

The Beacon - November 10, 2015



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Volume 69 Issue 08

# THE BEACON

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



Courtesy of On My Cue Photography

Maureen Hozempa, a 2007 graduate of Wilkes University, will be featured in the Little Theatre of Wilkes-Barre's Laramie Project. The play chronicles the death of Matthew Shepard, who was killed as a result of a hate crime in 1998. The show opens on Saturday, Nov. 14; the theatre is at 537 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre.

## Little Theatre of Wilkes-Barre presents The Laramie Project

Wilkes alumni, faculty encourage hope and acceptance, p. 11



# News

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

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## Beacon Briefs

### Counterintelligence Expert William Evanina '89 to Lecture on Nov. 12

William Evanina presents "Economic Espionage" on Nov. 12. Bill is the 5th national counterintelligence executive and serves as the head of national counterintelligence for the U.S. Government, with more than 20 years of experience in security & intelligence. The lecture is free and open to the public.

### Faculty, Staff Pair with United Way

In ongoing participation with the United Way, Wilkes faculty will be participating in various fundraisers to support directed to their Education efforts which help at-risk children enter kindergarten ready to learn and move through graduating high school and beyond with confidence. Over the past 12 years, faculty and staff pledged nearly \$220,000. On Nov. 11 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. (or until they sell out) the Sweet Lush Cupcake Camper will be on the Greenway with a portion of the proceeds going to the campaign.

## SG Notes: Club reports, SES, SWE; cheerleading Ski & Snowboard, approved; Education Club

By Jen Baron  
Staff Writer

### Week 9

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

Nia Williams, president of Students of Environmental Stability, or SES, delivered the club report.

The purpose of the club is to raise awareness for green ideas and sustainable practices.

The group's big plan for the spring is to have recycle wars where Wilkes competes against Kings during Earth Week in April. The club is also having water tables during club hours to help raise awareness about the dangers of plastic bottles. Members are looking to go to some upcoming conferences. SES is planning to do community service events, such as campus cleanups, riverbank, clean ups and volunteering at the CEO food bank. SES will also be doing a fundraiser where they sell water bottles and t-shirts.

Audrey Wood, member of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), delivered the club report.

SWE is looking to attend a conference at Drexel and a regional conference in Virginia this year.

SWE is also interested in bringing in guest speakers. A big event SWE is planning is the amazing race competition. This is where local schools compete against one another in different science categories. SWE is also planning to go to CEO food bank for community service and they are looking into habitat for humanity service project for the spring.

The Ski and Snowboard Club came in for the second week of their fund request. The club asked for \$3,600 to cover the cost

of transportation to Killington, Vermont. This price covers \$120 per student, up to 30 students. After extensive discussion, a motion was made to allocate \$100 per person, up to 30 students, for a total of \$3,000 to go toward transportation. The motion was voted on and passed with 21 favoring and 11 opposed.

The Education Club came in for the second week to present their new constitution. One of the goals of education club is to have future and current educators working together. The club meets twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesdays and the club currently has 25 active members.

The new constitution was voted on and approved.

The captains of the Cheerleading squad, Melissa Zappala, Jessica Baker and Gavrielle Mele made a fund request to Student Government. They are requesting \$5,000 so they can go to nationals in Florida. This is the biggest college cheerleading competition in the country. Last year, they placed 10th, but they are aiming to be in the top three. The cheerleaders are conducting numerous fundraisers to help alleviate the cost of nationals, such as selling Yankee candles, Pond Creek candles and caramel apples. The team has practices or tumbling every day as they prepare for nationals. The have a new coach, new uniforms and a bigger team, which will really benefit them. They want to go to nationals because it is an unforgettable bonding and networking experience. The members will vote next week.

The council reviewed the Treasurer's report and the current budget is as follows: All College: \$749.88, General Funds: \$6,037.26, Conference: \$2,662, Spirit: \$791.00 for a Student Government total of \$10,905.14.

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# Gilbert victory

## Wilkes senior lands WB city council District C seat



Courtesy of Facebook

Beth Gilbert addresses an audience of supporters during her recent campaign. Gilbert is a senior political science major with minors in international studies, policy studies and women's studies. In high school, she participated in junior council, which sparked her interest in local government. Gilbert ran on a platform of combating crime and blight, increasing accessibility as an elected official and focusing on all parts of her territory. For complete election night results, visit the Luzerne County Bureau of Elections at <http://results.enr.clarityelections.com/PA/Luzerne/57823/156722/Web01/en/summary.html>

By Gabby Glinski  
Asst. News Editor

On Nov. 3, Wilkes senior Beth Gilbert won Wilkes Barre City Council District C seat after securing approximately 80 percent of the vote.

Gilbert's friends and family hosted a post-election celebration at Mag's Halftime Pub and Eatery, where the announcement was made.

"It's a relief, it feels good," Gilbert stated upon hearing the results of the election. Her first step is to become acquainted with the position and her duties.

In May, she won approximately 70 percent of the vote in the primary election as she was the democratic nomination. Gilbert ran against republican nominee Stephen J. Urban.

"Since February, the support for myself and for my campaign has grown tremendously," Gilbert stated in an interview before election day.

Gilbert attributes part of her success to social media, setting her apart from other municipal candidates. Through social media, she has been able to encourage young voters to become more involved in local politics and connect with residents of her district. She also hosted a couple events where she would encourage residents to meet and talk with her.

There are some supporters who have stuck out to Gilbert. Last spring, when she was going door to door to ask for support in the primary election, she met an 88-year-old woman who "swore up and down that

she would never vote for a Democrat." On Election day, Gilbert's mother was working at one of the polls and overheard the same woman asking how to write in a candidate.

She voted for Gilbert.

"It was really inspiring to me that she believed in my campaign and mission enough to vote Democrat for the first time in her life," Gilbert stated, reflecting on the incident.

Gilbert shared that her role models are other female politicians, stating it is tough to be a woman in politics, being criticized for things men are not. Seeing other female politicians go through the process of campaigning and coming out stronger than ever before is inspiring to her.

Gilbert's platform consists of three main points: "legislatively combating crime and blight, being accessible to residents and focusing on each part of my district equally."

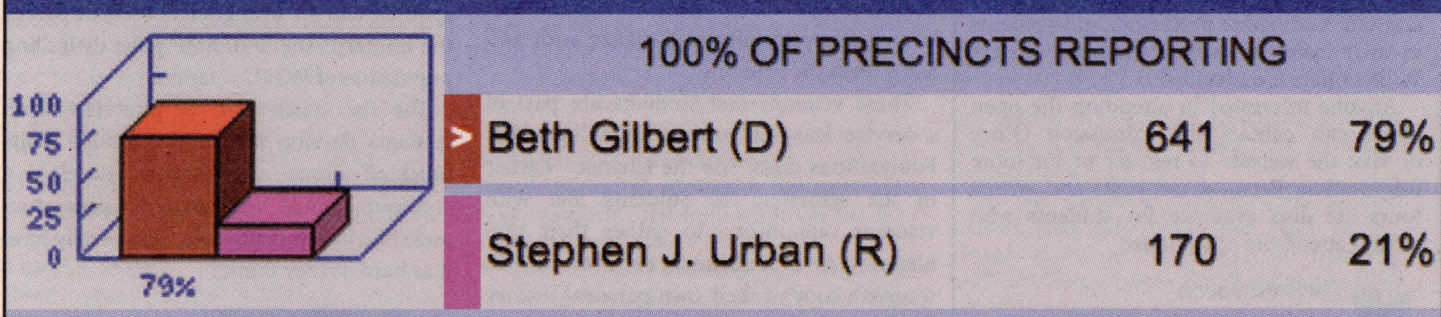
Gilbert believes combating crime and blighted property is something that cannot be ignored or done halfheartedly.

"Accessibility to residents is 100 percent necessary in this office," Gilbert stated, adding that technology allows political leaders to be available 24/7. "I will always get back to my constituents with whatever issue they may have."

Gilbert plans to implement monthly town hall meetings to allow residents to voice their concerns.

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### COUNCIL Wilkes-Barre - District C



To see a full list of the election results, visit <http://results.enr.clarityelections.com/PA/Luzerne/57823/156722/Web01/en/summary>.



## Parking applications available; commuter, off campus, residents

By Sarah Bedford  
News Editor

Parking applications are now available online for commuter, off campus and resident students.

Listed below is the step-by-step on how to apply for on campus parking.

1. Go to [wilkes.edu/parking](http://wilkes.edu/parking)
2. Select the correct parking application (Commuter/Off Campus or Resident)

3. After selecting the correct application, read all instructions carefully as important details are included.

4. Fill out all required fields. Failure to do so will result in the application not being submitted and the student not being granted a parking permit.

5. After completing the application, submit.

6. Students will receive a confirmation email to the account they provided which ensures that the application has been submitted. If they do not receive a confirmation email, students should reach out to [commuterparking@wilkes.edu](mailto:commuterparking@wilkes.edu) for commuters/off campus students or Residence Life for residents. Be sure to keep the confirmation email.

The deadline to apply is Dec. 16 at 4:30 p.m. Failure to complete and submit the application by this time will result in the application not being considered for on campus parking.

Students will be notified over Winter Break on their parking status via email.

Students will have one week prior to the start of the Spring semester to pick up their parking permits. Once a student has picked up the permit, the charge of \$120 will be added to their university bill.

If a student does not get granted an on-campus parking permit, there are other options.


Students may obtain Ralston field permits, which are \$40 a semester and available at Public Safety.

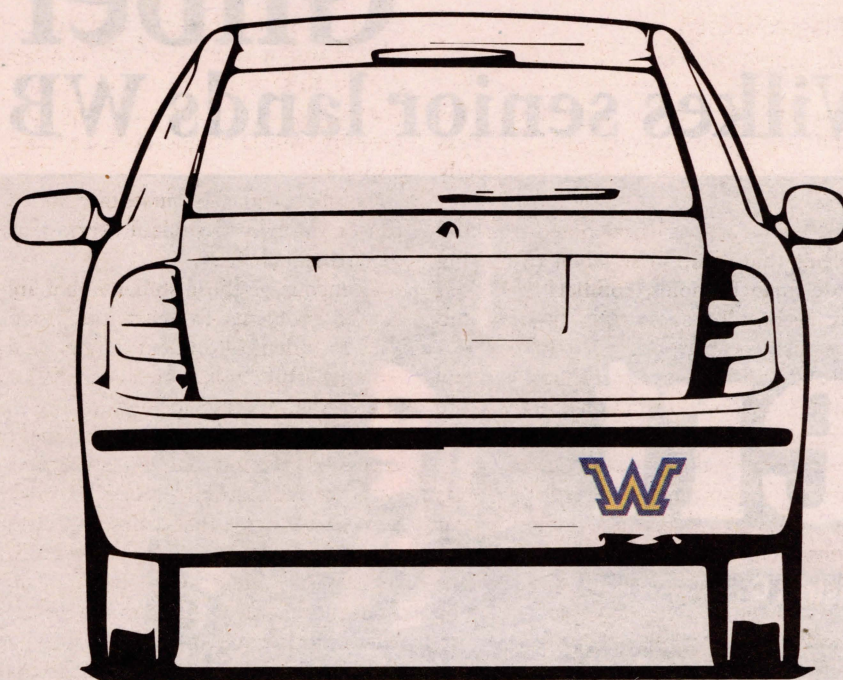
The university offers shuttles running to and from the field every 30 minutes from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

There are also private lots in the area. Students may request a list from Public Safety.

It's critical that students remember that parking on campus is incredibly limited. While no one is guaranteed a parking permit or a parking spot, applying for a parking permit within the deadline is the main action students are encouraged to take.

For clarification on parking, commuter and off campus students may contact [commuterparking@wilkes.edu](mailto:commuterparking@wilkes.edu) or Student Affairs. Residents can contact Residence Life. For general parking questions, students may contact the Office of Public Safety.

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Graphic by Ashley Evert

*Editor's Note: Sarah Bedford also serves as the Commuter Council President.*

## Wilkes to hold Open House Nov. 14, instant decision, sessions

By Meghan Burns  
Staff Writer

Wilkes University will hold an open house for perspective freshmen and transfer students on Nov. 14.

The open house is a chance to show perspective students the many qualities of the university. It does this by allowing students to walk around the campus and experience it for themselves.

"I'm excited to see the campus," said Kristen Stepanski, a perspective student who plans on attending. "I've heard a lot of great things about the school but it's exciting to get to experience it in real life."


The schedule for the day begins at 8 a.m. in the Henry Student Center. It includes the instant decision making process, three different sessions, a provided lunch, and an academic fair. More information and a detailed schedule can be found on the Wilkes University website under the Admission &

Aid tab.

Wilkes University open houses have a unique feature that many other colleges do not. The instant decision making process allows perspective students to drop off their transcripts and applications in the morning and know an answer about admission before they go home.

The academic fair at the end of the day will allow each perspective student to meet and talk with some professors and students in their major or explore the many majors Wilkes offers if undecided.

Anyone interested in attending the open house can contact the Admission Office or visit the website to register or for more information. Personalized visits and virtual tours are also available for students who cannot attend the open house.

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## Veterans brunch, Nov. 12 Honors 70 veterans, interviews

By James Jaskolka  
Editor-in-Chief

Wilkes University will host its 5th annual veterans brunch on Nov. 12 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Henry Student Center Ballroom.


The brunch will honor 70 veterans and spouses representing veterans, whose services range from WWII to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Additionally, 70 students will have the opportunity to socialize with and learn from the veterans.

These veterans and students are part of a service learning project for a First Year Foundations class, "Be the Change." Earlier in the semester, the students met with veterans one-on-one to gather their oral histories. After the brunch, each veteran will receive a copy of their own personal history as a keepsake for generations to come.

This brunch marks the 200th veteran interviewed for this project. Wilkes University Civic Engagement Coordinator Megan Valkenburg, who helps coordinate the event and the interviews, said the project is beneficial in many ways.

"It gives us an opportunity to highlight the sacrifices and fortitude of these wonderful individuals, both the veterans and the spouses, and the strength it takes to be part of the military," she said, noting the dwindling population of WWII veterans.

She also stated that the interviews help students develop interpersonal skills while breaking down age barriers, developing common ground with an older generation and showing students they "don't really have it as hard as they think."

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# Registration woes, technical problems, class conflicts

By Alyssa Mursch  
Social Media Director

Time and time again, registration rolls around and students experience countless issues, with few knowing how to properly address them.

As Registrar Susan Hritzak noted, potential problems that could arise when registering include financial holds, conflicts with class times, technical issues, class closures and pre-requisite problems.

All of these issues have a solution, but many students lack this information and therefore are not properly prepared to overcome them and successfully schedule their classes.

"The most important thing is for students to be aware of what might happen as far as financial holds that block registration," advised Hritzak, noting that if students take care of it ahead of time many issues could be avoided.

Technical problems are also common among students. As IT is closed at the time of registration at 10 p.m., this raises concern. However, many problems can be avoided by simply logging out and back in to the server. If more students were made aware of this prior to registration, it would help them know how to deal with it and avoid further

problems, such as being locked out.

This was a recent issue that arose during this past registration period, and Hritzak is working on setting up a meeting with IT to address it and find a solution.

Conflicts with class times or closures can be brought to student services or department chairs.

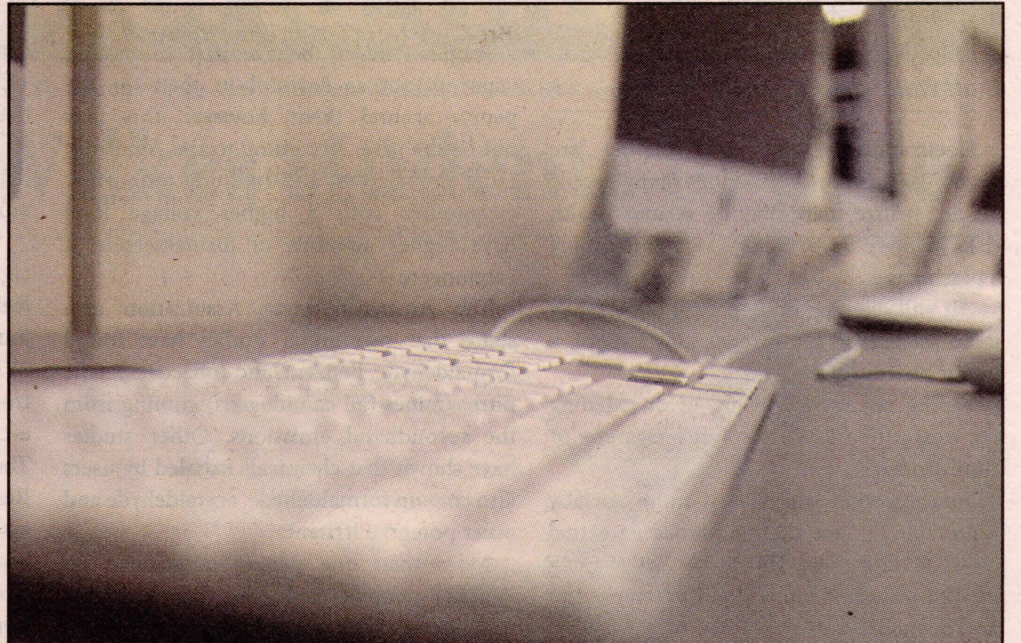
"I encourage those students that are having problems to reach out," said Vice President of Student Affairs Paul Adams. "There might be an easy fix or something we can help with."

Although many students have expressed feelings of dissatisfaction with the registration process, Hritzak and Adams agree that it has improved greatly over the years. Most recently, registration time has moved up from midnight to 10 p.m. to better accommodate students.

They both acknowledged that there is always room for improvement, which is also a point that Karen Taylor, interim director of financial aid, agrees upon.

"It's much better to be proactive than reactive," Taylor said. "We've taken a look at how we reach out to students."


Taylor went on explain how the financial



The Beacon/ Archives

aid office plans to send continuous email blasts to students about their financial status until they address any present issues, so as to encourage them to stay on top of it and avoid those issues during registration time.

Visit student services or email Susan Hritzak for registration guidance at Susan.Hritzak@wilkes.edu.

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## Wilkes ranked 25th in nation for economic value Economist study focuses on salary of graduates

Courtesy of Marketing Communications

Wilkes University is ranked 25 in the nation for economic value by the international newspaper The Economist. The ranking was announced in the publication's first-ever college rankings.

The ranking determines a college's economic value by comparing what a school's undergraduate alumni earn and how much they might have earned had they studied somewhere else. In Wilkes' case, that amounts to \$8,250 more in annual earnings.

The Economist's analysis included a median salary for graduates predicted in its model for each of the 1,275 colleges included in its rankings. The salaries are predicted as what graduates would earn 10 years after entering college.

Each college received an "over/under" score – showing if earnings ranked above or below expected earnings if they attended

another school. In Wilkes' case, expected earnings are \$41,650. The median earnings projected by The Economist are \$49,900, showing that attending Wilkes boosts the earnings power of its graduates above expectations at +\$8,250.

Wilkes University Provost Anne Skleder said the new ranking reflects that Wilkes is a good investment. "Our students and their families know the value of a Wilkes education – in outstanding teaching, in the research and internship opportunities provided to undergraduates and the mentoring by faculty that helps to guarantee student success. The Economist's ranking affirms that value by showing that our students exceed expectations in their earnings. This is especially important in light of our mission to educate students who are the first in their family to attend college."

The Economist's rankings use the U.S. Department of Education's new College Scorecard data as a starting point. To arrive at the over/under comparison, the newspaper used a variety of variables, including average SAT scores, sex ratio, race breakdown, college size, socioeconomic data, whether a university was public or private, and the mix of subjects students chose to study. The result is a ranking that recognizes value above reputation, listing Wilkes above institutions such as MIT and Penn State.

Using the publication's model, Wilkes fared well based on such variables as fields of study offered and its dedication to educating disadvantaged students – often the first in their family to attend college. The Economist listed pharmacy, business and engineering as among the most desirable fields of study for predicting future success – all majors offered at Wilkes. And the number of Pell Grant-

eligible students at Wilkes – more than 30 percent of undergraduates – indicates the University is offering opportunity to the most economically disadvantaged students. Following graduation, many will earn above their family's income. Successful outcomes are affirmed by the fact that 95 percent of Wilkes alumni have found a job or entered graduate school one year after graduation.

The Economist's ranking is the latest in several value rankings Wilkes University has earned. The University was ranked highest in Pennsylvania in MONEY magazine's "Best Colleges for Your Money." The New York-based financial technology company Smart Asset recently ranked Wilkes among the top schools where graduates earn the highest starting salaries. Wilkes also was ranked as one of the top 20 Pennsylvania colleges with the greatest lifetime return on investment by the web site AffordableCollegesOnline.org.



# Vaping on campus: Passing fad or here to stay?

By Meghan Burns  
Staff Writer

Electronic cigarettes and vaping are becoming a national trend, but many people do not realize there may be serious health risks involved. Others hope vaping is simply a passing fad.

"It will die out soon because there really is no set market for it," said Katy Campf, a junior pharmacy student.

Vaping refers to drawing in or exhaling the steam (or vapor) from an e-cigarette or similar device.

Some people believe it is more socially acceptable to vape than to smoke an actual cigarette in public. This is because vaping produces a water vapor cloud as opposed to actual smoke.

People tend to believe that this water vapor is not as harmful to them or the people around them, however, this may not be the case. According to the American Lung Association, a 2014 study found that e-cigarettes with a higher voltage level have higher amounts of formaldehyde, a carcinogen.

The American Lung Association also states that two initial studies have found formaldehyde, benzene and tobacco-specific nitrosamines (all carcinogens) coming from the secondhand emissions. Other studies have shown that chemicals exhaled by users also contain formaldehyde, acetaldehyde and other potential irritants.

More than one person questioned on Wilkes' campus said they believed that vaping was just water vapor and didn't

contain toxins, as in cigarettes.

Many vape shops use the advertisement that vaping can help a person stop smoking. Answers varied when students were asked if they believed vaping was an effective way to quit smoking.

"Everybody I know who vapes still smokes cigarettes because they don't get the same feeling from vaping," said Michael Kosik, a junior. "I do not think it is effective."

The American Lung Association is troubled about unproven claims that e-cigarettes can be used to help smokers quit. The FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research has not approved any e-cigarette as a safe and effective method to help smokers quit.


As vaping is becoming more and more popular, one question remains: is vaping a

passing fad or is it here to stay? It appears as though students at Wilkes believe it is just a passing trend.

"As for those who aren't smokers and are just following the trend, they'll get bored of it soon enough," said Sia Geiser, a junior. "However, I feel more and more smokers will transition over to vaping."

At Wilkes, feelings toward vaping are mixed, though a few students took issue with having to walk through the exhaled vapor. In general, however, students believe it is the user's choice.

"I think everyone should do what works best for them," said Allison Nelson, a sophomore nursing student.

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## Weird News

By Gabby Glinski  
Asst. News Editor

### IOWA

Ross McDonald, 39, was stopped by a police officer for going the wrong way down a one-way street around 3 a.m. Police said McDonald was "extremely confused" and was wearing a Halloween costume and had bar wrist bands on. Police took McDonald to the University of Iowa Department of Public Safety's processing room where he tried to eat toilet paper in an attempt to interfere with the breathalyzer.

### LOUISIANA

Otha Anders, 73, cashed in 45 years worth of saving pennies which totaled more than \$5,000. Anders brought 15 five-gallon water jugs full of pennies to the bank. After counting for five hours, the exact total was found to be \$5,136.14. Anders said he'll use that money towards a recent dental bill.

### MASSACHUSETTS

A garage in the upscale Beacon Hill neighborhood of Boston is offering a single parking spot for \$650,000. The space has a roomy 171-square-feet, complete with floor stripes and ample room to maneuver.

Parking is notoriously scarce in the neighborhood. Homes in the area are known to have been sold for up to \$10 million, sans parking.


### VERMONT

A Vermont company is creating Bernie's Briefs in support of Bernie Sanders. The underwear, which features Sander's face and the message "Feel the Bern," is available for both men and women. 10% of the proceeds from the underwear will go toward the Yellow Ribbon Fund, which supports injured veterans.

### NEW YORK

Gianclaudio Marengo, a New York City Marathon runner from Italy, was found after he went missing after finishing the race. Marengo survived on pizza and slept in the street for two days before being found by an off-duty police officer riding the subway. The runner speaks little English and is a former heroin addict, described by his rehab clinic as a "fragile person." His racing bib, which he was still wearing when found, was registered to another runner, a detail police are investigating.

credit: pahomepage.com

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

## Vince Insalaco keeps Wilkes students in tune

By Amanda Bialek  
Staff Writer

"Music doesn't lie," according to the famed guitarist Jimi Hendrix. "If there is something that needs to be changed in this world, then it can only happen through music."

Learning how to play an instrument is a way for people to think, relax, make a change and enjoy the secret language behind the notes. If you have ever thought about learning how to play guitar, Vincent Insalaco is the teacher to take a class from at Wilkes University.

Insalaco started playing the guitar at eight years old. When he turned 15, he began taking classical guitar lessons at the university from George Sprenglemeyer.

"I just always wanted to play," Insalaco said. "My parents weren't really musicians but they loved music. My dad would always have the rock and roll station on whenever we went anywhere."

Insalaco admits that he begged his parents for guitar lessons ever since he could speak.

Since the fall of 2008, Insalaco has been giving private guitar lessons to Wilkes students and also teaches children through the Conservatory. By signing up for the Music 100 course, students receive private lessons from Insalaco.

When registering for one credit, a student gets a half-hour lesson from him once a week. By registering for two music credits, students are provided with a one-hour private lesson a week.

Insalaco said that the curriculum for his course is based on what the student is interested in learning.

As a guitar teacher, Insalaco finds it very rewarding seeing the progress of his students. He said that it is also a great stress relief for them and a break from the heavy college curriculum.

One of his former students took lessons from him in high school. Insalaco said she



The Beacon/Jesse Chalnack

Vincent Insalaco serves as a guitar instructor at Wilkes University. His passion for music has inspired Insalaco to teach students of all ages. He encourages everyone to continue learning new talents.

came into one lesson in particular after having a really rough day at school and he showed her something new on the guitar.

"She really took to it, and she got really happy and said (she was) going to go home and not cry," Insalaco said. He feels that turning someone's day around and helping them in a small way is very rewarding.

Insalaco teaches students of all ages. His youngest student is five years old and his oldest is in their sixties.

"Always keep learning and always try to keep taking lessons from someone," Insalaco said. "The more you think you know the more you realize you don't.

Always keep working at it."

Insalaco has been playing guitar for 21 years and says he enjoys playing jazz and rock and roll music the most. He also fronts a band, Mobile Meth Lab Explosion, with a former guitar student, Mike Kapolka.

In addition to guitar, he also plays bass, banjo, mandolin, ukulele and piano.

Aside from music, Insalaco also hosts a trivia night on Thursday evenings at 9 p.m. at Bart and Urby's. There are seven questions per round and a total of five rounds for the night. A different prize is awarded to the winner of each round with the final grand prize being a \$75 cash

award.

The trivia night is free to play for anyone 21 years or older. There are a variety of trivia questions ranging from movies, history, current events and much more.

On other nights during the week, Insalaco can be found playing guitar or helping with the sound at Bart and Urby's.

For more information on the lessons offered at Wilkes, potential students are asked to contact Vincent Insalaco via e-mail, at [vincent.insalaco@wilkes.edu](mailto:vincent.insalaco@wilkes.edu).



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# Pharmacy students gaining statewide attention

## Members of Wilkes University's PPA chapter bring home award

By Nicole Zukowski

Life, Arts &amp; Entertainment Editor

It is through good communication and campus outreach that clubs and organizations grow.

One organization on campus has created such a valuable image that its membership has gone up and its efforts have not gone unnoticed.

The Wilkes Nesbitt School of Pharmacy student chapter of Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association (PPA) has been recognized for its successful membership recruitment, retention and active involvement within PPA.

"A huge part of PPA is advocating for the profession of pharmacy. We need to be aware of the issues facing pharmacy and advocate for our profession, and PPA provides the tools and information necessary to do that," Ashley Robold, PharmD candidate class of 2017, said.

"If pharmacy students and pharmacists don't advocate for the profession of pharmacy, no one will," Robold continued.

The student group recently received a commemorative plaque and a \$200 cash prize when members attended the association's Annual Conference in Grantville, PA.

The deciding committee for this award takes into account the chapter's number of activities they hold to gain memberships.

Members of PPA are dedicated to promoting pharmacy through creative and innovative efforts. Some examples of activities PPA has done over the years have to do with promoting the profession through advocacy, education and communication to enhance patient care and public health.

"During Pharmacy Week we held a Mocktail Party along with another pharmacy club (APhA-ASP) in which we encouraged

students to join the organization," Trina Patel, fourth year pharmacy major said.

"Also, myself and the vice president went to the first year pharmacy students' class and briefly talked about the organization and handed out membership forms. We made sure everyone had a form."

Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association is a professional membership organization of more than 2,000 pharmacists and pharmacy students across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, representing almost all facets of pharmacy practice.

The value of joining this organization

lays in networking and experience opportunities.

"There are many leadership opportunities in our chapter as well as on a state level. We are one of the cheapest pharmacy clubs to join (\$20 per year)," Patel said.

"We have two conferences in PA in which students can network with other students and pharmacists and learn more about pharmacy. Also, many Wilkes pharmacy professors go to these conferences."

Patel also added that PPA offers "a lot of SD-IPPE opportunities which is required in pharmacy school to obtain a

certain number of hours and participate in meaningful projects, like educating children about medication safety."

For more information on PPA, contact the chapter's student president, Jennifer Smith at Jennifer.smith8@wilkes.edu.

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Courtesy of Marketing and Communications

The award recognizes the pharmacy school that succeeds in increasing on-campus involvement within the Pennsylvania Pharmacy Association. Pictured, from left to right, are Ashley Robold, Kristen Lopatofsky, Trina Patel, Jennifer Smith and Elizabeth Walters.



## Campus organizations bake to raise money for non-profit, education

By Nicole Zukowski  
Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

Many famous authors, politicians, public figures, musicians and proclaimed humanitarians have all spread the thought that one person could change the world; one action could make a difference.

One cupcake could give a girl an education, or at least contribute to a fund that gives girls access to education in developing countries.

The Women's and Gender Studies Department and Psi Chi, the international psychology honors society, sold tie-dye cupcakes in the SUB on Nov. 5 as a way to participate in a national bake-off for the non-profit organization, She's the First.

She's the First has a mission to raise money in order to fund the education of girls in developing countries so that they can be the first in their family to graduate high school.

"This event emphasizes and raises awareness about the importance of education," explained Anna Podrasky, president of Psi Chi. "With 'She's the First,' it is about sending a girl, particularly the first in her family, to school. One simple fundraiser could give a girl a chance at a better life."



The Beacon/Nicole Zukowski

Members of Psi Chi and Women's and Gender Studies department are pictured participating in She's the First organization's national bake off last Thursday in hopes of raising \$400.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization reports that of the 104 million children between the ages of 6-11 that are not in school, about 58 percent are girls. One of the reasons girls' education is not as valued

as boys' education is that families and communities believe the cost to educate a girl will not result as high of a return as that of a boys education.

"When you see how much good and progress is achieved when girls have access to education, it is so astounding. You could help break the cycle of poverty in one generation when you educate girls," Jennifer Thomas, chair of the women's and gender studies department.

Thomas goes on to explain that mothers will invest more back into their families, resulting in her children being better fed, more likely to receive medical care when ill and more likely, themselves, to receive an education.

Plan UK, a branch of the global children's charity Plan International, found that for each dollar a mother earns, she will invest 80 cents back into her family, while fathers invest only 30 cents. Investing in girls' education, in return, means investing in the health and well being of future generations of girls and boys.

"Psi Chi has been taking part in this national fundraiser for a few years now because it is something we find really important. We strive to meet our goal every year because the impact of us doing so really does change someone's life," said

Abby Boltz, senior psychology major.

Last year, the group raised \$360 at the event, which was enough to sponsor a girl named Mary.


Mary is an 18-year-old girl from Tanzania who was, at the time, going into her junior year of high school thanks to the funds that the Women's and Gender Studies Department and Psi Chi raised from their cupcake sales.

This year the goal is \$400, and Thomas mentions "100% of the profits will go towards funding a girl's education."

The Wilkes groups are going to wait two weeks before sending the money to She's the First in case anyone who may not have been able to attend the bake sale would like to donate to the cause.

If interested in donating to the cause, contact Thomas via e-mail, at [jennifer.thomas@wilkes.edu](mailto:jennifer.thomas@wilkes.edu), or Anna Podrasky via e-mail, at [anna.podrasky@wilkes.edu](mailto:anna.podrasky@wilkes.edu).

For more information on the non-profit organization and more information about female education access around the world, those interested are asked to visit the organization's website, [ShesTheFirst.org](http://ShesTheFirst.org).

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The Beacon/Nicole Zukowski

Many fun and colorful cupcakes were sold in efforts to give girls access to education.



# Wilkes theatre performance something to 'Shout!' about

By Nicole Zukowski  
Life, Arts and Entertainment Editor

Wilkes theatre students are scheduled to sing their way back to the swinging mod years in the upcoming performance of "Shout! The Mod Musical."

Shout! will be performed by the Wilkes University Theatre from Nov. 13 through Nov. 22 at the Dorothy Dickson Dart Center for the Performing Arts. Monday through Saturday performances will begin at 8 p.m., while Sunday performances will begin at 2 p.m.

Joshua Shepard is a performing arts major at Wilkes Univeristy. He has been cast to play a main character, known as 'Red'.

"I'm really excited for the show and all that hard work we've put in to it," Shepard said. "I know the audience is going to leave with a smile on their face."

The storyline follows the lives of five people who are all identified as a color; Orange, Blue, Green, Yellow and Red; Each character receives life advice through their interactions with writing into a magazine. The show is set within the 1960s and serves as a looking glass into London's changing gender roles.

The musical welcomes audience members with the performances of featured songs including "Downtown," "These Boots Are

Made For Walking" and "To Sir, With Love."

Philip George and David Lowenstein created the original musical to be centered on the lives of five females, but the Wilkes performing arts students decided to take a different approach to the original play.

"The major difference in the character, Red, is that she is now a he," Shepard said. "The reason for the change is because it adds an extra layer to the show. Even though Red is being played by a male, the plot of the character is still the same; Red is just trying to find an identity."

Shepard added that he hopes the audience will "rejoice that my character has let his wings soar" by the end of the showing of Shout! The Mod Musical.

The performance is under the direction of Teresa Fallon with Ken McGraw serving as the director of music.

Admission is \$10 for the general public, \$5 for students and seniors, and free for all Wilkes students, faculty and staff with identification.

For more information, please call the box office at 570-408-4540.

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Courtesy of the Wilkes University Department of Performing Arts

## HUMANS OF WILKES UNIVERSITY



### The Beacon/Alexandra Devarie

"Over the summer I had the opportunity to do research with Dr. Stratford. My daily routine included getting up at five in the morning and going to state owned sites. Most of them were open grasslands because Dr. Stratford is doing a large research project about building food webs for different grasslands. It was a great experience, and I'm really glad that I have been awarded the opportunities that I have. Recently I was accepted into the early assurance bachelors of Science Medical Doctorate program at Penn State Medical School. I applied after high school, and didn't get in. I think one of the major reasons was that I didn't have enough experience but after coming to Wilkes, I was awarded opportunities to take on leadership roles, research and teaching which I did in the Dominican Republic. This really allowed me to build my resume so the second time I interviewed I was accepted."

-Amanda Schall



# A "Project" with an important message

## Alumni to star in and direct The Laramie Project at Little Theatre of Wilkes-Barre

By Toni Pennello  
Staff Writer

Matthew Shepard was born on Dec. 1, 1976.

On Oct. 7, 1998, the 21-year-old University of Wyoming student was brutally attacked, kidnapped and tortured. He was then tied to a fence and left to die just outside his hometown of Laramie, Wyoming.

Shepard was gay.

He stayed tied for 18 hours, his face covered entirely in blood except where his tears washed some away, until he was discovered unconscious.

On Oct. 12, 1998, the son of Judy and Dennis Shepard was pronounced dead at a Fort Collins, Colo. hospital.

During the year after the hate crime, Moises Kaufman and members of the Tectonic Theater Project interviewed more than 200 people from Laramie; the interviews were written into a play entitled *The Laramie Project*, which will make a local appearance beginning Nov. 14 at the Little Theatre of Wilkes-Barre. The theatre is located at 537 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre.

"It's about the first documented hate crime that was brought to the attention of the nation," said Deirdre Lynch, the show's director and 2008 Wilkes graduate. "It's about how a murder, whether it was a homosexual hate crime or a heterosexual murder, affects a town."

Lynch was a part of the last local performance of this show, which took place at Wilkes in 2006.

"All of us were about the same age so we all had the same kind of views going on about the show. Here, we get to have people from all different walks of life get exposure to this show," she explained.

Lynch hopes it will be a poignant and thought provoking experience for those attending. Wilkes students can attend the show for free; all they need is their student ID card and WIN.

"It's definitely going to be an emotional show, and that's a good thing. When I did it at Wilkes, there was not a moment when we were not crying on stage," Lynch continued.

Maureen Hozempa, who graduated from Wilkes in 2007, will be performing in the play. She feels that it is an important production for the Wilkes-Barre community



Courtesy of On My Cue Photography

Some members of the *The Laramie Project* cast include, from left, Meg Davis, Scott Colin, Maureen Hozempa, Tom Franko, Shelley Bartolomei, John Creel and David Giordano. The show is directed by Deirdre Lynch. The *Laramie Project* opens on Nov. 14. Wilkes University students receive free admission with their student ID and WIN.

specifically.

"In this area we definitely have that [LGBT] community, and it's getting stronger with all of the support, but there's still so much that people need to learn and still so much that people need to know and understand," she explained. "Any kind of awareness we can raise on the subject is important."

Hozempa is eager to be involved in such a dramatic and heavy-hitting production.

"It's very rewarding to work with something that's so emotional and so important, and still something that's so real, and still happening."

In addition to Lynch and Hozempa, there is another Wilkes connection in the production. Dr. Tom Franko, an assistant professor of pharmacy practice, is also

acting in the show.

"We really want to work with the colleges to spread this work," he said. "Colleges are sort of our pillars of tolerance and bringing out new thoughts and beliefs, and what a great thought and belief to bring out with this show."

Franko finds the play unique and compelling.

"Unlike other shows where you're playing someone who is fictitious or someone who is long dead, the majority of these people are still alive," he explained. "They are all real. These are actual words that people said as close as 18 years ago. This is really powerful stuff."

The possibility of controversy is not lost on Franko.


"Is it going to upset some people? Yeah.

But it should. I think it's going to open people's eyes to the importance of treating everyone with the same amount of respect and dignity that they expect."

More information, including casting, can be found on The Little Theatre of Wilkes-Barre's website, [www.ltwb.org](http://www.ltwb.org). The show will run at 8 p.m. on Nov. 14, 20 and 21. There will also be a 3 p.m. show on Nov. 15 and 22.

For additional information on Shepard, or to read about the Matthew Shepard Foundation, go to [www.matthewshepard.org](http://www.matthewshepard.org).

According to its website, the foundation's mission is "to erase hate by replacing it with understanding, compassion and acceptance."

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# Veteran's Day Parade takes place in downtown Wilkes-Barre



All photos The Beacon/Austin Ely

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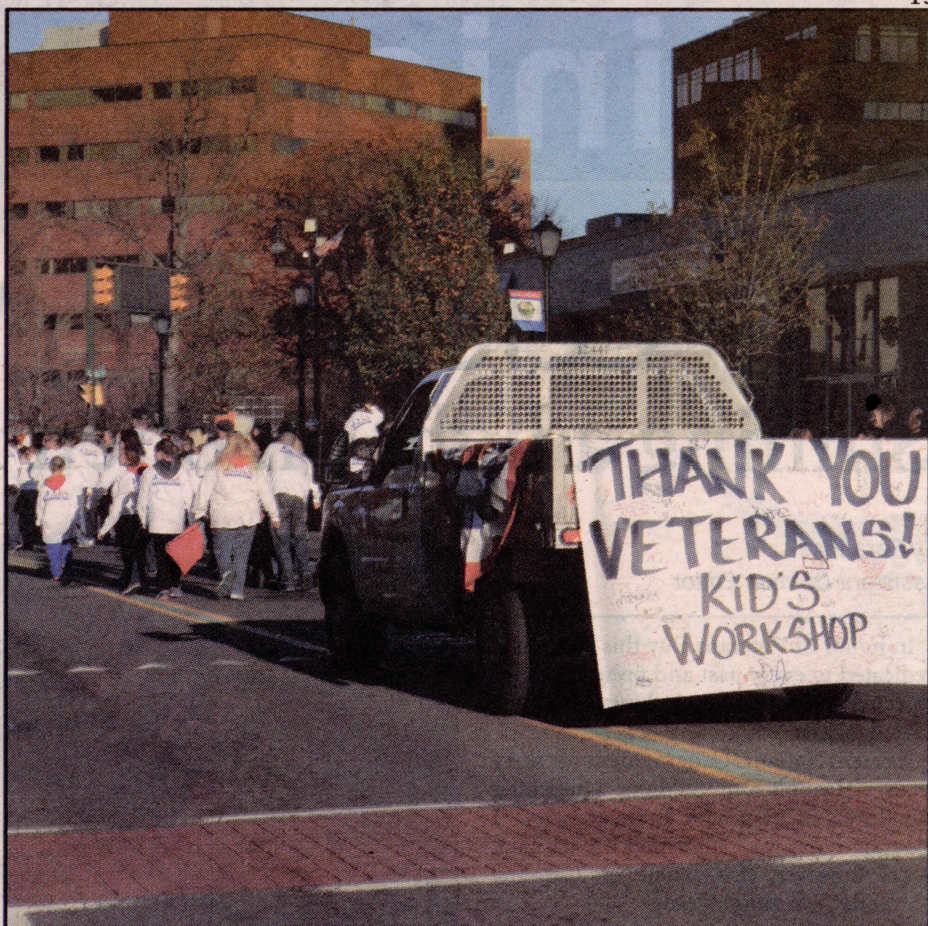
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# Opinion

Have an opinion or want to write a guest column? Contact the opinion editor: [sara.pisak@wilkes.edu](mailto:sara.pisak@wilkes.edu)

## Celebrating Veterans Day Shining a light on often ignored veterans' issues

By Sara Pisak  
Assistant Opinion Editor

In honor of Veterans Day this column is dedicated to every past and present soldier especially those who are lacking a voice for self-advocacy.

A recent National Geographic cover story reads: "Healing Our Soldiers: Unlocking the Secrets of Traumatic Brain Injuries." I thought I was well-informed on national issues however, this article by Caroline Alexander was enlightening.

The article started me thinking, how many of us know exactly what happens during a Traumatic Brain Injury or (TBI)? Summarizing Alexander's article, even though many soldiers may not be directly on top of a blast zone, they experience shock waves from the blast that ripple through their bodies and enter their brains. According to research, kinetic energy can affect soldiers who are standing hundreds or thousands of feet away from the initial blast.

Using research to educate, Alexander states, there is "an increase in intracranial pressure and the brain motion relative to the skull. The blast wave, or overpressure, affects the brain immediately upon impact with the skull. Brain motion can occur hundreds of milliseconds after impact."

In simpler terms, these wavelengths from blasts enter the brain and increase the pressure. The result is the brain of the soldier moves like that of a bobble-head.

As time progresses, even years after a blast, a breakdown of neural connections occurs. Think of thousands of strings running through your brain making connections in every direction from top to bottom. Now imagine hundreds of these strings never reach the top of your brain.

These missing connections can lead to decreased motor function, depression, seizures, psychological problems such

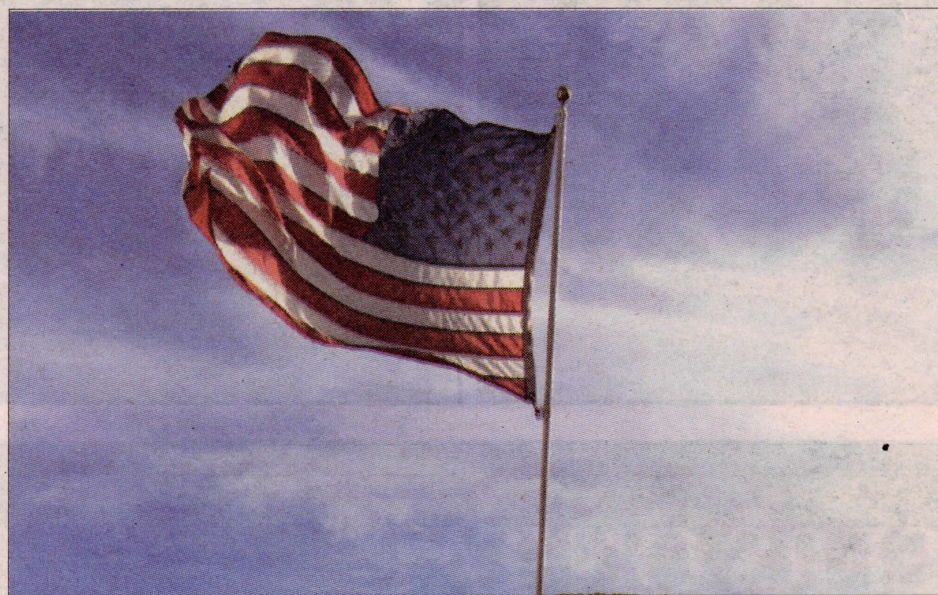


Photo by Sara Pisak

as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other symptoms. Soldiers can go from experiencing none of these symptoms to all of a sudden experiencing several of them. These broken neural connections indicate soldiers are often unable to articulate their experiences and symptoms.

Upon returning home, TBIs are not the only problem soldiers face. The National Coalition for the Homeless lists the startling statistic that between "130,000 to 200, 000 soldiers are homeless on any given night."

The National Coalition goes on to state that funding for homeless veterans often allows for only "8,000 beds." This means that 34 percent of the total homeless population are veterans. With funding, greater than 120,000 veterans (conservatively calculated) are left without beds, a home cooked meal and other basic necessities.

Also as recently as last April, CNN published a story exposing the Phoenix Veterans Health Care System as having 1,400 to 1,600 ill veterans on a waiting list

for care.

When soldiers return home they encounter the challenges brought on by TBI, homelessness and inadequate funding. Often this is an invisible battle that is difficult to understand.

Since TBIs are often not perceived by the larger community, the injury is repeatedly overlooked. As we habitually assume "seeing is believing," leaving soldiers without proper care.

Soldiers are required to enter the horrific conditions of war and society ignores the veterans' homelessness, injuries (both physical and mental) and other ghastly conditions upon their return. It seems the majority of society, especially those who control government funding and research only acknowledges soldiers' sacrifices on national holidays.

By educating ourselves, we as a society can work to improve funding to further research the condition of TBI and work to decrease the number of injured, homeless

and unemployed veterans.

As a society, we can become part of the solution instead of part of an ongoing problem of cataloging all veterans into media stereotypes and ignoring their physical and emotional necessities.

We can work to make every day, a day where our veteran's contributions are valued, appreciated and respected.

A sincere thank you to all those who served and are currently serving in our Armed Forces.


**What do you think?**

What are some ways we can make a difference in local Veteran's lives?

Is the government doing enough to help Veterans?

A personal story of a Veteran who made an impact on your life or the community.

**Tell us on Twitter @ wilkesbeacon**

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# Colonels Talk Back

## Proper filtering or harsh censorship?

Interviews by  
Luke Modrovsky

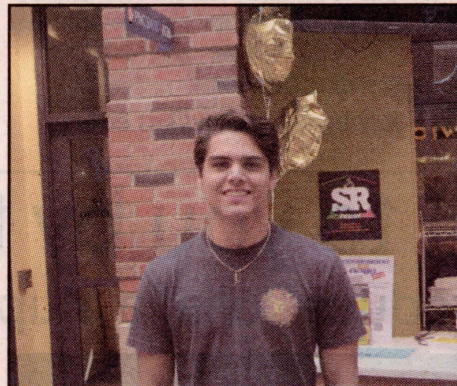
Photos by  
Jesse Chalnack

In a recent New York Times roundtable discussion, debaters discussed the First Amendment of the United States Constitution around college campuses. This week, students were asked if they felt universities around the nation were responding adequately, not enough, or too much regarding censorship on campuses.

The Beacon asked members of the Wilkes Community for a reaction to the news.

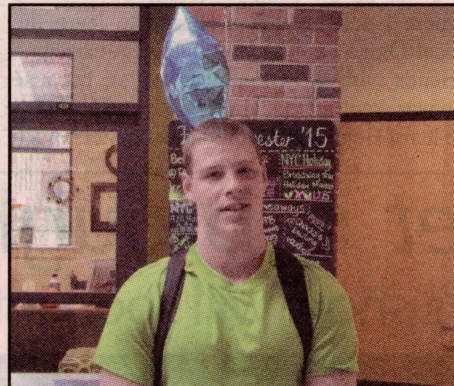
**Giuseppi Durso**  
Freshman  
Criminology

"I think different areas in the United States have different discretion. Schools out in California have different opinions compared to schools around here. We agree on blatant things, but not everything."



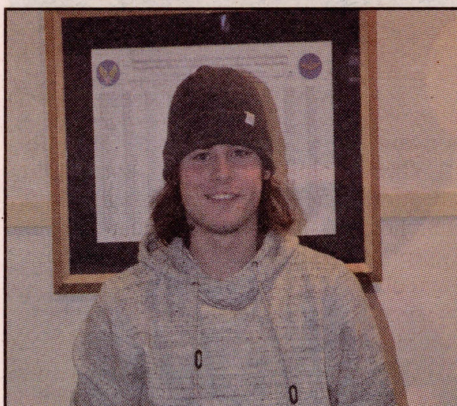
**Sean Ramsey**  
Sophomore  
Entrepreneurship

"I think schools are really cracking down on censorship, keeping kids with what they can say and what they can't say. We're losing a lot of free speech. [Schools] are on the borderline of doing too much."



**Glenn Weist**  
Sophomore  
Criminology

"I feel that in some cases schools are doing enough, but in other cases, they are doing too much. It depends on what kind of school you're at and how big the school the school actually is."



**Ashley Potkulski**  
Senior  
Musical Theatre

"I think they're doing a pretty fair job. I know I've had people come up to me and tell me about experiences that they've had in class where kids shouldn't be saying certain things, like they shouldn't be expressing certain opinions, but it is a free country."



**Morgan DeAngelo**  
Sophomore  
Nursing

"I feel schools censor what needs to be censored, but it doesn't really affect my daily life with the things that they do censor. That said, I think they are doing a good job in what can be done and what can't be."



**Caitlin Klinger**  
Freshman  
Early Childhood & Special Education

"In my opinion, it all depends on the school that you're at. I know there are some schools that are far more conservative and they'll definitely censor things. It can vary between Catholic, public, private and others as well."





## Reeves: Reflection on my time spent in the U.S. military

By James Reeves  
Guest Writer

*James Reeves is a Veteran of the United States Marine Corps and is currently a Wilkes University student.*

My 13 years in the United States Marine Corps can be described in one word, exhilarating.

Every time I got the chance to deploy was a whole new journey in life. From the day I went to recruit training in San Diego, CA to the time I received my DD214 (official paperwork allowing separation from the military) I was always excited and anxious to see what was around the corner.

For instance, when I deployed to Iraq for the first time we were going out to do fortification for the Forward Operating Bases and I actually got attached to Recon (intelligence gathering) and got the chance to sweep for caches.

Most people would look at that and think I drew the short straw, but tell me would you rather build things or play with explosives?

That's what I thought.

Also in my 13 year service I got a chance to visit over 15 countries and have been to every state in the U.S. except Wyoming and the Dakotas. I know for a fact that most of the people that I graduated high school with haven't even left (my home state) of Texas.

I spent an extensive amount of time in Japan. I learned the local language and became known as "Geijin" or foreigner in Japanese. They called me this because they were always surprised to see an American speaking their language.

I was on the southern Island of Okinawa where I actually got a chance to learn the local Okinawa Hōgen, language. I became friends with the Okinawan mayor, because he was wanting to learn English and I wanted to learn Hōgen. We would meet up with each

other and he would speak to me in broken English and I would speak to him in broken Hōgen.

I feel that my time in Okinawa was the most memorable because I actually got out into the cities and met people instead of just sitting on the base and doing nothing. I also learned a lot of history while I was stationed there.

One of the most crucial battles in WWII took place on this island. When you go on the battle sites tour they will show you caves where the Japanese would take the Okinawans to be executed as well as getting to see the old machine gun nest sites. It was very educational from a military standpoint.

It is one of the many reasons I am thankful for the experiences the military provided me.

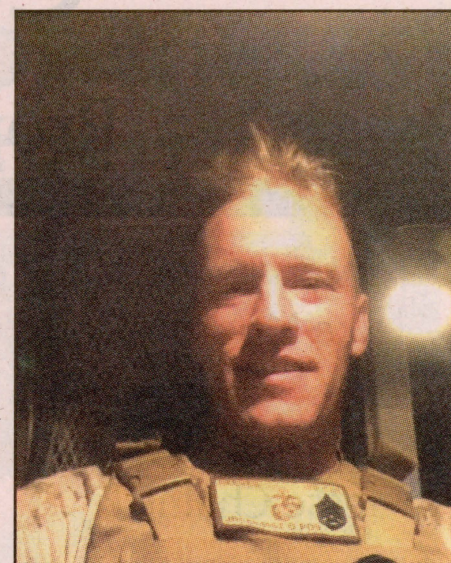


Photo by James Reeves. Taken in Afghanistan.

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## Sesame Street is brought to you by the letter "J"

The beloved children's show will soon introduce "Julia," a Muppet who has autism

By Allison Rossi  
Staff Writer

Sesame Street has been around for countless generations and is extremely well known. The show is loved by many children and has a great reputation. There is a lot of buzz regarding Sesame Street's new character.

Not only is the new character new to the show but this character is the first Muppet with autism. Elmo and Grover will have a new friend to hang out with and her name is Julia. Julia is orange with green eyes, and she is a part of Sesame Street's Autism Initiative program.

The website autism.sesamestreet.org is a website full of activities for the autistic community such as games, stories, apps and videos. The slogan is: "Celebrate the uniqueness of each and every child!" autism.sesamestreet.org explained: "See Amazing in All Children offers families ways to overcome common challenges and simplify everyday activities. At the same time, the project fosters an affirming narrative around autism for families and kids."

The new character is going to provide awareness for the autistic community around the world. Now people who are



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affected by autism (whether that be personally or other people in their life) obtain a better understanding of individuals who are impacted by autism in some way, shape or form.

The new character will help individuals relate to people diagnosed with autism and how there are many positive aspects to this diagnosis.

It is great that Julia is a female character as well. Some people who are not familiar with autism believe that autism can only affect boys but this is false.

Autism can and has affected both males and females across the world. This raises awareness and allows autism to be seen in a positive light.

"I think a Sesame Street character with

autism is a good idea simply because it shows kids at a young age that everyone should be treated as equals," said sophomore Nick Racanelli. "It brings awareness to those impacted and I think that it will have a great impact on others."

Autism is growing rapidly across the world, and is the fastest-growing developmental disability. According to the Autism Society, more than 3.5 million Americans live with an autism spectrum disorder.

In March 2014, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued an ADDM Autism prevalence report. The report stated that autism has increased to one in every 68 births in the United States.

Even though the character Julia will not be on the television screen this year, she will be there soon. This is a very positive impact that Sesame Street has created and hopefully this will create a domino effect on other television shows and movies.

Julia is going to be a great addition to the other characters on Sesame Street.

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## Redeployment: Snapshots of war; snapshots of experience

By Sara Pisak  
Opinion Editor

*Redeployment* is startling from its opening sentence: "We shot dogs" to the moment the metaphorical and the literal smokes clears in the final line, "where the silence, the stillness, would end."

*Redeployment* is a collection of 12 stories composed by Phil Klay. Klay was awarded the National Book Award for this compilation. I read this work in February to prepare for Klay's campus visit, private workshop and public reading. I desperately wanted to review this book when I first picked it off the shelf a month or so before Klay's visit. I decided against reviewing this text immediately in favor of allowing the startling images and disquieting diction to sink in. I am definitely glad I did not review this book after my first reading. Distance has granted me the ability to know I have not judged a book by its cover and my initial feelings of admiration towards this work have not faded or are not unfounded.

Most texts can be admired or defined by a single element or theme they strive to portray and portray well. For example, *To Kill a Mockingbird* is a revelation on race relations. *The Great Gatsby* showcases the decline of the fundamental American dream and 1984 warns against the ideology of a totalitarian system. It can be stated that *Redeployment* is primarily a work concerned with the fate of soldiers.

Classifying the work as war vignettes is not incorrect but slightly inaccurate. However, this novel covers most elements literary works try to showcase, ranging from family, race, religion, war and peace, while focusing on the plights and triumphs of the enlisted. Creating a novel which touches on various themes and subject matter is no easy task but Klay achieves this feat through the structure of short stories. *Redeployment* consists of 12 short stories effectively standing on their own, while overall complementing the consistent theme of showcasing the varying emotions of the enlisted.

Having served himself as a U.S. Marine Corps Public Affairs Officer in Iraq, Klay is able to construct profound individual works and a concise and meaningful collection that focuses on enlisted life. As a veteran, Klay is able to animate the emotions of his fellow soldiers through their character portrayal which would otherwise have gone unexperienced or unacknowledged.

The amazing aspect of the text is each short story illustrates a different race, religion or value of a different soldier through each varying voice within the text. Further illustrating no two people possess the same experiences; not all soldiers experience the

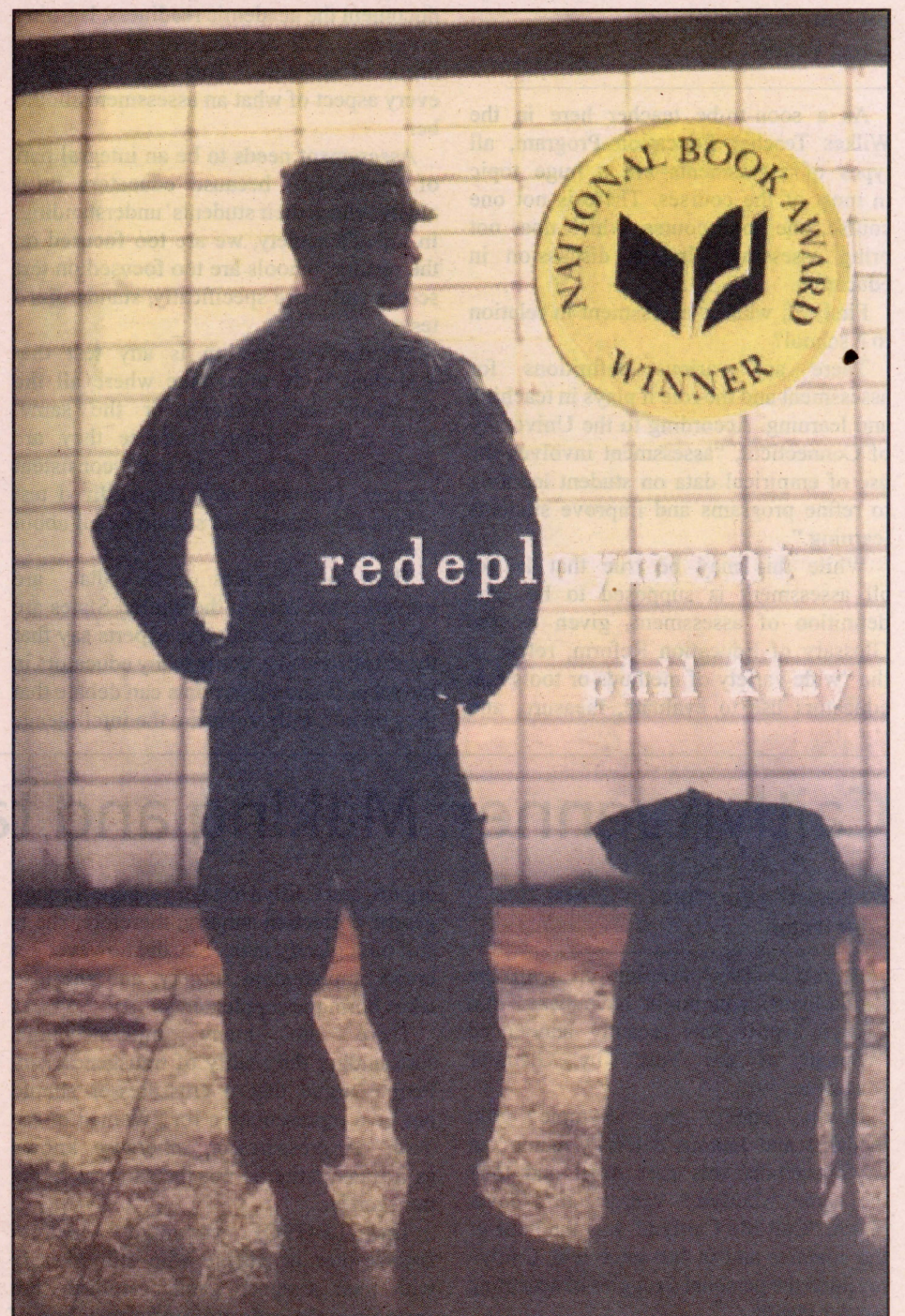
same elements of war. Sometimes I feel as a culture we struggle to understand the varying experiences of those who fight and defend our rights because of war's brutality. If we do not acknowledge societal or in this case, war's unpleasantness than they simply do not exist.

*Redeployment* allows the reader to view those enlisted and veteran personnel by the soldiers' experiences whether they are pleasing or disagreeable. Klay does not compose a character who is defined by the experiences of those around him/her. A character maybe influenced by the actions of others but these actions are not confined as the same occurrence. No one character in Klay's work has a monopoly on human experience.

Just as each story functions as both a separate entity and as a whole, so does each character. Klay's text showcases no one person, who serves their country, feels, loves or reacts the in the same matter. *Redeployment* demands each fictional character and their experiences remain separate and therefore, each actual soldier demands respect for their individual experiences.

While Klay and his characters demand respect, Klay does not gloss over the unpleasantness I spoke of previously. I remember very vividly during both Klay's private workshop and his public reading, several questions from students and audience member asking if Klay thought his striking images and sometimes profanity laden sentences pushed too many boundaries. I also recall Klay's answer each time someone inquired about his startling words. He stated, "These aspects deserve to be thought about because people carry these things with them." No matter the startling diction and the staggering images, *Redeployment* deserves to be read and discussed as the text brings to life moments soldiers will carry with them long after they leave a warzone. Nothing within this text is sugarcoated and the reader is fully plunged into the physical and psychological world of a soldier; a world they never expected. Many could find Klay's diction a reason to be offended and throw down *Redeployment*. *Redeployment* is too powerful and too real to be ignored.

Personally, three of the short stories that I felt contain the most poignant sentiments are: "After Action Report," "Bodies" and "Ten Klicks South." I challenge everyone to read *Redeployment* and not to be deeply affected by the experiences portrayed in this text. As academia and the reading public look to define the most recent cannon of literature, *Redeployment* looks to become the cornerstone.



Courtesy of Sara Pisak

### Sara's Score:



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# Too much testing: A potentially failing mark

By Jeanne Cannon  
Guest Writer

As a soon-to-be teacher here in the Wilkes Teacher Education Program, all types of assessments are a huge topic in most of the courses. There is not one course, one good course, which does not bring assessment into a discussion in education.

First off, what is assessment in relation to a school?

There are various definitions for assessment and the role it plays in teaching and learning. According to the University of Connecticut, "assessment involves the use of empirical data on student learning to refine programs and improve students learning."

While this may be true that is not all assessment is supposed to be. The definition of assessment, given by the Glossary of Education Reform, refers to the "wide variety of methods or tools that educators use to evaluate, measure, and

document the academic readiness, learning progress, skill acquisition, or education needs of students." This definition gives every aspect of what an assessment should be.

Assessment needs to be an integral part of instruction, because educators must always check their students' understanding. In today's society, we are too focused on the results; schools are too focused on test scores and more specifically, standardized tests.

Standardized testing is any test that a student body must take where all the questions are common or the same. It is called standard because they are supposed to be scored in some consistent manner. The point of a standardized test is for comparison, and should be all about growth.

The high stakes tests that are implemented here in the United States are always up for debate; test experts say that these tests are fair, while many educators in the schools and classrooms can debate that they do not, truly, measure the intelligence

of a student.

I am not an expert on testing but from what I have observed and discussed with many educators, these tests that have consumed our nation's education system. They have grown to dictate the teachers, students, administrators, and the curriculum in some public schools.

According to many students that I have discussed the standardized tests with said these tests are bullies. If a student can see that, why can't our government and leaders for education?

Many teachers have lost their ability to be creative in the classroom, since they are too focused on teaching test material. Also, the student's test scores are one of the most commonly used indicators of teacher performance. This means that teachers could potentially lose their job if their students do not have good or improving test scores.

There are so many other downfalls to these tests and I feel that it is time to reassess our system. Thank goodness that No Child Left Behind Act is no

longer implemented and the Obama administration has declared that the testing push has gone way too far. It is overkill with the amount of testing that is done and I am happy to see that our officials have at least recognized this.

Kate Zernike, writer for the New York Times, has published The Obama administration has declared that students should have less than 5 percent of classroom instruction for taking tests and this is their way to "reduce over-testing."

While this testing action plan may be nice, it is not enforced by any law but should it? Testing cannot be thrown out the window completely. It is essential to classroom instruction; the emphasis on it is what needs to be changed and it should not only be what educators do at the end.



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## Caitlyn Jenner: Making and taking steps toward tolerance

By Rebecca Voorhees  
Staff Writer

If you've been keeping up with the Kardashians, you might have heard that Caitlyn Jenner was recently announced "Woman of the Year" by Glamour Magazine.

Bruce Jenner, the Olympic gold medalist and famous celebrity, came out as transgender this past April and took the name "Caitlyn." Vanity Fair's cover photo, "Call Me Caitlyn," was the buzz of the summer and in her interview, Caitlyn revealed the personal struggles of accepting gender identity.

Being named "Woman of the Year" is a great honor, but lots of people are offended by Glamour Magazine's decision, especially since last year's winner was the prestigious and talented actress, Lupita Nyong'o.

But what is the cause of all this uproar and dispute? Caitlyn Jenner is a woman and uses female pronouns, but many claim otherwise.

A person's sex is defined by their sexual

organs, and Caitlyn has not yet gone through gender correction surgery; therefore, she is still biologically male. She did however get breast implantation surgery, and she also takes hormone supplements.

There are many misconceptions surrounding the reality of transgenderism. People argue that a crossdresser should not be a representative for "Woman of the Year." A crossdresser, otherwise known as a transvestite, is not the same as being transgender.

The LGBTQ+ community defines transvestites as people who still identify with their assigned gender at birth, but dress up as the opposite gender as a form of expression. A transgender person does not identify with the same gender they assigned, and they may dress as the "opposite" sex in effort to transition into their desired gender.

Women also feel that misogyny has resulted from Glamour magazine's decision. Nicole Russel, writer for The Federalist, stated, "By choosing Jenner as woman of the year, Glamour endorses the idea that men are better at being women than we are. Glamour is sending a clear message about

a new kind of feminist-driven patriarchy, who pushes women out of our spaces and expects submissiveness of their feminist enablers."

It is more than possible that Glamour Magazine could just be using Caitlyn Jenner as a cruel, and desperate ploy for attention. Publicity is business, and that is the reality of the media.

It does seem discouraging and lurid for Glamour Magazine to pick someone as controversial as Caitlyn Jenner for "Woman of the Year," but I believe they chose her with all of the right intentions.

Caitlyn Jenner struggled with transition for decades, and finally took the opportunity to better her life and well-being. In her Vanity Fair interview, she described what it felt like to be trapped in the lie she forced herself to live every single day.

"If I was lying on my deathbed and I had kept this secret and never ever did anything about it, I would be lying there saying, 'You just blew your entire life.'"

She may not exactly be the woman we are all looking for, but Caitlyn Jenner has helped society take one step closer

to tolerance, and her remarkable feat of courage will set an example for future generations to come.



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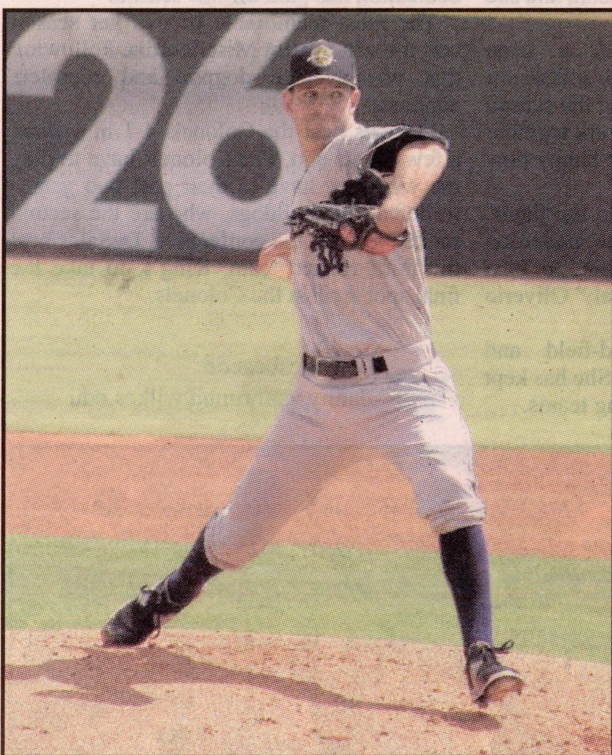
What do you think  
about Caitlyn  
Jenner being named  
Glamour's  
Woman of the Year?  
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# Sports

Want your sport covered? Contact the sports editor: Rachel.Leandri@wilkes.edu

## Matthew Wotherspoon: From the pitcher's mound to the classroom



Wotherspoon aims to strike out opponent for Riverdogs at a game earlier this year.

By Rachel Leandri  
Sports Editor

Matthew Wotherspoon may one day be starting for the Yankees, but until then, he is currently completing his college degree at Wilkes University.

A native of Mountain Top, Pa., Wotherspoon graduated from Crestwood High School in 2010. Having numerous scholarship offers from an array of schools, he chose the University of Pittsburgh to launch his college career.

"Matt is just a kid you root for," said Jerry Oakes, pitching coach for the University of Pittsburgh. Oakes has dealt directly with Wotherspoon during Wotherspoon's collegiate athletic career. "We've discussed the college ordeal when he signed his contract, and the most important thing we stressed is to make sure he obtains that piece of paper."

After three years of pitching at the collegiate level, Wotherspoon's first break

was when the Detroit Tigers drafted him out of Pittsburgh in his junior year. However, he turned the offer down by not signing so he was able to attend his senior year of college.

After his spring semester, Wotherspoon was drafted again, this time by the Yankees.

He signed his contract almost immediately and was sent to Tampa, Fla. for a few days, flew to Staten Island for the short season team within the Yankees organization where 90 percent of college athletes are sent to launch their careers.

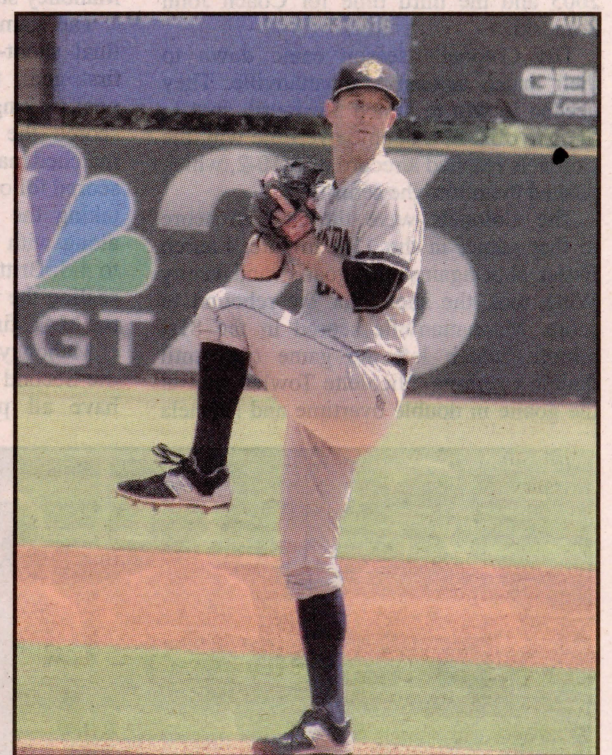
When out of season and not training Wotherspoon returns home to Pennsylvania where he remains productive within school and working. In 2014, Wotherspoon spent his off-season commuting to Pittsburgh once a week for a night class in addition to taking an online course.

Wotherspoon also worked part time at Orloski's Car Wash and Lube and provided baseball lessons to children and teenagers.

"It wasn't about the money for me," Wotherspoon explained. "I thoroughly enjoy teaching kids and helping them improve to

*"Naturally, baseball has always come easier to me than academics. But like anything in life, you get out what you put in. The effort I put forth matters the most whether it is my strikeouts on the field or the test grade I receive in the classroom."*

**-Wotherspoon**



Courtesy of Matthew Wotherspoon/Tim Klym  
Wotherspoon winding up in his pitch to opponent.

their greatest potential."

After spring training this year, Wotherspoon was sent to Tampa as a reliever then sent to Charleston, N.C. to play for the Riverdogs as a starter. He remained in Charleston before being called up for a spot start in Trenton earlier this year that is considered AA for the Yankees. Now in offseason, Wotherspoon is now taking his six final credits at Wilkes.

It was much more convenient to choose a local university close to home, Wotherspoon said.

Being involved with baseball for as long as he can remember, Wotherspoon feels his best memories come from his professional career playing for the Riverdogs.

"There's no better feeling than playing in Charleston on Thursday and Friday nights in front of 8,000 to 9,000 people, especially when it's firework night," he exclaimed. "The ball park is an awesome atmosphere and one of my favorite places to play."


With the perks also come the obstacles. Wotherspoon finds one of the most

challenging aspects of professional baseball to be the grind of playing 142 games in 156 days.

The adjustment of transitioning from a professional baseball player to a college student has not been the smoothest ride for Wotherspoon. Being in season half of the year from February to August, and out of season from September to January, the pace of schedule changes are difficult to digest.

"It is almost uncomfortable to sleep in my bed at home for the first two weeks of off season," he said. "From constantly being on a regimented schedule with a set daily routine, to coming home only having to focus on my courses takes me for a loop."

Though currently the main goal is to make it to the big leagues, Wotherspoon realizes that finishing his college education is paramount.

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# Soccer makes finals for the first time in 10 years

By Danny Van Brunt  
Asst. Sports Editor

The Women's Soccer team has battled its way through the playoffs to earn themselves a spot in the MAC Freedom title match. It is the first time the team made the finals since 2005 and the third time for Coach John Sumoski.

The Colonels' season came down to their match against Manhattanville. They needed to win to clinch the fourth spot in the playoffs. In a double overtime win, the Colonels reached a record of 6-10-2, which pushed them into the semi-finals.

The Colonels were the first to score in that game, in the 11th minute. Lauren Essler shot against the goalie, and Emily Wirth took the shot after the rebound to score. Manhattanville scored in the 81st minute, which left the game tied until double overtime. Nicolette Towlen shot at the goalie in double overtime and Micaela

Oliverio scored off the rebound to win the game. Kate Mahoney made six saves.

The Colonels entered the playoffs in the fourth spot, and had to face Misericordia who was in first place in the conference. Mahoney came up big, with 12 saves in the game. Misericordia's offense was pressing the Colonels for most of the game, but Mahoney stayed strong in the goal.

The game remained scoreless until the final shoot-out. Jess Benjamin scored the first goal, then Misericordia matched the goal making the score 1-1. Megan Lercara scored the second goal and it was also matched making the score 2-2. Elena Denger scored followed by a miss from Misericordia taking the lead 3-2. Ema Sabovic scored along with Misericordia bringing the score to 4-3. Brittany Gurreri scored the final goal sealing the victory and clinching the spot in the MAC finals against DeSales.

Mahoney, Oliverio and Denger all made the Second Team All-MAC Freedom. They have all performed well throughout the

season.

Mahoney's goal saving average ranks her fifth in the conference, and she has the third most saves. She has saved more than 10 goals in three games, and one of those games was the 12 saves against Misericordia. She also has six shut-outs during this season.

Oliverio has been the main offensive threat. She has five goals this season, and she leads the offense.

"We've grown together as a team throughout the season. We had a little bit of a rough patch in the middle of the season because we were struggling to work together as a team," Oliverio said. She is happy how far the team has come.

"It's so amazing to make it to the finals. Just the fact that we were the underdog made it ten times more exciting to beat Misericordia and play in the final," Oliverio said.

Denger anchored the mid-field and backline throughout the season. She has kept the shot count low from opposing teams.

"Although we lost some games, we were never beaten. I think that's a very key point because it shows our persistence and our inability to give up. I think the fact that we never let our record or the scores of some games trump our spirit is a key reason that we are in the position we are in," Denger said. Denger knows that her hard work and dedication has paid off this season.

The most memorable part of her season was the win against Misericordia. Following that was a huge dogpile and complete euphoria.

DeSales beat the Colonels 4-1 in a game a few weeks ago. The Colonels have to play the way they have in their past two games to defeat the Bulldogs, who are the second ranked team in the conference. DeSales beat the third ranked team, King's, to take the final spot against the Colonels.



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The women's soccer team cheers each other on as the starting lineup is announced at a home game.

Courtesy of Go Wilkes U

## Wilkes vs Kings football game preview: Continuing the rivalry

By Andre Spruell  
Asst. Sports Editor

On Saturday, Nov. 14, the Wilkes University football team will end their season taking on their rivals down the street: King's College.

The winner of the game will be able to carry bragging rights into next season and will gain the Mayor's Cup which King's will defend this year, as they beat the Colonels last year 27-21. Although the Colonels fought back hard in the fourth quarter, the rally was too late and the Colonels suffered a tough loss to end their season as a result.

The series has been evenly split the last six games, with the Monarchs winning the last two head to head meetings in close contests. The Colonels will attempt to turn the tide by notching a victory of their rivals. Both teams are struggling this season, as the Colonels are 1-7 while the Monarchs are a lowly 3-5 on the year. Getting a victory on Saturday Nov. 14 will be a solid way to end the season, while the losing team will have to swallow not capturing the Mayor's Cup for a whole year.

This game should be very intense, drawing huge crowds from both sides due to the

magnitude of the game and the rivalry. Not only is the game fun for the fans, the players always mark this games calendars when their schedule is released.

Some of the notable players for the Colonels on the defensive side that will play a big role in capturing a victory for Wilkes are the tandem defensive linemen Jason Ugwu and Michael Fitz, linebacker Tanner Stengel who leads the team with 99 tackles, and defensive backs Jared Powell and Isaiah Robinson who both hold down the secondary for the Colonels.

The offense for the Colonels will be led

by quarterback Ryan Dailey alongside his partner in crime, running back PJ Incremona. Some of the targets at Dailey's disposal are wideout William Deemer, who has been a scoring machine, and tight end Garrett Armstrong, who has stepped up tremendously this season.

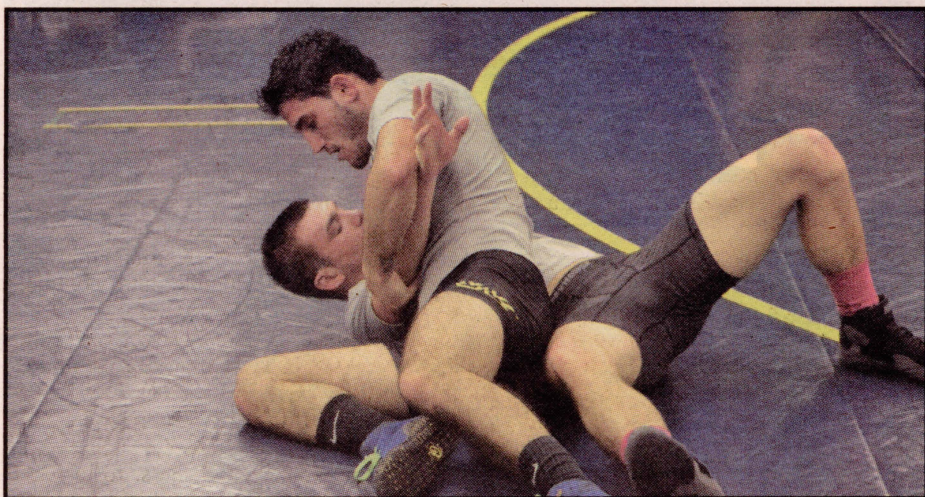
With the season almost coming to an end, the Colonels will look to end their season on a high note to kick off next season with a positive outlook.



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# Just another North Rockland tale: Jake Dimarsico



The Beacon/Purvit Patel

Dimarsico practices for the upcoming tournament at Kings College.

By Brandon Gubitosa  
Sports Writer

"The saddest thing in life is wasted talent," said Jake DiMarsico, quoting Chazz Palminteri from his favorite movie "A Bronx Tale."

DiMarsico grew up just outside of New York City, in Thiells, where he attended North

Rockland High School. He began wrestling in Middle School, after watching WWE and his friends Matt and Mike Caputo wrestle.

DiMarsico always dreamed of wrestling at the next level, and once he entered his junior year at North Rockland he began to realize that there was a strong chance that he would be able to compete in college. Junior year, he won his section title wrestling at 120 pounds,

and was beginning to get some attention after putting up an impressive season. He returned for his senior season as a section champ and ended up repeating as section champ wrestling this time at 132 pounds.

DiMarsico credits his performance trainer John Hoke for his success, as he put in the mindset of being the best and just not giving up and getting better every day. "Jake honestly has the most relentless work ethic in an athlete I have ever seen. He has a whatever it takes attitude to get better," said Hoke.

Hoke went on to tell a story about when Jake won his first section title. "He originally began the season wrestling at 132 pounds. Coach Swick and myself approached Jake with opportunity to drop down two weight classes to 120 pounds where we felt like he had the chance to win. Without hesitating he agreed to it and ended up winning the section title."

DiMarsico remembers that Hoke told him, "You have to be comfortable being uncomfortable." Jake was able to drop 12 pounds in under two weeks which was not an easy task.

"Everytime I work out or when I am in practice I push my body to its limits to get better. I don't cut myself short and look to get better one percent every day," DiMarsico said.

After his freshman year at Wilkes, DiMarsico took a year off from wrestling as he was preparing to transfer to Cortland University. In the end, he chose not to go.

"A lot of good successful D1 wrestlers take off a year and redshirt. They gain maturity for the sport," said DiMarsico when talking about taking off a year from wrestling.

DiMarsico finished his freshman year with a 10-9 record, and looks to improve on that record this upcoming season.

"When you wrestled in high school you could be going against wrestlers that you know you can easily defeat, compared to the competition as this level where there really is no easy match and every match is hard fought," said Jake describing the difference in competition from high school to college.

Last year, the Colonels sent 10 wrestlers to compete at the Eastern Regionals. Four of them went on to compete in the NCAA Championships. DiMarsico hopes to join them this season. He will wrestle at 141 pounds, joining five other Colonels competing for the top spot.

You can ask anybody from North Rockland, and they'll just tell you this is just another North Rockland tale.

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## Field hockey season recap

By Mark Makowski  
Sports Writer

Last Wednesday, the Wilkes field hockey team entered the MAC Freedom Tournament for a rematch with FDU-Florham. After last year's 1-0 loss, the Colonels looked to redeem themselves. However, FDU-Florham would again get the best of the Colonels and defeat them 4-1, ending their season.

Sophomore Forward Keighlyn Oliver provided the only offense for the team as she scored a goal in the 65th minute of the game.

Even though they had an early exit, the Colonels did however have a great regular season. They compiled a 10-9 record, and went 4-3 in conference play. This roster is filled with talent in every position; for a team that is only losing three seniors, this is a bright spot to build on. Oliver will be sad to see the leaders of the team go.

"Our seniors Lexi Thompson, Alexis Reed and Savannah McCauley led the team," she said. "They were great examples, friends and teammates who pushed us to get us to where we needed to be."

Next year, Junior Midfielder Maura Anistranski will be back on the field in full health after suffering a season ending injury

in the first conference game of the season.

Coach Sara Myers was not only impressed with her whole team this season, but what the teams of the next couple of years will look like. She has been impressed with freshman backs Hayley Gayoski and Alyssa Adams as well as goalkeeper Dallas Kendra.

"Haley is one of the most talented defenders in our conference. She is a solid force and she controls our defensive circle," said Coach Sara Myers.

"Alyssa Adams has been impressive as our left back," she continued. "Her speed, knowledge, and game sense make her a standout."

"Dallas Kendra has been our starting goal keeper all season. As a freshman, she has been put in many high pressure situations and has handled herself like a seasoned veteran. She is exactly what we needed this year."

Although her field hockey playing days for the Colonels have come to an end, senior forward Savannah McCauley has gathered a lot of memories not only while on the field but off it as well.

"I have a ton of awesome memories with this team," she explains. "A few of my favorites include our swimming pool workout this



The Beacon/Jesse Chalnack

Marissa Surdy prepares for the upcoming playoff game at a recent practice.

preseason, our costume practices, and our game against Eastern where we really came together as a team."

As the Colonels look forward to next season, they also must look back to this season. If you are not able to build chemistry and have every player out there giving their 100%, then success may not occur.

"This was the first team that I played on

that no one ever really considered each other as freshman, sophomore, junior or senior," McCauley explains. "We all viewed and respected each other as the same, and sometimes I would forget the age differences. I think that's what made the team so special."

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Getting to know...

# Cassie Morey

Senior Swimmer

By Purvit Patel  
Sports Writer

Cassie Morey majors in pharmacy at Wilkes University. From Chemung, NY, Morey is a butterfly/sprinter for the Women's swim team at Wilkes.

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

A: I was looking for a well-established pharmacy program that wasn't too far from home. When I visited Wilkes, I really liked the atmosphere and small campus, and I knew it was the right school for me.

Q: What are your post-graduation plans in terms of a career?

A: There are so many career options in pharmacy and I still have a few years to think about it, but as of now I see myself being a clinical pharmacist in a hospital or working with children as a pediatric pharmacist.

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

A: My personal goals for this season are to break my 100 yard and 50 yard butterfly records and have personal bests in my 100 yard and 50 yard freestyle. My goals for the Women's team are to be in the top eight this year at MACs and make the podium for all of our relays.

Q: When/Why did you first begin swimming?

A: I've always loved swimming but I didn't join a team until my freshman year of high school. I had a lot of friends who were on the team and I thought it might be something I would be good at and I ended up really loving it.

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

A: I would love to see an aquatics center built for the swim team. That may be unrealistic at this point but hopefully sometime in the future Wilkes will have their own home pool.

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

A: I played softball in high school, but I enjoy watching and playing all sports. I also like to do a lot of outdoor activities back home like golfing, four wheeling and fishing.

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

A: Definitely my parents. They always support me in everything I do and have always been there for me. They are both very hardworking and have given me so many amazing opportunities in life and I am so thankful for them.

Q: A quote you live your life by?


A: "Do something today that your future self will thank you for."

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

A: To me it means working hard in and out of the pool. Being Colonel is giving 100 percent in the classroom, at practice and at meets. It is about leading by example and building a team around comradery and sportsmanship.

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

A: I would choose Missy Franklin. She isn't from the past, but she is one of my biggest idols. She is only 20 years old and is a four-time Olympic gold medalist in swimming.

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The Beacon/Purvit Patel



Getting to know...

# Austin Paisley

Sophomore Swimmer

By Purvit Patel  
Sports Writer

Austin Paisley majors in pre-pharmacy at Wilkes University. From Sugarloaf, Pa., Paisley is a member of the Wilkes men's swim team as his position is a sprint swimmer.

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

A: I was entranced by both the pharmacy program and the nice people on campus.

Q: What are your post-graduation plans in terms of a career?

A: I hope to get a job as a hospital pharmacist.

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

A: My hopes for this season include getting MAC qualifying times for multiple events.

Q: When/Why did you first begin swimming?

A: I started swimming competitively for the first time in college. I missed sports and wanted to play one in college.

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

A: I would really like to see more students to come out to swim meets and athletic events in general.

Q: Do you have other sports/interest/hobbies out of the pool?

A: I like to play basketball, baseball and any kind of sport. I also enjoy spending time with my friends here on campus.

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

A: Siddhartha Gautama.

Q: A quote you live your life by?

A: "Life's too short to be anything but happy."

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

A: Show school pride and work hard both in the classroom and outside it.



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