when they grasped something is the piece that I still grab hold of today. Even if it just happened with one child, one time, in a whole year, that's what kept me moving forward."

After high school, Frantz-Fry attended Bloomsburg University, which is where she earned her Bachelors Degree in Mentally and Physically Handicapped and her Masters Degree in Behavior Disorders. She also received her certification as Reading Specialist and Special Education Supervisor from Bloomsburg. She earned her Administrative Principal Certification from Bucknell University. She received her



The Beacon/ Gabby Glinski

Frantz-Fry explained that working with special needs students was an inspiring experience. "The way that they reacted when they grasped something is the piece that I still grab hold of today."

doctorate through Marywood University in Human Development with a concentration in Education Administration.

Frantz-Fry's first job was at an Intermediate Unit where she taught the very first, high school level emotional support class. After one semester, she was hired at a new job in the public school system. She worked there for 34 years. Sixteen of those years were spent teaching various levels of special education in elementary, middle, and high school. For the remaining 17 years, Frantz-Fry was the Director of Special Programs.

She went from teaching students to an administrative position for a very good reason. As a teacher, she felt that she impacted less students compared to a program director. As director she felt that she impacted more lives, which she was all about. She said it answered her question of,

"How can I impact lives and give them a more fulfilling opportunity for life, if I have any piece in that?"

When discussing why she left the district she said, "I did not leave because I felt like I needed to get out. I left because another opportunity opened for me, and that was Wilkes."

Frantz-Fry retired for just one week before beginning her job at Wilkes. This is because she left her job at the public school at the last possible minute. At Wilkes, Frantz-Fry teaches numerous courses, most of which deal with special education. They include ED 180, EDSP 210, 225, 226, 227, 302, and ED 652.

Frantz-Fry was asked to reflect on the question, "What were differences you noticed when it came to teaching public school

students to college students?" One thing she immediately picked up on was that if she had concerns about a student in a public school setting, she could just call the parents. In college, students are adults so any concerns would need to be brought up to the student.

The motivation to learn is also much different. In public schools, students have to be there. In college, students choose to be there. There is clearly a much higher motivation level to learn and succeed in life.

One thing that she didn't realize was the fact that many freshmen still need someone else's guidance even though they are adults. She needed to think about the fact that there are so many adjustments going on in freshman year, and students need to be helped so they can become successful.

On campus, Frantz-Fry is the advisor for the Education Honor Society, Kappa Delta Pi. To be a member, students must meet all the requirements of the teacher education program, pass the PAPA/PRAXIS core tests, and have a 3.4 overall GPA or higher. They are planning an induction ceremony for March of this year. She urges education students to get involved with the society, spread the word to others, and contact her if you need more information.

Not only is Frantz-Fry passionate about teaching and helping students to reach their full potential. She is also very passionate about Wilkes University. To end, she said, "I love it here. I love my job. I love my colleagues and working with them and I love the students. So, there's never been one moment of regret in making this decision. I'm very happy here."

@wilkesbeacon
jennifer.baron1@wilkes.edu

Wilkes students to travel to Arctic Circle in June; Toolik Lake study

By Gabby Glinski
News Photographer

Dr. Ned Fetcher and chosen Wilkes students will be traveling to the Arctic Circle in June 2015 to conduct a study on the changing climate in the Alaskan tundra.

A \$1 million grant from the National Science Foundation will allow Ned Fetcher, coordinator of the Institute for Environmental Science and Sustainability at Wilkes University, and several Wilkes undergraduates to study at the Toolik Lake Field Station.

The Wilkes undergraduates will

participate as field assistants on the team to study the effects of the changing climate on tussock cottongrass. They will be installing warming chambers around the cottongrass to study the effect of a warmer climate on the growth of the plants.

The project will have a broad impact on science beyond the research results in the Alaskan climate. The patterns observed in the tundra are expected to appear later in other ecosystems. The results of the project may serve as an indicator of the potential effects of adaptation of plants to climate change.

Wilkes will be in coordination with Jianwu Tang of the Ecosystems Center of the Marine Biology Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass.,

and Michael Moody of the University of Texas.

Fetcher and Moody will study the genetic factors that lead the plant adaptation in a separate part of the study. Genetic markers will be used to determine patterns of genetic diversity and gene flow for regions of the tussock cottongrass. The results will provide important insight on the ability of the cottongrass to adapt to a warming climate change.

The project branches on an earlier study in 1980, by Fetcher and his colleagues on the tussock cottongrass. The earlier project involved reciprocal translocation; moving the cottongrass from the colder tundra

climate to the southern Alaska climates and vice versa to study the adaptation of the plants. Since the initial experiment, Fetcher traveled to the Alaskan tundra four times between 2009 and 2012.

The Wilkes students will be staying at the Toolik Lake Field Station for a ten week period. They will be living in the dorms provided and attend classes and instruction on the research. The undergraduate students will be selected for the project through an application process.

@wilkesbeacon
gabrielle.glinski@wilkes.edu

The Fallbacks of Free Speech: The World Reacts to the Charlie Hebdo Attacks

By Pat Walther

Assistant News Editor

The morning of January 7 was like any other in Paris, France. The streets bustled with pedestrians on their lunch hour. Traffic echoed through the boulevards and avenues. The bitter wind chill made scarves a necessity for anybody wishing to remain warm within the concrete canyons of the historic city.

Without warning or precedent, two masked men entered the offices of France's sometimes offensive, sometimes profane satirical newspaper, Charlie Hebdo, from the frozen streets. By the time their work was done, twelve people would be dead and eleven others would be wounded.

Charlie Hebdo was famous in France for their highly-controversial cartoons, which included various depictions of the Prophet Muhammad.

Publishing and actively producing images of Muhammad, as well as making fun of him, may warrant a literal death-sentence to some of the more extreme Islamic groups.

In the aftermath of the attack, French nationalism was at an all-time high.

Dr. Andreea Maieran, Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science at Wilkes University, commented, "For the first time since the parade that marked the liberation of Paris on August 26, 1944, millions of people gathered on the streets of the French capital. On January 12, influential world leaders joined 3.7 million people participating in the anti-terrorism rallies in Paris and in most French cities."

As millions marched in solidarity, a single question emerged across the free world.

Does free speech have limits?

Dr. Kyle Kreider, Associate Professor of Political Science at Wilkes, says yes, "There have always been limitations on free speech, in both Europe and America. In the U.S., however, limitations are fewer because of the First Amendment's protection of free



Courtesy of Valentina Cala

Millions marched across Europe in support of free speech following the shootings at the office of French satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo.

speech. Even with our expansive protections for free speech, our courts have consistently upheld various limitations on free speech."

Kreider further adds, "However, our laws have granted the maximum protection to political speech." The material in Charlie Hebdo would be considered political speech under US law, Kreider states.

Pope Francis, in response to the attacks, implied that Charlie Hebdo was not completely innocent. In a statement from January 15, the Pope said, "You cannot provoke. You cannot insult the faith of others. You cannot make fun of the faith of others."

Many have blamed the Charlie Hebdo shootings on the insensitive subject matter of

the magazine.

Dr. Maieran states, "In my view, we should not look for the one controversial drawing or subject matter that inspired the violence. The perpetrators do not need a rational motive."

By rationalizing the motive of the attackers, the acts of murder that were committed become wrongfully justified, setting a dangerous precedent for future attacks, she says.

Maieran adds, "Rather than focusing on a possible spark that started the attacks, we should try to analyze and understand the deeply rooted causes of fundamentalism. We can only get closer to eradicating this phenomenon by focusing on prevention

and by closely monitoring the regions of the world where it originates."

Following the terrorist attack, approval ratings for France's president, Francois Hollande, and the French government, skyrocketed.

Maieran says these results are to be expected, "This trend reminds us of what happened in the aftermath of 9/11, when studies reported a significant growth in popular trust in government. We should however interpret these numbers with a healthy degree of skepticism."

Maieran adds, "Such views expressed in moments of crisis might be more indicative of what citizens hope and wish their government would do, rather than assess the actions implemented. The important test for the French institutions will be to maintain and improve this popular support over time and to prevent such attacks from ever happening again."

These attacks which rocked France will not soon be forgotten. The dialogue brought up about the limitations of free speech is not one which will conclude clearly. As for how the world will change in the wake of these acts, only time will tell.

Editor's note: The Beacon staff decided to not run the picture of the Prophet Muhammad from the most recent edition of Charlie Hebdo in respect for the customs of the Islamic religion.

@wilkesbeacon
patrick.walther@wilkes.edu

Spreading awareness with armchair activism

By Pat Walther

Assistant News Editor

The internet is a platform for all who have something to say. It gives equal voice to average citizens as it does world leaders. As the digital age progresses, more and more people have taken to the web to attempt something few can ever dream to do: change the world.

Internet activism, also called slacktivism, is the act of using any means necessary online to further a cause or idea. With millions of hits on social media every day, it is hard to

find a better place to increase awareness about a particular issue.

Nicholas Stauffer, a pharmacy major from Wilkes University, is head of the Smoke-Free Wilkes Campaign.

"Smoke-Free Wilkes is working for dedicated and enforced smoking areas on campus as well as making smoking cessation resources more available to Wilkes students and staff who would like help quitting," Stauffer says.

Stauffer added, "The Internet has become an integral part of today's society. Everything is on the Internet these days; it's where people

look for information. I don't think that people would have taken the Smoke-Free Wilkes initiative seriously if it weren't for our presence online."

Though Stauffer found success online, internet activism isn't without its critics. A scientific study conducted by Kevin Lewis, Kurt Gray and Jens Meierhenrich entitled "The Structure of Online Activism" came to the conclusion that digital activism just did not work.

In the study, the researchers tracked the progress of the Save Darfur campaign on Facebook. Though the study found that 1.2

million people liked the page and posted on it, "the vast majority of Cause members recruited no one else into the Cause and contributed no money to it - suggesting that in the case of the Save Darfur campaign, Facebook conjured an illusion of activism rather than facilitating the real thing."

Whether armchair activism works or not is up for debate, but nobody can argue that a click, a like, a retweet or a share could have broader meaning than we think.

@wilkesbeacon
patrick.walther@wilkes.edu

What's Going on at Wilkes

Event	Date
Ice Skating	1.16.2015
Laser Tag & Diner	1.17.2015
Snow Tubing	1.18.2015
Art and Tea	1.23.2015
Latin Dancing Night	1.24.2015
WBS Penguins	1.31.2015
Glamping	2.6-7.2015
Hip Hop Dancing Night	2.20.2015
H2O/Water Park?	2.21.2015
2 Step-Lining Dance Night	3.13.2015
SYE Mystery Bus Trip	3.14.2014
Paintball	3.21.2015
Night out at Montage	3.28.2015
Wilkes Day Out	4.11.2015
Movie Night in the Darte	4.24.2015
Faith and Family Night @ Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Railriders	4.24.16
Ski/Snowboard	1/22/2015
Ski/Snowboard OR Tubing	2/1/2015
Ski/Snowboard	2/12/2015
Ski/Snowboard OR Tubing	2/23/2015

What you missed over break

A recap of happenings in Wilkes-Barre

"Toys for Tots" donors given "Jingle Bells 2014" tickets

Those who donated to Toys for Tots at Mohegan Sun Arena on Dec. 17 were given a gift of their own. Those individuals were given concert tickets to the "Jingle Bells 2014" concert which was held on Dec. 20.

Former hospital demolished, making way for loading dock

The former Geisinger South Wilkes-Barre Mercy Hospital was torn down as part of \$12 million renovations. The building constructed in 1908 was not in use and the property is being transformed for a loading dock.

Two Wilkes-Barre high schools future to be determined

Due to expensive repairs needed at the Coughlin and Meyers High Schools, the fate of each institution hangs in the balance as the estimated cost of repairs totals roughly \$200 million. While community members want to preserve history, school board officials continue to weigh options for the two institutions.

"Read to Lead", Osterhout Free Library

In an attempt to renovate part of the Osterhout Free Library, the group from Leadership Wilkes Barre created "Read to Lead" to raise funds to repair water damaged walls and clear out older bookshelves. So far the group raised \$1000.

New year, new Pa gas tax

Starting New Year's day, a state and federal gas tax was implemented in Pa which accounts for about 70 cents per gallon at the pump. The tax will help with costs associated with highway and bridge repair.

Wilkes University in Mesa graduates first MBA students

Three students graduated with their master's degrees in ceremony at the Mesa Arts Center on Jan. 13 at the Wilkes Mesa campus. Diplomas were presented by Wilkes President Patrick F. Leahy. The Hon. Scott Smith, former mayor of the City of Mesa, was the keynote speaker.

Wilkes University partners to help students SHINE

Wilkes University will be the educational host for Luzerne County SHINE, an after school program aimed at improving educational opportunities for schoolchildren in the county.

Maslow Faculty Reading Series

Wilkes University's Maslow Faculty Reading Series was held nightly from Jan. 4 to Jan. 9 in the Barnes & Noble Bookstore with subsequent readings at the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center. The series, which was part of the Jan. residency for the University's Graduate Creative Writing Program, featured readings by faculty and alumni of the program.

Alumnus Jay Sidhu named most admired CEO by Philadelphia Business Journal

Wilkes University alumnus Jay S. Sidhu, CEO of Customers Bancorp, has been honored by Philadelphia Business Journal with its Most Admired CEOs award. The University's Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and Leadership is named for Sidhu, who is a 1973 MBA graduate of Wilkes.

Have a newsworthy story from your break?

Send it to us!

Contact News editor, Sarah Bedford,
sarah.bedford@wilkes.edu

Life, Arts & Entertainment

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

Service with a smile not always easy: A declassified look into the associate and customer relationship

By Justin Topa

Life, A&E Assistant Editor

After a video of a car dealership berating their pizza delivery driver went viral, some at Wilkes University are reminded of the real-life situations they have faced working in the service industry.

Last week, a video of the interaction between a pizza driver and several car dealership employees made national news after thousands online expressed outrage for the way the driver was treated. The driver was forced to return what he thought was a tip, given the nature of the extra bills handed to him. The extra amount totaled about seven dollars. When the driver went to return the cash, he was approached with sneering comments and threats of physical violence for attempting to 'steal' from them.

Although the car dealership denies uploading the video, the footage is from their own security cameras and was originally posted with the title "irate pizza driver."

Kathryn Roshong, a senior English major at Wilkes, recalls some similar situations during her time working for a large-chain grocery store. After working in the store for nearly two years as a cashier, she is no longer a stranger to the cruelty some customers may have.

Roshong, who said she took the job in order to afford living off-campus, has seen a number of customers she describes as less-than-perfect. One frequent patron in particular stands out to the Wilkes senior as someone consistently cruel and unusual to her and her co-workers.

"He would enter my line and try to brush up against me," explained Roshong. "He'd call me 'baby' and things like that and it was not okay."

The customer's behavior did not end



Courtesy of Youtube

Jarrid Tansey, a pizza delivery driver, as he is being verbally abused by staff of a Massachusetts car dealership. The image is a part of a viral video which was filmed using the car dealership's own security cameras.

there, however. He has made attempts to fight with the employees after their shifts for, what Roshong explained, "looking at him the wrong way."

Roshong also remembers an encounter with another customer, in which she was called a variety of unpleasant names for placing tomatoes in the same bag as tortillas. According to Roshong, the customer demanded the manager make Roshong apologize.

Roshong had a number of stories in which

customers made her feel uncomfortable. She has become accustomed to these situations and has developed habits for handling them.

"If it gets bad enough, I'll turn to co-workers to talk about the situation," Roshong shared. "Some situations call for me talking things out with my manager, though. At the end of the day, you really just have to be able to laugh and shrug it off. It's a part of the job."

She also added that there are plenty

Service Industry Survival Tips

- Use your smile for every situation; good, bad or weird.
- Be proud. Not all people can do what you do.
- Have fun. The customers don't control your happiness, you do.
- Don't take your work home with you.

of nice, cheerful customers to balance any negative experiences and that she does, in fact, enjoy her job.

Though the delivery driver was given more than \$30,000 in tips from outraged online viewers, there is an entire world of other people who deal with customers. This viral video may serve as a reminder of the karma that awaits those who abuse the associate-customer relationship.

@wilkesbeacon
justin.topa@wilkes.edu

A slice of competition served by WUPB



The Beacon/ Rebecca Voorhees
The line for Pizza Wars reached across the Henry Student Center last Thursday. Pizza Wars was a WUPB event.



The Beacon/ Rebecca Voorhees
WUPB members Karissa Hensel, Grace Sanzalone, Jenna Graziano and Sydney Calkins helped hand out the pizza.



The Beacon/ Rebecca Voorhees
There were six different pizza places represented at Pizza Wars. Seen above is number 4: Grotto's Pizza.



The Beacon/ Rebecca Voorhees
Students and participants gathered around for a group photo with some empty pizza boxes.

Michelle Kuzma: Life as a Resident Assistant

By Annelise Przywara
Contributing Writer

Walk into University Towers, take the elevator to the ninth floor, walk to the end of the hallway and knock on the door of room number 970. Michelle Kuzma, a Wilkes University senior pharmacy major, will answer.

She isn't the stereotypical P2 student submersed in books, labs and organic chemistry equations. Instead, she has dedicated a large portion of her life at Wilkes to mentoring residents on campus as a Resident Assistant or RA.

Michelle was born in Pittsburgh; however, she grew up and attended school in the small rural town of Penns Valley near State College. Her involvement with volunteer work at a veterinarian hospital played a role in her choosing pharmacy as a major.

"I'm really passionate about pharmacy," she said. "In the future I hope to either specialize in a particular drug field or work in retail because I like interacting with people."

She is the only child of Terence and Donna Kuzma. Her father is a professor at Penn State University, where Michelle has taken several courses to gain credits for her pharmacy major at Wilkes.

The family also has three dogs named Emma, Megan and Darcie. Michelle raised Megan as a seeing eye dog for her senior project in high school. The dog has remained a part of the family ever since.

This semester marks Michelle's third year as a RA at Wilkes. She was originally motivated to become a RA while touring the campus for the first time when she was still in high school. The fact that resident assistants had a room and bathroom to themselves was a primary attraction for Michelle. Not only was the personal space appealing, but she also wanted to help mentor other residents.

"More than anything I wanted to be a role model for residents to look up to and respect," Michelle said.

"I also just wanted to make others' college experience as pleasant as possible by understanding some of the obstacles they may be facing."

Currently, Michelle is the RA on the ninth floor of University Towers. She

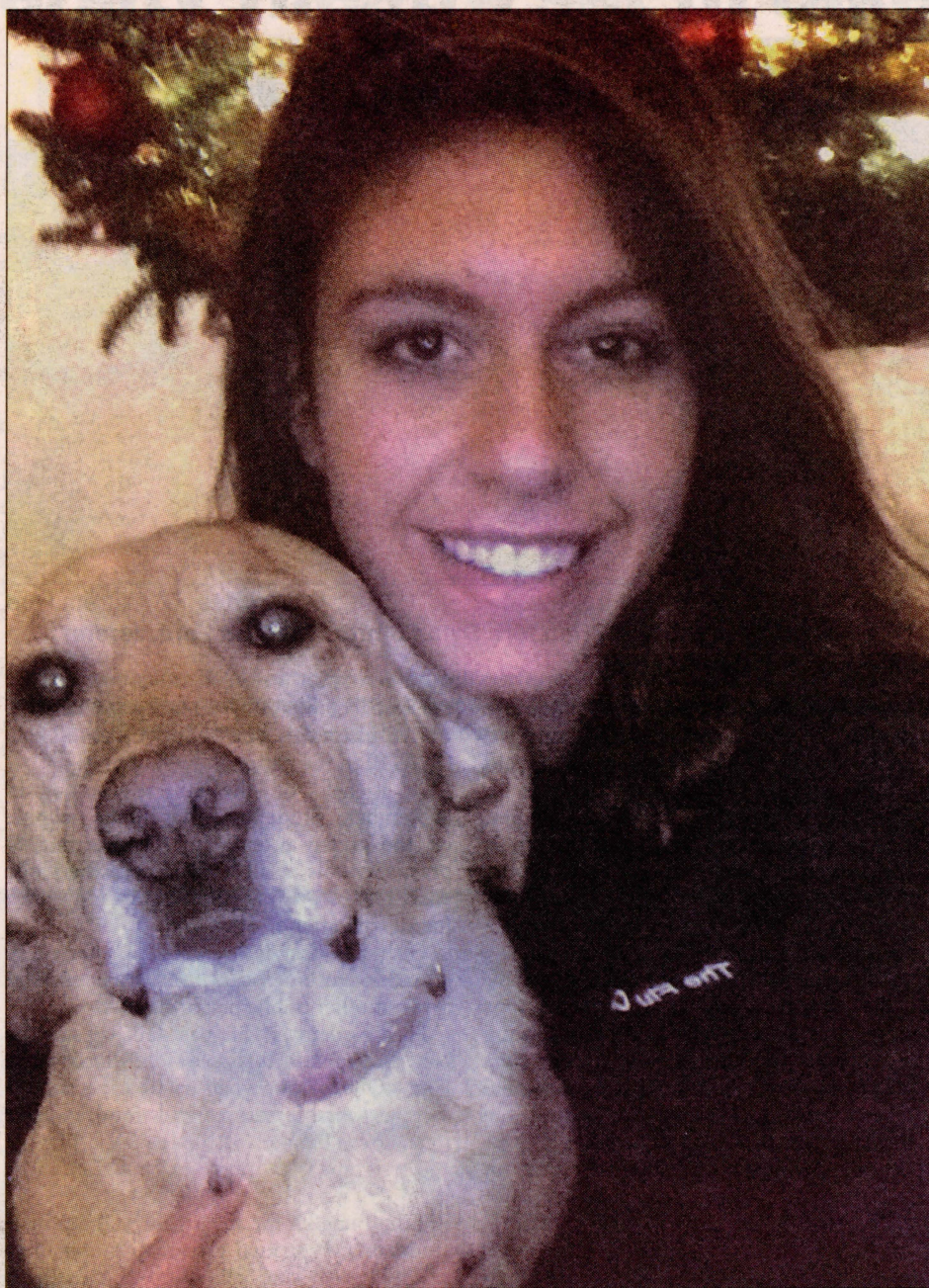


Photo Courtesy of Michelle Kuzma

Helping animals has always been a motivation for Michelle Kuzma. Kuzma has volunteered work at a veterinarian hospital. Shown above is Kuzma and her dog, Darcie. Darcie was originally a 4-H seeing eye puppy in training.

began as a RA her sophomore year and in the past has been placed in Evans Hall and Catlin Hall.

Placement is completely random. The Office of Resident Life typically tries to match an RA's personality to a group of residents; however, the resident assistant never has too much of a say as to which building they are assigned. This is Michelle's first year being a RA to a group

of mostly upperclassmen.

Meghan Kisela, a sophomore pharmacy major, is one of Michelle's residents in University Towers this semester. Meghan spoke highly of Michelle, saying that she is very bubbly, pleasant, and personable.

"Every time I run into Michelle she's always in a good mood and asks how I'm doing," Meghan said.

"She's helpful, too. When I needed help

with organic chemistry I felt perfectly comfortable seeking her assistance."

Michelle explained the process of becoming a resident assistant.

First, an application must be filled out. Any student who has lived on campus for a year has the opportunity to apply.

Then, applicants must write mini essays and obtain two letters of recommendation from other resident assistants on campus.

In February, applicants participate in group process, which includes interactive activities with other resident assistants. The process concludes with an interview held by the director and assistant director of residence life.

Jamie Miller, assistant director of residence life at Wilkes, explained that there isn't a particular type of person they look for when selecting resident assistants.

"We hire young women and men who are well-rounded, would be a good fit with our returning staff and would serve as role models for our resident population," Miller said.

"The major qualities we look for in a candidate are maturity, knowledge and academic success."

In Michelle's opinion, one of the primary responsibilities of being a RA is insuring the safety and well being of the residents. Also, as a RA, Michelle is responsible for 20 hours of desk duty, completing two to three rounds during the semester, being on call, hosting programs, and creating a bulletin board every month.

According to the Wilkes University website, "Resident assistants serve as tremendous resources and have been trained to assist students in a wide variety of situations."

Michelle does not find the job to be overly demanding.

She uses her position to meet new people and gain experiences with different personality types.

"It has become a part of my life," she said.

"Being a RA has enabled me to develop great leadership and personal skills. I will definitely be a RA for the rest of my time at Wilkes."



@wilkesbeacon
annelise.przywara@wilkes.edu

Filling a spiritual void: Christian Fellowship Club

By Nicole Zukowski

Life, A&E Editor

Where do Wilkes students find religious faith?

Wilkes holds a non-denominational stance in regard to providing an education for its students, but that doesn't keep the institution from hosting an array of different programs and events for students to learn about faith. One such organization is the Christian Fellowship Club.

"The purpose of the club is to reach out to the Wilkes student body and provide a positive atmosphere for students who desire to learn more or strengthen their Christian faith," pharmacy major Tristram Ford, co-president of the Christian Fellowship Club, said.

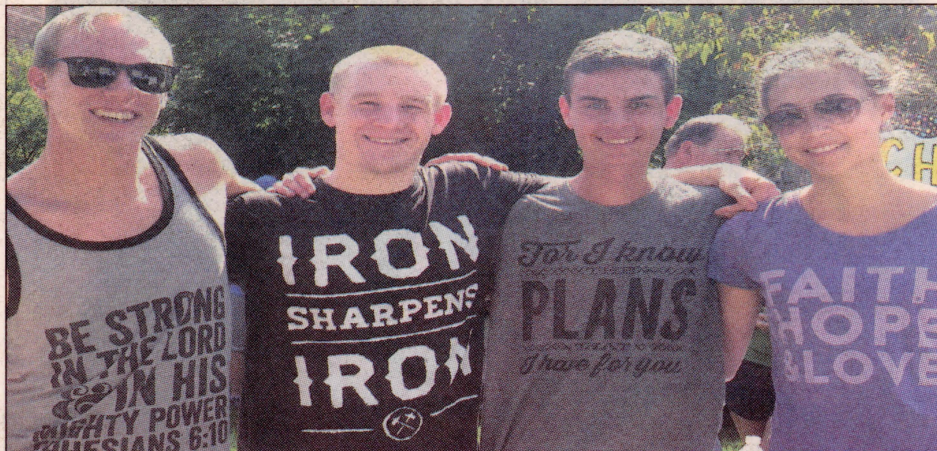
College is a stressful time in which many students seek a higher being to confide in.

Ford said, "The decisions students make in social settings due to peer pressure are often detrimental to their well being. Christian Fellowship Club, CFC, provides a comfortable atmosphere for all students to come and be themselves, build friendships and be encouraged."

The club meets twice a week; once for bible study on Tuesdays at noon in Gies Hall in the Dorothy Dixon Darte Center and again on Sundays for a mass. Most of the group members attend Restored Church on Franklin St. in Wilkes Barre.

CFC is also very active on campus and with the surrounding community.

"My favorite part is the activities we do on campus. Such as giving out school supplies at the beginning of the year, cookies at



Courtesy of Tristram Ford

CFC at Club day in the fall. From left: Dylan Smith, Tristram Ford, Jeremy Miller and Amanda Gingrich.

Christmas and donuts whenever," sophomore Amanda Gingrich, member of CFC, said.

With morals of the Christian faith held in high regard, the club participates in numerous community service activities. One major event the club takes part in is a Thanksgiving dinner at the First Baptist church on River St.

Helping better the Wilkes-Barre community is a goal of CFC.

Ford said, "The club has opened me up to the churches and local organizations in the area who have a heart for serving the city of Wilkes Barre. My favorite part about being involved in CFC is my personal spiritual growth, the friendships and the encouragement I receive from others. Over the years, the group has helped me grow in

areas of accountability, integrity and faith."

CFC also takes part in See you at the Pole (SYATP) in the national week of pray.

"It is held on the 4th Wednesday in September. Students gather at the flagpole on the greenway early in the morning to pray. Schools at all levels across the globe participate. We provide donuts and coffee for all who attend," Ford said.

Over the past few years CFC started to attend concerts at local churches as well as an array of other public performances.

Ford explains, "This past fall, we saw the Newsboys and Britt Nicole at the Bloomsburg Fair. One of our goals is to have an on-campus worship service with food and live music from bands/worship teams."

The club is always looking for more members to join.

"The benefits for myself as well as other students are spiritual growth through Bible studies, prayer and fellowship. When I first came to Wilkes, I didn't attend church as I had in high school. Having a leadership role and being involved with CFC has helped to fill a spiritual need I was missing since starting college," Ford said.

To fill that missing spiritual void any student might have, the campus Interfaith office, located on the second floor of the Henry Student Center, could answer any questions about the chosen faith of question. For more clubs or groups of faith visit the Wilkes Interfaith webpage: <http://wilkes.edu/academics/graduate-programs/grad-campus-life/interfaith.aspx>.



@wilkesbeacon

nicole.zukowski@wilkes.edu

Etruscan Press finalists for acclaimed award

Etruscan Press is a non-profit literary press working to produce and promote books that nurture the dialogue among genres, cultures and voices. Etruscan publishes books of poems, novels, short stories, creative non-fiction, criticism, translation and anthologies.

Etruscan has been named one of five finalists for the 2015 AWP Small Press Publisher Award by the Association of Writers and Writing Programs.

The award recognizes a press or literary journal that has made a significant contribution to contemporary literature. Etruscan was nominated for demonstrating excellence in production and design, providing a steadfast commitment to nurturing authors and actively engaging in the community.

Founded by Philip Brady, Robert Mooney and Stephen Oristaglio, Etruscan is housed at Wilkes University and is in partnership with Youngstown State University.

Etruscan has published nearly 60 books since 2001. Authors published with Etruscan Press are from areas such as Cuba, Greece, the District of Columbia and 15 states across the country.

"Etruscan Press nurtures dialogue in a world of contemporary voices," says Executive Director Philip Brady.

"Etruscan's body of work in fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, criticism and translation subverts traditional boundaries and manifests the impulses beneath conventional modes," Brady says.

Since 2007, Etruscan has developed outreach programs in Ohio and Pennsylvania and in the fall Etruscan and its partners, Barnes & Noble, the Luzerne County Historical Foundation and Wilkes University, will introduce a literacy program, Emerging Voices, to the Hanover Area School District.

The 2015 AWP Small Press Publisher Award winner will be announced on April 8 at the opening night reception of the AWP annual conference in Minneapolis.



@wilkesbeacon

thewilkesbeacon@wilkes.edu



Courtesy of Tristram Ford

CFC gathered around for 'See You At The Flag Pole' day in September.

Wilkes University Theatre set to take the stage

By Austin Ely

Staff Writer

Wilkes University Theatre will debut two differing performances this spring that are expected to draw in crowds with an array of interests.

Wilkes University Theatre will first be performing in "The Great American Trailer Park Musical." This show can be seen as an artistic combination of the hit Comedy Central television series "South Park" met with the dramatic elements of ABC's "Desperate Housewives."

"The Great American Trailer Park Musical" will be showing on February 13, 14, 20 and 21 at 8 P.M. and February 15 and 22 at 2 P.M. at the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts. The musical is directed by Jon Liebetrau accompanied with musical direction by Ken McGraw and choreography by Sean Harris. The show is based off the book by Betsy Kelso.

The scene is set in Florida at a trailer park named Armadillo Acres. The plot centers on a couple together for twenty years who are troubled when a stripper named Pippi arrives. The husband, Norbert, and Pippi have an affair which leaves both to deal with the outcome. Hilarity is sure to ensue for those in the audience.



Photo Courtesy of Wilkes Marketing and Communications

This semester the theatre at Wilkes will perform two performances of different interests. The first on being "The Great American Trailer Park Musical" followed by "Alice in Wonderland" later in the semester.

For those who prefer more traditional performances, the Wilkes University Theatre will also be performing something that may sound familiar to audiences of all ages. For

those familiar with the phrase "release the jabberwocky" or falling down rabbit holes to explore new worlds of wonder and interest, Wilkes University will be performing "Alice

in Wonderland" from April 9 through April 12.

Junior Shaun Pierre said, "I am cast as the Mad Hatter, among other roles in the straight show, 'Alice in Wonderland'. I am excited by the buzz generated within our own department with the methods we are using."

This Lewis Carroll classic will be based on the version made famous by The Manhattan Project and directed by Teresa Fallon. In this version, Alice finds herself in a wondrous, dark and troubled environment.

Creatures such as the White Rabbit, the Cheshire Cat, the King and Queen of Hearts and even the Mad Hatter join Alice in this world of chaos.

Fallon, the performance director, anticipates a positive turn out for both performances. "Wilkes University Theatre is excited to offer these plays for the entertainment of the Wilkes Community," Fallon said.

Students and faculty can witness these performances for free upon showing their college I.D. Students without an I.D. will be charged \$5, while adults without an I.D. will be charged \$10.

@wilkesbeacon
Austin.Ely@wilkes.edu

VISIT THE BEACON ONLINE @ THEWILKESBEACON.COM FOR THE EXCLUSIVE

HUMANS OF WILKES UNIVERSITY



The Beacon/Dan Lykens

Question: What do you want people to know about you?

"The only thing I can think of is that I'm pretty awesome."

- Moe Woodard

Wilkes University's

STUDENT BUSINESSES

Story by James Jaskolka | Design by Steve Dziedziak | Photos by Gabby Glinski & Amanda Dittmar

Many students work part-time jobs to help pay for food, housing or tuition.

Some Wilkes University students, however, have gone a step farther.

Below are three different businesses, all located at Wilkes, that are run entirely by students.



KRAKEN BOARDSPORTS

was born out of co-founder and senior mechanical engineering student Mike Grobinski's need to overcome an obstacle. "I wanted to go wakeboarding, but I didn't have a boat," Grobinski said, referencing his unwillingness to spend several thousand dollars on the boat needed to pull wakeboarders across water.

His solution was to eliminate the need for a boat completely. After the idea was developed in 2013 for a class project, Grobinski and senior electrical and mechanical engineering student Dan Lykens invented a winch system that pulls in nearly a thousand feet of rope. This meant that the winch system, instead of a boat, could pull someone on a wakeboard in. "We made geographical features obsolete," Lykens said, noting that they have since wakeboarded in a pond only three feet deep.

As the name suggests, Kraken Boardsports isn't just restricted to water: the team (also consisting of senior mechanical engineering student Alex Planer and senior marketing student Brandon Carey) have extensively applied this to snowboarding, as well. "Say you're in field, and you see this gap you want to hit," Grobinski said. "You can hit it with the invention."

"You can snowboard uphill," Lykens said. "We've done it." The group has been working with Montage Mountain in an effort to test out the kinks and develop a solid product. The goal, they said, is to sell units to different ski resorts as either an attraction or an instructional tool. Kraken has also been working closely with the Wilkes Small Business Development Center, who have provided them with an office and a "home base."

As of now, the four have committed to living locally after graduation in the Spring and working full-time on their business. While it may be time consuming, it's something they're used to. "Start-up culture is like, 'work whatever 80 hours a week you want,'" Lykens said. "You find yourself becoming very efficient," Grobinski noted. "But I can't bring myself to just do nothing. This fills in the space."

To learn more about Kraken Boardsports, readers can go to Krakenboardsports.com.

LYSSA SCOTT is artistic by nature.

Walk into the junior integrated media student's apartment, and you'll find a plethora of items to support this statement: paintings of Nirvana lyrics over different hues of blue paint; a photo album filled with digitally-enhanced postcards from travels across the world; a table made from an old door, multicolored tile and photos of family and friends; all things she made herself.

Her apartment conjures up a feeling of comfort, creativity and a certain sense of uniqueness - three qualities she's trying to replicate with Soulshine Design, her brand new online boutique.

"There's this lack of diversity in products on the market. You go into Walmart or Target, you go into TJ Maxx or Marshall's, and it's all the same thing," Scott explains. "I take pride in the fact that I can dig up stuff that not everyone can find."

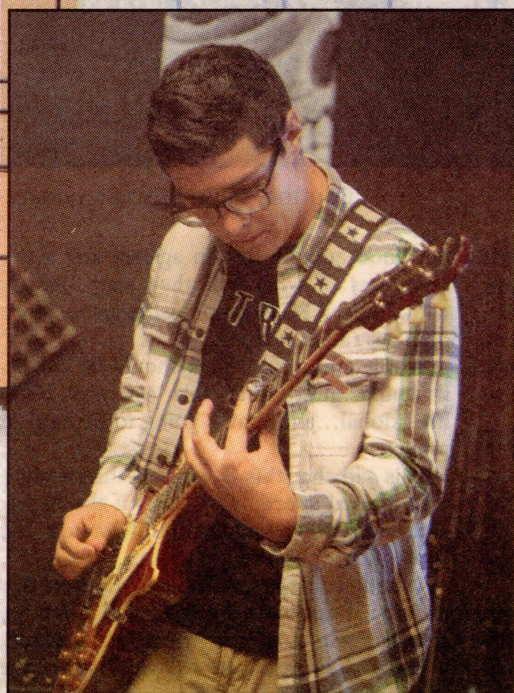
While she's quick to note that Soulshine is very much "a work in progress," Scott says her current selection, made up of handcrafted and vintage items that are "a little more quirky than what's on the market," represents her ultimate goal.

"Right now, it's a shop of things that make my heart happy," she says. "Long term, I want it to be all handmade by artisans, as a way to encompass the community and their passions."

Scott believes that society has become disconnected from where products come from, and she's seeking to remedy that.

"You can buy soap and support Dove, or you can support the guy who lives next door to you and makes soap, which I think is way cooler."

To learn more or to view Scott's inventory, readers can follow @Soulshine.Design on Instagram.



DEREK JOLLEY has been playing in bands and putting out albums since he was thirteen.

To him, the next logical step was to brand himself - something that would represent what him and his friends were trying to accomplish within the local music scene. So Jolley created Time Table Records, a do-it-yourself family-style collective that essentially serves as a tool to help its artists with whatever they need: printing shirts or CDs, booking shows and even

recording demos. While Time Table Records has only been officially branded for two years, Jolley and his staff have put out 25 releases from 15 different bands, as well as hosted dozens of shows in Wilkes-Barre and the surrounding areas.

An industrial psychology major, the sophomore student says what drives him the most is the ability to create a cohesive environment where musicians and audiences can help support each other. "It's a beautiful thing when people who are normally so different find common ground in music and create a positive impact on their community," he says. "It's the best feeling to help foster these environments."

To hear music from the Time Table Records roster, readers can go to www.timetablerecords.bandcamp.com.

Opinion

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

NFL cites Patriots' under-deflated game-balls as cheap advantage

By Frank Passalacqua
Opinion Editor

Once a cheater, always a cheater. That is the saying, right?

In this specific case, that seems to be too true. Everyone who considers themselves a football fan remembers the 2007 "Spygate" scandal, an incident where the New England Patriots were caught video taping the New York Jets' defensive coaches signals.

However, this incident was not the only one of its kind. The team later admitted to video taping numerous teams in the past, including the St. Louis Rams' walkthrough practices before Super Bowl XXXVI. It doesn't stop there, when eight videotapes containing coaches' signals and team practices were submitted during an agreement meeting.

Cheating is never ethical, especially in a professional sport watched by millions of people. Not to mention by a team who won numerous Super Bowls around this era. Is their legacy tarnished?

Years have passed and the Spygate incident has seemed to wash over and be forgotten. Just as history repeats itself, the Patriots find themselves in the middle of yet another cheating controversy.

During the 2015 AFC Championship game between the Patriots and the Indianapolis Colts, the NFL has found that 11 of the Patriots' 12 game balls were deflated significantly below the NFL's requirements. Under two pounds per square inch to be exact, which gives the team an advantage with controlling the ball by being easier to throw and catch.

However, can the blame be pointed directly to the Patriots?

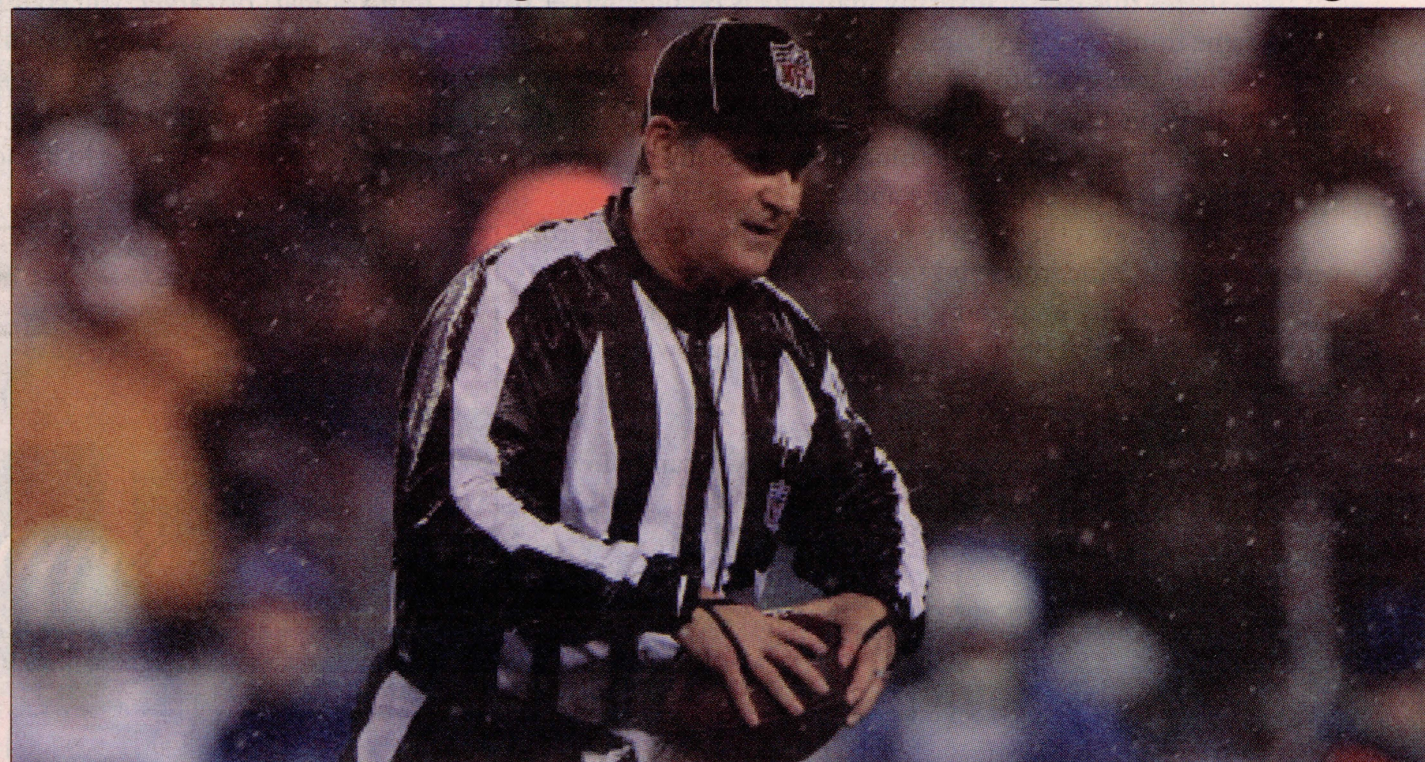
Before every single game in the NFL, it is the head referee's responsibility to properly weigh, inspect, and approve each game-ball. Walt Anderson, the game's head referee, denied to comment on the situation and his act.

In fact, the only time the refs showed a bit of concern about the game ball was when they stopped play in order for the side judges to grab a non-kicking ball to be placed.

Shouldn't the ref, or any ref for this matter have stepped up and said something?

The second a play is over, the referee takes the ball and places it.

How about this: How many referees are



Courtesy of Creative Commons

on the field at once during a game? Seven officials are on the field at one time: the referee, umpire, head linesman, line judge, back judge, field judge and side judge.

You're going to tell me not a single one noticed the ball was two pounds of air pressure lighter than normal?

I think something is up there.

Were the refs in on it, or where they genuinely numb in the hands not to be able to tell a difference? Who knows.

Perhaps this would not be as big of a deal if only one or two balls were deflated. Perhaps this would also not be a big deal if the Patriots did not blow out the Colts 45-7. The fact that this is actually surfacing, though, with their track record is why it is being investigated.

So, what can be done and will the Patriots be punished? Currently, the Patriots will not have to surrender their win, nor will they be disqualified. If the NFL deems this an intentional act of cheating, the most the team will face is a small fine and a loss of a draft pick. Is that enough to be considered justice, especially if they do win the Super Bowl?

It is truly hard to say at this point.

The New England Patriots' Head Coach Bill Belichick denied acknowledgement of this incident during a press conference, answering questions from reporters, Belichick repeated multiple times, "I have no explanation for what happened" and "I've told you everything I know."

Seems Belichick is taking a page out of Marshawn Lynch's notebook here.

On the other hand, Tom Brady, the Patriots' quarterback, jokingly blamed it on Rob Gronkowski's strength when spiking the ball after his touchdowns.

The Patriots are working 100% with the NFL in this investigation and are fully complying. In 10 years from now, regardless of the Super Bowl outcome, can anyone take the Patriots serious? Just like the Spygate scandal blew over, will this?

My personal opinion is yes.

This deflation scenario is not nearly as important as the Spygate one. The Colts used the standard regulation footballs with the proper amount of air, and only put up seven points.

Seven points the entire game is surely

not good enough to win against any team, regardless of what ball they were playing with. In the AFC Championship game, seven points is rather pathetic.


A fine and a draft pick should suffice, if found guilty that this act was 100% intentional...and that is going to be hard to prove.

It is sad that this is even in the news. A professional sports team, one of the highly elite teams in the league, should not be in the spotlight for cheating yet again.

Whether Rodger Goodell deems this an official act of cheating, it will surely be interesting to watch this investigation unfold.

What do you think? Do you believe the Patriots when they say they have no part in this? Or do you blame the refs more for not stepping up and doing their job.

Let us know.

 @wilkesbeacon
frank.passalacqua@wilkes.edu

The Best American Nonrequired Reading of 2014

By Sara Pisak

Assistant Opinion Editor

As the world has recently celebrated the close of another year, The Best American Nonrequired Reading of 2014 is the perfect way for a bookworm to commemorate the transition into a new year of literature.

The unique aspect, which The Best American Nonrequired Reading of 2014 offers, is all the works included have been hand-selected by several high school students residing in San Francisco, California.

The students worked under the careful eye of the project editor, famed author Daniel Handler. Handler is more recognizable by this pseudonym, children's author's Lemony Snicket.

These students spent their academic year scouring the ends of prominent literary sources to find the best creative works that may have gone unnoticed by the American public. The result of their hard work is the recently published dense compilation, The Best American Nonrequired Reading of 2014.

The text includes every genre of creative work a reader could image.

Poetry, Essays, Short Stories and even Graphic Novels grace the pages of the 2014 anthology. The varying genres mean this text has something for every reader.

The students who diligently worked to select these works should be proud of the creative works they selected. These students did not shy away from opting for more controversial subject matter. A reader may expect the works included to reflect teenage angst but instead a reader will discover themes ripped from today's headlines.

Some of the compositions include a protest novel, an essay from a conflict ravaged area and a satirical view of educational shortcomings.

These students did not balk, choosing works that spoke to them individually, while employing a high use of literary devices.

Another positive attribute of this anthology is that a portion of the proceeds are donated to the organization, "ScholarMatch."

An excerpt in the concluding pages of the compilation informs the reader that ScholarMatch "is a nonprofit organization that aims to make college possible by connecting under-resourced students with donors."

By purchasing this book, a reader is able to provide funds and resources to students in financial need, most of whom are first generation college students.

A personal wish for this text, is an organizational structure.

Whether the book's organizational structure, is by subject matter, genre or author, I believe this structure would make the anthology easier to read.

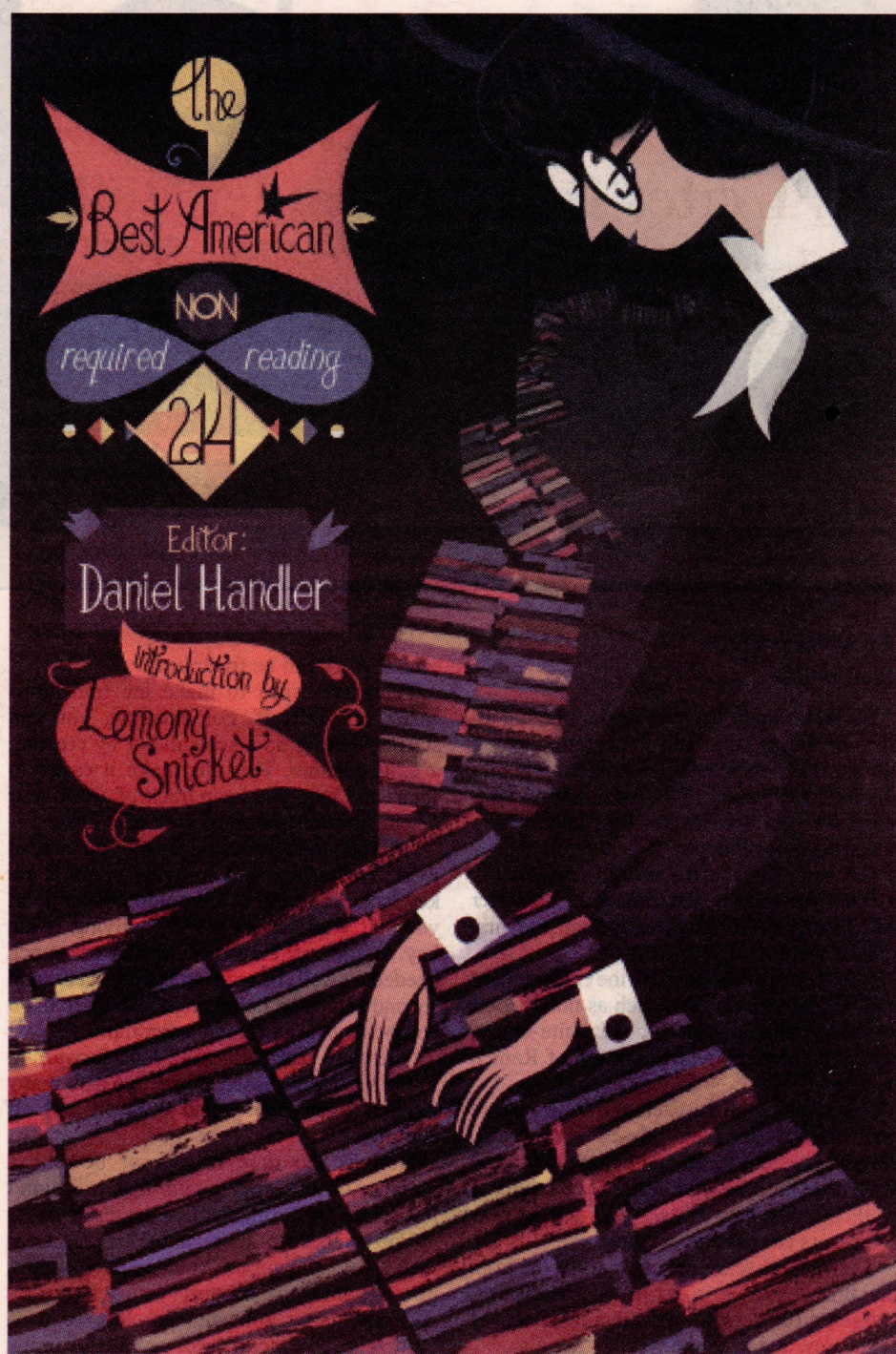
At times transitioning from one work to another can be slightly confusing, as the works follow no natural pattern. Without structure it seems that the poetry can be viewed as a place holder. Although I enjoyed most of the works included, as is common with an anthology, not every work included will be viewed as a favorite. A structure to the text might help to create an easier flow from one work to another as well as make some of the more outstanding works a fixture within the book itself.

In the end, this anthology was not what I expected, which is an amazing attribute. The students should be proud of the quality product they produced. They definitely are straying from the norm in their selections. Their atypical selections will either lead to praise from the literary community or turn off some readers entirely.

I look forward to perusing some of the series' additional publications such as "The Best American Nonrequired Comics" or "The Best American Nonrequired Travel Writing."

My Top 5 Readings

1. The Kite Runner
by Khaled Hosseini
2. Me: Stories of My Life
by Katharine Hepburn
3. Murder in The Cathedral
by T.S. Eliot
4. I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings
by Maya Angelou
5. Wild
by Cheryl Strayed



Courtesy of Creative Commons

Sara's Score:



Swing into the second semester freshman style



The Beacon archives

By Allison Rossi
Staff Writer

It's that time of the year again, moving all of your things back into your dorm, seeing all of your friends, talking about your break, sharing stories over SUB food, setting your alarm for your 8 a.m. class, and then rushing because you overslept.

Get ready Wilkes, it's second semester.

For freshmen, the second semester will most likely come easier than the first semester did.

Now you are familiar with the environment you will be thrown into, such as noisy dorm lounges, roommates, loud suite-mates, messy bathrooms, and living off of Ramen noodles.

It is exciting to be back and to see all of your friends that you missed over break. Having freedom again and being able to use your time the way you desire to is a plus as well. Starting new classes and getting new professors can also be exciting.

The second semester can vary a lot from the first semester in terms of friendships, classes, professors, living situations, sleeping schedules, and even the weather.

Many classmates transfer in and out between the first semester and the second semester, which can impact the people that you meet and hang out with. Some people gain roommates while others may lose them. Some of us will even switch majors.

Getting back into the swing of things can be difficult to do at first but it does get easier. The countless amount of studying and pulling all nighters in the library is sometimes a necessity. Getting adjusted to your new teachers and their unique ways of grading while staying on top of all of your

school work can be frustrating.

There are ways to make the transitions easier on yourself. For example, you can start by setting up a schedule or by creating a daily planner. This can make it easier to focus and help you keep track of all of your responsibilities for all of your new classes.

Rather than focusing solely on school work, friendships and enjoying yourself are key factors as well. You shouldn't overwhelm yourself with school work. Studying is the key to success; however, breaks are much needed as well. In order to have a successful second semester, balancing these three main components is extremely essential.

There are many things to look forward to in the second semester. There are also many things to get involved in both on and off campus.

Now is the time to join or become a member of a team or a club that you didn't have time for during the first semester.

You can become more active on campus as well as off of campus. You can play a sport, go to games to support your classmates and university, join another club, or even volunteer for a meaningful cause. Becoming more involved on campus will most likely positively contribute to the experience of your second semester here at Wilkes.

Hopefully, your second semester at Wilkes goes by smoothly and is even better than your first semester.

Don't forget to set your alarms and rush to class.

@wilkesbeacon
Allison.Rossi@wilkes.edu

CELEBRATING MARDI GRAS!



Dining Services is going bananas for Mardi Gras 2015!
Join us for an authentic Louisiana celebration
filled with delicious food, free prizes,
and a Zydeco Band!

Tuesday February 17th
Henry's Food Court
4:30PM-7:30PM

Vance Joy on a riptide to folk stardom

By Eric Casey
Staff Writer

James Keogh, also known as Vance Joy, is increasingly gaining recognition here in the states, finally. His brand of indie folk/indie pop might not be for everyone, but it's quite fresh and unique.

He's from Australia and although there have been famous bands and singers from that country to cross over into American audiences, those numbers have been few and far in between.

2014 saw the rise of Iggy Azalea, another Australian that undoubtedly has been the most popular Australian export in more than 15 years.

Also, remember Gotye from three years ago? How about Kylie Minogue from the '90s and early '00s? Or even folk band The Seekers from the 1960s with hits like "I'll Never Find Another You" and "Georgy Girl?"

Vance Joy is 27 years old and hails from Melbourne. He's somewhat handsome and comes off a little bit sheepish. However, it's his music that really radiates.

Even though Vance is from the warm nation of Australia, his music is not all happy and sunny. In fact many of his songs give off a Brandi Carlile kind of vibe, except with a more upbeat tempo despite lyrics of loneliness and longing for love.

His debut album "Dream Your Life Away" was released worldwide and peaked at #1 on Australian Albums chart, #2 on Canadian Albums chart, #17 on US Billboard 200 Albums chart, and top 40 in most other countries.

The opening track, "Winds of Change," is short but sweet. It's about him waiting for someone he loves to come back home. "Cause this heavy heart, oh, how it's yearned / cause I've been alone far too long / when are you coming home, my love?"

You can hear the distinct quiver and roughness in his voice that is present throughout the entire album which sets him apart from similar folk singers.

"Mess Is Mine" was the third single released back in July 2014, but has just been released in the US this month and has already reached #22 on the Hot Rock Songs chart and #31 on the Alternative Songs chart. It's undoubtedly one of his finest songs. When interviewed by a radio show Triple J Drive last fall he mentioned what the song was about.

"Sometimes when you have a strong melody, it's easy to write the song.

It's about how when you're in love with someone, you take on the whole package [that person brings]. It's messy, but the mess of life is the good thing. The special thing about relationships is taking on the good and the bad and the messy aspects. It's one of the more direct love songs I've written."

"Wasted Time" is another song that pulls on your heartstrings. It was released as the 5th single in Australia last fall. It's one of the highlights and features melancholy yet beautiful lyrics. "The things that I thought would last / well they're fading, they're fading / the feelings I used to have / well, they're changing, they're changing."

"Riptide" is his most widely known song to date. It was recorded in 2012 and released in mid 2013.

Since then it has become a Top 40 smash around the globe, and has finally reached mainstream airwaves here in the US. As of January 17th it's #33 on the Hot 100, #7 on the Adult Pop Songs chart, and has peaked at #1 on both the Alternative Songs and Rock Airplay charts.

The video was shot in a way that reminds you of David Lynch or Wes Anderson. I declared it the best song of 2014. More often than not he performs this song live with just a Ukulele.

Both songs "Who Am I" and "We All Die Trying to Get It Right" are also great songs with more of the same heartache, but yet they don't feel like album fillers at all. They just help keep the flow of the album constant. "From Afar" was the first single released from him back in January 2013. It is probably tied with "Riptide" as the best song on the album.

The video for this song is distinctly depressing. It features two stories going back and forth between each other. One showing a picnic of two middle aged couples. The one man is shown to be in love with his friend's wife, and when his own wife finds out things get messy.

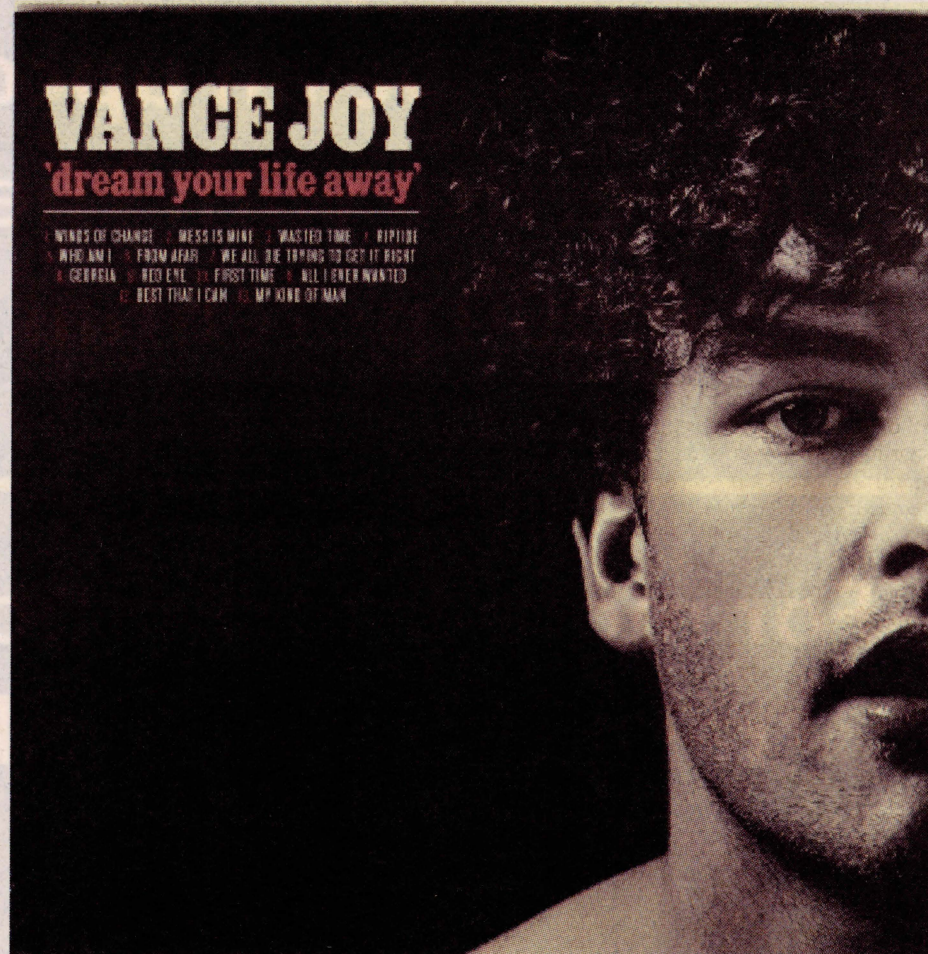
The other story presents two teen boys, probably around 19, who are presumably best friends. One of the boys is in love with the other, but the other happens to be in love with this girl.

When the gay male finds out his best friend is in love with a girl, he becomes devastated. It's honestly depressing to watch.

Other songs worth listening to are "First Time" and "All I Ever Wanted."

All in all this album is a success. His songs of solitary and honesty make the album believable. The rawness of his voice is stellar and should solidify him as a future icon of not just Australian folk music, but of folk music worldwide.

Eric's Rating:



Courtesy of Creative Commons

Did you know?

James Keogh's stage name 'Vance Joy' comes from a book.

Keogh's stage name Vance Joy originally comes from a novel called Bliss by Australian author Peter Carey. Vance Joy only makes a small appearance in the book, but the name had a ring to it that stuck with Keogh. Performing professionally in 2012, he adopted the name as his own to create a new identity for his music.

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Sports

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Men's Basketball team prepares to take on King's



Photo Courtesy of gowilkesu.com

Sophomore Guard Tyler Jackson and the rest of the team look to get back on path Wednesday when they take on cross-town rival Kings College.

By J.T. Keer
Sports Writer

After a streaky start to the season, the Colonels sit at a 7-9 record overall and sit in the middle of the conference with a record of 2-3.

The Colonels began the season with a controversial loss to a tough Richard Stockton club. They then followed that by reeling off six consecutive victories in a stretch of close, down to the wire ball games.

However, after a trip down the road to King's for a couple of games in the Monarch Classic, the Colonels have not seemed to get back their mojo. Since their excellent start, the Colonels have lost eight of nine, this time winding up on the opposite end of a bunch of close games.

However, following a rough season last year and coaching change, sharpshooting two-guard Alec Wizar is optimistic about where the program is headed.

"The season is going well so far," Wizar said. "We've had a difficult schedule so far and we've held our own against some strong competition. Every game has been close and we just need to close out stronger and turn the close losses into wins."

In order to turn the season around, Wilkes is going to need Wizar and fellow shooter Steve Stravinski to continue their hot shooting. Stravinski is 1st in the league in 3 pointers with 53, is also leading the team by averaging 15.9 points per game and has been bringing down 6.7 boards per night.

Sophomore point guard Tyler Jackson has been leading the team with 4 assists per night. The Colonels have gotten solid defensive play from senior leader Cam Hinkel.

The Colonels take action again at home this Wednesday for their first battle with cross town rival King's

@wilkesbeacon
johnathan.keer@wilkes.edu

Women's Basketball shooting to make playoffs

By Danny Van Brunt
Sports Writer

With seven wins accumulated so far this year, the Wilkes Women's Basketball team has already surpassed last year's record.

Last year, the team clinched six wins. Head Coach Chris Heery anticipated improvement at the beginning of the season, and now he has a strong team.

The team is now playing in conference games. Along with Heery, the players feel great coming into the conference games. The team record and future competition has the women eyeing a spot in the playoffs.

Heery is pleased with his team. He is most proud of the team's recent win over Moravian, which has a fantastic program. The Colonels bested them for their second conference win. Heery also believes the team did very well in the Muhlenberg



Elena Stambone

Photo Courtesy of gowilkesu.com

Tournament, especially against Scranton, another formidable opponent.

Heery noted that Elena Stambone, Kayla Brahm, Emily Sofranko, Ellen Rich,

Chelsea Brown, and Chelsea Smelas are all key players to the team's victories. These players, along with the rest of the team, stay focused and spread positivity, which boosts

the morale of the team.

"This team is exciting to watch, and will potentially be a playoff contender," Heery said.

Two players from the team, Kate Thomas and Cara Basile are proud to see that the Colonels are a tough team within the conference. They are also proud to have defeated Moravian, Manhattanville, and Misericordia this season.

There is team chemistry which helps the team play together according to them. Their ultimate goal is to make it to the playoffs because neither player has made it before.

@wilkesbeacon
daniel.vanbrunt@wilkes.edu

Wrestlers motivated to make nationals this season

By Cara Basile
Sports Writer

The wrestling squad went against tough competitors this season, but still manages to hold a solid 10-4 record. The team competed in the National Wrestling Coaches Association National Duals in Fort Wayne, Indiana, where they faced some of the best teams in the country.

Wilkes was able to clinch wins against the University of Dubuque, Saint John's University, and Luther College.

A lot of credit to these wins goes to Head Coach Jon Laudenslager who pushes his team every day. He wants to motivate his wrestlers to be offensive and to hustle through each position, along with encouraging them to wrestling their match.

"I think you just encourage kids to try and get the best out of themselves," Laudenslager said. "I think our program prepares them for success on and off the mat."

One athlete with great success this season is junior Gueseppe Rea who earned his first Wilkes Open title along

with being ranked No. 7 overall. To stay focused Rea tries to control everything outside of the wrestling room. He also shared how this helps when he competes before a match.

"My mindset is staying cool and collected," Rea said. "I don't really think about the match so much. My main concern is finishing the match healthy and always giving God the glory."

Laudenslager also shared his and the team's goals on getting as many guys to Nationals as possible. Each day they work hard to surpass individual goals in order to earn that spot.

For Rea, he has the same goals since freshman year, including being on top of the podium, along with the team to be regional champs once again with a NCAA trophy to bring home.

"I just love wrestling in general," Rea said. "I love the commitment, the sacrifice and the rewards you get from it. Nothing is given to you, you have to go out there and earn it."

@wilkesbeacon
cara.basile@wilkes.edu

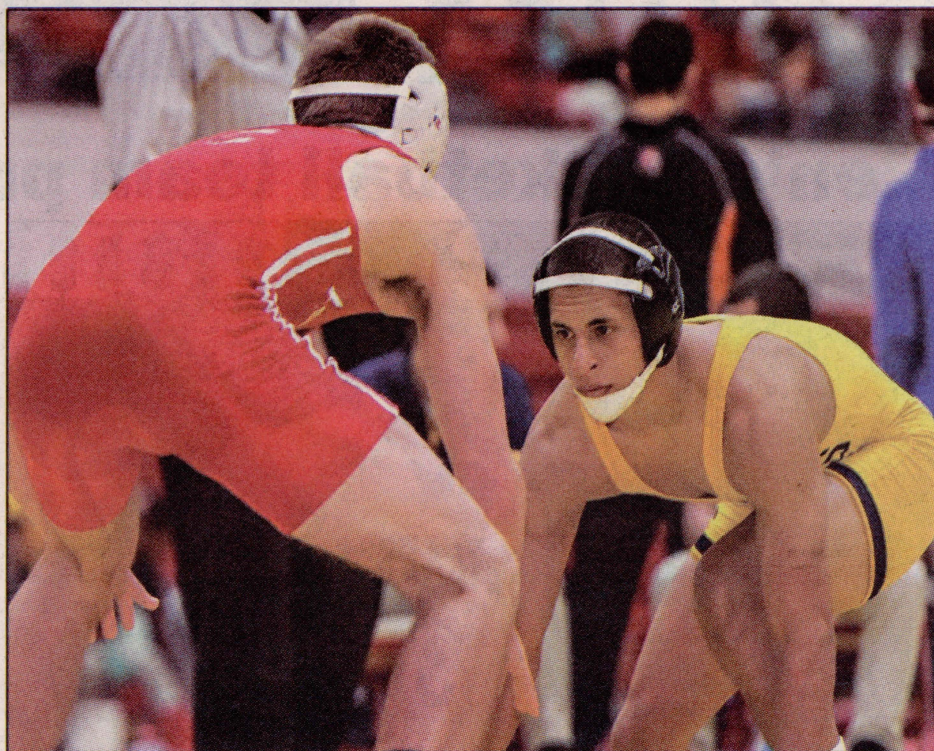


Photo Courtesy of gowilkesu.com

Gueseppe Rea leads all Wilkes wrestlers this season with 23 wins.

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Getting to know...

Kate Thomas

Senior Basketball Player

By Evan Willey
Sports Writer

Kate Thomas is from Schuylkill Haven, Pa., and went to Blue Mountain High School. Kate is a guard for the Women's Basketball Team here at Wilkes University. She has been playing since the third grade and will be ending her career here at Wilkes. Kate is a Senior Marketing and Management major and will be graduating this upcoming year.

Q. As a senior, what is your most memorable moment at Wilkes University - on or off the court?

A. Beating King's twice my junior year

Q. What do you see yourself doing after graduating from Wilkes?

A. Working at a marketing firm

Q. Do you have any lucky charms that you bring with you to your games?

A. Nope

Q. If your life was a TV show what would the show be called?

A. True Life: My Name is Nance

Q. Who is your role model in life and why?

A. My brothers because they are the reason for my competitive drive. Also, my high school basketball coach because she taught me how to truly work hard.

Q. How did you first get started playing basketball?

A. Playing 1-on-1 with my brothers in the driveway

Q. Why did you choose Wilkes for your college career?

A. At the time, I was looking at schools that offered a major in special education and elementary education. I also had the opportunity to play basketball.


Q. What is your spirit animal?

A. Kangaroo

Q. What are your favorite foods to eat before and after a game?

A. Before: PB&J

After: I'll eat anything; usually I go out to eat with my family and teammates.

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evan.willey@wilkes.edu



The Beacon/Purvit Patel

Getting to know...

Matthew Grossman

Freshman Wrestler

By Andre Spruell
Sports Writer

Q. How long have you been wrestling?

A. I started wrestling in first grade. My dad was a wrestling coach so I just grew up around it.

Q. Did you win any awards or trophies back in high school?

A. I placed at the Pennsylvania state tournament twice, second my sophomore year, and fifth my senior year, those are the two big ones.

Q. What made you decide to come to wrestle Wilkes?

A. They have really good wrestling history and we have a good program now so I felt like it was a good fit, I really liked the campus. I liked everything about it, even the small class sizes.

Q. Has it been difficult transitioning from high school to college wrestling?

A. Guys are definitely a lot stronger and wrestle at higher level, but it hasn't been too difficult but definitely is a transition you have to get used to.

Q. What would you say has been the biggest difference at the collegiate level?

A. I say the guys are stronger just because they are more physically mature, and the technique level is a lot higher. Like in high school kids aren't necessarily technical, but in college they are a lot more technical.

Q. How did you do at Nationals in Indiana over winter break?

A. I went 1-2, it was a bit of a rough weekend but it was definitely a good learning experience, I got to see some of the best guys in the country. It was definitely a good gauge to see where I'm at this point in the season.

Q. With the season coming to an end, what are your thoughts on how your first year went?

A: I think I've done pretty well this year, there are definitely some things I need to work on but I'm excited to wrap it up and see how I do at the end of the year.

Q. Do you have any goals you want to accomplish in the next three years?

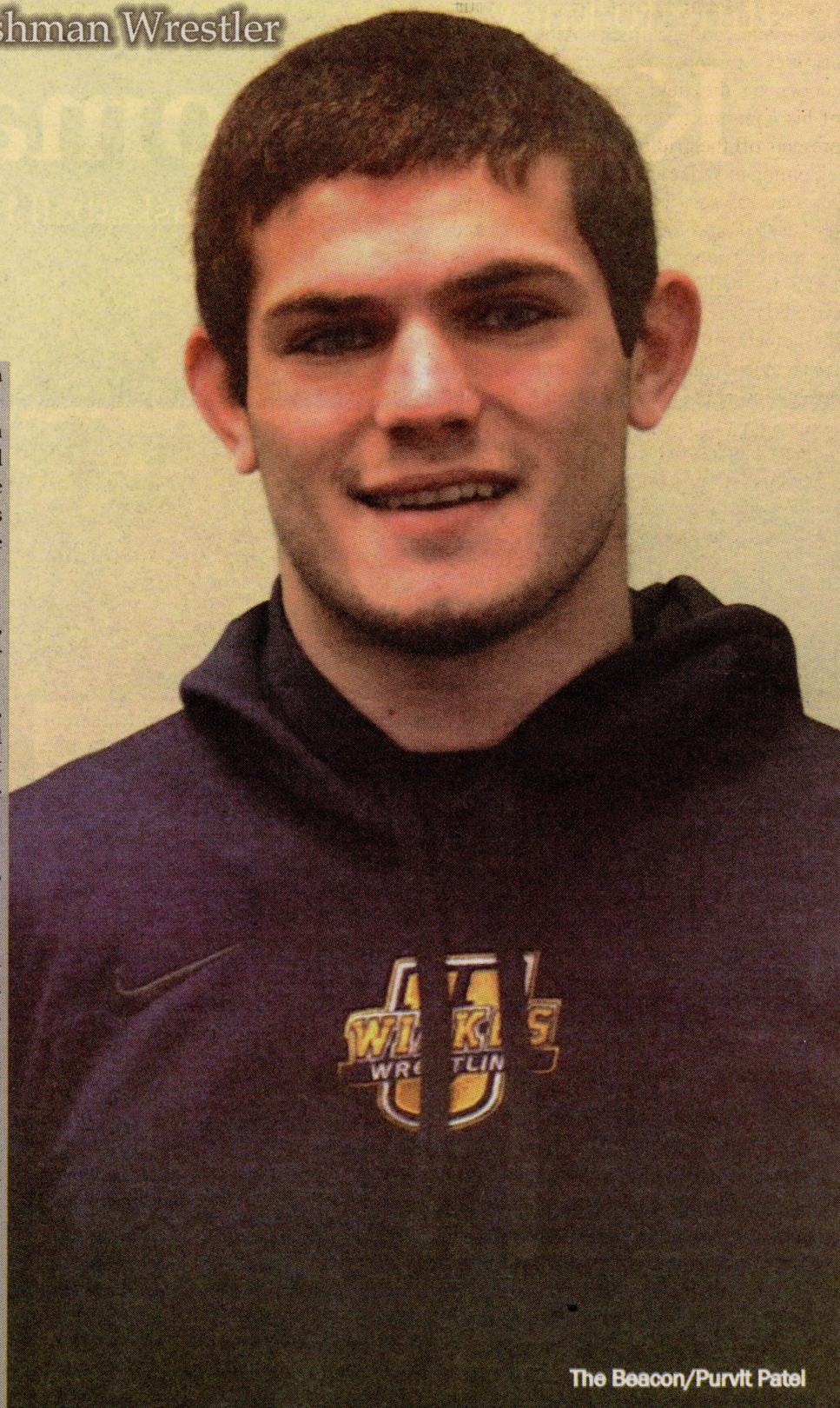
A. I definitely want to become an All-American and ultimately become a National Champion. If I set my goals high I think I can do some good things

Q. What do you enjoy most about wrestling?

A. I think just the people that you meet, like you meet a lot of great people. You get to go to a lot of cool places and go all over the country for wrestling so it's pretty cool.



@wilkesbeacon
andre.spruell@wilkes.edu



The Beacon/Purvit Patel

Marcus Leaf leads by example on and off the field

By Rachel Leandri
Correspondent

Junior Marcus Leaf is not your stereotypic college jock. Although he captures campus recognition for his actions on the field, many are unaware of his community involved demeanor he presents off the gridiron and diamond.

Coming to Wilkes as a freshman in 2012, Marcus was sure of one thing - his love for baseball and football. He was inspired by the dedication of the former Wilkes head football coach, Frank Sheptock, which is the reason he chose to leave his hometown of Reading, Pa., and gain some independence in both athletics and academics in a new setting. Today, Marcus is one of the few attending Wilkes to actively play on two varsity sports teams.

Marcus is a communication studies major with dual concentrations in public relations and journalism. Considering most know Marcus as the football team's defensive back or the baseball team's centerfielder or pitcher, they can assume his dream job is to one day play in the major leagues. However, what they may not know is that Marcus' infatuation for both sports and writing has left him determined to one day write for ESPN.

At Berks Catholic High-School, Marcus played football, baseball and basketball, earning him honors in athletics. In 2011, during his senior football season, Marcus was named MVP of his team and Defensive Back of the Year for his section. He was also named All-County for football as a defensive back and baseball as a pitcher and short stop. His proudest moment was this past summer at the First Energy stadium in Reading, an open-tryout hosted by the Phillies organization, when Marcus pitched and received a look from Dale Murphy, the Philadelphia Phillies scout.

"Having someone call you back is highly unlikely," Marcus explained. "Answering the phone was an unexplainable feeling. It was almost like a dream come true."

It is obvious Marcus's sheer talent belongs on the field, but what many don't know is that his greatest enthusiasm lies with helping children. The Olivet Boys and Girls Club is where Marcus has spent his last three summers not only working,



Photo Courtesy of Benjamin Kramer

Pictured above is Marcus Leaf making a catch in a game last season vs Grove City in Myrtle Beach

but also discovering what's important to him.

"Reading is not a promising place since there are so many opportunities to do the wrong thing," he said. "Children are so dear to my heart that I feel it is my duty to steer them on the right path."

His time at Olivet consisted of helping with staff, camp counseling, instructing baseball, and just being of assistance to the kids in any way possible. With his ten-year-old little sister, Nadia, now at Olivet, Marcus feels even more responsible for guiding these children the best way he knows how.

"Marcus was raised in Reading, which only three years ago, was deemed the second most violent city in the nation," Kevin Devera, director of Olivet Recreational Center, said. "But because of the positive decisions he has made by furthering his education and devotion

to sports, he will be one of the very few people to succeed out of Reading through his generation. We are very proud of him and excited to see what his future holds."

Marcus' mother, being a single parent and doing everything in her power to provide for her family, is his biggest role model. Since she was never able to finish college, Marcus feels his biggest accomplishment is not only making it to Wilkes but striving to graduate in order to make his mother proud and to make her smile.

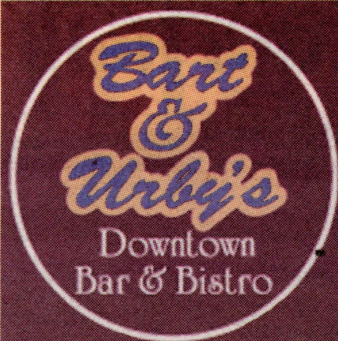
It's not the numerous sports trophies that are the most significant to Marcus's future, but having the ability to write and the opportunity to give back to his community. It's not winning the game that makes Marcus the happiest, but seeing others succeed. With that in mind, Marcus sees himself in 10 years traveling to schools, motivationally speaking to young

students, and overall inspiring them to attend college, make the right choices, and create something special with their lives.

When asked about Marcus's recruitment to Wilkes, former coach, Frank Sheptock noted that the coaching staff was very impressed by Marcus in more ways than one.

"He is humble, soft spoken, and he is an individual who does what he is supposed to do," Sheptock said. "We were trying to find a Wilkes person, and Marcus was a Wilkes person from day one. With his humility, importance of family, and athletic ability as a two-sport star, we figured he would create a successful future for himself here and he is certainly proving us right not only in the classroom but also on the baseball and football field."

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