

The Beacon/Laura Preby

## Color Wars a hit at Wilkes

To celebrate the Indian holiday of Holi, the festival of colors, the Wilkes Indian Cultural Association held Color Wars. The event involved throwing colored powder and water balloons. Seen above are Olivia Andersen, left, and Alex Paranc, right.

## StudentsFirst CEO to speak

*Rhee will deliver Rosenn Lecture on education*

BY TODD ORAVIC  
Staff Writer

As Wilkes celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Rosenn Lecture in Law and Humanities, the university welcomes its newest speaker. Michelle Rhee, founder and CEO of StudentsFirst, has been a driving force behind the betterment of education in the public school setting.

"[Rhee's] work, though controversial, is focusing the nation on issues that need to be brought to the table and discussed in a professional, informed manner," says Dr. Caroline Maurer, chair of Wilkes' education department. "We must all work to ensure that the children of America – whether in rural, urban or suburban schools – are provided with the best education possible."

Recognizing the monumental importance of teachers and teaching in the educational development of students, Rhee has helped develop a number of programs over the years in addition to StudentsFirst.

Two of these programs, Teach for America and The New Teacher Project, proposed new methods of hiring teachers as a way to ensure the continued practice of keeping students at the forefront in the world of education.

"Ms. Rhee has caused educators and non-educators alike to think about schools, school reform and brainstorm ideas about what we would do if we were in charge and expected to make big changes in low achieving schools," Maurer said.

After years of focusing much of her work in Washington, D.C., public schools which, according to the profile of Rhee on [www.StudentsFirst.org](http://www.StudentsFirst.org), represented "the worst performing school district in the country," Rhee was appointed by the mayor of Washington, D.C. to lead the school district towards reformation. An "unprecedented" growth in the test scores of students, enrollment numbers, attendance and graduation rates resulted



RHEE

because of the work she conducted in this district.

Rhee's lecture is to be held at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 1, in the Arnaud C. Marts Center on 274 S. Franklin St. Visit [www.StudentsFirst.org](http://www.StudentsFirst.org) for more information on the organization.

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## Student sexually assaulted in Stark Learning Center

BY KIRSTIN COOK  
News Editor

A Wilkes student was sexually assaulted in the Stark Learning Center basement last week. The incident occurred around 5:30 p.m. on April 11 in the women's rest room, Room 6.

Paul Adams, vice president of student affairs, said the female victim was not se-

verely injured during the attack. The victim described the attacker as a white male of traditional college student age, with long fingernails and wearing blue jeans and a T-shirt. Vicki Mayk, associate director of marketing communications, said a suspect has not yet been identified, but the university hopes for a successful investigation.

"I think certainly there's always the hope and concern of following up with an investigation that it might be possible to track a

suspect down, identify him," Mayk said.

Adams said the police investigation depends on participation from the victim, as she was the only witness. He said this type of assault is not a frequent occurrence on campus.

"It is an extreme incident and, thankfully, not something that happens with any regularity," Adams said.

The school is in the process of analyzing the event and determining what could have

been done differently, such as preventive measures to avoid future incidents.

"I think the university, certainly with any incident like this, you're going to look at the episode and evaluate it and think about what might have been done or what could be done going forward," Adams said.

An immediate response was an increase in Public Safety patrols on campus, especially

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### Technology in classrooms

Five professors received grants to use technology and enhance course content.

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University College offers tips on how students can best study and take upcoming final exams.

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### Young pianist's big gig

13-year-old Wilkes conservatory student Sienna Tabron played for the second time at Carnegie Hall in NYC.

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### Uniform Controversy

Cheerleaders present grant proposal for new uniforms after current ones were confiscated for inappropriateness.

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APRIL 19, 2011

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# Students lobby in capital about budget cuts

BY DEVONI NOVAK  
Staff Writer

Seven Wilkes University PHEAA Grant recipients accompanied political science professor, Dr. Thomas Baldino to Harrisburg on April 12 to state their opinions on educational budget cuts to Senate and House members.

The Wilkes students spoke to representatives for their hometown communities and the Wilkes-Barre area. This process, along with a tour of the State Capitol Building, was part of the annual Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania Lobby Day.

"The students had an opportunity to express their opinions and their thoughts about the importance of PHEAA to the legislators," Baldino said. "I let (the legislators) know that Wilkes is important to them and that their constituents are attending Wilkes and need the legislators' support."

This year, Lobby Day was an even bigger entity because of extensive cuts to educational funding that have been proposed.

Each Wilkes student who attended relies heavily on state funding for their college educations. Without the funding, some students may be left with no choice but to discontinue their schooling.

"Without PHEAA a lot of students would not pursue a college education," said Brandon Dixon, a junior political science major.

Randy Keiser, a junior criminology and political science major, accredits Dixon's statement.

"I wouldn't be able to do college without the PHEAA Grant," said Keiser, who is also president of the Pre-Law Society.

Students were well aware how imperative it was to get their points across and for their voices to be heard. Some believe cutting education may create an even bigger problem than their own financial dilemma.

"Education is essential for not only the present students, but students of the future and for the United States and the state as a whole," Keiser said. "Education provides multiple different avenues for new business and new industry and economic development."



The Beacon/Devoni Novak  
Students pictured above meet with Phyllis Mundy, state representative for Luzerne County, to speak about PHEAA funding cuts. Seen from left to right: Yasmin Ayar, Yasmine Solomon, Mundy, Nour Elbattah, Brandon Dixon, Randy Keiser, Jason G. Bauer. In the back row: Sarah Seman, Dr. Thomas Baldino.

After a long day of lobbying, the students felt like it was worth the trip.

"I think we were successful," said Yasmine Solomon, a junior criminology major. "It could have been that they already knew

what we wanted to hear but I feel like they were content and serious about it."

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# Professors incorporating more technology in the classroom

BY MARK RICCI  
Correspondent

Five faculty members have been issued technology grants for promoting innovative use in the classroom. The grant was presented by the Teaching Commons, with fiscal support from the Office of the Provost and the Information Technology Department. The professors who received this grant are Dr. Loran Lewis, Dr. Helen Davis, Dr. Meredith Selden, Dr. Caroline Maurer and Dr. Janet Starnier.

Maurer, chair of the department of undergraduate education, is using her grant for a

Digital Photography in the Classroom Action Research Project. The project is made up of Wilkes education students and teachers at Heights-Murray Elementary School in Wilkes-Barre.

"I was really looking for a way for Wilkes students to collaborate with the school district so that they have some hands-on experience when they move onto the real world," Maurer said.

Starnier, associate professor of English, is using her grant in a different manner. She is using mobile devices, such as e-readers and iPads, in the classroom environment. Starnier sees great potential in the benefits of this

technology to enhance the course content.

"One of the big problems that keeps students from reading better and writing better is that they don't mark up their text, they skim through it. My theory was that if I could get students to do deep reading and do annotations, perhaps comprehension would improve, and the written products that come out of that reading would improve as well," Starnier said.

Although the iPad and e-reader brought great assistance to the academic arena, they do have their flaws.

"The larger problem is the way that books are published electronically. With the iPad

and e-readers, you can expand and condense the font, which means that the page you are on changes as well, so it is a nightmare citation," Starnier said.

There are also issues with the Internet connection on campus.

"The Wi-Fi obstacle is only one problem and I expect that to be solved because the time we get to back to campus in the future there will be Wi-Fi everywhere," Starnier said.

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### Meet the Staff

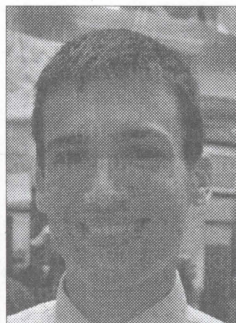


Holly Boyer  
Correspondent



## Campus election results

A new group of students has taken leadership positions on campus. Willie Eggleston was voted next year's SG president, defeating opponent John Sweeney. Other winners were Jessica Short for Programming Board president, Bethany Sharpless for InterResidence Hall Council president, Shadae Gates for Multicultural Student Coalition president, Nicholas Wierman for Off-Campus Council president and Cortny Sasserson for Commuter Council president. Here is some background about these students and what they hope to do with their positions.



EGGLESTON

**SG President:** Willie Eggleston

**Year:** Junior

**Major:** Pharmacy

**Why he decided to run:** "I really enjoyed having the chance to be on executive board this year and sort of stepping up and being kind of a voice to the students ... and I think the position of president can help me do that to an even further degree."

**Changes he would like to make:** Eggleston would like to see more funding toward educational and professional services. "One of the big things we've noticed this year is more and more students are coming in for money for academic reasons," he said.

Also, he would like to see an improvement in communication with students, with options such as a forum in the Student Union Building, or a blog for suggestions or complaints.

"I feel like there's a big disconnect between students and administration, and I feel that's our job as the middlemen to take care of that, and I don't think we're doing the best job we can right now," he said.

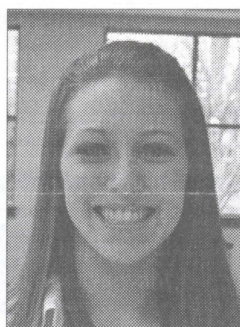
**Programming Board President:** Jessica Short

**Year:** Sophomore

**Major:** Elementary education

**Changes she would like to make:** Short would like to develop smaller activities on campus scheduled for the weekend, so there is always something to do on campus. She also hopes to use local resources, such as small businesses in Wilkes-Barre, to get activity ideas.

In promoting these events, she would like to improve the usage of the Facebook page and other promotional tools. "Our weakness is sometimes getting information out fast enough and early enough for students to know," Short said.



SHORT

**Inter-Residence Hall Council:** Bethany Sharpless

**Year:** Sophomore

**Major:** Pre-pharmacy

**Changes she would like to make:** Sharpless would like to expand IRHC participation among general board members, instead of just among executive board members, by getting them involved with voting and finances. "There is an untapped resource in our general board members, with a lot of creativity and interesting ideas for activities and programming we can put on with a low budget," she said.

She would also like to try to keep residents on campus and involved on the weekends.



SHARPLESS

**Multicultural Student Coalition:** Shadae Gates

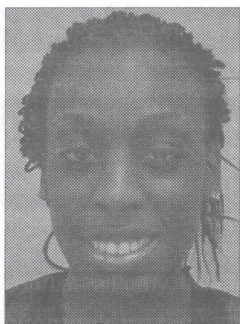
**Year:** Junior

**Major:** Political science, criminology and international studies

**Changes she would like to make:** Gates would like to see more cooperation with other cultural clubs on campus.

"One of the weaknesses that we do have is that we don't work well with the other diversity clubs on campus ... we can build better community with those clubs and open up better doors with communication," Gates said.

She would like to start an event called Challenge Day, which would show people that they may be different on the outside but they are the same inside.



GATES

- KIRSTIN COOK, News Editor

## Weiss Hall wins Recyclemania

BY HOLLY BOYER

Correspondent

The nine-week event of Recyclemania Wars has finally ended – and Weiss Hall has won the Wilkes event.

The event was brought on as a competition for many resident assistants to do with their hall. The event, which is national competition, was broken down into two different levels. There was a competition between the different floors of University Towers and the other on-campus residence halls. There's also a contrast between universities. The competition is a 10 week process; however, Wilkes used the first week as a trial run.

"Going green is easy to get involved in, and it makes a difference, not only in the community, but the world. And it's good that it is a competition," said Trey Tietz, University Towers 10th floor RA.

To figure out the winners, the Office of Residence Life, divided the number of bags recycled by the number of students that reside in the building or on the floor for each team.

After adding up the results, the winner of the Wilkes competition was Weiss Hall. They won with 39 bags recycled during the nine-week competition process. The winners then will receive a free party sponsored by the IRHC.

"The event has gotten a lot better and there has been more participation. The difference you can make is becoming a lot more known," Tietz said.

Along with raising awareness on campus, there are thoughts of having more promotion and more participation on campus for recycling, as well as expectations of surely continuing to improve in the future years.

"Every year we do a little bit better. We try to step it up a notch, especially to increase student involvement," said Robert Swetts, manager of capital assets.

In an attempt to improve recycling, Wilkes put up new signs around campus clarifying what can and cannot be recycled. They have also recently gotten additional recycling containers for a few common areas on campus, such as Stark, Breiseth, and the SUB. These new bins allow students to recycle other things such as ink cartridges and batteries.

Having more marketing announcements as well as communication and awareness are things some more things to improve for recycling. It is always a good idea to recycle. Everyone knows it is good for the environment, but specifically it helps to do things such as reducing waste in landfills and reducing costs of removing solid wastes away.

An idea of having a set goal for the university would help to get more people involved on campus in future years for this event. Also, having a weekly update of the competition between the halls to see where everyone is at is a good way to promote involvement even more.

"The event was a success. I am happy and impressed with the results, but I always want to get better," Tietz said.

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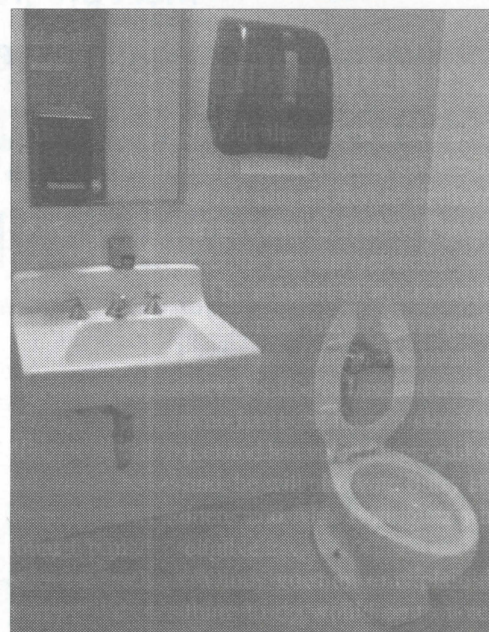
## ASSAULT

Continued from FRONT PAGE

in SLC. There has been some preliminary discussion about improving building access to SLC.

Adams said the victim indicated she had been in the location to pick up artwork from Room 7. However, he added there was a class in that room, which may have prevented her from entering.

The university followed up by speaking with the victim on several occasions and providing her with supportive services. To avoid future incidents, Adams advises students to always travel using the buddy system, look out for fellow students and remain vigilant about their environment.



The Beacon/Laura Preby

The assault occurred in the women's restroom in the basement of Stark Learning Center.

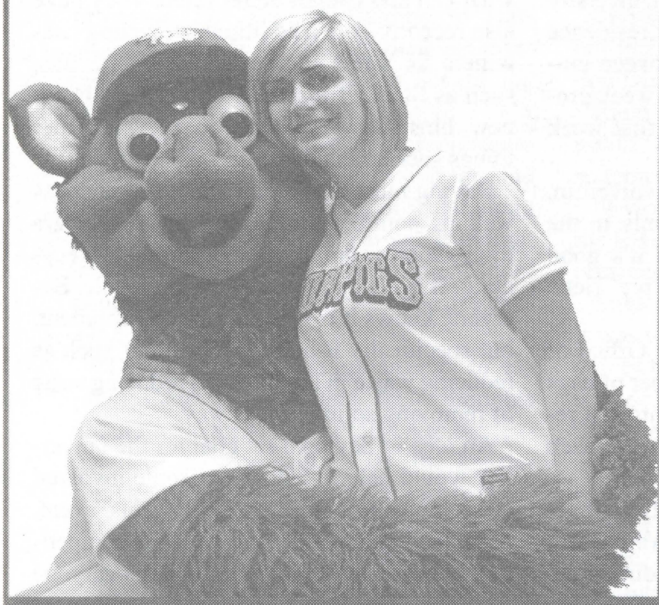
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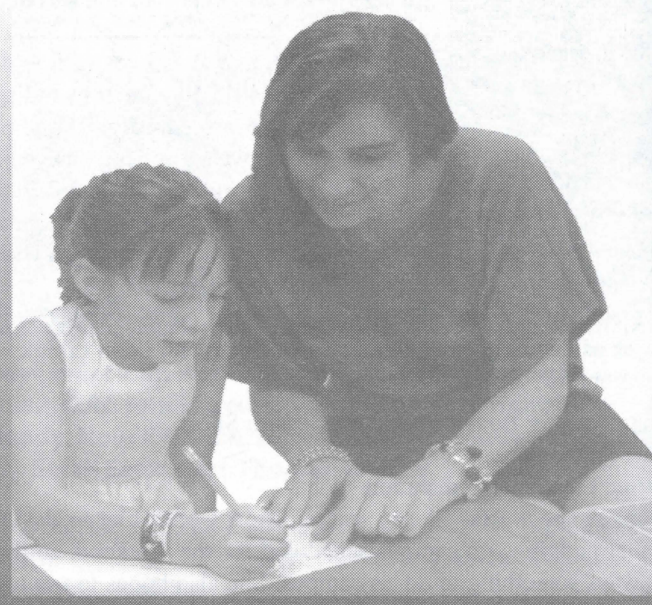


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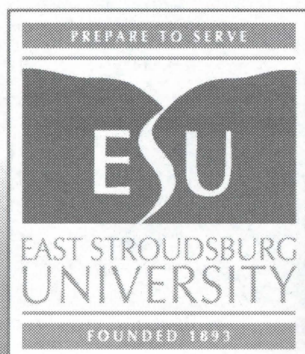
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## SIFE a reputable and charitable club that helps students get jobs

BY CHRISTINE LEE  
Life Editor

Students in Free Enterprise club is more than meets the eye. SIFE creates and executes projects that are designed to help the community achieve economic success.

The club, which is one of 1,200 different SIFE organizations around the world, is in its 17th year at Wilkes and is advised by entrepreneurship chair Dr. Jeffrey Alves.

Globally, SIFE has tens of thousands of members who contribute hundreds of thousands of hours each year to various outreach projects.

According to Wilkes SIFE President Raina Connor, most community outreach programs are created by individual SIFE teams, but one can also partner with organizations to help them out. This year SIFE teamed up with two community volunteer centers that are in need to financial help.

SIFE also took over the Money Matters club on campus this year and created a whole series of projects for them, one of which was the financial planning seminar for college students. Their intent in taking up Money Matters was to not see the club disappear.

"We are a successful club on campus and we want there to be other clubs and this was another business club that we were acquainted with and you don't want to see them just go away," SIFE Vice President Alison Drake said. "We try to bring some



The Beacon/Christine Lee

**Wilkes SIFE has garnered several awards at regional competitions over the years. They will next compete at the SIFE national competition in Minneapolis, Minn., during finals week.**

leadership into (the club) and keep some of the members that were in it and just keep it going."

Each year, dozens of SIFE organizations from around the country compete in national and regional competitions, one of which will be occurring during finals week.

SIFE teams compete with one another through verbal and audio presentations of the projects accomplished and how many people one affects and the impacts they have made in the community.

"We have 24 minutes to talk about whichever projects we want. We usually try to pick a good handful of about five or six projects that highlight the different areas of our SIFE team be-

cause all of our projects address different needs in our community," Connor said.

There are six teams that compete in one league and three of those teams are selected to go onto nationals. Those teams then advance to the SIFE World Cup.

One important part of regional and national SIFE competitions is the ability to attend a large job and career fair for internships for SIFE students only.

This May, students involved in SIFE will have the opportunity to compete in this year's national competition in Minneapolis, Minn. They advanced to the national competition after winning the regional competition on April 6.

"You really get to connect with the other SIFE teams being there for almost a whole week. And you feed ideas off each other and really get to know what other teams are doing and maybe set up stuff with them or just bring ideas to bring back to your team to talk about," Drake said.

All of the projects presented and judged at the competitions must target people in need and has to have considered economic, social and environmental factors.

One also has to apply business and economic concepts and an entrepreneurial approach. The outcomes of the projects are an improved standard of living and quality of life for the people that one is helping.

"I think that's where a lot of people have a misconception that we're a business club," Connor said. "We're a community service club first, business club second."

Both Connors and Drake encourage students who are interested in community service and getting involved in a very reputable organization to join and are open to project suggestions as well as helping students start their own projects.

"No matter what your major is, if you are involved in a club like SIFE that is heavily focused on community service and hands-on (activities) then it's going to help you in your future career, in getting (and) attaining a job and just living a good life," Connor said. "Giving back feels good."

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## Sink or swim: helpful tips for finals success

BY KATY BETNAR

Learning Specialist, University College

•Begin your final exam preparations a few weeks before the tests are scheduled. You might find it helpful to make a study schedule, where you allocate blocks of time over a few weeks, with two to three hours devoted to each time block. Study in short, manageable blocks of time with breaks in between rather than cramming.

•Find a quiet place to study that is conducive for concentrating and learning which should be quiet, comfortable, and distraction-free (no cell phones, Facebook, etc.).

•Identify what materials are going to be tested on the final. Is the final going to concentrate on materials since the midterm took

place or is it going to be a cumulative final covering everything since the beginning of the semester? Knowing the extent and the limits of the exam will make it much easier to organize and structure your studying.

•Request assistance from your professors, classmates and tutors who might have taken the same class with you or before. This allows for clarification of difficult material or reinforcement of other concepts that you may need to know for your exam.

•Collect and organize the material you'll be responsible for knowing on each exam by compiling lists of key concepts and ideas and then assess your comprehension of the material on the lists by comparing what you know to the information in your class notes or textbooks.

Finally, look at each concept on the list and practice retrieving as much information as you can from memory.

•Attend all review sessions and schedule tutoring/SI sessions prior to the exams.

•Practice self-testing. Go through your notes and then prepare a list of probable test questions.

"Take the test" under test conditions to see how well you can answer them. Don't forget to go back to your notes and study the subjects you could not answer properly.

•Get a good night's sleep before each final exam. Adequate sleep will improve your concentration and memory, and boost your critical thinking skills.

•Visualize it all by imagining yourself tak-

ing the test and feeling confident that you know all the information and earned an A on the exam.

•Answer the easy questions first and mark any questions that appear difficult to answer (you can go back to these later). Attack only one question at a time without worrying about the ones to come.

•Remain calm after the exam. Even if you think you did horribly, worrying about it afterward will not change a thing; it may however, affect how you do on your other finals. Keep your head up and move on to the next exam.

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# Spanish Club travels to NYC; visits photo museum, restaurant

BY BRITTANY BATTISTA  
Correspondent

Every year Wilkes' Spanish Club takes an educational trip relating to the culture of Spain or Latin America. On April 2, 2011, 15 members of the club took a trip to New York City. The group visited the International Center of Photography.

The ICP exhibited Spanish pieces from "La Guerra Civil" which are photographs of the Spanish Civil War that lasted from 1936 to 1939. The exhibition also included photos by Robert Capa and Gerda Taro, two influential Spanish photographers. The black-and-white photos revealed the difficult times and destruction of Spain during the civil war.

After some history and culture of Spain, the students dined at a Cuban restaurant, Havana. Havana is famously known for Latin American cuisine. One of the foods the students enjoyed was a dish called "tostones," which are fried plantains that resemble potato chips. During the trip, junior education major Rachel Greenlaw, says she was mostly interested in trying new food at the Cuban restaurant.

"I had oxtail. It was wicked good," Greenlaw said. The students had opportunities to

order in Spanish and listen to Cuban music.

The Spanish Club is advised by Dr. Paola Bianco, associate professor of foreign languages. Not only is Bianco a Spanish professor, but she is also fluent in English, Italian and French.

Bianco and the Spanish Club take one trip a year and also lunch or dinner twice a year. Along with the trip to New York, the Spanish Club also participates in community activities and dinners.



Courtesy of Dr. Paola Bianco  
Members of the Spanish Club and family of club adviser Dr. Paola Bianco pose in front of a painting that is a part of the exhibit "La Guerra Civil" in New York City.

This year they provided much needed bilingual books and school supplies for Hispanic children attending St. Nicholas and St. Mary's Church.

Next year, Bianco will be taking a sabbatical leave traveling abroad to Latin America to do research and interview women writers. A new professor will be hired to take her place.

The new professor will have the interesting tasks of taking over for Bianco as an

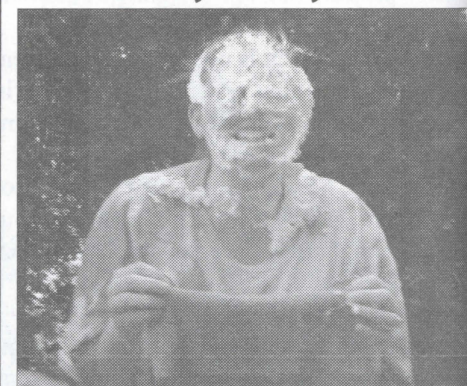
assistant professor and also adviser of the Spanish Club.

"The students are doing a great job," Bianco said.

"I had such a good time in New York, I can't wait for next year," Greenlaw said.

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## History Day 2011



Courtesy of Amanda Coombs

History Club vice president and education major Jennifer Earley smiles after being pied in the face during History Day.



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# SENIOR SALUTE

With graduation rapidly approaching, *The Beacon* celebrates the Class of 2011's achievements by taking a look at Wilkes' past four years.

## TOP STORIES

Relive some of the biggest stories to hit Wilkes' campus since fall 2007 by taking a walk down the road to graduation.

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## 2011 PICTURES

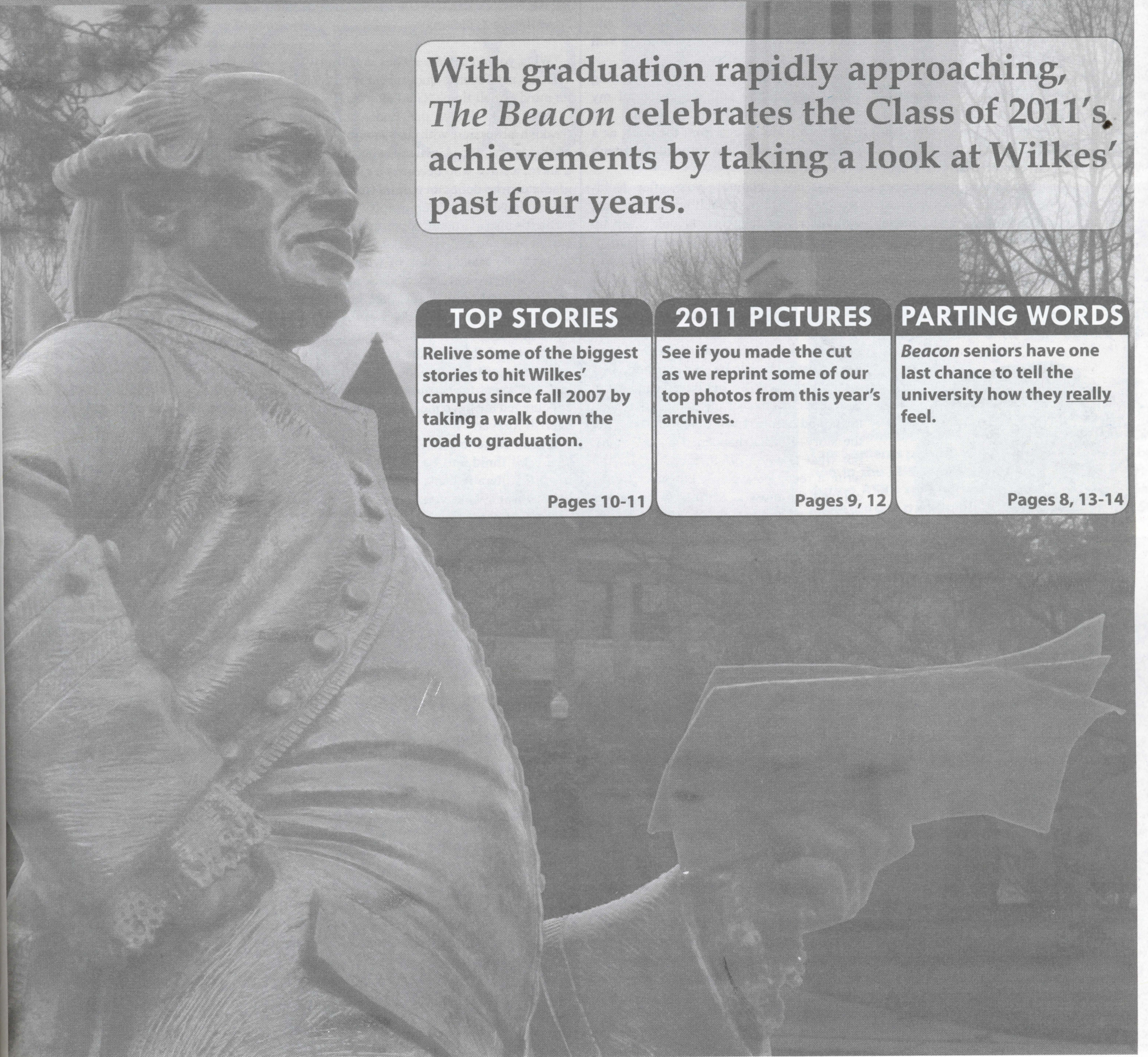
See if you made the cut as we reprint some of our top photos from this year's archives.

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## PARTING WORDS

*Beacon* seniors have one last chance to tell the university how they really feel.

Pages 8, 13-14





# Career takes Hopkins from court to press box

BY CHRISTOPHER HOPKINS  
Sports Editor

Sports were the first thoughts on my mind coming into Wilkes University and the final thoughts as I'm leaving. While sports have stayed consistent in my time here at Wilkes, the matter of my participation has changed quite a bit.

As a high school senior four years ago, my No. 1 concern about prospective schools was sports. I wanted to continue playing basketball in college, and I made that A1 on my list when it came to deciding where I would go. I still had no idea what I wanted to study or what I wanted to do after college.

I chose Wilkes with no idea what I wanted to do, other than play basketball. I started off undeclared, taking

only general education classes. Throughout freshman year I bounced ideas back and forth; history, business, psychology. Still wasn't sure.

Now, only weeks away from graduating college, sports are still the center of my work, but from a different viewpoint. No longer do I see games from the court as a player, I now see them through a writer's eye in the stands.

It was my sophomore year, after deciding that college basketball was not for me, I found a way in which I could keep up with the games I had long been a part of my whole life. Working with *The Beacon's* sports section first as assistant and now as sports editor has given me a chance to continue to be a part of the game.

Through my time as an editor of the sports section I have not just been able to learn what it takes to be on a paper and better my writing skills, but have been able to gain a perspective of the games that I had never had before. I was able to not just get the story of what happened on the court, but what goes on off it, too. Anyone can write a recap of a game, but what I have enjoyed the most is learning what makes the sport what it is.

Whether it was the 36 years Eddie Elgornitis has been front row at Wilkes basketball games or Coach Victor Jones' journey from the NFL to Wilkes, it was a great experience to get the stories out of what everyone doesn't see during the game.

I have learned a lot during my time as a Colonel. Wilkes gave me the opportunity to come in unsure of a major and allowed me to now become sports editor. Especially this year, I have really enjoyed my time here as I grew as both a student and writer.

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# Former adviser's support resonates with Dorunda

BY ANTHONY DORUNDA  
Special Projects Manager

"What you do in life, echoes in eternity."

That's my favorite quote from my favorite movie of all time, "Gladiator."

Those who know me understand my freakish obsession with that movie. Think of that storyline: A general who becomes a slave; a slave who becomes a gladiator; a gladiator who defies an empire (for the better, obviously). That's epic stuff.

But it's also a little off topic, and not what I want to discuss.

That's the quote I think of when I wake up and want to skip class or slack on a project. It's what I think about when I question if I am making the right decision. And it's also, somehow, the quote that comes to mind when I think of the person I owe a greater majority of my successes over the last four years to, because it was she who encouraged me to do the things that I would cherish forever.

When I came to Wilkes University, I was shy, a bit timid and completely unsure of myself. I literally came to college because I thought it's what you had to do – that it was a natural progression in the timeline of my life. But what I didn't know was what it was I wanted to do with my life, making that transition to college tougher – especially when all of your friends are gung-ho on becoming engineers or pharmacists.

Here I was, the kid who was just going through the motions of being a college student.

But behind the scenes those first two years was someone who was pushing me to try things that I no way in hell would motivate myself to do. She encouraged – to the point of forced – me to get an internship as a sophomore, which I was too scared to do.

Thank you for that.

She flat out told me that I was going to Italy to study abroad. That

ended up being the single greatest experience of my college career.

Thank you for that.

And she urged me to become involved with this paper.

Thank you for that.

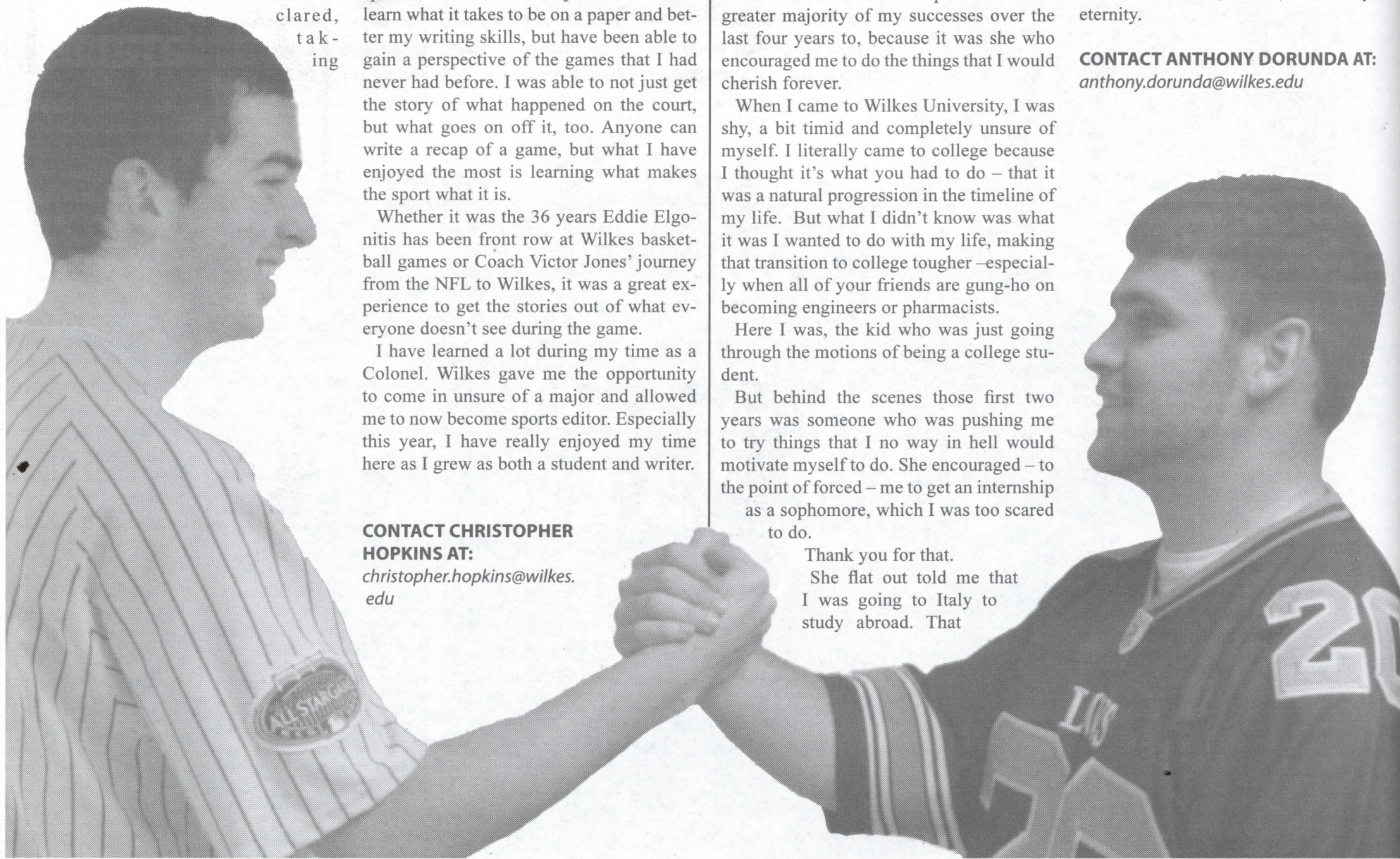
Although Andrea Frantz is not here at Wilkes anymore, if not for her, I wouldn't be the aspiring journalist that I am today.

If not for her, I wouldn't be writing this senior send-off article. She pushed me outside of my comfort zone, and a simple thank you could never do her impact on my time here justice.

To me, that quote inspires me to do something with my life that I will forever remember.

And thanks to Andrea, as I leave Wilkes, I can officially say that the experiences I had at Wilkes will, indeed, echo in my own eternity.

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# YEAR IN PHOTOS



Top: Students pose during a St. Patrick's Day celebration in the SUB lounge. Above: A woman is served during ASB's spaghetti dinner. Left: Students have some fun on an inflatable obstacle course during SG's Fall Fest.



Top: The cheerleaders pose with the Colonel during a football game. Right: Students play a game of balloon basketball during Winter Weekend festivities.



# THE ROAD TO

*The Beacon has provided a road map of the top stories to hit the Wilkes campus since fall 2007.*

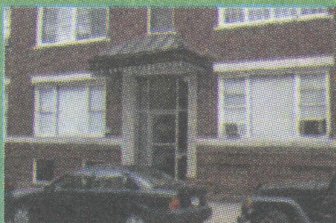
## INVESTIGATION YIELDS DEPARTURE OF SPECIALIST

The Beacon questions university officials about allegations regarding the previous employment of Leo Danylak, a financial aid specialist who began working at Wilkes in November 2006. The Beacon later learns that Danylak will not be returning to Wilkes. Danylak denied the allegations, which neither he or university officials would confirm on the record.

AUG. 27, 2007

## TWO ACCUSED OF FURNISHING ALCOHOL TO MINORS

Wilkes-Barre police accuse Blaine Madara, SG senior class president, and his roommate of holding a party at their West Ross Street apartment, pictured right, and allegedly serving alcohol to underage students. A total of 38 citations were issued at the party.



SEPT. 7, 2007

## STUDENT SHAKEN AFTER TERRACE ST. SHOOTING

According to Wilkes-Barre police, a victim stated two men, whom he previously asked to leave, returned to his Terrace Street apartment to obtain a cell phone. After the victim opened his door, one of the men produced a black revolver and pulled the trigger twice, but the gun did not discharge. He then pointed the gun at the victim's dog, killing it with one shot.

SEPT. 13, 2007

## 'GREAT CITIZEN OF WILKES COMMUNITY' PASSES

Dr. Matthew J. Zukoski, 44, an associate professor of math and computer science, passed away unexpectedly. The news of the popular professor's death took the campus community by surprise. "He always seemed so healthy and active ... we think of him being the last person this could happen to," said then-student Jason Wagner.



JAN. 31, 2009

## FUNKMASTER FLEX MIXER FLAMES OUT

A Multicultural Student Coalition organizer came under scrutiny for allegedly forging the signature of entertainer Funkmaster Flex on a contract. According to MSC reps, Flex was supposed to perform at the Marts Center on April 26 as a "personal favor," because he was "a close friend" of the brother of an MSC member. The event was abruptly cancelled when Flex's reps questioned Wilkes about promoting the event. Flex was scheduled to be in Atlanta on that date and the Wilkes event wasn't even on his calendar.

APRIL 29, 2008

## VISITS MAKE W-B CENTER OF POLITICAL WORLD



The campaign buses of Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama rolled into Wilkes-Barre as the two Democratic senators held town hall meetings at two rival schools. Obama stopped at Wilkes' Marts Center while Clinton campaigned at King's Scandlon Center, above, a few hours later. About 1,500 Obama supporters were on hand to hear the future president's speech, while 3,000 turned out to hear Clinton's address.

APRIL 1, 2008



# GRADUATION

## BED BUGS CONTINUE TO PLAGUE RESIDENTS

Residents of one apartment in University Towers reported a case of bed bugs to the Office of Residence Life. The incident was the third outbreak of bed bugs at Wilkes during the 2008-2009 academic year. One resident in the affected apartment experienced an allergic reaction to the insect venom, causing large, welt-like bite marks.

FEB. 3, 2009

## CAMPUS MOURNS SLAIN NURSING STUDENT

Kewail Rogers Buckner, 31, a junior nursing student, is killed in her Wilkes-Barre home. Police said she was the victim of domestic violence. According to reports, Donnell Buckner, the victim's husband, shot Rogers Buckner in the head in front of her three children and left her to die on the family couch.

MARCH 29, 2009

## UNIVERSITY CONFIRMS FIRST CASE OF H1N1

Mark Allen, dean of Student Affairs, confirmed that a Wilkes student was seen and tested for the H1N1 virus, or swine flu, at University Health and Wellness Services, right. Wilkes implemented several measures to prevent the spread of H1N1, including installing hand sanitizer dispensers at several locations around campus.



OCT. 8, 2009

## FREEDOM OF THE PRESS: END OF AN ERA AT WILKES?

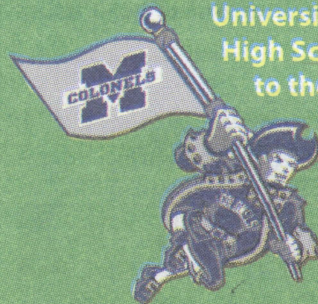


*The Beacon* publishes an editorial, which would later win an award from the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association, calling for Wilkes administrators to go back to its mission, vision and values. The article was a result of members of Wilkes' administration ordering *The Beacon* to remove all online comments from its Feb. 16 issue and prohibit its readers from commenting until further notice. The order stemmed from an article about the women's lacrosse team, which sparked anger on *The Beacon's* website.

FEB. 23, 2010



## WILKES: MD. HIGH SCHOOL USING OUR LOGO

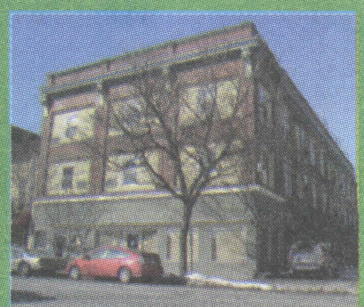


University administrators discover that Magruder High School in Rockville, Md., is using a logo similar to the Wilkes Colonel. Wilkes sends a letter to Magruder High School and asks the school to use a new design.

MARCH 1, 2011

## LOCAL BUILDING COULD BECOME HOME OF CONVICTS

Keystone Correctional Services wanted to purchase a building on S. Main St. and convert it into a work release program for convicted criminals. Members of the Downtown Residents Association expressed concern over the proposed switch, which never materialized after the building's current owner decided not to sell.



FEB. 1, 2011

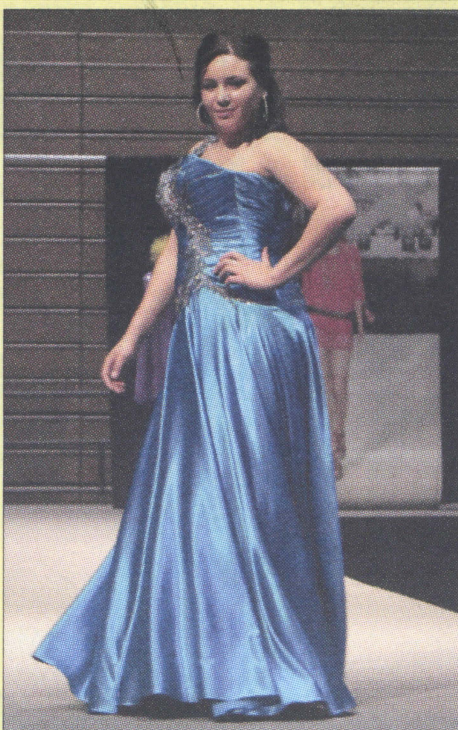
## ALUMNUS CAST IN LEAD ROLE OF DRACULA



Dan Pascoe, second row, left, was cast as Dracula in a Wilkes theater production. Pascoe graduated from Wilkes in 2009. The move, considered controversial by several students, ultimately resulted in one of the theater students who didn't get the part transferring to another university.

MARCH 2, 2010





# 2010-11

Above left: Cheerleaders perform a stunt during the homecoming game. Above right: A student poses during MSC's annual spring fashion show. Below: Students release balloons with personalized messages to kick off Wilkes' 2011 Relay for Life.



Top: Muriel Grant serves food in the cafeteria. Below: Mailroom employee Eddie Elgonitis completes the survivor's lap during Relay for Life.



Top: A girl flashes a smile during the Homecoming dance. Right: Garrett Schrader celebrates his team's Winter Weekend victory.





# Focus on writing at Wilkes is commendable

BY ANTHONY TRUPPO  
Opinion Editor

Since I entered Wilkes University, creative and journalistic writing have been my two main passions. My goal for my college education was to build my skills for writing to specific audiences. Almost every course I have taken at Wilkes focused on writing in some way or another. I feel that being able to write for many different disciplines is a valuable quality that will greatly assist me in the future, and I would like to offer praise to Wilkes for its emphasis on writing.

Although a majority of my training as a writer came from the marvelous professors in the English program, the methods of writing I have learned in other courses are equally valuable. Courses in history, philosophy, psychology and many other disciplines were often composed of written exams and assignments.

Certain students may deny being writers, showing disdain for any writing assignment that must be completed. Fortunately, professors at Wilkes

realize not everyone is born to be a writer or even enjoys writing, for that matter. One of the greatest features of Wilkes' professors is that they are experts at creating assignments that are not overly difficult for less-experienced writers and not excessively simple for more seasoned writers.

No matter the field of work one plans to enter, writing will always be required in one way or another, and professors at Wilkes are always mindful of this truth. Even if you have a job in which no writing is directly required, you may need to write yourself lists or reminders.

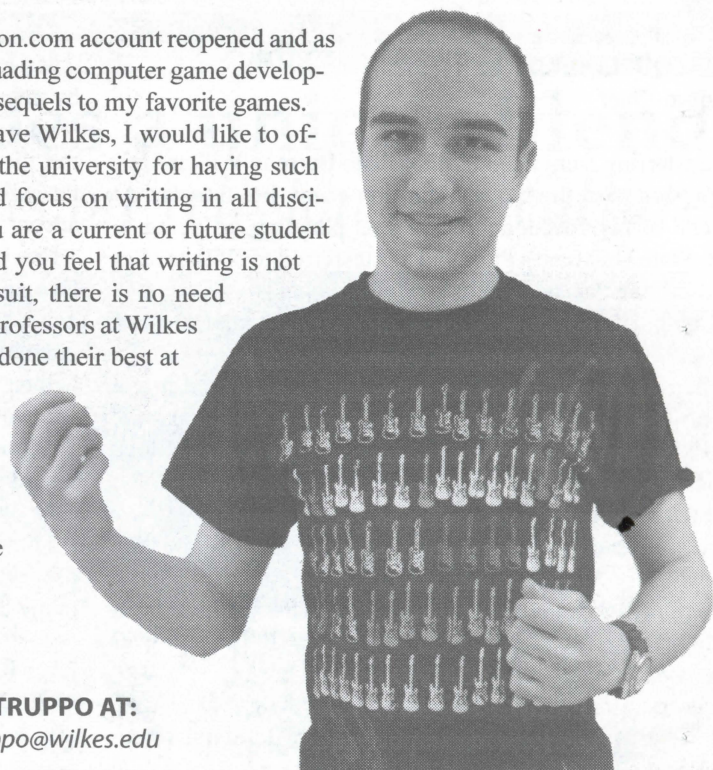
Professors at Wilkes have also taught me the importance of writing not only in academics and the workforce, but in home life as well. Most college writing assignments consist of the writer making an argument and supporting his or her argument with facts. Persuasive skills are also emphasized.

Teaching me how to convey my thoughts and feelings to others, Wilkes professors provided me with the skills I would need to improve my home life. I can now use what I have learned about argumentative writing for issues as minor as having a

closed Amazon.com account reopened and as large as persuading computer game developers to create sequels to my favorite games.

Before I leave Wilkes, I would like to offer praise to the university for having such a pronounced focus on writing in all disciplines. If you are a current or future student at Wilkes and you feel that writing is not your strong suit, there is no need to worry, as professors at Wilkes have always done their best at making writing an enjoyable and educational experience for all.

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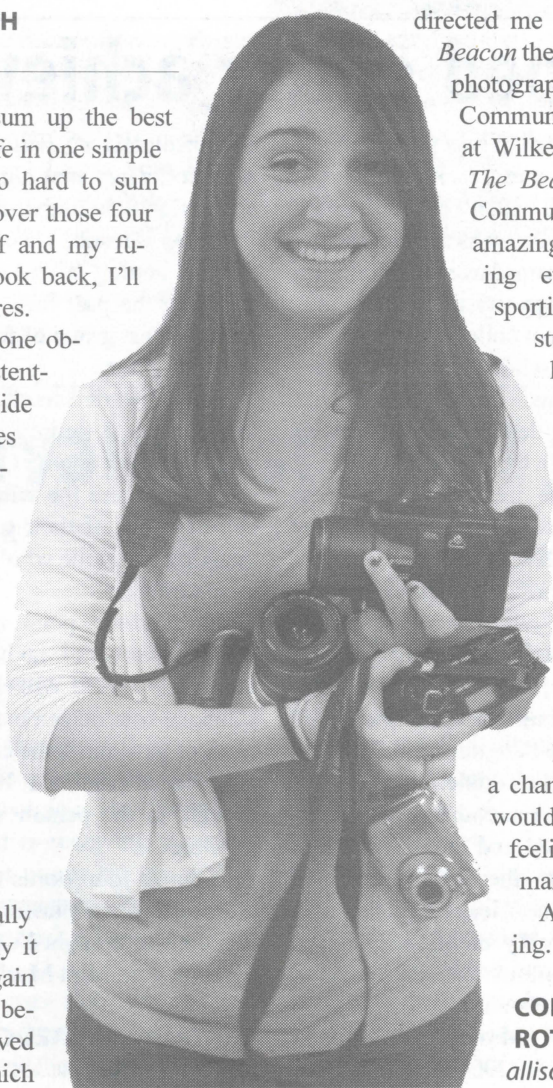
## Cameras help Roth leave mark

BY ALLISON ROTH  
Photo Editor

It's difficult to sum up the best four years of my life in one simple paragraph. It's also hard to sum up what I learned over those four years about myself and my future, but when I look back, I'll start with my pictures.

A camera is the one object that has consistently stayed by my side through my Wilkes years, and photography is the one hobby that has connected me to countless events on and off campus.

It has also led me to meet hundreds of students, faculty and staff. This interest of mine started in high school and eventually faded away. Luckily it started back up again when I wanted to become more involved on campus, which



directed me to *The Beacon*. *The Beacon* then led me to some side photography for the Marketing Communications Department at Wilkes. Taking photos for *The Beacon* and Marketing Communications was an amazing adventure. Capturing everything including sporting events, lectures, student-run events, hang-outs on the greenway, and new and old friendships was an experience I'll never forget.

It's crazy how a small interest in something could go so far. My small initial liking for it has now turned into a love. Without taking a chance in photography I wouldn't be leaving here feeling like I left a small mark on campus.

And that's a great feeling.

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## Involved in sports through pics

BY MELISSA POLCHINKSI  
Staff Photographer

Soccer and playing sports has always been a very big part of my life. I even based my college decision on playing soccer. There were numerous other schools I could have gone to, but if I did I wouldn't have had the opportunity to play. Wilkes was one of the schools where I was able to continue my love for the game.

One of the greatest benefits of playing a sport here at Wilkes is that it creates structure in your life and your team becomes more than a team. You become family.

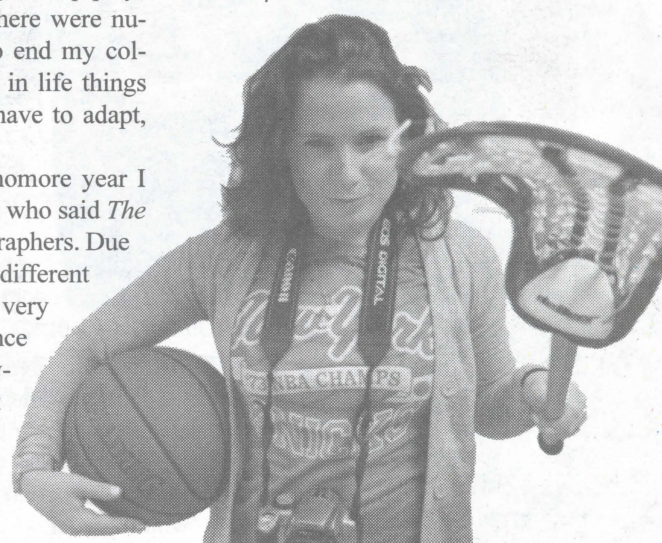
One of my greatest hardships I went through in college was having to stop playing soccer my junior year. There were numerous reasons why I had to end my collegiate career, but sometimes in life things don't go your way and you have to adapt, which I did.

During the end of my sophomore year I talked to one of my professors who said *The Beacon* was in need of photographers. Due to past projects I had from different classes I was able to become very familiar with a camera. Since I wasn't playing sports anymore, I figured I would pick up a new hobby and I was then committed to becoming a photographer for *The Beacon*.

I noticed that my sports photos specifically came out best of all my photos. I then kind of drifted into just taking sports photos, which I did not mind. Becoming the sports photographer for *The Beacon* was one of the best things that could have happened to me.

Not only am I taking photos, I am taking photos of sports which go hand in hand with one another. By being the sports photographer for *The Beacon*, I was able to take my love for sports and apply it in a different way than actually playing. Although I miss playing a lot, by being the sports photographer for *The Beacon* I am still able to be a part of Wilkes University athletics.

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# Last-minute decision shapes editor's future

BY JACQUELINE LUKAS  
Editor-in-Chief

Transferring from Penn State Wilkes-Barre to Wilkes University has been the biggest decision of my life thus far. At the end of my freshman year, I was planning on going to Penn State University Park, but I transferred to Wilkes after a last-minute decision.

Although it was a spur-of-the-moment decision, it was one that will forever shape my life.

When I began, I didn't really know what I wanted to get out of it. I didn't know how I would get a great education, but I knew I wanted one. But I never thought I would love being a student as much as I do.

Looking back, I loved going to class. I loved talking to my professors and understanding a different point of view than my own.

Then, my sophomore year, when I transferred here from Penn State, I realized that I could be a student forever through my job choice.

I chose journalism because it was the way that I could be a life-long student. As a journalist, I can learn about something new every single day, while also writing for the public good and public awareness.

I can go on a story assignment and learn about pipe smoking or worm fertilizer or how Wilkes becomes accredited.

My career choice has definitely been fueled by my experiences at Wilkes.

You hear people say that an education is the most powerful tool you can have, and through my time at Wilkes, I've really taken advantage of what's been offered to me.

I've been to four countries via Wilkes trips. I've spent many valuable hours at *The Beacon*, worked on numerous public relations campaigns through Zebra Communications and helped plan the last two Tom Bigler Journalism Conferences.

If not for Wilkes, I don't know that I would have gotten to do any of that.

At Wilkes, I learned to juggle many jobs and that's what I love to do. I love being busy, trying new things and stepping out of my comfort zone.

As I leave here, I feel prepared. I put a lot into my

education: a lot of time, a lot of effort, a lot of smiles and a lot of tears.

You get what you put into it.

I did my part during college because I had a vision. Maybe it didn't go exactly as I planned, but it turned out pretty great. I got exactly what I wanted through my own efforts, as well as the wonderful efforts of my fellow students at Wilkes.

As I leave Wilkes, I'm excited to start the beginning of my professional career, but I'll never forget the experiences that Wilkes gave me, which shaped me and pushed me into finding the perfect career.

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## Murley's goal helped editor achieve his

BY MICHAEL CIGNOLI  
Editor-in-Chief

The person who had the biggest impact on my enrollment at Wilkes University never attended the school. I've never even met him.

In May 2004, the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins and Hartford Wolf Pack were mired in a best-of-seven playoff series. The winning team would advance to the final round of the American Hockey League playoffs.

Hartford, my hometown team, was the No. 1 seed and the heavy favorite. But the Penguins, thanks to a Herculean effort by a rookie goaltender, drew the series out to a decisive seventh game. And 13:21 into overtime of Game 7, winger Matt Murley deflected a puck through the legs of Hartford's goalie, Jason LaBarbera, for the series-winning goal.

As a die-hard fan, it was painful to see Hartford's dream season end with a dramatic thud. I still haven't entirely gotten over the loss, as that was the closest any of my favorite teams have come remotely close to winning a championship.

Fast-forward to a college fair in my junior year of high school. On a night where my school's gymnasium was packed with more than 100 college reps, no university really stood out in the crowd.

Except for one item in the program that was truly painful to behold: Wilkes University – Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Ironically wearing the jersey of the Hartford goalie who let in the game-winner, I distinctly remember walking up to Wilkes' rep, Matt McCaffrey, and very sternly saying, "Wilkes-Barre, eh? That's where the Penguins play."

Indeed it was, he countered.

I really don't remember what exactly Mr. McCaffrey and I discussed that night, other than the 2004 series, the Penguins and minor league hockey as a whole. He probably mentioned Wilkes had a strong communications program, but I'm not entirely sure.

All I know is if Murley hadn't tipped that puck home in 2004, I would have

had absolutely no reason to walk up to Mr. McCaffrey that night in the Watertown High School gymnasium.

And as a result, I would have missed out on getting a great education and spending the past four years of my life with the best group of friends I could've ever asked for.

When I started to sit down and write this column, I figured it'd balloon into one of those cliché Oscar acceptance speeches where the winner takes an index card out of their tuxedo and starts thanking everyone who's helped them in their career.

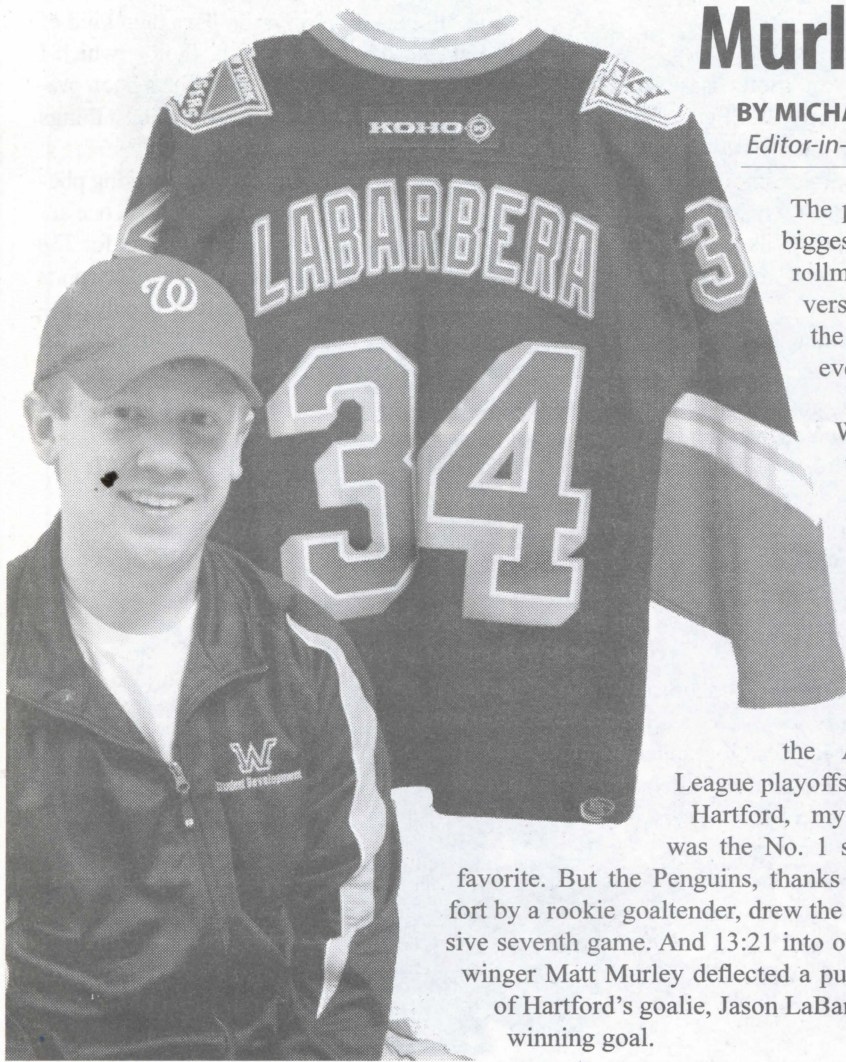
But at some point or another, I've thanked everyone who has had an impact on my life here at Wilkes, whether it was someone who helped me with my homework or gave me some career advice.

The one person I haven't thanked, though, is the person who made it all possible.

So here's four words that the 14-year-old heartbroken Hartford Wolf Pack fan in me never thought I would say.

Thank you, Matt Murley.

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## Music Review: Bright Eyes provides a unique blend

*Eyes' new album 'The People's Key' offers focus on religion and culture*

BY ANTHONY TRUPPO  
Opinion Editor

Ten years ago, when Bright Eyes was only a boy from Omaha fueled by sadness and his love for folk heroes Elliott Smith and Daniel Johnston, no one would have expected Conor Oberst to retire the Bright Eyes moniker with a synthpop album.

Although many longtime Bright Eyes fans will be disappointed by Oberst's newfound love of synthesizers and electric guitars, Oberst's brilliant songwriting remains as lustrous as ever.

"The People's Key" is easily Bright Eyes' most accessible album, filled with poppy choruses and even a few radio-friendly songs. "Jeune Stars" and "Haile Selassie" come to mind as songs that would frequently appear on college radio stations across the United States.

Listeners who have been following Bright Eyes know by now that he almost always begins his albums with some sort of spoken story, which is done quite well in "The People's Key." The album begins with Danny Brewer, a man who is most likely insane, rambling about humans with reptilian features. While Brewer's vocals create convolution, his voice is used well throughout the album.

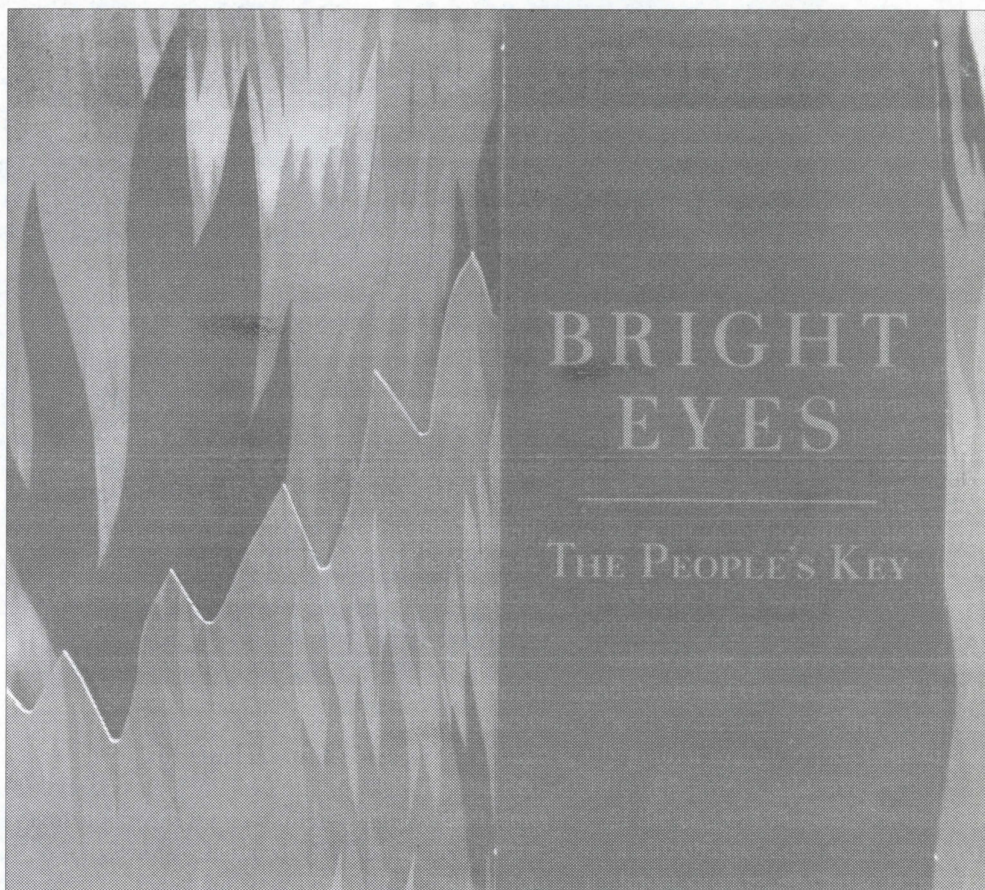
I have always been a fan of Bright Eyes' use of multiple instruments creating a conglomeration of unique sounds. Unfortunately, "The People's Key" is not exactly unique in its instrumentation. The synthesizer sounds have already been heard throughout the 1980s, the electric guitars are quite mundane and there is little use of strings. Also, the piano melody in "Ladder Song" sounds almost as if it was lifted directly from Pink Floyd's "Nobody Home."

The only element that continues to stand out is Oberst's vocals. Although Oberst will not win any "American Idol" competitions, his voice has always been the driving force in his music. Oberst has altered his singing style a bit, avoiding the scatchy, emotional screams of which he was quite fond before the release of "Cassadaga" in 2007, which is not necessarily a bad thing.

Whereas the influence of David Dondero and Violent Femmes can still be heard in Oberst's voice, at times, his voice sounds eerily similar to that of psychedelic guru Avey Tare of Animal Collective.

At the end of "Firewall," when Oberst repeatedly chants "Seen yeah seen by I and I," it almost sounds as if he is being possessed by Tare.

SEE REVIEW, Page 16



The Beacon/Molly Kurlandski

Bright Eyes' latest album, "The People's Key," is different from past albums but offers a unique blend of religion and culture.

## Conservatory student pianist plays at Carnegie Hall in NYC

BY DEVONI NOVAK  
Staff Writer

A 13-year-old Wilkes Conservatory pianist played at Carnegie Hall this spring, marking her second consecutive year playing at the prestigious theater.

Sienna Tabron was granted the opportunity to play at the prestigious New York City venue once again after receiving a perfect score and two bonus points for her performance at the Northeastern Pennsylvania Music Teachers Association Honors Recital in January.

Although Tabron was also selected last year, she was surprised to be chosen again.

"I was really excited," she said. "I didn't

think I was actually going to make it."

At the audition recital, Tabron, along with 245 other musicians above the age of 7 performed. They were hoping to be one of the 34 chosen to play at Carnegie Hall. The musicians were scored on technique, performance, poise, dynamic contrast, character of the piece and difficulty of the piece. Age was also taken into consideration.

In each category, points were awarded ranging from 1 to 10. Tabron was one of six other 13-year-olds who received a high enough score to play in NYC. The aspiring professional musician first became interested in piano when her sister started taking lessons at their home in Wilkes-Barre. Now Tabron has been playing for almost eight years, four of which she has been taking les-

sons with Pamela Carroll of the Wilkes University Conservatory.

Carroll quickly noticed Tabron's talent and gave her the guidance she needed to excel.

"I knew that she was very talented but she didn't have direction and that's what I gave her was direction," Carroll said. "She had ambition and she just needed knowledge to fill in the gaps."

After performing at Carnegie Hall last year, Tabron became more motivated to play deeper songs. Recently Tabron began selecting her own music including the piece she played this year at Carnegie Hall, Rachmaninoff's "Prelude in C-Minor."

Carroll explained that Tabron's dedication to the instrument is the source of her success.

"Ninety percent of learning to play an instrument well is practicing and 10 percent is talent I think," Carroll said. "Sienna was always a great practicer and always put a lot of time in on her instrument and that's what made her so good."

Carroll is very pleased with the progress Tabron has made and enjoys working with someone who is so committed.

"She is an extremely talented person and it's a joy to work with someone who is so interested and it's just a joy as a teacher to work with someone like her."

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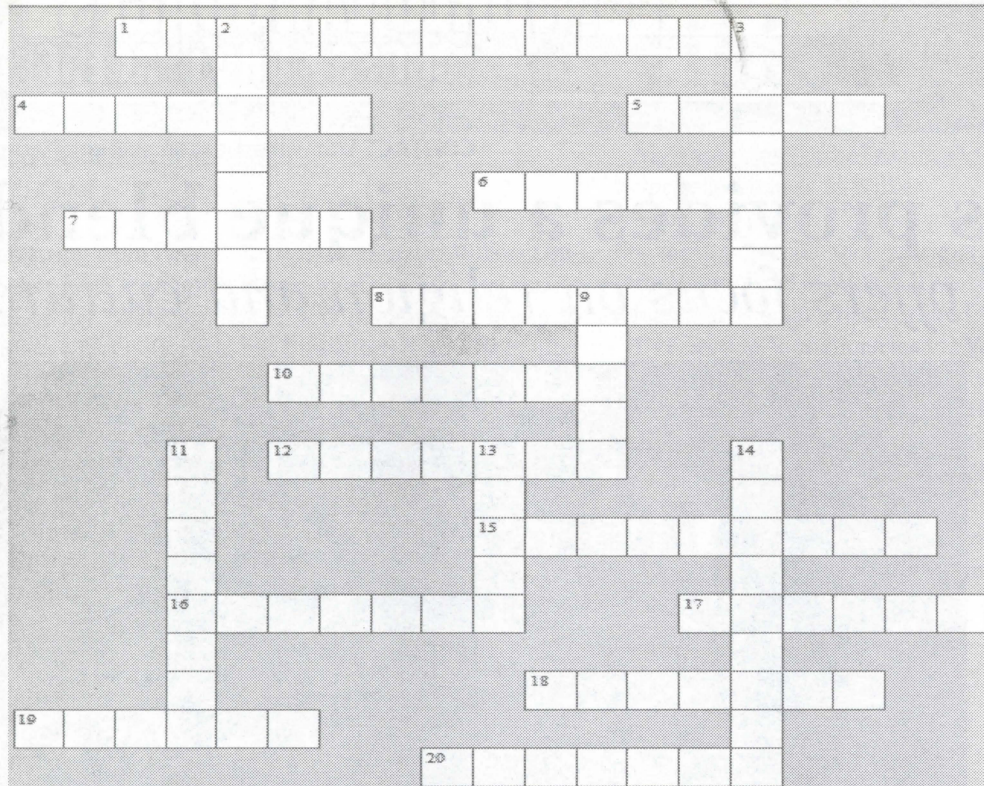
# ZerCross "World Languages"

BY ASHLEY ZERFOSS  
Correspondent

1. Kreyòl ayisyen
4. Español
5. Nederlandse
6. Deutsch
7. Danske
8. Galego
10. Malti
12. Svenska
15. Íslenska
16. Türk
17. Euskal
18. Suomalainen
19. Française
20. Català

2. Italiano
3. Eesti
9. České
11. Hrvatski
13. Na hÉireann
14. Magyar

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## REVIEW

Continued from Page 15

Although I was not impressed with the instrumentation in "The People's Key," the songwriting is stellar, which can always be expected from Oberst. The album has a strong religious theme, religious cultural references being woven throughout the album.

While focusing mainly on religion, "The People's Key" tackles a broad area of subjects, such as time, human relationships, electronics and the universe itself all in the span of 47 minutes. Oberst attempts to appeal to historians and fans of literature, alluding to figures such as Hitler, Eva Braun, Caesar and Jules Verne. He even alludes to Bright Eyes' previous album in "Firewall."

One of the album's most notable features is its cohesiveness. A phrase, such as, "We are starting over" will appear in one song, and then "You keep starting over" will be heard two songs later.

Starting anew is one of the many themes present throughout "The People's Key," which is a bit ironic because "The People's Key" is Bright Eyes' final album.

While the instrumentation in "The People's Key" is different than what one would typically encounter in a Bright Eyes record, Oberst has proven once again that he is one of the most important songwriters of our generation. I am hoping "The People's Key" is not the last we hear of Mr. Oberst.

Rating: 3.5/5 stars

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## Celebrity Chatter

BY MOLLY KURLANDSKI  
A&E Editor

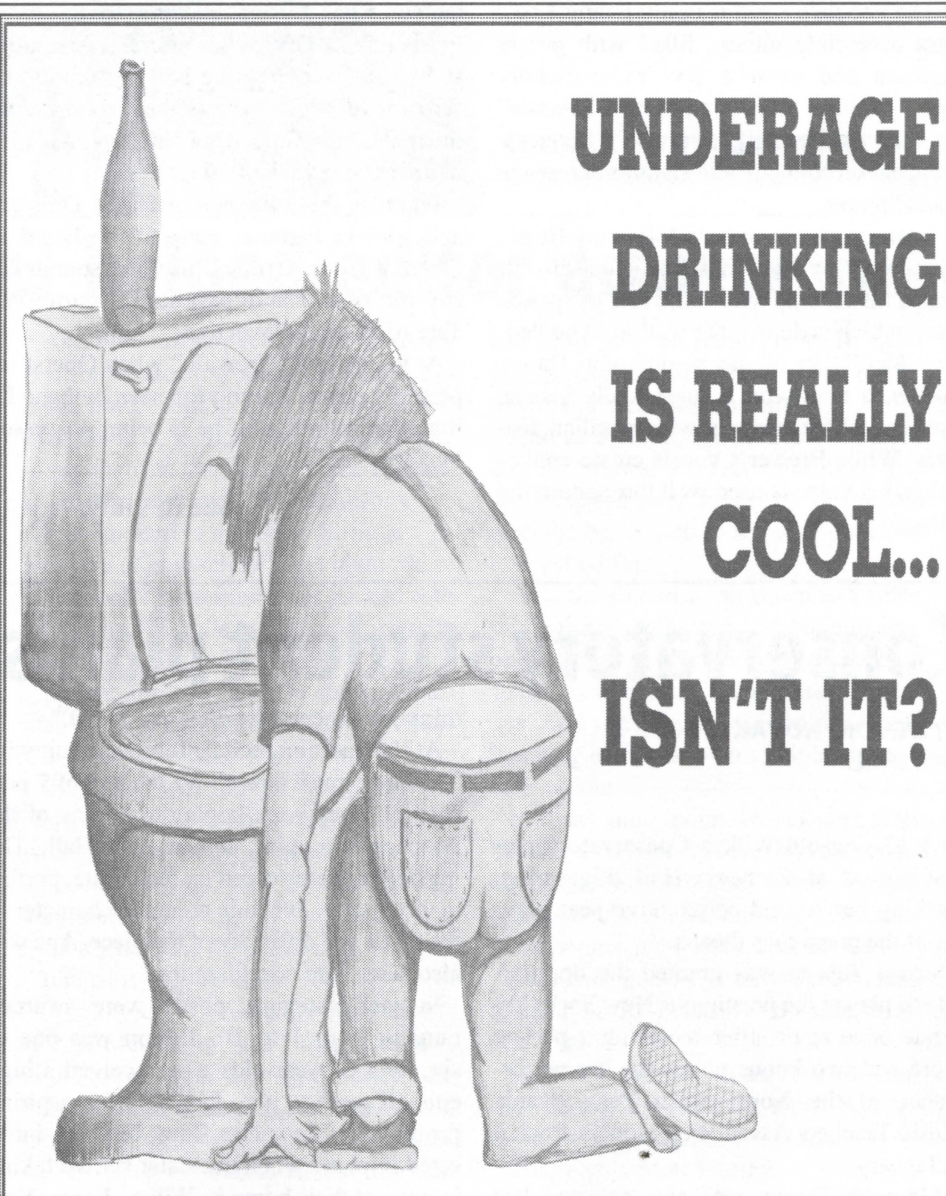
### Nicholas Cage arrested

Cage was arrested this past weekend in New Orleans on charges of domestic abuse and disorderly conduct. Apparently, he had grabbed his wife rather roughly while arguing over a home that they had rented. This disagreement continued for a couple of hours with Cage punching vehicles and screaming at people who tried to calm him down. Oh Nicholas Cage, just because your only salvation is your "National Treasure" movies, and it seems like you might be going a little insane, that doesn't mean you should take your anger out on others.

### Erica Cane will be no more

If you haven't heard already, ABC has plans to cancel two of its daytime soap operas, "All My Children" and "One Life to Live." Unfortunately, series regular Susan Lucci will no longer be playing the stunning role of Erica Cane. We hate to hear this, especially since Lucci has been on the show for more than 15 years. Lucci even stated herself that she had no idea of the cancellation until it actually happened. Don't worry Susan, you can make a home with "General Hospital."

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Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board

Poster was reproduced as part of the Commonwealth 1994 Alcohol Awareness Education Program, a joint undertaking of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Health and the Governor's Drug Policy Council. For more information, call 1-800-453-PLCB or TTY (717) 772-3725. www.lcb.state.pa.us/edu/

Poster by: Matt Scobiano, 12th Grade, Mount Carmel Jr./Sr. High School Mount Carmel Area School District, Northumberland County





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# Cheerleader uniform controversy settled

## SG, Student Affairs split \$4,000 grant proposal for team's new uniforms

BY PHAT NGUYEN  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Wilkes University cheerleading uniform controversy has ended with the allocation of a \$4,000 grant for new uniforms.

Last week, the cheerleaders presented a two week proposal before Student Government requesting money for new uniforms. This came after their newest uniforms were confiscated by Wilkes President Tim Gilmour, who considered them inappropriate.

Cheerleading coach Lauren Pluskey explained the uniforms were deemed inappropriate because the design was incorrect. The letter on the uniforms wasn't the traditional Wilkes "Flying W," but more of a stylized letter "W," she said.

"The cheerleaders had the same uniforms for the last five years," Pluskey said. "Typically they get new uniforms every four years. This past year is the fifth year. They are very ripped and torn, and we would like to get new ones. During basketball season the girls paid for new ones."

Issues were raised about who should be funding cheerleading. The athletic department used to fund all of cheerleading, but Student Government has funded cheerleading since it was moved to a club.

"It's my understanding that we are a club and we are taken off the budget," Pluskey said. "Cheerleading has been a club for a past few years."

Confusion arose about funding due to the fact that the cheerleading coaches and staff are paid by athletics while the cheerleaders are not recognized as an official team by the school. Dean of Student Affairs Mark Allen clarified the situation.

"They do not qualify by virtually a number of different reasons to be an exclusive official team, so they fall back on that club status," Allen said. "However, athletics supports them through staffing as well as space and training."

SG showed support and most of the



Cheerleaders display their traditional uniforms on the left and their most recent uniforms on the right.

members were impressed with the amount of research and style of the presentation presented during the two-week proposal. Cody Bauman, freshman class president, was one of those members who voted in favor of allocation.

"They really did their homework, and I was impressed with how they handled the situation," Bauman said.

Allen was also in favor of allocating money to the cheerleaders' new uniforms.

"Honestly, I feel that the cheerleaders give a deal of spirit to the athletic events, and I think everyone wants to recognize and support that," Allen said.

During deliberations, SG President Ben Beidel announced that Student Affairs had offered to split the fund request stating it was unfair for the SG budget to suffer.

"There was some confusion about the

uniforms and therefore, we felt it was fair to split this fund request to take care of the uniform problem," Allen said. "We hope that Student Government does continue to recognize the cheerleaders as a club with spirited activity rather than an athletic team."

The conflict came to an end with the unanimous decision from the present members of SG. The decision was made to accept the request of \$4,000 for new uniforms with a \$2,000 check from both SG and Student Affairs.

The coaches and the cheerleaders were gracious to have been awarded the money for new uniforms. The grant money will mostly go toward these new uniforms which includes pompoms.

"We're hoping to update our look now with new uniforms, but we haven't picked out a design yet," senior captain Nicole

Croyden said. "Most people don't realize is that cheerleading is expensive, and uniforms can cost a lot of money."

To avoid any further controversy, Croyden went on to say that once the girls do pick out a new design for their uniforms, they will present the idea to a committee to determine if they are appropriate and acceptable. While the cheerleaders have not picked out a particular design at the moment, they are excited to give a whole new look this upcoming football season.

"We are excited and grateful," sophomore pre-pharmacy major Meribeth Derkach said. "We feel that we do a lot for the university and wish to represent it the best we possibly can."

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## SCOREBOARD

### MEN'S BASEBALL

4/13 @ PSU Wilkes-Barre - Postponed  
4/15 vs. Misericordia 3-4 L

### WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

4/13 @ Lebanon Valley - Canceled  
4/14 vs. Susquehanna (DH) 0-2 L, 3-7 L

### WOMEN'S LACROSSE

4/13 vs. Arcadia 3-19 L  
4/16 @ FDU-Florham 4-16 L

### WOMEN'S TENNIS

4/13 @ Marywood - Canceled  
4/14 vs. Manhattanville 9-0 W  
4/15 vs. Eastern 9-0 W

### MEN'S TENNIS

4/14 vs. Manhattanville 8-1 W  
4/15 vs. Eastern 8-1 W

## WEEK AHEAD

### MEN'S BASEBALL

4/20 vs. Delaware Valley 3:30 p.m.  
4/21 @ Delaware Valley (DH) 12 p.m.  
4/22 vs. Baptist Bible 11 a.m.

### WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

4/19 @ Alvernia (DH) 3 p.m.  
4/21 vs. Misericordia (DH) 1 p.m.

### WOMEN'S LACROSSE

4/20 vs. King's 4 p.m.

### WOMEN'S TENNIS

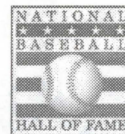
4/21 vs. Misericordia 3:30 p.m.

### MEN'S GOLF

4/21 @ Susquehanna Invitational 1 p.m.



# FACE OFF



## Should steroid users be elected in the Hall of Fame? *No way, Jose*



Sports Editor  
**CHRISTOPHER HOPKINS**

"Ruth did it on hot dogs and beer. Aaron did it with class. How did you do it?"

Phillies fans said it best when Barry Bonds made his first trip to Citizens Bank Park after the whole news of the BALCO case made news. Bonds, the poster child for steroids and the Dark Age in baseball that is slowly coming to an end, has recently been convicted of obstruction of justice for "knowingly giving material testimony that was intentionally evasive, false or misleading" from his 2003 trial with Congress about steroid use.

Bonds is certainly not the only one to take part in the Steroid Era of baseball. Jose Canseco estimated that 80 to 90 percent of major league players were using or have used steroids. Most recently, we saw one of the greatest right-handed hitters of all-time in Manny Ramirez test positive for an illegal substance for the second time in two years. Ramirez has put up immortal numbers throughout his career, hitting .312

with a .411 on base percentage, and a .585 slugging percentage. Not to mention his 555 home runs and 1,831 RBIs, which places him 14th and 18th all-time respectively.

As great as these numbers look, they are not too unusual with players from the past decade. Steroids made good players great and great players the best the game has seen. Some of the best players of my childhood, Bonds, Ramirez, Sammy Sosa, Roger Clemens, Mark McGwire, and Jason Giambi to name a few, have been associated with steroids and has cast a giant shadow over this great game.

Just by looking at these stellar career numbers of these great players, it would seem ridiculous to not consider them for the Hall of Fame, where the greatest of all-time are put together to recognize their excellence. These players' numbers put them right at the top of some of the greatest to ever play. However, with the help of performance enhancing drugs and human growth hormones, these players not only deserve to be left out of Cooperstown, but should be kicked out of the game all together.

To include these players in the Hall of Fame would just be an insult to the integrity and pur-

ism that baseball has been so strongly built on. Players like Babe Ruth, Willie Mays, and Ted Williams played the game that it was supposed to be played. They had no outside substances aiding their game and padding their stats. These players who felt that they could take a shortcut and cheat the game don't deserve to be honored the same way that these legends do.

The way the drug testing is currently set up, players are suspended 50 games for their first time failing, 100 games for a second fail, and are banned for life on a third strike. This policy is way too lenient on the players. Ramirez is the first and only big name player to fail twice, and just retired instead of facing the consequences. If you don't respect the game enough to continue to take PEDs after failing once, you deserve a permanent ban. What Pete Rose did betting on baseball warrants a lot less than second drug test failure, and he was banned on his first violation.

So as all the Steroid Era players grow older and retire and begin to be put on the Hall of Fame ballot, there is no question that these players have no place in Cooperstown. I just hope the voters keep the integrity of the game alive and keep the true legends separate from today's wannabes.

## Rampant roids unregulated



Assistant Sports Editor  
**PHAT NGUYEN**

With the recent news of Manny Ramirez failing another drug test, the debate of whether or not players tied to performance enhancing drugs deserve Hall of Fame recognition has become popular yet again.

The mindset of most voters is they will not vote for any player tied to performance enhancing drugs. One of the most respected voters includes ESPN baseball analyst Buster Olney, who has been more understanding on the subject and has voted for guys like Mark McGwire, and he will also vote Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens and Alex Rodriguez when they become eligible.

Olney goes on to explain that the only fair thing to do would be to vote for no one that played during the steroid era, or vote for the best players regardless of ties to steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs since Major League Baseball looked the other way.

The guidelines for HOF voting clearly state that voting shall be based upon the player's record, playing ability, integrity, sportsmanship, character and contributions to the team on which the player played.

So should we side with the majority of HOF voters and exclude those tied to admitted drug use? Or should we pardon players to be allowed into baseball's most prestigious club after understanding the circumstances?

I think everyone has to realize that steroids were a huge part of baseball for the last few decades. If we snub every deserving player tied to steroid use out of the Hall, then we would be left with 20 years of baseball vanishing into thin air.

I don't condone cheating at all, but I believe in a time when everyone around you was cheating, it is easy to see why so many players chose to do so.

Even if you were taking some kind of steroid, does that guarantee that you will hit a homerun every at bat? No, it means that you can recover faster from workouts and helps you play more games. Do steroids help your hand eye coordination and swing mechanics? No, hitting in baseball is all about reaction time, whether it's a curve ball or 90 mph fastball.

And why do the players get all the blame? What if I told you that during the years of the most rampant drug use, that Major League Baseball sat back and ignored the obvious notion of performance enhancing drugs.

One could argue that these seasons even saved baseball after the 1994 strike and season cancellation. That year saw a considerable increase in attendance and profits, while the MLB and commissioner Bud Selig both looked the other way when players like Bonds, Sosa and McGwire were breaking historic home run records.

Ultimately, it should be left to the fans to decide whether players should be condemned for staying competitive in a crooked league.

I believe that the credibility of the Hall of Fame will be jeopardized when the best players of the era aren't recognized. As a fan of the sport, I would like to be able to decide for myself. I'd rather see all of the game's history acknowledged rather than just those moments suitable for all audiences over arbitrary judgment any day.

If everyone had access to the same drugs and training methods, that makes it a level playing field. How could you punish the best players of an era with a crooked commissioner who did



## BIXLER

Continued from Page 20

**What's your best pitch?** I've just been living on inside corner. No one's been turning on it. So basically inside fastball or screwball.

**Are you a baseball fan?** I was a Phillies fan, but then they got rid of Jayson Werth, who's my favorite guy. So I guess now I'm a Nationals fan. They aren't a very good team, but that's ok. Everyone likes the Phillies, so I fell off the bandwagon. I follow players more than teams.

**Do you have any pre-game rituals other than the pb & j?** I have a three year old sister and I make sure I get a 'good luck' hug from her. My family has come to every home game so far. It's nice. It was another reason why I chose Wilkes because it's close enough, but far enough away.

**What was your favorite moment of the season?** The Delaware Valley game we were down by one going into the bottom of the seventh, and I had to lead off our first home game and conference game. I was so nervous because I knew I had to get on base, but Jordan Borger calmed me down. I managed to

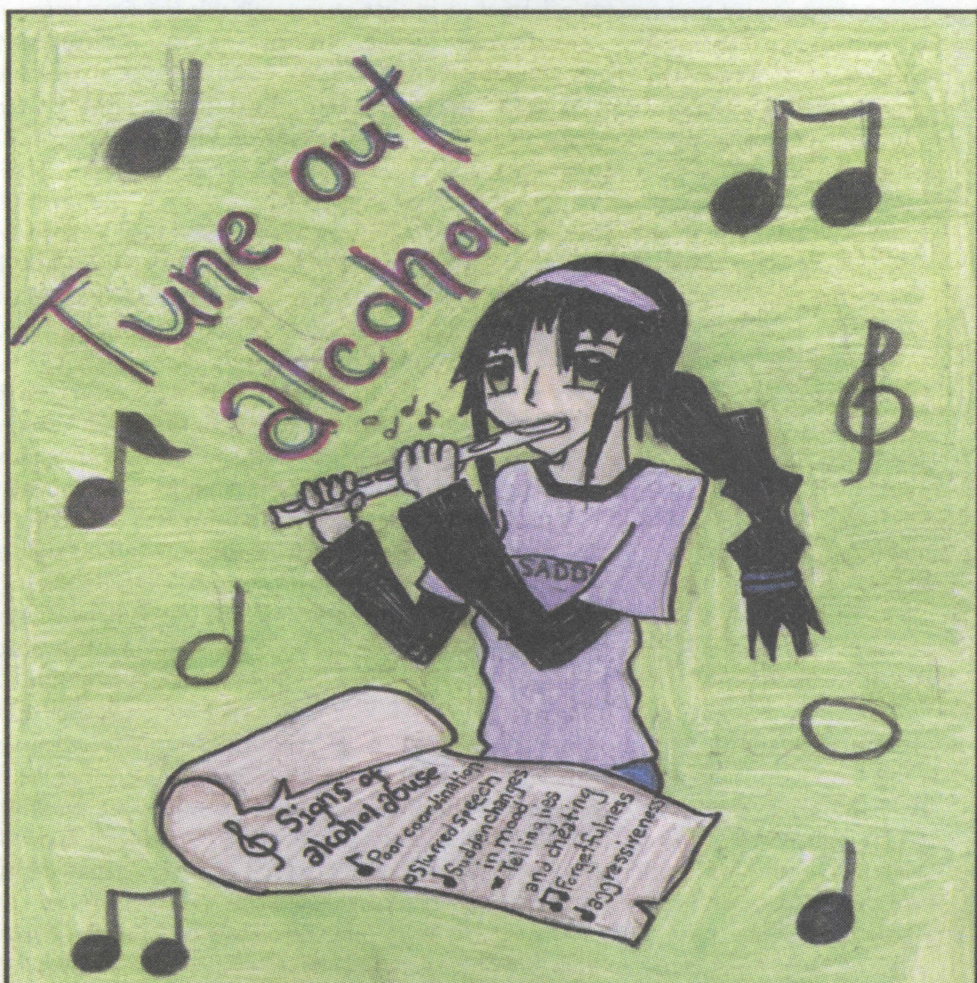
get a hit, then coach wanted me to steal second. I was like 'oh my gosh I'm going to get thrown out.' Jordan hit a double off the fence, and the next pitch was wild so I got to steal home. We eventually came back and won the game for our first of the season.

**How do you like the 7 a.m.s vs afternoon practices?** I'm a morning person, so I was completely fine with it. I would go to bed at ten and wake up. I was ok with that because you had all afternoon to do your homework. Now its like 4:30, so its like I'm sleeping more because I don't have anything to do. If anyone else heard that they would kick my butt. They all hated them, but I liked them.

**Most of the girls are underclassmen, are you guys going to be a powerhouse in the future?** I hope so. We are a young team and I think we all know what we are capable of. If everyone sticks with it, I think we are only losing two seniors, so its definitely doable.

**Describe yourself 5 words.** Fun-loving, easy going, hyper, nice, and selfish, at times. I'll be honest.

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Poster was reproduced as part of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board's 2006 Alcohol Awareness Poster Contest.

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This poster was created by Scott Robertson, 10th Grade, Stroudsburg High School, Monroe County



Getting to know...

# Alysha Bixler

Pitcher/Outfield

BY PHAT NGUYEN  
Assistant Sports Editor

Meet former Williams Valley salutatorian Alysha Bixler, a freshman pitching ace/outfielder on the 2011 Lady Colonel's softball team. Besides throwing two hitters and being tied for leading the team in home runs, this psychology major is an easy-going, fun-loving PB&J aficionado who also enjoys classic Disney movies.

Age: 18

Major: Psychology

**Where are you from?** Williamstown, which is about 1 hour and a half away

**Why did you choose to come to Wilkes?** I visited the campus and they offered me the best scholarships and I talked to the coach who told me I would have a starting spot if I came here.

**What was your mindset going into that two hitter game?** Before I went out to pitch I was told that the team was really good, and that we were probably going to get beat. So I was like 'oh great, they'll probably be hitting homerun after homerun,' but after the third, I realized I could get ahead of these guys.

The next thing I knew was the score was 6-1 in the sixth inning. A lot of it was the defense. I didn't strike anyone out.

We had amazing defense and I could throw the ball and not worry about them hitting it or the defense making errors. I also felt comfortable behind the mound.

**Was there any moment in the game where the defense came up and made plays to keep the no hitter going?**

Yes, they were starting to catch onto me

in the sixth inning, and they eventually did get two hits, but second baseman Katie Brown dove and caught a ball over her shoulder to make an awesome play. This was the best I've seen everyone play.

**What's it like being tied for the most home runs on the team?** I don't think people expect to see me hit home runs. People are probably like 'oh, she's the second in the line up, so she's not going to hit one,' but I've been feeling good in the box this year. Sometimes it comes out of nowhere, so it's nice.

**What's the longest homerun that you hit this year?** I'm not sure how far the fence is, but some were sailing over. I hit one at Eastern, I really didn't think it would go over the fence since it was so cold, and I didn't want to swing the bat, but when I saw it go I was like, 'Oh, cool.'

**Favorite Food?** This might be weird but, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. I'm obsessed with them. A few girls and I always go to the café and make pb and j sandwiches. I think it's a good food because it's not hot and doesn't weigh you down, and it's good for you.

**So I heard you're a national champion?** I pitched in the national championship game for 14 and under. We got gold medals and I got to keep the game ball. I also hit a homerun in that game, but missed first base and was called out. I cried. Stuff like that always happens to me, you know, dumb clumsy things.

**What is one thing that most people don't know about you?** People look at me and think I'm stupid for some reason, I don't know why. Maybe it's the way I talk, but I was salutatorian of my high school class. Most people don't believe when I tell them though.

**What's the last movie you saw?** I just went out the other night with the softball team to see "Arthur." It was pretty funny. I usually like Disney movies.

**Favorite Disney movie?** "Finding Nemo." Dori ... she's so funny.

**How have you bonded with the team since your arrival on the team?** At first, I was nervous because I am a freshman and I don't want to step on anyone's toes. As we had practices together and traveled to Virginia, I got closer to everyone on the team. I can talk to anyone, which is good.

**Who wins in a home run derby right now, Coach Matthews or you?** I've never looked up his stats or anything, but I've been told he was this amazing hitter. Some people told me they've never seen anyone hit the ball as far as him, so I'm going to say him. He wins slow pitch, but for fast pitch, I think I got him.

**Who has the faster fastball, Lindsay or you?** I'm probably faster, but she has more movement. It all depends. For double headers, the first game usually Lindsay gets the first start and teams get used to her ball movement, then I come throwing a little faster, so I think it works well as a team.

SEE BIXLER, Page 19